

The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 98 No. 49 On the Internet: www.carmelpinecone.com December 7-13, 2012

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Redwood 'snapped at the base like a stalk of asparagus'

By CHRIS COUNTS

A SERIES of storms packing a mighty punch pounded the Big Sur coast last week, causing traffic delays, intermittent power outages and property damage.

Highway 1 was closed Sunday night after a slide covered the pavement near Rain Rocks, just a short distance away from an ambitious Caltrans project to reduce the impact of slides on motorists. The road was cleared and reopened the next morning.

The staff at the Henry Miller Library received a scare Monday morning when a huge redwood tree came crashing down in its garden. Library assistant Mike Scutari saw it fall — about five minutes after a library volunteer moved her car from its path.

Nobody was hurt, but the tree “snapped at the base like a stalk of asparagus,” Scutari told The Pine Cone.

“It took out part of the fence, one of our terracotta sculptures, the entire PG&E power pole and not much else,” reported Magnus Toren, the library’s executive director. “The tree fell with almost surgical precision to minimize damage.”

Toren estimated the tree was about 200 feet tall.

The library brought in local tree wizard Tracy Chesebrough to help remove part of the redwood, while PG&E began working on installing a new pole. On the bright side, Toren noted that “there will be some usable wood.” On the library’s Facebook site, Monterey County Planning Commissioner Keith Vandever made the same observation, suggesting the redwood could provide “plenty



PHOTO/KODIAK GREENWOOD

A mammoth redwood at the Henry Miller Library caused surprisingly little damage when it fell Dec. 3. A fence was destroyed, but now there’s plenty of redwood to fix it. Posing with the tree are Tracy Chesebrough (left), Julia Stoddard, Mike Scutari, Mary Lu Toren and library director Magnus Toren.

of material for a new fence.”

While it’s doubtful the fence will be repaired with wood from the tree, Toren told The Pine Cone he hopes to use some of it create shelving for a collection of Big Sur natural and cultural books. The collection will be named after

See **REDWOOD** page 11A

Council can’t discuss Flanders lease option

■ Must wait until latest EIR is finished

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER BEING told they could not even discuss the possibility of leasing Flanders Mansion until the latest version of the environmental impact report on the future of the historic house is finished next year, Carmel City Council members unanimously voted Tuesday to authorize city administrator Jason Stilwell to seek expert advice about what to do with a property that’s been the center of debate for four decades.

The discussion arose at the Dec. 4 meeting after council members fielded several proposals in closed sessions earlier this year from people expressing interest in leasing the historic Tudor-style mansion and renovating it themselves — either because they think they could deduct the renovation costs from their income taxes, or because they would live in the house rent-free.

For most of the past decade, the council has focused on trying to sell the house — an action supported by a strong majority of voters in November 2009 — but the effort has been stymied by two lawsuits filed by the Flanders Foundation.

At the meeting, city attorney Don Freeman cautioned the council against discussing the merits of a lease vs. a sale until after the final environmental impact report has been certified. According to a timeline submitted by consultant Denise

See **FLANDERS** page 19A

AFRP faces mounting vet bills for shepherd

■ Severe wounds hidden under fur

By KELLY NIX

WHEN TWO-YEAR-OLD miniature Australian shepherd Herbie was rescued from a Stockton animal shelter last month by a volunteer with Pacific Grove-based Animal Friends Rescue Project, the dog’s fur was matted, and he stunk.

But unbeknownst to the Stockton shelter and the volunteer who rescued him, Herbie had wounds below his thick coat so terrible there was a question whether he would live another day.

The AFRP regularly rescues dogs from other shelters that are at risk of being euthanized.

See **SHEPHERD** page 15A



PHOTO/COURTESY AFRP

Aussie shepherd Herbie, shown recovering after surgery, had horrible gashes hidden under his fur that were discovered by veterinarians. The AFRP needs help paying his vet bills.

Businesses petition CPUC for larger desal plant

By KELLY NIX

A COALITION of local hotels, restaurants and other business interests contends the desal plant proposed to supply the Monterey Peninsula with water should be much larger to support the hospitality industry, make it possible to build on existing lots of record and generally make the Peninsula a better place to live.

In a Nov. 9 letter to the California Public Utilities Commission, the Coalition of Peninsula Businesses requests that the CPUC study the possibility of an alternate, larger desal plant to the facility California American Water proposes in North Marina.

“In order for [Cal Am] to adequately serve its customers, CPB strongly recommends that a significantly larger desalination plant be added to the project alternatives to be studied in the EIR,” according to the letter to the CPUC.

As proposed, Cal Am’s desal project would supply only enough to replace water being illegally taken from the Carmel River without providing any for lots of record, infill, business expansions or home remodels, something the business coalition wants to change.

The coalition’s bid is contrary to a request from development-wary group LandWatch Monterey County, which earlier

See **CPUC** page 12A

FPPC says North Salinas Valley Fund group broke law

By KELLY NIX

THE GROUP that was Monterey County supervisor candidate Marc Del Piero’s main financial supporter broke state law when it failed to disclose \$95,000 in contributions to him and two other candidates this year, according to a state agency that investigates violations of the Political Reform Act.

At a meeting Dec. 13 in San Diego, the California Fair Political Practices Commission will consider whether the North Salinas Valley Fund for Responsible Growth should be fined for not filing a campaign statement disclosing contributions of \$45,000 to Del Piero, \$35,000 to 4th District Supervisor Jane Parker and \$15,000 to Ed Mitchell, who plans to challenge Lou Calcagno for the 2nd District county supervisor spot in 2014.

The three contributions were made March 20.

The North Salinas group, considered by the FPPC to be a

See **FUND** page 15A

City’s pension bonds get A+ from investors

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CITY’S pension obligation bonds to pay off more than \$6 million in retirement debt hit the market for 90 minutes Nov. 29, with buyers from across the country competing to purchase them. The bonds are refinancing a loan from the State of California that carries an interest rate of 7.5 percent.

“With our price adjustments, we estimate the total refinancing will be 2.94 percent,” including the costs of issuing the bonds, city administrator Jason Stilwell told the city council via email shortly after the sale last week. “Total gross savings would be \$4.2 million.”

Buyers were from California and across the country, with bids from the County of Solano, a Los Angeles credit union, a San Francisco Bay Area bank, a Florida city, a Minnesota city, retailers and a money manager in Seattle, according to Stilwell.

See **BONDS** page 14A

Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Buddy boy

As THEY wandered through row upon row of cages filled with earnest faces, each dog dancing and jumping in a grand gesture of delightfulness, one little dog sat quietly, looking. When the children bent down

to see him, he pressed his face, as hard as possible, against their hands, as if he could come right through the cage and into their arms.

Once he was released to the play yard at the shelter, the kids clapped their hands and called, "Come here, little buddy!" His ears perked up, and he came right to them. And that's how Buddy, maybe 3, maybe 2 years old, maybe a maltipoo maybe a multi-bichon, found his forever family.

While Buddy may have been a docile little dog at the shelter, he is an exuberant little rascal at home. The family created a special space for him in the den behind a 4-foot safety gate, but came home to find he had cleared it like a hurdle and was waiting for them at the front door. After a few more attempts at securing him, they abandoned their efforts and gave him run of the place.

Their little track star is not just a jumper; he's a sprinter who will run right out the door if given the chance.

"We have to be very careful," his family says. "After walking Buddy every morning for two months, we let him out without his leash, and as soon as his feet touched the front porch, he was gone. He ran into the neighbor's yard after a cat. The cat went over the fence, and Buddy, like a cartoon, skidded to a stop, defeated."



The family recently took Buddy to the beach for the first time. He seemed to love the experience, skipping across the sand, sniffing seaweed, and racing after birds on a very long leash.

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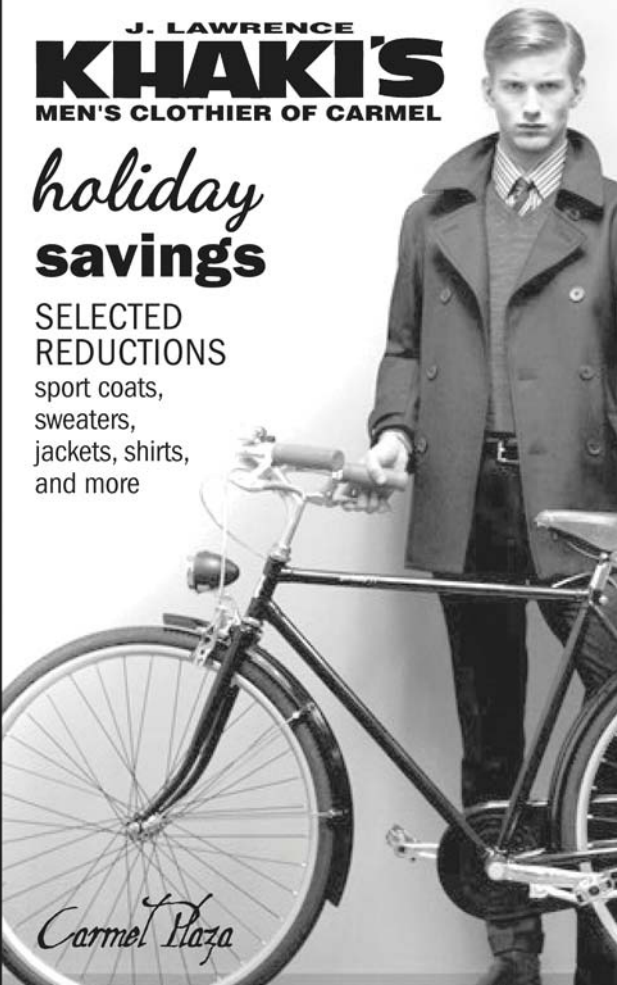
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If you think being planning director would be hard, try describing his job

By MARY SCHLEY

SAYING IT could be describing a job anywhere in the state — not in unique Carmel-by-the-Sea — the city council took major issue with the job description of the planning and building services director submitted by city administrator Jason Stilwell Tuesday. The position, considered by city officials to be as important as police chief, if not more so, has been vacant since 1999, though it was temporarily filled from 2002 to 2003.

In language that didn’t go over too well, Stilwell described the director as “responsible for leading, planning, directing, managing and overseeing the activities and operations of the community planning and building services department,” and as a person who “upholds the city’s values of accountability, customer service, efficiency and innovation.”

Under the “distinguishing characteristics” heading, he said the director would be “expected to exercise independent judgment, wisdom, common/intuitive sense and initiative in establishing efficient and effective departmental operations consistent with city council policies and administrative guidelines established by the city administrator.”

‘Blah, blah, blah’
Councilman Ken Talmage lambasted the document, saying he had scribbled “blah, blah, blah”



Jason Stilwell



Ken Talmage

across its pages.

“In a search, the ‘fit’ issue is absolutely critical, and this reads to me as generic — this could be for any community up and down the state,” he said, adding that the job description, which was reviewed by the planning commission in November, should refer right up front to the city’s unique character, its unusually active citizenry, and the importance of experience in dealing with the California Coastal Commission and state environmental laws.

“We have a process here which gets a huge amount of public input, and they have to understand that, because if they think they’re going to be planning in a vacuum, they’re not,” he said.

Talmage described the writeup as “back assward” and said he was “so uncomfortable with this that I’m probably going to vote against it.”

“I am so hot and bothered about this,” exclaimed Carmel Residents Association President and former city councilwoman Barbara Livingston, the only member of the public to comment on the job description when the discussion finally came up near the end of yet another marathon council meeting.

“Every decision, from the trash cans downtown, to the way the pathway looks on Scenic, to any decision that is made in this city hall, has to do with design,” she said. “And there’s not one goddamn thing about design in that opening statement.”

Livingston said the ideal candidate should be someone who is skilled in design and has a strong sense of aesthetics.

“We are a beautiful, beautiful little village. We are not a city,” she said. “We need someone who understands that, and it needs to be spelled out right there.”

Livingston went so far as to say the city planning and building department doesn’t need leadership or management, but “somebody who has a heart and soul for aesthetics and

understands it, and can help this city move forward.”

Councilwoman Victoria Beach agreed, to a degree, and suggested inserting references to design standards, architecture and landscaping.

“This is not a checklist for hiring,” she observed. “It’s a longterm understanding of what the job is and will be used to evaluate what kind of a job that person is doing year after year.”

She said the planning and building services director should review projects for consistency with design guidelines and ensure they are “appropriate to the aesthetics of the city.” She also noted the director should have historical knowledge of architecture and design spanning the decades, and should be able to evaluate architectural and landscape designs with an eye toward compliance with laws, codes and design rules.

“I can’t support going forward with the absence of that

See **BLAH BLAH** page 27A

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Police, Fire & Sheriff's Log

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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, NOVEMBER 20

Carmel-by-the-Sea: An unknown suspect entered a Fourth Avenue residence while the homeowners were out and stole several items of silverware.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle was blocking a driveway on San Carlos Street and subsequently towed.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: CHOMP requested a

welfare check on a subject who walked away from CHOMP while receiving treatment.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Food items purchased from two local businesses were left unattended on the sidewalk on Dolores Street. Attempts to identify the owner were unsuccessful. Items will be returned to stores in order to credit purchase to card holder.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Bar fight at a business on San Carlos Street involving three male subjects. On officers' arrival, the subjects fled on foot, and it was determined that the incident was verbal only; no physical altercation occurred. An area check was conducted but

See **POLICE LOG** page 7RE



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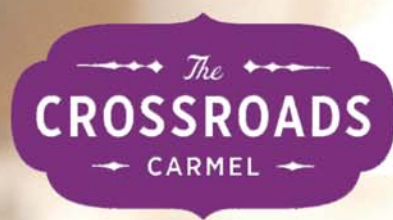
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EIR required for Pebble Beach emergency radio tower, supes say

By KELLY NIX

A PROPOSED 100-foot emergency communications tower in Del Monte Forest that nearby residents say is an eyesore will have to undergo a full environmental review before installation can be considered, county supervisors decided Tuesday.

The supervisors' 5-0 decision follows a lawsuit filed in November by Huckleberry Hill residents Jameson Halpern and Sal Cardinale calling for an environmental impact report, saying the tower violated provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The supervisors' decision overturns a September approval of the tower by the Monterey County Planning Commission.

Though county staff has said the tower would not significantly affect the "scenic character" of the area, Halpern and other neighbors, who formed the Huckleberry Hill Neighborhood Association, contend it would be ugly and hurt property values.

Their suit argues there is "substantial evidence of significant impacts to aesthetic and visual resources as well as conflicts with surrounding land uses and policies."

The county, its emergency communications department and California American Water are named as defendants in Halpern and Cardinale's lawsuit, which seeks an injunction to prevent the tower from being installed. Cal Am owns the land where the tower is to be placed.

Officials say the Del Monte Forest site is crucial to providing emergency

radio coverage in Carmel, Pebble Beach, Pacific Grove, Monterey and on nearby stretches of Highway 1. No other area, the county said, would be able to accommodate the tower while allowing for the same communications coverage.

The "Next Generation" (NGEN) radio communications tower, required by federal law, is necessary to allow public safety departments from different cities to talk to each other via one radio system.

The tower, which would be visible from 17 Mile Drive, would also be accompanied by the installation of 10 antennas, two 4-foot wide microwave dishes, and a 276-square-foot equipment shelter to house radios, amplifiers and other gear. Cal Am would remove an existing water tank on the property. The tower would be approximately 20 feet from the height of the existing towers and pine trees, according to the lawsuit.



PHOTO/MONTEREY COUNTY

This radio tower, proposed for Huckleberry Hill, has caused quite a stir with neighbors. County supes said the tower should undergo an environmental review.

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Pacific Grove prioritizes its problems: Water, pensions and business

By KELLY NIX

THE PACIFIC Grove City Council has so many issues to tackle that it's decided to prioritize the three biggies.

On Wednesday night, the council chose to designate water, employee pension liability and business vitality as the topics of most concern to the city and the public.

"I think it's important to set a tone and a direction that we are going to do something about the most important issues facing the city," Mayor Bill Kampe told The Pine Cone before Wednesday's meeting.

Also on Wednesday night, Kampe, who won by a huge margin over former Mayor Carmelita Garcia in the Nov. 6 election, was sworn in to the position. Councilmen Robert Huitt and Dan Miller, who were reelected, and newcomer Casey Lucius, were also sworn in.

