

The Carmel Pine Cone

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Council won't review Fink condo after all

By MARY SCHLEY

DAVID FINK'S claim that his condo project wouldn't get a fair hearing in front of the city council was validated this week when city attorney Glen Mozingo decided the permit should be taken off the Jan. 9 agenda. Fink and partner Janet Elarmo learned from planning director Marc Wiener Wednesday that the challenge to their project had been dropped, and that they can now proceed with construction.

Mayor Steve Dallas and councilwoman Carolyn Hardy opposed the planning commission's 4-1 approval of the modern-style condo planned for the rooftop of Cantinetta Luca restaurant on Dolores Street, and demanded that the council review it. They both cited concerns with the shadows it might cast on neighboring Piccadilly Park, the windows on the north elevation, and other elements.

But Fink and his attorney, Jeffrey Retterer, sent an email to Mozingo arguing that Hardy and Dallas shouldn't be able to participate in the hearing, because they had already made up their minds to oppose the project.

And Mozingo agreed, telling The Pine Cone Thursday that because Dallas wrote in his request for a hearing, "Specifically to the proposed design, I cannot support the window sizes and fenestration on the north elevation or the oversized glass doors and trellis that access the Dolores Street balcony," it appeared he had already made up his mind about the project.

"From that standpoint, I agreed that that language does

See **FINK** page 24A

Despite legal battles, inn preparing to reopen

By MARY SCHLEY

TWO BROTHERS and their business partners have leased the Carmel Resort Inn — the Carpenter Street property that fell into disrepair and disuse for months while its potential sale has been tied up in court — and hope to reopen before next month's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am golf tournament brings crowds to town.

Hitesh Desai, who lives near Carmel High School, brother Jayesh Desai, and business partners Iraj Rezai and Jim Gilbert, are leasing the property from owner Tong Kim, who lives in Pebble Beach. (Jayesh Desai and some fellow investors also own the Village Corner restaurant.)

"We are just cleaning it up," Hitesh Desai told The Pine Cone Wednesday. "It was a big mess. It's still a big mess."

'A lot of potential'

He said he knows that the inn, which sits on 16 legal lots of record and features small guest cabins, is the subject of a couple of lawsuits between Kim and a group of buyers who have been at loggerheads for years over various sale terms and transactions, with each side accusing the other of legal violations in civil court.

"We don't know much about it other than that there is a lawsuit, and we've read several articles about it in The Pine Cone," he said. "The property can't be sold because of the



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

There's a lot of work to be done at the Carmel Resort Inn to ready it for guests. A group that's leasing the embattled property hopes to open in time for the AT&T Pro-Am.

Recreational pot on sale at Carmel Rancho

By CHRIS COUNTS

ONCE THE target of a decades-long eradication effort — which continues throughout much of the United States — marijuana for recreational use can be purchased over the counter at the mouth of Carmel Valley starting Friday.

The change, once a pipe dream, comes less than two months after 57 percent of California voters approved a bill legalizing cannabis for recreational use.



Big Sur Canna Botanicals will begin selling recreational marijuana Friday, Jan. 5. Pictured here in a photo from their Facebook page are owners Aram Stoney (left) and John DeFloria with their Carmel Rancho store.

Located in a 2,100-square-foot retail store on Carmel Rancho Lane, Big Sur Canna Botanicals quietly opened at the end of October, serving only medical marijuana patients. But on Jan. 5, the shop will welcome recreational users for the first time, with a selection of products that's almost overwhelming. While it's a relatively small dispensary compared to many, Big Sur Canna Botanicals lists on its website 18 different varieties of flowers — commonly called "buds" — from seedless female plants. For those who have been out of touch with the industry in recent years, practically nobody smokes marijuana leaves anymore because they are far less potent.

Each variety of flower features a catchy name that sometimes hints at its smell, taste or effects, such as Blueberry Haze, Key Lime Cookies and Jamaican Dream. Also on the menu are dozens of edibles, tinctures, concentrates, drinks and topicals.

Taxes go up

Enthusiasts will encounter increased prices as a result of state taxes imposed on the new legal industry, as well as ramped up testing and packaging requirements that add to costs.

"They are taxing it on pretty much every level," Big Sur Canna Botanicals co-owner Aram Stoney told The Pine Cone. "It's not that we're raising prices — they're going up because you're paying new taxes."

Still, the price hikes for flowers will be modest. Under California's previous medical marijuana law, an eighth of an ounce of premium flowers cost \$56.37. Now, it will cost \$63.87, said Stoney.

While the selection of products may be daunting, buying marijuana will be easy — customers will need only to show their driver's license or a government-issued ID card indicating they are at least 21 years old. "It will be just like going into BevMo and buying a bottle of Champagne," Stoney said.

Be sure to read the label

Besides selling marijuana products, Stoney said it's important that dispensaries give good advice to customers

See **SHOP** page 30A

COPS READY FOR RUSH OF MARIJUANA USERS

By MARY SCHLEY

ANYONE OVER the age of 21 can smoke pot legally in California as of New Year's Day, but plenty of laws still restrict its use, and Carmel Police Cmdr. Luke Powell said he and his officers are ready to enforce those rules.

"CPD is well prepared for the new law, and all of our officers have gone through a one-hour update on marijuana laws," he said this week. The training covered the state laws dictating that possession of more than an ounce of marijuana is still an infraction (the most minor type of criminal offense — basically, a ticket), minors can't have any at all, and it can't be used in public, in schools, or in a moving or parked car by a driver or passenger.

"Like alcohol, an open container of marijuana in a vehicle is illegal," he added.

Businesses not welcome

According to the city ordinance, no commercial activity related to cannabis is allowed — not even delivery — in town, and it can't be smoked or vaped anywhere in public. People can grow up to six plants at home, but they must be cultivated in a locked building, not outdoors. (A secured greenhouse would qualify.)

In addition, a few officers underwent more intensive training by the state, according to Powell. One took a 24-hour class on fentanyl, hash and synthetic drugs, two cops took a 12-hour class on marijuana DUI detection, and one attended a 16-hour class on "advanced roadside impaired driver enforcement."

See **POT** page 7A

lawsuit, so Mr. Kim decided to lease it out."

He said Kim is confident he'll prevail in the lawsuits, and if he does, Desai and his partners will buy the inn from him. "That's why we feel comfortable that the buyer is not legit," he said. "The property has a lot of potential, and it's a favorable lease term, considering the use in Carmel and the revenue potential."

Desai and his partners have been meeting with code enforcement officer Al Fasulo and other city representatives frequently to determine what work needs to be done to get the inn's units ready for vacationers.

"We are in the process of the inspections, creating a list of things that need to be done for public safety, and hope to complete them as soon as possible and then open the doors,"

See **INN** page 31A

Dallas investigation getting underway

By MARY SCHLEY

WHILE THE harassment claims made against Mayor Steve Dallas by the executive director of a local wine organization have provoked a lot of conversation and comments in town since they became public last week, city attorney Glen Mozingo isn't saying whether they have prompted anyone else to come forward.

"The matter is under investigation," he said Thursday. "It's an ongoing investigation without comment."

Mozingo hired Irma Rodriguez Moisa of the Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo law firm to handle the investigation, and he said she plans to start interviewing people Jan. 10.

Moisa "is an experienced litigator, labor negotiator, and trial attorney representing public and private entities in labor and employment matters," according to her bio, and has been representing public agencies since 1999. She received her B.S. in business administration and her law degree from UC Berkeley, and earned a master's in public policy from Harvard. Mozingo said she has also worked for the city before, assisting the police department with some payroll and

See **DALLAS** page 30A

Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Good dog – now

HER PREVIOUS dog was a few years old and perfectly trained when she came to the family. Mom had no idea what a blessing that was until the next dog arrived. This one was a puppy, an Australian shepherd her son talked her into just before he left for college. Big mistake.

Yet, after nearly four years of growing up and tenacious training, Nala, her person says, has become a really good dog.

The family had a hard time deciding on her name until her person's daughter decided on the name of the one of the lead characters in "The Lion King." They later learned "Nala" means gift and, by now, they agree, Nala is a gift to their family.

"She has a lot of energy but is a sweetheart," her person said. "She loves all dogs and people, and she loves to play with either. I have continued to take her to training, having learned that if you stay with it, dogs eventually get it." Kind of like kids.

The family was living in Carmel Knolls when they got Nala, but they couldn't find a rental that would allow a dog, so they moved to Pacific Grove. Nevertheless, Nala, who loves going to the beach, still seems to prefer Carmel Beach. Not wild about the water and its relentless waves, she tends to run along the shoreline, chasing birds and balls, and romping with other dogs.

"Nala responds pretty well to commands, so if I feel she's gone too far, I can call her back," her person said. "All this beach activity is really good for an Aussie with



this much energy."

Although Nala, as a puppy, proved quite a challenge for her person, she has matured into a really good companion. She's completely her person's dog, at least until the kids come home from college and claim her for the weekend.

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Leashed pit bull drags owner, attacks

By CHRIS COUNTS

TWO WEEKS after a pit bull killed a small dog near Carmel Valley Village, there was another attack by a pit bull — this time on a resident near Jacks Peak.

“I was pretty much attacked, knocked down and bitten,” Mary Macklin told The Pine Cone.

The attack happened along High Meadow Drive near Macklin’s home. The woman was taking her 15-year-old Jack Russell terrier for a stroll in the neighborhood when she encountered a woman walking a pit bull on a leash.

“She was about 40 feet away,” Macklin said. “I waved at her.”

Suddenly, the larger dog veered toward Macklin. “I looked up to see the pit bull dragging its owner toward me,” she said. “She was calling for it to stop. I was freaking out and thinking, ‘This dog is going to kill my dog right in front of me.’”

Macklin turned to pick up her dog, and for a moment, her back was turned toward the attacker.

“The dog jumped on my right side, bit my right leg and knocked me to the ground,” said the woman, who hit her head on the pavement and fell on top of her dog.

Lying on the ground in pain, Macklin called out to the woman, “Your dog just bit me.” But she said the woman turned and walked away.

Macklin was later treated at Community Hospital and released. Since then, she’s battled an infection in her leg, and missed work.

The woman with the pit bull, meanwhile, has not been identified. Macklin described

her as a “small and slight” Asian woman, and she described the dog as a “pit bull cross with Rottweiler coloring.” She estimated it weighs between 60 and 80 pounds.

Because there have been so many instances of pit bulls attacking, and even killing, people and pets, many have called for the breed to be outlawed — Macklin included.

“Pit bull people say it’s the owner’s problem,” she said. “I think it’s a dog problem.”

Macklin called on pit bull owners to take reasonable precautions.

“That was a super-aggressive dog,” she suggested. “It should have been walking with a muzzle.”

The woman said she will be better prepared the next time she goes for a walk with her dog — and some of her neighbors will do the same. “We have flyers up in the neighborhood” making everyone aware of what happened, she added. “People are walking with pepper spray and sticks.”

First attack

In the first incident, Janet Brennan was walking her dog in Carmel Valley Dec. 14, 2017 when a pit bull attacked and killed it. It happened along Calle De Los Helechos, near Esquiline Road.

The attack happened right in front of Brennan. “The dog that killed my pup had a white snout and white chest,” Brennan posted on Facebook. “One other walker ran into the dog at 9 a.m. the same day and described him as aggressive.”

The Dec. 14 incident was reported to Monterey County Animal Control, which responded to the scene. But county officials have not disclosed whether the dog was found.



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Police, Fire & Sheriff's Log

His SSN was already being used

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Woman reported her vehicle stolen, but she had also been reported as a missing person by her husband. Husband requested a welfare check. Woman did not meet the criteria at the time of contact for a 72-hour hold.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Investigated a non-injury traffic collision on Mission Street.

Pebble Beach: Report of missing female adult from Pelican Road.

Carmel Valley: A gravely disabled elderly male at an East Carmel Valley Road residence was placed on a 5150 W&I hold [danger to self or others].

Carmel area: Mentone Road resident reported a window washer damaged property after falling from a ladder.

Carmel area: Resident reported a former boyfriend calls/texts at least 20 times a day, often threatening her, although the relationship ended six months ago.

Carmel area: Female reported jewelry missing from her move to a residence on Serra Av-

enue in June. The moving company employees are suspected.

Pacific Grove: Resident on Congress Avenue reported vandalism to her property.

Pacific Grove: A teacher on David Avenue reported concern about a male student's mental health.

Pacific Grove: Suspicious letter sent to a member of city staff at city hall.

Pacific Grove: Citizen reported a home on Sage Place had been burglarized.

Pacific Grove: Subject on Carmel Avenue was assaulted while at a class.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Carmel area: Someone broke the window to locked vehicle at the Barnyard shopping center and took the owner's property.

Carmel area: Unknown person forced entry to a house on Valley View Avenue and took property.

Pacific Grove: A female on 19th Street reported her spare tire stolen off the back of her vehicle.

Pebble Beach: Adult Protective Services requested assistance with an elder abuse investigation on Bird Rock Road.

See **POLICE LOG** page 13RE
in the Real Estate Section

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The gavel falls

Verdicts, pleas and sentencings announced by
The Monterey County District Attorney

Oct. 20 — Salinas resident Joshua Schneider, 41, was sentenced to 3 years and 8 months in prison after entering pleas of no contest to residential and commercial burglaries.

On October 31, 2016, Schneider broke into a Salinas apartment complex in the middle of the night. He entered a storage shed by kicking down the door, and then stole a key machine, air compressor, 10 gallons of paint, 7 drills, 2-3 bags of tools, and a paint sprayer. The manager called police when she discovered the theft the next morning. An anonymous citizen identified Schneider as the suspect. When a police officer contacted Schneider at his residence a few days later, he denied knowledge of the theft. However, he changed his story and confessed after believing a Salinas police officer's ruse that he was identified on surveillance video. Schneider then showed officers the stolen key machine, which he kept in his garage. Schneider was arrested, charged, and then bailed out of custody while his case was pending.

Several months later, police were notified of a series of burglaries at Salinas laundromats from January through April 2017. The business's security cameras showed Schneider — now easily identifiable by officers — committing the thefts. When officers went to his residence they found hundreds of quarters, shaved keys, and two methamphetamine pipes. Schneider was arrested, and when asked about his involvement, told detectives, "Boom, you got me."

