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Carmel Sands sent back to drawing board

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CONVOLUTED, multiyear process that led to the 2010 approval of a new hotel and restaurant on the site of the Carmel Sands Lodge at San Carlos and Fifth was undone Tuesday, when the planning commission voted 3-2 not to reissue the hotel's permits, which expired in late 2014 after being extended in 2012.

Even though the existing design was extensively debated and refined before being approved by the planning commission on a 4-1 vote in July 2010, and by a unanimous city council a few months later, the current planning commission was "not bound by previous decisions on this project," senior planner Marc Wiener told the commissioners at the Oct. 20 meeting.

However, since no laws or conditions have changed since the plan was approved, he recommended the planning commission reissue the permits, which call for a 42-room hotel, restaurant, day spa, retail space and underground parking.

Former Pebble Beach Co. executive Mark Stilwell, who owns the property with his wife, Susan, said they purchased the Carmel Sands

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An earlier rendering of the proposed Carmel Sands lodge shows various materials to make it more interesting, but the final approval in 2010 required it be stucco. This week, the planning commission refused to back that approved design, calling it "bland."

More than 30 iPhones swiped from Apple Store

By MARY SCHLEY

ON TWO occasions just a week apart earlier this month, a pair of men entered the Apple Store at Del Monte Center in Monterey, grabbed fistfuls of iPhones, ripped them from their tethers and fled, according to Monterey Police Lt. Jeff Jackson. All told, they made off with more than \$24,000 worth of the popular phones — which were on the sales floor so people could try them out — though it's questionable how much they will actually be worth, since the phones now have a feature that can "kill" them after they're stolen.

The first burglary occurred Monday, Oct. 5, at around 6:30 p.m., when two men entered the store, quickly grabbed several demonstration iPhones that were secured to display tables with cables, "yanked really hard and got them, and then ran out of the store," Jackson said.

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Coyotes attack dog on beach, but tough corgi escapes

By KELLY NIX

PEBBLE BEACH resident Frank Laurie never could have foreseen the predicament he would be in when he took his friends' dog for an evening walk last week on the boardwalk between Asilomar Beach and the Inn at Spanish Bay.

Last Thursday, not long before sundown, Laurie, 62, was walking Bobbi, a 3-year-old Pembroke Welsh corgi belonging to Cathy and Douglas Borgenquast, on the wooden path that meanders just above the beach. Along the way, Bobbi, who was off leash, suddenly went missing. With only a bit of daylight left, Laurie began searching for the pooch.

"I proceeded to yell, 'Bobbi, Bobbi, Bobbi,'" Laurie told The Pine Cone.

Using his cell phone to light the way, Laurie looked for

Bobbi on the boardwalk for about 30 minutes before hearing a bark that seemed to be coming from the beach. He focused his search there, before shining his light on a pair of glowing eyes peeking from the darkness.

"I said to myself, 'Bobbi, finally!'" said Laurie, who had been dog sitting for the Borgenquasts.

But the closer he got to the animal, the more he realized that the eyes looking back at him weren't the corgi's.

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Bobbi, a 3-year-old corgi, narrowly escaped death last week when coyotes attacked her near Asilomar beach. On Wednesday, a recovering Bobbi posed with Frank Laurie, the Pebble Beach resident who was walking her when she was attacked.



Peninsula businesses lose millions during power outage

Brand new tower collapsed

By KELLY NIX

WHILE THE widespread power outage on the Monterey Peninsula Oct. 18 made for an annoying Sunday for tens of thousands of residents, tourists and



In this photo taken Sunday by a nearby resident, the collapsed upper portion of a high-voltage transmission tower at Moss Landing is clearly visible. The resulting power outage cost businesses lots of money — unless they were just outside the affected area.

Sheriff cuts patrols, causing concern about overnight crime

By MARY SCHLEY

THE SHERIFF'S quiet decision to no longer have deputies patrolling the Monterey Peninsula in the early morning hours — which means that anyone in Carmel Valley, Pebble Beach and outside the city limits could have to wait a long time for an officer to respond to a break-in or a prowler — may be temporary, but it's not popular with city officials.

Other law-enforcement agencies, meanwhile, are waiting to see how the change affects them.

Carmel city administrator Doug Schmitz wrote to Monterey County Sheriff Steve Bernal Oct. 15 questioning his decision to move a dozen-and-a-half deputies from patrol to the jail, which is chronically understaffed and has been the subject of lawsuits. The change, which Bernal did not advise Carmel P.D. or Schmitz about before making, leaves the unincorporated areas of the Peninsula essentially uncovered between 2 and 7 a.m., as any responding deputies would be

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businesses, it was an economic windfall for one city mostly unaffected by the outage.

Thousands of people in Carmel, Pacific Grove, Monterey and Seaside who were without power due to a collapsed PG&E transmission tower in Moss Landing flooded the City of Marina to eat at its restaurants, grab a cup of coffee, fill up with gas and go shopping. The boon was good for the city of 20,000, if slightly irritating to its residents.

"It was ridiculously busy," a Marina resident who went to McDonald's that morning told The Pine Cone. "There were 15 cars in the drive-thru when usually there are only like three cars."

Besides McDonald's, other Marina fast-food restaurants on Reservation Road were packed, while drivers jostled for parking spaces at Starbucks at Del Monte and Reservation. The Starbucks inside Target on the former Fort Ord had a perpetually long line, and one customer said she waited 40 minutes to get coffee.

"I heard Michael's Grill & Taqueria, Noodle Bar, Otter's Den [bar] and English Ales Brewery were packed," Marina Mayor Bruce Delgado told The Pine Cone.

Even as far north as Moss Landing, restaurants

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Solar panels not much help

No oven, no mixer — and no spinach dip

By ELAINE HESSER

I LOVE cooking and teaching, and for years I thought I'd like to have my own cooking show.

I even sent a dreadful audition video to "Next Food Network Star," back when the show considered home cooks for the series. If anyone had doubts about the size of my ego when it comes to the kitchen, that video would eliminate them. (Note to Food Network: I'll pay you to destroy it. Call me.)

Then came my first-ever cooking demo for some friends last Sunday at a home in Seaside. While the power was out.

Mid-morning, however, the host called me. The gig was still on because they had solar power and were "off the grid." Great!

My dinner menu for nine was baked ricotta and spinach dip, roasted cauliflower and pasta, and apple cheesecake "shooters" — bite-sized mini tarts. Almost the entire demo was premised on "letting the oven do the work."

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