Water

In July, with Kampe and Huitt dissenting, the council voted to partner with developer Nader Agha for his proposed desal plant. The non-binding agreement would allow the city to study the project to "and provide all details of the partnership and its goals."

Agha wants the plant to be located on his Moss Landing property, the site of a former magnesium brick plant. The council, according to Wednesday's agenda report, will look at aspects of Agha's proposal, as well as the two other desal proposals by California American Water and DeepWater Desal.

A report by a consultant commissioned by Peninsula mayors recently found that Agha's project couldn't be up and running until the third quarter of 2019, while Cal Am's proposal could be operating by the fourth quarter of 2017.

Pension liabilities

Like other cities in California, the cost of Pacific Grove's public employee pensions has gone through the roof.

Though the council opted not to contest the "3 percent at 50" contract awarded to police officers and fire employees in 2002, last week a group began circulating a petition to

See PRIORITIES page 24A



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Debate heats up over plan to maintain firebreaks in wilderness

By CHRIS COUNTS

A PROPOSAL by the United State Forest Service to build more than seven miles of firebreaks — some up to 150 feet wide — in the Ventana Wilderness has a local environmental group worried the action will set a dangerous precedent.

In response, federal officials and locals say the action is necessary to protect residential communities from the devastating effects of wildfire.

Called the Strategic Community Fuelbreak Improvement Project, the work — if it gains approval — would follow traditional firebreak lines built during past wildfire suppression efforts. In addition to constructing 7.5 miles of firebreaks on wilderness land, the plan also advocates for creating 16.6 miles of firebreaks on non-wilderness land.

The project would be completed over a 10 year span. Once opened, the breaks would be maintained every 3 to 5 years with chainsaws, chippers and manual labor.

Members of the Ventana Wilderness Alliance — a nonprofit group that repairs and maintains many local hiking trails — are

concerned the plan will allow for the “permanent” use of chainsaws on wilderness land.

“If the permanent use of chainsaws for fuelbreak construction and maintenance in the Ventana Wilderness becomes standard, won’t the next step be to use chainsaws for trail maintenance as well?” asked Tom Hopkins, president of the Ventana Wilderness Alliance. “Is the wilderness community ready for permanent use of chainsaws in the Ventana Wilderness?”

Monterey District Ranger Tim Short addressed concerns about the use of chainsaws.

“We are proposing the use of chainsaws to establish these fuelbreaks,” he explained. “Subsequent vegetation growth will be monitored to determine if traditional tools alone, along with available

resources, are able to maintain the integrity of the fuelbreak. Based on monitoring, if necessary, we are seeking flexibility for the use of chainsaws to maintain them.”

Short said chainsaws will only be used when absolutely needed. “We’re encouraging the use of traditional tools to the fullest

extent possible,” he continued.

And while the use of chainsaws isn’t ideal, the alternative could be worse. “Potential benefits of these fuelbreaks include reducing the need for bulldozer use and their adverse effects within the wilderness to manage wildfires,” Short added.

Specifically, the plan is designed to make several rural communities safer from the threat of wildfires. In the Palo Colorado area, for instance, a mile-long firebreak would be maintained on wilderness land near Devils Peak. At a maximum width of 150 feet, the firebreak would add an extra level of protection for residents who live along Garrapata, Green and Long ridges, as well as the county road that leads to Bottchers Gap.

All are particularly vulnerable to wildfires — in part because it’s been more than a half century since the steep and heavily forested area was extensively burned.

Forest service officials also propose maintaining a 1.8-mile firebreak on wilderness land between Post Summit and the Little Sur River. An additional 2.8-mile firebreak would be maintained on non-wilderness land between Post Summit and Mount Manuel. The two firebreaks would add protection for the residents of Apple Pie Ridge, who attracted widespread media attention — one was even arrested — for their stand against the Basin Complex Fire in 2008.

See WILDERNESS page 21A

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Agreement reached between county, Cal Am over defunct desal project

By KELLY NIX

THE LEGAL row between California American Water and Monterey County over the defunct regional desalination project was put to rest this week when Monterey County supervisors approved a settlement agreement.

According to the deal, Cal Am will pay or forgive the county a total of \$3.4 million it invested in the regional project. In return, the county won't try to enforce its ordinance requiring that desal plants be publicly owned.

"This settlement furthers the goal of developing a new water supply for the Monterey Peninsula while allowing us to minimize the potential for litigation between us," Monterey County Counsel Charles McKee said.

Of the \$3.4 million, \$1.9 million is money Cal Am loaned the county for the project but has agreed to forgive. Cal Am will pay the county the remaining \$1.5 million, which the county will use, in part, to pay vendors who worked on the project. Cal Am, however, won't be required to pay for costs incurred before Jan. 1, 2009.

"Recouping costs expended by the water resources agency is a key component of the deal," supervisor Simon Salinas said.

The settlement also calls for the county to back Cal Am's new water project, which includes a desal plant in North Marina. Furthermore, Cal Am agreed to allow the Monterey

Peninsula Regional Water Authority — a group composed of the six Peninsula mayors — to oversee the new desal project.

And the settlement requires Cal Am to draw water for its new desal project from the upper layer of a Salinas Valley aquifer. Farmers, who use the aquifer, have long opposed Cal Am drawing water from the deeper portion.

The regional desal project was an effort among Cal Am, Marina Coast Water District and the county water agency that included a desal plant in Marina.

After being approved by the California Public Utilities Commission in December 2010, the project began to unravel after litigation over water rights and conflict-of-interest allegations against former county water board director Steve Collins. Cal Am withdrew its involvement with the project in January.

Cal Am also won't have to pay for any costs associated with Collins.

In July, the CPUC ruled it would be unreasonable for Cal Am to continue to pursue the regional project, citing the uncertainty surrounding financing and the ability to obtain needed permits.

Cal Am President Rob MacLean said the company was pleased with the settlement.

"We can now concentrate on the work at hand, which is to provide a new, long-term, reliable source of potable water for our customers on the Monterey Peninsula," MacLean said.

Cal Am will file an application seeking the CPUC's approval of the settlement agreement. Both parties have the ability to terminate the settlement agreement if its terms are not approved by the CPUC.

Meeting on new dam removal truck route

A NEW proposed construction access route for the San Clemente Dam removal project will be the subject of two meetings scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 13, at Hidden Valley Music Seminars in Carmel Valley.

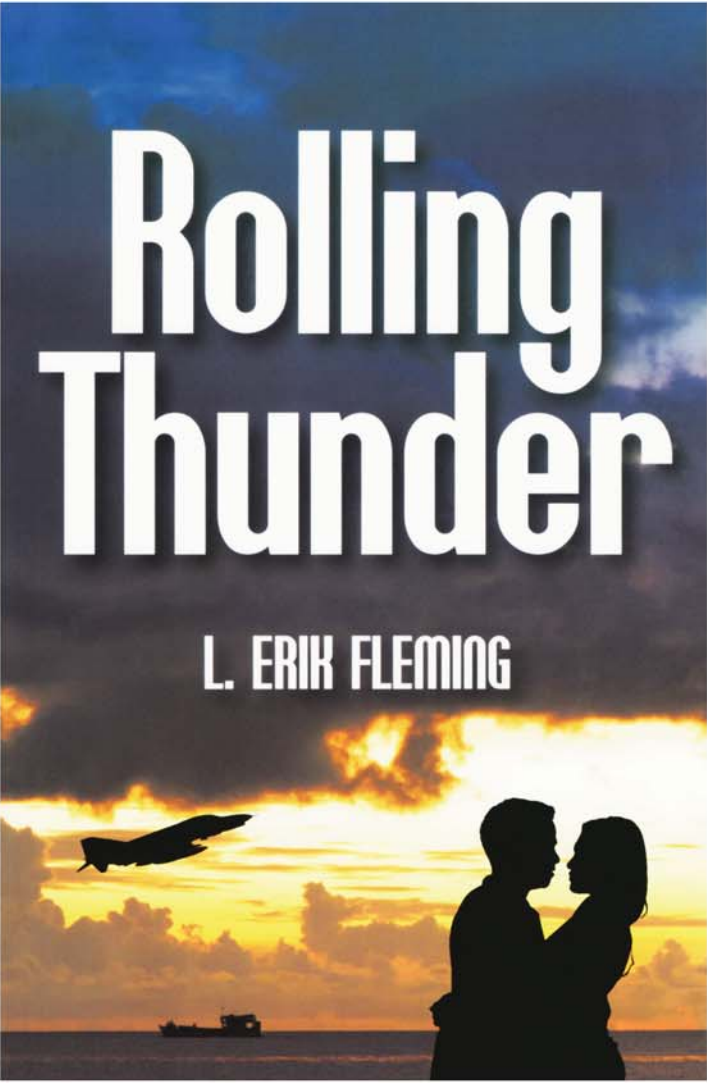
Because a plan to route much of the project's construction traffic through Cachagua received so much opposition from residents, officials announced in October they were studying the use of an alternate route to the project site.

Use of the route — which will require considerable construction and environmental analysis — could significantly reduce the project's impact on Cachagua and Tassajara roads, officials say.

The meetings start at 2 and 6 p.m. Hidden Valley is located at 88 W. Carmel Valley Road.

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About the Author: L. Erik Fleming is an air traffic controller and flight instructor in Monterey, California.

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Display at senior center recalls time when radio was king

By CHRIS COUNTS

EASILY IGNORED in the digital age, Jim Lohr’s collection of meticulously restored vintage radios has found a home inside Pacific Grove’s Sally Griffin Active Living Center, where many of its visiting seniors remember a time when such devices were as important as smartphones are today.

“My favorite radios are the ones from the World War II-



PHOTO/CHRIS COUNTS

Doni Dooley of Monterey listens to an vintage radio at the Sally Griffin Center in Pacific Grove. The senior center is hosting a display of radios that date from 1938 to 1954.

P.G. has 5K run to benefit Arthritis

ONE WAY to get in the holiday spirit is to participate in the 2012 Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis Saturday at Lovers Point in Pacific Grove.

Registration for the 5K run on Dec. 8 begins at 7:30 a.m. Proceeds from the run benefit the Arthritis Foundation. The run begins at 8 a.m. Participants are encouraged to wear a holiday themed costume or tie jingle bells to their shoelaces.

era,” explained Lohr, who lives in Pacific Grove. “Not only are they the ones with the best construction, but they have a lot of historical significance. People were listening to news about the Pearl Harbor attack on radios like these. That fascinates the heck out of me.”

A baby-boomer — he was born in 1957 — Lohr missed out on the Golden Age of Radio, which lasted from the 1920s until the mass production of televisions in the early 1950s. Yet he has long been drawn to radios, even as a young boy. “It was like magic,” he recalled thinking as a youngster when he listened to one.

After raising a family, Lohr was looking for a hobby when a chance encounter with an old radio piqued his curiosity.

“A few years after the kids moved out, I came across an old radio on eBay,” he said. “It was inexpensive, so I decided to see what was in there.”

The idea of taking apart a radio was no big deal for Lohr — in addition to having an affinity for tinkering, he is currently employed as a technician who takes care of the emer-

gency radio systems for a variety of state agencies, including state parks and the highway patrol.

Fixing an old radio, though, is a bit more challenging than it looks, Lohr explained. For one thing, you have to be very careful when it’s plugged in. “These things can kill you,” Lohr said of the electrical shock they can produce. “I’m pretty sure my wife has the insurance guy on speed dial.”

Another worry for “radio wives” is the proliferation of radios at home. They seem to spring up like dead cars in the yards of mechanics.

“A common theme of radio collectors is that their wives are annoyed with how many radios there are around the house,” added Lohr, whose wife, Viveca, is director of the Sally Griffin Center. “It’s a good thing I’m collecting radios because I could be that car guy.”

The display at the senior center includes 18 radios manufactured between 1938 and 1954 by a host of companies, including RCA, Phillips, Crosley, Admiral and others.

The senior center is located at 700 Jewell Ave.



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December 9

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Council decides not to spend funds before they’re hatched

By MARY SCHLEY

OTHER THAN allocating \$25,000 to replace curbs and sidewalks that expose the city to trip-and-fall lawsuits, the Carmel City Council voted Tuesday not to earmark any of the cash it will receive in the final quarter of this fiscal year (April-June 2013) from the 1 percent sales tax increase voters approved in November.

At the Dec. 4 meeting, city administrator Jason Stilwell projected Measure D revenue for the period would total \$387,000, while the tax increase — which will last 10 years — will raise an estimated \$2.11 million during the 2013/2014 fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2013.

“The city council has several options regarding the allocation of Measure D funding for this fiscal year,” Stilwell said. “Staff recommends a combination of conservative budget management to help assure year-end budget targets are met and setting aside funding for infrastructure improvement projects.”

He advised the council to consider several options, including allocating \$29,000 “for small scale and visible projects that can be implemented quickly and contribute to the coun-

cil’s objective of community character,” such as the \$6,000 beautification of two blocks of the Scenic Road pathway, the replacement of signs in Mission Trail Nature Preserve for \$3,000, a new wood stage in Sunset Center for \$8,000, and new planters and a paver walkway at Sunset for \$12,000.

He said \$44,000 could be used for deferred maintenance, such as repainting Harrison Memorial Library (\$28,000) and painting the interior of the library’s Park Branch (\$16,000).

Another \$46,000 could go toward “hazardous mitigation projects,” among them the \$25,000 for 200 feet of new sidewalk or cobblestone curb and gutter, \$3,000 for the replacement of 30 rail fences, \$3,000 for “preventative ground covering at tree squares and park playgrounds,” and \$15,000 for outside labor for public works projects.

He also said the council could allocate \$130,000 to offset salary savings anticipated in the budget that have not, in fact, materialized, since people have not been quitting their jobs this year as expected.

Stilwell pointed out the council could opt to not allocate any funding until June, when the sales-tax checks begin arriving from the state.

He suggested council members consider spending up to the \$249,000 he had outlined in

the various options and then waiting until June to designate the rest of the fourth-quarter earnings.

“In June, the city will also be receiving an update on fiscal year 2012/2013 and the fiscal year 2013/2014 budget,” he said. Putting off earmarking the rest of the money “will help to ensure the city ends the fiscal year in a financially strong position.”

But councilman Ken Talmage pointed out the 2012/2013 budget relies on \$700,000 from reserves just to balance and said other unanticipated costs, like the contract for monitoring stormwater runoff as required by the state and the lower-than-expected salary savings, worried him.


“I’m in favor of not allocating any funding. We’re not expecting any of that revenue for seven months, so we don’t have to rush out and spend anything we don’t have,” he said, adding that as much as 90 percent of that anticipated fourth-quarter income could be gobbled up by existing expenses in a worst-case scenario.

“Let’s look at this at the

See TAXES page 21A

Robert Wayne Young

May 15, 1921 ~ November 16, 2012





Carmel Valley ~ Robert W. Young, born May 15, 1921 in Stockton, passed away on November 16. He has lived locally for the past 20 years. After serving in the Merchant Marines during World War II, Robert began his forty-two year career with Pacific Bell retiring as a manager.

Robert was a member of the Telephone Pioneers and Carmel Mission. He was a gifted pianist and vocalist and enjoyed writing Western short stories and poetry. He loved working in his garden and was a passionate birdwatcher. Robert always devoted himself to the greater good of his family and friends.

Robert is survived by Marylin, his wife of 68 years; his daughters, Deborah Savorn, Celeste Young and Bobbi Young and her husband, Jose Buenrostro and his granddaughter, Lisa Deragisch. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Therese Jonson.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at Carmel Mission Basilica on Saturday, December 22 at 11:00 AM. Memorial contributions are suggested to Carmel Mission, 3080 Rio Rd., Carmel or the American Stroke Association, 7272 Greenville Ave., Dallas, TX, 75231. To sign Robert’s guest book and leave messages for his family, please visit www.thepaulmortuary.com.





Carmel Area Wastewater District

**NOTICE OF VACANCY
&
INVITATION TO RESIDENTS
TO SERVE ON DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors of the Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) desires to make an appointment of a qualified person to fill a vacancy on the Board. The five-member Board is the governing body of the District. Its members are elected to serve four-year terms of office. The person appointed to fill the vacant Board member position will remain in office until December 31, 2013, and must stand for election by District voters in the District’s general election on November 5, 2013 if he or she wishes to continue to serve on the Board for any subsequent full term. Any other qualified candidates may also seek office in the November election.

