



New theater company presents 'Pericles Redux'



Famed singer helps Hidden Valley raise a roof



Powder Puff thinks she's people — INSIDE THIS WEEK

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RED CROSS TOLD TO STICK TO ALUMINUM

By MARY BROWNFIELD

RED CROSS Executive Director Sharon Crino called them “a disgrace” during a planning commission meeting Wednesday. But the aluminum windows in the Red Cross building at Dolores and Eighth are important to the building’s architecture, the commission decided, and can’t be replaced with vinyl clad.

The nonprofit wants to replace the deteriorating windows in the 53-year-old chapter house with double-paned windows that are more energy efficient. But according to assistant planner Marc Wiener, the city’s design guidelines say aluminum windows would be more appropriate for the building’s architecture.

Crino told the commission she received four estimates for replacing the old aluminum windows and determined vinyl-clad, double-paned, divided-light windows were the only option the nonprofit could afford. Unclad wood windows “were astronomical,” she said, and aluminum windows do not meet state code requirements for energy conservation.



PHOTO/PAUL MILLER

The Red Cross chapter house in downtown Carmel needs new windows, according to its executive director. On Wednesday, she asked for permission to replace the old, inexpensive, aluminum windows with new vinyl-clad windows, but the planning commission said, “No.”

“There are only two makers of aluminum windows left, because demand is going down,” she added.

Chairman Bill Strid said he agreed with Wiener’s recommendation to reject the vinyl-clad windows.

“I would personally like to see a replication of the aluminum windows,” he said.

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Big increase in trailhead break-ins, vandalism

By CHRIS COUNTS

AFTER SIX days backpacking in the Big Sur wilderness, Brian Mack was enjoying the blissful feeling of being far from civilization — a feeling that evaporated in seconds when he returned to the China Camp parking lot on Chews Ridge and took one look his 2007 Toyota Tacoma.

“It had been broken into and taken for a joyride,” Mack reported.

The vandals apparently broke a window and located a spare key.

“They scratched it, tore out the leather around the gear shift and took out the battery and put in their old battery,” he said. “They tried to get the gas, let the air out of one of my tires and, to top it off, they puked on my windshield.”

The incident was part of a rash of car break-ins and vandalism that has plagued remote parts of Monterey County — particularly where people park their cars and then head over the nearest ridge for several hours or several days. And the increase in crime is happening over a wide area.

According to U.S. Forest Service public affairs specialist Brenda Kendrix, while there hasn’t been a spike of crime on federal park land in general, there has been a surge of law-breaking in remote rural areas.

“There’s nobody around, so there’s more of a chance for [a thief or a vandal] to get away with something,” she said.

She hopes increased funding will help combat the problem.

“We’ve pretty much doubled our law enforcement pres-

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Easy pickings when you park your car and disappear for a day or two

Carmel High theater gets \$1M donation

By MARY BROWNFIELD

THE \$10.5 million performing arts center slated for Carmel High School will be named after Bertie Bialek — who donated almost a tenth of its funding — and her husband, Hilton, a staunch public-school supporter who died

several years ago. Bialek was surprised to learn of the honor at a school board meeting Tuesday night, when it was also announced she had given \$1 million for the theater.

For years, the Carmel Unified School District mulled over the idea of building one, and Bialek was an early donor, providing \$500,000 in seed money that allowed administrators to “make the statement that we were going to do this project, one way or another,” CUSD Superintendent Marvin Biasotti told *The Pine Cone*.

With the passage of a \$12.5 million school bond in November 2005, design work got under way for a perform-

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Retirement destination: Africa and the Peace Corps

By MARY BROWNFIELD

WHILE MANY people move to Carmel-by-the-Sea to retire, David and Wendy Banks are celebrating theirs by leaving town. This week, the couple departed for a two-year stint with the Peace Corps in Tanzania.

“We’re in good health and retired, so we thought this was the time when we could do this,” Wendy Banks said Friday as she stood amidst boxes and suitcases, preparing for the flight to Washington, D.C., June 7.

Residents of Carmel since 1968, the Bankses raised four children here and have long been involved in the community through church and other outreach efforts. With their retirement last year — she as a teacher for the Carmel Unified School District, and he as a pharmacist — they came to the realization they could contribute to the world far beyond their hometown.

Joining the Peace Corps was not a new idea. In fact, it had been in the back of their minds since the early 1960s, after

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A \$1 million donation from Bertie Bialek will help ensure the new theater at Carmel High School becomes a reality.

Farmers’ market delayed, may be called off

■ P.G. council action invalidated because public notice wasn’t printed

By KELLY NIX

THE LONG awaited Pacific Grove farmers’ market, scheduled to debut in July, will be delayed for at least two weeks — and could be called off altogether this year — because of an advertising blunder in the Monterey County Herald, city officials said.

Scheduled to debut July 7, the farmers’ market will be set back because the Herald failed to print a public hearing notice for last week’s city council meeting in which the market was discussed.

“It’s too bad it will be delayed,” P.G. Mayor Dan Cort told *The Pine Cone*, “because we are all so excited about the farmers’ market.”

At its June 4 meeting, the city council adopted an ordinance to allow the Pacific Grove Certified Farmers’ Market every Monday on Lighthouse Avenue between Forest Avenue and 18th Street.

But before final action on an ordinance, state law

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