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Getting in the true spirit of Christmas — INSIDE THIS WEEK

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YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION SINCE 1915

New books show another side of Henry Miller's Big Sur

By CHRIS COUNTS

FIFTY YEARS ago, writer Henry Miller penned, "Big Sur and the Oranges of Heironymous Bosch," as an ode to the tight-knit and eccentric community Miller encountered when he lived on Partington Ridge in the 1950s.

A half century later, two of Miller's neighbors have released books that offer two very different perspectives on that community.

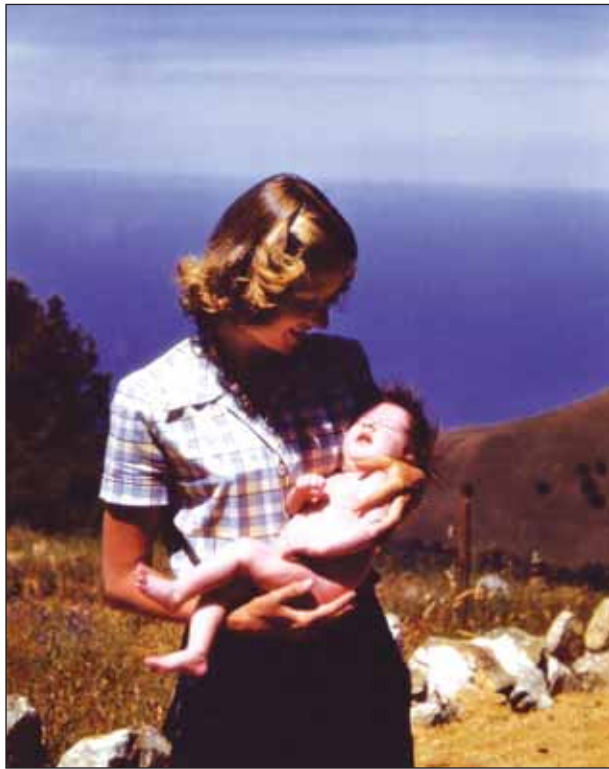
The first book, "These Are My Flowers: Raising a Family on the Big Sur Coast — Letters of Nancy Hopkins," uses words and rare color photographs to create an intimate portrait of life on the ridge at a time when Big Sur was just beginning to be discovered by artists, writers and world travelers. The second book, "Big Sur, the Land of the Sun and the Moon," is a coloring book Seaside artist Bob Muson created for local children when he lived on the ridge during the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Big Sur's first Bohemians

A controversial writer whose works were widely banned during much of his lifetime, Miller wasn't the first creative type to settle on Partington Ridge. Jaime de Angulo — a noted linguist, novelist and ethnomusicologist who famously lived and dressed like a Native American — preceded Miller on the ridge. But it was Miller, who achieved infamy, and later commercial success, for the publication of "Tropic of Cancer" in 1934, who indirectly put Partington Ridge on the Bohemian map.

The same year Miller moved to the ridge, Harper's

See **BIG SUR** page 28A



PHOTO/SAM HOPKINS

In this color photograph from 1950, Nancy Hopkins poses on Partington Ridge with her newborn daughter, Jory. A new book of Nancy's letters chronicles life on the ridge at a time when Big Sur gained national recognition as a Bohemian haven.

Coastal commission could cancel meetings

By KELLY NIX

FACING A statewide budget crisis, the California Coastal Commission is considering eliminating meetings, laying off employees and taking other measures to save more than \$1 million in annual spending.

At a coastal commission meeting in Carlsbad Nov. 15, executive director Peter Douglas said the commission will have to take drastic steps to thin its budget.

"In all my years of experience with the commission — and it's been over 30 years — this is the worst situation we find ourselves in," Douglas said.

The commission is feeling the blow as a result of a directive by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for state departments to come up with spending plans that are 10 percent less than their current plans. The governor took the drastic step after learning state revenues were falling short.

Coastal commission deputy director Susan Hansch said that means the commission will be forced to reduce its budget by \$1 million and layoff as many as 17 employees. The commission spends about 75 percent of its budget on employee costs, she said.

Annual hearings in Monterey could fall victim to state budget cuts

See **CUTS** page 27A

HIGH-SPEED CHASE ENDS WITH TRUCK UPSIDE-DOWN IN LAGOON

By MARY BROWNFIELD

THE DRIVER who floored a stolen truck while going backward on Scenic Road gave herself up after leading cops on a high-speed chase and launching the vehicle into the marshy Carmel River Lagoon early Saturday morning, according to police. The driver, accused of a host of felony charges, was hospitalized after being pulled from the cold water but is "on the run," after being discharged. Her passenger went to jail.

During routine patrol along Scenic Road near 11th Avenue at about 4 a.m. Nov. 24, Carmel Police Officer Chris Johnson spied a

See **CHASE** page 9A



PHOTO/COURTESY CARMEL PD

The driver of this stolen Chevy Colorado launched it into the Carmel River Lagoon. Police are looking for her.

New water director 'just wants to solve the problem'

By KELLY NIX

ALTHOUGH SOME of the people who supported her campaign are known as no-growth activists who don't want the community's water supply expanded, newly elected water board member Regina Doyle says she's flexible in her approach to solving the Monterey Peninsula's water problems.

Doyle, an education consultant and Pacific Grove resident, edged out publisher Lee Yarborough to win the Division 4 seat on the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District board of directors. She, along with Division 5 winner Bob Brower, will

See **WATER** page 6A

Cal Am: Pilot plant will begin operating in January

By KELLY NIX

CALIFORNIA AMERICAN Water Co. said it expects to have its long-awaited pilot desalination plant in Moss Landing testing water by January.

The pilot plant, originally slated to begin operating in October, has faced several recent delays, including equipment issues and holdups due to a lease agreement between Cal Am and Dynegy, the power plant's operator, said Cal Am communi-

See **DESAL** page 6A

Electronic sign irks CHS neighbors

By MARY BROWNFIELD

A MESSAGE board that replaced the broken-down sign Carmel High students used to publicize school happenings is provoking ire, and some scoffing, but students and administrators say it's getting the job done in letting the community know what's new.

See **BRIGHT** page 26A



PHOTO/PAUL MILLER

Too bright for Carmel? Some neighbors of the high school certainly think so.

Bigger ambulance bill for city taxpayers

By MARY BROWNFIELD

THE CITY'S bottom line could take a hit when the tab for ambulance service arrives. The cost had dropped significantly during the past 15 months as Carmel Regional Fire Ambulance, a joint venture between the city and Carmel Valley Fire Protection District, picked up — and billed — more Peninsula patients than in previous years.

But as of Nov. 1, the county's ambulance provider, Westmed, has taken back the territory it had shared with

CRFA, reducing the number of patients CRFA transports.

"It will undoubtedly have a financial impact," said city councilman Gerard Rose, who represents Carmel on the CRFA board. CRFA is now responding to fewer calls, and "that translates to money," though it's too early to tell how much the change will cost city taxpayers.

The 2006/2007 budget estimated the subsidy at \$366,680, but during a financial report to the council in September, city administrator Rich Guillen reported the actual cost was just \$87,000, because CRFA had picked up so many people who would have otherwise been served by Westmed.

Rose doubted the change makes financial sense for Westmed or the county, which had to help bail the company out this year. He said Westmed reported the shift would not cost any money because the calls would pay for the added staff.

"We think their projections are based on a false assumption," he said.

Westmed CEO Allen Cress argued the shift will mean better service for Peninsula residents and said it would not cost the county any more money.

Rose also sought to assure his constituents and other residents.

"The citizens of Carmel, mid-valley and Carmel Valley ought to know they'll continue to have the excellent service they've had all along," he said. "It's just going to cost Carmel more."

Christmas concert relives state's history

JEFF GREEN'S farewell concerts as director of the Monterey Peninsula Choral Society this weekend will surely revel in the season — but with international and historical flair. "Christmas at the Rancho — A California Christmas" will "celebrate the history and heritage of California, and the families and traditions of the people from all over the world who have made this the state we're proud to call home," according to MPCS member Thompson Lange.

Created by Green, the concert will "retell in narration and seasonal music some of the holiday traditions of late 19th century/early 20th century California Ranchos," according to Lange. The program is inspired by a book, "Christmas Eve at Rancho Los Alamitos," written by Green's aunt, Katharine Bixby Hotchkiss. The Pastorela and other traditional Mexican pieces, German carols "Still, Still, Still" and "O Tannenbaum," traditional English and Spanish carols such as "The 12 days of Christmas" and "Fum Fum Fum," and other songs will follow an opening narration of the rancho setting. The second half will have the Salinas High School a Cappella Choir join the choral society onstage.

"Christmas at the Rancho," will be performed Saturday, Dec. 1, at 8 p.m. in the Carmel Mission Basilica (\$25 reserved, \$20 general, \$15 student) and Sunday, Dec. 2, at 3 p.m. at Santa Catalina School in the recital hall (\$15 general, \$12 group). For more information, visit www.theMPCS.org.



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Did you know...

Before Carmel-by-the-Sea became a community for artists, an investor tried to develop it as a summer retreat for Catholics. In 1885, Santiago Duckworth, a Monterey land agent, bought the area between what is now Highway 1 and Junipero Avenue, from Carmel Hill down to Ocean Avenue. He thought the Southern Pacific would extend its railroad tracks from Pacific Grove and run trains through Pebble Beach and over Carmel Hill to the Carmel Mission. That line would go right through the land he envisioned as "Carmel City." He subdivided it in 1888 and started selling residential lots for \$20 to \$25, sites in the business section for \$50. Duckworth promoted his Catholic retreat idea as a rival to the Methodists in Pacific Grove, and sold about 200 lots before it was clear the railroad wasn't coming. He sold what was left of his land to another investor in 1892.

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FOOD • MUSIC • FREE

Bicyclists make a party out of delivering Toys for Tots

By MARY BROWNFIELD

THEY DIDN'T sweat, left the spandex and Gatorade at home, and didn't really care who was in the lead. The bicycle riders in the inaugural Tour de Carmel last week were more interested in safely transporting their gifts to the Toys for Tots donation bin at Carmel Fire Department, filling up on tasty food and libation at some of their favorite watering holes, and savoring the stunning scenery of their town, according to tour co-director Julie Gibson.

She and friend Mary Foxworthy organized the ride, which included about 20 people, after Gibson's husband, Jim, shared memories of a similar event his cousin created in Orange.

"We wanted to add a philanthropic aspect,

especially with the holiday season approaching, and felt that Toys for Tots was perfect — and we appreciate the heroic efforts of our local firefighters as well," Gibson said. "We felt this was the perfect event to get together and enjoy one another's company and the outdoors while contributing back to the local community."

The pack first gathered at Surf N Sand and Bruno's Market, where they were treated to refreshments and collected food donations from the market to deliver along with their new, unwrapped toys.

"We all very carefully carried our donations on our bicycles," Gibson said, with the exception of the donated girl's bike that had to be walked there rather than ridden. But since the distance from the store to the station is just short of two blocks, the trip was-

n't too arduous.

According to Gibson, CFD was instrumental in bringing the Toys for Tots campaign to Monterey County more than two decades ago. Today, fire departments throughout the Peninsula take part in the toy drive and the Food Bank for Monterey County's efforts to feed the hungry.

Gibson and Foxworthy also stopped in at the KRML radio station to promote Toys for Tots.

Philanthropy accomplished, the group pedaled to their favorite haunts, including the Hog's Breath Inn, Il Fornaio (which also fed them for free), Sade's, La Playa and Mission Ranch.

They took direct routes from one stop to the next, except for the final leg.

"After we left La Playa, many of us rode down to Scenic and around the point to Mission Ranch, all the while enjoying the natural beauty and fresh air of this spectacular place we all feel honored to call home," Gibson said.

She and Foxworthy plan to make the ride

more substantial next year, with some advance publicity encouraging people to participate in the toy drive.

"This was our trial run," she said. "Already, friends of some charter tour riders would like to ride along."

And even a post-tour incident, in which someone stole Gibson's bike off her car rack while she dined at a downtown restaurant, resolved itself in idyllic Carmel fashion.

"The next morning, I went to the police department to make a report and, as I left, a nice gentleman phoned to tell me that he'd found my bicycle in the middle of Dolores and Eighth," she reported.

Larry Chess, co-owner of A Great Place Home and Garden on Dolores, also cleaned up the mess left when items fell from the abandoned bicycle's basket.

"So it seems as if someone took a joyride on my bicycle! I was so relieved to have it back!" Gibson said. "It is so nice to live in a community where residents look out for each other, and Larry was so gracious in cleaning up the mess and contacting me."



PHOTO/COURTESY JULIE GIBSON

Participants in the inaugural Tour de Carmel celebrate the delivery of gifts for the Toys for Tots program at Carmel Fire Department before cruising on to some of their favorite downtown stops and a ride by the sea.

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Police, Fire & Sheriff's Log

Woman: There's porn on the Internet

HERE'S A look at some of the significant calls logged by the Carmel-by-the-Sea Police Department, the Carmel Fire Department and the Monterey County Sheriff's Office last week. This week's log was compiled by Mary Brownfield.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Accident report on Dolores Street.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Passport turned over to an officer that was found on Carmel Beach.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Assisted CHP and

Monterey County Sheriff's Office on a vehicle injury accident rollover on Carmel Rancho. The victim's dog fled the scene during the crash and was later found by a citizen at Carmel Valley Road and Carmel Rancho Boulevard. The citizen brought the injured dog to the station, and Monterey County Animal Control was contacted. They advised that they would respond but were very extended and asked if, due to the dog's injury, the officer could take the dog to the emergency vet in Ryan Ranch. Transported the dog to Ryan Ranch. No followup needed.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Driver, a 25-year-old

male, was stopped on Highway 1 for speeding and displaying expired registration and found to be DUI. He was also on probation and had a suspended license due to a prior DUI. He was arrested and lodged at county jail.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fire engine and ambulance were dispatched to an FAA at Lincoln and Fifth. Upon arrival, found a smoke detector activated by cooking smoke. Alarm silenced and FireComm advised alarm company to send a tech out to reset the system.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report filed for insurance purposes.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Subject called to request appointment for 290 PC registration. [Sex Offender Registration Act]

Carmel-by-the-Sea: On-duty fire and ambulance personnel responded to the medical aid of a male in his 60s who was brought to the fire station by police personnel. The patient had slipped on stairs and sustained a laceration to the left part of his chin and possibly required stitches. Care included bleeding control, monitoring vital signs and diagnostics, packaging and gathering information. The patient was transported to CHOMP by ambulance. The

patient's workplace was notified and given an update on the patient and the location of his delivery truck. Representatives of the patient's workplace responded to pick up the truck and pick him up at the hospital.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fire engine and ambulance responded to a medical emergency on Dolores Street for a female in her 60s complaining of an irregular heartbeat. Arrived at scene to find the patient sitting in a chair. Crews provided BLS [basic life support] treatment and a paramedic provided ALS [advanced]. Both crews assisted with loading of patient for transport to CHOMP.

