

The Carmel Pine Cone

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WTC steel displayed at 9/11 memorial



A somber procession carried a piece of World Trade Center steel to a ceremony in Devendorf Park, where Monterey Fire Chief Andrew Miller spoke about the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The steel will be kept at the library across the street until it is permanently displayed in the park next year.

PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER



D.A. alleges fraud by 'BioBanc'

By KELLY NIX

THE MONTEREY business that generated a lot of buzz five years ago when it started offering to collect and freeze customers' white blood cells so they could be used for medical treatment later is facing allegations of false advertising and fraud, according to a claim filed by the Monterey County District Attorney's Office.

In a civil lawsuit filed Aug. 29, prosecutors allege BioBancUSA, which had a facility in Ryan Ranch, engaged in

unlawful, unfair and fraudulent business practices and falsely offered services on its website after it laid off all its employees in June 2010 and ceased operating.

The suit, which names BioBanc CEO Robert Hayner and CFO James Swallow as defendants, is seeking an injunction to de-activate BioBanc's website and an order preventing its parent company, CordBancUSA.com, from "reactivating" the site.

The claim, filed by deputy district

See FRAUD page 27A

Cachagua residents give commissioners earful over dam removal truck traffic

■ Decision on San Clemente delayed

By CHRIS COUNTS

AFTER CACHAGUA and Jamesburg residents insisted they didn't receive adequate notice about traffic impacts that would be caused by the removal of San Clemente Dam, the Monterey County Planning Commission this week postponed making a decision on the \$83 million project until at least Oct. 31.

Before voting unanimously Sept. 12 for the delay, the planning commission listened to more than three hours of testimony from the county's staff and the project's manager about its benefits, and from residents and business owners about its problems.

The project has been discussed at public meetings and in the media for years, but some residents complained at the hearing they only recently found out about its potential impact on their community — and they asked the planning commission for more time so they can study the details.

"I'm concerned about the haste with which this is being pushed through," resident Fidela Schneider said. "We are going to be severely impacted. We haven't had time to get advice. We've had to scramble."

Heavy traffic, small roads

At the heart of the debate is why the project's traffic would be routed along Cachagua Road and not San Clemente Drive through Sleepy Hollow.

According to the project's staff report, three potential routes were considered, including two that utilized San Clemente Drive. But one San Clemente Drive route was determined to have safety issues, while the other would require the widening of 14,300 feet of existing dirt road, as well as the construction of another 3,300 feet of dirt road. Also, one bridge would need to be replaced, while two more would need to be constructed. And it's unclear if Cal Am even has an easement along San Clemente Drive, which is a private road.

The Cachagua Road route, meanwhile, would

require widening 11,500 feet of dirt road; building a 3,000-foot access road, and making improvements at six locations along Cachagua road — including one bridge — to allow large trucks to make sharp turns and to sustain the weight of heavy equipment.

The project's manager, Jeff Szytel of Water Systems Consulting in San Luis Obispo, insisted the Cachagua Road route makes the most sense. "I believe it has the safest access, the least envi-

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MAN DIES ATTEMPTING TO CROSS HIGHWAY 1 AT RUSH HOUR

By MARY SCHLEY

STUART MASTEN, 55 and the son of Carmel's poet laureate, the late Ric Masten, died Friday morning when he tried to cross Highway 1 near Flanders Drive and was hit by a teenager driving a Lincoln Navigator, according to Carmel Highway Patrol public information officer Bob Lehman.

A 1974 graduate of Carmel High School, Masten was described by his family as "a master cement finisher, landscaper, and carpenter," and "an avid reader and writer of fiction."

The 16-year-old driver, whose name was not released due to possible charges being filed against her, was in the left-turn lane on south-bound Highway 1, likely heading to class at Carmel High School, at about 7:30 a.m. Sept. 7, when she struck Masten. She was the only person in the car.

"The other southbound lanes of traffic were stopped, and what we gathered from witnesses

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Eastwood interview brings national spotlight to Pine Cone (briefly)

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

HERE'S HOW famous Clint Eastwood is: The world will beat a path to your door just because you talked to him.

The Pine Cone's interview with the former mayor about his appearance at the Republican National Convention — the only one he's given since the event — hit the Internet last Thursday at 9 p.m. Overnight, pretty much nobody noticed except the paper's regular readers.

But at 6:45 the next morning, a link to The Pine Cone's story went up on powerlineblog.com, a respected website of commentary and aggregated content from around the web. At about the same time, a link to The Pine Cone's Eastwood story was added to a similar site, instapundit.com. A few minutes later, the Drudge Report picked up the story and put it on its front page. And then the floodgates opened.

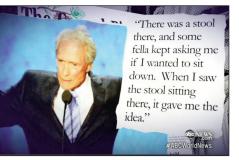
"Whether they loved what Eastwood said to the Republicans or hated it, everybody seemed very interested in the details about how he decided what to say, what transpired behind the scenes, and how Eastwood reacted to the hoopla he caused," said Pine Cone publisher Paul Miller, who wrote the story. "By 10 o'clock on Friday, our office was besieged with phone calls and emails."

"Inside Edition," "Nightline" and The NBC News bureau in Burbank were among the early callers, wanting to know if Miller had any video or audio tape of his Eastwood interview (he didn't). The Canadian Broadcasting Company and KCBS radio in San Francisco also called, wanting interviews with Miller.

Associated Press reporter Greg Risling was on the phone seeking verification the story wasn't a hoax. MSNBC emailed a request for Miller to be a guest on its Sunday week-in-review show, "Weekends with Alex Witt." CNN also wanted him for a live shot. Etc., etc.

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After The Pine Cone's Eastwood interview hit the Internet last week, a flood of media attention followed. "NBC Nightly News" reported the story and carried a closeup of the Pine Cone's front page (upper left)."ABC World News Tonight" quoted from the story extensively (left). And Miller was a live guest on several cable news shows, including MSNBC's "Weekends with Alex Witt," (above).