

The Carmel Pine Cone

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TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

Tor House Steinway gets a makeover



PHOTO/COURTESY TOR HOUSE FOUNDATION

For nearly a century, a Steinway piano that belonged to poet Robinson Jeffers' wife, Una, has been the centerpiece of the cottage parlor at Tor House. Now the instrument is getting a well deserved restoration. See page 12A.

Former councilman comes to Stilwell's rescue

■ Hillyard mocks critics of departed city administrator

By MARY SCHLEY

WITH CONTROVERSY breaking out in San Luis Obispo over its hiring of former city administrator Jason Stilwell as interim director of IT and financial planning — and several residents there asking how he could have gotten the \$11,888-per-month job — a former Carmel City Council member has jumped to Stilwell's defense and sarcastically attacked his detractors here.

San Luis Obispo city manager Katie Lichtig has been questioned by members of the public regarding her hiring of Stilwell, given his history in Carmel, but former Carmel City Councilman Steve Hillyard also emailed her, along with the SLO mayor and city council, praising Stilwell and lambasting those who helped bring about his resignation here — and who have shared their misgivings with some SLO residents.

"I am embarrassed to learn that some Carmel

citizens are attacking Mr. Stilwell," Hillyard wrote. "Apparently, it is not enough that they set this city back several years with their unfounded claims, now they seek to personally harm this individual. This speaks loudly to their credibility."

He went on to describe a "very small group of individuals hobbled by outsized opinions of their own wit and perception."

"Their thought leaders are three city clerks, one reporter and the publisher of a throwaway newspaper," he wrote in the Jan. 20 email. "Out-of-office politicians comprise their out-of-sight support group."

Hillyard attributed Stilwell's troubles here to xenophobia — basically, that some people in town irrationally objected to Stilwell's hiring of former colleagues from Southern California. In his email, Hillyard did not mention the firing of numerous longtime employees, the failed investigation of Steve McInchak, questionable contracts, secrecy and the bungling of the Public Records Act requests that characterized his administration here.

See **HILLYARD** page 13A

Commission likes fire rings, wants ban on BBQs

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER HEARING about the dire health effects of wood smoke and seeing photos of charcoal-blackened and trash-littered sand, the planning commission unanimously voted Wednesday night to recommend the city council — and ultimately, the California Coastal Commission — restrict bonfires on Carmel Beach by confining them to 26 fire rings scattered along the sand south of 10th Avenue. Commissioners also decided portable barbecues and hibachis should be banned, since people tend to dump their spent coals on the sand after they've finished cooking.

The pilot program developed by forest and beach commis-

sioners Michael Carter and Kathy Bang calls for placing a total of 26 fire rings at the bottom of the staircases at 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th and Santa Lucia, and in the coves between 10th and 11th, 11th and 12th, 12th and 13th, and 13th and Santa Lucia. The pits would be cleaned daily and removed during the winter when the tides come in. During busy holiday weekends in the summer, an additional 25 wok-style fire baskets would be loaned by the city to beach-goers and then collected from the sand the following day. In order to keep people in line, a code-enforcement officer would be on the beach from 3 to 11 p.m. five nights a week, probably

See **FIRES** page 9A

Sen. Monning leads effort to pass right-to-die law

By CHRIS COUNTS

REVIVING THE debate over a terminally ill patient's right to die, State Senator and Carmel resident Bill Monning introduced legislation Wednesday known as the End of Life Option Act.

Monning and the bill's co-author, Sen. Lois Wolk, were joined at a press conference in Sacramento by the family of the late Brittany Maynard, who attracted headlines when she moved from her native California to Oregon last year to take advantage of its right-to-die law. Maynard, who had been diagnosed with a terminal brain tumor, died Nov. 1, 2014.

In California, helping someone end his life is a felony. But Monning and others want to change that.

"Our hope is to see the end-of-life option as part of a continuum of established rights available to patients," said Monning, who is married to a physician and said he has "watched close friends suffer through their final days."

The bill would allow doctors in California to prescribe a lethal dose of medications under certain circumstances.

