

TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

New airport terminal design nearly complete

■ Board approves up to \$50M in debt

By MARY SCHLEY

A MASSIVE earth-moving effort is underway to create more space for planes at Monterey Airport and prepare for the construction of a new terminal, and architects are nearly done designing the facility, Chris Morello, the airport’s deputy executive director, said Friday.



RENDERING/HOK

An architect’s rendering shows how the new terminal at Monterey Airport might look, including covered jet bridges leading to the aircraft.

Meanwhile, the airport district board of directors unanimously approved a resolution July 17 allowing up to \$50 million in debt for the project, and U.S. Rep. Jimmy Panetta announced Tuesday that the federal government committed another \$2.58 million toward the new terminal on top of the \$3 million it issued last September, both through the Airport Improve Grant Program funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. All told, federal taxpayers are expected to invest at least \$25 million in the redo, according to Panetta’s office.

Safer taxiways

The airport’s safety enhancement project includes demolition of the old general aviation hangars and fire station and building new ones, along with a ramp, on the other side of the airport — work that was completed early this year. Yet to come are a new commercial apron and taxiways, a 65,000-square-foot terminal, and reconfigured parking lots and access roads. It’s expected to cost \$175 million.

In June, long-term parking was relocated so crews could tear up the lot to make way for the apron, where jets will have more space to maneuver, Morello said.

In the current configuration, when aircraft push back from the gates, they block the taxiway, she explained. The new area will allow pilots to move away from the gates and conduct their

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CAR WEEK FESTIVITIES MAY FEEL LIKE THE OLD DAYS

By MARY SCHLEY

EVER SINCE the Pebble Beach Tour d’Elegance abandoned its downtown Carmel stop at the onset of Covid, and Concours on the Avenue ceased to exist following the sudden death of founder Doug Freedman in 2021, the city has been devoid of a large-scale show — and the crowds that inevitably come with it — during the Monterey Peninsula’s vaunted Car Week.

But that’s about to change, according to community activities director Ashlee Wright, who oversees all events on public property in the city. Downtown car shows this month are expanding so much they could be reminiscent of those beloved past events, she said.

“We’ve got some people who are interested in putting on events in town — they’re passionate about this community, they’re passionate about our village, and they’re

passionate about making events that locals can enjoy as well,” she said.

When Doug and Genie Freedman launched their Concours on the Avenue in 2007, they sought to create a far-reaching show of marques that were underrepresented at other events and do it on a day of the week that was typically quiet downtown despite the hubbub of the broader Car Week. It was also free, and as it became better known over the years, it drew thousands of people.

A vacuum

Its sudden end created a large vacuum that people were eager to fill but had no real idea of the work that went into it, Wright said.

“I understand the will is there, but it really takes a lot to do an event,” she said, from finding sponsors and show cars, to lining up security, handling complex logistics, working with city officials and tackling myriad other tasks.

“It’s one thing to put on a cocktail party,” she said. “It’s another to put on a show of classic cars that meets the

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Buder lists housing, community character as big concerns

■ Baron qualifies for ballot

By MARY SCHLEY

CONSIDERING HE is leading the charge in helping the city find better ways to accommodate affordable housing than putting large apartment buildings on public property, it should come as no surprise that the issue tops Hans Buder’s list of reasons he decided to run for city council. But it’s not his only motive.

“Of the main reasons I decided to run, the first is the housing issue,” he said.

With professional experience in real estate development and social justice, Buder said he is well versed on the topic.

“I really believe our biggest challenge over the next four years is going to be navigating these new housing laws in such a way where we strengthen our community while preserving the character of our village,” he said. “I’ve seen housing done well, and I’ve seen it done poorly. It’s important we’re thoughtful about this so it’s a win-win for the community.”

Top of class

Buder, 38, graduated at the top of his MBA class at Stanford and holds a master’s in public administration from Harvard. He is founder and executive director of the Moving to Opportunity Fund, which is described as

County’s top cop says she did not pull rank to avoid tickets

■ New dashcam footage emerges

By KELLY NIX

MONTEREY COUNTY Sheriff Tina Nieto — who was pulled over for excessive speeding three times in eight months but each time was let go without a ticket — finally addressed the issue by conceding she “should set a better example.”

But Nieto has yet to comment on a newly released video in which she activated emergency lights in her unmarked county-issued vehicle just before a CHP officer pulled her over for going too fast in South Monterey County.

On July 25, Nieto issued a statement after an article appeared in The Pine Cone that documented three times when California Highway Patrol officers stopped her in the King City area for going too fast. She was driving more than 90 mph in at least two of the instances.

‘Mistake’

“I acknowledged that on one of these traffic stops last year, I was on my own personal time driving back from Southern California,” said Nieto, not indicating which stop she was referring to.

“I should have been aware of my speed. And, as some of you might have experienced yourselves, I knew I made a mistake as soon as I saw those red and blue lights flashing behind me.”

Nieto said that on “another stop,” she was “on the job and working in an official capacity. Still, my task at the

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SCREENSHOT FROM CHP DASHCAM VIDEO

This screenshot shows a CHP officer pulling over Monterey County Sheriff Tina Nieto, who last year was driving 30 mph over the speed limit in a county-owned SUV.

Apartment fire in Carmel Valley



PHOTO/MEGAN HUNGATE

A fire in an upstairs apartment in a Carmel Valley Village complex Thursday afternoon sent victims to the hospital and displaced seven residents. See the story on page 14A.