

The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 99 No. 9 On the Internet: www.carmelpinecone.com March 1-7, 2013

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Woman displaced in Valentine's Day apartment fire

■ Cat fled but was found and returned

By MARY SCHLEY

FIREFIGHTERS RESCUED a woman screaming for help inside her smoke-filled Pacific Grove apartment early on Valentine's Day, and police officers rescued her cat the next day, enabling the two to reunite Monday.

The blaze, sparked by a portable heater that caught a bathroom rug on fire, was discovered after a neighbor in the woman's Arkwright Court complex heard a smoke alarm sounding and called 911 around 4:15 a.m. Feb. 14, according to Monterey Fire Division Chief Paul Goodwin. When the first engine crew arrived, firefighters could see the unit, located on the third floor, was filled with smoke and hear the alarm, but they didn't know whether anyone was inside.

They forced the front door open and heard the woman yelling, "'I'm on fire! Help me, I'm on fire!'" Goodwin said. In the smoke and gloom, the woman, 58, lurched around a corner, coming face to face with a fire captain, who took hold of her and led her out the door into the fresh air.

"She was not on fire," he said. "But she was in the smoke and appeared to be disoriented."

Firefighters used a portable water extinguisher to douse the small blaze that was filling the apartment with smoke and heat, discovering a portable heater face down on a rug in the bathroom.

"It appears the heater had been moved or thrown into the bathroom and caught a small rug on fire," Goodwin said.

MFD deputy fire marshal David Reade said investigators also found two melted holes in the carpet on the bedroom floor. "One was cold to the touch, and the other was warm and still had an electrical appliance melted into it," he said. Reade could offer no further explanation for how those burned spots tied in with the fire in the bathroom and said he left the scene intact so the insurance company could salvage

See **RESCUE** page 20A



PHOTO/MONTEREY FIRE DEPARTMENT

A tipped-over space heater can start a fire that will cause a lot of damage. In this case, though, the cat was fine.

VIPs start to line up behind Cal Am project

By KELLY NIX

CONGRESSMAN SAM Farr, a former state assemblyman and a leading Monterey Peninsula conservationist have announced their support for a water supply plan from California American Water that includes a desalination plant in Marina, provided Cal Am accepts some changes proposed by local mayors.

In recent letters to the California Public Utilities Commission, Farr and former State Assemblyman Fred Keeley backed the position taken by six Peninsula mayors who said they would endorse Cal Am's desal proposal if the company alters the project to make it more appealing to ratepayers. Monterey Bay Aquarium head Julie Packard is also backing the plan.

"I believe the conditions the [mayors have] proposed for the project go a long way toward building community consensus on an issue that has long divided the Monterey Peninsula," Farr wrote in a Feb. 22 letter to CPUC President Michael Peevey.

Farr's letter was attached to Feb. 22 testimony by Carmel Mayor Jason Burnett on behalf of the mayors — collectively known as the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority — to the CPUC for consideration of Cal Am's desal proposal. Burnett is vice president of the mayors group.

See **VIPs** page 19A

If a law expires and nobody notices, does it make music?

By MARY SCHLEY

THE ORDINANCE adopted in 2005 that allows restaurants and bars in Carmel to have live music expired more than a year ago, but nobody realized it.

That is, until associate planner Marc Wiener discovered that the law — which overturned a 66-year-old ban on venues that serve alcohol from having live musicians entertain their customers — included a sunset clause effective Nov. 6, 2011. The law amended Carmel Municipal Code sections on "public peace, morals and welfare" that made it illegal for anyone to hold a public dance "or any form of entertainment" or play live instruments anywhere alcohol was sold and served.

See **LAW** page 20A

Gas pump skimmers linked to ID theft

By MARY SCHLEY

FOR THE second time in the last few months, police have linked identity theft to credit card information stolen from the pumps at a Forest Avenue gas station, Pacific Grove Police Cmdr. John Miller said this week.

Last Thursday, a victim of identity theft contacted PGPD, and investigators were able to trace the stolen credit card information back to the 76 station on Forest Hill — the same station from which customers' credit card numbers were stolen late last year.

"Police immediately responded to the gas station, and, with the cooperation of the gas station management, inspected all gas pumps for a skimmer," he said. Skimmers are small devices thieves surreptitiously attach to the pump at the point of sale to collect vital credit and debit information. They come in various forms and can be

See **THEFT** page 20A

Big Sur boulder-hop ends with rescue of mom, 3 kids

By CHRIS COUNTS

THANKS TO the efforts of the Monterey County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team, Big Sur's latest foolish hiking adventure has a happy ending.

According to Sgt. Joe Moses, on Feb. 24, an Atascadero woman, her two 12-year-old sons and 9-year-old daughter attempted to follow Villa Creek (65 miles south of Carmel) downhill about 2.5 miles to Highway 1.

After dropping his family off in the Big Sur backcountry, the woman's husband drove to where Villa Creek meets the highway and awaited their arrival.

But darkness arrived before the hikers did, so the husband drove a short distance to the tiny hamlet of Gorda and contacted law enforcement.

"He was a little nervous," Moses said. "He figured someone tripped and fell."

See **FOOLISH** page 20A

GHOST HUNTERS SEARCH TOR HOUSE FOR JEFFERS, FIND HIS WIFE INSTEAD

By CHRIS COUNTS

IN ADDITION to being one of America's greatest poets, it appears the late Robinson Jeffers was also a marketing genius.

In his poem, "Ghost," Jeffers said he would one day haunt the home he built, Tor House on Carmel Point. Intrigued by the poet's prophesy, the producers of a television series, "Ghost Adventures," sent host Zak Bagans and a crew of paranormal experts to investigate. The show devotes an episode, "Tor House," to Jeffers. It made its television debut on the Travel Channel last November and is available on Netflix and YouTube.

In an effort to prove Jeffers' ghost does indeed haunt the Carmel landmark, Bagans and his team interviewed local authorities and subjected the building to a variety of tests using gadgetry that looked like it came right out of "Ghostbusters."

And after spending one spine-tingling

night in the spooky old stone house, the crew came to the conclusion a ghost does inhabit the place — but it doesn't belong to Jeffers. Instead, it belongs to his wife, Una. According to them, an image captured by a thermal camera — which looks like a bright-pink blob — is likely Una. And they heard her say a few words as well.

Before embarking on his search for Jeffers' ghost, Bagans examined the poem, "Ghost," in which Jeffers describes a future encounter with a mortal and his poodle. In the show, Tor House Foundation President Vince Huth reads the poem.

"I imagine 50 years from now a mist gray figure moping about the place in mad moonlight examining the mortar joints, pawing the parasite ivy," read Huth, channeling the late poet.

Bagans points out that 2012 is precisely 50 years after Jeffers' passing — a sure sign

See **GHOSTS** page 9A



Taken from the television show, "Ghost Adventures," this eerie screen shot shows what a seance must have looked like in the Tor House — if Una Jeffers had conducted one there. According to the program, her ghost lives at the house now, and the foundation that operates it hopes you'll take a tour to see for yourself.

Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Tenacious Terrier

THE WORST part was pulling up to the produce fields among his cohorts, who piled out of their pickups and whistled to their big black Labs to leap out of the back and keep ‘em company. Then he opened the



door to his cab, and out scampered a Yorkshire terrier he hoped no one would notice. When they did, he made it clear he had inherited the little lap dog from his son, who couldn’t keep her.

He had agreed to two weeks and not a minute more. He simply had no purpose for a tiny terrier named Tink. But his wife was campaigning to keep her.

Determined to follow him into the fields, Tink climbed into the cab before he did, and then jumped out to scurry among the verdant rows as if on a mission. When she started barking at a plant, he figured she must be stalking something, so he took a look. She had caught a mouse, one of the bigger pests to his produce. By the end of the day, Tink had taken down 58 rodents.

Having heard these terriers were bred in the 19th century to hunt rodents in the clothing mills of Yorkshire, he decided she was onto something. Although Tink’s duties were limited to days when the dirt was dry, she began averaging 300 mice a month. By the end of the spring and summer seasons, she was up to 3,000.

“Gophers and mice presented a real problem for the plants,” her person says; “probably 30 to 40 percent of our damage. But Tink’s pretty much taken care of it. She’s relentless. She never tires, never wants to quit. I tell her we’ll get ‘em tomorrow.”

The family also has a big black German shepherd who couldn’t care less about mice. Or Tink.

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Supes OK BevMo! store after Potter brokers deal

By CHRIS COUNTS

AFTER STRIKING a bargain with a pair of opponents, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Feb. 26 to allow BevMo — a chain specializing in selling alcoholic beverages — to move into the Carmel Rancho shopping center.

The Concord-based business plans to rent a vacant retail space at 26538 Carmel Rancho Blvd. The supervisors received 48 letters of opposition to the plan, many coming from local parents who worried the store’s arrival would promote underage drinking in an area they say is already saturated with businesses that sell alcohol.

The supervisors also received 65 letters of support for BevMo, many praising the company for its professionalism and extensive inventory.

“Peace in the ‘hood”

To persuade Carmel Valley residents Christine Williams and Margaret Robbins to drop protests with the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, supervisor Dave Potter suggested the store limit tasting events to Fridays, Saturdays and an average of one other day per week. The supervisor characterized his effort as brokering “peace in the ‘hood.”

The condition was agreed upon by a BevMo representative, and Williams and Robbins consented to end their opposition. The condition was one of 17 imposed on BevMo, although most conditions are said to agree with the retailer’s internal policies.

Supervisor Lou Calcagno asked who would monitor the conditions. “I think we’re getting way out there beyond our enforcement,” he suggested.

But Potter was undeterred.

“I know this area, and I know Christine and Margaret,” Potter said. “They’re not going away. If there is an issue around conformance, I’m confident my office will hear about it right away.”

Big Sur resident and BevMo supporter Bill Nye told supervisors he’s looking forward to the opening of the store at the mouth of the valley so he won’t have to drive to BevMo’s nearest outlet in Salinas.

Marshall Gallery Closing

Artist Barry Marshall, known for his local landscapes and seascapes, will be open 12-5 daily until closing the Gallery March 10th.



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RED TAG SLAPPED ON PLANNED RETAIL STORE

By MARY SCHLEY

BUILDING OFFICIAL John Hanson last week slapped a red tag on the Ocean Avenue storefront that recently housed Garcia Gallery, after a police officer investigated a window that had been broken from the inside and subsequently discovered crews were in the process of gutting the space, despite not having any permits.

“Jesse Juarez was doing a walkthrough downtown, and a window was broken from the inside out, and glass was protruding,” Hanson said this week from Camp Roberts, where he is participating in U.S. Army National Guard exercises. “And it was very dangerous.”

When Juarez looked inside the store, which is located on Ocean Avenue and bordered by a narrow inter-block walkway that also passes by Flaherty’s restaurant, which fronts on Sixth Avenue, he saw “they had removed a bunch of sheetrock and whatnot.”

Interior demolitions and electrical work require a building permit, and Hanson said no one had applied for one. The

Despite outcry, imposing NOAA lights forgotten

■ Building to close soon

By KELLY NIX

WHEN THE head of NOAA in March 2012 said she would “find a solution” to the controversial half-dozen towering light poles at the agency’s research facility in Pacific Grove, residents and others who complained about them were relieved.

But nearly one year later, the 20-foot-plus-tall lights, which cost U.S. taxpayers \$36,000 to install, are still standing, and there are no plans to remove them.

In early 2010, NOAA, without notice to the city or the California Coastal Commission — which would otherwise regulate such development — installed the conspicuous poles in the parking lot of the 1352 Lighthouse Ave. building.

