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TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

Paul Woudenberg: ‘Voice of the Concours’ and a ‘gentle man eager to share his enthusiasm’

By MARY SCHLEY

WHETHER DESCRIBING rare and beautiful cars with wit and wisdom, preaching from a church pulpit, or guiding teenagers in the classroom, the Rev. Dr. Paul Woudenberg captured the interest of thousands and enraptured others throughout his many decades living on the Monterey Peninsula. He died March 30 in Hyannis, Mass., at the age of 89, following a stroke.

“He was a positive, sunny guy, and everyday things delighted him,” his youngest daughter, Betsy, told The Pine Cone this week. “He loved life and he took constant joy in things around him.”

“It isn’t easy to summarize what Paul meant to me and to others at the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance,” said Sandra Button, chairman of the Concours. “He was ‘the Voice of the Concours’ due to his long tenure as our announcer — but he was far more than that. He was the voice of wisdom. A calm and gentle presence in times of difficulty or tension. A quiet guide and mentor to me and to others.”

‘Constantly curious’

His friends and fans in the church offered words of praise for him, too. The Rev. Dr. Mark Bollwinkel, pastor of the Church of the Wayfarer, where Woudenberg was pastor for a decade starting in 1975, said the church “thrived under his leadership.” And an official at the Church in the Forest, which he helped found with brother-in-law Lamont Wiltsee in

the late 1980s, commented, “I praise God that Paul helped create a special spirit at our church that endures — vibrant, engaged in the community, embracing and enjoying all God’s children.”

Born on Sept. 1, 1927, in Ravinia, Ill., Woudenberg

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PHOTO/COURTESY PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

The Rev. Dr. Paul Woudenberg’s infectious love of cars and his extensive knowledge came together nowhere better than at the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance, where he announced for three decades.

Whale caught in metal frame presents challenge

By CHRIS COUNTS

TRACKED FOR days by a team of volunteers, a gray whale with a metal frame stuck on its head is making its way up the Big Sur coast and is expected to reach Monterey Bay by Friday morning.

First sighted near Dana Point April 1, the whale has traveled more than 300 miles during the past week. It passed Goleta April 3 and was last seen April 5 in the late afternoon just south of Big Sur near Piedras Blancas.

“If you see this whale, do not approach or try to disentangle it,” the nonprofit Whale Entanglement Team, based on Moss Landing, posted on social media.

Instead, the group encouraged the public to pass on any sightings to the Entangled Whale Hotline at (877) 767-9425.

“Take photos and video, and note the location of the whale, the travel direction, whether it is solitary or with others, and its behavior — whether it is surfacing or diving, and the length of dive times,” the group added.

Typically, whales become entangled in fishing

lines and nets. But this case is different because volunteers can’t simply cut through a metal frame like they would a fishing line or net. It’s still unclear how the whale will be

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PHOTO/MICHAEL WHITE

A whale swimming north along the Big Sur coast has a metal frame stuck on its head and rescuers aren’t sure what they can do about it.

Council, public favor moving city elections to November

By MARY SCHLEY

A LONGSTANDING tradition — holding elections for mayor and city council every other April — will make way for cost savings if the Carmel City Council follows through on its decision Tuesday to move the elections to November in even-numbered years, contiguous with the statewide general election.

Unlike during past discussions of the idea, no one stood up to fight for retaining the practice of having elections in April, as the city has done since 1918.

The question arose again at the April 4 meeting due to state legislation enacted in September 2015 that “seeks to address waning civic engagement in politics as illustrated by declining voter turnout in federal, state and municipal elections,” city clerk Ashlee Wright told the council. As a result, starting in January 2018, “a jurisdiction that holds its regular elections on a date other than June or November of even years can be sued to force a change of the jurisdiction’s election date if turnout among eligible voters at one of its regular elections was at least 25 percent lower than the average turnout in that jurisdiction at the prior four statewide elections.”

Wright’s research showed that turnout for last April’s election for mayor and two city council members was 15.1 percent lower than the average for Carmel-by-the-Sea voters during statewide elections, so the city can’t be forced to change. But shifting the election to November would save money: A stand-alone election costs \$37,000 to \$52,000, compared with the \$16,000 to \$21,000 it would cost if consolidated with the general election, resulting in savings of \$21,000 to \$31,000, according to Wright. Last April’s election cost \$39,872.

‘With fresh eyes’

“While I was doing this research, I also looked at our elections process as a whole,” she said. “This last election was my first, so with fresh eyes, I evaluated it and looked at whether efficiencies could be improved.”

She observed that the traditional timing of the city’s vote has newly elected officials being seated during the middle of the budget-adoption process — requiring them to get up to

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Doing away with a longstanding tradition could save a lot of money

DEDICATED TEENS’ CAREERS ARE ON POINT, TAKING THEM TO D.C. AND LONDON

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

CARMEL VALLEY natives Gwyneth Rider and Tenaya Long have been dancing and dreaming of becoming professional ballerinas for as long as they can remember. Yet neither imagined getting accepted into prestigious dance academies that could get them to the professional stage so soon.

This fall, Rider, 15, will begin a three-year course of classical ballet training at the Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, D.C. Meanwhile, Long, 16, will start a three-year program at the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance in London, which will result in a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree for her at 19.

Rider began taking classical ballet lessons at Carmel Academy of Performing Arts at age 3. She has spent the last four summers training in programs at the American Academy of Ballet in New York, the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, the Joffrey Ballet in Chicago, and the Harid Conservatory in Florida.

‘Completely surprised’

Rider is the great-granddaughter of Edward Kuster, former husband of Una Jeffers and founder of the Golden Bough theater. Her grandmother, Marcia Kuster-Rider, now 82, performed with the Royal Ballet in London and inspired Rider to dance.

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PHOTO/ABOVE, SCOTT CAMPBELL, LEFT, PAUL YANG

Tenaya Long (above) and Gwyneth Rider (left) are living their dreams in a big way.