

The Carmel Pine Cone

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May 9-15, 2014

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County supes oppose Measure O, but CRA endorses it

■ Felton resident says Cal Am takeover in her town was a mistake

By KELLY NIX

CALIFORNIA AMERICAN Water is using the power of regret in a new TV commercial aimed at defeating a June ballot measure that seeks to turn the water company into a government operation.

In the TV testimonial, Felton resident Beth Hollenbeck urges Peninsula water customers to vote No on Measure O, saying she voted for a similar acquisition of Cal Am there in 2005 and her rates are now higher than ever.

"If I knew then what I know now," Hollenbeck says in the ad, taking her water bill from a mailbox, "I wouldn't have voted for it."

Hollenbeck goes on to say in the 30-second ad that

See **MEASURE** page 24A

Loving life 'Out of the Box'



PHOTO/COURTESY, LIFE OUT OF THE BOX

Life out of the Box founders Jonathon Button (left) and Quinn Vandenberg (right) worked with kids in San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua, giving them school supplies. The children who attend the after-school program learn how to speak English. See story Page 8A.

Council to PG&E: Why'd it take so long to stop gas leak?

By MARY SCHLEY

PG&E CAME under sharp criticism from the city council Tuesday for the company's slow response to the March 3 gas leak that caused a house at Guadalupe and Third to blow up. The explosion happened almost 40 minutes after the leak occurred, and gas continued to flow for an hour before the utility managed to cut it off.

One council member also said PG&E still hadn't learned its lesson. At her family's downtown hotel, the company took five hours to respond after being called about a gas leak, Carrie Theis said, and then shut down the inn's north wing for the weekend.

At Tuesday night's council meeting, a consulting company, Exponent, said the cause of the March 3 leak was lack of knowledge of the condition of the pipeline at the time workers tapped into it, in part due to old, outdated maps of the lines.

See **PG&E** page 23A

COPS NAB SUSPECTS IN HOME BURGLARY SPREE

By MARY SCHLEY

A THREE-MONTH investigation into an outbreak of residential burglaries in the city culminated Tuesday afternoon when Carmel P.D. detective Greg Johnson and Monterey County Sheriff's deputy Fernando White arrested 27-year-old Ryan Scully on suspicion of breaking into numerous homes in the city and elsewhere in the county. Scully, who lives on Fisher Place in Mission Fields, was also found in possession of heroin.

The arrest came after sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a report of a possible prowler in the area of Fisher Place, White reported, when a passerby saw a man jump-

ing a fence and entering the rear area of a home, which turned out to be his. Officers contacted Scully at the house and found "numerous stolen items inside the residence, along with illegal narcotics and narcotic paraphernalia," according to White.

"When they contacted him, he was in possession of stolen property from a burglary he committed on Monday on Junipero Street, and from a case that just occurred in the county," CPD Cmdr. Paul Tomasi said. "During the interview, he revealed he was responsible for at least eight of our burglaries that have happened since Feb. 5."

As Johnson investigated about a dozen

See **ARREST** page 7A

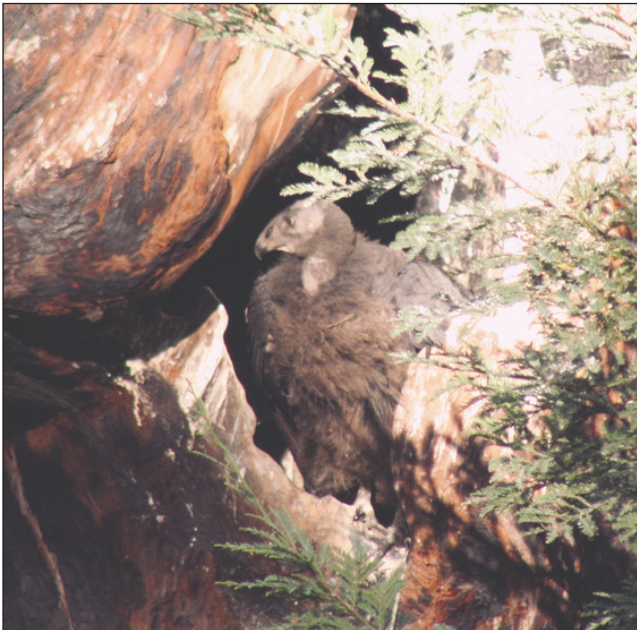


Ryan Scully

Wild condor being treated for lead at Oakland Zoo

By CHRIS COUNTS

SEVEN YEARS ago, a female condor named Ventana became of the first of her species to be raised in the wilds of Big Sur since the endangered birds were reintroduced to the



PHOTO/JOE BURNETT

A 7-year-old condor, shown as a juvenile in a Big Sur redwood, is receiving treatment for lead poisoning at the Oakland Zoo.

area 17 years ago. Last week, she became the first condor to be treated for lead poisoning in a new recovery center at the Oakland Zoo.

Luckily, researchers caught Ventana in the early stages of lead poisoning, and her prognosis looks good. The condor and five others were recently captured at Pinnacles National Park and tested for lead poisoning, which is the leading cause of death for the condors. While the others tested fine, Ventana showed high levels of lead in her body, and an X-ray revealed what appeared to be a small metallic object inside her.

Ventana was taken to the Oakland Zoo, which recently opened its Steve and Jackie Kane Condor Recovery Center. She became the center's first patient.

To remove the lead from her body, Ventana is receiving daily treatments of chelation therapy, which was first used to treat soldiers suffering from poison gas attacks during World War I. Those treating her are keeping an eye on the object, which they hope she will soon pass or regurgitate. She is expected to be hospitalized for a week or two.

"While we never like to see sick or lead-poisoned birds, today is really a fantastic day for Oakland Zoo because the zoo's condor care team is now able to put their skills and special training into helping save this magnificent bird," veterinarian Dr. Andrea Goodnight of the Oakland Zoo said May 1, when Ventana arrived.

Condor researchers are pulling for Ventana who, in many ways, symbolizes the success of the condor recovery effort. "She represents the future of the recovery program and the

See **CONDOR** page 30A

Forest Theater to get quick fix

By MARY SCHLEY

SHOULD THE abrupt closure of the historic Forest Theater a couple of weeks ago serve as an opportunity to overhaul the venue, or should the immediate problems — particularly, electrical and structural issues — be repaired as soon as possible so the theater can be reopened, with other improvements made in the off season?

The general consensus at a city council workshop Monday night was in favor of a quick fix.

"What can we do instantly to get that place reopened?" councilman Ken Talmage asked. "Is that possible?"

Council members and the public still don't know the specifics of what caused city officials to shut down the theater April 23, when they chained the gates and asked PG&E to cut off the theater's electricity after inspectors found "serious structural and electrical issues." The inspection was part of a review of all city-owned properties, and according to

See **THEATER** page 22A

Farmers market moving to Devendorf

By MARY SCHLEY

THE FARMERS market held in the north lot of Sunset Center since last June can relocate to Mission Street and Devendorf Park for a test period running through early July, the Carmel City Council decided Tuesday night. The vote came after impassioned testimony from merchants and residents for and against the move, lengthy discussion and a pair of failed motions.

The market's for-profit organizer, the West Coast Farmers Market Association, requested the change following the success of the March 27 market, when the farmers and other vendors were displaced by GourmetFest at Sunset Center and therefore used Mission Street between Ocean and Sixth and part of the park.

"The farmers market was very successful that day. According to executive director Jerry Lami, the market saw 10 times its normal foot traffic, and market vendors

See **MARKET** page 14A

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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Happy landing

JASMINE LOVES to run along the sand while the waves crash and recede and leave behind a row of briny bubbles. She sniffs and bites at the bubbles, and then rolls around in the sudsy surf as if to make sure she's smashed them all.

The little white West Highland terrier, now 10, actually began her life in the care of her person's granddaughter. But when the young woman left for college four years ago, the pup went to live with her father. Proving too much for him to weave into the demands of his day, the little Westie went to live with Grandma. Now Grandma can't imagine giving her back.

"Jasmine is a gorgeous white Westie," she says. "The transition to our home was so easy. We just love her, and she loves us. Actually, she seems to love everyone. She's a people person."

Jasmine particularly likes meeting the people she encounters while walking in Carmel and along the long stretch of sand at Carmel Beach.

"This is such a dog town," says Grandma, "and people are so warm and welcoming to our little Westie. When we take Jasmine to the beach, we have to make sure we have time to talk to everyone, and then take her directly to the groomer to have a bath."

Jasmine's family recently adopted a second dog, and she's not happy about it. "Westies are definitely Alpha dogs," Grandma says. "Both dogs want my attention

and want to go everywhere with me. Each has her own bed in the house and another in the back seat of my car."

Although Jasmine's first person is graduating from college this year, she has already landed a demanding, full-time job in finance and likely won't have time to give proper attention to her pampered pup. That suits Grandma just fine.

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With Sudden Oak Death threatening trees, aggressive plan offers hope

By CHRIS COUNTS

AFTER WATCHING Sudden Oak Death ravage tanbark oaks along the coast from central California to southern Oregon, park officials and experts are worried the fungus-like micro organism could kill a significant number of the species known as coast live oak (*quercus agrifolia*) — a far more common tree, and actually the most common oak seen along the Monterey County coast.

The disease spreads to oaks from bay laurel trees, and to counter the threat, officials and residents will cut down at least some infected bays so they can't spread sudden oak death to oaks, which are one of the state's most important trees. While bays don't get sick from the pathogen, they can easily pass it along.

According to UC Davis researcher Kerri Frangioso, the threat to oaks is serious. At various sites in Big Sur where she and her colleagues study sudden oak death, “we have observed more than a 30 percent mortality of mid-sized live oaks,” Frangioso said.

Knee jerk reaction?

In Coastlands, a residential community in Big Sur, homeowners are prepared to take out smaller bays if they pose a risk to larger “specimen” oaks. “We’re taking samples of bay trees and having them tested,” reported Butch Kronlund, who lives in the Coastlands.

But Kronlund was clear there are no plans for a wholesale destruction of bays. Removal will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and bay saplings are more likely to be taken out than mature trees, which could have their branches limbed so their leaves don't come into direct contact with oaks. “We’re going to think long and hard before we crank up a chainsaw,” said Kronlund, who serves as president of the Coast Property Owners Association.

But Kronlund said he believes the threat to oaks is very real. “This is not a knee-jerk reaction,” he added.

‘Big first step’

At Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, Frangioso said she is working with park officials to establish a test plot along the park's Oak Grove Trail to study the impacts of removing bays to save oaks. “It’s a huge first step,” said

Frangioso, who has been studying sudden oak death since 2000, mostly in Big Sur.

Frangioso is strong advocate of the strategy to remove at least some bays. “Bay trees are by far main driver of disease,” she told The Pine Cone.

But the researcher echoed Kronlund's sentiments, insisting there will be no widespread clearing of mature bays. “Nobody wants to take out big trees,” she said.

By removing the branches of larger bays, though, she said oaks could stand a greater chance of survival by opening up the understory to more sun. “The pathogen doesn't do well with direct sunlight,” she observed.

An environmental scientist who works for the Monterey district of California state parks, Jeff Frey endorsed the idea of removing some bays to save a greater number of oaks. He said many animals, including “woodpeckers, gray squirrels and deer, just to name a few,” depend on the tree's acorns for food.

And the oak woodland supports many plants as well. “It’s

definitely a plant community we don't want to lose,” he offered.

But Frey said it's important not to remove too many bays because too much sunlight on the forest floor could encourage the spread of invasive plants and grasses.

“It will be a balance” he said of the decision on how many bays will be removed. “It's not something that should be done on a large scale, but in some instances it can be a viable tool” to help reduce the threat of sudden oak death.

Frey said after bays are cut down, herbicide will be applied to a portion of their stump.

“If we don't do it, they'll resprout,” he said. “It's one of the trade-offs if we want to reduce the amount of oak death in this plant community. It's something we need to do.”

Sudden Oak Death in Garland Park

While Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District offi-

See OAKS page 27A



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Police & Sheriff's Log

Children locked in car with no food or water

HERE'S A look at some of the significant calls logged by the Carmel-by-the-Sea Police Department and the Monterey County Sheriff's Office last week. This week's log was compiled by Mary Schley.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Citizen reported finding an unattended vehicle with the passenger side door open and papers strewn about on the ground below and around the vehicle. The vehicle was later determined to have been ransacked in a burglary attempt.

Pacific Grove: Ransford resident wanted to fly to the East Coast with his toddler. His wife did not want him to leave the state with their child at all. In speaking with the man, it was apparent that he had been drinking and was intoxicated. He advised that he was willing to provide a breath sample to ensure that he was able to safely care for his child. His blood alcohol level was .320. He was advised that because of his extremely high level of BAC, he could not care for the child. He stated that he understood and opted not to continue the argument.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Sometime during the evening hours, a locked vehicle on Camino Real was entered, and several items were taken. No suspect information.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Medical emergency on Dolores Street.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Woman called to make a report about her losing her gold bracelet yesterday at Carmel Beach. A brief description of the bracelet was provided. Woman said it is most likely the bracelet clasp came loose and fell off her wrist.

See POLICE LOG page 8RE

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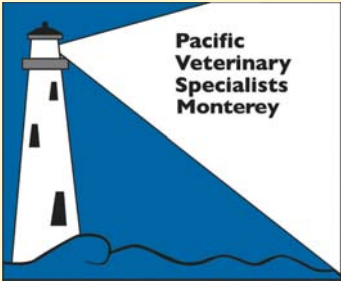
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Superior Court candidates square off at judicial forum

By KELLY NIX

FROM THE media's presence in the courtroom, to whether judges should endorse those they want to succeed them, to which of the candidates already has "judicial experience," the four candidates vying for two seats in Monterey County Superior Court had a lot to say during an election forum Wednesday night.

At the Monterey College of Law, candidates Heidi Whilden and Luma Serrano Williams, who are vying for Office 10, and Andrew Liu and Steve Somers, who are squaring off for Office 3, talked to a group of more than 50 people.

The candidates were allowed to give opening statements before they were asked questions from the League of Women Voters of Monterey County, which, along with the college and Monterey County Bar Association, organized the event.

The first question asked the candidates to "explain the difference, if any, between an administrative law judge and Superior Court judge" — an issue that surfaced last week in which several judges and attorneys backing Whilden challenged Williams' claims in a campaign mailer that she is the "only candidate with judicial experience."

Williams answered by first reading the definition of administrative law judge from the Black's Law Dictionary before saying the role of the administrative court helps ease the burden of the trial courts.

"It's a very specialized area," Williams said of her job. "The Superior Court is definitely much broader in the scope that it covers, and we are a little more relaxed in the administrative courts in terms of the evidence. A lot more relaxed."

Whilden's backers told The Pine Cone last week that while she doesn't have the title of judge, Whilden has more judicial experience than Williams because the work she does is the same as, and just as varied as, a

Superior Court judge.

The candidates were also asked to share their perspectives on the manner in which judicial retirements and endorsements are announced, a timely question considering Williams and others have criticized the way in which judges offered their endorsements of Whilden and Somers. Monterey County Assistant District Attorney Stephanie Hulsey, who is running unopposed, was endorsed by Superior Court Judge Susan Dauphine.

Williams has said she thought it was unfair that Whilden and Somers filed their election paperwork early in the process, knowing they were getting endorsements, before the judges announced their retirements, leaving her behind to organize her own campaign.

