RLS head got \$6M payday

Volume 101 No. 2

STEVENSON SCHOOL headmaster Joe Wandke got a \$6.2 million payout ahead of his retirement this year from the Pebble Beach boarding school, according to tax documents reviewed by The Pine Cone.

Wandke's \$5,640,211 retirement bonanza — which came on top of his \$341,498 salary, a \$30,000 bonus and other perks — was disclosed in Stevenson's tax forms for Fiscal Year 2012/2013, the most recent docu-

Though the payout seems excessive for the head of a nonprofit private school which is exempt from property and income taxes, and solicits donations to support its mission, Stevenson school's spokesman, David Armanasco, credited Wandke for the school's significant growth since he started there in 1983. He also pointed to the \$60 million Wandke has raised through the years for various campus initiatives.

Wandke, he said, deserves every penny.

"As the school grew, Joe obviously earned his worth," Armanasco told The Pine Cone. "And the school, in order to keep Joe incentivized — and obviously that wasn't a big issue because he loved Stevenson — created that kind of program so over the long term

See PAYDAY page 13A

SEWAGE OFFICIALS WARN OF LAGOON FLOOD DANGER

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE BOARD president and general manager of the Carmel Area Wastewater District are sounding an alarm about two conservation measures they say will put the sewage treatment facility near Rio Road and Highway 1 at risk of being flooded — and potentially create a health crisis.

Under pressure from the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Monterey County Public Works Department plans to end its annual breeching of the Carmel River Lagoon sandbar. Also, the county planning department is working with state and federal agencies to install a barrier on the north edge of the lagoon to protect homes from flooding.

But Ken White, a former Carmel Mayor and the president of CAWD's board of directors, warned that the two-pronged strategy could have disastrous consequences not only for residents, but for the economy, if the Carmel River were to rise to such a level that it flooded the water-treatment facilities for an extended period of time — a scenario he said will be much more likely if the barrier is built.

"If the plant flooded and we ceased operations because our pumps shorted out, the tourism industry would be dead in the water," White said. "Everybody would be without

Drilling for desal test well finally under way

CALIFORNIA AMERICAN Water began drilling its long sought test desalination well in Marina after months of delays that included numerous public hearings

and at least two lawsuits aimed at halting it.

The roughly \$4 million test slant well, being drilled on property owned by cement producer Cemex, will allow Cal Am to collect waterquality and hydrogeological data for its proposed full-scale desal plant. The well and associated monitoring wells will operate for 24 months.

"Drilling is under way," Cal Am spokeswoman Catherine Stedman told The Pine Cone Tuesday. "It began a few days after Christmas."

Cal Am must complete installation of the test operation before the end of February to avoid the snowy plover's nesting season, a deadline Stedman said the company will be able to meet. So far, the project is progressing as planned.

"It is giving us hands-on experience, up front, on the construction of the wells we've proposed," she said of the test. "Once the test well is completed and operating, and waterquality data can be gathered, there will be a wealth of information to help refine our design and treatment process" for the desal plant.

The project also entails drilling a series of monitoring wells which will include instrumentation to check the

See WELL page 14A



Casing for the desal test well being drilled in Marina heads underground at the requisite 19 degree angle. Construction started a few days after Christmas.

Council OKs removal of 'really frightening' pine

By MARY SCHLEY

 $^{ullet}F$ IRST, I want to make sure everyone understands I love trees — it's why we moved here," said longtime Torres Street resident and Alain Pinel Realty owner Judie Profeta. "But I've been in fear of this tree for quite a few years."

She was speaking about the 30-inch-diameter Monterey pine growing on public property next to the house she owns with her husband, Bob. It leans over their home and sways in the wind, and the Profetas asked for permission to cut it down, but the Carmel Forest & Beach Commission denied their request last November, deciding instead the tree should undergo further evaluation.

The Profetas appealed that decision to the city council, which voted 3-1 on Tuesday to allow them to cut the tree down and replace it.

At the meeting, city forester Mike Branson told the council he believed the tree's "likelihood for failure" is low to moderate and suggested additional pruning and monitoring, instead of removal. But Monarch Consulting Arborists, hired by the Profetas, said the tree falling on the house is "somewhat likely," even during normal weather. The arborist said the tree's bowed trunk and the limited soil volume around it were areas of concern.

See TREE page 13RE

Event center gets approval for live music, metal sign

By MARY SCHLEY

SEVENTH & Dolores — the name of the new event venue in the renovated former bank building at that location — got its go-ahead for live music, as well as approval of the metal wall sign its owners wanted, from the Carmel City Council Tuesday.

The actions mark a significant milestone in the history of the building, which had been the subject of controversy, arguments and court cases for more than a decade. Before Jeff Peterson and his family foundation took ownership of the property in 2011, John Mandurrago fought for a decade to See SEWAGE page 12A tear it down and replace it with retail space, condos and

underground parking.

The city eventually approved Peterson's plans for its transformation into a venue for mid-size events like weddings, cooking classes and other gatherings, and it finally opened in December after about a year of construction. Seventh & Dolores is equipped not just with a large room suitable for any sort of gathering, but a high-quality commercial kitchen, an outdoor fire pit, and a smaller room with a wall-length fireplace, among other amenities. Peterson said the project cost \$1.6 million.

"I have done everything that has been required of me.

See EVENTS page 13A

Leno, Woudenberg and Button pay tribute to Concours emcee Ed Herrmann



Ed Herrmann emcees at the 2012 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, accompanied by former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (light suit) and comedian Jay Leno (back to camera).