Candidates for the Board of Directors vacancy must be residents of the District, citizens of the United States and of voting age. Applications, including biographical information, will be received until 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2012. The Board will review written applications and other submitted information. All candidates will be invited to make an oral statement or answer questions in support of their application to the Board of Directors on Friday, December 14, 2012.

For more information, interested individuals may contact CAWD at 831-624-1248 or stop by the office at 3945 Rio Road, Carmel, CA 93922. An application may also be requested via email from downstream@cawd.org.

Charlotte Townsend
CAWD Board President

Publication dates: Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 2012 (PC1126)

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Quail Lodge pays \$4 million for leased golf holes

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

AS STRANGE it might sound, The Quail Lodge and Golf Club just purchased two holes on its golf course.

Since 1962, the Carmel Valley resort has leased the land that lies beneath holes No. 12 and 13.

But when the 50-year lease agreement expired, the owners of Quail Lodge — Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels Ltd. — opted to buy the 12.6-acre property from its owner,

Wolter Properties, for \$4 million. The deal became official Nov. 13.

“If we didn’t purchase the land, we would have had to relocate the holes,” explained Max Schroeder, a spokesman for Quail Lodge.

The 18-hole golf course at Quail Lodge opened in 1964. Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels Ltd. bought the resort in 1997. It was closed in 2009 due to the sluggish economy, and is scheduled to reopen in April 2013 following a \$28 million makeover.

REDWOOD

From page 1A

late Big Sur historian Jeff Norman.

Toren said much of the tree will remain — at least for now — in the library’s garden, where he suggested it resembles a beached whale. The portion of the tree that covered much of the library’s parking lot has been removed.

Others on Facebook mourned the loss of the majestic tree, including several people who were married beneath it.

“That ol’ tree will be missed,” posted Laura Waldon Louderback, who added that the fallen redwood served as a “great back-

drop for our nuptials.”

According to the National Weather Service, from Wednesday through Sunday, 18.27 inches of rain were recorded on Big Sur’s Mining Ridge, which is located at 4,760 feet and is one of Big Sur’s wettest places. At Andrew Molera State Park — not far from most of Big Sur’s resorts and businesses — 7.48 inches were recorded over the same span.

Over the same five-day period, 4.72 inches of rain were recorded in Carmel Valley, while Monterey received just 3 inches of moisture.

A flash flood warning was issued as the Big Sur River rose to a high of 10.51 inches Sunday.



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Nº 13

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At the mouth of Carmel Valley

CPUC

From page 1A

er this year sent a letter to the CPUC telling the agency that Cal Am’s desal plant would, in fact, provide too much water and could lead to “induced growth.”

LandWatch also advocated for the “small-est possible project” and said any project seeking to provide water for growth should be first analyzed by the CPUC.

However, the coalition told the CPUC that the construction of a “true regional water supply project, one that will finally satisfy our decades-long water shortage, is an opportunity that will not, in all probability, present itself again.”

The letter, sent to CPUC analyst Andrew Barnsdale, went on to say that the CPUC would be remiss if it didn’t analyze a “build-out” alternative in the environmental impact report for Cal Am’s project.

“The Monterey Peninsula has been deprived of normal social and economic activity — e.g., home remodels, business

innovations and changes driven by customer preferences — for at least [two decades] due to these constraints and water restrictions,” according to the group.

The coalition’s members include the Monterey County Hospitality Association; Carmel, Monterey and Pacific Grove chambers of commerce; the Monterey County Association of Realtors, and Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.

Coalition consultant Bob McKenzie told The Pine Cone the group still supports Cal Am as the developer of the desal plant but envisions a facility that could possibly be expanded in phases to produce more water, much the way that the defunct regional desalination project was designed.

The group’s co-chair, John Narigi, vice president and general manager of the Monterey Plaza Hotel, said a larger capacity desal plant would also likely lower the cost.

“I am hoping that the CPUC will state to Cal Am, ‘You need to build a larger plant now,’” Narigi said this week.

The local hospitality and tourism industries, according to the CPB, have just begun

to recover from the economic downturn, while hotel occupancies are still over six percentage points below historical averages.

“It is an industry that accounts for \$2 billion in economic activity, provides 22,000 jobs and provides a significant tax base for its communities,” according to the group.

“The sizing of the [water] projects must be sufficient to allow the industry, employment and tax base to return to historical levels.”

Cal Am community relations manager Catherine Bowie said the company was aware of CPB’s request to the CPUC.

“The Public Utilities Commission needs to look at a variety of inputs in determining the ultimate size of the plant,” Bowie told The Pine Cone. “And certainly, lots of record and future economic predictions for the area are very important factors to be considered in determining the plant’s size.”

In all, the CPB argues the Peninsula’s total need for water is 20,726 acre-feet per year, which includes 1,181 acre-feet to satisfy lots of record, 4,545 acre-feet to meet the needs of the local general plans 15,000 acre-feet of water for existing needs.

Cal Am’s proposed \$400 million project includes a desal plant in Marina, underground water storage and a project to turn wastewater into drinking water.

But the water storage project, a partnership between Cal Am and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, is “inherently unreliable,” according to the coalition, because it would depend on excess winter flows from the Carmel River, which vary every year.

“No reliance on this as a source of supply should be made,” it said.

And the wastewater component is also unreliable because of the MRWPCA’s board of directors’ recent vote against future funding of the project due to uncertainties over water rights.

Cal Am has proposed building a larger, 9 million-gallon-per-day desal plant if the wastewater component doesn’t come to fruition. The project currently calls for a 5 million-gallon-per-day desal plant.

The coalition believes it would be less expensive in the long run to build a plant now that could offer more water rather than wait years down the road to augment the facility.

“The CPB believes it is now time for the Peninsula to solve its water supply dilemma rather than undersize a ‘solution’ and spend another 40 years arguing over the increment of water supply augmentation,” the group said.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Date of Notice: 5 December 2012

**RELEASE AND AVAILABILITY OF RECIRCULATED
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT:
SALE OF FLANDERS MANSION PROPERTY**

SCH #2005011108

This Notice is intended to inform interested parties of the release of the Recirculated Final Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Sale of Flanders Mansion Project. This notice also provides information on meetings to be held on the Project that will be held at the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea Council Chambers.

The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea is considering the following project: Sale of Flanders Mansion. The Project would sell the historic Flanders Mansion on a 1.252-acre parcel located within Mission Trails Nature Preserve (25800 Hatton Road, Carmel, CA). The project is accessed by a driveway on Hatton Road or by trails within the Preserve.

This project is subject to environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The City, as the lead agency, prepared a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report, released it for formal comment period from on 5 January 2009 to 18 February 2009. The City prepared and released a Recirculated Final Environmental Impact Report in response to comments received during the public review period on April 15, 2009.

The City’s subsequent approval of the project and certification of the 2009 EIR was challenged in court. Based on the Court’s decision, the City rescinded its certification of the 2009 EIR.

The City prepared a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report, Revised Alternatives Section, and released this document for public review and comment on 14 June 2012. The formal comment period closed on 30 July 2012. Pursuant to the Guidelines for the California Environmental Quality Act Section 15088, the City has evaluated comments on environmental issues received from persons who received the Recirculated Draft EIR and prepared written responses.

The City invites interested members of the public to review the Recirculated Final Environmental Impact Report and attend hearings related to the City’s consideration of this project. Copies of the RFEIR are available for review at the following locations:

Carmel-by-the-Sea City Hall P.O. Box CC, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921	Harrison Memorial Library Northeast corner of Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Street, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA
A copy of the document can be purchased at: Copies-by-the-Sea Corner of Dolores Street and Fifth Avenue, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA	A copy of the RFEIR is available on the internet at the following address: http://ci.carmel.ca.us/carmel/index.cfm/government/staff-departments/community-planning-and-building/projects/

Public hearings on the project will be held at the following dates and times:

10 December 2012 at 1:30 p.m.: Forest and Beach Commission. Pursuant to CMC Section 2.36.020, the Commission will advise the Planning Commission on the adequacy of the Recirculated Final Environmental Impact Report regarding the effects of the proposed project on the Mission Trails Nature Preserve.

10 December 2012 at 4:00 p.m.: Historic Resources Board. Pursuant to CMC Section 17.32.030(I), the Board will advise the Planning Commission on the adequacy of the Recirculated Final Environmental Impact Report regarding the effects of the proposed project on historic resources.

12 December 2012 at 4:00 p.m.: Planning Commission. Pursuant to CMC Section 17.60.040 and Section 65402 of the California Government Code, the Commission will advise the City Council on (1) the adequacy of the Recirculated Final Environmental Impact Report, and (2) consistency of the proposed project and alternatives with the General Plan.

8 January 2013 at 4:00 p.m.: City Council. The City Council will consider the Recirculated Final Environmental Impact Report, input from the above-named Board and Commissions, public testimony and other relevant information and may take one or more of the actions described below.

Proposed Council Actions: (1) Certification of the Recirculated Final Environmental Impact Report, (2) selection of the project or an alternative, (3) adoption of a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for environmental impacts and (4) adoption of Conditions of Sale and Covenants to be recorded to run with the land, or Conditions of Lease. If the Council selects the proposed project or a sale alternative, a Notice of Intent to Sell Parkland also will be adopted.

All four meetings will be held at City Hall located on the east side of Monte Verde Street between Ocean and 7th Avenues. The purpose of these meetings is to gather public input prior to taking action on the proposed project. The City Council will consider the Recirculated Final Environmental Impact Report, input from the above-named Board and Commissions, public testimony and other relevant information and may take one or more of the actions described above.

Publication date: Dec. 7, 2012 (PC1208)

Police department issues parking permits

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE CITY will begin issuing parking stickers for residents and property owners Monday, Dec. 17. The permits, which are valid for 2013 and cost \$20 per vehicle, allow holders to park for three hours in the two-hour parking spots and double the time limits in one-hour, 20-minute and 10-minute parking zones. They also allow parking in areas designated for residential parking, such as Monte Verde Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues.

A parking permit is only available to the registered owner of the vehicle, and proof of registration is required. Purchasers must also bring verification of city residency or residential property ownership, such as utility or tax bills.

The permits will be available at the Carmel Police Department, located at Junipero and Fourth in downtown Carmel, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.


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Sunset Center's 2nd Annual Holiday Party

Friday, December 7th 3PM-5PM in the Theater Lobby

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

• 3PM-5PM: Stop by our Lobby to get warm and enjoy wine, coffee, hot chocolate, pizza bites, and cookies. Kids will have fun with our coloring contest too!

• 4PM-5PM: Have your free family portrait taken by our professional photographer in front of our 16-ft holiday tree generously donated by the Friends of Sunset Center.

• 4PM-5PM: Delight in the sounds of local carolers "Peninsula Harmony Company" then head up town to enjoy the City's festivities at Devendorf Park!

• Purchase a Holiday Wreath from Creekside Farms with 25% of the proceeds going to Voices for Children CASA on behalf of Sunset Center's Classroom Connections program.

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Saturday, December 15th • 7:00pm
Sunday, December 16th • 2:00pm

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Friday, December 14th • 5:00 to 6:30pm

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Sunday, December 16th • 12:00 - 1:30pm

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BONDS

From page 1A

“We had orders for \$13.9 million, making us about two times oversubscribed, which means the pricing was about right, with an opportunity for us to tweak and lower prices in a few areas,” Stilwell said. The city recently received a Standard & Poor’s credit rating of AA+, which contributed to the desirability of its bonds.

Last month, the council authorized Stilwell to execute the bond purchase agreement and cut a check to the California Public Employees Retirement System, which will be paid Dec. 14. Stilwell reported the move will save the city about \$100,000 this year, “which will help our tight budget.” The 2012/2013 budget relies on about \$700,000 from reserves.

The bonds will be paid off in 10 years — the same term as the 1 percent sales tax increase voters approved in November that will take effect April 1, 2013 — with payments averaging \$700,000 annually.

Stilwell congratulated the council and thanked members for “all of your work on this item, for the special meetings and for your timely approvals along the way.”

“This is great news for the city,” he concluded.

Vice Mayor Ken Talmage, arguably the

most fiscally minded council member, presided over the bond discussions that began last summer, as Mayor Jason Burnett had to recuse himself due to past business dealings with one of the consultants. This week, he characterized the bond sale as “a positive step forward for Carmel, especially when coupled with the passage of Measure D, which should generate approximately \$20 million in new tax revenue over the next 10 years.”

Tap Bananas at foundation

THE TAP Bananas will present a newly choreographed holiday show Wednesday, Dec. 12, at The Carmel Foundation. Free and open to the public, the performance will take place in Diment Hall, located on the southeast corner of Lincoln and Eighth, at 2:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

For more information about the show or the nonprofit foundation, which is open to everyone age 55 and older and offers classes, field trips, low-cost meals and housing, medical equipment rentals, transportation and other services, contact Anne Albano at (831) 620-8705 or visit www.carmelfoundation.org.

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FUND

From page 1A

“major donor committee,” is charged with violating Government Code section 84200, which requires semiannual statements be filed each year no later than July 31 for the period ending June 30, and no later than Jan. 31 for the period ending December 31.

While FPPC staff found the North Salinas group had violated the law by not filing the appropriate Form 461, the commission will consider whether to fine the group \$1,350. The commission also has the option of rejecting the charge although that’s unlikely since the group admitted fault.

“The commission does have the final word,” FPPC enforcement officer Gary Winuk told The Pine Cone Tuesday.

The three-page decision by the FPPC lists Marjorie Kay as the group’s respondent.

Winuk said county clerks are required to report groups or candidates who fail to file campaign statements.

“Anybody who doesn’t file statements is going to get turned in,” he said.

In a big-money push to oust longtime incumbent 5th District Supervisor Dave Potter, the North Salinas group gave Del Piero a total of \$132,500. Another \$14,000 came from Curtis Spitler, who is the husband of the North Salinas Fund’s chair, Julie

Engell.

The effort failed, and Potter, who accused the North Salinas group of trying to “buy the election,” was reelected.

The group also donated \$197,600 this year to LandWatch Monterey County, with which it’s closely aligned.

The group’s large donations prompted Ron Chesshire, CEO at the Monterey/Santa Cruz Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, to petition county supervisors to limit direct campaign contributions to local political candidates.

Chesshire informed the FPPC of the group’s deadline blunder.

Engell told the Monterey County Herald this week that the group simply missed the filing deadline. Once the mistake, was realized, she said, the forms were filled out and turned in the next day.

Engell also said the group wasn’t trying to hide anything and was “embarrassed” by the oversight.

The tax-exempt North Salinas group came into its cash bonanza in 2008 when it received a \$600,000 settlement stemming from a legal fight it waged with Monterey County over permits for Butterfly Village, the proposed residential development north of Salinas.

The group was then called the San Juan Opposition Coalition.

Del Piero lost to Potter by 55 percent to 45 percent in the Nov. 6 election.

SHEPHERD

From page 1A

“She thought she was getting a perfectly healthy dog [from the Stockton shelter],” AFRP executive director Kelly Lehrian told The Pine Cone.

Herbie, who was huddled in a ball in the back corner of the Stockton kennel, was spotted by the volunteer as she was there to pick up another dog, Lehrian said. After he was adopted, Herbie was taken to VCA Animal Hospital of Santa Cruz, where veterinarians, who noticed the dog’s putrid stench, sedated and examined him.

Santa Cruz AFRP coordinator Sue Trapp “was worried he wasn’t even stable enough to make it through the night,” Lehrian said.

Though Herbie smelled bad, it wasn’t evident the dog was sick since animals in shelters frequently reek, Lehrian said.

But after vets clipped Herbie’s fur, the extent of his wounds became clear. The dog had a 7-inch-by-4-inch lesion on the back of his neck that had been neglected so long that the skin had died. Doctors trimmed away the skin, which left a huge gaping wound. He was also feverish. The awful smell was from the dog’s rotting flesh. He also had other serious wounds.

Because the lesions were so large, they were unable to be closed. Instead, doctors applied bandages to the wounds to keep them clean and protected, and Herbie was given antibiotics via an intravenous drip.

“He was given fluids and injectable antibiotics,” Lehrian said. “And they worked

on stabilizing him.”

Herbie was also given medication to minimize his pain and was transferred to Pet Specialists of Monterey during the Thanksgiving weekend to recover.