The move drew complaints from citizens, the city council and coastal commissioners, who could hardly believe the lights had been plopped down in the highly scenic Asilomar Dunes area of Pacific Grove, where coastal commission rules tightly restrict outdoor lighting at private homes. Even U.S. Rep. Sam Farr got involved in the discussion in early 2012 and said he would appeal to NOAA to try to have the lights

building, which includes Flaherty’s, is owned by Erling Linggi.

Hanson arrived and posted a “Failure to Comply Notice” declaring the project “has been found to be in violation of the Uniform Building Code and/or Carmel Municipal Code” and forbidding any work “until the violation(s) have been corrected and cleared by the building official.”

Failure to comply with a red tag is considered a violation of the municipal code and subject to double permit fees.

City workers covered the broken window with plywood — which the owner will pay for, Hanson said — but the glass was being replaced Wednesday afternoon.

“He thought he could just come in and start ripping stuff out and open up,” Hanson said of the new tenant, whose name he could not recall. “That’s not how we roll in Carmel.”

Hanson said the new tenant plans to open a Turkish imports store and had wanted to include jewelry, but he has not applied for a business license.

Code enforcement officer Margi Perotti said she talked to the man briefly but could not provide his name, either, since he has yet to fill out any official paperwork.

“He wanted to open a Turkish rug store and have a jewelry component in that, and we told him that rugs and jewelry really don’t go together,” she said. “We also told him there were no jewelry licenses available, so he could do rugs or pottery, but not jewelry.”

But Perotti doesn’t know what his plans are, for the store or for the business.

“Nothing has come in as of yet,” she said this week. “He still hasn’t applied for anything.”

Until he does, no work is allowed to continue in the vacant storefront, which has paper covering its windows.

replaced with less obvious fixtures.

The outcry led NOAA Undersecretary Jane Lubchenco to send a letter to former Mayor Carmelita Garcia telling her NOAA would work with the city to find a solution to the lights and fencing surrounding the facility that “is compatible with the unique residential and open space nature of the Asilomar Dunes neighborhood.”

Lubchenco trumpeted a “facility improvement plan” she said would include modifications to the lights and chain-link fencing. She said NOAA was also “committed to resolving the issue prior to a departure.” NOAA announced in 2012 it was closing the P.G. facility and relocating its operations to Santa Cruz and La Jolla.

However, almost a year later, NOAA officials and others seem unconcerned and unaware of the status of the Pacific Grove facility. Getting officials to talk about the status of the light poles is a challenge.

More than two weeks ago, The Pine Cone contacted John Gray, Washington, D.C.-based director of NOAA’s Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs — who was listed on Lubchenco’s letter as someone to contact about the lights.

See NOAA page 22A



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Police, Fire & Sheriff's Log

Drop the towels and put your hands up

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, FEBRUARY 12

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A dog was found wandering in the commercial district on Monte Verde Street AND turned over to CPD for safe-keeping. Owner located; dog returned to owner.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Subject reported loss of digital camera in case while visiting Carmel Beach on Feb. 10.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Person reported sometime between Feb. 8 and today's date, unknown person(s) stole their business sign on San

Carlos Street. No suspect information at this time.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A hotel owner on Mission Street requested assistance with a guest who was refusing to check out of the hotel on time. Contacted the guest, who was staying at the hotel due to issues she was having at her residence. Information assistance provided to the guest regarding her civil problems. Stood by while she vacated the hotel.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of a burglary to a parked vehicle on Eighth Avenue. Stolen was a women's purse and contents.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Cat in poor health on Ocean Avenue.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Subject contacted on Ocean Avenue for driving without a license.

Pacific Grove: Officer was dispatched to a

local business for investigation of a burglary. Woman said she went into the restroom located at the rear of the business and found human feces on the floor. Unknown person went into the restroom without her permission. The restroom door was not secured.

Pacific Grove: Woman returned to her 17th Street residence to find her door unlocked. She was unable to determine if any items were taken. She reported this happened in the past and property was taken from the residence. Woman believed the person entering her residence was the landlord's son. She was advised to fix her locks at the residence and contact the police department if any items were in fact taken or any suspicious activity is occurring.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 33-year-old male was contacted in the downtown business district on Junipero and found to have outstanding warrants for his arrest. Subject arrested and transported to county jail.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A citizen reported a burglary to the residence on Lobos.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Person reported finding a small dog running loose on Dolores in the area of Lower Stevenson School.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Person reported a DUI driver. Driver was stopped in the roadway on Junipero at 2005 hours. Driver, a 50-year-old female was arrested for DUI.

Pacific Grove: Officer was monitoring traffic on 17 Mile Drive when an unknown vehicle failed to stop at the stop sign. Driver was stopped. It was discovered she did not have a driver's license. Driver was arrested for driving without a driver's license. She was transported to PGPD, where she was cited and released with a court date.

Pacific Grove: Officer was dispatched to a vehicle accident on Ocean View Boulevard. The accident involved a motorcycle vs. a pick-up truck. While en route, dispatch advised the motorcyclist was not recovering from falling from his motorcycle and possibly had injuries.

Pacific Grove: Somebody entered the laundry room on Pine and removed some of a

female's clothes from washing machine. No suspects.

Carmel area: Deputies were contacted by a citizen flag down for a 26-year-old female bipolar subject in the Carmel area. Subject was last seen at Carmel High School. Deputies located the subject down a hillside from Highway 1 near Carmel Valley Road. Subject was transported to CHOMP.

Pebble Beach: Welfare check on a possible suicidal subject in Pebble Beach.

Pebble Beach: Female reported her vehicle and residence were vandalized.

Carmel Valley: Man reported his personal tax information may have been compromised.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A citizen reported suspicious circumstances in a residential area of Carmel on Eighth Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Officers responded to an apartment fire on Arkwright. Person reported seeing smoke and hearing a woman screaming for help. MFD breached the door and assisted the tenant out. Tenant was transported to CHOMP by AMR.

Pacific Grove: Officer was dispatched to a burglary on Lobos. Resident advised she went into her storage area and noticed several pieces of clothing missing. After speaking with her, she discovered who took her items. Resident wanted the female arrested. Female was arrested for burglary.

Pacific Grove: Officer was dispatched to a vehicle accident on Central Avenue. Upon arrival, the driver was found to possibly be under the influence of prescription medication. She was transported to the hospital. When the officer arrived at the hospital, the 49-year-old suspect still had slurred speech and was not very coherent. Blood test was administered.

Pacific Grove: Woman and her son were in a physical altercation on Maple Street. No complaint of pain or visible injuries. Resident requested no arrest. She will be seeking counseling for her son who has a history of ADHD and depression.

Pacific Grove: Person on Gibson reported a

See **POLICE LOG** page 6 in the Real Estate Section

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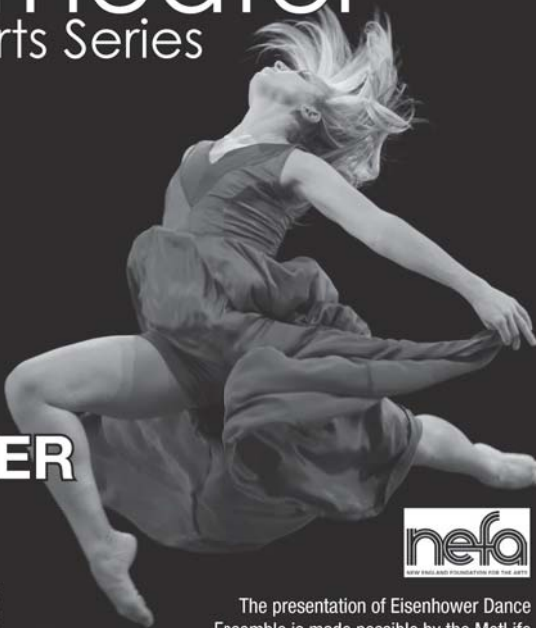
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Pepe sues former servers for stealing cash payments

By KELLY NIX

CARMEL RESTAURATEUR Rich Pepe has filed a lawsuit against two of his former servers claiming they stole tens of thousands of dollars of cash payments at Little Napoli.

In a complaint filed Feb. 26, Pepe's company, Pepe International Inc., alleges Little Napoli restaurant servers Jennifer Menke and Laura Brown took more than \$30,000 by pocketing the money when customers paid their bills using cash. Menke and Brown, according to the suit, used a computer system at the Dolores and Seventh eatery that processes food orders to erroneously designate customers' cash payments as "complimentary" meals. The women would then take the cash, Pepe said.

Little Napoli's policy was for servers to transfer the charge for a customer's "unsatisfactory menu item" to an account in the computer system that was marked "comped."

Menke came under suspicion in March 2012, when Pepe and his wife, Sandra, noticed that a disproportionate percentage of Menke's sales were made via credit card payments. She received few, if any, sales transactions in cash, according to the suit. "Menke attributed the disparity to her tendency to work the latest shifts, when more patrons tend to pay with credit cards," the lawsuit states.

The disparity in Brown's credit card and cash sales was apparent when the Pepes began investigating Menke's transactions. The Pepes hired Menke in 2003, and Brown was hired in 2010.

The Pepes enlisted the help of the vendor for the computer system to investigate exactly how money was being stolen. Through extensive analysis of server activity records, reports and tickets for each customer table, the Pepes and the vendor determined Menke and Brown had regularly been taking customers' cash payments, according to the lawsuit.

"When confronted with the evidence of more than \$17,000 in transfers between May and September of 2012 alone," the complaint said, "Menke stated words to the effect of, 'It couldn't have been that much.'"

The Pepes reported the alleged theft to the Carmel Police Department.

According to the lawsuit, the Pepes "grew close" to Menke and considered her "almost like a niece." They fired her in September 2012, and Brown quit after Menke was terminated. Neither woman could be reached for comment.

The Pepes allege they spent more than 80 hours and nearly \$10,000 "in pursuit of the converted property" and are seeking more than \$100,000 in damages. They are also seeking punitive damages, which can be awarded in cases of "malice, oppression and fraud."

Burglary suspect nabbed after breaking into church

BY MARY SCHLEY

AN EAGLE-EYED neighbor who saw a woman leaving St. Angela's Church last week with an armful of items alerted police after inspecting the church and finding the glass door was broken, according to Pacific Grove police.

At around 3:40 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18, the resident saw the woman, later identified as 22-year-old Jessica Galloway, walk into the Eighth Street church and then leave moments later carrying what turned out to be food. She got into a car being driven by a man, according to Cmdr. John Miller.

Monterey P.D. was asked to be on the lookout for the car, and officers stopped it on Del Monte Avenue near Figueroa. PGPD responded and identified the occupants as Galloway and David Ballard, 24, who is the subject of a restraining order forbidding him from being with Galloway, according to Miller.

"The stolen property, consisting of food items, was found in the vehicle," he said. Police arrested Galloway and charged her with burglary before releasing her without requiring bail, while Ballard was arrested on charges of violating a restraining order and then taken to Monterey County Jail.



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THIS STORY IS A PRESENT TO SOMEONE WHO GAVE THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT OF ALL

By MARY SCHLEY

EVERY YEAR around Feb. 28, Derek Lubag finds a way to thank his best friend, Frank Celentano, for saving his life. This year, he wanted the thank-you gift to be an article about them in The Pine Cone — and it is.

Celentano, who works as sales director at Tiffany & Co. on Ocean Avenue in Carmel, donated his kidney to Lubag five years ago, saving him from death from renal failure and relieving him of hours of treatment and constant pain.

Lubag, who lives in Tracy and runs an event-planning and wedding business called Dadalu Productions, visits Celentano in town a couple times a month.

