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The wonders of Car Week on full display



PHOTO/(ABOVE AND TOP RIGHT) KERRY BELSER, (RIGHT) MICHAEL TROUTMAN

Classic cars, sleek cars and just plain sexy cars have been seen in all parts of the Peninsula this week, including in downtown Carmel (above and right), and in Pebble Beach Thursday for the start of the Tour d'Elegance (top right). For complete coverage, see our special section.



Commission relents on Scenic Road gate

■ Tourists peering through windows, asking for restroom, taking selfies on porch

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER HAVING their request to install a driveway gate at their home on Scenic Road denied by the planning commission earlier this year and then failing to convince the Carmel City Council to overrule that decision, Art and Farah Chadwick prevailed Wednesday afternoon, when planning commissioners approved a modified proposal for the gate.

Since building their home on the west side of the beachfront road north of Eighth a few years ago, the couple have discovered that living in such a high-profile area has its downsides, including tourists walking down their driveway, knocking on their door, asking to use the bathroom and peeking through the windows. To help protect their security and privacy, they sought permission to install a gate across their driveway.

Associate planner Evan Kort said the commission's recent practice of generally denying such requests has been based on a belief that gates "create a formal and compound-like appearance." Even though the city has no formal policies or laws banning them, commissioners have "adopted findings that gates are not consistent with the city's design objectives for the protection and enhancement of the urbanized forest," he said.

However, Kort noted, each project is considered on a site-specific basis, and he made no recommendations regarding approval or denial.

'I've had people knock on the door and ask to see the inside.'

Feds condemn CUSD's handling of antisemitism

By MARY SCHLEY

CARMEL UNIFIED School District failed miserably at addressing antisemitic and racist graffiti and hate speech at Carmel High School, according to a highly critical 13-page letter from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights that reviewed 15 incidents at the school and administrators' responses to them.

At Wednesday night's CUSD Board of Education meeting, superintendent Sharon Ofek, who took over the job in February, said such mistakes won't recur.

"There is no room for discrimination of any kind in our

community or in our schools," she said Aug. 14. "I believe in fostering a cooperative and productive culture, which begins with how we raise our children and is further influenced by our educational environment."

Ofek said she is "deeply heartbroken by these incidents," and "profoundly disappointed that these counter-productive attitudes were allowed to persist within our district for a period of time."

Records lacking

A 2021 complaint to the Office of Civil Rights regarding the district's failure to address swastikas graffitied in a bathroom prompted the investigation of that incident and similar occurrences during the 2021-2022 and 2023-2024 school years.

According to the letter, "'hate graffiti' in the form of 'the n-word or swastikas'" was found in one or more of the CHS restrooms on four occasions in October 2021, the district suspended a student on Nov. 5, 2021, for "drawing a swastika on plastic and transferring the inked image onto another student's skin," and on Nov. 30 that year, a teacher

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Fast-growing Marina puts \$50M bond on ballot

■ Needs new police, fire stations

By CAITLIN CONRAD

THE MARINA City Council voted earlier this month to place a \$50 million bond measure on the Nov. 5 ballot. The money would be spent on new infrastructure in a coastal city in the midst of a housing boom.

Dollars from the bond would be used to build fire and police stations, as well as a community center. Incorporated in 1975, Marina still uses facilities constructed decades ago, when it was a much smaller town of just 10,000 residents.

Booming population

Today, more than 23,000 people live there, and with two major housing projects nearing completion on property inherited from the former Fort Ord, and a third about to begin at the north end of town, Marina's population will continue to grow. The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments estimates it will reach 30,000 by 2045.

Marina officials said the city's dilapidated emergency infrastructure is already having an impact on 911 response times. In the last eight years, emergency calls have increased 50 percent, and the city is no longer meeting the national standard response time of five minutes. Instead, firefighters and paramedics are getting on scene eight to 10

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Panetta sees Ukraine destruction, meets Zelenskyy

By KELLY NIX

REP. JIMMY Panetta and other members of Congress spent five days in Ukraine last week to meet with the country's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, members of the military, and civilians who have been affected by a 2-and-a-half-year-old conflict with Russia.

Panetta, a Democrat, visited Ukraine with Utah Republican Celeste Maloy and New Jersey Democrat Donald Norcross Aug. 3-9 to affirm the United States' support for its ally and survey the destruction the war has caused. Russia launched its unprovoked invasion of the country in February 2022. The war has killed more than 500,000 Ukrainians and Russians.

'Soldiers, sailors and citizens'

"It was very impactful to spend time not only in the country, but also with the people of Ukraine, including its leadership, its soldiers, sailors, veterans and citizens,

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PHOTO/OFFICE OF REP. JIMMY PANETTA

During a trip to Ukraine last week, Rep. Jimmy Panetta met with Ukraine Pres. Volodymyr Zelenskyy to express America's support for the country.