



A celebration of the Carmel lifestyle ... inside this week!

In Your Dreams

The Carmel Pine Cone

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TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

Caltrans says state needs 113 wildlife corridors

■ But just one in Monterey County

By CHRIS COUNTS

LEGISLATION PASSED by the state in 2022 requires Caltrans to identify where safe crossings are needed along California highways to prevent motorists from hitting wild animals, and, this week, Caltrans released a report that shows potential sites for 113 wildlife crossings.

Fourteen should be installed in Santa Barbara County, the road agency says, but in Monterey County, just one.

In all, the report indicates that “180 native, endangered

or threatened animal species” are at risk due to the lack of such crossings.

Endangered badgers

The sole local site is on Highway 68 on property owned by the Bureau of Land Management. The report notes that tiger salamanders, badgers, bobcats, coyote, deer and gray fox would all benefit from having a safe way to cross the road.

The Pine Cone has previously reported on the risk of mortality faced by badgers crossing the busy highway between Monterey and Salinas.

Asked why Monterey County has only one recommended wildlife crossing, and none in Big Sur, Caltrans spokesman Chris Clark said the sites were “prioritized based on coordination” with various Caltrans districts, including District 5, which represents Monterey

See PATHS page 24A



While California builds the world’s biggest wildlife corridor in Agoura Hills (rendering at left), badgers in British Columbia have tunnels to help them cross roads.

Salinas OKs rent control, eviction protection

By MARY SCHLEY

COME JAN. 1, 2025, owners of many rental apartments in Salinas will be subject to rent control and other restrictions that its city council members hope other cities throughout Monterey County will also implement.

After several hearings and extensive feedback from renters, landlords and community groups over the past year, the Salinas City Council unanimously voted Sept. 24 to adopt a rent stabilization ordinance, a “tenant protection and just cause eviction ordinance,” and “tenant anti-harassment protections,” all of which take effect on New Year’s Day.

The new laws are restricted by a state law, the Costa-Hawkins Act, that exempts single-family residences,

condos and properties built after February 1995 from rent control and allows landlords to raise rent back to market rate after a tenant leaves.

Could apply citywide

A Nov. 5 statewide ballot measure seeks to overturn Costa-Hawkins, so while Salinas officials and a consultant say 19 percent of the city’s housing would be affected by the new rent-control laws, more could be subject to them if Proposition 33 passes.

Rents in multifamily buildings constructed before 1995 in Salinas have increased 117 percent between 2000 and 2024, according to officials, with an average vacancy rate

See RENT page 16A

Mayoral candidates weigh in on issues campaign forums missed

By MARY SCHLEY

WITH BALLOTS in the mail and voters well on their way to choosing the people they want to represent them, The Pine Cone submitted a few questions of its own in the wake of the candidate forums hosted by the Carmel Residents Association and the Carmel Chamber of Commerce last month.

All three candidates for the mayor’s seat — incumbent Dave Potter and challengers councilman Jeff Baron and community organizer Dale Byrne — took the time to answer. Their responses are presented in the order

received. Some answers have been very lightly edited. Council candidates’ answers start on page 14A.

■ Modern architecture

Pine Cone: What are your thoughts on modern/contemporary architecture? How much control should the planning department/planning commission have over individual design choices about which there is no stated rules, such as metal roofs or number of windows?

Dale Byrne: Carmel has plenty of good examples of “modern architecture” around town, but too much glass,

non-organic materials, and strong vertical design close to street level would probably not be appropriate in many neighborhoods in Carmel. But as more and more “modern architecture” replaces the more traditional Carmel cottage, the very thing that made Carmel a special place to live in and visit is removed. We could wake up someday and feel like we are in a completely different place.

Balance is important, including not having too many similar houses in a row. I don’t like metal roofs personally, but they are preferred by insurance companies and, as

See CANDIDATES page 18A

Pine Cone launches election survey

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

AS OF 9 p.m. Thursday, subscribers to The Pine Cone’s email edition are invited to participate in a poll to find out which candidates they support in the Nov. 5 municipal election and how they feel about the state housing mandates and street addresses for Carmel homes.

Voting in the poll will remain open until 5 p.m. Oct. 16, with results reported in next week’s edition.

“A web link for the poll is only going out to subscribers, but anyone who wants

to participate can sign up by using the ‘Free and Easy Subscription’ button on our website,” said publisher Paul Miller. New subscribers will be promptly emailed a link to vote, he added.

The election in the City of Carmel has the strongest field of candidates in many years, with Dave Potter, Jeff Baron and Dale Byrne running for mayor, and Danny Hala, Parker Logan, David O’Neil, Bob Delves and Hans Buder running for city council.

The Pine Cone’s website is <https://carmelpinecone.com>.



Dave Potter



Dale Byrne



Jeff Baron