Leucothea: Rock worthy of a goddess

The story of the great jade rock at PG Museum of Natural History

By Don Wobber

One day in the North Cove, after exhausting my dive tanks, I decided to spend the late afternoon free-diving the shallow water. I swam north past the “slot” and cruised in and out between large boulders, drifting back and forth, letting the surge carry me where it would. I came across a jade stone in 10 feet of water that I had not seen before: large, beautiful, and green — jade stone in 10 feet of water that I had not seen before: large, beautiful, and green —

The sea stayed rough for two months. The sea stayed rough for two months. By Don Wobber

Moratorium on new water in the works

By Marge Ann Jameson

Despite urging from some 30 different parties at two Dec. 13, 2010 public hearings that a moratorium not be imposed, Administrative Law Judge Gary Weatherford has recommended that a moratorium on new connections be enforced against California American Water Company (Cal-Am). Speakers included individual residents, parties in the proceeding, and representatives from local government entities, including Mayor Carmelita Garcia of Pacific Grove, businesses and voluntary associations.

Pacific Grove was also part of an intervention motion filed in October, 2010. Cal-Am “shall deny requests for new service connections and prohibit any increased use of water at existing service addresses resulting from a change in zoning or use” under the decision, filed Jan. 25, 2011.

See MORATORIUM Page 2

T.A.S.K. 4 Teens - Page 9

Broken Hall - Page 11

New Show - Page 14
Cedar Street Times was established September 1, 2008 and was adjudicated a legal newspaper for Pacific Grove. Monterey County, California on July 16, 2010. It is published weekly at 311A Forest Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

Press deadline is Wednesday, noon. The paper is distributed on Friday and is available at various locations throughout the city as well as by e-mail subscription.

Editor/Publisher: Marge Ann Jameson

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Contributors: Betsy Slinkard Alexander • Guy Chaney • Jon Guthrie • Amy Coale Solis • Rhonda Farr • Neil Jameson • Dorothy Maras • Richard Oh • Stacy Loving (Sports) • Katie Shain
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Distribution: Kristi Portwood and Stacy Loving
Cop Log: Sandy Hamm

Questions? Call 831-324-4742

Music makers: Essay contest opens

What Music Means to Me

Inspired by Richard Rejino’s “What Music Means to Me” project, www.What-MusicMeansToMe.org, music makers in our community have the opportunity to share their stories of how making music has affected their lives in positive ways. The grand prize for our local level of the competition is a paperback copy of the book “What Music Means To Me” and a $75 gift certificate from Bookmark Music. This competition is sponsored locally by Bookmark Music and Cedar Street Times. The winner of this competition is then entered in the national competition which will determine a first prize of $500. The national competition is sponsored by Madeleine Crouch & Co., Inc and Morty & Iris Manus. The entire concept is a cooperative effort of members of RPMDA, the Retail Print Music Dealers Association.

Entry rules:
1. Entrants can be music-makers of any age.
2. One essay per entrant. Essays can be any length up to 1,000 words. Essays must be original and must not infringe on the intellectual property rights of a third person.
3. There is no entry fee.
4. RPMDA dealer members nor RPMDA assume responsibility for lost, late, misdirected, mutilated, postage-due, or illegible entries, all of which will be disqualified. All materials submitted will become Bookmark Music’s or RPMDA's property and will not be returned.
5. Essays in local competitions will be judged by a person or persons from Bookmark Music and Cedar Street Times. Winning local essays submitted in the national competition will be judged by a person or persons selected by RPMDA. The decisions of the judges will be final. Essays will be judged on their effectiveness, insightfulness, creativity, and development of the ideas expressed.
6. Mail-in entries will preferably be typed or computer-printed, double-spaced, and addressed “Attention RPMDA Essay Competition.” Handwritten essays must be highly legible. Emailed entries should be sent with the subject line “RPMDA Essay Competition.” RPMDA dealer members and RPMDA reserve the right to disqualify illegible entries.
7. To ensure anonymity with the judges, entrants should print a pseudonym on their essay. For digital submissions, they should email their pseudonym, in addition to their essay, to 307 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA, fax 831/648-0518, or marcia@bookmarkmusic.com.
8. Deadline: Postmark and electronic deadline is March 5, 2011. To be considered in the competition, local either by mail, fax or email, send entry to 307 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA, fax 831/648-0518, or marcia@bookmarkmusic.com.

Let the world know how you feel!

Hang a love sign in Cedar Street Times in our February 11 issue

$20 for whatever you can fit in the Love Sign Heart
Email your message to editor@cedarstreettimes.com or mail it and send a check or bring by the cash to 311A Forest Ave., Pacific Grove
We accept credit cards.
We'll even take it over the phone.
Questions? Call 831-324-4742
That Dog Gone Dog Report

The dogs were all good this week in Pacific Grove, but the people on the other hand...OH boy! A gentleman was arrested for failing to yield at a crosswalk, and driving on a suspended license. It would stand to reason that if you were going to drive on a suspended license, you would at least drive like a human. There was nothing in the report indicating if it was a dog, a human or both that was in the crosswalk.

Creepy Critters

Police responded to a call about a suspicious person in someone’s yard, wearing a ski mask and dark clothes. Police were dispatched to a call about a person in dark clothing tapping on someone’s window. The person paced back and forth in front of the house, and headed in an unknown direction.

There was a report of a suspicious person jiggling the doorknob of another guest room in a local bed and breakfast. Doesn’t this man know how unflattering wearing all black is?

Theft

A woman discovered someone was using her social security number without her consent. A woman reported that she found missing items after construction on her home.

Police were dispatched to a past tense robbery in a local business. Surely there are better ways to deal with the economy.

Crazy Drivers

A woman was stopped for a vehicle violation, and was found to be driving on a suspended license.

A man in a routine red light violation stop was found to have over an ounce of marijuana in his possession, and was detained.

A driver was stopped for failing to yield at a red light, and was found to have no license.

How much do you want to bet both subjects were stopped at the same light?

For further information contact the Superintendent Office 831-646-6510 or at www.pgusd.org

Vacancy on School Board

Requirements:
Registered voter
Live in the Pacific Grove Unified School District
Not otherwise disqualified from holding a civil office

Applications:
Available at Superintendent’s Office 831-646-6510
or at www.pgusd.org
Due at the Superintendent’s Office
555 Sinex Ave., Pacific Grove
no later than Mon., Jan. 31, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

The Board will review the applications and conduct the interviews of the final applicants at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on February 3, 2011. After conducting the interviews in open session the Board will finalize their selection and make the provisional appointment. The selected candidate will be sworn in at the regular Board meeting on Thursday, February 24, 2011.

