



HEALTHYLifestyles

Skilled healthcare professionals with big hearts are all around you — and not just when you're a patient ... Inside this week!



The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 111 No. 22

<https://carmelpinecone.com>

May 30-June 5, 2025

TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

Don't keep coyotes as pets and don't sell raccoons

■ Expert: Let wildlife be wild

By KELLY NIX

A GOOD Samaritan who last week rescued what he believed was a Chihuahua puppy that was being attacked



PHOTO/DAN BURTON

A baby coyote was mistaken for a puppy by a passerby who took him home as a pet, and five baby raccoons had to be rescued from an attic after the homeowner relocated their mom.

by more than a half-dozen feral cats got quite a surprise the next day.

On May 20 in Greenfield, a man on his way home spotted about seven feral felines attacking another animal, which he at first thought was a rabbit. When he got closer to scare the cats away, he realized it was a puppy, likely a Chihuahua mix. The do-gooder brought it home, and he and his family cared for the slightly injured animal, which eventually got comfortable enough to eat from their hands.

"They bathed it, combed it, gave it a flea treatment and decided to keep it as their family dog," Urban Trapping Wildlife Control owner Dan Burton told The Pine Cone Tuesday. "The following day a neighbor came over to see their new puppy and thought something was off about it."

The neighbor told them that what they believed was a dog was probably a coyote. The man "did admit it was more aggressive than most puppies, but he figured it was because it was scared," Burton explained.

Monterey County-based Urban Trapping Wildlife Control was

See WILDLIFE page 154

PG&E will restart battery storage Sunday

By KELLY NIX

DESPITE REQUESTS from Monterey County officials not to, utility giant PG&E will reactivate its battery storage operation in Moss Landing this weekend, the company told The Pine Cone this week.

The county earlier this month urged PG&E to wait to restore power to its lithium-ion storage facility until the cause of a Jan. 16 fire at the adjacent Vistra Energy battery storage plant has been determined and emergency response plans finalized. PG&E voluntarily shut down its facility after the large Vistra fire, which forced the evacuation of about 1,200 people, some of whom complained of health issues related to the smoke.

'Critical facility'

On Wednesday, though, PG&E said it's planning to restore service to its Elkhorn Battery Storage Facility — which it called a "critical facility to the region and state's energy reliability" — by Sunday, June 1, as it had planned.

"We understand that the safety and well-being of our community is of utmost importance," a company spokeswoman said in a statement to The Pine Cone. "PG&E is deeply committed to providing safe, clean and reliable energy for all, and this includes the safe operation of PG&E's Elkhorn Battery Energy Storage Facility."

The utility said it's taken "extensive actions and implemented numerous measures to ensure the safe operation"

See BATTERIES page 144

City prepares to send new housing plan to state

■ Plenty of water for projects, too

By MARY SCHLEY

FOLLOWING WIDESPREAD outcry over the possibility two city-owned parking lots would be turned into 149 units of affordable housing, a group of Carmel residents and public officials has developed an alternative plan that moves the housing onto private property throughout the city.

While the locations of all that housing are to be determined, the city will have plenty of water to offer people to build it, planning commissioners and city councilmembers learned at a joint meeting last Tuesday to weigh in on revisions to the city's housing plan, which was adopted in April 2024. The changes are set to be submitted to the state for a "friendly review" by the end of the month.

The plan approved more than a year ago identifies how the city will facilitate the development of a state-mandated

349 housing units — including 231 in "affordable" categories — over an eight-year period. A group called Affordable Housing Alternatives has spent the last 10 months developing and researching ideas for how to do that without building on the Sunset Center and Vista Lobos parking lots. Instead, hotel owners, developers, churches, downtown landlords and residential property owners could provide the housing.

Selling hotel rooms

The proposed changes to the housing plan, which will have to be approved by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, outline five programs designed to facilitate affordable housing: transforming underperforming hotels into lodging and selling the room rights to other innkeepers, encouraging residents to rent out their accessory dwelling units at affordable rates, developing mixed-income housing in the business districts, converting commercial spaces to live-work uses,

See HOUSING page 124



PHOTO/MIKE BUFFO, HOUSE OF 8 MEDIA

The open-air PG&E Moss Landing battery storage facility (top left), which will be restarted Sunday, was undamaged in the Jan. 16 fire that destroyed Vistra Energy's indoor plant (bottom right).

Backcountry rescue at Garland Park



PHOTO/POLLY OSBORNE

It took a fair bit of coordination, a wheeled contraption and a lot of people, but firefighters and medics from Monterey County Regional Fire managed to get a stricken hiker to an ambulance in Garland Ranch Regional Park. See page 9A.

Scenic Road view lot for sale, very cheap

By MARY SCHLEY

NEVER HAS a real estate listing by broker Lance Monosoff generated so many calls.

"My phone pretty much doesn't stop ringing," he said Tuesday. "Half the people are intrigued, and half the people burst into laughter."

The source of their curiosity is a small Scenic Road lot just south of Carmel Beach, listed for sale by Central Coast Properties, that offers unobstructed views of the bay, Pebble Beach and beyond.

The asking price is \$100,000 — and the land can't be developed in any way, not even with a fence or a bench, according to deed restrictions recorded in April 1924.

'Little piece of heaven'

"Oceanfront Carmel lot for the person who has everything," his sales flier begins. "This lot is not buildable due to deed restrictions, size and other limitations. However, this little piece of heaven could be yours forever — bring a folding chair and enjoy spectacular sunsets."

"They can watch the ice plant grow or have a picnic there," Monosoff said. "It's a very, very curious piece of property."

Located just south of the Frank Lloyd Wright House, the lot is owned by Beverly Sue Bell and Barbara Diane Hutchinson, who have held it since 1999, according to Monterey County property records. The assessed value is \$11,494.

No camping

Monosoff said the owners' attorney called and asked if he'd be willing to list it.

The agent's research revealed the parcels along that stretch of Scenic between the road and the sea were drawn by the Carmel Development Company — owned by the city's founding fathers, J. Franklin Devendorf and Frank Powers — in 1910.

In a January 1923 "indenture," Carmel Development Co. sold the lot to Margaret McIntyre for \$10, with the express restriction that it remain undeveloped and open to pedestrians who might want to reach the small beach below. She included that "certain strip of land lying between the Scenic Road and the Pacific Ocean" when she subsequently sold two buildable lots across the street from it to Lily White, also for \$10, in March 1924. The

See SCENIC page 16A