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Residents, visitors may prefer to see the sea

By MARY BROWNFIELD

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It was a Carmel summer-like day (chilly and overcast) at the beach Tuesday afternoon, but there were a number of dogs playing in the ever-returning sand on the still depleted beach. The water was aquamarine.

Franny, short for Francois, and Spencer are good friends who look forward to trips together with their moms. Franny’s Mom Debby and Dad Justin own Justin Winery in Paso Robles. They have a second home here in Carmel which they visit as often as they can.

Spencer’s folks are Sherry and Robert, who own the luxury boutique Hotel Cheval in downtown Paso Robles and have a home in Santa Barbara. Spencer is a very handsome rat terrier with unusual and attractive black and cinnamon markings on his smooth white coat.

Franny and Spencer are very well behaved. Franny is white, beige and fluffy, with an enchanting little face. Getting Franny and Spencer to look at the camera together proved futile, so we settled for a less contrived pose — one might almost say a totally disordered pose. Franny’s favorite playthings are tennis balls and a big, stuffed plush egg he was given at Easter. He sleeps on Mom’s bed.

Spencer, on the other hand, prefers squeaky toys. He’s very active, protective, needs lots of exercise and travels well. He sleeps in his own snug nest next to Mom and Dad’s bed.

Could address ban be lifted to benefit budget?

IT’S TIME for the city’s houses to get numbers, one resident told the city council at its May 4 meeting, to eliminate the $50,000-per-year cost of private mail delivery in town.

Carmel pays a private messenger service to deliver mail to the homes of 141 residents — an expense the city can no longer afford, resident Carolina Bayne told the Carmel City Council. If the city had street numbers and curbside mailboxes, the U.S. Postal Service would deliver the mail for free.

“I’m here because I’m really concerned about several issues,” she told the council during the public-comment period. “One is our budget and our money, and taxpayers paying for certain things that perhaps we could get free.”

Ten years ago, an activist who had recently moved to town demanded home delivery of mail. To placate Joe Steinfeld, who only stayed in Carmel a short while before moving to Mexico, the city decided to hand-deliver mail to residents who wanted it, even though the USPS was willing to provide free delivery if the city would designate house numbers and allow the installation of mailboxes in the public right of way.

Those changes would clutter the streets, threaten the city’s charm and make obsolete the daily chats at the post office, some residents worried.

Ever since, the city has contracted with Peninsula Messenger Service to deliver mail. When the economy turned south and the 2008/2009 fiscal year ended with a deficit of more than $400,000, Bayne — an advocate of USPS mail delivery during the debate a decade ago — said she realized the city could be saving tens of thousands of dollars by allowing the postal service to deliver to residents who choose to have house numbers.

“Not including the first four months of this year, the city has paid $381,658 for delivery by messenger service since 2001,” she said. “I think it’s time we consider home delivery for residents that want it, when the post office will give it for free.”

Sandy Claws

By Margot Petit Nichols

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“Makes a great gift for Dad…”

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THE REHABILITATION of a relatively obscure hiking trail in Big Sur not only provides access to two ideal summertime backpacking destinations, but it also offers a fascinating glimpse of how Native Americans and homesteading pioneers survived in a rugged and unforgiving wilderness.

The Turner Creek Trail — overgrown and obscured by fallen trees — is now accessible thanks to the Ventana Wilderness Alliance and a $8,500 grant from the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District.

To reach the trailhead, you will first need to drive to Bottchers Gap, which is located at the end of Palo Colorado Road. Just to the left of a parking area at Bottchers Gap is the well marked start of the steep and brushy Skinner Ridge Trail. The route zig-zags up and down the 3,300-foot ridge for about 2.4 miles before reaching the turnoff for the Turner Creek Trail.

For the next 1.5 miles, the trail follows Turner Creek as it gently winds its way downhill. Along the way, you’ll pass stands of mature black oaks and madrones, as well as lush and inviting meadows. Less than a half-mile from the start of the trail lies Apple Tree Camp, which sadly no longer features the tree that inspired its name. About a mile further along the trail is another desirable backpacking destination, Turner Creek Camp. The two camps — shaded by hardwood trees — offer a cool respite from much of surrounding landscape, which swelters in the summer.

The signs of human inhabitation along Turner Creek are subtle. An occasional fence post is evidence that someone once raised livestock in the canyon, although frequent wildfires have destroyed most of what the pioneers left behind. The fact that fruit trees were planted along the creek is further proof that someone tried to establish a homestead there.

Evidence that Native Americans once lived along the creek is even more difficult to detect since Big Sur’s original human inhabitants left behind little besides bedrock mortars, grinding stones, shell mounds and an occasional crudely fashioned tool. But there is no doubt that the upper portion of the Turner Creek watershed was a place where they migrated in the fall to gather acorns from black oaks, which seem to thrive there. Acorns were an essential part of the primitive Native American diet, and those from black oaks were considered the most desirable.

The VW A — which has completed many local trail rehabilitation projects — decided the trail was worth saving. They asked the MPRPD, which gets its money from taxpayers, to fund for the trail work. The MPRPD approved the proposal and a work crew was hired. VW A volunteers also helped to clear the trail.

By CHRIS COUNTS
HERES A look at some of the significant calls logged by the Carmel-by-the-Sea Police Department, the Carmel Fire Department and the Monterey County Sheriffs Office last week. This weeks log was compiled by Mary Brownfield.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fire engine dispatched to Carmelo and 10th for an electrical wiring/equipment problem. Arrived on scene to find a service wire smoking secondary to a possible arcing. Secured area and notified PG&E.
Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to a male hitting things with a golf club.
Carmel area: Anonymous person turned over a cell phone found at Mission Ranch to Carmel Police Department.

Carmel Valley: A man stated he has become a victim of identity theft. The victims personal information was obtained via the Internet.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Victim on 11th Avenue reported that his vehicle was broken into overnight and items stolen.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Victim on Torres Street reported her vehicle was broken into overnight, and some items were taken.
Carmel area: Resident reported his neighbor was mad at him for going onto her porch to retrieve his cat.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Victim on Junipero reported that her vehicle was broken into overnight, and some items were taken.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Medical crew responded to a walk-in medical emergency at the station — a female in her 50s having chest pain. Provided advanced life support per paramedic on scene. Transported person Code 3.
Carmel Valley: Person found cash in the parking lot of Save Mart on Carmel Ranch Boulevard.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle blocking a driveway at Dolores and Fifth was towed.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle towed from Junipero Street, because the alarm on the car was sounding intermittently.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Reno PD was assisted in the investigation of a missing person last seen in Reno, Nev., and reported to be en route to the Monterey Peninsula.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Santa Fe resident served a 30-day eviction notice on her live-in

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A continuing care retirement community of California-Nevada Methodist Homes
Public-safety spending, library top public’s budget questions

By MARY BROWNFIELD

FOllowing the release of the City of Carmel’s proposed $13,962,194 annual budget last month, pointed questions covering almost every element of the spending plan—from police officers’ overtime, to the proposed bathrooms on Scenic Road—poured into city hall.

It’s been several years since a budget prompted so much inquiry, and employees spent more than a week compiling the queries, gathering information and composing the responses before releasing the list of more than 130 questions and answers Monday.

Salaries and benefits make up more than half of the city annual budget, at $8,268,777, which includes $130,424 in pay raises for 2010/2011, and many questions focused on how that money is being spent, particularly for public safety.

“Why is the police department’s budget so high?” someone asked. (The questions are not attributed.)

Carmel P.D.’s 21 full-time employees earn an average of $78,433 per year, not including benefits, while the fire department’s nine full-time employees earn an average of $84,415 annually, not including benefits, while the fire department’s nine full-time employees earn an average of $84,415 annually, not including benefits, according to the city. Overall, CPD’s costs are estimated at $260,280.