Oct. 20 — Alejandro Ramos Ramos, 19, a former counselor at the Castroville Community Center, was sentenced to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for a term of four years for sending harmful matter to a minor, contacting a minor with the intent to commit a sexual offense and attempted lewd act with a child under the age of 14.

Ramos, a Castroville resident, met John Doe, age 7, in 2014 at a summer program where Ramos was a volunteer counselor. During 2014 and 2015, Ramos communicated with John Doe via Snapchat several times. In 2016, when John Doe was 9 years old, the defendant began to send him photographs of the defendant's genitals and sexually explicit photographs of young men engaged in sexual acts. The defendant's steady progression of attention turned demanding and aggressive as he tried to convince the boy to meet with him. In July of 2016, John Doe reported the activity to his parents, and the Mon-

terey County Sheriff's Office was contacted.

Detective Shaheen Jorgenson began to communicate with Ramos in the name of John Doe and arranged a meeting to which the defendant appeared and was arrested. During the investigation, the defendant's electronic devices were found to contain child pornography as well as conversations with other potential victims.

Oct. 25 — Fresno resident Michael Zavala, 44, was sentenced to four years in prison after pleading no contest to a variety of offenses ranging from vehicle theft to obstructing a business to misappropriation of lost property.

Just after midnight on January 17, an unknown person stole a brand-new pickup truck by throwing a rock through the window of a Santa Cruz Nissan dealership. While fleeing the scene, the driver collided with two other parked trucks and drove through the perimeter fence. Within moments, the stolen truck sideswiped another vehicle. The truck driver identified himself as Zavala and provided his full contact information to the victim.

Zavala then drove to the Monterey Peninsula and continued his crime spree.

Later that morning, Zavala, highly intoxicated and with blood covering his face and hands, stumbled into a ballroom at a Monterey hotel. He interrupted a meeting, refused to leave the hotel, started cursing, and then threatened to punch hotel guests. When police arrived, Zavala tried to run but was quickly detained and searched. He was found in possession of two credit cards which had been reported stolen from an unlocked car earlier that morning in Monterey.

Zavala was then transported to CHOMP, where he caused quite a commotion during intake. He began shouting that he hadn't done anything wrong and ran out a side door of the hospital. A Monterey police officer chased and captured Zavala — for the second time that day. Officers, then unaware that Zavala even had a vehicle, much less that he was a suspect in the Santa Cruz crimes, released Zavala with a citation to appear.

At approximately 8:40 p.m. that night, CHP officers noticed a Nissan truck with dealership paper plates parked on Old Stage Road in North Monterey County. The officers conducted a welfare check when they saw that the truck had significant driver's side damage. They found Zavala sound asleep in the passenger seat.

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County of Monterey hiring manager to weed through marijuana regs

■ Potter says process needs streamlining

By KELLY NIX

THE LEGALIZATION of recreational marijuana in California this year will also mean at least one more well-paid government job in Monterey County — a cannabis chief to steer the region’s burgeoning pot industry.

Last week the County of Monterey posted a job listing for a “cannabis program manager” to “develop and manage” its cannabis program.

The full-time job pays from \$80,787.20 to \$110,260.80 per year, depending on experience and qualifications, according to governmentjobs.com, the site the county uses to post employment opportunities.

“Under direction of the assistant county administrative

officer, this skilled professional will reach across county departmental lines to coordinate with key departments, state and federal agencies, the public and community groups in this evolving new regulatory framework,” the job description says.

Duties include developing and implementing solutions to resolve complex or technical problems related to the program, and representing Monterey County and its cannabis program to the public, elected officials and industry representatives. The manager will also interpret and explain applicable state, federal, local, and internal rules and regulations.

The ideal candidate, the posting says, will have a “proven track record” of demonstrating their knowledge of contract administration and management theory; understanding of cannabis laws; providing information to the public and participating in discussions — “particularly regarding issues which may be controversial.”

Former Monterey County Supervisor Dave Potter and Plasha Will — who cofounded the Monterey County Cannabis Industry Association — celebrated the county’s hiring of a cannabis manager.

“It’s definitely a very smart move,” Potter told The Pine Cone Wednesday. “I’m glad they are doing it. What the county needs is someone who’s skilled in coordinating” between various county departments. “What kills projects is the process; when the process takes too long.”

Much needed

Potter said one of the takeaways during his attendance at a cannabis conference in Denver in October was that municipalities with successful cannabis programs also had dedicated cannabis program managers.

Potter and Will agreed that the county should create other employment positions to contend with the local cannabis industry, including a code enforcement officer who only handles pot-related violations.

“It’s not a one-person job,” Potter said. “If you look at the number of departments that need coordination and action, it’s multi-program approach. A [cannabis] head is important, but they will definitely need supplemental staffing.”

Those interested in the county job should have a college degree in public or business administration, or a closely related field, and one year of experience as a program manager or three years of experience in a supervisory or management position “in an administrative or regulatory field.”

Monterey County offers a “premium benefit package that includes 23 days of annual leave, 10 days of professional leave, 11 holidays each year; and health, dental, vision and life insurance,” the job description says.

Those interested in the job must turn in their job application to the county’s human resources department by Friday, Jan. 19.

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POT

From page 1A

“These three classes were in addition to 16 hours of standardized field sobriety testing training we send all of our officers to after the police academy,” he said.

A state law that took effect in June 2017 appropriated \$3 million to the California Highway Patrol for training state and local law enforcement officers in drug recognition and impairment, according to CHP public information officer Oscar Loza.

While it’s usually used to deal with drunk people, the state law forbidding public intoxication applies regardless of the intoxicant, Powell noted. If the person is so wasted that he can’t take care of himself or others, or is “interfering with, obstructing or preventing others from using a public street and sidewalk,” he can be arrested.

But enforcing DUI laws on drivers high on marijuana is more complicated, he said, because the state hasn’t established a legal standard for defining DUI when the driver is impaired from using pot. Alcohol-related DUI is defined by blood alcohol content (.08 percent), for instance, but no such measure exists for cannabis use, yet.

“The State of Colorado is still trying to establish this threshold, and they legalized recreational marijuana two years ago,” Powell pointed out.

An increase in DUIs?

As they have in the past, officers will use the observation skills they’ve developed in training to determine if someone is too intoxicated from smoking or otherwise ingesting pot to be driving.

However, a CHP Impaired Driving Task Force was created to develop recommendations regarding the best practices, protocols, legislation and policies to address drug-related DUIs, according to Loza.

“Law enforcement anticipates an increase in DUI resulting from the legalization of recreational cannabis,” he noted. Data compiled by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration regarding fatal crashes indicate that since 2006, the percentage of drivers with drugs in their system has risen 38.7 percent.

“As always, we will continue to enforce both state and local law, issuing citations when the citation and violation warrant it,” Powell said. “We encourage everyone to call the police department to report violations when an officer is not present, and will respond to investigate all reported illegal activity.”

Earthquake drill in P.G.

MEMBERS of the Monterey County Community Emergency Response Team will participate in an earthquake drill Saturday, Jan. 20, from 8 a.m. to noon in Pacific Grove. Wearing green hats and yellow jackets, the 40 to 50 volunteers will be scattered throughout town doing simulated rescues to test their technology and techniques. Their command post will be set up near the fire station on Pine.

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Cal Am to roll out video to explain water bills to its customers

By KELLY NIX

HAVING A difficult time deciphering your water bill? Monterey Peninsula water provider California American Water is rolling out a new personalized video that seeks to take the mystery out of customers' water invoices.

Starting Monday, thousands of Cal Am customers on the Peninsula will be emailed a customized video explaining the myriad charges, fees and taxes on their bills.

"We are looking for more and better ways to communicate with our customers about water charges, water use and conservation," Cal Am external affairs manager Catherine Stedman told The Pine Cone. "With our tiered rates and number of surcharges on the bill, it can definitely appear complex."

Stedman said the 10,000 Cal Am customers on the Peninsula who have registered their email addresses with Cal Am for autopay and electronic billing will receive the roughly three-and-a-half-minute video.

The utility uses software that compiles

customers' billing information, including their names, addresses, water use, and the charges.

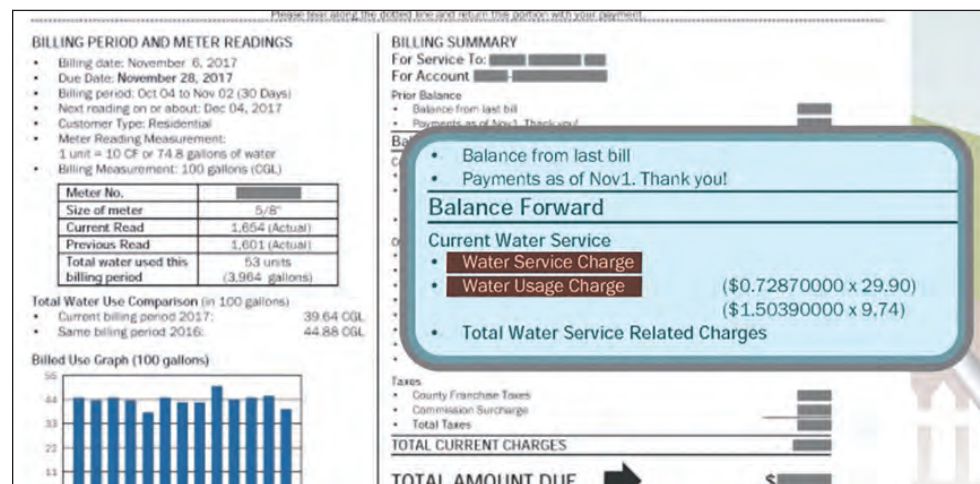
"From there, it generates the video that we can email out to customers," Stedman said.

The videos — which Cal Am will include in bills for the next three months — will break down the conservation surcharge, water district user fee, payment assistance and Seaside Basin surcharges and both WRAM surcharges.

"A WRAM [Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism] surcharge is a tool created by the California Public Utilities Commission to make up the difference between the amount we need to run our water system and the amount collected from customers," the narrator for Cal Am's sample video says. "The WRAM allows utilities to recover losses due to lower consumption and increased water conservation."

The video explains the five tiers by which Cal Am charges customers and compares wa-

See **BILLS** page 30A



A screenshot from the video Cal Am plans to email to customers to help them understand their water bills, which are so complicated, they include some prices expressed in numbers with eight decimal places.

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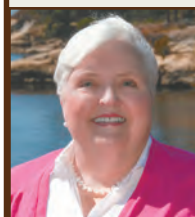
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Lawsuit alleges that P.B. woman, law firm harassed neighbors over remodel

By KELLY NIX

A LONGSTANDING feud between Pebble Beach homeowners escalated last week when a couple filed a lawsuit against their neighbor accusing her of waging a “campaign of harassment” against them — included filing “false” and “frivolous” complaints over the remodel of their house, and even using surveillance cameras to watch them from her other residence in Oklahoma.

In a suit filed Dec. 29, 2017, Chris and Sara Bardis contend that for several years, their uphill neighbor, Tracy Alford, has made repeated complaints to the county — many of them “trivial” — over the remodel of their home on Riata Road.

“Since 2014, Alford has undertaken a campaign of harassment against [the Bardises] by, among other things, filing and prosecuting administrative and other challenges to their home improvements, almost all of which have been withdrawn or rejected,” according to the suit, filed in Monterey County Superior Court.

Fenton & Keller, the law firm which represented Alford, is also listed as a defendant in the complaint, accusing it and Alford of “malicious prosecution.”

‘False and harassing’

Alford fought the Bardises over an expansion of their driveway and the replacement of a fence. In both cases, though, she lost challenges to the county’s approval of the projects.

Alford and Fenton & Keller “have continued to raise false and harassing challenges to the plaintiff’s improvements” with the purpose of causing the Bardises to “incur unnecessary attorney fees and other costs,” the suit says.

Completion of their remodel has been delayed for more than a year “because of Alford and/or Fenton & Keller’s actions,” the suit says.





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The Bardises also accuse Alford of invasion of privacy for aiming surveillance cameras at their house and surveilling their property from her Oklahoma residence. The couple seeks a court order prohibiting Alford from continuing to use the motion-activated cameras.

“Alford’s actions are offensive, and they would be found offensive by a reasonable person,” according to the lawsuit, filed for the Bardises by Sacramento attorney Mark E. Ellis.

Alford — who has had legal representation by Fenton & Keller attorney John Bridges — purchased her Bonafacio Road house for \$6.2 million in August 2007, while the Bardises purchased theirs in 2012 for \$3.6 million, the county assessor’s office said.

Neither Bridges, Fenton & Keller or Alford responded to email messages from The Pine Cone this week about the lawsuit.



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The folks helping prepare seniors' taxes need your help, too

—By ELAINE HESSER

"I LOVE Schedule A!" enthused Juanita Stoddard, and yes, she was talking about the IRS form that allows taxpayers to itemize deductions. She's a volunteer with the Alliance on Aging, where since 1980, IRS-certified staff and volunteers have provided assistance at no cost to anyone 60-plus, blind or disabled, and people with low to moderate incomes.

Last year, 22 volunteers helped more than 2,000 county residents fulfill their fiduciary obligations to Uncle Sam — or, in many cases, to get a refund check.

Program coordinator Sarah Guzman said that demand for services outstrips her group's ability to help, and this year, their numbers are down to 20. Last year, because there weren't enough people to go to them, residents of Big Sur and Carmel Valley had to be transported to the Carmel Foundation for tax assistance, particularly to deal with the implications of the Soberanes Fire and its aftermath.

Thankful clients

Veteran volunteer Art Coffin came to the group 10 years ago and said he's motivated to carry on by "the people that I meet, who thank me very, very much." Others who worked in the program said much the same thing, including Ralph Sackerman, a 5-year volunteer who said he'd been a "finance guy" in the wine industry his whole life before retiring.

"It hadn't been my intention to do any more number-crunching for the rest of my life," he said. He was more interested in learning to do Medicare counseling for the Alliance, which he does, but then he got into the tax prep, too.

"I like a challenge and it continues to be

a challenge. There all kinds of different situations to handle. It's good to prove to yourself you can still hack the work, too," the 87-year-old laughed.

He's not kidding that the challenges continue. Although the new tax code doesn't affect the returns they'll be preparing this spring, the code changes enough annually that all the volunteers have to recertify with the IRS each year.

Not scary

Don't let that scare you off, say the volunteers. You can complete either an online or hard-copy certification prep course at your own speed, and Sackerman said that once you get into it and see how all the forms fit together, it's not that intimidating. Plus, the exam is open-book, but it's a matter of knowing where to look for the information instead of memorizing it.

