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voices
his poetry**



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claims Carmel
spotlight**



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a horse-savvy teen
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The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 88 No. 13

On the Internet: www.carmelpinecone.com

March 29-April 4, 2002

YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION SINCE 1915

Days dwindling for fight against water transfer ban

By MARY BROWNFIELD

THE PETITION drive to overturn the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's ban on water credit transfers is not over yet, according to Save Our Water member Kathy Eckerson. An 11th-hour reread of district rules on how long people have to protest a new law gives the group until Monday to gather more than 3,600 valid signatures, she said.

"Our plan is to turn in everything we have as of the end of the day Friday [March 29] before the water dis-

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Climbing lane relief predicted in three weeks

By PAUL MILLER

FINAL PAVING and landscaping along a widened portion of Highway 1 through Carmel is set to begin Monday, with completion of the long-awaited second northbound lane from Carmel Valley Road to Morse Drive scheduled for the fourth week of April, according to deputy public works director Nick Nichols.

"The contractor will resume 24-hour-a-day work next week," Nichols said. "The major work has been finished, and

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PHOTO/PAUL MILLER

Workers put the finishing touches this week on a large retaining wall alongside Highway 1. Monday, they'll start paving the new climbing lane, which is set to open in three weeks.

Campaign heats up as election nears

By TAMARA GRIPPI

ACCUSATIONS OF misleading campaign tactics and deliberate spreading of misinformation were leveled by several candidates at the final election forum before the city



McCloud



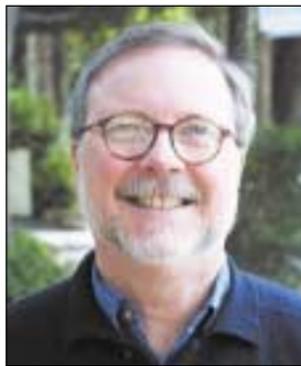
Livingston



Hazdovac



White



Rose



Wright

selects a mayor and two council members April 9.

But when it came to the substance of the debate — on issues such as tree removal and historic preservation — there was a surprising amount of agreement among the candidates.

The evening started off with a bang during council candidate Jim Wright's opening statement when he told the audience he was "steaming" after an endorsement interview with the Monterey County Herald.

"Every time I brought up campaign issues, Hazdovac and Rose responded with misstatements that made it look like I didn't know what I was talking about," said Wright, 69.

In her opening statement, mayoral candidate Barbara Livingston, 73, also carried on with a theme she's used throughout the campaign that "something is seriously wrong at city hall," and accused the incumbents of "stifling input, ignoring citizen volunteers and catering to realtors, developers and speculators."

At one point in the forum, which was moderated by Pine Cone publishers Paul Miller and Kirstie Wilde, former Carmel mayor and council candidate Ken White, 67, and council incumbent Gerard Rose, 55, went back and forth arguing about what exactly White meant when he proposed doubling the money the city spends on marketing.

Then later, Rose and Wright squared off over the California Environmental Quality Act and whether it mentions historic resources.

"Gerard advertised himself as an experienced land use attorney. Historic resources are mentioned under the public resource code," Wright said, citing numbered sections of the code.

Rose countered, "I have practiced in the area of CEQA and although CEQA law refers to maintenance of charm, and regulators like to use that to control historicity, there's no mention of historicity, as such, in the California Environmental Quality Act."

In the face of the criticism leveled at them, the council incumbents argued that they have accomplished plenty during the last two years — including the Local Coastal Program — and deserve the chance to continue their work.

"There is one difference in philosophy between the two sides," said councilwoman Paula Hazdovac, 46. "The present council looks forward and looks for solutions and tries to stay away from negativity, which is a more positive, solution-oriented approach."

Carmel Mayor Sue McCloud, 67, argued that the same team which submitted the Local Coastal Program to the California Coastal Commission in December should be available to follow through and make sure the document gets

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Rose: How Carmel became a union town

By TAMARA GRIPPI

THE UNIONIZATION of Carmel's employees — often pointed to by the council challengers in this campaign as a failing of the current administration — is simply the result of an aggressive recruitment drive on the Peninsula by the AFL-CIO, councilman Gerard Rose argued this week.

At the Pine Cone's election forum March 26, Rose responded to criticism from mayoral candidate Barbara Livingston, who said city workers unionized because "they were not being listened to and were not being understood."

"Shame on you, Barbara, you know better," Rose countered, offering a different explanation for why Carmel is now a union town.

"Do you want to know why they unionized?" he asked. "What happened was a national union was overfunded and the federal government said they either had to refund the money or spend it.

"So they decided to target the Peninsula and offer an incredible benefits package and sign them all up," he added.

Rose said that the employees of several peninsula cities, including Monterey and Seaside have already joined the same union and that Sand City and Pacific Grove workers are about to sign up.

Monterey Assistant City Manager confirmed that two of his city's six employee associations have joined the same union. Seaside's general employees also unionized a year ago, said Iris Fleming with Seaside's personnel office.

However, Sand City employees were approached by the same union and have not decided to join, said city administrator Kelly Morgan.

"By the time [the union] was talking to us we heard about the drawbacks of their very attractive packages that seemed almost too good to be true," he said.

Meanwhile, Kathy Krysna, president of Pacific Grove's general employees, said "there are people in our association who are considering it, but that's as far as it's gone."

Throughout the campaign, the challengers have repeatedly accused the incumbents of allowing relations with city workers to deteriorate to the point where unionization was inevitable.

Last spring, the majority of Carmel's employees voted to join the AFL-CIO, and for the first time, union representatives — instead of city workers — sat at the negotiating table with Carmel City Administrator Rich Guillen.

The city's fire and police employees did not join the union but continue hiring private representatives to assist them in labor negotiations.