“Never a dull moment with us,” he reported.

The two met during Lubag’s junior year of high school on the set of “West Side Story,” according to Lubag, who graduated from Tracy High in 1998 and is 33.

In August 2005, his body went into kidney failure, necessitating hours of dialysis, a highly restricted diet, and ongoing treatment while enduring constant pain.

Despite the difficulties that often accompany finding a match for a kidney donor, Celentano discovered he was indeed a match for Lubag, and the two underwent surgery at UCSF on Leap Day in 2008. Insurance covered Lubag’s surgery, while donations paid for Celentano’s.

Lubag’s body initially showed signs of rejecting the donated kidney despite the drug regimen he was prescribed, but by March 7, 2008, the indications of rejection were gone, and he was released from the hospital the following day.

“I heard from Derek today and he is on his way

home, TONIGHT!” Celentano posted on the blog that chronicled the duo’s medical journey. “I am so excited for him, I was only there three-and-a-half days, and I was desperate to get OUT and get some fresh air. I am sure he is beside himself with the prospect of getting fresh air and resting quietly at home.”

Celentano went on to describe his lack of pain but general tiredness as he recovered, and he praised his company for its support. “I am so lucky to have such an understanding employer,” he wrote. “Tiffany & Co. really cares and is allowing me all the time I need and will have my job for me when I am able to return. I could not ask for a better situation to be in, in order to help my friend Derek!”

When Lubag returned home, he posted about the astounding number of medications required to keep his kidney functioning — 16 prescriptions in all — as well as the potential for failure, which was around 40 percent.

But a year later, he was thriving, and now, even more so. “I am doing great ever since the transplant — the past two years have been the very greatest, with doctor’s appointments coming only every three months apart vs. every month,” Lubag told The Pine Cone Wednesday. “I have now been getting back to business and really starting all over again. I’m very blessed to have a friend, hero and brother like Frankie.” Lubag also mentioned their friend, Amy Rae Gowan, who supported both throughout the process. “These two are truly my backbone,” he said. “My world would totally be lost without them.”

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Council to focus on financial policies

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL City Council will continue an ongoing discussion of the city’s financial policies when it convenes for its regular meeting Tuesday, March 5, at 4:30

p.m. in city hall. The policies govern everything from reserve accounts and debt, to investment strategies and liquidity.

That conversation will be the focus of the meeting, though Mayor Jason Burnett will also present his monthly oral report on the

Monterey Peninsula water projects. Burnett, who is vice president of the Peninsula mayors group, will additionally host a council workshop Monday, March 4, at 5:30 p.m., in city hall that will center on the water shortage and potential solutions.

On his website, he summarized his latest activities and outlined his hopes for the workshop.“On Friday, I submitted testimony to the Public Utility Commission on behalf of the Water Authority outlining the Peninsula mayors’ position,” Burnett reported. “We support a portfolio of projects, but the focus of the PUC testimony is on the desal project.”

“In the past, the Peninsula has not been able to implement water projects, in part because we have not spoken with one voice,” he continued. “There is a sense of optimism right now that we have turned a corner because we now have a unified front.”

Burnett said decision makers can work to bring Carmel water projects to fruition, and he encouraged people to attend Monday’s workshop to share their ideas.

A few other tasks

Also on the agenda for Tuesday’s council

See COUNCIL page 13A

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Jim Erickson: Philanthropist, Investor, Sportsman, Family Man and Friend

James Edward Erickson, 77, of Carmel, CA, beloved husband and father passed away on February 23, 2013 after a courageous battle with heart disease. Jim is survived by his wife of 48 years, Barbara, and his two children, Sandra and Curtis. He also leaves behind a sister, Lynn Kolowsky.

Jim was born September 22, 1935 to Carl and Mabel Erickson and was raised in Riverhead, New York. He grew up walking to school accompanied by his faithful companion LuLu, the family German Shepard. Jim's passion for sports and love of God led him to Wheaton College of Illinois from 1953 to 1957. Jim played on the varsity football team his freshman year and by his sophomore year was the starting quarterback for the Wheaton College Crusaders. Jim quarterbacked Wheaton to three conference championships. He was named to the All-College Conference Team his senior year. His beloved Coach "Harv" Chrouser called Jim “probably the best Wheaton quarterback in post-war years." Following graduation, Jim served for two years as a First Lieutenant in the Army based in Fort Meade, Maryland.

After his discharge, Jim headed to Wall Street where his energy, drive and love of teamwork led to eighteen successful years as Head of Corporate Syndicate at Weeden & Co. On April 18, 1964 he married Barbara Beere of New Canaan, Connecticut in a service in Cornwall, Connecticut. In 1979, his love of the ocean and the fresh challenge of fixed-income investment management drew Jim, Barb and the kids to Boston and Putnam Investments. Over 19 years at Putnam, Jim developed and managed some of the first and, ultimately, the largest of the first generation of fixed-income mutual funds. Jim retired from Putnam in 1998 as Chief Investment Officer of the Tax Exempt Fixed Income department.

Upon retirement, Jim and Barbara moved to Carmel, California. Jim embraced Carmel by giving of himself to his new community. A man of deep faith, Jim's involvement with The Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Trinity High School and The Youth Foundation offered him the fulfillment of creating better opportunities for kids, while passing along some of the wisdom that helped him succeed in life.

Whether he was on the water, on a golf course, at a trading desk, in a boardroom or in a chapel, Jim embraced life and the people around him. Jim was a loving and devoted husband, father and friend who lived his faith every day.

A memorial service will be held at the Carmel Presbyterian Church on Junipero Street at Noon on Saturday, March 2, 2013.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Fellowship of Christian Athletes online at: <http://montereybayfca.org> or by mail at: The Fellowship of Christian Athletes, P.O. Box 8366, Huntington Beach CA 92615-8366. Please make checks to FCA and write “In memory of Jim Erickson” in memo line

GHOSTS

From page 1A

his crew is on to something big.

So is Tor House really haunted? Carol Dixon, an administrative assistant for Tor House, told Bagans said she’s convinced it is. “I feel as if there is a presence here and I feel I’m not truly ever alone,” Dixon said.

As evidence, Dixon recalled how a particular book about Una fell off the shelf — on three separate occasions. “I read the book and it stopped happening,” she claimed.

Docent Kathleen Sonntage said she believes Jeffers and his wife are never far away. “They’re here in every stone and every room,” she said.

Also interviewed for the show is local attorney Aengus Jeffers, the poet’s great-grandson. While the younger Jeffers doesn’t share any ghost stories, he confessed he’s never felt at ease in the old house.

“It was a very scary property as a kid,” Jeffers recalled. “It’s dark and full of creaking stairs. I’m still not entirely comfortable in this house at night — there are too many recesses and corners and deep shadowy areas.”

Just in case viewers aren’t feeling sufficiently creeped out, Huth casually mentions “there are occasional unsubstantiated reports” that Una Jeffers conducted seances in the home’s distinctive stone tower. To conjure up images of such a scene, an unsettling soundtrack sets the mood while shaky footage is presented of a woman waving what appears to be a hawk’s feather. Candles flicker around her.

On a foggy night last year, Bagans and his crew spent a sleepless night at Tor House, where they rigged up a variety of ghost-hunting devices and waited around for something scary to happen, which of course it did. “I can’t help but feel we’re going to make contact tonight,” Bagans predicts shortly before the fun begins.

While they believe they managed to communicate with Jeffers’ wife, Bagans and his crew were unsuccessful in their efforts to draw the late poet back to the land of the living.

Perhaps lacking answers, Bagans ends the show with a pair of questions.

“Did something draw us to Jeffers’ sanctuary?” he asks viewers. “Is it just a coincidence we wound up here on the 50th anniversary of his death — the very year he predicted he would return from the grave?”

While some are convinced Jeffers’ spirit haunts Tor House, others understandably have their doubts. But one thing is certain — the television show has generated great publicity for Tor House and the effort to preserve Jeffers’ legacy. And for that, the Tor House Foundation owes the long-dead poet a debt of gratitude for his marketing savvy.

“It was good publicity for the Tor House and the foundation,” Huth said of the show. “They treated the property with respect, they treated the poetry with respect, and they have a large audience. It was a positive experience.”

Huth adds that tours of the Tor House, which is located at 26304 Ocean View Ave., are available Fridays and Saturdays. For details, call (831) 624-1813 (Monday through Thursday) or (831) 624-1840 (Friday and Saturday), or visit www.tor-house.org.

■ Robinson Jeffers and Taelen Thomas

Perhaps if Bagans and his ghost-hunting crew had really wanted to capture Jeffers’ attention from beyond the grave, they would have played him a recording of contemporary Carmel resident Taelen Thomas reading the late poet’s works.

Presented by Pilgrim’s Way Bookstore, Thomas will read Jeffers’ poems Friday, March 1, at the Carmel Art Association.

One of the Monterey Peninsula’s leading theatrical talents, Thomas has portrayed a wide range of historical and literary figures on local stages, including Mark Twain, John Steinbeck and Jack London and many others. Just last week,

he paid tribute to poet Dylan Thomas at the Works bookstore and coffeehouse in Pacific Grove.

“Jeffers’ message is seldom easy, but of his fierce and original genius there can be no doubt,” said Alex Vardamis, a past president of the Tor House Foundation. “A poet for the ages, he produced some of the most disturbing political commentary of his time and some of the most sublime nature poetry ever written in the English language.”

Cynthia Fernandes, co-owner of Pilgrim’s Way, described Jeffers’ work as “a love sonnet to the land, nature and this place.” She also called Thomas a local treasure.

“Taelen is known for his ability to celebrate in high regard local knowledge, lore and creative expression,” she added. “Rather than just trying to make a living — something we see all too often in our society — Taelen has dedicated his life to valuing rhythm, art and language.”

Thomas will kick off Friday’s performance by reading from his new chapbook of original poetry, “Inside of a Galloping Buffalo.”

The event starts at 6 p.m. and tickets are \$10. The Carmel Art Association is located on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth. Call (831) 624-4955 or visit www.pilgrimsway.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICES • PUBLIC NOTICES

22, 2013. (PC 307)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will conduct a public hearing in the City Hall Council Chambers, located on the east side of Monte Verde between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, on Wednesday, March 13, 2013. The public hearings will be opened at 4:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible. Note: one or more of the items may be on the Consent Agenda. Items on the Consent Agenda will be approved without discussion unless someone requests otherwise. For all other items staff will present the project, then the applicant and all interested members of the public will be allowed to speak or offer written testimony before the Commission takes action. Decisions to approve or deny the project may be appealed to the City Council by filing a written notice of appeal with the office of the City Clerk within ten (10) working days following the date of action by the Planning Commission and paying a \$295.00 appeal fee as established by the City Council. For those projects listed as appealable to the California Coastal Commission, appeals may be filed directly with the Coastal Commission for no fee, by filing a written notice of appeal with the Coastal Commission's Central Coast office in Santa Cruz. Such appeals must be filed within ten working days of the Coastal Commission's

receipt of the City's Final Local Action Notice.

If you challenge the nature of the proposed action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission or the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing.

