

**Watsonville principal reassigned as teacher**



**Pacers have a Garden party**

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Jane Mio would rather plant than plan

**Santa Cruz County**

Thursday, June 2, 1994

# Sentinel

Serving the community since 1856

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137th Year No. 151

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA

50 CENTS



Conelly moved to the San Lorenzo Valley in the 1930s.

## Carl Conelly dies at 82

By MARTHA MENDOZA  
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — Carl Conelly, "Mr. San Lorenzo Valley" and a founder of Cabrillo College, died Monday in Santa Cruz, his family announced. He was 82.

"My life has been a joy and I have made many wonderful friends throughout the state and nation," he wrote in a 1991 autobiography.

His death, which came after a brief illness, was sorrowful news to friends.

"He was the perfect example of a gentleman. We were so close. He was a great guy," said Ernest Dillon, who worked with Conelly for decades improving business, politics and health care in the area.

Conelly moved to the San Lorenzo Valley with his "high school sweetheart" Jackie Jane in the 1930s, and immediately made the community his own. During the next 60 years he wheedled, coaxed and fought for positive change, and accomplished an amazing amount.

His most obvious achievement was founding Cabrillo College, where his name graces the sports stadium.

"We had several goals," he said in 1985, looking back on how the college started. "We wanted to provide counseling, a complete vocational and transfer program, and a program for adults, especially seniors. And we wanted to provide a well-rounded curriculum which included arts and athletics."

There are many other places where Conelly also left his mark.

He arranged designation of Felton's Covered Bridge as a state historical monument, a move that led to its preservation. He helped get San Lorenzo Valley Elementary School built. He established a countywide sewage system, had septic tanks installed for residents in remote areas, and arranged for water treatment plants to provide clean drinking water to community members.

He also was a leader in the local Republican Party, the San Lorenzo Valley Chamber of Commerce, and San Lorenzo Valley School District. The positions earned him nicknames of "Mr. San Lorenzo Valley," "Mr. Republican," and "the Father of Cabrillo College."

His local career began as a reporter at the former Santa Cruz News and then as an editor at the Sentinel. He became the first environmental health officer in the county, and he opened Carl Conelly Realty in Boulder Creek, a firm that grew into three offices and an insurance company.

His realty company is now owned by Jim Lee, through a Coldwell Banker franchise. His insur-

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## Jury denies King damages

By JANET GILMORE  
Los Angeles Daily News

LOS ANGELES — Closing a three-year legal drama that wracked a city, a federal jury ruled Wednesday that Stacey Koon and Laurence Powell acted with malice in the Rodney King beating, but were not responsible for paying him punitive damages.

The anonymous six-woman, three-man jury also said four other defendants — Ted Briseno, Timothy Wind and two police bystanders — did not violate King's civil rights in his March 3, 1991, videotaped beating and did not act with malice.

Addressing a countersuit by Briseno, the jury ruled that King did

batter the police officer but that punitive damages were inappropriate.

"I think it was a just verdict," said Deputy City Attorney Don Vincent. "I think it is a great day, especially for law enforcement."

King's attorney, Milton Grimes, said he was surprised by the verdicts, especially with regard to

Koon and Powell, former police officers who were convicted of violating King's civil rights and sentenced to 30-month prison terms.

King's co-counsel, John Burris, said: "It appears the jurors concluded enough is enough and the officers had suffered enough."

Burris said the jury appeared confused about Los Angeles Police

Department policy during the course of its deliberations, and whether it imputed liability on individual officers.

Of the verdicts, Burris said: "It sends the wrong message to police officers that they may not be held accountable for acts of misconduct if they blame it on the city."

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## Videotaped-arrest settlement



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

Liz Nichols sheds tears while her husband George speaks of his ordeal at a press conference Wednesday.

## County to pay man \$390,000 for use of excessive force

By JOHN ROBINSON  
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — A man beaten by a deputy during an illegal, videotaped arrest settled with the county Wednesday for \$390,000.

It was the largest such payment in county history, according to one attorney involved in the case.

George Nichols, a 46-year-old Arizona man, accepted the settlement for injuries and civil rights violations sustained when a deputy arrested in July 1991 while responding to a Scotts Valley call that turned out to be false.

"No amount of money will ever compensate me," Nichols said at a press conference Wednesday. "But I'm happy."

