

The Carmel Pine Cone

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Caltrans says state needs 113 wildlife corridors

■ But just one in Monterey County

By CHRIS COUNTS

LEGISLATION PASSED by the state in 2022 requires Caltrans to identify where safe crossings are needed along California highways to prevent motorists from hitting wild animals, and, this week, Caltrans released a report that shows potential sites for 113 wildlife crossings.

Fourteen should be installed in Santa Barbara County, the road agency says, but in Monterey County, just one. In all, the report indicates that “180 native, endangered

or threatened animal species” are at risk due to the lack of such crossings.

Endangered badgers

The sole local site is on Highway 68 on property owned by the Bureau of Land Management. The report notes that tiger salamanders, badgers, bobcats, coyote, deer and gray fox would all benefit from having a safe way to cross the road.

The Pine Cone has previously reported on the risk of mortality faced by badgers crossing the busy highway between Monterey and Salinas.

Asked why Monterey County has only one recommended wildlife crossing, and none in Big Sur, Caltrans spokesman Chris Clark said the sites were “prioritized based on coordination” with various Caltrans districts, including District 5, which represents Monterey

See PATHS page 24A



While California builds the world’s biggest wildlife corridor in Agoura Hills (rendering at left), badgers in British Columbia have tunnels to help them cross roads.

Salinas OKs rent control, eviction protection

By MARY SCHLEY

COME JAN. 1, 2025, owners of many rental apartments in Salinas will be subject to rent control and other restrictions that its city council members hope other cities throughout Monterey County will also implement.

After several hearings and extensive feedback from renters, landlords and community groups over the past year, the Salinas City Council unanimously voted Sept. 24 to adopt a rent stabilization ordinance, a “tenant protection and just cause eviction ordinance,” and “tenant anti-harassment protections,” all of which take effect on New Year’s Day.

The new laws are restricted by a state law, the Costa-Hawkins Act, that exempts single-family residences,

condos and properties built after February 1995 from rent control and allows landlords to raise rent back to market rate after a tenant leaves.

Could apply citywide

A Nov. 5 statewide ballot measure seeks to overturn Costa-Hawkins, so while Salinas officials and a consultant say 19 percent of the city’s housing would be affected by the new rent-control laws, more could be subject to them if Proposition 33 passes.

Rents in multifamily buildings constructed before 1995 in Salinas have increased 117 percent between 2000 and 2024, according to officials, with an average vacancy rate

See RENT page 16A

Mayoral candidates weigh in on issues campaign forums missed

By MARY SCHLEY

WITH BALLOTS in the mail and voters well on their way to choosing the people they want to represent them, The Pine Cone submitted a few questions of its own in the wake of the candidate forums hosted by the Carmel Residents Association and the Carmel Chamber of Commerce last month.

All three candidates for the mayor’s seat — incumbent Dave Potter and challengers councilman Jeff Baron and community organizer Dale Byrne — took the time to answer. Their responses are presented in the order

received. Some answers have been very lightly edited. Council candidates’ answers start on page 14A.

■ Modern architecture

Pine Cone: What are your thoughts on modern/contemporary architecture? How much control should the planning department/planning commission have over individual design choices about which there is no stated rules, such as metal roofs or number of windows?

Dale Byrne: Carmel has plenty of good examples of “modern architecture” around town, but too much glass,

non-organic materials, and strong vertical design close to street level would probably not be appropriate in many neighborhoods in Carmel. But as more and more “modern architecture” replaces the more traditional Carmel cottage, the very thing that made Carmel a special place to live in and visit is removed. We could wake up someday and feel like we are in a completely different place.

Balance is important, including not having too many similar houses in a row. I don’t like metal roofs personally, but they are preferred by insurance companies and, as

See CANDIDATES page 18A

Pine Cone launches election survey

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

AS OF 9 p.m. Thursday, subscribers to The Pine Cone’s email edition are invited to participate in a poll to find out which candidates they support in the Nov. 5 municipal election and how they feel about the state housing mandates and street addresses for Carmel homes.

Voting in the poll will remain open until 5 p.m. Oct. 16, with results reported in next week’s edition.

“A web link for the poll is only going out to subscribers, but anyone who wants

to participate can sign up by using the ‘Free and Easy Subscription’ button on our website,” said publisher Paul Miller. New subscribers will be promptly emailed a link to vote, he added.

The election in the City of Carmel has the strongest field of candidates in many years, with Dave Potter, Jeff Baron and Dale Byrne running for mayor, and Danny Hala, Parker Logan, David O’Neil, Bob Delves and Hans Buder running for city council.

The Pine Cone’s website is <https://carmelpinecone.com>.



Dave Potter



Dale Byrne



Jeff Baron

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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Water boy

Onyx is a 6-month-old Australian shepherd born to the award-winning Heatherhill breeder in Hollister. Although Heatherhill puppies typically are reserved well in advance of their arrival, the breeder kept two male pups to continue the lineage but then decided he needed only one.

"I stay in touch with Heatherhill whenever I'm thinking about getting my next Aussie," said Onyx's person, who divides her life between Reno and Carmel Highlands. "When I learned a 3-month-old pup was available, I drove to Hollister and brought Onyx home that day."

She named him Onyx because he is black and to foster in him the characteristics attributed to the stone:



love, protection, strength and perseverance.

"I also wanted a nice, short name," she said. "My husband didn't like it at all, but he finally got with the program. Onyx is a smart little guy who figured out his name pretty fast. His registered title is Heatherhill Black Rock, which he doesn't know."

Onyx's person loves Aussies because they're bright and energetic, she said, although they tend to try to run the household.

"They always want to be doing something, like a 2-year-old child with ADHD. The solution is to keep them busy and stay one step ahead of them," said Onyx's person, who has taken him to puppy classes and is thinking about agility training.

"He loves the obstacles at puppy training and doesn't hesitate to try them. He isn't fully coordinated yet," she said, "but he can turn on a dime without falling over."

Onyx also loves water so much, his person jokes he must be part retriever. He hasn't been to the beach yet, but he paddles around a puppy swimming pool, stands in his water bowl and loves to chase the stream on the hose when his person is watering the yard.



Kapp and Kooper, AKC Standard Poodle turned one in July.

Brothers from the same litter, a breeder out of LA. Two different personalities, but both very sweet and loving. Kooper, loves to be closer in contact, a lot more passionate. Kapp, is the more independent, and usually the one getting into what he shouldn't. They are house trained, obedient and love to run and go on their walks. They love their car rides. Kapp, loves his head out of the window, while Kooper just waits to arrive at our destination. Very friendly dogs that just need a lot of attention and well-deserved love.

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Judge says ‘fake video’ law violates First Amendment

By CAITLIN CONRAD

A NEW California law geared at limiting the spread of “deepfakes” in political campaign ads has been put on hold over concerns it violates the First Amendment. Mere weeks after Gov. Gavin Newsom signed AB 2839, a federal judge granted a preliminary injunction blocking the law from being enforced.

It was part of a package of three California bills passed during the summer session targeting misinformation generated using artificial intelligence, a rapidly growing technology.

The law bans the distribution of AI-generated or manipulated political communi-

against people who disseminate the material. Because the law was adopted on an emergency basis, it took effect immediately after it was signed on in Sept. 17.

Assemblymember Gail Pellerin, a Democrat from Santa Cruz, introduced the bill, and Monterey Peninsula representatives Sen. John Laird and Assemblymember Dawn Addis cast yes votes.

First Amendment violations

Free speech advocates urged Newsom not to sign the bill over concerns it went too far. The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression opposed AB 2839 on grounds it threatened individuals’ First Amendment rights. The organization’s director of public advocacy, Aaron Terr, said even people sharing AI-generated content for the purpose of criticizing the law could be ensnared by it.

“The bill runs over the First Amendment, along with satire, parody, political commentary and other constitutionally protected speech,” said Terr.

The free-speech advocate said the law reaches beyond unprotected categories like fraud and defamation, which are already narrowly defined.

“Whatever concerns the government has about deepfakes or AI-generated content, that doesn’t justify overly broad regulations that bulldoze over constitutionally

See **FAKE** page 28A



An AI parody video about Vice President Kamala Harris and “deepfakes” like it were the target of a new California law.

cations that spread misleading information 120 days prior to and 60 days after an election. Those communications include robocalls, political mailers and videos that portray misleading information about voting procedures, elections equipment and political candidates. The law allows candidates and election officials to file lawsuits



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Police & Sheriff's Log

Bike locks found sans bicycles

HERE'S A look at some of the significant calls logged by the Carmel-by-the-Sea Police Department and the Monterey County Sheriff's Office last week. This week's log was compiled by Mary Schley.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Tree branch in the road at Mission and Santa Lucia.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Non-injury vehicle collision on Ocean Avenue.
- Pacific Grove:** A vehicle burglary and vandalism occurred on Central Avenue.
- Pacific Grove:** Report of a restraining order violation. Report forwarded to the district attorney's office for review.
- Pacific Grove:** A juvenile was contacted out past curfew. The juvenile was issued a warning citation, transported and released to her mother.
- Carmel area:** Subject at the Barnyard made suicidal statements and was placed on

a 72-hour hold.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Suicidal subject at San Carlos and Eighth was placed on a hold. Outside agency assisted in mental health hold.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Found iPhone on San Antonio.
- Pacific Grove:** Package taken from a private residence on Central. No suspect information.
- Carmel Valley:** A male adult on El Caminito was transported to the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula for a mental health evaluation.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Aggressive panhan-
- See **POLICE LOG** page 24 IYD

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Peninsula
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Besides its history, culture, scenery and great weather, one of the things that makes the Monterey Peninsula so wonderful is its outstanding business community. But who are the hard-working people behind all those amazing shops, restaurants and service providers? We will answer that question in our November 8 edition —

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The gavel falls

Verdicts, pleas and sentencings announced by Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine Pacioni

Sept. 25 — Paulo Cesar Alcaraz Ortiz, 27, of Greenfield, was sentenced to 38 years and eight months to life after being convicted of first-degree murder for intentionally running over Guadalupe Garcia.

Ortiz was also convicted of assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer, evasion of a peace officer resulting in death, unlawfully driving a stolen vehicle, and resisting an executive officer.

Monterey County Supervisor Court Judge Andrew Liu sentenced the defendant after hearing from members of Guadalupe Garcia's heartbroken family.

On Nov. 16, 2021, the defendant was in a car stolen from a friend's parent. A police officer tried to contact the defendant, but he refused to obey the officer's orders and began a high-speed flight from arrest.

On several occasions, he attempted to strike pedestrians with his car and missed. At one point, he rammed a police car to avoid capture.

Finally, he targeted Garcia with an intent to kill him. He missed in his first try but followed the fleeing victim through a field and drove over him, killing him.

Police vehicles, including one drive by Soledad Police Chief Damon Wasson, then rammed the defendant and dragged him out of his car. The defendant told the police that he believed killing the victim would either cause the police to stop chasing him or cause them to kill him.

The victim was a well-known and beloved member of his community.

This case was investigated by the Greenfield and Soledad police departments.



"If you're happy with the direction we've been heading, continue supporting the current leadership. But if you're ready for fresh ideas and meaningful progress, vote for me—someone with a track record of positive change and community leadership."

~ Dale Byrne

"Dale Byrne is someone that knows how to not just talk the talk, but walk the walk."

~Jimmy Panetta



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Former Eastwood home sells for \$18.5M

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL home Clint Eastwood lived in while he was mayor was sold Monday for \$18,552,000, according to Monterey County Assessor’s Office records. The buyer is Carmel House LLC, which is based in Las Gatos

and run by Ryan Maas, who has an office in San Francisco, according to Secretary of State filings.

The home, called Las Ondas Estate, had been offered for sale for \$21 million. Eastwood lived in the house at the southwest corner of San Antonio and Ninth from 1981 until 1996, when Fred O’Such and his late wife, Joanne,

purchased it. Eastwood served as Carmel’s mayor from 1986 to 1988.

The three-story Spanish Revival home was constructed in 1924, and O’Such hired architect Eric Miller to design a full rebuild in the Arts & Crafts style with Carmel stone and clay tile roofs. The work was completed in fall 1998, according to the city’s property files.

The four-bedroom, four-and-a-half-bathroom house has a two-car garage and is located on an unusually large and gated 11,000-square-foot lot. Its features include vaulted ceilings with exposed mahogany beams, cherrywood floors, plastered walls and mahogany doors and window trim, baseboards, moldings, staircases and custom built-ins. A formal dining room and living room contain

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PHOTO/SHERMAN CHU

The 4,442-square-foot San Antonio Avenue house once owned by former Carmel Mayor Clint Eastwood sold this week.

gas fireplaces, and the kitchen is equipped with built-in seating, high-end appliances, wood and tile countertops, tin tile ceiling details and a pantry.

It also contains a media room, a temperature-controlled wine room and two laundry rooms, one in the primary suite. Multiple indoor-outdoor spaces feature decks with ocean views on the main and upper levels and a manicured interior courtyard. A generator was installed in 2011.

According to the Monterey County Assessor’s Office, its assessed value as of Jan. 1 was \$3,586,241, which means that the property taxes will increase from the former owner’s amount of about \$38,000 per year, to more than \$185,000 per year for the new one.

While Maas’ Los Gatos-based LLC is listed as the owner of the palatial residence, the tax bills are sent to a post office box connected to a nonprofit in Spokane, Wash., according to the county recorder’s office.



DAVID O’NEIL
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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

You’ve all worked diligently and invested so much in Carmel-by-the-Sea over the years. I hope you know how sincerely you are appreciated by all of us who have the great privilege to live here, and visit from around the world. From the protected forest to the nurtured beach, from the vibrant commerce to the charming homes—if it were not for people like you who have worked so hard, this special place would have been lost a long time ago.

This magical place deserves someone who would respect that responsibility, so it would be my honor to take on the full-time commitment of advocating your wishes on the City Council. With your trust and confidence, you’ll always know you’re being heard and represented. You’ll never be puzzled by the direction I’ve taken on council, because our

communication will always be open and friendly, allowing us all to have peace of mind. We live in a paradise, and the only thing missing is a sense of peace that comes from a cohesive and open community.

This magical place deserves to be preserved for future generations, much like the generations of the past have done for our benefit today. Our investments in time, energy, money, heart, and soul need to be protected on a local and state level. It requires courage, patience, kindness, and strength of character to stand up to the bullies of the world. With your support, I will do just that, and help bring people together to solve problems so that we can be generous to others while protecting the things, traditions and people we hold dear.

With loving humility, I ask you to give me your vote so that I can have the opportunity to prove my compassion, commitment, and devotion to our deserving community.

Warm regards,

David O’Neil

Vote O'Neil

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Repaving to cause more traffic delays

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE DELAYS caused by repaving a portion of Carmel Valley Road have frustrated motorists over the past five weeks, but supporters of the project say it will soon be worth the wait.

The work along Carmel Valley Road between Miramonte Road and Valley Greens Drive has been temporarily halting traffic since early September. It's expected to continue through late November.

Saturday between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., "corrective grinding work" will require lane closures and one-way reversible traffic control.

"The public is advised to allow extra travel time when passing through the area," county spokesperson Maia Carroll suggested.

Repaving extended

The project originally called for repaving the road between Miramonte and Via del Cinco, but at the instigation of the Carmel Valley Association, it was expanded to Valley Greens Drive. "Supervisor Mary Adams responded by securing funding so that public works could extend the project," the group reported in an email to members this week.

But Adams said county public works

director Randy Ishii deserves credit, too. "He has been so good to the 5th District," Adams told The Pine Cone. "I've watched public works move mountains to make things happen. He has been just amazing to work with."

Wrapped by Thanksgiving?

The county supervisor said one of her chief goals remaining before she steps aside in January 2025 is completing the repaving project, and she's hoping the work will wrap up before Thanksgiving.

Adams said she attended a meeting in Carmel Valley Wednesday and saw "a mile-long line of cars backed up along Carmel Valley Road" due to the repaving.

"I didn't know whether to laugh or cry," she added. "I am so happy to see the road get back in shape, but I'm sad about what people have to go through."

While some drivers have complained about the traffic delays, the Carmel Valley Association called them the "price of progress" in its email.

Aside from Saturday's work, construction is set for weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The contractor is Coastal Paving & Excavating Inc. of Monterey. The project is expected to cost \$2.7 million and will be paid for by the taxpayers with Measure X and hotel tax funds.

C.V. HOEDOWN TO HELP MENTALLY ILL

A GROUP dedicated to providing services, housing and treatment for adults with mental illness presents a western-themed fundraising celebration Oct. 17, 5:30 p.m., at Hidden Valley Music Seminars in Carmel Valley.

Titled "The Hoedown: Chests for Charity," the event will benefit Interim Inc., which builds affordable housing and offers a variety of support for the mentally ill.

The gathering features a BBQ dinner,

"treasure chests filled with prizes" and country music, along with line dancing. Tickets are \$150 each, and include dinner and a drink ticket.

Executive director Rhiyan Quiton called the fundraiser "a fun-filled event with a noble cause."


Based in Monterey, Interim Inc. was founded in 1975. Hidden Valley is located at 104 W. Carmel Valley Road. For tickets or more details, visit interiminc.org.

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A SIMPLE REQUEST

Whether it be in the candidate statement in the voter guide, my brochure I mailed out or the ads you have seen here you probably know enough about me so this week I'd like to make a special request.

I am sure you all know of the devastation left by the hurricanes on the east coast and the fires we have that every year impact our neighbors. At this time, I ask that you contribute whatever you can to the American Red Cross. We always pull together in time of need and with a nation whose recent elections seem to be divisive it is time to put our differences aside for a moment and to help those that are in dire need. You can give to the American Red Cross by simply going to redcross.org and following the prompts. It is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization, so your donation is tax deductible. Please give what you can. There are a lot of people hurting. We need to reach out a helping hand. Thank you.

Paid for by Miller For Mayor 2024, 501 Gibson Ave., Pacific Grove, Ca, 93950.

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Two decades after \$11 million deal, new park near Point Lobos inches forward

By CHRIS COUNTS

THREE YEARS after California State Parks announced the creation of 1,312-acre Ishxenta State Park — pronounced “eesh-EN-ta” — near Point Lobos State Reserve,

state parks superintendent Brent Marshall this week conceded the effort is moving forward more slowly than anticipated. But the park official told The Pine Cone he’s hopeful and excited about the park’s future — even if its grand opening is years away.

It’s now been more than two decades since state parks paid \$11 million in taxpayer funds for the former Point Lobos Ranch in a series of transactions starting in 2003.

“It’s proving to be more challenging than we thought,” Marshall said of the effort to develop the new park. “The process is complex, and I feel the public’s frustration. We’re not as close as we’d like to be. I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished

will be needed before any parking concept becomes reality.

“It will be another year or two before we have a design plan for a parking lot,” he explained. In addition to parking, there will have to be a plan — and funding — for improvements along the highway, including turn and deceleration lanes.

State parks has suggested a parking lot could accommodate up to 200 vehicles.

With Ishxenta State Park located along the future California Coastal Trail, it might seem like a good place to put a campground, but doing that would not only invite crowding, it could also pose a serious fire risk for nearby homeowners. Marshall said the park is unlikely to offer camping.

And as for funding: “I know we’re going to need creative solutions,” Marshall said. “We have to look at partnerships and grants.”

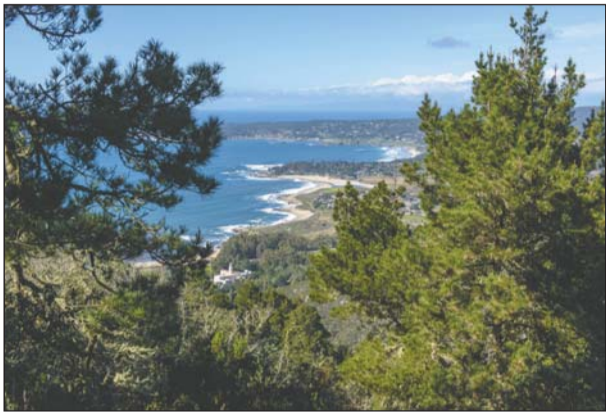
Other uses besides hiking have been proposed, including installing a zip-line. But that option quickly drew fire and seems unlikely.

Marshall noted that whatever state parks ultimately decides upon, “There will be a lot of public involvement in the process.”

Trails take shape

While the park’s infrastructure is still in its planning stages, its trails are taking shape, with volunteers pitching in. Ultimately, the trails will connect with those of nearby Palo Corona Regional Park — and perhaps other parks.