The police department will pay out an estimated $164,733 in overtime for 24/7 coverage when regularly scheduled officers are out sick, training or on vacation, and for those working special events, completing investigations, testifying in court and helping during emergencies. The department will also pay $184,670 for outside services.

Ways to save

Several questions focused on how the city might make more money and cut spending.

One suggested increasing fees to cover the costs of issuing permits, and someone else said the library should charge for reference work, according to the city.)

Another suggested outsourcing the city’s computer services, which are budgeted at a total of $307,999 for 2010/2011, and someone else asked how much could be saved if public employees had one furlough day per month. A monthly furlough day would save $11,557, for an annual savings of $138,680, including retirement contributions, according to the city.

CalPERS

The state-run retirement system for public employees is an increasing burden on taxpayers, and several questions focused on how to cut its funding. In 2010/2011, city taxpayers will contribute $838,501 to CalPERS, while workers will put in $522,247 toward their retirement benefits. Public-safety workers can retire at age 50 and receive 3 percent of their highest salary for each year of employment, up to 30 years. Everyone else can retire at 55 and receive 2 percent for each year of employment. For example, a police officer who retired at an annual salary of $100,000 after being on the force for 30 years would receive $30,000 in taxpayer funds every year—along with annual cost-of-living adjustments.

In coming years, the state will demand the cities pay more, and budget-watchers asked if savings could be achieved by implementing a tiered system to bring in new employees at a lower retirement rate.

See BUDGET page 22A

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Dog rescue focuses on elderly pets and the owners who love them

By KEELY NIX

When a dog owner is no longer able to take care of his pet because of a serious illness, the situation can be heartbreaking for the owner and stressful for the pooch.

If the pet owner is lucky, a family member will take care of the dog. Things get complicated, however, when a pet owner dies. The animal is often taken to a shelter and put up for adoption.

“Nobody wants to see a dog go to a shelter,” said Carrie Broecker, founder of Peace of Mind Dog Rescue. “But especially a dog that has been in a loving home for nine, 10, 11, 12 years with the same person.”

The Pacific Grove group places dogs in foster homes until their ill owners are well enough to take care of them again. When a dog owner dies, Peace of Mind fosters the dog indefinitely until a new home is found.

“We have a lot of elderly people in this community,” said Broecker, who founded the nonprofit seven months ago. “It’s also a very dog-loving community, and this happens quite a bit.”

The nonprofit, which is funded entirely by private donations, also rescues less adoptable elderly dogs until they find a home.

“We have a lifetime commitment to the dogs that come into our care,” Broecker said.

That means the dogs Peace of Mind take in live the rest of their lives with their foster families or in new, permanent homes. None of them are euthanized.

Broecker, who used to work for the PG-based Animal Friends Rescue Project, was prompted to start Peace of Mind last summer after caring for the dog of a terminally ill woman.

“She was dying of emphysema,” Broecker said. “And she was saying her greatest concern was what was going to happen with her dog.”

When the woman was in hospice care, Broecker frequently took the spaniel mix, Savannah, to visit her. The dog was on the woman’s bed when she passed away.

Broecker ended up adopting Savannah and beginning Peace of Mind. “I’m sure she was putting up for adoption.

“She is just the sweetest little dog,” Broecker said. “We don’t know why she hasn’t been adopted yet.”

There’s also Reiley, a German shepherd mix found near Hartnell College in Salinas.

“Is just the calmest, sweetest dog, with the most wonderful personality,” Broecker said.

Then there’s Pearl, who Broecker said was in “horrible shape” when she was found. The mutt, who was terribly matted and had eye problems, has been cleaned up, treated and is ready for adoption.

Broecker said Peace of Mind met an unmet need in the community by focusing on elderly dogs and dog owners.

“It’s been a really good niche,” she said.

To see dogs available for adoption or donate to Peace of Mind Dog Rescue, call (831) 718-9122 or go to www.peaceofmind-dogrescue.org.

Invader takes $100K in jewelry as woman showers

By MARY BROWNFIELD

A BURGLAR forced open the heavy front door to a Pebble Beach home and made away with more than $100,000 worth of jewelry Monday afternoon — while the victim was taking a shower.

Deputy Pete Dainty, the Congress Road resident’s Deputy Pete Dainty, the Congress Road resident reported a loud bang as the culprit broke in through the old wooden door, but she thought it was her husband returning home, and she continued with her shower.

“Two minutes later, someone opened the bathroom door,” Dainty said. “He didn’t say anything and closed the door, so she thought it was her husband again.”

When she finished bathing 15 minutes later, she went to look for her spouse, but he wasn’t there. Neither was the jewelry chest containing most of her valuables that she kept in the bedroom. Pursers and other valuables were also missing from other bedrooms in the house.

She reported the break-in to police shortly before 5 p.m. May 17 and said the burglar stole jewelry worth more than $100,000.

According to Dainty, the victim has yet to provide an itemized list of the pieces that were taken, but he said the most valuable was a diamond ring reportedly worth $30,000.

Such crimes are unusual in that area of Del Monte Forest, according to Dainty, and nobody reported seeing anyone or anything that could be tied to the break-in.

He said investigators have a lead, however, considering how quickly the burglar knew where to find the jewelry and get out without being detected.

“They don’t let anybody in the house,” he explained. “Just this one person.”

Estate Sale - Carmel

Sat & Sun. May 22 & 23 from 9 to 4
Corner of Mission and First

We are happy to have been selected to represent the estate of the late Irene Ligorio, Carmel Artist and Historian. A very eclectic collection including many pieces of antique and vintage furniture, several paintings and prints, mirrors, oriental rugs. Jewelry including fine and costume (mostly new and never been seen before). Nice antique doll collection. The biggest collection of Books and Records we have ever had. China, silver, knick knacks, crystal, glass, patio and plants, tools, book cases, lots of kitchen items. Too much to mention. We may have to go two weekends to sell it all off. There is a ton of items.

Doors open 9:00 am sharp. No numbers or waiting.

For more information and pictures go to our website at www.800eals.com and click on schedule of upcoming sales.

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JOHN HICKS, who devoted his life to the literary world as an English professor, writer, library advocate and president of the Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation, died at home in Carmel Wednesday. He was 91.

“John was one of the most beloved persons on the Carmel scene,” commented Pine Cone writer Margaret Petit Nichols, who also used to review books for the paper. “John was one of the best writers I’ve ever known. He had a felicity of phrase that was unequaled, in my experience.”

Born in New York City on May 13, 1919, Hicks graduated with a degree in American literature in 1941 from Middlebury College in Vermont, where he was also captain of the track team. The following year, he went to serve as a commissioned officer aboard the aircraft carrier Enterprise until November 1944, and he completed his service in 1946 as a staffer at the Navy Radar School at St. Simons Island, Ga.

Hicks took advantage of the G.I. Bill by studying literature at Harvard and Boston universities, and then went to teach at Tufts University, Wesleyan University, and finally at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he remained for three decades, retiring as professor emeritus of English in 1986. Hicks and his wife, Priscilla Gibson Hicks, moved into the family cottage, which had belonged to his mother, in Carmel in 1987.

There, he continued to exercise his literary talents long into retirement. Soon after arriving, he became an editor for the UC Press in Berkeley and was president of the Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation from 1993 to 2000. He also served several terms as president of the Harrison Memorial Library board of trustees under mayors Jean Grace and Ken White, was a member of the Carmel Heritage Society and served several terms as president of the Harrison Memorial Library Foundation, died at home in Carmel Wednesday. He was 91.

“My dad had a lot of friends, and one of the things he liked about Carmel was he had such a supportive community here,” said his daughter, Alison Hicks Greifenstein. “And he loved being by the sea. “I took a walk on the beach yesterday before he died — I think he was kind of waiting for me here,” said his daughter, Alison Hicks Greifenstein.

