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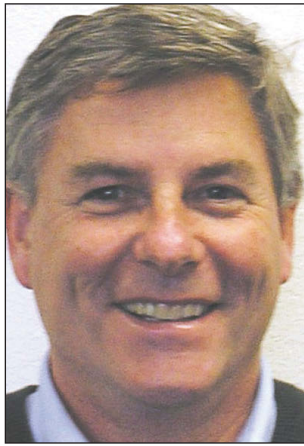
December 13-19, 2013

TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

Darby Fuerst, 63, remembered as water expert, benevolent boss

By KELLY NIX

FRIENDS AND coworkers of Darby Fuerst, who died Monday morning of cancer, remembered the longtime water district general manager as a kindhearted leader and one of the foremost authorities on the Monterey Peninsula's water supply issues. He was 63.



Darby Fuerst

Fuerst worked at the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District for nearly 25 years before retiring in 2011. He died at his home Monday morning surrounded by his family, just three days before his 64th birthday.

Arlene Tavani, Fuerst's executive assistant at the water district, said he was a tireless worker who took little time off. She called him intelligent and a "man of integrity."

"He was really a good man," Tavani said. "A friend, and a great guy to work with. He was always polite and helpful to the public."

She also pointed to his willingness to explain compli-

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Pat Sippel, 76, defined 'community service'

By MARY SCHLEY

PAT SIPPEL, a third-generation Carmel resident who was so involved in the city that many referred to her as its "architect" and its "fabric," died suddenly Wednesday at the age of 76.

"I think for everyone, it was a complete shock," said Sarah Berling, her best friend for more than 70 years.

Sippel suffered an aneurism around noon Dec. 10, less than a week after her birthday, and was taken to Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula in an ambulance by paramedic David Jedinak, who had known her since he was 5. She died at the hospital.

"She always told me that she wanted me to take her to the hospital when she needed it. I certainly did not think that would happen in my career,"

Jedinak posted on his Facebook page.

Jedinak told The Pine Cone he'd known the Sippels since he first moved with his family into a house just two blocks from theirs more than 40 years ago.

"Her son, Steve, taught me how to tie my shoes," he said. "She was just like a parent figure to so many people

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McInchak files claim against city, alleges defamation and discrimination

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CITY violated his constitutional rights, damaged his livelihood and reputation, inflicted emotional distress, committed age discrimination and broke numerous other laws when it launched an investigation of him, IT manager Steve McInchak claims in legal documents filed against the City of Carmel last week.

McInchak, who has worked for the city since July 1, 1997, was taken off the job without warning last June, when city officials and police served a search warrant at his Carmel Valley home. There, accompanied by a city-hired computer forensic expert, police seized computers, thumb drives and other electronics they apparently believe McInchak used improperly or illegally. Administrative services director Susan Paul was present during the search and told McInchak he was being placed on paid leave.

During his 16 years on the job at city hall, McInchak had never been criticized, counseled or warned about his job performance, according to Pacific Grove attorney Michelle Welsh, and prior to having his home searched, he "had no knowledge or notice of any such allegations, no opportunity to respond to the allegations, and no hearing or other means to refute false, misrepresented and unsupported allegations." McInchak's claim seeks an unspecified amount of damages.

"I will continue to not speak on personnel issues, and I will continue to try to get the right policies in place, as that has been and continues to be the council's focus," Mayor Jason Burnett said, adding that he has not read the claim.

See **MCINCHAK** page 12A

IT supervisor says he is owed lots of money for the way the city has treated him

TESTS SHOW MARINA SITE IS BEST FOR DESAL WELLS

By KELLY NIX

THE INDUSTRIAL property in Marina where California American Water wants to extract seawater for its proposed desalination plant is geologically suitable for desal wells, according to results of preliminary tests performed by the water company.

In September, Cal Am crews started drilling in several spots to determine the best location for a desal test well.

The 6-inch diameter holes produce samples of earth that are used to provide geological, environmental and water quality data.

Cal Am's preferred site to install its test wells — and ultimately to install the seven to 10 permanent wells for the desal facility — is on property occupied by cement producer CEMEX. Three boreholes drilled there show that below the surface there is 300 feet of sand followed by two small clay layers at that site.

"What that means for us," Cal Am Vice President of Engineering Rich Svindland told The Pine Cone, "is that a

See **WELLS** page 27A

C.V. break-ins slow, sheriff sifting through recovered items

By MARY SCHLEY

MONTEREY COUNTY Sheriff's deputies "have made several burglary-related arrests and have recovered hundreds, if not thousands, of items of suspected stolen property," Cmdr. Bill Kaye said in a Dec. 11 email to valley residents, including Merrie Potter, the victim of one of the many burglaries in the valley this year.

Despite having four deputies and a detective working on the case, he said, "unfortunately, it might take us weeks to go through and itemize each individual piece of property so we can try to link it with any particular burglary."

Kaye reported identifying items related to at least five of the nearly 30 break-ins that have occurred in the valley since

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Borehole soil samples at the CEMEX property in Marina are being analyzed to determine if it will be the best site for wells for Cal Am's proposed desalination plant. So far, the answer is, "Yes."

CITY SPENDING TOPS \$1M IN OCTOBER

■ Includes \$31K to outside law firms

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CITY of Carmel spent \$1,163,554.93 during the month of October, according to the check register received by the city council last week.

Among the outlays of taxpayers' money were \$188,685.51 to the City of Monterey, \$95,000 for the new public works painting truck, \$11,760.51 for water and \$8,674.85 for gas and electricity.

The City of Monterey received one of the biggest checks of the month for running the fire department (\$154,794.25), administering the ambulance service (\$7,100.10), assisting in the building and planning department (\$11,851.86) and equipment maintenance (\$14,939.30).

Union Bank received \$397,710.94 toward the debt owed by the city on Sunset Center.

Computer/IT work constituted a significant amount of spending, totaling \$55,338.76, with Public Consulting

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