When state parks acquired the land for the new park in 2003, officials said it couldn’t be opened until a general plan



PHOTO/CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Ishxenta State Park will offer hikers stunning views of the coastline, along with trails that lead to a variety of habitats. But it probably won’t have a campground.


so far, but we have a long way to go. I know we’re headed in the right direction.”

What kind of park will Ishxenta be? With so many acres of varying habitat, along with stunning views, it will be a hikers’ paradise.

It could also provide a site for a parking lot — either solely for those accessing the new park, or for those visiting Point Lobos, too. In 2005, a plan proposed by three graduate students from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and promoted by the Big Sur Land Trust included an underpass connecting Ishxenta with the reserve, which has long had a critical shortage of parking.

Marshall said considerable planning

ENDORSED BY CARMEL TEACHERS AND STAFF



Jason

Remynse

★ ————— ★

CUSD Governing Board Trustee Area 5

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As a parent with four children currently enrolled in Carmel schools, I have a personal and vested interest in the success of our district. This gives me a unique perspective on the needs and challenges facing our students, teachers, and families. My deep commitment to the well-being of our schools, combined with my dedication to ensuring the best possible education for all students, makes me the most invested and driven candidate for the school board.

Endorsements (partial list)

Association of Carmel Teachers (CUSD Teachers)

CSEA Carmel Chapter 190 (CUSD Classified Staff)

Sam Farr Former United States Representative

Ken White Former CUSD Board Member

Paula Stark Former F.O.C.U.S. President

Graeme Robertson Past President Rotary Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea

Karl Pallastrini Current CUSD Board Member

Seaberry Nachbar Current CUSD Board Member

Jason understands that in order for our district to take full advantage of its many strengths, the district must be led by a strong governance team wherein the Board sets direction focused on its core academic mission and enables the Superintendent every opportunity to succeed in carrying it out.


Marvin Biasotti Retired CUSD Superintendent

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Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5.

DawnAddis.org

Paid for by Dawn Addis for Assembly 2024



Crews confine wildfire to 221 acres

By MARY SCHLEY

A VEGETATION fire that broke out in a remote area of Upper Carmel Valley Tuesday afternoon and quickly grew, forcing residents in the area to evacuate, had been confined to 221 acres by the next morning and was 50 percent contained by Thursday morning, according to Cal Fire.

When the fire started, many Carmel Valley residents noticed the huge plume of smoke rising from the mountains, prompting memories of the devastating 2020 fires that destroyed neighborhoods in Cachagua and elsewhere.

The latest blaze, dubbed the Piney Fire and located in Jamesburg, grew to the north and east after igniting in the area of Hastings Reservation Road and Martin Road the afternoon of Oct. 8.

Planes and helicopters

In the initial push to stop it, a dozen engines, three hand crews, five dozers, two water tenders and other resources, including helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft, were sent to the wildfire, for a total of around 130 personnel. Cal Fire reported 25

structures were threatened, and the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office quickly issued evacuation warnings that were followed by orders demanding residents in the area leave immediately.

Firefighting efforts continued throughout the night, including water drops by helicopters until the marine layer set in and the pilots were sent home. By the next morning, the fire had stopped growing, according to Cal Fire, which mapped its size at 221.4 acres. All evacuation orders and warnings were lifted around 6:15 p.m. Oct. 9.

Mop-up and containment were still going Thursday, with 423 personnel assigned to the fire, the cause of which remains under investigation.

Meanwhile, some residents complained the county’s new alert system and the maps it uses are difficult to read, since, unless they’re zoomed way in, there are no roads or landmarks.

“If they were in an evacuation area, they would have received an alert notice, plus law enforcement was working in those neighborhoods,” Monterey County spokesperson Maia Carroll responded.



PHOTOS/MICHAEL TROUTMAN, DMT IMAGING

Cal Fire crews were quick to attack a wildfire in Upper Carmel Valley late Tuesday afternoon, fighting on the ground and in the air to stop its spread through the remote hillsides near Jamesburg while residents were evacuated.



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CALIFORNIA’S PLASTIC BAG BAN 2.0

By CAITLIN CONRAD

CALIFORNIA IS once again trying to ban plastic bags at the checkout line. It’s a familiar story, as the state first tried to rid itself of the environmental pariah in

recorded 157,385 tons of plastic-bag trash, a quantity that by 2022 had jumped to 231,072 tons. Those numbers reflect only what’s going into the landfills, while bags that don’t make it there can litter waterways and oceans.



PHOTO/PAUL MILLER

The heavier, 10-cent plastic bags introduced by supermarkets after their lightweight counterparts were banned turned out to be worse for the environment, state officials say.

2014. Unfortunately, the previous bag ban resulted in a big increase in plastic waste over the last decade. At the end of September Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill designed to close a loophole in the old law.

Under the 2014 bag ban, grocery stores were still allowed to offer customers plastic bags for a fee as long as they were reusable, and to make them last longer, they produced thicker plastic bags and provided those for a fee. A California Public Interest Research Group survey found only 2 percent of customers brought back the thicker bags for reuse, and the rest went in the trash as the bags are not accepted at California’s municipal recycling centers.

CalRecycle found the first ban led to a 47 percent increase in the amount of plastic bag waste. In 2014, the organization

“You still see these plastic bags that are one of the more common items washing up on our beaches,” said Geoff Shester with Oceana.

Worldwide, Oceana estimates that 33 billion pounds of plastic enter the ocean every year, the equivalent of two garbage trucks of plastic being dumped in the water per minute. Shester said plastic bags are one of the deadliest types of waste for ocean wildlife. “To a sea turtle, a plastic bag looks like a jellyfish, which is one of their preferred foods, and that can lead to suffocation,” said Shester.

According to the bill’s author, Sen. Catherine

Blakespear, a Democrat from Encinitas, a plastic bag has an average useful lifespan of 12 minutes, then it is discarded and can take hundreds of years to break down.

Unhappy

Not everyone is happy about the change. Erin Hass, executive director of the American Recyclable Plastic Bag Alliance told the Los Angeles Times, “We are disappointed that Gov. Newsom has chosen to sign Senate Bill 1053. This flawed bill is similar to legislation in New Jersey, Canada and other regions that has resulted in the widespread use of imported non-recyclable plastic-cloth bags.” The American Recyclable Plastic Bag Alliance represents

See BAG page 24A

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Paid for By John Laird for Senate 2024 FPPC #1434540

Hans
Buder

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Paid for by Hans Buder for Carmel City Council 2024. FPPC #1471672

Monterey Bay Bird Fest takes flight

By CHRIS COUNTS

CELEBRATING THE many species and varieties that fill the sky in fall, the Monterey Bay Festival of Birds is back for its third year Oct. 11-13 at various sites in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties.

Besides offering a busy slate of workshops and field trips, which are available for a fee, the festival features three free events, including Saturday’s Birders’ Night Market, which starts at 5 p.m. at the Sand City Art Park.

Noted bird illustrator John Muir Laws will offer “mini classes” on drawing songbirds (5 p.m.), raptors (6 p.m.), waterfowl (7 p.m.) and “Flight & Feathers” (8 p.m.). There will be other family-friendly activities, including silk-screening and button-making, along with giveaways, food, refreshments and a display and sale of bird art.

The Art Park is located at 525 Ortiz Ave.

‘Birds, Bikes & Burritos’

Other free events offered include a Birds’ ‘n’ Brews Trivia Night (Friday, 6:30 p.m., at Gilman Brewing in Santa Cruz) and “Birds, Bikes & Burritos” (Sunday, 10 a.m., Landmark Elementary School in Watsonville).

The festival also presents dozens of workshops and field trips, including outings to Point Lobos State Reserve, Palo Corona Regional Park, Hatton Canyon, Rana Creek Ranch in Carmel Valley and Laguna Grande Park in Seaside. Some are free, while others cost \$15-\$40. For a complete schedule, visit birdschoolproject.org.

Following in the footsteps of at least one other now-retired

local birding festival, the Festival of Birds is presented by the Bird School Project, a local group that “uses outdoor experiential learning to inspire and equip students and teachers to love, study and steward their local environment.” Its executive director, Jessica Correa, urged people who are new to birding to check out the three free events, which she described as “friendly and welcoming.”

“It’s the fall migration and the Monterey region is a hot spot for birds,” Correa told The Pine Cone. “Get to know your neighbors and connect over birds and nature.”



PHOTO/MONTEREY BAY FESTIVAL OF BIRDS

This weekend’s Monterey Bay Festival of Birds celebrates our local feathered friends, including the snowy egret (above).

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Endorsements

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School Employees
CSEA Carmel
Chapter 190



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“I’ve known Jake Odello since he was an effective student leader at Carmel High School. He had a constructive approach to solving problems, and everything I know about him confirms that he is still that positive force. Jake is a genuine change agent and I believe it’s time for us to bring his voice to our school district.”
- Marvin Biasotti, *former CUSD Superintendent*

“Please vote for Jake! He has proven his commitment to our Cachagua Children’s Center and helping to facilitate the Summer Camp our families enjoy so much!”
- Kimberly Boughner, *Cachagua*

“Jake’s experience and strength in collaboration make him well suited to earn your vote. Now is the right time to elect Jake Odello”
- Anna Williams, *Carmel*

“Jake Odello is passionate and will be the perfect addition to CUSD.”
- Rachel Sherman, *Carmel Valley*

“Generations of history with CUSD with common sense, collaboration and vision for the future... the only choice is Jake Odello”
- Graeme Robertson, *Carmel-by-the-Sea*

“I am voting for Jake because he thinks outside the box and is a creative problem solver. He is also polite even if he disagrees with you”
- Cynthia Hall, *Carmel Valley*

Paid for by Committee to Elect Jacob Odello to CUSD Board 2024 FFPC # 1475288

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Feathered fleet meets after work

By MARY SCHLEY

‘END OF Night Shift Employee Meeting’ was how Corral de Tierra resident George Garibay captioned his photo of four barn owls on his rural property two weeks ago. He also shared a 17-second video of the birds, which occupy an owl box his daughter built when she was in woodshop at Salinas High School in 2019.

“That year, Waste Management reached out to Chuck Felice, the woodshop instructor, and asked if the students would be interested in constructing several boxes for the company to help reduce the rodent population at the dump,” he told The Pine Cone this week. “Our daughter was one of these students at the time, and she asked her teacher if she could bring home one of the surplus boxes. We embellished it a bit, adding a sloped roof with some shingles to protect the owls.”

He installed it high in one of the pines on their property and saw the first owls move in soon after.

‘Murderous shrieks’

“We have been enjoying the owlets since 2020,” he said, adding that this year’s brood has been one of the largest, with four offspring from the two owl parents who have now raised several generations there.

“My wife and I enjoy listening to their murderous shrieks every evening, then watch them nestle back into the box early

in the morning,” he said. “Most of my photos are captured through our bedroom window. And yes, we have noticed a significant decline in our rodent population. I was able to capture one owl dragging a large rat into the box to finish eating before



PHOTO/GEORGE GARIBAY

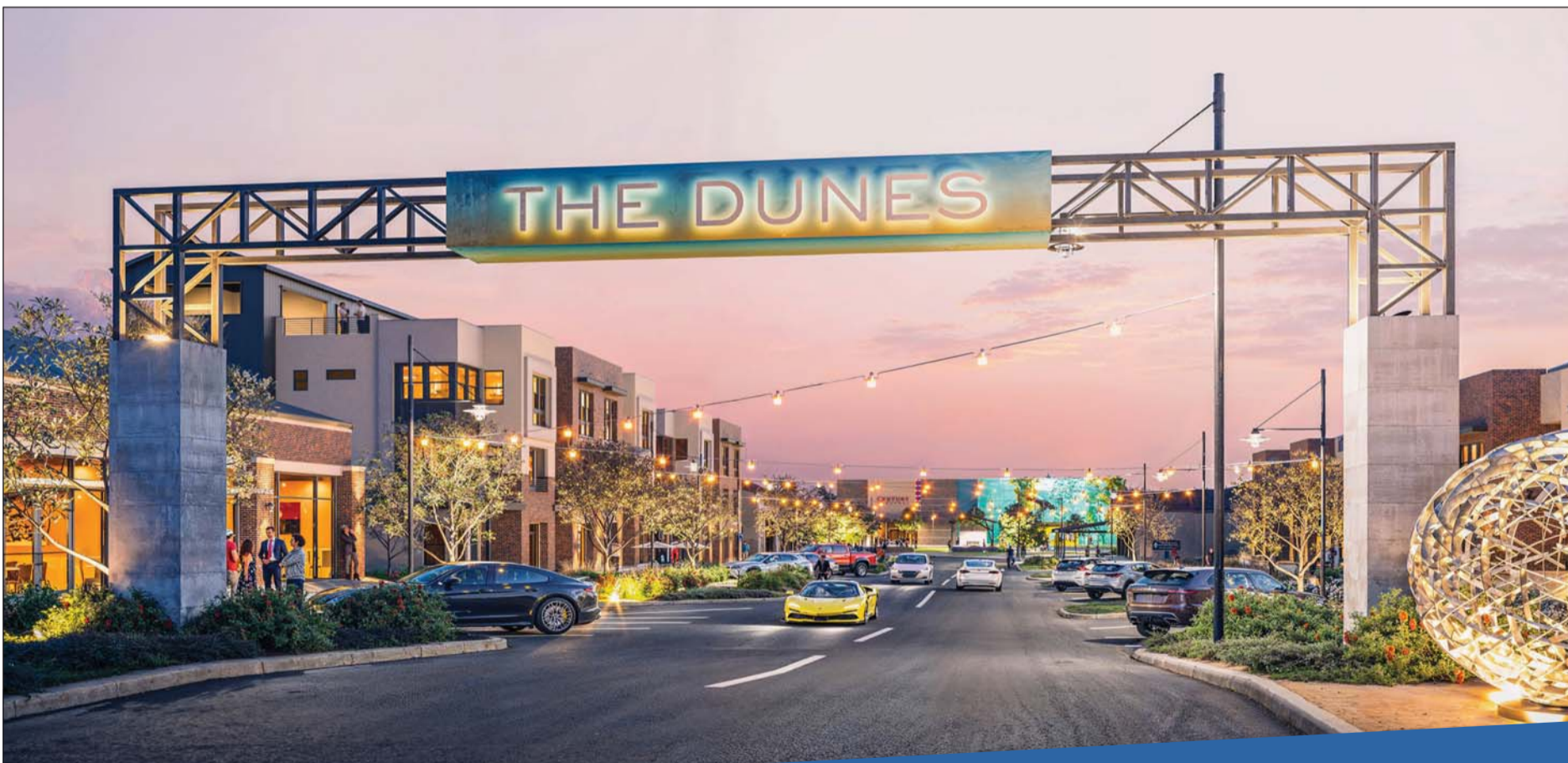
A box built by his daughter when she was at Salinas High gives George Garibay an entertaining view of its owlish residents.

it retired for the day.”

According to Cornell’s ornithology lab, barn owls “are silent predators of the night world” and make almost no sound when they fly.

“The barn owl has excellent low-light vision and can easily find prey at night by sight,” the lab says. “But its ability to locate prey by sound alone is the best of any animal that has ever been tested.”

Garibay’s video of his resident owlets can be found on Instagram at @georgegaribayphotos.



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Council candidates share views on architecture, rental registries, lessons learned

By MARY SCHLEY

LIKE THE candidates for mayor, the five men fighting for two Carmel City Council seats in the Nov. 5 election — which marks the first time in decades when both incumbents decided not to run and no women are on the ballot — graciously answered several questions from The Pine Cone.

All five residents on the ballot — Bob Delves, David O’Neil, Danny Hala, Hans Buder and Parker Logan — took the time to share their thoughts. Their responses are presented in the order received.

■ What styles are best?

Pine Cone question: What are your thoughts on modern/contemporary architecture? And how much control should the planning department/planning commission have over individual design choices about which there is no stated rule, such as metal

roofs or number of windows?

Bob Delves: As a planning commissioner, our design guidelines have a permanent place on my desk, and after four years of working with them, I know them quite well. They are quite clear that a primary objective is “to promote a diversity of architectural styles,” and “architectural eclecticism.” The terms “modern” and “contemporary” are not addressed in the guidelines. What is addressed is the

importance of simplicity, pedestrian scale, natural materials and compatibility with the forest setting. The beauty of Carmel’s architecture is not just storybook, but a wide diversity of architectural styles that are thoughtfully designed and constructed to a high standard of quality. For those who want to ban modern and contemporary, the place to do that would be in modifying our design guidelines to prohibit them.

Windows are also addressed in the design guideline, and there is no definition of how many windows are too many or not enough. In general, I try to focus on quality of materials and pedestrian scale as well as the privacy of neighbors and, beyond that, leave it to the architects and homeowners to decide where to place windows that work best for them. We live in a beautiful setting and windows allow us to bring that beauty into our homes. We should celebrate that, not unnecessarily restrict it.

Metal roofs have become a challenge. The design guidelines say that they are inappropriate, yet they have become a necessity due to fire risk, insurability, and toxicity of other more traditional roofing materials. A Design Traditions update project was launched three years ago to

bring them up to date with the realities of the present day. For reasons unknown to me, that project has stalled, so the planning commission has asked staff to develop a more specific position on metal roofs.

David O’Neil: Carmel-by-the-Sea is renowned worldwide for its charming architecture that has been developed by following our design guidelines over the years. Given our city’s limited 1-square-mile area, it is crucial that we adhere to our guidelines and general plan to maintain our unique character. The general plan emphasizes the importance of preserving “residential character,” yet some new homes exhibit a more commercial or industrial character. The general plan states, “The preservation of the residential character in Carmel is central,” and the residential design guidelines state that “metal, plastic, and glass roofs are inappropriate in all neighborhoods.” However, we have seen inconsistencies in the application of these rules, which can create a perception of favoritism or discrimination. Therefore, it is vital for the planning commission to ensure all policies and guidelines are

See COUNCIL page 20A



Hans Buder



Bob Delves



Danny Hala



Parker Logan



David O’Neil

BOB DELVES

for Carmel-by-the Sea City Council



THE TOP 10 REASONS TO SUPPORT Bob Delves for Carmel City Council

10. Lifetime of leadership in the private and public sectors
 9. Current service (4 years) on the Carmel Planning Commission
 8. Prior experience (6 years) as mayor of a town much like Carmel
 7. Good with people AND numbers
 6. Fiscal discipline, problem solving, long range planning
 5. Patient listening, thoughtful deliberation, informed decisions
 4. A steady hand in a time of change
 3. Strong and effective communicator
 2. Integrity, transparency and respect for the public process
- AND THE NUMBER ONE REASON TO SUPPORT BOB:**
1. Dedicated, sensible, proven leadership for Carmel-by-the-Sea

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Celia Barberena, Ph.D.



Candidate for MPC Trustee, Area 4 New Monterey, PG and Pebble Beach

Why should you vote for Celia Barberena for MPC Trustee?

Celia has been a proud Monterey County Resident since 1996 when Hartnell College hired her as Vice-President for Student Services. She is a Latina, born and raised in Nicaragua. Her experience in the US is the immigrant experience, bilingual, bicultural. The California Community Colleges gave her a home. For 25 years she moved through the ranks from Faculty, to Director, Dean, Vice President and President. She felt the culmination of her career was becoming President at Chabot College in the East Bay, a very diverse and vibrant community. Even when working in Hayward, she maintained her residency in Monterey County where she planned to retire and eventually did.

So, why run for Trustee now?

She says: “I have the requisite amount of experience and temperament to be an excellent Trustee. I know this community well through my engagement as a volunteer or Board member with organizations that improve the lives, health and educational advancement of the youth and adults of Monterey County. Currently I am a member of the Pacific Grove Library Friends and Foundation Board of Directors; the Blind and Visually Impaired Center Board of Directors; the Pacific Grove Rotary Club Board of Directors; UUCMP (my Church Affiliation) Board of Directors, Worship Associate and Finance Committee Member. There is more work to be done and I have the energy, the smarts and the soul to continue the work. Look at me. Count me in.”

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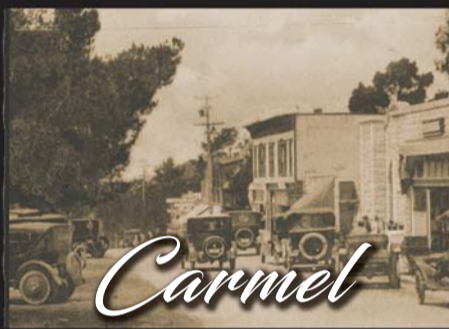
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RENT

From page 1A

of 3.3 percent. They also say a little more than half of the city's tenants remain "rent-burdened," defined as spending 30 percent or more of their income on housing.