"It's wonderful that people support other people," Williams said. "We all want support, we all want endorsements, we all want friends to encourage us and recommend us to others." But she also said that the "democratic process should be followed and respected" so "everyone else can have an opportunity on an equal level."

Some have suggested the law be changed so that judicial endorsements are made after candidates have entered a race.

But Whilden, who has the endorsement of Superior Court Judge Kay Kingsley, and Somers, who is endorsed by Superior Court Judge Russell Scott, said that it was well known that three judges were about to retire, and that anyone who wanted to enter the race could have done so.

Media in the courts?

When asked to disclose their thoughts about the presence of the media in the courtroom, the judges had similar sentiments, saying the press should have access to the courts, but that certain witnesses should also be protected.

"Under the appropriate circumstances,"

Somers said, "I think it's fantastic. I believe that the courtroom belongs to the people of the community. The judges work for them."

However, there are some victims, including children, whose lives can be put in dan-

ger if their names and photos are published.

"We should protect those witnesses, those victims, so they feel safe coming into the

See **JUDGES** page 21A

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'12 Nissan Versa

31 Hwy MPG*, 6-Speed Manual, MP3 Player.

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'06 BMW 325i

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VIN#205086



'12 Nissan Sentra

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ARREST

From page 1A

break-ins reported throughout the city during the past three months, he identified Scully, who has a history of breaking into houses, as a suspect, according to Tomasi.

“He has been committing burglaries for several years and is believed to be responsible for older burglaries as well,” Tomasi said.

He didn’t say which of the break-ins police believe Scully committed, but he would look for houses with unlocked windows or doors, and he stole small items like jewelry.

The most common items taken were coins, cash and jewelry, though some electronics, silverware and other goods were stolen in the roughly dozen burglaries since Feb. 5, too.

A Feb. 14 break-in on Mission Street included an Apple laptop, an iPad Mini, and a silver flask and six shot glasses, while a March 10 burglary on Guadalupe included watches, pendants, necklaces, rings, bracelets and a Makita drill, according to Tomasi.

Many of the other burglaries saw similar items taken, and two of the greatest losses occurred March 27, when a resident at Rio Road and Atherton had 15 antique silver coins valued at \$6,000, a Swiss watch worth \$450, silver flatware valued at \$3,200 and a spoon collection worth \$2,100 stolen, and a person living at Lincoln and 10th had electronics, luggage, clothing and \$16,385 worth of jewelry taken.

Many of the burglaries happened during the daytime — a growing trend throughout the state, according to Tomasi.

“Suspects are walking neighborhoods and knocking on front doors. If no one answers, they start poking around in the yard until they can gain access,” he explained. Since people walking around in the daytime are common, they’re less likely to raise suspicion than someone lurking at night.

“When they only take small items, they can conceal them in a backpack and not draw attention to themselves,” he said. “Additionally, it is easier to see during the daytime, as there is no need for flashlights,” and construction, traffic, garbage hauling and other noises and distractions divert attention from the burglars.

“When a suspect breaks a window, it doesn’t draw the attention that it would in the middle of the night,” Tomasi said.

Monterey Sheriff’s Cmdr. Bill Kaye said investigators suspect Scully in at least three of the dozen-and-a-half break-ins that have occurred in the Carmel and Pebble Beach areas since the start of the year.

“We’ve had a few window breaks, but a lot of people in this area don’t lock their windows or doors,” he said. “The method of operation is how we tie them together — how they do it, whether they go in and take something and fill it and leave, or take a bag in with them, whether they wear gloves”

Since the investigation is ongoing, Kaye declined to say how Scully allegedly operated.

Deputies are still inventorying the “several hundred

pieces” of jewelry and other stolen items they found in the home where he has been living on Fisher Place.

“His MO was to take jewelry— things he can easily carry,” Kaye said, though officers also found a guitar stolen from a home on Rio Road. Investigators are photographing the pieces and cataloging them, and then matching them to crime reports in order to identify the owners. When that work is done, detectives will begin contacting victims to see if the items are theirs. Johnson will have the photos as well.

“Most of the jewelry we recovered won’t be able to be returned until after the cases are adjudicated,” Kaye said.

Scully was also found with narcotics and paraphernalia. “He admittedly has a heroin addiction that is driving this,” Kaye said. “That’s what he’s saying, anyway.”

Tomasi said the arrest came a little over a week after another man, 26-year-old Prunedale resident Mathew Parker, was taken into custody in Seaside by Monterey P.D. and Johnson after being discovered with stolen property from a Monterey case.

“And during that investigation, it was discovered he was involved in two burglaries in Carmel,” he said.

Tomasi and Kaye said having their officers share information and efforts was key in helping to solve some of the cases and catch Scully.

“This is a great job of collaboration with Peninsula agencies to solve what became a rash of burglaries being caused by these two, and most likely a few others,” Tomasi said. “But it’s definitely put a dent in the crime spree that’s been taking place in Carmel.”

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Brian Blood	James McGrew
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Larry Cannon	Donald Neff
Hui Lai Chong	Michael Obermeyer
Pang Yen Chou	Lana Rak
Katie Cundiff	William Rogers
Aimee Erickson	Robin Rogers-Cloud
Mark Farina	Jason Sacran
Terri Ford	Robert Sandidge
Stuart Fullerton	David Savellano
Philippe Gandiol	Julia Seelos
Thaleia Georgiades	Silvio Silvestri
John Guernsey	Michael Situ
Coraly Hanson	Timon Sloane
Laurie Hendricks	Linda Sutton
Steve Hill	Mary Titus
Sally Jordan	Joaquin Turner
Steve Kell	Laura Wambsgans
Laurie Kersey	Stewart White
Sheryl Knight	Karen Wilkerson
Chuck Kovacic	James Wisnowski
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Po Pin Lin	Paul Youngman
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Meet the Artists, 3:30-5 pm
Artist Awards Ceremony,
5 pm

Live Auction, Immediately
Following the Silent
Auction
Mission Street

Live Music

Devendorf Park

Sunday, May 18

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Competition, 9 am

30 Minute Silent

Auction, 11 am

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Mission Street

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A long but worthwhile journey from the Concours to the hills of Nicaragua

■ Young couple takes philanthropic effort around the world

By MARY SCHLEY

QUINN VANDENBERG and Jonathon Button embody the philosophy of living life outside the box — which is why, of course, they named their business “Life out of the Box.” The duo travels and lives in the poorest areas of the globe, selling artisan products to raise money for the school supplies they donate to their host countries’ children. And when their tourist visas expire after 90 days, they move to another country or return home to Carmel, where they speak to service clubs, college classes and other groups, encouraging them to find their own lives outside the box.

“We emphasize social entrepreneurship — going out and creating something on your own,” Vandenberg told The Pine Cone last week. “In our generation, people want to make a difference, they just don’t know how. There are so many ways to give back, and based on your own passion and skills, you can use that.”

Vandenberg and Button’s own international adventure began in spring 2012. They began dating in late 2011, while she was

working in Carmel for the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance and he was handling imports and exports of cars in San Francisco, and soon began contemplating their futures. They were both 25.

“It all sparked from the basic question, about how finding success is more than making money — it’s leaving an impact on the world and leaving something after you’re gone,” Button said. “Our path wasn’t going to lead us there, so what should our path be, and how do we get there?”

They decided to start a company that would allow them to live frugally while helping the poor, developed a business plan, and chose their first destination: Nicaragua.

“We basically took a map of the world and looked at all the countries we were interested in living in,” Button said. “We knew if we could get our social venture going there, we could make a difference.”

Vandenberg, a Carmel High School graduate, had studied Spanish while in college at UC Davis, so that helped, and the couple took up residence with a family in San Juan del Sur, a small beach town in the south.

“They taught us a lot of local Spanish, because the dialect is different, and they introduced us to some artisans,” Vandenberg said. They worked with the first lending library in Central America, and their story also got picked up by a cable TV show,

Jonathon Button and Quinn Vandenberg were living in Guatemala when they asked this small Mayan girl what she wants to be when she grows up — “just like we ask each child before we give them school supplies!” Vandenberg said.



“House Hunters International.”

“We were the youngest and cheapest,” Button explained. “The apartment we found only cost us \$300 per month.” They remained there for about seven months and then moved to Masaya, also in Nicaragua. “It was really impoverished,” he said.

There, they launched the website, www.lifeoutofthebox.com, which allows people anywhere to purchase goods made by various artisans in impoverished countries, and to see the children they are helping. The endeavor puts the artists to work, benefits the kids, and allows Button and Vandenberg to maintain their voluntarily meager lifestyles.

“When someone buys a bracelet, a portion of that goes toward school supplies, and then the other money coming in is how we’re

staying alive,” Button explained.

“We tried to live off of \$2 a day in Nicaragua, because that’s average,” Vandenberg said.

“That was really tough,” Button said. “It was lots of rice and beans.”

Vandenberg said the fact they are both frugal by nature has made their efforts possible. They both worked through college and continued saving in the years after, though they didn’t know what they were saving for. As a result, they were able to avoid borrowing money from friends or family to start their social venture.

Riding the chicken bus

In Nicaragua, they worked with different

Continues next page

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From previous page

after-school programs and schools, helping thousands of children before moving to Guatemala, which they reached by riding on an overnight “chicken bus.”

They call them that, Button explained, because you often don’t have a human sitting next to you. Instead, on the old U.S. school buses with rickety seats, “we sat next to pigs, next to chickens.”

In Panajachel, on Lake Atitlan in Guatemala, they worked with Mayans, the area’s poorest inhabitants.

“The Mayan people have been doing handcraft items for centuries — they have passed down their skills and do a lot of weaving, so that’s where we got a lot of our products,” Vandenberg said. They collaborated with a nonprofit called Mayan Families to get school supplies to preschools there.

They moved to Mexico for a month and then flew back to the United States to begin their speaking engagements while deciding where to go next. They addressed students at CSU Monterey Bay, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, Arizona State and Sacramento State. “We let them know what you could do and how to get yourself out there,” Vandenberg said. Locally, they spoke before Rotary and the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

“We got so much support — they’ve all asked us to come back,” she said. “It was a really awesome experience talking to university students, because they’re at that time when they’re trying to figure out what to do in the world.”

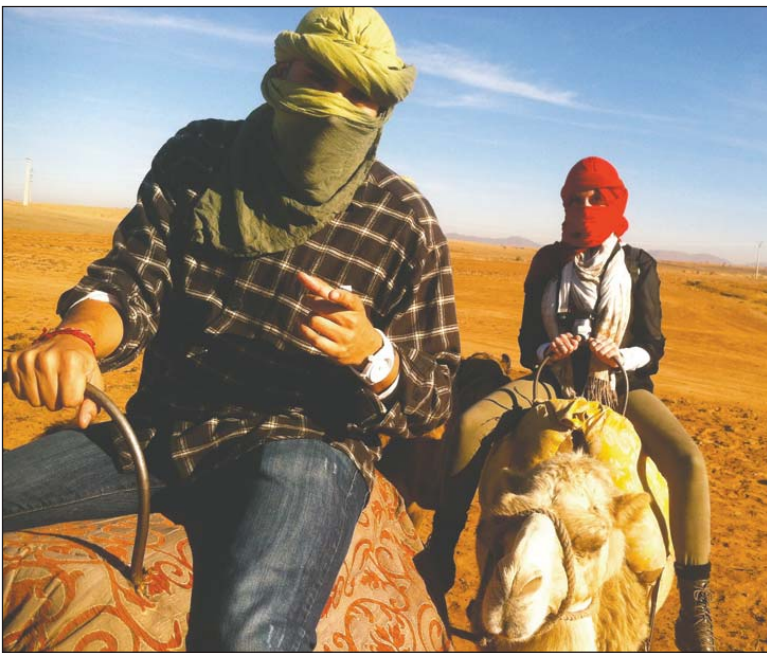
Then they hit the road again, first back to Mexico to hand out materials for school kids, and then to Morocco, where they worked with a women’s refugee organization and another that helps get kids off the streets.

“They all needed school supplies — it seems like a simple solution to a big problem,” Vandenberg said. Meanwhile, Button worked alongside artisans there creating leather goods, which they also sell on the website.

“They work extremely hard,” Button said. “It’s nice we can go to these different countries to see what they create and find out what appeals to the people in the states.”

At the end of their 90-day visa, they returned home to Carmel a few weeks ago and have been hitting the speaking circuit again.

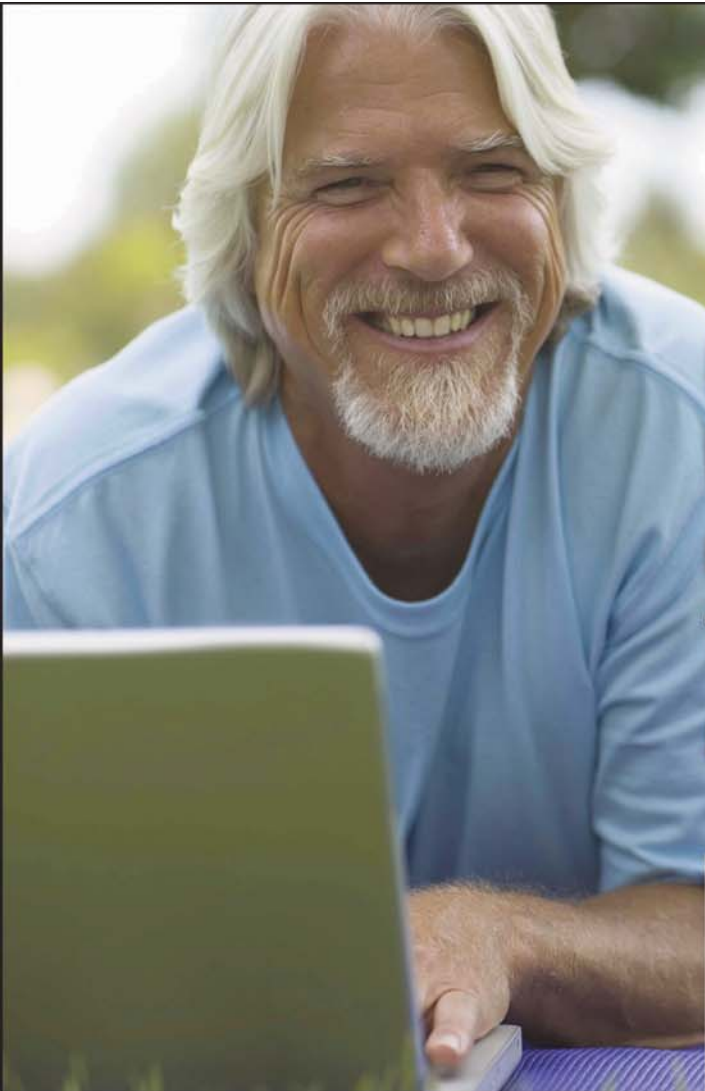
“We’re trying to build a team of students,” Vandenberg said. “We’ve reached out to Kenya and Nepal and Peru and El Salvador. We want to go to those places and expand Life out of the Box.”




Jonathon Button and Quinn Vandenberg rode camels on the edge of Marrakech, Morocco, to visit a Berber village “to get a better understanding of the living situations for those living in the rural desert.”

