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# The Carmel Pine Cone

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YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION SINCE 1915

## Dog therapy for seniors lifts spirits

By KELLY NIX

WHEN MONTEREY Pines resident Dorothy Nye petted Tara, a black cocker spaniel who visits the skilled nursing facility every week, her face lit up.

Nye is one of dozens of residents at Monterey Pines who benefit from visits by Tara and other small dogs as part of Pet Partners, a pet therapy program to lift the spirits of its residents, many of whom are wheelchair-bound or bedridden.

"This program is something very dear to me," said Roni Rubinstein, who started Pet Partners and brought her dog, Tara, to Monterey Pines Tuesday. "I have seen what can happen as a result of it."

A chance to pet a spaniel, scratch a Yorkie or get a lick from a beagle offers unparalleled joy to the elderly residents, many of whom haven't had contact with animals for years.

"The reactions are phenomenal," said Monterey Pines activities director Maria Seamone. "People who were shy and quiet or very depressed have opened up."

Two people, who before the dog visits would only lie in bed, now sit up and talk to the dogs when they come into their rooms, she said.

"It has opened my eyes to how important the dogs can be," Seamone added.

### Volunteers needed

The pet partners and their owners visit Monterey Pines several times a week, spending an average of 10 to 15 minutes with each resident.

This week, as she caressed Tara, Nye, who is wheel-

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PHOTO/KELLY NIX

Tara, a black cocker spaniel, sits pretty while Monterey Pines resident Dorothy Nye enjoys her company during a pet therapy session Tuesday.

## Fines, lawsuits for styrofoam cups

By MARY BROWNFIELD

CARMEL WAS the second city in the state to ban the use of styrofoam by restaurants and other food vendors nearly two decades ago. But the ordinance has gone unenforced, and on Tuesday, the city council and mayor gave it some teeth.

Mayor Sue McCloud, who represents the city on the board of the Monterey Regional Waste Management District and chairs its Litter Abatement Task Force, explained the proposed changes to the council and the public.

"This ordinance has been on the books as part of the municipal code for almost 20 years," she said, and the new language is "simply adding definitions to clarify what we're talking about,

See **STYROFOAM** page 10A

## RADAR GUNS OK ON ALL CITY STREETS

By MARY BROWNFIELD

RATHER THAN raise speed limits, Carmel police quit using radar on some of the town's busiest streets in March 2007. But drivers who have picked up the speeding habit will have to break it soon, thanks to an ordinance approved by the city council this week.

According to a California Vehicle Code section enacted to prevent the creation of speed traps, if local governments want to use radar to enforce speed limits, they must set those limits at the highest speed used by 85 percent of drivers. And they have to survey streets every seven years to find out what the speed limits should be.

See **RADAR** page 14A

## Ambitious water plan takes big step forward

By KELLY NIX

A DIVERSE group rapidly moving forward with an ambitious local water project has completed a crucial environmental analysis, bolstering the plan's credibility and making it a strong contender for a drought-free water supply solution for the Monterey Peninsula.

Water for Monterey County, a group formed by the California Public Utilities Commission, has proposed a broad plan that would provide as much as 29,000 acre-feet of water, more than enough to replace water currently taken from the overdrafted Carmel River.

On Wednesday, the group announced it submitted an environmental analysis of the replacement project to the PUC, a notable step, which means the plan will be reviewed in an environmental impact report for the Coastal Water Project, a desal plant in Moss Landing drawn up by California American Water Co.

Steve Kasower, the UC Santa Cruz professor leading the group, said completion of the document is a milestone. "Compared to most water planning in California, we are moving quite rapidly," Kasower said. "At each step along the way, the project becomes more real."

The regional water plan, which will now be considered as an alternative to Cal Am's desal plant and another plan by the water company to desalinate seawater from beach wells in north Marina, includes desalination of brackish water, recycling water from the Marina sewage treatment plant, capturing storm runoff and powering some of the components with electricity generated by capturing methane gas from the Marina landfill. The project would provide water to the Peninsula and North Monterey County.

The project, Kasower has said, will likely cost less to build, result in fewer environmental impacts and be quicker to construct than Cal Am's plans.

The environmental study, which spans several hundred pages, cost about \$1.5 million dollars, of which about \$500,000 came from the Marina Coast Water District, and another \$1 million from Cal Am.

See **WATER** page 14A

## Longtime planner leaves imprint on city's past, future

By MARY BROWNFIELD

THE CITY planner who has seen Carmel grow and change under the leadership of five different administrations — and who has authored many of its building rules and regulations — will retire at the end of June. Brian Roseth, who possesses a wealth of institutional knowledge and a remarkable ability to explain the most complex issues in simple terms, plans to open his own part-time practice and focus on his hobbies.

"I want to give myself more time and more control over what I do," explained Roseth, who

See **ROSETH**  
page 12A



Brian Roseth

## THAT'S A LOT OF BOOKS!



The new, 7,200-square-foot, single-story library at Carmel High School is beginning to take shape, and when construction is finished, the old library will be torn down to make way for a state-of-the-art theater. The projects — and several others on the campus and throughout the Carmel Unified School District — are being funded by a \$21.5 million bond voters approved in November 2005.