A relative newcomer, Todd Schmidt is in his fourth year working with the program. He has a background in finance and accounting, and said that the course is interesting — and for him, worthwhile, "The people are so appreciative."

Stoddard agreed. When she's not being excited about figuring out how to save her clients more on their taxes, she's just happy to be able to help them, and has been doing that for 12 years. Unlike some of her counterparts, she came to the program with a limited financial background.

Teamwork

An elementary education teacher for 35 years, she once took an H&R Block tax course, but worked for the firm only briefly as a side job. That was 15 years before she started volunteering with the Alliance. She said she's the example that proves you don't need an accounting background, just a love

of numbers.

She also said that tax preparers go to locations in teams, so there's always someone to ask for help, and the support she gets from leaders like Guzman is exceptional. "And it's a lot of fun," she added.

There's a limit to what the volunteers can do, placed on them by the IRS. People with rental properties (including the dreaded short-term variety), business losses and businesses with employees, for example, are referred to paid preparers.

Everyone The Pine Cone talked to agreed on three points for prospective volunteers — first, you don't need a lot of experience, just a basic understanding of taxes.

Second, people should plan to commit for one full 10-week tax season, to get the complete experience "You'll have lots and lots of support. Just be willing to give it a shot," said Coffin. Stoddard said that there's a learning curve the first year, but that folks should just hang in there and they'll figure it out.



Art Coffin



Juanita Stoddard

Finally, as Sackerman put it, "Just do it!"

Schedules are negotiable, and there are locations in Seaside, at Oldemeyer Center, at the Sally Griffin Center in P.G., and at the Carmel Foundation, among others. Preparers also make trips to south Monterey County.

The Alliance on Aging is holding an informational meeting for prospective tax preparers on Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 9:30 a.m. in its Salinas office at 247 Main St. You can contact Guzman directly at (831) 655-4242 or sguzman@allianceonaging.org.

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New city clerk, finance manager on duty

By MARY SCHLEY

WHEN CITY hall opened for its first business day of the year Tuesday, two new employees walked through the door: city clerk Tom Graves and finance manager Robin Scattini.

“And they both came back the next day, so things are looking good!” city administrator Chip Rerig told The Pine Cone Thursday morning. Both will also be at the city council’s Jan. 9 meeting, when they’ll be introduced to the public.

Graves replaces Ashlee Wright, who had been the local history librarian but was made city clerk by then-city administrator Doug Schmitz in May 2015, and who returned to run the libraries after Janet Bombard retired last August.

Graves, who served in the U.S. Naval Submarine Service in the early 1970s and graduated from UC Santa Cruz in 1978 with a history degree, obtained a master’s in psychology from Cornell University and then went back to work for UCSC as a business officer. After he retired from that job in 2006, Rerig said, “he found his real passion as a city clerk.”

Since then, Graves — one of 54 people to apply for the job — has worked for several different jurisdictions, most recently as city clerk of Hollister, and before that, as assistant city clerk for San Jose. He became a certified city clerk in 2010 and a master municipal clerk in 2015.

“He has worked through numerous elections, recall elections, initiatives and referendums,” Rerig said. “He’s intimately familiar with the Public Records Act but has the same philosophy that I have, which is that we’re trying to be more transparent.”

Graves is receiving the top salary for a city clerk in Carmel, \$119,388 per year, as well as deferred compensation of \$100 per month, and retirement contributions.

“He really seems to have a penchant and a passion for city clerking,” Rerig said. “He’s an effusive person. You can hear him laughing — it’s great.”

‘Knows municipal finance’

Scattini, meanwhile, has been in finance for her whole career.

“We stole her from San Benito Superior Court, where she was the finance director,” he said. “She’s very astute — she knows municipal finance — that’s all she’s ever done.”

Her resume is full of accounting and finance positions, all in California, starting in 1994. That made her the top choice from among 16 or 17 candidates, Rerig said, because she’s very familiar with state reporting requirements, benefits, and the other necessary details of a city’s financial operations.

“We’re about to update our finance system from the mid-’80s,” he added. “She’s delving into these things.”

She’s also preparing for the midyear budget review, the upcoming planning for next year’s budget, and determining how to handle payroll.

“She’s going from 0 to 100 mph in a week,” Rerig said.

Scattini is receiving \$110,472 per year, the middle salary step for a finance manager in the city.

Rerig said he’s excited about the new hires.

“These people really have the right touch for the village,” he said. “They’re very approachable, very friendly, very erudite, well educated and well experienced. So much of filling positions in this village is fit, and both these folks are really great fits. They’re going to serve this council very, very well.”

He noted that of the nine department heads and senior executives in city hall, he has hired or appointed seven of them since coming on board in March of 2016.

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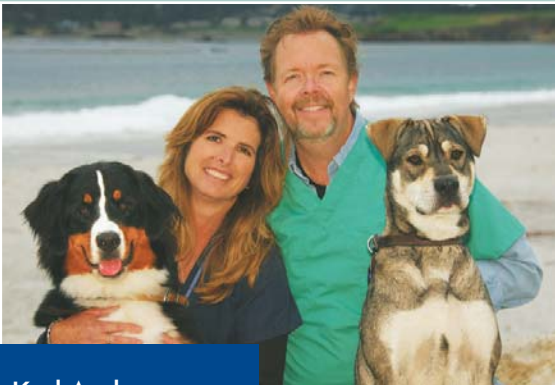
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MEARTH HABITAT PROJECT SEARCHING FOR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER 15 years at the MEarth habitat project — where kids learn about organic gardening, plant biology, cooking, environmental sciences and other lessons — executive director Tanja Roos is leaving at the end of February, and the search is on for her replacement.

“In the perfect world, they will hire before I go, so there is some overlap and training,” said Roos, who is leaving “to pursue new and different ventures.”

Located next to Carmel Middle School, the 10-acre habitat project is a nonprofit that serves not just Carmel Unified School District students, but other kids throughout the county. The produce from its organic garden is sold to local restaurants, and its green classroom building hosts science classes, cooking demonstrations and other gatherings.

According to tax records for 2015, MEarth took in \$468,066 and spent \$485,087, finishing the year with a \$17,021 deficit. The previous year, the nonprofit ended \$101,633 in the black. Roos received a salary of \$75,476 in 2015 and was listed as the only “key employee,” since lower-level workers are not included on the form. Total payout for salaries, benefits and other compensation was \$361,427 that year.

“If you are looking to apply your passion for environmental stewardship, exceptional interpersonal skills, and out-

standing leadership prowess at a one-of-a-kind social good organization in beautiful Carmel, MEarth needs you!” reads the job notice on MEarth’s website.

“Please only apply if you are an eco-geek who is dedicated to educating and inspiring the next generation of environ-



The MEarth habitat project needs a new executive director, because Tanja Roos is leaving at the end of February.

mental leaders,” the notice reads. “Our deep love for our work and our community is what makes MEarth truly exceptional.”

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Police investigating strange letter at city hall

By KELLY NIX

PACIFIC GROVE police are investigating a “suspicious” letter sent to an employee at city hall.

On Dec. 20, an unidentified worker in the city’s community development department — received the note.

“The author is anonymous,” Pacific Grove Police Department Cmdr. Rory Lakind told The Pine Cone via email message this week. “I can’t tell you what the author’s reason for the letter was. It was not threatening, but more of a suspicious nature.”

Although police declined to give the letter to The Pine Cone or specify what was said in the note — including if it was of a personal or professional nature — Lakind said it was “clearly not normal correspondence between a city employee and a civilian.”

“I am not sure if a crime was committed, but it was not a letter that one would normally receive in the course of their duties,” he explained.

The case is under investigation, and police are trying to identify the author.

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LEE H. BRANDENBURG

June 8, 1930 – December 28, 2017

~ A Life Full of Kindness, Compassion & Boundless Energy ~

Lee H. Brandenburg, 87, of Monte Sereno and Pebble Beach, CA peacefully passed away surrounded by loving family and friends on December 28, 2017.

Lee lived his life to the fullest with purpose, determination and selfless dedication for those he loved and cared about as well as for the philanthropic causes he so passionately supported. Lee was truly the original “Most Interesting Man in the World” – a one-of-a-kind special soul whose mold was broken the day he was born. He was a multi-talented human being who shared his gifts so willingly with others – friends and strangers alike – always beginning with a hand shake or a hug. A brilliant man – he was equally comfortable chatting with presidents and movie stars as he was with children and with the down and out. In truth, Lee was just a very down to earth fellow, without pretense whatsoever.

Deeply admired and loved by his family and friends – both near and far – Lee lived a life full of boundless energy sharing kindness and compassion. With his hallmark twinkly blue eyes, big beautiful smile and pleasant demeanor, Lee was an incredibly caring person who went out of his way to make sure that no one felt excluded from any conversation, activity or gathering. He cared deeply for his fellow man, his community and his nation. Moreover, he was never one to say an ill-word about anyone, believing instead in the power of positive thinking.

Aside from being a successful real estate investor and developer Lee wrote two books: “The Captive American”, which helped to spark political term limits in forty-seven states. He also wrote “The Dawn of Darkness,” a novel about the Bataan Death March and the treatment of our prisoners in their prison camps in Manchuria, during the Second World War. He co-produced with William Crain: “The Kid From Not So Big”, shown on HBO on Christmas Day, 1989. His latest project is a screenplay he has been researching and writing. He invented the “immobile home”, a concept that gave mobile home owners a private patio, gardens and garages.

With wife Diane, he was a prolific philanthropist. Lee will be forever remembered for his unparalleled energy in all that he did, all while singing his favorite songs or telling his favorite stories and jokes along the way. Lee and Diane were beautiful partners in life, recently celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary, and to celebrate his 87th birthday, Lee threw out the first pitch at the San Jose Giant’s baseball game in June 2017.

Lee was born on June 8, 1930 in New York, New York to parents Jessie (Sokolski) and Melford Brandenburg. He had one sister, Barbara (Goldberg) who pre-deceased him. Lee grew up in New York in the 1930’s and 40’s and experienced first-hand the effects of our nation’s Depression on his family, friends and neighborhood. It taught him a thing or two about the value of a buck and about humanity for others. In the late 1940’s, Lee followed his mom and dad to California. Lee attended San Jose State University where he became a member of the ROTC as well as the Sigma Nu Fraternity and graduated in 1952 a proud Spartan. He would meet Diane Struble while at SJS and in Lee fashion, actively wooed her to become his bride.

It was also at this time that Lee shipped off to Augusta, GA to obtain his officers, O.C.S. training at Camp Gordon. He then was stationed at the Presidio in San Francisco. He reached rank of First Lieutenant in the United States Army and he was always proud of his service in the US military.

In the mid-50’s, after discharge, he decided to open a used car lot on West San Carlos Street known as The Private Owners Auto Exchange. He often laughed when recalling that he repainted damaged cars with a stick in lieu of a brush. Times were different back then, he’d remark with a chuckle.

Lee became a salesperson with the local San Jose realty firm of Stone & Schulte. After a few years of selling residential lots and earning between \$125 and \$175 commission per lot, Lee formed Empire Realty Company as his own real estate brokerage company as well as forming Brandenburg-Naylor, a development company intent on creating his own residential subdivisions. Some of Lee’s subdivisions included the city of Saratoga’s Subdivision No. 1, Country Squire Estates, as well as Argonaut Glen, portions of Mulberry Lane, Sweetbrier, and Briarwood in San Jose’s Willow Glen area, Wooded Hills of Almaden, Lynn Oaks in West San Jose, and so many others.

During this time Lee also branched out into small office buildings, multi-family residential, and commercial retail - both strip centers and neighborhood shopping centers such as Park Victoria, the first center in the City of Milpitas, and Irvington Plaza, an early retail center in Fremont.

In the late 1960’s Lee recognized an opportunity in the market to provide low cost housing in a private atmosphere with luxurious recreational facilities and embarked on developing adult mobile home communities in the South Bay.

He formed Brandenburg-Staedler in 1968 with Rudy Staedler to pursue these ventures and John V. Moore joined the team as a partner in 1972 to make it Brandenburg, Staedler & Moore. Together they built 17 communities in six cities comprising almost 4000 spaces, which most the firm still owns, operates, and manages today.

In 1978, Lee was joined by his son Eric to form “Brandenburg Properties” and in 1983, was joined by Bill Baron, and in 1986 by Chuck Butters.

This team went on to acquire and develop over 15,000 acres of property in 6 states and in British Columbia, Canada. Notable achievements over the course of this partnership include the nationally-acclaimed Cinnabar Hills Golf Club, a high-end public 27-hole golf club located in the heart of San Jose with the largest, most accurate historical golf memorabilia museum west of the Mississippi. The team also obtained approvals for an over 1,500 residential/golf community known as Silver Creek Valley Country Club in San Jose, re-claimed a 104-acre quarry on Capitol Expressway into a thriving retail and residential development and assembled 5.5 acres in downtown San Jose destined to become home to 1,500 residential units. Countless other projects and investments located in northern and southern California, Texas, Louisiana, Georgia, South Carolina and Florida kept Lee busy. And he loved every minute of staying busy.

Lee thought creatively and “beyond” most – as it was his passion to think, think hard and then think even harder. He was never afraid to ask a question, and he encouraged others to ask as well. He regularly encouraged others to think outside the box and to ask “why” when an answer wasn’t feeling quite right. He was determined to achieve what he set out to accomplish. If he didn’t have the skill, he’d learn it. If he didn’t know the answer, he’d study up. He was just one of those guys that was always right in the middle of it all, and as a result, he learned valuable lessons along his life’s journey.

Lee, and Diane, have been recognized with a number of prestigious awards over the years due in part to their incredibly generous community spirit, including the San Jose Medical Center Foundation Legacy Award, San Jose State University Tower Award, San Jose Legacy Award, Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame, Glenn George Heart of Philanthropy Award, Boy Scouts Character Award, and San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Community Volunteer Award.

Well known as his public gifts were, though, not as well-known was his generosity to strangers, friends, employees, and partners. A \$100 tip to a restaurant wait person would not be unusual, or financial assistance to a down and out friend for monthly expenses, or staff, he helped in buying a much-needed car or even a house, or partners he financed into new projects - all were bettered because of his altruistic and giving approach to life.

