



**A chef who has learned to think lean**



**A place where dancing and music are allowed**



**Young athletes go to the mat — INSIDE THIS WEEK**

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# The Carmel Pine Cone

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YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION SINCE 1915

## SPCA: Economy forcing owners to give up horses

■ 16 animals suddenly need good homes

By KELLY NIX

**HORSE OWNERS** in Monterey County — unable to care for their animals because of rising costs — are giving up their horses at an alarming rate, according to the SPCA.

While the total number of surrendered horses is usually around five per year, the SPCA for Monterey County took in 28 in 2008.

“The economy, the cost of hay and the cost of grain have all created a perfect storm for horses,” said SPCA executive director Gary Tiscornia.

Tiscornia said the SPCA usually gets horses with no papers and little training, but once in a while receives well trained, competition-worthy horses.

“If someone is looking for a horse simply to ride and not compete,” he said, “then they should come to the SPCA and check us out.”

Among the 16 horses it is sheltering, the SPCA has two that are 4 months old and a senior at 34 years old. Price for horses range from nothing to about \$1,000.



PHOTO/COURTESY MONTEREY COUNTY SPCA

Thanks to the economic downturn, more than two dozen horses of all ages were handed over to the Monterey County SPCA last year.

“We are embarking on a training program to make them a little more marketable so we can get them in homes,”

See **HORSES** page 18A

## Apple moths to be raised in Moss Landing

By KELLY NIX

**TWO YEARS** ago, state agriculture officials launched a aerial spraying campaign to eradicate the invasive light brown apple moth in Monterey County.

Now they have plans to raise millions of the pesky insects — in Moss Landing.

In March, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will open a facility near the power plant where sterilized moths will be raised and then released in the latest attempt to control the insect’s population.

“Last year we announced we had the technology to establish moth colonies,” CDFA spokesman Steve Lyle told The Pine Cone. “That was the first step toward the introduction of a sterile program as a primary component of the [eradication] plan. This is the facility that would do that.”

The Moss Landing apple moth-rearing lab, which will be the only one of its kind, would produce enough apple moths to be released throughout the entire state, Lyle said.

The release of sterilized moths has been a CDFA plan for months, but until now, the state did not say where they would be raised.

The plan is to introduce sterile male moths so when they mate with females, the females don’t produce eggs which could grow into hungry larvae. The release of millions of male moths throughout the state won’t have any effect on crops and plants, Lyle said.

“It isn’t the moths that pose a threat to plants,” he said. “It’s the larvae.”

The goal of the program is to cause moth “population collapse,” and state officials said they will gradually increase the number of moths to be reared and released.

“We are not going to be in business next week producing

See **MOTHS** page 19A

## On location for ‘Carmel’



Location shooting began Tuesday for the feature film, “Carmel,” which tells the story of a young artist who becomes a forger. At top, the crew captures a wide shot of the Mission. Above, director Lawrence Roeck gets a scene underway with the traditional call, “action!” At right, the crew prepares for a closeup. During a break, actor Josh Hutcherson took time to pose with Carmel Police officers Greg Johnson and Jesse Juarez.



## ‘Gran Torino’ a \$100M smash hit for Eastwood

By PAUL MILLER

**IT’S BEEN** in national release for just two weeks, and has only opened in one foreign country, but Clint Eastwood’s latest film, “Gran Torino,” has already grossed more than \$102 million.

With a production budget of a little more than \$30 million, and a box office that seems likely to surpass \$200 million when all is said and done, the film promises to be one of the most profitable in the former Carmel mayor’s Hollywood career.

“It opened in Australia last weekend to record-

See **SMASH HIT** page 18A

## Vandals destroy art in midnight rampage

By MARY BROWNFIELD

**FIREFIGHTERS HEARD** the sounds of pottery breaking and called the cops, but by the time Monterey County Sheriff’s deputies arrived at the Carmel Valley Village store called Mix shortly after midnight Friday, the vandals had already destroyed more than \$100,000 worth of merchandise and fled.

The culprits jumped the fence surrounding the store’s expansive grounds and tore through the property, smashing giant one-of-a-kind pots, large Buddha statues, rare murals and other ceramic garden art, according to co-owner Mary Foxworthy.

See **VANDALS** page 10A

## Police seek \$6 robber

**THE GUY** who robbed a Carmel hotel and got away with \$6 is wanted, and the police department this week released a sketch on the chance someone will recognize the criminal and turn him in.

The man walked into the Coachman’s Inn on San Carlos Street around 8:30 p.m. Jan. 9 and demanded money from the clerk, who reportedly saw no weapon but thought he might have been carrying one. He got away with all the cash in the till and left. Afterward, she described him as 5 feet 5 inches to 5 feet 8 inches in height, and wearing a dark navy-colored ball cap and possibly a navy jumpsuit or coveralls. He had a medium complexion with sun spots on his face and a slight mustache.

Anyone who recognizes the suspect should call CPD at (831) 624-6403 and ask to speak with detective Rachelle Lightfoot.



Do you recognize this man?