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JUDGE OVERTURNS PERMIT FOR HOUSING AT RANCHO CAÑADA

■ Builder says he is 'not going away'

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE CARMEL Valley Association claimed victory after a judge upheld its lawsuit against a plan to create 130 homesites at the former Rancho Cañada Golf Club in Carmel Valley, but developer Alan Williams defended the project and told The Pine Cone he will continue to pursue it.

The decision overturns the approval of the housing project by the county's board of supervisors, along with the environmental impact report that justified it.

"We're happy with the win," Carmel Valley Association president Pris Walton said. "It doesn't meet the requirements of the CEQA. If it had been done right, there would be no need for a lawsuit."

Judge Lydia Villarreal ruled April 24 that the project's EIR does not provide an adequate description of the development, and said its analysis of alternatives "does not satisfy" state environmental law.

Villarreal also said the county's affordable housing ordinance needs to be updated to be consistent with a county general plan requirement that 25 percent of new housing units in large developments be affordable.

County joins suit over census citizenship query

By KELLY NIX

MONTEREY COUNTY has joined a legal battle against the Trump administration over its decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census, claiming the query could prevent the county from receiving more than \$15 million in taxpayer dollars for child care and infrastructure.

The complaint, first filed by the New York attorney general, argues that asking people about their citizenship status could prevent immigrants — legal and otherwise — from participating in the census, which in turn could skew the number of people counted in the county.

The question "will 'inevitably jeopardize the overall accuracy of the population count' by significantly deterring participation in immigrant communities, because of concerns about how the federal government will use the information," according to the lawsuit.

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Stone seeks law requiring connected caps

By KELLY NIX

IF YOU'RE old enough to remember pop-tops — those little pull tabs used in the 1970s on soda, beer and other beverage cans that ended up on the ground everywhere and were dangerous to step on — then you're old enough to remember when they were replaced with the environmentally friendlier stay-on tab, or Sta-Tab.

More than four decades later, Democratic Assemblymen Mark Stone and Ian Calderon have proposed legislation to prohibit retailers from selling plastic bottles containing water, soda and other drinks that don't have caps tethered or fastened.

The goal is to reduce the large number of bottle caps discarded into the environment.

"Plastic bottle caps are recyclable, but because they aren't attached to their beverage containers, too often they become litter," Stone, who represents the 29th Assembly District, which includes the Monterey Peninsula, told The Pine

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Kayaker's Hawaii trip cut short



PHOTO/PAUL MILLER

While a bystander scans the horizon, rescuers sort through the contents of a kayak on Asilomar Beach Tuesday morning. The occupant didn't get far from his point of origin before falling victim to bad weather. See page 5A.

The outdated ordinance only requires that 20 percent of the units be affordable — a number Williams relied on.

Lastly, the judge ruled that the number of affordable units fails

See PERMIT page 16A

City to charge for mail delivery

■ No more free service for people who just like the convenience

By MARY SCHLEY

TAXPAYERS COVER the costs of having a private courier deliver mail to 141 residences in town six days a week, to the tune of more than \$59,000 per year. And while some of those residents are physically unable to get to the post office, others simply use the service because they can. On Tuesday, the city council suggested that only those who legitimately need the service should get it for free, while those who want the convenience of skipping trips to the post office should pay for it.

The city hired a private courier company, Peninsula Messenger Service, 18 years ago, after a man who had just moved to town started publicly protesting the fact that the U.S. Postal Service doesn't deliver mail to people's houses. A few years later, during budget cuts after the dot-com bubble burst, the council cut the service to three days a week, but restored it again a few weeks later after the resulting outcry threatened to reignite the whole debate.

While the number of residents receiving mail at

See MAIL page 26A

COUNCIL DECLINES TO REQUIRE REDESIGN OF HOME

■ Objections from next door unheeded

By MARY SCHLEY

A NEIGHBOR who tried to convince the city council to require changes to a house planned for next door lost her fight Tuesday, when council members voted 3-2 to approve the home as designed.

Robin Scattini, the city's new finance manager, and her husband, Greg, plan to build an 1,800-square-foot, two-story stucco house with stone veneer, wood windows and doors, and a wood shingle roof on a corner lot at Guadalupe and First. The planning commission unanimously approved the house designed by Claudio Ortiz in March, and at the May 1 meeting, planning director Marc Wiener recommended the council let that approval stand.

But Laura Spiegelman, who lives in town and purchased the cottage next door as a retirement home for her parents shortly before the Scattinis bought their vacant lot, objected to their plans because she felt the new house would

block the view from the living-room window. Spiegelman asked the council to move the proposed house back from the street and make other changes to lessen the impacts she predicted. She also said changing the floorplan would protect a couple of nearby trees, and she hired her own architect to draft an alternate design for the Scattinis' house.

"The goal, from my perspective, has always been to do that without taking away from what the neighbor wants, without taking away square footage or otherwise harming them," she told the council. "It is feasible and reasonable, and something that I would do for a neighbor if I were in the fortunate position to be building a home like that."

But Ortiz countered that he and the Scattinis had already shifted the home 18 inches in order to accommodate Spiegelman. "I don't think we need to move the building beyond what we already did," he said.

See DECLINES page 31A

A convocation of Eagle Scouts



PHOTO/LUKE DEPALATIS

Seven new Eagle Scout were honored April 29 at Carmel High School, including (top row, from the left) Ryan Chaney, Nathan Suess, Kaden Agha, West Whittaker, Kenshi Husted, Kevin Kamm and Ryan Porch. Also attending the ceremony were scout leaders (bottom row, from the left) Mahir Agha and Don Chaney. See story page 12A.



PHOTO/PAUL MILLER

Assemblyman Mark Stone with an example of a plastic bottle with a stay-on cap.