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Memorial arch could get new bell

By MARY SCHLEY

IT BEARS the year, 1692, and is believed to have come from a mission in Mexico or California — so the bell hanging in the World War I Memorial Arch at Ocean and San Carlos is no doubt historic.

But it's not the bell the memorial's famous designer had in mind when he oversaw construction of the arch more than 90 years ago. And now a group of residents and members of the local American Legion are working



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

A memorial bell passersby see every day is an important relic of history and should be moved out of the elements — even as it's replaced with the one that was supposed to be there in the first place — according to a community group.

on a plan for a new bell that would not only fulfill a 93-year old plan, it would also be a great way to celebrate the city's centennial next year.

"We think the old mission bell should be retired to a safe and honored place — the Children's Library and Local History Room are our favorites — and replaced with the bell intended by Charles Sumner Greene, who designed and supervised the construction of the arch," explained resident and art gallery owner Richard Kreitman, who seems to have a thing for bells, as he's also the ringleader of a small group that has chimed church bells in town every single day at noon for more than a year.

Kreitman, history buff and planning commissioner Ian Martin, and members of the local American Legion want to raise \$8,000 to cast a new bell for the arch, and

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Two say they'll run for city council

By MARY SCHLEY

A LONGTIME planning commissioner, Jan Reimers, and a recently retired tech engineer, Dave Mosley, announced this week that they'll run for city council in next April's election.

The filing period for candidates for mayor and two council seats opened Monday and closes Jan. 15, unless the incumbents don't seek reelection. With councilman Ken Talmage running for mayor, and no word from city councilwoman Victoria Beach on whether she'll run again, the filing deadline could be pushed to Jan. 20.

Reimers, who lives at Camino Real and Ninth with her husband, Niels, and also has a commercial building on San Carlos Street, joined the planning commission seven years ago and said she finally decided to seek a council seat after people repeatedly urged her to run.

"It's been so long coming, because I've been encouraged and asked to run for a while," Reimers told The Pine Cone Wednesday. "I had to give it a lot of thought and finally decided to go ahead and see what happens."

Her years on the commission, including three as its chair, helped her learn about the planning process and decision making, she said, but she'd like to have more input into the city's long-range planning.



Jan Reimers



Dave Mosley

"I just really do care about where Carmel is going," she said, adding that since she is a resident and also a business owner, she would bring a broader perspective to the table.

Known for her diplomacy in discussions and votes on the planning commission, Reimers said she would work hard to

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DESPITE RAINS, RIVER NOT FLOWING MUCH

■ County monitoring lagoon

By CHRIS COUNTS and KELLY NIX

TO PROTECT nearby homes from flooding, county workers are keeping a close eye on the Carmel River Lagoon, which is slowly rising due to recent rains. But despite the wet weather, a county official told The Pine Cone that the water level in the lagoon isn't yet high enough to justify bulldozing a channel from the lagoon to the sea.

"Public works is monitoring the lagoon," county spokesperson Maia Carroll reported. "I checked with the crews that were out in the field this morning. The lagoon was at 7 feet [above sea level] and had capacity, so there is not any concern about overflow at this time."

Water in the lagoon hasn't risen much because the Carmel River still isn't flowing to it.

"It is still dry back to mid-valley at the Safeway," Monterey Peninsula Water Management District general manager Dave Stoldt said.

Meanwhile, a potent storm system that came in Dec. 10-11 generated large swells that pushed waves over the sandbar into the lagoon.

"The water is brackish, with no freshwater flowing in," Stoldt explained.

To breach the sandbar and release water into Carmel Bay, county officials need to declare an emergency — just as they do every year.

"The usual process will apply," Carroll explained. "Should a breach need to be made, the county would need to consult with the Army Corps of Engineers, and they would also need to consult with the water board, which is what they do each year."

When the work eventually does get done, county workers

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PHOTO/CHRIS COUNTS

While there is no immediate threat of flooding, sandbags have been artfully deployed between low-lying homes and the Carmel River Lagoon.

Did Santa drop off a drone? Here's what the FAA will want from you.

By ELAINE HESSER

IF YOU got one of this year's hottest gifts — and since you're a Pine Cone reader, we can only assume you're cutting edge in every way — here are some things you'll need to know about registering your new drone.

Just in time for Christmas, the Federal Aviation Administration finally released its rules for drone registration for hobbyists. According to the agency, registration is required because drones — technically known as unmanned aircraft systems, or UAS — "pose new security and privacy challenges, and must be traceable in the event of an incident."

In 2015 alone, more than 700 drone incidents were reported by commercial and private pilots, including some from firefighters who said the aircraft interfered with their ability to fight wildfires. One drone famously crashed into an empty seat during the U.S. Open tennis tournament this year, while another — piloted by a drunken off-duty government employee — ended up on the White House lawn.

Closer to home, last year, bystanders ran two men off the



PHOTO/TIP WEISS, AIRCAM PHOTOGRAPHY

If you want to start getting shots like this one of a home near Cypress Point in Pebble Beach, you'd better start studying up on the rules for drones.

rec trail in Pacific Grove after the pair used drones to buzz a harbor seal colony, starting a dangerous stampede of mothers and babies into the ocean.

Monterey pilot Tip Weiss is the owner of AirCam Photography, a business that uses the aircraft for photography and videography. He's been flying drones around these parts for 10 years, photographing real estate for sale in Pebble Beach, special events and even racecars at Laguna Seca.

He agreed that something needed to be done to regulate amateur operators.

"There are a lot of responsible hobbyists out there," he said, but there are always "rogue operators," too.

Weiss, who has a commercial pilot's license, said he's even seen videos of people seeing how close they could maneuver a drone to a commercial flight — and, he said, the danger of bringing one down is real. He explained that just like in a bird strike, a drone could get sucked into a jet engine and cause it to fail, not to mention the damage it

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