"Rent-burdened households have less money to spend on other essentials like food, transportation, healthcare and child-care," the three ordinances state.

Changes afoot

Highlights of the three laws include:

■ Rent can't be raised by more than 2.75 percent per year, or 75 percent of the Consumer Price Index, whichever is lower, and the law is retroactive to Dec. 31, 2023.

■ Deed-restricted affordable housing, government-provided units, rentals in institutional and medical facilities, and historic buildings are exempt.

■ Landlords can't charge for utilities unless they are separately metered.

■ Landlords can only pass through costs for capital improvements after the work is done, based on actual expenses, amortized over the life of the improvement, and tenants can file for hardships that would exempt them from increases due to improvements.

■ If a landlord fails to keep a unit in compliance with health and safety codes or doesn't make repairs ordered by the city or the courts, any rent increase is invalid.

■ Landlords will pay a per-unit fee to cover the costs of the program and cannot pass those fees on to tenants.

■ An owner can evict a tenant for failure to pay rent, breach of lease (with some exceptions), nuisance, waste, criminal activity, subletting, failure to provide access, or illegal uses.

■ "No-fault just-cause" evictions are allowed for owner move-in (including a domestic partner, child, grandchild, parent or grandparent), with several provisos, including re-offering the unit to the former tenant under the same rental terms if it's

not occupied within 90 days for at least three years and paying "all reasonable expenses incurred in moving to and from the unit, including lease termination fees."

■ A tenant evicted without fault must be paid the equivalent of three months' rent, plus any deposit owed.

■ Owner move-in can be used for one unit on a property, and only if there are no other vacancies in the same complex and if the person doesn't own a vacant rental anywhere else in the City of Salinas.

■ If the tenant expresses a desire to renew and the unit is offered for rent again within five years, the person must be allowed to move back in at the prior rent plus increases allowed by the ordinance.

■ A landlord may temporarily evict a tenant for renovation or demolition necessary to bring a building into compliance with health and safety codes and must provide copies of the permits or the construction contract. If the owner has another vacant unit, the tenant must be offered temporary housing there at the same rent or less, or a long-term lease at the going rent, and the tenant has the first right to reoccupy the renovated unit.

Anti-harassment

The anti-harassment protections prevent owners from trying to force renters out by cutting their services, failing to maintain their units, refusing to accept rent payments, abuse, sexual harassment, discrimination, intimidation and other means. Landlords also can't prevent tenants from organizing or politicking.

Violating the ordinances could result in fines and misdemeanor charges.

Also, according to the California Government Code, an owner who plans to withdraw a property from the rental market because it will be subject to rent control must give tenants 120 days' notice — or a year's notice if a tenant is 62 or older and has lived there for at least a year — and they must be allowed to move back if the unit comes on the market within 10 years.

Continues next page

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From previous page

During a couple of hours of public comment at last month’s final meeting on the proposed laws, many Salinas residents, a number of them speaking through an interpreter, described being evicted or having their rents hiked because of the ordinances.

“If it wasn’t for my family, I would be homeless,” said Bill Freeman. “A lot of the people in the audience tonight are in the same situation, or worse.” He characterized landlords who raise rents as “greedy.”

A man who didn’t give his name said he was evicted the day after he spoke in favor of rent control at an earlier Salinas council meeting, and Janet Lopez said she and her family were told they’d have to move if they couldn’t pay \$2,800 in rent — a \$1,200 increase.

“I’m a farmworker, and I can’t afford what they’re asking,” she said. “My family is going to end up on the street.”

Maria Salazar, who works in the strawberry fields while her husband picks lettuce, said she also received an eviction notice and was told the rent would increase from \$1,100 to \$2,400. “I don’t have anywhere to go. I don’t have any way to pay it,” she said, adding that she’s “not leaving.”

Some younger members of the audience said they have to work while going to school and during the summer to help their families cover the rent.

Esteban Rodriguez, representing a union and a housing advocacy group, complimented the council and community organizers for pushing forward. “I’m hoping this will be like a domino effect for the rest of the cities in the county,” he said.

Representatives of the Salinas chamber and the Monterey County Association of Realtors opposed the laws, as did a few landlords who blamed the housing crisis on low wages, not greedy property owners.

“You’re not going to be able to circumvent supply and demand,” said Kevin Dayton, government affairs director for the Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce. “There is going to be a shortage, and it’s

going to make things worse.” Adam Pinterits from MCAR said he hopes the new restrictions won’t “deter developers,” and property manager Amy Salmina said she was deeply disappointed. “Rather than encouraging development, this ordinance risks losing development,” she said. “One of my clients who has approved plans has chosen not to build.”

‘A model’

The council members — minus outgoing Mayor Kimbley Craig, who had to recuse herself — were unified.

Councilman Anthony Rocha praised the community for being so engaged in the process and the city’s staff for its work on researching and drafting the laws.

“I hope this will be a model for every other city in the county,” he said, adding that rent control and tenant protections will reduce homelessness.

“It’s clear this is an issue that affects everyone across all districts of Salinas,” said councilwoman Carla Gonzalez. “For years, residents and community members have asked the government to work proactively to address the housing crises.”

Councilman Tony Barrera acknowledged some owners might lose money due to the new restrictions, “but we are at a crisis point today. Some of these people here today are going to be losing their homes.”

“There’s no easy solution here,” he said.

Councilman Orlando Osornio observed that many renters work two or three jobs each just to ensure they can pay their bills.

“It’s not about politics, it’s about people,” he said. “It’s about people having something affordable to live in. A lot of folks are just one paycheck away from being homeless.”

And councilman Andrew Sandoval encouraged renters to stick together and help each other. “I’ve seen the harassment and retaliation against tenants,” he said. “I encourage you to stay united. Neighbors are going to need to support neighbors to get through this.”

Each ordinance was unanimously OK’d to a loud round of applause.



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CANDIDATES

From page 1A

long as our design guidelines allow them, we will see more of them. I think a design review committee is a good idea and will handle some of the items you've listed early in the process. If five people think a design is a bad idea, hopefully the homeowner and architect will agree and work out an acceptable solution before they've spent too much money on detailed plans. We should complete our architectural guidelines and make them as clear as possible about what is and isn't allowed.

Jeff Baron: Carmel has a rich tradition of architecture that is both authentic and contemporary at the time of construction, including, for example, the much-loved Frank Lloyd Wright house (Cabin on the Rocks) and the four Henry Hill homes in town. Far more important than architectural style is the requirement that new homes and other buildings are of human scale, fit into their neighborhoods, and are subordinate to the forest. The planning department/commission should have the authority to interpret the design regulations to the extent that is necessary in order to process applications in a consistent and timely manner. If either body, or any two council members, believe that there is a substantial issue with a choice, or repeated issues with a trend, decisions can always be elevated to the city council for a determination.

Dave Potter: I don't have a problem with contemporary architecture. The architectural makeup of Carmel-by-the-Sea has always been a diverse mixture of architectural styles. If it were all cottages, the city would look more like Solvang than Carmel-by-the-Sea. When the design guidelines, aka Design Traditions, are finally completed, hopefully there will be an accepted roadmap that defines what is recommended for appropriate architectural accessorizing. A strong policy will guide the planning department/planning commission.

■ Vacancy taxes, street addresses

Pine Cone: What is your position on a vacancy tax on second homes?

Byrne: I am opposed to it. I think we should do everything we can to encourage second homeowners to spend more time in our beautiful city and eventually move here. What's not to like? Margaret and I started out as second-home folks years ago, and here we are, working full-time for free beautifying the town we love and running for mayor. A second-home vacancy tax would likely have prevented us from ever buying here and we probably would have just stayed in Reno and done VRBOs.

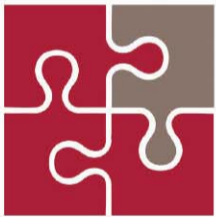
Baron: A vacancy tax should be discussed by the community. A small levy would be a valuable tool as the village struggles with one of our most pressing issues — the declining number of people who live here — and attempts to find housing solutions that meet the state's requirements and are compatible with Carmel's character.

Potter: I don't think a vacancy tax at this time is warranted. There needs to be a robust discussion about the budget as a whole before we start implementing new taxes.

Pine Cone: On the planned 2025 ballot measure regarding house numbers, would you prefer an advisory vote or a legally binding initiative, and why?

Byrne: When I am elected, we will use a proper process, hopefully with a committee of motivated residents and town halls similar to the Affordable Housing Alternatives group, to explore all the ramifications of our directional system and a possible house-number system and develop a comprehensive approach which will hopefully make our town accessible and safe without having to lose a defining characteristic of our town. How we make the final decision will depend on how the town feels about that collective solution. Hopefully, we can do it without the costs of an initiative but,

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if it is required, I will support it in conjunction with an already scheduled election. In the meantime, we will develop ways for those challenged with our current system to get help. In addition, we will explore how we can properly train 911 operators and first responders to make sure they can efficiently use our current system. Truth is, we have never really tried to standardize the system we are using.

Baron: An initiative. If the council determines that a vote of the people is required for the city to take action, then the council should “specify the action to be taken” as the question asked by the initiative, and the vote should have the force of law. Anything other than a binding vote would be subject to interpretative spin by the various parties and would result in further delay toward settling the matter once and for all.

Potter: I wouldn’t want to prejudice my vote since this will be in front of the council, but my tendency would be an initiative since it would be definitive to what the public wants and not subject to the whims of the elected officials.

Lessons learned

Pine Cone: What are your thoughts on a rental registry similar to those implemented in Monterey and Salinas?

Byrne: I am not in favor of it. Better to watch how things develop in those towns and have open discussions about it over time.

Baron: Renters are an important part of the Carmel community, and the information gained by tracking the number of units and their rents would be invaluable as the city makes plans to accommodate the state’s housing requirements. One especially important piece of information would be the loss of rental units as long-time owners (or their estates) sell properties to second homeowners or investors,

displacing longtime tenants.

Potter: I would support a way to better define the number of affordable housing units that exist in Carmel-by-the-Sea, given the fact that our Regional Housing Needs Allocation numbers demand that we provide a fixed number of affordable units. We need to deed restrict those units and create a means of tracking them so that they remain affordable. A rental registry provides a way of knowing how many rental units exist in a city, which I support, but I do not support rent control.

Pine Cone: What are the most important lessons you have learned during your campaign?

Byrne: Many people in this town are ready for change. They are excited about being truly listened to, their opinion respected, and are anxious to become active players in solving problems and making the community better. It is critical that people believe in you and are willing to talk to their neighbors and friends about voting for you. Being honest and being myself is the best way for me. Otherwise, I’ll become an ineffective politician that speaks in short statements and makes promises they can’t keep. However, speaking in short statements is a good thing when you are shaking hands at the post office! I’ve mostly learned that we have a wealth of amazingly successful and interesting people in this town who are ready and willing to help out if they are asked by a leader who is a good role model and is willing to roll up their sleeves and do the work.

Baron: (1) The three topics that are most on people’s minds are addresses, the maintenance of our forest (including the fees paid by residents to the city for tree permits), and the quality of our streets. (2) Carmel is full of people who love living here and are looking for leaders who both respect the residents and love the village.

Potter: Change for change’s sake is not a good idea, and that experience matters, especially when governing such a special place as Carmel-by-the-Sea.



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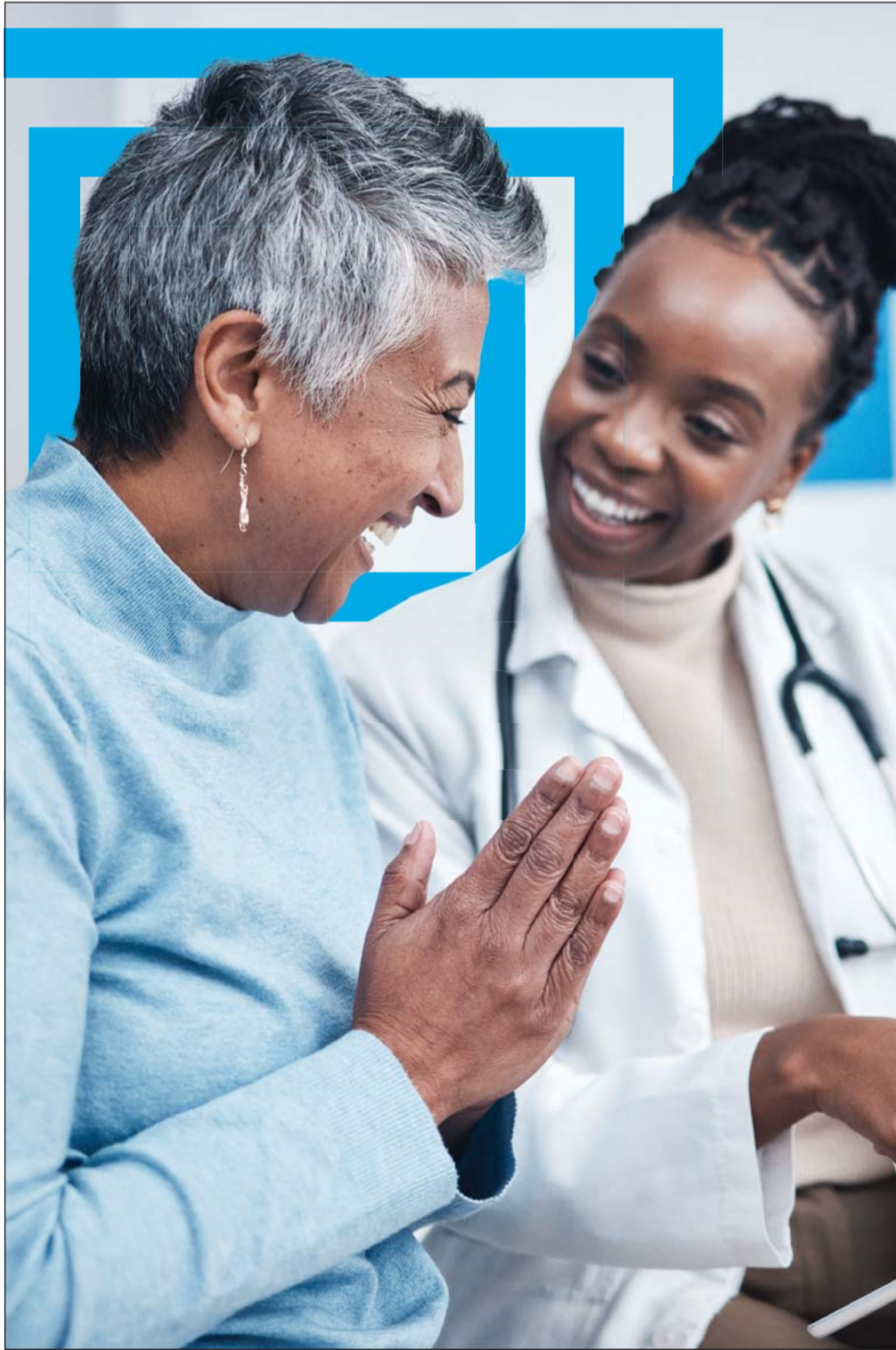
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COUNCIL

From page 14A

applied consistently across all projects.

Danny Hala: Having been born and raised here, I can certainly say that contemporary architecture is a complex question for the village. On one hand, unique architectural gems like the Frank Lloyd Wright house contributed to the surrounding community’s unique architectural heritage. However, many box-style structures built in Carmel-by-the-Sea itself have damaged our character. Carmel is most well known for a fairytale-style character. It is integral that we preserve that and ensure that each new construction or renovation respects our design tradition. We don’t want to lose our character like so many other small coastal towns in Southern California.

Hans Buder: Personally, I prefer traditional architectural styles. I was born and raised on Martha’s Vineyard in a town incorporated in 1671, so I have a deep appreciation for history, and the more traditional look and feel of the architecture here is one of the things that initially attracted me to Carmel. That being said, one of the things I’ve learned during this campaign is that there’s a large number of residents who have different tastes than I do. I’m still working on getting a better handle on the relative weight of those views.

In response to your second question, my instinct is that it would be preferable to adopt a policy on individual design choices (e.g., metal roofs, number of windows, etc.). Leaving those decisions in the hands of five individuals on any given project feels like it sets us up for arbitrary decision-making. The planning department and the planning commission should

have some room for subjectivity, but major design questions like those you identified should have a clear policy.

Parker Logan: Modern/contemporary architecture has a place — but it’s not in Carmel. Individual design choices should be carefully examined on a case-by-case basis — we have guidelines, not scripture written in stone.

■ **Tax on second homes?**

Pine Cone: What is your position on a vacancy tax on second homes, and why?

Delves: My position on any taxes is that they should not be increased until it is absolutely clear that the city needs more revenue. I have yet to participate in the annual budgeting process as a city councilor, and until I do, I can’t recommend any new tax. That said, I believe that financial discipline and planning are among my strengths,

and it appears that the cost of deferred maintenance of the city’s infrastructure is staggering and likely well beyond the current inflow of revenue from existing sources. So, if we truly need more revenue, a vacancy tax is an option. The intent of those supporting such a tax is that it will reverse the trend of increasing homeownership by non-residents. That would be a good thing, but I am skeptical. Another option would be a real estate transfer tax incurred by the buyer and collected when properties change hands. Neither is possible unless we become a charter city. The alternative immediately available to us is a bond measure devoted to fixing the city’s decaying infrastructure, and that could be supported by property taxes. The assessed value of real estate in Carmel is extremely high, so a small property tax increase

Continues next page

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From previous page

could generate significant funds, and if dedicated to a specific purpose, would not grow the size of the government. All of these options are subject to voter approval, and I offer them only as options, not recommendations.

O’Neil: A vacancy tax unfairly targets a specific type of owner based solely on occupancy. Absentee owners pay comparable property taxes but use local services less frequently. I believe our focus should be on reducing unnecessary expenditures, such as those on nonessential consultants, to improve our financial standing, rather than imposing additional taxes. Effective financial management should not come at the expense of property owners. Our 1-square-mile village should live within its staggering \$30 million-plus yearly budget.

Hala: The primary contributor to the rise in our property values is a result of second-home buyers investing in our market. Why would we want to disrupt that growth? Many second-home owners spend generously at local businesses. Additionally, many of our current residents started out as second-home owners. When they were able to retire, they made their Carmel residence their primary. Should they be punished for not being able to live here full time?

Buder: As someone with kids who plans to live here for the next 40 to 50 years, the long-term decline in the year-round population is a major concern. In the 1980 census, we had 4,700 residents, and as of 2020, we were down to 3,200. Per city staff, we’re down to only having 37 percent of homes occupied year-round. I want to live in a vibrant community with neighbors and other children for my kids to play with, and we should all be concerned about that trendline. In my view, the first step is for us to start giving the issue greater prominence. If elected, I would work with the mayor to form a committee composed of councilmembers and citizens to begin to grapple with the problem and

to explore strategies and best practices that have worked in other resort communities (e.g., ski towns). I’m not sure a vacancy tax would work. Most vacancy taxes are on the order of \$5,000 per year per parcel, and I doubt that would impact the calculus of someone who’s contemplating the purchase of a \$4 million second home.

Logan: I think the question is: Do I support punishing wealthy property owners and diminishing their rights? I don’t support any measure that takes away personal freedoms/rights of land/real property owners.

Pine Cone: Regarding the planned 2025 ballot measure regarding house numbers, would you prefer an advisory vote or an initiative, and why?

Delves: I prefer an initiative, because the outcome should be clear and binding, and not subject to interpretation by city council or staff. The wording of a ballot measure must be extremely clear as to what exactly a yes or no vote really means. Said differently, if I vote yes, I will get a specific number on my home and if not, I will not. There are still many unanswered questions that must be asked and answered before a vote.

O’Neil: The issue of house numbers has been debated in our community for over a century. My husband and I represent a microcosm of this larger debate, with each of us holding well-informed but differing views. Both options — an advisory vote or an initiative — have their merits and drawbacks. Given the historic and ongoing nature of this issue, it should not be decided solely by the five council members. Educating each other at town hall meetings and then engaging in a form of direct democracy would provide a more comprehensive understanding of public sentiment and help everyone accept the final decision.

Hala: This question needs to be decided by the residents, not the city government.

