



Senior Life

LIVING NOW IN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACE ON EARTH — A SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE!

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Burnett, Brower: Now's not the time for Cal Am takeover

■ But activists gather signatures, say 'it's time' for public to buy water co.

By KELLY NIX

AS THE latest effort to pursue a public takeover of California American Water gains steam, officials are speaking out, saying the move will be costly, distracting and could delay the construction of a proposed water supply project for the Monterey Peninsula.

For a week, Ron Cohen's group, Public Water Now, has been collecting signatures on an initiative petition asking voters if they want to take over Cal Am's water system and make it a public entity — a move Cohen believes will reduce monthly water rates.

The group says it has about 1,000 of the 5,400 signatures it needs.

"At some point, you have to look at the coach and say, 'Does he have the where-withal?'" Cohen said, referring to Cal Am. "Does he have the complexities to coach the team? And in this case, it's absolutely not."

Cohen, who moved to Pebble Beach with his wife six years ago from Calabasas, has garnered the support of some Peninsula residents and the Monterey County Herald, which recently published a glowing profile of him and his group. The newspaper also regularly prints guest commentaries from water activists espousing the benefits of a publicly owned water system.

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New name, new venues, and another stellar lineup for Authors and Ideas

By JERRY GERVAISE

"IT'S LIKE starting all over," said Jim McGillen, who along with his wife, Cynthia, founded the Authors and Ideas Festival in 2007. "We have a new name, 'The Pebble Beach Authors and Ideas Festival,' and new venues which present new challenges for us."

The 2013 festival runs Sept. 27-29. The new venues are Stevenson High School in Pebble Beach, the actual site of the festival, and Santa Catalina School in Monterey,

which will be used for presentations to students.

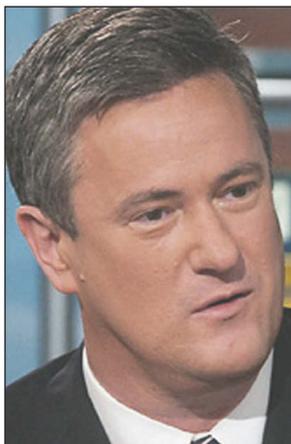
Sister Claire, Head of School, is graciously making the facilities available at no charge to the festival.

"The new venues have presented us with challenges that have invigorated us," McGillen said. "For instance, we didn't know we needed permission to use the name 'Pebble Beach' in our title, but that turned out to be an easy negotiation."

See **AUTHORS** page 23A



David Brooks



Joe Scarborough



Jane Smiley

But Cal Am, which has repeatedly stated it's not for sale, contends a takeover bid would be complicated, time-consuming and expensive. Also, the effort has already been unsuccessfully attempted several times.

For his cause, Cohen, 66, argues that Cal Am has had plenty of time to come up with a water supply solution to comply with orders to cut back diversions from the Carmel River and hasn't done so. The company, he contends, has made decisions selfishly for the benefit of itself and

See **TAKEOVER** page 9A

There's more to the story: Identity theft is about the victim, too

By KELLY NIX

WHEN FORMER hospital worker Roberto Rodriguez Hurtado was arrested on suspicion of identity theft in May, his life began spiraling down: He was fired from his job and faced deportation to his home country of Mexico, according to a Sept. 12 story in the Monterey County Weekly.

Hurtado's 13-year janitorial job at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula — the Weekly sentimentally reported — had allowed him to support his disabled wife and send money to his dying sister in Mexico.

Hurtado's wife, depicted crying in an accompanying photograph, was even quoted in the story as saying she would "commit suicide" if her husband was deported.

See **THEFT** page 13A

Contracts with IT investigator raise questions

By MARY SCHLEY

CITY ADMINISTRATOR Jason Stilwell signed three separate work agreements with computer expert Mark Alcock over a period of less than four months, at a total cost of \$128,500 to taxpayers.

Stilwell has said he hired the Southern California specialist to evaluate the city's vast computer network, as well as to investigate alleged hacking and misuse of computers by IT manager Steve McInchak, whose home was searched by police in June.

McInchak, who has overseen the city's information technology department for 17 years, has been on paid administrative leave for the past several months and has not yet been charged with committing any crime. The Monterey County District Attorney's Office is waiting for the police department to submit a file containing the criminal allegations, if any.

Meanwhile, the city has agreed to spend more than



Jason Stilwell

See **CONTRACT** page 8A

Dog bites boy riding Boogie Board

By MARY SCHLEY

NINE-YEAR-OLD GARRETT Heger was Boogie Boarding with his dad and some friends at Carmel Beach Aug. 31 when, as he rode a wave in and had almost made it to the sand, a little white dog ran up and bit him in the face, his father recounted to The Pine Cone Thursday. The bite left puncture wounds in his son's forehead and cheek,

according to Carmel resident Stevie Heger, but before anyone could grab the dog to at least see if its rabies vaccinations were current, the animal and its owner, whom Heger described as a slim, older, white-haired woman, disappeared into the Labor Day

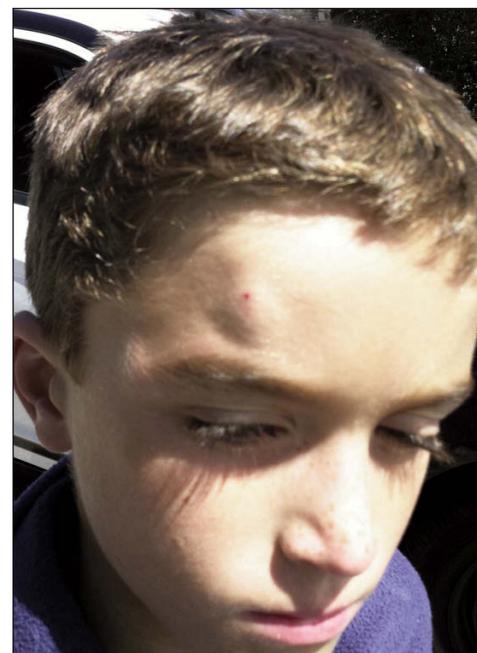
See **BITE** page 12A

Buck charges car, lands in back seat as occupants duck

By MARY SCHLEY

PACIFIC GROVE resident Julie Tetreau was slowly cruising down Grove Acre in her Chrysler convertible with her mom in the passenger seat, on the way to pick up her boyfriend at his apartment, when a big buck appeared out of nowhere and charged her car. He hit the front, flipped over the hood — nearly missing Tetreau and her mother, who had ducked — and landed in the back seat, all in a flash.

And then he was gone.



PHOTO/COURTESY STEVIE HEGER

Garrett Heger's forehead had a welt and a puncture wound after he was bitten by a dog.

See **BUCK** page 7A