Her father had friends of all ages — many of whom had no idea how many years he had on them — up until the end of his life, she added.

Hicks was predeceased by his wife in 2001 and is survived by his daughter and his grandson, Jeremy Charles Greifenstein, both of Havertown, Pa., and by a nephew, Philip Hicks, of San Anselmo. A service is being planned. Memorial donations may be made to the Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation, P.O. Box 2713, Carmel, CA 93921; the Carmel Public Library Foundation, P.O. Box 2042, Carmel, CA 93921; and Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753.
Quail Motorcycle Gathering draws more of everything

By MARY BROWNFIELD

Comparing with last year, when the inaugural Quail Motorcycle Gathering came together in a mere couple of months, this year's homage to two-wheelers was a leap forward, drawing significantly more attendees and a show field that included "not just everything under the sun, but from Mars as well," organizer Gordon McCall said last week.

The May 8 show, which was accompanied by a Bonhams & Butterfields motorcycle auction and preceded by an organized ride and reception May 7, had an inclusive air he hopes to maintain while making the event bigger, better and more competitive next year. "I have to think this event has really established a tone of acceptance," he said. "This show is as much about the people as it is about the motorcycles on the field."

"There were a lot of people who came to the Peninsula from somewhere else," McCall pointed out. Not only did they spend their money at local restaurants, hotels and stores, their ticket purchases and sponsors' dollars helped support the nonprofit Riders for Health, which uses motorcycles to get medical supplies and healthcare distributed throughout Africa.

Ticket sales were up substantially from last year, as was participation in the CHP-escorted Friday ride that took more than 40 motorcyclists out Carmel Valley Road to the Salinas Valley, where they headed northwest to Mazda Raceway. There, they enjoyed a couple of laps around the track before noon, when the top seller was a 1910 Royal Pioneer that went for $92,000.

McCall said the event is about the motorcycles on the field. "I accept," he said. "This show is as much about the people as it is about the motorcycles on the field." More than 1,000 people attended the show, which featured 150 rare and unusual motorcycles from every era, 25 vendors, and a barbecue and fried-chicken lunch prepared by Quail Lodge executive chef Julio Ramirez (who is also a motorcyclist) and his team. Tickets included access to the Bonhams & Butterfields auction of motorcycles and memorabilia that afternoon, when the top seller was a 1910 Royal Pioneer that went for $92,000.

"There were a lot of people who came to the Peninsula from elsewhere," McCall pointed out. Not only did they spend their money at local restaurants, hotels and stores, their ticket purchases and sponsors' dollars helped support the nonprofit Riders for Health, which uses motorcycles to get medical supplies and healthcare distributed throughout Africa.

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The initiative, which could be placed on the November ballot, would ask voters to cap the amount the city pays in retirement benefits. But losses have meant steep rate hikes for cities like Pacific Grove.

"Because of these fluctuating costs of investments, we are in a mess," Davis said.

\$100,000

More than 9,000 retired California public employees have pensions greater than \$100,000 a year. No former Carmel employees receive more than \$100,000 in retirement pay. But former P.G. Police Chief Carl Miller, who makes nearly \$160,000 per year, said Miller, who worked in P.G. his entire 30-year career.

Miller also believes that the city, in an effort to save money, could end up contracting out for police services. Miller said reform should be done at the state level.

"I was very fortunate with my retirement," Miller said. "But when I started about 30 years ago, I never thought about retirement. It wasn’t what motivated me to be a police officer.”

Grassroots effort

For the past two months, members of the savepg.com group have set up in front of the P.G. post office to collect signatures from local resident voters.

"'We thought, 'All right, nothing is happening, so let's do this initiative,' said Frances Grate, who is a member of a small group of Pacific Grove residents trying to obtain a ballot measure. "We want to collect 1,200," said Frances Grate, who is a member of a small group of Pacific Grove residents trying to obtain a ballot measure. "We thought, 'All right, nothing is happening, so let's do this initiative,'" Davis said.

"The severe pain was relieved immediately." E. Jarvis, DC

"The point of the initiative, Davis said, is to create an equitable retirement benefit program.

"It is clearly in the interest of citizens to be fair to employees," Davis said. "But the city must be responsible to all its citizens as well, and the current system is not fair or sustainable.”

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Worship Watts said, so some crew members used a chain saw to cut a hole in the roof, while others entered the house and started pushing through the ceiling of a top-floor bedroom suite, pulling out the insulation and spraying the flames with water.

Investigation revealed the blaze had started in the chimney and extended into the attic. "We used 650 gallons of water," Watts reported. "That’s not a lot of water as far as firefighting is concerned, but it’s a lot of water in terms of spraying it around inside of a house."

While they extinguished the fire in about 45 minutes, firefighters spent another couple of hours ensuring the flames would not rekindle and salvaging as much as they could.

Crews also checked walls throughout the house to make sure the fire had not extended into them. The roof and its structural members will have to be replaced, according to Watts, who estimated the fire and water damage to the house and contents at $40,000.

The city’s interim building inspector concluded the house was not safe to occupy, so the Elliotts decided to spend the night at La Playa Hotel, according to Watts. Police escorted the couple back to their home Wednesday morning so they could retrieve personal belongings, survey the damage and decide what to do next.

Their son lives in San Francisco and was en route to call for them, and Watts said they might be able to move into a cottage on the same property once it’s determined to be safe for them.

He also mentioned receiving unexpected help from a bystander the night of the blaze. After hearing about the fire, councilman Ken Talamage decided to go to the scene, where he remained until well after the flames were out.

When Talmage realized the crews needed dinner and all the local places were closed, "he went down and got pizzas for us," Watts said.
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SCENIC
From page 1A

one’s treasured view of the beach or interfere with the vistas enjoyed by the throngs of motorists along Scenic Road. As a result, trees can’t be planted without a public hearing by the forest and beach commission — an arrangement that grew from a bit of renegade tree-planting that did not go over well. “A few years ago, they just started to plant trees down there, and that created a bit of ire from the residents, who responded to the mayor and to Rich [Guillen, the city administrator],” Branson said. “So the plan was they would propose locations, and I would review them and select ones I thought would be reasonable.” The forester whittled the number proposed for Scenic down from the Forest Friends’ original target of 16 trees. “It’s only 10 trees, and the intent is to get some young trees going where there are just mature trees right now,” he said. The city also wants to replace a tree on Scenic that died. “As trees get older, they get beat up by storms, so the idea is to get a little bit of a head start versus waiting for the old tree to come down,” he explained. Some 30 trees fell along Scenic during the El Niño storms of the 1990s, according to Branson.

In planning for the future, he said it’s wise to work with people to locate the cypress where they will have the least impact on their bay views. But no matter where they look, residents and motorists are bound to have foliage in their field of vision. People who are opposed for Scenic down from the Forest

A View of the Future...Living at Forest Hill Manor

S

prinng is here, change is in the air and it’s time to think of the future. If you’ve been considering retirement living but the entrance fee for a Continuing Care Community, in this economic climate, has hindered your decision making, then there’s good news at Forest Hill Manor. Entrance fees have been discounted significantly! With a wide selection of apartments and accompanying monthly fees, there is bound to be one that meets your needs and your budget. By acting now, you’re taking the first step toward providing for future health care needs insuring peace of mind to you and your family.

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■ “I get The Pine Cone every week and enjoy it more than you can know. What a wonderful paper you have. I read every word!”

■ “I just wanted to let you know how truly outstanding The Pine Cone is. The writing equals, if not exceeds, top-notch national papers. You and your staff should be proud. I know I’ve told you before how great I think The Pine Cone is, but it really is a terrific paper.”