Lee was regularly known to enter a room full of strangers and exit the same room full of friends as he was curious and always interested in chatting with and learning about others. He had an expansive, inquisitive mind that allowed him to easily converse and was also regularly prepared to share stories of his own experiences.

He enjoyed traveling and in the process, would learn all there was to learn about his destinations and those he encountered along the way – most of whom became friends. Clearly, all who had the good fortune to encounter Lee came away with a story or two, songs in their heart and mind, and also came away a better person as a result.

In addition to travelling, Lee loved games, including Gin Rummy, but his true passion was golf. He loved the principles of the game: honesty, integrity, respect for history, and of course, the fellowship. He was a founding member of the Spyglass Hill Golf Club and had golf memberships during his life, including: Almaden Country Club, La Rinconada Golf Club, the Vintage Club, Sharon Heights and The Preserve. His most favorite, of course, would be Cinnabar Hills.

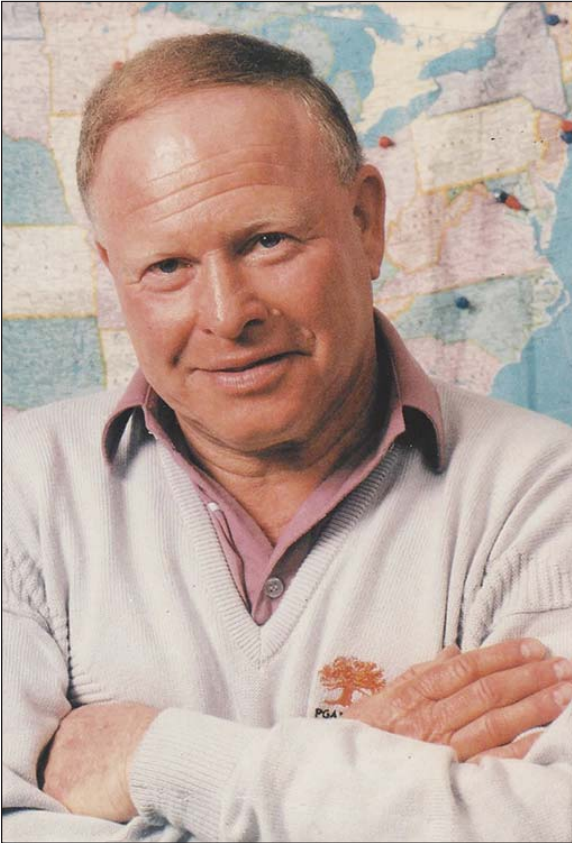
He was a regular attendee at The Masters Golf Tournament, and was a consistent amateur player in many televised golf tournaments, including the Bob Hope Desert Classic, the Sinatra Invitational and the famed Crosby Clambake. At the latter, year after year Lee and Diane would regularly host house guests at their home on the 2nd fairway at Pebble Beach, including Glen Campbell, Johnny Bench, Jack Lemmon, Foster Brooks, Arnold Palmer, Chip Beck and many, many others. There was always a party going on at the Brandenburg’s – and everyone (and we really do mean everyone) was regularly welcomed with open arms.

By any measure, Lee lived a full and complete life – some would say more – without any reservations or holdbacks whatsoever. In late March 2017, however, Lee and Diane’s eldest son Eric passed away from a sudden heart attack and as a result, both parent’s hearts were broken. Lee would acknowledge that he was never quite the same in the aftermath. Through his transition, Lee now joins hands with Eric in heaven, together with Lee’s beloved mom Jessie, who had a very special bond with both men. Lee also joins his father Melford and in-laws Dr. Homer and Adelaide Struble.

Who knows what Lee and Eric are up to high above us...but take a moment to chuckle knowing that God certainly has his hands full!

Lee is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Diane (who he lovingly called “Muffin” or “GiGi” – embraceable terms for the caring soulmate Lee so enjoyed in his life) and their three living children Karen, Gary and Bill. He is also leaves behind his four grandchildren Diana Lane (Jason), Brenten Brandenburg, Taylor Brandenburg and Jackson Brandenburg, his two great grandchildren, Bella Grace Lane and Aiden Lane, his two favorite cats, Scamp and Miss Muffit and an office full of dedicated business partners and team members. He is also survived by many cousins and second cousins located in the northeast.

A Celebration of Lee’s Life – well, he wanted a “big-ass party” and we’d be remiss if we didn’t share it that way – will be held in the coming months for friends and family to enjoy. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that you take a moment to reach out and express a random act of kindness to family, friends or strangers alike. After all, Lee believed that if only our world could be a little kinder with a bit more shared empathy among us, we’d certainly be better off. And only if your spirit is inclined to do so, you are welcome to contribute to The Silicon Valley Children’s Fund, The Forgotten International, The Tibet Fund or a non-profit organization you care about in honor of Lee Brandenburg and his incredible life of selflessly giving to others. Lee will be missed, though never, ever forgotten.



County zeros in on short term rentals in Big Sur

By CHRIS COUNTS

AFTER YEARS of controversy and debate, the Monterey County Planning Commission will hold its first workshop on specific regulations for short-term rentals in Big Sur Wednesday, Jan. 10, in Salinas.

Many Big Sur residents have lobbied for establishing a separate set of regulations for short-term rentals in Big Sur, where many homes are difficult to access due to long, narrow and winding roads — and the risk of wildfire is constant.

Discussions about short-term rentals down the coast were tabled early last year when road troubles along Highway 1 made travel to hearings in Salinas difficult or impossible.

While Big Sur locals will have an opportunity to talk at the meeting about the many issues surrounding short-term rentals in Big Sur, the chief focus of the hearing will be to determine whether it's more appropriate to create regulations at the county level — which can be done relatively quickly — or incorporate those rules into the Big Sur Land Use Plan, which could take considerably longer, county official Melanie Beretti told The Pine Cone.

“There are a number of pathways forward,” Beretti suggested. “The planning commission needs to decide what path to take. This is the first step in coming up with specific regulations for Big Sur.”

Beretti said that Big Sur residents are “very divided” over short-term rentals. “It’s creating conflict and strife,” she reported.

Complete ban?

Some Big Sur locals have called for an outright ban on short-term rentals, but that is unlikely to happen, in part because the California Coastal Commission supports some short term rentals in the area.

When asked if there could be places in Big Sur where short-term rentals are banned, Beretti responded by saying “there could be areas where limitations to short-term rentals are appropriate.”

Beretti said it’s too early to say if any other workshops will be scheduled to address regulating short-term rentals specifically in Big Sur.

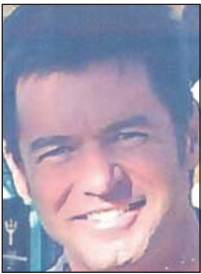
The workshop starts at 1:30 p.m. The county government building is located at 168 W. Alisal.

An issue that’s creating ‘conflict and strife’ among residents

PETER MICHAEL COAKLEY

January 14, 1962 – December 3, 2017
Carmel Valley, CA

He was a dreamer and a builder with a quiet charm that attracted people wherever he went. Peter Michael “Mike” Coakley, born January 14, 1962, passed away peacefully on December 3, 2017, in Walnut Creek, Ca, with his parents and sister at his side.



His interest in construction was evidenced at an early age. At 7, living in Aspen, Colorado, he designed and planned to build his own home in the backyard of the family residence...but without a kitchen. “Where will you eat?” asked his mother. “Oh, I’ll come in to eat with all of you.”

In middle school in Aspen, he scooped ice cream at Baskin-Robbins. He became an avid skier and captained his high school ice hockey team. And winter time saw him building snow lodges in the woods for his outdoor camping. He later graduated from Carmel High School.

After attending the University of Colorado at Boulder, Mike formed Coakley Construction Company and began projects in Truckee, San Francisco and Newport Beach, including building vacation homes in Tahoe-Donner, multi-million dollar homes at Lahontan at Lake Tahoe and Park City, Utah, restaurants and homes in the Sacramento area and remodeling projects in San Francisco and Orange.

Mike leaves a son, Cody, Cody’s mother Berril Coakley of Orange, Ca; a sister, Katharine Coakley Baker, of Portland, Or; father, Peter Coakley and his wife, Diane of Carmel Valley, Ca; mother, Janice McGregor Wren of Walnut Creek, Ca with whom he spent his final days; stepfather, Ron Wren of Walnut Creek; and scores of friends, cousins and step-siblings who knew and loved him.

A memorial service will be held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Carmel Valley Village on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018 with prayer service at 11 a.m. and a celebration of life immediately following in the church hall.



Joan Schwing Parkerson

1931 ♦ 2017

Joan Schwing Parkerson died peacefully on December 29 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Godfrey Ross Parkerson, as well as her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Poynter Schwing, Jr., and siblings, Carolyn Schwing Howard, and Samuel Poynter Schwing III.

“Pie-z” was born in November 1931 and grew up in New Orleans. She graduated from Isidore Newman School and attended Sophie Newcomb College. After marrying the love of her life, Godfrey, in 1953, she provided a lifetime of unconditional love to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a member of the Garden Study Club of the Garden Club of America, the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, the Debutante Club of New Orleans, and the Junior League of New Orleans. She was also an active member of Trinity Episcopal Church, where she enjoyed attending eucharist chapel services with family and friends.

Pie-z loved people and was the quintessential hostess. She was known for her lively dinner parties in New Orleans, as well as her beloved Carmel, CA., where the weather was always “marvelous,” even when it was foggy. She had a very active life at Lambeth House and enjoyed sharing time with friends for lunch, bridge, and “Rummikub.”

Pie-z is survived by her children, Alice Blakemore Parkerson and Godfrey Bruce Parkerson (Jennifer) of New Orleans. In addition, she is survived by her grandchildren, Samuel Parkerson McEnery (Marti), Joan McEnery Browne (Patrick), Godfrey Ross Parkerson II, John Stirling Parkerson, and Sarah Woodward Parkerson. She is also survived by five great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held on January 5, 2018, at Noon at Trinity Episcopal Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Trinity Episcopal Church, 1329 Jackson Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130 or an organization of your choice.

To view and sign the guestbook, visit www.lakelawnmetairie.com

To place an obituary for your loved one, contact anne@carmelpinecone.com or (831) 274-8654



Nancy Karen Heitzman

March 25, 1937 ~ December 23, 2017
Carmel Valley



Nancy K. Heitzman, a native of Chicago, has lived locally for the past fifty years, most recently with her daughter and grandson. After receiving her RN degree from the Julia F. Burnham School of Nursing in Illinois, she began her forty-five year nursing career. Nancy worked at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara then as Director of Nurses at Beverly Manor in Monterey and Katherine Care Center in Salinas. She retired as charge nurse at Carmel Valley Manor.

Nancy served as an ombudsman for Monterey County. She bred Doberman Pinschers and traveled to dog shows all over the world including Japan, Brazil and New Zealand as a judge of her favorite breed. Nancy was a longtime member of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America and the Del Monte Kennel Club. She particularly enjoyed vacations spent at Lake Tahoe.

Nancy is survived by her children, Jeff Hogans of Salinas and Sharon Simpson of Carmel Valley. She was especially devoted to her grandchildren, Christina Luciano, Jordan Simpson and Ryan Hogans and her great-granddaughter, Vanessa. She is also survived by her nephews, David and John, many extended family members in Illinois and her step-children, Jeri and Aaron. Nancy was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Heitzman; her parents, Helen and Dick Kamerer; her siblings, Richard, Anne and Karen and her nephew, Freddie.

Private family services will be held. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Doberman Pinscher Club of America. To sign Nancy’s guest book and leave messages for her family, please visit www.thepaulmortuary.com.

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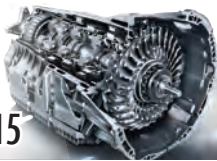
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P.G. city manager gets \$4,500 per month for housing and transportation

■ Perk is part of new contract

By KELLY NIX

PACIFIC GROVE city manager Ben Harvey’s revised employment agreement includes a \$4,000 per month reimbursement plan to fly to Southern California on the weekends to see his children and a \$500 per month car allowance, according to the contract approved by the city council in late December.

On Dec. 20, 2017, the council voted to continue employing Harvey, who began working for the city in early 2016 to

replace then-city manager Tom Frutchey. Harvey was the sixth highest paid employee in the city in 2016, earning \$189,807.36 in pay and benefits.

His new contract, which took effect Dec. 31, 2017, and supersedes his April 2016 contract, includes a \$4,000 per month “housing and transportation” reimbursement plan, which allows Harvey to fly to Long Beach on the weekends to see his children, Mayor Bill Kampe told The Pine Cone.

Harvey “can’t move his kids up here, so the council has supported the idea that we like to see families stay connected,” Kampe said.

Besides airfare, Harvey can use the money for hotel

expenses and/or a mortgage on a house, Kampe explained.

Harvey’s base salary also increased from \$160,000 to \$168,000, and his housing and transportation plan increased by \$1,000, Kampe said.

“This contract brings [Harvey] up to 95 percent of median compared to comparable jobs,” Kampe explained.

Frutchey’s base pay was higher than Harvey’s, but he didn’t get a hefty monthly allowance.

Harvey will receive \$1,000 per month toward health, dental and vision benefits, and \$50,000 in life insurance. The new contract also says Harvey would receive a one-time relocation benefit of \$5,000.

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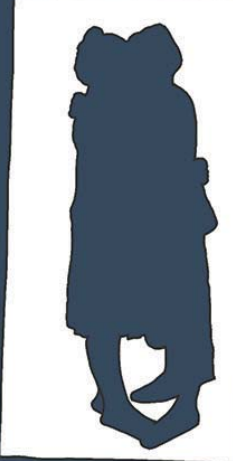


"POLICE LOG" CARMEL VALLEY, JULY 12

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LETTERS

From page 20A

opportunity to keep it in a natural pristine condition in public ownership.

With all the money Washington wastes each day on bickering, is this a valid point?

Again, nature is second to man’s domination even in Big Sur where protection is so desired.

Would Congressman Panetta prefer condos here or condors?

Chris Mack,
Carmel

Thanks are due

Dear Editor,

Congressman Jimmy Panetta deserves a resounding thank you for acknowledging the problems public agencies like the United States Forest Service face when they try to prepare for wildfires and suppress them on public land, by his opposition to forest service acquisition of the Adler Ranch.

The Adler Ranch is the location of almost two miles of a critical firebreak on private land, which was used to stop the Basin Complex Fire from burning through the Palo Colorado area after the forest service allowed the fire to burn over a historic firebreak in the national forest.