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MORE LETTERS

From page 30A

Protect our lifestyle

Dear Editor,

Lawson Little, in his May 2 letter concerning public ownership of our water utility, asks the question, “Doesn’t (the) public already control water?” The simple answer is no. There are two questions to be asked. First, why does my friend Lawson want to perpetuate ownership, not of water, but the private, highly profitable monopoly that controls the delivery system? That can be answered with this question, “Does Lawson Little have the interests of the residential ratepayer, or the business community in mind?”

He, as a successful businessman with a long and prosperous career in the real estate and tourism industry, is solidly supportive of business and its need for a reliable supply of low cost water. However, as important as tourism is to our economy, it is not more important than the lifestyle we’ve chosen to live here. When we are forced to pay punitive, tiered rates to ensure an industry’s guaranteed low rate, it not only affects our lifestyle, it plays havoc with our residential real estate values. Try to sell a house with

smelly toilets and a parched yard. The issue is not who controls our water; it is who has the monopoly to deliver it. Like it or not, it is a fact that public utilities deliver water at much lower rates than private utilities; that is the reason why nationally 89 percent of water utilities are owned by the public. Lower water rates will benefit both business and our lifestyle — vote Yes on O.

Roland Martin, Carmel Valley

O-Yes!

Dear Editor,

I for one, am amazed at how many ways the big money interests (read: Cal Am, cities, hospitality industry, career politicians) are invading my life with their fear tactics. Four large, slick ads mailed to us, TV ads everywhere, and pop-up ads every time I open an app. All very expensive ways to scare us into believing we dare not change the status quo.

When a campaign (funded largely by Cal Am) invests millions of dollars in a local election, one has to wonder why. Who exactly will benefit if Cal Am maintains control of our water rates and charges us to keep their profits high? They want us to believe they are the good guys. Really? Cal Am? It’s their over-pumping and mismanagement that got us here.

Follow the logic, friends. A water solution that doesn’t have to drive up profits for the

corporate heads and investors, has to be more economical than what we have now. A Yes win mandates a feasibility study as to whether it will be economically viable for the public to acquire the water system. If it isn’t, end of story. If it is, then we buy out Cal Am. O — Yes.

Christine Williams, Carmel Valley

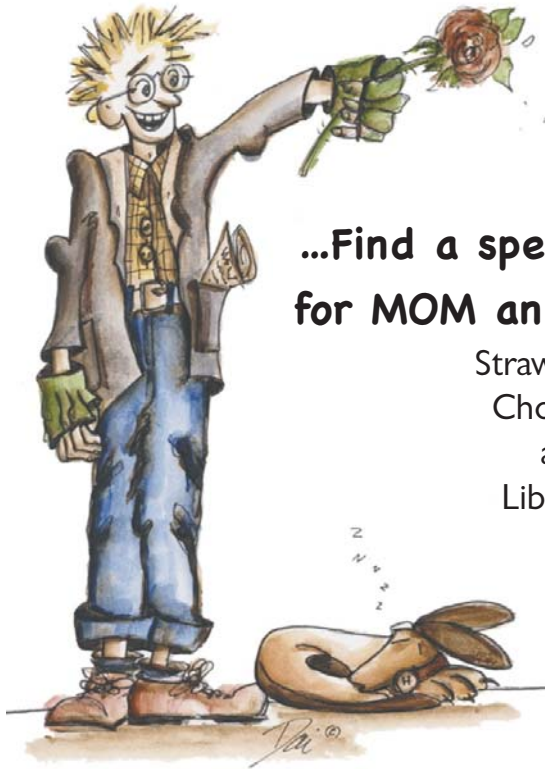
Why judges endorse

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your article of May 2 regarding Luma Serrano Williams. I believe Williams does an injustice to the electoral process by continuing to focus on what she

Continues next page

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From previous page

calls the “anointment issue.” It is a non-issue. When it became evident that my retirement would coincide with this year’s judicial elections, I personally asked our commissioner, Heidi Whilden, to seek election to my seat and offered her my endorsement. The ethical canons permit judges to recruit and endorse judicial candidates seeking election or appointment, because of the unique position we hold in knowing what qualifications are desirable, and our obligation to uphold the integrity of the judiciary.

In 2011, by unanimous vote of the sitting judges, Heidi Whilden was appointed commissioner, which is a judicial office. Prior to that, she had a distinguished career as a civil litigator, and a Superior Court research attorney in the areas of criminal and family law. Commissioner Whilden has received overwhelming support from Superior Court judges, the legal community, law enforcement, elected officials and many citizens. She is highly respected for her integrity, her calm judicial demeanor in handling some of our most contentious cases and her effective courtroom management. Heidi Whilden has demonstrated her qualifications to be a

judge; it is now time to elect her to Superior Court Seat 10.
Judge Kay Kingsley, Monterey

Spanish in court
Dear Editor,

Commissioner Heidi Whilden is a strong and effective advocate for the non-English speaking litigant in the Monterey court system. For the last three years, she and I have worked with court administration to marshal resources for the hiring of certified interpreters for the self-represented family law and domestic violence calendars. We continue to seek funding for interpreters in other family law departments. In contrast, Luma Serrano Williams’s public comments, that she will speak Spanish in the court room and correct interpreters, runs afoul of California Code of Procedure 185 that requires all judicial proceedings to be in English. A well qualified corps of certified interpreters for the many language groups in Monterey County is critical. An individual judge who inserts the issue of her own language expertise in a proceeding risks reversal. Please join me in support of an effective advocate for court services for the non-English speaking litigant. Help elect Commissioner Heidi Whilden to the

Monterey County Superior Court.
Judge Susan J. Matcham, Monterey

Oil not needed?
Dear Editor,

When The Pine Cone asked (editorial, May 2), “Where is the oil supposed to come from?” he missed the big picture. Germany has increased its percent of renewable energy (mostly solar and wind) from 6 percent in 2000 to 25 percent in 2012, and is planning for 35 percent of electric generation by 2020. And Volkswagen has a new small production car that runs 300 miles per gallon in test conditions.

With some intention, we could do the same. Renewables create high paying jobs and a clean environment. Once we start to invest in renewables and real high-mileage cars, the price of oil will plummet, and oil producing countries will beg us to buy their oil. With declining demand and prices for oil, we can also cut our war machine in half.

Fracking creates high profits for big oil and an environmental mess for the rest of us. Once again, it’s special interests vs. the common good.

Torrey Waag, Big Sur

Measure O Puts Us Up a Creek Without Any Water

By the time we’re done fighting about water on the Monterey Peninsula, the Carmel River might well have so little water it will be designated a creek. And we’ll all be up that creek without any new water, because Measure O doesn’t create one drop.

The ultimate solution to our water shortage problems is a desalination plant, which would allow us to drastically cut our take from the Carmel River. But the mayors of the six peninsula cities believe Measure O will delay – or worse derail – the desal plan. This could lead to water rationing, which the mayors estimate could cost us 6,000 jobs and \$1 billion a year in economic activity.

If the state makes another exception and allows us to keep taking water from the Carmel River, that threatens the fragile Steelhead and endangered red-legged frog populations. And if the state stops us from taking our allotment of water, that means severe water rationing with its economic consequences. **Either way, we’re up a creek without any water.**



“This initiative is a clear threat to the progress made toward a desalination plant – the long awaited, best solution, and vital element in the effort to restore the Carmel River. All of us are stewards of the Carmel River watershed and we cannot ignore the consequences of Measure O. Please join the Carmel River Steelhead Association in voting No on Measure O.” – **Carmel River Steelhead Association**



“On the Monterey Peninsula there is no more important an issue than solving our water supply crisis. Measure O puts our water supply project in jeopardy and risks throwing us into economically harmful water rationing. Vote No on Measure O.” – **Mayor Jason Burnett, Carmel-by-the-Sea**

We Urge You to Join Us in Voting No on Measure O

Carmel River Steelhead Association
Monterey County Hospitality Association
Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority
Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association
Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce
Carmel Chamber of Commerce
Monterey County Mayors’ Association
Monterey Commercial Property Owners Association
Monterey County Association of Realtors
Coalition of Peninsula Businesses

Chuck Della Sala, Mayor, Monterey
Jerry Edelen, Mayor, Del Rey Oaks
Jason Burnett, Mayor, Carmel
Ralph Rubio, Mayor, Seaside
David Pendergrass, Mayor, Sand City
Joe Gunter, Mayor, Salinas
Maria Orozco, Mayor, Gonzales

John Huerta, Jr., Mayor, Greenfield
Robert Cullen, Mayor, King City
Fred Ledesma, Mayor, Soledad
Todd C. Kruper, Councilmember, Sand City
Tim Chaney, Boardmember, Monterey Peninsula Unified School District
Dennis G. Allion, Councilmember, Del Rey Oaks
Kristin Clark, Councilmember, Del Rey Oaks
Ken Talmage, Councilmember, Carmel
Dan Albert, Former Mayor, Monterey
Frank Sollecito, Councilmember, Monterey
Kimbley Craig, Councilmember, Salinas
Sue McCloud, Former Mayor, Carmel
Ron Chesshire, Former Member, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
Harvey Kuffner, Trustee, Monterey County Board of Education
Brian LeNeve, Carmel River Steelhead Advocate
Charles Brown, Seaside Resident/Trustee Monterey Peninsula College, District 1

Mary Ann Leffel, President, Monterey County Business Council
Jody Hansen, President/CEO, Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Moe Ammar, Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce
Sam Teel, Chair, Monterey County Hospitality Association
Gary Cursio, President, Monterey Golf Management Group
Jason Gouldon, President, Tax Masters of America
Frank Emerson, Carmel River Restoration
Ron Pasquinelli, President, Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers’ Association
Lorin Letendre, President, Carmel River Watershed Conservancy
Melvin T. Mason, Seaside Community Activist
John Narigi, Co-Chair, Coalition of Peninsula Businesses

Partial list. Titles for identification purposes only.

Vote No on O

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MARKET

From page 1A

sold out,” library director Janet Cabbage, who oversees events like the market, told the council in her May 6 report. “In addition, Mr. Lami and market vendors received many positive comments from the public regarding the new location.”

As a result, Lami and other proponents asked for a permanent move to the park and Mission Street, arguing that if the

market has to stay at Sunset, it will die.

“The market as it now exists is on life support. If it does not move, it will not make it,” Lami said. “We have many vendors who are barely hanging on.”

Cabbage, who recommended the council approve the relocation, said Lami has plans for minimizing impacts on parking around the park during market hours and would also ensure the grass in Devendorf — most of which would be unoccupied, since the produce vendors and food stalls would be on Mission Street — is protected.

Councilman Ken Talmage asked if Cabbage had contacted

merchants on Ocean Avenue and nearby to get their feedback, and she said she hadn’t.

“My feeling was because it’s a side street closure, it didn’t really affect any entrances, but I would be more than happy to have that conversation,” she said.

Many of those store owners saved her the trouble, including gallery owner Jim Miller, who warned he was going to be “an ogre.”

“I think this is a terrible idea; it does impact the businesses in Carmel,” he said. “The city has been really good about not letting McDonalds, Wendy’s and Col. Sanders come in, and the farmers market kind of falls into that category.” (That comment drew boos from some of the crowd, followed by Mayor Jason Burnett’s admonition that every speaker should be allowed to express his views.)

A salesman at Khaki’s in Carmel Plaza, as well as the store’s owners, Connie and Jim Ockert, said having the market across the street every week would negatively affect their sales.

“Independent people like Jim and me — this is our livelihood,” she said, noting they pay taxes and spend money on inventory to keep their business running — and therefore generating revenues for the city.

“There’s no way that somebody who’s going to buy produce is going to cross-shop,” Jim Ockert said.

Todd Tice, owner of The Club, a clothing store on Ocean Avenue, said locals avoid downtown because of parking congestion, so having the market — which is aimed at locals and would tie up more parking — at the center of the commercial district seemed illogical.

“It’s definitely not going to help my business, and many of the other businesses as well,” he said.

Michelle Sapon, who owns AW Shucks oyster bar with her husband, said moving the market to “the gateway of Carmel” would cause parking problems and hurt brick-and-mortar businesses. “We do pay incredibly high rents,” she said. “I don’t think it’s fair to bring it right at the entrance of Carmel.”

‘An amazing energy’

Countering their negative comments were residents, farmers and others who said holding the market downtown would add charm and draw more people who might end up shopping and dining, too.

Monte Verde Street resident Colleen Logan, who also helps run the market, observed the ordinance posted behind the mayor’s seat that identifies Carmel as “primarily, essentially and predominantly a residential city,” and said the market thrived during its March 27 stint at the park.

“Having so many more people there — it was such an amazing energy, and I heard so many people say it was exactly like Europe,” she said. “You talk about being Carmel-by-the-Sea being a romantic city — I think people felt that that day.”

Basil Restaurant chef/owner Soerke Peters, who also sells food at the market, said his business did very well, and former councilwoman and Carmel Residents Association President Barbara Livingston said the market is vibrant.

“It brings people downtown during the daytime, and I think it’s just a wonderful idea,” she said.

Caroline Hardy said she’s more likely to attend if it’s downtown and called the setting “beautiful.”

Carolina Bayne observed that the difference between having the market at Sunset and in the park was “night and day.” “At Sunset, it’s depressing, because the farmers have all this beautiful produce, and no one’s there to buy it,” she said.

Richard Kreitman, who owns a gallery downtown and for a while sold prepared foods at the market, suggested afternoon hours so people who work could shop there — an idea that did not gain traction. “There’s this balance between the needs of business and the well being of residents,” he observed. “This market will probably die if it’s kept at Sunset, and we just have to face that.”

Cabbage also recommended Lami not be charged the \$365 for closing the street, \$600 for taking up three additional parking stalls, and \$400-plus for using Devendorf Park. “The city does not charge fees for the use of Sunset Center north parking lot; therefore, the West Coast Farmers Market Association does not currently pay event fees to the city,” she said. She recommended waiving the fees, because, she said, “The farmers market has indicated they would not be able to afford that, and I do feel it brings a lot of vibrancy.”

Former Mayor Sue McCloud objected to giving freebies to a for-profit venture.

“I think everyone should be treated equally,” she said, adding that nonprofits holding occasional events downtown still have to pay at least some of their fees.

Burnett said Carmel is moving up in the culinary world — including being named the seventh best food city by readers of Conde Nast Traveler — and the market would help draw “the next generation of visitor.”

“And as a resident, I’m really excited about this,” he said. “I felt the energy March 27 — it was really exciting, and I saw a lot of other residents there. Creating spaces where we can come together and congregate really is essential to building a sense of community.”

Councilwoman Victoria Beach wanted the market to be held in the park for six months, in order to collect data on its success and the impacts on other businesses, but that motion did not gain support, nor did one from new councilman Steve Dallas, who wanted to limit the market to only produce and downtown restaurants, and to restrict it to Mission Street.

Ultimately, the council voted to allow the market to operate on Mission Street and in the park on Thursdays from May 22 until July 1. It will maintain its hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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CARMEL • PEBBLE BEACH • CARMEL VALLEY & THE MONTEREY PENINSULA

Sylvester and Dante rock Monterey Rock and Rod Festival

By CHRIS COUNTS

PROVIDING THE soundtrack to a colorful gathering of classic cars and their enthusiasts Saturday, May 10, at Custom House Plaza in Monterey are two names few people remember but two voices few could ever forget.

Terry Sylvester and **Ron Dante** headline an eclectic musical lineup at the Monterey Rock and Rod Festival that spans the musical sub genres from the old school Latin rock of **The Chicano All-Stars** to the surfabilly of **Los High Tops**.

