

The Carmel Pine Cone

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October 25-31, 2024

TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

It's not the name that's historic, it's the decor

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER MORE than 60 years of serving Shell customers, the service station at San Carlos and Fifth is set to become a Chevron, according to applications filed with the



PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

This hand-carved sign, as well as the Shell-shaped imprints in the column, are part of the historic downtown station that's set to become a Chevron, leaving the decorative details to face an uncertain future.

Carmel planning department. But rebranding won't happen quickly, as nothing does when a property is considered historic.

In March, a company called HASCO Holdings LLC purchased a half-dozen Shell stations on the Monterey Peninsula and in Salinas for a total of more than \$64.4 million, according to the Monterey County Assessor's Office. The downtown Carmel station, which for many years was Lugo's Shell and was later owned by racecar driver Mario Andretti's company, sold for \$9,822,500.

Designed for Shell Oil Co. by the architecture firm of Burde, Shaw & Associates — which also created the plans for the former bank at Seventh and Dolores and the Carmel Police Station on Junipero, among others — the station was built in 1963-1964. Among its more subtle features are Shell emblems imprinted in the pebble and concrete exterior.

'Shell' to 'Chevron' could face hurdles at city hall

The city's historic context statement, which guides planners in gauging the significance of the town's buildings, describes the station as "a remarkable example of a utilitarian building whose design blended well with the existing architectural fabric of Carmel."

'Never in Carmel'

"An industrial take on the Bay Region style so popular in Carmel from the 1940s through the 1960s, the station is softened by skylights in the roof over the service area and wood trellises over the gas pumps and corner signage," the

See SHELL page 21A

SECOND SEA LION SW OF THE OLD CYPRESS

By MARY SCHLEY

FOR SEVERAL days this month, dead seals accumulated on Carmel Beach, repulsing visitors and regulars, and distressing dog walkers who had to keep their canines away from them.

"Carmel Beach is our crown jewel," one resident said, noting that the dead animals hadn't been disposed of after a week and were left to rot. "It's hard to believe this is allowed to happen with all of the dogs that visit the beach, not to mention their owners."

A permit

In the past, city workers had simply buried dead animals found on the beach, but they'd recently been told they needed a permit from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association in order to dispose of the creatures, according to environmental programs manager Mary Bilse. That news amounted to a no-touch order until it could be confirmed.

It was later learned that public works crews can indeed bury deceased animals on the beach — but not until 48

hours after they are discovered.

"If you receive a report of a dead sea lion or seal on Carmel Beach, please notify the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories at (831) 771-4422 or mlmlstranding@gmail.com and provide the species or description of the animal, photos, GPS location, date and time the animal was last seen, approximate size of the animal, condition of the animal and name and contact information," Bilse told The Pine Cone.

After doing all that, beachgoers should call the public works department at (831) 620-2070, and the carcass will be buried after 48 hours. The delay gives the marine lab's scientists and researchers time to respond if they need to.

"The city public works department buried six seal

See SEALS page 30A



PHOTO/MARK HEDBERG

When you come across a dead sea creature on the beach, you're supposed to notify the authorities, including exact location and other details, and then the city, which can bury it after 48 hours.

MONTEREY PENINSULA property owners will notice a change to their property tax bills after a local water agency was forced by the courts to cancel a long-standing charge.

Accompanying property tax bills recently mailed by the Monterey County Tax Collector is an insert informing property owners that the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District is no longer collecting a "water supply charge." Revenue from the tax had generated about \$3.4 million annually for the district.

"Water Supply Charge Removed," the glossy insert says. "This property tax bill has been corrected to reflect the following change: The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District rescinded the collection of its annually approved Water Supply Charge for Fiscal Year 2024-25. These charges have been removed from the county's property tax roll for this fiscal year."

The insert goes on to tell property owners that they can

It took years, but the water charge is finally gone

find more information about the water supply charge on its website at mpwmd.net.

