

POINT REYES LIGHT

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POINT REYES LIGHT

Box 210 Point Reyes Station, California 94956

inBRIEF

Burglary at Point Reyes gift shop

The Station House Gift Shop in downtown Point Reyes Station was robbed yesterday at around 3 p.m. after a man and woman returned to the shop for the second time that day. According to 70-year-old shop owner Barbara McClellan, the female suspect distracted her by inquiring about shirts in the back of the store, while the male suspect, pretending to talk on his cell phone, stole about \$100 from the register. McClellan said the man was about six feet tall and wore a blue baseball cap, and described both suspects as "good-looking tourist-like people." She also said that the male suspect must have been familiar with her particular type of cash register to open it without making any noise. Within minutes of the burglary, the rumor around town was: "Barbara was robbed at gunpoint."

New radio news producer

A 48-year-old professional journalist from Bolinas has become KWMR's newest news director. Alex Horvath, who is known for his website Bolinas2miles.com, will replace George Clyde, a long-time volunteer stringer for the radio station, who kept the West Marin Report on air after the last in a series of news directors left the station in the spring. Horvath says he hopes to model his broadcast af-

ter his predecessor's. "George elevated this report to a real professional quality of news cast," he said. Inspired by former Point Reyes Light publisher Dave Mitchell's exposé on Synanon, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 1979, Horvath pursued a degree in broadcast journalism and supported himself through school, freelancing for the San Francisco Chronicle and the Pacific Sun. He is currently working on a book of essays compiled from his website, titled "Bolinas 2 Miles: Essays from the Center of the Universe."

Inverness Park considers kiosk

Construction of a small informational kiosk and roadside pullout on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard across from Perry's Deli is being considered by the Inverness Park Association and the National Park Service. The kiosk would give information about the Giacomini Wetlands and serve as a bulletin board for community information. "A split rail fence framing the entrance and perimeter, as well as picnic tables and benches to look over the lovely view were also discussed," said Inverness Park Association acting coordinator Dona Larkin. Spokesman for the Point Reyes National Seashore, John Dell'Osso, said that Inverness Park residents want to keep the project small. "It would literally be a two to three car pull-out," he said.

Stinson rapist convicted


A man who raped a hiker in Stinson Beach in 2005 was convicted in a second trial on Tuesday. Forty-six-year-old Terry Hawes was convicted of penetration with a foreign object causing great bodily injury by an 11-1 jury vote. The conviction carries a potential sentence of 23 years to life. Prior to his crime in 2005, Hawes was diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic in Montana and Mississippi. Over the past four years, Hawes has been transferred back and forth between mental hospitals and state custody, in an effort to restore his mental competency to allow him to stand trial.

Loans for salmon fishermen

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced yesterday that low-interest disaster loans are available to small businesses that have suffered financial losses due to the closure of the 2009 commercial salmon fishing season on the California coast. The SBA is offering working capital loans of up to \$2 million at an interest rate of four percent, with terms up to 30 years. "We encourage each business to learn how an SBA disaster loan can help them recover from the closure of the fishing season," Alfred Judd, director of the SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center, said in a news release.

Ham radio at the lighthouse

The public is invited to listen to a temporary ham radio broadcast at the Point Reyes Lighthouse this weekend. The broadcast, sponsored by the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society in an effort to increase awareness of the Point Reyes Lighthouse's heritage, began August 1 and will continue through August 9. Visitors are welcome from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, August 7 and 8. The society is currently broadcasting from the green garages located near the Lighthouse Visitor Center area, in the Point Reyes National Seashore. The society pays tribute to the role that ham, or amateur, radio broadcasters and lighthouse keepers have contributed to maritime safety.



TOBY'S

Point Reyes Farmers Market
Saturdays 9 am to 1 pm


On Saturday, August 8.....

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Backyard Beekeeping Workshop Friday, August 7th 1:00 to 4:00 pm  Learn the basic principles and the art of keeping honeybees on the north coast. Space limited! Register online www.growninmarin.org	BARN DANCE Saturday, August 8th 7:00 to 10:00 pm Live Music by local musicians Ingrid Noyes and Michael Harmon Square Dancing for all ages with caller Erik Hoffman	ART@TOBY'S Opening reception: Sunday, August 9, 1-4 pm Sue Gonzalez :: Exquisite Land and Sea Paintings Rik Olson :: Wood Engravings Prints, Linocuts, and Paintings Soo Noga :: Textural Abstract Paintings
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Even if the eradication program is unsuccessful, Grosholz hopes that the project will provide valuable information about methods to deal with future invasions.