For further information contact the Superintendent Office at 646-6510.

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Squeak poop
Your responsibilities as a pet owner
Christelle Harris
Squeak up!

You know that moment. You’re walking outside with your dog, or he or she stops, squats and poops right on your neighbor’s lush green lawn. Just then your neighbor looks out their window, and waves... Squeak loves the lady’s lawn next door, the nice one. My neighbor is always there too, ready to look out her window at me and wave sarcastically. Poor Squeak is just trying to do what she does best as a dog, and I’m pulling helplessly at the leashes, turning more and more tomato-like. So, as a dog owner, one just has to face the facts, and pick up the un-savories your pup leaves behind. I’m glad Squeak is small, and so is she...well, you know.

Getting your dog’s excrement off the ground and into the trash is important. It causes 20%-30% of water pollution, and carries E-coli. It is estimated that about 4 million little puppy gifts get left on the ground each year (If only I could collect a quarter for each one). Besides polluting our water, it can stick to your shoes and get tracked into your house, it can make your lawn look yucky and it can make parks and beaches like mine fields. We need to pick this stuff up.

We have all seen people using bags with their dogs’ dodies, and this is great, but unfortunately, we need to be more considerate when picking up this stuff in a sack. First things first, if you use a bag, don’t leave the bag, with the poo in it, on the beach or the sidewalk. It’s even worse for the environment to just leave poop and a bag on Asilomar, come on. Secondly, we doggie owners need to consider the fact that leaving poop in a non-biodegradable bag is a bad idea. Plastic bags take hundreds of years to break down. So, that plastic bag with your dogs’ poop in it will be around for a very long time. It will not biodegrade, but it will take over our beaches and our oceans.

Luckily, there are biodegradable dog waste bag alternatives all over the place. You can order doggie waste bags online, or pick them up before you go on almost any beach here on the Peninsula for free. I carry biodegradable bags with me when I walk Squeak, which saves me from too much embarrassment when Squeak is free. I carry biodegradable bags with me when I walk Squeak, and wave sarcastically. Poor Squeak is just trying to do what she does best as a dog, and I’m pulling helplessly at the leashes, turning more and more tomato-like. So, as a dog owner, one just has to face the facts, and pick up the un-savories your pup leaves behind. I’m glad Squeak is small, and so is she...well, you know.

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Now, back at home, I thought, if I could only slip a small hydraulic jack beneath one edge of the jade I might lift it a bit. When the water got calm, I went down the coast. I brought along a net tightly wound around a thin, flat steel strip about an inch wide and four feet long, and, of course, I brought the jack. If I could find a purchase, to jack the stone up, even just a little, then maybe I could slip the rolled up net under the stone. It worked. I did find a purchase and was able to lift the stone ever so slightly. I cautiously threaded the steel bar, with the net around it, under the jade and pulled it through with the help of lift bags. Then I unrolled the net as far as possible towards one end of the stone. The same technique was used to unravel and pull the other end of the net out the opposite side. When I had worked the net out on all sides, I brought it up over the top and wove a rope through the net to bind it completely, “sewing” it up tight. My dive tank was “empty”, but my job was done: the jade was wrapped.

Before my dive partner and I could go down the coast again, I came down with a bad cold, and was unable to dive. There was an area we called the “staging area” in the North Cove. It was on the north side of the sand channel. We had stashed stones there before. The advantage was, even in moderately rough seas, we could get into the staging area to lift stones for the trip to Willow Creek. As I saw it, our next step was to get the jade stone out of the surge area and move it to the more accessible staging area. As long as the jade was already netted, we needed to do this right away. It meant the jade stone would have to be floated, pushed through the heavy kelp beds, and dropped down into the sand at the staging area. I called my dive partner to tell him the jade stone was securely netted. While I was laid up, he moved it to the staging area.

These were the early days when Henry was our shore crew. When we finally landed the jade stone at Willow Creek, we posted it up the beach with a cable attached to Henry’s GMC. Henry revved up the GMC and jerked the stone ahead full speed with utter abandon. Chains, ropes, and sometimes cables, broke. No finesse at all. We’d2 "slammed into the sea" for some semblance of safety as Henry applied the gas pedal and the jade lurched forward out of control. The 2400 pound jade stone careened off other rocks, sometimes crashing to a sudden halt and sending rigging gear skywards. Henry seemed to love this kind of reckless action. The net was totally destroyed and the jade badly bruised, but, in the end, the jade got safely tucked onto the bed of Henry’s truck and sent on its way home.

A helper and I put about 1000 hours of hard work into carving and polishing the jade stone, which I now christened “Leucothea”. The top side was chipped from its rough upside-down ride over boulders at Willow Creek. Henry seemed to love this kind of reckless action. The net was totally destroyed and the jade badly bruised, but, in the end, the jade got safely tucked onto the bed of Henry’s truck and sent on its way home.

In the myth of Leucothea: Ino, fleeing from her husband, threw herself from a cliff into the sea where she was metamorphosed under the name of Leucothea into a divinity who protected mariners. She rose from the sea to save shipwrecked Odysseus.

©2011 by Don Wobber

Editor’s notes: Don discovered the stone in late 1985, and finished the work on it in 1988. “North Cove” is located between Lucia and Gorda, about 65 miles south of Carmel. By his best recollection, Don’s dive partner for this adventure was Ed Starr: “Henry” was Henry “Red” Ragusahe. He and Don used to go rockhounding together.

Some of Don’s jade and other stones are on display and for sale at Artisana Gallery and The Works, both in Pacific Grove.

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Letters to the Editor

Cedar Street Times welcomes your letters on subjects of interest to the citizens of Pacific Grove as well as our readers elsewhere. We prefer that letters be on local topics. At present we have not set limits on length though we do reserve the right to edit letters for space constraints, so please be concise.

We will contact you to verify authenticity so your email address and/or telephone number must be included as well as your name and city of residence.

We will not publish unsigned letters or letters which defame or slander or libel.

Cedar Street Times is published weekly at 311A Forest Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

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Marge Ann Jameson, Editor/Publisher
Phone 831-324-4742
Fax 831-324-4745
Email: editor@cedarstreettimes.com

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PUBLIC MEETING
City of Pacific Grove

OVERVIEW OF PERMIT STREAMLINING IMPROVEMENTS

Monday, January 31, 2011
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Pacific Grove Community Center
515 Junipero Avenue, Pacific Grove CA

You are invited to a Public Meeting to learn about the new Community Development Permit Process Improvements that will go into effect on Friday, February 4, 2011. The improvements streamline and clarify the permit procedures for architectural design review, use permits, variances, and other land use permits.

