

The Carmel Pine Cone

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Lifelong surfer rescues 11-year-old from waves

By MARY SCHLEY

A MOTHER and daughter experienced terror followed by relief when the young girl fell off her boogie board during a weekend visit to Carmel Beach and was swiftly rescued by a surfer who was nearby and saw it happen.

Sam Maynard, whose husband’s family owns a vacation home on Carmelo Street, shared the harrowing story on a Carmel-by-the-Sea social media page in hope of identifying the hero.

‘Got too far away’

Maynard, husband Tim Holmes and their daughter and son have been on a road trip, and Maynard said the visit marks “the first time my children and I have really been out of our state of Montana.”

“Today, I took my 11-year-old daughter to the beach, and while on her boogie board, she got too far away and lost control in a wave. Neither one of us was at all prepared for a situation like that, and I’m sure she would have drowned if it wasn’t for a surfer who came to her rescue and brought her back to shore,” she wrote.

“I can’t even begin to thank him for bringing her back

See **RESCUE** page 13A

CRASH AT PT. LOBOS



PHOTO/PETER MISZUK

A GMC SUV that swerved off Highway 1 near Point Lobos and hit two trees, rolled over and landed upside-down in the middle of road was captured on camera by a truck that was following it Monday afternoon. “They veered off the northbound lane and into the woods, did a jump and then hit a tree and barrel-rolled back into the highway,” said eyewitness Peter Miszuk, who provided images captured by a camera on the roof of his Rivian electric truck.

According to CHP officer Saul Perez, 47-year-old Carlos Ortiz was driving the white SUV when, “for reasons still under investigation,” he “veered off the roadway and crashed into a tree.” The GMC then hit a second tree, which caused it to overturn and end up back in the middle of the road.

Ortiz and his passenger, 45-year-old Juan Perez, were wearing seatbelts at the time of the wreck, and the extent of their injuries included abrasions and complaints of pain, according to Perez. DUI is not believed to have been a factor.

Dispute over exotic tree results in federal lawsuit

By KELLY NIX

A PACIFIC Grove resident has filed a lawsuit in federal court over two trees he contends are causing major damage to his property, including a retaining wall, but that the city won’t let him remove.

In a lawsuit filed June 20 in U.S. District Court, Richard Fox claims that the roots of an 85-foot-tall Norfolk Island pine tree and a 30-foot-tall coastal oak have seriously damaged the retaining wall and his driveway, which he said need to be replaced. To do that, though, Fox says the trees have to be removed.

‘Healthy’

Fox filed the lawsuit after members of the city’s beautification and natural resources commission on June 18

\$60M sale heralds another big housing project

■ 1,300 more homes in fast-growing Marina

By CHRIS COUNTS

THREE HUNDRED acres of undeveloped land in Marina were sold last week for \$60 million to a developer who plans to soon begin construction of 1,360 homes and apartments — along with major commercial development — in a city that has seen prodigious growth in the last 10



RENDERING/EMC PLANNING

The developer of Marina Station promises it will offer bucolic, pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods that exemplify “new urbanism.”

years, including many homes that have sold for more than \$1 million.

According to real estate records maintained by Monterey County, the sellers of the valuable land were Valle del Sol Properties and Carlos and Deborah Ramirez, while the buyer was identified as Marina Station LLC, with a business address in San Jose.

The land has long been slated for an ambitious development known as Marina Station, which received its first approval from the City of Marina in 2008 and its final approval two years ago. The latter approval extended the timeline for completing the project from three to 10 years.

Encompassing 320 acres, the site is on the north side of the city east of Highway 1. The project includes 887 single-family homes and 473 apartments.

Twenty percent of the units — 272 — have been deemed “affordable” for those with moderate, low and very low incomes. The developer is San Jose-based Third Millennium Partners.

Solar for every home

The plan for the housing suggests it will be “distinct from conventional suburban development.”

“Marina Station will foster the creation of three new ‘old time’ traditional neighborhoods within the City of Marina in accordance with new urbanism,

See **HOUSING** page 16A

Big Sur’s latest worry: The end of ‘rustic’ camping

By CHRIS COUNTS

AT A public workshop June 26 by the Monterey County Planning Commission on the process to update the Big Sur Land Use Plan, two speakers sounded an alarm over the conversion of rustic campsites — which are highly sought after in Big Sur — into expensive “glamping” units.

The speakers said the topic is important because rustic campsites provide the most affordable option for low-income people to visit Big Sur. The land use plan proposes setting a cap on visitor-serving units like hotel rooms but not on campsites — which some say encourages the practice of converting the sites.

Christina McGinnis of the group Keep Big Sur Wild told the planning commission that the conversion of rustic campsites into glamping units is a social justice issue.

“We really need to preserve our rustic campsites,” McGinnis said. “They are under threat with these LLCs converting them into high-end sites. Our lower-income folks in the county are going to have much less access to be able to enjoy Big Sur if those are allowed to be converted.”

McGinnis’ concern over companies upgrading campsites partly stems from the recent sales of two private campgrounds, including one for \$28 million.

“There are simply too few campsites down the coast,” McGinnis suggested. “The state park is at capacity always.”

Another speaker, Big Sur resident and Keep Big Sur

Wild member Marcus Foster, said some rustic campsites are being replaced with park-model units which can be rented out at higher prices. “What I’m seeing is the loophole of park-model units on trailers that get brought in, and then the wheels are taken off,” Foster said.

See **RUSTIC** page 12A

Condors vaccinated against deadly pathogen

By CHRIS COUNTS

EIGHT CONDORS from the local flock took a trip to Oakland Zoo last month so they could be vaccinated against a deadly avian flu virus that can also be dangerous to humans, according to the Ventana Wildlife Society, which reintroduced the endangered birds to Big Sur in 1997.

The vaccinated condors included Iniko, who became somewhat of a celebrity after the redwood cavity where she was being raised was burned during the Dolan Fire of 2020 — and yet she survived.

See **CONDORS** page 14A



PHOTO/VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY

A condor from Monterey County receives a vaccination against a deadly avian virus at the Oakland Zoo.