The director for the Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association — the group that sued the water district over the charge and prevailed — called the insert "another waste of taxpayers' money" and "misleading" because it did not say why the charge was being removed.

"The reason the fee was removed from the bill was that it was illegal, and the courts had already ruled against the water district when" water board directors "voted earlier this year to add the fee to the bill," Heuer, who said he paid \$96.36 for the water supply charge on his property tax bill last year, told The Pine Cone.

Heuer called the rescission of the tax "a good first step," but said that Peninsula homeowners are "waiting for their deserved refunds of illegally collected fees."

Water district general manager Dave Stoldt said that it was the county tax collector's idea to notify water

See CHARGE page 21A

Salinas Valley to get agriculture robotics center

By LISA LAPIN

A SWATH of prime Salinas Valley farmland near the intersection of Highway 68 and River Road will soon be abuzz — not with pollinators, but with the drones and robots of dozens of high-tech agricultural start-up companies.

The new nonprofit venture, which will bring together growers, educational institutions and funders, is being



Artistic renderings show a robot deployed in the Salinas Valley (top) and what the interior of the valley's new robotics development center — combining workshops with experimental farm fields — may look like.

hailed by its organizers as the first in the nation to combine a "robotics development center with a farm" and promises to make the Salinas Valley a leader in agricultural innovation, especially in growing and harvesting leafy greens and berries.

Plans for Reservoir Farms were announced Wednesday at an autonomous agriculture conference in Yolo County, where the focus is on farming advancements to keep the United States competitive against foreign growers.

See ROBOTICS page 16A

Homeowners see drop in taxes after court ruling

By KELLY NIX

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The insert goes on to tell property owners that they can

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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Quite a character

He identified as a Corgi mix, yet since a genetic test revealed eight different breeds, his person says he's more like a "mixed-up" Corgi. She didn't hear a sound from him for their first few days together and then, all of a sudden, he let out a cry that sounded like beloved Sesame Street character Elmo. Which is how he got his name.

Elmo's person, who volunteers for Peace of Mind Dog Rescue in Pacific Grove, has a soft heart for abandoned animals, which causes her to collect dogs. This also caused her to abandon her cottage south of Ocean in favor of a "home on the range" in The Preserve.

"Elmo was one of three pups dumped somewhere in Texas," said his person, who heard about him through friends. "I bottle-fed him at first, yet now that he's 5 months old, he's rapidly gone from little puppy to big baby."

Elmo's a quick study. He instantly figured out how to open his crate and climb in, and he taught himself to pull out his bed and carry it around the room before launching into zoomies. He learned how to walk on a leash right away.

"Elmo's pretty amazing," his person said. "It's almost like he's already gone through a training program. But, he's still a baby, so he could be hell on wheels by



the time he's 10 months old."

Elmo has been to Carmel Beach but has not yet been off leash. He hits the sand and bounces like a wind-up toy, which his person believes to be a Corgi characteristic.

"If people don't stop to say hello to Elmo, he seems incredulous," she said. "He sits and waits for them to greet him, and if they just walk by, he looks at me, heartbroken."

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Juarez guilty of burglary but not robbery

By MARY SCHLEY

IN A trial that lasted less than a week, a jury found Elijah Juarez, 22, guilty of grand theft, burglary and conspiracy but rejected the counts of robbery and other more severe charges sought by prosecutors. The verdict came almost two years after Juarez was arrested in a nearly million-dollar heist at Fourtane Jewelers in downtown Carmel.

On Dec. 7, 2021, Juarez and three others drove from Stockton in a stolen SUV and parked in front of the store at Lincoln and Ocean. Three entered the jewelers shortly before closing, carrying two sledgehammers, while the fourth waited in the car. All wore masks and dark clothing. They smashed cases and fled with \$932,950 worth of jewelry, but by the time police caught up with the stolen SUV on Highway 1 about 25 minutes later, Juarez and Omar A. — a juvenile — were inside, but the two other suspects and the stolen jewelry were gone.