PHOTO/COURTESY PERRIE REACH

By KELLY NIX

ACTOR EDWARD Herrmann, whose death last week of cancer at the age of 71 brought tributes from all over the country, is also being fondly remembered around Pebble Beach, where he served as emcee of the Concours d'Elegance for 16 years.

"I liked him, and he would always make me smile," comedian Jay Leno, who is a fixture at the annual car event, told The Pine Cone. "He always had such gravitas and authority. If he stood next to your old car and talked about it, it sort of gave it provenance."

Paul Woudenberg, who handed the mic to

Herrmann in 1999, said the TV star's arrival was a bit of a shock.

"His gorgeous voice, commanding appearance (not to overlook his beautiful hair) and gracious style overwhelmed me," Woudenberg said. "But Ed turned out to be the Concours' primary asset. Unlike many celebrities, he was self-effacing, helpful at the show, brilliant in his automobile knowledge, and always kind and gracious. It has been a great privilege to know him, and I am so sorry he is gone.'

Concours d'Elegance chairman Sandra

See HERRMANN page 14A

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From page 1A

groundwater level as it changes over time during the drilling

"Those results will be uploaded on a periodic basis to our project website." Stedman said. "In addition to the instru-

After sellouts, marathon saves spots for locals

THE LAST chance for locals to register for the April 26 Big Sur International Marathon will be Saturday, Jan. 10, when organizers will hold an in-person random drawing for 50 spots. The bibs were held back in order to give Monterey Peninsula residents another opportunity to check the historic 26.2-mile run up Highway 1 off their bucket lists.

The Last Chance for Locals drawing will be held at the Treadmill at 111 Crossroads Blvd. from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Runners must bring proof of residency, and will submit their names and contact information during the 90-minute window, after which the drawing will take place at 11 a.m. In addition to the 50 slots, an additional 25 names will be drawn to compile a waiting list. People who enter the drawing need not be present to win, as the appropriate forms will be sent to everyone who qualifies via email.

The drawing pertains only to the marathon. Online registration remains open for the 9-Miler and the 5K, also set for that weekend, while the Marathon Relay, 21-Miler and 10.6-Miler are full. For more information, visit www.bsim.org or call (831) 625-6226.

mentation, manual samples will be also obtained on a periodic basis as described in the permits to monitor changes in ground water salinity."

Carmel Mayor Jason Burnett said the test well is the most critical component in determining the technical, legal and economical aspects of the well.

"In that light," Burnett said, the construction of the test well "is a very significant milestone, and we are monitoring it quite closely. We look forward in reviewing the data that comes from the test well when it is available."

Cal Am's quest to launch the test well ran into trouble last July when the Marina Planning Commission rejected Cal Am's application to drill it. Cal Am appealed, but the Marina City Council two months later also denied a permit for the project. Cal Am appealed that decision to the California Coastal Commission, which approved the test well in November, 2014.

In response, Marina Coast Water District filed suit against the coastal commission over the permit, contending the well would "destroy rare coastal sand dunes which have been found to be environmentally sensitive habitat." Originally filed in Sacramento County, a judge there ordered the lawsuit to be moved to Monterey County, where a judge transferred the case to Santa Cruz County.

The Ag Land Trust — which contends the test project will infringe on water rights and could cause saltwater intrusion of its own water wells — filed a similar suit against the well.

While some activists point to the slant well's unproven technology in extracting seawater, Surfrider, the Sierra Club, the Planning and Conservation League and other environmental groups have applauded their use since they are less harmful to the marine environment than open-ocean intakes.

The activist group, Public Water Now, which last year sponsored a failed ballot measure calling for a public takeover of Cal Am, also opposes the use of slant wells.

HERRMANN

From page 1A

Button remembers how thrilled Herrmann was in 2004 when his 1932 Rolls Royce won a 2nd place award at the car show. "He was silly, happy and delighted like a little kid," Button recalled. "He really loved old cars and danced around singing 'I'm a big winner at Pebble Beach!'"

The moment was just one of many that Button treasures about Herrmann, an affable man she said had a big personality to match his 6-foot, 5-inch stature.

Herrmann had a long career in television, stage and film, including his roles as Richard Gilmore in the TV show, "Gilmore Girls," and Franklin D. Roosevelt in two made-for-TV movies in the 1970s.

Button said she first met Herrmann in 1997 when he entered a 1936 Packard 120B Eight into the Concours. She wrote him a letter after the event asking him if he would consider donating his services as master of ceremonies.

To personalize her message, she hand wrote the note, which turned out to be the best thing she could have done.

"Little did I know that he was an old-fashioned gentleman and had fantastic penmanship," she said. "One of the reasons he responded to me is that I wrote to him in handwriting. It was complete luck on my part."

Needless to say, Herrmann said, "Yes," to the gig.

Son of famed race car driver Phil Hill, Derek Hill — who co-hosted with Herrmann at last year's Concours - will continue as this year's master of ceremonies, she said.

Leno called Herrmann a "regular guy," and said he was down to earth and not self-important. But he also noted that Herrmann had a way of "elegantly describing" automobiles

"When he would talk about cars, he would get really excited," Leno said. "He was an all-around decent guy and a nice man.

Leno was unaware Herrmann was sick when he last saw him at the 2014 Concours.

"He wasn't one of those people who looked for sympathy," he said. "I wish I would have known [he was ill] — I would liked to have spoken to him one last time."



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