Sylvester is best known for his contributions to the Hollies. After he replaced

Graham Nash in the band, his vocals and guitar were featured on three of the Hollies' biggest hits, "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother," "Long Cool Woman in a Black Dress," "The Air That I Breathe."

Dante is best known as the lead singer of the Archies, whose hit single "Sugar Sugar" literally defined the genre "bubblegum rock" and somehow outsold every other record in 1969, the year of Woodstock.

The event, which is free, starts at 10 a.m. Dante performs at 3 p.m., and Sylvester follows at 4:20 p.m.

The previous evening, Friday, May 9, the

See **MUSIC** page 20A



Singer-songwriter Odi (top left) plays May 10 at Chateau Julien. The latest installment in the winery's "Tunes at Two" series, the music starts at 2 p.m. Jeremy Pearce (top right) brings his Elvis act to the Monterey Fairgrounds May 9, while Los High Tops (above) perform May 10 at Custom House Plaza.

Readers taken on wild spin through C.V.

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

MYSTERY AND suspense come to Carmel Valley in author **Lannie Wright's** latest novel, "Connections — The Devil's Door." The author signs copies of the book Sunday, May 11, from 3 to 4 p.m., at River House Books.

"It's about how a young Monterey County deputy sheriff, Tristan Badger, is thrown into a deadly battle with two killers," explained Wright, who lives in Carmel Valley. "With the help of the ghost of an Esselen shaman, Tristan looks for ways to stop the killings,

save a young girl's life and forever close the Devil's Door. The book contains an abundance of colorful, historic details about the region and attempts to stay true to the area's way of life."

River House Books is located in the Crossroads shopping center. For more information, call (831) 626-2665.

■ 'Living Life in Full Bloom'

Author, photographer, master gardener

See **BOOKS** page 20A

Plein aire artists unite at Point Lobos, studio artists get cozy at home

By CHRIS COUNTS

IT WOULD not be a stretch to call plein aire painting — which is essentially the art of painting outdoors — Carmel's official pastime. Paying tribute to the countless artists who set up their easels along the local shoreline even when it's windy and foggy, the Carmel Art Association unveils an exhibit dedicated to the genre, "The CAA goes Plein Aire," Saturday, May 10.

One of the Monterey Peninsula's most talented and prolific plein aire painters, **Mark Farina** came up with the idea for the group show. To get things rolling, he invited CAA artists to join him on a series of excursions to Point Lobos State Reserve. "I wanted to get members involved instead of just asking them to be in a show," Farina explained.

Also participating in the exhibit are **Alicia Meheen, Jeff Daniel Smith, Andy Williams, Roianne Hart, Mary FitzGerald Beach, Patty Biederman, Cornelia Emery, Christine Crozier, Peggy Jelmini, Howard Perkins, Tim Sloan** and **Anne Downs**.

While plein aire painting is particularly popular in these parts, it's not for everybody. In response to the show, a number of CAA

members who prefer to paint inside the friendly confines of their studios decided to stage their own exhibit. Jokingly titled, "En Studio Aire," the show also opens Saturday. The studio artists include **Richard Tette, Miguel Dominguez, Jan Wagstaff, Andrea Johnson, Wilda Northrop, Will Bullas** and **Pamela Carroll**. "Studio painters wouldn't think of taking a brush outside," explained Tette, who prefers the proximity of his refrigerator and other comforts of home to the unpredictable elements of nature.

The gallery hosts a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. The exhibits continue through June 3. The CAA is located on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth. Call (831) 624-6176.

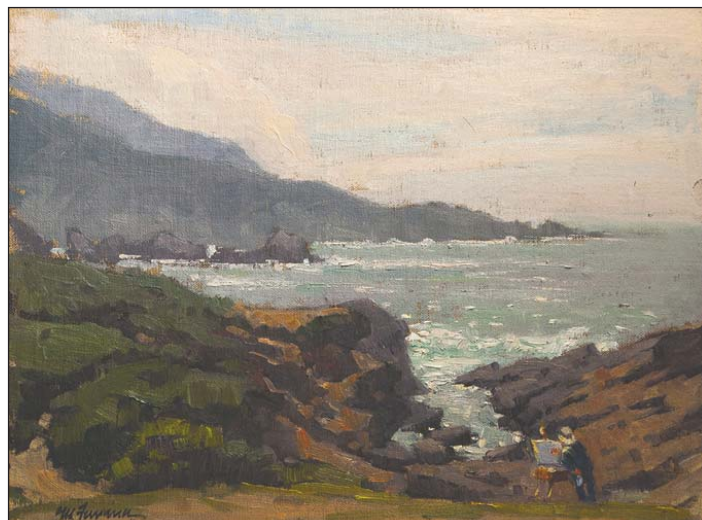
■ More plein aire

The 21st annual Carmel Art Festival kicks off Thursday, May 15, when plein aire painters begin setting up their easels at scenic vistas along the coast.

One of the highlights of the yearly celebration is a juried competition between 60 plein air painters, who compete for the

See **ART** page 18A

"Painter's Paradise" (right), by Mark Farina, is featured in a group exhibit of plein aire paintings opening May 10 at the Carmel Art Association. The scene captures another artist creating a plein air painting at Point Lobos State Reserve.



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Hot bagels, cool beers, and trendy Santa Lucia wines

By MARY SCHLEY

IN A week's time, Ramsey Elmachtoub will have brought more daytime business to Mundaka cafe on San Carlos Street than it experienced in the previous six weeks — all because he makes a mean bagel. Elmachtoub, who has years of experience in culinary fields, runs his own catering company and also works as a server and sometimes bartender at Mundaka, launched his Monterey Bagel Company last Thursday and is already enjoying success.

"I always wanted to have my own thing that I'm proud of — a business — and I had so many ideas," he said. "And this just seemed to work really well for the area. And who doesn't like bagels?"

He worked on his recipes for plain, seeded, sweet (flavors change regularly) and gluten-free bagels, as well as made-from-scratch cream cheeses, for about a year.

"It's unique, because the only other bagel shop around here doesn't make its own cream cheese or anything," he pointed out. He makes the dough, and boils and bakes the bagels in small batches.

"I kettle boil, and instead of malt syrup, I use honey, because it's gluten free and has a little bit of a different flavor," he said.

He makes the cream cheese from whole milk and half and half, to which he adds culture and rennet, and then strains. His spreads are plain, sweet (blueberry and candied walnut at the moment), zatar (a Middle Eastern herb blend) and lox, which includes salmon he cures himself, dill and green onion. He's been offering a breakfast sandwich with a fried

egg, chorizo and cheese, as well as a couple of other sandwiches, and is thinking of adding soup.

Elmachtoub said his overall goal is to offer "a nice place where you can sit down and not feel rushed." The cafe is open 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. except Mondays, though if he sells out of bagels in the early afternoon, he'll only be serving Ritual coffee drinks until closing. The Mundaka Cafe is located next to Mundaka restaurant on the east side of San Carlos Street north of Seventh Avenue.

■ Barnyard Food & Wine

The Barnyard shopping center will host a celebration of food and wine Saturday, May 17, from noon to 4 p.m. as a fundraiser for the Carmel Valley Rotary Foundation and its affiliated organizations.

Some 30 wineries and one store are set to pour, including BevMo, Blair Estates,

Ramsey Elmachtoub — known to many for his warmth and energy as a server at Mundaka — launched his Monterey Bagel Co. in the Mundaka Cafe last week. He makes them fresh each morning and creates his own cream cheese spreads from scratch, too.

PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY



Chateau Marie Antoinette, Deerfield Ranch, De Tierra Vineyards, EOS, Mercy Vineyards, Mira Flora Santa Lucia Highlands Vineyards, Morgan, Percheron-McFarland, Pessagno, Pierce Ranch, Shale Canyon, Scheid and Tudor Wines.

Among the lineup of restaurants are Allegro Gourmet

Continues next page

FOOD & WINE

From previous page

Pizzeria, Flanagan’s Irish-American Pub, Lafayette Bakery, Lugano’s Swiss Bistro, Pieces of Heaven, Robata Grill and Sake Bar, Soban Korean and Tran’s Noodle House.

Carmel Valley Rotary will be pitching in, too, with barbecued tri-tip sliders and chicken sausages.

Other entertainment includes face painting, a clown, pony rides, live music from Victory Lane and Delaney Ann. Maddox Haberdasher will emcee.

The cost is \$25 for food and wine, \$15 for food only, and kids under 6 are free. Pay at the door or at www.TheBarnyard.com. For more information, call (831) 624-8886.

Carmel ranks high

Readers of Condé Nast Traveler picked Carmel as the seventh best city for food in the nation.

“Travelers love to eat. That’s why, every year in our Readers’ Choice Survey, we ask our readers to rate the U.S. cities that have the best restaurants,” according to the magazine. “This year, we were surprised by some of the winners in our Top 20. We think you will be too.”

With a Readers’ Choice Rating of 85.0, Carmel came in seventh. Staffer Stacy Adimando wrote:

“This coast city’s quaint downtown area is a perfectly walkable size, which means you can cover a lot of ground (and some notable restaurant newcomers) in just one weekend. Mundaka, a Spanish tapas bar, has a rotating paella of the day and a new, next-door café pouring Ritual coffee. The attentive staff at Akaoni serves top-quality, traditional sushi, and La Bicyclette spins out inventive thin crust pizzas with combos like butternut squash and speck. Some say the three are among the best spots to dine in all of Monterey County.”

Last chance for SLH Gala

The Santa Lucia Highlands Gala is set for Saturday, May 17, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Mer Soleil Winery, 1290 River Road in Salinas. More than 30 SLH wineries will participate: August West, Belle Glos, Bernardus, Black Kite, Boekenooogen, Cattleya, Hahn/Lucienne, Hallcrest, Hawks View, J. Lohr Highlands Bench, Joyce, Kori, La Rochelle, Loring, Mansfield-Dunne, Manzoni, McFarland, McIntyre, Mer Soleil, Miura, Mooney, Morgan, Paraiso, Pelerin, Pessagno, Pisoni/Lucia, Puma Road, Roar, Scheid, Siduri/Novy, Sarah’s Vineyard, Testarossa, Tondre, Tudor and Wrath.

A silent auction will benefit Rancho Cielo youth campus and the Drummond Culinary Academy. Chef Jon Kasky of Paradise Catering in Carmel Valley and Dyon Foster with Hahn Estates will provide great food, and musician Mario Flores Sontet will perform live. Tickets are \$85, and more information can be found at www.santaluciahighlands.com

The occasional chef

During the nearly three decades they’ve owned Fifi’s Bistro Café in Pacific Grove, Calvin and Michele Wilkes have met all sorts of interesting folks who have become their regulars. Those experiences have inspired the restaurant’s Occasional Chef Series, and the first to venture into the kitchen will be Pebble Beach resident and former Kodak and Red Cross executive Sharon Crino.

“We are lucky, in our business, to meet very interesting people. We sincerely feel we have the best customers. Having had the restaurant for 28 years, we have built lovely friendships that have had a chance to mature,” they said. “But when a customer mentions she has traveled to 95 different countries — and has taken cooking classes in over 20 — you pay attention.”

On Sunday, May 18, starting at 6 p.m., Crino will present grilled avocado-pineapple salad over watercress paired with Louis Latour Montagny 1er Cru 2011, followed by her “legendary Beef Wellington” paired with Fossacolle Brunello di Montalcino 2009.

Chef Fernando Rodriguez will contribute oven-baked leek-wrapped prawns with lemon risotto, Dijon aioli and caviar paired with Schramsberg Brut Rosé 2010 as an appetizer. Dessert paired with a Sauterne will conclude the dinner.

The cost is \$75 per person, not including tax and gratuity, and reservations can be made by calling (831) 372-5325. Fifi’s Bistro Cafe is located at 1188 Forest Ave. in Pacific Grove.

CHS Foundation brunch

The Carmel High School Foundation will benefit from a special brunch at a private residence on Spindrift Road Sunday, June 1, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., for \$60 per person.

Ocean-view tables are available, and lunch will be held on the garden lawn, with catering by Michael’s.

For tickets or information, call (831) 625-6363, or mail a check to PO Box 223288, Carmel, CA 93922.

To learn more about the foundation, go to www.CarmelHighSchoolFoundation.org.

HGK parklet campaign

The City of Pacific Grove gave Happy Girl Kitchen permission to build a parklet — a tiny patio in a couple of parking spaces in front of its cafe on Central Avenue — and owners Todd and Jordan Champagne have the architect, designer and construction crew ready to go. All they need is the cash to make it happen, so they’ve launched a Kickstarter campaign.

“The deadline for the campaign is May 27, because we want to get the parklet built before summer!” Todd Champagne said, adding that the little seating area in front of the café will “slow down traffic and give pedestrians a place to convene.”

“As you may know, we only have three weeks to raise the full \$9,000, or else we get nothing, so the stakes are high,” he said. “We really want to build this public park along Central Avenue, the gateway to P.G.”

All money collected will go toward the cost of building the park. Visit www.kickstarter.com/projects/happygirlkitchen/-happy-girl-kitchen-co-parklet to donate.

Happy Girl Kitchen will also launch its summer dinner

See **FOOD** next page



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Tomato Basil Soup

Salads
Mixed Green Salad - Caesar Salad
Fruit & Cheese - Crudités

Meat
Roasted Prime Rib
Roasted Ham

Fish
Grilled Tilapia
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ART

From page 15A

“Mayor’s Choice” award and other prizes. The painters have two days to complete their creations, which they need to turn in by sundown Friday.

The paintings will be displayed along Mission Street adjacent to Devendorf Park. A silent auction continues through Saturday at 6 p.m., and a live auction immediately follows.

“It really is a unique experience to come and see these wonderful paintings, and meet the artists who just painted them hours ago,” said **Tammi Tharp**, one of the festival’s organizers.

In addition to the plein aire contest, the festival features a celebration of art and music Saturday and Sunday, May 17-18, in the park. Proceeds from the festival benefit the Youth Arts Collective, which mentors young artists.

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Volunteers are still needed to help set up the festival Thursday and assist with the cleanup effort Sunday. They are also needed work in the festival’s information booth throughout the weekend. Call (831) 626-4000 or visit www.carmel-artfestivalcalifornia.com.

■ Even more plein aire

Also showcasing the talents of local artists who like to work outside is the Monterey Conference Center’s Alvarado Gallery, which presents an annual group show by members of the Monterey Bay Plein Aire Painters Association.

Featured in the show are paintings of Elkhorn Slough, Toro Park, Garrapata State Beach, Cannery Row and Fisherman’s Wharf.

The gallery, which hosts a reception Saturday, May 10, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., is located at 1 Portola Plaza. The exhibit will be on display through Aug. 4.

■ Meet Kathryn in the village

In the latest installment of the gallery’s “Meet the Artist” series, painter, printmaker and collage artist **Kathryn Greenwald** will greet visitors and talk about her work

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Saturday, May 10, from 1 to 5 p.m., at the Carmel Valley Art Association.

A retired teacher who spent much of her adult life in Arizona, she recently moved to Carmel Valley, not far from where she grew up in Monterey. As an artist, she finds herself drawn to water, and it’s reflected in her work.

