

The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 97 No. 31

On the Internet: www.carmelpinecone.com

August 5-11, 2011

YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION SINCE 1915

ROOF ON NEW CHS THEATER BEING REPLACED

By MARY SCHLEY

JUST A few months after it opened to great fanfare, the \$10 million performing arts center at Carmel High School is getting a new roof after inspections revealed more than half the metal panels were defective and might leak, according to Carmel Unified School District operations manager Dan Paul.

The work began this week and should be finished in early September.

After the original "standing seam" roof was installed, Paul discovered some of the panels weren't interlocked.

"The installer indicated they felt the panels were locking together when they installed it, but at no time during my inspection did I find that 100 percent of the panels were locking together," Paul said. More than half the panels on the 15,000-square-foot roof had "some kind of problem."

School officials met with the installer to determine how to fix the defects, and the contractor offered to bolt or rivet the panels together and then cover the joints with weatherproof materials. Alternatively, they would remove and replace the flawed panels.

School officials turned down the offer of rivets or bolts, because "what the district paid for was the roof fully interlocking," CUSD chief business official Rick Blanckmeister pointed out.

And after realizing it would be too diffi-

cult and time consuming to identify and replace only the panels that were improperly manufactured, officials asked the contractor to redo the entire roof.

"We requested replacement of all the panels," Paul said. "They eventually came back and agreed to remove all the panels and install it the way the roof was designed."

DMC Construction, the company that won the bid for the theater project, hired the subcontractors who manufactured and installed the roof, and is therefore dealing with

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PHOTO/COURTESY DAN PAUL

Contractors remove the defective roof on the new Carmel High School theater to make way for its replacement.

Nobody likes firefighter fee

By MARY SCHLEY

A PROPOSAL to charge \$250 whenever a fire engine is sent to a medical emergency failed to gain traction Tuesday, when Carmel City Council members, residents and firefighters condemned it as ill conceived and risky.

Interim city administrator John Goss proposed the emergency medical services fee as a means of boosting city revenues and said several Southern California cities have imposed it successfully.

"While general tax dollars are used to support the availability of three firefighters and an engine 24 hours a day, seven days a week, specific service is provided for short periods of time" to people who require emergency care, Goss said in his report for the council Aug. 2. He estimated it costs \$300 to send the fire engine to a medical emergency, where the crew can assist with CPR, assessment, first aid, triage and other tasks.

"Part of the rationale for such a fee is that, just as general tax dollars should not be required to support ambulance transport services, the response to emergency medical calls by the fire department also should not be subsidized by general tax dollars," he continued. A resident who has a heart attack and is taken from downtown to Community Hospital by the city's ambulance service is billed more than \$1,400 for the ride. But he's not charged anything for the services of other emergency workers who respond to his 911 call. The city also does not charge for putting out fires or investigating crimes, traffic accidents and the like.

By setting a fee for fire department medical services, the city would also be able to seek reimbursement from insurance companies and government health programs such as Medicare and MediCal, Goss said.

He estimated the new charge would generate \$42,627 annually, based on just under 400 medical calls per year and a 47 percent collection rate on the bills. He recommended the council adopt the new fee.

"I'm trying to come up with different business models to support our government," he said.

But several people worried the new charge for firefighter response would deter people from dialing 911 when they really need help. Goss said the cities that impose EMS fees

The ambulance costs plenty, but firemen will still be free

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Attorney: Nudity tickets shouldn't be taken lying down

By KELLY NIX

AN ATTORNEY in Southern California who has represented dozens of "naturists" in legal cases through the years urged nude sunbathers who have recently been cited at Garrapata State Beach to fight the charges in court.

In July, local state park rangers in uniform and undercover began scouting out Garrapata Beach after receiving numerous reports from clothed beachgoers about nude sunbathers. As of this week, rangers had issued more than a dozen citations for public nudity.

But attorney Allen Baylis of Huntington Beach told The Pine Cone that naturists should resist paying the tickets, which can cost about \$250 for an infraction to more than \$500 for a misdemeanor. Apart from the price, those ticketed for being nude in public should contest the citation as a mat-

ter of principle, he said.

"If people are concerned about protecting their liberties," Baylis told The Pine Cone, "then they should fight every one of these tickets."

Baylis, a nudist himself, is a board member of the Naturist Action Committee and represents six states for the national nonprofit nudist advocacy group.

At Garrapata, state parks officials, instead of letting people who disrobe off with warnings, have been issuing tickets immediately upon finding someone naked at the beach. But, while rangers have the option of charging nudists with misdemeanors, they've opted to cite those at Garrapata with infractions, a lesser charge that does not appear on a criminal record.

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County commission to rehear condo plan

By CHRIS COUNTS

A MONTH after voting to deny a request to rezone the site of the former Carmel Convalescent Hospital to allow for the construction of 46 condo-

miniums, the Monterey County Planning Commission voted 5-4 July 27 to reconsider the action after the developer agreed to add affordable housing to the project.

Commissioners Martha Diehl and Keith Vandevere — who represent the Carmel area — voted against the motion, in part because they don't consider the developer's offer to be "real" affordable housing.

Located at 24945 Valley Way, just outside the Carmel-by-the-Sea city limits, the 3.68-acre site is currently zoned for two units per acre. The Villas de Carmelo project — proposed by Widewaters Development Group of Syracuse, N.Y. — would need the zoning to be increased to 12.5 units per acre.

At its June 29 hearing, the planning commission voted 5-4 to deny the request to rezone the property. Before the vote, several commissioners expressed their dismay over the project's lack of affordable housing.

The developer, meanwhile, had previously agreed to pay a \$2.5 million fee to help fund construction of affordable housing elsewhere in the county.

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NO BACK PAY FOR CITY ATTORNEY

By MARY SCHLEY

AN APPARENT failure to follow up on a book-keeping issue four years ago cost city attorney Don Freeman \$69,503.18 in back pay and an additional \$17,554.60 annually going forward after a divided city council voted Tuesday night not to give him the money.

Freeman, who has had a contract with the city since 1984, was seeking to correct a problem that

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Cherry Center features town's two favorite subjects



'Mr. Biggles,' by Joann Kiehn, is among the works that will be on display as art meets dogs in an exhibit opening this weekend. Please see page 10A.