■ “Thank you for providing balanced and researched reporting and upbeat articles. I hope we have The Pine Cone around for many years to come. If it gets down to it, I would pay for the subscription to keep the paper viable.”

■ “We poll our ticket-buyers as to where they hear about our concerts. You might be surprised to learn how many of them mention The Pine Cone. Thanks!”

■ “Thanks for the consistently great job you do with your newspaper. I regularly read several newspapers from around the country and yours has the best editorial integrity — bar none. Keep up the good work!”

■ “I look forward to The Pine Cone more than you will ever know.”

■ “The Pine Cone used to be my Friday morning habit, and now it’s my Thursday night habit. I also love the fact I can get the entire paper online when I’m out of town.”

■ “I am a regular advertiser in your paper, and I have been meaning to tell you how much I enjoy your writing. It accomplishes exactly what I guess you want it to: I always want to read on. I appreciate and enjoy your talent.”

■ “I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciate The Pine Cone and the fact that it seems to be the only news medium that does not feel it must serve up a diet of perversion, doom, gloom and controversy in order to glean and keep readers.”

■ “I am writing to thank you for your excellent newspaper, especially since it is available online. God Bless you and your editorial and production staff.”

■ “I love your newspaper!”

■ “I am so grateful to read all about the local news.”

■ “I just want to tell you how much I enjoy receiving The Pine Cone online ... it keeps me connected with Carmel. I love what you guys do.”

■ “I don’t know where all the good reporters have gone, but I sure miss them when I read other local papers. Keep up the good work. Your community needs you.”

■ “I can’t begin to tell you how much I look forward to The Pine Cone. It gives me more news in one week and one edition than the Herald does all week. You and your staff seem to have an ability to sniff out what is really important and of interest to Carmelites, weed out all the extras, and deliver it in a concise and timely manner. I can’t thank you enough for it.”

■ “I love Carmel and your enticing commentary. You’re creative.”

■ “Probably 50 people came to our event because of the article you printed. I kept asking people, ‘How did you hear about this?’ and pretty much to a person they said, ‘the article in the paper,’ which meant The Pine Cone. Thank you so much.”

■ “I have always been amazed at your editorials in The Pine Cone in that I do not believe I have ever disagreed with one of them. From taxes to the economy, to our current leaders, the crazy historical preservation efforts in Carmel, our court system, you have been a voice of sane reason in an increasingly insane world. I call you the ‘anti-Chronicle,’ and, believe me, that is a huge compliment.”

■ “Thank you for your excellent, easy-to-read, always-appreciated newspaper.”

■ “Your team is doing a great job! I have been a subscriber for a while now. The paper lets me know what’s going with my Favorite Place On Earth.”

— unsolicited subscriber comments
Written for WWI soldier, concerto offers unique pianist a chance to shine

By CHRIS COUNTS

DESPITE LOSING his right arm in World War I, Austrian pianist Paul Wittgenstein made a remarkable comeback after several of the world’s most prominent composers wrote pieces he could play exclusively with his left hand.

Perhaps the most memorable of those pieces, French composer Maurice Ravel’s “Concerto for the Left Hand in D Major,” will be performed by the Monterey Symphony at Sunset Center Sunday and Monday, May 16-17.

And featured as a soloist during the performance will be Gary Graffman, a gifted pianist who, like Wittgenstein, lost his ability to play the piano with his right hand, in his case the result of a neurological disorder.

“Gary is a living legend,” said Max Bragado-Darman, conductor and music director for the symphony. “He’s performed with the greatest conductors and the greatest orchestras. We are honored to have him perform with us.”

Bragado-Darman called Ravel’s concerto, “one of his masterworks.”

Graffman is perhaps best known for his memorable performance of George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody In Blue” in the 1979 Woody Allen movie, “Manhattan.”

Fans of the television show, “M*A*S*H,” may remember Graffman as a composer for the show’s theme song.

“The Beatles’ success in 1964 was — and is — unprecedented. The group’s first single on Capitol Records, “I Want to Hold Your Hand,” sold 2.6 million copies in just two weeks. Two days after its release, the band took the stage on the “Ed Sullivan Show,” playing before more than 70 million viewers — more than one-third of the U.S. population. Two months later, the Beatles had 12 singles on the Billboard charts, including the top five records.”

Graffman’s performance will be Gary Graffman, a gifted pianist who, like Wittgenstein, lost his ability to play the piano exclusively with his left hand.

Perhaps the most memorable of those pieces, French composer Maurice Ravel’s “Concerto for the Left Hand in D Major,” will be performed by the Monterey Symphony at Sunset Center Sunday and Monday, May 16-17.

“This heartwarming tribute to John, Paul, George and Ringo recreates a Beatles’ concert from the year Beatlemania took America by storm.

The Beatles’ early hits and look, right down to their individual mannerisms, Liverpudlian accents and stage banter.

At a Sunset Center performance by “1964 — The Tribute” two years ago, no screaming girls could be heard, and the audience was dotted with just a few heads of graying hair. But from the moment the first guitar chord was struck and the band’s harmonies filled the hall, it didn’t matter how much time had passed since the heyday of the Fab Four.

Beatlemania, it turns out, is never out of style.

Fifteen years since its first performance, the band continues to draw capacity crowds and rave reviews. At a Sunset Center performance by “1964 — The Tribute,” the group meticulously recreates the Beatles’ sound and look, right down to their individual mannerisms, Liverpudlian accents and stage banter.

At a Sunset Center performance by “1964 — The Tribute” two years ago, no screaming girls could be heard, and the audience was dotted with just a few heads of graying hair. But from the moment the first guitar chord was struck and the band’s harmonies filled the hall, it didn’t matter how much time had passed since the heyday of the Fab Four.

Yet today, the music of the “early” Beatles sounds as fresh and alive as ever. In response, dozens of Beatles cover bands exist, and most focus their attention on recreating the band’s early hits and look. And arguably, none of them does it better than “1964.”

The music starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are $47 to $62. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. For more information, call (831) 620-2048.
By CHRIS COUNTS

W I T H  T H R E E  m e m b e r s  o f  A l o n g  C o m e s  B e t t y  u n a b l e  t o  a t t e n d  S u n d a y ’ s  s c h e d u l e d  p e r f o r m a n c e  a t  t h e  B i g  S u r  R i v e r  I n n ,  t h e  j a z z  e n s e m b l e ’ s  d r u m m e r ,  P a t r i c k  T r e g e n z a ,  d e c i d e d  h e  w a n t e d  t o  p l a y  t h e  g ig  a n y w a y .  S o  h e  c a l l e d  u p  a  f e w  o l d  f r i e n d s .

“I t h o u g h t  i t  w o u l d  b e  a  g r e a t  o p p o r t u n i t y  t o  g e t  t o g e t h e r  w i t h  s o m e  g u y s  I  p l a y e d  w i t h  b a c k  i n  t h e  1 9 8 0 s .”  T r e g e n z a  e x p l a i n e d .

“We  u s e d  t o  p l a y  a t  t h e  o l d  F o x  H i l l  a n d  w e n t  b y  t h e  n a m e  ‘ T h e  B a n d  W i t h o u t  P t y ’ .”

I n  a d d i t i o n  t o  T r e g e n z a ,  T h e  B a n d  W i t h o u t  P t y  w i l l  f e a t u r e  J a c k  M c A d a m s  o n  g u i t a r  a n d  l e a d  v o c a l s ,  A l e x  S t e w a r t  o n  s a x ,  B i l l  H a y n e s  o n  l e a d  g u i t a r  a n d  B i l l  S u l v i a n  o n  b a s s .