1. DS 13-13
Brian Parton
E/s Lopez 3 S 2nd
Block KK, Lot(s) 22
Consideration of Design Study (Concept), Demolition Permit and Coastal Development Permit applications for the construction of a new residence located in the Single Family Residential (R-1) District.
2. UP 13-4
Willow Creek Ranch, LLC
N/s 7th bt. Dolores & San Carlos
Block 76 Lot(s) 20
Consideration of a Use Permit amendment application for modifications to a retail wine shop with wine tasting at a commercial space located in the Central Commercial (CC) District.
3. DS 12-129
Sangerman/Giifilan
2992 Franciscan Way
Block 10, Lot(s) 34
Consideration of a Plan Revision to an approved Design Study for the alteration of an existing residence located in the Single Family Residential (R-1) and Archaeological Significance Overlay (AS) Districts.
4. UP 13-1
Catherine Compagno
E/s Mission bt. 4th & 5th
Block 49, Lot(s) 14 & 16
Consideration of a Use Permit amendment application for modifications to exterior seating at a restaurant located in the Service Commercial (SC) District. (Pastries & Petals)
5. DS 13-7
Carol Casey
E/s Carmelo 2 S 9th
Block P, Lot(s) 4
Consideration of Design Study (Final) and Coastal Development Permit applications for the alteration of an existing residence located in the Single Family Residential (R-1) District.
6. DS 13-8
Carol Casey
SE Carmelo & 9th
Block P, Lot(s) 2
Consideration of Design Study (Final) and Coastal Development Permit applications for the alteration of an existing residence located in the Single Family Residential (R-1) District.
7. UP 13-2
Catherine Compagno
E/s Dolores bt. 5th & 6th
Block 56 Lot(s) 10
Consideration of a Use Permit amendment application to allow exterior seating at a restaurant located in the Central Commercial (CC) District. (Em Le's)
8. DS 13-12
Siebert/Heyermann
E/s Dolores 5 S 10th

- Block 116, Lot(s) 12
Consideration of Design Study (Concept & Final), Demolition Permit and Coastal Development Permit applications for the construction of a new residence located in the Single Family Residential (R-1) District.
9. UP 13-3
4th & Santa Rita LLC
SW Santa Rita & 4th
Block 46, Lot(s) 1,3,5
Consideration of a Residential Use Permit for the establishment of a guesthouse at a property located in the Single Family (R-1) District.
10. DS 13-1
Jeanne Potter
4905 Monterey St.
Block AM, Lot(s) 4
Consideration of Design Study (Concept & Final) and Coastal Development Permit applications for the substantial alteration of an existing residence located in the Single Family Residential (R-1) District.
*Project is appealable to the California Coastal Commission
PLANNING COMMISSION
Date of Publication: March 1, 2013
- City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Leslie Fenton,
Administrative Coordinator
Publication dates: March 1, 2013. (PC 308)
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Footprints in the Fort Ord sand offer fascinating glimpse of nature

By CHRIS COUNTS

WHEN THEY aren't busy managing the day-to-day operations of the Pilgrim's Way bookstore, Cynthia Fernandes and Paul Fridlund are often engaged in a very different endeavor — tracking the movements of local wildlife.

On the first Sunday of every month, Fernandes and Fridlund rise just after dawn so they can meet with other members of the Monterey Bay Tracking Club. Together, on cool, misty mornings, the club's members visit the backroads of Fort Ord, where a surprisingly rich diversity of animals leave evidence of their existence.

Fort Ord, it turns out, is the perfect place to study animal tracks. Not only is the brushy and bumpy terrain filled with fauna, but the combination of sand and fog creates ideal conditions for observing what they leave behind.

"An imprint in the sand is much easier to recognize than it is in gravel, grass or a leaf bed," Fernandes explained.

Plus, the filtered light — which reduces the impact of shadows — is easy on the eyes.

Fernandes caught the tracking bug more than a decade ago when she discovered the work of naturalist Tom Brown, Jr., who as a child growing up in New Jersey, learned about tracking from an Apache elder. The author has written more than a dozen books on tracking and wilderness survival.

Fernandes passed on her love of tracking to her husband, and together they join other club members for monthly forays into the wilds of Fort Ord. There — led by CSUMB graduate student Bart Kowalski — they look for tracks and other evidence left behind by the area's nocturnal residents, which include deer, a wide variety of rodents, bobcats, coyotes and even mountain lions. "It's our way of connecting with the natural world," Fridlund said.

Like a Buddhist sand painting, there's an inherent impermanence to the tracks animals leave behind. Often, the trackers are not sure

See **TRACKERS** page 13A

From the left, Bart Kowalski, Cynthia Fernandes, Paul Fridlund and Pauline Allen examine animal tracks at Fort Ord.



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Couple dies while scuba diving in Whalers Cove

■ Cause a mystery

By MARY SCHLEY

A HUSBAND and wife from San Jose died while diving in the waters off Point Lobos State Reserve Friday, but officials don't know what happened to cause the tragedy.

When Volodymyr Butsky, 40, and Marina Butsky, 41, were reported missing around 2:45 p.m. Feb. 21, California State Parks lifeguards and rangers, as well as a Cal Fire engine and ambulances, rushed to the scene to search for the couple.

Other divers found the woman by climbing up onto the bluff and looking for her in the water, according to acting sector superintendent Eric Abma, and Cal Fire battalion chief Buddy Bloxham said they had already started CPR on the unconscious female by the time emergency personnel arrived at Whalers Cove, a popular diving spot in the park.

Cal Fire launched its rescue boat and found the man about half an hour later.

"I know that they first found the woman by going up on

the bluff and looking down and saw her floating, so I imagine they went back to the same general area," Abma said. "He was close to the surface."

Crews initiated CPR on the man as soon as they pulled him into the rescue boat, and lifesaving efforts continued on both patients until their arrival via Carmel Fire and AMR

Los Lonely Boys back at Sunset

A GRAMMY Award-winning rock 'n' roll trio, Los Lonely Boys return to Sunset Center Tuesday, March 5.

Consisting of three brothers — Henry, JoJo and Ringo Garza — the Texas-based band scored a No. 1 hit with "Heaven," which won a Grammy in 2005 for Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group. The concert starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$39 to \$59. Call (831) 620-2048 or visit www.sunsetcenter.org.

ambulances at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, where they were pronounced dead.

Abma is awaiting autopsy results from the Monterey County Coroner's Office and said at this point, no one knows how the divers died.

"They were about 100 yards off the point there right in Whalers Cove," Bloxham said. "Conditions were calm, and there weren't any big waves."

"It's really hard to tell, because nobody witnessed it," Abma said. "We're waiting on the coroner's investigation and hoping that will give us some idea of what went wrong."

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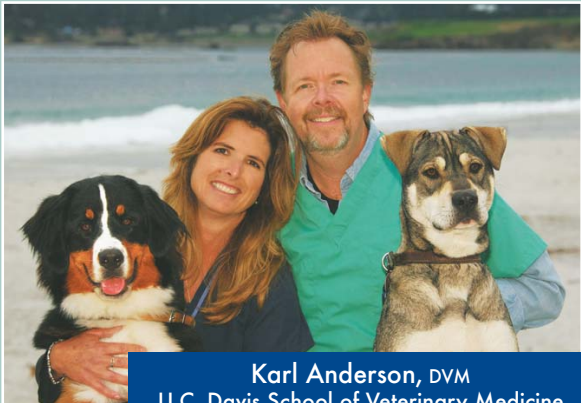
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SERVICE DIRECTORY
continued on
page 14 A

SENIORS

Softball ace whiffs 13, leads Carmel High to opening day win

PADRES PITCHING ace Brittany File struck out 13 batters and surrendered just four hits Feb. 26 to lead the Carmel High School softball team to a 3-1 road victory against Scotts Valley High to open the 2013 season.

Freshman Lauren Salvati paced the Padres' offense with a hit and a pair of runs.

The win marks a successful debut for new Carmel High softball coach Mike Odello.

Next up for the Padres are home games against Notre Dame High (Friday, March 1, at 3:30 p.m.) and Soquel High (Saturday, March 2, at 11 a.m.), and a road game against Salinas High (Wednesday, March 6, at 4:30 p.m.). League play starts March 21.

Writer debuts novel based on nomadic childhood

AUTHOR ANNA Vanderbroucke signs copies of her first book, "Thirty-Seven Houses," Saturday, March 2, at Carmel Bay Company. "It's the story of a young girl who lives in 37 houses, and all the things that happen to her in each house," Vanderbroucke told The Pine Cone. "How does a young girl survive moving from a shifting kaleidoscope of upheaval to a place of peace?"

The young girl's nomadic existence takes her to many locales, including Carmel and Carmel Valley — themes Vanderbroucke draws from her own experience as a youngster. The event starts at 2 p.m. Carmel Bay Company is located at Ocean and Lincoln. Visit www.carmelbaycompany.com.

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COUNCIL

From page 8A

meeting, city administrator Jason Stilwell will summarize the city's code compliance efforts of the past month, and an update will be provided on the hospitality improvement district. Officials are also set to discuss the city's water allocation and water requirements for the public-restroom project at Santa Lucia Avenue and Scenic Road that was finally approved by the planning commission last November.

On the council's consent calendar are approval of past meeting minutes, as well as findings backing up the council's denial last month of an appeal of the planning commission's approval of a new home at Lincoln and Fifth, and a contract change order for \$4,215.42 for the Del Mar Beach boardwalk and platform installation project.

City hall is located on the east side of Monte Verde Street south of Ocean Avenue.

TRACKERS

From page 10A

what they're looking at — but they don't really mind. "If you have more questions than answers, you're doing it right," Fridlund observed.

While the idea of tracking might conjure up images of rough outdoorsmen hacking through brush, such a notion couldn't be farther from the truth. "We walk a quarter mile along an easy path. It's a great activity for seniors," Fernandes said. Not only does tracking provide her and Fridlund with a respite from running their bookstore, they're able to apply some of what they learn to their business. "It feels very empowering to be aware of my surroundings — whether it's noticing footprints in the dirt or customers in our shop," Fernandes added.

The group meets at the Ord Market (2700 Imjin Rd.) at 8 a.m. the first Sunday of each month.

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POLICE LOG

JUNE 13

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THE EX-FRIEND THREW WATER ON HER.



SHE WANTED THE INCIDENT DOCUMENTED



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A century of Pine Cones

■ 98 years ago —
Feb. 24, 1915

The Masquerade

An assemblage that filled Carmel Hall to capacity gathered on Saturday evening at the annual masquerade ball of the Manzanita Club. Among those present were folks from Monterey, Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach.

The grand march began at 9 o'clock and was witnessed by many not in costume. A number of the costumes worn by the ladies were beautiful, and there were also the usual quota of comical male and female characters who sustained their parts very well. The committee in charge consisted of Walter Basham, Dr. J.E. Beck. T.B. Reardon, F. Leidig and E.H. Lewis.

■ 75 years ago —
March 4, 1938

Realtors Meet On FHA Program

Preparing to present to the public all possible information about the new FHA program, Monterey Peninsula realtors, builders and building supply men met Wednesday evening at the Chamber of Commerce in Monterey to form the Monterey Peninsula FHA Program committee. It is the aim of this group to publicize the new FHA program, to assist any interested person in getting complete information on how to buy or build a home under this plan, and to urge those who have been contemplating building to proceed now.

It was brought out at the meeting that the

new program makes possible the cheapest home financing in the history of the United States. Loans up to \$5400 carry 5.25 per cent interest on the 90 per cent plan. The 80 per cent loans carry 5.5 per cent interest.

■ 50 years ago —
Feb. 28, 1963

Shell Oil

A reluctant Shell Oil Company has filed with Building Inspector Floyd Adams construction plans for a bone-bare service station at San Carlos and Fifth, to replace the former Texaco station which went out of operation this week, Shell having exercised its option to purchase the property.

