

The Carmel Pine Cone

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EYESORE ON LINCOLN TO BE DEMOLISHED

■ Oak in way of proposed new home

By MARY SCHLEY

ONE OF the few truly dilapidated homes in Carmel — the large house at Lincoln and Third that was declared uninhabitable in September 2012 and subsequently emptied of numerous pests and 10 dumpsters' worth of debris, and then boarded up — is finally in the works to be demolished and replaced with a new residence, which the planning commission discussed Feb. 11.

Cal and Carol Daks, who live just down the street from the eyesore, bought it from longtime resident Norbert Kammer in July 2012 for \$725,000, and their architect, Terry Latasa, took their initial plans to the planning commission for feedback. He proposed a two-story, 2,458-square-foot, "Eclectic Tudor" house with steeply pitched cedar-shake roofs and gables, a stuccoed exterior and wood windows. The house would also incorporate redwood saved from the old home, and would have a rooftop deck and a one-car garage. The dimensions would be the same as or less than what the city code requires for setbacks, heights, volume, floor area and site coverage.

The 6,000-square-foot corner lot contains

15 trees, five of which are considered "significant," according to planner T.J. Wiseman, and Latasa said he would not be removing any of them. But a sprawling oak tree located in the area of the proposed garage became a potential problem after the staking of the new home indi-

See **DEMOLISHED** page 12A



PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

This famously rundown property will have a new, Tudor-style house soon if a large, sprawling oak can be protected.

Watchdog group criticizes city for hiding salary data

By MARY SCHLEY

A STATE public interest group that monitors government salaries and pensions is accusing the City of Carmel of "stalling" in providing information about the city's payroll and has launched an Internet campaign to get the city to start complying with public records laws.

Transparent California, which publishes fiscal information for most of California's cities and counties, requested Carmel's salary records last June but is still waiting for the data, according to its website, www.transparent-california.com.

Though most agencies complied with the group's request for information, a few either refused to disclose the data or are stalling — including Carmel, the group says. In those cases, the site encourages users to contact the government official responsible.

"Please help us procure these records for Transparent California by respectfully requesting that government officials fully comply with California's Public Records Law and

See **WATCHDOG** page 13A

Agha sues Armanasco for \$10M, alleges 'theft' of desal 'secrets'

By KELLY NIX

HIS FULSOME promises of inexpensive water for "the people" have become a familiar refrain during the debate over a possible desal plant for the Monterey Peninsula, but now developer Nader Agha is blaming public relations man David Armanasco for failing to do enough to promote one of his desal proposals, and of secretly trying to get a competing desal project approved.

In the suit, filed Feb. 19, Agha says he paid Armanasco Public Relations \$159,411.98 to promote a proposed desal operation on his 200-acre Moss Landing Commercial Park off of Highway 1 next to the Moss Landing power plant.

But instead of promoting his desal scheme, Agha alleges, Armanasco used information he got from Agha to help launch the competing DeepWater Desal, a company that is also proposing a desal operation in Moss Landing.

"The actions of Armanasco amounted to a theft of trade secrets and knowledge which Agha had expended a substan-

See **SECRETS** page 23A

BIG SUR CANYON BATTLES MUD, EYES STORM

By CHRIS COUNTS

WITH AS much as six inches of rain on the way, and mud already having closed their road after a storm Feb. 6, residents of Sycamore Canyon Road in Big Sur were bracing themselves Thursday for the possibility of more mudslides.

In an effort to divert runoff, the Don Chapin Company was busy Feb. 27 installing K-rail at four locations.

The homes along the road are particularly vulnerable to mudslides because so much erosion-controlling vegetation was lost in last December's Pfeiffer Fire. Pfeiffer Ridge looms high above the canyon, which is about 27 miles south of Carmel.

The president of the Coast Property Owners Association, Butch Kronlund told The Pine Cone the project was made possible in part because California State Parks donated the K-rail. "It was left over from the Basin Complex Fire in 2008," Kronlund explained.

Also aiding the project was emergency watershed protection funding the county received from the federal government after the Natural Resources Conservation Service determined residents were facing significant risks. The project is estimated to cost \$150,000, and federal taxpayers are picking up three-quarters of the tab. Using money collected from donors after the Pfeiffer Fire, the CPOA is paying for the balance.

Kronlund praised local and federal officials for making the project possible. "There was a remarkable amount of cooperation between Supervisor Dave Potter's office, Monterey County Public Works and the NRCS," he said.

Kronlund also said Chapin deserves credit for the efforts of his crew.

"The contractor is moving mountains to make this happen," Kronlund added. "[The company] is trying to cram a week's worth of work into one day."

Resident Karin Cumming is keeping a watchful eye on the creek behind her Sycamore canyon home. "Right now it's just trickling, but tomorrow it could be gushing," she said.

A veteran of many Big Sur natural disasters, Cumming is

See **MUD** page 15A

Canine center seeks \$\$\$ for permit, legal fees

By CHRIS COUNTS

WHILE OPPONENTS of the proposed Carmel Canine Sports Center in Carmel Valley rally against it, its owners are turning to the Internet for support.

A crowd funding campaign for the dog center was launched Feb. 25 at www.indiegogo.com/projects/carmel-canine-sports-center.

"Hey everyone," reads a post on the dog center's Facebook page. "If you would like to help us with our unimaginable legal and permitting fees, we're trying an online fundraising campaign."

The dog center's owners — Martha Diehl, her husband, Ken Ekelund, and Ernie Mill — want to create a dog training facility on 45 acres at 8100 Valley Greens Drive. Diehl was reapointed this week as a Monterey County planning commissioner.

Diehl, Ekelund and Mill have a month to raise their goal of \$17,000. After two days, they'd raised \$1,250.

Donors are offered a variety of perks — depending on how much they spend. A \$10 gift earns an invitation

See **CANINE** page 15A

Teacher admits felony animal cruelty in dognap case

By KELLY NIX

THE MONTEREY man who twice dognapped a neighbor's Labrador and left it to fend for itself in the Carmel Highlands — where it probably died — pleaded no contest to the charges this week. The plea is essentially the same as a guilty plea.

On Tuesday, Greg Perkins entered the plea to one misdemeanor count of theft of a dog and one felony count of animal cruelty related to two incidents, one in summer 2012 and the other in summer 2013, when Perkins stole his neighbor's dog and dumped it about eight miles away from their house off of Soledad Drive.

The 4-year-old white Lab named Candy Cane, which was owned by Melissa Dalton and her family, was recovered the first time but remains missing after the July 2013 dognapping. Perkins lives catty-corner to the Daltons.

Monterey County Deputy District Attorney Gary Thelander told The Pine Cone that Perkins faces a maximum of four years in prison. However, Perkins, a Hartnell College math teacher, will likely receive only felony probation, not significant time behind bars. Perkins is scheduled to be sen-

tenced in April.

The misdemeanor count Perkins pleaded to stems from the August 2012 theft, while the felony animal cruelty charge is related to the 2013 dognapping.

The more serious felony charge is justified in view "of the totality of the circumstances, being that [Perkins took the dog] twice," Thelander said.

The district attorney's office had originally charged Perkins with four felony counts but struck two of them in the plea agreement.

Perkins, who was reportedly upset with Candy Cane's barking, did not deny taking the dog when interviewed by Monterey Police



Greg Perkins

See **PLEA** page 15A