Last week, Herbie underwent another surgery to remove granulated tissue and had his wounds stitched. Lehrian said the dog has been placed with a foster family in Carmel.

“He’s healing up and doing well,” she said.

Lehrian said it’s not clear whether Herbie sustained the injuries before or after he was taken to the Stockton facility.

“Did it happen by other dogs at the shelter?” Lehrian said. “It’s hard to say.”

Regardless, it’s likely Herbie would have been put down if he had stayed at the Stockton shelter.

“My guess is Herbie would have eventually ended up on the euthanasia list once they realized he was injured, as they don’t have the money or resources to care for those animals,” Lehrian said.

The vet bill to treat Herbie is pushing \$5,000, money that AFRP is trying to recover through donations. So far, several dozen donors have come forward, but the organization — which often takes in dogs that need medical care — is still looking for donations.

“Any money raised above and beyond” Herbie’s vet bills, Lehrian said, “will roll that into our medical fund to help other animals and their needs.”

Lehrian said Herbie may be put up for adoption if his foster family doesn’t keep him.

AFRP can be reached at (831) 333-0722 or at www.animalfriendsrescue.org.

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Everyone's a winner in P.G. Art Center raffle

By CHRIS COUNTS

WHILE IT might not hold quite the promise and potential of a lottery ticket, a raffle ticket for the Pacific Grove Art Center's Patrons Show drawing is a sure winner.

The art center hosts its annual drawing Sunday, Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. Until then, tickets are available at \$50 for members of the art center and \$75 for nonmembers. Only one raffle ticket is sold for each piece of art that's been donated to the show, ensuring that everybody goes home with an original piece of art. Proceeds benefit the nonprofit gallery.

"This event is critical to our continued success in serving the public and meeting our mission," explained Alana Puryear, the art center's executive director.

The show features artwork done in a wide variety of mediums, including oils, watercolors, photography and fabric art. Winners do not need to be present.

See ART page 18A



Patrick Tregenza will talk about his food and produce photography at a wine-tasting event Dec. 8 at the Center for Photographic Art.

Holiday concerts celebrate season, benefit charities

By CHRIS COUNTS

AN IMPRESSIVE array of musical talent comes together Wednesday, Dec. 12, when Hidden Valley Music Seminars presents its annual seasonal music celebration, "A Gathering in the Holiday Spirit."

This year's lineup includes tenor **Ben Gulley**, singer-songwriters **Alisa Fineman** and **Kimball Hurd**, pianist **Rick Yramategui**, soprano **Laura Anderson**, and **The Camerata Singers**.

"This is an event that embraces all holiday traditions," explained Anderson, who also works as a production coordinator for Hidden Valley. "There will be Christmas music, Hannukkah music and secular music."

An award-winning opera singer, Gulley starred as Rudolfo in Hidden Valley's production of "La Bohème" last September.

Fineman is a singer-songwriter who was recognized two years ago as one of Monterey County's Champions of the Arts. Hurd is a talented instrumentalist who was once a member of the acoustic trio, City Folk.

Sharing a common love of music — and coming from all walks of life — the Camerata Singers return to Hidden

The music starts at 3 p.m. and tickets are \$15. The Cherry Center is located at Guadalupe and Fourth. Visit www.carlcherrycenter.org.

■ All Saints' welcomes piano quartet

The **Los Angeles Piano Quartet** performs Friday, Dec. 7, at All Saints' Church.

"We're excited about their visit," said **Peter Tufts**, executive director of the Carmel Music Society, which is presenting the concert. "In addition to playing works from the classical repertoire, they will perform a new work by contemporary composer Pierre Jalbert."

Founded in 1977, the quartet features **Yehonatan Berick** on violin, **Katherine Murdock** on viola, **Steven Doane** on cello and **Xak Bjerken** on piano.

Friday's program includes Mozart's Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, K.493; Jalbert's Secret Alchemy for violin, viola, cello and piano; and Brahms' Piano Quartet No. 2 in A Major, op. 26.

Presented by the Carmel Music Society, the concert begins at 8 p.m. The church is located at Dolores and Ninth.



The Driftless (above) play traditional acoustic music Dec. 7 at Plaza Linda restaurant in Carmel Valley. The Los Angeles Piano Quartet (right) performs the same evening at All Saints Church.



Valley, where they performed in September when "La Bohème" was staged there.

The music starts at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$7.50 for children under 12. A host of local charities are selling tickets as well — and keeping half the proceeds. Hidden Valley is located at Carmel Valley and Ford roads. Call (831) 659-3115.

Fineman and Hurd also perform Sunday, Dec. 9, at the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts. They'll be joined on stage by **Heartstrings**, a local ensemble featuring **Laura Burian** on violin, **Paulette Lynch** on hammered dulcimer and percussion, **Pat Skinner** on mandolin, mandola and accordion, and **Marj Ingram Viales** on guitar.

Proceeds from the concert benefit charities supporting homeless women.

Tickets are \$30 for general admission and \$10 for full-time students. Kids K-12 get in for free if they're accompanied by an adult — and the adult pays only \$10. Call (831) 625-9938 or visit www.carmelmusic.org.

■ Sweet and rowdy

A Santa Cruz-based acoustic trio with a sound that ranges from sweet to rowdy, **The Driftless** play Friday, Dec. 7, at Plaza Linda in Carmel Valley.

With **Megan Saunders** on mandolin and banjo; **Nicole Campbell** on guitar and fiddle, and **Blair McLaughlin** on guitar and fiddle — and all three on vocals and harmonies —

See MUSIC page 18A

Dining AROUND THE PENINSULA	
CARMEL	MONTEREY
Anton & Michel5A	1833 Restaurant9GG
Brophy's Tavern11GG	Domenico's on The Wharf8GG
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MONTEREY
MPC THEATRE COMPANY
presents
A CHRISTMAS CAROL
December 6-23
See page 17A

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
SUNSET CENTER
2nd Annual
Holiday Party
December 7
See page 19A

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
SUNSET CENTER
presents
SMUIN BALLET
The Christmas Ballet
December 7-8
See page 18A

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
CARMEL MISSION BASILICA
presents
Christmas at the Mission
December 9
See page 19A

CARMEL
CHANTICLEER
presents
A Chanticleer Christmas
December 10-23
See page 17A

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
RICH PEPE presents
CARMEL-BY-THE-GLASS
December 13
See page 11GG

MONTEREY PENINSULA
CAMERATA SINGERS
presents
Hidden in Light
December 14-16
See page 19A

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
DANCE KIDS OF MONTEREY COUNTY
19th Annual Production
Nutcracker
December 14-16
See page 13A

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
HARRISON MEMORIAL LIBRARY - PARK BRANCH presents
The Holiday Boy Who Cried Wolf
December 15
See page 19A

CARMEL VALLEY
JAN DE LUZ
presents
Olive Oil Lovers Event
December 15
See page 11A

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
MONTEREY PENINSULA VOICES
presents
SOUNDS OF THE SEASON
December 18
See page 2GG

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
PAC REP THEATRE
presents
SPAMALOT
through Dec. 23
See page 17A

Full of surprises, Smuin Ballet's holiday program returns to Sunset

By CHRIS COUNTS

PRESENTING THE latest incarnation of its ever-changing holiday program, Smuin Ballet performs Friday and Saturday, Dec. 7-8, at Sunset Center.

At the heart of Smuin Ballet's holiday program is its wildly creative Christmas Ballet, which was created by the dance company's late founder, Michael Smuin, who passed away five years ago. Set to both classical and pop music, the Christmas Ballet is full of surprises.

"We bring pieces in, and we bring pieces out," explained Darren Anderson, a spokesman for Smuin Ballet. "We never do the same show twice."

This year's Christmas Ballet features three new pieces, including Anderson's "All I Want for Christmas is You," Amy Seiwert's "No Christmas for Me," and a ballet by Jane Rehm set to the music of the traditional English Christmas carol, "Here We Come A-wassailing."

With a soundtrack that ranges from Bach to Elvis, the holiday program is a dazzling

spectacle.

"There's so much going on. The fast pace keeps you entertained," Anderson said.

Friday's performance begins at 8 p.m., while Saturday's show starts at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$43 to \$65.

■ Sunset offers holiday party

In tandem with the City of Carmel's yearly tree lighting celebration, Sunset Center hosts its second annual Holiday Party Friday, Dec. 7. Highlights include a performance by the singing group, the Peninsula Harmony Company, and a fundraising exhibit of hand-made holiday wreaths at Sunset Center's Marjorie Evans Gallery. The fun starts at 3 p.m.

Coming up next at Sunset Center is the Dance Kids of Monterey County's annual presentation of The Nutcracker, which will be staged Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 14-16.

Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 620-2048 or visit www.sunsetcenter.org.



Smuin Ballet, known for its innovative dance routines, returns this weekend to Sunset Center, where it will stage its annual holiday program.

Santa lands in C.V. for 54th year

AFTER A week of wet weather, the forecast calls for clear skies Saturday, Dec. 8, when Santa Claus makes his 54th annual landing on the Carmel Valley Airfield.

Accompanied by Mrs. Claus, Santa will be delivered by helicopter before embarking

on a sleigh driven by reindeer through Carmel Valley Village. The airport is located north of Carmel Valley Road along Ford Road. Sponsored by a variety of Carmel Valley nonprofit groups, the fly-in begins at 10:30 a.m.

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ART

From page 16A

The art center is located at 568 Lighthouse Ave. For more information, call (831) 375-2208 or visit www.pgartcenter.org.

■ Apertures and Appellations

The work of local food photographer Patrick Tregenza will be highlighted when the Center for Photographic Art hosts a wine-tasting reception Saturday, Dec. 8.

The event is the final installment in the gallery's Apertures and Appellations series.

For the past two decades, Tregenza has operated a commercial photography studio in Monterey, where he has established a reputation for capturing striking images of food and produce. One of Tregenza's prints will be raffled off at the reception.

Also on display at the CPA is an exhibit of black and white

underwater photographs by Scott Campbell, Chuck Davis, Art Haseltine and others.

Luminesce Wines, Scheid Vineyards and Silvestri Vineyards will pour wine at the event.

Admission is \$5 for CPA members and \$10 for nonmembers. The gallery is located next to Sunset Center. Call (831) 625-5181 or visit www.photography.org.

■ Artisans gather for C.V. craft show

Showcasing the work of 10 local artisans, Los Laureles Lodge in Carmel Valley hosts its 13th annual Christmas Craft Show Saturday, Dec. 8.

Included in the display will be scarves by Kathie Weston, decorative ceramics by Laurel Grace, handcrafted soaps by Kathy and Andrea Smith, cards by Mireille Barmann, children's clothing by Emily Frew, hand-painted pottery by Kathleen DeBord, knitting by Sandy Day, metal sculpture by Ron Rice and jewelry by Kathy Klawans Smith.

The sale starts at 10 a.m. The lodge is located at 313 W. Carmel Valley Road. Call (831) 659-2233.

MUSIC

From page 16A

the trio brings together country, folk, blues and bluegrass. Their repertoire includes original songs "about places we've been, our kick-ass friends, lovers and local wanderings."

"These girls put a bluegrass smile on your face and tap in your toe," music promoter Kiki Wow said.

The following evening — Saturday, Dec. 8 — singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist **James Woolwine** performs at Plaza Linda. He offers a mix of "pop melodicism, jazz sophistication and heavy metal attitude."

Both shows start at 7 p.m. and there's a \$10 cover. Plaza Linda is located at 27 E. Carmel Valley Road. Call (831) 659-4229 or visit www.plazalinda.com.

■ Songs from the north country

Singer-songwriter **Lillie Lemon** plays "indie rock with a sour twist," Friday, Dec. 7, at the Big Sur Tap House.

A Monterey transplant from "the land of long winters," Lemon offers up a sound that's understated and at times melancholy, but filled with catchy melodies, smart lyrics and a lot of heart. The music starts at 8 p.m., and there's no cover.

The next night — Saturday, Dec. 8 — Singer-songwriters **Walter Rose** and **Mikey Selbicky** share the stage at the Tap House. Earlier this year, Rose released his debut recording, "Cast Your Stone." Backed by Lucinda Williams' band, the disc features a cameo by the Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter.

The music begins at 7 p.m. and there's no cover. The Tap House is located on Highway 1 27 miles south of Carmel. Call (831) 667-2225 or visit www.bigsurtaphouse.com.

Also performing down the coast is Carmel Valley singer-songwriter **Nico Georis** and his band, **Sky Country**. They take the stage Saturday, Dec. 8, at Fernwood Resort in Big Sur. Georis serves up a mix of original music which spans his many influences, from folk and country, to pop and 1960s psychedelic rock.

The music starts at 9 p.m. and there's no cover. Fernwood is located on Highway 1 about 25 miles south of Carmel. Call (831) 667-2422 or visit www.fernwoodbigsur.com.

■ More music, no cover

Guitarist **Richard Devinck** plays classical music at the Cypress Inn (Lincoln and Seventh) Sunday, Dec. 9, at 5 p.m. There's no cover

Pianist **Madeline Edstrom** leads a sing-a-long of jazz and pop tunes Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7-9, at Mission Ranch (26270 Dolores St.). Also playing piano, **Gennady Loktionov** leads a sing-a-long Monday through Thursday, Dec. 10-13. The music begins at 8 p.m. and there's no cover.

Classical guitarist **Peter Evans** performs at Mundaka restaurant (San Carlos and Seventh) Monday, Dec. 10. The following evening — Tuesday, Dec. 11 — guitarist **Rick Chelew** plays at the same venue. The shows start at 7 p.m. and there's no cover.

Victory Lane plays classic rock Friday, Dec. 7, at Carmel Mission Inn's Fuse Lounge (3665 Rio Road). The following evening — Saturday, Dec. 8 — **Dino Vera** sings jazz, soul and pop at the same venue. Both shows start at 9 p.m. and there's no cover.



Tenor Ben Gulley (top photo) and the folk duo, Alisa Fineman and Kimball Hurd, perform Dec. 12 at Hidden Valley Music Seminars in Carmel Valley.

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FLANDERS

From page 1A

Duffy & Associates and approved by the council Tuesday, members will receive the EIR in January 2013 and take action on it the following month.

“This evening, what the agenda item talks about is having the city council authorize the city administrator to retain the services of a real estate professional in terms of potentially leasing Flanders Mansion, but because the EIR has not been certified by the city council, we want to be careful about getting ahead of ourselves,” Freeman said. “We don’t want any discussion or decision if it should be a lease, a sale or something else. The city is prohibited from making any decision until the final EIR has been given to you.”

Nonetheless, some members of the public couldn’t resist sharing their opinions, including Carmel Woods resident Joyce Stevens, who said she supports a curatorship agreement in which someone would live in the mansion and fix it on his own dime before returning it to the city.

“The lease option would solve the problem,” she said. “I’m appreciative that this council is interested in pursuing more creative ways of solving the vexing problem of Flanders Mansion.”

Hatton Road resident Skip Lloyd warned the city to take its time in soliciting lease proposals so that it would have a better chance of fielding feasible options, and Carmel Residents Association board member Dick Stiles pointed out the city would not have to pay for another election if the council decided to lease out the mansion rather than sell it.

Flanders Foundation President Melanie Billig said she was also looking forward to the discussion of a curatorship. She questioned Duffy’s proposed timeframe, however, suggesting it would take longer for city officials to digest the information in the EIR and make decisions regarding its comprehensiveness and conclusions.

Billig also praised the council for being open to a lease. “This takes this off a negative route and puts it on a more positive route, thanks to all of you,” she said.

Robert Knight, however, pointed out the amount of time and energy that have gone into the Flanders Mansion issue. Mission Trail park is more important than the mansion, so selling the house would make more sense, he said, while leasing it would saddle the city with the duties of a landlord and not lead to permanent resolution of the debate. Instead, city officials would have to police

the tenants and find new occupants if the first lessees didn’t work out.

“If you lease it, it could be fraught with all sorts of questions,” he said, adding that voters resoundingly favored selling Flanders.

Mayor Jason Burnett reiterated the only question to be answered that night was whether Stilwell should be asked to hire a real estate professional to get started on investigating lease options, so that if the council decides to go that route, the research would already be under way.

“All it would be is a real estate professional working with the city administrator in the event you may wish to lease the property,” Freeman agreed.

But councilwoman Victoria Beach questioned whether the consultant should be a real estate professional or a historian, and she said the person should not be in a position to gain financially if the city went with his recommendations.

