



**'Such a comedy!'
debuts at
Magic Circle**



**Bravissima concerts
launched with
knockout team**



**A little red
on the green
— INSIDE THIS WEEK**

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ROOTING OUT ALIEN INVADERS

■ 130-year-old eucalyptus coming down on Fourth Avenue

By MARY BROWNFIELD

FOURTH AVENUE'S 32 towering eucalyptus trees — hated by some for the mess they make and the limbs they drop on people's homes, and loved by others for their majestic stature — began coming down piece by piece last week. The city is paying Iverson Tree Service \$103,825 to remove the trees, native to Australia, which were planted by some of Carmel's earliest settlers more than 100 years



Balanced more than 75 feet above Fourth Avenue, a worker with Iverson's tree service used a chain saw Wednesday morning to remove a large section of an aging eucalyptus.



PHOTOS/PAUL MILLER

The 15-foot piece was lowered to the ground where it joined a growing pile of logs from the 130-year-old trees, which will make way for native species.

ago. The eucalyptus will be replaced by native species.

The work could take three months, perhaps longer, with "safety being the number one concern — not speed — due to the weight and mass of the trees, as well as their proximity to high voltage lines and homes," said acting city forester Mike Branson.

While tree removers once cut small pieces from the tops of the trees and dropped them to the ground below, they now slice off chunks about three feet in diameter and up to 15 feet long — each weighing more than a ton — and lower them to the street below.

"They start at the top and work their way down," he said. "He has a crane which really makes it a safer operation. You can take larger pieces, but these trees are enor-

See **EUCALYPTUS** page 27A

What's not on the list

■ Report: Sea Urchin, Arriola, Hitchcock houses not historic

By TAMARA GRIPPI

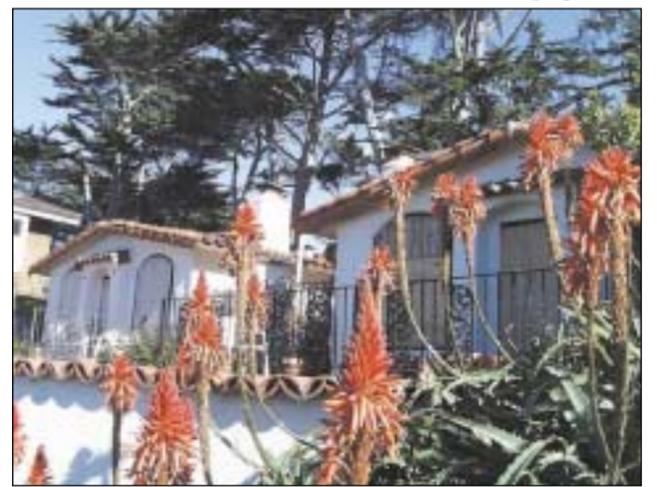
THREE HOMES at the center of accusations that Carmel isn't doing enough to protect its historic buildings are noticeably absent from a preservation expert's survey of the town.

Consultant Kent Seavey's list, released last month, is interesting reading not only for the architectural gems he identified, but also for those buildings not included — Sea Urchin and Periwinkle, Hitchcock House and the Gus Arriola House.

All three homes became the subject of an aggressive campaign by Enid Sales — including lawsuits and appeals to the California Coastal Commission — to stop them from being replaced with new buildings.

However Seavey, who served as the first historical coordinator for Monterey County and studied architectural histo-

See **REPORT** page 16A



PHOTO/TAMARA GRIPPI

Sea Urchin and Periwinkle, two tiny buildings that are one family's home on Scenic Road, aren't historic, an expert said.

Keeley takes redistricting complaint to Washington

By PAUL MILLER

ASSEMBLYMAN FRED Keeley, armed with "16 pounds of documents," is in the nation's capital to ask Justice Department officials to thwart a California redistricting plan that could cost Keeley a seat in the state Senate.

Under federal law, any change in election districts in Monterey County must get "pre-clearance" from Washington to ensure the changes don't discriminate against protected minority groups.

But new state Senate districts drawn up last summer by Democrats in Sacramento would "over-concentrate" Latinos in one new district, while "effectively silencing" Latinos in parts of Monterey County, Keeley maintained.

The conflict is full of irony for Keeley, who was assistant Assembly speaker for the last two years and was considered a rising

star in the California Democratic Party.

With his party 100 percent in control of state government for the first time since 1978, Keeley seemed a shoo-in to take Bruce McPherson's seat in the senate in 2004.

But party leaders left Keeley out in the cold, preferring to protect Democratic incumbents in other districts.

So Keeley headed to Washington this week to ask a Republican Justice Department to save him from his own party.

McPherson's district — the 15th — includes Monterey and Santa Cruz counties and part of Santa Clara County.

But the redistricting split Santa Cruz County from Monterey and further divided each county, effectively forcing Keeley to run in a district dominated by Santa Clara County, where he would be hard pressed to

See **KEELEY** page 17A

'No parking' not good enough for state coastal commission

By MARY BROWNFIELD

THERE CAN be no parking restrictions on Scenic Road unless the California Coastal Commission decides otherwise, coastal enforcement officer Sharif Traylor said in an Oct. 23 letter to the city. Carmel has until Nov. 30 to take down all the signs limiting parking on Scenic after dark or face stiff penalties.

The letter is the latest in a year-and-a-half-long debate over Carmel's 17-year-old policy of limiting parking in the area after sunset. Seeking to appease the commission's staff by making the rules apply to all, the city removed the small "except by special permit" signs in August. But by retaining the "No Parking 30 Minutes After Sunset to 5:30 a.m." signs, Carmel remains in violation, according to Traylor.

In order to avoid formal enforcement

action, including court-imposed penalties and the issuance of a cease-and-desist order, the city must "immediately" remove the signs, provide proof of the removal to the commission's district enforcement officer by Nov. 30, and "submit a complete Coastal Development Permit application for any parking program and/or signage installation that the city would like to pursue," according to the letter.

Once an application is submitted and deemed complete, coastal staff "is willing to consider recommending approval of a limited overnight restriction — 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. — for the general public on Scenic Road."

Principal planner Brian Roseth told the Carmel Planning Commission Oct. 30 that

See **SCENIC** page 17A