

## BEST OF THE CARMEL POLICE LOG...

Several reporting parties found graffiti on public and city buildings. Each offense, done with black and white spray paint, included a short message written aside the image of a camera-carting tourist.

## Carmel Valley Olympian Celebrates Another Golden Opportunity

As Jon Root trained for the 1988 Olympic Games, he shared the joys and pressures with his grandmother in Carmel Valley. She listened patiently, often holding a Bible that had been passed down through the family.



John Root at the 1988 Olympic Games.

"She'd say, 'Are you doing your best with what you were born with? If you can answer yes, then you've just got to have faith,'" recalls Root, who went on to earn a gold medal in men's volleyball.

Root's grandmother passed away this year, just months after he moved to Carmel Valley. Her illustrated family Bible, published in 1888, was passed on to him.

The gold medal, Bible and story are a part of "Olympic Gold," on display at the Forbes Galleries in New York through December 2007. Sponsored by the US Olympic Committee and the National Jewelry Institute, the exhibit features artifacts and accounts from 51 American gold medalists, including Jesse Owens and Dorothy Hamill.

Root, currently a Realtor with A.G. Davi Real Estate, attended an opening event for the exhibit in September. "When I opened that invitation and saw the other athletes involved, my jaw dropped," he says. "I am beyond hum-

bled and honored to be included."

■ Ford model and Pebble Beach Company spokeswoman Valerie Ramsey made her second appearance on NBC's "Today" show in September, appearing alongside actress Christine Ebersole and author Nora Ephron. The trio sat down with Ann Curry and Hoda Kotb to discuss graying gracefully.

Ramsey's first book, "Gracefully: Looking and Being Your Best at Any Age," will be released in spring 2008. The mother of six, who began modeling in her 60s, embraces the opportunity to empower women.

"I'm in a very lucky position to deliver a message of inspiration. I'm showing that anything is possible," she says. "Baby boomers are so different from previous generations—we're younger acting and younger thinking."

Ramsey's on-screen sparkle was enhanced by Elsa Peretti diamonds on loan from the Carmel Plaza Tiffany & Co.

C-Notes *Action from the Sea-and-be-Scene*

The Tonight Show host **Jay Leno** and "Home Improvement" handyman **Tim Allen** in the crowd at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca for the Rolex Monterey Historic Automobile Races...While in town, Leno also cruised out to Carmel Valley for The Quail, A Motorsports Gathering... Singer **K.D. Lang**, in town for a show with **Lyle Lovett** at Golden State Theatre, stopping off at Stokes Restaurant & Bar for fresh vegetarian fare...Actress **Rose McGowan** shopping for Alberta Ferretti at Pacific Tweed...San Francisco 49ers



Photo: Anthony G. Moore/Photarazzi

Rose McGowan

quarterback **Trent Dilfer**, **Patricia Arquette** of "Medium," screenwriter and director **Frank Darabont**, **Jason Low**, of Bravo's "Blow Out" fame, and actors **Thomas Jane** and **Christopher Lloyd** living the good life at L'Auberge Carmel...**Dustin Hoffman** and his wife, **Lisa Gottsegen**, relaxing at the Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa. They also dined at the Sardine Factory and greeted delighted fans on Fisherman's Wharf... Brophy's Tavern, a favorite among sports fans, welcoming PGA golfer **Tom Kite**...



Photo: Photarazzi

Dustin Hoffman

## Black Hawk Records Releases Rare Billie Holiday Tracks

On the eve of the Monterey Jazz Festival's 50th run in September, Monterey-based Black Hawk Records celebrated the CD release of Billie Holiday's performance at the inaugural event. The 11 live tracks on "Billie Holiday at Monterey, 1958" were tucked in a warehouse, unheard for nearly 20 years, before the album hit the market this fall.

"The release of this Billie Holiday CD is integral in the reincarnation of the Black Hawk label," says Black Hawk's Christopher Ward. "Not only does it show the greatness of its past but also the brilliance of our future."



Wave Street Studios hosted the release event, which featured local wines from Otter Cove and the sophisticated jazz sounds of Dizzy Burnett and Grover Coe. Sarah McCoy, the first artist signed to Black Hawk's sister label, Big Wave Records, also wowed guests with her moody piano strains and a vocal sound reminiscent of Holiday herself.

"Billie Holiday at Monterey, 1958" is available at Monterey's Quock Mui Tea Room & Boutique, Borders or [www.blackhawkrecords.com](http://www.blackhawkrecords.com).

The novel "Ruby Rest" tells the story of a young American, Edda Taylor, who while working in Austria as an au pair, becomes involved with a man who dies under suspect circumstances. She heads back home to the US where she's got a job lined up in a Carmel gallery, and has also inherited a rather dilapidated and possibly haunted Carmel cottage called Ruby Rest. As Edda works to restore the cottage, she is drawn deeper into a tale of murder, mystery and love.

First-time author Tyler Oaks says there are many reasons she set "Ruby Rest" in Carmel, but mainly because her heroine, Edda, is so much like Carmel, "beautiful, and refined, yet real and raw in her depth."

"I've had the opportunity to travel throughout Europe, Russia and Israel and see a lot of inspiring, gorgeous places," Oaks says. "And, still, Carmel just has this alluring spirit about her that really nurtures the creative part of me."

"Ruby Rest" is a "Pemberton Mystery" pub-

lished by SterlingHouse Publishers, Inc. and is available at bookstores nationwide.

Carmel artist Ali Miner was in her studio, television on in the background, when she learned of the accident that killed Diana, Princess of Wales.

"I saw the horrible, twisted car," she remembers, "and thought 'This can't be.' It was devastating."

Shortly after the tragedy, Miner felt compelled to paint a portrait of Diana. The project took nearly three months to complete.

"I didn't want to do it at first—I'm not a portrait artist—but I had a vision," she says.

Now, that painting is included in "Diana in Art," a new book featuring portraits of the late princess done by more than 100 American and international artists.

"There are probably thousands of people who have painted Diana, so it's quite an honor to be included," says Miner. "It's a beautiful book."

"Diana in Art" is available at The Pilgrim's Way in Carmel.

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