Councilman Steve Hillyard said the consultant should be an attorney or someone who would evaluate the finances of all options to help the council make its decision.

“We need the financial information, because we can’t just give this property away,” he said.

“I want to talk about how Jason Stilwell is going to select that person and what that type of person should be,” Beach said.

Ultimately, Burnett suggested two experts: one in real estate and the other in finances, and the council unanimously voted to authorize Stilwell to assist the council in the Flanders debate by soliciting such help.

After trying and failing to orally articulate a motion in a way that was clear to the council and assistant city administrator Heidi Burch, perhaps in part because the meeting had already passed the four-hour mark, Burnett took a few minutes to clearly articulate his thinking in writing.

“First, we need financial expertise to compare lease vs. sale vs. other disposition and within one form of disposition,’ such as lease 1 vs. lease 2, he wrote. “Second, we need a real-estate professional who has experience with leases, especially of historic properties, who can help advise us on options.”

The real-estate advisor would be paid by a consulting contract but might eventually be hired to put Flanders on the market for a lease.

“We authorize the city administrator to pursue whatever process he sees fit for ensuring the council has the information we need to make an informed decision at the appropriate time in the future,” Burnett concluded, and the rest of the council agreed with his motion.

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Robert Austin Auger, DDS

October 23, 1934 – November 24, 2012

Carmel ~ Bob was born Robert Austin Auger on October 23, 1934, the only child of Austin C. Auger and Ruth Nephew Auger. Growing up in upstate Malone, New York, he attended Franklin Academy High School and excelled in all sports. After high school, he attended the University of Buffalo undergraduate and dental schools receiving his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in June, 1959.



Bob served in the US Army Dental Corp from 1959 -1967 including a tour in Kaiserslautern, Germany from 1959-1963. It was there he met his future wife, Gini, a California school teacher. They married and their first child, Kimberly Mae, was born. Bob’s skiing in Austria and Switzerland influenced the family’s love of the sport over the next 40 years. The family was transferred to Fort Ord, California and in 1964 their second child, Tim Austin, was born. In 1966, Bob served in Vietnam with the 38th Medical Detachment and was released from the Army in 1967.

Following his military service, Bob completed his Orthodontic residency at the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham. It was in 1969 that Dr. Auger established his Orthodontic practice in Monterey, California. He was a clinical instructor at the UCLA Orthodontic residency for 25 years and retired in 2003 after an exceptionally fulfilling and accomplished career.

Bob was the founder of the Monterey Bay Area Study Club, member of the Pacheco Club, past Monterey Rotarian and longtime member of the American Legion. His optimistic and warm personality was captivating and reflected his love of people. His zeal and passion for fly fishing, deep powder skiing, camping, hunting and travel were shared with many over the years. Bob especially loved to fly his Cessna 182 allowing him to fly fish, play golf and tennis with friends everywhere. This zest for life also earned him the nickname “Dr. Vacation” from his close friends.

Bob died peacefully, surrounded by his family in Carmel Valley, on November 24, 2012. He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Gini; his children, Kimberly “Kimi” (Jonathan) White of Denver, Tim (Meghan) Auger of Carmel Valley; grandchildren, Austin (22), Connor (20), Tarhyn (19) and Kevan (14) Auger.... Parker (13), Spencer (10), Nathan (10) White; brother-in-law Bob Webster and numerous relatives in Malone and Rochester, New York, South Carolina, Florida, Colorado and Oregon.



The family expresses their great appreciation to Dr. Ruth Madamba and her staff at Carmel Valley Guest Home....also, Espy Merino, Ruby Luna and Anna Esparza for their loving care and Dr. Alejandro Centurion for his guidance over the years.

A Celebration of Dr. Auger’s Life for family and close friends will be held at the Mission Ranch on January 26, 2013 at 4:30. In lieu of flowers, Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of the donor’s choice or to the Alzheimer’s Association, 21 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Monterey, CA 93940. Please visit www.thepaulmortuary.com to sign Dr. Auger’s guest book and leave messages for his family.

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WILDERNESS

From page 7A

The plan also suggests maintaining fire beaks on wilderness land between Mt Manuel and the Big Sur River (less than a mile) and along Chews Ridge (3.9 miles) in Upper Carmel Valley.

Importance of having your say

The VWA’s executive director, Mike Splain, said the plan is short on details — in part because the forest service wants to get public input before finalizing its details.

“It’s worth noting that the forest service has deliberately left this [plan] somewhat vague,” Splain added. “The agency says that public comments will guide the specifics, and so the importance of submitting your comments cannot be overemphasized.”

Written comments about the plan can be sent to Los Padres National Forest, Monterey Ranger District, 406 South Mildred Ave., King City, CA 93930, attention: Jeff Kwasny. Comments can also be emailed to: comments-pacificsouthwest-los-padres-monterey@fs.fed.us.

TAXES

From page 10A

February meeting, when the council will have hard numbers for the first half of the budget year, he said, “and see where we are.”

Councilman Steve Hillyard said he could support spending some of the money, while councilwoman Victoria Beach said she was inclined to be more conservative. Councilwoman Carrie Theis said she was fine with waiting until the February 2013 meeting to decide. Mayor Jason Burnett pointed out that in pushing voters to approve the tax, city officials touted financial stability and quality of life.

Issuing pension obligation bonds to pay down retirement debt at a lower interest rate over a shorter amount of time — an effort enabled by the sales tax increase — speaks to the financial-stability aspect, he said, and those bonds have already been sold.

“But we also talked about the quality of the experience, whether that be the built environment or the services that residents and visitors enjoy,” Burnett continued. “What we should do at the start of what should be a 10-year effort is to

have a balanced approach across those areas.”

Talmage acquiesced a bit. While he doubted that rail fences or ground cover constituted hazard mitigation, he approved of fixing sidewalks and gutters to reduce the risk of personal injury lawsuits being filed against the city. Accordingly, he made the motion to allocate \$25,000 of the sales tax proceeds for that work, and to ask Stilwell to bring the other options back in February, when the council will have a better picture of the current budget numbers. The rest of the council unanimously agreed.

Jack Q Reynolds

January 4, 1930 - November 23, 2012



Jack Reynolds died peacefully at home on Nov. 23rd surrounded by his family: his wife of 58 years, Diana; sons Steven of Palo Alto, CA and Andrew of Los Gatos CA; daughter Julie Reinhart and her husband Mike of San Jose; and grandson Adam Reynolds.

Born in Decatur, Indiana, he earned a BS in electrical engineering from the University of Evansville in 1955. His leadership skills quickly led to a long career in senior management ending with his retirement in 1993 as VP of Quality with Northern Telecom.

After six years of retirement in Sebastopol CA tending a big garden and sixty rosebushes, he and Diana moved to Carmel in 1999. With his signature hat and safari vest he was a daily sight on mornings walking on Scenic Rd. and afternoons shopping at local markets where he was known for asking about your day on a scale of 1 to 10.

He left us with memories of his “no problem” approach to life, his warm smile, his big heart and his generous spirit. Any remembrances can be sent to Westland House, 100 Barnet Segal Lane, Monterey CA., 93940

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Chamber honors outstanding businesses at annual awards dinner



■ **Weston Gallery named Business of the Year**

By MARY SCHLEY

HUNDREDS OF Carmel Chamber of Commerce members and supporters gathered at the Hyatt Regency Monterey Wednesday night for the organizations’s 15th Annual Awards of Excellence Gala. Board members Gin Weathers and Doug Lumsden co-chaired the event, during which the winners of 14 individual categories, as well as the Business of the Year, were announced.

Weathers said the honors are nicknamed the “star awards” because they recognize businesses that succeed in five points: They “excel in quality service and/or products, practice the highest business ethics, foster a beautiful environment and exemplify enlightened customer service and staff relations.” The winners were selected by a vote of the chamber’s 500-plus member businesses from groups of three candidates in each category that had been nominated by chamber members and the general public.

Before the names were announced, Carmel Mayor Jason Burnett told those in



Continues next page

Among those picking up awards at the Carmel Chamber of Commerce dinner Wednesday were (top row) Mike Oprish of Bernardus Lodge; Bill Mitchell, Shelly Lynch and Vicki Mitchell of Carmel Realty, and Michael Adamson and Kathy Torres of Monterey County Bank. Business of the Year winners Maggi Weston and Richard Gadd of Weston Gallery accepted their award from outgoing chamber President Doug Lumsden (bottom left). Other winners (clockwise from lower right) were Rita Patel of the Carmel Unified School District, Michael Troutman of DMT Imaging, Ross Arnold of Carmel Drug Store and Ryan Sanchez of Bruno’s Market.

PHOTOS/DMT IMAGING

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SENIORS

From previous page

attendance how much he appreciates the fact he can walk from his home to downtown Carmel and find everything he needs in its stores, including the ideal gift for his wife, Mel, whose birthday is Dec. 7. He applauded chamber members



Picking up the Award of Excellence for Dining were Faisal Nimri (left) and Bashar Sneh of Dametra Cafe.

and the nominees for their quality of products, as well as their dedication to their businesses and the city at large.

Weathers and Lumsden took turns identifying the contenders in each category before announcing the winners, who were:

- Accommodations — Bernardus Lodge;
- Apparel & Jewelry — Robert Talbott, Inc.;
- Art Galleries — Carmel Art Association;
- Cultural Organization — Pacific Repertory Theatre;
- Dining — Dametra Cafe;
- Legal & Financial — Monterey County Bank;
- Media & Marketing — Carmel Magazine;
- Nonprofit Organization — Carmel Unified School District;
- Personal Services — DMT Imaging (Michael Troutman);
- Real Estate — Carmel Realty Co.;
- Retail — Carmel Drug Store;

- Services to Residents — UPS Store Carmel;
- Services to Visitors — Carmel-by-the-Sea Concours on the Avenue; and
- Specialty Food & Wine — Bruno's Market.

Finally, they announced Business of the Year, and Christine Sandin of Sunset Center, last year's recipient, turned the trophy over to the Weston Gallery, which beat out more than a dozen others. Candidates for Business of the Year were last year's category winners: Basil Seasonal Dining, the Big Sur International Marathon, Carmel Art & Film Festival, The Carmel Pine Cone, Cate Electrical, Cypress Inn, Homescapes Carmel, Monterey Bay Aquarium, San Carlos Agency, Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, The Cheese Shop, The Holly Farm and Tiffany & Co.

The evening also featured an extensive silent auction of items donated by chamber members, the proceeds of which help fund the organization's visitor center and other outreach and marketing efforts.

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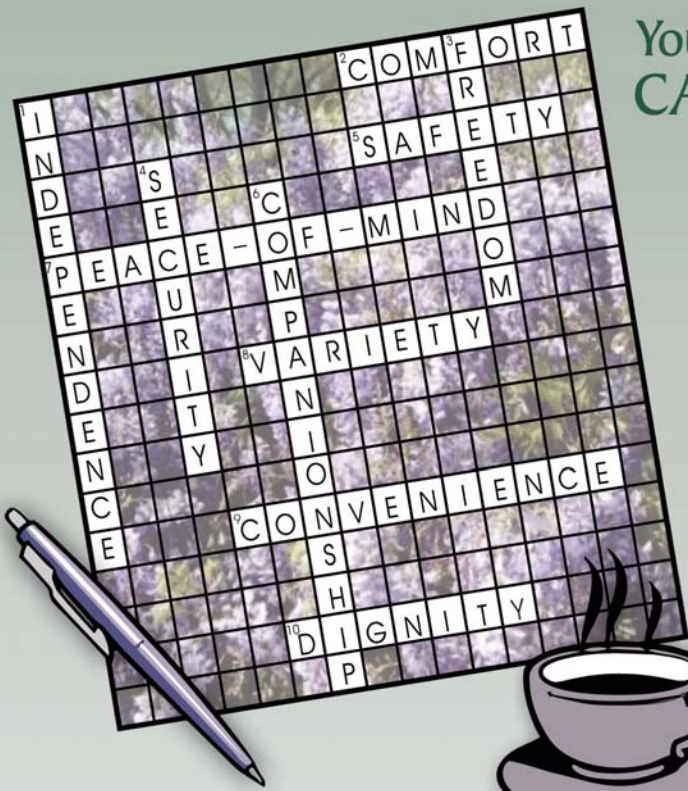
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Youth center hosts Breakfast with Santa

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE MISSION Trail Lions of Carmel will hold the 5th Annual Breakfast with Santa at the Carmel Youth Center Saturday, Dec. 15, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. For \$6 for adults and \$3 for kids 12 and under, breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, fruit and juice, hot chocolate, coffee and tea. For \$1 per ticket, participants can take part in a raffle to win toys, games, a scooter and a bike. In addition, Carmel Police officers will be on hand to offer Operation Kid ID, in which information is collected that can be used to help find missing children.

Guests are encouraged to bring canned foods or other nonperishable items for the Food Bank for Monterey County food drive or an unwrapped gift, suitable for kids aged 10 to 12, for The Salvation Army's toy drive. The youth center has barrels for each and will be collecting donations throughout the holiday season. According to Kymberlie Osler of the youth center, teen volunteers are needed to help with setup, cleanup and playing Santa's elves. The youth center is located on Fourth Avenue at Torres Street, next to the Carmel Police Department. For Breakfast with Santa tickets and other information, call Osler at (408) 391-8905.

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Editorial

That didn't take long

ON MONDAY, members of the new California Assembly and Senate took their oaths of office. Both houses now have super-majorities from the Democratic Party, something that hasn't happened since 1883. Needless to say, in those long-ago days, the Democrats were something completely different from what they are now. So for the first time in history, Californians are about to learn what it's like to live under an ultra-liberal government.

The swearing-in ceremonies were marked by the usual expressions of gratitude and humility, along with promises not to go off on crazy spending sprees and tax-hiking binges.

In remarks to the new Assembly, Speaker John Perez said it faces a "sober, profound responsibility" during the coming year.

Senate President Darrell Steinberg agreed, promising that Democrats wouldn't "come hurtling out of the gates talking about taxes."

But before the ink had a chance to dry on their remarks, there were plenty of signs that, instead of restraint, the new California Legislature is, in fact, headed off in a completely Looney Tunes direction.

■ Reacting to mean-spirited laws enacted in conservative places such as San Francisco and Berkeley, Assemblyman Tom Ammiano this week introduced a bill he calls the "homeless bill of rights," which would prohibit cities and counties from barring things such as sleeping on the sidewalk and urinating in public.

■ In October, California decided to issue driver's licenses to young illegal immigrants under the Obama "Dream Act" amnesty policy — a bill that passed the Legislature when Democrats had simple majorities. Now, Assemblyman Luis Alejo has introduced a bill to issue driver's licenses to all illegals. He's also introduced a bill to protect illegal immigrants from deportation unless they've committed "serious or violent" felonies (as opposed to non-serious felonies).

■ Democrats are practically lining up to "reform" Prop 13. Ammiano's contribution to this great cause is a bill to remove business property from Prop 13's protections. And his colleague, Mark Leno, has introduced a separate bill to make it easier for communities to increase property taxes on homeowners for schools.

All that, and the Legislature hasn't even been in session a week. The next two years are going to be one wild ride

BEST of BATES



"Just keep backing up until you hear glass."

Letters to the Editor

The Pine Cone encourages submission of letters which address issues of public importance. Letters cannot exceed 350 words, and must include the author's name, telephone number and street address.

School district not so bad

Dear Editor,

The Nov. 23 article on the lawsuit against Carmel Unified School District included the plaintiff's allegation that Carmelo School and the district "are guilty of oppression and malice." Although I'm unfamiliar with the specifics of the lawsuit, I would like to share a different perspective on the district's support of breastfeeding employees. I believe my history lends credibility to my perspective: As an accredited La Leche League Leader who helped breastfeeding moms and babies for 10 years; as a parent of two CUSD alumni; and as a former full-time and current classified substitute with work at most of CUSD's schools. It's safe to say I know the majority of staff throughout the district, as well as the working "climate" within the schools. I personally know quite a few moms who combined teaching and breastfeeding, with good support from CUSD for pumping breaks or even nursing visits to infants being cared for at Carmelo. I've always loved this about our district and have never heard anyone complain about prohibitive practices,

much less "oppression [or] malice." I was, therefore, surprised to learn about the lawsuit alleging, among other things, that the former Carmelo teacher was not given the necessary accommodations to pump milk for her baby. I am the last person to support discrimination against nursing moms! At the same time, I've seen a completely different picture, and I want to go on record as supportive of CUSD. It's annoying that the district must now spend resources better spent on students, defending itself in court.

