



**Twice as big
and he never
holds still**



**Cracker barrel hosts
modern-day
'troubadour'**



**Art show honors
sister's memory
— INSIDE THIS WEEK**

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LAB SAVES HIS PAL FROM A LION'S JAWS

BY CHRIS COUNTS

THREE WEEKS ago, a 3-year-old Labrador retriever mix named Kane was just another newcomer to Big Sur.

But after saving a neighbor's dog from the jaws of a mountain lion, Kane not only has his stripes as a Big Sur local, he's being hailed as a hero.

"He's earned his respect on the hill," boasted his owner, part-time Big Sur resident Judyth Greenburgh. "Everyone thought he was a city dog. Now everyone wants to walk with him."

**Moments from
death as a lion
drags her by
her head into
the underbrush**

Greenburgh was out of town on the evening of Dec. 17, so she left Kane with neighbor Hal Newell, who lives in the canyon above Deetjen's Big Sur Inn. Newell was sound asleep when an ungodly sound echoed throughout the canyon.

"It was about 2 a.m.," recalled Newell, whose family moved to the canyon in 1934. "We heard this horrible screech. It woke up everybody

in all five houses on the hill."

Newell sprang out of bed and headed for his front door.

"I opened the door — still in my pajamas — to see what it was when Kane, normally a mild-mannered dog, bolted out of the door like lightning. He was barking ferociously."

Racing down the hill to the source of the commotion, Newell

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PHOTO/COURTESY JUDYTH GREENBURGH

Emma, right, survived a mountain lion attack after Kane, left, came to her rescue.

Flanders EIR: Sale will damage park

By MARY BROWNFIELD

LEASING FLANDERS Mansion to a family or group would be better for the environment than selling it, according to a report released this week and available for public comments until Feb. 18. But if the city decides leasing out the historic house in Mission Trail park is infeasible, selling the property with several conservation easements in place would still be better than selling the mansion the way the council wanted to.

The new environmental impact report — which was ordered after a Monterey County Superior Court ruled in favor of the Flanders Foundation in a lawsuit — was released Wednesday and will be circulated for 45 days, after which consultants will review people's comments and incorporate them into a final version to be discussed and eventually certified by the planning commission and city council.

Prepared by Denise Duffy & Associates, the "recirculated draft EIR" concludes selling the mansion and its 1.252-acre parcel, which is zoned as "improved parkland," would result in significant environmental impacts to public views, environmentally sensitive habitat area, the historical setting, archaeological resources and other elements, but the effects can be reduced to less-than-significant levels by taking special steps.

The permanent loss of parkland, however, "has the poten-

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Once the tennis resort of the stars, Gardiner's closes its doors

By CHRIS COUNTS

FOR HALF a century, Gardiner's Resort was the center of the local tennis scene and played a role in the rise of the sport's popularity. But the resort couldn't survive the current worldwide economic crisis and — at least temporarily — closed its doors Sunday.

"We've struggled in recent years," explained Robert Davey, financial officer for Pristine Development, LLC, which has owned the resort since 2000. "Given the unbelievable financial downturn, we just couldn't see any chance of turning it around."

Shutting down the resort, Davey conceded, "was not an easy decision to make."

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PHOTO/GARDINER'S RESORT

Clint Eastwood, Merv Griffin and Eva Gabor with John and Monique Gardiner during their resort's heyday in the 1970s.

Cal Am, water district urged to sign on dotted line

By KELLY NIX

THE UCSC economist heading a coalition that's recommending a regional water supply to solve the Monterey Peninsula's perennial shortage told two of the group's main players this week they need to "step up" their commitment to the water-supply project.

At Water for Monterey County's monthly meeting Wednesday, WMC coordinator Steve Kasower pressured California American Water Co. and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to sign a document to commit to the plan.

That step, Kasower said, would help get funding for the project's first component.

"We need the willingness defined on a piece of paper," Kasower said at the packed meeting. "Without that, we can't finance or can't even talk to the bond guys. We need that golden ticket."

But MWPM and Cal Am officials wouldn't budge. They said they would commit only after the state releases a long-awaited environmental impact report analyzing a variety of possible solutions for the Peninsula's severe water shortage.

"If [the EIR] recommends your project, we will be ecstatic and look forward to entering into a long-term agreement," Cal Am general manager Craig Anthony told Kasower.

The regional water plan is an alternative to a desalination plant in Moss Landing proposed by Cal Am more than five years ago. On Jan. 30, the California Public Utilities Commission is expected to release an environmental impact report, which will identify which plan among those two, and others, is the best to replace pumping of the Carmel River, the Peninsula's main water source.

Even though the EIR will be released within a few weeks, Kasower said there should be no

more waiting around.

"Waiting doesn't sound good to me," Kasower said. "Because we have waited 20 damn years, my friends."

In fact, it has been 30 years since Peninsula residents created the MPWMD with the goal of enhancing

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Despite claim, P.G. Middle School pickup location unchanged

By KELLY NIX

A YOUNG father was killed last fall picking up his son from Pacific Grove Middle School, and a new legal claim says the Pacific Grove School District is partly to blame. But school officials say they don't plan to move the student pickup and drop-off area away from the busy street where the fatality occurred.

On Sept. 2, Joel Woods, 35, was getting into his car on Forest Avenue after picking up his son when he was struck and killed by an SUV driven by Deborah King, 51, who was allegedly under the influence of prescription drugs and was arrested for murder and vehicular manslaughter.

"It's not an accident that happened because of parent drop-off in front of school," PGUSD assistant superintendent Robin Blakely said Tuesday. "It's an accident that happened because an out-of-control driver hit someone standing in the street trying to get into their vehicle."

The claim was filed in November on behalf of

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