



PENINSULA BUSINESSES

How did Bruno's become an institution? Why do architects care about furniture? Does chowder need potatoes? ... Inside this week!



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Council gives up, bans pickleball

By MARY SCHLEY

TIRED OF trying to come up with rules that would make pickleball acceptable to those living near the Forest Hill Park courts and figuring out how to enforce them, the Carmel City Council voted last week to permanently ban the game, essentially putting to rest a now years-old battle between residents and fans.

When they discussed the pickleball issue in October and imposed a temporary ban, councilmembers Hans Buder and Jeff Baron advocated for researching the potential of using soft equipment to help deaden the game's much-maligned noise. At the Nov. 4 meeting, city attorney Brian Pierik presented two potential ordinances to regulate pickleball, including mandating the use of that equipment, which would be provided by the city, but those options failed to garner enthusiasm from the council or the public. The ordinances also limited the days and hours of play beyond the allowed hours for tennis at Forest Hill.

'Very frustrating'

Pickleball player Barbara Lang, who competes nationally, said she no longer plays in Carmel and questioned whether the game could even be called by the same name if quiet equipment were used, since it changes almost every aspect of the sport. She also asked why, if people are playing "librarian ball" and the noise issues are resolved, hours of play should be limited.

Nonetheless, she acknowledged that those who choose to play at Forest Hill under the proposed rules would at least be getting some exercise.

Another resident who plays just for fun said she would no longer bother to do so at Forest Hill, either, if required to use a soft ball. "I don't think you'll have anybody playing there," she said. "I'm a social player, and we're not going to play there. It's very frustrating for us, because we are the only city on the Monterey Peninsula that does not provide free public access for pickleball."

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Newsom explores 'pro-male' agenda

GOV. GAVIN Newsom is onto something: Boys and young men are struggling, and Democrats have been ignoring it.

In California, men are nearly four times more likely to die by suicide than women, and since 2010, there's been a stark rise in the number of young men taking their own lives. They're also lonely, with nearly 25 percent of men under 30 reporting they have no close friends, a fivefold increase since 1990.

Our boys are also falling behind in school. Males are

Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

three times as likely as females to be expelled, and girls are outperforming boys in nearly every metric of educational outcomes, including grade point averages and graduation rates.

All-girl campuses?

As a result, 60 percent of the college campus landscape in America is female, with women now earning more bachelor's and advanced degrees than their male counterparts.

Women are also out-earning all but the highest echelon of men, with 40 percent of women bringing home more than the male median. Some men are failing to enter the labor market at all. There are 500,000 young Californians ages 16 to 24 who are neither working nor in

See MEN page 14A

Verizon comes out swinging in test of wireless rules

By MARY SCHLEY

FOR THE first time since Carmel adopted new rules for the installation of cell towers, Verizon Wireless last month submitted plans to place new equipment on a utility



RENDERING/VERIZON

A rendering shows the unobtrusive equipment Verizon proposes to mount on top of a power pole on Carmelo Street.

pole on Carmelo Street.

The proposed location is a little more than two blocks from the site over which the city and the telecom giant sued each other in a case that's languishing in federal appeals court.

Working for Verizon, Pete Shubin of Sequoia Deployment Services submitted a description of the planned installation, which calls for a "canister-style antenna" mounted to the top of the pole on the east side of Carmelo south of 10th Avenue "and an equipment shroud to screen the radios and other equipment from view."

Other items mounted lower down would be painted dark brown to match the wood.

"The project is needed to improve network service and fill a service gap in western Carmel-by-the-Sea on the Verizon Wireless network due to rapidly increasing demand for quality wireless telecommunication services," Shubin said in the application.

Must approve?

In an Oct. 14 letter accompanying the documents, attorney Paul Albritton almost immediately launched into why the city must approve the application even though it doesn't comply with requirements to locate the equipment out of the public right of way, outside the single-family-residential district, and at least 5 feet from a home's doors and windows.

"The city must approve these special exceptions because denial of the application would constitute an effective prohibition of service in violation of the federal Telecommunications Act," he wrote. "Further, denial

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PANETTA NOT HAPPY ABOUT VOTE TO REOPEN GOV'T

By KELLY NIX

WHEN THE House of Representatives voted 222-209 Wednesday night to reopen the government, Carmel Valley Democratic Rep. Jimmy Panetta wasn't one of the "yes" votes. Instead, he joined all but six of his party colleagues in voting to continue the shutdown.

"Even with some positive funding provisions and protections for federal workers in the bill, there were no negotiations, no agreements and no deals with any members of the House of Representatives on this continuing resolution," Panetta said on social media site X.

Most Democrats opposed funding the government

in hopes the GOP would agree to extend Covid-era Obamacare tax credits, which are set to expire at the end of the year. Republicans wanted to reopen the government first, so federal workers could get to work and indigent people wouldn't have an interruption in their food benefits, and try to reach an agreement on the federal budget later.

No promises

Panetta suggested that Republicans won't make good on an assurance to Senate Democrats that they'll hold a subsequent vote on Affordable Care Act tax credits.

There were "absolutely no promises" made by Speaker Mike Johnson about extending the tax credits or protecting healthcare for working families, Panetta said.

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CLEARANCE ZONES COULD DRAMATICALLY ALTER CARMEL LANDSCAPE

By MARY SCHLEY

WHEN THE state begins requiring property owners in the areas of highest wildfire risk to create 5-foot "ember-resistant" buffers around their homes and buildings, the fundamental look and feel of some parts of Carmel will be significantly altered. California insurance commissioner Ricardo Lara is pushing the board of forestry and fire protection to finish drafting and implement the rules for the area known as "Zone Zero" — and strip local jurisdictions of the ability to bypass the rules — sooner than later.

"Current regulations establish a baseline for wildfire safety, allowing local governments to impose additional requirements based on specific needs," he wrote in an Oct. 15 letter to Terrence O'Brien, chair of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's board. "Allowing local exceptions or misaligned policies undermines our overall goal of wildfire safety by creating

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Pfeiffer Beach in prize-winning photo



Captured by Brian Filoteo of Ventura, this striking image of a surfer at Pfeiffer Beach in Big Sur was one of five top prize winners in the 2025 California State Parks Foundation Photo Contest. See page 10A.