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Mission Foundation: Seismic work can't happen quickly enough

By MARY SCHLEY

SATURDAY NIGHT'S earthquake — which originated east of King City and registered a 5.3 on the Richter scale while shaking windows and rattling dishes all over the Monterey Peninsula — gave Carmel Mission Foundation President and CEO Vic Grabrian particular cause for pause.

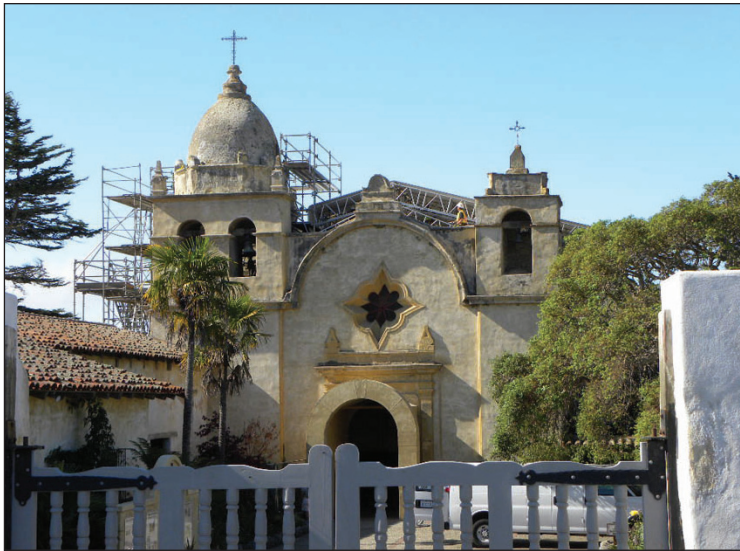
"The earthquake was a gentle reminder we need to get this project finished," he said this week of the \$5 million seismic retrofit his foundation is overseeing. The Carmel Mission Foundation raised the money for the work, which is under way, but is stumping for more funds to do additional restoration before the scaffolding comes down.

Grabrian also said this week's rainstorms demonstrated the importance of the weather-proofing undertaken by contractors who spent several weeks building metal scaffolding, using a crane to lower pieces over the roof and covering them with plastic sheeting.

"We got the plastic panels on the roof in time," he observed. The structure is intended to keep rain, fog and other inclement weather from damaging the Basilica while the roof tiles are removed and workers are strengthening the trusses, drilling holes in the walls for reinforce-

ments and doing other necessary tasks to shore up the historic building. A state law requires retrofitting of unreinforced masonry buildings by 2017, and the foundation is making a concerted effort to ensure the building, which was constructed in the late 1700s, is safe sooner rather than later.

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PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

Scaffolding covered with plastic panels protects the vulnerable Mission Basilica while it's roofless and undergoing seismic work.

Del Piero returns donation from man who threatened Potter

■ Menacing message also left for Farr

By KELLY NIX

COUNTY SUPERVISOR candidate Marc Del Piero said he has returned more than \$2,000 donated to his campaign by a Carmel Valley man who was convicted in 2003 of threatening Del Piero's opponent, supervisor Dave Potter.

On Wednesday, Del Piero said he asked his campaign treasurer to return David Fairhurst's contributions, which amounted to \$2,099.

"The donation check was returned, and I, frankly, didn't have an appreciation for the nature of the dispute between the two gentlemen," Del Piero said. "I'm not interested in becoming involved."

In 2004, Fairhurst, 51, pleaded no contest to threatening a public official after making a series of bizarre phone calls to Potter and his staff. He was placed on probation for three years. In 2008, though, Fairhurst left similar messages, which prompted Potter and his staff to obtain a restraining order against him.

See **MESSAGES** page 19A

NEW JOBS BEING FILLED AT CITY HALL

By MARY SCHLEY

IF VOTERS don't approve a 1 percent increase in the city's sales tax Nov. 6, a brand new job created in this year's budget could be cut, city administrator Jason Stilwell said this week, though a few other new positions are avoiding the threat.

