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FIRST TEE OPEN FIGHTS CRIME WITH GOLF

By MARY SCHLEY

WITH GANG members being routinely arrested for burglaries, drugs and other crimes on the Monterey Peninsula, and kids being drawn into the crime-laden groups at younger and younger ages, programs like The First Tee of Monterey County — which is holding its annual golf tournament for kids and Champions Tour pros at Pebble Beach and Del Monte Golf Course this weekend — are increasingly important. So says First Tee Monterey County executive director Barry Phillips, though he's careful not to cast the program as one focused on gang intervention.

Rather, The First Tee helps kids develop nine crucial core values through learning the game of golf and taking classes offered at its facility at Twin Creeks Golf Course in Salinas. While it's open to children from any demographic and background, the majority of the 6,000 kids it serves come from tough East Salinas.

"Through our youth character development program, we're showing kids that positive actions have positive outcomes, and they have choices," he said, adding that many of the thousands of children who attend First Tee programs have lost siblings to gang membership and violence.

"Their parents have learned this is a safe place for them to come," he said. "Hopefully, this will stop or at least slow down gang membership."

'Promote healthy choices through golf'

The nonprofit's mission is to "impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and pro-

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Jeff Sluman (left) captured The First Tee Open professional crown in 2011, as he has done three out of the last four years. This year's tournament begins Friday. A charity event Monday night at the home of Pebble Beach CEO Bill Perocchi featured an outstanding musical performance by Clay Walker, who is joined below by Perocchi (left) and P.B. Co. vice president of golf R.J. Harper (right).



Winery sues events supervisor over kickbacks, price-fixing

■ Attorney for caterer calls allegations 'outrageous'

By KELLY NIX

CHATEAU JULIEN Wine Estate has filed a lawsuit against an ex-manager and the owner of a well known catering company for a commercial bribery scheme it says caused the winery to lose tens of thousands of dollars.

In a lawsuit filed June 25, Chateau Julien accuses its former special events manager Michele Gogliucci and Michael's Catering owner Terry Teplitzky of conspiring to inflate invoices, divert business, pay illegal kickbacks and other practices that undermined the winery's business.

The pair "engaged in a scheme of bribes to Gogliucci [from] Teplitzky," using money that should have gone to Chateau Julien, according to its 11-page lawsuit.

The suit, filed for Chateau Julien by Laguna Beach attorney Marshall Pearlman, seeks an undisclosed amount in damages, restitution, attorneys' fees and other costs. The winery is also seeking punitive damages, which state law allows a judge or jury to award in cases of "malice, oppression or fraud."

The claim against Teplitzky comes on the heels of a June 19 lawsuit he filed against Chateau Julien in which Teplitzky alleges the winery owes him \$114,272.43 for catering and

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New York firm buys Carmel Plaza for \$52M

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

HOME TO national and local retailers such as Tiffany, Homescares, The Cheese Shop, Khaki's, Madrigal and Banana Republic, Carmel Plaza shopping center sold June 28 for \$52 million.

The Macerich Company, which bought Carmel Plaza for \$45 million in 1998, sold the shopping center to O'Connor Capital Partners, a real estate investment company based in New York City. The upscale shopping center, which anchors the downtown Carmel shopping district, will reportedly be managed by Blatteis & Schnur, a real estate brokerage firm with offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles. A representative of the company had no comment when asked about the sale by The Pine Cone.

In 1985, Carmel Plaza sold for just \$7.4 million. The three-story shopping center was built in several stages

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Dog rescued from Big Sur cliff adopted by P.G. family

By KELLY NIX

THE DOG rescued by SPCA officials June 13 after being found clinging to a Big Sur cliff has been rescued again.

The Torres family of Pacific Grove adopted the one-year-old Husky mix Saturday, two weeks after SPCA for Monterey County workers saved him from a steep hillside. The dog was found tick-ridden, malnourished, dehydrated and with injured paws from trying to climb back up, about 15 feet below Highway 1 near Lucia along the Big Sur coast.

"He is gorgeous," Ana Torres told The Pine Cone Monday. "I named him Ajax for the Greek warrior. My heart was set on him, only him."

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PHOTO/COURTESY MONTEREY COUNTY SPCA

Two weeks ago, this dog was in bad shape after being stranded for days on the side of a Big Sur cliff. Today, he's part of a happy family.

JOHN ROUSSEAU, 64, WAS LOCAL THEATER MAINSTAY

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE LOCAL theater community is mourning the passing of actor, writer and director John Rousseau, who died last week at 64.

In addition to serving as the technical director for more than 400 PacRep Theatre productions over the past three decades, Rousseau was a familiar face as an actor on local stages, performing frequently at the Golden Bough, Circle and Forest theaters. He also directed many plays and musicals, including recent productions of "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Every Christmas Story Ever Told."

Rousseau's unexpected passing shocked those closest to him.

See **ROUSSEAU** page 12A

Point Lobos trail marks big step for injured official

By CHRIS COUNTS

AFTER A year-long makeover, the Bird Rock Trail at Point Lobos State Reserve will open this week to wheelchair-bound visitors — including one outdoor enthusiast whose remarkable story puts a human face on the ADA-accessible trail.

Because the trail project utilized labor provided by the California Conservation Corps, the director of its Monterey Bay center, Brenda Herrmann, was involved in it from the start. But after she suffered a horrific New Year's Eve 2010 motorcycle crash on Highway 1, Herrmann's role took an unexpected — and ultimately inspiring — turn.

After the accident, Herrmann spent a month at the Stanford University Medical Center.

"I lost my right leg just above the knee,"

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PHOTO/LARRY TIERNEY

A California Conservation Corps official who recently lost a leg in a motorcycle accident, Brenda Herrmann uses a wheelchair to access the Bird Rock Trail at Point Lobos State Reserve.

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