

# The Carmel Pine Cone

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## Students mourn music teacher killed in single-vehicle crash

By MARY SCHLEY

‘SHE WAS amazing, she was a super passionate person in all aspects of her life, she was super vivacious and friendly and smiling, and just a really neat person,’ Carmel Middle School Principal Ken Griest said of Nancy Fowler, the music teacher who died last Thursday night in a car crash on Highway 156 in Castroville. “And as an educator, she was truly unbelievable. I can’t think of anyone who has worked harder than she has to instill a passion in her students.”

Fowler, 55, was driving eastbound in her 2003 Ford Focus

and was just west of Highway 183 shortly before 10 p.m. Sept. 10 when she veered off the road, hit the shoulder and overturned, after which her car continued east and collided with a guard rail shortly, according to California Highway Patrol officer Jaime Rios. She was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics, and the cause of the crash is under investigation. Griest said her home, which she shared with her husband, Jeff, is about a half-mile from the crash.

The following morning, Carmel Unified School District

See **FOWLER** page 14A

## Police, Mission prepare to welcome masses for Serra canonization

By MARY SCHLEY

WITH THOUSANDS of people expected to flock to the Carmel Mission for the canonization of founder Junipero Serra — and for the accompanying protests — the Mission staff and the Diocese of Monterey have been working with local law enforcement to prepare for the events, which begin with a noon Mass in the Basilica on Wednesday.

After the Mass, as Pope Francis makes Serra a saint in a ceremony in Washington, D.C., the Mission will show the live broadcast of the canonization ceremony on a wide screen in the main courtyard of the Mission at 1:15 p.m., according to Deacon Warren Hoy.

The Basilica will remain open during and after the Mass for parishioners who want to pray there.

On Saturday, Sept. 26, at 8 a.m., the Diocese is organizing a procession from San Carlos Cathedral in Monterey to the Carmel Mission, with participants walking the 5-mile route by following the approximate route of the old Padre Trail over Aguajito Road. Next will be a Mass at 11 a.m. in the Mission Basilica, and on Sunday, there will be a special Mass of thanksgiving in the Basilica at 11 a.m., followed by a reception in Crespi Hall.

Nearly a month later, on Oct 24 at 3 p.m., the Mission will host a Mass of thanksgiving with the bishops of California. That service will also be followed by a reception in Crespi Hall.

Carmel Police Chief Mike Calhoun said around 1,000 people are expected to attend the Sept. 23 canonization and other events.

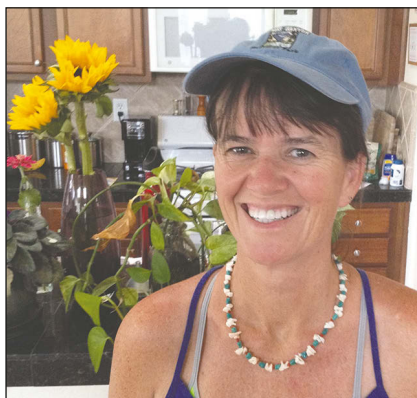
“We put together contingency plans if we are needed for anything, but we don’t anticipate any problems at this time,” he said.

Diocese of Monterey media director Erika Yanez said

See **SERRA** page 15A



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER (LEFT), FACEBOOK (ABOVE)



(From right) Nicholas Lee, Eric Nakanishi, Ethan Noel Santos, Morgan Guerin and other members of the MJF 2015 Next Generation Jazz Orchestra played a New Orleans-style funeral procession Thursday to honor CMS music teacher Nancy Fowler (above), who died in a car crash last week.

## Canine center appealed to board of supervisors

■ Hearing set for Oct. 20

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE GROUPS vehemently opposed to the Carmel Canine Center have appealed the recent approval of the center by the Monterey County planning commission. The appeal goes to the board of supervisors and has been scheduled for Oct. 20.

County planner David Mack told The Pine Cone this week that the unanimous decision by the planning commission Aug. 26 was appealed to the supervisors by attorneys representing the Quail Lodge and a group of residents, Friends of Quail.

In the appeal she filed for Friends of Quail, attorney Molly Erickson contended the planning commission hearing was not “fair or impartial,” the project’s environmental impact report is flawed, and the dog park “will have unmitigated significant impacts on wildlife.” She argued the center should be denied a permit.

“This is the wrong project for the wrong location,”

See **APPEAL** page 11A

## Motorsports group backs out of effort to take over Laguna Seca

By MARY SCHLEY

CITING LACK of cooperation from the nonprofit that runs Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, the company that owns Daytona International Speedway and a dozen other tracks throughout the country this week declined to take over operations at the Monterey County facility. As a result, 5th District Monterey County Supervisor Dave Potter — who has been openly critical of the nonprofit Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula and its operations — plans to recommend the county seek proposals from all entities interested in running the track.

“Following an extensive due diligence process, we have decided not to submit a formal proposal for operational management of Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca at this time,” International Speedway Corporation Executive Vice

See **TRACK** page 13A

## County says ‘No’ to marijuana dispensary

By CHRIS COUNTS

A WEEK after the news broke that a marijuana dispensary could be opening at the mouth of Carmel Valley, Monterey County planning official Mike Novo told The Pine Cone Thursday that, while the dispensary has actually already opened for business, it will have to close at its current location — at least until a countywide moratorium on dispensaries is lifted and its owner goes through a more extensive permit process.

Salvatore Palma had hoped to establish a dispensary at 26555 Carmel Rancho Blvd., Suite 3. While Novo couldn’t confirm what the business is called, he said the name on the application is “Higher Level of Care.”

See **POT** page 6A



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

The courtyard of the Carmel Mission was quiet Thursday, but in a few days a large crowd is expected to observe the canonization of Junipero Serra.