

The Carmel Pine Cone

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Meeting on beach fires will have a do-over

■ Public notice rules not met, city manager says

By KELLY NIX

THE CITY council's unanimous approval this week of revised rules for beach fires was abruptly invalidated the next day when city officials realized the special council meeting wasn't properly "noticed" to the public. As a result, the hearing will have to be held all over again in a few weeks.

On Monday night, the council heard from more than a dozen people who spoke for and against the beach fire plan. Toward the end of the roughly two-hour hearing, the council

voted unanimously to approve the program, which includes unlimited propane fires on the beach and a limited number of wood fires contained in fire rings.

The decision is an abrupt change from policies pursued by former Mayor Jason Burnett and city councilmember Ken Talmage, who both left the council after April's election.

Despite Monday's well attended hearing and unani-

mous vote, on Tuesday City Administrator Chip Rerig explained that someone on his staff discovered that a required public notice of the meeting wasn't published in the newspaper before the hearing.

"We missed [publishing] the legal notice in The Pine Cone," he said.

The city's own policy requires that public hearings be posted in public, mailed, and published in a newspaper that meets a circulation requirement, such as The Pine Cone, Rerig said.

The oversight means that the approval of the beach fire program was invalid and that a new hearing will have to be held, likely in the last week of the month.

"This would be a brand new public hearing on the [permit], so we will do the same thing again," Rerig said. "We'll reiterate [to the public] what the council direction was

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Adams handily defeats longtime supervisor Potter for 5th District seat

By KELLY NIX

FIFTH DISTRICT Monterey County Supervisor Dave Potter was ousted from the seat he has kept for two decades when voters Tuesday overwhelmingly chose former United Way Monterey County director Mary Adams to replace him.

According to results from Monterey County Elections, Adams garnered 56.35 percent of the vote to Potter's 43.65 percent in the June 7 primary election. Potter will remain on the job until January, when Adams will be sworn in.

"I am humbled and exhilarated by the tremendous outpouring of support from the voters for a new direction in District 5," Adams said in a statement. "We listened to the people of this community and we are ready for the work ahead."

Adams said she was proud of her "grass roots" campaign, thanked all of her supporters and said she would do her best to serve them in a way that "honors" their "commitment."

"As we celebrate this great victory with joy and humility, I know that this is the beginning of a much longer journey,"

Panetta takes huge lead in Congressional race

By KELLY NIX

20TH CONGRESSIONAL District candidate Jimmy Panetta dominated Tuesday's primary, raking in an impressive 71.5 percent of the vote over Republican rival Casey Lucius' 19.8 percent, according to district-wide results reported by the California Secretary of State.

The two candidates will square off in the November general election for the seat that will be open when longtime Democratic Congressman Sam Farr retires in January 2017. Three other candidates were also on the primary ballot but received support from only a small fraction of the electorate and were eliminated from the race.

In an interview in Salinas Wednesday, Panetta told The Pine Cone that a diverse group of voters supported him on June 7.

"I'm absolutely humbled and honored by the show of sup-

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Adams said. "Serving as your supervisor will be an incredible responsibility. I look forward to the opportunity to help shape policy in a way that is beneficial to us all, that creates opportunity, that protects our natural treasures, and that fairly and openly considers all points of view."

During her campaign, Adams, who has never held political office before, hammered Potter in mailers and on a website for his support of a proposed horse park at Fort Ord and

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Mary Adams



Jane Parker



Jimmy Panetta



Casey Lucius

GLAD THE DAM THING IS FINALLY GONE



DRONE PHOTO/COURTESY CAL AM

What were all these people doing lined up on a temporary bridge across what looks like an Olympics-level kayaking course? They were celebrating the return to nature of a critical part of the Carmel River. See story page 8A.

Commission OK's P.B. housing plan

By KELLY NIX

A PROPOSED 24-unit affordable housing project in Pebble Beach that's been lauded by many but is also a bane for some nearby residents received unanimous approval from the Monterey County Planning Commission Wednesday afternoon.

Following comments from about 40 members of the public — many of whom live near the project and oppose it — commissioners voted 6-0 to approve the environ-

mental impact report for the \$7.5 million apartment complex to be built by the Pebble Beach Company, along with the project itself.

Planning commissioner Martha Diehl, who said she visited the proposed site and alternative sites, acknowledged that the housing project will be "difficult for people who live in the area" since they will have to "bear the brunt of whatever happens." But,

See **HOUSING** page 14A

Seller sued for not disclosing murder

By KELLY NIX

A MONTEREY couple that owns a home where a Pebble Beach woman's body was discovered in 1983 and the remains of another woman's body were found late last year has filed a lawsuit against the previous homeowners and two realtors for allegedly failing to reveal the property's notorious past before they purchased it.

In a complaint filed June 3, Laura and Richard Cote, who bought the property on the 1100 block of Third Street in Monterey

for \$339,000 in 2000, allege they were not told that the body of murder victim Suzanne Kay Nixon, a 30-year-old hairstylist from Pebble Beach, had been found in 1983 on the property they now own.

The Cotes said they learned about Nixon's body after landscapers discovered the skeletal remains of 32-year-old Sandra McGee while working in the Cotes' backyard in September 2015. McGee went missing in 1982.

See **MURDER** page 29A