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PET TALK

Our Best Friends!



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A Feature Section inside this week's Carmel Pine Cone

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TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

House fire in Pebble Beach, lightning fires all over the place

■ Garage, VW Bug burned on Colton Road

By MARY SCHLEY

A NEIGHBOR who called 911 after seeing smoke in the area of Colton and Lopez roads in Pebble Beach last Thursday evening helped avert a fire that could have been devastating not just to the homeowners, but to others in the Forest, if it had even a few more minutes to spread, according to Cal Fire Battalion

See FIRE page 14A



PHOTO/COURTESY CALFIRE

A garage and an old VW burned on Colton Road in Pebble Beach last Thursday evening. Fire investigators haven't said what the cause was.

■ Freak storm startles residents, sparks blazes

By MARY SCHLEY

A SUDDEN lightning storm, punctuated with occasional downpours and some sprinkles, roared through the Monterey Peninsula early Sunday morning, awakening residents, terrifying dogs and cats, and sparking several blazes that kept local fire crews scrambling for the rest of the day.



PHOTO/SYDNEY STILLWELL

A firefighter douses a tree in the yard of a P.B. home Sunday morning to make sure it doesn't catch fire after being struck by lightning during an unusual summer storm.

The most significant blaze started just before 6:30 a.m., when lightning struck a hillside near Point Lobos, behind the Hudson Ranch property off Highway 1.

"That was probably about an acre, with very heavy leaf debris, needle debris and branches lying on the floor of the forest," said Cal Fire

See LIGHTNING page 14A

Supes ban parking on north side of Rio Road to add bike lanes

By MARY SCHLEY

THE MONTEREY County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously voted to eliminate parking along the north side of Rio Road between Atherton and Oliver, in order to add northbound and southbound bike lanes.

The change is part of a repaving project slated for this year, and proponents said the new lanes will make the road safer for kids riding to school and tourists out exploring, while opponents argued the ban would create parking congestion elsewhere and make the road even less safe, as more

people have to cross in areas where many motorists drive too fast.

The county "has been working on a project to rehabilitate the pavement on Rio Road from Highway 1 to Atherton Drive," county engineer Ryan Chapman told the supervisors at the July 21 meeting. "While this project was being developed, members of the public requested adding additional features to the roadway to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians."

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Concern growing with crowds at Pfeiffer Beach

By CHRIS COUNTS

LIKE POINT Lobos State Reserve, Pfeiffer Beach doesn't have enough parking to accommodate the crowds who want to visit during the summer, and just like they do at Point Lobos, they park along the shoulders of Highway 1, often blocking the bicycle lane in the process.

But while it only takes a minute or two for most people to walk from their cars to Point Lobos, those who visit Pfeiffer Beach must hike two miles down narrow, winding Sycamore Canyon Road — and the same to get back to their vehicles. The ever-increasing sight of people carrying beach chairs and pushing baby strollers up and down the road — which also provides access to several dozen homes — has locals shaking their heads.

"You've got a one-lane road with two-way traffic and hundreds of pedestrians," longtime resident Scott Parker told The Pine Cone. "It's dangerous — somebody's going to get hurt."

Parker said the risks are increased by the poor condition of the road.

"Maintenance on Sycamore Canyon is almost non-existent," he explained. "Potholes remain for months. The edges of the road are

crumbling, and the uphill side of the road needs to be cleared."

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PHOTO/WWW.VISUALAERIALS.COM

An amateur drone photographer posted online this spectacular picture of a winter sunset at Pfeiffer Beach, adding to the publicity that's turned the once-secret spot into a major tourist destination.

MASSY MEHDIPOUR SAYS HER CRITICS ARE SEXIST XENOPHOBES

By KELLY NIX

THE SILICON Valley entrepreneur at the center of a battle over her historic house in Pebble Beach is accusing a neighbor of opposing her plans to raze the structure and replace it with a larger house because he's sexist and doesn't like foreigners. Her attorney also said she's the subject of a "witch hunt."

Massy Mehdi pour, CEO of the venture capital firm Jotter, wants to tear down a house she owns at 1170 Signal Hill, just off 17 Mile Drive, in order to build an 11,933-square-foot structure she says would be her dream house. But the original home, built in 1958, was designed by well known mid-century architect Richard Neutra.

Some of Mehdi pour's neighbors, including Sam Reeves and Tony Ridder, have joined a group of architectural

See MEHDIPOUR page 9A

DeepWater says its desal plant could be in operation in 2017

By KELLY NIX

DESPITE THE fact that it would use open ocean intakes — a method highly disfavored by the California Coastal Commission — an official with DeepWater Desal says the company's proposed Moss Landing desal plant could be operating in just two years.

Cal Am's desal plant in Marina is already undergoing initial testing, and its EIR is nearly finished, putting Cal Am at the forefront of developing an alternative water supply to the overdrafted Carmel River. But Cal Am's project has run into glitches, including a possible conflict of interest involving a subcontractor, which could delay its projected 2019 completion.

DeepWater Desal spokesman David Armanasco said his company's proposal — officially called the Monterey Bay

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