

COUNCILMAN’S DUPLEX DAMAGED IN KITCHEN FIRE



PHOTO/(TOP) BRANDON SWANSON, (ABOVE) BOBBY RICHARDS

(Top) Painter Jose Encinas put out a kitchen fire with his trusty extinguisher, garnering praise from everyone, including the police officers and firefighters who responded. (Above) Remnants of the charred cutting boards and other items coated in a layer of the extinguisher’s dust.

■ Cutting boards left on stove

By MARY SCHLEY

A QUICK-THINKING painter armed with a fire extinguisher saved Carmel City Councilman Bobby Richards’ duplex at Monte Verde and Seventh — and possibly the buildings surrounding it — from destruction Monday morning after a renter set the kitchen on fire.

“My tenant left cutting boards on the stovetop because she doesn’t cook,” Richards said a few hours after the Oct. 14 blaze. “When she walked out, she unknowingly hit a button and turned on the stove and set them on fire.”

Returns to fire

The woman had left her upstairs unit in the duplex a half-block from city hall, only to return to find the kitchen in flames, according to Richards.

“The painter next door heard her yelling and ran over with a fire extinguisher,” he said.

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Republicans say bill will drive up prices at pump

■ Newsom claims victory over ‘Big Oil’

By CAITLIN CONRAD

GOV. GAVIN Newsom is celebrating his victory over the oil industry this week after signing legislation he hopes will prevent gas-price spikes but opponents say will do the opposite.

The new law requires oil refineries to keep a minimum fuel reserve to dip into rather than go offline when they shut down for routine maintenance. According to the bill’s authors, supply shortages during these maintenance events create price spikes, and the hope is reserves will smooth those out. Critics, including Republican lawmakers and neighboring governors, say the new regulations will only drive prices up.

Complaining and pushing

“Newsom and his Democrat allies in the Legislature are ripping off Californians at the pump, complaining about costs at the same time they’re working to push gas prices

Potter leads money race as campaign winds down

■ First results expected Nov. 5 at 8:15 p.m.

By MARY SCHLEY

WITH LESS than three weeks to go before the Nov. 5 election, incumbent Carmel Mayor Dave Potter has raised more money than his two opponents, according to financial statements filed late last month, and the candidates are heading into their final days of campaigning.

Meanwhile, plans are already set for the City of Carmel’s traditional election night gathering after the council meeting in city hall, according to city clerk Nova Romero.

City councilman Jeff Baron, whose campaigns are hallmarked by door-knocking, said he plans to spend the next 18 days “doubling back to neighborhoods I’ve already

canvassed, visiting homes and apartments where I missed people the first time around.”

“Personal connections matter, and I want to make sure I meet as many residents as possible this time around,” he said. “Second, I’m starting my get-out-the-vote effort to ensure that as many people as is possible head to the polls. Encouraging a strong voter turnout is important, and I’ll be focusing on individuals who I believe support my campaign.”

Walk, talk and listen

Emailing from the League of California Cities meeting in Long Beach Thursday, Potter took a moment to say he will continue to “attend events, call, walk and knock on doors, and listen to the voters throughout the village.” He also mentioned his decision “not to do yard signs, in keeping with the character of Carmel-by-the-Sea.”

Their challenger, Carmel Cares founder Dale Byrne, said he’ll continue his grassroots efforts, including being out and about in town, connecting with residents and businesses, hosting coffees, participating meetings and events — including the city’s Halloween parade — sending emails, running Pine Cone ads, “and doing my normal volunteer activities, which are many and diverse.”

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Pine Cone readers: Baron has decisive edge for mayor

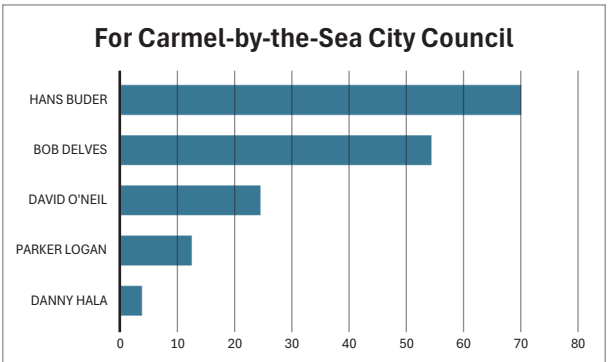
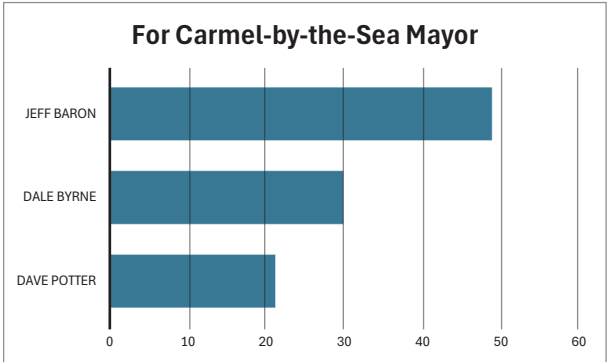
■ Buder, Delves are favorites for council; majority wants street addresses

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE RESULTS of last week’s survey of subscribers to The Carmel Pine Cone’s online edition show that among the 187 respondents who said they are registered voters in the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, 48.9 percent favor Jeff Baron for mayor, with 29.9 percent choosing Dale Byrne and only 21.2 percent selecting incumbent Mayor Dave Potter.

For council candidates, the results of the poll are equally conclusive, with Hans Buder receiving 70.1 percent of the vote, Bob Delves 54.4 percent, David O’Neil

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Respondents to a Pine Cone survey who said they were registered voters in Carmel-by-the-Sea expressed a strong preference for Jeff Baron for mayor and Hans Buder and Bob Delves for city council. Election Day is Nov. 5.

Panetta in Israel again, meets with Netanyahu

By KELLY NIX

IN HIS third visit to Israel since the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas terrorist attacks, Democratic Rep. Jimmy Panetta met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem Tuesday to reiterate the United States’ support for his country’s military operations in Gaza and Lebanon while stressing the importance of limiting harm to civilians and allowing humanitarian aid into those areas.

Panetta was part of a bipartisan delegation that included Michigan Republican Rep. Mike Rogers and fellow Democratic representatives Seth Moulton from Massachusetts and Ro Khanna from California. The group was

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PHOTO/ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY VIA X

Israeli foreign minister Israel Katz (red necktie) meeting in Jerusalem Tuesday with a congressional delegation that included Monterey Peninsula Rep. Jimmy Panetta (left).

even higher,” said Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher in a statement. “Drivers will know exactly who to blame when their fuel costs skyrocket thanks to Democrats’ latest mandate.”

Emergency session

ABX2-1 was not easy to pass. It failed to make it through at the end of the regular legislative session in August after lawmakers from both parties argued there was not enough time to study it.

The move forced Newsom to call a special session and bring the Legislature back to Sacramento during the height of the campaign season when many lawmakers are running for re-election.

In the end, the governor succeeded, with the Senate approving the bill 23-9 and the Assembly following suit with a 42-16 vote, just one more than the minimum needed for passage. Four Democrats voted with Republicans in opposition, while others abstained.

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