“My images come from hikes along Garzas Creek, the Carmel River and the ocean’s edge,” explained Greenwald, who volunteers as a docent at the Monterey Museum of Art. “I work with the effects of light and shadow, both defining and abstracting rocks, water, foliage and figure.”

Home to nearly 40 artists whose creations include oils, watercolors, acrylics, photography, mixed media, mosaic and glass, the gallery is located at 2 Chambers Lane in Carmel Valley Village. Call (831) 659-2441.

FOOD

From previous page

series with its first popup Wednesday, May 28, for \$55 per person. The feast is BYOB and will be served family style. The guest chef is TBA.

Happy Girl Kitchen Co. is located at 173 Central Ave. in Pacific Grove. Call (831) 373-4475 or visit www.happygirlkitchen.com for more information.

■ Bistro breakfasts

Carmel’s Bistro Giovanni recently started offering breakfast, with combos, several iterations of Eggs Benedict and Beaujolais Specialties available from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the San Carlos Street restaurant in Carmel.

“We have decided to start serving breakfast at our restaurant on San Carlos for several reasons. First, we have hired a new executive chef who oversees all three restaurants now,” said Jennifer Mendoza. Francisco Almaraz owned an operated two restaurants of his own in Marina and Monterey, and is “all about ‘flavor.’”

“Needless, to say we are thrilled to have him on our team,” she said. “He is as kind as he is talented.”

In addition to Breakfast Combos, the restaurant serves Beaujolais Specialties like huevos rancheros, Belgian waffles, cinnamon-raisin French toast, bagels and lox, and Francisco’s vegetarian and all-meat frittatas. Soft scrambles, omelets and Eggs Benedict are on the menu, too.

Bistro Giovanni is located on San Carlos Street south of Fifth Avenue and can be reached by calling (831) 626-6003.

■ Craft Beer Week

Peter B’s Brewpub is offering daily specials in honor of American Craft Beer Week, May 12-18, with the release of Alvarado Street Raspberry Wheat Ale Monday, May 12, and \$2 pints all night. Tuesday is the Mug Club Appreciation Mixer, when members receive one free pint of Alvarado Street Raspberry Wheat Ale.

On Wednesday, KRML’s Pub Talk will be broadcast live from the brewery at 5 p.m., and Firkin Wednesday will feature half-off refills of a collaboration brew with the new Alvarado Street Brewery & Grill, which celebrated its grand opening this week with a fundraiser for the Carol Hatton Breast Care Center. Thursday through Sunday will include celebrity cask tapplings, with one for Cooking for Solutions at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Friday and the Giants Brewfest Road-trip Saturday. For more information about Peter B’s Brewpub and the Portola Hotel & Spa, located at the foot of Alvarado Street in Monterey, visit www.portolahotel.com.

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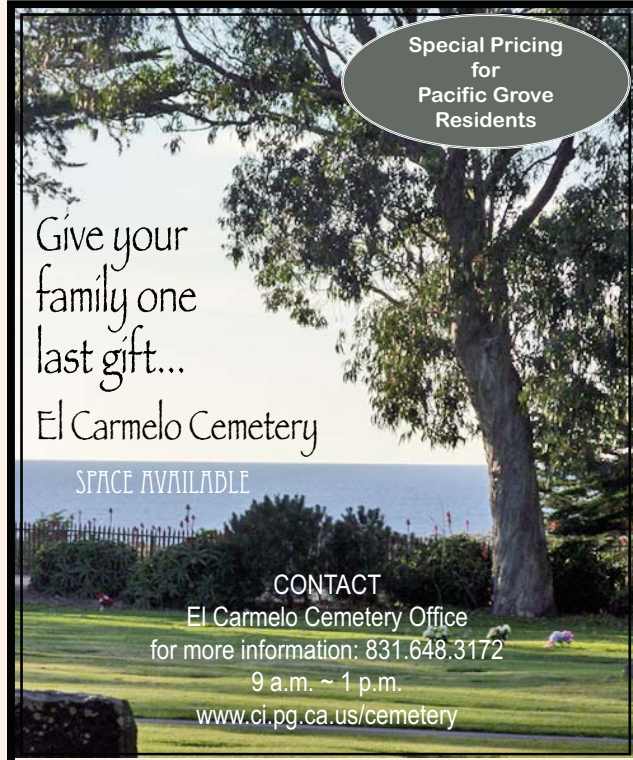
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MUSIC

From page 15A

Monterey County Fairgrounds will be the site of a fundraising Sock Hop. Headlining the event is **Jeremy Pearce**, who has made a name for himself impersonating Elvis Presley.

The festivities, which include live and silent auctions, and a dance contest, begin at 5 p.m. in the fairgrounds’ Monterey Room. Tickets are \$20. The festival showcases hundreds of pre-1975 hot rods, street rods, muscle cars and trucks. All proceeds benefit the Gateway Center of Monterey County, which provides life skills to adults with intellectual disabilities. Call (831) 809-6252.

Youth orchestras play Sunset

Two orchestras of student-musicians perform Sunday, May 11, at Sunset Center when Youth Music Monterey County offers a special Mother’s Day concert.

Conducted by **Farkhad Khudiyev**, the Junior Youth and Honors orchestras present a program that includes music by composers Antonín Dvorák, Alexander Borodin, Edward

B. Jurey and Johann Sebastian Bach.

The 2014 winner of the Junior Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition, violinist **Nicholas Brady** will be featured as a soloist.

The concert begins at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 375-1992.

Choral group stages gala

To help raise money for a program that benefits local high school students, **The Camerata Singers** present their annual Spring Gala Sunday, May 11, at Hidden Valley Music Seminars in the valley.

Sharing a love of music, the Camerata Singers come from all walks of life. Their membership includes teachers, doctors, lawyers and even a blacksmith. Together, they present a varied mix of songs Sunday. While much of afternoon they will perform a capella, they also be accompanied by a piano and a cello.

“It’s an ‘Americana’ program with arrangements of folk music like ‘She’ll Be Coming ‘Round The Mountain’ and ‘I Hear The Harps Eternal,’” said John Koza, the

artistic director and conductor of the choral group. “We’ll also sing a couple spirituals like ‘Soon I Will Be Done With The Troubles Of This World,’ and we do a beautiful version of ‘The Water Is Wide.’”

In addition to music, the gala will feature food, wine and live and silent auctions. Jeffrey’s will cater the event, and proceeds will aid the Camerata Futures program, which offers high school students scholarships and a chance to train and perform with the choral group. “We invite everyone to come and celebrate Mothers’ Day with us,” Koza added.

The event starts at 3 p.m. Hidden Valley is located at 88 Carmel Valley Road. Tickets are \$50. Call (831) 642-2701.

Live Music May 9-15

Terry’s Lounge at Cypress Inn — pianist **Gennady Loktionov** and singer **Debbie Davis** (cabaret, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.); singer **Andrea Carter** (“folky jazz and jazzy folk,” Sunday at 11 a.m.); guitarist **Richard Devineck** (classical, Sunday at 5 p.m.); pianist **Dick Whittington**, bassist **Robb Fisher** (songs from the Great American Songbook, Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh, (831) 624-3871.

Mission Ranch — singer and pianist **Maddaline Edstrom** (pop and jazz, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m.); and pianist **Gennady Loktionov** (jazz, Monday through Thursday at 7 p.m.). 26270 Dolores St., (831) 625-9040.

Jack London’s Bar and Grill — singer-songwriter **Casey Frazier** (“eclectic Americana with roots in country and ‘70s rock,” Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.). Dolores between Fifth and Sixth, (831) 624-2336.

Pacific Grove Art Center — **Houston Jones** (“high octane Americana,” 7 p.m.). 568 Lighthouse Ave., (831) 375-2208.

Julia’s restaurant in Pacific Grove — guitarist **Rick Chelew** and accordionist **Elise**

Leavy (Thursday at 5:30 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave., (831) 656-9533.

The Inn at Spanish Bay —**The Dottie Dodgion Trio** (jazz, Thursday at 7 p.m.); **The Don Roseff Trio** (jazz, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.); and singer-songwriter **Bryan Diamond** (Friday and Saturday at 9 p.m.). Also, a bagpiper plays every evening at 5:45 p.m. 2700 17-Mile Dr. in Pebble Beach, (831) 647-7500.

Chateau Julien — singer-songwriter **Odi** (Saturday at 2 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road, (831) 624-2600.

Bernardus Lodge — pianist **Martin Headman** (jazz, Saturday at 7 p.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road, (831) 658-3400.

Courtside Bistro at Chamisal Tennis and Fitness Club in Corral de Tierra — singer-songwriter **Bryan Diamond** (Sunday at 6 p.m.). 185 Robley Road, (831) 484-6000.

Big Sur River Inn — **Tom Faia and the Juice** (rock, Sunday at 2 p.m.). Hwy. 1, 24 miles south of Carmel, call (831) 667-2700.

BOOKS

From page 18A

and motivational speaker, **Elizabeth Murray** signs copies of her new book, “Living Life in Full Bloom,” Friday, May 9, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., in the Secret Garden.

A Monterey resident, Murray is best known for dedicating much of her life to restoring and photographing impressionist painter Claude Monet’s famous garden in Giverny, France. In “Living Life in Full Bloom,” she offers readers “small but powerful action steps to define the purposes of busy lives and help them remember who they really are.”

An extension of Pilgrim’s Way, the Secret Garden is a garden shop located behind the book store. An adjacent alley leads to it. Pilgrim’s Way is located on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth. Call (831) 624-4955.

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JUDGES

From page 5A

courtroom, and balance that against the public's right to know."

Liu said the right of people to know what's going on in the courthouse is the same as the right of the public to know who they're voting for. "The right of the media to be in the courtroom is a sacred right, and it needs to be respected," he said. "But that also needs to be balanced against the rights of those who are in the courtroom."

Williams said that while transparency is important, allowing the media in the courtroom should be on a case-by-case basis.

"It's a balancing act," Williams said. "You do have witnesses who fear for their lives. You have children who need to be protected."

Whilden, whose parents were killed in a car accident when she was a young girl, said

that except for "a limited set of circumstances ... the media does have the right to be in the courtroom, and the courts are open to public scrutiny."

However, "Sometimes children do need to come in the courtroom and testify, and they do need to be protected," she said.

The candidates also talked about their legal experience.

Liu, the son of Chinese immigrants, focused on his 20-year work in criminal law, as a prosecutor in New York City and Monterey County, and in private practice as a defense attorney. Working as a defense attorney to help those he once tried to jail, Liu said he's seen the other side of the justice system, which he said would help him as judge.

Somers noted that he's prosecuted nearly every type of criminal case, including major fraud cases, political corruption cases and "numerous gang cases, from the fairly mundane gang-crimes cases all the way up to double murders."

In the same campaign mailer Williams made the judicial experience claim, she also she worked as a "prosecutor," a title Whilden's supporters said was misleading, since Williams hadn't yet passed the bar exam and only worked in the Los Angeles district attorney's office for less than a year.

While Williams stopped short Wednesday of saying she'd been a prosecutor, she said the full-time certified law clerk position she held with the L.A. DA's Office right out of law school allowed her to fulfill a role similar to deputy district attorneys — managing a calendar and handling a caseload. "You act in court as a full fledged DA," she said of the position.

Williams, whose brother was a homicide victim several years ago, also noted her experience in the Monterey County Public Defender's Office, a job with a private attorney, and work she's done in the areas of family law, corporate and securities and workers' compensation.

Whilden said that when she was appointed as a Superior Court commissioner in 2011 with sweeping support, she received "extensive judicial training" that is only available to appointed superior court judges and commissioners.

"And that training was in every single case type that appears on the superior court bench," Whilden said.



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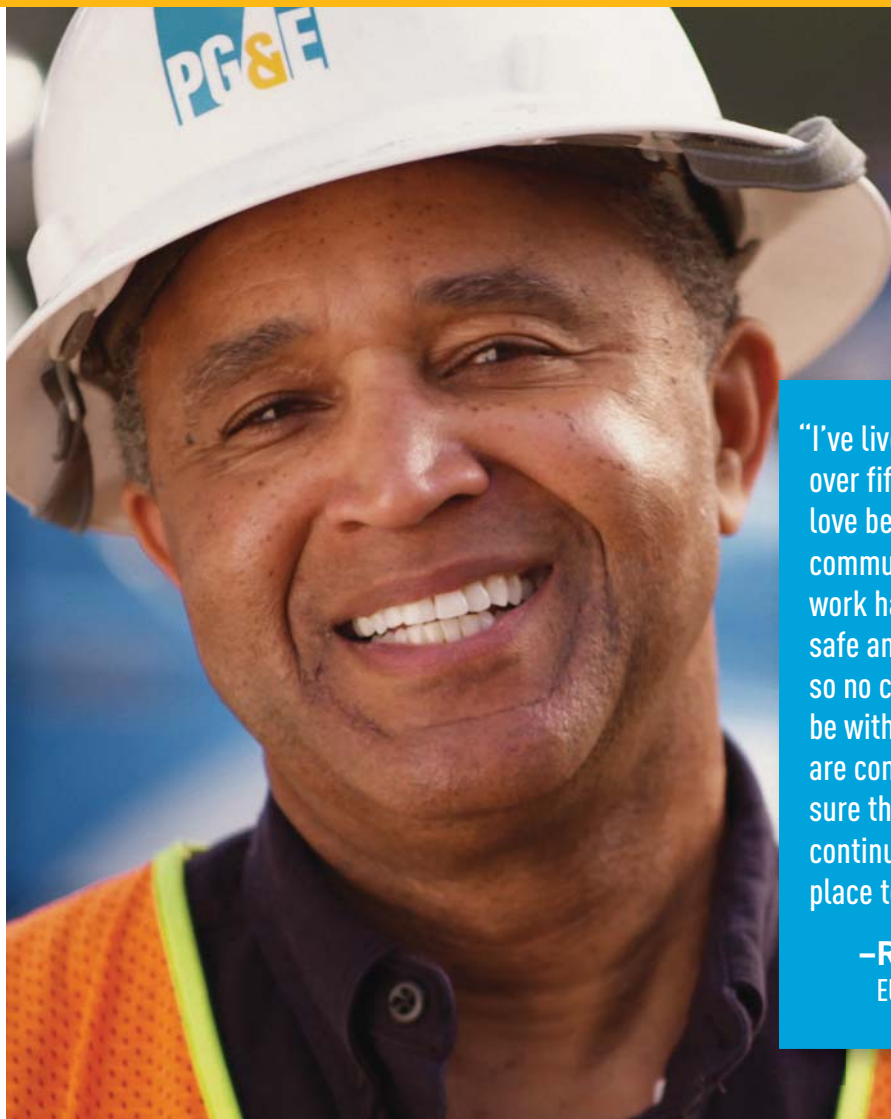
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Electric Crew Foreman

THEATER

From page 1A

“talking points” prepared for the May 5 council workshop, the theater’s foundation, towers and electrical systems need to be replaced. Depending on how extensive that work is, other requirements could be triggered, such as ADA access, additional evacuation routes and a full-blown EIR.

City administrator Jason Stilwell provided copies of various proposals, studies and assessments of the Forest Theater compiled over the past 15 years, including architect Richard McCann’s comprehensive overhaul and architect Brian Congleton’s Forest Theater Master Plan. At Monday’s meeting, McCann went over all of the potential problems at the theater, from the steep parking lot and pathways, to the inadequate electrical and sound systems, seating, structures, plumbing and too few bathrooms. He suggested a comprehensive approach that would preserve the theater while addressing all its deficiencies.