Buder: The city attorney’s analysis at the Sept. 10 council meeting indicated that an initiative or referendum would present

See NUMBERS page 23A

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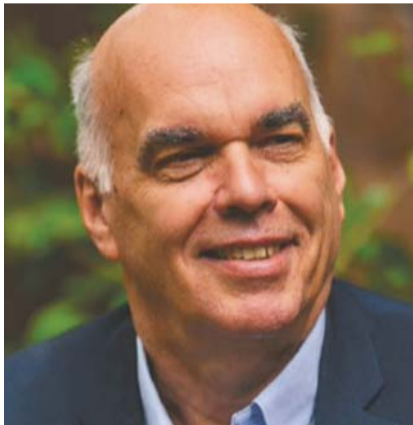
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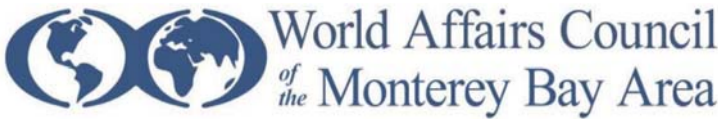
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October 2024

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11:30 AM: Registration, 11:45 AM: Lunch, 12:30 PM: Speaker Presentation & Questions
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NUMBERS

From page 21A

legal issues because an initiative or referendum cannot regulate matters preempted by state law. Given that an initiative could presumably be struck down on those grounds, it might make more sense to go with an advisory vote. That being said, I'd like to dig into the issue more deeply and seek out additional legal advice.

Logan: The first Carmel post office opened 135 years ago, and never once did the village incorporate house numbers. So far, I have not found any data to support numbering houses other than a few individuals with inconvenience issues and one man who collapsed under the pressure of remembering his directional address location which was still located in

a better-than-average response time. This is a “Keep Carmel Carmel” issue vs. “Let’s make Carmel a regular city” issue.

■ **Rental registry, lessons learned**

Pine Cone: What are your thoughts on a rental registry similar to those implemented in Monterey and Salinas?

Delves: I see no need for such a program in Carmel.

O’Neil: Implementing a rental registry can be demanding for cities, requiring an administrative setup to manage property registrations and ensure compliance. This often means cities need more staffing and increased budgets, which leads to higher taxes. The higher expenses to the landlords often feed back into higher rents or forcing landlords to skimp on non-essential upkeep of properties.

Hala: A rental registry is often an early step in the direction of rent control. This will subsequently drive down property values and take away the rights of property owners.

Buder: A rental registry would be a bad idea. I have concerns that it’s a precursor to rent control, which I don’t support because it has been shown to reduce supply (as owners stop renting homes). I also think a rental registry would add an unnecessary expense to the city’s budget — it’s supposedly going to cost Monterey \$400,000 a year to manage their rental registry— and I have concerns about privacy.

Logan: The rental registry falls under the umbrella of “I don’t support any measure that takes away personal freedoms/rights of land/real property owners.” Furthermore, a registry takes manpower to facilitate — the last thing Carmel needs is (city administrator) Chip Rerig going on a

hiring spree.

Pine Cone: What are the most important lessons you have learned during your campaign?

Delves: The great joy of this six-month interview has been connecting on a very personal level with so many of my neighbors. Our residents are happy and cheerful and clearly love living here, as do I. Our government has some challenges ahead, and I have tried to be direct and honest about that when I meet with people, and that has been well received. Whatever the outcome, it’s been a lot of fun.

O’Neil: Campaigning has been an uplifting journey, offering the chance to connect with the insightful and knowledgeable residents of our community. While some have worried that their opinions might not be valued, I assured them that

See **REGISTRY** page 25A





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PATHS

From page 1A

County.

“The department is looking to remediate barriers to wildlife movement across the state highway system based on sound science and data,” Clark said. “This list is only the first step and will be updated as this important work continues into the future.”

Corridors in Carmel Valley

While the report only identifies wildlife crossing sites along state highways, the topic of creating at least one corridor in Carmel Valley came up two years ago when Molly Attell of the Carmel Valley Association gave a presentation on the topic before the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District board of directors. Park district officials responded by saying they wanted to explore the idea of establishing one or more local crossings.

“Wildlife habitat connectivity is crucial for sustaining wildlife populations,” Attell said. “Roads, development and agriculture in the county all contribute to losses in wildlife connectivity. Wildlife over- and under-crossings on roads promote wildlife genetic diversity by reducing habitat fragmentation and allow wildlife to find food and establish new home territories. These crossings also reduce the number of wildlife killed on our roads, as well

as accidents and injuries to humans that result from collisions between animals and vehicles.”

Also pushing for wildlife corridors is Carmel Valley resident Paola Berthoin.

“I would love to see them in Carmel Valley because deer get routinely killed at several locations,” she suggested.

Berthoin identified two sites in particular that “are risky for deer” — one near Tierra Grande and the other where Carmel Valley Road narrows from four to two lanes.

State fish and wildlife director Charlton Bonham calls habitat connectivity “one of the most critical issues” facing California in the 21st century. “We have to find ways for fish and wildlife to move safely across the landscape to prevent inbreeding and increase genetic diversity, to escape poor habitat burned by wildfire or parched by a warming climate, and to prevent vehicle collisions on busy roadways,” Bonham said.

The task of making highways safer for migrating wildlife falls on Caltrans.

“It is our responsibility to improve passageways for wildlife that live and migrate along our shared ecosystem,” Caltrans director Tony Tavares said.

'03 crash raises topic

The subject of wildlife corridors drew attention in 2003 when a local motorcyclist, Adam Rogers, collided with a



RENDERING/LIVING HABITATS

A wildlife crossing under construction in Agoura Hills is expected to cost taxpayers \$92 million — and will be the largest on earth.

wild pig on Highway 1 near Point Lobos State Reserve and was paralyzed. Rogers sued the State of California, and was awarded nearly \$8 million by a jury after it was determined that state parks hadn’t done enough to prevent wild pigs from crossing the highway. A wild pig crossing warning sign was later installed nearby.

The state’s efforts to establish wildlife crossings received a big boost in 2022 when the California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 2344. The bill, which was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom, requires Caltrans “to identify barriers to wildlife movement and prioritize crossings when designing new roads or making road improvements.”

A \$92 million wildlife crossing that Newsom touts as the “world’s largest” is being built where Highway 101 meets Liberty Canyon Road in Agoura Hills. The corridor will be 165 feet wide and 200 feet long, making it possible for mountain lions and other wildlife to pass safely over a busy 10-lane freeway. It’s expected to be completed in 2026.

PARK

From page 8A

for all Carmel area state parks was completed. The Point Lobos Foundation donated \$250,000 toward the effort. That plan was finally finished in 2021.

The Big Sur Land Trust acquired Point Lobos Ranch in 1993 before later selling it to state parks. At the time, there was a proposal to build a conference center and condominiums on the property.

For now, people can visit the park only by reservation. The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District offers tours, and the next one is set for Nov. 16. For more details, visit mprpd.org/let-s-go-outdoors.

BAG

From page 10A

the interests of U.S.-based manufacturers and recyclers of plastic bags.

Senate Bill 1053 took pains to write out exactly what can be sold as a reusable grocery bag at the store. Reusable bags cannot be made from plastic film but must be made from natural or synthetic fabric, and the bags must be sewn and capable of carrying 22 pounds over a distance of 175 feet at least 125 times. The new law will go into effect in January 2026, and when it does, you’ll only be offered paper bags at stores if you forget to bring your own.

SUSAN FRANCES GALLARO

November 9, 1937- April 5, 2024

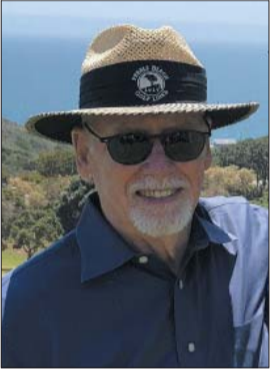
Susan Gallaro, a resident of Pacific Grove for 63 years, passed away at the age of 86.

Born and raised in Stockton, California, to Joseph and Dorothy Chisamore, she married Sebastian (Bud) Gallaro on Oct. 2,1960, and they moved to Pacific Grove.

She is survived by her two daughters, Lynda (Jack) and Cheryl (Mark); grand-daughters, Lauren and Michelle; grand-son, Makana; and great-granddaughter, Emma

She was predeceased by her husband, Sebastian (Bud) Gallaro.

ROBERT DENCH



Our wonderful father, Robert Dench, passed away September 22, 2024. Our hearts are heavy with the loss, but blessed with the life he lived to the fullest with a pragmatist heart knowing there is an end to all life. Dad was born in Berkeley and lived most of his life in Monte Sereno, where he and Mickey raised their three daughters in a loving, fun and supportive lifestyle. They modeled making each other and their family a priority. He later moved to Pebble Beach.

After getting his BA from San Jose State, Dad became a Naval pilot, loving his time as an A-4 Skyhawk, F-2H Banshee and A-7 Corsair jet pilot with squadron VA879 where he made lifelong friends. He continued in the reserves until 1970. Dad worked at FMC while getting his MBA at Santa Clara University in 1965. He then went to Nieco where he continued his work as an engineer in food manufacturing. Along the way, Dad discovered his love and talent for entrepreneurial work which led him to Western Precooling Systems. This led to being on many boards as a venture capitalist. Dad’s passions include being a guest lecturer at SCU where he also was very involved with mentoring future venture capitalists. He was an avid duck hunter, fisherman, skier, world traveler, pilot, marathon runner, and made lifetime friends in whatever endeavor he took on.

Dad is survived by Laura (m. to Ken Painter), Debby (m. to Steve Grizzle) and Cindy. Along the way, their lives expanded with six grandsons.... Benjamin (m. Irene) and Robert (m. Lisa) Painter, Michael (m. Corinne) and Jonathan (m. Kaitlin) Grizzle, and Colton and Carson Vandermade. He was blessed with 7 great grandchildren and counting. Each grandson was blessed with a loving relationship with their grandmother and Grandfather who worked hard at not missing important milestones in this generation’s lives.

As we grieve our loss, we celebrate the dad, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend who touched so many lives. We will have a private family burial and a celebration of life next year.

In lieu of flowers, if you are inclined, please donate to the charity of your choice. To send online condolences please visit www.austinhf.com. Austin Funeral & Cremation Services in Whitefish, Montana is caring for the family.

GERALD (JERRY) GRAEBE

Gerald (Jerry) Graebe was born in San Jose, California to William A. Graebe and Lucyle M.(King) Graebe on May 20, 1930. He lived in Capitola, California and graduated from Santa Cruz High School. For a short time he worked for his father in construction as a laborer. He attended San Mateo Jr. College and then on to UC Berkeley with a goal of receiving his degree in civil engineering. His college was interrupted by the Korean War for two years, after which he returned to Berkeley and completed his civil engineering degree.

His professional career started with a job with the State Bridge Department, during which time he acquired his license as a civil engineer. He then moved on to the Monterey County Road Department as the bridge engineer. While there, he designed and inspected many bridges for the county. Among those projects were the Robinson Canyon Bridge in Carmel Valley and the Blanco Road bridge over the Salinas River.

In 1970 he opened an office in Salinas, Gerald A. Graebe and Associates, and became a licensed structural engineer. Jerry always believed the only way to do things was “the right way” and this earned him the respect of officials and inspectors with whom he worked. Jerry had opportunities to go to work for large firms but always said “the average person needs engineering, too” and he wanted to raise his family in a smaller town. He retired at the age of 77 after 38 years in private practice.

During his business career he was an active member of the Salinas Steinbeck Rotary Club. After his retirement he became active in the Pacific Grove Rotary Club. He was an avid tennis player, playing at Meadowbrook and CVAC. He loved music. He sang 25 years with the local Barbershop chorus, many years with the First Presbyterian Church choir in Monterey and many years with I Cantori di Carmel, including five European concert tours.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Janet; a son, Kirk; and grandson, Will, of Fremont and a daughter, Cynthia, of San Jose. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Katherine, who died in 1964.

Memorial services will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, at First Presbyterian Church, 501 El Dorado St., Monterey. Any donations may be made to the organization of your choice or to the Hunter Youth Fund at First Presbyterian Church, Monterey.



REGISTRY

From page 23A

every perspective matters deeply to me. By consistently applying policies and maintaining open lines of communication, we can strengthen trust within our community. Through genuine, respectful conversations, we can learn from one another and make well-informed decisions collaboratively. My father always encouraged me to be receptive to new ideas while maintaining a grounded approach, “Have an open mind, but not so open that the wind blows through.”

Hala: Open dialogue with residents is the most critical element to being a successful community leader.

Buder: 1) Carmel voters are incredibly engaged and sophisticated. Where else in the country does a candidate forum for city council candidates draw 10 percent of the electorate? The level of engagement, the sophistication of the voters I meet, and the sustained high turnout at campaign events continues to impress me.

2) The views of those who regularly attend city council meetings are not necessarily representative of the entire community. There’s some selection bias in who shows up at city hall for council meetings, and I’ve learned that the views of those who make public comments in the council meetings do not fully reflect the views of the broader community on a number of issues.

3) Residents care deeply about Carmel. Regardless of whether we agree on any given issue, if you get right down to it, what animates all of the passion is the love that people have for Carmel.

Logan: I’ve learned that there’s only one man on the ballot who wants to “Keep Carmel Carmel.”

For answers from mayoral candidates to the same questions, please see page 1A.

“The Pine Cone. Not the only great paper.
Not the only free paper. But the only great free paper.”
— unsolicited reader comment

Mary (Kay) Kathryn Crist Campbell Higgins Crockett

1930 - 2024



The Monterey Peninsula has lost a legend and a dear friend. Mary (Kay) Kathryn Crist Campbell Higgins Crockett had more chapters in her extraordinary life than she had names. Described as “an institution,” “a mentor and confidant,” and “a strong woman with a wonderful sense of humor,” she exemplified resilience and community spirit.

Born in Pueblo, Colorado in 1930, Mary Kay was a woman of many firsts. She was the first woman to graduate from the University of Arizona Business School with a degree in Finance and the first female hired to manage a major Arizona bank and a Pueblo oil company. In the mid-1970s, she made history as the first female stockbroker hired by Merrill Lynch. When asked in her interview about her sales experience, she proudly replied, “Yes, I sold more Girl Scout cookies than anyone else in Pueblo, Colorado!”

Not only did she shatter glass ceilings for women in business, but she also lifted countless others along the way. Arriving in Carmel in 1982, she and a handful of fellow pioneers became founding members of the Elite Women’s Group, which continues to thrive today with over 30 accomplished members. She was also a long-time member of the International Women’s Forum.

Mary Kay was a founding member of the Women’s Leadership Council’s Advisory Committee and played a key role in establishing the Pebble Beach Foundation, advocating for merit scholarships for the children of Pebble Beach employees. She proudly served on the board of The York School Legacy Society for 25 years and was a significant advocate and donor. Her board memberships included the Carmel Bach Festival, Carmel Valley Manor (which later became her home), Carmel Public Library Foundation, and the Monterey Museum of Art. Mary Kay was a longtime member of the Washington D.C. Sulgrave Club, Casa Abrego Club and The Pebble Beach & Tennis Club. She was very recently honored with the Diamond Circle Award for her 75 years as a Tri Delta Sorority member. On top of all that, she was a member of the CSUMB President’s Council and became the inaugural recipient of the CSUMB Woman of Distinction Award in 2017.

Mary Kay influenced countless individuals and had a remarkable talent for connecting people for the greater good. She respected her colleagues and deeply valued her friendships, however, her favorite role was that of grandmother (affectionately known as Momo) to her grandchildren, Kate and Nathan Campbell.



Mary Kay met her first husband, Herbert Leslie Campbell, in Pueblo, Colorado where they shared the same flying instructor. Along with their two children they moved to Africa in the late 1950’s and early 1960’s. There they spent seven adventurous years in Liberia and Somalia for Herb’s job with USAID. After Herb’s passing, she relocated to Virginia and furthered her finance career in Washington, D.C., New York, and eventually California. Her Merrill Lynch tenure spanned from 1972 to 2003. Following her retirement, she became an industry arbitrator for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority for ten more years.

She outlived her next two husbands, USN Captain Donald C. Higgins and Wardner B. Crockett, both of whom she cherished. Mary Kay often remarked on her great fortune to have shared her life with three very special men. She is survived by her son, Scott Paul Campbell of Carmel, along with his wife, Renee, and their children, Kathryn and Nathan. She is also survived by her daughter, Leslie Kathryn Campbell of Pacific Palisades, and her beloved extended step-families.

A ceremony of her life will take place on January 11, 2025 at her beloved Church in the Forest, at 1pm, followed by a celebration! In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her honor to any of the aforementioned organizations which are special to you.



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By Susana DeFatima Silva, MA, Co-Founder/Proprietor/Managing Partner Test of Tyme, LLC and Wendy Brickman, MA/MBA, Brickman Marketing

When you enter a room in your home to relax and unwind, the design of your ceiling can greatly enhance the overall atmosphere, creating a distinctive and inviting ambiance. A well-designed ceiling can transform any space, turning an overlooked feature into a stunning focal point that elevates the entire room. Whether you’re refreshing a living room, bedroom, office, den or kitchen, the right ceiling design can make all the difference in setting the tone and enhancing the ambiance.

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Tray Ceilings: With a recessed center panel of-

ten accented by lighting or contrasting paint, tray ceilings bring depth and sophistication to spaces like bedrooms, dining rooms, or even home offices.

Coffered Ceilings: Featuring sunken square or rectangular panels, coffered ceilings add texture, depth, and architectural interest. This classic style works well in formal living spaces or libraries, where an added sense of grandeur can elevate the room’s decor.

Tin Ceilings: Lightweight metallic tiles add vintage charm, providing shimmer and texture to kitchens or dining areas. This style is perfect for those who want a touch of Old-World

Domed Ceilings: For a dramatic, awe-inspiring effect, domed ceilings evoke architectural grandeur and often include skylights or stained glass, allowing natural light to enhance the space.

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Editorial

‘Electoral College needs to go’

THAT’S WHAT Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz said at a fundraiser with Gov. Gavin Newsom on Tuesday. So certain was he of the wisdom of the comment, his actual words were, “I think all of us know the Electoral College needs to go.”

Ironically, almost as soon as those words were out of his mouth, his running mate, Vice President Kamala Harris, disavowed them, according to CBS News, and even said Walz didn’t believe his own statement.

“A spokesperson for the Harris-Walz campaign said Walz ‘believes that every vote matters in the Electoral College and he is honored to be traveling the country and battleground states working to earn support for the Harris-Walz ticket,’” CBS reported. “Getting rid of the Electoral College is not a position the campaign holds.”

Fair enough. We all understand how comments made on the spur of the moment may be regretted, and corrected, upon further reflection.

But the thing is, “get rid of the Electoral College” is an idea that keeps coming up in Democratic circles. In 2016, when Donald Trump shocked the nation by beating Hillary Clinton 304 to 227 in the Electoral College while losing to her in the popular vote by 62.9 million to 65.8 million, many people not only refused to recognize the legitimacy of his win, they called for abolition of the Electoral College and for the president to be elected by popular vote to make sure no such thing could happen again.

It’s a tidy solution that sounds very appealing — democracy, and all that — unless you know something about history and the distribution of political power in the United States.

In the 1780s, as the representatives of the original 13 colonies debated the structure of the federal government, those representatives came from very different states.

The population was scattered, cities were small, and most delegates lived in small towns or on farms. Also, the population of the states varied a great deal — from Virginia, which was the most populous, with 450,000 residents, down to Georgia, which was practically empty, with just 23,000.

The nascent nation knew it needed a centralized government for essential functions such a national defense, creation of a central bank, and control of borders. But should control of that government be in the hands only of the more populous states? Or should the small states be guaranteed a say, as well?

The answer, known as the Connecticut Compromise, was two-fold: Creation of a bicameral legislative branch, with a House of Representatives, where larger states would be in control, alongside a Senate, where the smaller states would have an outsized voice, and giving the smaller states a bigger voice in the selection of the president, with each state having a number of votes equal to its representation in the Senate plus the House.

From the very first election for president of the United States, then, a person living in Georgia or Delaware had a much greater say in who the winner would be than someone living in Virginia or Pennsylvania.

And so it is today — only the biggest state isn’t Virginia any more, it’s mighty California, which has no fewer than 39.5 million residents. Meanwhile, Wyoming is at the bottom of the population list, with just 580,000 people.

Thanks to the Electoral College, however, a Montana resident’s vote carries much greater weight than one from somebody in San Jose or Sacramento. In fact, it’s worth about 3.6 times as much. And since Trump was much more popular in the smaller states than Clinton, he became our 45th president.