Carmel Valley: During investigation of a report of a violation of a court order (domestic related) in which a 23-year-old male Cachagua Road resident was the suspect, he invited deputies inside his home and they observed several marijuana plants in plain view. The plants were mature and hanging to dry. He admitted possession and said he had grown the plants on the property there for personal use. No marijuana plants were found outside. He was also found in possession of concentrated cannabis (hashish), of a dangerous drug without a prescription (Norco) and drug parapher-

See **POLICE LOG** page 9RE



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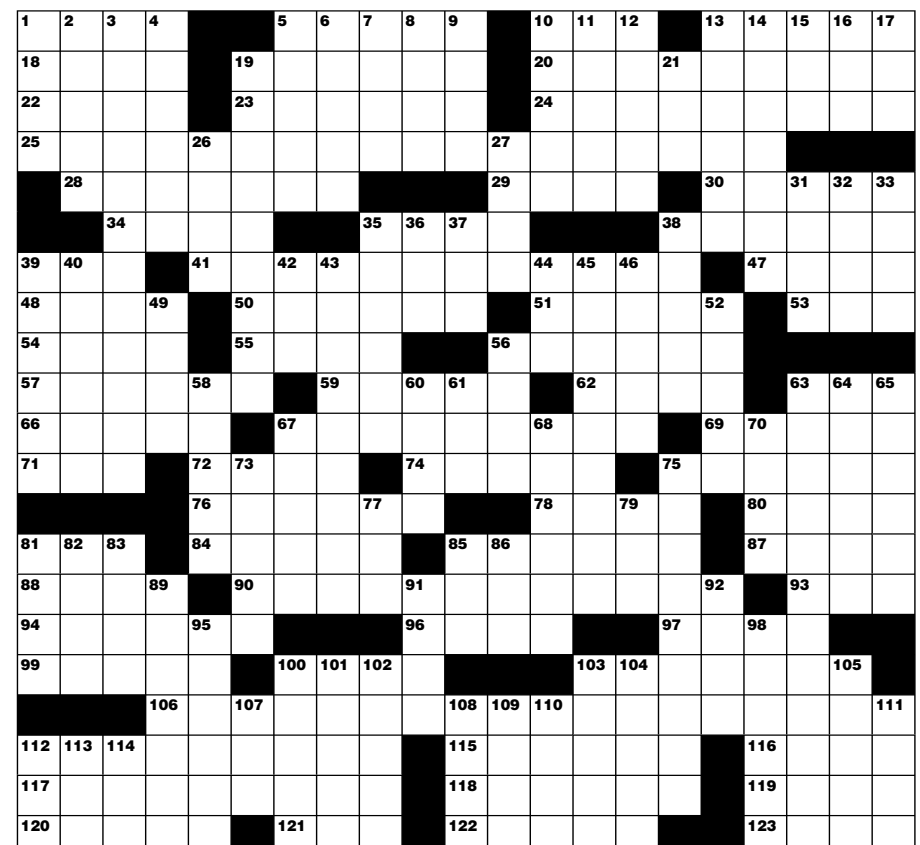
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THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TWO OUT OF THREE By Trip Payne/ Edited by Will Shortz

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|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <p>1 Contractors' offerings</p> <p>5 Rigging technicians</p> <p>10 Traipse (about)</p> <p>13 Diamond points</p> <p>18 Fashion's Tahari</p> <p>19 Affected</p> <p>20 Web-based education</p> <p>22 Between green and black, maybe</p> <p>23 General assemblies</p> <p>24 Nonsense about a cocktail?</p> <p>25 Warning about Mel Gibson on a wrestling surface?</p> <p>28 Catchy tunes</p> <p>29 ___ prime</p> <p>30 Somewhere around</p> <p>34 Far from perky</p> <p>35 One who tells it like it isn't</p> <p>38 Bagel order</p> <p>39 Skosh</p> <p>41 Major book about a leader of the lighter industry?</p> <p>47 Mr. Noodle's friend on "Sesame Street"</p> <p>48 Ltr. with a period</p> <p>50 Like most jigsaw puzzles</p> <p>51 Snow leopard</p> <p>53 Capital of Honshu</p> <p>54 French Toaster Sticks maker</p> <p>55 Work with intaglio</p> | <p>56 Decent</p> <p>57 Fixes a soundtrack</p> <p>59 Margaret famous for painting waiflike children with big eyes</p> <p>62 Japanned metal</p> <p>63 Climber's challenge</p> <p>66 Not for the masses</p> <p>67 Hound, typically?</p> <p>69 Subject of the film "An Unreasonable Man"</p> <p>71 Sportscaster Dierdorf</p> <p>72 He spent 29 years in the Knesset</p> <p>74 Kind of powder</p> <p>75 Formerly did</p> <p>76 Part of making a crossword</p> <p>78 They travel very long distances</p> <p>80 X-ray doses</p> <p>81 Takes too much, quickly</p> <p>84 Half of an animation duo</p> <p>85 Verdi's "Don ___"</p> <p>87 "___ Unleashed!" (cartoon volume)</p> <p>88 Figure skating maneuver</p> <p>90 Why horses are attracted to a witch's headgear?</p> <p>93 Something "realise" lacks</p> <p>94 Overshadows</p> <p>96 Chang and Eng's homeland</p> <p>97 1987 Suzanne Vega hit</p> <p>99 Join up</p> <p>100 Berserkly</p> | <p>103 Divers' milieus</p> <p>106 Why guitar-loving Cooke was blue</p> <p>112 Witticism about a wrinkly little dog?</p> <p>115 Flame battler, at times</p> <p>116 Cover, in a way</p> <p>117 Part of the answer to 36-Down</p> <p>118 Tannin source</p> <p>119 City that lost capital status in 1990</p> <p>120 Unable to pay the bill</p> <p>121 1980s video game console, in brief</p> <p>122 Puzzled (out)</p> <p>123 ___ Spenlow (Dickens girl)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Down</p> <p>1 Road's shoulder</p> <p>2 Its first word translates as "wrath"</p> <p>3 A nitwit liked the loud noise?</p> <p>4 Apparently do</p> <p>5 "Eydie Swings the Blues" singer</p> <p>6 Some tomatoes</p> <p>7 Find ___ one's heart</p> <p>8 Gray lines</p> <p>9 Dominican-born player with more than 600 homers</p> <p>10 Infection causes</p> <p>11 Get ___ of</p> <p>12 Messing of "Will & Grace"</p> | <p>13 Open up, as a topic</p> <p>14 Whenever</p> <p>15 "My dear man"</p> <p>16 Musician Brian</p> <p>17 Rank below warrant officer: Abbr.</p> <p>19 Some crosstown trips</p> <p>21 Word before lock and load</p> <p>26 Swift's "A Tale of ___"</p> <p>27 1980s Soviet leader Andropov</p> <p>31 Count (on)</p> <p>32 Signed in, say</p> <p>33 Middle name of "the King"</p> <p>35 Red-shelled fruit: Var.</p> <p>36 R.N.'s locale</p> <p>37 U.S. dance grp.</p> <p>38 L.A.'s region</p> <p>39 Having multiple layers</p> <p>40 German chancellor Merkel</p> <p>42 "Skedaddle!"</p> <p>43 Making a curling motion with the forefinger, maybe</p> <p>44 Frenzied situation</p> <p>45 Like some jeans</p> <p>46 To-do pile's place</p> <p>49 Promote</p> <p>52 Perfect places</p> <p>56 Italian saint Philip ___</p> <p>58 Nut producer</p> <p>60 In ___ (dazed)</p> <p>61 Vote in Québec</p> <p>63 Complicate commercials for woodworking tools?</p> |
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|---|--|---|--|
| <p>64 End of a James Bond title</p> <p>65 Wrote a novel, e.g.</p> <p>67 Safari spottings</p> <p>68 Graveyard shift time</p> <p>70 Aviation-related</p> <p>73 Doldrums</p> <p>75 W.W. II American naval cruiser</p> <p>77 Slangy turndown</p> <p>79 "Feels good!"</p> <p>81 Shoppe adjective</p> | <p>82 Temporarily not working</p> <p>83 Take to the skies</p> <p>85 William Petersen series</p> <p>86 "Oh, clever!"</p> <p>89 Flourish</p> <p>91 Calls (for)</p> <p>92 "Symphonie Fantastique" need</p> <p>95 Show off</p> <p>98 Feature of some locks</p> | <p>100 Clinton's first defense secretary</p> <p>101 "___ is just pink trying to be purple": Whistler</p> <p>102 Exeunt ___ (stage direction)</p> <p>103 Beurre blanc, e.g.</p> <p>104 Rider of the steed Babiaca</p> <p>105 Coupon user</p> <p>107 Two-out actions: Abbr.</p> | <p>108 Plebe's place: Abbr.</p> <p>109 Home to the Dr Pepper Museum</p> <p>110 Velcro alternative</p> <p>111 Her sidekick was Gabrielle</p> <p>112 Greek consonants</p> <p>113 New England sch.</p> <p>114 New Pontiac of 1964</p> |
|---|--|---|--|

Answer to puzzle on page 9A

Alleged DUI rollover crash lands man, dog in hospital

By MARY BROWNFIELD

A CARMEL Valley man rolled his Subaru on Carmel Rancho Boulevard while driving drunk, according to the California Highway Patrol, and he — and his dog — ended up at the hospital as a result.

CHP public information officer Larry Starkey reported David Allen Lind, 67, was driving his red 1996 Subaru Outback eastbound on Rio Road at 30 mph around 7 p.m. Nov. 15. He turned left onto Carmel Rancho Boulevard, but entered the southbound lane of the divided road, and then careened over the median, hit a sign, crossed the two northbound lanes, and struck the curb and a bike rack on the sidewalk. The station wagon rolled onto its left side and came to rest in

the middle of the road.

The CHP officer at the scene determined Lind was drunk and accompanied him to Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula for a precautionary check, according to Starkey.

After a few hours, Lind was left in the custody of hospital personnel so the officer could return to patrol.

While the CHP's accident report makes no mention of a dog, Carmel police said Lind's Dachshund, a brown male named Strousie, was reportedly injured in the crash, fled and was later found by a passerby near the intersection of Carmel Valley Road and Carmel Rancho Boulevard.

The person brought the pup to Carmel P.D., and since it was after hours, an officer

took the dog to the emergency veterinary clinic in Ryan Ranch for treatment of head injuries, according to Cindi Mitchell, the city's animal control officer.

Mitchell said she contacted Monterey County Animal Services, which took custody of Strousie after his release from the vet's office, to check on his welfare. She learned the dog had been returned to Lind the day after the crash, and Mitchell tried to contact him this week to follow up but had not received a return call.

"We care about the people and the dogs," she explained.

Meanwhile, Starkey said the CHP forwarded its case for DUI charges against Lind to the Monterey County District Attorney's Office.

Puppet show at library

AN UPDATED version of "The Boy Who Cried Wolf," presented by the Puppet Art Theater and utilizing the Wolf Alert 3000 alarm system, will delight kids at the children's library in Carmel at Mission and Sixth Saturday, Dec. 1, at 1:30 p.m.

"Bored with tending his lamb, the boy livens things up by turning on his dad's new alarm system," children's librarian Grace Melady explains. Performance is free and suitable for kids age 3 and up.

BIG SUR GALLERY
 Christmas Gift and Art Event
 Friday December 7, 2007 5 to 8 pm
 Join Guest Artist **Bob Muson**
 Who will autograph copies of a new edition of his classic.

This delightful coloring book was created by Bob Muson many years ago for his children and their friends. It celebrated a moment in time of exquisite freedom, the freedom that comes with living in the peaceful, majestic beauty of the Big Sur coast, a magical place brimming with wildlife and untouched landscapes. "When the book was finished I realized that I had created a one of a kind piece of folk art inspired by my life in Big Sur during that time."

Enjoy Big Sur drumming, Indian flute, belly dancers and festive refreshments.

The Big Sur Gallery is located in the Carmel Rancho Shopping Center across from the Barnyard in Carmel.
 For more information, call 831-624-1172
www.bigsurgallery.net

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WATER

From page 1A

be sworn in Dec. 10.

Besides the Sierra Club, of which she is a member, Doyle has a long list of supporters, some of whom have vocally opposed any new water supply. But Doyle said people shouldn't expect her to necessarily agree with those positions.

"I don't want to be one of those people who say, 'I'm liv-

ing here and you can't,' and, 'I have all the water and I don't want you to have any,'" Doyle said.

Doyle's supporters include George Riley, Janice O'Brien, and current water board members Kristi Markey and Judi Lehman, who opposed even a small desal plant in Sand City.

But Doyle said she won't be obligated to vote with Markey and Lehman on some issues and is ultimately beholden to those who voted for her.

"I'm hoping we will agree so I don't have to fight with them," she said, "because they are nice people."

Doyle, 53, lived in Pacific Grove as a child while her father was stationed in Fort Ord. She went to Fresno State University, worked for the Peace Corps and lived in Africa for about 15 years before returning to the Peninsula in 2000.

Her husband, Brendan Doyle, is a water engineer who consults for large international projects funded by organizations and countries, including the British government, UNICEF, United Nations, World Health Organization and the World Bank.

Brendan Doyle, who was recently in Rwanda, Uganda and Tunisia consulting for projects, has been helpful in explain-

ing water issues, particularly desalination technology, she said.

"I think it is the wave of the future," she said. "And we have to accept it and make sure the safeguards and the technologies are there."

Doyle said one of her primary goals is to make sure the Peninsula's water supplier, California American Water Co., complies with State Order 95-10, which directed it to reduce pumping of the Carmel River by about 75 percent.

Among her ideas for doing that are expanded water conservation methods and the construction of a desal plant such as those proposed by California American Water Co. and Pajaro/Sunny Mesa Community Services District.

"If they can get the environmental regulations passed and get the voters to pay for it," she said, "it's fine by me."

Although that position would seem to put her at direct odds with some of her supporters, Doyle said she clearly outlined her position to them.

"I would like very much to solve the water problem," she said. "And I don't want to be seen as someone who says, 'No,' to everything, or, 'Yes,' to everything, for that matter."

Today's Real Estate

by MAUREEN MASON
Certified Residential Specialist



ARE RATES GOING DOWN?

Let's say the Federal Reserve is pushing most interest rates a bit lower, hoping to avert an overall economic slowdown. It does happen—quite often.

How do you know this is happening? Perhaps you're an avid reader of The Wall Street Journal and other news sources. To that, you should add the seasoned observations of your mortgage professional and real estate professional. These are people you should have a long-term relationship with, people with whom you should talk regularly. It's their job to read the direction of the market.

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Maureen Mason is a Realtor® with
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DESAL

From page 1A

ty relations manager Catherine Bowie.

"We are finalizing the construction details," Bowie said. "And we are actually working right now with Dynegey on a renewal of the lease."

Bowie said the \$2 million plant will be powered up in December but won't actually begin desalinating water until a month later.

"We have been talking about desal as a solution to our perennial water shortage," she said. "And the data collected from this pilot study will let us know if it is physically possible to get the water quality needed to make desal a reality."

Cal Am will use information from the pilot test plant for its proposed full-scale Coastal Water Project, a desal plant at the power plant that would provide a drought-free supply to the Monterey Peninsula while eliminating illegal pumping from the Carmel River, the Peninsula's main water source.

"I think it's going to be useful for whatever project winds up being the solution to our water needs," Bowie said.

The Pajaro/Sunny Mesa Community Services District has proposed building an even larger desalination facility next door to the power plant. But that project is far behind Cal Am's in the permitting process.

Because the pilot plant sat so long in Moss Landing after being delivered in June 2006, Bowie said some of the components had to be replaced. "And because we were so delayed on the permitting with the county and California Coastal Commission, we also ended up doing things we never expected to do, like renewing the lease agreement," she said.

The facility is expected to process up to 288,000 gallons of seawater — a tiny fraction of the capacity of the Coastal Water Project's full-scale desalination facility.

Cal Am will operate the pilot plant for up to one year. The testbed will draw seawater from the power plant's cooling system and treat it to drinking-water standards. The brine produced by the desal plant would be added to the power plant's outflow before being returned to Monterey Bay.

