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Bicyclist killed by car in Carmel Valley

Victim was husband of bishop

By MARY SCHLEY

A 54-YEAR-OLD Monterey man was fatally struck by a car while riding his bicycle on Saddle Road in Carmel Valley Saturday. William Reeves, husband of Episcopal Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves, was hit by 2013 Toyota Prius driven by an 83-year-old man, also from Monterey, according to California Highway Patrol public information officer Jaime Rios.

The collision occurred around 2:40 p.m. June 21 on Saddle Road south of Paseo del Sur, and Reeves was taken by ambulance to Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead. The driver, whose name was not released, claimed no injuries, and Rios said the cause of the wreck is under investigation, though officers do not believe alcohol or drugs were a factor.

The Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real reported the death on its website and announced services would be held for Reeves Friday, June 27, at an Episcopal church in Saratoga.

"It is with the deepest regret and sadness that we inform

See **BICYCLIST** page 31A

Judge turns back attempt to undo sweet pension deal in P.G.

By KELLY NIX

PROponents of an initiative to rescind a generous pension plan awarded to Pacific Grove's police officers and firefighters 12 years ago had their hopes dashed Thursday morning, when a judge said the city should not place the issue on the November ballot.

The ballot initiative by P.G. residents Sally Aberg, Dan Davis and Frances Grate asked voters to take back the 2002 pension deal that substantially increased pensions for public safety workers. But after a roughly 30-minute hearing, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Thomas Wills found the measure to be invalid and said it should not go before voters. His ruling reversed a January decision in which he ordered the city to place the matter on the November ballot.

The ruling was good news to the City of Pacific Grove, which had argued that if the initiative passed, it would prompt lawsuits against the city by employees' unions.

See **PENSIONS** page 10A

Farmers market subject of workshop, council meeting

Right-of-way disputes on agenda, too

By MARY SCHLEY

ANYONE WHO wants to talk about the farmers market — how it operates, what's sold there and where it's held, among other issues — should attend a workshop set for 5:30 to 7 p.m. Monday, June 30, Carmel City Councilwoman Carrie Theis told The Pine Cone this week. Theis and councilman Steve Dallas formed a committee to specifically handle the farmers market

See **WORKSHOP** page 30A

Commission: Beach fires need more limits

By MARY SCHLEY

THE STATE of California has "435 beaches," forest and beach commissioner Kathy Bang told her fellow commissioners during a special meeting Wednesday. Of those, only 38 allow fires, she claimed. And of those, only people who



Forest and beach commissioners David Refuerzo and Kathy Ferlito carried a fire basket on the beach Wednesday to demonstrate how it could be used to remove debris (left), and city forester Mike Branson spoke to commissioners about how fire pits might be installed.

PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER



visit Carmel Beach can have an unlimited number of fires that don't have to be built in designated pits, according to Bang.

But that unique situation may come to an end, as commissioners unanimously voted June 25 to recommend the city control the number of fires on the beach and forbid them from being built directly on the sand. The changes — which will take a long time to hammer out — would limit a longstanding and cherished Carmel tradition, but would also reduce the amount of charcoal and debris left on the beach, ensure fires are built where they should be, and result in less smoke drifting along the beach and into nearby neighborhoods.

Before gathering in council chambers at city hall for discussion, commissioners spent about an hour at the beach examining what the fire rings would look like if placed 50 or 100 feet apart. With 100-foot separations, only three fires could be burned in the popular 13th Avenue cove, city forester Mike Branson pointed out.

"You couldn't put too many others in there," he said.

They also examined the portable fire basket developed by former forest and beach commissioner Tom Leverone, though commissioners wondered if people would correctly use the wok-like contraption, which would make it easier to remove fire debris from the beach.

While public meetings on beach fires have drawn large, vocal crowds in the past, Wednesday's was sparsely attended, mostly

See **FIRES** page 31A

FACEBOOK EXEC'S \$\$\$ MAY GO TO TRAIL PLANNING

By CHRIS COUNTS

A GROUP of residents wants to use the Internet to help figure out where Big Sur locals think the California Coastal Trail should be routed as it passes through their stretch of the coast. And to finance the project, the group is eyeing a small slice of the \$2.5 million settlement entrepreneur Sean Parker agreed to pay after his 2013 wedding at the Ventana campground stirred up controversy and violated state law.

According to Butch Kronlund, president of the Big Sur Property Owners Association, the interactive website would "facilitate open communication" while providing basic mapping tools.

"Chief among this website's virtues is to be its use as a lightly filtered, totally transparent method for aligning the trail through Big Sur, with maximum input from all interested parties," explained Kronlund, who said the website would cost less than \$50,000.

While sections of the trail already exist in other parts of California, the task of building the route through Big Sur poses many challenges, including navigating steep topography and strict environmental regulations, and acquiring easements from private property owners. State officials have agreed that no private property will be taken through eminent domain in the effort to make the trail a reality.

Kronlund said the California Coastal Commission, which is administering the settlement, recently contacted him to inform him that Coastwalk California, a nonprofit group dedicated to completing the trail, wants to create similar website. "The commission staff member encouraged me to see if there was a way for Coastwalk California and [the local group] working to align the trail through Big Sur could work together," he reported.

Kronlund said he's hoping to meet with Coastwalk California officials Friday, June 21, in Big Sur, to discuss such a collaboration.

A billionaire who cofounded the file-sharing ser-

See **TRAIL** page 31A

vice Napster and served as the first president of Facebook, Parker staged a \$10 million wedding last June at Ventana. As a penalty for damaging the campground, he agreed to donate money to conservation and trail projects along the Big Sur coast.

In 2001, state legislators called for the completion of a

See **TRAIL** page 31A

Construction of Scenic restrooms under way



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

WORK IS "full-speed ahead," architect Rob Carver said this week, referring to the long awaited and much discussed permanent bathrooms being built on the Scenic Road bluffs near the intersection of Santa Lucia Avenue. Footings were poured for the restrooms, which will replace the porta-potties that have been there for the past 18 years and will satisfy a commitment the city made to the California Coastal Commission in its local coastal program, which was adopted in 2004. Construction of the restrooms will cost \$712,602 — a figure which has caused some in town to say, "How can it be so much?"