

# HEALTHY Lifestyles

THE MAGAZINE

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# The Carmel Pine Cone

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## Bernahl, Weakley dismiss lawsuits against each other

By KELLY NIX

THE HIGH-PROFILE legal fracas between restaurateurs David Bernahl and Rob Weakley is over, Bernahl told The Pine Cone this week.

Bernahl, who founded the culinary company Coastal Luxury Management with Weakley eight years ago, sued Weakley in March, claiming that his former partner and close friend "sabotaged" CLM during a "malicious campaign" after being terminated last year. His suit was in response to one from Weakley in December 2014 alleging that Bernahl's new business partner, Charles Banks, had failed to pay Weakley for his share of the company.

Bernahl told The Pine Cone that he and Weakley formally dropped the suits in April, just after this year's Pebble Beach Food & Wine event, but "had come to terms some time before that."

"We were able to arrive at a mutually beneficial agreement given all that had transpired," Bernahl said. "We have a lot of history together, and I was always confident we'd be able to work through our differences amicably."

When asked whether there was a chance he and Weakley would regain their once-strong friendship despite the ugly legal battle, Bernahl said, "Rob and I created a lot of unforgettable memories together that I'll always cherish."

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## PUT YOUR HANDS UP!



PHOTO/COURTESY IRENE LONG

Police services officer Lisa Johnson and officer Jesse Juarez broke out their snake-wrangling gear to capture a wayward reptile on San Carlos Street. The snake had been hiding in the engine compartment of a parked car. See page 10A.

## Ross retires to avoid fight with city over timecards

By MARY SCHLEY

STU ROSS, who worked in public works for nearly four decades, retired Wednesday, rather than staying on to fight allegations he "recorded hours on his city timesheet that he did not actually work," according to a settlement agreement he and city administrator Doug Schmitz signed May 20. Ross is accused of playing golf when his time sheets claimed he was at work as the city's public works superintendent.

After receiving an anonymous packet of information about Ross, city officials hired an investigator to look into the matter, and the results indicated he received \$4,860.92 in pay for hours he did not actually work, according to the

See **ROSS** page 13A

## Local history librarian to become city clerk

By MARY SCHLEY

AS THE woman in charge of the Local History Room at Carmel Library, Ashlee Wright knows how important documents are when it comes to tracking a town's development and progress. So, it stands to reason she would approach the task of managing current records with the same respect and detail. That fact, and others, played into city administrator Doug Schmitz' decision to hire her as the new city clerk, a move he announced Tuesday.

Wright, who came to work for the city in 2009 as an entry-level librarian and was promoted to local



Ashlee Wright

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See **CLERK** page 26A

## Valve fails and sewage spills near Lovers Point

By KELLY NIX

JUST HOURS after 220,000 gallons of raw sewage flowed into the highly scenic waters off Pacific Grove Monday, Mayor Bill Kampe said that there would be a "thorough review" of the incident.

Shortly after 10:30 a.m. May 18, contractors with Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency were working on a pump station at Ocean View and 15th Street when a discharge valve failed to seal properly, which caused sewage to begin flowing into the pump station. Rather than allow the waste to ruin the costly facility, the workers decided to let it flow into the ocean, where harbor seals, otters, whales and other wildlife are common.

"All of our electrical equipment and everything else is down there, so our crews had no choice but to bypass [the sewage]

into the bay," MRWPCA deputy general manager Paul Sciuto told The Pine Cone at the scene Monday, about three hours after the discharge began.

While workers from the MRWPCA and the City of Pacific Grove's public works department, including superintendent Daniel Gho, responded quickly to try to pump some of the sewage into holding trucks, it took nearly seven hours to stop the spill. At that point, more than 200,000 gallons had already flowed into the ocean.

"It was a very tough decision," to intentionally discharge the sewage into the bay, Sciuto said. However, if workers hadn't allowed the sewage to discharge into the ocean, it would have filled up and ruined the facility — which he estimated to be worth roughly \$500,000 — and the wastewater would have

## Historic resources board welcomes next phase of Mission restoration

By MARY SCHLEY

THE SECOND round of renovations planned for the Carmel Mission easily received the historic resources board's approval Monday afternoon, paving the way for improvements to the gift shop, courtyards, parking areas, walls and other buildings on the complex at the south end of town.

"I think this is a very, very good project," observed board member Kathryn Gualtieri. "It's been thoroughly studied, and I think the architect and structural engineer have done a very thorough job."

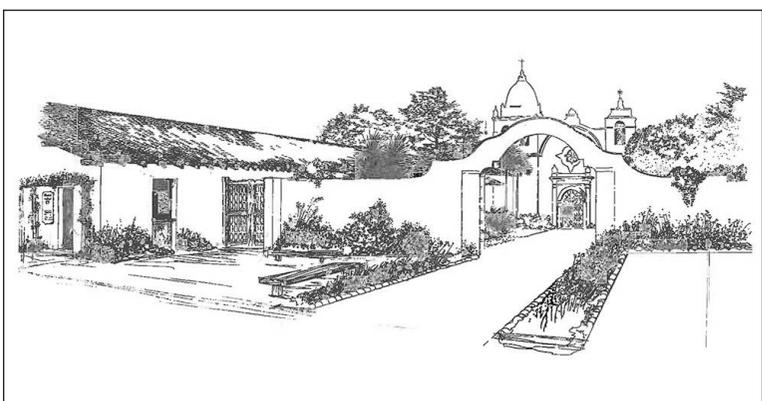
The Mission is owned by the Diocese of Monterey, which is the formal applicant for the renovation project, although the nonprofit and non-religious Carmel Mission Foundation, which raised the \$5.5 million for

the Basilica restoration and has set out to collect \$20 million for the second phase, is the moving force behind it.

Aptos-based architect Brett Brenkwitz was hired by the diocese to mastermind the latest update of the Carmel Mission — which was constructed in 1797 but includes many buildings and elements added in the early-to-mid-1900s.

While the Phase I restoration completed in 2013 focused on the seismic retrofit of the Basilica itself, the next phase will involve slight modifications to the Convento Museum (which includes the room where Junipero Serra died in 1784 and is the exit for the Mission complex), the Jo Mora Chapel Gallery (which

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The arch over the main entrance to the Carmel Mission will be replaced as part of a \$20 million renovation.