

In Your Dreams

A celebration of the Carmel lifestyle... a special section... inside this week!



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Helicopter rescue after fall from cliffside stairs

A CALIFORNIA Shock Trauma Air Rescue helicopter landed near Point Lobos Friday to transport a severely injured construction worker to Santa Clara Valley Medical Center after he fell 60 feet while working at a residence on Spindrift Drive.

Responding to a 911 call, firefighters from Cal Fire's Carmel Highlands station and medics with Carmel Regional Fire Ambulance located the victim at the base of a steep stairway accessing the coastal cliffs where a retaining wall is under construction.

Faced with a difficult extrication and a patient needing immediate attention, rescuers lowered a Stokes litter down the system used to carry construction materials, according to a Highlands fire captain, while the ambulance crew and firefighters stabilized the patient below. They used the same system to lift him to the road.

CALSTAR's prompt arrival at the landing zone enabled



PHOTO/CHRIS JOHNSON

flight nurses to be brought to the accident scene. They helped administer lifesaving care while the patient was transported by ambulance to the waiting helicopter.

Fire engines from Rio Road and Carmel Hill stations and Carmel police also responded and assisted.

Ventana Inn fire destroys four rooms

■ Maintenance man hospitalized

By CHRIS COUNTS

A FIRE swept through a row of six units at the upscale Ventana Inn and Spa in Big Sur Wednesday evening, causing extensive damage and sending one employee to the hospital.

"Four units looked like a total loss," reported Martha Karstens, assistant chief of the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade.

The fire broke out just before 5 p.m. When the first volunteer firefighter arrived on scene about 10 minutes later, Ventana employees were already fighting the blaze.

"Ventana did a great job" containing the fire, Karstens said. "They already had water on the fire when we got there. They knew what they were doing."

Between 30 and 35 firefighting personnel — representing the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade, the Mid-Coast Volunteer Fire Brigade, Cal Fire (formerly the California Department of Forestry) and the Salinas Rural Fire District — responded to the incident. The fire was extinguished before midnight, Karstens said.

Bob Taylor, a chief with Cal Fire, praised the hard work of

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On the road to Hangzhou, Shanghai and Beijing

By MARY BROWNFIELD

ONE IS going to find her roots. Another wants to see how teachers teach. A third is curious about the food business, and a fourth about religious faith in a communist country. A fifth wondered how anyone would not want to learn firsthand about such a rapidly emerging superpower, and a sixth wants to find "the real China." But practically everyone participating in the upcoming Carmel Chamber of Commerce-organized business leaders' trip to China mentioned one thing: the unbeatable price.

For \$1,399 per person (including this reporter), they will be flown

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LAWSUIT OVER FAILED STORM DRAIN HEADING TO COURT

By MARY BROWNFIELD

A CARMEL resident's lawsuit over a sink hole that reportedly damaged her home is headed for trial before a jury this summer.

Noel Beutel, whose front yard turned into a gushing stream when the storm drain at Mission Street and 10th Avenue failed during winter storms in 2005, sued the city for property damage and personal injuries after it refused to reimburse her for major repairs to her house. The case had been set for trial in February but was delayed so both sides could gather more information and attempt mediation, according to court documents.

The suit, filed in Monterey County Superior Court in December of that year, alleges the city's design and maintenance of the storm drain were "faulty in that improper materials were used, there was no plan for

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Mothballed C.V. earth station brought back to life by amateurs

■ Volunteer group uses Jamesburg to bounce radio signals off moon

By PAUL MILLER

IF YOU saw Neil Armstrong step onto the surface of the moon, or President Richard Nixon shake hands with Mao Tse Tung in China, or any one of thousands of network TV reports from the Vietnam War, or if you made an international phone call in the 1970s, 1980s or 1990s to almost any country in the South Pacific or Asia, you have a giant antenna in Carmel Valley to thank.

From 1968 to 2002, Jamesburg earth station, located on a remote hilltop in Cachagua, was a critical link in the nation's television and telephone networks. Complete with a hardened, 20,000 square-foot bunker, it was also used for military communications and was considered a military target during the Cold War.

But five years ago, the 97-foot dish was abruptly shut down after being rendered obsolete by digital and fibre-optic technology. Its owner, AT&T, put Jamesburg and 160 surrounding acres on the market in 2003 for \$2 million.

A Silicon Valley real estate investor, Jeff Bullis, bought the earth station — reportedly with plans to demolish it and subdivide the land for upscale homes.

But an October 2003 article in The Pine

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PHOTO/GERALD MOSELEY

It was decommissioned in 2002 and for five years was little more than a giant birdbath. But what had been one of the country's most important communications centers, the Jamesburg earth station, was fired up again two weeks ago by a group of ham radio operators.