The structure is no beauty, though no fault of Shell's. It is a dismal monument to a vacillating City Council wrapped in mystifying thought and hesitation over the earnest service station zone recommended by the Planning Commission. Plans for the complete reconstruction of Harry Glem's Mobile station, at San Carlos and Seventh, in accordance with current stark, non-conforming regulations, are also on file. And Standard Oil's major expansion of the station at Ocean and San Carlos is pending and probable.

In Cars, Campers, Droshkies, Sleds and a Horse Trailer, They Came

No 50-mile hikes for the public last week end. They celebrated the natal day of George Washington by coming to Carmel and the Monterey Peninsula. The largest crowd on record for the area. With traffic backed up

and crawling bumper-to-bumper from Gilroy south, the office of the California Highway Patrol estimated that more than 40,000 vehicles inched their way along to Carmel and environs.

■ 25 years ago —
March 3, 1988

It's all 'downhill' for Michelle

Michelle Clark built something more important than a snowman when she visited the snow-covered mountains in Yosemite. She rebuilt her confidence and self-respect, which were sorely tested after she lost her left leg in an automobile accident on Carmel Valley Road last July.

Carmel Pine Cone readers were first

introduced to 24-year-old Michelle, who works in our accounting office, last August when the paper ran a plea for financial aid to help pay for a new leg and offset mounting medical bills. The response showed the generosity of the peninsula and more than 150 checks from residents and local businesses came rolling in — many with heartfelt notes of encouragement.

"Thank you," Michelle said to those who helped. "I couldn't have done it without you." Already the money has been put to use and Michelle is learning to walk on her new leg without her ever-present crutches.

At Tahoe, after five lessons, the instructors were talking to her about possibly joining a handicap race team and, in the future, teaching other handicapped people to ski.

—Compiled by Lily Patterson

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Seeking to ‘make jazz cool again,’ Overtone singer launches solo career

By CHRIS COUNTS

A MEMBER of Overtone — the singing group that was discovered four years ago in South Africa by Dina Eastwood while her husband, Clint, was filming “Invictus” — **Emile Welman** steps out on his own Sunday, March 3, when he performs an acoustic concert at Cima Collina Tasting Room in Carmel Valley Village.



Andrea Carter

Six days later, Welman returns to Carmel when he plays a concert — backed by a full band — Saturday, March 9, at Mission Ranch.

At the Carmel Valley tasting room, Welman will be accompanied by Grammy-nominated pianist Howard Hill. The show kicks off his first tour as a solo

artist.

For Welman, it’s going to seem strange being up on stage without Overtone, the group he’s been singing with since 2006. “It’s definitely going to be intense,” he told The Pine Cone. “I’m used to having five guys that I can lean on. Now it comes down to me doing my show and getting it right.”

Before introducing his solo act to the world, Welman decided he first wanted to unveil it in his adopted home.

“It feels like family here,” he said.

At Cima Collina, Welman plans to perform a wide range of material. “I’m going to sing some Frank Sinatra, some Ray Charles and some of my own stuff,” he explained. “And to keep the younger people happy, I’m going to throw in some Justin Bieber.”

For his debut performance, Welman said he’s happy to have Hill at his side. “Howard is an amazing pianist,” he said. “He’s something special.”

At Mission Ranch, Welman will be backed by bassist **Nils Johnson** — who once toured with Charles— and a pair of local instrumentalists, guitarist **Bradley Smith** and drummer **Ross McCafferty**.

Welman is also looking forward to playing at Clint’s place. “Clint and Dina have been so supportive of me,” he explained.

On his debut tour, Welman hopes to showcase his first recording, which is tentatively due out in April. In his music, the singer explores the common ground that lies between jazz and more contemporary genres like R&B and hip-hop.

“I want to make jazz cool again,” he declared. “I want to make it a force to be reckoned with. Young kids are losing so much from that era. I want to keep the style and swagger of swing but combine it with contemporary hip-hop beats.”

Tickets for the Cima Collina show — which is limited to ages 21 and over — are \$18.60, and the music starts at 2 p.m. Cima Collina is located at 19 E. Carmel Valley Road. Call (831) 620-0645 or visit www.cimacollina.com.

Tickets for the Mission Ranch show are \$20 in advance and \$24 at the door. A limited number of premium seats — which include a meet and greet — are \$50. Mission Ranch is located at 26270 Dolores. Visit www.eventbrite.com.

■ Jazzin’ up the Crossroads

Brightening up a corner of the Crossroads shopping center, singer **Andrea Carter** performs every Friday evening at Bistro 211.

The drummer and lead vocalist of Andrea’s Fault — a trio that often plays at the Big Sur River Inn on Sunday afternoons in the summer — Carter presents a tasty mix of blues and jazz.

The Pacific Grove-based singer’s set list spans the musical spectrum. Included are nuggets like Nora Jones’ “Come Away With Me,” Antonio Carlos Jobim’s “Quiet Nights of Quiet Stars,” Ray Charles’ “Georgia,” the Beatles’ “Blackbird,” Doris Day’s “Que Sera Sera,” and a song she describes as her all-time favorite, the Kingston Trio’s “Scotch

See **MUSIC** page 16A

Steinbeck’s ‘Of Mice and Men’ opens March 1

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

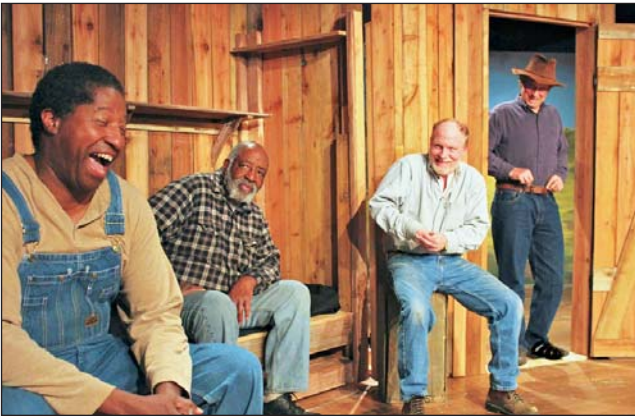
ONE OF John Steinbeck’s most moving works will be showcased when a stage production of the writer’s “Of Mice and Men” opens Friday, March 1, at the Magic Circle Theatre in Carmel Valley Village.

“First of all, John Steinbeck’s writing is just fantastic,” said director Elsa Con of the writer’s classic tale of two migrant farm workers. “Steinbeck has a deep understanding of the human spirit. The New York Times said the story grabs you by the heart and never lets go. That’s so true. It’s a play about compassion and people looking after one another. After seeing it so many times, I’m still moved to tears. It’s a story that has everything.”

Starring in the play are Avondina Wills, Richard Boynton, Brandon Burns, Ron Cacas, Bob Colter, David Norum, James Porter, Garland Thompson, Taylor Thorngate and Alan Zeppa.

This week, by the way, marks the 111th anniversary of Steinbeck’s birth.

The play continues Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through March 31. Tickets are \$25, with discounts available for seniors and students on Sundays. The theater is located at 8 El Caminito. Call (831) 659-7500 or visit www.magiccircletheatre.net.



John Steinbeck’s classic tale of two migrant farm workers, “Of Mice and Men,” opens Friday, March 1, at the Magic Circle Theatre in Carmel Valley Village. The play continues through the end of the month.

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CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

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Anna Vanderbroucke
Book Signing/Reception
March 2
See page 19A

MONTEREY

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See ad this page

CARMEL

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March 7
See page 13A

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

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**Understanding
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March 8
See page 7A

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

SUNSET CENTER
presents
SMUIN
Winter Program
March 8-9
See page 18A

MONTEREY PENINSULA

CAMERATA SINGERS
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FORTH**
March 8-10
See page 18A

MARINA

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presents
**EISENHOWER
DANCE ENSEMBLE**
March 9
See page 5A

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See page 5A

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See page 18A

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See page 7A

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Dawn's Dream turns 1, goodbye to PB&B, and St. Pat's

By MARY SCHLEY

DAWN'S DREAM Winery — the endeavor of Dawn Galante — celebrates its one-year anniversary with “a quiet riot of a birthday celebration” Saturday, March 2, from 2 to 6 p.m. in the tasting room in Carmel Valley Village.

“We are so excited to celebrate our first year in business,” said Lisa Winfield. “Time flies when you’re pouring beautiful, elegant wines every day!”

Galante and her husband, Jack, have been making wine in Cachagua at their Galante Vineyards since 1994, and she decided to launch her own venture a year ago “to produce approachable wines of exceptional quality and elegance, sourcing fruit from the finest vineyards in California,” principally Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. Since then, she has received awards and praise for her wines, which will be offered during the party and accompanied by small bites.

The first flight is free, with subsequent glasses of wine available for \$6 each.

“Bring your friends and family to help us celebrate not only our very first year in business, but also all of you, who have made our first year such a great success,” said Winfield, who also asked that groups give her a heads-up they will be attending by calling (831) 659-2649 or emailing lisa@dawns-dreamwinery.com. The tasting room is located at 19 East Carmel Valley Road across from the Running Iron.

■ PB&B to go by the wayside

Fans and devotees of Rio Grill chef Cy Yontz’ peanut butter and belly sandwich should plan on lunching at Crossroads restaurant soon, because that tasty creation is not going to be around much longer. Word is, the sandwich, which features peanut butter and berry jelly — along with a generous slab of pork belly — on toasted brioche bread, accompanied by cornmeal-encrusted fennel fries, will make way for Yontz’ new creations.

No doubt whatever he adds will be great, but the sweet-savory, messy, rich sandwich will be missed. Yontz said he’ll bring it back every now and then as a special, so keep an eye out for it.

The Rio Grill is located in the Crossroads. Visit www.riogrill.com.

■ Sand dab celebration

Restaurants along Monterey’s Old Fisherman’s Wharf are showcasing fresh-caught Monterey Bay sand dabs this month. At Old Fisherman’s Grotto, for instance, the light, flat fish is seasoned with bread crumbs and lemon butter sauce, and served with caramelized onion risotto and sautéed organic vegetables, while at Domenico’s, grilled Monterey Bay sand dabs are served with a sauce of capers, white wine, cream and butter, alongside cauliflower mashed potatoes and fresh veggies.

Paluca Trattoria is offering sand dabs piccata, in which the fish is dipped in an egg wash and bread crumbs, and then pan seared with lemon juice and olive oil, capers, garlic and Chardonnay.

Isabella’s is providing blackened sand dabs with sweet potatoes and coconut, or sand dabs pan seared with garlic and shrimp, while Crab Louie’s is cooking up panko-crusted sand dabs with lemon caper cream sauce, steamed vegetables and rice.

For more information about Fisherman’s Wharf, go to www.montereywharf.com or call (831) 238-0777.

■ Brodie at Cima Collina

Nationally broadcast PBS “Art of Food” TV chef, cooking instructor and caterer Wendy Brodie will be the featured chef at Cima Collina’s next Supper Club dinner Thursday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the tasting room at 19 East Carmel Valley Road.

The Supper Club series, held on the sec-

ond Thursday of each month, aims to “deepen your understanding of the complementary and contrasting flavors found between food and wine.” Brodie will prepare a dinner to pair with Cima Collina wines.

Tickets, limited to 24 attendees, are \$125 for wine club members and \$145 for the general public. To reserve, call (831) 620-0645.

■ Paella at Zeph’s

Chef Brandon Miller of Mundaka in Carmel will demonstrate his paella-making prowess at Zeph’s One Stop in Salinas Saturday, March 16, and will also offer samples and provide the recipe for guests to take home and try themselves. A signature dish of Spain, paella is rice-based and comes in many forms, most commonly in the United States featuring saffron, sausage and various seafood and shellfish. Comanche Cellars of Monterey County will provide tastes of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Tempranillo, Cabernet Franc and Syrah. The event, which will take place from 4 to 6 p.m., is free.