It's been years since Cal Am first proposed the pilot plant. The plant faced numerous regulatory tie-ups at the local and state levels, and environmentalists fought to have the plant stopped since it would bring Cal Am one step closer to implementing a full-scale desal plant, which many of them oppose.



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DECEMBER 2007

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In order to attract shoppers we must provide exceptional customer service. And the more sophisticated the visitor, the more demanding they tend to be. My personal observation is that when the business owner is present customers do receive very good service. And by 'customer service' I mean recognizing people when they enter the store, being able to direct them to the

post office, restrooms, and to other shops and, finally, thanking them for coming into the store. Unfortunately many of our retail shops are owned by absentee owners and this is when problems occur. On frequent occasions, I enter a shop to find the young sales clerk is using his or her cell phone and clearly has no interest in serving me. An acquaintance of mine, who owns a very successful retail store, recently spent a morning walking up and down Ocean Avenue and was appalled at the lack of interest shown by the sales staff.

On the other hand, our restaurants do provide outstanding service. At least most of them do. However, last week I went to a local restaurant for lunch and, even though there were empty tables, no one welcomed me. I could hear plenty of laughter coming from the kitchen area. After seven minutes I left and will probably never go there again. During this time none of the other customers was served. And this is how our visitors react to poor customer service.

The Chamber of Commerce is well aware of this problem and is seriously considering offering a customer service workshop. But how many business owners recognize this as problem and will enroll their employees? We welcome your feedback including suggestions as to how we can overcome this problem. Please call me personally at 236-2974 or Monta Potter at 624-2522 as we need your suggestions.

Michael Adamson is a senior vice president at Monterey County Bank, the oldest locally owned and managed community bank on the Monterey Peninsula. He and his wife, Sabine, own Sabine Adamson Antiques and Interiors, an importer of French antique furniture and accessories located in Su Vecino Court off Dolores. He can be reached at 236-2974.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2007

- Nov 21 - Dec 29 PacRep Presents "The Full Monty", Golden Bough Theatre, Carmel, 622-0100
- Nov 23 - Dec 31 Ice Skating at the Monterey County Fair Grounds, Monterey, 372-5863
- Nov 29 - Dec 30 Annual "Miniature Show", Carmel Art Association, Carmel, 624-6176
- Nov 30 - Dec 8 "South Pacific", The Western Stage Hartnell College, Salinas, 375-2111
- Dec 1 "St. Petersburg String Quartet", Chamber Music Monterey Bay, Sunset Center, Carmel, 625-2212
- Dec 1-3 Concert Two "Good Tidings from Zion", Monterey Symphony, Sunset Center, Carmel, 624-8511
- Dec 1 "The Boy Who Cried Wolf", Puppet Art Theater, Harrison Memorial Library's Park Branch, Carmel, 624-4664
- Dec 2 Inns of Distinction Tour, Carmel Heritage Society, Carmel, 624-4447
- Dec 2 Holiday Spectacular, Chateau Julien Wine Estates, Carmel Valley, 624-2600
- Dec 4-5 "Fully Committed", Pacific Repertory Theatre, Circle Theatre, Carmel, 622-0100
- Dec 5 "Carmel Art Association: Legends and Legacies" Booksigning, Carmel Art Association, Carmel, 624-6176
- Dec 5 Carmel High School Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, The Carmel Foundation, Carmel, 624-1588
- Dec 6 Carmel Chamber of Commerce Green Ribbon of Excellence Awards Dinner, Monterey Peninsula Country Club, Pebble Beach, 624-2522
- Dec 6 Casanova Celebratory Dinner of the Arrival of Van Gogh's Table, Casanova Restaurant, Carmel, 625-0501
- Dec 6 1st Annual Black Tie Grapes and Glamour Gala, Grasing's, Carmel, 624-6562
- Dec 6 Holiday Patron Party, Harrison Memorial Library, Carmel, 624-1615
- Dec 7 CCC Ribbon Cutting for Divané, Carmel
- Dec 7 11th Annual Truffle Dinner, Bernardus Lodge, Carmel Valley, 658-3550
- Dec 7-9 "The Nutcracker", Dance Kids of Monterey, Monterey Peninsula College, Monterey, 373-7300
- Dec 7-9 Larry Wilde "Going on Ed Sullivan", Carl Cherry Center for the Arts, Carmel, 917-6933
- Dec 8 Chocolates and Desserts Cooking Demo, Bernardus Lodge, Carmel Valley, 658-3550
- Dec 8 Jody Royee Gallery Holiday Open House, Jody Royee Gallery, Carmel Valley, 620-0303
- Dec 13 Carmel's "Biggest Little Christmas Party" La Playa Hotel, Carmel, 624-6476
- Dec 21 Chanticleer, Carmel Mission Basilica, 415-392-4400
- Dec 22 Symphony Christmas, Carmel Mission Basilica, Carmel, 624-8511,
- Dec 25 Community Christmas Dinner, Monterey Fairgrounds, Monterey
- Dec 28 - 29 Smuin Holiday Ballet - "The Christmas Ballet", Sunset Center, 620-2048
- Dec 31 First Night, Downtown Monterey
- Jan 1 18th Annual Rio Gril Resolution Run, The Crossroads Shopping Village, Carmel, 645-4777

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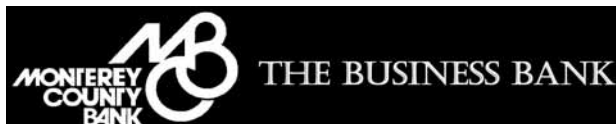
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Publisher home after stroke, begins therapy

By KELLY NIX

LEE YARBOROUGH, publisher of the Pacific Grove Hometown Bulletin, has returned home after a serious stroke and is working with a speech therapist so he can speak again, one of his employees told The Pine Cone.

Yarborough, who suffered the stroke Nov. 15 while at a Pacific Grove store, returned to his P.G. house on Thanksgiving Day, said Bruce Obbink, a reporter for the Bulletin.

"Lee is doing immensely well," Obbink said. "He walks, and he has no difficulty with motor ability."

While Yarborough, 76, recognizes everyone and can say, "Hi," Obbink said he's still unable to speak the way he could before the stroke.

"That is his hurdle right now," Obbink said. But he added that the therapist said Yarborough will eventually be able to speak normally again.

Yarborough collapsed at P.G. Hardware on Forest Avenue and was rushed to Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula, where doctors dissolved the blood clot.

"He is walking around the block," Obbink said. "He will answer the phone. You will not get into a conversation with him because his brain isn't computing everything yet."

Obbink said it will be some time before Yarborough returns to the paper but that the newspaper's operation is on "auto pilot."

A week before the stroke, Yarborough lost a bid for a seat on the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District board to Regina Doyle.



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Carmel Valley

CHASE

From page 1A

truck coming toward him on the curvy one-way street in the wrong direction.

“That time of night, I figured they were probably drunk,” he said. So he turned on his emergency lights, expecting the vehicle to stop or turn around.

Instead, 26-year-old Jennifer Stokes threw the 2007 Chevy Colorado pickup truck in reverse and floored it down the narrow street at about 30 mph, according to Johnson. At 13th Avenue, she attempted to turn around, hit a tree and headed up San Antonio — directly toward officer Joe Boucher, who was driving down the street in response to Johnson’s call.

“She went almost head on into Joe, but he was able to move to avoid getting hit,” he said.

She sped south through Carmel Point and turned onto Isabella, where Johnson estimated she hit 60 mph, got back onto Scenic and almost crashed at the corner.

“She then continued south toward Carmel River State Beach, to the driveway there, lost control and launched off the embankment,” Johnson said. “That, I was not expecting. I didn’t think we were going fast enough to do that.”

In fact, he had expected the truck to stop at the curb and had slowed in anticipation of having to leap out and chase the suspects on foot.

“Instead, it hit the embankment,” he said, “and looked like it was launched out of a cannon.”

Chilly water wins

Johnson notified Cal Fire of the crash, and Monterey County Sheriff’s deputies also arrived. Stokes and her passenger, 20-year-old Mickey Hill, had freed themselves from the truck and fled into the marsh.

“It was pretty easy to see where they were going,” he said, not because they were visible but because the reeds, which were taller than they were, rustled as they moved. “It was like watching someone run through a corn maze — you could hear them crashing through.”

He yelled at the pair that he planned to release a police dog, even though he didn’t actually have one, and Hill soon gave himself up.

Complaining of pain to his leg, he asked for help up the

embankment. Johnson pulled him up and left him in the care of Boucher and a medic, but he refused further medical aid.

Hill was taken to Monterey County Jail on charges of stealing the truck — which belongs to Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Seaside — and possession of marijuana, which they found inside it, according to Sgt. Mike Calhoun.

Meanwhile, Johnson went after Stokes, who had hunkered down in the water, trying to hide among the reeds.

The firefighters “were tremendously helpful,” Johnson said. They illuminated the lagoon and produced their thermal imaging camera so he could search for Stokes. Since she was in the water, the camera didn’t pick her up, but it didn’t take long for the chilly air temperature and cold lagoon water to affect her.

“She started screaming. She was over running and hiding, and she was so cold,” Johnson said. The fire crew laid a ladder over bramble bushes so the officer could climb over and into the water, which wasn’t very deep. “Without them, I probably wouldn’t have been able to get out there and get her.”

Paramedics treated Stokes for cold and injuries, and took her by ambulance to Community Hospital, where she remained until Monday, Calhoun said. Unfortunately, she was released before police could take her into custody for the litany of alleged felonies.

Already wanted on a no-bail warrant for a previous violation, Calhoun said, Stokes now also faces charges of car theft, possession of methamphetamine and marijuana, drug paraphernalia, DUI (a felony because it caused injuries), hit-and-

run, and evading arrest.

Although both are from Willits, Calhoun said Stokes has ties to Seaside, and he suspects her evident drug addiction will force her to surface — and end up in the hands of authorities again — before too long. Carmel P.D. is submitting the case against them to the district attorney’s office.

“He’s in jail, and she is on the run,” Calhoun said.


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Answer to This Week’s Puzzle

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Calendar

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Nov. 24-Jan. 5 - Del Monte Shopping Center is again hosting the Girl Scouts of Monterey Bay's **One Warm Coat** community service project. Gently used coats will be collected in front of Macy's every Saturday from Nov. 24 through Jan 5, 2008, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Coats of all sizes are welcome, but children's sizes are needed most. www.onewarmcoat.org.

Dec. 1 & 15 - K. DeBord Pottery is having an **Open Studio** featuring locally made, colorful, cheery, fun tableware. A great gift, or add to your own collection. Located at 109 Mid Valley Center, in the back near Safeway's dock. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (831) 622-9290

Dec. 3 - Come and join the Carmel Woman's

Club in hearing member, Artie Early, doing one of her favorite **Christmas readings**. Tea and refreshments will be served. Visitors welcome. \$3 charge. (831) 375-0818

Dec. 7 - Big Sur Gallery Christmas Gift & Art Event, Friday, 5-8 p.m. Join Guest Artist, Bob Muson, who will autograph copies of a new edition of his classic. Enjoy Big Sur drumming, Indian flute, belly dancers and festive refreshments. The Big Sur Gallery is located in the Carmel Rancho Shopping Center across from the Barnyard. (831) 624-1172

Dec. 8 - Save a Life Over Lunch Blood Drive hosted by Del Monte Shopping Center and Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., in front of Century Theatres. All blood donors will receive a coupon for a free piece of pizza from Pizza My Heart. No reservations are needed. (831) 625-4814.

Dec. 8-25 - Coastal Impressions, Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 8 and 9, **Major Sale for the Holiday season**. 20 percent off 'til Dec. 25. Silent auction on all work. All reasonable offers considered. Special Holiday gift room. Local pleine-air paintings oil & acrylic. 2014 Sunset Drive, P.G. www.barrymarshallpaintings.com, (831) 277-5445

Dec. 15 - Canterbury Woods is proud to present **VOCI a capella**, a Chamber Ensemble of the renowned I Cantori di Carmel choral group! They will sing Christmas carols in the John Tennant Memorial Auditorium on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. A sure delight that will add joy to your holiday season. This performance is free and open to the public. For reservations, call Canterbury Woods at (831) 657-4193.



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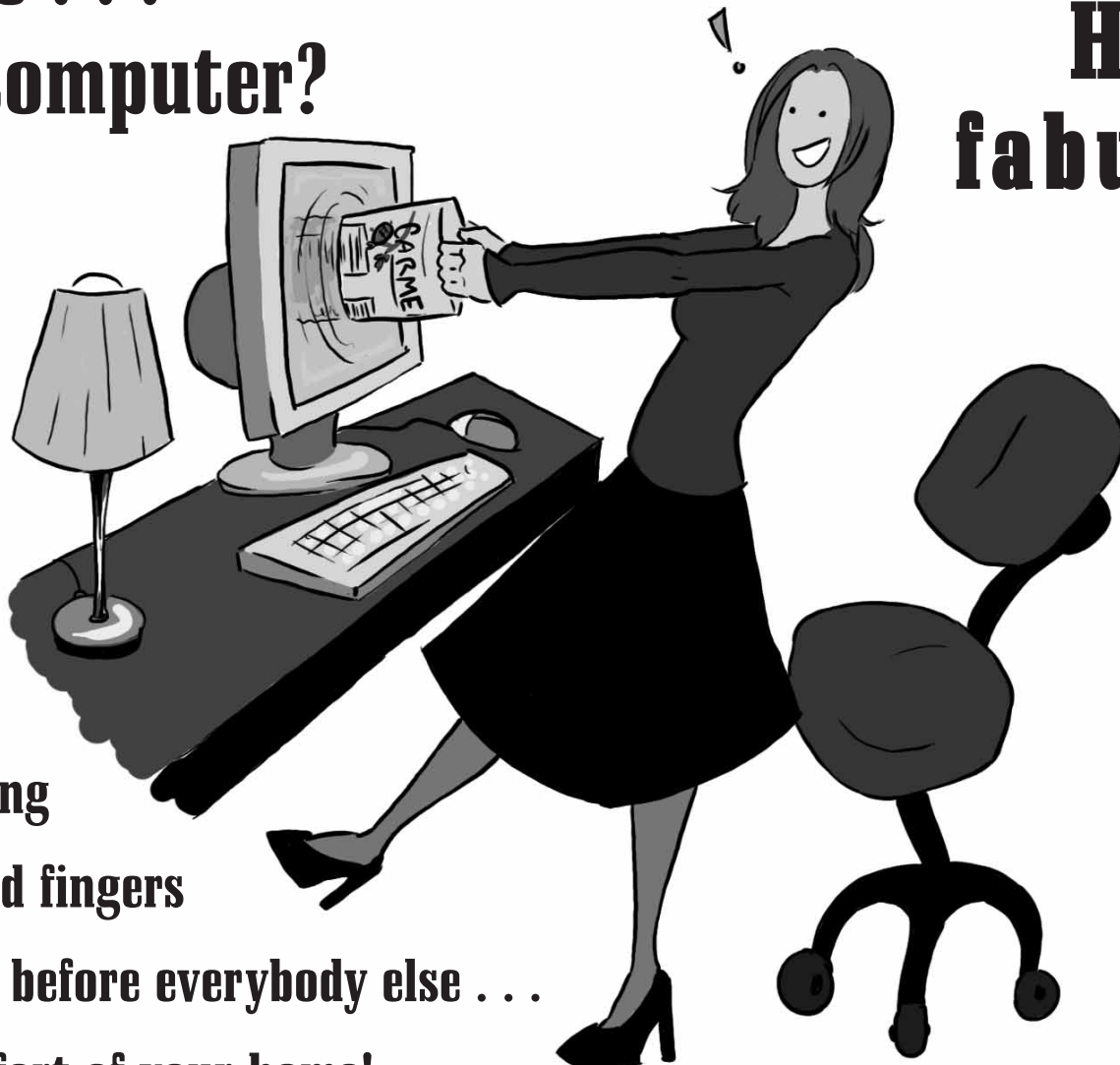
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'Fully Committed' lampoons upscale dining

A HILARIOUS and often biting commentary on the pretensions of upscale dining, PacRep Theatre's "Fully Committed" returns to Carmel when the Circle Theatre hosts its opening Wednesday, Dec. 5.