Mary Parsons, Carmel

'Did you make this up?'

Dear Editor,

Your Nov. 9 story regarding the proposed removal of Los Padres Dam reads like a press-release from water district. You interview the water manager about fish health and water flows? Carmel River steelhead return and spawn in the winter, when there is natural water flow due to rain. The young fish migrate to sea in the spring, again when there is typically enough water. The dam is an impediment to access to spawning grounds. While you do a good job at getting water district's position, was it just too hard to find people who think it's a good idea to remove a dam that does little but block fish? And while a few populations of Northwest and Alaskan steelhead are thriving, it is certainly not one of the "most common in the world" as you assert. Did you just make this up? Please review NOAA's materials on the issue which shows most are threatened or

See LETTERS next page

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The Carmel Pine Cone

www.carmelpinecone.com

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Vol. 98 No. 49 • December 7, 2012

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The Carmel Pine Cone

was established in 1915 and is a legal newspaper for Carmel-by-the-Sea, Monterey County and the State of California, established by Superior Court Decree No. 35759, July 3, 1952

The new and improved Livernois family Christmas letter

DEAR (*pick one*) FRIENDS, Colleagues, People We Vaguely Remember Knowing Many Years Ago: Merry Christmas. Happy Holidays. Mele Kalikimaka. We hope you had a terrific 2012 and we trust that you are looking forward to a terrific 2013.

If you’ve read this far, you’ve likely noticed that The Livernois Family Annual Christmas Letter has undergone substantial restructuring this year. We know how difficult this must be for you. Change is difficult, but we are confident that your enjoyment of the annual Christmas letter will not be diminished once you are accustomed to the changes.

In fact, we believe the innovative changes we’ve implemented will result in an improved reading experience. With hip and trendy new content, our annual letter remains as relevant as ever.

As editor of The Livernois Family Annual Christmas Letter (LFACL), please allow me a moment to explain the changes we have made.

First, you’ll see that this year’s letter was sent to you via (*pick one*) email, Twitter, Facebook, RSS feed and/or Instagram. Due to diminishing profit margins and the escalating cost of colored printer ink and postage, the management team at LFACL recently decided to move all its print operations to digital.

Our digital presentation greatly enhances the LFACL experience. As an example, I urge you to check out the unedited YouTube video of Heather’s recent field hockey match (*click here*). Be sure to watch Heather’s heroics at the

43-minute mark. We’re very proud of our Heather.

Also, we know you will enjoy our 134-photo Shutterfly album of Johnson, our new kitty cat (*click here*). Be sure to purchase a few of the photographs.

As you know, The Livernois Family is a family-oriented family, and we value each member of our family team. Many of them are like family to us, especially the ones who don’t complain about family management.

So it pains us to announce that we have been forced to eliminate two grandchildren, three cousins, a son and a nephew from our family. (*Editor’s note: Heather survived the cut!*)

Despite the family-force reduction, we are pleased that the operations of LFACL enjoyed a smooth transition after we transfered LFACL’s copyditting dooties to a fool-service copyediting firm located in Bangalore. Similarly, all of LFACL’s art-department operations have been shipped overseas because (*have Bangalore insert justification here*).

Meanwhile, you may have heard the vicious rumor that The Livernois Family recently canceled health benefits to all family members. While the rumor is true, we are confident that the savings we gain will help make the LFACL better than ever.

What’s more, as much as we value our family team, it is

beyond the realm

By JOE LIVERNOIS

no secret that many of our remaining members have not been holding up their end of the family contract, yet they continue to reap the benefits of privately subsidized medical care. In fact, many family members are nothing but an expensive drain on the family, and elimination of their benefits will certainly result in greater efficiencies within The Livernois Family.

As I’m sure you all know, family-place efficiencies can only improve the reading experience for our FLACL subscribers, whom we also value.

In fact, we value our readers so much that, beginning immediately, we have increased subscription rates to our annual Christmas letter. (*click PayPal link here*)

All of these changes are necessary, of course, because that sumbitch Obama got reelected. He is sending us over the physical cliff (*have Bangalore check spelling*) and Mother says that I might need to see a doctor soon to have my throbbing eye-twitch checked. It’s been bothering me since Nov. 6.

As you can see, it’s been a busy and productive year for the staff and management of The Livernois Family. As chief executive officer, I am gratified to report that The Livernois Family board has rewarded my hard work with a one-year contract extension and a high-six-figure bonus.

Oh, and Merry Christmas.



Calendar

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or email
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Dec. 7 - After the Carmel-by-the-Sea Tree Lighting ceremony, please come across the street to **Carmel Presbyterian Church** for a **Living Nativity Scene!** We will have carols, Christmas cookies and cider for all! 5:30 to 7 p.m. SE corner of Ocean & Junipero (kitty-corner from Devendorf Park). For more information, please call (831) 624-3878 or visit www.carmelpres.org.

Dec. 7 - **Carmel Plaza Holiday Open House**, Fri., Dec. 7, 5 to 7 p.m. Celebrate the holidays with live music, delectable small bites and beverages at Carmel Plaza’s Free Community Event following Carmel’s Tree Lighting. Help us support the Monterey County Food Bank by bringing canned food to fill the barrels in the plaza. (831) 624-1385.

Dec. 7 & 8 - **Plaza Linda Restaurant & Cantina is ready for Holidays!** Happy Hours Sun-Thurs from 4 to 6 p.m. Special Menu: Sand Dabs Fish Tacos on Fridays and Saturdays Only. Plan your holiday or event party now at Plaza Linda! Fri., Dec. 7, The Driftless Bluegrass Female Trio at 7 p.m.; Sat. Dec. 8, James Woolwine at 7 p.m. www.plazalinda.com.

Dec. 8 - **Carmel Hills & Carmel Ridge Holiday Open House** at the Winery, 1700 Camino Escondido, Carmel Valley (top of

Laurelas Grade), Dec. 8, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Have a glass of our wine, some good food and peruse one-of-a-kind gifts for the holidays here in our home, the winery.

Dec. 8 - **Joyous Elves Holiday Craft Festival**, Sat., Dec. 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A make-it yourself craft festival for all ages! Silk dyeing, leather stamping, candle making, wool crafting, felt ornaments and much more! Espresso bar, nutritious lunch and bake sale. Monterey Bay Charter School, 1004 David Ave., Pacific Grove. www.mbayschool.org or (831) 655-4638.

Dec. 9 - **Heaven’s Door Concert**, featuring local headliners **Buddy Comfort, Alisa Fineman and Kimball Hurd, Bob Phillips, and Kenny Stahl**, at Pacific Coast Church, 522 Central Avenue, Pacific Grove, **7 to 9:30 p.m.** \$15 in The Mindshop Bookstore or at the Door/\$12 Students & Seniors. Call (831) 372-2971 or www.pacificcoastchurchpg.org.

Dec. 9 - **The Carmel Mission Basilica and Father Griffin proudly present: Christmas at the Mission**, Sunday, Dec. 9, at 3 p.m. at the Carmel Mission, 3080 Rio Road. Admission is free. Visit the festively decorated Mission grounds, enjoy some holiday goodies and have a family picture taken with St. Nicholas at the reception following the performance.

Dec. 9 - **Pacific Grove Art Center Patrons’ Show, Sunday, Dec. 9, at 2 p.m.** Tickets are \$50 for current art center members and \$75 for non-members. Everyone who purchases a ticket will receive a work of art. Ticket holders or their representatives must be present at the drawing in order to select their artwork. It’s really fun! Come support the arts! 568 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove.

Dec. 10 - **Bill Benda, MD - Integrative Medicine 2012 - Where Have We Come Over The Last 10 Years?** Dec. 10, 6 p.m., Monterey Public Library Friends Lecture Series, 625 Pacific, Monterey, Free, RSVP (831) 646-3932.

Dec. 12 - **Women’s Health Teleclass**, Dec. 12, 5 p.m. PST – Telephone Seminar, “Dr. Aristotle’s 7 Step System to Help Women Overcome Long-Term Pain” Over 2 decades, Dr. Aristotle has helped women find solutions to long-term health problems when nothing else

works. Attendance limited. Registration required at www.beyond-healingworkshop.com or call The Carmel by the Sea Clinic (831) 718-9073.

Dec. 13 - **2012 Trees of Life Tree Lighting**, Thurs. Dec. 13, 5:30 p.m. Monterey Conference Center, Ferrante Rooms, Third Floor. Featuring the highly popular Camerata Singers. Open to the public. No charge to attend. To name a light for someone, call (831) 333-9023 or visit www.HospiceGiving.org.

Dec. 13 & 15 - **Holiday Gift! Buy 2 for the price of 1 (50% off), Dec. 13 & 15, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Pain-Free by Reposturing – A system of stretches, massage, breathing & exercise techniques designed to realign, restore balance and flexibility from poor posture which tremendously improves the quality of life by promoting circulation and can eliminate back, neck, shoulders, hand & feet pain. Benefits all ages & stages of life, from infants to the elderly, from nursing mothers to surgeons, anyone who’s experiencing pain. A Carmel Haven, Lincoln & Eighth Street. (831) 624-3683.

Dec. 15 - Please join the Mission Trail Lions of Carmel for the **5th annual Breakfast with Santa** on Saturday, Dec. 15, at the Carmel Youth Center (southwest corner of Fourth and Torres) from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, fruit and beverage. Tickets are \$6 Adults and \$3 Children under 12. Opportunity drawing tickets are available for toys, games, scooter, and a bike. (408) 391-8905.

Dec. 24 - **Celebrate Christmas Eve** with us at **Carmel Presbyterian Church!** Three worship times: 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. The first two services celebrate with Children’s Choir & Worship Band, and childcare is available. The late service extols with traditional chancel choir, piano and organ. SE corner Ocean & Juniper. (831) 624-3878, www.carmelpres.org.

Dec. 15 - **Don’t Miss the Olive Oil Event of the Season!** Soup, crepes, and French delights in the Basque French-style, and taste the first pressing of this seasons Arbequina olives at Jan de Luz, 1 East Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley, Sat., Dec. 15, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For reservations, call (831) 659-7966 or email info@jandeluz.com.

LETTERS

From previous

endangered:

Carmel River steelhead are facing extinction. It is important to cover these stories with a little background knowledge and certainly balance. I encourage you to make that extra call and get perspective from biologists and conservation groups like The Carmel River Steelhead Association

before taking on the issue, or perhaps have your reporter move to a position outside of journalism like PIO for MPWMD.

Mike Nelson,
Oregon

Editor’s note: Mr. Nelson is wrong. The Carmel River’s species of trout, Oncorhynchus mykiss, is extremely common around the world, and is even considered invasive in numerous countries.

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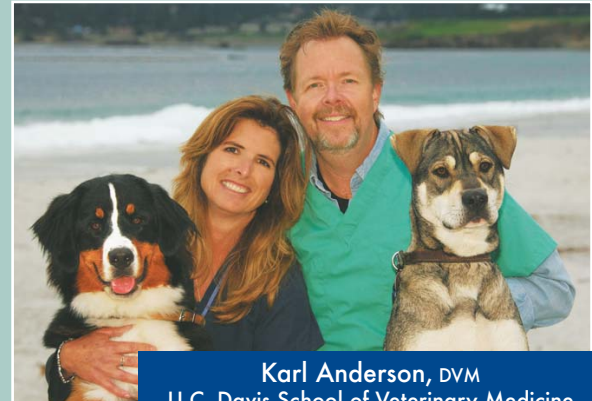
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At the top of his class, and then at the top of his field

RON LOWELL grew up in Klamath Falls, Ore., which used to be the overnight stop on the railroad between San Francisco and Portland.

It was a Wild West kind of place when he was a kid — a “way of life that doesn’t exist anymore,” Lowell said.

“Even until I was midway through college, Klamath Falls still had warehouses. They finally cracked down on them when a bunch of high-school kids mugged an old man and took his money so they could go to the cathouse.”

While he was in high school, he played baseball, but there was someone better who put him on the bench, so Ron switched over to tennis. He got down to serious playing when he was in the Army and had an easy schedule. He went on to win a lot of championships in different states and the national championship in Canada.

Reminiscing today, “I got to be a good player, not great. I loved tennis. I wish I could play today. I’ve got too many aches and pains to play anymore.”

Ron did his undergraduate at the University of Oregon in Eugene, where he won numerous awards for scholastic and sports achievements. Then he attended the University of Oregon Medical School in Portland, where he finished among the top five in his class for all four years.

Out of money after all of that schooling, he joined the Army, taking a commission as a second lieutenant, and was sent to Letterman Hospital in San Francisco to do his residency, and then to Fort Ord, where he became chief of the psychiatry service. He finished out his military obligation as a psychiatric consultant at West Point.

He then returned to the San Francisco area, where he had family and went into private practice — which he found much less fulfilling.

“When you’re in a hospital, you’re in a war and you’re meeting with other doctors, it’s kind of a dynamic exposure. But when you’re in private practice, you’re just sitting in your office all day long. And that’s no fun. But that’s the way you make your living.”

One of Ron’s early cases brought him some notoriety. It was here in Monterey County and involved Tom Hudson, who had won election to the board of supervisors.

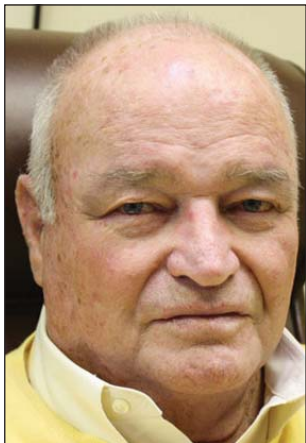
Hudson was opening a bottle of champagne to celebrate his victory, and the cork hit him in the eye, causing serious damage. This was 1967, back in the days before warnings on the bottles. Hudson sued the vintner and the bottle maker, and Ron was brought in to testify about the man’s emotional state. Today there are warning labels on champagne bottles.

In the 1980s, Ron developed a medical-legal practice — forensic psychiatry — which he enjoys a great deal. “There’s a big area in which psychiatry interfaces with the law. The most commonly known is criminal; insanity defenses and that sort. I don’t do any of that.”

Rather than seeing the same patients over and over again, and working through their issues, as one does in a clinical practice, Ron now spends maybe three or four hours with a patient, once, and then writes up a report, usually about claims regarding workplace injuries. “The question is whether this person suffered some kind of emotional damage because of the event that brought them to the attorney or insurance company, and then to me.”

Most of Ron’s cases are as an “agreed medical examiner,” meaning that both sides agree to have him diagnose a situation rather than having dueling experts in the courtroom. It’s also much easier for him, since he’s not getting deposed very often or having to face harsh cross-examination in a courtroom. “It’s a clean thing. I just see them once. I don’t have to write a prescription. I’m not their treating doctor. I don’t take any night calls. And I do my dictation at home.”

Asked if he’d noticed a change in the kind of cases he was seeing, Ron says he was seeing more that didn’t have merit. “And that’s



Ron Lowell

Great Lives

By TONY SETON

because there are more and more attorneys, and they are tilling the soil. It’s better to have a bad client than no client.”

Are people taking less responsibility for their lives than they used to? “I think so, yes.” Their attitude is ‘Let somebody else take care of me.’”

While he worked in San Francisco, he bought a small house in Pebble Beach from his friends, Clint and Maggie Eastwood, and spent many of his weekends here. Then, in 1996, he moved to Carmel, which he says is

a special place with special residents.

“People who have been extraordinary want an extraordinary place to live. And most have been successful professionally and can afford to live here. It has everything the big cities have, maybe not to the same degree, but without the urban chaos and the ugliness. There’s very little that’s not pretty here.”

Before I left his office, Ron showed me

BLAH BLAH

From page 3A

kind of language,” she said.

Councilman Steve Hillyard wondered if the council was creating a pipe dream.

“I have this gut feeling that we may be looking at someone who doesn’t exist, or there may be very few of them,” he said.

Overall, Beach said, the uniqueness of Carmel should be emphasized first, “because of what it looks like and everyone in the friggin’ place cares about that. That’s why they’re here and will be in your face.”

No one raised the issue of salary range, which Stilwell proposed should be \$127,320 to \$154,752 — the same as the public safety director.

