

# Kennolyn passes campfire on to new generation

## Georgetown-educated granddaughter to take reins of year-round camp facility

By KAREN A. DAVIS

SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

**SOQUEL** — Something's new at Kennolyn Camp.

After running the family business for more than 50 years, Max and Marion Caldwell recently passed the title and responsibilities of general manager to their granddaughter, Pam Caldwell, 34.

The Caldwells also recently promoted their grandson-in-law, Dan Johnson, 30, to the position of assistant director of camp programs.

Both have worked with the camp for years, getting their start as counselors. Pam Caldwell is a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Business. She has helped initiate a number of improvements since she began working at the camp full-time in 1995, including the inception of the conference center, which helped the camp garner year-round, and not just seasonal, business.

Johnson earned a bachelor's in English from UC Davis in 1995 and taught English as a second language classes at Watsonville High School from 1997 to 2000. He brings a knowledge of educating children to his position.

"We'll continue doing what Kennolyn has always been doing — adapting to people's tastes and interests and staying relevant to the population we serve today," said Johnson.

While the elder Caldwells, both age 90, have given up their management duties, they are still involved with the more enjoyable parts of the camp life.

"We'll be there on opening and closing days," said Max Caldwell. "I still like to lead campfire songs. We just go to the fun things — we don't work anymore."

The Caldwells opened Kennolyn as a summer camp in 1946 amid 60 acres of redwood forest. The camp's name came from the combination of their two children's names: Kenneth and Carolyn.

Since opening, the American Camping Association accredited camp has served thousands of families and has

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expanded to 300 acres, including five camps on two properties and the conference center.

"We're now seeing the grandkids of some of our original campers (come here)," said Max Caldwell.

The camp provides overnight accommodations at the StoneCreek Village, where lodges and cabins are nestled in a private redwood site adjacent to the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park.

The camp often plays host to retreats and family reunions. Come summer, antique furniture and double beds are replaced with bunk beds and shelves for resident, equestrian and family camps, turning Kennolyn from a quiet retreat into a fun-filled playground.

The Hilltip Hacienda, less than a mile from camp, offers beautiful vistas of the Monterey Bay and Spanish-style architecture. This day-use area has become a favorite wedding and meeting site during the fall, winter and spring. During the summer, weddings continue on the weekends, since Day and Trail Adventure Camps operate during the week.

The camp will hold a resident camp open house on April 26-27; day camp open houses March 15, April 26-27, and May 17; and a day camp tour night June 5.

For information, call 479-6714 or visit [www.kennolyn.com](http://www.kennolyn.com).

Contact Karen A. Davis at [kdavis@santa-cruz.com](mailto:kdavis@santa-cruz.com).