“We  w i l l  p l a y  a  n e c t a l c i c  m i x  o f  r o c k a b i l l y ,  b l u e s ,  c o u n t r y  a n d  j u s t  h a v e  a  l o t  o f  f u n .”  T r e g e n z a  a d d e d .  “I f  y o u ’ v e  n e v e r  h e a r d  J a c k  b e f o r e  y o u ’ r e  i n  f o r  a  t r e a t .”

B y  t h e  w a y ,  i f  y o u ’ v e  n e v e r  b e e n  t o  t h e  R i v e r  I n n  o n  a  S a t u d a y  a f t e r n o o n ,  y o u ’ r e  a l s o  i n  f o r  a  t r e a t .  T h e  B a n d  W i t h o u t  P t y  w i l l  p e r f o r m  o n  t h e  r e s t a u r a n t ’ s  o u t s i d e  d e c k ,  w h i c h  i s  s h a d e d  b y  r e d w o o d s  a n d  o v e r l o o k s  t h e  B i g  S u r  R i v e r .

T h e  m u s i c  s t a r t s  a t  1  p .m  a n d  i s  f r e e .  T h e  R i v e r  I n n  i s  l o c a t e d  o n  H w y  1 ,  a b o u t  2 4  m i l e s  s o u t h  o f  C a r m e l .  F o r  m o r e  i n f o r m a t i o n ,  c a l l  ( 8 3 1 )  6 6 7 - 2 7 0 0  o r  v i s i t  w w w . b i g - s u r r i v i e r i n n . c o m .

Drummer turns cancellation into reunion at River Inn

■ C A A  o f f e r s  “ w e t  p a i n t ”  t a l k

I f  y o u ’ v e  e v e r  b e e n  t e m p t e d  t o  t r y  t o  p r e p a r e  a  m e l a n c o l y ,  r e v e r b - d r e n c h e d  s o u n d  t h a t ’ s  b o u n d  t o  d r a w  c o m p a r i s o n s  w i t h  M a z z y  S t a r .  G u i t a r i s t  a n d  v i o l i n i s t  C y n t h i a  W i g g i n t o n ’ s  d o w n b e a t  v o c a l s  a r e  b a c k e d  b y  b a s s  p l a y e r  R o b e r t  M a l t a  a n d  d r u m m e r  A d a m  M c C a u l e y .  T h e  t r i o  p e r f o r m s  S a t u r d a y  a t  t h e  F e r n w o o d  R e s o r t  i n  B i g  S u r ,  w h e r e  t h e y ’ l l  b e  j o i n e d  b y  t h e  S p i n d l e s ,  a  b l a c k  s t y l e  a n d  c a r d i d  o u t f i t  f r o m  S a n t a  R o s a .

T h e  m u s i c  s t a r t s  a t  9  p.m . ,  a n d  t h e r e  i s  n o  c o v e r .  F e r n w o o d  i s  l o c a t e d  o n  H w y  1 ,  a b o u t  2 5  m i l e s  s o u t h  o f  C a r m e l .  F o r  m o r e  i n f o r m a t i o n ,  c a l l  ( 8 3 1 )  6 6 7 - 2 4 2 2 .
The birds are now largely absent from the landfill, Velasquez said. They would quickly make their way back if he stopped his efforts. “If I turn my back on this place,” he said, “they will come back.” It’s believed it will take a few generations for seagulls to learn the Marina landfill isn’t a place for food. Using falcons and other raptors to get rid of avian pests is nothing new. Airports, farmers and wineries use them.

“Great Big Sea (March 13)" The Aluminum Show (March 13)" Great Big Sea (March 17)" Theater of Illusion (April 8)" Pirates of Penzance (May 4)" Esperanza Spalding (May 25)" Ricky Nelson Remembered (May 28)" Smuin Ballet (June 3-4)" Lesnik said the schedule was influenced by feedback his staff gathered from ticket holders. “We get a lot of comments and we read them,” he said. “We pay a lot of attention to what people say.” Understandably, Lesnik can’t wait for the new season to begin — even though the current season continues through June, including a performance by Smuin Ballet (June 4) and a group concert by Bela Fleck, Zakir Hussain and Eddie Meyer (June 23). “There isn’t a show we’re doing that I’m not excited about,” Lesnik said. Ticket packages go on sale May 21. With ticket packages for individual shows on sale Friday, July 9. For more information about Sunset Center and its schedule, call (831) 620-2040 or visit www.sunsetcenter.org.

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Max Bragad-Darman is conductor and music director at the Monterey Symphony. Nothing worked before Landfill officials have tried a host of ways to get rid of seagulls, but nothing was very effective. “Frankly, they are pretty darn smart and persistent,” Merry said.

For the past five years, the MRWMD used a noise cannon to scare the scavenging birds. It worked a little, but the gulls became so accustomed to the device, they’d often perch on the barrel. Before that, landfill workers tried filling the air with a bubble gum-like scent that was supposed to be repugnant to seagulls. “That didn’t work very well,” Merry said.

In addition to using raptors, Velasquez sets off pyrotechnic devices to scare the birds and sometimes releases his 10-month-old Vizsla, Tana, to chase after them. The dog never catches the seagulls. Velasquez’s black Nissan Xterra SUV, which he drives to the landfill each morning, is even a deterrent. “When they see his truck, they fly away,” Merry said.

To draw his hawks and falcons back, Velasquez whistles loudly and swings a tennis ball on a rope. When they fly back to his leather-clad arm, Velasquez hand feeds them until it’s time to reward their efforts. The raptors are also fitted with radio telemetry so they can be found if they get distracted and go astray. A hand-held receiver beeps louder as the falconer gets closer to the lost bird.

Though gulls are now largely absent from the landfill, Velasquez said they would quickly make their way back if he stopped his efforts. “If I turn my back on this place,” he said, “they will come back.” It’s believed it will take a few generations before seagulls learn the Marina landfill isn’t a place for food.

Using falcons and other raptors to get rid of avian pests is nothing new. Airports, farmers and wineries use them. Eliminating a food source for seagulls also has its ugly consequences. Velasquez has noticed emaciated, starving birds. The carnage they’ve likely found new food into, “In search of the blue flower,” is based on a tragic tale from the Middle Ages. “It was a very special type of flower with curing properties and powers,” Bragad-Darman explained. “There was a king, and he was very sick. He sent his three sons in search of the flower. The youngest son found the flower, but he was murdered by his brothers out of jealousy.”

Tunna’s piece is an ode to the composer’s beloved city of Seville in Spain. “It was a very familiar work,” Bragad-Darman explained. “It has a constant rhythm, and its melody is repeated in many ways with clever orchestration. It’s a crowd-pleaser.”

Sunday’s concert begins at 3 p.m., while Monday’s performance starts at 8 p.m. Tickets range from $37 to $67. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. For more information, call (831) 646-8511 or visit www.montereysymphony.org.

PHOTO/KELLY NIX
JAMES J. RIESER FINE ART

Congratulations to our gallery artists and friends for their accomplishments at the 2010 Carmel Art Festival!