“Staff anticipates bringing a comprehensive review of salary ranges as part of an updated salary plan and salary resolution in early 2013,” he explained. “In the interim, it is important to update the salary range for this position to enable the city’s recruitment to be competitive.”

While councilwoman Carrie Theis said she would be OK with having Stilwell alter the job description based on the council’s feedback and move forward with recruiting, and Burnett said he would like to pass along the council’s comments and “be done with it,” Talmage said he’d prefer to see the job description return to the council for further deliberation.

“Have it come back in a couple of weeks,” Talmage said. “Other than the police chief, this may be the most visible job in this city.”

“This is a good opportunity to highlight the importance of this position,” Beach concurred. “This might be the highest visibility job.”

some photos of a wall at the University of Oregon featuring wooden plaques commemorating some of its most famous alumni. These weren’t the jocks who can only look back on their college sports heroics. Why did they get stuck, I asked?

“Some people just can’t move forward,” he said. There is a plaque for Ron Lowell, and it says, “most likely to succeed at everything.”

PRIORITIES

From page 6A

rescind the plan, which it says has cost the city millions of dollars.

The council, according to Kampe, will decide what alternatives the city has to address its pension liabilities and how to implement them.

A subcommittee earlier this year determined the 2002 pension boost for police and fire was adopted illegally because the council at the time was given inaccurate information about the plan.

Business vitality

Addressing ways to help the city’s struggling business district on Lighthouse Avenue is also high on the to-tackle list. Included in upcoming discussions will be how to get more visitors to shop, dine and stay in P.G.

In November, voters rejected a plan to change the zoning to allow for the construction of large hotel where the Holman Building is located. “The hotel envisioned in Measure F, or a different hotel that may be proposed in follow-on discussions, can be part of stimulating our downtown business environment,” the staff report said.

The purpose of identifying the issues at this week’s meeting was not to propose specific solutions, but to establish a general approach for each, Kampe said.

Kampe said normally the council would hold a special workshop to identify the city’s primary issues while also developing a work plan.

“In the interim, until we get to that point, let’s make sure we are making the best use of the time we have,” Kampe said.

Ernest Peter Dovolis

1934 – 2012



Ernest Peter Dovolis, 78, passed away peacefully in his sleep Friday, November 30, 2012 in Carmel, CA. He was born January 7, 1934 in Salinas, to Peter and Helene Dovolis, their only child. He graduated from Salinas High School in 1952. After graduation, he served in the U.S. Air Force. While in the Air Force, he was an A tennis player in the Air Force league. He came back to Salinas and began his career in the produce industry. Eventually he owned and operated a successful produce brokerage business for many years. He married and had two sons, Kash and

Angelo, to whom he was a wonderful, proud father. Sadly, his son Kash preceded him in death.

Ernie had a colorful life. He was known for being a sharp dresser, a great host, impeccable manners, and whistling. Always very social, he used to love playing tennis and dinner parties. In his later years, he enjoyed taking his daily morning stroll in downtown Carmel whistling and chatting with neighbors and friends. Ernie was a real Carmel character. He was known around Carmel for two reasons: getting kicked out of most ALL the restaurants and secondly for trading with everybody. He had his own cantankerous celebrity. He was a member of the American Legion and the Carmel Foundation.

Ernie is preceded in death by his parents Peter Dovolis and Helene Dovolis, and his son Kash Dovolis.

Ernie is survived by his son Angelo (Melanie) Dovolis; and his two grandchildren Nicole and Dalton Dovolis, all of Salinas.

At Ernie’s request, a private memorial will be held by the family.

Memorials may be made to the Hospice of the Central Coast, 2 Upper Ragdale Drive, Monterey, CA 93940 or Carmel Foundation, Lincoln Street, Carmel, CA 93923

Arrangements by the Struve and Laporte Funeral Home. For more information: www.struveandlaporte.com

Diane Erbe Dawson

Diane Dawson died peacefully at her home on November 18, 2012, in Carmel in the presence of her family. She was 83. Born August 2, 1929 in Rochester, New York she attended the Greenwich Academy and graduated from the Spence School.



In 1963, she moved with her family to Carmel where she became the Director of Salon Sales for Sak’s 5th Avenue, eventually retiring as an Escrow Officer in Carmel. Diane enjoyed tennis all of her life from the clay courts of Princeton to the Carmel Valley Racquet Club where she was a founding member in the 1960’s. She played until several months prior to her passing.

Her great love of marine life and the desire to preserve and share with generations this abundance led her to several life-long commitments. Diane served for 30 years as a docent at Pt. Lobos coordinating the Otter Count and served as a member on the Board of Directors. She was a founding docent at the Monterey Bay Aquarium where she shared her knowledge with visitors for over 27 years.

She is survived by her daughter, Pamela Griswold Clarke, of San Diego, Douglas McCall of Pacific Grove, Gordon (Molly) McCall of Carmel Valley, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Donations in her memory may be made to Food Bank for Monterey County, Point Lobos or the donor’s choice of charity.



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Holiday GIFT GUIDE

Holiday shopping in Big Sur combines unusual gift ideas with food for body and soul

By ELAINE HESSER

IN "TRAVELS With Charley," John Steinbeck lamented that the nation's Interstate Highway System, which was just taking shape when the book was published in 1962, would make it "possible to drive from New York to California without seeing a single thing." His prophecy came true,

in part because rather than the "stands selling squash juice" along the backcountry roads of Steinbeck's musings, the nation's superhighways are littered with mall after nearly identical mall hawking the same wares from the same retailers. No wonder people resort to gift cards. If Aunt Ethel can pick up the same sweater in Minnesota that you were going to buy in California, why not

save shipping and let her try it on first?

The perfect gift, however, says, "I care," in a way a gift card can't, and an excursion off the beaten path is one way to find it. And, besides, do you really need an excuse to go to Big Sur? Our own Highway 1 is the opposite of a four-lane, billboard-studded drive, and suburban America's antidote is the South Monterey County coast, with its lingering hippie culture and high-end hotels juxtaposed with stunning scenery.

Start the drive south with patience and a full tank of gas. Services, of course, are few and far between, and you're bound to spend at least part of the drive behind tourists from Indiana or Germany. Also, the Rocky Creek slide hasn't been repaired, so you may have to wait a few minutes for your turn through the one-lane section.

When you cross Malpas Creek, the

landscape opens up and you'll get your first glimpse of the magnificent Big Sur coast. Take a deep breath and enjoy a view that never gets old. Stop at the turnouts — Hurricane Point is an especially good one — and take some photos. They can be made into great gifts or online greeting cards.

First stop: **The Big Sur River Inn**, where shops that feel like they haven't changed since the 1970s feature local jade, handcrafts and, of course, tie-dyed clothing. Continue a little farther south to the Big Sur Bakery for weekend brunch and check out **The Garden Gallery**, **Del Campo Gallery** and **Big Sur Spirit Garden** next door. Hand-made jewelry in a wide range of prices, along with herbal soaps, lotions, cards and candles beckon — as does the nine-



See **BIG SUR** page 12GG

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If you can't get your hands on frankincense and myrrh

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

THE BIBLE tells us that the practice of giving gifts at Christmas began in Bethlehem, when three wise men showed up with exotic and carefully selected presents for the baby Jesus. More than 2,000 years later, the custom persists, and so does the challenge of finding just the right gifts.

Some of us, of course, leave our shopping until the last minute and are limited to what's left. For others, the shopping is meticulous and goes on all year. Those

with time and talent make or bake their holiday remembrances. And, for people like me, shopping is an exercise in "shop til you drop" stamina as I strive to find the unusual, the unique and the unexpected.

Some of you have already checked off everybody on your Christmas list. But for those of you who are just getting started, I have assembled a shopping list to streamline your search and help you find something truly special for each of your loved ones. And, of course, the stores are all local!

Toe Spacers — \$65 — The Treadmill (Crossroads shopping center) — If there's a runner in your family, and he's part of the movement toward

"less structure is more" in running footwear, he's bound to be pining for something to help keep toes spread out inside his shoes for maximum efficiency and continued health. Accordingly, this local running institution presents pliable, comfortable, washable toe spacers, designed to let feet run naturally.

Inov-8 running shoes — \$110-\$120 — The Treadmill — Even the traditional running shoe companies seem to be getting on board with the "barefoot running" trend of wearing a "zero-drop" shoe, which means eschewing the cushioning, correcting and elevated heel counters, in favor of "natural" running shoes. Inov-8 allows for a natural gait and stride, which fosters appropriate spine alignment for natural posture. "Humans were built to be efficient runners, when we do it the right way," says The Treadmill's Kimberly Werr. "These are the first shoes I didn't have to break in. I adore them."

Mary Frances art bags — \$250 — Augustina Leathers (San Carlos and Sixth, Carmel) — Themed Mary Frances handbags are handmade treasures richly embellished with natural stones, trims and colors to express each bag's individual personality and style. "With all the Trimmings" is a festive Christmas tree, beaded and bejeweled to function as a little purse but feel like fine-art-meets-fine-jewelry.

Philip Stein wine wands — \$325 — Augustina Leathers — For the person who has everything and wants it now, this elegant wine wand is designed to accelerate the breathing process of wine upon opening. Using natural frequencies, the wand removes vapors of alcohol, sugars, tannins and acidity to aerate the wine in minutes rather than hours. Housed in a black alligator-embossed leather case.

Michael Toschi G4 golf shoes — \$500 — Augustina Leathers — Handmade in Italy

See UNIQUE page 4GG



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G I F T G U I D E

Before you go shopping for gifts, why not take care of yourself?

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

THE HOLIDAYS are about shopping, of course, but they're also about parties. And whether you're planning on taking in the Carmel-by-the-Sea tree lighting festivities Dec. 7, have a concert in mind at Sunset Center, or will be making the rounds all your friends' open houses, you'll want to have the appropriate attire — chic but not showy, comfortable but not too casual, and elegant but not too dressy.

Carmel residents Mike, Cooper, Ruth and Rachel were all invited to the same parade of parties, yet each of them had a closet full of nothing to wear.

Looking for ways to take the stressing out of holiday dressing, each went shopping.

Ruth ran over to **Debra C** in the Crossroads shopping center. There, in the display window, she met a mannequin dressed in a gold Lurex sweater over a white silk-and-cashmere T-shirt, paired with a black velvet pant. She was certain she could carry off the look. Yet inside, she met owner Debra Couch, clad in a cashmere twinset over a slim pant, pulled together with a fabulous alligator belt. She liked that look, too.

"The important thing," Debra told her, "is that whether you're looking at Valentino, Missoni, Bogner or even our private label, you don't have to be so

dressed anymore. It's about the way it's put together. We have a great black crepe pant suit. Add a sparkly scarf and a gold handbag, and you're done. A ruffled silk top is great with trousers or a pair of jeans, so you're not all cocktailed out at the party. We're high end, so the apparel endures, and you can do the same look next year, or mix it up. There is so much dressy chiffon out there, which works for one party, but then what?"

Ruth selected a silk satin shirt in bright red with a black velvet capri pant, and finished the look with a narrow belt. Plus everything on the mannequin.

Meanwhile, Rachel made her clothes-buying stop at **B. Real** on Lincoln between Ocean and Seventh in downtown Carmel, where owner Betty Realmuto showed her jewel-toned cashmere sweaters by Bibelot, and longer-length cardigans with ruffled fronts by Jana, over slim pants or dressy jeans.

"This season," said Betty, "people will be wearing a dressy sweater and slim pants with boots, for a fairly casual, fun, festive look. For a little holiday sparkle, you might take a look at our sweaters by Sisters, with matte sequins knitted throughout, over our jewel-toned knit tops from Lilla P. Remember, cashmere keeps things casual but classy."

Rachel landed a long cardigan, a knit top and dressy jeans, complete with a cranberry cashmere wrap. She added an

anorak-style, washable raincoat with tulip hem for herself and then grabbed another for her sister. Next, Rachel headed over to **Lloyd's Shoes** (Ocean at Dolores) for boots.

She found boots, from ankle, to over-the-knee lengths, in suede and leather, among them the legendary Frye boots that never seem to go out of style. She went for a knee-high boot and then turned to owner Jeff Greenberg for assistance.

"We start," said Jeff, "by trying to find out what the need is, whether it is a special occasion, everyday wear or an anti-weather shoe. A major category for us is our better-grade flats, which can take you from day into evening, for those holiday events. Consider the metallic, colored flats or those with patent-leather toe and buckle embellishment. Some have a snake toe or jewels. And all go well under better slacks. Our luxury dress shoes, on low wedges, mid-

or high heels, often have strappy details or buckles, and are made of exotic materials, such as leopard, calf hair or printed patent leather."

Rachel also bought a pair of printed-patent, open-toe shoes by Anyi Liu, and then grabbed a pair of classic mid-calf rubber rain boots in black gloss by Hunter, to go with her new raincoat.

Meanwhile, Cooper was outside **Khaki's** at Carmel Plaza, studying mannequins and marveling at the combined colors and layered looks, which led him inside to explore the cutting edge of classic. There, he met owner Jim Ockert.

"I suggested an unstructured soft sport coat," said Jim, "which is more casual and would give him the ability to layer it with a sweater and shirt; perhaps a half-zip in cashmere with a checked shirt, and maybe a bow tie or narrower

See *FASHION* page 5GG

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UNIQUE

From page 2GG

from perforated calfskin for breathability, the G4, with its cobalt-blue Terragrip Contact outsole, pebbled leather trim in black against a clean white leather upper, is designed to out-perform with quality, technology and luxury look and feel. Toschi’s unique collection is intended to enhance comfort and performance while embracing the beauty of the game.



A hand-poured brick candle from Carmel Bay Company would make a wonderful holiday statement on your dining room table.

Paula Lishman hand-knit furs — \$450-\$5,500 — Augustina Leathers — The original designer to create hand-knit fur, Paula Lishman offers pieces with the luxurious feel of fur, inside and out. Whether you choose a hand-knit beaver blanket, ring shawl, jacket or scarf, each creates the softest indulgence of fashion-meets-function, with fur.

Flowers of the month delivery — prices vary — Burst & Bloom (Crossroads shopping center) — As owner Lauren Orman tells it, one gentleman sends his wife the same flowers every month — a dozen garden roses — and has done so for 35 years. Some bring in a photo or color swatch to make sure the flowers will match their mood or their home. Others leave it up to the season and whatever local growers have provided the Carmel florist known for fresh, unique, artisan floral arrangements.

“Flowers of the month is the perfect gift for the person who has everything or can’t think of anything,” says Orman. “And really, we can never have enough flowers. This gift is so fresh, so of the moment, and the surprise continues all year long.” Orman is “up and at ‘em” early every morning to visit local growers and find the flowers she uses to make “thoughtful arrangements with intention and personality.”

Handmade Dragonflies — \$23-\$37 — Carmel Bay Company (Ocean and Lincoln, Carmel) — For thousands of years, cultures from around the world have recognized the dragonfly as a symbol of good luck and positive life force. Each handmade dragonfly is individually flame-cut, textured, shaped, heat-colored and finished in the artist’s Northern California studio. No two are alike. “Each is beautiful on its own,” says art director Maxine Keene, “or in a swarm, travelling up a wall, over a door, or in your own arrangement.” Each signed objet d’art comes with artist biography and a metal hook for display.

Hand-poured brick candles — \$35-75 — Carmel Bay Company — This multi-wick, layered

candle creates a stunning effect as light glows throughout the layers. Resting in cast-iron or hammered wrought-iron stands, also for sale, this hand-poured and finished candle in ivory melon color adds sophistication and luminous warmth to any table or room setting.

Still can’t decide? Get a gift card to your favorite store or theirs, and pledge to accompany them on a shopping spree, followed by a little lunch or cup of coffee at a Carmel café. After all, the best gift of all is time ... with you.



A “wine wand” from Augustina Leathers on San Carlos Street could be the perfect gift for the red wine lover on your Christmas list.

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G I F T G U I D E

FASHION

From page 3GG

tie. We have all these purples and browns right now, which are stunning. He could even layer all that with outerwear in a shorter length, not an overcoat, but a very cool mid-thigh coat, which is much more modern.”

Cooper couldn't resist a black cashmere coat by Canali of Italy, dressed down by a pair of jeans, a col-

lared shirt, and that half-zip cashmere sweater. Perusing what Jim called “the largest selection of neckties, from Los Angeles to San Francisco,” Cooper managed to pick three, plus a couple of pieces from Khaki's signature J. Lawrence collection.