Sheriff Al Noren declined to comment on the settlement or case and County Counsel Dwight Herr referred all calls to Dennis Ward, a San Jose attorney hired to

represent the county.

Nichols and his attorney, Ben Rice, said the case could have been settled with an apology and small payment shortly after the incident. But after getting what they called "a whitewash" of their complaints against the deputy, they pressed ahead with a lawsuit.

In May, a federal judge found that the deputy, Todd Liberty, had made an unlawful arrest, used excessive force and violated Nichols' Fourth Amendment rights.

That paved the way for a settlement. "We considered a jury trial, but the judge's (findings) made it a difficult case to try at this point," said Ward. "But I'd like to emphasize that the circumstances that developed the day of the incident were not of the deputy's making."

The incident, which was captured on a family videotape, began when Liberty and a Child Protective Services worker were

sent to a Scotts Valley home to investigate a child-welfare complaint.

Nichols, a Vietnam War veteran, was vacationing with his family in a motor home on the property. When Liberty attempted to detain Nichols to question him about the CPS incident, Nichols balked, and a struggle broke out.

Liberty placed Nichols under arrest, and while attempting to handcuff him, struck Nichols with a baton and kicked him in the ribs. Liberty also admitted trying to beat Nichols' head into the front bumper of a car, according to federal court documents.

The arrest was witnessed by Nichols' children and videotaped by his wife Liz. The videotape was later broadcast nationally.

The child-welfare call subsequently was determined to be unfounded.

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## Mothers charged with pimping

By JOHN ROBINSON  
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — Two Modesto mothers who allegedly led their pre-teen daughters into a life of prostitution and drugs were arraigned Wednesday on charges of pimping and child molest.

The mothers, who prosecutors say both work as prostitutes, are accused of providing their daughters to Jasper Logsdon, a 61-year-old Aptos man who fled the state last month after being arrested on suspicion of molesting children.

"This is a situation where both (mothers) had their daughters, who were 11 and 12 years old, working the streets," said Bob Lee, assistant district attorney. "Now the girls have not only been drawn to prostitution but are addicted to various drugs."

The mothers, Minnie Lucille Wilson, 32, and Donna Faye Tiumalu, 40, face up to 20 years in prison. They were given court-appointed attorneys Wednesday in a brief court appearance.

The girls are now 14 and 15 years old. The molestations began about two years ago, according to Lee, after Logsdon met the mothers while they worked as prostitutes. Lee said that Logsdon would regularly drive to Modesto to "cruise the streets in search of young girls."

Logsdon allegedly carried up to \$10,000 in cash, and told the prostitutes that he wanted young girls.

"When they found out that he wanted young girls, they came up with a scheme to have their daughters go with Logsdon and be molested," Lee said.

Logsdon began taking the girls to hotel rooms in Modesto and to his house in Aptos for weekend stays, according to Lee. He said the girls came to Aptos with Logsdon at least 20 times over a two-year period.

On at least two occasions the girls called 911 for help from Logsdon's home, telling dispatchers they didn't want to be with him, Sheriff's investigators said.

Lee said deputies responded, but both times the girls changed their stories and told deputies things were fine. On one occasion they told deputies Logsdon was their grandfather, Lee said.

Deputies also called the girls' mothers to check on the situation. The mothers told deputies the girls were supposed to be with Logsdon and the deputies left, according to

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# Nichols settlement

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Nichols was initially arrested on suspicion of felony battery on a peace officer, but charges were later dropped. Nichols and his attorney, however, demanded that charges of brutality be filed against Liberty.

An investigation by the District Attorney's Office and grand jury exonerated Liberty of using excessive force. The federal judge thought otherwise, however.

"People need to get the message out there that when there is abuse, people have a right to be compensated," Rice said.

District Attorney Art Danner stood by the findings of his office and the grand jury, saying Liberty

did not violate criminal law.

"This was a civil settlement and the county counsel did what it felt was the best," Danner said. "But with the evidence we had, we didn't feel any charges should be filed against the deputy or Mr. Nichols."

Danner said he would have preferred to have the case go to trial, and to let a jury decide.

Rice said it was the largest settlement for a police abuse case in the county "by far."

Attorneys for both the county and Nichols said they thought the amount was proper, and not excessive.

"It's been a very long, very hard battle," Rice said. "These people have been put through hell."