

San Rafael lawyer gets Bjorklund Award

Staff Report

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San Rafael criminal law attorney Carl Gonser is the A. Leonard Bjorklund Jr. Award winner for 2006.

The award was created in memory of A. Leonard Bjorklund, a founding director of Alternate Defenders Inc., a nonprofit corporation that provides legal services to indigent defendants. ADI attorneys are assigned in cases when the public defender's office has a conflict.

Each year the board of ADI recognizes an attorney.

Gonser has been a criminal defense attorney for 20 years and was selected because of his long-term commitment to excellent defense for the indigent.

Previous recipients include Robin Brennan, a San Rafael attorney; Jon Rankin of Tiburon; and Steven Wasserman of San Rafael.

Perry Litchfield, CEO of Bayside Marin, the high-end drug and alcohol rehabilitation residential clinic that is ruffling feathers in San Rafael's Loch Lomond neighborhood, is on a roll.

By all accounts, Litchfield's operation has been a business triumph, with facilities filled with clients who spend up to \$60,000 for treatment. And it has attracted top medical talent, with Dr. David Smith,

founder of the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic, joining the staff.

Now comes acclaim from the rehabilitation industry, where Litchfield is featured in a glowing article in Treatment Magazine about his own battle to overcome addiction, and the "quick, dramatic success" he has achieved at Bayside Marin.

A photograph of Litchfield wearing a magenta sport coat graces the cover of the

August edition of the magazine, which includes a special report on high-end addiction treatment. The spread includes a look at Litchfield's thriving operation in "tony Marin County" and his treatment model based on California's six-bed treatment zoning law.

The law allows such facilities in residential neighborhoods as long as they are limited to six beds, and Litchfield has raised neighborhood concerns by clustering operations in a series of homes - all limited to six beds - in Loch Lomond. Neighbors contend that Litchfield is skirting the law by operating neighboring, six-bed homes linked by pathways in an overall "campus" complex.

Julian Klugman of Marin City was elected president of the Friends of the Marin County Free Library.

Patricia Hess of Novato was elected vice president and Nancy Brooks of Greenbrae, recording secretary. Charlotte Urban was re-elected as corresponding secretary and Diane Rosenberger, treasurer.

The group, which celebrated its 35th anniversary

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last year, has raised more than \$1 million for the Marin County library system.

SolarCraft Services of Novato has been chosen by Merryvale Vineyards for its switch to solar.

SolarCraft is installing a solar electric system for Starmont Winery at Merryvale's new production facility at Stanly Ranch in Napa.

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