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News blackout on wedding at Ventana

■ Confidentiality agreements in effect

By KELLY NIX

NEWS OF Facebook mogul Sean Parker's snags with Monterey County and the California Coastal Commission over his June 1 wedding in Big Sur is all over the Internet now, but he's doing a pretty good job of keeping details of the celebration under wraps.

Monterey County planning department officials told The Pine Cone last week that agency and the coastal commission were investigating whether construction on Ventana Campgrounds in preparation for the wedding requires building and other permits.

The elaborate June 1 wedding, at Ventana's 40-acre campground, is slated to feature a temporary movie-set-like backdrop that includes waterfalls, bridges, ruins and ponds, according to the New York Post. The wedding is estimated to cost \$10 million.

While the wedding of Parker to Alexandra Lenas, who gave birth to their first child January 6, is all the buzz around town, those actually working on the ceremony are keeping mum.

American International Transportation Services, Inc. in Monterey was hired to shuttle guests to and from the wedding in limousines and other vehicles. At the request of Parker, its drivers are even slated to be fitted with special costumes for the wedding, a source told The Pine Cone.

However, AITS general manager Dawn Fisher said

See WEDDING page 17A

New bridge at Rocky Creek



PHOTO/CALTRANS

A HUGE rockslide that carried away a big section of Highway 1 in Big Sur, and tied up traffic for more than two years, took a big step toward finally being repaired last week when an expensive new viaduct opened at Rocky Creek. While the inland lane is still closed, and the entire project won't be completed until October, motorists are now being routed along the new outside lane. The project site, which is located 12 miles from Carmel, has been restricted to one-way traffic since March 2011, when a 50-foot section of pavement collapsed between the landmark Rocky Creek and Bixby bridges. To rebuild the outside lane, the project's contractor, Golden State Bridge Inc., dug deep footings and constructed 600 feet of low bridge on top of the damaged pavement. When finished, the project is expected to have cost \$11 million.

Herald selling printing plant and relocating

■ Yet another round of downsizing

By KELLY NIX

IN A move that didn't surprise longtime employees, the Monterey County Herald announced this week the newspaper is laying off more workers, getting rid of its printing press, selling its Ryan Ranch office building and moving its remaining operations to an undisclosed site.

In an email message to Herald employees Wednesday, Herald publisher Gary Omernick said the changes will result in the paper being printed somewhere in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"There is an industry-wide effort to relocate newspaper operations into facilities that better suit our needs, and this is part of our ongoing digital strategy," according to Omernick, in a press release printed in the Herald Thursday. Nationwide, newspapers have seen sharp declines in revenue and readership and have been forced to make significant cutbacks.

While they knew something was up, most employees didn't know exactly what the newspaper's latest move to save money would be until they received Omernick's email message at the end of Wednesday's work day. Press workers were also called saying they would be laid off in about a month.

"All of (press) production got laid off yesterday," according to an employee, who said workers were notified they would be out of a job by the end of June.

A steep decline

Omernick said there's no timetable for the move, and tried to put a good face on things by claiming the changes will allow the Herald's "content, advertising and business operations to relocate into office space with easy access for employees and customers."

The publisher also stressed the changes would "not affect the content or delivery of the newspaper" and that moving print operations "will improve color quality and color capacity."

"Our focus remains meeting the needs of our audience and our customers," Omernick said.

The Herald will begin "staging down production" in

See HERALD page 8A

Dog training center in C.V. could be open by July

■ Still needs county approval

By CHRIS COUNTS

MOVE OVER Carmel Beach, the Cypress Inn and Garland Regional Park — there's a new dog-friendly amenity coming to town.

Located just across the road from Quail Lodge in Carmel Valley, the 45-acre Carmel Canine Sports Center hopes to celebrate its grand opening Sunday, July 14. The venture, though, still needs to be approved by Monterey County.

It shouldn't have too much trouble, though. The owner of the

business is a county planning commissioner.

Martha Diehl and two partners — her husband, Ken Ecklund and Ernie Mill — recently signed a 10-year lease to rent the property, which is owned by the Walter family and has been used as farmland since the 1940s.

At the center, she plans to offer training and agility facilities, a "safe and stress-free" place to let dogs walk or run off their leashes, and a social hub for their owners to meet, Diehl told The Pine Cone. A pond — which includes a "shallow end" for puppies — will offer pooches a place for a refreshing dip on a sunny summer day. The property would also be the site of special

See DOGS page 16A

Avid knitter leaves behind a huge collection of yarn

By KELLY NIX

BY ALL accounts, Linda Jacobs was well liked. During her 40-year career at Alpha Stationers on Forest Avenue, she had many loyal clients.

On January 21, however, Jacobs — Alpha's store manager and buyer — passed away after losing a three-year fight with ovarian cancer, saddening her friends and dozens of customers.

But the longtime P.G. resident left behind something to remember her by. Jacobs, a highly accomplished knitter, had — over decades — amassed

thousands of balls of high quality yarn and dozens of hand-knit sweaters.

"She was a master knitter," Alpha Stationers owner and Jacobs' close friend Doug De Young told The Pine Cone. "As a result, she accumulated this huge collection of yarn."

De Young found so much yarn in Jacobs' Sunset Drive house that he arranged with parishioners of St. Mary's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church to sort through the material. Also found was

100 sweaters Jacobs intricately hand knitted and 30 more that she never had a chance to finish.

"Essentially, there is a yarn store's worth of yarn," said Ann Pettit, who knew Jacobs and is one of several St. Mary's

See YARN page 13A



PHOTO/KELLY NIX

This giant collection of yarn was left by a lifetime Pacific Grove resident who died from cancer in January. You can buy some of it June 8.

POLICE UNION WINS SUIT OVER PENSION CUTS

By KELLY NIX

A JUDGE Friday ruled in favor of a Pacific Grove police union over a lawsuit it filed in November 2010 alleging the city violated labor laws when it capped the contributions to police officers' pensions.

Monterey County Superior Court Judge Thomas Wills ruled that the pension plan, which was adopted by the city council after voters approved a similar measure, is unconstitutional, a point the police union had argued in its lawsuit.

The council's ordinance had capped the city's contribution to an employee's pension plan at 10 percent of workers' salaries. The city had contributed 19 percent for police officers into the CalPERS retirement plan.

"We are happy that the judge agreed with our stance on the illegality of Measure R," Pacific Grove Police Officers Association president Jeff Fenton told The Pine Cone Monday. "We look forward to being able to set this aside and move forward."

The PGPOA's 26-page lawsuit, which named city manager Tom Frutchev and the 2010 city council,

See UNION page 7A



Linda Jacobs