

In Your Dreams



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Woman, dogs treated after raccoon attack

By MARY SCHLEY

A CARMEL Valley resident needed emergency medical care early Monday morning after being attacked by a raccoon. Neighbors called 911 for the woman around 2:15 a.m. Sept. 24 after she showed up on their doorstep bleeding and terrified, clad only in a T-shirt and underwear.

Elizabeth Kirkpatrick had been chased and repeatedly clawed and bitten by a raccoon that forced open a screen door to her Carmel Valley Ranch home in pursuit of her dogs.

"Around 2, I woke up to an attack in my bedroom," she told The Pine Cone. The raccoon had gotten its paw through a narrow opening in a screen door and pushed it open to go after her little 3-pound "schnorkie" — a schnauzer-Yorkie mix. "I turned the light on, and the thing just launched itself at me."

Kirkpatrick said the animal was large, weighing 25 or 30 pounds, and that it charged her from about 5 feet away and then leaped up, biting her just under the ribcage and scratch-

See **RACCOON** page 20A

Pt. Lobos: Reservations needed to control crowds?

By CHRIS COUNTS

WORRIED THAT crowds at Point Lobos State Reserve are not only causing dangerous traffic conditions but threatening the park's fragile environment, some are calling for shuttle and reservation systems to be established.

Created to find solutions to the challenges facing Point Lobos and other local parks, a group called "Park It!" has been meeting with local state park officials since January.

"Our goal is to balance public access with safety and resource protection, while allowing for growth," said one of the group's members, Ernest Chung of Pebble Beach.

The group is suggesting that the vacant property between the Crossroads shopping center and Highway 1 be used as a staging area for the shuttle.

Blocking the road

Just as it has in many local parks, visitation to Point Lobos has gone up considerably in recent years. Vehicles routinely block the bicycle lanes on along both sides of Highway 1 near the entrance to the park, where visitors frequently cross in front of oncoming motorists.

Simply banning traffic or reducing the number of people

See **CROWDS** page 17A

Recycling: It's good for the bottle and the can — the coffee cup, not so much

By ELAINE HESSER

IT'S 6:30 in the morning and you've drained your first paper cup of coffee from Carmel Valley Coffee Roasting Co. Taking a few extra steps to find the nearest recycling bin, you toss in the empty container, enjoy a millisecond's worth of virtuous feeling, and go on with your day.

But what happens to the cup? Surprisingly, nothing different than if you had thrown it in the trash. It'll end up in the landfill on the north side of Marina, except now it has to go through some additional steps to get there.

It wasn't long ago that we were all being reminded to carefully prepare our milk cartons, empty tin cans and cardboard boxes for recycling. We had to sort them into different receptacles, too. But in the late 1990s, most local areas started picking up mixed recycleables — and since then, what happens to them has become something of a mystery.

According to Jeff Lindenthal, spokesman for the Monterey Regional Waste Management District, the contents of residen-



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

On the campaign trail this week, incumbent Mayor Steve Dallas chats with councilwoman Carrie Theis and former council candidate Jack Pappadeas in front of the post office (top), while his challenger, Dave Potter, walks the neighborhood with businessman Graeme Robertson.

CAL AM SPENDS \$850K TO DEFEAT MEASURE J

■ Agha, Burnett helping bankroll takeover initiative

By KELLY NIX

CALIFORNIA AMERICAN Water spent nearly \$850,000 in the last several months on its campaign to defeat Measure J — the ballot measure asking voters to OK a government takeover of the Cal Am's water system — while Yes on Measure J's biggest backers include a developer who's long tried to build his own desal project and a founder of the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

From July 1 to Sept. 22, Cal Am spent \$841,192.31 on its effort to defeat Public Water Now's Measure J. The private utility's expenditures included more than \$400,000 on TV and cable airtime and production costs, \$202,005 on campaign consultants and \$55,250 for polling and research, campaign

City won't appeal records decision

By MARY SCHLEY

AT A meeting that had people yelling from the gallery and audience members providing sections of the Brown Act to council members, assistant city attorney Jon Giffen announced Tuesday that the city council decided not to appeal a judge's recent order to make documents related to city attorney Glen Mozingo's resume public.

The council was scheduled to discuss the case at closed sessions Oct. 1 and 2, and several members of the public spoke Monday regarding how they thought the council should respond to its Sept. 14 loss in Monterey County Superior Court to former Monterey Herald editor Royal Calkins, who sued the city for refusing to turn over letters, commendations and other documents council members used to validate Mozingo's resume.

The city's lawyers had argued the documents are protected under the Brown Act because they were presented in a closed session and contain personal information, among other reasons, but Judge Robert O'Farrell disagreed and ordered the city to make them public.

After the ruling, Mozingo said the council might vote to appeal it — a prospect that rankled many.

Resident Hugo Ferlito said the council "received erroneous legal advice" that "resulted in a lawsuit that the city promptly lost," and that it should focus on correcting the mistake instead of fighting it and spending even more taxpayer dollars.

See **RECORDS** page 21A

disclosure statements filed last week with Monterey County Elections revealed.

Cal Am made three \$250,000 donations to its No on Measure J campaign from July 3 to Sept. 11, and a \$100,000 donation on Sept. 19. On Sept. 25, Cal Am reported it set aside an additional \$1 million to continue its opposition to the measure — but the private utility says it is not using revenue from Monterey Peninsula ratepayers to oppose Measure J.

Former mayor's mom

During the same period, Public Water Now reported raising a much more modest \$74,761 in contributions, with \$20,000 of it from Nancy Burnett, a founder of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, vice chair of the David & Lucile Packard Foundation and mother to former Carmel Mayor Jason Burnett. She's given a total of \$21,000 to the Yes on J campaign.

See **MEASURE J** page 23A



PHOTO/COURTESY MPRWMD

At the processing facility, tons of recycled items fly by on 400 feet of conveyors as usable materials are separated from trash.

See **RECYCLING** page 18A