At this meeting, you will learn about new permit paths that will reduce applicant time and costs, new public information handouts and forms that will be available at the Community Development Department counter, a new on-line tool to access parcel information on the City’s website, new Window Guidelines, and more!

Please join us for this informational event.

If you have questions about this meeting, please call the Pacific Grove Community Development Department at (831)648-3190.

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Christine, the Laundry Lady, does “magic” with your laundry!

Wash & Fold: $1.25/lb.

Your laundry washed, folded, ready to put away or wear right out of the basket

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Newman has to be seen on the big screen

Paul Newman is an actor who demands to be seen on the big screen. I am really eager to see this week’s movie in the Lighthouse Cinema’s Classic Film series, Cool Hand Luke (1967), because I have only seen it on TV. I know there is more to see, by a couple of orders of magnitude, because movies – any movies – are better in a big dark theater, and great movies are best on a big screen, where every detail is visible. But in the last year, since we’ve been lucky enough to have an ongoing festival right here in P.G., I’ve been enthralled all over again at the sheer beauty of film. Warm light, projected through celluloid and cast onto a silver screen, is different from the cold light emitted from a box, or a computer screen, or a phone. This film, set in a brutal prison chain gang, celebrates Paul Newman’s charisma, and in particular his smile, which over and over endears him to the other inmates (and us) as it enrages the guards, who become intent on breaking his spirit.

Mary Albert

Going to the Movies

Beauty doesn’t naturally spring to mind when you think of chain gangs, but Newman’s style – his charisma, his attitude, his smile that conveys so much – is a beautiful thing to behold, and shouldn’t be wasted on a small lifeless screen. In 1967, movies were changing. Good and bad were not so clear cut; the truth was not so easily encapsulated. Beauty was a natural setting for an all-male cast, and their parents.

The school is on two different campuses. Kindergartner is in Seaside. The Enrollment Open House there will be held on Sat., January 29, from 10 a.m. - 12 noon. The Seaside Children’s Center is at 1450 Elm Street, Seaside. Enrollment Open House for grades 1-8 is set for Sat., Feb. 5 from 10 a.m. - noon at 1004 David Ave., Pacific Grove. For further information, call the school at 831-655-4638 or online at www.mbayschool.org

Charter school will hold enrollment open house

Charter school will hold open house

Monterey Bay Charter School will hold two open houses for prospective students and their parents.

The Classic Film Series at the Lighthouse Cinema

Winter 2011

January 27-28  The Odd Couple 1968 directed by Gene Saks, with Jack Lemmon and Walter Mathau
February 3-4  Cool Hand Luke 1967 directed by Stuart Rosenberg, with Paul Newman
February 10-11  Sabrina 1954 directed by Billy Wilder, with Humphrey Bogart and Audrey Hepburn (Valentine’s Day Special)
February 17-18  To Kill a Mockingbird 1963 directed by Robert Mulligan, with Gregory Peck
February 24-25  Viva Las Vegas 1964 directed by George Sidney, with Elvis Presley
March 3-4  Strangers on a Train 1951 directed by Alfred Hitchcock, with Farley Granger
March 10-11  Shane 1953 directed by George Stevens, with Alan Ladd
March 17-18  The Quiet Man 1952 directed by John Ford, with John Wayne and Maureen O’Hara (St.Patrick’s Day Special)
March 24-25  The Philadelphia Story 1940 directed by George Cukor, with Cary Grant, James Stewart and Katherine Hepburn
March 31- April 1  East of Eden 1955 directed by Elia Kazan, with James Dean
April 7-8  An American in Paris 1951 directed by Vincente Minelli, with Gene Kelly
April 14-15  Father of the Bride 1950 directed by Vincente Minelli, with Spencer Tracy and Elizabeth Taylor
April 21-22  The African Queen 1951 directed by John Huston. With Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn
April 28-29  The Thin Man 1934 directed by WS Van Dyke, with William Powell and Myrna Loy

Films are currently scheduled to show Thursdays and Fridays, at noon and 7:30. Check with the theater at 645-1533 or http://www.srentertainment-mentgrp.com/lighthouse4.asp to confirm show times.

Paul Newman: The epitome of cool in “Cool Hand Luke.” His winning smile and those blue eyes make him irresistible to all around him. He exudes distilled charisma, which he turns into power.

Luke’s mother and the fantasy-inspiring, car-washing Lucille, who have just one scene apiece (and Lucille has no lines), this is a strictly masculine set-up. The locale provides plenty of room for smaller parts by Harry Dean Stanton, Dennis Hopper, Swoother Martin, Wayne Rogers, Ralph Waite, and dozens more who populate the chain gang, the card games, the bunk house, and the hard-boiled-egg-eating challenge. They all witness Luke and become his disciples, most of all George Kennedy, in an Oscar winning supporting role. He is charmed by Luke even as Luke supplants his power among the prisoners. He can’t help it, and you won’t be able to either. See you there, Thursday and Friday at noon and 7:30.
Friends of the Monterey Public Library's Chocolate and Wine Tasting Benefit set for Feb. 18

The Friends of the Monterey Public Library presents the 6th Annual Chocolate & Wine Tasting Benefit, on Fri., Feb. 18, 7 - 9 p.m., at the Library, 625 Pacific Street, Monterey. Sample a wide variety of local wines and a dazzling array of chocolate goodies ranging from cakes, brownies, candies, petit fours, fondue, cookies, ice cream, chicken and vegetarian mole, chocolate beer and more. The event will feature a silent auction, live music and door prizes. All proceeds go to the purchase of books and other library resources.

Tickets are $25 in advance and $30 at the door. Attendees must be 21 years of age and older to attend. For more information please call 831.646.3949.

An Evening with Ronny Cox

The Christian Church of Pacific Grove is proud to present “An Evening with Ronny Cox.” He is an artist who wears a variety of hats, from actor to musician to family man. But if there is one common thread that pulls it all together it’s the “real” person that wears each hat and the warmth his craft brings to anyone exposed to his many talents.

Sunday, February 13, 2011 • 7:00 PM
Christian Church of Pacific Grove
442 Central Ave., Pacific Grove
Tickets: $15 advance • $20 door
831-372-0363

A Valentine’s Fundraiser for the PG Library

Since 1992 Heartstrings has been performing an inspired blend of folk and traditional music from around the world with a few contemporary surprises slipped in. ‘Heartstrings’ performers Laura Burian on violin, Paulette Lynch on hammered dulcimer and percussion, Pat Skinner on mandolin, mandola and accordion, and Marj Ingram Viales on guitar. The Heartstrings will be joined by Rick Chelew on bass. For more information on Heartstrings and to hear samples of their wonderful music go to www.heartstringsmonterey.com.

