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crops inspire
CAA show

From Homer to
Shakespeare
to PacRep

Most of her
friends are gone
— INSIDE THIS WEEK

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YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION SINCE 1915

Three arrested in DUI killing of 17-year-old girl

By MARY BROWNFIELD

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY Patrol officers arrested and jailed three Big Sur men for their alleged involvement in a fatal DUI hit-and-run car wreck early last Thursday morning. The two drivers fled the scene, leaving victims behind, and a third man helped one of them get away, according to CHP public information officer Jim Covello.

The accident occurred shortly before 2 a.m. Aug. 28, when, after leaving a bar

in Big Sur and heading south on Highway 1, 27-year-old Christopher Tindall lost control of his 2006 Chevy HHR near Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, swerved off the road, struck an embankment and overturned. The SUV came to rest on its left side in the southbound lane.

"Tindall fled, leaving his passengers and vehicle at the scene," Covello reported.

Moments later, 45-year-old Mark

See **DUI** page 12A



Alan Duarte



Christopher Tindall



Mark Hudson

Charges sought in party shooting

By KELLY NIX

POLICE SAY they have identified the gunman who shot two Carmel brothers at a high school party in July and are seeking a warrant for his arrest.

Jury convicts serial arsonist

By MARY BROWNFIELD

A JURY that included Carmel assistant city clerk Molly Laughlin found Lance Oliver Scott, 39, guilty Friday of starting five fires in the Jacks Peak area in 2006 and 2007, as well as growing marijuana, possessing it for sale and making hash oil.

Jailed since his arrest more than a year ago, Scott is next set to appear before Monterey County Superior Court Judge Terrance Duncan Sept. 26 for sentencing of up to 16 years and eight months.

Evidence tying Scott to the suspicious blazes was key in finding him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, Laughlin told The Pine Cone. Cal Fire investigators and Monterey

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The unnamed suspect is believed to have shot Daniel and Joseph Christensen July 13 about 12:30 a.m. outside their home on Handley Drive in Carmel.

"We are waiting for the [Monterey County District Attorney's Office] to review the case and determine if they will file charges," said Sgt. Archie Warren with the Monterey County Sheriff's Office.

The sheriff's office isn't identifying the suspect — who could face two counts of attempted murder — or say whether he is a juvenile or an adult.

It also hasn't provided a motive for the shooting.

The Christensen brothers, Monterey High students and football players, were treated at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula for their injuries.

Eyewitness account

Partygoer Jacob Szkodzinski told KSBW TV this week he was at the Christensens' July party and left just before shots rang out.

"It was like a movie," Szkodzinski said. "People laid out across the grass, passed out, drunk. Everyone's having fun."

Just as he was leaving the party, he said noticed some "guys" arriving to the house.

"They were like, 'We're going to mess some guys up,'" Szkodzinski said. "And I didn't think anything of it. I thought they were joking."

He said he later got a call the Christensens had been shot.

Teens fled party

Deputies were dispatched to the Christensen house after a report of shots fired. When they arrived, they saw teenagers fleeing the area on foot and in cars, according to the sheriff's office.

Warren said sheriff's office detectives identified the suspect through interviews with witnesses at the party and crime-scene evidence. An estimated 100 to 150 people attended the party.

Witness says friends' play nearly drowned man in surf

By MARY BROWNFIELD

ROUGHHOUSING, NOT rough surf, broke the neck of and nearly drowned a Pacific Grove man at Carmel Beach Aug. 25, according to a witness, who helped drag the motionless man from the water. New York City resident Eugenie Harrison and her husband were in town visiting her mother and enjoying the sun in a couple of lawn chairs on the beach late last Monday afternoon when the horrifying event occurred.

She recalled seeing three men, who appeared to be ram-bunctious and joking around, walking down the beach with a young woman.

"They were horsing around, and one of them threw the other in the water," she said. The trio wrestled, and another ended up wet.

"Then they took their shoes off, and their shirts, and they ran and tackled each other into the surf," she said. "And one of them never came back up."

As Harrison and her husband watched from their chairs a short distance away, she thought perhaps the man, later identified as Damien Thompson, 33, was pretending.

"They clearly thought he was joking," she said of his friends. "They were playing in the water, and the waves were coming and going. I could see part of his back and his head. They were pushing on his body and joking around."

With growing alarm, she remarked to her husband that the prone man had not come up for air, and one of the friends grabbed Thompson's arm and pulled.

It was obvious, then, that he was unconscious. Jumping up, Harrison and her husband ran to help. They and Thompson's two friends struggled with the slippery, heavy man, bumping heads a few times as they pulled him from

See **SURF** page 13A

Sandcastle theme announced

By MARY BROWNFIELD

A 19TH century science fiction novel by French author Jules Verne and a host of movies based on it provide the inspiration for the Sept. 14 sandcastle contest, "Journey to the Center of Carmel."

"We have selected the last sev-

eral themes from movies," reported Carmel architect Brian Congleton. "I like it because it opens up many doors for interpretation, from the traditional dream sandcastle, to some political punditry!"

The contest is open to people of

See **SANDCASTLES** page 10A

POLICE SUSPECT DRUGGED DRIVER KILLED YOUNG DAD

By MARY BROWNFIELD

A MONTEREY woman on prescription drugs struck and killed a young father as he picked up his son from Pacific Grove Middle School Tuesday, according to police.

The tragic accident occurred on busy Forest Avenue in front of the school as the woman drove her BMW toward downtown about noon. Damage to the vehicle showed where it hit 35-year-old Pacific Grove resident Joel Woods, according to Pacific Grove Police Cmdr. John Nyunt. Woods died around 8 p.m. Sept. 2.

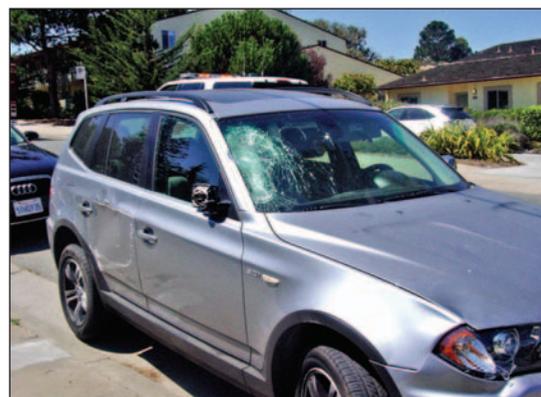
Upon receiving the report of a vehicle-vs.-pedestrian accident in front of the school, emergency crews and police arrived to "find a pedestrian down in the street — in the gutter, basically," Nyunt said.

The driver, 51-year-old Deborah King, had pulled over in her BMW X3 near Sinex Avenue. As rescuers worked to stabilize

Woods, they realized the seriousness of the injuries to his head and body and called for a California Shock/Trauma Air Rescue helicopter to take him to a San Jose hospital.

The CALSTAR helicopter landed on the school's athletic field and then flew Woods to the trauma

See **DAD** page 12A



PHOTOS/COURTESY PG PD

Deborah King, 51, was arrested Tuesday for allegedly hitting a 35-year-old Pacific Grove man with her BMW X3 as he got into his car in front of P.G. Middle School. He later died.