



# FUN in the SUN



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The Carmel Pine Cone's  
2015 Recreation Guide

# The Carmel Pine Cone

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## WORST DISGUISE IN HISTORY?



### ■ Suspect in Santa Cruz bank robbery nabbed for breaking into P.O. boxes

By MARY SCHLEY

A 31-YEAR-OLD Sand City resident suspected of dressing in drag to rob a Santa Cruz bank earlier this month was arrested by Carmel police outside the post office Monday afternoon, after he was identified in an April 19 car burglary downtown. Brandon Calantoc is also accused of breaking into post office boxes, possessing stolen property and having drugs, and he was already wanted for failing to appear in court on pending burglary and drug cases.

At about 1:25 p.m. April 20, a police officer on foot patrol spotted Calantoc and a woman, Micaela Wimbush, 30, outside the post office and recognized them from the description of suspects in a car burglary at Mission and Fifth the previous day, according to Carmel Police Cmdr. Paul Tomasi.

A records check showed Calantoc had an outstanding arrest warrant, as did Wimbush, also for ditching a court hearing, and a search revealed the pair was in possession of numerous pieces of mail stolen from at least 16 people whose post office boxes Calantoc allegedly forced open with a pry tool. The duo had “lots of mail — anything they could get,”

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Police say Brandon Calantoc dressed up as a woman to rob a Santa Cruz bank April 3. He was arrested Monday after police here discovered he had broken into mailboxes.

## Beach fire limit put on hold

### ■ Appeals filed, pollution monitoring planned

By MARY SCHLEY

A SCENIC Road couple and a pair of other residents filed appeals against the city's plans to limit fires on Carmel Beach, and the city council is set to hear their objections at its May 4 meeting. Received last Monday, the four separate appeals claim that the pilot pro-

gram — which includes the installation of 26 fire rings and a ban on charcoal barbecues — would violate the city's Local Coastal Program.

The fire rings would contradict the LCP's policies that require “maintaining the natural beach setting and the informal atmosphere,” and state that “maximum public access and recreational use of the shoreline will be provided,” according to two of the appellants, Via Mar Monte resident Nancy Chira-Garcia and San Antonio Avenue resident Alexis Delehanty.

They also believe the pits will present safety hazards, because they could be swept out to sea where a diver or surfer could be injured by smashing into them, someone could trip on them if they get covered with sand or kelp, and they could “force beach users closer to the water line, a danger on a beach unattended by lifeguards.” Further, the pair said in a statement, the pits could become trash receptacles, leading to pollution of the bay.

Scenic Road residents Bill and Mary Lou Shellose also filed similar appeals.

“Since the reason stated for the appeals on the filings is identical, the appeals will be consolidated, and a hearing set before the city council,” city administrator Doug Schmitz said Friday. “The council's decision is then appealable to the California Coastal Commission.”

The council is scheduled to hear their complaints at a special meeting Monday, May 4.

Schmitz also said supporters of the plan, which is intended to reduce the number of fires in order to improve air quality and lessen

## Tiered rates ruling doesn't apply here

By KELLY NIX

AN APPELLATE court ruling this week over a Southern California city's tiered water rates — similar to the structure used on the Monterey Peninsula — could have big implications for water districts up and down the state, but won't affect the price of water here.

On Monday, justices with the 4th District Court of Appeal ruled San Juan Capistrano's tiered rates — a fee system designed to encourage conservation by penalizing higher water users — violated Proposition 218, a 1996 law that limits what government can charge for anything it sells to the cost of producing it.

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See **APPEAL** page 23A

## JEWEL THIEF CAUGHT WITH BAG OF LOOT

By MARY SCHLEY

A MAN who cut a hole through the back wall of a jewelry store and filled a suitcase with \$250,000 worth of necklaces, rings, earrings and other valuables was stopped in his tracks by two Carmel police officers responding to a burglar alarm at Viau Estate Jewelry on Mission Street early Tuesday morning, according to Cmdr. Paul Tomasi.

The alarm was received at first by a private monitoring company, which notified Carmel P.D. Thirty seconds later, officer Ricardo Mendoza and Cpl. Rachele Lightfoot arrived at the store with guns drawn and confronted Jiri Grym, 64, as he was leaving a bathroom in the alley that runs behind it. The San Diego man was holding a black suitcase and promptly admitted he had just burglarized the business, according to police.

The jewelry store, which opened in 1982, specializes in antiques, watches, rings, bracelets and other items “from the late 1700s up to the present day” and offers



Jiri Grym

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## Early morning blaze hits The Lodge

By MARY SCHLEY

FIREFIGHTERS CONVERGED on The Lodge at Pebble Beach and evacuated the main building — which contains the reception area, an ornate lobby overlooking the golf course, meeting rooms, three restaurants and six guest rooms — after a security guard reported seeing an unusual amount of smoke coming from the roof shortly after 4 a.m. Wednesday.

The first engine crew arrived three minutes after being dispatched and initially reported finding a fire in the chimney leading from one of the large fireplaces in the lobby, with smoke and sparks, but no open flames.

As they stood on the ladder and worked to get at the fire by removing fascia boards from the top of the chimney, flames erupted from the top, according to Cal Fire Battalion Chief Buddy Bloxham. Firefighters also cut through the roof near the base of the chimney to see if the fire had spread to the attic, but found nothing.

All told, about 25 firefighters from Cal Fire and Monterey Fire Department responded on five engines and a ladder truck to quickly confine the fire, though they had a difficult time locating the heat source, according to Cal Fire spokesman Jonathan Pangburn. A small fire was burning in the wood structure around the flue leading from the fireplace below, they found, and while no cause has been determined, Bloxham speculated it was probably some sort

of flue failure.

“The fire was difficult to locate in the wall and chimney space,” Pangburn said, but they were able to contain it within an hour.

He also noted that Pebble Beach Company staff “worked

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PHOTO/COURTESY CALFIRE

Flames erupted from the chimney of the Lodge after firefighters removed a board to see where smoke and sparks were coming from.