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442 Central Ave., Pacific Grove
Tickets: $15 advance • $20 door
831-372-0363

A benefit for children’s library programs
Tickets $10
Available at Bookmark Music, 307 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove and The Works, 162 16th St., Pacific Grove
Sponsored by the PG Library, supported by volunteers of the Friends of the PG Library
All proceeds will go to the Children’s Collection of the library
Since 1992 Heartstrings has been performing an inspired blend of folk and traditional music from around the world with a few contemporary surprises slipped in. ‘Heartstrings’ performers Laura Burian on violin, Paulette Lynch on hammered dulcimer and percussion, Pat Skinner on mandolin, mandola and accordion, and Marj Ingram Viales on guitar. The Heartstrings will be joined by Rick Chelew on bass. For more information on Heartstrings and to hear samples of their wonderful music go to www.heartstringsmonterey.com.

Send your event information to kioskcedarstreettimes@gmail.com
Dear Readers: Please bear in mind that historical articles such as “High Hats & Parasols” present our history — good and bad — in the language and terminology used at the time. The writings contained in “High Hats” are not our words. They are quoted from Pacific Grove/Monterey publications from 100 years in the past. Our journalistic predecessors held to the highest possible standards for their day, as do we at Cedar Street Times. Please also note that any items listed for sale in “High Hats” are “done deals,” and while we would all love to see those prices again, people also worked for a dollar a day back then. Thanks for your understanding.

The News … from 1911.

**Boardwalk’s Merry-go-round excursion planned**
Southern California residents may be interested in a unique experience taking place on Monterey Bay: a merry-go-round excursion. The Looff Carousel in Monterey Bay’s Boardwalk will be opened for a special ride, offering a unique view of the coastline.

**C of C favors Monterey Harbor**
The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce has passed a resolution favoring the appropriation by the state government of $250,000 to be used for the improvement of Monterey Harbor. News of the passage of the resolution has just been received by C. W. Peterson, chairman of the harbor improvement committee at Monterey.

**Committee on franchises reports**
The committee on franchises made its report last week and the report was adopted with one exception. That exception, upon motion of F. A. Botsch, changed the amount of money to be paid to the city to one per cent of the company’s earnings for the first five years. Thereafter, the payment rises to 4% yearly. Upon applying to open for business, a deposit of two thousand dollars is required.

**Freeholders squabble**
The Monterey and Pacific Grove Boards of Freeholders, who are now framing new charters for the old capital and the Grove, had a stormy session on Friday evening, as there was a great difference of opinion regarding the control of the schools.

A number of the members desire that the control of the schools be the same under the new charters as it is now, while another faction is bent upon throwing the control of schools into the hands of trustees. This is encouraged so that trustees will have the right of discharge. No action was taken but the matter will again come up on Monday evening next.

**Boy scouts take hike**
Scouts and leaders from the newly formed troop of Pacific Grove took a Saturday hike. The boys followed the path of the 17 Mile Drive as the guests of the Pacific Improvement Company. A professional botanist from San Jose accompanied the troop to offer explanations of local plants and animals.

**Notes from around the area…**
- The First Church of Christ Scientist, located at 167 Fountain, invites all to a Praise service now begins at the Pavilion Rink, corner of 14th and Lighthouse, at 9:30 a.m.

**The cost of living…**
- Remember T-bone Saturday at the Grove’s new cafeteria, the Winston dining room.

**Author’s Notes**
I The Dane, Charles I. D. Looff, after a childhood of working in a woodshop, became a master builder of hand-carved amusements. He manufactured over 50 carousels, not to mention several roller coasters and Ferris wheels. The 35¢ a day ride ticket on the Looff Carousel costs 5¢. All members of the exhibition receive one ticket, free of charge.

II The Boy Scouts of America has become one of the largest youth organizations in the United States, with over 4.5 million members. Since its founding in 1910, more than 110 million Americans have been members of the BSA. The Pacific Grove troop, established within a year of the organization’s national founding, at first functioned under the auspices of the Chautauqua. Chautauqua Hall, still standing, serves as a home-base to today’s scouts.

Please note! Readers are advised that the 1911 prices quoted herein are no longer valid, nor are these items / properties available from the mentioned seller. The Cedar Street Times appreciates the callers who have attempted to advantage themselves of these 1911 values, but we can be of no help.

Know some news or trivia from 1911? Contact the author Jon Guthrie: profguthrie@gmail.com.
T.A.S.K. 4 Teens will return to Nicaragua

Annual project assists orphans there

Once again, as they have done successfully in the past, students and adults representing Pacific Grove High school, Monterey-Pacific Rotary and T.A.S.K. 4 Teens (Together Achieving Successful Kindness) will load up ton of donations and at least another ton of good will and will fly to Nicaragua. Once there, they will tour orphanages in various Nicaraguan cities and dispense their goodies and their good deeds.

The trip will take place between February 16 and 21, 2011.

Students attending this year are O’Neil, Emily Harr, Jacqui Light, and Janet Light all with P.G.H.S.; and Mark and Jeanine Pasco of Trinity High in Monterey.

The Rotarians will be Gamecho and John Mims, both of Monterey-Pacific Rotary.

Students have been taking a special class to prepare. The experience clearly left its mark on the PG students last year. “It changes how you see things,” said Audrey Norris, who was part of the team. “Even with just a smile and a hug, you can change someone’s life.”

They may wind up painting or hammering nails, but they will come home knowing how blessed they are, according to DiAnna Gamecho, the attendance lead at Pacific Grove High School, who leads the TASK team.

Gamecho is a member of Monterey-Pacific Rotary, who have adopted Nicaragua as their International Project. Rotary helps to finance the trip, but more help is needed.

As a fund-raiser, the group will hold a drawing for a dinner for eight prepared by Executive Chef Benjamin Brown of Pebble Beach Company. The prize includes the dinner, served with wine from Arcadian Winery. Members of T.A.S.K. 4 Teens will act as servers.

There will also be a presentation of the teens’ trip to Nicaragua and a performance of Nicaraguan music by Philip Montalban.

Tickets are $25 each, or five for $100 and all proceeds will go to fund the Nicaragua Project.

The drawing will be held Tues., Feb. 1. For more information on the tickets, email DiAnna Gamecho task4teens@yahoo.com.

“We are looking for in-kind donations for the orphanage,” said Gamecho.

“Money is always appreciated, of course. The exchange rate is about one American dollar to three in Nicaragua. In addition to taking 1,000 pounds of material donations, last year we raised $6,000 which gave them $18,000 for medicine, school uniforms, inside electrical and lights, interior paint and food.”