Congleton, on the other hand, took the more minimalist perspective that resonated with most people in the audience. “If you listen to Mr. McCann’s assessment, you’re not going to open next season, either,” he observed.

Congleton said he “was as surprised as everyone else” that the theater was shut, and that “maybe it was shut to get everyone’s attention.”

“How do we solve the problems? How do we make it work? How do we move forward?” he asked. “With the exception of the restrooms and some of the ADA issues, these fixes could be done in a few weeks.”

‘Declare an emergency’

Stephen Moorer, executive director of Pacific Repertory Theatre — which uses the outdoor theater for some of its productions and holds its youth-driven School of Dramatic Arts in the indoor theater — encouraged the city to declare the theater project an emergency and get started on fixing it. His company stands to lose about \$40,000 in ticket sales for its upcoming production of “Shrek,” because it will have to

stage it at the Golden Bough theater, which is smaller.

“How do we deal with emergencies that require immediate funds? I think that is exactly why we have reserve funds,” he said. The council has already budgeted \$1.1 million for improvements at the theater.

He also urged the council to keep it simple, rather than “trying to expand the immediate work into a major property-wide renovation,” which would create uncertainty and could have a negative economic impact if the theater were closed for years of construction.

Moorer recommended a phased approach to deal with the immediate electrical and access issues first, and he suggested separating the outdoor and indoor theaters.

“I was present at every major inspection, and all the engineers agreed that there were no serious structural issues downstairs,” but the indoor theater was closed as a precaution because of electrical issues. “I supported that decision — children and electricity: not a good combination.”

But Moorer said PG&E advised him separate service could be provided to the indoor theater for \$800 to \$1,200, offering a quick remedy that would allow the kids’ theater program to continue.

As for the outdoor theater, he said, even though he attended all the inspections, “I still can’t tell you precisely what is wrong with the electricity.”

“When will we know what the actual problem is?” he asked. Moorer also questioned the alleged structural problems, noting the theater has no load-bearing walls, no heavy roof or suspended equipment, and the concrete foundation is sound, though the stage “has some ‘squishy’ spots and needs a new plywood top.” He said the lighting towers need new guy wires and pads, but they aren’t structural, since they don’t hold anything other than a dozen lights.

“My point is that we shouldn’t allow the problems to be overblown,” he said.

Representatives from the Forest Theater Guild and the Forest Theater Foundation, as well as those who work with kids in the School of Dramatic Arts, supported the idea of getting the youth program back at the indoor theater as soon as possible and tackling the other necessary issues at the outdoor theater in phases, so some of the construction could be

done in the off-season.

Forest Theater Guild President Steve Retsky observed that he was “in the odd position of agreeing with Stephen Moorer for a change,” since the groups tend to clash when it comes to use of the Forest Theater and other matters.

In response to the closure, the guild will hold its production of “Swiss Family Robinson” at Pacific Grove High School and is looking for venues for its Films in the Forest series. It has canceled its second production for the upcoming season.

“We realized the situation was dire — we don’t want members of our audience to be in danger,” he said.

Longtime residents emphasized the need to maintain the theater’s charm and history, and Katherine Gualtieri, who sits on the city’s historic resources board, suggested the city look into using the historic building codes available to designated buildings.

“The rusticity of it is the key to its charm,” former Mayor Sue McCloud said, including the bench seats on which spectators lay out their picnics and blankets, and former councilwoman Barbara Livingston agreed.

“We want it safe, we want it sound, and we want it very, very Carmel,” she said. “Get it open as quickly as possible.”

Mayor Jason Burnett observed the clear direction from theater users and others that they “want to do what has to be done to get it reopened,” and new councilman Steve Dallas said he’d like to know exactly what closed the theater and what has to be done.

“If we all work together as a team in a quick matter, I think we can get this solved and save this season,” he said. “I know it’s a big goal.”

Burnett has also said the city will make efforts to make sure the Forest Theater maintains its “funky” feel.

McCloud suggested private citizens might even help defray the costs.

“If you package it the right way, someone might come with a checkbook,” she said.

Big Sur field station opens its doors

OFFERING THE public a rare glimpse of a 3,800-acre biological field station, the Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve in Big Sur hosts its annual open house Saturday, May 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Used mostly by researchers and college students, the reserve is closed to the public 364 days a year.

With a topography that ranges in elevation from sea level to about 3,500 feet, the reserve is home to a wide diversity of flora and fauna, including groves of towering redwoods. More than 40 percent of all native plants in California can be found within its boundaries.

Guests, who are invited to join in on guided hikes, are encouraged to bring hiking shoes, snacks and water.

Big Creek is located on Highway 1 about 45 miles south of Carmel. Parking is limited to a pullout just south of the reserve’s entrance. Call (831) 667-2543.



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From page 1A

While the consultant’s report focused on the causes of the explosion — including the migration of the gas into the home, where it was ignited by an oven pilot light — council members emphasized the fact that no one called 911 when the gas leak was first discovered at 10:38 a.m., instead not dialing the emergency number until after the 11:15 a.m. explosion, and that it wasn’t until 11:45 a.m. that the gas was stopped by PG&E workers.

The safety problems “cannot be solved with a map protocol — only by a quick response time,” councilwoman Victoria Beach observed. “That’s what I would like to see improved.”

Theis relayed her experience with PG&E on April 4, when she discovered a gas leak at her family business, the Hofsas House Hotel on San Carlos Street.

“It took five hours for PG&E to arrive. Considering what went on a month before, I would have thought your emergency response people would have been a little more reactive to that,” she said at the May 6 meeting. “And you had people in town, because I saw your trucks running around. It would have been nice to have someone assess the situation.”

Instead, a PG&E crew arrived Friday afternoon and closed the north wing of her hotel for the weekend — a tough blow to a business that relies heavily on weekend visitors.

“Absolutely, Victoria is on the right track in terms of what is the response to anybody who calls, and what are the procedures to prevent something like this from happening again?” Theis said. “After an incident like this, there’s still not a readiness to help.”

Resident Lucas Austin remarked about the worker’s call to the field supervisor.

“Is that common practice to call your boss before you call 911?” he asked.

Left to fend

Several residents wondered why they hadn’t been evacuated after the leak was detected. They also commented on the poor conditions of streets the utility company has trenched.

Councilman Ken Talmage remarked, “PG&E has to understand people in Carmel are concerned, if not scared, when they see a PG&E truck on their block.”

“There is work still to be done,” but it shouldn’t be done based on century-old maps of sewer and gas lines, he said, “so residents will have confidence that PG&E knows what it’s doing when it goes to dig up the streets.”

Councilman Steve Dallas asked for a report of all gas-related calls and response times in the city, and he also wanted to know how many crews carry the large “squeezers” that allow them to crimp live gas lines.

“We’ve talked about getting a set and putting them out at our police department, so they could be within five minutes of any emergency in town,” Talmage said.

“I’ve been told by several residents that they walked by the area and smelled gas, so that tells me there was enough gas in the air that a layperson could detect it,” Mayor Jason Burnett commented. “Which further begs the question why 911 was not called.”

PG&E Vice President Kevin Knapp didn’t answer ques-

tions about the slow response time to the gas leak, or explain why 911 wasn’t called more quickly.

Instead, he said his company wants “to be as transparent as possible around all aspects of what we’re doing.”

He also mentioned the pavement work that needs to be done throughout the city where crew were trenching to replace and install new gas lines before all the work was halted — and which has generated a lot of complaints from residents. He said the city will do the work, but PG&E will pay for it, and Burnett and the rest of the council agreed that’s the best way to go.

“Rather than asking PG&E to do the work, the proposal is the city would do the work in the normal ways we do, with a normal competitive bid following our specs and guidelines, and PG&E would reimburse us,” Burnett explained.

Resumption of work delayed

Given the feedback the council members provided to representatives of the utility, they decided not to act on the other proposed business at the meeting — namely, to receive PG&E’s report on “proposed safety mitigation” and to consider approving PG&E’s resumption of work on replacing mains in the city.

After the meeting, PG&E spokeswoman Monica Tell provided a statement:

“Safety is our primary concern. We worked as quickly as possible to make the situation safe following the incident, and we fully embrace Exponent’s recommendations. The most fundamental learning that came out of the Carmel incident is that our gas workers must always take steps to validate that what’s in the ground matches our records. We’ve also improved emergency response capabilities through more training. These enhancements will help ensure the safety our gas system and the communities we serve.”

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Carmel Plaza hosts dance celebration, honors mothers

ACCOMPANIED BY singers and musicians, the Dance Kids of Monterey County present a free performance at Carmel Plaza Saturday, May 10, from 1 to 3 p.m.


The program includes both jazz and contemporary ballet dancing. A student, Stella Crall, is featured as a soloist.

To commemorate Mother’s Day, Carmel Plaza is donating potted flowering plants to about 50 local mothers whose families live far away. Attendees of the performance are invited to write messages to the mothers on note cards provided by Carmel Plaza. The mothers will receive their cards the same day. “I just think about all these mothers,” said Martha Torres of Carmel Plaza. “We wanted to do something special for them.”


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MEASURE

From page 1A

since the public buyout of Cal Am, water rates in Felton are up 60 percent and that her family will be paying nearly \$14,000 more in property taxes to repay the bonds used to finance the Cal Am takeover.

“Don’t make the same mistake we did,” Hollenbeck, a Scotts Valley High School music teacher, says in the TV ad, which also runs on YouTube. “Vote No on Measure O.”

A flier also featuring Hollenbeck was mailed to Monterey Peninsula water customers this week. In it, she warns Peninsula ratepayers that the public takeover backers in Felton promised it would cost only about \$2 million to buy out the much smaller Cal Am water system there.

“But almost a decade later, when the lawyers had been paid and the court determined the value of seizing Cal Am’s property by eminent domain,” according to Hollenbeck, “the final cost [to buy out Cal Am] was \$13.4 million — 574 percent more than they claimed it would be.”

She adds that because of the Cal Am takeover, water rates in Felton are slated to skyrocket by 96 percent by 2016.

“I have not seen a public takeover benefit us as promised,” she said. “In fact, we are now facing the very issues that they said Cal Am would impose on us: high water rates and water supply problems.”

About 75 percent of residents voted for the Felton takeover. Cal Am first refused to sell the system, which it purchased in 2002, but came to an agreement with the San Lorenzo Valley Water District, which bought the company’s operating assets. At the time, the Felton system had only about 1,300 water customers. Cal Am’s Monterey customers number more than 40,000.

Public Water Now and Measure O founder Ron Cohen dismissed the No on O TV ad featuring Hollenbeck as “deceptive.”

“It implies property tax has gone up \$14,000 when in fact that is the loan amount plus interest paid back over 30 years,” he told The Pine Cone. “They also fail to mention that rate increases are about half of what we’ve experienced here on the Peninsula during the same time period.”

Cohen, who provided names of several Felton residents he said were happy with their water arrangement, also said that the advertisement doesn’t say that Felton residents’ water bills are \$450 lower per year than if Cal Am had remained the city’s water provider. That figure has been disputed by opponents of Measure O.

“Quite an omission, wouldn’t you say?” Cohen said.

Endorsements, opposition

Meanwhile, endorsements for and against Measure O continue to be tallied.

On Tuesday, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 — with 4th District

Supervisor Jane Parker dissenting — to oppose the Cal Am takeover initiative.

Fifth District Supervisor Dave Potter, who made the motion to oppose the ballot measure, said that its passage threatened to derail progress that’s been made toward the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project, a sentiment repeatedly made by the mayors of all six Peninsula cities.

The water project includes a desalination plant in North Marina, water storage facilities and a recycled water project now called “Pure Water Monterey,” which will be created by partnership of Cal Am, the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District.

Parker, who has endorsed Measure O, cited what she said was Cal Am’s poor track record and higher water rates as the reason for her vote.

Besides the six Peninsula mayors, groups and individuals who say, “No,” on Measure O include the Carmel River Steelhead Association, Monterey County Association of Realtors, Monterey County Hospitality Association, Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce, Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and the Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association.

Other elected officials backing the No on O campaign include former Carmel Mayor Sue McCloud, Carmel City Councilman Ken

Talmage, former Monterey Mayor Dan Albert, Del Rey Oaks City Councilwoman Kristin Clark and Salinas city Councilwoman Kimbley Craig.

Cohen provided to The Pine Cone a list of organizations and individuals he said supports Measure O. Among them are the Carmel Residents Association, League of Women Voters Monterey County, Carmel Valley Association, Green Party Monterey County, Sustainable Monterey County, and Sustainable Pacific Grove.

Elected officials endorsing Measure O include former county supervisor Karin Strausser Kaufman, Monterey City Councilwoman Nancy Selfridge, Monterey City Councilman Alan Haffa, Seaside City Councilmen Alvin Edwards and David Pacheco, and Pacific Grove Councilmen Ken Cuneo and Dan Miller.

Public Water Now and Measure O also have the financial backing of longtime Peninsula water activist George Riley and developer Nader Agha, each donating \$10,000 to the Yes on Measure O campaign.

While Cohen had initially wanted The Pine Cone to downplay the financial support from Agha — who has long criticized Cal Am in hopes a Peninsula city would sign up for his own desal project in Moss Landing — Public Water Now in April publicized Agha’s support in a press release, lauding his contribution.



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Calendar

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May-September - Beginning its 11th year, the Carmel Farmers Market at the Barnyard is open Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the peak of the harvest season, from early May through the end of September. www.montereybayfarmers.org

May 10 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event, Saturday, May 10, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. One day only! Monterey Peninsula College - Parking lot A, 980 Fremont Street, Monterey. RSVP: www.mrwmd.org/rsvp. For more information about this event, please visit www.mrwmd.org or call (831) 384-5313. Items accepted listed in MRWMD's ad in this weeks Carmel Pine Cone.

May 10 - Carmel Plaza's Garden Courtyard Saturday, May 10 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Celebrate

Mother's Day with performances by Dance Kids of Monterey County. Dancers, vocalists and musicians will entertain guests. The event is free. Bring your family, friends and visitors and delight in the performances by young people. Happy Mother's Day!

May 10 & 11 - Long Long Ago songs of the American Civil War Era. Patriotic, popular and spirituals: songs that have woven themselves into our heritage. Monterey Peninsula Voices, spring concert, May 10, 8:00 p.m., May11, 2:00 p.m. Golden State Theatre, Tickets \$25. Seniors/military \$15, students \$10. Tickets online www.mpvoices.org or call (888) 520-1870. Mother's free on Sunday.

May 16 - Democratic Women present Christine Pelosi, speaking on Fighting For A Democratic Future, at their May 16 luncheon; 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Big Sur Room, Hilton Garden Inn. RSVP online at dw-mc.org, or mail \$30 check to DWMC, Box 223003, Carmel, CA 93922.

May 16 - Join Monterey Peninsula College for the 2014 President's Address to the Community, Featuring MPC's Superintendent/President, Dr. Walter Tribley at the Monterey Conference Center on Friday, May 16, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. The 2014 President's Address Honoree is Dr. Richard Kezirian. Advance tickets \$50 online at www.mpcfoundation.org or call (831) 655-5507.

May 22 - Please join the Carmel Residents

Association for a free and open to the public annual meeting, Thursday, May 22 at 5 p.m. The Carmel City Council and new CRA Board will be introduced. A certificate of appreciation will be awarded to Knapp Hardware. Vista Lobos meeting room, Third Ave between Junipero and Torres. Wine will be served.