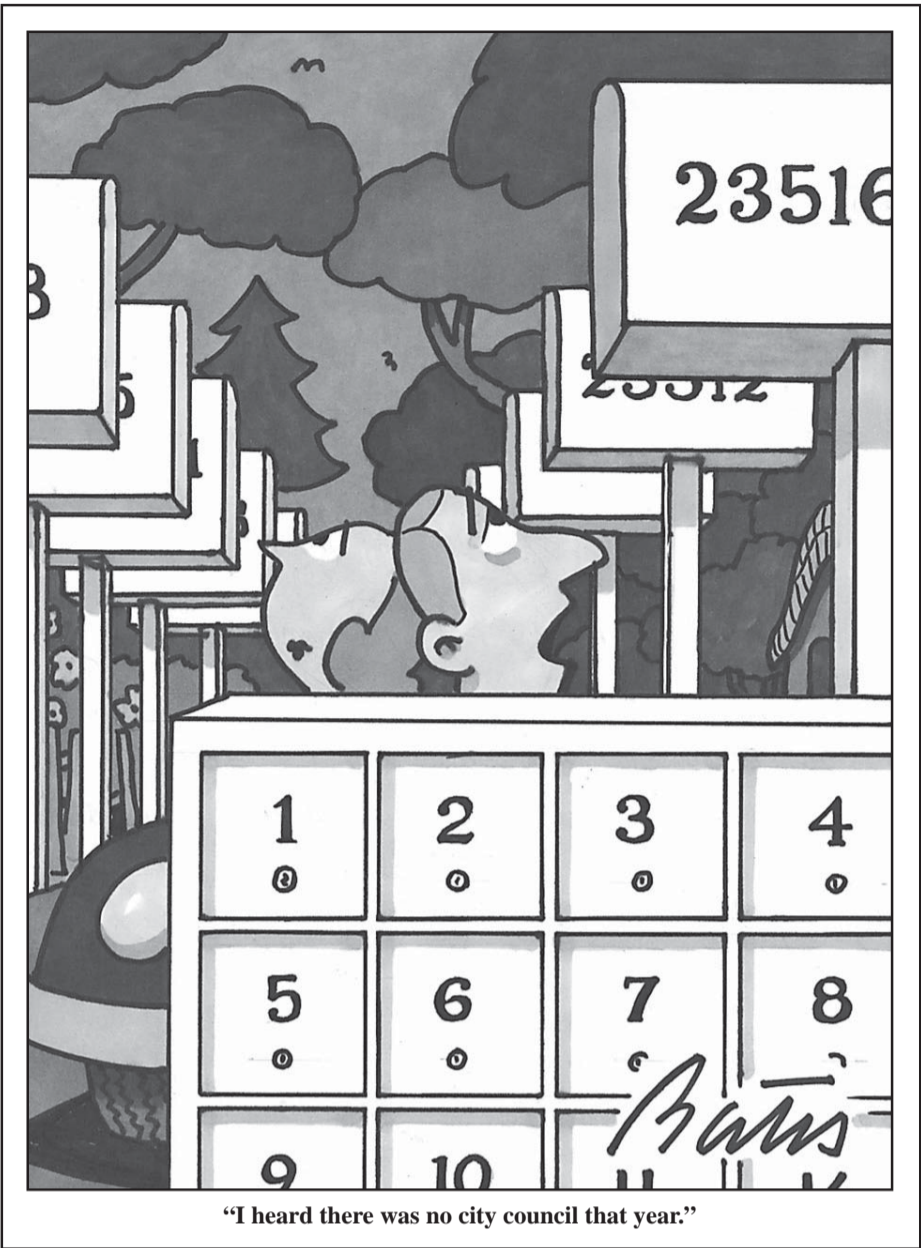
“But wait,” Clinton supporters in California and other big states like New York and Illinois cried. “That’s not fair!”

What they forget is that not only was the Electoral College a critical element in the compromise that became the United States Constitution, without which the country might not have been created at all, it was considered so important than the Founding Fathers made it part of the Constitution itself, which means only a constitutional amendment approved by three-fourths of the states can change it. And that, dear readers, is not going to happen.

So nevermind getting rid of the Electoral College, which functioned in the 2016 election exactly the way it was supposed to.

We doubt that Kamala Harris agrees. But she has an election to win now, which means carrying the Electoral College.

BEST of BATES



Letters to the Editor

The Pine Cone encourages submission of letters which address issues of public importance. Letters cannot exceed 350 words, and must include the author’s name and home town. We reserve the right to determine which letters are suitable for publication and to edit for length and clarity.

The Pine Cone only accepts letters to the editor by email. Please submit your letters to mail@carmelpinecone.com

Baron, Delves, Buder

Dear Editor,

If you’re among those who believe that a government should be run like a business, ask yourself this question: If the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea was your company, would you hire anyone without direct experience or specific training to manage it? There are some openings on our city council, so let’s look at the resumes.

Only two candidates have served in public office. Bob Delves is a great hire in this regard. He served on the council of another town for years and was even its mayor. With that kind of background, some might have run straight for council here. Instead, Delves joined the planning commission and has served for four years. That humility is notable, so is the respect it shows for our community, a demonstration of his desire to get to know our unique village before pursuing a more senior leadership role. Delves is an incisive

commissioner who does his homework thoroughly. He’s developed the depth of understanding it takes to be an effective council member here.

Hans Buder is the other standout. He’s seriously invested in Carmel’s future. If he wasn’t, he wouldn’t be raising his children here. He’s gained irreplaceable experience serving as a forest and beach commissioner. What’s more, he has a master’s degree from the Harvard Kennedy School in public administration. Governing a California municipality is more complicated than ever and requires intelligence and sophistication. His expertise will help protect the cherished qualities of our home.

Jeff Baron is my choice for mayor. No one works harder to seek out and listen to Carmel’s residents. He’s worked to protect Carmel’s fragile charm and character as a council member for six years and on the forest and beach commission before that. His track record shows he’s willing to tackle the difficult and contentious problems that require making tough choices for the good of our village. If you want qualified and experienced leadership for Carmel-by-the-Sea, please vote for Baron, Buder, and Delves in this election.

Ian Martin, Carmel

McCloud endorses Potter

Dear Editor,

When I was elected Carmel Mayor in 2000, one of my first tasks was to ensure the California Coastal Commission adopted the city’s Local Coastal Program. So a

See **THOUGHTS** page 29A

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She’s the momma of the Pops

PAULETTE LYNCH’S father drove his children to do things right, and her mother drove them to have a soft heart and a warm embrace for everyone.

“I’m not as precise as my dad would have had me be and will probably never be as warm as my mom,” she said. “But the combination of whatever I have of them



PHOTO/CARLIN JARDINE

Paulette Lynch, executive director of the Monterey County Pops orchestra, with her husband, Ken Peterson.

both has made it possible to do what I’ve done before, after and during my 15 years as executive director of the Arts Council for Monterey County.”

Visiting Istanbul

The eldest of six children, Lynch spent her first 10 years of life in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Michigan, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. In 1980, during her junior year at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, she did a year abroad in Ireland with a group called The Experiment in International Living, a student exchange program. In 1981, she graduated with a teaching degree. The job market for new teachers, however, was in serious decline.

Her dad saw an article announcing a scholarship at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. She was accepted, fell in love with the Monterey Peninsula and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for a year-and-a-half in Istanbul, Turkey.

Her husband, Ken Peterson, then a reporter with the Monterey Herald, said

It became a guiding principal in her future work amid the complexities of community development.

First Night

After their return from Istanbul, she worked as director of development for public radio station KAZU, involved with fundraising and special events. She held the same position with the Family Resource Center in Seaside, working with child abuse treatment and prevention.

A major part of her work was writing grants. “I love grant writing, because I think strategically and love research, which is appreciated by funding organizations,” she said. “They want to know the program they’re funding is going to make a difference and how that difference would be measured. I was good at that,” she added.

During her time at the Family Resource Center, Lynch became interested in the First Night phenomenon which originated in Boston in 1976. Organizers brought the arts together in a central location to give a positive, hopeful and uplifting beginning to the new year.

“My thought was to utilize that model as a way for people to realize the power of the arts to accomplish things that are difficult or impossible to do otherwise,” she explained. She knew intuitively that the arts give people a more positive understanding of themselves, can help with skill development, healing, learning, communicating about difficult topics — and can change lives.

Transformative

As its founding director, Lynch (and her husband) set about gathering people, ideas, funding and community resources to bring about First Night Monterey in 1993, and it has continued since. The execution and result of that effort and the belief the arts are powerfully transformative were near-perfect preparation for Lynch’s tenure as executive director of the Arts Council for Monterey County from 2004 to 2019, leading the nonprofit in its efforts to ensure everyone has access to the arts and what they offer to our lives.

She said it was all made possible by a growing number of organizations like the Community Foundation for Monterey County, the Harden Foundation and a grant program funded by the county’s transient occupancy tax — money given to the Arts Council to stimulate arts programs countywide. “We wanted to make sure we understood, as a group, where the greater needs were so we could allocate funds accordingly,” she added.

See **LIVES** page 30A

How YOU SEE THE WORLD DEPENDS ON THE LENSES YOU LOOK THROUGH

BARELY INTO his teens, Micheal Scholis began to suspect that the world — his world — was far more complicated than the protective bubble he saw himself occupying as a student at All Saints Day School in Carmel Valley.

His perceptions about an absence of diversity on the Monterey Peninsula per-

the Pebble Beach Company.

“Privilege is wonderful at times, but it also shields you from a lot of real things,” he said.

For Scholis, the lens of a camera became a coping mechanism as he navigated his childhood and teenage angst, struggling to decode an environment that frequently confused him.

“As a 15-year-old, I started using photography to understand the world around me and answer questions that were haunting me: ‘Am I normal? Am I smart? Am I OK?’,” he reflected on his website, which features a small sample of the 500,000 images he has snapped since he was a 10-year-old.

A photographic record

“I ended up with a record of that journey as I grew out of boyhood and explored the outer limits of the bubble I had grown up in,” Scholis wrote.

As he prepared to move on from York, Scholis applied to one college, Howard University in Washington D.C., the historically Black institution whose alumni include U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, civil rights activists Vernon Jordan and Elijah Cummings, Nobel- and Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Toni Morrison and presidential candidate V.P. Kamala Harris.

“Honestly, I chose Howard because I was looking for Black people,” he said. “It was about reconnecting with my roots at such a foundational place where they really hammer down on the history and emphasize that ‘you stand on the backs of giants.’

“You walk through Frederick Douglass Memorial Hall or the Chadwick Boseman Fine Arts Building and realize that so many architects of the civil rights movement came out of that school. That’s a weight I’m still working on lifting.”

For Scholis, his social experiences at Howard — becoming better acquainted with his own ethnicity — were at least as valuable as lessons he learned in a classroom, he said.

“To be surrounded by Black people and feel comfortable in that environment was huge for me,” he said.

Five continents

Scholis came up with his own major — a combination of photojournalism, environmental economics, and philosophy, then spent the final two years of his education working on a 130-page undergraduate thesis — a project that took him to five of the seven continents.

He fell in love with the people of Nepal as he trekked through the Himalayas, and he met his Ecuadorian grandfather. He got kisses from native Moroccans who mistook him for one of their own, and he celebrated Martin Luther

See **ARTIST** page 38A

Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

sisted at his next stop, York School, where he became part of the graduating class of 2020.

As a 23-year-old college graduate, Scholis lives an energetic and upbeat life — his options abound — but he also feels saddened by the massive problems and uncertain future he believes his generation has inherited as they explore adulthood.

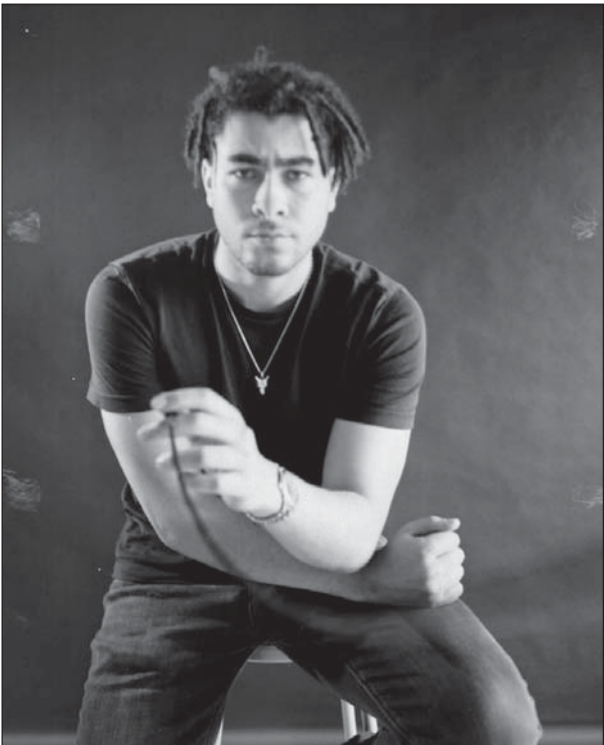
“It horrifies me to no end, but I feel a responsibility to try to understand it and to try to create art that asks us to see more clearly the values — those systems of thinking — that have led us here,” he said.

Scholis, a Monterey resident, declares almost apologetically that he’s “led a charmed life,” reaping the benefits of an education at top-notch private schools and growing up on the Peninsula, where, as a mixed-race child, he never quite felt at home.

As the only child of an African-American mom and an Ecuadorian/Basque dad, he didn’t resemble most of his classmates at All Saints or York.

‘Bubbles of privilege’

“I was never the only Black kid at a school — there was one other at All Saints, and two or three at York — but I recognized that places like Monterey and Carmel were large bubbles of privilege,” said Scholis, whose mom, Mechele Neeley-Scholis, owns Pepper Drive Living, a home and garden store in Carmel. His dad, Tony Scholis, is a longtime employee of



PHOTO/MICHEAL SCHOLIS

Gazing through his camera lens made a young Micheal Scholis suspect his world was more complex than he knew.

Great Lives

By CARLIN JARDINE

— even before they married in 1986 — he would go with her. “That’s all I needed to hear, and we were off to the races,” she exclaimed.

What she brought home from that experience was the way Turkish people are able to welcome others where they are in life and draw them into whatever it is they are doing. Said Lynch, “It became clear to me how much more enriching it is to live a life where you embrace people who are different than you and just be there with them.”

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FAKE

From page 3A

protected expression,” said Terr.

U.S. District Judge John Mendez agreed in his ruling to block implementation of the law, saying that while deepfakes pose the

risk of spreading disinformation, the law likely violates the First Amendment.

“Most of AB 2839 acts as a hammer instead of a scalpel, serving as a blunt tool that hinders humorous expression and unconstitutionally stifles the free and unfettered exchange of ideas which is so vital to American democratic debate,” Mendez wrote.



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The suit was brought by Christopher Kohl, a political activist and satirist more commonly known by his social media handle, “Mr. Regan”. The YouTuber uses AI to generate Vice President Kamala Harris’ voice and produce videos he calls parody but others may call deepfakes.

Over the summer, one of Kohl’s videos depicting a Kamala Harris campaign ad was shared by social media mogul Elon Musk on his platform, X. The video used Harris’ cloned voice to mock her. In response, the governor condemned the video and signaled his support of Pellerin’s bill.

“Manipulating a voice in an ‘ad’ like this one should be illegal. I’ll be signing a bill in a matter of weeks to make sure it is,” Newsom tweeted.

Quickly filed suit

After Newsom signed the bill, Kohl quickly filed suit against the state, arguing the new law would allow any political candidate, election official, the Secretary of State or anyone who sees his AI-generated videos to sue him for damages. He maintains his videos are parody and are labeled as such.

Kohl has since created a video parody of a Newsom campaign ad criticizing the governor for trying to ban his political commentary and arguing people are smart enough to discern fact from fiction when they see and hear a joke.

Popular television shows, including “Saturday Night Live,” have long used impersonations to mock political candidates.

AI-generated election content isn’t always a joke. In 2022, Russian hackers created an AI-manipulated video showing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy ordering his forces to surrender. In New Hampshire this year, thousands of people received robocalls with an artificial voice mimicking President Joe Biden. The message used a Biden catchphrase, “What a bunch of malarkey,” and encouraged recipients to skip voting in the state’s primary.

“There is an urgent need to protect against misleading, digitally altered content that can interfere with the election. By targeting deceptive deepfakes and

ensuring transparency in parody content, we are reinforcing the public’s trust in our electoral system,” said Pellerin in a statement after the bill’s passage and prior to the preliminary injunction.

Companion bill

California is one of several states attempting to regulate expression involving artificial intelligence ahead of the 2024 election. Another new law puts the onus on social media companies to remove posts with deceptive election content. The Defending Democracy from Deepfake Deception Act requires the largest online platforms, during that same 180-day window around an election, to block the posting of content they know to be materially deceptive.

This includes election deepfakes and content that targets candidates, election officials and poll workers. Outside of that timeframe, online platforms would have to label AI election disinformation as fake.

Terr said the law has the same problem as AB 2839 because it too reaches content that is federally protected under the First Amendment, putting an impossible burden on platforms.

Online giants, like Meta, would have 72 hours to remove the content after receiving a complaint, and Terr said they might err on the side of caution and remove content that includes protected speech. He also warned the new law could snuff out dissent.

“The complaint process is easily weaponized by people across the political spectrum to submit complaints about content that they disagree with politically or that criticizes them and the politicians they support,” said Terr.

The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression isn’t the only organization that warned against the new laws. The First Amendment Coalition also opposed both bills and urged the governor to veto them.

The most recent court decision puts a pause on enforcing AB 2839, but the case is not over.

Not only will Kohl’s lawsuit eventually go to trial, California could appeal the injunction to the Ninth Circuit. However, the November election is just 24 days away.

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THOUGHTS

From page 26A

Carmel group traveled to Sacramento where we were pleased to meet Dave Potter, the one coastal commissioner from the Monterey Peninsula. With the help of his staff and Dave himself, we were able to return home to Carmel with an adopted coastal plan.

I urge Carmel citizens to retain this firsthand knowledge of the California Coastal Commission mission by reelecting Dave Potter as mayor.

Sue McCloud, Carmel

Byrne ‘perfect candidate’

Dear Editor,

I may not live in Carmel, but my frequent visits have given me a deep appreciation for its special charm. When my brother Dale Byrne and his wife Margaret made Carmel their forever home, I knew it would be the perfect fit. Over the past year, it became clear from conversations with Dale and reading The Pine Cone that Carmel could benefit from new leadership. Since he is not a politician, Dale’s decision to run for mayor was monumental, and I want to offer some insight into why he’s the perfect candidate.

If you asked his three siblings, we’d describe Dale as intelligent, driven, passionate and innovative. He’s been like this since childhood, always seeking to improve things. These traits combined with hard work and dedication have led to his business success, and he has been using that energy to serve Carmel.

In November 2019, I stayed with Margaret and Dale for a month and saw firsthand his relentless drive. I thought he was enjoying retirement, but instead, I found myself helping him assist the city set up for the Christmas craft fair before dawn, constantly working on projects for the city and others, including launching Carmel Cares to do traffic calming activities. His passion was inspiring, and I followed him around as he attended city meetings and volunteered at the visitor center. Dale and Margaret had canceled their long vacations and instead enjoyed their hometown and frequented local businesses seven days a week.

Dale’s commitment to the community runs deep. Whether developing VoiceMap audio tours of Carmel, attempting to refurbish the Scout House, or simply

picking up trash as he walks around town, he was always focused on making Carmel a better place. Even during the pandemic, Dale coordinated restaurants to make meals for those in need and seamstresses to make thousands of face masks.

Dale’s dedication to Carmel is clear. Improving the city isn’t just a campaign for him — it’s who he is.

Cheryl Cowan, Alexandria, Va.

Delves and Buder

Dear Editor,

I’ve had the pleasure of closely collaborating with Bob Delves and Hans Buder since early this year. Their village involvement and professional experience equip them to deliver what we need on our city council.

Bob is a strong advocate of our community values and a person of integrity, empathy and inclusivity. His background in the private sector, coupled with his public service, differentiate Bob and uniquely position him to address pressing issues facing our town. In his public leadership roles, Bob has led teams that have transparently produced fiscally responsible results.

Raised in small coastal destination communities, both Hans, on Martha’s Vineyard, and his wife, Meghan, here in Carmel, appreciate and value small-town communities, people and culture. There is no questioning their dedication to preserving and protecting the charm of our village for their deeply rooted growing family and future generations.