Currently On Display

Larry Moore  “Wind-borne”  Oil on Board  
First Prize Winner at the 2010 Carmel Art Festival

Michael Obermeyer  “Morning Walk, Stillwater Cove”  Oil on Board  
Honorable Mention at the 2010 Carmel Art Festival

Bryan Mark Taylor  “Fields and Hills”  Oil on Canvas  
Honorable Mention at the 2010 Carmel Art Festival

Don Sondag  “Inland Trees”  Oil on Canvas  
Honorable Mention at the 2010 Carmel Art Festival

Kevin Courter  “Dancing Cypress”  Oil on Canvas  
Winner of Artist’s Choice and People’s Choice at the 2007 Carmel Art Festival

Other Award Winners:
*Kevin Courter, 2nd Prize & Mayor’s Choice Award
*Brian Blood, Best Local Artist       *Laurey Kersey, Honorable Mention       *Terri Ford, Best Pastel

From the collection of Jim & Suzanne Rieser, in conjunction with the 2010 Carmel Art Festival, an exhibition of 10 award-winning paintings from 1998-2009

James J. Rieser Fine Art
West side of Dolores between 5th & 6th in Su Vecino Court

James J. Rieser Fine Art ONLINE
www.RieserFineArt.com
831 620-0530 / Info@RieserFineArt.com

James J. Rieser Fine Art SHOWCASE
East side of Dolores between 5th & 6th in San Remann Court
Room to grow, Montrio’s new flare, and an homage to brew

By MARY BROWNFIELD

TWO POPULAR Carmel restaurants will expand into recently vacated neighboring storefronts — changes that indicate their owners’ optimism when it comes to doing business downtown.

Kurt Grasing and his partners received permission from the planning commission last week to expand Grasing’s Coastal Cuisine to include a bar in the Sixth Avenue shop that was Romansos Gallery, and Walter Georis, owner of La Bicyclette, also got an OK to expand his little Dolores Street restaurant into the corner space that has been occupied by Wings.

According to his proposal, Grasing plans to tear out a wall to combine the 1,277-square-foot restaurant with the 600-square-foot former gallery and add a bar, tables and a waiting area. He will move the main entrance to the corner of Mission and Sixth.

The restaurant currently operates with fewer seats than its water allotment allows, so Grasing is able to expand the restaurant to its maximum 77 spots inside while maintaining 22 seats outside, and more on the rooftop deck.

To ensure Grasing’s doesn’t become a “drinking establishment,” the city is restricting the number of chairs in the bar to 15 and said the restaurant must be open whenever the wine area does not become a wine-tasting room. He also recommended OK’ing the live music, which would be allowed between noon and 10 p.m. The restaurant can operate from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

Planning commissioners approved both applications as part of their consent agenda May 12.

Happy Birthday, Montrio

Montrio chef/owner Tony Baker and owner Tony Tollner are celebrating their Monterey restaurant’s 15th anniversary with a menu overhaul, a revamped bar, and other new odds and ends. The duo will launch their new creations with a party at the end of the month and plan to offer monthly classes to help connect their customers with some of their purveyors. (June’s will feature artisan cheeses, while July’s will include a lesson on making limoncello.)

“We’re making more public our connection with local growers,” Tollner said. “We’re trying to reemphasize that.” To that end, a mural to be installed in the restaurant will depict many of the farmers, ranchers, fisherman, foragers and other folks who keep Baker’s kitchen well stocked.

Meanwhile, inspired by his new wood-burning oven — Baker said he discovered the humid environment of a wood fire is perfect for cooking meats, beans for dishes like casu-soulet, and even broccoli, which bakes in the oven’s residual heat long after the fire is out. “I started putting all kinds of things in there and seeing what happened,” he said.

While people may be disinclined to order chicken when eating out, since it’s easy to prepare well at home, they should try Baker’s half-chicken cooked under a brick. The free-range bird from Petaluma is partially boned and marinated in preserved lemons (which Baker makes) and seasonings before cooking, and is served alongside green beans sautéed in curry and coconut, wedge potatoes tossed with citrus and herbs, and a dark chicken jus. The meat is tender and moist, and the skin perfectly crisp.

As for the drinks, Tollner is remodeling the bar into the “Temple of Intoxication,” where cocktails, not cappuccinos, will be the main focus. “The bar had become a sort of high-efficiency beverage dispensation station,” Tollner said, and he wanted to reclaim

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE
The space for the creative use of all sorts of ingredients to blend cocktails, with and without booze. The talk will be held at the habitat on the CMS campus at 4380 Carmel Valley Road. Registration is required. To sign up, go to www.mearth.info/workshop.html.

Celebrate beer

The 2010 Monterey Beer Festival is fast approaching,ωνετ) offline Wednesday, May 26, for the Monterey Fairgrounds during the first weekend in June. The event always draws fans from far and wide, and this year, they’ll be able to sample the products of more than 90 breweries, from Abita to Wycho. Participants include some big names, like Anderson Valley, Sierra Nevada and Redhook, as well as many small operations, and breweries in Belgium, Germany, France, Australia, Thailand, Italy, Asia, Ireland, Russia, Mexico and Jamaica.

Locals on the roster are Peter B’s, English Ales and Cider, and Dan Miller. A group of guests, with all of the proceeds benefiting MIYF, allowing it to continue serving thousands of children each year. Reservations can be made by contacting Lauren Cohen at (831) 649-6444 or Lauren@mymuseum.org.

Soft-shelled

Soft-shelled crabs are back, and Chris Caul — a devoted fan of the northeastern delicacy — gets them live in his downtown Carmel restaurant a few times a week. He serves them several ways. The main preparation, “breaded in Panko crumbs, fried crispy, with jicama slaw, and black bean and avocado salsa,” said Caul, who has East Coast roots. “Some people ask them to be done the classic style, dredged in flour and sautéed, topped with lemon caper butter. I like mine fried, on a bun with homemade tartar and some vinegar-fried tomatoes.”

CAUL, chef-owner of Christopher’s restaurant on Lincoln Street south of Fifth Avenue, says he eats one of those sandwiches a day for about two weeks, until he ODs.

“The little guys come from Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, where Caul does business with McMopkin Bay Oyster Company, which has been around since 1945.”

“All the East Coastiers come out of the woodwork,” when Christopher’s has soft shells, he said. “People just know what time of year we get them.” He’ll be offering them until September or October, depending on when the weather cools, and he recommended making reservations, just to be sure there are enough crabs in the kitchen. Call (831) 626-8000 to reserve a space for dinner any night of the week except Tuesdays, when the restaurant is dark.

To see what’s new at Montrio Bistro, located at 414 Calle La Reina, downtown Monterey, call (831) 333-9032.
SOUNDS
From page 15A

Ining David Kempton on keyboards and Dino Vera on drums and vocals — play jazz, pop and R&B Friday, May 21, at Plaza Linda in Carmel Valley. The show starts 7 p.m. and features David Kempton on keyboards and Dino Vera on drums.

A professional work crew, forest service employees and Ventana Wilderness Alliance volunteers recently rehabilitated the Tener Creek Trail in Big Sur, which had become impassible, partly as a result of fallen trees.

TRAIL
From page 1A

tremendous amounts of poison oak which encroached on the trail,” explained Richard Popchak, secretary for the VW A. “I’m always struck by the light in the canyon,” Lorenc said. “The trail rolls past beautiful alders, sycamores and madrones. It’s not a steep or rugged hike. It’s a very contemplative and calming to walk there.”

PLAZA LINDA restaurant in Carmel Valley. The show starts 7 p.m. and vocals — play jazz, pop and R&B Friday, May 21, at Plaza Linda in Carmel Valley. The show starts 7 p.m. and features David Kempton on keyboards and Dino Vera on drums.

focus on library

While the library has staunch defenders who turn out at budget meetings to try to protect it from cuts and reiterate its importance to the public, some questioners suggested making drastic changes to save money. The proposed library budget is $943,324, most of which goes toward employees’ pay and benefits, since two nonprofits provide money for all of the library’s programs and materials.

The long-awaited permanent restrooms slated for construction on Scenic Road evoked a couple of questions regarding design costs and water allocations. The answer: $15,800 for the year, plus $130 in utilities.

The city council is holding several budget discussions, with the next set for Thursday, May 27, at 4:30 p.m.

A $10 donation is suggested. Plaza Linda is located at 9 Del Fino Place. For more information, call (831) 659-4229.