As a reservationist at an exclusive New York eatery, out-of-work actor Sam Peliczowski is the object of attention for a cast of callers desperate to land a table at the swank restaurant where he works. While the Big Apple's elite and wannabe elite pester, schmooze and cajole Peliczowski, and his maniacal co-workers tease and torment him, he takes a look at his own life.

According to director and designer John Rousseau, the one-man play is filled of funny moments. "It's full of wild and crazy characters," said Rousseau, who has worked at PacRep Theatre for 22 years. "It's like an 'I Love Lucy' episode. There are so many things going on at once."

But it's not all laughs, explained Rousseau. "The play has a real message about entitlement and taking responsibility for yourself," he said. "It's about a man's journey to self-respect. You really start to root for him."

John Farmanesh-Bocca, who grew up on the Monterey Peninsula before moving to Southern California to pursue an

acting career, plays Peliczowski. "When you do a show like this, you'd better have someone in mind," he said. "John is a talented guy."

The play continues through Dec. 29. The Circle Theatre is located on Casanova Street, between Eight and Ninth streets. For tickets or more information, call (831) 622-0100.

Holiday party for AFRP

ANIMAL FRIENDS Rescue Project is holding its 10th annual Holiday Party to raise money.

The event, which will feature a silent auction, raffle, wine, vegetarian-friendly dinner and dancing, will be held Dec. 9 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Main Ballroom in Monterey.

All the proceeds of the event benefit AFRP.

To make reservations for the 10th Annual Holiday Party call (831) 333-0722 or email at info@animalfriend-rescue.org.



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Sandy Claws

By Margot Petit Nichols

backbone showing and something wrong with her hip when Mom adopted her. Samantha was also depressed, as one can only imagine.

Now, after hip surgery, fattening up, romps on Carmel Beach and tender loving care from Mom and Nana Ruth, Sam is doing splendidly. She has two physical therapists – Teah Sanchez and Sally Goss – who take her for supplemental walks and to the beach.

But all this attention has not gone to her head. She's still a level-headed canine who much prefers rides in



the family's '87 Nissan to jaunts in the tonier Lexus.

Sam got her name from 96-year-old Grandpop Paul. When Mom Karen introduced them shortly after the adoption, she said she had chosen the name, Gem. "No!" said Grandpop. "Her name is Sam." And so it is.

Sam isn't one for toys, although she's partial to a squishy, stuffed star with a squeaker. She likes balls and, although she runs after the ball when Mom throws it at the beach, she doesn't return it to her. Instead, she takes it to young, good-looking guys. Mom doesn't scold her very much when this happens.

When she's at the beach, mellow Sam first lies on the sidelines, observing other dogs playing, looking out for her preferred breeds: Queensland heelers and Australian shepherds. When she decides whom she wants as a playmate, she strikes up a friendship, and off she goes.

Sam likes to visit Nana Ruth at Del Mesa and has made quite a hit with neighbors there. She's built a reputation as a well-mannered visitor who never chases the lawn-grazing deer.

At night, Sam sleeps beside Mom's Tempur-pedic bed on her own back-friendly mattress, knowing her life has taken on all the qualities of paradise.

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Hanging lights, not picking cherries



PHOTO/MARY BROWNFIELD

In preparation for the City of Carmel's Holiday Tree Lighting Friday, forestry worker Kelley Green spent hours Wednesday piloting the bucket of a Hi-Ranger cherry picker above and around the towering tree at Ocean and Junipero to drape it with string after string of twinkly lights and place the star at its top. His handiwork will come to life during the festivities set to begin in Devendorf Park at 5 p.m. Nov. 30 with carols, a reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas," and refreshments. Mayor Sue McCloud will light the tree at 5:45 p.m.



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SPCA holidays benefit pets and owners

By KELLY NIX

THE SPCA for Monterey County this holiday season is letting pet owners know it will help provide pet food, supplies and toys for needy families.

The SPCA is partnering with the Salvation Army Good Samaritan Center to provide the items so people won't have to give up their pets for financial reasons.

"By getting pet food and supplies to families in need during the holidays," said SPCA spokeswoman Beth Brookhouser, "we are helping keep pets in homes, where they belong."

The SPCA said the program is particularly beneficial for those with pets but without close families. The SPCA is accepting donations of unopened pet food, supplies and toys.

"During tough times," Brookhouser said, "a pet is often the only source of unconditional love available to a person in need. To be forced to give up that special pet would be devastating."

New and unopened pet food and toy donations may be brought to the SPCA, located at 1002 Highway 68 across from Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. Donations are accepted seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 16.

dog or cat for people who would benefit significantly from a pet's unconditional love and companionship."

The \$10 adoption includes the spay or neuter surgery, microchip, rabies and other necessary vaccinations, and a health evaluation.

Research shows that pets help reduce stress and blood pressure. Other benefits, especially with a dog, include exercise and opportunities for social interaction.

"The many health benefits to adopters are proved time and time again," Brookhouser said. "And to see an older pet, one that might have been overlooked for weeks or months because of younger puppies and kittens, go into a wonderful home makes this program so heartwarming and important."

The SPCA carefully pairs pets with calm temperaments and dogs who are able to walk on a leash.

For more information about either program, contact the SPCA at (831) 373-2631.

To learn other ways you can help pets and people during the holidays, visit www.SPCCamc.org and click "How Can I Help?" To teach children the many ways they can help animals, click "How You Can Help Animals" under the "Just for Kids" link.

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The Whiskers & Wisdom program offered by the SPCA allows adults 60 years and up to adopt a pet that's at least 3 years old for only \$10.

"It's win-win for everyone involved," Brookhouser said. "A new home for pets who need homes the most, and a new

Archivist celebrates b-day, hosts book signing

THREE LOCAL authors will be on hand to sign copies of their new books and one of the Monterey Peninsula's most unusual business celebrates its 37th anniversary Sunday, Dec. 2, at California Views Historical Photographs in Monterey.

Historian Michael Hemp will sign copies of a new expanded edition of his book, "Cannery Row." He'll be joined by Burlington Willis, the author of "Monterey Peninsula: A Postcard Journey," and Diana G. Dennis, who penned "Cannery Row 1965: A Time in Between."

Pat Hathaway, a noted local archivist, will commemorate the birthday of his business, which offers reproductions of more than 80,000 historical photographs depicting California people and places.

The event starts at 10 a.m. and is free. California Views is located at 469 Pacific St. For more information, call (831) 373-3811 or visit www.caviews.com.

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Senior group stumps for funds for wheels

By MARY BROWNFIELD

THE CARMEL Foundation needs help with ferrying elderly members who have given up their car keys, according



PHOTO/JENNIFER MARTINEZ

With the Carmel Foundation's old blue van bound for the scrap yard, driver Darrin Michell and member Nancy Larson — one of many depending on the nonprofit for rides — hope donations will help pay for a new set of wheels.

to development associate Jennifer Martinez. The nonprofit accepts no tax dollars to offer numerous services to seniors, including rides to medical offices, grocery stores and nursing homes to visit elderly friends and family, and the unfortunate demise of one of its vehicles has the group seeking donations to buy a new set of wheels.

Foundation membership is open to anyone age 55 or older, and many depend on the \$4 door-to-door rides it offers Monday through Friday. With one of its vans recently deemed beyond repair, the group's "ability to meet the critical transportation needs of local seniors" has been compromised, Martinez said.

Even in Carmel, many have low incomes, making costly cab rides unaffordable, and the public bus system can be inaccessible and inconvenient for someone who's frail.

During the 2006/2007 fiscal year, the foundation provid-

See FOUNDATION page 21A

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'Messiah,' string quartets play Sunset, All Saints

By CHRIS COUNTS

FOR THE first time in more than two

decades, the Monterey Symphony will present one of the world's most popular choral works, George Frideric Handel's oratorio, "Messiah."

The symphony's two Sunset Center concerts — Sunday and Monday, Dec. 2-3 — are close to selling out. But plenty of tickets are still available for the symphony's performance of "Messiah" at Sherwood Hall in Salinas Saturday, Dec. 1.

The reason for the near sell-out is twofold. First of all, "Messiah" is simply a great work inspired by a timeless subject, according

See **MUSIC** page 23A



The St. Petersburg String Quartet

Size doesn't matter to art-loving holiday shoppers

By CHRIS COUNTS

TWO ART exhibits opening this weekend — which together present the works of nearly 100 mostly local artists — offer two very different perspectives on the size of art.

The Carmel Art Association will host a reception Saturday, Dec 1, for its annual Miniature Show — an event the nonprofit art group has been presenting since 1927.

"It's a very popular show and a tradition here at the art center for 80 years," said director Susan Klusmire. "The show offers a lot of wonderful paintings at a price people can actually afford. And even if you don't buy anything, it's still a great show to see."

Like the art, the prices of individual works are surprisingly small. Klusmire estimates most pieces will sell for \$50 to \$350.

Participating in the show will be about

See **ART** page 23A



This print by Alice Geller is just one of many works featured in two new holiday art exhibits.

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
GALANTE VINEYARDS
presents
Vertical Tasting
Nov. 30-Dec.1
See page 19A

CARMEL VALLEY
27th Annual
ARTISTS CHRISTMAS FAIR
December 1 & 2
See page 10A

SALINAS VALLEY
HAHN ESTATES
27th Anniversary
Christmas Open House
December 2
See page 19A

MONTEREY
VENTANA VINEYARDS
2nd Annual
Holiday Open House
December 1 & 2
See page 19A

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Food & Wine Champa

Cypress Inn menu shows chef's love for cooking

By MARGOT PETIT NICHOLS

WHEN HE'S talking about preparation of a favorite dish, his eyes gleam and his face takes on an intense look of pleasure. Executive Chef Julio Aguirre Jr. loves his work at Terry's Lounge at The Cypress Inn.

"I pour love into all my dishes," he said, sitting in the upper Moroccan-style dining room a few steps up from the restaurant/lounge in Doris Day's celebrated hotel.

While hesitating to say which of the dishes he prepares daily for luncheon and dinner are his signature dishes, he speaks with affection of his grilled salmon with a brunoise of tomato, bell pepper and fennel and served with whipped potatoes and vegetables in season.

Other entrées he takes pleasure in preparing are Lobster Mornay — coldwater Australian lobster tail with a béchamel/cheese sauce, and a 7 oz. filet mignon with seasoned peppercorns.

Chef Julio's favorite methods of cooking are grilling and sautéing. And he finds that sauces bring out his creativity. "To our traditional sauces I add things to make them signature sauces," he said, while not revealing what the "added things" are.

Chef Julio, who grew up in Santa Cruz and cooked in various restaurants there, joined Terry's Lounge four weeks after the restaurant opened in 2006. Entrepreneur and hotelier Denny LeVett, along with silent partner Doris Day, named the hotel's restaurant and lounge after Day's late son, Terry

Melcher, who managed the hotel for many years. His framed photograph figures prominently in the lounge.

Some of Chef Julio's repertoire comes from San Francisco's Delancy Street culinary academy from which he graduated. "They were a major player in my dishes and skills," he said. "A lot of San Francisco's finest chefs came to teach us their recipes

Continues next page



PHOTO/PAUL MILLER

At the Cypress Inn on Lincoln, dogs are welcome in the cocktail lounge. And the food is pretty good, too.

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From previous page

and kitchen techniques.”

He said the school’s restaurant at Delancy Street “was like a European ethnic restaurant because it was a melting pot of people.”

He worked in the restaurant for two years while completing the three-year course. He graduated in 1993, then went on to cook in two San Francisco Italian restaurants, Trefratelli and Ifratelli. He also worked at Ratto’s, a popular café deli. “A lot of the time I worked three jobs,” he said.

He learned Middle Eastern cooking at City Cuisine restaurant near the Trans Am building in San Francisco, working with unfamiliar spices. “Most of the time in those restaurants I was a cook,” he said.

His Middle Eastern experience in those early years has come to the fore at Terry’s Lounge.

“When we first opened, our menu was Mediterranean, but now it’s a mixture of things,” he said. The ambiance is Moroccan, with French, Italian, American and even Thai fare included on the menu.

But with all his love of ethnic foods, Chef Julio waxes enthusiastic when speaking of how he prepares braised short ribs on the dinner menu. He braises the boneless short ribs in beer for three hours and finishes them in a reduced red wine sauce. When ready, they are fork tender. They are served over a soft polenta in which rosemary and manchego cheese have been incorporated. Fresh vegetables accompany this rich dish.

Not only do Chef Julio and his staff of five prepare dinner seven nights a week, they are responsible for a light luncheon menu. Included in the noontime fare are sandwich-

es: a crab and watercress, and a free-range chicken breast, to mention only two. The 8 oz. Cypress burger is also prepared for dinner. Doris Day’s favorite, chicken salad made with capers, water chestnuts and mayonnaise, is served in a lettuce cup.

Aiding in the kitchen are Hector Reyes, Chef Julio’s right-hand man, whom he describes as “more than a sous chef;” pastry chef Joe Giordmania; Gerardo Hernandez, assistant sous chef; Feliz Perez, and Luis Reyes. “My guys are cross-trained to do everything,” Chef Julio said proudly, adding, “That’s the way it should be.”

From 1 to 4 p.m. a high tea is served with

Continues next page



PHOTO/MARGOT PETIT NICHOLS

Executive Chef Julio Aguirre, Jr., reigns supreme in all things culinary at Terry’s Lounge at The Cypress Inn.

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Food & Wine Champ

From previous page

homemade scones, tea cookies, tea sandwiches, jam and thickened cream and a choice of nine teas, including Marrakesh mint, Darjeeling choice estate, African nectar, and white orchid light caffeine tea. The high tea costs \$18 per person, but à la carte tea and accompaniments are also available.

And not to go without mention is the small bar where locals, visitors and hotel guests gather with their dogs at cocktail hour — a must-see for those who have never been to the Cypress Inn. It should be noted here that dogs, while welcome in the small bar — which is decorated with Doris Day movie posters — are not permitted in Terry's Lounge restaurant.

As busy as he is, Chef Julio has also found time to become engaged — to another executive chef. Chef Patou Szumacher held the executive position at Gardiner's Tennis Ranch in Carmel Valley but now has her own business, Catering by Patou. The couple will be married next year.

The Cypress Inn and Terry's Lounge at the Cypress Inn are located on Lincoln at Seventh Avenue in Carmel-by-the-Sea. For information or reservations, call (831) 624-3871.



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Chocolate, gift-of-the-month and a superstar chef

By CHARYN PFEUFFER

BERNARDUS LODGE'S talented sweet-tooth pastry twosome, along with Executive Chef Cal Stamenov, will be sharing some of their best-loved cake, cookie and chocolate recipes at their annual Chocolates and Desserts Cooking Demonstration Saturday, Dec. 8. Guests will savor a delicious chocolate tasting and learn the basics about flavor differences, aromas and gourmet chocolates' distinctive personalities. Plus, they will take home some recipes just in time for the holidays.