May 23-25 - 5th Annual California Roots Music and Arts Festival, Friday-Sunday, May 23-25 at the Monterey County Fair & Event Center, 2004 Fairgrounds Rd., Monterey. 48 bands, live art stage painters, food, vendors, beer and wine. Tickets: \$65-

\$160. For more info, go to www.californiarootsfestival.com.

May 29 - July 24 Women in the Word is conducting a Christian bible study on "Spiritual Gifts." Thursdays, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. at Carmel Presbyterian Church (Ocean & Junipero). Women of all ages and denominations, from any town or church, with any level of biblical knowledge, are invited to join us! Study Guides Provided. An \$8 donation for the book is appreciated. Contact Judy Pifer (831) 625-2782 or Honey1st@aol.com.

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OAKS

From page 3A

cials haven’t yet made plans to create a test plot to examine the impact of removing bays, Tim Jensen, the park district’s planning and conservation manager, called it “an area of study sorely lacking.”

Jensen called sudden oak death “a real environmental game-changer.”

“It has wreaked alarming tanbark oak die-off at the district’s Mill Creek Redwood Preserve and large areas in southern Palo Corona Regional Park,” Jensen said. “It is now established in Garland Park.”

Frangioso said she believes Garland Park has the perfect conditions to study how effectively the removal of bays can reduce the spread of sudden oak death. The park’s hill-sides are densely covered with oaks.

“It’s an ideal situation,” Frangioso said. “It has lots of live oaks and very few bays. It’s a great place to do a study.”

Sudden oak death thrives in wet weather, but doesn’t fare as well during droughts. Because the rainfall has been below average for the past three years, Frangioso said it’s possible that much of the pathogen in the park is concentrated in a limited number of

“hot spots,” making it easier to eradicate.

But she said the time to go after it is now, before the next cycle of wet weather arrives, which some forecasters are predicting will be soon.

Worth the risk

The idea of culling bay trees and using herbicides inside the boundaries of parks might seem shocking to some, but the plan has the support of one local advocate for the environment. The former president of the Monterey chapter of the California Native Plant Society, Brian LeNeve is willing to take a chance the experts are right.

“It’s a real tough call, but I think it’s worth the gamble,” LeNeve told The Pine Cone. “There’s nothing else on the horizon. We’ve got to control it some way.”

LeNeve said the CNPS “has not been asked to take a position on the plan,” but the group “supports the judicial use of herbicides when needed.”

While some might argue park officials should let nature do its course, Frangioso disagreed. By supressing fire in places like Big Sur and Carmel Valley, humans have already interfered with nature — and possibly contributed to the spread of sudden oak death.

“We live in a fire dominated landscape,” she added. “In the absence of fire, we need to manage the landscape.”

Lien Sale Auction Advertisement

Notice is hereby given that a public lien sale of the following described personal property will be held at 11:15 a.m. on Tuesday MAY 20th, 2014. The property is stored at Storage Pro - 9640 Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel CA., 93923. The items to be sold are generally described as follows:

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Heather Scott	Washing machine, TV, chairs, children’s toys, clothing
William L Vanprice	Collectables, industrial equipment, rugs, clothing
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Sunil Kashyap	Books, collectables, clothing, Rugs
Jasen L Bruce	Tools, sports equipment, DVD Movies

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Carmel Valley – Stephanie Drum passed away after her protracted battle with cancer on April 30th surrounded by the love of her family. She was born in Jenkintown, PA and has been living at her beloved Carmel Valley Ranch for the past 10 years.

She is survived by John, her husband of 43 years; her son John Jr; her daughter Ashley and three grandchildren, JT, Zoe and Wyatt. Stephanie was a devoted wife, a loving mother, grandmother and friend.

A funeral mass will be held on May 16th at the Carmel Mission at 10:30 am. In lieu of flowers, the family requests gifts be made in Stephanie’s name to the Point Lobos Foundation, on line at pointlobos.org or by mail to PO Box 221789, Carmel, CA 93922.

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Jean Laing Murray

1921 - 2013

When Jean Murray was a girl, a family trip to the English seaside went like this: Squeeze into the car, park on the beach, wind down windows (but don’t get out), nibble hard-boiled eggs, drive home.

When she was old enough to say “no” — a teenager, probably — Jean told her shocked parents that she no longer wished to go with them to the seaside. It wasn’t that she didn’t like the sea — in fact, before she died on Dec. 24, 2013, at the age of 92, she cursed having legs too weak to wade into the surf at Carmel, where she’d spent the last 25 years of her life.



No, “Granny,” as her family called her, didn’t want to tiptoe at the safe edges of life — she wanted to wade in up to her neck. It meant that she left England for America as a young woman and traveled to the Middle East alone, after Angus Murray — the love of her life — died in the mid-1980s. At dinner parties, she was famous for performing handstands in long, flowing dresses. But mostly, it meant that she did and said exactly what she pleased all of her life.

Granny was born in England. She didn’t stay there, but it shaped her — particularly during World War II, when, at any moment, a German bomb might have landed on her house.

“She said that every time she got a boyfriend, he got shot down or killed,” recalled her daughter, Heather Campbell. “Even though it was a frightening time, it was also very thrilling because people were living for the moment.”

With wavy, hazelnut hair and a beautiful figure, she turned lots of heads. One of those belonged to Calvin Campbell, an American Army captain from a tiny Midwestern farming town. When she was first introduced to her future husband, she said: “Who is that irritating little man?”

Irritation turned to infatuation. They married in 1945. When his duties separated them, she wrote him a letter every day. For the next twenty years, she had a mostly wonderful life. During the war, a single egg was a luxury. As an officer’s wife stationed in Japan, Granny remembered a party in which the centerpiece was a scale model of the Emperor’s palace made entirely of sugar cubes. Two children — Heather and Graham — came during those giddy post-war years.

Her marriage lasted a long time, but it didn’t last. She fell for another American in uniform, Angus Norman Murray. They married and lived together in a home she helped design in Fair Oaks, Calif.

“She adored Angus,” her daughter said. She felt that way about him still, when he died of leukemia in 1985. Just seven months later, she lost her only son, Graham, who drowned during a camping trip in central California.

But Granny did not retreat from life. “I’m a survivor,” she often said.

She traveled to Petra, the ancient ruined city in Jordan. She’d always wanted to live near the ocean. So she moved into a home at Del Mesa Carmel. She understood better than most the interplay of light, texture and color. Her home was small but beautiful.

All of her life, she loved the color red. Red bougainvillea blossoms engulfed her back fence. She planted red geraniums. She had a red front door. To her, red wasn’t just a color, it was a statement — the difference between success and failure. When one of her grandsons was writing his first novel, she said, “It must have a red cover, if you want it to sell.”

She made no such judgments about skin color — something she passed on to her daughter.

“Had I been afraid of different skin colors, religions age and origins, I would have missed out on so many wonderful experiences and friendships,” her daughter said.

Granny could be stubborn. She once went into a shoe shop in Carmel, spent two hours trying on countless pairs of shoes, only to tell the salesman none of them would do. She was stubborn about her belief in God too. When an ambulance tore past, sirens wailing, she’d stop on the sidewalk to pray. Whether speaking to a complete stranger or her daughter, she always ended the conversation with, “God bless you.” To her, a belief in God was as natural as breathing in and out, as wonderful as an ocean wave breaking on the shore.

Besides her daughter, survivors include: two grandsons, Stefano Esposito of Chicago, Il., James Myrvang of Tulsa, Okla.; a great-grandson, Lucca Esposito of Chicago; a step-son, Robert Murray, and a step-grandson, Dylan Murray, both California residents; and a daughter-in-law, Elaine Campbell, of Beverly Hills, Fla.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday, May 17 at 2 p.m. at All Saints’ Episcopal Church, at Dolores Street and Ninth Avenue in Carmel.

Editorial

No on O

THE IDEA of a public takeover of Cal Am has been debated so thoroughly and rejected so frequently on the Monterey Peninsula, only a newcomer could take the idea seriously now.

Still, the threat Measure O on the June ballot poses to the health, safety and welfare of the people of the Monterey Peninsula is so real, it's important for everybody to take the time to vote it down.

As far back as 1935, Peninsula voters were asked to approve a government takeover of their water company. That year, after a heated debate over water rates that went on for months, they rejected the takeover idea by a 2-1 margin.

The next time they were asked, in 1965, local voters said an even louder, "No," voting 3 to 1 against a takeover initiative. The studies and arguments leading up to that vote, including extensive hearings before the PUC on the water company's probable value, along with endless back-and-forth about the virtues of private enterprise vs. government control, lasted a full seven years.

In 2005, the idea was raised again, generating yet more debate in public meetings and on the editorial pages of local newspapers. Inevitably, the public rejected the takeover again, this time by 63 percent to 37 percent.

At least the activists who demanded government ownership of the water system in those earlier eras had the decency to wait a few decades before bringing it up again.

But today, a mere nine years after Monterey Peninsula voters soundly rejected the notion of public ownership of Cal Am, they are once again faced with the necessity of saying an emphatic, "No."

It's possible the vote will be closer this time — something on the order of 55 percent to 45 percent — mainly because of the Monterey Herald's endless efforts over the last five years to vilify the water company. The newspaper's previous editor now shows up in campaign literature as a supporter of Measure O, which comes as little surprise, since he did everything he could while he was in charge at the newspaper, including make things up, to try to convince people Cal Am was evil.

But while some people may have been fooled by the newspaper's tactics, or are just in love with the idea of more big government, most Monterey Peninsula voters are too well informed and too intelligent to be distracted from the basic facts:

- This community has a dire water shortage, which we are now closer to solving than any time in the last 30 years.
- The shortage is not Cal Am's fault, but is due to government-imposed environmental restrictions on pumping from our long term source, the Carmel River.
- The high price of water is also not Cal Am's fault. It has been caused by those same environmental restrictions and the cost of complying with them.
- Taking over Cal Am now will do nothing to lower the price of water and will actually be a major impediment to alleviating the shortage.

In short, even putting Measure O on the ballot was an insult to this community's intelligence.

If it passes, the result will be a major setback toward solving our water shortage. Meanwhile, solving that shortage is this community's most urgent necessity, whereas public ownership is something we could surely live without for another 15 or 20 years, if we ever need it at all.

The list of community leaders and groups opposed to Measure O is long and impressive, while the names of groups in favor wouldn't take up the fingers of one hand, and there's a good reason for that: Measure O is a truly terrible idea.

BEST of BATES



“But what do you do for a living???”

1992

Letters to the Editor

The Pine Cone encourages submission of letters which address issues of public importance. Letters cannot exceed 350 words, and must include the author's name, telephone number and street address. Please do not send us letters which have been submitted to other newspapers. We reserve the right to determine which letters are suitable for publication and to edit for length and clarity.

The Pine Cone only accepts letters to the editor by email. Please submit your letters to mail@carmelpinecone.com

CRA endorses O

Dear Editor,

The Carmel Residents Association Board of Directors has endorsed a Yes vote on Measure O, the public water initiative, based on the following findings:

- The state's cease and desist order, pertaining to the Carmel River, will not be impacted in any way by the passage of Measure O.
- Measure O will have no effect on the construction and completion of the planned desal plant.
- Measure O will have no effect on any other aspect of the Monterey Regional Water Project as presently proposed.
- The ratepayers need and deserve a study so they can make an informed decision about how to provide our community with the least expensive and most efficient way to

deliver water.

Additionally, the CRA Board of Directors acknowledges and supports all efforts by all parties involved in pursuing more water.

"It is always the right time to do the right thing."

Barbara Livingston, CRA president

Why trust the water board?

Dear Editor,

If putting the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District in charge of operating a water business is such a good idea, why is the main leader of WaterPlus and Yes on Measure O, Ron Weitzman, suing the same government agency for malfeasance? Why reward a bad bureaucracy with more power? Why let the fox guard the water henhouse?

Several years ago, I attended a number of WaterPlus meetings, and they seemed disgusted with the MPWMD and its expensive failures to provide a new water source after 35 years. These people had such a low opinion of MPWMD that one WaterPlus leader encouraged me to mount a campaign to finally abolish it. Of course, years earlier, voters had already done that with an overwhelming vote of no confidence.

So the question becomes this: Why would anyone want a hated, failed and malfeasant bureaucracy to take control of our water? It makes no sense. Maybe it has something to do with a WaterPlus businessman who believes he can finally sell his oceanfront Moss Landing property if the government takes over Cal Am.

See **LETTERS** page 30A

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An officer's decision and its life-or-death consequences

First of two parts.

THE INCIDENT could have been a slam dunk for police — a clear assault resulting in an easy felony conviction.

A man in his mid-30s attacked a Carmel police officer on May 2, 2013. It took three officers to subdue and cuff the man.

Officer Chris Johnson was among the three officers at the scene. Johnson had become familiar with Jeremy Lenowitz after responding to previous calls about him in the past. He knew the man was possibly suffering from a mental illness.

Lenowitz had encountered other cops from various agencies for at least three years. He had been Tasered by Monterey County Sheriff's deputies. He was sent to a state mental hospital near Portland after another incident in Oregon.

"There were multiple incidents," said Lenowitz' father, Erwin. "He was not on his medications; and he would have paranoid-schizophrenic episodes that turned into major crises. He was never really threatening, per se, but you never knew."

As a parent, Erwin Lenowitz had been through hell. "You want to help your child, but I was literally on the brink of washing my hands of it," he said. "We had tried everything. You realize after a while that there is nothing you can do."

And when Jeremy Lenowitz was wandering the streets early one morning last May and screaming at nobody, Johnson and another Carmel officer responded to the call from a concerned neighbor. Agitated, the man charged the officers, knocking one of them to the ground before he could be subdued.

Now Johnson had a choice. He could book the man into Monterey County Jail, from where he could face criminal charges, or he could take him to Natividad Medical Center.

Johnson had been through a Crisis Intervention Training program offered by the Monterey County Behavioral Health Department about six years before. During the CIT program,

he learned that a harsh response to potentially explosive scenarios often makes matters worse.

Sometimes the protect-and-serve ideal of good police work requires patience and compassion. Sometimes the subjects they encounter aren't criminals, despite their behavior.

"Sometimes, they're someone who just needs help," Johnson said.

People with mental illnesses can do irrational, abhorrent and erratic things that can spark an angry response from peace officers. For too many years, the police simply charged in and eliminated the problem. Delusional people have been killed, seriously injured or simply thrown into prison.

It happened in Monterey County, in 1998, when a Seaside man with a schizophrenia diagnosis was shot and killed during a police action while he stood on the roof of an apartment building and brandished a corkscrew. Charles Vaughan was at least the fourth person with a mental-health diagnosis to die at the hands of police during a 10-year period.

Community activists reacted, demanding that a successful crisis-training program established in Memphis, Tenn., in 1988 be available in Monterey County.

Despite some initial skepticism, police agencies were eventually convinced that officer participation in the programs would eliminate a lot of unnecessary family heartache, incendiary headlines and expensive lawsuits — not to mention the emotional toll officers suffer after they have needlessly injured or killed someone because they had been deprived of training.

By now, most officers on police forces throughout the Monterey Peninsula have received crisis intervention training.

