Citizen effort pays off for Adam’s Canyon

By Barbara Pearson
Staff Writer

Don’t ask and you shall receive is the lesson learned by Pinnacle Development.

After two failed attempts by the Arizona developer for major housing projects in Santa Paula’s Adam’s Canyon, it was finally citizens—not Pinnacle—that in a special election on May 8, succeeded in getting approval from majority voters for large-scale development in the 5,413-acre area that until now has fallen outside the city’s urban restriction boundary, or CURB.

CURB was passed in 2000 and requires voter approval for development of any area outside Santa Paula’s boundary.

“I applauded them and the effort they put forth, we had no financial interest in helping that initiative pass and they did that on their own,” said John Lang, a principal at Pinnacle.

The passing of Measure A7 has paved the way for Pinnacle to return to the city with big plans.

“The first thing we would do is sit down with the city officials from Santa Paula and see what their temperament was about moving forward and see what arrangement could be made about starting to process our plans,” Lang said.

By approving the canyon’s inclusion within CURB, voters have given blanket approval for a total of 495 residential units within the area and given up the right to vote on individual development proposals.

The passed measure will bring Adam’s Canyon within Santa Paula’s CURB area, allow residential units to be grouped together, increase the required space for public recreational facilities to 100 acres, require 40 acres to be used for one school site instead of two schools in 25 acres, require a destination resort and golf course, reduce the acreage for passive open space every week.

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Foodies feast on San Luis

By Barbara Pearson
Staff Writer

“Food and wine are the Corsican twins of life, they should always be enjoyed together,” culinary tourism marketing expert Brian Baker said in a recent interview with the Pacific Coast Business Times.

The pairing is one reason Baker is so enthusiastic about the culinary offerings of San Luis Obispo County, which boasts a growing wine region and a unique restaurant scene.

“I have to say I have looked at a lot of destinations and [San Luis Obispo County] has one of the best asset infrastructures I have seen,” Baker said. “They have a tremendous amount of resources between farmers market, restaurants, endemic ingredients, food events—things a foodie is looking for to study and test their palettes.”

On May 9, Baker was booked to speak to San Luis Obispo Visitors & Conference Bureau members and others on his specialty: foodie tourism.

Foodie tourists are a subset of culinary tourists that Baker said have “some interesting psychographic anomalies that I have not seen.”

One of the curious things about business and life in the Tri-Counties is how change happens.

Most of the time change doesn’t happen at all. Then all-of-a-sudden, things are different.

That’s precisely the scenario that’s unfolding in the City of Goleta, where with very little fanfare at all, Cabrillo Business Park has eased its way through the approval process.

Not that any of this is hidden from view. Cabrillo Business Park has been on the drawing boards for nearly a decade. It’s been debated, fought over and was the subject of widely publicized hearings in recent months.

But the final go-ahead for redevelopment of the former Delco site on Hollister Avenue happened quietly in city council chambers in early May, just a few days short of the eighth anniversary of the project’s original unveiling.

The new and, hopefully, improved Cabrillo Business Park will include nearly one million square feet of office space every week.

See FOODIE on page 22

Taking it global

Engineers tackle projects overseas

By Tammy Cravitt
Special to the Business Times

College is often thought of as a constrained world of classroom instruction, a way to gently prepare students to “go out into the world” and make their mark. But for a group of UCSB students, college includes the chance to help create lasting change in communities halfway around the globe.

“We’re turning out students who have a recognition that what they’ve learned can really have a profound impact on other people’s lives,” said Dave Bothman, one of the faculty advisors for the UCSB chapter of Engineers Without Borders. The organization, with hundreds of chapters across the country, partners with developing communities worldwide to create sustainable technology.

See EWB on page 22

Cabrillo Business Park sets sail without fanfare

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