

Inside: Pine Cone readers pick the best of the best on the Monterey Peninsula!

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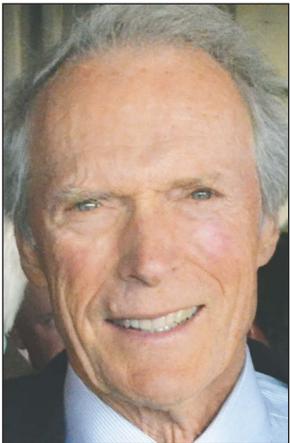
TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

Eastwood donates \$100,000 for veterans cemetery

■ Frank Quattrone also gives \$100,000; both donations to be ‘challenge grants’

By KELLY NIX

THE EFFORT to raise funds for the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery at Fort Ord got another considerable lift last week when former Carmel Mayor Clint Eastwood



Clint Eastwood



Frank Quattrone

made a \$100,000 donation, and the same amount was donated by Wall Street investor and Pebble Beach resident Frank Quattrone and his wife, Denise Foderaro.

Until last week, Eastwood was in New Jersey directing “Jersey Boys,” the film version of the Tony Award-winning musical that documents the career of the 1960s group, The Four Seasons. When he found out about the cemetery drive, Eastwood — who was stationed at Fort Ord during the Korean War — immediately donated to the cause.

“There was some talk about me making a loan, but I said I just wanted to give \$100,000,” Eastwood told The Pine Cone Wednesday.

The donation is yet another major contribution to veterans by the Hollywood mega-star, who is also a major backer of Gary Sinise’s Wounded Warrior project.

Similarly, Quattrone and Foderaro made their gift after learning of the urgent Fort Ord cemetery fundraising effort.

“It is gratifying to see the community step forward,” Carmel Mayor Jason Burnett said. “We hope that these two gifts will inspire others and we will raise the remaining \$200,000 we need by the end of the year. Not only can you now help make the veterans cemetery a reality, gifts will now be doubled.”

See DONORS page 20A

Secrecy at city hall reaches new heights

■ CRA president exchanges hidden messages with mayor, city administrator

By MARY SCHLEY

A REQUEST from The Pine Cone for emails between Carmel Residents Association President Barbara Livingston, city administrator Jason Stilwell and Carmel Mayor Jason Burnett was refused last week because the city considers much of their correspondence too sensitive or inflammatory to allow the public to read it.

The Pine Cone asked for the emails in September, under the provisions of the California Public Records Act, which clearly requires that government officials release emails, letters, documents and other written records that are about official business.

But the city responded to The Pine Cone’s requests by providing heavily redacted copies of approximately 75 emails dated between early July and the end of September. Many of them had their entire contents redacted. The coverups were made in white, so it’s impossible to tell how much writing was hidden.

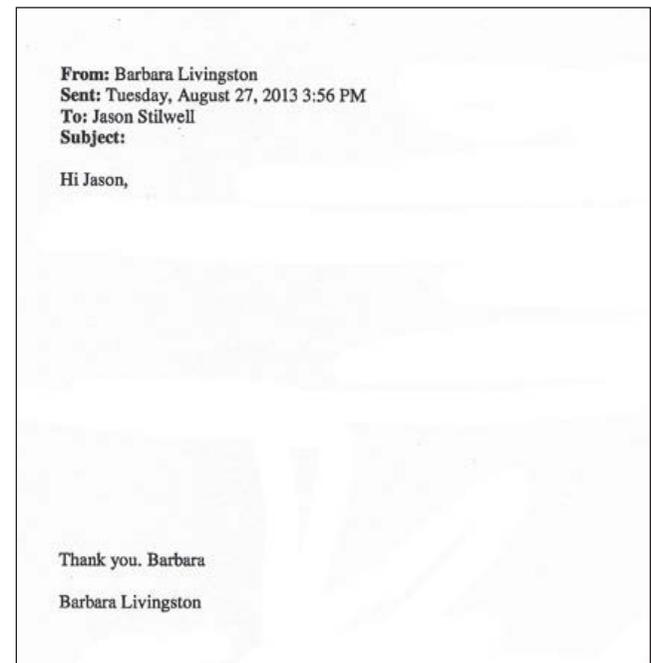
In her Oct. 15 cover letter explaining the city’s refusal to provide the documents, San Francisco attorney Heather Coffman said the people who wrote and received the emails had a “privacy right” that outweighed the public’s right to see them.