Offering emotionally charged testimony at the press conference was Maynard's mother, Debbie Ziegler, who moved with her daughter to Oregon.

"This bill will help people who don't have the means to do what my daughter did, which was to die on her own terms," Ziegler explained.

But even though Maynard was able to carry out her wishes, she was forced to leave behind friends, family and her pets, her mother said. The move to Oregon "added another level of pain."

Ziegler said it's time for Californians to finally pass a law permitting physician-assisted dying. "Enough is enough,"

she added.

Also speaking at the press conference was Jennifer Glass of San Mateo, who is suffering from terminal lung cancer. "One of the most debilitating things about living with a ter-

See **LAW** page 13A

Judge declines to halt Cal Am test well

By KELLY NIX

Santa Cruz — CALIFORNIA AMERICAN Water got a big victory Wednesday, when a Santa Cruz County judge rejected two requests for restraining orders to halt construction of a test project in Marina that's expected to provide important data for the company's proposed full-scale desalination plant.

On Wednesday, Santa Cruz County Superior Court Judge Paul M. Marigonda ruled against Marina Coast Water District and the Ag Land Trust, which filed separate lawsuits against the California Coastal Commission after commissioners unanimously approved the test desal well at a Nov. 12, 2014, meeting in Half Moon Bay.

The suits — which also asked for a restraining order to stop Cal Am's drilling of the well — alleged the project would cause environmental harm to dune habitat. The Ag

See **WELL** page 15A

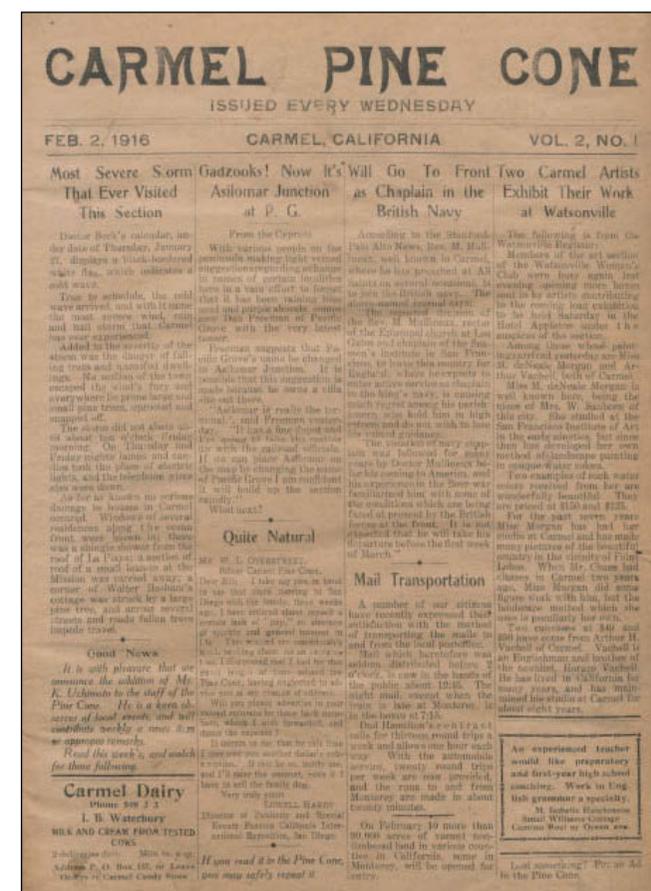
PINE CONE TO RELEASE FIRST FIVE YEARS IN PDF

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

IN CONJUNCTION with the newspaper's upcoming centennial, The Pine Cone will be releasing complete versions of its first five years of editions on its website, publisher Paul Miller announced Thursday. The high-resolution images of the fragile, printed newspapers will be in PDF — similar to the Pine Cone's current email edition.

"We've scanned every page from 1915 to 1919, and I can tell you that every word in them is delightful," publisher Paul

See **EDITIONS** page 9A



The front page of Vol. 2, No. 1, which is one of 1,040 historic pages to be made available next month for the first time in electronic format.