



CONCOURS WEEK

AUGUST 11-17, 2017

So many gorgeous cars & motorcycles ... so many events ... this week on the Monterey Peninsula! Read all about it in our colorful special section this week!



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STRANDED SEA OTTER PUP TOO SICK TO SAVE

By MARY SCHLEY

A BABY California Sea Otter spotted by people walking at the north end of Carmel Beach Wednesday morning died soon after being rescued, Monterey Bay Aquarium public relations manager Angela Haines told The Pine Cone that same evening.

"She was in really poor condition," Haines said. The little female otter was estimated to be between 10 and 12 weeks old. "Her fur was in bad shape, she was underweight," and she had eaten sand crabs, which carry *acanthocephalan* parasites that often cause death in juvenile otters.

Not for lack of effort

The death of the baby otter, which belonged to an endangered species, *Enhydra lutris nereis*, with an estimated population of about 3,200, came despite numerous calls from beachgoers early Wednesday who spotted the little creature and realized it needed help. Walking on the beach a little bit before 8 a.m., Karin Johnston said a jogger "came up and said her dog had found a 'small seal' in the rocks to the north, and that she did not have her cell phone."

But Johnston had hers and phoned the Marine Mammal Center.

"The otter is in the first rock outcropping to the north," Johnston told The Pine Cone while still at the beach shortly before 9 a.m. as she waited for wildlife authorities to arrive.

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PHOTO/IAN MARTIN

Monterey Bay Aquarium senior animal care specialist Sandrine Hazan rescued the stranded sea otter on the north end of Carmel Beach Wednesday morning, but the pup was too sick and malnourished to survive.

Beach fires will keep burning

By MARY SCHLEY

DO FIRES on Carmel Beach make the city a "smoke ghetto," as some residents claim?

Or is the ban on wood fires directly on the sand — while still allowing them in a handful of fire pits — a reasonable compromise?

That issue was debated once again Tuesday as the city council reviewed the success of the plan, adopted last summer, that only allows wood fires in as many as 12 metal pits along the beach south of Eighth Avenue between the hours of 4 and 10 p.m. Previously, more than 100 wood fires burning directly on the sand south of 10th Avenue could be found on a busy summer weekend, leaving the air filled with smoke and the sand peppered with charcoal and other fire debris.

While 20 people sent emails to city hall supporting the pilot program, which is supposed to last three years, and urging the council to stick with it, few got up to speak in favor of it at the Aug. 8 meeting.

On the other side, a dozen residents stood up to complain about the smoke from the nine fire pits the city has installed. Most of them called for a complete ban on wood fires, citing studies indicating that wood smoke is far more dangerous than cigarette smoke, and saying the fires disrupt their daily

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Illegal campers caught, wildfire narrowly averted

By CHRIS COUNTS

ONE YEAR after a devastating wildfire started by an illegal camper burned down 57 homes nearby, Palo Colorado residents got a big scare last week when a pair of hikers were caught trespassing inside Mill Creek Redwood Preserve. Not only were they planning to stay overnight in the park, which is closed due to extensive fire damage, but the couple displayed the ultimate sign of illegal camping cluelessness by starting a campfire.

The campfire was quickly extinguished, and thanks to a quick response by law enforcement and firefighters, the campers were caught, a park official said.

Caretaker Larry Born was walking through the 1,500-acre park Aug. 4 around sunset when he saw the campfire. He contacted the Mid Coast Volunteer Fire Brigade — and soon, personnel from the fire brigade, Cal Fire and the Monterey County Sheriff's Office arrived on scene.

The scofflaws were a man and woman who live outside the county. Their illegal campsite was located not far from the preserve's Mill Creek Trail. To get there, the couple had to pass by numerous signs warning them not to enter closed

areas.

"Our trailhead is marked very well, and there are multiple park closure signs and caution tape," explained Caine Camarillo, a supervising ranger for the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, which owns Mill Creek Redwood Preserve. "You can't miss the fact that you're not supposed to walk in."

Camarillo credited Born's vigilance with averting a potential wildfire.

"I want to commend Larry for doing his job, and Mid Coast, Cal Fire and the sheriff for preventing another disaster," he told The Pine Cone. "After all we've been through, people continue to do dumb things."

Camarillo said the campers will likely be fined for their audacious adventure. "One way or another, they'll get cited," he added.

Cal Fire Battalion Chief Dennis King said he, too, hopes the two hikers will be penalized for their actions. He said they put a lot of people and property at risk. "We could have the Soberanes Fire all over again," King suggested.

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Flanders Mansion isn't going anywhere

By MARY SCHLEY

MAYOR STEVE Dallas was barely out of nursery school when the city purchased Flanders Mansion and 15 acres of land surrounding it in 1972, he told the audience at Tuesday night's city council meeting. Forty-five years and more than a half-dozen task forces later, public officials still don't know what to do with the aging, empty Tudor-style mansion that has since been partitioned off from the rest of what is now Mission Trail Nature Preserve.

They can't use it for any public purpose without upsetting the neighbors in Hatton Canyon, who have been organized since 1999 to fight any activities there. And trying to sell it would probably lead to the small activist group called the

See FLANDERS page 18A

Concours Week arrives — and so do roundabout and 'Fairway One'

By KELLY NIX

■ All set for Ferraris and Bentleys

IF YOU'VE been avoiding the new roundabout at highways 1 and 68 because of construction, avoid it no more; the circular intersection is ready for you. More importantly, it's ready for Concours Week.

Striping of the \$10 million intersection was completed

See ROUNDABOUT page 17A

■ Major addition to The Lodge

THE PEBBLE Beach Company is ready to unveil its Fairway One project, a luxury development that adds 38 new guest rooms, meeting facilities and other amenities at The Lodge — and it's already booked solid for Concours Week.

See FAIRWAY page 17A



PHOTOS/TAMC (LEFT), SHERMAN CHU, COURTESY P.B. CO. (ABOVE)

With the opening Monday of two lanes heading across the Highway 1 bridge (left photo), the roundabout at the top of Carmel Hill is now finished. And at The Lodge, a major expansion including 38 guest rooms, cottages and meeting rooms (above) is ready for its debut, too.