Here is a link to our former Cal Fire unit Chief testifying to the Board of Supervisors how the Forest Service’s failure to open firebreaks in the national forest increased the Basin Fire’s threat to lives, property, and resources in Monterey County: www.tinyurl.com/Chief-H-Testimony.

Numerous local, state, and federal laws act to hinder and block public agencies, including the forest service, from maintaining fuel breaks on public land before fires break out, and from acting to open firebreaks during wildfires. The problem also applies to private land, though to a lesser extent.

Such laws are irrational given the need for public agencies and private landowners to prepare for wildfires before they start, and act without delay when they are burning.

An example is the 2002 bill former Sam Farr introduced, which moved wilderness boundaries over Forest Service wildfire fuel break locations, and over an historic firebreak, causing the Forest Service to abandon the fuel breaks and delay opening the firebreak during the 2008 Basin Fire.

Here is a link to a petition that provides details on some of the problems: www.Palo-Petition.weebly.com.

As wildfires kill Californians and destroy their homes, politicians hesitate to amend life-threatening laws because they fear being attacked by environmental activists who consider the laws untouchable, and who receive unquestioning support from much of the public.

My hope is more people will start to question the wisdom of supporting environmental activists who give a low priority to protection of lives, homes and businesses from wildfires.

A start would be to contact Congressman Panetta’s office and thank him for opposing public acquisition of the Adler Ranch, and urge him to introduce legislation to fix the numerous federal laws that act to increase the threat from wildfires.

Michael Caplin, Big Sur

‘Make the promise’

Dear Editor,

We have had far too many moments of silence since Sandy Hook. Our children and community deserve real action to stop the epidemic of gun violence in our country. We’re not alone and we’re not helpless. There are many seemingly simple, yet powerful things we can do today!

More and more of our neighbors are uniting to bring the change we need. The phones in Congress are ringing off the hook with calls for commonsense gun reform, peaceful rallies are growing in numbers in cities across the country, and families and friends are gathering together in their own living rooms to talk about bringing violence prevention programs to their schools. The movement is growing and we must keep it growing.

There is reason to have hope that we can prevent gun violence before it happens through sensible gun safety laws and programs in our schools and communities that help us identify the signs and signals before a shooting happens and intervene.

To keep this hope alive and bring the change we need, I am asking everyone to take two simple actions today. First, call Representative Jimmy Panetta at (202) 225-2861 or email him by using the form at panetta.house.gov/contact and ask that he support gun violence prevention legislation to keep guns out of dangerous hands. Secondly, “Make the Promise” at www.sandyhookpromise.org and help bring Sandy Hook Promise’s violence prevention programs to our schools and community.

Allyson Kavner, Carmel

Council to talk about trash programs, water project and Flanders Mansion

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

DURING THEIR first meetings of the year, city council members will tackle closed-door legal matters and receive presentations on garbage and water Monday, and will discuss possible uses for aging Flanders Mansion and talk about revising fees for special events and activities Tuesday, according to draft agendas for the Jan. 8 and Jan. 9 meetings.

They’ll also vote on a lot of routine business items at the Jan. 9 meeting.

While several court cases and other topics are planned for the closed session at 4 p.m. Monday, the council is scheduled to go to open session at 6 p.m., when they’ll hear presentations from Monterey Regional Waste Management District GM Tim Flanagan on “regional and local waste diversion programs,” and Cal Am engineering manager

Chris Cook on the water company’s supply project and pipeline work.

Tuesday’s meeting will start at 4:30 p.m., and after new city clerk Tom Graves and new finance manager Robin Scattini are introduced, the council vote on several items on the consent agenda, and then move into discussion of fees for special event and activities, like renting Devendorf Park for the day, holding a party on the beach, or shutting down a city block for a car show.

Finally, they’ll delve into a topic that city councils have been discussing since 1972: How to use Flanders Mansion, the historic home next to Mission Trail park that’s mostly been empty and unused since taxpayers bought it 45 years ago.

City hall is located on Monte Verde Street south of Ocean Avenue. For more information and a full agenda, visit www.ci.carmel.ca.us.



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This Week

Live Music,
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Big Sur welcomes innovative ensemble — but can a cello really do that?

REINVENTING AN instrument that is best known for its somber and melancholy sound, **Dirty Cello** visits the Henry Miller Library in Big Sur Saturday, Jan. 6. And if the weather cooperates, the band will even play outside under the redwoods — which will create quite a contrast to the frigid conditions most of the country is suffering through.

The San Francisco-based ensemble got its start in 2010 after cellist **Rebecca Roudman**, who had been experimenting with playing rock songs, won a local talent show, “Vallejo’s Got Talent.”

And when people began asking for her CD, she and her husband formed duo and began to play. Soon, bandmates, CDs and world tours followed. “It started off as an experiment, but it’s become quite a success,” Roudman told The Pine Cone.

SANTA BRINGS ART CENTER ‘A MIRACLE’

LIKE MANY nonprofit arts groups, the Pacific Grove Art Center has struggled to keep its doors open. But the downtown P.G. gallery and studio received a big holiday surprise last week when an anonymous donor gave it \$100,000. The art center will receive \$25,000 each December for the next four years. For the volunteers who strive to keep the art center’s doors open, the news of the gift is cause for celebration.

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

“This is a huge miracle for us,” said **Adrianne Jonson**, who serves as chair for the art center’s board. “The board will now meet to decide how best to utilize the gift.”

The cash-strapped art center announced last month that it was dissolving the position of executive director. Its board cited financial worries — including a 45 percent rent hike — as the reason for eliminating the job.

See ART page 25A



The Center for Photographic Art unveils a show by Roman Loranc (above) Jan. 6. The artist is known for his striking images (top), which are noted for their sharp focus and rich contrast.

Casting aside any doubt that a cello-driven band can rock, Roudman and company play scorching versions of classic rock standards like Jimi Hendrix’s “Purple Haze” and Guns and Roses’ “Sweet Child of Mine.” But Dirty Cello is more than just a hard-rocking novelty act.

“We play an eclectic mix of music, from Gypsy jazz, to bluegrass,” she explained.

Regardless what genre of music the group plays, Roudman takes the lead with her cello.

“It’s very rare to have the cello as a lead instrument,” she continued. “I’m trying to make the cello do different things — if we’re playing bluegrass, I’m trying to imitate a fiddle player, and if we’re doing Guns and Roses, I am trying to be a guitar player.”

Whatever Dirty Cello is doing, it seems to be working — they’ve been busy enough to launch overseas tours every summer, and they have a new CD out, “I May Not Be Perfect.”

“It’s fun and it’s different and it’s accessible,” Roudman said of Dirty Cello’s music. “The best compliment I ever received was: ‘I didn’t know a cello could play like that.’”

Magnus Toren of the library told The Pine Cone he’s thrilled Dirty Cello is playing in Big Sur.

“I love the cello as an instrument, and Rebecca is an extraordinary player,” Toren added. “She’s also surrounded by talented musicians — this is no fly-by-night band. It’s kind of remarkable that they are coming here.”

The library is located on Highway 1 about 28 miles south of Carmel. Tickets are \$20. Call (831) 667-2574. or visit www.henrymiller.org.



Live Music Jan. 5-11

Barmel — **Songs Hotbox Harry Taught Us** (“Big Sur country,” Friday at 7 p.m.); and **Rock Doves** (indie rock,

On A High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

Saturday at 7 p.m.). San Carlos and Seventh, (831) 626-3400.

Cafe Trieste in Monterey — **Robert Elmond Stone** (country, Friday at 6:30 p.m.); and singer-songwriter **Zack Freitas** (Saturday at 6:30 p.m.). 409 Alvarado St., (831) 241-6064.

Cibo Ristorante Italiano in Monterey — **Blues at 11** (blues, Friday at 9 p.m.); **Real Time** (soul and r&b, Saturday at 9 p.m.); singer **Dizzy Burnett** (jazz and swing, Sunday at 7 p.m.); singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz and swing, Tuesday at 7 p.m.); **Andrea’s Fault** (Wednesday at 7 p.m.); and **The Ben Herod Trio** (swing and jazz, Thursday at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St., (831) 649-8151.

Cooper’s Pub & Restaurant in Monterey — singer-songwriter **Paul Espinoza** (Celtic, Friday at 9 p.m.); and guitarist **Joe Lucido** (smooth jazz, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 653 Cannery Row, (831) 373-1353.

East Village Coffee Lounge in Monterey — **Son of the**

See MUSIC page 25A



Dirty Cello (left) rocks the Henry Miller Library Jan. 6. Son of a Velvet Rat (above), which plays the same night in Monterey, showcases singer-songwriter Georg Altziebler and his wife, multi-instrumentalist Heike Binder.



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TO SUPPORT local wineries, many area restaurants will waive corkage fees for customers who bring wines they bought at one of the tasting rooms on the Monterey Peninsula. The practice benefits both, since tasting room hosts are often asked for restaurant recommendations and will point people in the direction of those establishments that are friendly to local wineries.

A Taste of Monterey, the tasting room on Cannery Row that functions as the “official regional wine visitors’ center,” carries

soup to nuts

By MARY SCHLEY

dozens of wines from different Monterey County producers. The \$15 tasting fee is waived for those who purchase two bottles or more, and every bottle gets a sticker attached showing where it was bought — a sticker that means no corkage fee at dozens of restaurants.

In Carmel, La Balena on Junipero between Fifth and Sixth, Christopher's on Lincoln between Fifth and Sixth, and Grasing's at Sixth and Mission, as well as the Rio Grill at the Crossroads, will forego cork-

age on a bottle of wine from A Taste of Monterey. In Pebble Beach, Porter's in the Forest at Poppy Hills Golf Course is part of the program, and in Pacific Grove, Fandango, Fishwife, Max's Grill, Point Pinos Grill and Taste Bistro take part, too.

Fifteen eateries in Monterey will waive the fee, including Abalonetti, Epsilon, Montrio, Jacks, the Fish Hopper, PF Chang's, the Sardine Factory, Tarp's Roadhouse, Sakura, Cooper's Pub, Cannery Row Brewing Co., and California Pizza Kitchen.

Anna Bartolini, who owns La Balena and Il Grillo restaurants in Carmel with her husband, Emanuele, not only waives corkage fees for wines from A Taste of Monterey, she also waives them for bottles

from any tasting room in Carmel or Carmel Valley.

“We don’t have the space to carry wine from every local producer, and I consider it a way to help each other out,” she said.

Same goes for Jennifer Roux, who owns Roux Restaurant and the Carmel Valley Chophouse in Carmel Valley Village with her husband, Fabrice. The couple also recently purchased Fifi's Bistro Café in Pacific Grove.

In general, such deals are good for one



PHOTO/MICHAEL TROUTMAN, DMT IMAGING

Chef James Anderson of Poke Lab created fresh and tasty treats for guests on a rugged outcropping during the 2017 Big Sur Food & Wine festival, which recently distributed money to charities.

bottle per table. Fees and policies for corkage vary widely among Monterey Peninsula restaurants, ranging from \$15 or \$20, to \$35 or more.

For more about A Taste of Monterey, which was started in 1993 by Ken and Robyn Rauh at the behest of a couple of local wine luminaries, visit www.atasteofmonterey.com.

■ Galante olive oil

Using fruit from the Maurino olive trees growing on their property in Cachagua, Galante Vineyards recently pressed and released 150 250-ml bottles (for the sake of comparison, a standard bottle of wine is 750 ml), and it's now available for purchase.

According to owner Jack Galante, the olive oil is “described as having ‘nutty, peppery flavors’ that are ‘rounded out with a buttery richness and a hint of lemon verbe-na.’” It sells for \$18 per bottle.

Get it online at www.galantevineyards.com or at the tasting room on Dolores Street south of Ocean Avenue.

■ Chef Duel Round 5

Folktale Winery at 8940 Carmel Valley Road will hold the fifth round of its Chef Duel competition Monday, Jan. 8, at 6 p.m. when two chefs from local private golf clubs compete for the favor of a crowd of tasters and a panel of judges. Corral de Tierra chef Bill Bennett will face off against Colin Moody from Monterey Peninsula Country Club in the contest, in which they'll make the best dish they can from a protein and four bonus ingredients chosen by the organizers. The chefs must use the protein and earn extra points for incorporating the four additional ingredients in a delicious and interesting way.

The People's Choice vote counts for 50 percent, while the guest judges' vote makes up the other half. Obviously, both voting for the same winner advances that chef to another round, but if it's a split, the contestants undertake an additional challenge chosen by the judges ahead of time.

At each Chef Duel, the dishes are paired with a Folktale wine and that of a guest winery. People who want more to nosh on can purchase other food items, along with wine, beer and soda.

Tickets are \$20 each and can be ordered through Eventbrite.com. Hosted by emcee chef Todd Fisher, the duel is a 21-and-over event.

■ New Year's resolution?

For those whose New Year's resolutions include spending a little less money, especially on wine, District 7 wines are a decent compromise. Produced by Scheid, District 7 is an entry-level label that debuted several years back and features four wines available in screwcap that retail for around \$16 to \$20.

The name refers to the official designation of the Monterey American Viticultural Area as No. 7 of the 17 grape-growing districts in the state.

The winemaking team uses grapes grown in estate vineyards in the cooler regions to the north for the Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, while the Cabernet Sauvignon fruit comes from the warmer San Lucas and Hames Valley regions in the southern end of the county.

All four wines are good options for the consumer who doesn't want to spend \$40 or \$50 on a bottle but still wants a solid, locally made wine crafted from quality fruit. To learn more, visit <https://district7wines.com>.

Continues next page

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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

■ Poppin’ Happy Hour returns

The Carmel Road winery’s tasting room on Lincoln between Ocean and Sixth is bringing back its Poppin’ Happy Hour on Fridays in January. From 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. those days, guests can enjoy \$5 tasting flights (as opposed to the regular flights that run \$15 to \$20), and cheese, charcuterie and crackers. Those who purchase wine will be given a balloon to pop, and will receive whatever percentage discount is written on the piece of paper inside. Only tasting room manager Chrissy Gray knows what the discount amounts are and what the range is — and she’s not telling.

Carmel Road produces Pinot Grigio, Riesling, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. For more information, visit www.carmelroad.com.