PHOTO/MIKE HEWITT

BUDGET
From page 5A

increasing the retirement age, decreasing the percentage rate at which retirement money is earned, and/or basing the pay on average salary. City staff said some savings would be achieved over the long run, but many of the suggestions require more research.

Speaking of retirement, city attorney Don Freeman will receive 33 percent more money in 2010/2011 than he is this year, not due to a pay raise, but because he is owed three years of back retirement, according to his contract. His salary next year, including the back retirement, will be $120,000.

One question asked what would happen if the branch at Mission and Sixth were closed, and whether the main branch at Ocean and Lincoln could accommodate its programs and books. At 6,000 square feet, the Park Branch is slightly larger than the main building and includes the children’s library and the local history collection. According to city staff, “Losing essentially half of the library’s floor space would significantly impact the both the quality and quantity of library materials and services provided.” In addition, the local history and children’s libraries are named for the people who endowed them, and closing the branch would inhibit the Carmel Public Library Foundation’s fundraising abilities.

Another suggested cutting library hours, but according to the city, “eliminating hours means eliminating staff, which, in turn, means eliminating services and programs. The result is diminished quality and services. When library hours and services are cut, it also negatively affects CPLF’s ability to raise funds for the library.” Conversely, a questioner wondered what it would take to have the main branch open on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. The answer: $15,800 for the year, plus $130 in utilities.

The long-awaited permanent restrooms slated for construction on Scenic Road evoked a couple of questions regarding design costs and water allocations. Carver+Schiekatz Architects is doing the work and reported another $37,100 is needed to complete the design, but the water moratorium imposed by the state could prevent their construction, according to the city.

Mission Trail Nature Preserve, the city’s main park, is full of invasive weeds, and someone asked if taxpayers would fund an eradication program. The city is proposing spending up to $20,000, “to get a handle on eliminating the invasive plants in MTNP using a private contractor and a coordinated volunteer program.”

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Miscellany

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“Does replacing a footbridge in MTNP really take one year to obtain regulatory permits?” another person asked. City officials said it could, since the issuance of state and city permits requires the submission of designs that can’t be completed without a biological report, an archaeological report, a soils report, a site survey and construction drawings.

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Following Thomas Jefferson offers lesson on the tourism economy

IN ORDER to show how visitors’ money moves through the communities they visit, the California Travel & Tourism Commission released $100,000 worth of $2 bills in 16 locales throughout the state last week and is tracking the routes the money travels.

Carmel Plaza participated during the May 10-16 National Tourism Week launch, according to marketing manager Bryce Root, who said anyone who receives a $2 bill with www.sendtom.com stamped on it (the bills feature a portrait of Thomas Jefferson) should visit the website and enter the bill’s information to help the commission’s demo.

“This campaign is a fun way for consumers to follow Tom’s progress across the Golden State and beyond, showing how the industry affects 881,000 tourism jobs — from hotel, attraction and restaurant staff, to people who work for vendors which support the travel industry,” according to Root. Tourism, which accounts for a substantial share of Carmel-by-the-Sea’s operating budget, reportedly generates $87.7 billion in visitor spending and $5.3 billion in taxes statewide.

“Although tourism is the second largest export industry in California, and we’re the top state destination in the U.S., travel and hospitality sometimes get overlooked as an economic driver,” according to the CTTC.

The www.sendtom.com site lists participating businesses and instructions on how to win prizes, including weekend getaways and entertainment. Entries are being accepted through May 11.

piquing atop the raceway’s famous Corkscrew turns. Their day ended with a reception and dinner among the auction bikes that McCall anticipates will become a key element of the event.

Planning is already under way for next May’s Quail Motorcycle Gathering. McCall, a motorcycle rider and car enthusiast who works in the hobby in multiple capacities — procuring cars and motorcycles for Bonhams & Butterfields auctions, organizing his and his wife’s McCall’s Motorworks Revival at the airport during Concours Week, helping at the track, consulting on the Quail Motorsports Gathering in August and under-taking several other projects — was busy at the event soliciting feedback from attendees and participants.

That day, he announced a major change for next year. Rather than have the more casual people’s choice style of judging, with key figures like inventor Craig Vetter and champion racer Mert Lawwill selecting their favorite entries, the Quail will introduce a courses-level judging, with close scrutiny of the details and ribbons awarded for first, second and third place in various classes.

“Tours would have been more guys who would have brought more bikes if they had a shot at a ribbon,” McCall said.

He also plans to continue to emphasize the overall value of the motorcycle show. “It’s so much more than a motorcycle show — it’s a motorcycle lifestyle cultural experience that has a show going on,” McCall said. “I got a lot of feedback from entrants saying this was the most civilized motorcycle event they’d ever been to.”

The Carmel Pine Cone
The brilliance of Prop 14

WITH CANDIDATES for governor hogging the airwaves, not too much has been heard about Prop 14 in the runup to the June 8 election. But Prop 14 — the brainchild of Lt. Gov. Abel Maldonado — is actually the most important thing on the ballot. The graphic at the bottom shows why.

In California, extremists in the Democratic and Republican parties outnumber the moderates in each. So when either party holds a primary election which is limited to party members, the extremist candidate usually wins.

On the Democratic side, that means we get candidates for Congress, the U.S. Senate, the California Legislature and governor who never saw a tax increase they didn’t like, think an open border with Mexico sounds like a pretty good idea, and who think that anybody who calls himself an environmentalist is a saint, third trimester abortions are a constitutional right, nothing unions ever demand is unwarranted, and that international terrorism is a myth.

On the Republican side, the partisan primary system means that extremists usually get the candidates they’re looking for — people who believe every illegal immigrant should be immediately deported, government has absolutely no role regulating the economy, abortions in the first two weeks of pregnancy should be outlawed, every Muslim is a terrorism suspect and that gay marriage is an abomination.

But consider this: If the moderates in each party were allowed to join forces, the extremists would be left in the dust, and instead of getting the same old nut jobs on the ballot in the general election, we might actually get candidates who have commonsense approaches to the important issues of the day, rather than ones dreamed up by Keith Olbermann or Glenn Beck.

Entrenched political forces in Sacramento hate Prop 14, because it’s a threat to their power. Maldonado practically had to hold the Legislature hostage to get the measure on the ballot. But even if he did it solely to increase his personal chances of becoming governor — an Hispanic Republican can only benefit if the measure on the ballot. But even if he did it solely to increase his personal

On the Republican side, the party system has long been destructive to the public welfare. Prop 14 will change that by allowing the moderates in each party to join forces.

In fact, we’d like to see the U.S. Congress invoke the Commerce Clause and require the moderates in each party to join forces.

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‘Once Again, No Facts’

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to the letter from Letendres and Sanders in the April 30 Pine Cone. They stated that the Moellentine building plan was to demolish an existing 3,130-square-foot home on Scenic Road and build a 6,290-square-foot residence. As in prior letters from the Sanders and the other few objectors to the application, their letter meant to give the impression that the 6,290 square feet will be above ground. The fact is that only 3,229 square feet will be above ground. The new home would be less than 100 square feet larger than the existing above-ground structure.

The letter also stated that the application was in violation of the Carmel Area Land Use Plan — one of the most nebulous documents and one subject to opinion, not fact. The reality is that the application met all the requirements of the Monterey County Zoning Ordinance, including design and height. (See the county planning staff’s recommendation for approval.)

The denial by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors (3-2 vote) was another example of county representatives cowing to a vocal, small minority. There were many more supporters of the application at the April 20 meeting than there were objectors, their letter meeting to reject the application. As in prior letters from the Sanders and the other few objectors to the application, their letter

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Peter Mathews, Pebble Beach

Losing its soul?