Mike found himself taken with a cashmere mock turtleneck sweater at **Patrick James** in The Barnyard. This led to a sport coat and a pair of flat-front gray flannel trousers, plus a pair of black suede loafers. As another option, he picked up a pair of Agave black denim jeans.

“This is a dressier look for a holiday party, more fes-

tive than formal,” said store manager John Haller. “I also suggest a Scott Barber sport shirt with a Robert Barakett fashion T-shirt, which adds an accent color under the shirt, in complement or contrast to the sport coat or collared shirt. And I recommend St. Croix microfiber flat-front corduroys.”

John also talked Mike into a paisley pocket square. “Because guys are not wearing ties as much, they need a piece of color, tucked discretely into the chest pocket to achieve that pop of color and contrast the tie created.”

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.



While winter in the Monterey Peninsula doesn't mean snow, it certainly can mean rain, and who wouldn't like to find a durable, stylish jacket from Khaki's (left) or a pair of high-fashion yet rugged boots from Lloyd's (above) under their Christmas tree?

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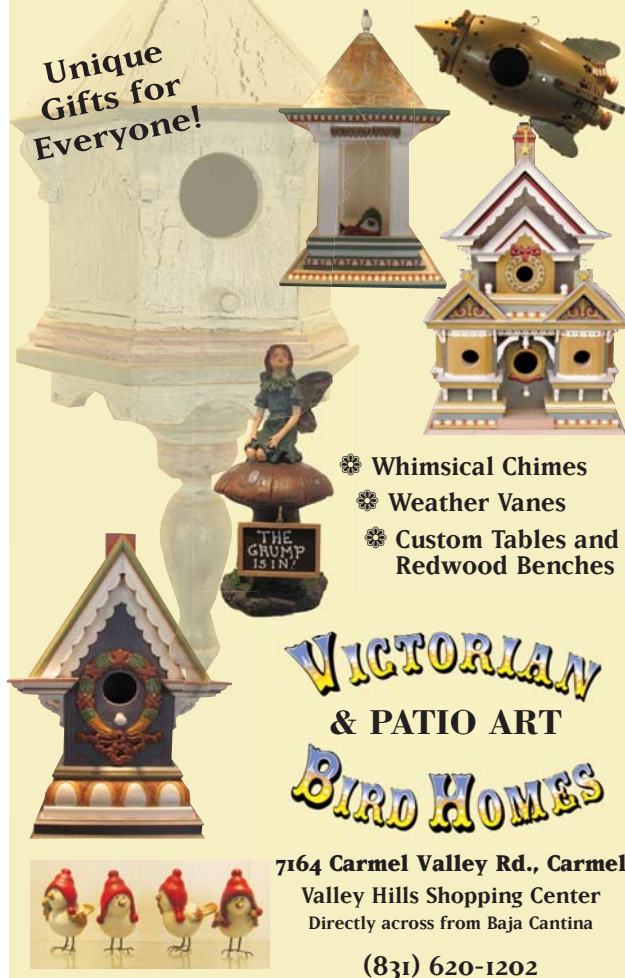
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FOOD

From page 8GG

Carmel Chamber of Commerce’s ribbon cutting there Tuesday, Dec. 11, from 5 to 6 p.m. The bakery offers moist and flavorful bundt cakes in several different flavors and sizes, and samples will be available during the event, of course.



PHOTO/COURTESY WENDY BRICKMAN

Scouts from Spreckels are entertained by local dungeness crab during a recent visit to the wharf.

The chamber is also holding a business mixer at La Playa Hotel Wednesday, Dec. 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. Admission is \$10 for members and \$20 for nonmembers, and the hotel, which was recently renovated and reopened in July as La Playa Carmel, is located at Camino Real and Eighth.

For more information, call the chamber office at (831) 624-2522.

■ \$10 dinners for two Dec. 10

Wild Thyme Deli and Café in Marina is wrapping up its year-long 10th anniversary celebration this month, offering \$10 dinners for two to go between 4 and 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10.

Chef/owner Terry Teplitzky is offering four options, all of which include a house salad: Wild Thyme’s Famous Meatloaf with garlic mashed potatoes, cornmeal-crusted fried chicken with macaroni and cheese, stuffed shells with grilled Italian sausage, and vegetarian jambalaya.

Located at 445 Reservation Road, Wild Thyme is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call (831) 884-2414 for more information.

■ Soup and wine

Talbott Vineyards will hold a Holiday Soup and Wine Pairing with author Mary Chamberlin Sunday, Dec. 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Barrel Room in the winery located at 1380 River Road in Salinas.

Carmel resident and author of “The Traveling Soup Pot,” Chamberlin will offer samples of

her “globally inspired winter soups,” including Hot Tamale Soup, Tortellini Soup and Salmon Soup. Each will be paired with Talbott wines, including its well known Sleepy Hollow Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Chamberlin, who is also national vice chair of the American Institute of Wine & Food, will be signing copies of her book as well.

Admission is \$10 for Talbott wine club members and \$15 for the general public. Reservations are due by Dec. 12 by calling (831) 659-3500.

■ Gingerbread hotel

The culinary team at the Hyatt Carmel Highlands is creating a miniature gingerbread version of the hotel which will be on display in the Sunset Lounge throughout the month of December. Hyatt, incidentally, entered the “Guinness Book of World Records” in 2005 with the world’s largest gingerbread man.

To get in the spirit, stop in at the Highlands Inn, check out at the gingerbread creation and then grab a cocktail and a bite in the lounge, or dinner at lovely Pacific’s Edge or the more casual California Market. To learn more, call (831) 620-1234. www.hyattcarmelhighlands.com

■ Big Sur Health Center party

The Big Sur Health Center will hold a Community Holiday Party Friday, Dec. 7, from 6 to 9 p.m., to ring in the season and raise funds for the health center, which serves Big Sur residents as well as the numerous visitors who pass through the area every year.

The party will include a prix fixe feast at the Big Sur River Inn with prime rib and Matt’s special pasta bar, followed by apple strudel and ice cream.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. To reserve, call (831) 667-2700.

■ Chocolate and Galante

Galante Vineyards’ tasting room on Dolores Street in downtown Carmel will

hold a chocolate and wine pairing from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, featuring its own wines and the confectionary creations of Marich, which is based in Hollister. Marich makes various caramels, chocolate-covered dried fruits and other high-quality sweets.

Tickets are \$15 per person (\$10 for Wine Gang), and reservations are recommended by calling (800) GALANTE.

■ L’Auberge facelift

David Fink’s L’Auberge Carmel hotel and Aubergine Restaurant are undergoing a remodel set for completion by the end of the year. The two-stage project will allow the hotel to remain open during the process, though the restaurant will close for two weeks.

Work plans include upgrades to the upscale hotel’s 20 guest rooms, lobby and courtyard, as well as the restaurant. Designed by decorator Kathleen Fink, the changes include new furnishings, fabrics, carpeting, paint, artwork and finishes in the guest rooms, as well as bedding, improved showers and bathrooms, and eco-friendly bath products and linens.

Updates to Aubergine restaurant feature new carpeting, fabrics, lighting and chairs, and artwork. Executive chef Justin Cogley will take particular delight in the new custom-built cheese cave, and he’s already enjoying the live fish tank recently installed in the kitchen that serves as the temporary home for the spot prawns, sea cucumbers and abalone that end up on diners’ plates.

The outdoor brick courtyard will receive new cast iron furniture and landscaping, including an herb garden to supply the kitchen.

■ Mesa del Soul

Ann Hougham, owner of Mesa del Sol Vineyards in Arroyo Seco, recently released two new wines — a Sangiovese and a Zinfandel — both 2009 vintages. Sangiovese, the key grape used in Chianti, tends toward spiciness and softness, with not too much tannin but enough structure to pair

Continues next page

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F O O D & W I N E

From previous page

well with hearty winter foods. Zinfandel, meanwhile, is more berry- and fruit-oriented, but, with Arroyo Seco's cooler climate, maintains enough acidity to provide good balance and is food friendly, too.

Those new wines, as well as other Mesa del Soul offerings like the 2008 Rosso, a beautiful blend of Zinfandel, Syrah and Sangiovese, can be found at Trio on Dolores Street south of Ocean Avenue in Carmel, as well as at the Cheese Shop in the Carmel Plaza and the Bountiful Basket on San Carlos Street. They sell for \$25. Restaurants offering Hougham's wines include Il Fornaio, Mission Ranch and Le St. Tropez in Carmel, and Toast and Will's Fargo in Carmel Valley.

Lavender sachets produced at the retreat, meanwhile, are for sale for \$10 at Whittakers of Carmel, located on Ocean Avenue between San Carlos and Dolores streets.

For more information about the wines, the retreat or the wine club, visit www.mesadelsoulvineyards.com.

■ Cima Collina Supper Club

Cima Collina's tasting room in Carmel Valley Village used to be a restaurant, and now, with the launch of its Supper Club, the historic building will become a restaurant again — for one night every month. Hosted by winemaker Annette Hoff Danzer, the first dinner will be held Thursday, Dec. 13, with Earthbound Farm executive chef Sara LaCasse creating multiple courses, each of which will be paired with a Cima Collina wine.

The Supper Club dinners will be held on the second Thursday of every month, beginning at 6:30 p.m., and will showcase Cima Collina wines specifically selected to pair with the evening's dishes. Each month will feature a different theme, all with an eye toward pairing food and wine, and will star a different chef.

Tickets are \$75, plus tax and tip, and can be reserved by calling (831) 620-0645. Cima Collina's tasting room is located in the historic Del Monte Dairy at 19 East Carmel Valley Road in the Village and is open daily from 12 to 6 p.m. www.cimacollina.com.

■ Lugano's three-course

Lugano's Swiss Bistro in the Barnyard offers a three-course dinner for \$19.75 that includes a first course of barley vegetable soup or green salad, followed by entree choices of seared center-cut boneless pork chop with demi glaze and Idaho mashed potatoes with winter vegetables, or fresh grilled sand dabs with basil lemon cream sauce and Risotto Milanese, or chicken picatta over spaghetti marinara.

Dessert choices are apple strudel with creme Anglaise or vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce.

A glass of selected Chardonnay, Merlot or Cabernet can be added for \$5.

■ Peter B's and Acme

Peter B's brewmaster Kevin Clark has teamed up with Acme Coffee Roasting in Seaside to create a brand-new winter brew at his microbrewery located in the Portola Hotel & Spa in Monterey.

He is crafting the beer to maximize the flavors in each ingredient that complement each other. Clark is cold steeping and filtering the coffee to control acidity, using Acme's Sumatra, Flores and Ethiopia roasts, all of which have a medium-dark profile.

Furthermore, he's adding black malt for color, barley for a "rich airy roast," and chocolate malt for cocoa flavor.

Other Peter B's beers include Belly Up Blonde Ale, Inclusion Amber Ale, Stout Resistance, Fort Ord Wheat and Legend of Laguna IPA.

For more information, visit www.portolahotel.com.

■ Fisherman's Wharf hosts Scouts

Sal Tedesco of Paluca's Trattoria on Fisherman's Wharf and Chris' Fishing Trips hosted Spreckels Boy Scouts Troop 60 during a recent fishing trip, allowing the boys to learn about fishing and earn their merit badges. According to Mary Alice Cerrito Fettis, president of Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf Association, some of the boys had never been out on the bay.

"We welcome all of the Boy Scouts to take a fishing trip off the wharf to learn more about this very important industry in Monterey County," she commented.

■ B&B's Christmas takeout

Deborah Wenzler, owner of Baum & Blume in Carmel Valley Village, is offering Christmas dinner for four to go, with several options for hors d'oeuvres, starters, soups and salads, breads, entrees, side dishes, condiments and desserts. Pick from items like duck flan with sourdough crostini, baked oysters, smoked trout and arugula torte, buttery cheddar-sage shortbread, herb-crusted rack of pork with roasted shallots, creamed spinach, pear and ginger compote, winter fruit torte and numerous other options.

Orders must be placed by Thursday, Dec. 20. Call (831) 659-0400.

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BIG SUR

From page 1GG

grain pancake at the Bakery. And you'll definitely want one of Jason Fann's Spirit Nests for your backyard.

As you continue to wind your way through the ancient coast redwoods, keep an eye out for **Nepenthe** restaurant and adjacent coffee shop, **Café Kevah**, which is conveniently located on a patio right above the **Phoenix Gift Shop**.

Kevah opens daily at 9 a.m. (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) and offers a full breakfast menu as well as pastries and muffins. After fortifying yourself, browse the wide selection of gifts in the Phoenix. From cosmetics and jewelry, to musical instruments and home furnishings, it has something for almost everyone, in a wide range of prices. Don't miss the garden, featuring patio furnishings and succulents.

Next up: The **Ventana Inn**, which is not only a world-famous Big Sur getaway, with its rustic rooms and clothing-optional hot tubs, but also features a renowned restaurant (the deck is a perfect place for lunch on a sunny day) and splendid gift shop with unique local artworks and crafts.

From here, you could turn around and head home, or continue south to the **Henry Miller Library**, with its bookstore full of locally themed treasures. If you're OK with heights — and let's face it, you didn't get this far by clutching the wheel until your knuckles were white — drive two miles past Lucia to a large cross on the left side of the road. This is the entrance to the **New Camaldoli Hermitage**, a hushed oasis set a quarter mile above the highway. Drive slowly; after a series of switchbacks, your patience will be rewarded by spectacular views when you reach the top. A tiny gift shop offers spiritual books, art, the monks' "Holy Granola," and the holi-

day pièce de résistance, fruitcake. These delightful desserts are dark, rich and soaked in brandy. Although they're no longer made at the monastery, the monks' original recipe is used. They are available online and at several Monterey Peninsula locations, including Bruno's and Neilsen Bros., but visiting this special retreat at least once is a must. Mass is held daily in the chapel; guests are welcomed warmly but asked to help maintain the tranquility of the Hermitage by speaking softly and only when necessary.

Amid an often frenzied holiday season, the Hermitage stands like a nearly timeless island of calm. Once you've been thoroughly refreshed by its quiet beauty, you can start the trip home, maybe stopping for dinner at **Rocky Point** or **Pacific's Edge** in the Highlands Inn. And when your friends back East get your unique Christmas gifts, they'll appreciate the care you took in selecting them. And they'll be jealous that you were in paradise.



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Where: Spirals at 570 Lighthouse Avenue (cross street Forest Avenue) in Pacific Grove

When: Bidding starts at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 27 and ends at 5 p.m. sharp on Tuesday, December 11



What: A silent auction of Asian Art, Unique China, Fine Jewelry, Sculptures and Jade from the Danny Garcia Collection and other Collectibles

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Photo by Michael Troutman

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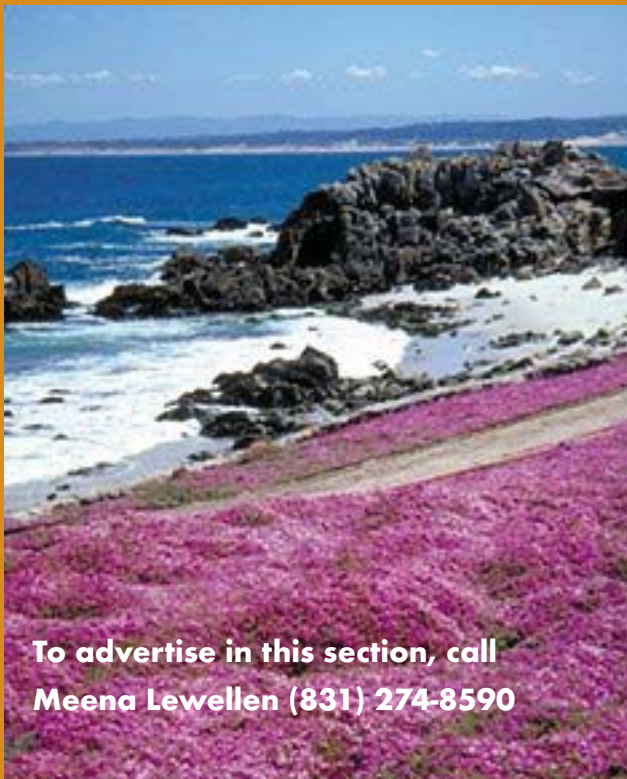


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