



A SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE TODAY'S CARMEL PINE CONE – The pros and celebrities schedules, ticket info, how to get there & more...

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Sunny skies put smiles on Pro-Am faces



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

There were lots of pleasant surprises around the Pebble Beach Golf Links this week – and not just that the weather was perfect and was expected to stay that way through most of the tournament. On Wednesday, Clint Eastwood delighted the crowd by competing in the Celebrity Challenge for the first time in a decade. (His team won, too.) And when the first round of the AT&T National Pro-Am ended on Thursday, some very unexpected names were at the top of the leaderboard – especially 48-year-old John Daly, who shot a 7-under-par 65, and was just one shot off the lead. For complete coverage of what's on tap this week, see our special section inside.

Council will not provide personnel files to grand jury

By MARY SCHLEY

DESPITE PROMISES to cooperate with the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury investigating Carmel City Hall, the city council this week decided not to turn over personnel files and other documents the grand jury wants because doing so, the council said, would violate state laws protecting the privacy of employees.

City attorney Don Freeman advised the council that the only way to handle the request would be to wait for the grand jury to issue a subpoena for the documents it's seeking in its investigation of the city's operations while Jason Stilwell was administrator, and until that happens, he told the council Tuesday night that no personnel files or other private documents should be turned over to the group.

The court decides

If and when a subpoena is served, Freeman added, the council should authorize him to make a motion to quash it, which would leave the courts to determine what records the city must provide to the civil grand jury.

The jury, which comprises 19 citizens appointed by the Monterey County Superior Court, is investigating at the behest of Mayor Jason Burnett, who said he wanted the jury to help the city figure out how to operate better. Another request for an investigation of the city was filed by a group

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City: Tasting rooms should only have MoCo wines

By MARY SCHLEY

IN ORDER to prevent downtown Carmel from becoming overrun by tasting rooms — just as it once was with art galleries, souvenir shops and jewelry stores, according to the people who decide such things — the planning commission

voted Wednesday to recommend new restrictions on wine tasting in town.

Principally, the wineries who offer their wares in Carmel should be from Monterey County and use mostly locally grown grapes, and the city should only approve three tasting-room permits per year.

Public officials and members of the Carmel Residents Association became worried about a proliferation of tasting rooms in town after the planning department received 18 applications between 2011 and last April, when the city council adopted an emergency ordinance to impose a moratorium on them until new policies could be put in place.

Presently, there are 20 wine tasting ventures in town, five of which are part of other businesses, such as Nielsen Bros. Market and the Winfield Gallery. The moratorium expires March 31, and the council is set to receive the revised rules at its March 3 meeting, according to senior planner Marc Wiener.

No art-and-wine shops

The draft policies, which were created by a planning commission subcommittee with input from the Carmel Wine Walk, the CRA and other industry members, define a tasting room as “a stand-alone establishment” in which customers are allowed to sample various wines for the purpose of discovering what they might want to buy to consume at home. It shouldn't be combined with another business, such as an art gallery or a clothing store, and can host certain wine-related events, like anniversary and wine-club parties.

In order to ensure only local wineries can open tasting rooms in town, the new rules would require they be based in Monterey County “and the vast majority (i.e. 75 percent or more) of wines stored, displayed and offered for tasting should be from grapes grown in Monterey County.” The win-

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Elder guilty in P.B. DUI crash

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER DELIBERATING only briefly, a jury delivered a “guilty” verdict Friday in the DUI manslaughter case against 32-year-old Pacific Grove resident Stuart Elder.

He was convicted of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated in the April 7, 2013, deaths of Pebble Beach residents Sharon Daly and Linda LaRone, as well as causing great bodily injury to a passenger in his car, Selvia Gattas.

The verdict came at the end of a two-week trial in which Elder tried to show that he didn't willfully get behind the wheel of his Cadillac Escalade, knowing he was drunk enough to kill someone. He is set to be sentenced April 1 and could face up to 15 years in state prison.

An afternoon of drinking

Testimony and evidence given during the trial showed Elder had spent the afternoon drinking wine at Spanish Bay before he got into his large SUV around 7:30 p.m. with his girlfriend to make the roughly 3-mile drive home, according to Monterey County Deputy District Attorney Meredith Sillman.

“While driving on Sloat Road, a 25 mph residential area, the defendant reached speeds of 80 mph,” she said. And, with a blood-alcohol level more than double the legal limit, at .17 percent, he crossed into the oncoming lane and slammed into the small Ford SUV driven by Daly, killing her and her pas-

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