■ Silly statistics

Bacon Day was Saturday, and an organization called National Today decided to conduct an online survey called, “Is bacon America’s favorite food of all time?” Of course, that question can’t be answered, really. But some of the statistics the group’s publicist provided, based on the answers entered by 1,000 people, included that 21 percent of Americans say they would eat bacon every day for the rest of their lives if they could, 16 percent say they can’t live without bacon (really?), and 18 percent say it’s their favorite food. Four percent say they don’t like bacon. Twenty percent only like real bacon, and two times as many Americans prefer thin-cut over thick. Half of them like their bacon crispy.

■ Joyce first in Highlands dinner lineup

The Hyatt Carmel Highlands’ “Forks, Corks. Action!” winemaker dinner series continues this year with Joyce Vineyards featured Friday, Jan. 26. The series takes place in the wine room of the California Market at Pacific’s Edge, where chef Pancho Castellon works his magic to create a multi-course menu to match the evening’s featured wines. The dinners are designed to “bring guests closer to the producers and personalities that craft the wines

we love.” While Joyce will be featured at this month’s dinner, Twisted Roots will be on the menu for March 15, and the dinners continue in April, May, June, September and November. Dinner will start at 6 p.m. with a reception, and costs \$120 per person. Reservations are required. Visit <https://forkscorksaction2018.eventbrite.com>. The hotel and restaurant are located at 120 Highlands Drive off of Highway 1 south of Carmel.

■ Aubergine class lineup announced

Executive chef Justin Cogley and pastry chef Yulanda Santos of Aubergine restaurant at Monte Verde and Seventh have announced their schedule of cooking classes for the year. The sessions take place in the restaurant’s immaculate kitchen from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and include recipes, instructions, and tastes. Cooking classes are \$125 per person, and pastry classes are \$100 per person, both plus tax and service charge. Kicking off the year will be a Culinary Crash Course on Jan. 24, “for students looking for the basics and beyond: knife skills and sharpening, fish butchery, and chicken butchery,” while the Feb. 7 class will focus on the food and wine of Spain. Santos’ Feb. 8 course will highlight chocolate cremeux, “a basic and versatile chocolate pudding recipe.” March’s lessons are on marinades, brines and rubs, and sweet and savory scones and granola. In April, Cogley will lead students through “a Moroccan feast full of ancient traditions,” while Santos will talk about custards — crème brulée, flan and clafoutis. Classes continue each month throughout the year. For a complete schedule or to sign up, visit www.auberginecarmel.com.

■ BSFW distributes funds

“With all bills paid and books reconciled, we are proud to announce these donations to our designated 2017 beneficiaries,” Elsa Rivera of the Big Sur Food & Wine Festival said this week. “I wanted to make sure you knew about our big finish this year after so many challenges to make the Big Sur Food and Wine Festival happen — thank goodness for that bridge!”

The reopening of the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge just a few weeks before the festival in November helped with attendance numbers, and sponsors contributed enough cash and goods to result in \$56,000 in donations to Big Sur charities, and \$8,000 for fire relief efforts in Wine Country. Recipients include the Coast Property Owners Association’s relief fund and road

repair project, Big Sur Health Center, the volunteer fire brigade, Henry Miller Library, Stage Kids, and the fiddle camp. In addition, the female sommeliers who hosted the wine dinner raised \$2,300 for women winemakers affected by the Napa-area fires. The festival dates for this year will be Nov. 1-3.

Folktale Winery’s monthly Chef Duel always brings out the big guns, like chef Soerke Peters, for a lively cooking competition. Chefs Colin Moody and Bill Bennett will face off there Jan. 8.



PHOTO/MANNY ESPINOZA

CALENDAR

Jan. 6 — Laugh more in the new year with Monterey Comedy Improv! Join us for a live show featuring the premier improv troupe on the Monterey Peninsula! Saturday, 7:30 p.m. at The Lab, 3728 The Barnyard, Ste. G-23, Carmel. \$15. Free Improv Basics Workshop at 3 p.m. (831) 236-2032. www.montereycomedyimprov.com

Jan. 6 – Evensong Celebration of the Epiphany of Christ – 5 p.m. This month’s Evensong falls on the day of the Feast of the Epiphany, the day the three Magi following a star arrived at a stable in Bethlehem and recognized that at last they had found the Christ Child! This joyous choral celebration will be followed by a light meal, which will take place at the back of the church, and will feature a King cake. All Saints’ Church, Dolores & Ninth, Carmel.



Jan. 6 & 7 — Galante/Devendorf Estate Sale at Folktale Winery: The Galante Family will host an estate sale that will include early 19th Century furnishings, china, Persian rugs, books, art, records, Steuben Crystal, and more. The collection includes many pieces from Carmel founder J. Frank Devendorf. Come to Folktale Winery, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

Jan. 7 — Labyrinth Walk: 2-4 p.m. Set your intentions for 2018 and center your spirit! Join the Rev. Sibyl Reynolds and harpist Amy Krupski on the Community Labyrinth at Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 4590 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel. Bring a journal and pen for reflection following your walk. If the weather

is inclement, the walk will be held inside. All are welcome. **Jan. 15 — Shape up in the new year** Monday at 2 p.m. when the Carmel Woman’s Club, San Carlos & 9th, presents fitness guru Neil Herron in “Age Specific, Look Terrific, With All The Right Moves.” An expert in exercise science, Herron is a personal trainer certified by the National Strength and Conditioning Association. Along with live demonstrations, a printed handout of age appropriate exercise and diet tips will be distributed to attendees. Members, free; guests \$10, includes refreshments and tea following the program. Memberships available. (831) 624-2866 or 915-8184.

Jan. 16 — Aspire Health Plan Presents: Exploring the Mediterranean Diet – 8 Simple steps to a healthy lifestyle, a Community Connections class. Does healthy eating, including fruits, veggies, fish, whole grains, a splash of flavorful olive oil and maybe even a glass of red wine sound good? Join us for this free class 10-11:30 a.m. and learn how a Mediterranean diet can support your healthy lifestyle. Crazy Horse Restaurant, 1425 Munras Ave., Monterey. This event is free, and we ask you to register so we can know how many people to expect. RSVP to (877) 663-7651, or www.aspirehealthplan.org/connections

Jan. 17 — Aspire Health Plan Presents: Speaking “Doctor Talk” – Tips for a successful doctor visit. This event is free, and we ask you to register so we can know how many people to expect. RSVP to (877) 663-7651, or www.aspirehealthplan.org/connections. Set for 10-11:30 a.m. at Montage Wellness Center, 2920 2nd Ave., Marina

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FINK

From page 1A

speak to a decision that’s already been made, even if that wasn’t the author’s intention,” he said. “We provide due process for everyone, so I recommended the matter be taken off calendar. Because we don’t even want to present the appearance of impropriety, we can’t have the appearance of any decision being made before hearing all the facts.”

Woody’s v. Newport Beach

After Dallas and Hardy sent their emails to the city in late November 2017 asking to call up the planning commission’s decision for review, Fink began rallying supporters, many of whom sent emails to the city and letters to the editor condemning the move and accusing Dallas and Hardy of being politically motivated in their opposition to the condo plans.

On Dec. 29, Retterer sent an email to Mozingo citing a 2015 California Court of Appeals case in which a business called Woody’s sued the City of Newport Beach after a council member challenged a lower commission’s approval of late-night activities at the restaurant and then made an impassioned argument to the rest of the council, which subsequently voted to overturn the commission’s yes-vote.

“The applicant sued the city the next day, seeking a writ of administrative mandate to set aside the council’s decision and asserting a second claim for violation of the applicant’s civil rights,” Retterer wrote. The court ruled in favor of the business, finding that the city violated the owners’ due process rights by failing to conduct a fair hearing.

“The court concluded that Woody’s had established an ‘unacceptable probability of actual bias’ on the council

member’s part,” he said, because the councilman stated his opposition to the proposal in his original email challenging the commission’s approval.

Retterer said Dallas and Hardy did exactly the same thing, and should therefore not be allowed to participate in the hearing. Furthermore, he argued, their demands should be thrown out altogether, since the rest of the council is probably already compromised by their influence.

“Both council members have taken this position against the project before Mr. Fink is supposed to have a fair hearing before an unbiased and impartial city council,” he wrote. “Such strong statements in opposition to the project are precisely the kind of pre decisional statements that the court in Woody’s found so offensive to violate the applicant’s due process rights.”

Mozingo said the Woody’s case doesn’t apply to Carmel, because Newport’s rules don’t allow council members to challenge a lower commission’s decision, while Carmel’s do. According to the city’s codes, two or more members can call up a decision for a review, and they must state what the issues are without taking a position.

“You identify what you’re concerned with, so the other side at least knows why it’s being appealed so they can prepare a response,” he said. “The process is you file these documents to show why it’s being brought up on appeal, which the City of Carmel, unlike the City of Newport Beach,

is authorized to do.”

Fink questioned the idea that a council member can ever really challenge a lower commission’s decision without being biased, though. “We now believe that the fact the council can appeal a lower commission ruling and then judge that appeal is, in fact, a bias and is setting the town up for some serious future legal action,” he said.



David Fink and Janet Elarmo can proceed with their plans to build a condo on top of Cantinetta Luca restaurant. The mayor and a city council member had challenged the planning commission’s approval, but the city attorney dismissed it due to potential bias.



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MUSIC

From page 21A

Velvet Rat (folk rock, Saturday at 7 p.m.). 498 Washington St., (831) 373-5601.

Folktales Winery in Carmel Valley — singer-songwriter **Mark Banks** (Saturday at 4:30 p.m.); and **Razzvio** (rock, Sunday at 4:30 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road, (831) 293-7500.

The Golden Bough Playhouse — **PacRep Theatre** presents the last incarnation of its ongoing rock 'n' roll tribute concert series, “Viva Las Vegas” (Friday, Saturday and Sunday — all performances start at 7:30 p.m. except Sunday matinees, which begin at 2 p.m.). On Monte Verde between Eighth and Ninth, call (831) 622-0100.

Henry Miller Library in Big Sur — **Dirty Cello** (blues and bluegrass, Saturday at 7:30 p.m.). On Highway 1 28 miles south of Carmel, (831) 667-2574. www.henrymiller.org

Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel — guitarist **Mike Lent**, bassist **Joe Dolister** and drummer **David Morwood** (jazz, Friday at 7 p.m.); and singer **Scotty Wright**, guitarist **Mike Lent**, drummer **David Morwood** and friends (jazz, Saturday at 7 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road, (831) 372-1234.

The Inn at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach — **The Jazz Trio** featuring pianists **Bob Phillips** or **Bill Spencer** (jazz, in the lobby, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.); and **The Dottie Dodgion Trio** (jazz, Thursday at 7 p.m.); also, a bagpiper plays every evening at sunset. 2700 17 Mile Drive, (831) 647-7500.

Julia's vegetarian restaurant in Pacific Grove — singer-songwriter **Buddy Comfort** (Friday at 6:30 p.m.); singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave., (831) 656-9533.

Mission Ranch — pianist **Tom Gastineau** (jazz, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 5 p.m.); singer and pianist **Maddalene Edstrom** (jazz and pop, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 7 p.m.); pianist **David Kempton** (jazz, Monday through Thursday at 8 p.m.) and pianist **Gennady Loktionov** (jazz, Sunday at 10 a.m., Monday through Thursday at 8 p.m.). 26270 Dolores St., (831) 625-9040.

The Sunset Lounge at Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer **Neal Banks** and guitarist **Steve Ezzo** (pop and rock, Friday at 7 p.m.); and singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Saturday at 7 p.m. and Thursday at 6 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive, (831) 620-1234.

Terry's Lounge at Cypress Inn — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Friday at 7 p.m.); pianist **Gennady Loktionov** and singer **Debbie Davis** (cabaret, Saturday at 7 p.m.); **Andrea's Fault** (jazz and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.); and guitarist **Richard Devinck** (classical, Sunday at 8 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh, (831) 624-3871.

The Trailside Cafe in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Friday at 6 p.m.); and **Out of the Blue** (“soul rock,” Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place, (831) 298-7453.

ART

From page 21A

While the donor will remain unknown to the public, he or she reads the local news.

“The donor decided to make the grant after reading the news articles in three area newspapers,” explained **Brian Thayer** of the Community Foundation. The gift was made through the DeWitt Fund of the Community Foundation for Monterey County.

Founded in 1969, the art center is located at 468 Lighthouse Ave. Besides providing gallery space for exhibits, it provides studio space for 17 local artists, and hosts a wide variety of classes in the creative arts for children and adults. www.pgartcenter.org

■ ‘Poetry of the Lens’

One of the region’s most talented fine art photographers, **Roman Lorenc** will be the star of the show when the Center of Photographic Art unveils its first exhibit of the new year, “Poetry of the Lens,” Saturday, Jan. 6, at the Center for Photographic Art.

“Roman was born in Poland, but moved to California in the 1980s, where he quickly became part of the West Coast photography scene,” CPA executive director **Brian Taylor** told The Pine Cone. “Like Ansel Adams and others, his concern was for the technical excellence of his prints — everything is in sharp focus with rich contrast. In this exhibit, he is paying homage to his roots. It’s going to be a magnificent show.”

While photography has evolved considerably since Adams and his contemporaries lived here, Taylor said it’s important to remember where it came from. “We’re a modern organization, but we don’t want to forget our roots,” he added.

Lorenc presents a talk at 4 p.m. in Carpenter Hall, and a reception will follow at the CPA gallery. Both are located in Sunset Center at San Carlos and Ninth. The show will be on display through Feb. 18. www.photography.org

Carmel reads The Pine Cone



A familiar sight and sound around town, guitarist Joe Lucido plays smooth jazz Jan. 6 at Coopers Pub on Cannery Row in Monterey.



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First flu death of the season reported in Monterey County

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE MONTEREY County Health Department reported last week that a county resident is the first person of the flu season to die of influenza.

Though the county did not disclose whether the victim was a man or woman, it reported the victim was an adult under 65 years old.

“The health department will not release additional details about the individual in order to protect the family’s right to privacy and to maintain confidentiality,” according to a press release.

Data indicates that influenza activity is increasing in Monterey County, according to officials. People at highest risk for severe complications from influenza infection include adults 65 years of age and older, children less than 5 years old, pregnant women, and those with certain medical conditions like asthma, heart disease, and weakened immune systems.

Edward Moreno, health officer for Monterey County, recommends those six months and older be vaccinated against influenza.

