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JUDGE: WOMAN TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HUSBAND WITH DEMENTIA

■ Spent \$100,000 per month, cheated his children

By KELLY NIX

A PEBBLE Beach woman alleged to have spent more than \$4 million of her elderly husband's money on international getaways, lavish jewelry, expensive cars and clothing — and who convinced her husband to cut two of his children out of his will — was guilty of elder abuse in manipulating his \$15 million estate, according to a judge's ruling following a two-month trial.

On Aug. 12, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Thomas Wills ruled that former realtor Lynne Lintz took advantage of her wealthy 81-

year-old husband, Robert Lintz, who had been in declining mental and physical health. Robert Lintz, a successful real estate developer, died in October 2009, four-and-half-years after the couple was married.

Pricey trips without him

The trial, from March 7 to May 26, was in response to a lawsuit Robert Lintz's adult children, James and Susan Lintz, filed in June 2009 against their stepmother. They claimed she spent millions of dollars of her husband's money, racking up as much as \$100,000 per month, including taking pricey trips abroad without him.

The lawsuit also alleged the 60-something Lynne Lintz convinced her husband, who had Alzheimer's and dementia, to take two children from a previous marriage out of his multimillion trust and leave her as the primary beneficiary. It also gave her the power to remove a third child,

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Hospital condos may not have water

By CHRIS COUNTS

A PLAN to build 46 condominiums at the former Carmel Convalescent Hospital site — which has been the subject of three contentious hearings this summer — could be in jeopardy after the State Water Resources Control Board determined the project would violate a state order restricting the amount of water that can be drawn from the Carmel River.

The opinion by the SWRCB — which was issued Aug. 10 and publicized in a letter from attorney Michael Stamp — could spell trouble for the Villas de Carmelo project, which relies on establishing a historic baseline water use on the property. The builder, Widewaters Development Group of Syracuse, N.Y., has argued that a Monterey County ordinance enacted in 1988 sup-

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Composer eyes Brazil Ranch as home for performing arts center

By CHRIS COUNTS

ON OPENING night at his inaugural Days and Nights Festival in Carmel Valley last Friday, renowned composer Philip Glass told the audience he wants to create a performing arts and environmental education center at Big Sur's 1,200-acre Brazil Ranch, which has been closed to the public even though taxpayers invested \$23 million when the U.S. Forest Service bought the land in 2002.

year's events.

According to the proposal, the site would be named The Glass Center for Art, Science and Conservation. In a statement, the composer said Big Sur would provide an ideal location for such a venture. "Big Sur's warmth and open spaces inspired me to imagine a refuge for my three passions — music, art and science," Glass said.

While his ambitious vision might conjure up images of extensive development, Schicketanz said the center

CHS to get new science wing

By MARY SCHLEY

THE BUILDING boom at Carmel High School will continue with the construction of a \$2.5 million science wing and the \$1.1 million remodel of the administrative offices slated for completion by the time school starts in 2013. The Carmel Unified School District board of education voted Aug. 11 to proceed with the projects being designed by NTD Architecture, according to superintendent Marvin Biasotti, who said the upgrades will help the high school provide a "high-quality, comprehensive educational experience."

The work follows on the heels of the \$10 million performing arts center that opened last spring and the library, which totaled around \$3 million by the time it was finished a year earlier.

The new science wing will comprise three classrooms and a prep room nestled

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PHOTO/COURTESY CARVER + SCHICKENTANZ

This rendering provides a glimpse of what the Glass Center for Art, Science and Conservation at Brazil Ranch would look like. This view is from the direction of Old Coast Road, with Highway 1 behind the ridge.

According to Carmel architect Mary Ann Schicketanz, who has drawn up plans for the center, the first phase of the project would convert a barn on the back side of the ranch's large hill into a concert venue for 100 to 150 people.