When the city council adopted the 2012/2013 budget in June, it OK'd a new staffing structure at city hall that called for the hiring of an administrative services director, a part-time public services manager and a part-time code compliance officer. While contracts have been signed for two of those jobs, and the third is expected to be finalized next month, Stilwell said the public services manager, Sharon Friedrichsen, may find herself out of a contract come Nov. 7 if the tax increase doesn't pass.

See **JOBS** page 28A

Cachagua residents to officials: Take your dam traffic somewhere else

By CHRIS COUNTS

PACKING THE Cachagua General Store Oct. 24, a boisterous assembly of about 100 Cachagua residents told officials for the San Clemente Dam removal project that they want no heavy equipment traffic routed through their neighborhood.

In the month that has passed since project officials first hosted meetings in Cachagua about traffic impacts on the rural Upper Carmel Valley community, opposition to the use of Cachagua and Tassajara roads has come together.

Even the offer by project officials to route heavy equipment traffic through Cachagua for just one year — instead of the previously suggested three years — was met with strong opposition.

"We don't want traffic on our roads — period," resident Sarah Haussermann said.

New route?

A week ago, officials announced they were studying the use of an alternate route to the project site across Cal Am property near Sleepy Hollow that could significantly reduce the traffic impacts along Cachagua and Tassajara roads. At this week's meeting, they floated the idea of routing heavy equipment traffic through Cachagua in 2013, then rerouting the same traffic along the alternate route in 2014 and 2015 — in part because they said it would take a year to get permits and do work to make the route viable.

But residents immediately turned the suggestion against officials, questioning why the project couldn't wait a year to start, making it possible for all heavy equipment traffic to travel along the new route. In response, Trish Chapman of the California Coastal Conservancy — which is partnering with Cal Am on the project — said the seismic risks are too great to wait. "For us, the big issue of delaying the project is the possibility of dam failure," explained Chapman. She told the audience that the Division of Safety of Dams —

part of the state's Department of Water Resources — has ordered that the dam be torn down because of its danger to the public.

But her statement was untrue. According to the January 2008 EIR for the dam project, the state did not order removal of the dam. It actually ordered that San Clemente Dam be strengthened to withstand a "maximum credible earthquake" for its location.

See **TRAFFIC** page 21A

Sculptor killed in San Jose wreck

By MARY SCHLEY

BRONZE SCULPTOR Mark Bava, along with his brother and sister-in-law, died in a car accident on a San Jose freeway early Saturday morning after his Jeep was rear-ended at 55 mph by a Honda.

Bava, who lived in the Monterey Peninsula, had pulled the Jeep over onto the shoulder of Highway 101 near Blossom Hill Road at 12:46 a.m. Oct. 20, according to California Highway Patrol officer John Darling, who would not identify any of the people involved in the crash.

"For reasons unknown — it's still under investigation — the Honda collided into the back of the Jeep, which overturned, tumbled down the embankment and came to rest on its wheels," he said.

Bava, 58, was pronounced dead at the scene, while "all three passengers were transported to local hospitals, where two succumbed to their injuries," Darling said.

The third passenger, Lynne Cook, suffered minor injuries and was later released, as was the 28-year-old woman who was driving the Honda. The two passengers who died were reportedly Bava's brother, Chris, and his wife, both of whom lived in

Los Angeles.

Darling said it's unknown whether alcohol or drugs were a factor in the crash, but nothing at the scene indicated they were. Toxicology results from the Honda driver are still several weeks out.

'A bright spark'

A successful bronze sculptor whose pieces appeared in galleries all over the country — including in Carmel — Bava was born in the Central Valley in 1954 to an Italian immigrant father and a mother who was an impressionist painter. The latter rubbed off, apparently, as in his biography, Bava said he completed his first impressionist still-life painting at the age of 9.



Mark Bava

See **BAVA** page 9A