



# The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 103 No. 9

On the Internet: [www.carmelpinecone.com](http://www.carmelpinecone.com)

March 3-9, 2017

TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

## Deetjen's loses four units, Big Sur prays for propane

By CHRIS COUNTS

WHILE SUNNY skies and a sense of normalcy have returned to the Monterey Peninsula after this winter's major storms, the good weather has some Big Sur residents coming face to face with major problems — especially at places like Deetjen's Inn, where four units have been destroyed by falling redwoods.

A single tree fell on two units Feb. 20 at the inn, which is famous for its quirky charms and Old World ambiance.

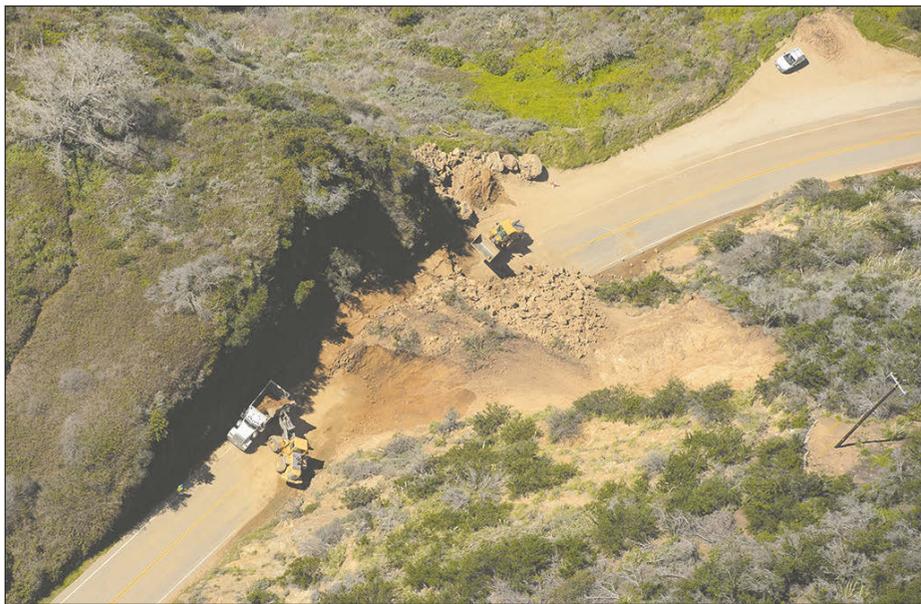
"A big redwood tree went right through the Faraway and Stokes rooms," Doris Jolicoeur of Deetjen's told The Pine Cone. "Thankfully, nobody was there when it happened."

Just a month earlier, falling redwoods and mud destroyed Deetjen's Creek House, the site of two rooms, Upper Creek and Lower Creek.

Deetjen's isn't just a hotel — it's a nonprofit that operates to preserve its historic buildings and provide low-cost accommodations. And like other nonprofit

establishments that depend on overnight visitors for revenue — such as Esalen Institute and New Camaldoli Hermitage — Deetjen's is asking its supporters for financial help until it

See **STORM** page 10A



PHOTO/MICHAEL TROUTMAN DMT IMAGING

Just a half-mile south of Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, a Caltrans crew works to clear Highway 1 of rocks. The slide is one of dozens that are making travel along the scenic route difficult.

## Consultant says Harrison Memorial should become community center

### ■ Park Branch as sole library?

By MARY SCHLEY

HARRISON MEMORIAL Library, built in 1928, should be used as a community center and meeting space, while the Park Branch, a former bank at Mission and Sixth that was renovated and turned into a second library in 1989, should be overhauled to become the city's only library. A representative of the firm that came up with those conclusions, Group 4 Architecture, is set to present them to the city council March 7.

"We're working out of two very old buildings, and the biggest thing to improve customer service is to renovate and bring things up to speed," library director Janet Bombard said. "Every way people use the library is changing."

For one thing, she said, "They're not quiet anymore — they're public spaces."

### 21st century library

Bombard asked the architecture group to assess the libraries and make suggestions after she attended a couple of presentations on providing library services in the 21st century and hosted a community workshop in 2015 with a consultant. Based in South San Francisco, Group 4 has overseen a lot of library renovations, she said.

"We began a dialog with them to see what our libraries could look like with some renovation," she said. "Group 4's

See **LIBRARY** page 29A

## Lawsuit filed in death of bulldozer driver

By KELLY NIX

THE FAMILY of the 35-year-old bulldozer driver killed while battling the Soberanes Fire last year has filed a lawsuit against the State of California, alleging it was responsible for his death.

Robert Reagan, a married father of two young girls, died July 26, 2016, when the bulldozer he was operating at night in Palo Colorado Canyon flipped upside down on steep terrain during the fight against the massive blaze. He was working as an independent contractor with Cal Fire.

"Cal Fire negligently directed [Reagan] in the operation

See **BULLDOZER** page 17A



PHOTO/CAL FIRE

Bulldozer operator Robert Reagan, who fought the 2016 Soberanes Fire, died after the vehicle turned over in Palo Colorado Canyon.

## True isolation turns out to be a problem for monks

By ELAINE HESSER

THE CAMALDOLESE Benedictine brothers at New Camaldoli Hermitage, just south of Lucia, live apart from the rest of the world. That's part of the definition of a hermitage, after all. But now they're more cut off than they'd intended, thanks to heavy rains that crippled not only Highway 1, but the winding road that ascends 1,300 feet to the retreat center.



On the best days, driving up or down the narrow driveway, with its tight turns and steep drop-offs, is not for the faint of heart. Now the road's cracked in places, and there are several slides. It can't be traversed safely by most vehicles.

The center, which is on the inland side of Highway 1 about 15 miles south of Esalen, has been closed to retreats because of storm damage since early January, and has canceled all reservations for March. It's bracing for the possibility it may remain inaccessible through April or May, losing hundreds of thousands of dollars in income it needs to cover its expenses.

Jill Marie Gisselere, the center's director of development, set up a GoFundMe page to raise money for the hermitage. Father Cyprian Consiglio, the prior, or leader of the center,

See **MONKS** page 16A

## Panetta rips Trump's speech to Congress, calls words 'dangerous'

By KELLY NIX

THOUGH PRESIDENT Donald Trump's address to a joint session of Congress Tuesday got a favorable reception from many American viewers — according to polls — it didn't impress many Democratic lawmakers, including U.S. Rep. Jimmy Panetta, who called his message "divisive and dangerous."

In an hour-long speech Tuesday, Trump talked about defeating terrorism, controlling illegal immigration, creating jobs, replacing Obamacare and rebuilding infrastructure. The address was a departure from the firebrand rhetoric he used during his campaign and largely seen as more tempered than his Jan. 20 inaugural speech.

"My administration wants to work with members in both parties to make childcare accessible and affordable, to help ensure new parents have paid family leave, to invest in

See **DANGEROUS** page 19A



The road leading to the New Camaldoli Hermitage is crumbling (top) and the visitors center (bottom) lacks visitors — a vital part of the monks' income.