“Please note that personal identifying information contained in response to the PRA requests has been redacted in order to protect the privacy interests at issue. For example, correspondence of members of the public detailing their concerns as citizens have been redacted because the public interest in disclosure of this correspondence is clearly outweighed



Barbara Livingston in 2002, when she unsuccessfully ran for mayor.

See EMAILS page 19A



A sample of the email messages between city administrator Jason Stilwell and CRA President Barbara Livingston “released” to The Pine Cone by the city. All the content has been whited out, a step that wasn’t illegal, the city’s lawyer says, because the message was private, even though it pertained to city business.

Webcam provides live view of condor feeding site

By CHRIS COUNTS

FROM THE comfort of your laptop or smartphone, you can now watch a live video feed of California condors deep in the wilderness of Big Sur. And, someday soon, you might have an opportunity to watch those same birds soar over Carmel.

The Ventana Wildlife Society unveiled the condor webcam last week, offering people from every corner of the globe a chance to see the birds live on their computer screens. But perhaps even more significantly, the nonprofit group is working with the Big Sur Land Trust and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District to establish condor feeding sites at the Mitteldorf Preserve and Palo Corona Regional Park.

The Big Sur Land Trust has given the Ventana Wildlife Society permission to establish a feeding site at the Mitteldorf Preserve, which is located west of the Santa Lucia Preserve and southeast of Palo Corona park.

The society reintroduced the condor to the Big Sur area 16 years ago.

“We strongly support the mission of the Ventana Wildlife Society,” said Bill Leahy, executive director of the Big Sur Land Trust. “Our stewardship staff will help make sure the infrastructure is in place to ensure that feeding site is safe for condors. And a camera will be installed.”

Leahy called the condor feeding project “a great opportunity for us to expand our mission.”

At its next board meeting Nov. 4, the park district board will consider approving a condor feeding site to be created in a remote part of the 4,300-acre Palo Corona Park, which is located just south of the Odello artichoke fields and is open to the public on limited, reservation-only basis.

The park district’s new general manager, Rafael Payan, said he’s excited about the possibility of using parkland to benefit the rare birds. “This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” he said.

Because he serves as executive director for the VWS, park district board member Kelly Sorensen will recuse himself from voting on the condor proposal.

But he’s thrilled about the prospects of bringing condors north along the coast.

“Our goal is to establish 10 breeding pairs of condors

See CONDORS page 12A

P.G. police cmdr. on paid leave 10 months

■ Carmel IT manager and assistant also drawing paychecks but not working

By MARY SCHLEY

REMOVED FROM his job — but not from the payroll — in January, Pacific Grove Police Cmdr. John Nyunt has been receiving paychecks since he was placed on leave the day his wife, Kristin Nyunt, was arraigned on charges of identity theft, burglary and fraud.

Meanwhile, in Carmel, IT manager Steve McInchak and his assistant, automated systems technician Rose Franzen, also remain on paid administrative leave since being ordered out of their city office this spring. It’s unknown why Franzen was taken out of work, but police are investigating McInchak for alleged computer hacking and served a search warrant at his Carmel Valley home in early June.

See PAID page 26A



SCREENSHOT COURTESY VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY

A “condor cam” in the Big Sur backcountry provides a fascinating, live feed of condors eating carrion and doing other things condors like to do. The link is http://www.ventanaws.org/condor_cam/.