

The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 102 No. 46

On the Internet: www.carmelpinecone.com

November 11 - 17, 2016

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Cat that fled fire is still missing

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CAT who disappeared following a house fire on San Carlos Street south of 12th the night of Oct. 30 was spotted taking food from a home several blocks away a week later, according to owner Jenifer Atkinson. But the couple whose dog died in the devastating blaze have yet to find their feline companion and are hoping someone in town has seen something that will help.

"Coco was seen last night stealing cat food inside a person's house on Junipero and 12th!" Atkinson told The Pine Cone Monday. "We're closing in on him, but every day counts."

The orange and white kitty with pale green eyes fled in the wake of the fire, which started on the exterior of the house where the power lines enter it. Firefighters discovered the house was burning after they heard an explosion while they were up the street dealing with downed power lines. The blaze destroyed a quarter of the home and caused smoke and water damage throughout, and Atkinson and her husband, Tom, haven't been able to return due to its condition.

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Panetta elected in landslide, prepares to head to a very different Washington

By KELLY NIX

SECURING AN impressive 70 percent of the electorate, Democrat Jimmy Panetta handily defeated Republican rival Casey Lucius to win the 20th Congressional District seat and set him on a course to follow in his father Leon's footsteps.

On Nov. 8, Panetta garnered 70.6 percent of the electorate compared to the 29.4 percent Lucius got in the predominantly Democratic district, which spans Monterey and San Benito counties and parts of Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. Panetta will replace Congressman Sam Farr, who is retiring after securely holding on to the job for nearly two-dozen years.

"It's humbling and it's an honor," Panetta, 47, told The Pine Cone Wednesday about the victory. "But I also accept the responsibility to uphold the obligation to serve the people of Central California. I'm very inspired and excited to get back to D.C. and start the process of serving the people here."

It won't be easy. Panetta, son of Leon Panetta, former CIA director, Secretary of Defense, White House Chief of Staff, and congressman who served from 1977 to 1993, will be a rookie lawmaker amid a Republican led House of Representatives and U.S.

Senate, not to mention a White House occupied by Republican Donald Trump — one of the most polarizing political figures the country has ever seen.

"Hopefully the rhetoric is put aside and we can get something done," Panetta said. "That takes relationships and reaching across the aisle. That is what I hope to build on when I get back there."

"Don't get me wrong," he added, "if push comes to shove, we will also execute our systems of checks and balances, as well."

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PHOTOS/KELLY NIX

Casey Lucius (left) prepares for a TV interview Tuesday in Pacific Grove, while Jimmy Panetta (above) laughs with a supporter at his election night party in Monterey.

STREET DANCE COULD BECOME REGULAR EVENT

By MARY SCHLEY

EVEN BEFORE the music stopped reverberating from nearby buildings, people were calling for the city to make the street dance held as part of the city's centennial celebration last month a more frequent occurrence than every 100 years or so. This week, the community activities and cultural commission decided the dance, which was free and open to the public, but had food and wine available for purchase, should be held annually on a Saturday in September.

"People seemed to really enjoy the street dance," community activities director Janet Bombard told commissioners at the Nov. 8 meeting, though they suggested the corralled area for alcohol sales be larger, as it was fairly crowded during the dance, which was held on Dolores Street.

She asked commissioners how frequently the street dance should be held — if at all — and where. She suggested having it in the area of Devendorf Park, with wine and food available on Mission Street, and the band's stage and dancing area on Sixth Avenue. People could picnic and hang out in the park listening to the music when they weren't dancing.

Community activities assistant Margi Perotti, who oversaw the dance, said several merchants told her they'd like it to recur — preferably in front of their businesses, so they could benefit from the crowds, too. "They felt it would be nice to move the location around town and share the wealth," she said. "It was definitely a lot of fun, and that was one thing that was brought up to me several times: 'Why can't we have it on our street?' That was encouraging."

But rather than trying to please everyone, commissioners favored the idea of having the dance, food and drink staged around the park.

"I think anything next to the park helps get people to utilize the park," commissioner Donna Jett commented, and chair Judy Refuerzo said she also favored that suggestion.

"There aren't that many businesses over there, so it's not catering to any particular business," she added.

While the city council had wanted the proceeds from the beer and wine to go back to the city, that detail dissuaded nonprofits from stepping up to do the work at the dance,

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Voters give admissions tax resounding 'No'

By KELLY NIX

THE BALLOT measure that would have imposed a 5 percent admissions tax on some events in Pacific Grove — and which proponents had said would have brought about \$4 million per year to the city — was crushed Tuesday.

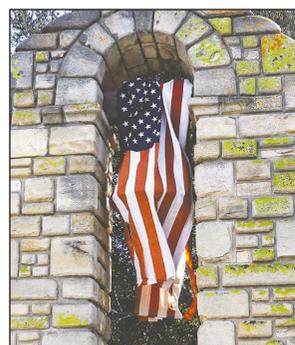
On Nov. 8, an overwhelming 3,844 voters representing 76.3 percent of the electorate rejected Measure P, while only 1,193 voters, or 23.7 percent, voted to approve it. The measure would have levied a 5 percent tax on admission to events in the city, such as movies, golf events, concerts, running races and the Monterey Bay Aquarium, which led the No on Measure P campaign.

"The results clearly confirmed that most voters thought Measure P was flawed and a bad idea," Monterey Bay Aquarium spokesman Hank Armstrong told The Pine Cone

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New bell to be unveiled on Veterans Day, but flag controversy intervenes

By MARY SCHLEY



PHOTOS/MARY SCHLEY, KERRY BELSER

Workers hanging the new bell in the Memorial Arch Monday (left), and the flags that are in place (above) until its unveiling.

THE NEW bell for the World War I Memorial Arch on Ocean Avenue was hung Monday morning and then draped in American flags until its official dedication on Veterans Day Nov. 11.

The bronze bell, designed by architect Charles Sumner Greene, was paid for with \$10,000 from the American Legion Post 512 and bears the inscription,

"In honor of those who served
In memory of those who died
We dedicate this Centennial Bell
October 31, 1916 ... October 31, 2016
American Legion Post 512

The people and City of Carmel-by-the-Sea."

Installing the bell marked the end of a project that began late last year after American Legion members wrote to then-Mayor Jason Burnett asking that they be allowed to remove the historic bell from the arch because they were concerned it might be stolen. That bell, which was given to the city by Sir Harry Downie in honor of the city's 50th birthday in 1966, is thought to date back to 1692 and is now being stored in the Local History Room at the library.

Resident Richard Kreitman led the

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