Pro-Am under way as storm drenches course and Eastwood saves a life

Tournament CEO was suffocating at volunteers’ party
By PAUL MILLER

COMPETITION IN the first round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am had to be suspended Thursday morning because of heavy rains, leaving pros and celebrities idle as officials scrambled to remake the schedule.

But while that was keeping the event’s CEO, Steve John, busy at the tournament, another pretty important thing was on his mind. The night before, at the party to honor the tournament’s volunteers, John got a piece of cheese lodged in his throat, and Clint Eastwood saved him from suffocating by using the Heimlich maneuver.

“Clint saved my life,” John said.

The party at the Monterey Conference Center was in full swing and performances by Kenny G, Tom Dreesen and other celebrities who are playing in the tournament had just ended, John said. He was standing and chatting with VIPs and eating some cheese lodged in his throat, and suddenly I couldn’t breathe. It was a life-threatening situation. “We were just talking,” John said. “A piece of cheese went in my mouth, and suddenly I couldn’t breathe. It was as bad as it could have been.”

“I looked in his eyes and saw that look of panic people have when they see their life pass- ing before their eyes,” Eastwood told The Pine Cone. “It looked bad.”

“Clint came up behind me, and he knew exactly what to do,” John said. “He did the Heimlich maneuver.”

City writes big check for Wonderspace events
By MARY SCHIEY

A $20,820 check paid to “Event Reimbursement” was made by the Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association to Wonderspace Carmel project, in addition to the $24,900 December 2013 check at its meeting this week.

But since the money is for Richard Tavener’s Wonderspace Carmel project, in addition to the $24,900 he has already received since August 2013 under a contract signed with city administrator Jason Stilwell, the payment has Mayor Jason Burnett wondering whether it violates a municipal code policy prohibiting piece-meal contracts so they don’t reach the $25,000 threshold requiring approval by the city council.

“I do think it raises questions, and we do need to make sure the intent of our policy is being followed,” Burnett told The Pine Cone Thursday.

The “description” field in the register read “event reimb/dotday/brainwks/virtual/vprompt,” apparently referring to a $20,820 check paid to “Event Reimbursement”.

Local family feuding on nationwide TV
By KELLY NIX

THE GROUP calling for a public takeover of California American Water promises that the move will drastically lower monthly rates for the Peninsula’s 38,000 water customers, ensure better service and put control of the water supply into local hands — and that it won’t delay the effort to build a desal plant.

But with all the purported benefits, pursuing a takeover seems to have little support from prominent Peninsula organizations and community leaders.

“We have never felt it made financial sense to the tax- payers to put [the water supply] into public hands,” Rick Heuer with the Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association told The Pine Cone. “They say we should be going to save money.”

The voters of the Peninsula have rejected the idea in the past,” Moe Ammar, president of the Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce said. “It is a waste of resources that d’oeuvres when, all of a sudden, he was in a life-threatening situation. “We were just talk- ing,” John said. “A piece of cheese went in my mouth, and suddenly I couldn’t breathe. It was as bad as it could have been.”

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