The group is also looking for the following items, which will be hand-carried to Nicaragua: Twin sheets/pillow cases; clothes for boys and girls ages 6 to 16; adult clothes/shoes for the staff; both men and women; shoes for both genders; lap top computers (cleaned of previous information); school supplies, pencils, paper, such; crayons, colored pencils and color books; Play Dough and clay; “Pick up Sticks”; baby dolls, toy cars; books (in Spanish if possible) for the library; athletic jerseys and sports equipment.

“Just think of anything YOU might like to receive if you had very little or nothing!” said Gamecho.

Chance to Change
with T.A.S.K. 4 TEENS
(Together Achieving Successful Kindness)

Take a chance to win a dinner for you and 7 guests
prepared by
Executive Chef Benjamin Brown of Pebble Beach Company
Your evening will include:
A special menu created, prepared and served by Chef Benjamin, assisted by the elegant service of the members of T.A.S.K. 4 TEENS
Wine from Arcadian Winery
A special presentation of the teen’s trip to Nicaragua
And music of the country by Nicaragua’s own Philip Montalban

Tickets are $25.00 each or 5 for $100.00
All proceeds of this dinner will fund the Nicaragua Project.

We are GRATIEFUL FOR YOUR PART in helping us CHANGE a small part of the world….

Drawing will be Tuesday, February 7th
WINNER WILL BE CALLED

Together with Monterey Pacific Rotary, students will travel Feb. 16 – 21, 2011, working with Los Quinchos Orphanage in San Marcos, as well as additional projects in Jinotepe and Managua, Nicaragua.

Helping Hands are Happy Hands….

EMAIL:
DiAnna L. Gamecho at task4teens@yahoo.com
for purchase and pickup of tickets

Free heart-health fair Feb. 5

Get free health-screenings, talk to heart and nutrition experts, sample healthy foods and more at the second annual “Every Beat Counts” heart health fair at Del Monte Shopping Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 5.

Staff from Community Hospital will provide free blood pressure, cholesterol, and glucose screenings and interpret the results. They’ll also offer information on strokes, sleep apnea, smoking cessation, CPR, and Peninsula Wellness Center, Community Hospital’s Wellness Center, opening in Marina this spring. There will be “ask the experts” tables, with Richard Gray, MD, and Mike Barber, RN, both of Tyler Heart Institute, answering heart questions, and a registered dietitian answering nutrition questions.

Community Hospital’s bloodmobile will be in front of Century Theatres and shoppers are encouraged to donate blood to help meet community need.

Participants may pick up a “passport” at the health fair stations or participating stores. The stores will mark the passport at each stop and then it can be turned in for a prize drawing.

The event is being held as part of American Heart Month, promoted in February by the American Heart Association.

School district projects static
student, teacher numbers
for the upcoming year

At the school board meeting this Thurs., Jan. 20, the board voted unanimously to concur with staff assumptions concerning the number of teachers and students projected for the upcoming school year.

The Pacific Grove Unified School District board voted to “Concur with the enrollment projection and direct that the initial 2011/12 staffing assumption should be in accordance with ‘no increase or decrease’ option for budget development purposes.”

This means that they neither have to lay off teachers, nor will they hire new ones. This also means that staff projects the number of students to be about the same, and they will keep the teachers in accordance with this number.

Annually at this time of year, the school board works on the budget and budget assumptions for the next school year. By law, if there are any layoffs expected for the fall term, notices must be given by March of the previous term.
New classes from Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (mprdp.org) has a variety of classes on tap over the next week, part of its winter program of Let’s Go Outdoors! programs.

Immediately upcoming are a nature storytelling workshop, a tour on foot of historic Monterey, a pet rock walk and an indoor rock climbing adventure.

Details are below. For information on all winter activities offered by The Park District, please see the MPRPD’s fall/winter Let’s Go Outdoors! guide or go on-line at mprd.org.

Nature Tales: Storytelling Workshop

Oral storytelling is a revered tradition and beautiful art form. Told well, a simple story transcends cultural differences. Hear examples from and share ideas with a seasoned storyteller. Transform your experiences in nature into a meaningful storyboard for a short oration. Find your narrative style in this guided exploration of an ancient custom.

Ages 9 and up, Saturday, Jan. 29, 1 PM-4 PM, Garland Ranch Regional Park Museum, 700 W. Carmel Valley Road, $15 (district resident) $17 (non-district resident). Instructor: Phil Hawthorne.

Lifestyles of Monterey’s Past

Journey into the cultural roots and rich heritage of Monterey as you enter its historic homes and secret gardens. This walking tour peeks into the lives of the city’s early ruling families and explores their influence on present-day Monterey. Enjoy stories steeped in cultural history from a renowned local historian.

Ages 9 and up, Sunday, Jan. 30, 2 PM-4 PM, downtown Monterey (see mprd.org for details), $10 (district resident), $11 (non-district resident). Instructor: Monica Hudson.

Three-Season Tuesday Walk

Spend the seasons wandering with wonderment at the Santa Lucia Preserve. Allow your child to set the pace as experienced educators encourage each of you to observe seasonal transformations using all your senses. Designed with both the child and adult in mind, no two outings are the same.

Ages 3-5, adult accompaniment required, Tuesdays, Feb. 1, March 1, and March 29, 12:30 PM-2:30 PM each time, Santa Lucia Conservancy Visitor Center, 26700 Rancho San Carlos Road, Carmel Valley, $15 (district resident), $17 (non-district resident), adults free. Instructors: Santa Lucia Conservancy.

Rock Climbing: Learn the Ropes

The perfect introduction to rock climbing. This special two-hour introductory indoor program will teach you the skills you need to get started climbing. Learn important safety tips, techniques, footwear and training. Practice the moves to get you outdoors. Equipment rental and full gym day-use included.

Ages 12 and up, Wednesdays, Feb. 2, Feb. 16, 6 PM-8 PM, Sanctuary Rock Gym, 1855 East Avenue, Sand City, $45 per class (district resident), $50 per class (non-district resident). Instructors: Sanctuary Rock Gym.

