



**Fake Fab Four
excel at
recreating '64**



**He didn't
just shoot
mountains**



**Oprah flirted
with me!
— INSIDE THIS WEEK**

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From the Stone Age to the New Age

■ 'Spirit nests' turn heads

By CHRIS COUNTS

EVEN IN Big Sur, where the abundance and variety of nature creates a constant visual spectacle, Jayson Fann's eye-catching "spirit nests" stand out.

Constructed almost entirely from the branches left over from local tree-trimming projects, Fann creates small structures that are easy to appreciate but difficult to categorize. Are they Stone Age dwellings, or are they fine-art installations? Fann, who owns the Big Sur Spirit Garden, leaves their definition open to interpretation. But one thing he does know is that they're turning heads.

"It seems like every day here at the Spirit Garden, somebody walks in, looks up and says, 'Oh my God, that's the coolest thing I've ever seen,'" Fann said.

The longtime Big Sur resident uses two primary tools to construct each nest: a chainsaw and a small, portable screw gun. He acquires his building materials from Big Sur tree trimmers, who are more than happy to lighten the loads of debris they routinely haul off to the county landfill.

"What I use is what people would otherwise run through chippers," Fann explained. "Those branches are



Above are two of Jayson Fann's distinctive "spirit nests." At the right, Fann enjoys the view from one of his nests.



PHOTOS/COURTESY JAYSON FANN

ideal for what I'm doing."

Inspired by simple, symmetrical designs, Fann bends the branches to create dome-like structures that resemble oversized cocoons. A single structure can utilize a thousand branches and can weigh up to two tons. Screws sink easily into the green wood and are difficult to even notice. Afterwards, he sprays linseed oil on the each struc-

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Maldonado calls for limit on sex offenders' access to IDs

By KELLY NIX

STATE SEN. Abel Maldonado said he'll consider proposing a bill that would prevent registered sex offenders from working in liquor stores and other businesses where they can check IDs and have access to customers' personal information.

"Allowing registered sex offenders to view a person's driver's license, thereby allowing them to obtain important contact information like the person's address, is extremely dangerous," Maldonado said.

Maldonado made the comments to The Pine Cone after learning that registered sex offender and liquor store worker Thomas Pollacci, 49, was charged with three felony counts of rape stemming from an April 2008 incident. Pollacci's family

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Accused rapist and registered sex offender Tom Pollacci has worked at his family's liquor store for years.

THOUSANDS OF PINE CONES STOLEN

■ Distribution racks cleaned out

By KELLY NIX

THE CARMEL Pine Cone is encouraging readers to download last week's edition from from the paper's website after more than 8,000 printed copies were stolen from racks all over the Monterey Peninsula.

Someone driving a blue pickup truck was spotted at numerous locations around Carmel taking large stacks of Pine Cones. Under California law, it is a misdemeanor to take multiple copies of a free newspaper for the purpose of stopping someone from reading it.

One employee, who didn't want to be identified, said she confronted a man who appeared to be in his 30s, who took a bundle at a Carmel Rancho business.

"I said, 'You can't take all of those,'" the clerk said, "and

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Caltrans: Motorcyclist was intoxicated when he hit the pig

By PAUL MILLER and KELLY NIX

AN EMERGENCY-ROOM doctor who treated an injured motorcyclist at CHOMP in September 2003 testified Wednesday that the rider was intoxicated when he was brought to the hospital.

The motorcyclist, Adam Rogers, who remains disabled after colliding with a wild pig on Highway 1 in September 2003, is suing the State of California for \$8 million, claiming the state had an obligation to keep the pig off the road.

But attorneys for Caltrans brought Dr. David Dansky and other experts to a Monterey courtroom this week in an attempt to show that Rogers was responsible for his accident.

According to Dansky, when he was brought to CHOMP, Rogers had what is considered a "high" level of alcohol in his bloodstream.

"The lab report indicates he was intoxicated," Dansky said.

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Sacramento lobbying pays off for Big Sur bridge activists

By KELLY NIX

A STATE board with billions of tax dollars to hand out agreed this week to free up \$500 million that would allow a crucial bridge to be installed at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park.

The park is losing thousands of dollars a day because there is no vehicle access to the popular hiking and camping spot.

Big Sur businesses are also being severely impacted.

In December, because of the budget crisis, the state froze funds for thousands of infrastructure projects throughout California, including a bridge which is necessary for access to Pfeiffer park's popular campground.

Big Sur resident Jack Ellwanger, who has lobbied local politicians to free up funds to have the bridge installed, addressed the state's Pooled Money

See **BRIDGE** page 24A

Abused parrot adopted and given new name

By KELLY NIX

A PARROT who lost his feathers and was in danger of losing his life after being neglected by his previous owner has gained a new family and new name.

The 20-year-old bird, a mitred conure who has to wear a tiny sweater to cover his bare skin, was adopted last Saturday by Beverly Signorelli of Monterey. She named him Monkey because of his penchant for mischief.

"He's a bossy little guy," Signorelli said. "But he's cute."

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PHOTO/KELLY NIX

Beverly Signorelli is getting to know "Monkey," the abused mitred conure she adopted from the SPCA last weekend.