

# The Carmel Pine Cone

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## WASTEWATER RECYCLING PROJECT SET TO BEGIN

By KELLY NIX

IN JUST a few months, construction will commence on the first major project to address the Monterey Peninsula's water supply problem since a state water agency first ordered California American Water to drastically curtail pumping from the Carmel River more than two decades ago.

The Pure Water Monterey project — a collaboration between the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency — will deliver 3,500 acre-feet of purified wastewater each year from the Marina Water Pollution Control facility to the Seaside Groundwater Basin, where it will be stored for later use.

"This project is the first tangible sign of progress on a new water supply since the [State Water Resources Control Board's] first order in 1995," water district general manager Dave Stoldt told The Pine Cone Monday. "It sends a clear signal to our state regulators that the community can and will address its need."

Construction of the water project — which will also provide additional water to the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project to be used by farmers — could begin as early as June, the pollution control agency said.

The project is funded by a \$100 million low-interest state

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## William Overstreet gets a grave marker



CARMEL PINE Cone founder William Overstreet and his wife, Kathryn, were honored Wednesday morning with the installation of a marker at their side-by-side graves in Pacific Grove's El Carmelo Cemetery. Attending the ceremony were (above, from left) grandson Gary Appleton and great-grandchildren Terri Dee Appleton, Joe Flores and Michele Perrault.

Second from right is Pine Cone publisher Paul Miller, who told the family, "I'd especially like to thank Mr. Overstreet for giving our newspaper such an unusual, but perfect, name."

After launching the newspaper in 1915, Overstreet went on to serve in many capacities in the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, including postmaster. His wife died of cancer in 1932; he was struck by a car and killed in April 1941 while walking along the highway from

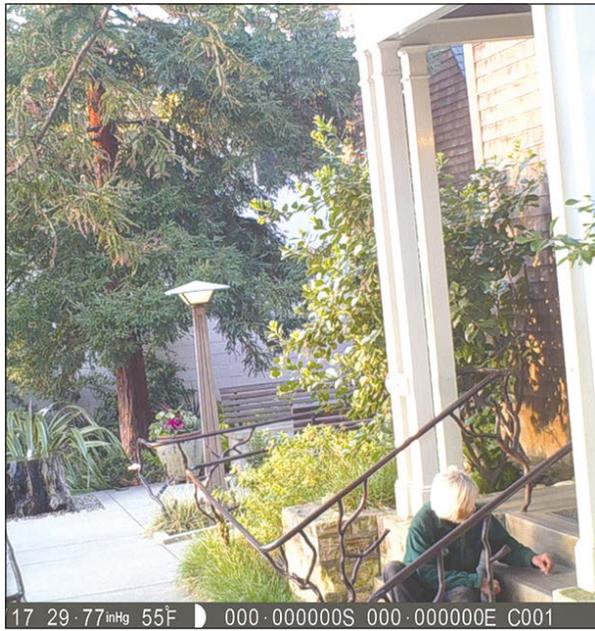


PHOTOS/KELLY NIX

Monterey to Carmel. The driver was never identified.

The gravesite is about 50 feet inside and just to the right of the cemetery's main entrance off Asilomar Boulevard.

## Caught in the act!



Caught here on surveillance footage from a motion-activated camera, a man calling himself the "Chalk Bandito" is suspected of defacing the steps at city hall on a half-dozen occasions. He was finally identified this week. See the story on page 8A.

## New rules for granny units are on the way

By MARY SCHLEY

A STATE law that makes it easier to build granny units took effect Jan. 1, and last week, the city council took its first step toward adopting ordinances that would comply with the state's new rules while still protecting the town's character and charm.

Planning director Marc Wiener told the council April 4 that the California Legislature recently determined that allowing people to build rentals on the same land as their own homes, or remodeling their houses to accommodate additional tenants in separate living spaces inside, will help ease housing shortages. As a result, it enacted bills that allow second units in all residential districts and require local governments to approve them without public hearings. The state

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## Right place, right time leads to rescue of girl

By MARY SCHLEY

HE CONSIDERS it divine intervention, and she calls it "a miracle," but either way, Stephanie Travaille still has her 5-year-old daughter because of John Burton, who jumped into the Carmel River Lagoon and pulled out the submerged girl after she was swept into the lagoon by a large wave April 2.

Travaille, who grew up here but has since moved away, was walking with her dad and two daughters, ages 5 and 7, along the beach between the ocean and the lagoon, and observed that some of the waves were crashing over the top of the sand dune.

"A giant wave crested over, knocked my dad down and got us completely wet, and swept up my little daughter and pushed her way into the lagoon," she recalled. The last thing she remembered seeing was the little girl's feet as the rest of her disappeared under water.

"And she can't swim," Travaille said.

Screaming at her father to hold onto the older girl, who was panicking, Travaille plunged into the lagoon after her younger daughter, Teah.

"I swam out there, and suddenly, this man burst up out of the water, and he had my daughter in his arms," said Travaille. "And I was like,

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Hearing a mother's scream and seeing a dark form beneath the surface of the lagoon, artist John Burton jumped in and rescued Teah, age 5, last Sunday.

## Nonprofits aghast at possible cuts to city's subsidies

By MARY SCHLEY

REPRESENTATIVES OF several community groups and nonprofits left a Carmel Community Activities & Cultural Commission meeting a bit stunned Tuesday morning after commissioners voted for substantial cuts in the subsidies the city offers them for holding events here.

For the coming fiscal year, seven groups requested grants totaling \$58,616 — including \$31,410 for the annual Concours on the Avenue. The others were \$840 for the Carmel High School homecoming parade, \$1,266 for the city's Great Sand Castle Contest, \$2,600 for the Carmel Host Lions Club's Breakfast with the Bunny, \$4,000 for the Run in the Name of Love, \$5,000 for the Monterey Winemakers' Celebration, and \$13,500 for the Carmel Art Festival. In most cases, the amounts requested were the same as what the city would ordinarily charge for things like using a city park, blocking streets or needing signs and barricades.

"Special events benefit the community in many ways. They provide cultural, educational and recreational opportunities that enrich people's lives while at the same time enhancing the local economy," community services director Janet Bombard said in a report to the commission. "The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea has a history of allocating funding to encourage and support special events."

But the problem of figuring out how much to give to which groups has proved vexing to city hall, as groups compete to show not only how worthy they are, but how needy.

To be fair to all, Bombard suggested commissioners provide "grants" to offset a percentage of the city's fees (not including direct costs to taxpayers, like police overtime). "Because the city does need to collect fees to offset its costs for facilitating special events, but also wishes to help event organizers hold events in the city," she suggested a reduction

**"We do a lot for the city. I'm really disgruntled right now."**

See EVENTS page 10A