

# The Carmel Pine Cone

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## Now everyone can read the paper with John Madden

By MARY SCHLEY

BROADCASTER AND famed NFL coach John Madden, who died in 2021, was locally known for enjoying his morning cup of coffee and “all the newspapers” on the bench outside Bruno’s Market at Junipero and Sixth.



PHOTO/MANNY ESPINOZA

‘That’s it, he’s back,’ Virginia Madden (center) told artist Steven Whyte (right) when she saw the sculpture of her late husband in Whyte’s studio at the Barnyard.

Now, with the unveiling Friday of a sculpture created by Steven Whyte and funded by the nonprofit Carmel Cares, he can always be found there.

Members of the Madden family, including his widow, Virginia, and son, Mike, attended the ceremony alongside Whyte, Bruno’s owners Fermin and Ryan Sanchez, and Carmel Cares founder Dale Byrne. It was held in conjunction with the Carmel Art Festival, during which Whyte, who works with clay and then has the final pieces cast in bronze, does live sculpting in Devendorf Park each year. He started creating the Madden statue at the 2023 festival, and the bronze installed last week marks his sixth piece of public art on the Monterey Peninsula, but his first in Carmel.

### Paucity of statues

“That is important to me. Carmel doesn’t have any statues of anybody, and yet Carmel has such a rich legacy of celebrities and people of worth,” he said. “So, it was nice to get that started.”

With sculptures installed across the country and beyond, Whyte also observed, “I don’t know that I’ve got a piece that’s so precise as to where it should be” — namely, on a bench outside the market where friends and strangers were always sure to find him.

Whyte and Byrne came up with the idea together a little over a year ago.

“Carmel Cares agreed to raise funds as a public

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## Critical water project enters construction phase

By KELLY NIX

WORK IS underway to bury nearly 2 miles of pipe-line, drill a 1,200-foot-deep well and install other components necessary for expansion of a wastewater recycling project that will increase the water supply for Peninsula residents, the head of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District said this week.

Since 2020, the Pure Water Monterey project has treated wastewater to drinking-level standards at a Marina facility. Water district general manager Dave Stoldt said that crews have broken ground on separate a site to expand the production capacity of the project by about 40 percent.

### Getting real

While work on the project had already started, most of it was administrative. “The contracts for the expansion were released last August, but there was very little visible

construction as long lead-time items were ordered and mobilization was awaiting,” Stoldt told The Pine Cone Monday. “But now you can see real stuff going on. That makes the project feel real.”

### 730 million gallons

Photographs provided by the water district show part of a 7.5-acre property on the former Fort Ord with segments of pipe to be installed, water and box trucks, and bulldozers to clear the land.

When the expansion of Pure Water Monterey is completed in late 2025, two new wells will be used to inject an additional 2,250-acre-feet (about 730 million gallons) of potable water per year into the aquifer for Peninsula residents’ use.

The additional recycled water will expand the total Pure

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## Developing the ‘next-generation economy to employ our children and their children’

By LISA LAPIN

ENTREPRENEUR DANNY Bernstein is bullish on Monterey County. And the bulk of Central California, for that matter.

The region is the most “overlooked and underleveraged” part of the state and ripe for economic revitalization and diversification that could stimulate job growth, he says.

While other California regions are booming with investor-fueled job creation and thriving start-up cultures, Bernstein cites statistics that less than 1 percent of venture capital investment comes to the Central Coast. And that figure is even smaller — a quarter of a percent — if Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara are excluded.

### Present and future

“This is a large swath of California that is not providing the next-generation economy to employ our children and their children,” said Bernstein, a Carmel Valley resident bringing his Silicon Valley savvy to found HawkTower Ventures, a regional early stage venture capital firm.

“Our young people move away for quality jobs, and

top talent leaves to build companies elsewhere. The result is a brain drain, yet there are significant innovation assets here,” Bernstein said. “We have the basic ingredients to generate more start-ups, which in turn create the high-quality jobs.”

### ‘Entrepreneurial culture’

A solution, Bernstein said, is to bring a bit of Silicon Valley chutzpah to Central California to generate an entrepreneurial culture with venture capital investment specific to regional strengths: world-class research in defense, advanced manufacturing, air mobility technology, and agricultural, bio-circular, water and marine innovations.

“It requires a new type of community-centered approach,” said Bernstein, who has begun organizing meet-ups and tech mixers around the Monterey Peninsula. “There is tremendous opportunity here, but we don’t have that last mile of entrepreneurial infrastructure for start-up formation. We want to help to build that ecosystem.”

That ecosystem includes funding mechanisms, such as HawkTower, that can provide the initial financial resources

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## Parents raise alarm about PGUSD sex ed lessons

### ■ Planned Parenthood ‘removes’ content

By KELLY NIX

PACIFIC GROVE Unified School District officials are getting an earful from some parents and residents who allege the sex education course it provides students contains references and links to gratuitous and explicit content that’s inappropriate for children. The complaints have led the group that created the sex ed plan to remove some of the offensive material, the district said.

At a May 9 PGUSD board of education meeting, several people, including a retired teacher, complained to trustees about the Planned Parenthood Mar Monte sex ed courses offered to children at P.G. middle and high schools. Some of the parents and citizens also directly shared their concerns with district officials.

Resident Mike Gibbs — who reviewed parts of the sex ed curricula at the district office — said he was surprised to find that the course contained internet links to Planned Parenthood pages on sex toys with photos and descriptions on how to use them, and a “How do you know how to orgasm?” tutorial, which contained a video.

### Adults only?

Other links, he said, directed him to a YouTube video entitled, “Psychological facts about older women that you didn’t know” and a “firearms focus survey.”

“It seems to me that the Planned Parenthood curriculum has been terribly corrupted,” Gibbs, who also credited PGUSD superintendent Linda Adamson for being responsive to his concerns, told the school board. “Somehow, there are links and other material that give access by outside predators and perhaps inside bad actors.”

Responding to the concerns, PGUSD curriculum director Buck Roggeman insisted at the meeting that an online firewall prevents children from seeing the material and that the district has had “no reports of students accessing inappropriate online content.”

Adamson told The Pine Cone that when the district arranged for Gibbs to look at the course, it logged him

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PHOTO/BIAGIO LA MARCA, IBEX IMAGES

Danny Bernstein says Monterey County is the most “overlooked and underleveraged” part of California.