Hans does his homework, listens to all sides of the issues, and is consensus driven. With his background in housing for social benefit, he will bring great insights and strategic leadership as we work through our local housing challenges.

With the onslaught of state legislation, both Bob and Hans will continue to fight for thoughtful solutions tailored to Carmel, local control, and preservation of the character of the town. They are very approachable and their willingness to listen and involve residents in decision-making processes underscores their genuine commitment to representing the interests of our community.

Get to know them. I’m sure you will be impressed. They are worthy of your vote and are the leaders we need.

Tim Twomey, Carmel

Supports Byrne

Dear Editor,

I have observed Dale Byrne at work in various contexts

over the last couple of years, including in his many interactions with Carmel-by-the-Sea’s city government. He has a clear vision, unlimited energy, a high level of interest, discipline, experience, ethics, and the personal skills to effectuate a multitude of projects in partnership with city government and the laws that bind it.

Some of the many projects Dale Byrne has actively supported in a working partnership between the city and Carmel Cares include, notably, the Ocean Avenue median restoration, various Forest Theater and Sunset Center projects, Shirley Moon’s Scenic pathway restoration, and the downtown detail and beach PUP teams, to name just a few. Overall, Dale simply gets things done. It is my belief that he would bring these same qualities and experience to the position of mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Finally, both he and his wife Margaret are highly personable and care deeply about this special town. It is for these reasons that, as a third-generation homeowner and now a full-time resident of Carmel-by-the-Sea, I support Dale Byrne’s candidacy for mayor.

Kelly Francis, Carmel

Potter’s experience, openness

Dear Editor,

In my experience, there are two types of people who hold public office: those who believe that they are the boss and those who believe that the public is the boss. The former consider themselves to be “in power” and push their own agendas, while the latter know that they are “in service” and therefore seek to understand and advance the public’s agenda. Dave Potter clearly is in this latter category.

Though empowered with chairing every council meeting, you will never see Dave lording power over others by hogging the mic to showcase his own opinions, disrespecting his colleagues, insulting citizens trying to have their voices heard, or berating volunteers who just want to help out.

On the contrary, Dave’s interest in and respect for all viewpoints are evident in the way he has led Carmel: facilitating open conversations and demonstrating the flexibility to change or set aside his own personal preferences in favor of those the public expresses. No matter what your personal opinions on an issue, whether it’s the police station, the housing element, the home addresses or the surveillance cameras, Dave has taken the same approach: to

See **VIEWS** next page

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VIEWS

From previous page

steer away from the council’s initial reflexes when necessary and always toward the express will of the people.

Dave’s public-mindedness is also evident in the overwhelming support and endorsement of the people in the village and throughout the region who have known him and worked with him the longest. We were fortunate to have his steady hand as the town recovered from a mayoral crisis and navigated a global pandemic, and I am excited to see all the progress we will make with the projects before us now that those challenges are behind us.

Vinz Koller, Carmel

Pride for Potter

Dear Editor,

As a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, I am incredibly grateful for BAYMEC’s endorsement of Mayor Dave Potter. For those of you who may not know, BAYMEC is the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee and has been fighting for the civil rights of lesbian, gay, transgender, bi and queer people for over four decades. Their endorsement is NOT given lightly.

Potter’s record on LGBTQ+ advocacy speaks for itself. Ever since being elected as a Monterey County supervisor in 1996, Dave has fought for inclusivity and equality — ensuring that policies reflect the diversity that is our community. Dave has remained an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community for decades, marching in parades, supporting marriage equality, and promoting protections for LGBTQ+ students and youth. In his time as Mayor and as supervisor, he brought forth proclamations declaring June as Pride Month — even in times when it was not “politically correct” to do so.

In a time where our community is watching their rights being stripped away and their lives being endangered, in real time, throughout the United States, we need experienced people like Mayor Dave Potter fighting day in and day out for inclusion, safety and equity for the LBGTQ+ community.

Gwyn De Amaral, Former President of Monterey County Pride

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Delves for council

Dear Editor,

While I applaud all the candidates for their willingness to serve our town, there is simply no one else running who has the collective set of experiences, knowledge and overall expertise that Bob Delves has to competently deal with the many issues facing our town.

Bob’s credentials speak for themselves, starting with his four years of service on Carmel’s planning commission.

In addition, Bob has been a very successful business executive and entrepreneur, and he served as mayor of a ski town in Colorado prior to moving to Carmel. His track record and experiences in both the private and public sectors make him uniquely qualified to help lead and govern our town. Bob brings a great balance of humility, intellectual curiosity and quiet confidence that comes with having the extensive resume that he has.

My wife and I have always been impressed by Bob’s desire to serve and support Carmel-by-the-sea, and we believe that our town is extremely fortunate to have an

individual of his caliber offering to serve.

Please join me in voting for Bob Delves for Carmel City Council. We need experienced and proven leadership now more than ever!

Don Sturdivant, Carmel

‘Experience and commitment’

Dear Editor,

Vote for Bob Delves,

In a time when it is more important than ever to have council members who can unite and inspire us, it is Bob Delves. He has the experience and leadership skills to commit to representing all the Carmel residents.

Bob’s previous experience as mayor of a Colorado mountain town and serving with my daughter-in-law on the city council give him additional experience in budget and financial management with long range strategies.

See LETTERS page 36A

LIVES

From page 27A

Lynch was particularly interested in getting artists into schools throughout the county. At Greenfield High School, the Monterey County Pops orchestra created a model program — replicated in schools throughout the county — where professional musicians work with individuals and small groups in the afternoon, then perform an evening concert with students playing alongside their adult counterparts.

“It is awesome the way this process builds students’ self-confidence as musicians, as artists and as human beings,” she said. “Not to mention the pride reflected on the faces of the student players and their families and friends in the audience.”

Family values

A hammered dulcimer given to her by her husband is Lynch’s means of artistic expression, and she plays with a guitarist, a bass player, a mandolin player and a violinist in a group called Heartstrings Monterey. She said she never aspired to become a professional musician.

“What is exquisite for me is to do my bit, but within the context of something bigger than I am. When the public responds, there is so much magic there. It is one of the

greatest pleasures of my life,” she said. It seems to follow that a love for the arts is a major force in the life of her son, Gabe, as he works as a professional musician in New York City.

She retired from the arts council in 2019 and has since has become executive director of the Nonprofit Alliance of Monterey County and Monterey County Pops.

Her awards, accolades and accomplishments in service to the arts and the people of this county are too numerous to detail, but they include being recognized as one of the county’s top game-changing local leaders, and being named by the board of supervisors as one of the Outstanding Women of Monterey County.

She was also honored by the cities of Monterey and Seaside and received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies.

“I am so grateful I had the opportunity to live and work here and be part of such an extraordinary community,” said Lynch.

In all she does and has accomplished over the years, she is the first to admit it all came about because of the people she worked with and for.“When people come together to accomplish something cool and realize the impact they’ve had on people’s lives, they’re on cloud nine.”

She maintains whatever it is she’s done, whatever she’s doing and whatever she can do in the future are totally dependent on so many people saying, “yes.”

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ROSEN

From page 1A

qualifications for this office (including but not limited to, citizenship and residency),” Brannon said.

A resident who was suspicious of Rosen’s claimed relocation hired a private investigator to try to determine whether she had, in fact, moved.

The Monterey-based PI surveilled Rosen’s addresses at 18 Middle Canyon Way and 73 E. Garzas Road on five days between Aug. 29 and Sept. 12 at various times of day and saw her on East Garzas Road only once, he said in a report provided to The Pine Cone. On that occasion, she had left the house on Middle Canyon Way and parked on East Garzas Road to walk her dogs.

“All other sightings of Anne-Marie Rosen occurred surrounding activity at 18 Middle Canyon Way,” the investigator’s report concluded.

On Oct. 2, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Elisabeth Mineta “directed a search of Rosen’s two houses, pursuant to a search warrant which set forth facts demonstrating legal cause for the searches,” Brannon said.

DA investigators conducted the searches that day and found someone else living in the house on East Garzas Road. “The search there revealed Rosen did not reside at that address,” Brannon said. “Rosen was home at the house in Trustee Area 4, consented to the search and was cooperative.” The search revealed she, indeed, lives in the home on Middle Canyon Way.

“A person who resides in Trustee Area 4 has no legal right to hold an office which requires residency in Trustee Area 5,” Brannon explained, and by filing forms declaring she lives in one when in fact she lives in the other, Rosen committed fraud in violation of state law. “However, the filing of charges by a district attorney can have no legal effect on the election on Nov. 5,” he said. “The ballot is now final,

and voters will select the candidate of their choice from that ballot.”

Rosen was charged with four counts, two for California Elections Code sections that make it a felony “for a person to file a declaration of candidacy knowing that it or any part of it has been made falsely” and “to be registered as a voter, knowing that she is not entitled to registration,” and two for violating the California Penal Code section that “makes it a felony to knowingly procure or offer any false instrument to be filed, registered, or recorded in any public office within this state.”

In a letter sent to Rosen at her address on Middle Canyon Way Oct. 4, the DA advised her that to avoid having a warrant issued for her arrest, she must present herself to a local police station or the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office for booking before she appears in court in Salinas for her arraignment Oct. 25.

What happens now?

On another form requiring candidates and office holders to declare potential financial conflicts of interest, formally called a “statement of economic interests,” Rosen lists the resident of 18 Middle Canyon Way as Jovanna Rosen and claims to receive \$60,000 in rent annually. For 73 E. Garzas Road, she indicates she has “50 percent ownership” and that it is her “personal residence.” The home is “partially rented out” to Ralph Powers, who pays \$42,000 per year to live there, she said.

If Rosen is elected and is subsequently found guilty of any felony, she would be removed from the board, according to the California Government Code, which states that an office becomes vacant when a person receives “a conviction of a felony or of any offense involving a violation of his or her official duties.”

In the case of a vacancy, according to the California Education Code, within 60 days, the board must either order an election for a replacement or make a provisional appointment to fill it. If the board fails to do so, the superintendent “shall order an election to fill the vacancy.”

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Section 2

Veterans and freshmen at the starting line, ready to finish strong

THEY HAVE miles to go before they rest, and every cross country rival in the Pacific Coast Athlete League is on notice: They're chasing Mack Aldi again.

Only weeks into the 2024 season, the light-footed Carmel High senior has established himself as the frontrunner to win his second consecutive individual title at next month's PCAL Championships.

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

The Padres, who compete in the PCAL's Gabilan Division, also have the defending champion on the girls' side, where Ava Ghio, another senior, figures to be a title contender again.



Marcus Finley (center), a senior boarding student from Guangzhou, China, is one of the top runners for the Stevenson Pirates this season.

five of the top 17 finishers. Three have returned to run for first-year head coach Jake Glazier.

Stevenson, a PCAL Mission Division team, has a solid cast of veterans returning on the boys side and young talent on the girls roster.

And Santa Catalina's first-year coach, McKenna Edwards, welcomed 20 girls to a youthful team, which will compete again in the Cypress Division.

Familiar faces

Glazier was already familiar with many of the Carmel runners because he teaches and coaches at Carmel Middle School, which has a strong athletic culture, including track and cross country programs.

"I've known a lot of them since they were little kids, including Mack Aldi, who reminds me of a wild stallion — full of spirit, going as hard as he can all the time, loving every minute of it," he said. "I think he's got his mind set on competing at the next level (college), and I'd say the sky's the limit."

After recording a 3-mile personal best of 12 minutes 14.56 seconds at North County's Jackie Henderson Memorial — the Sept. 7 season-opener — Aldi won back-to-back 5,000-meter races on the challenging Palo Corona Regional Park course with times of 16:42 on Sept. 19 and 16:44 on Oct. 5.

The second-place finisher among 61 runners that day was Aldi's sophomore teammate, Jasper Bolante, who recorded a 17:09.

"Jasper is a real student of running, a student of training," Glazier said of Bolante, who saved the best performance of his freshman year for the PCAL Championships, where he placed sixth. "He's open-minded, he listens, he's



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Carmel Valley's Palo Corona Regional Park — picturesque, rugged and challenging — has emerged as one of Northern California's top venues for high school cross country.

always searching, and he's great to be around — a leader who gets his teammates excited about training."

Senior Zach Lander, in his fourth year with the program, placed ninth at the Sept. 19 meet. Freshman Timber Mearns and sophomores Matthew and Eli David, who are identical twins, round out the varsity, with freshman Pablo Perez, a top-20 finisher in the first PCAL meet of the year.

Rising to the occasion

Ghio, the top girl at Carmel, won three PCAL meets in a row as a junior, including a first-place finish at the PCAL Championships. She was also the league runner-up as a sophomore, a year in which she ran a career-best 5K, at 19:16.6, fourth-fastest in school history.

Continues next page



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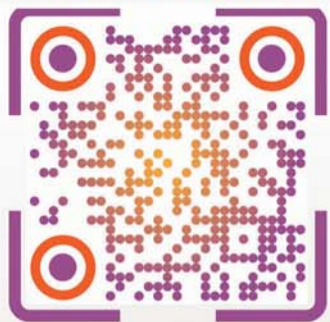
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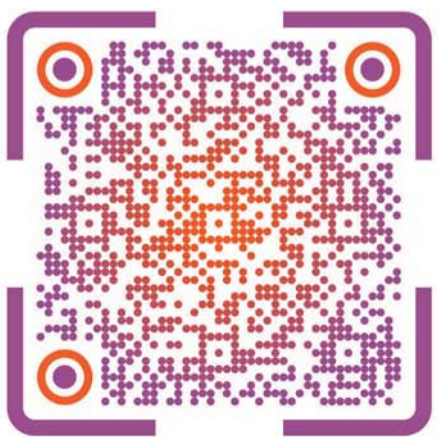
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From previous page

“Ava’s secret is she’s such a hard worker — always running the intervals, always hitting her mileage, always looking over her training plans and bouncing things off her coaches,” Glazier said.

A deep varsity roster also features senior Jaydn Lome, junior Lauren Galicia, sophomore Lily Stenvick and freshmen Jasmine Jin and Aditi Desai.

Absent from the list is Glazier’s daughter, Lila, who is injured and not expected to compete but placed third at the PCAL Championships last fall as a sophomore.

Stevenson has a reliable one-two punch at the top of its boys lineup this season in seniors Alessandro De Leo and Marcus Finley.

“If you were going to grow a runner in a lab, Alessandro is who you’d grow. He’s just a classic runner with a really efficient stride,” said Eli Colby, who is in his second season as head coach of the boys team at Stevenson. “He’s also pretty cerebral — a good strategist who paces himself beautifully.”

Finley, a boarding student from Guangzhou, China, has battled injuries for the past 18 months but finished just seven seconds behind De Leo at this year’s first league meet.

And freshman Nate Gregory was two seconds behind Finley that day.

The boys lineup fills out with seniors Will Kernan and George Neault, junior Logan Law, and sophomore Steven Li.

Freshman leads girls

The Pirates’ top girl, Landyn Martis, is a freshman who placed 10th at the Sept. 19 league meet, then bested her time by 14 seconds in the Oct. 5 competition at Palo Corona.

“Just thinking that we’re going to have Landyn here for four years is wonderful — she’s a phenomenal runner,” said first-year girls head coach Megan Driscoll, whose No. 2 runner is also a ninth-grader.

“Julianna came from Stevenson’s Lower School with

a passion for running, and she’s had a couple of injuries, but she’s got some really good speed,” Driscoll said. “Both of those freshmen have great attitudes and love to work hard.”

Junior Miriam Grosch, a boarding student from Germany, is also expected to be formidable this season.

Sophomore paces Catalina

Santa Catalina’s top runner, Lindsey Terrazzino, is a sophomore who placed 28th in a 46-runner field in the Sept. 19 run at Palo Corona. Seniors Camila Escalante and Luisa Perez, junior Dora Zhang, and freshman Pamela Villegas also ran for the varsity that day.

Santa Catalina is scheduled to compete Wednesday, and Carmel and Stevenson will run Thursday. Both PCAL meets start at 3:30 p.m. at Pinto Lake County Park in Watsonville.

Dennis Taylor is a professional freelance writer in Monterey County. Contact him at scribelaureate@gmail.com.



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

(Top) The defending champion in the Pacific Coast Athletic League this season is Carmel senior Mack Aldi, shown here running to victory Saturday at Palo Corona Regional Park in Carmel Valley. Landyn Martis (above, center), has emerged as Stevenson’s No. 1 runner this season as a freshman.



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George came to Sonoma State University as a high-school All-American from Carmel High School 2008 graduate. He quickly stood out amongst the defense and became a 4-year starter, and was one of the best if not the best defenseman on the team from 2009 - 2012. He was always one of the most hard working players on the field and was considered a very positive leader and captain that the rest of the team would look up to. George was a 3-time SSU Defensive MVP from 2010 - 2012.



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Vagnini steps down as leader of Sand City’s West End Celebration

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE FOUNDER of Sand City’s West End Celebration, Steve Vagnini announced last week that he is stepping down from his role as coordinator of the popular annual street fair — after learning there was a push by Sand City officials to replace him.

“It had come to my attention that the city was considering ‘a request for proposal’ to seek other candidates,” he said on Facebook Oct. 5.

Vagnini reported that he learned of the city’s intentions from festival vendors. “What was disturbing to me was that I was the last one to find out about it, and in fact, heard the news from various vendors at this year’s West End Celebration,” Vagnini explained.



Steve Vagnini

Big shoes

In response, Vagnini turned in his resignation. “At the Sand City Council meeting earlier this week, I informed the council and city staff that I have no interest in continuing to serve as the West End Celebration event coordinator,” he said.

A retired county assessor-clerk recorder, Vagini is also a music promoter and director of the local chapter of Guitars Not Guns.

City manager Vibeke Nogaard told The

Pine Cone that Sand City is “extremely grateful” to Vagnini for “the many wonderful West End celebrations he’s coordinated.” “West End has been a centerpiece of both Sand City’s and the Monterey Peninsula region’s cultural life. Steve’s been awesome to work with and we wish him all the best in his next chapter.”

Nogaard said the city “plans to issue a request for proposals for a new coordinator.” “We all know a new coordinator will have big shoes to fill,” she added.

‘And in the end’

Despite the bittersweet ending, Vagnini, 72, told his friends and supporters that he is at peace with handing off the reigns of the yearly street fair to someone else.

“I am very happy,” he shared. “I am at the very place that I want to be at this point in my life. I am committed to doing whatever I can to help our community

be a better place through Guitars Not Guns and my work with other non-profit organizations, and yes, I will continue to book and promote more music in the years to come.”

Vagnini ended his announcement with the lyrics that conclude the iconic Beatles’ album, “Abbey Road.” “In the words of my favorite rock ‘n’ roll band, ‘And in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make,’” he added.

For perspective on the news, historic tidbits and behind-the-scenes tips from The Pine Cone newsroom, follow us on x.com @carmelpinecone

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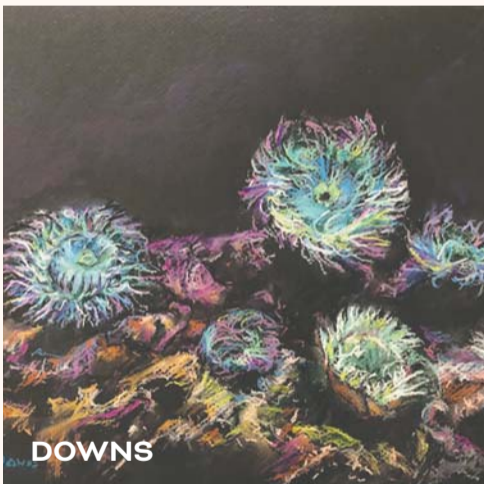


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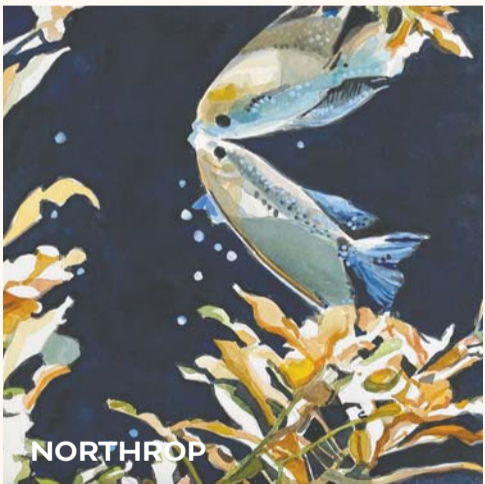
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LETTERS

From page 30A

His four years on the planning commission and community involvement mean he knows our village, wants to balance the budget and help the city with a long list of present and future challenges. He believes that the best decisions are made when the voices of the residents are heard and respected. Bob will work with the city staff, mayor and other council members to strategically prepare and plan for our community's future.

