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Three create slate in school district election

Teachers union makes endorsements

By MARY SCHLEY

WITH THE shift from at-large elections to races in individual zones, it’s fair to say the Nov. 5 race will drastically change the makeup of the Carmel Unified School District’s board of education.

Board president Jason Remyense and board members

Seaberry Nachbar, Karl Pallastrini and Anne-Marie Rosen are all seeing their terms end in December. Remyense and Rosen are now fighting for the privilege of representing Trustee Area 5, which spans from mid-valley east of Quail Lodge to Laureles Grade and runs along the south side of Carmel Valley Road. Nachbar and Pallastrini are not running. Only board member Sara Hinds is unaffected, since her term expires in December 2026.

Meanwhile, three candidates announced they have banded together to campaign as a slate. Rita Patel wants to serve in Trustee Area 1, which includes Carmel-by-the-Sea and Pebble Beach, Jeannette Witten is seeking the seat in Trustee Area 3, which covers Carmel Highlands and areas south through Big Sur, and Monica Tavakoli is running for the two-year at-large board seat.

‘Shared platform’

The three candidates are referring to themselves as “One Unified Candidate Slate” and said in their announcement that their decision to join forces is driven by “a powerful and united commitment to improving education and ensuring success for every student in the Carmel Unified School District.”

The women’s “shared platform focuses on putting students first again and driving accountability, fiscal responsibility, and community transparency,” they said.

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Pastor buys two more downtown buildings

Long-term rentals in the works

By MARY SCHLEY

ADDING TO his sizable portfolio of local properties, Monaco businessman and part-time Carmel resident Patrice Pastor purchased two more commercial complexes on San Carlos Street — one north of Ocean Avenue and one south of it — last week. Escrow closed Sept. 27.

The San Carlos Professional Building on the west side of the street just north of Eighth went for \$6,500,000, according to county records, while the San Carlos Square Building — home to popular Stationaery restaurant and other businesses — sold for \$5,900,000. The sellers were Kristin Minnich and Aguero Shoppes LLC, respectively, and the agents representing Pastor were Tim Allen of Col-dewell Banker Global Luxury and and Alessia Ucelli of Monterey Coast Realty.

The professional building, where Carmel Insurance

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PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

Patrice Pastor purchased the San Carlos Professional Building (top) and San Carlos Square (above) in deals that closed Friday. The buildings have offices, shops and residential apartments.

City prepares to do parking-space shuffle

‘Daylighting Law’ requirements

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL City Council next month is set to consider a new law that will bring the city into compliance with AB 413, commonly called the Daylighting Law, which eliminates parking spaces near crosswalks to make intersections safer for pedestrians and cyclists. At their Oct. 1 meeting, council members learned from Police Chief Paul Tomasi that, with changes made to various types of spaces, just nine two-hour spots will be lost downtown.

“We really were looking at ways to limit the loss of parking spaces downtown,” he said. “I know that’s been a big concern, because we don’t have a lot and they’re precious to us — they’re like gold.”

According to his department’s survey, the commercial district — which will be most impacted by the law — contains 810 spaces, 696 of which are two-hour spots, 102 are 30- or 10-minute spaces, eight are commercial loading

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Booming Marina says it needs new police, fire stations

By CAITLIN CONRAD

THE CITY of Marina is making a big ask this election season. A \$50 million bond measure on the Nov. 5 ballot would fund the construction of new fire and police stations, city hall and a community center. The Pine Cone requested a tour of the civic center facilities this week to see just how bad they are and find out how the buildings are impacting public safety and services in the city, which is building housing at a rate unlike anything seen in the Monterey Peninsula since the World War II era.

The tour started inside Marina’s combo police and fire station with Fire Chief Doug McCoun and Police Sgt. Chris Johnson acting as guides.

The hub was built decades ago when the two departments were integrated and served a much smaller population of just 10,000 residents.

Overcrowding

Today, more than 23,000 people live in Marina, and calls for service have gone way up, with the city seeing a 50 percent increase in 911 calls over the last eight years.

The building at 211 Hillcrest is three stories high and built into a hillside. The top-floor entrance is at ground level, and the lowest story opens onto a parking lot on the backside facing Palm Avenue. The top floor houses admin for police and fire, the lower level is home to firefighters, and the basement level belongs to police. Both departments have added staff as the town has expanded, but their shared headquarters has not grown with them.



PHOTO/CAITLIN CONRAD

Not what you’d call an actual building, Marina City Hall is collection of portables more than 40 years old.

“Back when this building was built, there was not near the call volume, there was not near the mandated reporting requirements,” said McCoun after opening the lobby’s code-locked door and taking us inside.

Not 24/7

Just off the lobby is the room housing the police department’s records staff. There are three desks in the office and sitting propped against the wall are parts for a fourth desk. Marina recently hired another records specialist to file cases with the district attorney within the mandated 48 hours following an arrest, but there is no room to set up the new employee’s workstation.

“We’re not able to have people working 24 hours like normal police departments. A lot of police departments

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Chopper saves hiker stranded on beach

By CHRIS COUNTS

A MISSING woman from Utah was rescued Sunday afternoon when a CHP helicopter found her injured along a hard-to-access stretch of shoreline in Big Sur where she’d been stranded for more than 24 hours.

The beach where she was found is near Kirk Creek Campground and the intersection of Highway 1 and Nacimiento-Fergusson Road.

The 68-year-old woman, who stayed the previous night at the Ragged Point Inn, told her husband that she planned to “hunt for rocks at low tide in the early morning.”

When the woman didn’t return to the inn later that evening, her husband contacted authorities, and a search was launched. But the effort was delayed because of poor visibility.

Car found near campground

“Due to fog at Paso Robles Airport and a low marine layer over Highway 1, the helicopter was delayed,” according to a report by the California Highway Patrol. “After monitoring the weather, the helicopter was finally able to initiate the search at 1300 hours.”

The woman’s vehicle was found parked in a turnout near the campground, which is about 20 miles north of where she was staying. The helicopter searched the

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