

The Carmel Pine Cone

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Nine-year-old boy drowns at 'Mortuary Beach'

By MARY SCHLEY

A CHILD died after being swept out to sea at Monastery Beach early Tuesday afternoon when the boy and his father were hit by a series of "sneaker waves" as they played near the surf line on the famously hazardous beach, according to Cal Fire spokesman John Spooner.

California State Parks ranger Sean James said the man and his son were able to hold onto each other as the waves crashed into them, but "then a wave hit them hard enough to separate them," and swept the young boy out, where he was apparently caught by a rip tide.

After being helped from the waves by other beachgoers, the father attempted to go back in after his child but was thwarted. "He tried to go back in, but the bystanders, seeing that he wasn't going to be able to go because on the size of

the surf and the conditions, prevented him from going back in the water," James described.

Meanwhile, the child was carried farther out by the currents, according to Spooner, and firefighters from several area Cal Fire stations, as well as California State Parks, two ambulances and the Monterey County Sheriff's Office, responded to the calls for help for the boy, who was reported to be floating face-down in the water. Two Cal Fire rescue swimmers plunged in after the child, who was by then about 100 yards offshore.

Cal Fire also launched its rescue boat from Whalers Cove in Point Lobos State Reserve, but the swimmers reached the child first, and managed to bring him back to the beach, where medics worked to revive him. He and both his parents

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Panettas on hook for security costs

■ \$45,000 to protect Sunset lectures

By MARY SCHLEY

EVER SINCE the Panetta Institute brought its lecture series to Sunset Center more than a year ago while the Monterey Conference Center is undergoing renovation, taxpayers have been covering the costs of providing police officers and private security guards for the talks, which often feature top-level government officials, business luminaries and other high-profile guests.

But no one in city hall apparently ever authorized the expenditures, which total more than \$5,600 per event, so the police department will soon be sending the institute — which was founded in 1997 by former Secretary of State Leon Panetta and his wife, Sylvia — a bill for more than \$45,000.

"We're going to bill them for last year and this year," said Carmel Police Chief Paul Tomasi, who met with city administrator Chip Rerig to discuss the issue this week and also spoke to Sylvia Panetta about it. "They're going to get the bill. They won't be happy about it, but it's the right thing to do."

The \$45,040 tab covers eight lectures — four last year, and what will eventually be four this year — with each event requiring 13 First Alarm security guards working for 10 hours apiece at a cost of \$25 per hour (\$3,250) and two police officers each working 10 hours of overtime at a rate of \$119 per hour (\$2,380), according to Tomasi.

While Rerig initially said he believed the security costs were being subsidized by taxpayers because the council had designated the nonprofit institute as an "educational partner," further investigation revealed the decision to pay the tab was never formally discussed by the council when former Mayor Jason Burnett and former councilman Ken Talmage successfully wooed the institute to bring its highly regarded lectures to Sunset Center.

"I remember when it happened, but I wasn't in on the decision making," Tomasi said. "It turns out it was Ken

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No agreement for city to provide guards



Despite a series of signs (left) that warn visitors of the serious dangers at Monastery Beach, the beach continues to claim more victims. A kayak (above) is covered with gouges after being chewed on by a great white shark March 18, according to the kayak's owner, who says he narrowly escaped.

KAYAKER ATTACKED BY GREAT WHITE IN BAY

By CHRIS COUNTS

NEARING THE end of an enjoyable afternoon of paddling in Monterey Bay March 18, Brian Correiar was about 100 yards from San Carlos Beach in Monterey when his kayak was suddenly upended — and he came face-to-face with a great white shark.

"I heard a loud bang as my kayak and I flew into the air," Correiar said the following day on an internet chat board. When he landed back in the water, Correiar looked up and "saw a large great white shark no more than 3 feet away," he

said, with "my kayak in its mouth."

While the shark was distracted, Correiar began swimming for shore as if his life depended on it — which it probably did.

"I scrambled away as fast as I could and started kicking toward shore, really wishing that I was wearing fins," he recalled.

Correiar said he was surprised by how clear-thinking he was under the circumstances.

"I was shocked at how many thoughts about how to survive ran through my head — don't splash, don't let your legs hang down, keep your eyes on the shark and swim away, and don't act like a panicked seal," he said.

Next, the kayaker tried to get help.

Pulling out a GPS rescue device he carried with him, he placed an emergency call to the Coast Guard. "They were having trouble hearing me," he said, "but then I spotted a sail boat and started frantically waving to them with my right arm as I operated the radio with my left hand."

As big as his boat

Meanwhile, the shark was discovering that kayakers don't taste very good.

"The shark was using my kayak as a chew toy," he said.

As he chewed, however, the shark "started pushing the kayak toward me, and then left it and headed for me," he continued. "Suddenly it dove. I put my face in the water to see if it was under me, but I couldn't see anything."

Moments later, Correiar's signal for help was answered. The sailboat Correiar had waved to arrived on scene, and the Coast Guard followed about five minutes later. Correiar needed help getting out of the water — in part because his feet were numb from the cold, and in part because he was simply exhausted. "I was running on nothing but adrenaline," he remembered.

Back on the shore, Correiar talked with those who watched his ordeal from afar.

"According to them, the shark was as big as my boat," he said. "I have a 14-foot kayak. Bite marks show that it had the whole girth of the boat in its mouth. My boat is covered with

Council decision didn't necessarily doom Belle

By MARY SCHLEY

CARMEL BELLE owners Jay and Chloe Dolata say that offering table service in the back part of their restaurant in the Doud Arcade isn't feasible because it would confuse customers and require them to hire more employees, and that's why they're hoping to persuade the City of Carmel to allow them to continue operating as they have since their expansion into the rear area (a couple of former storefronts) was approved in November 2013.

But the city council's recent decision not to change the laws to permit counter-service restaurants in town doesn't mean Carmel Belle will have to shut down — which is apparently what a lot of the eatery's fans believe.

Grandfathered

Carmel Belle can continue to offer counter service in the main part of the restaurant — the area in the center of Doud Arcade — because that type of restaurant has operated there for decades, long before the city's laws banning counter service were written. But according to city code, such a "non-conforming use" cannot be intensified or expanded — such

See **BELLE** page 16A

Paul Woudenberg dead at 89 of stroke

THE REV. Dr. Paul Woudenberg — a long-time car aficionado and Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance judge who also taught at Stevenson School and founded the Church in the Forest there with his brother-in-law 30 years ago — died Thursday morning, following a hemorrhagic stroke earlier in the week.

He was at home in Hyannis, Mass., and moved to hospice care following the stroke. His wife, Emily, and daughters, Mary and Betsy, were with him, according to a church administrator.

Services will be held at the Woudenbergs' church on Cape Cod April 8. The Pine Cone will have an obit about his distinguished life next week.



Paul Woudenberg

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