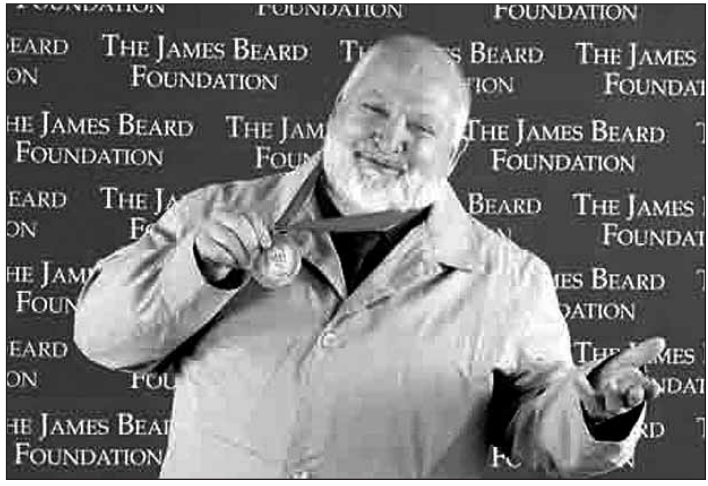
Bernardus Lodge is at 415 Carmel Valley Road; (831) 658-3550 or visit www.bernardus.com.

■ Everybody loves wine and cheese

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See **FOOD** page 22A

Michel Richard's cooking is legenday in Washington, D.C. Soon, he'll be offering it at Carmel Valley Ranch. In May, he received the Chef of the Year Award from the James Beard Foundation (right).



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FOUNDATION

From page 15A

ed almost 2,800 rides, including more than 1,700 to medical appointments, according to Martinez. As examples, she offered the 87-year-old Carmel resident who suffers from vision and mobility problems but has been able to remain independent rather than move to a care facility because she rides to Community Hospital and the grocery store, and the 78-year-old Monterey man who takes care of his stroke-stricken wife full time but can still see his own doctor in Ryan Ranch. Roundtrip cab rides from Carmel Highlands and mid-valley can be costly, she pointed out.

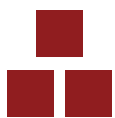
After senior citizens decide they can no longer safely drive — or are forced by family or the state to give up their car keys — they find themselves relying on friends or relatives for rides.

“But many family members no longer live near each other, or are working and unavailable,” Martinez said. “Many seniors we serve would have difficulty meeting their medical-appointment needs while remaining independent and at home without our transportation program.”

If older people can continue living on their own and get out and about, they are more likely to remain connected with the community, be more active and healthy, and thus enjoy a higher quality of life, according to Martinez. Members age 85 and older “face fragility and health-related aging issues in greater numbers with greater risk, and they can become isolated without the services in place to support their transportation needs.”

The foundation, founded in 1950, obtained its first station wagon and began carrying members to errands in 1970. In 1988, the program was formalized. Martinez said it’s a good example of how the foundation — which also provides almost all of the low-cost senior housing in Carmel, offers inexpensive meals and delivers food to shut-ins, and hosts more than 50 classes and activities a week — promotes “independent living and healthy aging.”

The van’s replacement “needs to be easy for seniors to get into and able to handle the mileage that we put on quickly,” she said, but research is still under way regarding what might fit the bill. The nonprofit hopes to raise about \$40,000 toward its purchase, and anyone who wishes to contribute should deliver a check to the foundation at Eighth and Lincoln, mail it to P.O. Box 1050, Carmel, CA 93921 or visit www.carmelfoundation.org. For additional information, contact Martinez at (831) 624-1588 ext. 45.



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Mayoral, city council election set for April

By MARY BROWNFIELD

VOTERS will elect two Carmel City Council members and the mayor next April, according to a resolution adopted by the council this month. But so far no one — not even the incumbents — has declared an intention to run. The filing period for candidates opens Monday, Dec. 17, and those interested in vying for the seats will have until Friday, Jan. 11, to obtain the signatures of 25 registered voters to garner a spot on the ballot.

In the 2006 election, incumbent councilman Gerard Rose, councilwoman Paula Hazdovac and Mayor Sue McCloud faced minimal opposition. The only council challenger, Ryan Walbrun, was a political newcomer who lost by almost 200 votes to Hazdovac and 171 to Rose. At the time, he said he might consider running in 2008 but has since moved out of the city. Dogman McBill, known by most for once occupying a purple school bus with 18 dogs, ran for mayor but ended up

with only 335 votes, compared with McCloud’s 952. He also said he planned to campaign again.

Since then, the two members of council voters chose in the 2004 election have left. Former planning commissioners Ken Talmage and Karen Sharp replaced Erik Bethel, who took a job with a merchant bank in Shanghai last November, and Mike Cunningham, who resigned in July, nine months short of his term’s end, for personal reasons.

Talmage and Sharp are reportedly considering vying for full four-year terms but would not say whether they will enter the race. Neither would McCloud, who would be seeking her fifth two-year term as mayor. If she does and successfully retains her seat, she would be the city’s longest-serving mayor since its incorporation in 1916. Between 1916 and 1942, the mayors served only one term. Since then, the record-holder was Ken White, who retained the position for eight years until McCloud defeated him in 2000.

The election will be held Tuesday, April 8, 2008.

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Food & Wine Champ

FOOD

From page 20A

by the store in Carmel Plaza at Ocean and Junipero, where the hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., or place your order by calling (800) 828-WINE.

■ Chef Michel Richard is coming to town

Post-college, I worked a string of food and restaurant jobs in Baltimore, and then Philadelphia, including every front-of-the-house restaurant position, braiding challah under the supervision of a rabbi, working retail at a gourmet cheese shop and managing an artisanal bread bakery. The bakery was a small family-owned operation and, for our holiday party, the owners took a group of us to Citronelle in Philadelphia. Until this point, my exposure to authentic French cuisine had been minimal, but experiencing Chef Michel Richard's tasting menu and meeting the man in all his fabulous glory changed all of that. It was an evening of many life-altering culinary firsts — foie gras, truffles, and wine and food pairings. Richard is responsible for my downfall in developing some pretty expensive dining habits. Gratefully, I'm a woman with few regrets.

Nearly 15 years later, the French-born and trained Richard is resurfacing in my world — a tad too conveniently just down the road. Come February 2008, he'll be directing all culinary efforts at Carmel Valley Ranch and opening a Citronelle outpost of his wildly popular Washington, D.C., flagship eatery. This will be the only Central California establishment to serve the famed chef's fare and a major coup for a dining

destination that lacks a lot of national name cachet when it comes to culinary talent. Sure, we've got a handful of major players, but Michel Richard's a veteran headliner well recognized within foodie circles around the world.

Expect Citronelle favorites such as Portobello truffle cappuccino, mosaic of "surf and turf," and duck served medium rare with black cherry-anise sauce, as well as several California-inspired dishes. An elegant fine dining room will complement a more casual, café-style space and a U-shaped bar. This is going to be one helluva reunion.

■ Cookin' with Clementine's Kitchen

Once the holidays are out of the way, I plan on booking some personal enrichment time. On the all-about-me wish list: learn Spanish, get my diving certificate and take more cooking classes. There are a few local options for continued culinary education — Salud! classes at Whole Foods, the Culinary Center of Monterey and my favorite, Clementine's Kitchen. Here's a peek at what they're cooking up on the January 2008 class schedule:

- Soup Start 2008!**
Offered Jan. 9 and 10
- Asian Stir Fry**
Jan. 16 and 17
- Yeast Bread for the Home Kitchen**
Jan. 23 and 24
- Whole Grain Breads**
Jan. 30 and 31.

All classes are held at Clementine's Kitchen at 465 Canyon Del Rey Blvd., Del Rey Oaks, from 6 to 8 p.m. and cost \$45 per person. Call (831) 392-1494 to reserve your spot or visit www.clementineskitchen.com for monthly class schedules.

■ One last thing to put on your busy schedule...

The Monterey County Young Professionals Group is hosting a holiday Baja-inspired mixer and toy drive Thursday, Dec. 6, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Baja Cantina in Carmel Valley (7166 Carmel Valley Road). Professionals, ages 21-39, should wear their favorite poncho and festive sombreros, and be prepared for great food and

delicious drinks (think margaritas)! Attendees are urged to bring 20 business cards to network with other young professionals around the Peninsula. Admission for this event is a nonviolent, unwrapped toy for boys and girls ages 6-12. The toy must have a value of at least \$10 and will replace the usual admission fee, which includes hors d'oeuvres. There will be a no-host (cash) bar. RSVP for the holiday mixer by Friday, Nov. 30, to mecyprg@armanasco.com.

Who will light C.V. Christmas tree?

IN THE past, the person selected to call out the command to flip the switch during the Mid Carmel Valley Volunteer Firefighters' Christmas Tree lighting has been named in advance. Typically a well known resident lauded for civic contributions, the tree lighter is honored with the task.

But this year, the honoree remains a mystery.

According to Susan Crosswell at the Mid Valley Fire Station, "It will be a surprise this year for everyone to find out who will be the one to say, 'Light the Tree!'"

The traditional open house at the station

and accompanying ceremony will culminate in the lighting of the 75-foot tree that stands on Saddle Mountain and overlooks the valley.

"The Mid Valley Volunteers and the staff of the Carmel Valley Fire Protection District hope that everyone will join them on Friday, Dec. 7, for egg nog, punch, coffee and holiday treats, and mingle around the firehouse in the spirit of community and the holidays," Crosswell said.

The open house will begin at 6 p.m., with the lighting of the Christmas tree following at 6:30. The station is located at 8455 Carmel Valley Road.




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ART

From page 16A

50 art association members, including Keith Lindberg, Wilda Northrup, Margaret Roberts, Brenda Morrison, Peggy Jelmini, Dick Crispo, Cyndra Bradford, Susan Reith, Jan Wagstaff, Gerry Wasserman, Miquel Dominguez, Barbara Johnson, Tim Sloan and John McWilliams.

Members of the art association are also encouraging the public to bring unwrapped toys for children of all ages and non-perishable food items. The toys and food will be presented to the Salvation Army for its annual holiday Toy Drive and Food Basket programs. The art association will collect toys through Dec. 17.

The reception starts at 6 p.m. The exhibit will continue

through Dec. 30. The gallery is located on Dolores Street between Fifth and Sixth, and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (831) 624-6176 or visit www.carmelart.org.

■ Bigger can also be better

As Pacific Grove gallery owner Lisa Coscino prepares for her annual \$99 Holiday Art Sale, she is struck by the sheer size of many of the entries. "This year, more than ever, we have big paintings," she said. "The size of the paintings has gone up, but the price hasn't."

The Coscino Gallery will host a reception Friday, Nov. 30, for the opening of the exhibit, which will feature the works of more than 40 mostly local artists, including Sam Hisey, Anita Benson, Norma Bhaskar, Dan Cronin, Heidi Hybl, Richard Newman, Bud Gordon, Alice Geller, Patrice

Becchione, Lesley Spowart, Robin Robinson, Jane Olin, Kevin Miller, Mary Liz Houseman and Lauryn Taylor.

"There's also more diversity in terms of mediums," she observed.

This year's show will feature oils, watercolors, acrylics, charcoal drawings, pastel drawings, pastel oils, encaustic paintings, encaustic sculpture, photography, mixed media, etchings, beadwork, wood-block prints, collages and even hand-knit fish. Perhaps most important, Coscino is impressed with the quality of the work submitted. "The works keeps getting better every year," she said.

For bargain-hunting art lovers, the show is one of the season's highlights. Coscino said some of the pieces that will be available for \$99 could fetch as much as \$1,000 in many galleries. "This is not \$99 art," she insisted. "There are definitely some gems in here."

The exhibit also presents a creative gift-buying opportunity. "There's something for everybody," she suggested. "Giving a piece of art as a gift is a great way to express how you feel about somebody."

The gallery is located at 216 Grand Ave. in Pacific Grove. The exhibit continues through Dec. 22. For more information, call (831) 646-1939.

MUSIC

From page 16A

to Joe Truskot, executive director of the symphony.

"'Messiah' is full of recognizable melodies," Truskot explained. "The first section deals with Christ's birth, the second with his death, and the third with his resurrection. The words in 'Messiah' are straight from the King James Bible."

The choral work is considered Handel's greatest achievement. "The more you study the piece, the more you realize how clever Handel was," Truskot said. "At the time he wrote the piece, he was the world's most famous composer."

The second reason for the near sell-out is the simple fact that the chorus is filled with local residents whose families and friends are gobbling up tickets. "There are a whole lot of people who live in Carmel who will sing in the chorus," Truskot observed.

The symphony's second concert of the 2007-2008 season, "Messiah" will showcase the considerable skills of Austrian conductor Christoph Campestrini.

"We're so lucky to have him," Truskot said. "He's one of a generation of young conductors who are going to have major careers. He's performing at the highest level there is."

"Messiah" will also highlight the vocal talents of four soloists, soprano Sharla

Nafziger, mezzo-soprano Barbara Rearick, tenor William Watson and bass Michael Dean. Leroy Kromm will direct the chorus.

Saturday's concert in Salinas starts at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$16 to \$38. Sunday's performance in Carmel begins at 3 p.m., while Monday's concert begins at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$35 to \$60. To buy tickets, call (831) 624-8511.

■ 'Program from heaven'

Chamber Music Monterey Bay presents the St. Petersburg String Quartet Saturday, Dec. 1, at Sunset Center.

"They're Russian, they're passionate and their technique is flawless," offered Ami Anderson, president of Chamber Music Monterey Bay. "The St. Petes are one of the top quartets in the world. They offer incredible playing; deeply emotional, great tone; peerless phrasing, and incredible technique."

The quartet features Alla Aranovskaya on first violin, Alla Krolevich on second violin, Boris Vayner on viola and Leonid Shukayev on cello. They'll be joined by Michael Tree on viola.

"They are going to be doing a program from heaven," Anderson suggested. "The Brahms Op. 111 Quintet is luscious. This is Brahms at his best, in my opinion, and a really mature work. The Mendelssohn Quintet No. 2 is very exciting, and the slow movement is profoundly beautiful."

In particular, Anderson is impressed with Aranovskaya.

"You have to have a great first violinist to have a great quartet," she explained. "And that's what she is."

The concert begins at 8 p.m. There will be a free 30-minute pre-concert lecture by Dr. Jean Widaman in Sunset Studio #105 at 7 p.m. Tickets range to \$16 to \$43. Children in grades four through 12, if accompanied by a paid adult, get in free. For ticket information, call (831) 625-2212 or visit www.chambermusicmontereybay.org.

■ Carmel church hosts string quartet

The St. Petersburg ensemble isn't the only world-class string quartet performing in Carmel this weekend. The Carmel Music Society presents a concert by the Alexander String Quartet Friday, Nov. 30, at All Saints Church.

The San Francisco-based quartet features Zakarias Grafilo on violin, Frederick Lifitsz on violin, Paul Yarbrough on viola and Sandy Wilson on cello.

At All Saints Church, the quartet will perform Mozart's Divertimento in D Major, KV 136; Beethoven's Quartet in E Minor, "Razumovsky," Op. 59, No. 2; and following an intermission, Schubert's Quartet No. 14 in D Minor, D. 810, "Death of the Maiden."

The performance starts at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$10 to \$25. The church is located on The Southwest corner of Dolores and 9th. For ticket information, call (831) 625-9938 or visit www.carmelmusic.org.

