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Adams calls for permanent parking ban at Pt. Lobos

By CHRIS COUNTS

FIFTH DISTRICT Monterey County Supervisor Mary Adams and others are pushing for a permanent parking ban along the east side of Highway 1 across from Point Lobos State Reserve, but first, the California Coastal Commission will have to sign off on it.

Adams called the daily buildup of vehicles along the inland side of the road a public safety risk. "It's a very dangerous and hazardous situation," warned Adams, who told The Pine Cone that she has been working behind the scenes to resolve the Point Lobos parking dilemma since taking office.

In June, temporary "No Parking" signs were posted along the east side of Highway 1 "1,800 feet to the north and south of the entrance" to Point Lobos after firefighters warned that congestion from the Rio Road construction project could block them from responding to an emergency.

Looking out for visitors

The signs are set to come down when the climbing lane project is done, which is expected to happen in the next couple of weeks. In response, Adams and others are urging the coastal commission to make the ban permanent — which is no sure thing, because one of the commission's chief purposes is to protect visitor access to the coast.

"The coastal commission has made it very clear the signs need to come down when the climbing lane project is com-

Hey! You're going the wrong way!



PHOTO/COURTESY VISIT CALIFORNIA

With Car Week kicking off next week, you would expect a caravan of classic cars to be headed north to the Monterey Peninsula. But this one, which celebrated the recent reopening of Highway 1 at Mud Creek, traveled south Thursday along the scenic route — fog and all. See story page 14A.

pleted," Adams reported. But she is still hoping the parking ban will stay in effect.

"I want to encourage the coastal commission to work with

See BAN page 17A

Council OKs \$2M contract with Mozingo

■ Mayor says, 'We're getting a bargain'

By MARY SCHLEY

AT A hearing that had some members of the public upset not just with the terms of a new five-year contract for city legal services, but with how the meeting was run, the city council voted 4-1 Monday night to approve a new contract with city attorney Glen Mozingo, assistant city attorney Jon Giffen and deputy city attorney Gerard Rose.

"Mr. Mozingo, from my point of view, is doing a great job, and I wish the public would recognize that," said councilwoman Carrie Theis, citing Mozingo's efforts to crack down on illegal short-term rentals, collect back taxes from legal rentals, and draft a new section of the municipal code that allows the city to fine violators.

The agreement with the attorneys is retroactive to July 1 and provides \$30,000 per month, based on 154 hours of work at an hourly rate of \$195, in exchange for an extensive list of legal services, such as providing advice to the council, preparing ordinances, consulting with the city administrator and making sure the city complies with the Brown Act and other laws.

In addition, the city will pay the attorneys \$275 per hour for any work they do beyond 154 hours a month and for "extraordinary legal services," such as appearing in court, labor negotiations and "preparation of complex legal opinions."

Four-fifths vote to terminate

The contract, which can be terminated by either party with 90 days' notice, also allows for up to \$5,000 per month in legal expenses, such as court and notary fees, travel and payments to outside investigators, and provides for an hourly rate of \$65 for "non-attorney legal support services." It would take a four-fifths vote of the city council to terminate the contract.

When the proposed agreement came up for discussion at the end of the council meeting, councilwoman Carolyn Hardy, who was on the subcommittee that negotiated the contract, addressed the audience about what was an obvious level of discontent.

"The city attorney does not work for the public," Hardy told the crowd. "The city attorney works for the city council, and his client is the city, and with that in mind, the city council has to determine what best meets our needs and our exposures and what work needs to be done."



Glen Mozingo

Decision on desal plant next week, PUC says

By KELLY NIX

AFTER more than 20 years of controversy and debate, the state agency in charge of permits for Cal Am's proposed desal plant will announce its "proposed decision" on the project next week, with a final decision due Sept. 13, a spokeswoman with the California Public Utilities Commission told The Pine Cone Monday.

The desal plant, which is the most important component of what Cal Am calls the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project, would allow Cal Am to stop pumping most of its water from the Carmel River — a step ordered by state water authorities in 1995.

"The proposed decision will be issued by August 13, and will appear on the PUC's Sept. 13, 2018, agenda," PUC spokeswoman Terrie Prosper said. Before a final decision is issued, a PUC administrative law judge will hear oral arguments at an Aug. 22 hearing in San Francisco from Cal Am and groups that support and oppose the water supply project.

Still compliant?

The State Water Resources Control Board — which issued the 1995 order requiring that most of the Monterey Peninsula's pumping from the Carmel River be halted — gave Cal Am until the end of September to obtain a permit for a new water project to replace water from the river. Noncompliance could mean steep fines that would be passed on to water customers.

Cal Am spokeswoman Catherine Stedman said if PUC commissioners issue their decision next month, the company will be compliant with the order.

See DESAL page 16A

See LEGAL page 19A

NOV. ELECTION BALLOT SET

By MARY SCHLEY

THE REMAINING mayoral and city council candidates in the Nov. 6 election have turned in their signatures and had them verified by the Monterey County Registrar of Voters, which means that, unless somebody dives into the race before the Aug. 10, 5 p.m. deadline, the ballot for Carmel mayor and city council is complete.

Steve Dallas, for mayor, and Carolyn Hardy, for city council, qualified earlier. This week, four more candidates made

See BALLOT page 17A

Climbing higher and traveling farther, all to bring the world back home

By DENNIS TAYLOR

"PARTS UNKNOWN" is often an appropriate forwarding address when Matt Pendergast packs up his video equipment and leaves California.

The Carmel High graduate (Class of 2000) is a San Francisco-based freelance filmmaker and documentarian whose career has been a perpetual quest to satisfy his wanderlust in places like remote areas of Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal and Mongolia.

In June 2017, the 36-year-old Pendergast and fellow cameraman Luis Costa joined 30 female soccer players from 24 countries — professionals and retired pros, ages 16 to 52 — and a crew of 350 porters on a trek to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa at 19,308 feet above sea level.

For the women, members of an organization called Equal Playing Field, the point was to bring attention to worldwide disparities for females in professional soccer, like poor pay or limited opportunity, by setting a Guinness

Book world record: They played a 90-minute, 11-on-11 soccer match inside the crater of Kilimanjaro. The match was sanctioned by FIFA and was officiated by FIFA referees. Pendergast chronicled the entire trip in an hour-long documentary (also called "Equal Playing Field"), which can be found online at www.beinsports.com.

"When 'Equal Playing Field' started to take shape, I reached out to Matt," said the organization's co-founder, and Pendergast's longtime friend, Erin Blankenship, a soccer player who competed in the high-altitude match. "I trusted his lens, enthusiasm, years of working in international development, understanding of social impact and passion to help us tell our story, to understand what we meant even if we fumbled over our own words."

Playing soccer inside a volcanic crater was a monumental feat, but getting to the playing field was an equally daunting challenge, Pendergast said.

"It's not a technical climb, but it is a long, arduous

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PHOTO/DANA ROESIGER

Carmel High grad Matt Pendergast remembers almost every grueling step of his ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro, where he filmed a women's soccer match.