She said the renovated building could be ready to host at least part of next year's Days and Festival, which features music, theater and dance by innovative artists selected by Glass, who has also performed at some of this

would take up just a small part of the historic ranch, and that very little new construction would occur — and only in the project's final phase. The bulk of the work would involve converting two barns into performance venues and transforming three existing structures into a kitchen, a dining area, an administration building and lodging for staff and at least some guests. The final

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Thrill-seekers rescued at Bixby Bridge — and you'll pay the bill

By CHRIS COUNTS

TWO DIFFERENT groups of foolish hikers trying to reach the beach below Bixby Bridge had to be rescued earlier this week.

Both groups decided to try to visit the beach by scrambling down a 280-foot cliff that drops off from the edge of Highway 1.

While all five people were hauled to safety by a host of emergency responders, one local resident questioned why the cost of such efforts isn't billed to the people rescued instead of being borne by taxpayers.

The first incident occurred Sunday after-

noon when three brothers — Vinny Delilippo and Kenny and Danny Luetkemeyer — became trapped about halfway down an impromptu trail that navigates the nooks and crannies of the cliff. Thanks to the Monterey County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue team, the three were returned safely to Highway 1 at about sunset, where their mother nervously awaited their return.

The brothers were visiting from New Jersey and ranged in age from 12 to 21. Suffering from minor cuts and bruises, they

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TV show: BASE jumper lacks IQ

By KELLY NIX

ACCORDING TO a cable network that specializes in coverage of crime and the courts, the Marina man who BASE-jumped off the Bixby Bridge last year is among the dumbest of his kind in the world.

The truTV program, "World's Dumbest Thrill-seekers 3," pays tribute to what the network calls "dumb daredevils." In an

episode that aired in July, comedians, actors and others poked fun at BASE jumper Steve Jester, 46, for his seemingly drunken 280-foot leap off Bixby in defiance of a CHP officer — a stunt that landed him in handcuffs and facing felony charges. Jester's friend videotaped the leap.

"The eternal quest for excitement is

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PHOTOS/CHRIS COUNTS

(Left) A CHP helicopter hovers just feet from a Big Sur cliff Monday as a rescuer reaches one of two stranded hikers near Bixby Bridge. (Above) Another hiker clings precariously to the same hillside waiting for his turn to be rescued.

DEFAULT

From page 15A

“as promised.”

“There have been numerous indications of an intention by MCWRA to anticipatorily breach its obligations” under the contracts for the regional project, according to Heitzman.

The clearest indication of this, according to Heitzman, is a letter the MCWRA sent Marina Coast indicating the water contracts were void, a contention Marina Coast refutes.

Heitzman said Marina Coast believes the agreements are “valid, legally enforceable, and not subject to challenge in a court of law,” according to the four-page letter, which was also addressed to Monterey County Counsel Charles McKee.

“MCWD believes that MCWRA ... has taken actions that constitute a failure to perform its obligations under the” water purchase agreement and could make it “impossible” for Marina Coast to perform its own obligations per the terms of the contract, according to the letter to the county.

Heitzman also wrote “the citizens of the Monterey Peninsula and Monterey County deserve no less than the project partners moving forward with the desalination project promptly and in good faith.”

Both letters encourage the county water agency and Cal Am to enter into a dispute-resolution process “to cure or resolve pending disputes” over the water contracts.

However, if the county water agency concludes it’s “unable or unwilling to move forward as a project planner,” Marina Coast said the dispute process could be a way for the county “to negotiate the terms of its withdrawal from the regional desalination project.”

Marina Coast believes the county water agency has taken actions “that do not appear to reflect good faith diligent efforts” and which may undermine and delay obtaining key permits for the project.

The effect of the county’s actions, according to Marina Coast, was reflected in a decision by the California Coastal Commission to reject a test well permit for the project over

concerns about conflict-of-interest allegations involving former county water board director Steve Collins and concerns voiced by the county about the validity of the water agreements.

Heitzman said Marina Coast is also concerned the county water agency’s actions will “directly hinder” the Marina agency’s ability to undertake its own obligations per the water contracts. “Moreover, each and every delay with respect to the regional desalination project most likely will result in increased costs, which will ultimately be borne by the ratepayers,” Heitzman wrote to the county.