I urge my fellow residents to support Bob Delves for the Carmel by the Sea City Council. Let us choose a candidate who has the experience, commitment and vision to truly continue to make a difference in our community. Thank you, my neighbors and friends, for considering Bob Delves.

Donna Jett, Carmel

'Authentic and worthy'

Dear Editor,

I attended two or three coffees for Bob Delves. He is the least exciting of the candidates. What? Well, beyond his vast experience in finance and being a small-town mayor, I offer another reason to recommend him.

At the last event, I asked him how he handles conflict. "I avoid conflict." I pressed him to answer for the times conflict is unavoidable. His calm, clear response: he takes a step back, and asks, without judgment, why the other person holds that particular position. And he tries to listen and seek threads or traces of possible agreement to break a stalemate.

That was such a refreshing answer, and trust me when I say Bob came across as authentic and worthy of trust. I'm voting to put Bob Delves on Carmel City Council.

Joe DiNucci, Carmel

Teachers' endorsements

Dear Editor,

As the Presidents of the Association of Carmel Teachers and the California School Employees Association, Carmel Chapter 190, we are proud to jointly express our strong support for the candidates endorsed by our organizations for the CUSD Governing Board: Jason Remyne, Molly Bozzo, Matt Glazer, and Jake Odello.

Each of these candidates brings a unique set of skills and experiences that align with our shared vision for excellence in education within the Carmel Unified School District.

Jason Remyne's dedication to transparent governance and community engagement will ensure that all voices are heard in our decision-making processes. His extensive experience in education will be invaluable as we navigate the challenges ahead.

Molly Bozzo is a tireless advocate for student equity and success. Her commitment to fostering inclusive environments for all learners will help ensure that every student has the support they need to thrive.

Matt Glazer's innovative approach to problem-solving and his strong connections with our community position him as a leader who will actively promote collaboration between schools and families, enhancing the overall educational experience.

Lastly, Jake Odello's focus on fiscal responsibility, combined with his passion for providing quality educational resources, will help us maintain a balanced and effective approach to governance that prioritizes both student needs and community accountability.

Together, these candidates represent a powerful coalition for positive change in our schools. Their collective vision emphasizes collaboration, inclusivity, and a commitment to high-quality education for all students.

We encourage our fellow community members to join us in supporting Jason Remyne, Molly Bozzo, Matt Glazer, and Jake Odello for the CUSD Governing Board. Their leadership will be instrumental in shaping the future of education in our district.

Elizabeth Marsh, President of the Association of Carmel Teachers

Odello for school board

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my support for Jake Odello's candidacy for the Carmel Unified School District Governing Board, at-large. As a parent and community member invested in the future of our schools, I believe Jake's vision and dedication make him the ideal candidate to serve our district.

Jake's background in education and community service sets him apart. He understands the challenges our students and teachers face, and his commitment to fostering a supportive learning environment is unwavering. Jake has consistently advocated for programs that prioritize student well-being and academic excellence.

Furthermore, Jake's passion for innovation in education is crucial in today's world as we adapt to the changes brought on by Covid and additional outside elements that are impacting how our kids learn. Jake is dedicated to forward thinking and the integration of technology which will help prepare our students for future success.

We need leaders like Jake who are committed to mak-

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Meet the Makers art walk, three new shows set for Saturday

THREE SHOWS open Saturday at the Carmel Art Association, including “A Moment in Time,” which celebrates the creative talents of painters Jan Wagstaff, Richard Tette and Chris Sawyer.

Each of the three draws inspiration from nature, “transforming personal environments into stunning visual art.”

According to the gallery’s Lili Mendez, the artists preserve “fleeting moments in unique mediums, gifting their viewers with visual souvenirs and intimate mementos far beyond place and time.”

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

Also new at the Carmel Art Association is a show by painters Wilda Northrop and Anne Downs (“Aquarium”) and a group exhibit by 20 artists (“A Movable Beast Redux”).

The shows will be on display through Nov. 4. The gallery, which hosts a public reception Saturday from 4 to 7 p.m., is located on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth. carmelart.com

Meet the Makers

At the same time Carmel Art Association hosts its reception Saturday, the 5th annual Meet the Makers Art & Wine Walk gets underway. The fundraising event from 4-7 p.m. showcases downtown artist-owned galleries like Galerie Plein Aire, Delia Bradford Gallery, Gallery Sur, Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery and a dozen others, along with neighboring winetasting rooms.

“Participating wineries for this year include Chalone,

Bernardus, Talbott, Wrath, Galante, Puma Road, Folktale and many more,” gallery owner Joaquin Turner said. “It’s sure to be a memorable evening, and all proceeds from the event benefit local youth.”

The fine art of big cats

Venture Gallery in Monterey hosts a reception Saturday at 4 p.m. for its featured artist for October, painter William Eatmon.

Eatmon’s show, “Big Cats,” takes a close look at some of the most ferocious felines on earth. Included are lions, tigers, leopards and jaguars, which he noted are distinguished by “their large size, ability to roar and hunting skills.”

“I have admired this category of cats for many years for their majestic beauty and ability to survive and rule their territory,” said the artist, a retired aerospace engineer who lives in Pebble Beach and once owned a gallery in Carmel.

Venture gallery is located at 260 Alvarado St. venture-gallery.com

‘Five Decades’ at Sunset

New at the Center for Photographic Art is “Five Decades,” which explores the legacy of acclaimed photographer Daido Moriyama.

A native of Japan who is best known for his black-and-white street photography, Moriyama was the recipient in 2019 of the prestigious Hasselblad Foundation International Award in Photography.

“Thanks to the assistance of Maya Ishiwata and the Daido Moriyama Foundation, we are able to share 32 images from this master photographer, spanning five decades from 1966 to 2007,” executive director Ann Jastrab said. “Don’t miss the chance to learn more about this

legendary photographer’s work.”

The show continues through Nov. 17. The gallery is located in Sunset Center at San Carlos and Ninth. photography.org



Painter William Eatmon’s show, “Big Cats,” is on display this month at Venture Gallery in Monterey.



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ARTIST

From page 27A

King Day while in London.

He also snorkeled in the Galapagos Islands, an adventure that became a near-death experience.

“I was swimming without a life vest, watching fish and turtles and manta rays,” said Scholis, who trained as a junior life-guard and felt comfortable in ocean waters. “The current felt kind of strong, and the boat seemed a little bit farther away every time I’d look up.”

At some point, after noticing that the

ocean floor was no longer visible, he surfaced and discovered that his support boat was nowhere in sight.

“That’s when I felt some of the naivete and vigor of my youth escape me,” he said. “I didn’t panic, but I remember thinking, ‘Oh, man ... this could end really poorly.’”

‘No time but now’

He found the boat, but Scholis said the incident was an education.

“I immediately felt a profound clarity about the power and vastness of our world,” he reflected. “It was a reminder that I only have a finite time to live my life, and the world is a very big place. Do the work right now. There is no other time

but now.”

Scholis produced a multilayered undergraduate thesis, traceable, perhaps, to those instincts he felt as a teen — some among us are blessed with a head start in life. Others, not so much.

His artistic focus since returning to the Peninsula for a year off before pursuing graduate school is a photography project that examines how different levels of privilege impact our everyday lives.

“I’m currently looking for ‘leisurescapes’ — constructed landscapes that are accessible only to the few,” he explained, offering an example:

A photo of a family dining at an opulent country club inspires Scholis to trace the journey of the food they’re eating and examine the lifestyles of the waiter who brought it, the chef who prepared it, the truck driver who delivered it, factory workers who processed it, farmers and fieldworkers who planted and harvested it, and so on.

“It’s a way of looking at larger social implications,” he said. “You also might wonder how those delivery trucks are made, where the parts came from, what raw materials were required, where the

gasoline came from.” he said. “It doesn’t come from nothing, so how do we structure it so it makes sense as something?”

Confronting realities

He seems mostly undaunted by the prospect of confronting the harsher realities.

“I’ve traveled around the world and heard experts talk about how seasonal melting of glaciers might cause famine that could kill 1.9 billion people on the Indian subcontinent and across China,” he said. “I’ve heard that lack of biodiversity and bio-resilience could lead to pandemics that could wipe out entire species of animals.”

Those are problems he says his generation must confront, and with no alternative, it’s a challenge he willingly embraces.

“I decided a long time ago that anger will do me no good,” he said. “I don’t have the luxury or privilege of feeling anger.”

Scholis’ diverse portfolio ranges from documentary-style photos, to portraits, sports, fine-art landscapes and seascapes. Additional information and images of his art can be found at michealscholis.com.

Dennis Taylor is a professional freelance writer in Monterey County. Contact him at scribelaureate@gmail.com.

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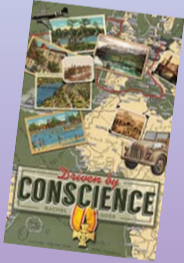
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PIONEERING ‘CLASSICAL’ DUO CELEBRATES 20 YEARS WITH CONCERT AT SUNSET

FINDING COMMON ground between classical music and hip-hop — and celebrating two decades of performing together — **Black Violin** plays Saturday, 7:30 p.m., at Sunset Center.

The duo, which was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2023 for Best Americana Album, features violist **Wil Baptiste** and violinist **Key Marcus**. They’ve recorded five albums, including 2020’s “Give Thanks.”

Inviting audiences to “celebrate 20 years of musical innovation as we take you on a journey through the evo-

nate the fairgrounds, creating an otherworldly ambiance to captivate the imagination.” General admission tickets are \$113, with discounts available for students and active military. A number of VIP options are also available.

The fairgrounds is located at 2004 Fairground Road. For tickets, visit worldsaway.io.

■ **Carmel**

Barmel — **Jazville** (jazz, Sunday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). In Carmel Square on San Carlos north of Seventh.

Cypress Inn — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Friday at 7 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Loktionov** and singer **Debbie Davis** (cabaret, Saturday at 6:30

See MUSIC page 46A

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

lution of Black Violin,” the group kicked off its anniversary tour last month. “From our early beginnings, to global stages, we’re sharing the power of chasing your dreams — all in one show.”

Tickets start at \$56. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 620-2048 or visit sunsetcenter.org.

■ Worlds Away fest

Bringing something to new to the Monterey Fairgrounds — a full-blown electronic music festival — the first Worlds Away Festival is set for Saturday.

Besides featuring top-tier acts like **The Chainsmokers**, **Lauv** and **Tiesto**, the event will “turn the county fairgrounds into its own universe,” where the audience “will be met with cutting-edge technology displayed through a variety of different installations and mediums.”

The scene should be quite a spectacle, with “stunning light displays and holographic projections that will illumi-

■ Scottish quintet plays in P.G.

An award-winning quintet that puts a modern spin on traditional Scottish music, **Daimh** returns Sunday, 3 p.m., to St. Mary’s by the Sea in Pacific Grove.

Twice named “Folk Band of the Year” by the Scots Trad Music Awards, the group features singer **Ellen MacDonald**, bagpiper **Angus MacKenzie**, fiddler **Gabe McVarish**, mandolinist **Murdo Cameron** and guitarist **Ross Martin**.

“You will be moved by their nuanced songs and dynamic, high-energy tunes,” the church said. “Don’t miss the opportunity to catch this show.”

Tickets are \$35. The church is located at 146 12th St.

Live music Oct. 4-10

■ Big Sur

Big Sur River Inn — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Saturday at 12:30 p.m.), **James Henry & Hands on Fire** (world music, Sunday at noon). 46800 Highway 1.

Fernwood Resort — **Richard Tripps** and **The Lentils** (indie rock, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.



Bringing together classical music and hip-hop, violist Wil Baptiste and violinist Key Marcus perform as Black Violin Oct. 12 at Sunset Center.

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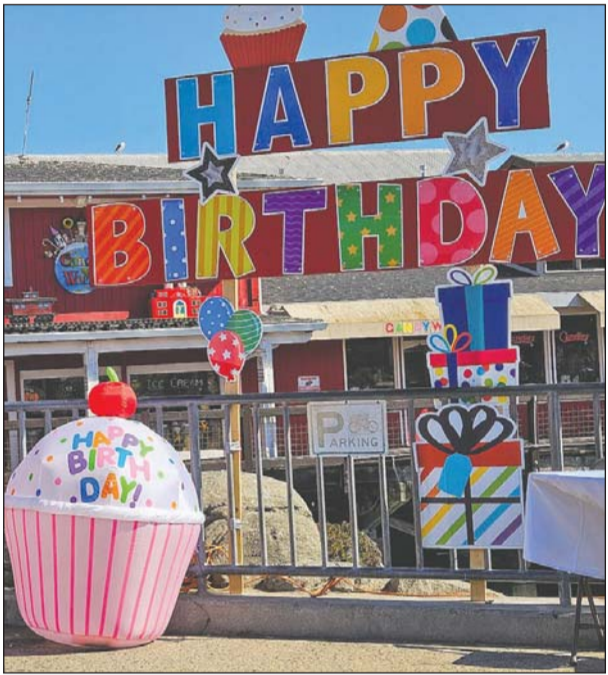
FOOD & WINE

Fall in the Monterey Peninsula — like summer, but with pumpkins

NEVER MIND what that thermometer has been up to, it really is almost the middle of October, just 20 days to Halloween, and it already feels like bringing home one Reese’s peanut butter ghost will somehow trigger an avalanche of goodies that won’t end until New Year’s Day.

Soup to Nuts

But if you’re going to treat yourself, for heaven’s sake skip the candy corn (it’s clearly of the devil) and get something good, like witches’ fingers or cake rats from Carmel Café. The coffee shop/bakery/restaurant on the north side of Ocean Avenue near Mission Street is open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily and offers a full line of espresso drinks,



Over the past several years, Old Fisherman’s Wharf has mastered the art of creating settings for fun photos — and this Sunday’s birthday party promises plenty of great shots.

hot apple cider and hot chocolate, breakfast dishes, a wide variety of sandwiches, salads and soups and, of course, plenty of desserts. In addition to the aforementioned green fingers (\$3) and chocolate rodentia (\$8 each or four for \$30), there are artichoke cupcakes (\$4.75), seasonally decorated non-artichoke cupcakes, pumpkin bread (\$3.25 a slice) and freshly baked pumpkin pies.

Through Nov. 2, the café will also bake cookies with Day of the Dead and Halloween themes for \$4 each, and 10 percent of the sales from these items will go to the non-profit Hijos Del Sol Arts Productions, which provides art instruction for youth.

The apple strudel (\$5.50) is also deliciously autumnal, and — forcing us to ask ourselves, “how did we miss that?” — the pastry menu includes a crookie. The notes explain that’s a “house-made chocolate chip cookie dough wrapped in croissant dough. These were born in Paris at Boulangerie Louvard and are spreading across the world.” Who knew? Visit cafecarmel.com or call (831) 624-3870.

More Halloween goodies

Paris Bakery at 271 Bonifacio Place in Monterey has some sweetly spooky treats, too. Hand-decorated cookies include skeletons, ghosts and pumpkins, a jack-o’-lantern fruit tart, and vanilla or chocolate cupcakes topped with chocolate spiders are all waiting to be bagged or boxed up and taken to the office, a masquerade party or your kitchen table. A short block away at Rosine’s restaurant (434 Alvarado St.), they’re serving up autumn-themed cocktails and mocktails including an apple cider spritz, an apple pie old fashioned and a pumpkin spice espresso martini. The drinks are made using syrups and infusions created by general manager and owner John Culcasi.



Old Fisherman’s Wharf in Monterey is 179 years old and will throw a big birthday bash on Sunday. Dance to The Money Band, enjoy some cake, stroll among gift shops and restaurants or take a whale-watching or fishing cruise or glass-bottom boat tour to celebrate.

■ BBQ, music and raffles in the valley

The Carmel Valley Village Improvement Committee will hold its 11th Annual Party in the Village on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. at Hidden Valley Music Seminars, 104 W. Carmel Valley Road. A barbecue dinner will be provided by the Carmel Valley Kiwanis, and a no-host bar will be available. The event will include wine and beer barrel raffles featuring local libations, and entertainment will feature performances by the Casey Frazier Band and the unDecided Band. Proceeds from the party will support the committee’s efforts to provide safety projects, beautification and maintenance for Carmel Valley Village. Last year’s event sold out, so if you want to purchase your \$65 tickets now, visit the Carmel Valley Business Center at 13766 Center St.,

See BBQ next page

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This local spot came recommended for our beach day. We walked in and they had a pulled pork sandwich special going on, so we bought one of those with lots of cheese and red onions and barbecue sauce. We then went to the deli. I highly recommend you write your order out first on their order slips before you take a number. They move fast!! This place is also a market so there were plenty of drinks or snacks to get too. We enjoyed our hefty sandwiches on the beach, really hit the spot. Will definitely be back.

- Emrie T, Goodyear, AZ



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FOOD & WINE

BBQ

From previous page

the Running Iron at 24 E. Carmel Valley Road, Kasey's in the Village at 2 Del Fino Place, UPS Mid Valley in the Mid Valley Shopping Center, or go to cvvic.org.

First Responders Day

Coastal Roots Hospitality — the folks behind the Rio Grill in the Crossroads shopping center and Tarpy's and Montrio in Monterey — wants to give a little love to firefighters, police officers, paramedics and other first responders, as well as active duty military and veterans. They're offering specials on Oct. 28, designated by Congress as National First Responders Day, and on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. All groups are eligible to participate on both days.

Tables of one to four diners, at least one of whom is a first responder or veteran, can receive a 15 percent discount off their meals (but not alcohol) at any of the three restaurants. Identification verifying membership in one of the groups being honored will be required to receive the discount.

Said a Coastal Roots spokesperson, "This is just a small way for us to give back and show our appreciation for everything they do. Whether they're rushing into emergencies, saving lives, or protecting our country, they truly deserve recognition, and we want to make sure they know they are appreciated."

Firefighters Ball

Tickets are on sale through Oct. 12 for the Firefighters Charity Ball to be held Oct. 19 from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Monterey Mar-



More sweet than scary, Carmel Café's collection of fall- and Halloween-themed sweets includes pumpkin pies and tasty cupcakes. Also on the menu are pumpkin bread, artichoke cupcakes, and green witches fingers.

riott Hotel at 350 Calle Principal, and it's going to be a formal soirée.

The evening will begin with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and continue with what

See BALL next page



QUAIL IN PINK

Benefiting the Cancer Support Community
San Francisco Bay Area

NOV. 2



PICKLE WITH A PURPOSE

PICKLEBALL SOCIAL • SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 • 11:00AM – 2:00PM

Hit the courts for a fun afternoon at The Quail. This fundraiser includes organized games of pickleball, taco bar, prizes and more! Proceeds to directly benefit Cancer Support Community San Francisco Bay Area. \$75 per participant.

In the effort to help the fight against breast cancer, The Quail is donating a percentage of proceeds from Golf and Food & Beverage Outlets during the month of October.

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FIRECRACKER SHRIMP 15
Crispy Shrimp Tossed in a Spicy Thai Aioli

RISOTTO WITH BLACKENED PRAWNS 24
Three Blackened Jumbo Shrimp on Citrus Risotto

FAMOUS STEAK SANDWICH 34
USDA PRIME Center-Cut Sirloin on Garlic Toast, Iceberg Wedge with Roquefort dressing and Fries

BLACKENED SALMON FILET 27
On Garlic Toast, Iceberg Wedge with Roquefort dressing and Fries

PRIME RIB FRENCH DIP 27
Shaved PRIME RIB, Au Jus, Iceberg Wedge with Roquefort dressing and Fries

PRIME RIB REUBEN 26
Shaved PRIME RIB, Sauerkraut, Russian Dressing, Melted Swiss Cheese on Grilled Rye Bread with Fries

WHALING STATION CHEESEBURGER 24
House Grind of Prime Beef on a Toasted Potato Bun with Lettuce, Heirloom Tomato, Melty Swiss Cheese, Fries

CHOPPED STEAK 26
Grilled House Grind of Filet Mignon, Rib Eye and Short Ribs
Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Sautéed Spinach, Mushroom Sauce

FILET MIGNON MEDALLIONS 29
Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Sautéed Spinach, Red Wine-Mushroom Sauce

PAN-FRIED SAND DABS ALMONDINE 28 Roasted
Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Sautéed Spinach, Beurre Blanc

WS BAR CAESAR SALAD 15
Garlicky Caesar Dressing, Parmesan Cheese, Toasted Croutons

Add:
Blackened Salmon Filet 16 ~ Blackened Prawns 16



SCAN ME

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BALL

From previous page

organizer Tene Shake, a local chef and realtor, promises will be a gourmet dinner prepared by the Marriott’s executive chef. There will be a presentation about local firefighters and an awards ceremony naming the winners of a firehouse cooking competition sponsored and judged by the American Culinary Federation. Silent and live auctions and a raffle will also help support the foundation. After dinner, DJ John Gregoria of DNA Entertainment will provide dance music.

