



# The Carmel Pine Cone

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## New book celebrates artwork of the Mission

By CHRIS COUNTS

WHILE MORE than 250,000 people visit the Carmel Mission each year, very few come to see, or even appreciate, the historical landmark's collection of art. A new book



At a makeshift altar on the edge of Monterey Bay, Father Junipero Serra celebrates communion shortly after his arrival in June 1770. This 1877 painting, by Leon Trousset, is one of Carmel Mission's art treasures.

could help change that.

Released last summer with little fanfare, "Art from the Carmel Mission" features dozens of color photographs and showcases a collection of religious paintings and sculpture that tell stories ranging from the life of Jesus and the founding of the Roman Catholic Church, to the establishment of California's network of missions by Father Junipero Serra in the 18th century.

The book got its start when a pair of volunteer docents — Gail Sheridan and Mary Pat McCormick — realized they knew very little of the artwork in the mission. "All we knew was that much of it came from the 18th century," Sheridan told The Pine Cone this week.

Curious, the two women began to research the origin of each piece in the mission's art collection. Later, they received considerable help from Maureen Bianchini, the chair of the docent group's art research committee. They also received valuable assistance from historian Clara Bargellini, who was doing her own research on mission art.

"It was like a treasure hunt," Sheridan recalled. "We began uncovering all kinds of historical facts, such as where each piece came from, and in some cases, who was the artist who created it."

Most of the artwork was produced in Mexico City, at the time the capital of New Spain. There was a great demand for artwork to adorn the new missions, which were built not only in California, but throughout Mexico and what would become the southwestern part of the United States. As a result, a virtual assembly line of painters and sculptors were employed.

While many of the artists were anonymous, a few were famous in their time. According to Sheridan, "a couple pieces" by the acclaimed and prolific painter Jose de Paez are featured in the mission's art collection.

While Sheridan and McCormick were delving into

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## Council seeks applicants to fill Burnett's seat

By MARY SCHLEY

ANYONE WHO wants to apply for the city council seat vacated by Jason Burnett when he was sworn in as mayor last week should deliver a resume and cover letter to city hall by Monday, April 30, at 5 p.m., the council decided Tuesday.

By law, the seat must be filled within 60 days from the date of vacancy, or the city has to hold a special election, assistant city administrator Heidi Burch told the council April 24. Besides holding an election, which would take place in November, she said the council can appoint someone to fill the seat — and it can be anyone who lives in the city and is a registered voter.

"It should be noted that within the past six years, the city made two appointments to fill a vacancy on council, including Ken Talmage in 2006 and Karen Sharp in 2007," she continued. "In both cases, applications were accepted from members of the public."

In 2000, when Sue McCloud was elected mayor, the city council opted to appoint the third highest vote getter in the council race, Gerard Rose, to finish her term on the council.

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## McCloud looks back at 12 eventful years

By MARY SCHLEY

AS THE city's longest-serving mayor, Sue McCloud leaves behind a substantial legacy. Her sixth term in office ended last week when Jason Burnett was sworn in as the new mayor.

Perhaps the crowning achievement of her administration was the drafting and adoption of the Local Coastal Program — a far-reaching set of laws, policies, codes and guidelines governing development in the city that was already two decades overdue when she decided to make it a priority.

"The LCP — I ran on that, and we did it," she said. After the LCP was adopted in 2004, most property owners no longer had to go through the arduous process of getting their projects OK'd by the California Coastal Commission.

McCloud counted off several smaller projects she is proud

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## Cal Am details latest desalination, storage plan

Water district says some parts won't be possible without user 'fee'

By KELLY NIX

JUST AS California American Water unveiled its new \$370 million plan to deliver water to the Peninsula, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District warned that most of the project's components don't have a chance of being built unless it can collect a controversial user fee from property owners.

On Monday, Cal Am filed an application with the California Public Utilities Commission to implement the new project. Later, the company's president, Rob MacLean, filled in members of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority — formed by mayors of six local cities — about the details of the Cal Am plan to build a desalination plant in North Marina and expand underground storage to meet the Peninsula's existing water needs. It does not provide any new water for building on vacant lots, expanding businesses or other community uses.

"Our team has put remarkable energy into creating this proposal, which we believe is the best option in terms of cost and environmental benefit," MacLean said.

A big part of the plan, however, is to have the MPWMD fund a major portion of the underground water storage project, which the water district's general manager said this week his agency won't be able to do if it isn't able to start collecting the user fee. The idea of attaching it to local property tax bills has drawn strong opposition, especially from the

Monterey County Association of Realtors which contends the fee is actually a tax that should be put before voters.

"MCAR simply can't see that these projects do not get done without the new revenue," Stoldt said.

But Noni McVey from the realtors group said it doesn't really matter if the groundwater projects can't be built. She pointed to Cal Am's backup plan to double the production of water from its proposed desal plant if the groundwater component doesn't come to fruition.

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## Fired county official fires back with lawsuit

By CHRIS COUNTS

FORMER MONTEREY County building services director Tim McCormick — who was fired from his job in April 2011 for "unprofessional conduct" — is suing Monterey County for wrongful termination, claiming he was fired for not doing enough to protect white residents in the county from code enforcement and for his insistence on enforcing health and safety, building and zoning requirements.

Also named as defendants in the lawsuit, which was filed April 13, are supervisors Lou Calcagno and Dave Potter, county chief administrative officer Lew Bauman, and Gene Rogers, the interim head of the county's resources management agency. McCormick is being represented by the San Jose law firm, Silver and Katz.

In addition to wrongful termination, McCormick is alleg-

ing that his rights to due process, whistleblower protections and privacy were also violated, and that he is a victim of age discrimination and his firing violated public policy.

As a result, McCormick claims he suffered lost wages, harm to his professional reputation, diminished future earning capacity and emotional distress. He is seeking "economic and non-economic damages."

In the lawsuit, McCormick — who began working for the county in 2007 — lists a variety of reasons why he believes he was fired.

He insists "his refusal to cancel code enforcement efforts against white residents and focus [his] efforts on Hispanic residents was a motivating factor" for his termination.

And he claims his refusal to "waive health and safety

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