Pre-registration is strongly suggested for all classes and programs offered by The Park District. Register online at www.mprd.org or in-person between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., Tuesday-Friday at the MPRPD office, 60 Garden Court, Suite 325, Monterey (check, money order, Visa or MasterCard accepted). If space is available, there is an additional charge of $5 to register the day of the class. On-site registration begins 20 minutes prior to the start of the class. All check-in and registration closes 5 minutes before the class begins. For more information, please contact Joseph Narvaez, at 372-3196, ext. 3.
Brokaw Hall is broken: Here is what 10 years of neglect can do

It has been suggested recently that Brokaw Hall, the odd little board-and-batten building that sits alone in the Monarch Sanctuary, become an interpretive center or at a minimum a tool shed. It has also been suggested that it be torn down, or disassembled and moved. But it has a green plaque because of its association with the Del Monte Military Academy and perhaps its mention in Steinbeck’s Sweet Thursday and, despite the fact that it’s slowly falling into the ground is considered historic. Nothing ever happens, though, and it continues to deteriorate. The water credits have allegedly been redistributed so what could be done with it is a big question. In the estimate of Esther Trosow and others, it is a danger to the public.

By Esther Trosow

Brokaw Hall is an empty relic of the days when it housed the Del Monte Military Academy (1910s). It was the duplex that Mrs. Diveley rented out in the late 1980s, when she hatched the plan to build out condos or apartments on the property. As a reaction to that, the citizens of Pacific Grove formed a group to buy the property (building and surrounding open space). It was put on the ballot as a bond issue, and after it passed, Mrs. Diveley changed what she wanted.

So eventually, the city came to own the property, but needed a few more bucks to finalize the deal. They got the money from the State—a wildlife easement that encompasses the sanctuary and set it aside as a Monarch preserve. Mrs. Diveley got the okay to build a few houses adjacent on land that wasn't included in the bond measure. These are the relatively new houses (1990s) that abut the Sanctuary.

During Mayor Sandy Koffman’s administration, the idea to preserve the duplex and turn it into an interpretive center was soundly rejected by the city council. They instead instructed staff to pull out the electrical & plumbing systems and board up the windows. About the same time, the house got listed on the historical inventory, and was in pretty good condition, so the Heritage Society issued one of their plaques. It's still there.

It was a political hot potato back then, probably because there was tension between the mayor and Ro Vacarro, and some idea that she wanted to live there.

But it was never determined whether the building served as part of the microclimate and if it could be removed (the historical listing is also an impediment to that). Stuart Weiss’ 1998 report references it, but drew no conclusions. His recently released report did not address Brokaw Hall at all.

The building has been left to decay—and now it is a hazard.

Eleanor Bennett-White is a 12 year-old 7th grader at the International School of Monterey. Last week, she won the National Geographic geography bee, sponsored by Google, at her school, outlasting 25 other students from grades 4-8, of whom 11 were finalists. She has been interested in geography from a young age, and holds a globe she’s owned since early childhood.

Sometimes, Eleanor said, the judges had the students write down an answer and show it, so sometimes everyone got the same question. At other times, the contestants were shown a map and asked questions, for instance, about altitude and longitude.

“We weren’t told when the first round would be,” she said, so there was no real preparation. But the chances are that she wouldn’t have needed much preparation anyway – her friends call her “Globe Head,” and Eleanor doesn’t see to mind.

Eleanor has taken a written test to see if she advances to the state level. She’s also interested in making jewelry, but says that geography is her oldest interest.

As we went to press, we learned that Eleanor won the school spelling bee, with the word “leviathan.” She will advance to the county level now.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME:

Petition of REBECCA GAMECHO & BUNRIM PIN Case No. M103221 Filed January 25, 2011. To all interested persons. Petitioner Rebecca Gamecho & Bunrim Pin filed a petition with this court for a change of name as follows: present name REBECCA JIAN GAMECHO to proposed name REBECCA ELIZABETH PIN and COLTON LUKE GAMECHO to proposed name COLTON LUKE PIN. The COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of hearing date: March 18, 2011 Time: 9:00 am. Dept. 14. The address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Monterey, 1200 Augusto Rd., Monterey, CA 93940. A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four consecutive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: CEDAR STREET TIMES. DATED: January 25, 2011 Judge of the Superior Court: Kay Kingsley. Publication dates: 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18/11.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 201101164 The following person is doing business as Victorian House Cleaning and Maintenance, 547 Evergreen Road, Monterey County, CA 93950; Carmelina Garcia, 547 Evergreen Road, Pacific Grove, CA. 93950. This statement was filed with the Clerk of Monterey County on January 24, 2011. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/01/2011. Signed: Carmelina Garcia. This business is conducted by an individual. Publication dates: 01/28/11, 02/04/11, 02/11/11, 02/18/11.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20110113 The following persons are doing business as World Premier Associates, 423 Pajaro St. #B Salinas CA, Monterey County, CA 93901; Sharon Shaw-Flores, 251 La Moe Dr. Salinas, CA. 93901. This statement was filed with the Clerk of Monterey County on January 14, 2011. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/01/2011. Signed: Cheryl Beller. This business is conducted by an individual. Publication dates: 01/28/11, 02/04/11, 02/11/11, 02/18/11.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20110079 The following person is doing business as Realty World Premier Associates, 423 Pajaro St. #B Salinas CA, Monterey County, CA 93901; Sharon Shaw-Flores, 251 La Moe Dr. Salinas, CA. 93901. This statement was filed with the Clerk of Monterey County on January 11, 2011. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/01/2011. Signed: Sharon Shaw-Flores. This business is conducted by an individual. Publication dates: 01/14/11, 01/21/11, 01/28/11, 02/04/11.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME:

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Winter’s still here; savor a spicy, warm, Indian-style stew

Welcome to a world of spices and exotic flavors. Indian cuisine is a good fit with healthy lifestyles. For people who want to reduce their fat intake but want taste, appearance and variety in the foods they eat, Indian cuisine is a great choice. Indian cuisine has unique, interesting and strong flavors from spices, seasonings and nutritious ingredients such as leafy vegetables, grains, fruits and legumes.

Betsy Slinkard Alexander

Not Your Grandmother’s Recipes

As leafy vegetables, grains, fruits and legumes. Interestingly and strong flavors from spices, seasonings and nutritious ingredients such as leafy vegetables, grains, fruits and legumes.

Taste

Indian food is categorized into six tastes: sweet, sour, salty, spicy, bitter and astringent. A well-balanced Indian meal contains all six tastes. This can’t always be accomplished, but it’s a great rule of thumb to follow. This principle explains the use of numerous spice combinations and depth of flavor in Indian recipes.

Side dishes and condiments like chutneys, curries, dals and Indian pickles contribute to and add to the overall flavor and texture of a meal and provide the needed balance. (Dal, or daal, is one of the most common ingredients and dishes in Indian cuisine. The term refers to lentils and similar legumes as well as a thick, spicy stew made from these ingredients.)

Spices

Most of the spices used in Indian cooking were chosen thousands of years ago for their medicinal qualities rather than for flavor. Many of them such as turmeric, cloves and cardamom are very antiseptic. Others like ginger are carminative and good for the digestion.