Dear Editor,

It is regrettable that someone was recently bitten by a dog on the beach. However, life is not a risk-free proposition. If free-running dogs are something that you dislike or fear, there is a truly beautiful beach just around the corner, Carmel River State Beach, which is virtually dog-free. In fact, the vast majority of beaches in the State of California are not dog-friendly. Dog owners make up more than a third of the taxpayers population but are denied much in the way of recreational opportunities with their canine companions.

Is that fair? I don’t think so.

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two properties to the north. Why wouldn’t he object to the project (now under construction at Scenic and Ocean View), which at 4,392 square feet above ground is 36 percent larger than the Moellentine application? Meyer’s reason: The project is not in his viewshed to the north. This fact is so clear to the majority of Carmel Point neighbors, but apparently lost on our politicians.

The supervisors must start deciding permits on the basis of the written regulations (facts) and not on their personal opinions or local politics. Simply because the applicant’s home is on one of the several prominent Carmel Point properties, county supervisors should not hold the applicant to higher design standards than has been applied to prior applicants. Finally, the few neighbors in our Carmel Point area who object to the Moellentine application need to obtain factual information prior to misleading your readers.

Marc Bromley, Carmel

Zeeb for Treasurer

Dear Editor,

Experience counts for a lot, especially when county finances are stretched to the limit. For this reason, I am asking your vote for Mary Mangels Zeeb as Monterey County Treasurer-Tax Collector.

Mary has been the assistant treasurer-tax collector for the last 12 years, serving as the department head in the absence of the incumbent. In this position, she has been responsible for developing, preparing and administering the department’s annual $6.3 million dollar budget. She knows the intricacies of the three departmental divisions; treasury, tax collector and revenue. Her election offers continuity and efficiency as she has a thorough understanding of exactly what is required to keep all three divisions running effectively.

Mary has a high level of community involvement. Mary was born and raised in Salinas. She has raised her family here. She volunteers her time and talents in a variety of charitable organizations, including the California International Airshow Salinas, California Rodeo Salinas, and the ARIEL Theater. She is a member of the Salinas High School Booster Club, a graduate of the Leadership Salinas Program, and a past board member of the Salinas Jaycees. She has a vested interest in Monterey County, and will dedicate her service to making this county the best it can be.

I ask you to join me in voting for Mary Mangels Zeeb for treasurer-tax collector on June 8. We, the residents and taxpayers of Monterey County, deserve to have the best.

Lori Mack, Salinas

Volunteers Needed

June-October 2010

Urban Watch Monitoring Program

Help protect the water quality of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

TRAINING:

Wednesday, May 26, 6:00pm-7:30pm
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Office
299 Foam Street, Monterey, 93940

• Each month, teams will monitor the water flowing from storm drain outfalls in Monterey and Pacific Grove.
• Field kits and meters are used to analyze urban runoff for common pollutants such as detergents, chlorine, orthophosphate and ammonia-nitrogen. Lab samples are collected for bacteria.
• No experience is necessary.

For more information contact Lisa Emanuelson
Sanctuary Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator
(831) 647-4227 or lisa.emanuelson@noaa.gov

Program is funded by the cities of Monterey and Pacific Grove and the Monterey Regional Stormwater Program, in collaboration with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.
Latin dance fitness class keeps seniors fit & happy

By KELLY NIX

ANYBODY WHO’S tried the dance fitness program, Zumba, will tell you it’s an intense workout that gets the heart going and leaves the body energized. That’s exactly what two dozen Pacific Grove seniors learned when they took a introductory Zumba class at the Sally Griffin Center. Monica Mara and her two assistants, Lis Altamirano and Jose Luis Aquino Alvarado, taught the hour-long complimentary class.

“It takes three classes or more to learn all the basic steps,” Mara told the attendants. “But besides getting fit and healthier, you are learning how to dance.”

Created by fitness trainer Beto Perez in the 1990s, Zumba combines Latin American music such as salsa, merengue, cumbia and reggaeton, with fitness moves. The program’s motto is, “Ditch the workout, join the party.”

The students at the Sally Griffin Center learned a version of the dance program called Zumba Gold, which is designed for older active adults and less stressful than the regular Zumba classes.

After the instruction, an already-fit-looking Peggy Reigel said the class was unlike anything she’s done before. “I loved it,” Reigel, of Pacific Grove, told The Pine Cone. “I loved the different steps and the different dances. I’ve danced before, but nothing like this.”

Though the class was mostly women, one man stayed for the duration.

The music’s infectious and driving beats, and Mara and Altamirano’s motivating yells kept the participants constantly moving.

“One this one,” Mara told the seniors as she went through the movements, “we are going to strengthen our chest and our arms. Put all that sexiness out!”

Zumba, like other aerobic fitness, offers health benefits, and Mara, who owns Zumba Monterey on Pacific Street, said she’s seen the results.

“It can lower cholesterol, and helps the heart,” Mara said. “I have a student … her cholesterol level dropped amazingly.”

Even if a dance step or movement is too difficult, Zumba encourages tailoring the moves to suit individual fitness levels, Mara said.

“The amazing thing about Zumba is you can modify every move to your level, to your capacity,” she told the Sally Griffin Center attendants. “That is the beautiful thing.”

Mara said she’s going to try to offer more classes for seniors in the future.

Rock and Rod at Monterey fairgrounds

THE ANNUAL Rock and Rod Festival — which benefits the Gateway Center for Monterey that assists the developmentally disabled — will be held May 21-23 at the Monterey Fairgrounds. The event features music from the 1950s through the 1970s, as well as a classic car show, food, drink and shopping. A Sock Hop Friday night will feature Not Fade Away, while Saturday’s performers include the Shirelles, and Los High Tops. Big Sandy and His Fly-Rite Boys, the Chicanos All-Stars and the Yard Dogs will play on Sunday. Classic and custom cars will be shown both days, and plenty of food, drink and wares will be available for purchase. For ticket prices and other information, visit www.montereyrockrod.com.
Carmel (the movie) gets new life — and a new name

A VETERAN TV and film producer with backing from a production company based in the United Arab Emirates has bought out most of the investors in the film, “Carmel” and plans to release it next fall under a new name: “Carmel-by-the-Sea.”

Author Michael-Ryan Fletchall, whose bio says he worked on some of Hollywood’s biggest successes — including “Castaway,” “The Perfect Storm” and “Mission Impossible 3” — told The Pine Cone he has a lot of confidence in “Carmel-by-the-Sea” and thinks it will focus on the town of Carmel as one of the characters, he continued. “It will be really cool to show it off on the big screen.”

Fletchall has so much confidence in the movie — “we have the star power to get a really good theatrical release,” he said — that he put off signing a contract with a distributor, figuring he would get a better deal after the film is completed.

“Carmel-by-the-Sea” stars Josh Hutcherson, Alfred Molina, Hayden Panettiere, Lauren Bacall, Billy Boyd and Dina Eastwood. It tells the story of a troubled 16-year-old boy who wanders into Carmel, gets mixed up with some bad characters and becomes involved in art forgery.


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CSU Monterey Bay senior Adán Romero of Salinas will head to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology this fall to begin work on a Ph.D. in biological engineering. One of 810 seniors who will graduate May 22, Adán is going to MIT on a full scholarship thanks to the support of outstanding faculty mentors and financial help that made his journey possible.

Support from community members is the key to student opportunity.

Human Communication scholarship recipient Carolina Melendrez, honored for work against violence, will join a master’s program in Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego as a Gandhi Fellow.

Kinesiology student Marcus Lawrence will study exercise physiology in a master's program at Appalachian State in North Carolina. He has widely presented his research thanks to private support.

Marine science student and scholarship recipient Alexis Hall will go to the University of Alaska with help from the National Science Foundation. Her Ph.D. work will focus on arctic and subarctic habitats.

To support excellence with a gift, or to learn about giving, visit CSUMB.EDU/give.

831-582-3366