Zeph’s, an extensive wine store, gift shop and deli, also has more than two dozen wines available by the glass. It’s located at 1366 South Main St. in Salinas. Visit www.zephsonestop.com to learn more.

■ Elena’s celebrates women

Sweet Elena’s Bakery and Café is celebrating its 21st anniversary and will honor Women’s Day Saturday, March 16, with an open house and specials from noon to 5 p.m.

Stop by Elena Saucido’s bakery and restaurant at 465 D Olympia Ave. in Sand City to sample her creations, sip Ventana Vineyards wines, enjoy an art exhibit by Mary Liz Houseman and Terese Garcia, and browse booths set up by local female artisans, including the Queen of Quince.

According to organizers, 21 percent of all

purchases will benefit the Hamilton House and Elm House emergency shelter for displaced women. The cost is \$25 per person. RSVP to sweetelenasbakery@gmail.com or (831) 393-2063.

■ Montrio 2013 artisan series

Montrio Bistro in downtown Monterey will begin this year’s Artisan Series with a class on the iconic Easter ham Saturday, March 16, from noon to 2 p.m. The Artisan Series includes three classes in all — another on June 1 focusing on grilling for Father’s Day, and the final on Nov. 9 showcasing gifts for foodies — and each features chef Tony Baker’s instruction, lunch and drinks.

Baker will show attendees how to prepare the perfect Easter ham, using techniques like brining to boost flavor, and will also discuss the best suppliers. The farmer Baker uses will be on hand to sell his hams.

The cost is \$55 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Call (831) 648-8881. Montrio is located on Calle Principal.

■ Dinner with the brewers

Peter B’s Brewpub in the Portola Hotel in downtown Monterey will host a beer dinner Tuesday, March 19, at 6 p.m., showcasing brewmaster Kevin Clark’s latest beers and executive chef Jason Giles’ latest creations.

The evening will begin with toasted fennel and rosemary popcorn, paired with Belly Up Blonde Ale, followed by an Oyster Trio paired with Inclusion Amber Ale. The main course, stout-braised short ribs with caramelized onion whipped potatoes, baby carrots and a rich jus, will be served with Imperial IPA, and dessert — cannoli with candied orange and toasted pistachio, will accompany Chocolate Porter.

The cost is \$45 per person, plus tax and tip. For reservations, call (831) 649-2699.



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City of Carmel-by-the-Sea Unscheduled Vacancy

Community Activities & Cultural Commission

Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2013, for the following unscheduled vacancy:

The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea is soliciting applications to fill an unscheduled vacancy on the Community Activities and Cultural Commission.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & CULTURAL COMMISSION:

The term for the unscheduled vacancy on the Community Activities and Cultural Commission will expire October 2014, at which time the Commissioner could apply for a full term to October 2018.

The Community Activities and Cultural Commission consists of five members. A two-thirds majority of the Commission shall be residents of the City, and the remainder may be residents of the City’s Sphere of Influence. Applicants should have an interest in, or familiarity with, the creative or performing arts and the City’s special events. The Commission is responsible for stimulating and encouraging community, cultural and recreational activities within the City and to actively participate in the execution of these activities;

The Commission meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2013.

Descriptions of the duties and responsibilities for all three Boards/Commissions is on file in the City Clerk’s office, located on Monte Verde Street, between Ocean and Seventh Avenues.

On Jan. 31, the mayors issued a position statement saying Cal Am’s desal plant is the most likely of three proposals to be built the quickest. But the mayors said Cal Am would need to accept a large contribution in public funds, offer more public oversight, limit the financial risk to customers, address technical concerns and make other changes to the their plan in order to gain their endorsement.

Cal Am has been receptive to the suggestions and is expected to make a more detailed statement about the mayors’ position in early March.

Burnett said Farr’s support of the mayors’ position is important considering Farr represents all of Monterey County, including the Salinas Valley, where farmers have raised concerns about the impact of the Cal Am project on their water rights.

Perhaps more notable is the backing from former State Assemblyman Fred Keeley, who in 1998 — when he represented Monterey Bay — sponsored legislation to require the CPUC to develop a viable alternative water project to the defunct Carmel River Dam proposal. Desal was the option the CPUC proposed.

“It is my opinion that numerous past water supply proposals have failed, at least in part,” Keeley wrote in a Feb. 20 letter to Burnett, “because of the lack of united community support and leadership for a specific project that is technically and legally viable, cost effective and which affords meaningful public participation and oversight.”

Keeley went on to say that the mayors group and its leadership may now “assist in achieving a successful project” as long as Cal Am meets the conditions set by the group.

Keeley’s support bodes well, Burnett said, because he was influential early on in the Monterey Peninsula’s quest for an alternative water supply to the Carmel River, the Peninsula’s primary water source.

“I think the CPUC will take note because he is saying our position is consistent with his original legislation, which is the legislation the CPUC is following,” Burnett said.

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and, the Coalition of Peninsula Businesses also back the mayors’ position on Cal Am’s proposed project.

Julie Packard, executive director of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, sent a letter Feb. 19 to mayors group President Chuck Della Sala saying the Aquarium supports the group’s position and that a secure water supply is vital to the Aquarium’s mission as a visitor-serving business.

“Restrictions on water supply would severely decrease the number of visitors we are able to serve,” Packard said. “If hotels have to limit their room availability because of insufficient water supplies, a majority of our visitors would be less likely to visit.”

“The Aquarium has, of course, an interest in the community finding a water solution but to do it in a way that protects the marine environment,” said Burnett, Packard’s nephew.

In their position statement, the mayors support a desal operation such as Cal Am’s proposal that uses wells to draw source water from the ocean instead of open ocean intakes, which are widely frowned upon for their negative environmental impacts.

Not everyone supportive

While Burnett and the mayors groups has been widely praised for its efforts, Pacific Grove City Councilman Dan Miller contends the group is ignoring other potentially viable projects.

In a council meeting last week — and in conversations with The Pine Cone afterward — Miller had harsh words about the mayors’ and specifically Burnett’s role in the water issues.

“I do not any longer want to give money from the city of Pacific Grove to what appears more and more to me is being used as a grandstand for the mayor of Carmel,” Miller said.

Miller’s comments were made before the council voted 6-1 — Miller dissenting — to continue to help finance the mayors’ water group with a \$32,000 check.

Miller has long been critical of Cal Am and instead has supported a competing desal project in Moss Landing proposed by developer Nader Agha. Last year, the Pacific Grove

City Council voted 5-2 to be the public partner for Agha’s project.

“My belief is that Mr. Burnett is doing all of this and ignoring [Agha’s] project because his city wasn’t at the forefront of getting things done,” Miller told The Pine Cone, referring to Pacific Grove’s backing of Agha’s project.

But Agha’s project has taken some bizarre turns. In December 2012, San Francisco Bay Area businessman Don Lew suddenly announced at a council meeting he was taking over Agha’s project and renaming it. Then, a financing deal between Lew and Agha collapsed, and Lew is no longer involved.

While Burnett wouldn’t respond to Miller’s comments, he pointed to the overwhelming support the mayors have received for their efforts.

“I think that level of consensus has not been seen in this community for a generation,” Burnett said, “and it’s that consensus we need to move a water project forward.”

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Proceeds go to SPCA and CASA

THEFT

From page 1A

affixed internally or externally, and their information can be harvested by cell phone, so the thieves never have to touch the pumps again.

RESCUE

From page 1A

see if a malfunction had caused the blaze.

The woman, who had been escorted down the stairs and examined by a paramedic, was taken by AMR ambulance to Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula for treatment of smoke inhalation, and firefighters secured the apartment with plywood to protect her belongings.

“I visited her twice — to bring her a set of keys to her house, and to make sure all the other aspects, as far as contacting the property manager and insurance so her transition upon release would be as smooth as possible, were taken care of,” Goodwin said.

Her cat, however, had bolted as soon as firefighters forced open the apartment door, and a neighbor reported hearing the black and white, shorthaired feline crying outside the apartment at around 12:30 a.m. Feb. 15. A Pacific Grove police officer retrieved the feline, named Batman, and placed him in the kennel at the station, where animal control officer Liz Conti-Yeo discovered him the next morning.

After trying unsuccessfully to track the woman down, Conti-Yeo was ready to take Batman to the SPCA, but she decided to phone the property manager one last time to see if the resident had provided updated contact information.

“I gave them one last shot, and they said she just called with a current number, and then my sergeant was kind enough to let me drop it off in Seaside,” where the woman was staying in a hotel, thanks to the Red Cross.

“She was overjoyed and weepy,” Yeo said. “She didn’t know if he was OK. He was a little frightened but was really sweet.”

Fuel pumps are typically opened with a universal key that’s relatively easy to acquire, investigators have said in the past, and gas station employees are often in the habit of checking pumps regularly to ensure they haven’t been tampered with. In 2010, an employee at the 76 station on Carmel Rancho Boulevard found two skimmers attached to pumps there.

More recently, two of the devices were

FOOLISH

From page 1A

Moses and a crew of four rescue workers were called out just before 8 p.m. After preparations and a lengthy drive from Monterey, they hit the trail at about 11:15 p.m. Two rescue workers drove up Willow Creek Road and descended down the creek, while the other three hiked up the creek from Highway 1. It was the second group that reached the hikers first. “They got to them at about 4 a.m.,” Sgt. Moses reported.

The hikers, it turned out, gave up their trek only a quarter-mile from Highway 1 — but they had no idea they were so close. No doubt shivering as the sun set and temperatures headed toward the 30s, they built a fire on a sandbar along the creek.

While the hikers told rescue workers they were trying to follow a trail, they were essentially boulder-hopping down the creek. “They were knee-deep in water and scaling around a couple waterfalls,” Sgt. Moses said.

Rescue workers spent the night with the woman and her children, and everybody hiked out in the morning. Sgt. Moses and his crew returned to Monterey at about 10 a.m. Feb. 25 — 14 hours after their odyssey began. Nobody was injured.

“In hindsight, they probably could have made it out by themselves, but we couldn’t take that risk, especially with small children involved,” he added.

As is typically the case, taxpayers will pick up the tab for the cost of the rescue, though Monterey could ask the family’s home county of San Luis Obispo to reimburse them.

recovered from inside the pumps at the same Pacific Grove 76 station on Dec. 7, 2012, and Miller said management there “is working to improve the security on the gas pumps.”

So far, between the first report Feb. 21 and Feb. 25, Miller said his department fielded another three calls about identity theft,

LAW

From page 1A

At the Feb. 13 planning commission meeting, he asked commissioners to recommend the city council readopt the law, this time with no sunset clause, so it doesn’t fall off the books again. He also suggested removing the requirement that businesses renew their live-music permits every three years, in order to save city employees’ time.

“The city has issued several permits over the last four years, and there have been very few complaints related to live music activities,” Wiener said in his report.

Chairman Michael LePage noted that violators are subject to enforcement actions, making the three-year renewal requirement somewhat superfluous, so he supported Wiener’s suggestions.



Calendar

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March 1-2 - Where the Music & Mexican Merge! Head east on CV Road to the last building on the right at the end of the village to **Plaza Linda Restaurant & Cantina!** Mon.-Thurs Happy Hours from 4-6 p.m. This Friday, March 1, The Vibe Tribe (Great songs/vibe) at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 2, is Harpin’ Jonny & The Unpaid Bills (Blues) at 7 p.m. Donations Appreciated. www.plazalinda.com.