Curry

Contrary to popular belief, not all Hindus are vegetarians but the majority are. There is an immense variety to Indian cuisine that is not restricted to curry. An authentic Indian curry is an intricate combination of stir-fried masala – a mixture of onion, garlic, ginger and tomatoes; various spices and seasonings with which meat, poultry, vegetables or fish is prepared to produce a stew-type dish. The word masala also means spice.

Lamb and Potato Vindaloo

Yield: 4 servings

Ingredients:

- ¾ cup chopped peeled fresh ginger
- 6 large garlic cloves
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 ½ teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- ½ teaspoon dried crushed red pepper
- ½ teaspoon ground cardamom
- ⅛ teaspoon ground cloves
- 3 ½ pounds lamb (shoulder or bone (round bone) chops, fat trimmed, boned, cut into 1 ½-inch pieces
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 1 cup canned tomato puree
- ½ cup plain yogurt
- ½ cup white wine vinegar
- 5 cups water
- 2 medium Idaho russet potatoes, peeled, cut into 1 ½-inch pieces
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro

Directions:

Combine ginger, garlic, 2 tablespoons vegetable oil and next 7 ingredients in processor. Puree until paste forms.

Heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil in heavy large pot over medium high heat. Add half of lamb. Sauté until brown, about 8 minutes. Using slotted spoon, transfer lamb to bowl. Repeat with remaining lamb. Add onions and spice paste to pot. Sauté until onions are tender, about 8 minutes.

Return lamb to pot. Add tomato puree, yogurt and vinegar. Simmer over medium heat until sauce is thick, stirring occasionally, about 15 minutes. Add 5 cups water. Increase heat and bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium. Gently simmer uncovered until lamb is almost tender, about 50 minutes.

Add potatoes. Cover and simmer until potatoes and lamb are tender, stirring occasionally, about 35 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Transfer to serving bowl. Sprinkle with cilantro.

Yield: 4 servings


Betsy Slinkard Alexander provides freelance writing and public relations services with a focus on the food industry. She welcomes your ideas for future columns and can be reached at (831) 655-2098, betsey@slinkardpr.com or www.slinkardpr.com.
The Arts

Now Showing

PG Art Center Exhibits

January 7-February 17, 2011

“En Dehors du Temps (Outside of Time),” Photographs by Meredith Mullins

“Different Directions,” Photographs by Virginia Scott, gail nichols, Susan Lysik and Susan Hillyard

“Meanwhile... And Likewise...,” Mixed Media by Robert Armstrong

Drawings by Peter Plamondon

The Work of Studio Artist Sheila Delimont and Assistant Preparator Kait Kent

Celebrate Sister Cities at a free concert

Two award-winning Croatian musical groups, the Dubrovnik Guitar Trio and the vocal group Subrenum will present a free concert of music by Croatian composers and selections of traditional Dalmatian songs. The event will be held on Wed., Feb. 9 at 7:00 p.m. at Irvine Auditorium at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, 499 Pierce Street in Monterey. The concert is presented as part of a cultural exchange between the sister cities of Croatia and abroad (France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Russia, Spain, Sweden and United States of America), drawing the attention of both the audience and the reviewers.

Subrenum

The story about the vocal group Subrenum begins in 1992. Their name has its origin in the old name for the region Zupa dubrovacka “sub brenem” and their members are truly promoting the traditional vocal singing and cultural values.

They are one of the musical icons of ethnic art of the Dubrovnik region.

The Dubrovnik Guitar Trio

Having been enchanted by playing music together, Frano Matusic, Maroje Brcic and Ante Skaramuca, the guitar teachers at the Music School of Dubrovnik, formed the Dubrovnik Guitar Trio towards the end of 1992.

Soon after founding the ensemble, they began giving concerts on the stages in Croatia and abroad (France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Russia, Spain, Sweden and United States of America), drawing the attention of both the audience and the reviewers.

Since such a guitar trio is not a conventional music ‘body’, original works for their repertoire are quite rare; therefore, the backbone of the programme of the trio is created by transcriptions of compositions originally written for other instruments and ensembles, and arranged by Frano Matusic.

Today there are more and more renowned Croatian composers, such as Zeljko Brkanovic, Niksa Njiric and Ivo Jospivic whose works The Dubrovnik Guitar Trio has had the honour to premiere.

In 2007, The Dubrovnik Guitar Trio was awarded by Croatian Society of Musical Artists for exceptional artistic reach. This diploma is named “Milka Trnina” in honor of famous Croatian artist, and can be received only once during the artistic career.

With more than 150 exhibitions over the past 35 years, you’d think assemblage artist Ray Magsalay would be slowing down. Quite the contrary. The 72 year-old Magsalay is gearing up for a number of exciting shows in 2011. His year begins with an open reception celebrating the installation of his art in the Monterey Peninsula Airport on Fri., Feb. 11, from 5 p.m. To 7 p.m. The reception, with complimentary refreshments, will be held in the upstairs lobby of the airport.

Magsalay is the only Monterey Peninsula artist in the exhibition. He will share the exhibit space with a group of artists from the Bay Area through December 21st of this year. Magsalay’s assemblage art features a menagerie of materials composed into a visual storybook that draws viewers in closer to read. There is a spiritual aura that is evident in his work. He sees the discarded, recycled, and skeletal remains he uses in his assemblage as “life fragments.” If looked upon closely, everyone can find themselves in his work. It may be a toy from your childhood, an old bottle top, or a piece of jewelry that reminds you of your mother. Once assembled, Magsalay’s works of art are mesmerizing, holding viewers attention much longer than a canvas ever could.

Ray Magsalay and his wife, Carol live in Pacific Grove. After retiring from a 37 year career with the City of Monterey, his art alone couldn’t sustain him. He now dedicates a good deal of time to helping others with presentations and hands-on workshops with assemblage art and the art of bonsai to the youth and handicapped in our community.

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Assemblage artist opening at airport
Ring around the rosy pocket full of Posies. Most of us have heard of a Posie -- it’s a rhyming word in a nursery rhyme game nearly all children play. Have you ever wondered what a Posie might be? Or what about a Tussie-Musie -- the most romantic of all Posies?