Peninsula Potters

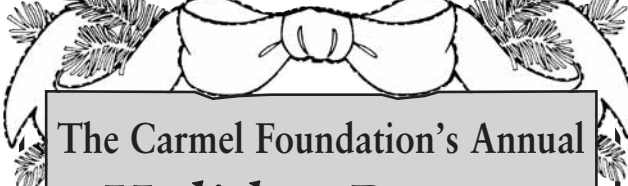
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**SERVICE
DIRECTORY
continued on
page 26A**

BRIGHT

From page 1A

Following complaints from some neighbors, they also took steps this week to lessen the impact the board, which was installed at the entrance to the parking lot and is visible from the highway.

"I live a couple of doors down," said Carmel Hills Drive resident Jim Suchan. "I find it completely obnoxious." He called the sign, which is topped by a red and white "Carmel" banner and features scrolling messages in red lights, "an eyesore" and said it "seems completely out of character for the area."

CHS Principal Karl Pallastrini supports it as a means of kids communicating with their community and said he was

surprised the board created such a "tempest in a teapot."

"It's a four-way intersection — it's not exactly Point Lobos," he said. "There are already traffic lights hanging all over that intersection."

In a letter to the editor of the Monterey County Herald, another resident facetiously suggested vandals stole the sign from a car dealer's lot, put it up at the school and should be caught and punished.

Jake Odello, a 16-year-old junior who serves as treasurer of the Carmel High Associated Student Body, was disappointed by the negative feedback and observed the unfortunate truth that when people are happy about something, they frequently don't bother to say it.

Though some neighbors may not be, the student government is pleased with the electronic board, according to Odello.

"So far, parents have noticed it, kids have noticed it, so the ASB is really happy the sign is there and that we invested in it," he said. "The more information that we can get out there, the better."

It's also much easier to use, according to Odello. An ASB representative tasked with the responsibility simply types the words in on a keyboard.

Falling on students

The electronic board was just erected a few weeks ago, but it's been in the works for years. According to Carmel Unified School District Superintendent Marvin Biasotti, the ASB requested and received board approval of the \$9,000 to pay for it during spring 2006 budget hearings.

See SIGN page 31A

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SERVICE DIRECTORY

continued from page 25A

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CUTS

From page 1A

Hansch told commissioners in Carlsbad the state agency is going as far as looking at putting commissioners in less expensive hotels and trimming their cell phone costs.

"The next fiscal year is going to be a challenge for us and all state agencies," she said.

The coastal commission meets each month in different locations throughout the state to encourage public participation. But the meetings, which Douglas said each cost between \$20,000 and \$35,000, could be curtailed in some areas.

"We have to take some really drastic steps to make those reductions and everybody is going to feel it," he said. "We may even have to cancel a commission meeting for a month this [fiscal] year because of the cost of each meeting."

Permit delays?

Douglas said the cutbacks could mean permit applications will encounter even greater delays than usual in the coastal commission's famously thorough process.

He cited an example of an applicant who recently requested a permit be issued within 30 days.

"We are not going to be able to do that because we won't have the staff to do the follow-up," he said.

Monterey County 5th District Supervisor and coastal commissioner Dave Potter said he supports the formation of a budget subcommittee to discuss what can be done to reduce commission spending.

"I think there's a variety of things we can look at" to save money, he said in Carlsbad.

One of those, Potter said, is the possibility of holding meetings in only a few locations throughout the state. The annual meetings held on the Monterey Peninsula could

among those canceled.

Potter, who, along with commission chairman Patrick Krueger, is working directly with Hansch to find ways to trim costs at meetings, also suggested soliciting ideas from the public on cost-cutting ideas.

Hansch said for the past two years the commission has run very close to going into

deficit, which is illegal.

"We are in the situation now that if we spend at the current rate, by the end of the year we will be in a deficiency," she said.

Hansch said they will again discuss the commission's budget issues at the December meeting in San Francisco.

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Let the weather do your watering.

Please turn off your sprinklers.

The weather is changing and winter rains will be here shortly. It is time to turn off automatic sprinklers and save water, money, and your landscape.

Too much water can be damaging.

All plants and trees need some water to survive. But overwatering can do more harm than drought. Landscaping experts estimate that 90 percent of plants killed die from overwatering.

Soggy soil can prevent nutrients and air from reaching plant roots, inviting unwanted diseases like root rot. **You can avoid waterlogged soil by allowing the weather to water your plants naturally in the winter months.**

When it's needed, water manually.

If there is a long break between rains, you can manually water your landscape with a hose and a low-flow nozzle. One way to test if your soil needs watering is by pushing a screwdriver into the ground around your yard. If it goes in easily, your soil is moist and doesn't need water.

Turning off your sprinklers this winter will keep your lawn and plants healthier and save you money on your water bill. But most importantly, you will be helping to conserve our most precious natural resource: water.

Contact California American Water or the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District for more water wise landscaping tips.


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BIG SUR

From page 1A

Magazine published a sordid, sensationalized and mostly fabricated article, "The New Cult of Sex and Anarchy," about Miller and a growing legion of anti-establishment types who allegedly were flocking to Big Sur. Ironically, as a response to the article, a growing legion of anti-establishment types did, in fact, move to Big Sur.

A year after the article came out, Nancy Hopkins became a resident of the ridge. A newlywed and would-be mother, Hopkins and her husband, Sam, moved into a hunting cabin Sam built in 1939. Nancy, who studied literature in college and loved books, began a lengthy correspondence with her parents describing her life in Big Sur. Those letters became the basis for "These Are My Flowers." Heidi Hopkins, Nancy's daughter, decided to assemble the letters after her mother passed away in 2001.

"After my mother died, I found all her letters," Heidi recalled. "I recognized this was a really exciting find. I took all the parts of her letters that referred to Big Sur, typed them into a computer and edited them down."

Welcome to the neighborhood

As the years passed, the ridge attracted newcomers. The Hopkins' new neighbors included Maud Oakes, a respected ethnologist, writer and artist who studied primitive tribes in Guatemala; Nicholas Roosevelt, a retired diplomat, New York Times editorial writer and cousin of President Theodore Roosevelt; Giles Healey, an archeologist and photographer who gained international fame for discovering the lost Mayan city of Bonampák in 1946; gifted sculptor Harrydick Ross; his wife, Lillian Bos Ross, who wrote "Blaze Allan" and "The Stranger in Big Sur;" and a talented mosaic artist, Louisa Jenkins.

"A fascinating array of characters lived on Partington Ridge at that time," explained Magnus Toren, director of the non-profit Henry Miller Library and a longtime ridge resident. "In her own inimitable way, Nancy captures the wonderful lifestyle that existed here during that time."

Not only does "These Are My Flowers" offer a lively account of living in Big Sur during a bygone era, the book features a remarkable collection of Sam's rare color photographs.

"Sam was a very good photographer," Heidi remembered. "He was always kind of a technology nut."

In "Big Sur and the Oranges," Miller refers to a mysterious "Mr. X," whom he greatly admires. He refuses to identify his friend for fear the book might jeopardize his privacy and peace of mind. In "These Are My Flowers," Nancy reveals that

Continues next page

Editorial

Historic priorities

AMONG THE city facilities that are in dire need of upgrading, the Forest Theater is a prime example.

As chronicled by our reporter, Mary Brownfield, last week, the theater is beloved for its rustic charm but derided for its decrepit facilities — especially the restrooms, which one theater company manager said are comparable to ones you'd find in a prison. He should have said, "a prison in the 1940s."

Not only that, the theater needs technical upgrades, larger dressing rooms and backstage storage, and better access and parking. Benches with comfortable backs would be nice, and so would sound buffering to protect the surrounding neighborhood, especially if it's done with landscaping.

In considering whether to make these improvements, it is worth considering how important the Forest Theater is to the city's cultural heritage.

Way back in February 1915, when The Pine Cone published its very first edition, the lead story carried the headline, "Forest Theater is World Famous." After discussing various charming attributes of the theater and its setting, the story included this vital paragraph (most likely penned by The Pine Cone's founder, William Overstreet) —

"Owing to the characteristic stage setting, the nature of the plays is unique and the interest of the entire village in the undertaking is so great that its success as an incentive for further literary production of a dramatic character is assured."

In other words, the theater was more than a place to watch theatrical productions — it was a place where the town's literary giants went to be inspired.

And this was more than a year before the city was incorporated!

Needless to say, through the succeeding decades, many important productions have taken place at the Forest Theater, and many thousands of patrons have enjoyed a play or a movie amid its pines. Truly, there can be no more vital cultural facility anywhere in the city.

So how do the current citizens of Carmel show their appreciation and concern for the old theater?

Many, of course, are already supporting plans for renovation of the Forest Theater. As these plans become better known, still more will rise to the occasion. Yet, among the modern-day residents, there is one small group which claims to be the chief guardians of protecting the city's history. So devoted are they to this goal, they even sued the city to prevent the sale of Flanders Mansion. Why? Because, they say, the old home is a critical part of the city's heritage. Their campaign has cost the city's taxpayers plenty, even while it forces them to keep even more of their money invested in the home.

There is no need here to revisit our criticisms of the preservationists' goals and tactics. But we would like to remind them that, if historic preservation is their goal, they should be spending at least 80 percent of their time worrying about heavily used and deeply appreciated facilities such as the Forest Theater, and only 10 or 20 percent of it worrying about protecting a building which has never been a public facility, and which most people who live in Carmel have never even laid eyes on, much less visited or used.

BATES



"Actually, I find the Pine Cone Real Estate Section a bit tastier than USA Today."

Letters to the Editor

The Pine Cone encourages submission of letters which address issues of public importance. Letters cannot exceed 350 words, and must include the author's name, telephone number and street address. Please do not send us letters which have been submitted to other newspapers. We reserve the right to determine which letters are suitable for publication and to edit for length and clarity.

The Pine Cone does not accept letters to the editor by fax. Please submit your letters by U.S. mail, e-mail, or in person (addresses are provided below).

Sign a success, but ...

Dear Editor,

There has been some negative attention from the community toward Carmel High School's new electronic message board. On behalf of the CHS Associated Student Body, we apologize for the inconvenience the electronic messaging system has caused anyone. However, the new board is accomplishing our goal of community awareness and the student government is very pleased with it.

The student government also understands the community's concerns and is working with the CHS administration to come up with a reasonable compromise to appease the community's concerns. The lights have been dimmed and the timer on the board has been

activated so the sign will turn on at 7:10 a.m. and off at 8 p.m. In addition, the sign will be painted to blend in with the surroundings as well as landscaped with native and drought-resistant plants.

The response of the high school community has been positive and the ASB is excited to increase the awareness of activities and achievements at Carmel High School.

Jake Odello,
CHS ASB Treasurer

Reducing runoff

Dear Editor,

Working in concert, the Carmel Public Works Department (Stu Ross), the Carmel Building Department (John Hanson), Monterey Salinas Transit (Hunter Harvath) and an independent landscape contractor (Martin Thompson) improved the public right of way at the southeast corner of Santa Lucia and Dolores in Carmel. A stretch of ugly black asphalt, 55 feet by 12 feet, was removed to improve the aesthetics of the village and to allow stormwater to percolate into the soil. And the bus stop at this location was improved with the addition of a small path of pavers linking the rustic bench to the street. The asphalt removal will help the city conform to the state mandate for control of stormwater runoff. This successful effort has inspired us to take up some of the asphalt on our driveway in order to reclaim more land for stormwater percolation.

Barbara Livingston,
Carmel

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The Carmel Pine Cone

was established in 1915 and is a legal newspaper for Carmel-by-the-Sea, Monterey County and the State of California, established by Superior Court Decree No. 34750.

SIGN

From page 26A

"They chose where to place it, the type, the color, everything about it, so it really isn't a district issue other than the request," Biasotti said. "We knew they were requesting electronic signage so they could better communicate the happenings at the school with the student body and the community at large."

The new board also replaced a falling-down, ineffective sign with a hinged cover that sometimes fell on students as they struggled to change the letters.

"The lettering didn't stay in the slots — it would fall into the board — and changing it was quite an event," said CHS Principal Karl Pallastrini.

"That got kind of difficult and tedious, and the ASB has a lot of other things we need to do," added Odello. "We wanted something easier, and a lot of the parents and students didn't even know we had a message there."

The former sign "was very sad by the time we took it down," he continued.

"The bottom was broken; the clear piece in front was getting spotted and you couldn't see through it. We eventually just stuck a poster up there."

The ASB first proposed the concept to Pallastrini three years ago.

"I said it sounded like a good idea to me, because communication is one of the things the community has asked the school to improve," he said.

Biasotti pointed out the new sign is much better for sharing CHS news, such as the names of its students of the month, dates of charitable drives and sporting events, extracurricular activities, scholastic offerings and other messages.

Good neighbors?

No school officials or students asked the neighbors for their thoughts on the sign, according to Suchan, who wishes they had.

"It seems to run contrary to everything that's going on visually and architecturally at the high school," he said, adding that the neighboring City of Carmel has strict sign rules.

He wondered if the school ought to be held to similar standards, considering its location at the gateway to the town, and if the board violates local and state laws regarding signs in visually sensitive areas like the Highway 1 scenic corridor.

According to Biasotti, CHS did not need permission for the sign, which is similar to a scoreboard in a ball field. In general, building projects at public schools are submitted to the state architect's office, but signs need not undergo that level of scrutiny.

Suchan also said he feels the school should be neighborly, just as residents in the area are when they tolerate crowded parking and clean up trash in the street after football games.

"Neighbors understand there are times when that's going to happen and that's part of being a good neighbor, and I expect some reciprocity on the part of the school," he said.

Carmel High is making that effort, according to Odello. The lights on the sign were dimmed, the posts were painted green, landscaping will be done to help it blend better with the surroundings, and a timer now ensures it is dark between 8 p.m. and 7:10 a.m.

In addition, Pallastrini said the bulbs that lit the red and white "Carmel — Home of the Padres" above the scrolling screen have been removed. After dark, no one should even know it's there.

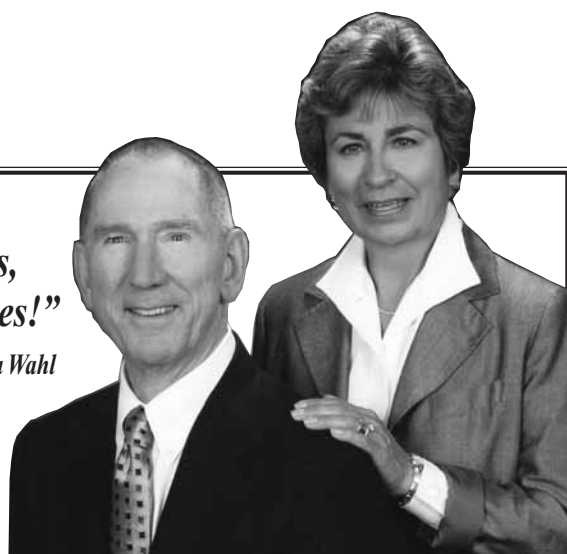
"I can understand some of the thinking of the community, but as principal, I also support the students' need to communicate any way they can," he said. "I am sympathetic because it is different, but if you look at the operating hours, etc., we are certainly trying to work with the community."

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Meg's Health Notes



Presented by
Meg Parker Connors, R.N.

STRATEGIC SNACKING

If you are over the age of sixty, you may derive some real benefits from regular snacking. According to a recent study, "strategic snacking" may help seniors plug some of the nutritional holes that come with aging. When comparing the dietary habits of people age 65 and older, researchers found that snacking provided snackers with significantly more protein, carbohydrates, and fats. In fact, snackers got one-quarter of their daily calories and carbohydrates, as well as 14 percent of their protein, from between-meal eating. While snacking often translates to unwanted weight gain for younger people, seniors' caloric intake tends to decrease as they age due to loss of appetite or medical conditions. Snacking helps pick up the slack.

