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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

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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3 leak was lack of knowledge of the condition of the pipeline at the time workers tapped into it, in part due to old, outdated maps of the lines.

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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

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Ryan Scully

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?"

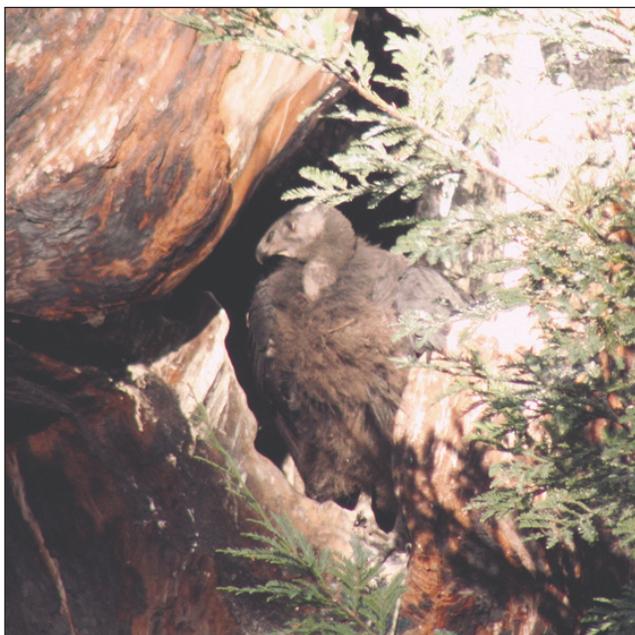
Council members and the public still don't know the specifics of what caused city officials to shut down the theater April 23, when they chained the gates and asked PG&E to cut off the theater's electricity after inspectors found "serious structural and electrical issues." The inspection was part of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

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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

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

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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