“Influenza vaccination is a safe and effective way to protect your family from complications of influenza,” Moreno said. “It’s not too late to get vaccinated.”



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He didn’t set out to go to Harvard, but it’s turned out pretty well

WHEN JOHN Stivers sat down in his introduction to macroeconomics class as a college freshman at Harvard University, he looked around and saw 500 other students in the room, none of whom was likely to be impressed that he had graduated from Carmel High with a grade-point average of 4.4 (straight As, plus bonus points for acing advanced-placement and honors classes). Just about everybody on campus has a transcript like that — which is probably why nobody attends Harvard University on an academic scholarship.

They also don’t give athletic scholarships at Ivy League schools, even to a kid like Stivers, who comes loaded with all the right DNA: His dad, David, played baseball and football at UC Berkeley, and his mother, Jean, was a national champion tennis player at Occidental College.

As a Carmel Padre (Class of 2016), Stivers was a four-time football letterman

— the aesthetics of the buildings there are just really cool. And the other part I really liked was the people I met there. Even the football guys were the cream of the crop.”

There was also the allure of nearby Boston, an exciting city with a young population (35 colleges) and a very old history. Stivers and another Carmel alum, University of Pacific baseball player Carter Hayes, recently visited Paul Revere’s house and other Revolutionary War sites.

And one more attraction was the name. “Harvard ... that sounded pretty sweet,” Stivers said.

‘JFK was here’

No doubt. Almost any building on campus is adorned with portraits of people who have studied at Harvard since the university was founded in 1636 (which makes it the oldest institution of higher learning in the United States). That list includes Franklin Delano Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Gates, Gertrude Stein, Neil DeGrasse Tyson, T.S. Eliot, Leonard Bernstein, E.E. Cummings, W.E.B. Dubois,

Ralph Waldo Emerson, Helen Keller, Norman Mailer, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Henry David Thoreau

“Whenever I go into some of the older buildings, I can’t help but look around and think, ‘I bet JFK was here at some point, reading or studying for a test.’ I like that part a lot,” Stivers said.

He says he also has learned to like the feeling that he’s probably nowhere near the smartest guy in any classroom there. In fact, he sees it as an advantage.

“It’s actually very helpful if I’m struggling with a class,” he said. “Everybody is really helpful, so if I’m having trouble I can get into a study group, or get a student tutor. It’s really a positive thing having so many excellent people around me.”

Stivers embraces one more thing about Harvard that he might not encounter at a lot of other universities that have athletics teams: Professors there don’t lower their expectations for athletes, and the coaches are on the same page.

“I wouldn’t say I’m cut any slack by my professors. I’m treated like any other stu-

Proudly wearing the Crimson jersey, John Stivers (right) takes a short break from practice with sophomore wide receiver Cade Knox.

PHOTO/COURTESY
JOHN STIVERS



dent, and I like that part,” said Stivers, who is majoring in environmental science and public policy, and is leaning toward pursuing a law degree. “Athletics is important, but I’m a student first, and our whole athletic department values that. They had a big scandal at the University of North Carolina (in 2010) where students were writing papers for athletes there, but it’s not like that at Harvard. I’m not pressured to stay at the athletic facility to watch film after practice. I go home and do my homework.”

A typical day for Stivers during the football season begins with an early morning weight lifting class, followed by a normal course load. He says he typically heads to the library to study or do homework during any break of 30 minutes or more, which cuts down on his nighttime study hours. Saturday nights are usually the only social time of the week.

That applies to the rest of the student body, as well. Stivers says it’s often a challenge to coax Harvard students out of the library to attend home football games. While a traditional rival like Yale will attract a big crowd to the Crimson’s horseshoe-shaped stadium, for other Harvard home games, there’s rarely an electric college atmosphere.

“I’d have to say that The Shoe Game (against Carmel’s traditional rival, Pacific Grove) is a bit rowdier than the typical Harvard game,” he said with a laugh.

As an athlete at Harvard, Stivers hasn’t yet left a footprint. He didn’t see action as a freshman, and a torn labrum in his hip limited him to just three games as a sophomore, during which he caught the only pass of his college career, a 17-yarder against Rhode Island. He’ll be listed as a second-string tight end going into his junior year, but intends to compete for a starting spot and hopes to see more playing time on special teams for the Crimson.

Looking ahead (Jan. 5-11)

Boys basketball — Friday: Carmel at King City, 7 p.m.; Tuesday: Carmel at Stevenson, 7 p.m.; Thursday: Soledad at Carmel, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball — Friday, King City at Carmel, 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday: Stevenson at Carmel, 6:30 p.m.; Thursday: Carmel at Soledad, 6:30 p.m.

Boys soccer — Friday: Carmel at Marina, 3:30 p.m.; Tuesday: Gonzales at Carmel, 3:30 p.m.; Thursday: Carmel at Soledad, 5:30 p.m.

Girls soccer — Friday: Santa Catalina at Carmel, 3:30 p.m.; Tuesday: Carmel vs. Pacific Collegiate at Santa Cruz High, 7 p.m.; Thursday: Soledad at Carmel, 3:30 p.m.

Wrestling — Saturday: Apple Cider Classic, Carmel at Watsonville High, 9 a.m.

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

and a two-year captain, team MVP, two-time all-county and all-league, honorable mention to the All-Central Coast Section team, and school record-holder with 157 career receptions as a tight end.

Off the radar

He certainly had other college options. He was recruited to play football at UC Davis and the University of San Diego. McKenna College in Claremont offered to let him play two sports — something that got his attention, since Stivers had also earned seven varsity letters at Carmel in basketball and baseball. And he made official visits to two other Ivy League universities, Brown and Columbia.

“To be honest, Harvard was nowhere on my radar until they recruited me,” said Stivers, whose father graduated from Harvard Law School after earning his bachelor’s degree from UC Berkeley. For Stivers, it was his record at Carmel High as a scholar-athlete that had Harvard calling, and him touring the campus.

“First of all, I loved the look of the place

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Editorial

Brave new world

MARIJUANA has, for all intents and purposes, been legal in California for more than 20 years. Prop 215, the 1996 medical marijuana initiative, was a sham — and a chance for the legal marijuana lobby to get its foot in the door.

The 1996 initiative promised that pot would only be available to “seriously ill Californians,” but no matter how healthy you were, all it really took was a quick visit to a “doctor” and the payment of a few hundred dollars — and voila! — ever since the initiative passed, anybody could get as high as a kite.

Which is to say that we’ve all had the opportunity to get somewhat used to the smell of marijuana wafting along the streets or in a park, or emanating from a passing car. But you ain’t smelled nothing yet.

At least, judging by what’s been happening since New Year’s Day, there will be times in the months and years ahead when it’ll be hard to avoid getting a contact high when you’re just minding your own business on Carmel Beach or the Rec Trail.

Of course, the marijuana laws we’ve all been living under since Jan. 1 make it illegal to smoke or otherwise consume marijuana in a car or in any public space. But that doesn’t mean people won’t be doing it. And they already are.

Cops, of course, are supposed to the enforce the law, but California is already infamous for picking and choosing which laws its residents should follow, i.e., the laws against sneaking across the border or overstaying a visa. The new Sanctuary State law practically makes it a crime for the cops to enforce those.

Meanwhile, even here on the peaceful, law-abiding Monterey Peninsula, the police have their hands full trying to prevent much more serious crimes than eating a brownie in Devendorf Park. In Carmel, Big Sur and Pacific Grove, car break-ins have become commonplace. And thanks to the generous pensions handed out in the early 2000s, the number of police officers is way down, because nobody can afford to hire them anymore. They haven’t even figured out how to pay the ones who are already retired.

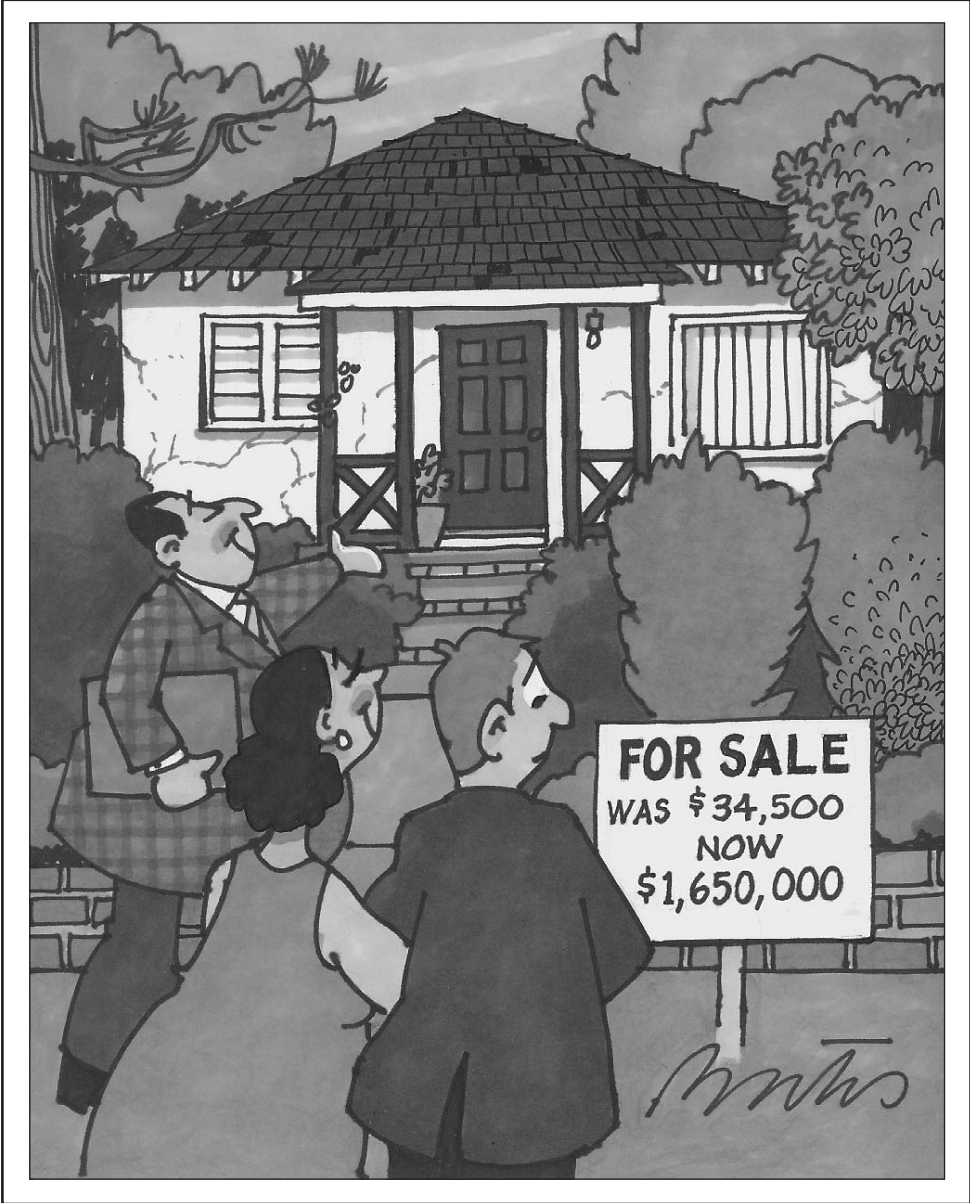
Meanwhile, there’s simply no practical way to implement the restrictions in the new recreational marijuana law — no standard for DUI, no way to detect marijuana on the fly, and what on earth does “open container” mean where marijuana is concerned? That you forgot to zip up the plastic bag where you keep your joints?

The new marijuana laws seem to promise that people who want to use pot will buy it discreetly and use it privately, which is fine with us. Marijuana should be legal if that’s what the people want. But, as with the medical marijuana initiative, a lot of the prohibitions in the new law will turn out to be hollow. Instead, what we’re embarking on is a new world of blatantly open consumption of marijuana, consequences be damned.

If you enjoy smoking, vaping or eating marijuana, you’ll love the way the new law plays out. But if you don’t, and especially if you’re concerned about its effect on society, you’re in for some major consternation.

But don’t fret ... your concerns will go away real quick if you just hang out near some surfers for awhile.

BEST of BATES



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 and home town. We reserve the right to determine which letters are suitable for publication and to edit for length and clarity.

The Pine Cone only accepts letters to the editor by email. Please submit your letters to mail@carmelpinecone.com

A ‘failure of leadership’

Dear Editor,

Thank you for publishing the article last week, “Dallas accused of harassing, being abusive.” This is a timely article, and Kim Stemler showed remarkable courage in coming forward.

As the executive director of the vintners and growers association, she would have had to weigh the impact of her complaint against a job that she clearly loves and does well.

But she spoke up, and now people who have been sexually harassed have an example of how to handle these very difficult situations.

The deplorable behavior exhibited by the mayor only ends when it is no longer tolerated. It is not a legal issue, it is a failure of leadership, and the council needs to make it clear that this behavior does not belong in the mayor’s office.

Ann Hanham,
Carmel Valley

‘Only professionalism’ from Dallas

Dear Editor,

I have been a tenant in one of Steve Dallas’s homes for eight years and I have experienced only professionalism from him. Anytime there is a maintenance issue with the property, Steve will handle the issue immediately and resolve it in the best manner. One of the things I appreciate renting the property from Steve is that he never shows up unannounced, and I get the privacy that I require.

D. Lee, Carmel

Condos or Condors

Dear Editor,

Are Congressman Panetta’s environmental values correct when he needs to see \$\$\$ for management of the 1,200-acre Adler Ranch in Big Sur before committing this land to permanent protection from development?

I understand the fire concerns of the residents of the South Coast, especially those in Palo Colorado Canyon, but they all accept and know the risks associated with living on the wildland/urban fringe. It is unfortunate an illegal campfire started the Soberanes Fire, which caused folks much heartache in this area.