Choosing snack foods made from whole grains (whole wheat, whole rye, barley, wheat and oat bran) along with vegetables and fruit. These foods will increase fiber in your diet. If you are not used to higher fiber, add these foods slowly to your diet. Along with added fiber, drink more water. The team members at VICTORIAN HOME CARE/RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES really get to know our residents, as well as their family members, and strive to meet the unique needs of every individual.

P.S. Seniors should avoid "empty calorie" snacks in favor of foods that pack real nutritional punch.

Meg Parker Connors is an RN and owner of Victorian Health Care Services and Victorian Residential Care Homes. For assistance, call 655-1935.

Financial Focus



by Linda Myrick, AAMS
Financial Advisor

CONSIDERING BONDS? BE AWARE OF "CALL RISK"

When you buy a bond, it's yours until you sell it or it matures, right? Not always.

When market interest rates drop, the issuer may decide to buy back, or "call," its bonds, pay off bondholders like you, then reissue new bonds at the lower rates, thereby depriving you of a higher-yielding asset.

You can avoid unpleasant surprises by buying a bond that cannot be called - that is, a bond that offers "call protection" - for a given period of time. Not all bonds offer call protection, however, so you may want to create a "bond ladder" consisting of bonds with varying maturity and call dates. Then, if some of your bonds are called, you'll still have other bonds with many years left until maturity.

You can't prevent bond calls - but you can prepare for them.

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate



■ This week's cover property, located in Carmel, is presented by
The Heinrich Team. (See Page 2RE)

About the Cover

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate

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Dolores Street, 2 SW of 11th — \$2,035,000

Stevenson Properties LLC to Gerald and Helen Bennett
APN: 010-159-002

Carmel Valley

59 Paso Cresto — \$545,000

Paul Laub to Alex Elyoussoufi and Mariam Rondell
APN: 189-241-016



Dolores Street, 2 SW of 11th, Carmel — \$2,035,000

9603 Buckeye Court — \$1,015,000

Erle MacDonald to Matthew Bennett
APN: 416-531-049

See HOME SALES page 5RE

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CARMEL VALLEY Wine Country Gem: Early California Rancho sits on 10 south sloping, oak-studded acres with views of upper Carmel wine country. 3BR/2BA, spacious floor plan, open beam ceilings and handcrafted details. \$1,275,000. WEB 0501193 **831.659.2267**



PEBBLE BEACH Old World Charm: New construction with ocean & sunset views. 6,000+ sq.ft. on 1.3 acres with 5BR/4+BR, grand master suite, 4 fireplaces, library, formal dining room, gourmet kitchen and Spanish tile patio. \$9,800,000. WEB 0471739 **831.624.0136**



MONTEREY/SALINAS HWY Pasadera Golf Villa: Renovated 4BR/4BA home with large floor plan, ground floor master, country kitchen, top-of-the-line appliances, and new fireplace surround. 3 landscaped patio courtyards and 2-car garage. \$1,699,000. WEB 0471880 **831.659.2267**



CARMEL Vintage Dutch Colonial: 3BR/3.5BA home on two legal lots with a separate 460 sq.ft. studio apartment. Superb craftsmanship, lovely gardens, sunroom, office and basement with wine room all make this 1926 home very special. \$3,250,000. WEB 0471886 **831.624.0136**



PACIFIC GROVE Below Appraisal: 3BR/2.5BA home on the Pacific Grove hill overlooking Point Joe & Spanish bay. Splendid ocean views. Kitchen remodeled with cherry woods and granite. Peaceful & private, great for entertaining. Submit offers! \$999,999. WEB 0471812 **831.659.2267**



PACIFIC GROVE Privacy and Tranquility: In an enchanted garden setting is this rustic, contemporary 3BR/2.5BA home + 1BR/1BA guest cottage. Light and bright, vaulted ceilings and fireplaces create this homes warm and cozy ambience. \$820,000. WEB 0501197 **831.624.0136**

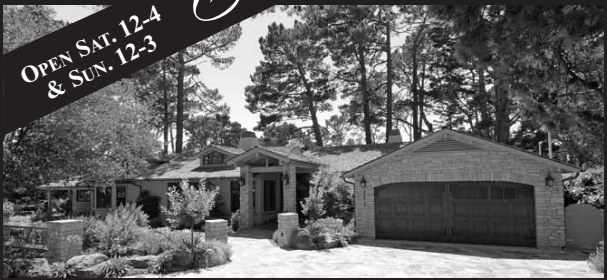
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CARMEL

OPEN SAT. 12-4
& SUN. 12-3



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www.25026HattonRoad.com

PASADERA



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413 Estrella D'Oro

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Condo Market Barometer hits all-time low

3rd Quarter Report

By PAUL BROCCINI
and MARK RYAN

THE CONDO market sunk further into the mud in the third quarter. The number of listings on Oct. 1 hit an all-time high, 181, and the Market Barometer, the percentage of listings in escrow, hit an all-time low at 9 percent — only 16 escrows out of the 181 listings.

At the height of the boom — Jan. 1, 2000 — the total number of listings had shrunk to only 31. Twenty of the 31 listings were in escrow, leading to a Market Barometer reading on that date of 65 percent, leaving buyers with a grand selection of 11 units to choose from on the entire Monterey Peninsula. That was a red hot market.

Contrast it with the 181 listings Oct. 1, with only 16 escrows, and you will have a clear picture of the state of today's market.

The number of unit sales was up a bit from last year, 39 as opposed to 36 a year ago. Gross dollar volume was also up six percent reaching \$23,277,131. Monterey and Pacific Grove accounted for the increase, with both markets up by

more than two million dollars from last year's third quarter. These gains were not enough, however, to push the market into favorable territory.

Not 36 percent down

Median sales prices were mostly down. The biggest drop was in Carmel Valley where the median sales price dropped to \$493,500 from \$772,500 a year ago. This does NOT mean that condo prices in Carmel Valley have dropped 36 percent, but that sales this year were of lower-priced units. To have a close-to-true assessment of median sales price changes, we need at least a year of numbers.

Despite more talk from the Federal Reserve Bank this week of lowering interest rates, and the big run up in the stock market that resulted, the exceedingly low Market Barometer number indicates that the slump in the Monterey Peninsula condo market will continue in the fourth quarter.

Paul Broccini and Mark Ryan are real estate agents with Coldwell Banker Del Monte Realty, Carmel-by-the-Sea office at Junipero 2SW of 5th. They can be reached at either 831-238-1498 or 831-601-1620.

	2006 (Q3)	2007 (Q3)
Carmel	2,335,000	1,505,000
Carmel Valley	5,922,500	5,980,450
Del Rey Oaks	3,488,945	422,500
Marina	1,384,500	330,000
Monterey	5,158,000	7,677,681
Pacific Grove	2,097,500	4,133,000
Pebble Beach	1,645,000	1,527,500
Salinas Highway	0	1,701,000
Seaside	0	0
Total	22,031,445	23,277,131

	2006	2006 (Q3)	2007 (Q3)
Carmel	742,000	765,000	752,500
Carmel Valley	771,250	772,500	493,500
Del Rey Oaks	495,000	510,000	422,500
Marina	440,000	489,500	330,000
Monterey	522,500	468,000	472,500
Pacific Grove	735,000	662,500	669,000
Pebble Beach (a)	822,500	822,500	763,750
Pebble Beach (b)	3,200,000	No Sales	No Sales
Salinas Hwy	515,000	No Sales	550,000
Seaside	629,750	No Sales	No Sales

(a) Sales under \$1 million (b) Sales over \$1 million

	(Q2)	(Q3)	(Q4)	(Q1)	(Q2)	(Q3)
Carmel	5	3	3	1	6	2
Carmel Valley	11	7	8	7	11	10
Del Rey Oaks	3	6	3	1	3	1
Marina	6	3	1	3	2	1
Monterey	11	9	12	12	11	14
Pacific Grove	2	3	2	3	5	6
Pebble Beach	0	2	0	0	2	2
Salinas Hwy	0	0	1	1	0	0
Seaside	2	0	0	4	2	3
South Coast	0	0	0	2	3	0
Totals	40	33	30	34	45	39

Date	escrow/ listings	% in escrow
9/30/07	16/181	8.8
7/1/07	17/124	13.7
4/1/07	20/170	11.8
1/1/07	14/114	12.3
10/1/06	7/128	5.5
7/1/06	16/121	13.2
4/1/06	21/78	26.9
1/1/06	14/61	23.0
10/1/05	18/67	26.9
7/1/05	38/68	55.9
4/1/05	32/63	50.8
1/1/05	19/43	44.2
10/1/04	28/57	49.1
6/30/04	34/63	54.0
4/1/04	42/72	58.3
1/1/04	26/70	37.1
10/1/03	42/97	43.3
7/10/03	38/119	31.9
4/1/03	32/115	27.8
1/1/03	21/87	24.1
10/1/02	27/112	24.1
7/1/02	34/124	27.4
4/1/02	26/109	23.9
1/1/02	15/85	17.7

	2006	2007
Carmel	20	21
Carmel Valley	57	168
Del Rey Oaks	89	348
Marina	65	179
Monterey	60	63
Pacific Grove	39	122
Pebble Beach	135	58
Salinas Hwy	-	301
Seaside	-	-

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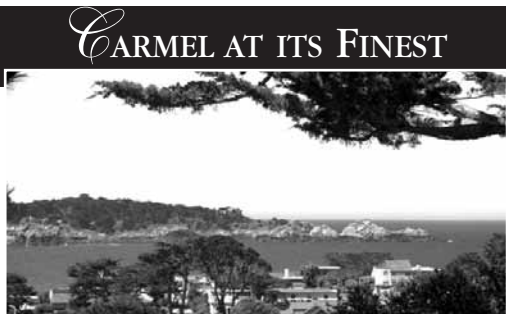
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Open Sunday 11-1
Mission 4 SW of 13th



New England style Carmel Cottage with ocean views & 1/2 a block to the beach. ~ \$2,895,000
Open Sunday 12-3
San Antonio & 11th

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lisa.dean@camoves.com



MARK DUCHESNE Broker Associate | MBA
831.622.2527
mark.duchesne@camoves.com

PACIFIC GROVE

\$725,000	2bd 1ba	Fri Sa Su 1-4
125 - 7th Street #5 Pacific Grove John Saar Properties 277-4899		
\$725,000	2bd 1ba	Fri Sa Su 1-4
125 - 7th Street #7 Pacific Grove John Saar Properties 277-4899		
\$750,000	3bd 2ba	Su 1-3
352 Bishop Avenue Pacific Grove Alain Pinel Realtors 622-1040		
\$750,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1-3
212 Granite Street Pacific Grove Coldwell Banker Del Monte 626-2222		
\$785,000	3bd 1ba+bonus rm	Su 2-4
285 Junipero Pacific Grove The Jones Group 241-3141		
\$799,000	3bd 2ba	Su 12-2
320 Junipero Avenue Pacific Grove Coldwell Banker Del Monte 626-2226		
\$799,500	2bd 1.5ba	Su 2:30-4:30
314 Wood Street Pacific Grove Coldwell Banker Del Monte 626-2226		
\$819,000	3bd 2ba+bonus rm	Su 11-1
1313 Lincoln Avenue Pacific Grove The Jones Group 241-3141		
\$820,000	3bd 2.5ba+1bd 1ba Cottage	Sa 2:30-4
1026 Benito Ave Pacific Grove Sotheby's Int'l RE 624-0136		
\$849,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 2-4 Su 11-12:30
89 Quarterdeck Pacific Grove Sotheby's Int'l RE 624-0136		
\$859,000	2bd 1ba+Unit	Su 2-4
300 Crocker Avenue Pacific Grove Coldwell Banker Del Monte 626-2226		
\$875,000	2bd 1ba	Su 1-3
161 Pacific Street Pacific Grove Coldwell Banker Del Monte 626-2226		
\$885,000	2bd 2ba+studio	Sa 2-4
611 9th Street Pacific Grove The Jones Group 915-1185		
\$889,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 12-3 Su 2-4
860 Sunset Drive Pacific Grove Coldwell Banker Del Monte 626-2222		
\$889,000	3bd 1ba w/large lot	Fri 1-3
954 Sea Palm Avenue Pacific Grove The Jones Group 915-1185		
\$995,000	5bd 2ba	Su 1-4
561 Junipero Pacific Grove Keller Williams Realty 920-8588		
\$999,999	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 2-4
1116 Austin Avenue Pacific Grove Sotheby's Int'l RE 624-0136		
\$1,029,000	3bd 2ba	Su 2-4:30
407 Cypress Avenue Pacific Grove John Saar Properties 625-0500		
\$1,125,000	3bd 2ba+views	Sa 11-1
1101 Austin Avenue Pacific Grove The Jones Group 241-3141		
\$1,185,000	3bd 2ba w/bay view	Fri 1-3
1016 Balboa Avenue Pacific Grove The Jones Group 241-3141		
\$1,250,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 1-3
165 Sloat Avenue Pacific Grove Coldwell Banker Del Monte 626-2222		
\$1,250,000	3bd 2ba	Sa Su 1-3
801 Spruce Avenue Pacific Grove Coldwell Banker Del Monte 626-2222		
\$1,285,000	4bd 2.5ba	Sa 2-4
301 Cypress Street Pacific Grove The Jones Group 917-4534		
\$1,295,000	4bd 2ba	Sa 12-2 Su 12:30-2
1114 Pico Pacific Grove Sotheby's Int'l RE 624-0136		
\$1,295,000	3bd 2ba w/bay views	Sa 2-4
211 Chestnut Street Pacific Grove The Jones Group 236-7780		
\$1,495,000	2bd 1+ba	Sa 2-4
802 17 Mile Drive Pacific Grove J.R. Rouse Real Estate 236-4248		
\$1,495,000	2bd 1+ba	Su 2-4
802 17 Mile Drive Pacific Grove J.R. Rouse Real Estate 277-3464		
\$1,495,000	2bd 1+ba	(12/6) Thursday 2-4
802 17 Mile Drive Pacific Grove J.R. Rouse Real Estate 277-3464		
\$1,569,000	5bd 3ba	Sa 2:30-4:30
408 17th/407 18th Pacific Grove Coldwell Banker Del Monte 626-2222		
\$1,575,000	3bd 2ba+1bd 1ba	Su 1-3
129 15th Street Pacific Grove The Jones Group 917-4534		



\$1,599,000 **2bd 2ba** **Sa 2-4**
16 Beach Street Pacific Grove
J.R. Rouse Real Estate 402-2017

\$1,599,000 **2bd 2ba** **Sa 12-2**
16 Beach Street Pacific Grove
J.R. Rouse Real Estate 277-3464



\$1,650,000 **2bd 1.25ba** **Sa 12-2**
679 Ocean View Blvd Pacific Grove
J.R. Rouse Real Estate 277-2382

\$1,650,000 **2bd 1.25ba** **Sa 2-4**
679 Ocean View Blvd Pacific Grove
J.R. Rouse Real Estate 277-3464

\$1,650,000 **2bd 1.25ba** **Su 2-4**
679 Ocean View Blvd Pacific Grove
J.R. Rouse Real Estate 236-4248

\$1,650,000 **2bd 1.25ba** **(12/7) Friday 2-4**
679 Ocean View Blvd Pacific Grove
J.R. Rouse Real Estate 277-3464

\$1,685,000 **5bd 2ba** **Sa 1-3**
1057 Morse Drive Pacific Grove
Coldwell Banker Del Monte 626-2226

See **OPEN HOUSES** page 10RE

ALAIN PINEL *Realtors*



CARMEL

The promise of the Carmel lifestyle is here on Bay View Avenue. This rustic and intimate 2 bed, 2 bath bungalow can be transformed into a new 1,858 sq. ft. home nonpareil. With a second level one would enjoy an everyday view of Carmel Bay, the Cypress trees that cling to Scenic Rd. and the famed Golf Links and majestic pines of the Pebble Beach forest.