Poor snail killers

The crabs are also in Tomales Bay, although their range is too big for Grosholz's eradication efforts. But David Kimbro watched the crabs intently while he studied declines in native Olympia oyster populations. Kimbro estimates that 50 percent of Tomales Bay's oyster population has died as a result of both invasive crabs and invasive snails.

"Something is sort of decimating them," said Tod Friend, co-owner of Tomales Bay Oyster Company.

The oysters are eaten by an invasive snail, the Atlantic whelk, which drills a hole through the oyster's shell and sucks out the living tissue. The native red rock snails typically eat the Atlantic snail, using their claws to peel the snails open like a can opener. But green crabs are less effective snail killers. Like a caveman without Swiss army knives, green crabs unsuccessfully try to bash the snails with brute force.

The oyster declines have been most severe in the area spanning Shell Beach to Marshall, where Kimbro believes nearly 90 percent of the oysters have died. This area of the bay has lower salinity, which native rock crabs and native snails do not

tolerate. Because the green crabs in the bay's inner reaches are lousy Atlantic snail predators, the Atlantic snails' population has exploded, and the oysters have declined.

"It's an invasive predator parking lot," Kimbro said.

Kimbro believes the oyster decline threatens local ecosystems. Oysters help to filter water, keeping it clean while promoting federally-protected seagrass habitat. Oysters also provide a physical structure that provides habitat for very basic life worms, including worms. While there are non-native oyster farms in Tomales Bay, Kimbro says that, because they are removed from their environment and replaced after only a year, they do not provide the same ecological benefits.

Kimbro added that the oysters' decline could represent a future economic loss. Native oysters have become a native specialty market in places like Washington, and Kevin Lunny, owner of Drakes Bay Oyster Company, has expressed interest in growing Olympia oysters commercially.

Efforts to repopulate native oysters, which have involved inserting oyster shell structures into habitats to attract live oysters, have thus far proven unsuccessful. Kimbro said it might prove more effective to focus restoration attempts in parts of Tomales Bay where invasive species are less prevalent, but he said more research was needed to study the issue.

Stefanie Keys Band

LIVE MUSIC by Leighton Cosseboom

The Old Western Saloon was alive last Friday night as Stefanie Keys and her band set up their equipment. Eric Clapton's "Lay Down Sally" played on the jukebox as bassist Rich Spindell hung his Fender bass on a hook above the stage and took a shot of whiskey at the bar. Locals crowded the bar as Keys took the microphone. "Can we turn up the house music?" she called. "I love this song!"

Forty-one-year-old Stefanie Keys was joined by Spindell and guitarist Luke Anderson, 44, both of the Bolinas rock sensation Duke and the Boyz, on Friday. "We've had sort of a revolving door of drummers," Keys says. "They tend to be our hired guns." Keys is a folk rock singer with passion and attitude, and describes her music as "folk rock funkry," a raw synthesis of four musical genres. Her album, "Say You Will," has a classic rock sound with steady riffs and positive lyrics, mixed with Keys' powerful diva vocal projection. In her song "Try Just a Little Bit Harder," Keys belted out the words: "If it's a dream, I don't want nobody to wake me up!"

Keys' band came together unexpectedly.

"Rich got my CD and called me every day for about five months saying, 'I wanna play with you!' Finally one day I just caved," says Keys, who, as a result of meeting Spindell, is now in a serious relationship with his brother. "Her music reminded me of the late 80's Clapton stuff, kind of like the tail end of classic rock and roll," Spindell says.

Most of Keys' inspiration is derived from her personal experiences. "A lot of my songs are about hope—if you have a dream, go for it. I'm really going for it in my life!" Keys says, adding that she is not discouraged by the current pessimism surrounding the music industry. She cites her own brother, Peter, as an example of musical success. "He is the keyboard player for Lynard Skynard. He is touring with them right now, and he is also my producer," Keys says with a big smile.

Keys' musical determination is derived from the mental clarity of sobriety. "I don't drink anymore," she said last Friday as she shared on a bench in the Western with people holding drinks in their hands. "I used to drink in this bar! But I have been sober for seven years and I don't have any regrets." For Keys, music gives a high that whiskey never could. "I'm getting the best juice that I ever could imagine getting!"

The band will play October 24 at Smiley's.

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