

# The Carmel Pine Cone

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## Sigourney sixth in Olympic ski event

By CHRIS COUNTS

AFTER AN exceptional first run that landed her in first place for much of the qualifying round, Carmel's Brita Sigourney finished sixth in the Ladies Ski Halfpipe finals at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

"I gave it my all and that's all I can give," tweeted the 24-year-old Sigourney, a 2008 graduate of Santa Catalina School.

Sigourney didn't earn a medal, but that didn't stop her from celebrating her teammate and friend Maddie Bowman's gold medal-winning performance. "I'm so unbelievably happy for [Maddie]," she posted shortly after the finals. "I love you girl! I'll never forget this night."

Sigourney scored an 87 in her first of two tries in the qualifying round, finishing second in a field of more than 20 competitors. Her hopes were high going into the finals. "Wow, that was fun," she tweeted. "Now let's do it again!"

In her first try in the finals, Sigourney fell hard and was slow getting up. She looked good in her second try, but a slip on a landing took her out of medal contention. Moments later, Bowman embraced her.

In the crowd at Sochi were her parents, Thad and Julie Sigourney, and her brother, Bryce. Shortly after Brita's performance, her mother shared her feelings about the moment on Facebook.

"So proud of Brita for being an Olympian and happy for all of us that we've had this incredible Olympic experience," she posted. "This year has been intense. So many highs and lows coming from

Brita's ski career. The whole world saw what she does on skis. With a year or two of surgery-free training, she will fly. Thanks to all of you who have supported her [on] this journey. It definitely does not end here!"

Like her mother described, Sigourney's journey to

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NBC Sports didn't carry Brita Sigourney's freestyle skiing event live on television, but the network's extensive streaming online showed all of her impressive, mid-air twists and turns as they happened Thursday morning (above), as well as her disappointment (right) after she took a bad fall. She finished sixth.



## Reward offered for killer of three sea otters

Found dead on beach after being shot in head, back

By KELLY NIX

AUTHORITIES ARE seeking information leading to the arrest of those responsible for shooting to death three male sea otters that were discovered near Asilomar State Beach in September 2013.

One otter was found dead near the Pacific Grove beach on Sept. 3, 2013, while the two others were found in the same area on Sept. 5, 2013, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which only notified the public and the media of the deaths on Feb. 14.

Necropsies indicated that two otters were shot in the head, while the third was shot through the back. The postmortem examinations also showed that the animals were killed just days before their bodies were discovered.

Presumably they were shot while in the water and then washed up on the beach after they died. The shooter or shooters could have fired from a boat or the shore, since otters live among the kelp and don't stray very far out to sea.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service resident agent Rebecca Roca said that even though the agency only notified the media of the deaths last week, its investigators have been trying to find those responsible since the day the bodies were discovered.

"When we got this report in September, we hit the ground

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## Pot smugglers leave boat at Garrapata Beach

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THANKS TO extensive patrols off the coast of Southern California, drug smugglers from Mexico have moved farther north to find places to land their goods and the criminals who transport them — and one of their boats turned up on Garrapata Beach in Big Sur Saturday morning.

A 35-pound bail of marijuana was found nearby, and a law enforcement agent estimated the boat was carrying 2,000-3,000 pounds of contraband before it was unloaded.

Several 55-gallon drums filled with gasoline and some loose articles of clothing were also found aboard the boat, which measured about 36 feet long and was powered by two 200-horsepower outboard engines.

"We call them 'super pangas,'" said Virginia Kice, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency. "They use very powerful engines."

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PHOTO/COURTESY LISA KLEISSNER

A 36-foot-long boat used by marijuana smugglers from Mexico was found Feb. 15 beached in Big Sur. This photo, showing law enforcement officers inspecting the boat, was taken that afternoon.

## HEROIC RESCUE EFFORT SAVES WOMAN'S LIFE

Doctor calls her survival a 'miracle'

By CHRIS COUNTS

AFTER A wave swept a woman off a rock in Big Sur Feb. 15, two men rescued her from the surf while another used CPR to help her breathe again. Their efforts gave the emergency room staff at Community Hospital of the

## Marina test well successfully drilled

By KELLY NIX

A CONSTRUCTION crew this week completed drilling a preliminary test well in North Marina to gather data for a proposed California American Water desalination plant and is expected to begin drilling a second one Sunday.

On Monday, the crew finished drilling a 300-foot borehole on property owned by a cement producer and is now in the process of drawing water samples, Cal Am spokeswoman Catherine Stedman told The Pine Cone. The boreholes will offer important information about Cal Am's proposed desal plant. They were approved just last week by the Marina City Council.

"They have a machine that drills down and goes through the different soil layers to draw water samples," Stedman explained.

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Monterey Peninsula a chance to save her life.

But the recovery of the woman — who was identified only as 31 years old and Asian — was far from certain when she arrived at the hospital. An emergency room doctor used the word "miracle" to describe the survival.

The woman's ordeal began about six miles south of Carmel near Soberanes Point in Garrapata State Park. She and a man were fishing from a rock when a rogue wave — an all-too-common occurrence along the North Big Sur Coast — pulled her into the water.

Based on what witnesses told him, state parks lifeguard Shane Scoggins estimated the woman was tossed about in the surf for three to five minutes. Somehow, the man she was fishing with and a bystander, Wesley Janssen, were able to grab hold of her vest and bring her to shore. At the same time, three people saw what was happening and rushed to the scene.

### A race against time

Unconscious, the woman was carried to safe ground, where Janssen began administering CPR. A former Naval medic and nursing student, Chad Peabody, rolled her over to drain water from her lungs. He successfully cleared enough water for her to breathe.

Because cell reception was unavailable, another bystander rushed to her car and drove about three miles south to an emergency call box, which she used to alert authorities. But Scoggins said the woman was unfamiliar with the area and had difficulty providing directions, which delayed the response.

About 20 to 25 minutes after the incident began, Cal Fire

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