In its letter to Cal Am President Rob MacLean, Marina Coast said the private water company also hasn’t performed its obligations under the terms of the water contracts.

Specifically, Marina Coast alleges Cal Am has failed to issue Marina Coast a \$12 million “letter of credit” for the project and uphold other financing obligations.

Teens present fundraising concert at Wayfarer

YORK SENIOR Michael Cho wants to help homeless teenagers, so he founded HIRE — which stands for Happiness Is Reachable Everywhere — and is holding a fundraising concert at the Church of the Wayfarer on Lincoln Street in Carmel Sunday, Aug. 28, at 4:30 p.m. Cho said he and a friend, Nico Jannasch, have decided to focus their efforts on helping a homeless man named Adam Schiavone obtain his GED, an apartment, a job and a college degree.

“As a high-schooler, I hope to inspire other adolescents in our community to step up and help the homeless,” Cho said. “I want to hold the torch and lead a teen movement to alleviate the homeless crisis in our area.”

The benefit concert will feature numerous high-school musicians. For more information, call (831) 624-3550.

GLASS

From page 1A

phase would involve building a third performance facility on what is now a paved parking area between the two barns. A large meadow nearby — and out of the Highway 1’s viewshed — could accommodate the center’s parking needs, the architect said.

According to Schicketanz, the idea of using the Brazil Ranch as the site for Glass’ center began about two years ago, when she and her partner, Rob Carver, discussed the subject over dinner with Glass and his managing director, Jim Woodard. She said both Carver and Woodard came up with the idea independently.

Brazil Ranch, meanwhile, has been in need of a tenant since the Big Sur Environmental Institute closed down more than two years ago, U.S. Forest Service district ranger Sherry Tune said.

Tune told The Pine Cone that she believes Glass’ proposal is a good match for her agency’s vision of the property as “a place for conference and educational opportunities focused on environmental conservation, stewardship and sustainability” and “appears to be a legitimate use of the property and the forest service will consider it.”

But she said that before a lease is signed and a use permit is issued, the proposal will need to be evaluated by the NEPA process, which will determine if a plan is consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The NEPA process will offer the public an opportunity to comment on Glass’ proposal.

“If they don’t have the public’s support, that will slow down the process significantly,” she added. “It’s essential that they get the public’s support.”

The forest service will also have to get input from the California Coastal Commission to determine if the proposal would be consistent with the Coastal Act.

In 2005, the coastal commission commented on a forest service proposal to permit “small-scale special use activities” at Brazil Ranch, such as weddings and conferences, that would be subject to the following limitations:

- Shuttle buses would be required for events attended by more than 40 people;
- No new construction would occur;
- All parking would be outside the view of Highway 1;
- A maximum of 20 events would be permitted each year;
- Up to 16 events each year could be attended by no more than 150 people, and
- Four events each year could be attended by no more than 400 people.

The coastal commission also wanted the forest service to open up the ranch to hiking before moving forward with any “special uses.”

“Until such time as the forest service implements its future trail and public access planning and development, the general public is being deprived of [its] use of the ranch, while those who can afford special events are able to enjoy the ranch,” the commission said.

Mark Delaplaine, who works as a federal consistency supervisor for the coastal commission, told The Pine Cone this week he was unaware of Glass’ proposal. “I’ve never heard of it,” he said.

Carver, meanwhile, suggested that “it would be a shame if an environmental center was turned down for environmental reasons.”

“I can’t think of better use for the ranch,” Carver added. “This fits perfectly with the forest service’s vision for the property.”

Before being acquired by the federal government, the property had been known as the Bixby Ranch since at least 1977, when it was purchased by Alan Funt of “Candid Camera” fame. When the forest service took over the land nine years ago, it was renamed the Brazil Ranch after Tony and Margaret Brazil, who founded the ranch in the late 19th century.

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