

# The Carmel Pine Cone

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## Eastwood's 'Hereafter' is top pick of film fests

By PAUL MILLER

ACCORDING TO university researchers, Clint Eastwood is better known among young people nowadays as a "sensitive director" than a gunslinging action hero.

In the next few weeks, audiences at film festivals in Toronto and New York will get the first peak at yet another incarnation of the former Carmel mayor's Hollywood persona: director of supernatural thrillers. His latest movie, "Hereafter," opens nationwide Oct. 22.

"This movie is really something different for me," Eastwood told The Pine Cone. "It will be interesting to see

how people react."

"Hereafter" stars Matt Damon as a man who can communicate with the dead — an ability he detests.

"It makes it impossible for him to have any relationships, because as soon as he touches someone, he starts hearing things," Eastwood said.

Damon's ne'er-do-well brother, played by Jay Mohr, tries to figure out a way to cash in on his ability, forcing Damon to flee San Francisco for London, where he crosses paths with a French television journalist who barely survived the Asian tsunami and a young boy whose brother was killed in a car accident.

"Their stories converge in a way that is surprising," Eastwood said. "Destiny drives each person toward the other."

The script is by Peter Morgan, who wrote the screenplay for "The Queen," "Frost/Nixon" and "The Last King of Scotland."

"It's quite spiritual and quite romantic, too," Morgan told The Hollywood Reporter.

See EASTWOOD page 26A

Clint Eastwood on location last winter shooting "Hereafter." The film has been picked to close the New York Film Festival and opens Oct. 22.

PHOTO/KEN REGAN/COURTESY WARNER BROS.



## Restaurants hit with huge fine for paying employees in cash

■ Withholding not made, investigator says; owners claim they'll be forced to close

By KELLY NIX

THE OWNERS of two local Mexican restaurants who paid their workers partly in cash without reporting the income to the government — and without withholding income taxes, Social Security or Medicare — have run afoul of the law, not for tax evasion, but for giving the employees paycheck stubs with incomplete information.

In a lawsuit filed Aug. 20, brothers Horacio, Sergio and Everado Valle — who operate Papa Chano's Taqueria eateries in Sand City and Monterey — allege a \$63,000 citation issued by the California Department of Industrial Relations for keeping inaccurate payroll records is excessive.

The suit asks a judge to send the case to the state's labor commissioner with instructions to reduce the fine.

"We are hoping the court will ask the labor commissioner to apply a rule of reason here," the Valles' attorney, Terry O'Connor, told The Pine Cone.

The lawsuit filed in Monterey County Superior Court follows a Feb. 26 fine the state agency issued the Valles for failing to provide complete itemized wage deduction statements for employees.

See FINES page 9A

## COUNTY REVEALS PAY FOR EVERY EMPLOYEE

■ Impressive salaries for doctors, lawyers

By KELLY NIX

FROM THE office worker who earns barely \$30,000 per year, to the surgeon who rakes in nearly \$450,000, new figures released by Monterey County officials offer an extensive look at what taxpayers spend on the people who work for them.

The data, released by the county auditor-controller after a public records request by The Californian newspaper, identifies more than 5,000 county employees by name, job position and earnings in 2009.

Though some employees undoubtedly would object to public disclosure of what they earn, Monterey County Administrator Lew Bauman — who was paid \$230,298 last year — told The Pine Cone taxpayers have a right to know what county workers earn.

"I do believe the public is our employer," Bauman said. "And they are entitled to know what employees make."

The data shows 39 county employees, mostly physicians at Natividad Medical Center, make \$200,000 or more per year, while another 787 county workers — from sheriff's deputies, to 911 dispatchers — earn \$100,000 to \$200,000. Eight county doctors take in more than \$300,000 per year.

### The wrong idea?

A spokesman for the local Service Employees International Union — the union that represents more than 4,500 county employees — said not everybody is making out like a bandit.

"For instance," SEIU 521 Monterey County Chapter Vice President J. Diego Quevedo told The Pine Cone, "the majority of highly paid employees are top managers ... not front-line workers who provide direct services to the community."

There are more than 2,100 county workers — from library assistants, to legal typists — who earned \$50,000 or less, although many of those are part-time or worked for the county for less than a year.

See SALARIES page 6A

## Is Big Sur ready for recycling?

By CHRIS COUNTS

WHILE CURBSIDE recycling has become second nature to most Americans, it's still a rarity in Big Sur, thanks to the remoteness of many of its homes and the steepness of its roads.

Now, one of America's largest waste disposal companies is planning to bring recycling to Big Sur. Waste Management, Inc., will present a workshop on the subject Thursday, Sept. 9, at the Big Sur Grange Hall.

The company — which has its local headquarters in Castroville — provides garbage collection service to Big Sur businesses and some easy-to-access residential

See RECYCLING page 10A

## Youth Center, Forest Theater celebrate important birthdays

Saturday night at Sunset Center, the South African singing group Overtone performed before a packed Sunset Center to help celebrate the 60th birthday of the Carmel Youth Center. The next evening, another big crowd was on hand at the Forest Theater to see William Shakespeare, Cole Weston, Frank Devendorf, Mary Austin, Herbert Heron and Anna from the "King and I" presented on stage to mark the theater's 100th birthday. For another photo, see page 23A.

