



# The Carmel Pine Cone

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## Sunshine, great golf and plenty of smiles



The AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am got off to a thrilling start Thursday at Spyglass when Rory McIlroy scored an eagle with an amazing bunker shot on 14 (top left). Meanwhile, Kansas City Chiefs star Travis Kelce — the future Mr. Taylor Swift — (above) was all smiles as he played the 10th hole at Spyglass just a few groups behind McIlroy. Jordan Spieth (left) also had a great opening round, finishing tied for ninth place at 6 under par. For complete coverage, see our special section.

PHOTOS/MICHAEL TROUTMAN, KERRY BELSER

## Commission rejects latest Verizon plan

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL Planning Commission teed up the city for more legal battles with Verizon Wireless Tuesday when it unanimously voted to deny the telecom giant's application to install a small cell tower and other equipment on a power pole on Carmelo south of 10th. The main reason, commissioners decided, was that Verizon didn't do enough to prove that a tower on the roof of the Golden Bough theater would not sufficiently address the coverage gaps the company insists exist.

The Feb. 10 hearing followed lengthy presentations and public comments at the commission's Jan. 21 hearing, which was continued due to the receipt of last-minute information, and delayed again after yet more documents were provided at a special meeting last week.

Some of that information was fundamental in assistant planner Jacob Olander's decision to change his recommendation of approval to the opposite.

"Through submittal of additional information and analysis of that information, there is an argument that the Golden Bough theater is a potentially viable location for a wireless facility," he told the commission. "Due to this potential and the lack of supporting data from the applicant clearly demonstrating that the Golden Bough site is not viable, it is staff's recommendation that the planning commission deny the application."

**'Everything we can to protect our community'**

### First test

Verizon's application is the first test of the city's wireless ordinance since it was adopted in 2023 and approved by the California Coastal Commission last year. Working for Verizon, Pete Shubin of Sequoia Deployment Services submitted a description of the planned installation last October that calls for a "canister-style antenna" mounted

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### First mention —

## Nicklaus was a star right from the start

By ELAINE HESSER

JACK NICKLAUS — also known as the Golden Bear — first came to The Carmel Pine Cone's attention on Aug. 24, 1961, under a headline that read, "Pebble Beach Hosts National Amateur Golf."

Touting the "over 200 amateur golfers in the world challenging the water hazards, traps, and tricky greens of the world-famous Pebble Beach links," the story said that the U.S. Amateur Championship would run Sept. 11–16. At the time, Nicklaus, then age 20, had not yet turned pro and was attending Ohio State University. He had finished second in the 1960 U.S. Open, two strokes behind winner



Jack Nicklaus in 1972

## Unions beware — a raise for the boss may not mean one for you

LAST YEAR, when Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed cutting \$375 million from the California State University system, thousands of unionized workers organized to claw back funding.

The pushback worked. In his May revision, Newsom reduced the cuts to \$144 million, which, after more campaigning, lawmakers agreed to fund with an interest-free loan. Those behind the rallying cries hoped the loan would

### Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

be used to restore college classes that had been axed and to fund promised contractual raises for unionized workers. Their hopes were too high.

CSU is walking back the promised salary increases, despite receiving the financial backing, arguing the state universities are still in the red and a loan doesn't count as full funding. But somehow the university system did find the cash to give its college presidents and top administrators massive pay raises.

### It pays to be president

In November, CSU presidents received pay increases pushing their average base salaries to nearly \$500,000. The hikes, some by as much as 20 percent, were approved alongside a sweetheart of a deal for the university elite,

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## EVERYBODY WANTS AN OWL

By MARY SCHLEY

IN THE last two weeks, Carmel resident Paul Falworth has received 83 requests for the platforms he and a small group of fellow volunteers at Carmel Owls are building and installing in trees to attract great horned owls, all with the aim of getting rid of rats.

"All the applicants have rat stories," including the often-heard nightmare of the rodents destroying the electrical systems in cars because they like the taste of the coating on the wires. It can be very expensive to repair, he said, "and the rats remain."

People use rat poison to try to get rid of the problem, but that can injure cats and birds of prey that end up consuming the pellets or the animals that have eaten them.

### Ideal solution

Great horned owls, Falworth said, are the ideal solution. A pair of nesting raptors and their young can kill seven rats, voles, moles, mice and other rodents per day.

The applications came from as far away as Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park and Salinas, he said, as well as throughout the Monterey Peninsula, and while the response was robust, viable sites must have specific traits.

Site requirements include trees that are taller than a telephone pole — no oaks — with exposed vertical trunks that are free of branches that can obstruct an owl's flight path. Trees need to be away from power lines and near level, paved ground that can accommodate a towed 2-ton, 23-foot-long cherry picker, with a wide turning radius for egress.

"Backing the picker up is very difficult for me," Falworth explained.

Platform recipients must also sign liability waivers. "If the tree falls over, it's not Carmel Owls' fault," he said.

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