March 1, 8, 15, & 22 - **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church**, 9 El Caminito, Carmel Valley, will have Seafood Dinners every Friday in Lent, March 1, 8, 15, and 22. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. and includes salad, pasta, seafood, bread for a suggested donation of \$12/adult, \$6/child 5-12, free for the under 5 years of age. Wine and dessert also available. Live music. For more information contact Ray Lucido, (831) 659-4700. See you there!

March 2 - Hear two exciting speakers, courtesy of the **Carmel-by-the-Sea Garden Club**, at Sunset Center Saturday, March 2: At 11 a.m., Matthew Benson, renowned photographer from New York, presents “A Photo Graphic Garden” (\$30). At 1:30 p.m. exuberant floral designer Ron Morgan entertains with a demonstration entitled “Timeless Elegance” (\$40). Tickets at Sunset Center box office or www.sunsetcenter.org.

March 2 - A fundraising event by the **Carmel-by-the-Sea Garden Club** for its Founders Endowment Fund for the preservation of Carmel’s public gardens. Saturday, March 2, at 9 a.m. at Sunset Center (Mission Street entrance). Estate sale of members’ donated treasures, potted plants, boutique shoppes with 13 vendors. For more information: www.carmel-gardenclub.com.

March 2 - Carmel Bay Company Book Signing, Talk, Reception. Meet Local Author Anna Vandenbroucke, “Thirty-Seven Houses,” every heart finds a home, Saturday, March 2 from 2-5 p.m. The Carmel Bay Company, Ocean and Lincoln. Free. (831) 624-3868, www.carmelbaycompany.com.

which were also linked to the theft and unlawful use of credit card information stolen from the station.


Police advise the public to run credit checks and monitor their bank information regularly, so that such theft can be caught as quickly as possible, and to use credit cards to avoid entering their PINs at the pumps.

“If the applicant is violating, they are reminded of the conditions,” he said, observing that the city also has the power to revoke permits when people don’t follow the rules.

LePage made a motion to recommend the council reauthorize the ordinance as Wiener had suggested, and commissioners unanimously agreed, except for Steve Dallas, who had left the meeting by then due to illness.

After the meeting, Wiener told The Pine Cone the city has approved three live music permits since the ordinance expired, and they will have to be reissued by the planning commission after the law is back on the books. In total, there are fewer than a dozen active permits for live music at venues that serve alcohol in the city.

The city council was initially set to consider reauthorizing the law at the March 5 meeting, but the matter was pushed to the April 2 agenda, according to Wiener.



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Editorial

Burnett the miracle worker

WHEN THE people of Carmel elected Jason Burnett mayor, they hoped he'd turn out to be the sort of commonsense politician that the Monterey Peninsula – and even the whole of California — desperately needs. Someone who could balance environmental concerns with economic imperatives and restore a bit of power to the majority instead of letting a tiny group of activists turn their every whim into law.

The most important local issue that cried out for leadership was the water shortage, which has continued for decades despite nearly unanimous public opinion that something must be done. Previous efforts went nowhere, mostly because the politicians with authority to cut through the red tape and get a water project moving — people like Congressman Sam Farr and State Assemblymen Fred Keeley and Bill Monning — didn't lift a finger to do so.

Keeley, for example, was all too eager to make sure a new dam didn't get built on the Carmel River but made no effort to see any alternative through to fruition. Farr provided some real leadership when it came to getting old dams torn down, but (until now, anyway) has been utterly silent on what should replace them. And Monning ... during his years in the Assembly, he didn't seem to do anything at all.

But when Burnett became mayor, he decided to make getting a water project his No. 1 priority for the Monterey Peninsula. And, miracle of miracles, with the help of the other mayors on the Peninsula, he actually seems to be making substantial progress.

To understand how remarkable that progress has been, you need only look at our lead story this week, which reports that Farr and no less a local figure than Monterey Bay Aquarium CEO Julie Packard have asked the CPUC to endorse Cal Am's water project — clearly the front runner — with some tweaking of how it will be financed and operated. This surely would never have happened without Burnett's involvement, and not only because Farr has been one of Burnett's mentors and Packard is his aunt, but also because Burnett's approach is obviously the correct one and he has the credibility to get people to admit it. Truly, getting Farr and Packard to back Cal Am's project is something probably only he could have achieved.

For the first time since the mid-1970s, it seems that an end to our water shortage may actually be in sight, which, considering all the obstacles that have been in the way, seems incredible.

Idiots in government

ONCE AGAIN we are threatened with economic doom because of a budget stalemate in Washington.

To understand how this idiotic situation has arisen, you need look no further than the NOAA building in Pacific Grove, where just a few years ago, more than \$150,000 of the taxpayers' money was spent on fancy new lights in the parking lot and a cartoonish mural on the outside.

The mural is ugly and mars the very ocean environment it's supposed to honor, and the lights are an eyesore in an otherwise pristine setting.

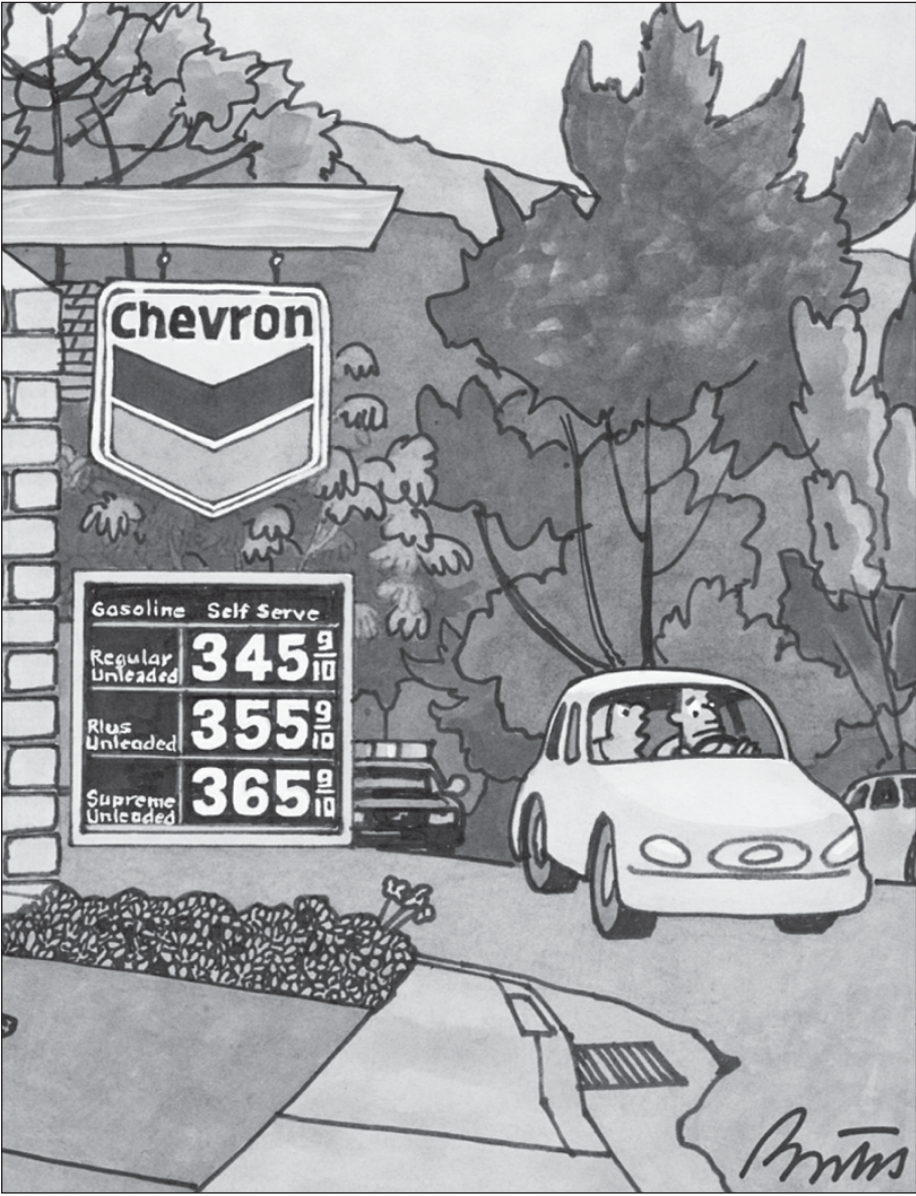
After ignoring complaints about the mural and fighting like starving dogs to keep the lights, NOAA has now announced it will move out of the building in a short time.

Which means that the controversy over the lights and the mural, both of which the government would never allow a private property owner to have, was completely unnecessary, and the money spent to install them was wasted.

Of course, our government is addicted to spending money and doesn't care a whit about whether it's wasted or whether the money is actually available to be spent.

Take the situation with the NOAA building and multiply it by 100,000,000 or so, and you have the federal government. And that's why we have (yet another) fiscal crisis.

BEST of BATES



2007

“Shall we buy gas in Carmel, or push it to Seaside?”

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. Please do not send us letters which have been submitted to other newspapers. We reserve the right to determine which letters are suitable for publication and to edit for length and clarity.

The Pine Cone only accepts letters to the editor by email. Please submit your letters to mail@carmelpinecone.com

Think about the direction

Dear Editor:

Regarding Rich Pepe and Racey Promotions, we believe we have a somewhat different perspective, as our main residence is in Reno, but we also own a condo in Monterey and spend a great deal of time in Carmel. It is one of the most beautiful areas in the world, but even more so, it is one of the last bastions of class and civility. People love the beauty and the ambiance that is Carmel.

Maybe we are inflicted with “precious small town prudishness,” and it is true that if you don't like something, you don't have to participate in it. But we can tell you from experience that once you set a toe over a line, the whole foot eventually follows. As a community, you have to look way down the line.

Carmel has beautiful beaches, wonderful shops and restaurants. We have the ability to

walk around at night with not one thought of it being unsafe. That is Carmel, and it would be a shame to do anything to alter that.

It would also be beneficial if people didn't overreact on both sides. It serves not one purpose to say that people who think something isn't the best direction for Carmel are prudes. It's also not productive to imply that the girls are “sluts.” They just seem to have been caught in the crosshairs.

Just really think about the direction you want Carmel to take.

Steve and Maureen Keller
Reno/Monterey

If the shoe fits

Dear Editor,

I applaud your ongoing coverage of the community's concerns regarding the young ladies photographed in Rich Pepe's restaurant. I'm not from around here originally, but where I come from, if the girls were wearing white coats and carrying stethoscopes, we'd call em “doctors.” Gals in black robes carrying gavels would be called “judges.” Clad in black boots, silk pants and harlequin jackets, well, we'd call em “jockeys.” Girls out in public in their underwear with no coats in winter would be called “sluts.” I am not sophisticated enough to understand all the subtleties that go into those girls being offended and people being miffed. Like I said, I'm not from around here.

Down here on Camino Real, we hope that along with the high heel ordinance being respected, that regulations are also enforced

Continues next page

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The Carmel Pine Cone

www.carmelpinecone.com

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Vol. 99 No. 9 • March 1, 2013

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A California Corporation

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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

Hospital math: Don’t ask what anything costs, just pay the bill

IT’S TIME to buy a new car because your old beater won’t get you to work anymore and you trust America’s free-enterprise system.

Upon your arrival at the only car lot on the Monterey Peninsula, you sign a contract promising to pay for the new vehicle you need.

As usual, no prices are affixed to the vehicles. When you ask, the salesman tells you the cost of the cars depends on a number of complicated variables. Are you paying by cash? Check? Will you be financing the vehicle? Do you have some sort of government car-purchasing subsidy? Are you covered by a private auto-purchasing plan?