Tickets are \$250.00 per person and can be purchased at Montereyfirefighterscommunity.betterworld.org.

■ So many candles that it seems a little fishy ...

Can Monterey’s Old Fisherman’s Wharf really fit 179 candles on its birthday cake Sunday? There’s only one way to find out, and that’s to show up at the Wharf Tent in front of Abalonetti’s around 3:30 p.m. to view and sample the “sea life-themed” cake. The party goes from 1 to 5 p.m.

Since Thomas Larkin built it in 1845 for regular passenger and freight boat service, the wharf has seen fishing businesses of all sorts ebb and flow — sardines, abalone, salmon, squid, crab — but these days, it teems with tourists and locals who want to experience a bit of old Monterey. You can go whale-watching with one of four tour companies, join a fishing trip or take a glass-bottom boat tour, shop for gifts and jewelry, or dine on the bounty of Monterey Bay at one of the many restaurants.

Speaking of things that age well, the Harbor House gift shop — the pink place right at the entrance to the wharf — has been family-owned since 1950 and claims to have “the world’s largest hand-blown Venetian Murano glass chandelier” on display.

The first 179 visitors can collect a free piece of candy at each of three shops — Candy World, Wharf Chocolate Factory, and Carousel Candies. Carousel’s been around since 1960 and has been producing handmade saltwater taffy for 47 years, and its website boasts that there are more than 45 flavors available. Special food, merchandise and ocean activity discounts will be available at other wharf merchants, too.

Photo opportunities among the wharf’s decorations are always popular, and everyone’s invited to dress like a pirate or at least snap a picture with the statues at Pirate’s

Cove gift shop in remembrance of Argentine sailor Hippolyte Bouchard, who raided Monterey in 1818. There’s also a meet-and-greet with members of the city’s police and fire departments from 1 to 4 p.m. where guests can check out a fire truck and get some safety tips.

Emcee and radio personality Dave Marzetti will keep the birthday party proceedings lively, and local favorites The Money Band will play from 1 to 4 p.m.

OPINIONS

From page 36A

ing informed, compassionate decisions for our children’s education. I urge my fellow community members to support Jake Odello for the Carmel Unified School District board. Together, we can help shape a brighter future for our students and our community.

Bartley Walker, Carmel Valley

‘New direction’

Dear Editor,

I am a former teacher and longtime Carmel resident whose own children went through the Carmel Unified School District many years ago. I strongly believe in public education and have such fond memories of my time as a teacher at CUSD, so it saddens me to see our school district in the news recently for a federal finding of antisemitism, lawsuits related to sexual harassment and payouts, and a lack of stability with seven superintendents in nine years. As a result, our school rankings have dropped substantially in recent years, which also impacts the entire community by lowering our property values. Our school board needs to head in a new direction.

I support Monica Tavakoli for the at-large seat on CUSD’s school board and believe that she will help us forge a better path forward. Monica has two children in the school district and has invested an incredible amount of time volunteering in the school district. She is committed to restoring trust in the school board while focusing on the success of all CUSD students and fiscal responsibility. Her common-sense approach, willingness to put in the time to understand the issues, and background in engineering, law and business will help propel us back to our tradition of academic excellence and address the district’s challenges with integrity.

Joan Peak, Carmel

Housing mandates

Dear Editor,

In March I sent a letter to the editor of The Pine Cone concerning the state of California housing mandates for affordable, high-density housing. The title of that letter was “You get what you vote for.” Now in October Carmel and other communities across the state are facing the full force of iron-fisted, one-party rule coming out of Sacramento. Gov. Newsom has signed a new bill with the objective of forcing through more projects in communities that have been resistant to providing high-density housing.

According to those in Sacramento, communities across the state are dragging their feet and not moving fast enough to incorporate the housing mandates coming out of the State Capitol. To remedy that problem our benevolent comrades in Sacramento are taking action with another new bill. What Sacramento is saying is that high-density housing is going to happen whether communities want

Continues next page

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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

it or not. In essence we no longer have control over our own communities and their development.

Local communities and small towns across the state will lose their local character, charm and history. These very attributes are the reasons many of us chose to live in these communities. Now we are in danger of losing all of this to high-density urbanization. These small-town attributes and character may not be important to lawmakers in Sacramento but they are very important to those of us who live in these communities.

For many reasons, California has become the example to the rest of the nation for what happens when unchecked socialism/communism rules. This newest edict coming out of Sacramento is just another reason so many people are moving out of California. If you continue to vote for socialist/communist policies disguised as feel good initiatives, eventually you get what you vote for, welcome to Kalifornistan.

Bill Hicks, Carmel

Remynse strong and steady

Dear Editor,
Jason Remynse was a strong and steady young man of 15 when I met him at Carmel High School as his guidance counselor, and he remains a strong and steady grown man today that I am happy to call a friend.
It is, at his core, just who he is and

always has been.
He is an honest, hard-working, intelligent leader who cares about his community and wants to give back to the school district that served him so well.
With Jason there is no chaos-making, no games of Survivor-like alliances and no smoke screens hiding what he really stands for.
He is, without a doubt, the best possible candidate to help carry Carmel Unified School District into the future.
Strong and steady ... exactly what is needed.
Lauren Cohen, Monterey

Districting solution

Dear Editor,
At the Pacific Grove City Council meeting on Oct. 2, the city attorney reviewed the plan to take the city to district representation and Measure Z to reduce the size of the council from seven to five members, with the mayor elected at large. I am opposed to Z for reasons including less effective representation and the potential for higher conflict between council members and city residents. Add in districts, and the conflict will escalate as district council members begin to take their focus off the city as a whole and represent only the special interests of their districts. This will position residents in one district against residents in another on issues like affordable housing.
The city is being held hostage by an outside political group demanding district elections and sadly the council is acting out of fear and not what is best for all the

citizens of P.G.
In 2023, the Pat Brown Institute at UCLA issued a report that suggested district-only councils may not be the most beneficial for minority groups in small cities. At the Oct 2 council session, one

resident called in with an interesting alternative. Keep a seven-member council with the mayor and two council members at large and four of the council members

See MORE LETTERS page 45A

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MORE LETTERS

From page 43A

representing districts. There is an existing precedent. The Oakland council has one at-large council member. The city attorney did not seem aware of this and there was no discussion at the meeting about a hybrid model for city council elections. That is a shame. At least the council should direct the city attorney to review the literature and come back with additional information on the hybrid model. That opportunity was totally missed. I urge residents to encourage the mayor and city council to investigate this three at-large and four in-districts hybrid option.

Michale E. Gibbs, Pacific Grove

Put citizens first

Dear Editor,

Gov. Newsom vetoed AB 1840, AB 2586, and SB 227, which would have allowed illegal residents to apply for a subsidized home purchase program, to work at public colleges and collect unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, respectively. Assemblywoman Addis and Sen. Laird voted for all three bills. I have a few simple questions for these two legislators who are supposed to represent us. Why did you vote to give people who have illegally entered our country equal rights to law-abiding U.S. citizens? Why should young people

struggling to buy their first home or get a part-time job while attending one of our public colleges in California have to compete for these opportunities with illegal residents? Why should taxpayers be forced to shell out more bucks to subsidize this? Why should employers be forced to pay higher taxes to pay UI benefits to illegal residents when the UI program is billions of dollars in debt? The next time Assemblywoman Addis and Sen. Laird send out their email newsletters, please forgo the cute pictures of puppies and poppies and instead explain to hard-working citizens and seniors on fixed incomes why you put the interests of illegal residents ahead of them.

Kevin Hanley, Pacific Grove

All are welcome?

Dear Editor,

Pacific Grove should be a place where all are welcome. However, because of rising home prices and insufficient alternatives to driving, longtime locals and aspiring residents alike are being priced out. To lower home prices, we must build more multi-family housing as an alternative to prohibitively expensive single-family homes. We must also change zoning laws to make our city more walkable, allowing for people to thrive in Pacific Grove without having to own a car. I propose lowering minimum parking requirements, as well as allowing for mixed-use zoning. With mixed-use zoning, businesses and essential services could exist right next to where people live, creating a traditional

yet vibrant city center. Less parking means less cars on the road, and a more peaceful pedestrian atmosphere. To see this principle in action, look to Lighthouse Avenue's outdoor restaurant seating, which persists even after the pandemic due to the seating being far more valuable and productive than the removed parking space.

A great residential character is fostered by allowing people from all walks of life to intermingle, start businesses, and raise families, regardless of their socioeconomic status. A city that caters only to wealthy homeowners and drivers will foster social isolation and economic exclusion.

Yousif Alkhalaf,
Pacific Grove



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MUSIC
From page 39A

p.m.), **The Andrea Carter Trio** (jazz and pop, Sunday at 11 a.m.), guitarist **Richard Devinck** (classical, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Saturday at 8 p.m. and Thursday at 7 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.

The Links Club — **The Edge Band** (rock, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **Blue Fire** (rock, Saturday at 7:30 p.m.), **Singer-Songwriter Showcase** (Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

Mission Ranch — singer and pianist **Maddaline Edstrom** (jazz, Friday through Sunday at 5 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Loktionov** (jazz, Monday through Thursday at 5 p.m.). 26270 Dolores Street.

Unitarian Universalist Church — singer **Shannon Wardo** and pianist **Bob Phillips** play a benefit concert (Saturday at 2 p.m.). 490 Aguajito Road. Tickets are \$20 and are available at uucmp.org.

■ Carmel Valley

Bernardus Lodge & Spa — pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Saturday at noon), pianist **Mathias Morris** (classical, Saturday at 6 p.m.), **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz, Sunday at 11 a.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Folktale Winery — singer and guitarist **Kito Ray-**

burn (Friday at 11 a.m.), violinist **Chris Lynch** (Saturday at 2 p.m.), **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz, Sunday at 11 a.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

Hidden Valley Music Seminars — **The Friction Quartet** plays new music by local composers (Sunday at 3 p.m.). 104 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Massa Tasting Room — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Sunday at noon). 69 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Twisted Roots Vineyard tasting room — singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Monday at 1 p.m.). 12 Del Fino Place.

■ Monterey

Albatross Ridge Winery and Kitchen — singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

Bon Ton LeRoy's Lighthouse Smokehouse — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Alligator** (blues and zydeco,

CALENDAR

Through October – Sunset Cultural Center is proud to welcome “The Naked Face” to the Marjorie Evans Gallery for a two-month-long exhibit of works by **Joan Lewis**. The gallery is in Sunset Center at San Carlos and Ninth, Carmel-by-the-Sea. To learn more, visit joanlewisartwork.com

Oct. 11 – Texture, Imagination, and the Figure, a conversation with Ruth Bolduan and Heidi McGurrian. Moderator Richard Whittaker, publisher and editor of Works and Conversations and Conversations.org 5:30 to 7 p.m. www.pacificgrovelibrary.org

Oct. 12 – Join us at our Plant Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Cooper Molera Adobe garden. Succulents, roses, plants from Cooper garden stock, and more. Sponsored by the Historic Garden League. 506 Munras Ave., Monterey. Cash only, please.

Oct. 12 – Birder's Night Market: Explore bird-inspired art vendors, *How to Draw Birds* mini-classes with renowned nature artist John Muir Laws, and enjoy activities like DIY button-making and screen-printing, plus good music and delicious food. Free entry 5 to 9 p.m. All ages welcome! 525 Ortiz Ave., Sand City Art Park.

Oct. 12-13 & 19-20, 2024 – Unlock a world of creativity at the **32nd Annual Open Studios Art Tour** presented by the Arts Council for Monterey County! Visit talented artist studios and galleries across our region during this two-weekend community event. Plan your journey via our FREE mobile app or magazine guide. **Learn more at arts4mc.org!**

Oct. 13 – Don't miss the fun, free 179th Wharf Birthday Party at Old Fisherman's Wharf from 1 to 5 p.m. Enjoy a performance by The Money Band, free birthday cake, a candy crawl, meet Monterey Fire and Police representatives and more! www.montereywharf.com



Oct. 16 – The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB) presents a luncheon by Brooks Hurd, founder and managing director of Sirius UHP, whose topic is **“The Global Transition of the Semiconductor Industry : From Silicon Valley to East Asia”**, at Wedgewood Carmel (formerly Rancho Cañada). To register and learn more visit <http://www.wacmb.org>.

Oct. 18 – Award-winning poet and Robinson Jeffers scholar Tim Hunt will give a **poetry reading**, 7 p.m. at Tor House (26304 Ocean View Ave., Carmel, 93923). Admission \$15. Reservations, which are required, at www.torhouse.org. Seating limited. Reception following the reading. For more information: (831) 624-1813

Oct. 19 – Experts and young adults share insights on living with epilepsy, during a Mental Health Panel at the YMCA Monterey. Then, participate in our Walk 4 Epilepsy on Oct. 20 to raise awareness and support. Learn more at www.youngadultswithepilepsy.org.

Oct. 20 – The Pacific Brass Band performs at Hidden Valley Ranch, Carmel Valley, 5:30 p.m. Donations accepted. Our 30 member English style brass band is a volunteer organization under the direction of Jim O'Briant. Our repertoire consists of original works, orchestral transcriptions, marches, medleys, and hymn tunes all arranged in a unique brass band style.

Oct. 21 – “What's the State of Our Village?” Chip Rerig, Carmel city administrator since 2016, will share his insider's view about what is happening now and on the horizon in Carmel. 2 p.m. at Carmel Woman's Club, San Carlos and Ninth. Open to the public, \$10 guests/members free.

Nov. 9 - A Holiday Craft Fair event open to the public, 10 am.-3 pm, at the Monterey Elks Lodge, 150 Mar Vista Drive in Monterey. Over 30 artisan crafters. Sandwich, chips, cookie and soda available for \$10. For more information, please contact Gli VonWinning (831) 373-1285.

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Cibo restaurant — **The Dave Holodiloff Duo** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and singer and pianist **Scotty Wright** (jazz, Tuesday at 7 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz and swing, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St.

See **LIVE** page 49A

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Continues on next page

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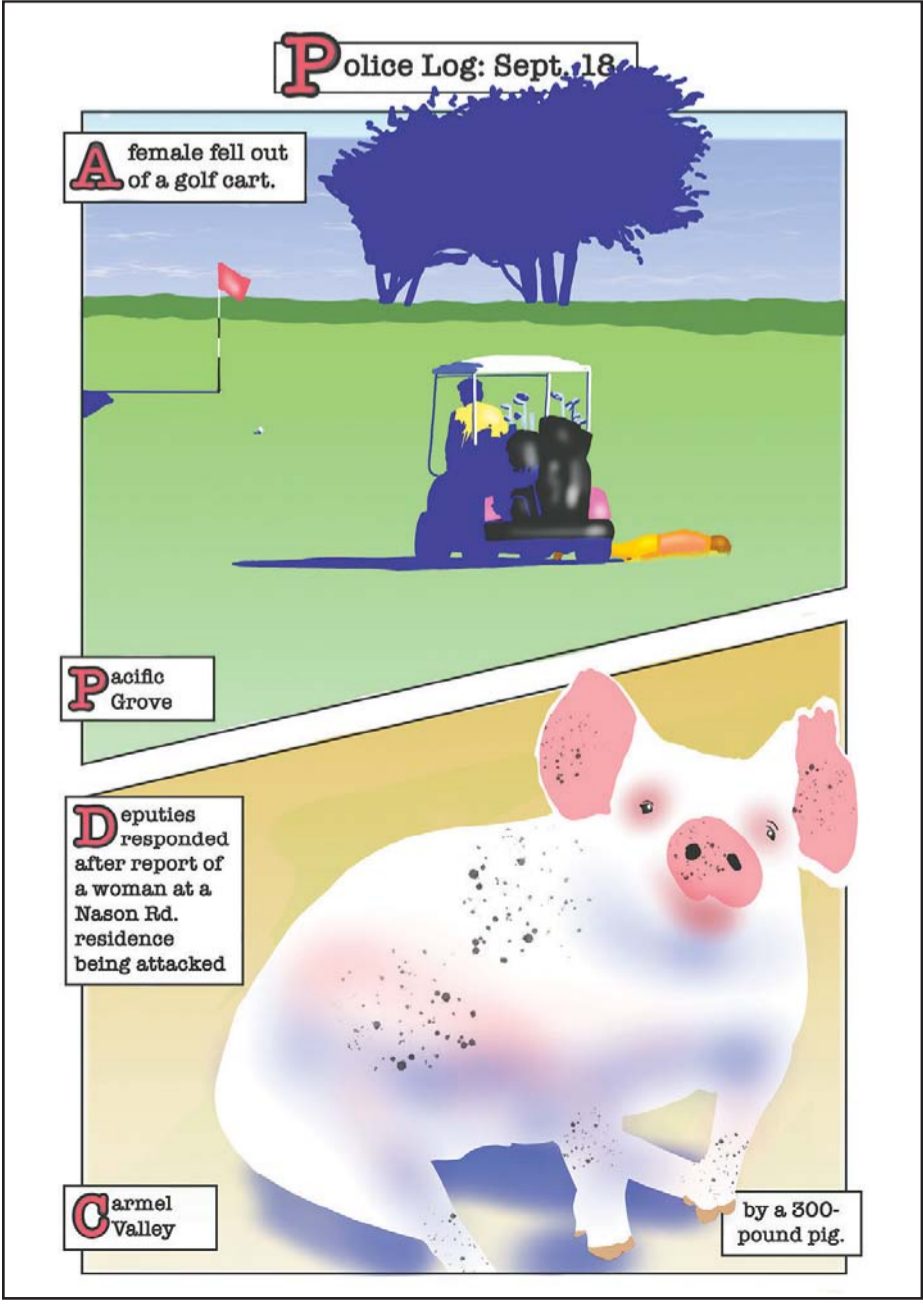
A female fell out of a golf cart.

Pacific Grove

Deputies responded after report of a woman at a Nason Rd. residence being attacked

Carmel Valley

by a 300-pound pig.



SING

From page 49A

Wendi Kirby Music — singer **Max Potter** and others (17th century music, Thursday at 6:30 p.m.). 550 Hartnell St.

Pacific Grove

Il Vecchio Restaurant — **Chuck ‘n’ Buck** (rock and blues, Tuesday at 6 p.m.), **The Cena Jazz Trio** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 110 Central Ave.

PG’s Meetinghouse — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Chuck Brewer** and singer and pianist **Luca Fredrickson** (Friday at 4:30 p.m.), open mic (Friday at 7 p.m.), **Ben Herod** and friends (jazz, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Dan Frechette** and singer and violinist **Laurel Thomsen** (folk, Sunday at 11 a.m.), **The Dave Holodiloff Duo** (jazz, Thursday at 6:30 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

Julia’s Vegetarian Restaurant — singer and guitarist **Rags Rosenberg** (Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Smith** (Saturday at 6 p.m.) **Andrea’s Fault Duo** (“folky stuff mixed with surprises,” Monday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Rachel Williams** (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Thurs-

day at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave.
Lucy’s on Lighthouse — **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Saturday at 2 p.m.), **The Lighthouse Band** (rock and soul, Sunday at 2 p.m.). 1120 Lighthouse Ave.

Pebble Beach

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — singer and guitarist **Kip Allert** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (pop, rock and country, Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and saxophonist **Tamus Marius** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive.

Seaside

Deja Blue — singer and guitarist **Al James** and others (r&b, pop and soul, Saturday at 3 p.m.), singer **Minor Williams** and others (r&b, blues and soul, Sunday at 3 p.m.). 500 Broadway Ave.

Gusto Pasta and Pizza —singer and bassist **Dennis Murphy** and guitarist **Paul Magpusao** (jazz, Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.). 1901 Fremont Blvd.

To update these listings email chris@carmelpinecone.com.



The Friction Quartet plays new music by local composers Sunday at Hidden Valley Music Seminars in Carmel Valley. Presented by the Monterey County Composers Forum, the concert starts at 3 p.m.

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Continues from previous page

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