

# The Carmel Pine Cone

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## 300-year-old bell removed from memorial arch

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER CAREFULLY wrapping it in a towel and using bolt cutters to free it from a rusty chain, workers from the city's public works department on Tuesday removed the bell that's hung in the World War I Memorial Arch at San Carlos and Ocean for the last half-century, and lowered it to the ground.

Accompanied by representatives of the local American Legion Post and a bagpiper, the group then carried the bell to the local history library, its new home.

The bell — which is believed to have been cast in 1692 and was given to the city by Carmel Mission restorer Sir Harry Downie on the occasion of its 50th birthday — will be replaced by a new bell to be cast according to drawings created by the arch's architect, Charles Sumner Greene. City council candidate Richard Kreitman is spearheading the project, which aims to have the new bell hung for the city's centennial this year. Officials decided the historic bell should be removed now to protect it from weather, vandals and pos-

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## Desal test well damaged by storm

■ May not be repaired for weeks

By KELLY NIX

HEAVY RAINS, strong winds and high surf damaged California American Water's \$10 million test desalination well operation in Marina last weekend, and company officials said the facility could remain inoperable for several months.

Early Monday, erosion of the beach below the well caused a 12-inch diameter plastic pipe that carries water from the test well back to the ocean to detach from a concrete vault owned by the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency.

According to Cal Am spokeswoman Catherine Stedman, the company turned off the test well March 4 in anticipation of the severe weather after the pipe and vault, which are normally buried under sand, became exposed due to erosion.

"Unfortunately the vault is the only place we can connect the test well to [the pollution control agency's] system," said Stedman, who added that crews capped the pipe at both ends after it became detached.

Stedman said the last time storm-induced coastal erosion

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## Commission OKs limits on wood-burning fireplaces

By MARY SCHLEY

WHILE SOME argued that Carmel doesn't have problems with air quality and expressed doubts whether laws restricting wood-burning fireplaces were needed, others said it was time for a ban. Planning commissioners on Wednesday initially narrowly voted to approve an ordinance that would limit the installation of wood-burning fireplaces in town — though commissioner Jan Reimers later changed her mind, notifying The Pine Cone Thursday that she had asked that her "Yes" vote be changed to a "No."

"I thought there should be more attention paid to it," she said, before the changes become law. "We haven't given the information to the community. I felt we hadn't done enough to inform the public."

But, Reimers said, since the commission's vote was only advisory to the city council, she believed the council might go ahead with its plans to discuss the ordinance at its April 5 meeting.

See **FIREPLACES** page 13A

## Candidates weigh in on beach fires, Stilwell, nightlife

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL Pine Cone hosted the first of three forums Sunday night, when about 150 hundred people filled the event center at Seventh and Dolores to hear the candidates' thoughts on a wide range of issues. A second forum was held by the Carmel Residents Association Tuesday night, and the chamber of commerce will host its on Wednesday, March 16, from 8:30 to 10 a.m., also at Seventh and Dolores.

Voters will soon be choosing their favorites for mayor and two city council seats, as absentee ballots will go out in the mail starting March 13. Election Day is April 12.

All seven — mayoral candidates Ken Talmage and Steve Dallas, and council candidates Bobby Richards, Jane Reimers, Jack Pappadeas, Dave Mosley and Richard Kreitman — attended the forum, which was moderated by

Pine Cone publisher Paul Miller.

■ Beach fires

On the topic of whether some wood-burning fires should be allowed on the beach, Talmage said he favors propane, which will be tested at the beach soon, while Dallas advocated for a combination of propane fires and portable pits that could be used on the beach with dry, seasoned wood.

Kreitman's position was similar to Dallas', calling for propane and a few portable fire rings, though he would give

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## Millions around the world watch sea otter give birth

By ELAINE HESSER

NEW MOTHERS sometimes complain about the lack of privacy when they give birth in a hospital. They have nothing on the pregnant otter that came to visit over the weekend.

If you happened to be at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Saturday, or just scrolling through its Facebook feed, you likely got more than you bargained for. Around 8:30 or so that morning, workers at the Aquarium noticed a wild sea otter in the Great Tide Pool, apparently taking refuge from the large ocean swells.

According to spokesman Ken Peterson, some of the staff who were more experienced with otters said she looked "wide enough to be pregnant," and when she pulled herself out of the water onto a rock, they could see she was having contractions. By noon, there was "informed speculation" that she was in labor, and the Aquarium called in its photographer, a videographer and public relations staff.

As hundreds of visitors gathered around the tide pool

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PHOTO/COURTESY MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM

Not long after making its very public entrance in the Aquarium's Great Tide Pool, this newborn otter pup was being properly groomed and fluffed.

## Talmage nets biggest campaign contributions

By MARY SCHLEY

BOLSTERED BY the \$10,000 donation from outgoing Mayor Jason Burnett's old campaign fund, mayoral candidate Ken Talmage leads the pack in fundraising for the April 12 Carmel City Council race, collecting \$26,981 between Jan. 1 and Feb. 29. His sole challenger, Steve Dallas, came in second, with \$14,633 for the same period.

Of the council candidates, Dave Mosley raised the most — \$6,713 — followed by Bobby Richards (\$3,670), Jan Reimers (\$1,282), Richard Kreitman (\$544) and Jack Pappadeas, who did not collect any donations.

The candidates filed their first round of campaign finances statements, covering the period of Jan. 1 to Feb. 29, last week. Everyone made the March 10 deadline except

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