CRYSTAL COVE ALLIANCE SOIREE

A record-breaking $418,000 was raised during an annual gala Oct. 3 to support Crystal Cove Alliance’s efforts to preserve Crystal Cove State Park. The sold-out soiree, attended by 420 guests, took place atop the park’s bluff overlooking the ocean. Following an aperitif cocktail reception including a silent auction, dinner was served in an elegant setting inside a large, white tent with no roof, allowing attendees to dine under the stars. The three-course meal, catered by The Resort at Pelican Hill, featured farm-to-table fare including beef filet and butter-poached lobster. Funds were raised for the nonprofit alliance during a live auction with exclusive getaways and experiences such as a seven-night Tahiti cruise. In the fund-a-need portion of the night, donors once again showed their support by giving $151,000, which tripled last year’s amount, to help provide scholarships for schoolchildren to participate in the alliance’s science-based education programs. The evening concluded with dancing to a mix of blues, funk and soul music performed by The California Honeydrops. (crystalcovalliance.org) –S.S.