



# Holiday GIFT GUIDE



# The Carmel Pine Cone

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CARMEL, CA  
Permit No. 149

Volume 94 No. 50

On the Internet: [www.carmelpinecone.com](http://www.carmelpinecone.com)

December 12, 2008

YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION SINCE 1915

## Memoir recalls the Boys of Summer — from a girl's point of view

By CHRIS COUNTS

ON HER first trip to spring training at Vero Beach, Fla., in 1958, Flo Snyder discovered that all baseball players love a practical joke.

"They sent me to retrieve the keys to the batter's box," recalled Snyder, a Carmel resident and former Pine Cone columnist who will sign copies of her new book, "Lady in the Locker Room," Tuesday, Dec. 16, at D.E. Craghead Fine Art Gallery.

For 10 years, Snyder served as a secretary to Red Patterson, an executive with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Patterson was in charge of public relations, so when the Dodgers moved west from Brooklyn to Los Angeles after the 1957 season, he came out early to get a head start on what promised to be an eventful year. He hired Snyder as his secretary, making her the first employee of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Snyder picked an eventful time to work for the relocating team. Just two years before starting her new job, the Dodgers were the toast of the baseball world after defeating the New York Yankees in the 1955 World Series. "The Boys of Summer" were one of baseball's most colorful — and talented — teams ever, featuring Hall of Famers like Duke Snider, Roy Campanella and Jackie Robinson, the pioneer who broke baseball's color barrier.

In 1958, though, the Dodgers were playing in a cav-



Flo Snyder (second from left) picks up baseball tips from Dodgers' slugger Gil Hodges (left) and some of his famous teammates, including Don Zimmer (right).

ernous football stadium, the L.A. Coliseum, which was not well suited for a team that relied on hitting a lot of home runs to right field. So the team reinvented itself, placing an emphasis on pitching, defense and speed. Over the next decade, with the dynamic pitching duo of Sandy

See **BASEBALL** page 14A

## POLICE CRACK FRAUD RING

Stealing mail, forging checks and collecting the cash

By MARY BROWNFIELD

THREE WOMEN and a man accused in a rash of mail theft, fraud and forgery that "has plagued banks and businesses in the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas since September" are being held in Monterey County Jail as the charges against them climb. Pacific Grove Cmdr. Tom Uretsky released the names of the suspects this week but said as the investigation continues, the initial estimate of \$10,000 stolen from individuals, banks and retailers is "just scratching the surface."

Police allege the suspects raided mailboxes in the Salinas and Monterey areas, and forged or altered incoming and outgoing checks they found in the mail. They then opened several personal bank accounts and deposited the stolen checks.

"The suspects then withdrew cash from local ATMs while the checks floated between banks, and prior to the checks' being rejected for insufficient funds or as fraudulent, counterfeit or stolen forged documents," according to Uretsky.

Police started working on the case several weeks ago after a bank teller at Wachovia realized the suspects were trying to withdraw money from an account into which a fraudulent check had been deposited.

"They had made some ATM deposits of checks that were clearly forgeries," he said, and the name on one of the checks belonged to a Pacific Grove resident who is a Wachovia

See **FRAUD** page 13A

## Carmel Sands hotel project bound for EIR

By MARY BROWNFIELD

GLOBAL WARMING should be evaluated — along with many other factors — in an environmental impact report for the 58-room luxury hotel, day spa, tapas bar and underground parking garage planned for the site of the Carmel Sands Lodge at San Carlos and Fifth, according to an attorney who is the son of the plan's most vocal opponent. The Carmel Planning Commission listened to public comments and learned about revisions to the project Wednesday night but did not make a decision on whether the proposal should undergo a full EIR, though it very likely will.

John Compagno, who works for a large San Francisco law firm and is the son of Mission Street property owner Catherine Compagno, submitted a Dec. 2 letter calling for an EIR. According to Compagno, the mitigated negative declaration — which identified potential environmental impacts and suggested how to reduce them to less-than-significant levels — "represents an exercise in denial — both of the existing conditions in Carmel, and the potential impacts that would result from the project."

He said it fails to accurately examine effects on views and aesthetics, air quality during construction, operational emissions and climate change. "Although individ-

See **SANDS** page 10A

## A very busy week for the Eastwoods

By PAUL MILLER

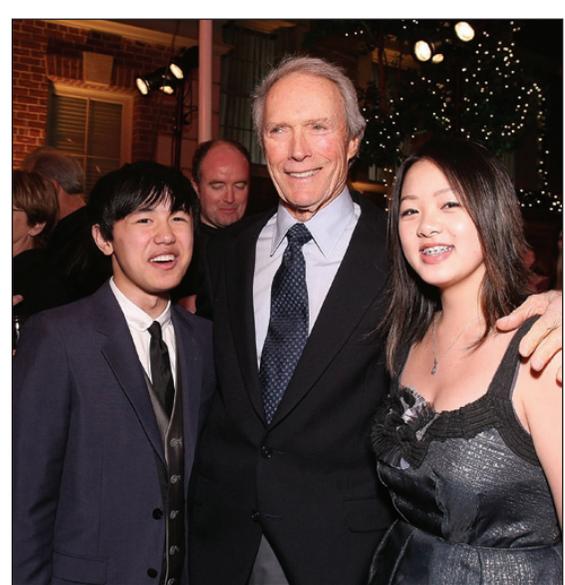
"DON'T TALK that way to her when she's with me!" That was President George Bush's

smiling admonishment to Clint Eastwood about a comment the former Carmel mayor made to his wife, Dina, at the White House Sunday evening. The president had Dina Eastwood in a bear hug when he told Clint Eastwood off.

The encounter was part of a whirlwind week for the Eastwoods which included dinner with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Saturday, visits to the White House and Kennedy Center Sunday, and the premiere of Clint Eastwood's latest film, "Gran Torino," in Hollywood on Tuesday.

Dina Eastwood explained Bush's comment and hug this way: "We were waiting in line for our turn to have a picture taken with the president. I was excited and talking nonstop, as usual, and Clint said to me,

See **BUSY** page 11A



PHOTOS/JEFF SNYDER, FILM MAGIC (LEFT); ALEXANDRA WYMAN, WIRE IMAGE

Sunday night they were at the White House and Kennedy Center (left). Monday Clint and Dina Eastwood flew to Los Angeles for the premiere of his new movie, "Gran Torino," a touching drama starring Eastwood and acting rookies Bee Vang (at left in right photo) and Ahney Her.