Devon Corpus, the crisis team coordinator for the Monterey County Behavioral Health Department, said that more than 1,000 peace officers have taken the training since the program was established 14 years ago in Monterey County. About 30 officers graduate from each training, a 40-hour course held twice a year.

Corpus is also available to officers who seek her assistance when they encounter situations that might involve people with a mental-health diagnosis.

Officers who take the course are not expected to be social

beyond the realm

By JOE LIVERNOIS

workers or psychiatrists, Corpus said, but it does provide them with "additional tools."

"Traditional police methods, misinformation and lack of sensitivity can cause frustration for the mentally ill and their families, as well as police," she said. The training reduces the number of incidents involving use of force with people with mental illness, resulting in fewer injuries to police and citizens, she added.

For too many years, officers responding to calls of people acting irrationally simply charged in, guns drawn, escalating the suspect's irrational behavior until officers believed they had no choice but to take the suspect down. The stigma of mental illness dictated their reactions.

Those reactions created a negative image for police. The public assumed that they had been trained to shoot first and ask questions later, that their hard-boiled attitudes made them insensitive to human frailties.

Bad cops still certainly patrol our streets, but it's foolish to base judgments of all police officers by the behavior of the occasional bad apple.

As a reporter in Monterey County for several decades, I've seen the lives that have been destroyed in the aftermath of police shootings, the devastation to the families and loved

See LIVERNOIS next page



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Somewhere the angels are having a helluva laugh

By LARRY WILDE

THE OLD show-biz adage says, “Always leave ’em laughing.” Carmel’s consummate cartoonist, Bill Bates, did just that. This month marks the fifth anniversary since Bill left us, yet the legacy of laughter he left behind continues to brighten our days. His masterful cartoons about life in our quirky little corner of paradise are as fresh and funny today as when they first appeared in The Pine Cone.

I had the pleasure of knowing Bill. We shared more than a few laughs over the years. From the minute we met, he made me smile.

I was standing in line at Staples awaiting a copy of my manuscript for “The Official Cat Lovers/Dog Lovers Joke Book” when somebody tapped me on my shoulder. I turned to see a full grown elf — white haired, merry eyes, a countenance full of mischief and humor.

He said, “Say, could you be Larry Wilde, the joke book author?” He had me from that moment on. What author can resist the thrill of being recognized?

“Guilty, “ I replied.

“I’m Bill Bates. I do cartoons. Maybe you’ve seen them in The Pine Cone?”

We were instant friends. I loved his work, and he loved mine. It was a match made in heaven, in a Seaside office supply store.

“I belong to a cartoonists’ roundtable,” Bill said. “We meet for coffee every Tuesday. Why don’t you join us? The guys would love to meet you. We’re always looking for new jokes.”

Thus began a weekly ritual, and my entrée into the rarified world of some of the most talented laugh-makers on the planet: cartoonists. Art, wit and pithiness all rolled into one.

The “Toonsday” group included Bob Blaisdell who, with Gus Arriola, creator of the “Gordo” comic strip, brought everyone together: Hank Ketchum of “Dennis the Menace” fame, Eldon Dedini, whose Playboy cartoons made him a national treasure, Dennis Renault of the Sacramento Bee, local poet laureate Ric Masten and, of course, Bill. For a few golden years I was honored to be seated around the table sipping coffee with a pantheon of Carmel’s humor greats.

The “Toonsday” group’s comedy and camaraderie resembled a similar gathering of funny men at the Los Angeles Hillcrest Country Club Comedians Round Table. On any given day at lunch, you’d find Milton Berle, Jack Benny, Danny Kaye, George Burns, George Jessel, Al Jolson, Eddie Cantor, Danny Thomas and the Ritz Brothers.

The Hillcrest gathering was an offshoot of the famed 1930’s amalgam of wits known as the Algonquin Round Table. A group that included some of the most accomplished New York writers, critics and humorists of the day who regularly congregated at the Algonquin Hotel.

Among them were humorist Robert Benchley, playwright Marc Connelly, critic Alexander Woolcott, playwright,Robert E. Sherwood, actress Tallulah Bankhead, writer Dorothy Parker, comedian Harpo Marx and The New Yorker editor Harold Ross.

What’s to conclude, except that funny people seem to have need to hang out together? Maybe it’s the need to have an

audience guaranteed to “get” the joke.

George Jessel was among the legends I interviewed for my book, “The Great Comedians Talk About Comedy.”

Extremely erudite, Jessel was widely known for his frequent role as master of ceremonies at political and entertainment gatherings. President Harry Truman dubbed him “America’s Toastmaster General.” Jessel believed that “All comedians have a kinship, like women in childbirth.”

In a downtown Carmel coffee house I discovered that cartoonists also share that unique bond.

Back in 2009, when Bill was called up to that great big humor festival in the sky, a memorial service was held at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula. SRO, of course.

Knowing how much Bill loved to laugh, I wanted to send him off with a smile. Here’s what I recited, corny rhymes and all:

Today I wish to honor a man who really **rates**
One of the finest humorists in all 50 **states**
Creating cartoons that causes laughter and **educates**
To assemble his many works you’d need 1,000 **crates**.

A brilliant lampoonist whose satire **illuminates**
Whose sharp-witted style always **exhilarates**
He gave us the kind of whimsy that **invigorates**
The joyful humor he produced also **fascinates**
Radiates and **motivates**.

As our beloved Bill surely stands and **waits**
To make his trumpeted entrance through the pearly **gates**
Waving to angels while dancing on roller **skates**
St. Peter is already laughing as he **contemplates**
How to team Bill up with other talented **greats**
In that saintly section reserved for one who **creates**.

The comical, rib-tickling picture that **exaggerates**
But always titillates and **communicates**
That extra special corner that already **accommodates**
Ketcham and Arriola among the **heavyweights**
Masten & Dedini and probably the poet W.B. **Yeats**.

Lest I be thought of as one who **pontificates**
Or just a comedian who unashamedly **adulates**
By rhyming words that clearly **accentuates**
Expressing feelings for someone who **illustrates**.

Yes, I’m just a silly rhymer who merely **articulates**
His love for a man who’s character **captivates**
I am but one of many supremely admiring **mates**
And these truths will certainly cause no **debates**.

So now I will end this commentary in memory of:
An illustrious illustrator, an accomplished artist,
A consummate cartoonist,
A creative caricaturist,
A superb satirist,
A skillful sketcher,
A super spirit-lifter.

A lovable lampooner,
A wise and witty animator.
Surely someone blessed with all these Titanic **traits**
Could only be my dear friend ... the one and only:
William R. Bates

Keep ’em laughing, Bill!

Larry Wilde, a Carmel resident, is the author of 53 books of humor. With sales of more than 12 million copies, The New York Times has dubbed him, “America’s Best-Selling Humorist.”

LIVERNOIS

From previous page

ones of suspects killed because they were acting bizarrely, and the intense psychological toll among officers who are haunted by their handling of the situations.

For the last three years, I have been a participant in the nominating committee for an Officer of the Year award presented annually to an officer who successfully uses his crisis-intervention skills while on the job.

The award, sponsored by the county’s Mental Health Commission and the Monterey County chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, was presented May 8 at the annual Fiesta of Hope dinner held by the commission.

Officer Chris Johnson was this year’s winner.

Next week: The choice Chris Johnson made.

CONDOR

From page 1A

many years of hard work that went in to saving this species,” said Kelly Sorensen, the executive director of the Ventana Wildlife Society, the group that reintroduced condors to Big Sur.

In 2007, Ventana made headlines when she was hatched from an egg in a nest in a redwood canyon along the Big Sur coast. Since then, she has taken up residence in the Pinnacles area, where she has a mate, but hasn’t laid any eggs yet.

If you would like to follow Ventana’s progress, you can see her live on the Oakland Zoo’s Condor Cam. Visit www.oaklandzoo.org.

LETTERS

From 28A

I think the 11 mayors in Monterey County who oppose Measure O know a bad deal when they see one.

Lawrence Samuels, Carmel Valley

Why won’t Cal Am debate?

Dear Editor,

The Pine Cone editor recently asked for a “civil debate” regarding public ownership of our water supply system. I wish he would direct that challenge to Cal Am. To date, Cal Am has entered into a grand total of one debate with Public Water Now representatives, which was held at a League of Women Voters luncheon several weeks ago. Needless to say, Cal Am was thoroughly embarrassed, the league quickly endorsed Measure O, and Cal Am hasn’t been heard from since. (Except to submit another 16 percent rate increase request to the CPUC.)

It’s little wonder they won’t debate — they simply can’t deal with their own reality — namely, their own financial records, and their dismal history of “managed mismanagement.” And so, they send out their shills and abettors to do their bidding for them. People like political ideologue Scott Dick, who once claimed he supported publicly owned water, but now — when the opportunity is before us — he’s mysteriously flip-flopped his position into Cal-Am submission. And people like ever-ambitious, brass-ring-seeking Jason Burnett, the de facto mastermind of the self-serving circus calling itself the “Water Authority.”

Obviously, Cal Am can’t fight its own battles (except in a courtroom) so they parade out their underlings in ultra-distressed hopes of rescuing them from exposing the truth about their management practices, their financial statements, and how they really make their money — all of which would be revealed by a feasibility study.

Alas, the best they can come up with is a series of phony, misleading arguments (sadly repeated over and over by their subjects) and jingoistic slogans like “the risk we cannot afford.” (The “risk” in this case simply meaning the truth.)

Friends and Neighbors, there’s only one way to achieve any sense of fairness, equity, and efficiency with our water system, and that’s through public ownership. Now is the time, and the path is clear. Vote Yes on Measure O.

Laurence Randolph,
Carmel Valley

See **MORE LETTERS** *page 10A*

<

Candid talk about a famous father, a TV show and a green kid

‘SMILE, YOU’RE on ‘Candid Camera!’” is a phrase that’s been uttered for over half a century, since the late Allen Funt moved his radio show, “Candid Microphone,” to a newfangled medium called “television” in August 1948.

The show has had many different incarnations, but its essence remains the same: good-natured pranks played on unsuspecting people in front of hidden cameras.

Now produced and hosted by son Peter, it’s coming back for another run starting this August, this time on TV Land. Funt said the show will stay true to its roots: “There’s an audience for harsher, cruder, mean-spirited stuff,” Funt said. “But I am firmly persuaded there’s a bigger audience for our approach.”

“Candid Camera” will have a cosmetically updated look and feel, with a new co-host whose identity remains a secret. Funt said he also likes to go with “the zeitgeist,” in terms of topics.

By way of example, he mentioned a recent taping in Arizona, where the state Legislature had attempted to pass a law that would have allowed businesses to refuse service to gay patrons based on business owners’ religious beliefs.

Accordingly, Funt set up a phony, “gay only” tire shop that refused service to straight people, then recorded what happened. He also set a well dressed actor with a British accent on an Arizona street corner and instructed him to tell people he was an illegal alien, then solicit a character reference to help him gain his citizenship. He ran the same setup with an actor portraying a Mexican laborer and said the results were all too predictable.

Funt noted that being topical for variety’s sake didn’t mean he was on a mission: “The bulk of what we do is for comedic entertainment, but I don’t like to be a one-note musi-

cal.”

Nevertheless, witnessing and fighting discrimination is a thread that runs consistently through Funt’s career. While majoring in journalism at the University of Denver in 1967, he interviewed the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on his radio show — an experience he recalled as “a magical moment, miraculous.”

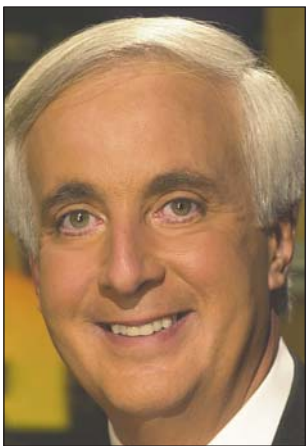
After graduation, he worked for ABC News and the New York Times. In 1970 he received an award for his coverage of racial unrest in Asbury Park, N.J. And what Funt is proudest of — other than “Candid Camera” — is a project that grew out of a segment he recorded for the show at La Mesa Elementary School in 2003.

After consulting with the principal and seriously weighing the ethics of fibbing to some second graders, he sat down with individual youngsters and told them a new kid would be coming to school, and by the way, he had green skin. He asked if the children would be OK with that, and whether they thought other children would be welcoming.

After the four-minute segment aired, he said, “We received an unexpected flood of inquiries from educators.” In response, he created a longer recording, adding unaired footage, and made it available to schools on request. Then he learned it was being used in college teaching programs. He and his crew traveled around, recording responses and interactions with both school children and college students, and the project continued to grow.

He said that 2,500 schools in the United States now use “The Green Kid” to help teach tolerance, and an entire set of curriculum has been developed to accompany it.

But getting back to “Candid Camera” — because Funt certainly would — he re-joined



Peter Funt

the family business in the 1980s from his home in Connecticut.

“My father said everything east of the Hollywood Freeway was my responsibility,” in terms of producing the show.

And then, in 1993, the elder Funt, who lived in Pebble Beach and owned a large ranch in Big Sur, had a debilitating stroke.

“I thought I was going for an extended weekend visit in the hospital,” Funt said. He cared for his father until his death in 1999; Peter and his family still make their home in Pebble Beach.

In 1996, Funt persuaded CBS to do a trib-

ute to his father’s career for “Candid Camera’s” 50th anniversary, which led to another run of the show. It never seems to go out of style — and why should it?

Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

As Funt put it, “Laughter is universal, and smiling is healthy no matter where on the globe you happen to live.”

To suggest someone for this column, email emgiuliano@gmail.com.



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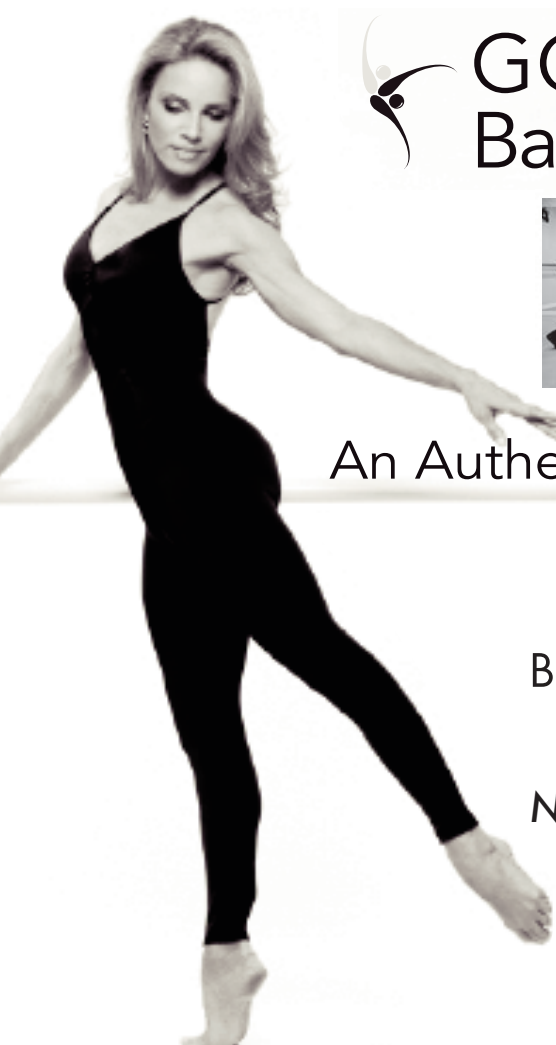
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