

## Concours d'Elegance prototype destroyed in fire

By MARY SCHLEY

A ONE-OF-A-KIND Ford prototype displayed at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance Sunday was destroyed along with its trailer in a vehicle fire just hours later. The owner of the \$1 million car, Scott Grundfor of Arroyo Grande, purchased it from Ford Motor Co. in 2002 in perfect condition and was invited to enter it in the Concours' Wedge-Shaped Concept Cars & Prototypes featured class on the fairway Aug. 18.

According to Monterey Fire Chief Andrew Miller, crews were alerted to a trailer on fire on the Highway 1 Munras Avenue off-ramp at around 7 p.m., and by the time they arrived, the trailer was fully engulfed, with flames spreading to nearby vegetation.

Pacific Grove resident Anton Salameh, who drove by

the scene shortly after the fire broke out, said "there was a plume of black and gray smoke hundreds of feet in the air coming from what looked like the forest alongside Highway 1, but then I saw a large semi with a vehicle trailer engulfed in flames on the off-ramp headed toward the mall. The flames were so large I was concerned the trees would catch fire."

### Cab saved

Firefighters were able to contain the fire to the trailer and the rare automobile it was carrying.

"Crews prevented the fire from spreading to the tow vehicle and were able to detach the tow vehicle from the trailer," saving the truck from burning as well, according to

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PHOTOS/INSTAGRAM

A heartbreaking scene unfolded Sunday night as a one-of-a-kind show car burned in its trailer (left). The aftermath left charred hulks of the trailer and its rare contents (above).

## CRACKS HALT WORK ON BIG SUR'S LAST SLIDE

### Timeline for full reopening uncertain

By CHRIS COUNTS

EVEN AS it was believed to be close to removing the last impediment to travel on Highway 1 between Carmel and Cambria, Caltrans had to halt work Aug. 16 at the Regent Slide in Big Sur "due to continuing slide activity in and around the repair site."

Previously, the state roads agency had anticipated the highway would be cleared by late fall. "Caltrans engineers are now assessing the slide area and gathering data to keep the public informed of the new timeline for reopening," the agency reported this week.

Earlier this month, a bulldozer crew noticed "surface cracking at several points around the area being excavated."

"Caltrans mapped this cracking and determined that this new slide would likely continue to move and impact the ongoing work to reopen the roadway," the report continued. "For the safety of work crews, Caltrans halted

excavation work."

Last week, sensors were installed to monitor the movement of the slide area.

"Caltrans will collect data from these sensors over the next several weeks to determine the magnitude, rate, direction, depth and type of movement involved," the agency added. "Engineers will evaluate data to determine if additional stabilization work is needed. Excavation work will resume once Caltrans confirms it is safe to do so."

### 'Height and steepness'

Construction has been slowed by "the height and steepness of the slope."

One of two slides in Big Sur caused by storms in early February, the Regent Slide is located about 5 miles south of the Esalen Institute. The slide occurred when rocks and debris about 450 feet above Highway 1 "engulfed the roadway and continued down to the beach and ocean below," according to Caltrans.

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## Car Week marred by hundreds of tickets, dozens of collisions

### Nearly 50 arrested

By MARY SCHLEY

CAR WEEK may generate major tax revenues and be a boon to local businesses and nonprofits, but this year's extravaganza also came with hundreds of citations, dozens of traffic collisions and loads of arrests, according to local law enforcement agencies.

Between Aug. 8 and Aug. 18 — the dates marking the eve of Car Week and its culmination with the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance — Carmel Police officers handled four crashes, wrote 103 tickets during 147 traffic stops, and had 15 misdemeanors and three felony arrests, including three people arrested for DUI, Sgt. Gerald Maldonado said Wednesday. The department fielded 663 calls for service — which could be anything from a blocked driveway or a noise complaint to a major problem — towed 13 vehicles and issued 316 parking citations.

### Peeling out

Among the moving violations, Maldonado said, 14 were for disobeying signs or signals, 13 were for running stop signs, 13 were for exhaust/noise violations, and seven were for unsafe starts — essentially, peeling out.

At around 9 p.m. Aug. 15, an 83-year-old man was arrested for DUI after he drove around "road-closed" signs and vehicle barricades at Ocean and San Carlos.

"While doing so, he grazed an approximately \$400,000 Lamborghini that was legally parked," Maldonado said, but he kept driving until he was stopped by police at

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PHOTO/COURTESY CPD

This lovingly restored Chevy Impala was stolen from the Carmel Plaza parking garage but recovered by police and returned to its grateful owners.

## 96-year-old served with eviction papers says she has nowhere to go

By KELLY NIX



PHOTO/BOB SADLER

Jean Jacques says she's "no spring chicken" and has no idea what she'll do if she's evicted from her P.G. apartment.

A PACIFIC Grove senior home last week demanded that a 96-year-old resident pay more than \$100,000 in back rent within three days or face eviction from her apartment, where she's lived for more than two decades.

In an Aug. 16 "three-day notice to pay or quit" to Pacific Grove Senior Living resident Jean Jacques, the facility's executive director Jessica Sanchez said she owed \$109,295.58 in "rent past due and other fees" that had accrued from January 2023 through this month.

"Pursuant to state law, you must either pay the total amount due within three days from the date of this notice or vacate the premises," says the notice sent to Jacques, who's lived in the apartment for 22 years.

If Jacques, who has some disabilities, fails to pay or vacate her apartment, the facility will "commence a legal proceeding to seek a judicial declaration of forfeiture and termination of the lease agreement," the notice says.

Jacques' friend and a fellow Pacific Grove Senior Living resident, Bob Sadler, said that in 2002, she paid nearly

\$250,000 to live in the Gibson Avenue apartment. She also had to make payments that, once the whole bill was added up, came to about \$5,000 per month.

"Her \$249,000 entry fee and monthly payments were made with the understanding that she would be able to live in the community and receive additional levels of care, if needed, until her death," Sadler told The Pine Cone.

### Outlived her savings

However, Sadler said that when Jacques outlived her savings years ago and sought financial assistance, she was "allowed to stay" at the facility, formerly known as Forest Hill Manor, "without paying monthly fees."

"I'm not sure if the agreement to let her stay without money until her death was an implicit or explicit agreement," Sadler said, adding that a former manager of the senior home informed him they would testify in court, if need be, to the validity of Jacques' previous arrangement with Forest Hill.

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