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not to misbehave
in school



Their feet are
their percussion
instruments



A long journey
leads to a happy life
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Sutton son stole hearts of many during his too-short life

By MARY BROWNFIELD

A WORLD traveler who dreamed of being a pilot — and who charmed shoppers at Nielsen Bros. Market for the past five years — died in his Carmel home Sunday. Forty-five-year-old Jeffrey Raymond Sutton was the son of market owners Merv and Nancie Sutton.

“He was sleeping too late — it was 10 a.m. — so I thought I better go see what’s up, and I found him,” said his mother, who had gone to his room in the apartment that is part of their house. “We don’t know why, or what happened.”

Throughout every phase of his life, Jeff Sutton remained in frequent contact with his parents, and the family was very close.

“He was my best friend,” Nancie Sutton said of her son, who was born in Carmel on Aug. 31, 1962, and attended Carmel River and middle schools. He graduated from Robert Louis Stevenson high school in 1981 and, already endowed with a love of seeing faraway places, went to work for a travel agency in town.

“When they offered familiarization trips, oftentimes no one else in the office would go, and he would drop everything and go to London for the weekend,” his mother said.

Worldwide travels, D.C. job

Sutton visited Australia, many European countries, Japan and other destinations around the world before his experiences in an adult education class at Carmel High School led him to the unusual world of Washington D.C. lobbyists.

“The Japanese wanted to shorten the lengths of patents,” she said. Bankrolled by the wealthy man who invented the bar code, a lobbying group formed to fight legislation that would put patented technology up for grabs sooner.

“As charming as Jeffrey was, he was perfect for the job,” she said.

And during his five years in D.C., he flew home to the Monterey Peninsula most weekends, racking up thousands of frequent flyer miles that supported his travel habit and enabled his parents to come along on occasion.

The three went on a safari in Kenya — one of their favorite adventures — and Nancie Sutton recalled visiting a home that featured a platform constructed to be at eye level with giraffes.

“You could feed them,” she said. “Jeff was feeding one, and it took its head and pushed him,” which provoked laughter from the group.

Mother and son also traveled to England, France, Chicago and New York City.

“It was fabulous. I didn’t have to think — I just let him lead me around,” she said, adding that flying first class with a son so well versed in traveling spoiled her.

“You never want to go into the cattle car again,” she said.



Jeff Sutton — who was a familiar figure at his parents’ downtown market, Nielsen Bros. — passed away suddenly Sunday of unknown causes.

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PUC to review regional water supply plan

Focus shifts from
Cal Am’s desal proposal

By PAUL MILLER

WHILE EVERYBODY’S attention has been focused on California American Water Company’s plans for a large desal plant in Moss Landing, a flamboyant professor from UC Santa Cruz, Steven Kasower, has been leading an eclectic group of local officials, water experts, attorneys and concerned citizens in a quest to find an alternative water supply — not only for the Monterey Peninsula, but for parts of North County.

Though initially greeted with skepticism by some who saw Kasower’s committee — dubbed the Regional Plenary Oversight Group, or REPOG — as an unwelcome delay in bringing a new water supply online, the group has lately been getting credit from local officials for making substantial progress.

So much progress has been made, Kasower said, there would be a presentation to the California Public Utilities Commission in April of a plan to supply 29,000 acre-feet of water a year to residents of communities from Carmel Highlands to Pajaro. And it’s an ambitious plan that involves desalination of brackish water from near-ocean aquifers, recycling all the water from the Marina sewage treatment plant, capturing storm runoff, and powering some of the components with electricity generated by harnessing methane gas from the Marina landfill.

“This is a total program that will provide a sustainable supply to meet regional needs,” said Lyndel Melton, an engineering consultant who has done extensive work on the project. He promised lower costs, fewer environmental impacts and a quicker result.

“We could be turning dirt by next year,” he said.

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Gallery’s top artist killed in Paris road-rage fight

By CHRIS COUNTS

IT WAS with great irony that artist Thomas Pradzynski spent his last day alive walking the streets of Paris, his adopted hometown.

The Polish-born Pradzynski, whose strikingly realistic Parisian street scenes are best-sellers at Trajan Gallery on Ocean Avenue, was killed during an apparent incident of road rage Dec. 21, 2007, while he and his wife walked along the streets of Paris. They lived in Montmartre.

Trajan Gallery will pay tribute to Pradzynski when it hosts an exhibit of his last paintings. The show will open April 12. Meanwhile, the staff at the Carmel gallery is still mourning the loss of a man who was clearly more than just one of 65 artists they represent.

“We were just shocked,” recalled gallery director Cyd Gloer of the moment when she learned of Pradzynski’s death. “Thomas was like a family member. He was so nice. He was always in a good mood, and he never complained about anything. It was really a sad day. We lost a dear friend.”

According to Gloer, Pradzynski and his wife were crossing a street on foot when they were nearly hit by a passing motorist. Pradzynski’s wife apparently said something to the motorist, who stopped and confronted her. An altercation ensued, and Pradzynski reportedly died shortly after the motorist punched him in the chest, rupturing his aorta. The motorist, who left the scene, was later apprehended and has



“Cour des Deux Theatres” by Thomas Pradzynski.

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FIREFIGHTERS CALL FOR MERGER WITH P.G., MONTEREY

By MARY BROWNFIELD

CARMEL’S SMALL fire department wants to merge with those in Pacific Grove and Monterey, but firefighters fear the city council has shelved the idea.

“The union is extremely concerned that the city council has put this on hold and we’re not sure why,” said August Beacham, an engineer with the department and president of the Carmel firefighters union. CFD’s entire staff of three captains and three engineers argue joining forces with P.G. and Monterey would make life in Carmel safer for residents and visitors.

But city administrator Rich Guillen said the council has not tabled the topic, just delayed discussing it at his request. Because consolidation will cost the city money, and because Carmel is holding a municipal election in April that could see a change in leadership, Guillen suggested putting the matter off until May.

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