The Language of flowers (a few examples)

- Daisy- innocence
- Lavender- acknowledgment of love
- Rosemary- remembrance
- Rose pink- love
- Rose red- passion
- Sweet pea- delicate pleasures
- Violet- faithfulness
- Lilac- first emotions of love
- Ivy- wedded love
- Myrtle- love
- Clover- happiness
- Basil- good wishes
- Carnation- pure love
- Sage- domestic virtue

Join the Amy Herbalist Newsletter and receive FREE Amy Herbalist’s Five Favorite Natural Secrets! www.AmyHerbalist.com

Amy Herbalist on the Radio! ROOTS ROCK REGGAE & HERBS 90.9FM, KHDC, Sunday evenings from 6-8pm, with an informative Herbal is Natural message at 6:45pm.

The most romantic of all posies was sent as a secret message of love in a bouquet called a Tussie-Musie using a special language of flowers where each herb or flower has a meaning. Most would have a single flower in the center often a rose with outer circles of scented flowers and herbs or contrasting leaves that all reveal a sentimental secret love message. This can be as simple as carefully picking and preparing a home made bouquet with a few of the plants, flowers, shrubs and herbs you have in your yard or garden. You can even include a note or card with a list explaining the meaning or message of the corresponding flowers and herbs starting with the center blossom first moving outwards. The stems can be held together with a string, ribbon or lace. A Tussie-Musie can be kept fresh in water for about a week or hung upside down to dry.

Providing your partner or loved one with a little something for Valentines Day to make them smile does not have to be pricy or expensive. Really: Imagine the smile you will get when you tell your loved one you got them a Tussie-Musie and that’s without explaining the one of a kind message you included in it. This all sounds very sweet to me… Hint Hint.

A Posie to you.. - Amy

The [love] language of flowers

Out and about this weekend enjoying the wonderful sunshine and getting a swell break in the winter weather, I was thrilled to find a little herb book at a local garage sale. I love to read books about herbs and learn everything I can about all of their uses and stories throughout time. A mentor of mine once told me how she just loved to learn about all of the traditional herbal remedies and natural secrets that there are and wished she could know them all. I must say I do share this same joy when learning about herbs and natural remedies, so finding the little herb book at the sale for a dollar was like finding a little gem.

I must say it was so much fun when I came to the chapter about Posies and Tussie-Mussies. Since it’s coming up on Valentines Day, and considering how careful we are all being with our spending these days, a Posie or Tussie-Musie may be a perfect scented and romantic Valentines Day surprise.

A Posie is a small bouquet of aromatic flowers. In the Elizabethan times and earlier they were mainly composed of scented medicinal herbs like rosemary, thyme and rue which all have disinfect properties and were carried to offer some protection against the plague and general bad smells of the day. It would be very kind to offer a posie of aromatic herbs to offer someone a speedy recovery, to celebrate a birthday, a wedding, a new baby, or as a greeting and for many more occasions. They look and smell pretty and the aromatic herbs have soothing and healing properties.

Without explaining the one of a kind message you included in it. This all sounds very sweet to me... Hint Hint.

A Posie to you.. - Amy
**Why balloons are verboten in Pacific Grove**

Ocean Guardians want people to know that it’s not random to forbid balloons

What do “innocent” balloons have to do with the health of the ocean? Students at Pacific Grove Middle School have been thinking this over since the beginning of this school year. Here, PGMS sixth graders weigh in on balloons.

“If balloons get into the ocean, some animals can eat them because they think the balloons look like jellyfish,” says Marissa Martinez. “Also,” says Mack Sebok, “little pieces of balloons or other debris can get in fishes’ gills and kill them.”

Helice Eitelgeorge points out that “Seagulls can choke on the leftover debris, too.”

“Even if a balloon released into the ocean doesn’t harm an animal,” says Lexi Rohrer, “it could end up in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.”

Adds Jon Marchiolo, “The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a big patch of garbage twice the size of Texas out in the ocean.” Says Deaven Keller, “It’s like a sea of trash where animals don’t have a chance of living.”

“That is why we aren’t allowed to bring birthday balloons to our school anymore,” says Rachel Choi. In the past, students celebrating birthdays could be seen carrying large balloon bouquets on campus. This practice is no longer allowed at school.

“We wrote a letter to the City Council asking them to ban balloons from outdoor activities in P.G.,” adds Samantha Crowley. Permits for outdoor events in Pacific Grove now specify that balloons are not permitted.

Chris Crandell adds that “We’ve also banned balloons from eighth grade promotion.”

Everett Millette says “Instead of balloons, we’re using paper flowers this year. Paper is biodegradable and recyclable.”

“We don’t want balloons to go into the ocean and kill turtles or other sea animals, so we’re trying not to use them,” concludes Maxx Yontz.

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**Monarch Alert**

This week’s Monarch Alert

To report tagged monarchs: 877-897-7740
http://monarchalert.calpoly.edu/

Monarch mating under way

This week monarch numbers declined at most sites throughout Monterey County as the weather warmed up and monarchs began mating.

Please check our website for the latest graph: http://monarchalert.calpoly.edu/html/current_trends.html.

Counts were conducted on 24 and 25 of January by Erica Krygsman (field coordinator for Monarch Alert in Monterey County) with the assistance of Jamie Miller (who is back from Peru!) and Ryan Slack. Skies were clear and temperatures were quite warm during all counts. The average number of monarchs counted at sites throughout Monterey County decreased. The clusters are decreasing in size and becoming more scattered at each site. In addition, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of matings.

The average number of monarchs counted at the Pacific Grove sanctuary was 3,429, where the monarchs have shifted from using a few of the conifers to using many eucalyptus instead. No clusters were observed at Plaskett Creek. Clusters were also not observed at Point Lobos or Andrew Molera, but warm temperatures and site specifics may have caused clusters to burst before counts began. With this in mind, the counts were conducted earlier in the morning and more clusters were observed at the private property site in Big Sur than have been observed recently. The warmer weather certainly compromises our ability to detect monarchs, since they are less likely to be in those oh-so-countable clusters.

Thank you to our volunteers this week, and our next counts are scheduled for 30 and 31 of January.

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**Basic Home Composting Workshop**

Learn how to reduce waste going to the landfill
And how to make a free earth-friendly soil amendment

On Sat., Jan. 29, from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., The Monterey Regional Waste Management District Staff will offer a free Home Composting Workshop for the public.

Included will be information on how to compost yard and kitchen waste using both commercially made compost bins and handmade designs. Participants will be provided with basic composting information, including how to create and maintain a successful composting system along with troubleshooting tips. Presentation will be followed by a demonstration in the MRWMD Small Planet Garden. Compost bins and supplies are available at the MRWMD Last Chance Mercantile.

Due to limited space, advance registration is recommended. Interested participants may register on-line at www.mrwmd.org or contact Kimberle Herring at 831-384-5313.

The event will be held at Monterey Regional Waste Management District, Administration Building at 14201 Del Monte Road, Marina. Located 2 miles North of Marina.