Offered at \$1,999,000
www.2365Bayview.com

CARMEL VALLEY

Behind a formal gated entrance, within the Sleepy Hollow Estates, lined with tall Italian Cypress on a circular drive, this grand estate with a French design welcomes you inside. Only 12 years old and built with comfort and formality in mind, a 2 story entry and living room greet you. Within the nearly 6000 square feet are 4 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, including the separate guest suite with bath; all of generous size. Enjoy complete privacy poolside with views of Stonepine and rolling Oaks on the hillside. Over 5 acres of grounds including formal gardens, grassy pastures and oak forests.

Offered at \$3,295,000
www.11SleepyHollow.com



PACIFIC GROVE

One of PG's finest! "The Daffodill" embodies Victorian elegance at its best. Built in 1989, this tri-level home features 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, gourmet kitchen, formal dining and spacious master suite. Located in coveted PG retreat area.

Offered at \$2,199,000

PEBBLE BEACH

FOREST VIEWS & PRIVACY BY DESIGN ~ Set high above the road on over a 1/3 acre lot, this marvelous Roger Poole design has been exceptionally remodeled with casual and distinctive elegance in mind. Offering a sophistication and flexibility of living space hard to find, there are 4 separate brightly lit bedrooms with a master of enormous size, 4 1/2 baths and over 3,200 SF. of refined living space inside. Elegant, yet cozy this homes gives you great privacy and a feeling of comfort and distinguished living style all through the inside and all so close to the ocean and golf with a short walk or drive.

www.3041Lopez.com
Offered at \$1,795,000



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4
3041 Lopez



OPEN SAT 9-2 & SUN 12-5
1130 Pelican

PEBBLE BEACH

Elegance ? Tradition ? Grandeur ? Serenity ~ Enjoy the Pebble Beach lifestyle in this exceptional custom designed turn-key home built only 7 years ago. Constructed as home for a local contractor, only the finest materials, finishes, and craftsmanship were used for this exquisite home. Offering spacious and comfortable living, this 2 story 3100+ sq. ft. charmer is comprised of two master suites (4 bedrooms), 3 1/2 bathrooms, formal living and dining rooms. The family room is graced with a Carmel stone fireplace, and the wet bar near the wine storage is open to the breakfast area.

www.PebbleBeachCastles.com
Offered at \$2,795,000



NW Corner of Ocean & Dolores
Junipero between 5th & 6th

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apr-carmel.com
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Potential home buyers may be missing a golden opportunity

By RITA LEWIS

THERE IS an old saying that "truth is the first casualty of war." While the current housing slowdown and accompanying credit tightening may not amount to a war, they certainly have led to a fair amount of one-sided news coverage that could end up costing potential home buyers a golden opportunity.

There is no doubt that the nation's real estate market has slowed down after a five-year run-up in prices, and mortgage companies have certainly tightened their lending standards after an increase in subprime loan defaults. However, the situation is nowhere near as bad as some of the headlines in the news media might have you believe, particularly here on the Monterey Peninsula.

It concerns me when I hear consumers say things like, "you just can't get a mortgage loan these days so why even try?" or "interest rates have skyrocketed so I need to hold off until they come down again," or the classic, "the housing bubble has burst, but I'm waiting for home prices to hit rock bottom." These statements could not be further from the truth.

Let's take these myths one at a time.

■ Mortgage availability

Despite the public perception, there is

plenty of mortgage money out there, and it's going wanting in part because buyers don't believe they will be able to qualify for a loan so they're standing on the sidelines. Certainly, underwriting guidelines have been tightened. But it's really just a return to the more traditional lending standards that were in effect before the housing boom over the past few years.

The tightening of lending standards is welcome in my mind. Guidelines for loans started to loosen up around 2002, and as we progressed through 2005, the guidelines became even more liberal. According to Brendon Riordan, the senior vice president of production for mortgage banker Princeton Capital, "At one point in time, a buyer with a low credit score could purchase a home without any down payment and not have to verify his/her income or assets. These lenient underwriting standards led to many people buying homes that they probably couldn't really afford. Today, lending rules are back to what they had been all along with higher credit score requirements, at least a 5 percent down payment, and buyers needing to document their income and assets."

Even for first-time buyers, there are still plenty of mortgage options available. Two common first-time homebuyer loans are FHA and Cal-HFA loans. An FHA loan is a government loan that has been historically liberal in terms of qualifying. It offers high-

er loan-to-values than a conventional loan and it possesses more liberal underwriting in terms of credit and income-to-debt ratios. The challenge is that the mortgage limit is \$362,790. Cal-HFA loans go up to approximately \$600,000 and have many of the same characteristics of the FHA loan. In order to qualify, people must comply with median income standards based upon the county in which they live and are buying.

■ Interest rates

Despite what you may have heard, mortgage interest rates have not "skyrocketed." They actually remain attractive. Thirty-year fixed-rate conforming loans (up to \$417,000) with zero points are close to 6.25 percent, approximately 6.50 percent for a five-year jumbo loan (above \$417,000), and between 6.50 percent and 7 percent for a 30-year fix-rate jumbo loan.

The recent decision by the Federal Reserve to lower the federal funds rate by another quarter percentage point was designed to have positive impact on many levels of our economy, including the housing market. The move could ultimately help more individuals qualify for loans and increase their purchasing power, according to Riordan at Princeton Capital.

"Consumers with home equity lines of credit tied to prime or short term adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) could see an immediate reduction in their interest rate. Those who have ARMs tied to key indexes like the one-year Treasury bill, 12-month Treasury Average and LIBOR Index may receive the benefit of this reduction as the indexes start to move lower in conjunction with lower rates," he said.

■ Housing market

Real estate goes through cycles and the housing market, as a whole, has been down

nationwide for the past couple of years – at least as far as the number of sales are concerned. But, like all politics, all real estate is local. You simply cannot paint the entire country or even region, like the Monterey Peninsula, with one broad brush. Some local communities have seen a slight drop in median prices after a 50 percent jump over the past four years. But others have actually experienced a modest increase in median prices despite the slower market – hardly the bursting bubble that some portray this market to be.

Homes that are in a desirable location, competitively priced, in good condition, and presented well, are still selling. Still, it may now take a little longer for a home to sell than it would have a couple of years ago, and the frenzied days of multiple offers over the asking price are the exception rather than the rule.

So what does all of this mean for those consumers who have been sitting on the fence? This actually may be a good time to buy a home, especially if you intend to stay in the home for a long period of time. Real estate in California has historically been an outstanding investment, and with prices finally leveling off, inventory growing and attractive interest rates, there is a window of opportunity to get into the market. Don't let misinformation stop you from taking advantage.

We encourage homebuyers to contact an experienced real estate professional familiar with their area for more information.

Rita Lewis, vice president and managing broker of Coldwell Banker Del Monte Realty on the Monterey Peninsula, provides the above tips. A 24-year real estate veteran, Rita oversees offices in Carmel, Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach. She can be reached at 831.626.2202 or by e-mail at rlewis@cbtnorcal.com.

POLICE LOG

From page 4A

nalía (smoking devices/cutting tool). A handgun and rifle were also seized. He was arrested and booked into the Monterey County Jail on the following charges: 273.6 PC, violation of a court order (domestic violence prevention); 11358 H&S, cultivation of marijuana; 11357(c) H&S, possession of more than 1 oz. of marijuana; 11357(a) H&S, possession of concentrated cannabis; 11364 H&S, possession of drug paraphernalia; and 4060 B&P, possession of dangerous drug without a prescription.

Carmel Valley: Reporting party stated her watch was lost and wished for documentation.

Carmel Valley: A male Carmel Valley resident was arrested at Carmel Valley Road and Dorris Drive for driving under the influence of alcohol.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A male driver, age 23, was stopped for speeding on Mountain View and found to be DUI. He was arrested and provided a blood test. A search of his vehicle located marijuana. This was his second DUI, and he was on probation. He was lodged at county jail.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 33-year-old male subject was stopped on San Antonio Avenue and cited for driving on a suspended license. The vehicle was towed.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 73-year-old male subject was the registered owner of a vehicle that was towed earlier in the day. He came to CPD to pick up his vehicle, and when he gave his CDL, it came back that he had an \$8,000 traffic warrant. Subject was arrested, and he then posted bail.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Ambulance was dispatched to a hazardous condition/possible structure fire as part of an automatic aid assignment for Carmel Valley Fire. Ambulance

went en route, then two minutes later, another ambulance in the valley went into service and responded in place of the Carmel ambulance.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fire engine and ambulance responded to a reported fire alarm activation at the Cypress Inn at Lincoln and Seventh. Engine and ambulance on scene, alarm sounding, investigated. Cause of the alarm activation was found to be steam from a nearby laundry room activating a heat detector. The hotel was advised to contact the alarm company to have the detector relocated, and the alarm was silenced.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A male suspect, age 24, was stopped on Hatton Road and arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Bicycle taken off of vehicle bike rack while parked on Junipero Street.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Anonymous reporting party found property [a camera case] on the beach Nov. 17 and brought it to Carmel P.D. for safekeeping.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Traffic collision — hit-and-run on public property on Junipero Street. Vehicle was towed away. Carmel Valley male, age 21, was driving a Jeep, veered off the roadway and hit a tree. The vehicle became lodged on top of a granite landscaping stone. The driver managed to dislodge the vehicle, left the scene and was located at Mission and Eighth changing a tire. Debris was found at the scene and in the roadway. He was arrested for DUI hit-and-run and posted bail.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A citizen reported a barking dog on Mission Street and was concerned with the welfare of the dog. The officer responded to the area and located a dog barking and whining from the rear yard of a residence. There was no answer at the residence, and the officer could see over the fence that the dog appeared healthy. Before leaving, the owners returned, and information was obtained. The dog displayed separation anxiety when the

See OPEN HOUSE page 10RE

C A R M E L

OPEN SAT & SUN 11-1

3665 Via Mar Monte



Panoramic views of Point Lobos. Carmel Bay and the blue Pacific overlooking Carmel-By-The-Sea and convenient to all of the Monterey Peninsula, this new home is waiting for your decorating touches. The flexible floor plan offers approximately 4700 square feet of luxurious living with amenities such as a covered deck with marble tile, gated entry, and much more. The large lot is partially fenced for privacy and well landscaped. \$3,350,000

C A R M E L V A L L E Y



OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4

7400 Canada de La Segundo

A unique and inviting new country home in Carmel Valley and just minutes from Carmel. Ideal for relaxed living and entertaining with two bedroom suites, three full baths and two half baths. Magnificent stone work and meticulous attention to detail and craftsmanship. Nestled among oak trees and beautifully landscaped. Many surprising features to delight and please you and your guests. \$3,895,000

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Fifth. This was the same location as the previous call. Owner of the restaurant did not snake out the sewer as told by the health department. Health department reps on scene. Amount of sewage about 40-50 gallons, running down to Monte Verde and Fifth. Product contained with diking material. Area sprayed with Hypochlorite solution per county health. Roto Rooter discovered collapsed sewer line to restaurant. Health department released fire engine and ambulance.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Ambulance responded to a medical emergency at the fire station. Walk-in medical. Ambulance on scene. Patient signed medical release form and planned to go to CHOMP by POV [personally owned vehicle].

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fire engine and ambulance dispatched to a medical emergency on Junipero. Upon arrival, found a male toddler who had possibly ingested his grandparents' prescription meds. Patient loaded and transported to CHOMP by ambulance. [Police also investigated for possible child endangerment. CPD later reported the child had not consumed the medications and was unharmed.]

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fire engine and ambulance were dispatched to a medical emergency on Scenic. Upon arrival, found a female in her 80s complaining of dyspnea. Patient evaluated, treated and transported to CHOMP by ambulance.

Carmel Valley: Patrol observation of a subject parked at the end of the dead-end road in the mid-valley area. He voluntarily turned over to the deputy for destruction a small quantity of marijuana and tobacco.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A male suspect, age 25, was booked at San Carlos and Fifth for public intoxication.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vandalism on Mission Street. Report of lights knocked over.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Attempted fraudulent check cashing.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Victim on San Carlos Street reported she was missing several items of jewelry and thought they had been taken.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non injury accident on Sixth Avenue.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of a theft of a gift box of soap from a victim on Ocean Avenue.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of possession of hypodermic needles on Ocean Avenue at Lincoln Street. A male subject, age 25, was contacted for skateboarding in the business area. Subject was found to be on probation and subject to search and seizure. A syringe was found in subject's front pocket. Subject was arrested.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Case of false identification at Carmel Beach.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fire engine and ambulance responded to a medical emergency on Carmelo Street. Engine and ambulance on scene. Crew assisted with assessment and notification of a K-unit for elderly female who was deceased on arrival. Carmel P.D. officers also responded to the unattended death of

the 84-year-old woman, who died of natural causes.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fire engine and ambulance responded to a medical emergency on Ocean Avenue. Engine and ambulance on scene. Crew assisted with vitals, EKG, splinting, patient report information and loading of a female in her 80s with a possible fractured left arm. Patient transported to CHOMP by ambulance.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fire engine and ambulance responded to a report from Carmel P.D. of a vehicle fire in the area of Carpenter and Valley Way at 1821 hours. Engine and ambulance on scene; canceled by Cal Fire.

Carmel area: Victim reported a stolen rear license plate from his vehicle. No suspect information/evidence.

THANKSGIVING

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fire engine and ambulance responded to a reported water leak on the east side of Scenic south of Eighth. Firefighters discovered a broken pipe to a hot tub causing the leak. Police units on scene had already shut off the water of the hot tub and cut the power to the hot-tub pump. At this point the leak was stopped and the property was secure.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Ambulance responded to a medical

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emergency on Cypress Drive.


Carmel-by-the-Sea: Ambulance dispatched to another medical call on Cypress Drive.

Carmel Valley: Dispatched to report of shot fired, possibly at a subject, but found no evidence of that. Case closed.

Pebble Beach: A fight was reported at the Lodge at Pebble Beach. No one wished to make a report.

Big Sur: Reporting party had a conflict with her parents about their live-in healthcare workers at a residence on Garrapata Ridge Road.

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We have many open houses this weekend and they are all listed by city in today's Real Estate section, "Open House Directory." Or
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PACIFIC GROVE - ABODE! Hidden from the street, this 2BR/ 2BA has bay views. Two stories. Views from living room & master bedroom. **\$809,000.**



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CARMEL VALLEY - SUN! Ideal climate & resort lifestyle from this 3BR/ 3.5BA townhouse. Master suite is on main level. Two decks! **\$1,050,000.**



MONTEREY - EXQUISITE! Large corner lot. This single-level 2BR/ 1BA is ideal. Hardwood floors. New windows. Spacious fenced backyard. **\$635,000.**



PEBBLE BEACH - UTOPIA! Just completed, this 4BR/ 4BA offers design & function. Oak flooring throughout. Vaulted ceilings. Views! **\$2,995,000.**



CARMEL VALLEY - 5 STAR! Custom features in this 4BR/ 4BA home. Tile & heated floors in master bath. New cabinetry & 2 fireplaces. **\$2,695,000.**



PACIFIC GROVE - ADORABLE! Gorgeous 2BR/ 2BA cottage features wood floors, open floor plan, & fresh exterior paint. Near town! **\$750,000.**



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