

Cannery Row Antique Mall sells vendor spaces

■ Small retail ‘condos’ offered

By KELLY NIX

IF YOU’VE ever wanted a small piece of real estate near the ocean, now’s the time to buy. That is, if you’re an antiques dealer.

The Cannery Row Antique Mall, a longtime presence on Wave Street not far from the Monterey Bay Aquarium, is selling individual dealer spaces ranging from \$3,400 for a tiny 12.9-square-foot space to \$152,000 for a 450-square-foot portion of the building.

“Where else could you buy 100 square feet so close to the bay?” Cannery Row Antique Mall manager Claudia McCord told The Pine Cone Tuesday. “It’s probably the

first time something like this has ever been done.”

Since it opened in 1994, the roughly 100 antiques and collectibles dealers in the two-story building have paid a monthly rent plus commission for their spaces. Now, those dealers have a chance to buy their own spaces or continue to rent from their new owners, if they decide to lease them out.

Of the mall’s 22,000 square feet, about 14,000 square feet of dealer space was converted to retail condominiums and placed for sale beginning in August. Most of the rest of the building, such as aisles and stairwells, is common area.

So far, about a dozen dealers have spent about \$1 mil-

See SPACES page 12A



PHOTOS/KELLY NIX

The Cannery Row Antique Mall on Wave Street is “condominiumizing” the building by offering vendor spaces for sale, some for as little as \$3,400.

WATER DISTRICT USER FEE SHOWS UP ON TAX BILLS

By KELLY NIX

THE MONTEREY Peninsula Water Management District’s hotly contested user fee started showing up on property tax bills this month, and the water board says it is moving quickly to spend the money on new water projects.

“It’s being collected, and we are going to begin authorizing expenditures,” MPWMD general manager Dave Stoldt

told The Pine Cone Thursday.

About \$3.7 million will be raised annually from the fee, with about half coming in December when property tax bills are due. Water directors will start allocating the funds at the district’s Nov. 19 board meeting.

About \$1 million of the fee is slated to pay for a project to turn wastewater into drinking water, while another \$900,000

See FEE page 11A

5 Refndng	859,093	0.022367	192.16
R_CHRG	PHONE_#S	CODE	DESCRIPTION
11.06	(831) 658-5614	85300	MPWMD-Water Supply Charge
35.00	(831) 755-5013	93500	CSA74 EMSAmbCountyWide
			DIR_CHRG
			60.86
			6.00

In very small type, the water district’s user fee is showing up on property tax bills, such as this \$60.86 fee for a Pacific Grove home.

Counteroffensive launched against Sudden Oak Death

■ Ten times more dead than a year ago

By CHRIS COUNTS

WHILE A new federal survey indicates Sudden Oak Death has killed 10 times as many trees in 14 California counties, including Monterey County, as it had a year ago, recent advances in preventative treatment can dramatically increase the chances of a tree’s survival, an expert told The Pine Cone.

The museum at Garland Ranch Regional Park will be the site Saturday, Oct. 20, of a free class on the latest techniques to protect oaks. The class begins at 9:30 a.m.

Caused by a fungus-like micro-organism, Sudden Oak Death has devastated forests throughout the coastal mountains of California and Oregon since it was first reported in 1995, killing millions of tanbark oaks — and to a lesser degree — live oaks.

An aerial survey conducted this year by the United States Department of Agriculture mapped about 376,000 dead oaks

See OAKS page 20A

Alternate route studied for dam traffic

By CHRIS COUNTS

JUST DAYS before a pair of meetings with Cachagua residents over how traffic from the removal of San Clemente Dam will affect their community, project officials confirmed this week that an alternate route across Cal Am property — which could significantly reduce the project’s impact on Cachagua and Tassajara roads — is being considered.

Hosted by the Cachagua General Store, the meetings are scheduled Wednesday, Oct. 24, at 1 and 6 p.m.

Rich Svindland, Cal Am’s director of engineering, told The Pine Cone that an old road — much of which roughly parallels Sleepy Hollow’s San Clemente Drive but runs through an undeveloped area to the west of it — has the

See TRAFFIC page 24A

Sales tax advocates in full-court press

By MARY SCHLEY

WITH MAIL-IN ballots already in voters’ hands, the mayor, city council members, residents and business owners are making a final push to encourage Carmel residents to support a 1 percent sales-tax increase at the polls Nov. 6. The higher tax rate would run 10 years and raise an estimated \$2 million annually for the general fund, helping to pay off retirement debt, fund city services and facilities like the library and Sunset Center, keep the beach clean and pay for public safety.

Volunteers have been spending their evenings calling voters to talk about the tax, and Burnett and others have disseminated their message in front of the post office, at coffees and during town hall meetings.

“The basic message I’m getting is that when people listen to the reasons why we put it on the ballot and the range of causes it will go toward, they by and large support it,” he said. “The problem is, there are a lot of propositions on the ballot, and Measure D is at the end of those.”

A bulky ballot

The phone calls and other public awareness efforts, including a discussion set for Tuesday, Oct. 23, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Cypress Inn, aim to educate voters not just about the tax and its benefits, but to point out the fact they should bother to find it buried among the propositions and other measures on the bulky ballot.

“The overwhelming majority of the voters we’ve talked to are in support of Measure D,” Burnett said.

A dozen volunteers spent Wednesday night at the mayor’s house calling registered voters and spoke to just under 100, he reported. More than half said they would vote for the tax, while most of the rest were undecided.

“But I can’t take those numbers and extrapolate to the whole population,” Burnett said. “We’re going to try to talk

See TAX page 11A

Monthly pension numbers clarified

By KELLY NIX

WHEN THE Pine Cone published a story in August that included a long list of former local public employees who receive pension benefits from the state, it made some waves.

Many readers lauded the story, which was based on data containing the names and pension amounts for more than 700,000 state employees who receive benefits from CalPERS and CalSTRS, the California State Teachers’ Retirement System.

But a couple of local retirees, including former Pacific Grove Police Chief Carl Miller, complained the numbers overstated the amount pensioners received. Some figures on the database, however, also grossly underestimated the monthly amount. “I think your article really distorted how much people made,” Miller told The Pine Cone.

Some higher, some lower

While the “initial monthly pension” figures The Pine Cone published were accurate — according to the data CalPERS provided to the San Jose Mercury News — the numbers didn’t necessarily reflect current monthly amounts.

Miller’s initial monthly pension is listed on the database as \$13,752.42, which is the amount he received after retirement. His current gross monthly pension, though, is \$12,208.86, according to CalPERS spokeswoman Amy Norris.

Norris said because there are so many factors — including cost of living increases — that determine a retiree’s pension, it’s difficult to get a clear picture of an individual’s plan.

“It is really easily misinterpreted,” she said of the numbers in the database.

For instance, after the Aug. 31 Pine Cone story ran, some

See PENSIONS page 26A