The Adler Ranch is too valuable to the coastal ecosystems to not protect it — it includes a reach of the North Fork Little Sur River and extends all the way to Bixby Mountain. I thank Mr. Adler for being so light on this land, so we would have the

See LETTERS page 20A

■ **Publisher** Paul Miller (paul@carmelpinecone.com)
■ **Production/Sales Manager** ... Jackie Edwards (jackie@carmelpinecone.com)
■ **Office Manager** Irma Garcia (274-8645)
■ **Reporters** Mary Schley (274-8660), Chris Counts (274-8665)
..... Kelly Nix (274-8664)
■ **Features Editor** Elaine Hesser (274-8661)
■ **Advertising Sales** Real Estate, Big Sur - Jung Yi (274-8646)
Carmel-by-the-Sea, Carmel Valley, Carmel & Pebble Beach
..... Meena Lewellen (274-8655)
Monterey, Pacific Grove, Seaside, Sand City ... Jessica Dixon (274-8590)
■ **Classifieds** Vanessa Jimenez (274-8652)
■ **Legal Notices** Irma Garcia (274-8645)
■ **Ad Design** Sharron Smith (274-2767), Vanessa Jimenez (274-8652)
■ **Ad Design & Obituaries** Anne Papineau (274-8654)
■ **Office Assistant** Hannah Miller (274-8593)
■ **Circulation Manager** Scott MacDonald (261-6110)
■ For complete contact info go to: www.carmelpinecone.com/info.htm


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734 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove, California 93950

Mail: P.O. Box G-1, Carmel CA 93921

Email: mail@carmelpinecone.com

or firstname@carmelpinecone.com

Telephone: (831) 274-8593

Fax: (831) 375-5018

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CORPORATE MANAGEMENT AND PRACTICING LAW ARE COOL, BUT BEING A MOM IS THE BEST

WHEN YOU were home from college, did you while away the hours discussing United States postwar economic policies with your mom? Pebble Beach native and resident Megan Mayer did. Her mother was an artist and an economist, and although she didn't push her daughter into economics, her passion and example led her there.

Mayer was a student at UCLA and decided to major in the subject. It suited her — she earned her bachelor's degree magna cum laude. She also tutored other students, was a teaching assistant, and published a study guide for a macroeconomics course.

While in college, she met her husband, Doug. When he started medical school at the University of Maryland in Baltimore, Mayer took a job in Philadelphia with a chemical company that was a subsidiary of Arco. While the commute was a bit onerous, her efforts were rewarded when the company assigned her to set up three holding companies in Delaware for the business.

Delaware is home to numerous corporations because of its favorable tax structure and corporate privacy laws, and, Mayer said, "I created, launched and ran all three of the companies," with more than \$1.2 billion in assets. In the process, she dealt with attorneys of all stripes — corporate, patent, you name it — and became interested in the profession.

She and her husband decided they wanted to come home to California, and Mayer applied to her alma mater's law school, while he transferred to UCLA's medical school. While in law school, Mayer became the editor-in-chief of the university's first Women's Law Journal and was a teaching assistant for the legal research and writing course for first-year students.

'Mommy's brain'

After graduating, she practiced in Orange County for several years, and did pro bono work for the Orange County Superior Court's conservatorship and guardianship clinics, UCLA Alumni Scholarship Committee, the planned giving committee at St. Margaret's Episcopal School, and the Saddleback Hospital brain injury support group.

Although her legal career flourished, her primary focus was on being a mom to her growing family. She and Doug had had their first child — a son — while he was still in

med school and she was in law school.

"I had a friend with a 2-year-old and a 5-year-old, and we spent Mother's Day together studying for finals," she remembered. Later, she said she continued working part-time "to keep my sanity. I would say, 'This is Mommy's time to use her brain for adult things.'"

Still, after a few years — and two more children, a girl and another boy — all the juggling just got to be too much, and she decided to give the kids her full attention. She said it's important to her that all of her children grow up to be "independent, contributory members of society." Two have successfully left the nest, and the third is in the class of '20 at Stevenson.

Helping women

The family moved back here in 2014, and in 2015, they started a business called Carmel Cotillions with the aim of providing other kids with the same experience their own children had with a similar organization in Orange County. The company equips youngsters and teens with an understanding of etiquette, respect and social and communication skills that will serve them as they interview for college, search for jobs and move into the adult world.

Mayer said Carmel Cotillions is an extension of something she's enjoyed all her life — helping other women. In this case, she's helping moms trying to teach their children how to show respect for others, but she also pointed to editing the Women's Law Journal and setting up a professional women's support network when she practiced law.

Most recently, that concern for women



Megan Mayer

Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

prompted her to take a job as director of women's ministries at her church, Carmel Presbyterian, in August 2017. Mayer had initially volunteered to lead a women's book club while Lori Davidson was the director. When Davidson decided to move back to Chicago to be with her family, she asked Mayer if she wanted the job.

"It's so different from anything I've ever done," Mayer said. She noted that almost her entire career was in the corporate world, and that working for a church would be an education in "the meaning of true service." "It was a bridge I had to cross," she said.

Her online bio for Carmel Pres includes a question about what three people — living or dead — she would most like to sit around a

See **MAYER** next page

His risks paid off beautifully

ARTIST JIM Miller looks at least a decade younger than his 77 years, a blessing he attributes to clean living (he exercises regularly, and doesn't smoke or drink) and at least one other factor.

"If you love what you do for a living, it isn't work. When I come to my gallery, I feel like I'm in Disneyland," said Miller, who has displayed his work in Carmel for 38 years, and has painted and sold his art at The Jim Miller Gallery (Ocean Avenue at Dolores Street) since 2009.

All of the paintings in the classy, elegant space are Miller's — seascapes, landscapes and figures, both representational and abstract, each rendered in spectacular colors. The surf sparkles as it rushes toward shore in a piece entitled "Sea at Pebble." The sun glistens as it wanders through a canal in "Venice: A Reflection in Time." A Native American woman is resplendent in lavender and blue as she walks through the wilderness in "Day Tripper." Grapevines yawn toward the emerald hills in "Napa Valley." A sweet scent is nearly noticeable from wildflowers in "Fragrance of Spring."

Paradise found

He finds much of his inspiration right outside the door of his gallery, which is only a short walk from Carmel Beach and a quick drive to venues scenic enough to attract honeymooners from all over the world.

"We came to Carmel one sunny afternoon, looked at each other, and said, 'This is it ... this is heaven,'" said Miller, who had been on a quest to find paradise with his wife, Linda, whom he married in 1978.

"Carmel had 49 galleries at the time, so we went back down to L.A., sold everything we had, and moved here," he said. "I didn't have a single painting then, so I rented a space above a restaurant in Pacific Grove, painted three — each one took me a month — and figured I'd start at the best gallery in Carmel and work my way down until some-

body accepted my work."

That first place was Zantman's, which already had 80 top-of-the-line artists. Johan (Hans) Zantman immediately liked what he saw.

"How much do you want for a painting?" Zantman asked.

"What about \$5,000?" Miller responded, believing he was offering a lowball price.

Zantman laughed out loud. "You're brand-new," he said. "Nobody knows who you are. You need to pay your dues."

They agreed upon \$1,200 per painting,

Carmel's artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

half of which went to the gallery. Framing cost \$250 per painting, leaving Miller, who had just purchased a home, with \$350 for each sale.

"He hung me on his back wall, and my paintings sold. He moved me to the front window, and they sold faster. Then he had a show, in which all 80 artists were allowed to hang two paintings each. Five of us sold something, and I sold both of mine," he said.

Why not raise the prices, he asked Zantman. No, said the gallery owner, it'll be a couple of years before he would do that. So Miller walked out, strolled through town, rented a space on Lincoln Street that same day, picked up his work from Zantman, and opened The Jim Miller Gallery in its original location less than a week later.

He was there for 9 1/2 years, and relocated twice more before landing at his current Ocean Avenue location in 2008.

"That was the year the economy crashed and a lot of galleries closed," he said. "Looking back, I always seemed to open at exactly the wrong time — I think I opened my first gallery during a recession, too — but I've always been a risk-taker."

See **MILLER** next page

Jim Miller's paintings include abstract and representational landscapes, seascapes and figures — all in spectacular color. Here, he poses with one of his works in his gallery on Ocean Avenue.

PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR



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BILLS

From page 8A

ter usage to the previous month. It also reminds ratepayers of the state-ordered restrictions on the Peninsula — which have forced Cal Am come up with a new water supply solution — and offers tips for conserving water.

“The more water you use, the higher the price per unit you will be charged,” the nar-

MAYER

From previous page

campfire with. Her answer was, “Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa and John Wooden.”

How did the late, legendary UCLA basketball coach make the list? Mayer said her husband was so in awe of Wooden and his legacy that even though the coach had retired by the time they got there, Doug turned down a basketball scholarship at Princeton because he’d rather sit in the stands at UCLA.

Mayer’s admiration stems more from

MILLER

From previous page

“My theory has always been that if I do the painting, God will bring the people through the door for the sales. I’ve never really paid a lot of attention to what’s happening around me, and for some reason it’s always seemed to work.”

Miller learned to trust his instincts at a young age, after a counselor glanced at his scores on a proficiency test at Montebello High School in 1958 and decided he was meant to become an engineer.

“I started taking upper mathematics at East L.A. Junior College, realized I was training to do something I absolutely hated for the rest of my life, and said, ‘I don’t think so.’”

Miller enrolled the following semester in random classes, one of which was an art course.

“The minute I sat down and picked up a brush, I knew it was what I wanted,” he said. “I can’t explain why. I had never painted. I didn’t really draw. There were no other artists in my family. It just felt right.”

Miller entered the military after junior college and found the Monterey Peninsula during basic training at Fort Ord. After military service, he earned a bachelor’s degree in art from California State University at Los Angeles, then achieved a second art degree

rator in the video says.

Stedman said Cal Am previously used the video program in Ventura.

“I think the response from customers there was pretty good,” she said. “You get a tracking rate of how many customers actually opened the email and watched the video, and I believe it was higher than expected.”

Depending on public reaction to the videos, California American Water may offer the program longer than the initial three months, Stedman said.

Wooden’s post-coaching career, when he “dedicated his life to helping to train people in ethical leadership.” She said if she could, she would ask him how to motivate people to value ethics and respect, and how to display dignity — all things she thinks the world could use more of these days.

In the real world, she’s compiled an ambitious 2018 reading list for the book club, and she’s determined to keep her youngest son on the road to a successful adulthood. Spending time with Doug and all three of her kids, walking the dog and reading round out her days.

“It’s been a wonderful journey,” she said. “I’m so grateful.”

from the Art Center College of Design, also located in L.A. at the time.

“Everybody there had talent and experience except me. I was probably the lowest student at the art center when I arrived. In fact, I had to take night classes first to build the portfolio I used to get accepted,” he said. “But I caught up, and in my last year I submitted pieces in all four categories of the New York Society of Illustrators contest for all graduating seniors in North America.”

Few artists were accepted, and almost nobody was accepted into more than one category. Miller’s work was a place-winner in all four categories, and he took first place in one.

Made the leap

He worked afterward as an illustrator in Los Angeles, earning good money from movie studios and advertising agencies, but decided to make the leap to fine art after marrying Linda, his second wife, in 1978.

“I actually enjoy the business side of art, which makes me a little different,” said Miller, who paints and runs his gallery at the same time.

“Most artists would rather give their art away than try to sell it themselves, but I enjoy the selling. I just enjoy talking to people in general.”

Miller’s work, and glass and crystal sculptures by various world-class artists, can be viewed at the Ocean Avenue gallery or online at jimmillergallery.com.

CRA hosts talk on water supply

‘THE SHAPE of Water on the Monterey Peninsula,” will be the topic of a discussion hosted by the Carmel Residents Association Thursday, Jan. 25, at 5 p.m. in Carpenter Hall at Sunset Center, Mission and Ninth.

Speakers set to participate include Monterey Peninsula Water Management

District general manager Dave Stoldt, George Riley of Cal Am takeover group Public Water Now, and Cal Am Vice President Kevin Tilden. The panel will answer written questions submitted by members of the audience.

Wine and social hour will take place before and after the program.

SHOP

From page 1A

about the risks associated with marijuana, and particularly with edibles. “We’ve always taken an educational approach to what we do,” added the businessman, who serves on the board for a nonprofit group, the Coastal Growers Association, which represents the

DALLAS

From page 1A

labor issues.

Although he wouldn’t say if anyone else has filed a complaint or aired concerns in a less formal way with the city, and Moisa’s report won’t be made public, the results of her findings will come to light in some way.

“The council will have to address that issue once the investigation is completed,” he said. “We want to move this thing on as promptly as possible, given the opportunity for the investigator to do a thorough and complete job.”

He said he hopes the report will be fin-

local cannabis industry.

One of two cannabis-related businesses that sought to open a retail shop in The Barnyard area, Big Sur Canna Botanicals had its application approved unanimously in June 2017 by the Monterey County Planning Commission. Before opening the shop, Stoney and his partner, John DeFloria, operated a medical marijuana delivery service in the area.

ished by late January or early February.

Since Monterey County Vintners & Growers Association executive director Kim Stemler detailed some of the ways she felt Dallas acted or spoke inappropriately to her, despite her requests that he stop, and some in the business community said he had threatened to sue or “destroy” them, others have contacted The Pine Cone with similar experiences, or worse.

They have all said, however, that they don’t want their names publicized or their detailed accounts published, for fear of retribution or confrontation. The use of anonymous sources in news stories is problematic, because anyone can say anything about someone else while remaining anonymous, and therefore not taking responsibility for it.

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INN

From page 1A

he said. “Hopefully we can get that done before the AT&T.”

None of the work is major, since they are leasing the property, so a couple of rooms will simply be closed off to the public until more extensive upgrades can be made. One of them is the cabin that caught fire a couple of years ago after a mattress was left in front of a heater.

“We are not doing any major remodeling,” he explained. “We’re just doing enough for core compliance for safety. Then we’ll open the doors and see if it works for both parties.”

Desai said city officials have “been really cooperative and helpful.”

“They were at the property several times, and we are discussing it almost on a daily basis,” he said.

Fasulo, who issued warning notices and letters to Kim in the spring of 2012 when the conditions of the property were so bad as to warrant health and safety concerns, said he was happy to see some progress there.

“They are doing a major cleaning job and doing great,” he said.

Desai applied to the city for the business license on Dec. 8, 2017.

Estate planner offers talk

DELVING INTO a topic that will likely be of interest to many local retirees, Eric Holk will present a talk, “The 10 Most Common Estate Planning Mistakes,” Wednesday, Jan. 17, at Carmel Foundation’s Diment Hall.

Holk is state bar-certified specialist in estate planning, trust and probate law. He will discuss what happens if you die without a trust or a will, how you can minimize or eliminate estate taxes, and other related subjects.

The talk is free and starts at 2:30 p.m. The Carmel Foundation is located at Eighth and Lincoln.

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