You select a dependable little Honda, and the salesman promises to send you a bill. Two weeks later, you learn that you’re on the hook for a \$160,000 Honda. Among the charges, you’ve spent \$3,000 for the radiator cap, \$24,000 for “lot storage fees,” and \$1,200 for the ShamWow used to clean the vehicle before delivery.

You feel like a chump, of course, because you sense you’ve been played for a fool. Then you learn that a neighbor just bought a new Honda for less than \$25,000 from a dealership in Modesto.

That’s a fantasy scenario, you say? Nothing like this could happen in the best free-enterprise system the world has ever known?

Now imagine that you’ve slipped on a banana peel and cracked your sacroiliac. The pain is intense and the sacroiliac won’t heal itself, so you go to the only hospital in town.

The hospital administrators tell you they can’t possibly

say how much it will cost to heal you. It’s complicated by a lot of variables.

Like the function of a sacroiliac itself, the science of hospital pricing is much too complicated for a dummy like you to understand. Pi is likely involved.

You have two choices: Either get the sacroiliac fixed and live a long and healthy life, or suffer bitter pain until your dying day. Either way, your life will forever change.

You go ahead with the medical care — and now your life has indeed changed because these days you mostly drive your Honda to bankruptcy court.

You had options, of course. You could have waited until you are old and decrepit so that Medicare (in other words, the taxpayers) would pay your hospital bill, or you could have purchased medical insurance and let the insurance company jack up everyone’s rates because of your stupid sacroiliac injury. But the deed is done, and you’ve got collection agencies hounding you at every turn.

This time, you don’t just feel like a chump. You are a chump.

But you’re not alone if you happen to be a health care consumer in the United States. We’re all chumps to America’s modern medical-care industry, hostages to an irrational marketplace we enter through no choice of our own.

That’s the bottom line to last week’s horrifying cover story in Time magazine, written masterfully by Steven Brill, that explains in detail how medical bills are formulated.

For his 26,000-word story, the longest in the history of Time (and the sort of story that could make Time relevant

again), Brill spent seven months analyzing hundreds of bills from hospitals, doctors, drug companies and medical equipment suppliers to find out why medical care in the United States is so outrageously expensive.

His conclusion: Hospital pricing is arbitrary, based on the mysterious whims of hospital “chargemasters” and the natural greed of everyone involved, excluding doctors, most of whom can also be classified as chumps in America’s health-care swindle. Medical costs have no rhyme or reason. They seem to be pulled from thin air. And they are certainly not based on actual costs.

“The health care market is not a market at all,” Brill said in a later interview. “It’s a crapshoot. Everyone fares differently based on circumstances they can neither control nor predict.”

The \$2.6 trillion spent every year in the United States represents about 18 percent of the country’s gross domestic product, but the United States does not rank among the top 20 countries in the world in any other standardized health rating. But we are chumps and we allow the nonsense to continue because we swallow the fiction that “radical” policies that would contain health costs are some sort of barbaric socialist ideal.

Until Congress grows cojones and stands up to the medical-industrial complex, would-be patients in California can at least educate themselves about the pricing structures and the profit margins of their nearest hospitals.

The Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development keeps a massive updated database of hospital pricing and financial statements that are easily retrieved from www.oshpd.ca.gov.

Check it out. You’ll be amazed. But enter at your own risk. I wouldn’t want you to crack your sacroiliac.

LETTERS

From previous page

along with the high heel ordinance being respected, that regulations are also enforced in making sure Vesuvio complies with health department guidelines of sanitation. I think I’ll wait awhile before I go in there.

Keep up the good work! You surely are one of the great defenders of our First Amendment rights!

Barbara Diamond, Carmel

School asks for help

Dear Editor,

I am a fourth grader at All Saints’ Day School in Carmel Valley. I am informing you that our school is working on a Zero Waste Week Program. I would like you to help us spread the word about Zero Waste Week, which is March 17-23. We are trying to raise awareness of how to take care of our com-

munity.

Our school is trying not to litter, to use cloth napkins, bring reusable lunch bags, recycle almost everything, compost and use both sides of paper if possible.

We also have a school garden. We use the herbs and vegetables for our hot lunch program. We are partners with Earthbound Farm and we eat organic lunches. They are yummy and nutritious. We use any leftover compost in our garden.

A big goal of ours is to ask others NOT to use “single use plastic bags.” Maybe they could bring their own bags. We do not want plastic to hurt the river or sea creatures.

In conclusion, could you please help us out by putting an article in your paper that will tell others about our being ocean stewards? We are trying to be part of the solution. If you print this letter perhaps others could also help out our community. The rivers, earth, sea creatures, and other animals would have a better life and so would we.

J.T., Carmel Valley

NOAA

From page 3A

Gray directed questions to NOAA’s communications director, Ciaran Clayton, also based in Washington.

Clayton, in turn, said The Pine Cone reporter should instead contact California NOAA spokesman Jim Milbury. Although affable, Milbury said he couldn’t comment on the “current discussions to resolve the issues with the lights and fencing” because he was “having trouble reaching the people who would be conducting these discussions.”

The City of Pacific Grove, Farr and the California Coastal Commission — which was once highly annoyed with the lights — apparently have no immediate plans to deal with them, either.

On Jan. 10, 2012, Farr met with Sarah Hardgrave, the city’s environmental programs manager, and resident Roger Pasquier, who was critical of the lights. Farr expressed his disdain for the light poles and said he would contact NOAA. But little has happened since then.

And Pacific Grove city manager Tom Frutchey told The Pine Cone this week that NOAA and the city have not come up with a solution for the lights.

“The city still strongly cares, and is still committed to working with Congressman Farr and NOAA to achieve the needed changes,” Frutchey said. “NOAA and the city have not yet achieved a recommendation on a definitive solution ready to be taken to

the city council for its approval.”

Larry Simon, federal consistency coordinator for the coastal commission, told The Pine Cone his agency hasn’t had any interaction with NOAA since a meeting in late 2011, and the federal agency has not submitted any paperwork outlining plans to modify or remove the lights and fence. However, the coastal commission also seems unconcerned about the future of the facility.

“We have no plans at this time to contact NOAA,” he said.

Though Milbury said the date of the closure of the NOAA facility will be set when the Fiscal Year 2013 budget is approved, there are concerns that even after the building is shuttered, the lights, fencing and garish sea life mural that was painted around the top of the building several years ago, also paid for by taxpayers, will remain there for years.

There is no indication what, if anything, will be done with the building after NOAA leaves. Previously, it was a facility for the U.S. Navy Reserve.

Lange named chair of chamber board

THOMPSON LANGE, owner of Homescapes Carmel and a longtime member of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce board of directors, was elected chair of the board again last week. He last served as board chair in 2008 and also headed the economic advisory committee.

Lisa Dias of Mirabel Group and the Rev. Norm Mowery of Church of the Wayfarer were elected as vice-chairs, and John Lloyd of the Pine Inn is treasurer, while Doug Lumsden of Monterey Movie Tours is serving on the executive committee as past chair.

Other new members elected to the board include attorney Rob Arnold, Scott Caraccioli of Caraccioli Cellars, Gerard Mattimoe of Glastonbury, Inc. Audio Visual, Maria Murray of Material Goods, Graeme Robertson of Merrill Lynch at the mouth of Carmel Valley and Steve Summers of National Parking & Valet.

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Recording history as it happens — and getting every word right

YOU DON'T really notice the court reporter. She usually sits in front of the judge, sometimes seeming oblivious, silently typing away on her machine, recording every word spoken.

Kelli Rinaudo has been a court reporter for nearly 30 years. She is also hired to transcribe at depositions and business meetings, and to otherwise convert the spoken word to print for doctors and authors.

"Every day is different," she says. "One of my first jobs was a public hearing at a gold mine in Northern California. It was about the dust being created from the mining on the hillsides. I had to take live testimony on a moving bus on a tour of the site. I was squeezing the stenography machine between my legs and trying to write as we were going over potholes and unpaved roads."

Kelli has been present for the writing of history. "I had the opportunity to travel around the country for about two years doing depositions on the Exxon Valdez oil spill case. There were experts on fish and wildlife and different habitats. I learned all about seashells and how they were affected, and the food chain and birds, whales, seals. It was fascinating."

When she is confronted by words with which she is unfamiliar — scientific terms and names of people and places, for example — she will look them up online.

"Thank goodness for Google," she said. "As a court reporter, I'm always having to research spellings and things like that." Sometimes, when the proper spelling is in dispute, "I see what gets the biggest hits or the most matches. A word may have a million hits this way and 500,000 that way."

How did she get into this profession? No, she didn't get turned on to the job by watching Perry Mason on television. Kelli was born in San Jose and at age 5 moved to Lodi with her mother when her parents divorced. Her application to college was somehow lost, and rather than get in trouble with her parents, Kelli attended court reporting school in Stockton at Humphreys Business College. Jobs were scarce, so she moved to San

Francisco because there was work there. "I lived in North Beach, and it was a lot of fun there for about two years."

She says she loves the challenge of "machine shorthand," which is different from the pen-and-paper methods that used to be common. "It's all based on phonetics, and with machine shorthand, you stroke certain groups of keys to represent certain sounds."

When she is doing a live transcription, is she conscious of the content or is it just sort of going through her? "Both. And when it gets really fast, you kind of go into a concentration mode. I close my eyes so that I don't have any visual distractions."

She's reluctant to ask people to stop to spell a strange word, because, "For some people, it really throws off their train of thought, so you don't want to interrupt too much."

She began before the age of personal computers.

"When I first started doing stenography, I still dictated into a machine." (If you never saw one, it looked like a large anesthesia mask and was inelegantly referred to as a "barf box.")



Kelli Rinaudo

"It's just kept progressing to now, where court reporters, in order to keep our jobs and keep up with technology, we do real-time reporting. And when the Americans with Disabilities

Act came out, the whole avenue opened up for court reporters to move into the captioning field."

Kelli is good at what she does. She can transcribe 260 words per minute, which is faster than most people can read. She is one of 165 in California to pass the Deposition

Reporters Association real-time test. She is nationally certified for real-time captioning.

"For about five or six years, I volunteered for a deaf and hard-of-hearing group in the San Francisco Bay Area and real-time captioned their monthly meetings and some social events, even a wedding and a theater play." Once she captioned for a highway patrolman who was offering tips to people about how to conduct themselves when they get pulled over so the officer won't think they're ignoring him or being rude. "I would basically be their ears, and they could read along as what the officer said was projected onto a big screen."

In 1987, after dealing with some serious health issues, Kelli moved to the Monterey Peninsula. She worked for a transcription company for about five years. Then she went out on her own, and in 1997, she established Monarch Court Reporting, opening an office at Ryan Ranch. "I've enjoyed it all, despite the highs and lows of busy-ness. I have enjoyed the court reporting and the transcription with writers. I have helped some elderly folks with their Christmas letters or business letters. I am working with a gentleman who is putting together his memorable life experiences for his grandchildren." Kelli lives in Pacific Grove.

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Sally Wylie

Sally passed away January 21, 2013 after battling cancer for two years. She was born Sally



Cameron in Rockland, Maine where she attended K-14. Moving to Southern California as a teenager, she married Russ Wylie in 1952 and lived as a Navy wife raising two daughters, Cathy Little (Ken) and Laura Jensen (Dru). In the 1970's she followed her heart to the Big Sur Coast and eventually to Carmel working in the hospitality industry and spending time with her grand children Jesse, Eliza, Cameron, and Kenna and her great-granddaughter Tenaya. She loved knitting, arts and crafts, local history, and being a Granny.

Many thanks to the Carmel foundation and the residents of Trevvett Court for your kindness and support during her final years. She will be greatly missed.

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