Juarez was arrested and booked into Monterey County Jail and has remained there ever since as his case has slowly made its way toward trial, with multiple delays and his defense attorneys' efforts to get the charges against him reduced or dismissed, arguing he couldn't be charged with robbery because he didn't confront any of the people in the store while committing the crime.

Verdict rendered Friday

Following jury selection last Monday morning, the trial proceeded in Monterey County Superior Court Judge Jennifer O'Keefe's Salinas courtroom, and after closing arguments Friday morning, the

jury returned with a verdict at 2:20 p.m.

According to court documents, the verdict forms jurors had been given included possible lesser charges they could find Juarez guilty of if they didn't believe his crimes rose to the level of robbery. They concluded he did not rob Fourtane and instead found him guilty of three counts of grand theft, a lesser conspiracy charge, and burglary.

Aggravating

O'Keefe also found three aggravating factors, which could lead to a harsher sentence, including that "the manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication or professionalism," that the "crime involved an attempted or actual taking or damage of great monetary value," and that "the defendant's prior convictions as an adult or

sustained petitions in juvenile delinquency proceedings are numerous or of increasing seriousness."

Following the verdict, sentencing was set for Tuesday and then delayed until Thursday.

Juarez remains in Monterey County Jail on \$185,000 bail, and two other cases are proceeding against him: a 2023 misdemeanor battery and a June 2024 felony assault likely to cause great bodily injury. Both occurred while Juarez was in custody.

In the latter incident, he attacked Rory Johnson, according to the criminal complaint.

Jail records indicate a 20-year-old inmate by that name was incarcerated May 23 by Salinas P.D. for felony pimping, pandering, human trafficking and carrying a loaded gun that didn't belong to him, all felonies.



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Police & Sheriff's Log

Stealing isn't one of the 12 steps

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.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

Pacific Grove: Police contacted a subject loitering near a bank on Forest Avenue, and he was found to be in possession of drug paraphernalia. The 30-year-old male was arrested.

Carmel Valley: Report of alleged sexual abuse at a residence on Cachagua Road residence.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Wallet found at Mission and Sixth.

Pacific Grove: Officers were dispatched to report of burglary from a vehicle on Pine Avenue.

Pacific Grove: A welfare check was conducted on a subject on Forest Avenue. The 40-year-old male subject was arrested for public intoxication.

Pacific Grove: Officers were dispatched to a vehicle blocking a roadway on Congress Avenue. The 65-year-old male driver was arrested for driving under the influence.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle on Morse Drive marked for 72-hour parking.

Pacific Grove: Theft from an unlocked vehicle on 18th Street.

Pacific Grove: Report of a vehicle on

First Street that was tampered with.

Pacific Grove: A subject was observed trying vehicle door handles in a parking lot on Ocean View Boulevard. Subject was located and arrested for various charges, including the manufacture or sale of large-capacity magazines, petty theft, public intoxication (toluene), loitering and vehicle tampering. The 19-year-old male was transported to county jail.

Carmel Valley: Report of vandalism on Nason Road involving a 33-year-old female victim.

Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to a report of loud music at a residence on Brookdale Drive.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Domestic dispute involving an intoxicated subject at Mission and Fifth at 1833 hours. Counseled to resolution, information only.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of a lost dog at Eighth and Scenic. Found and returned to owner.

Pacific Grove: Suspicious phone calls received by a resident on 11th Street.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Missing plastic exterior piece of vehicle at Junipero and Fourth. Information only.

See **POLICE LOG** page 7RE
in the Real Estate Section



The gavel falls

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

Oct. 17 — Jacinto Cortez-Gerardo, 48, was sentenced to six years in prison after pleading no contest to one count of Penal Code 245(c), assault on a peace officer with a deadly weapon, and admitting an enhancement under Penal Code § 12022.7(a), personally inflicting great bodily injury.

On May 13, a little before 9 a.m., officer Braden Palma of the Seaside Police Department contacted multiple transients, including Cortez-Gerardo, who were blocking the exit door to the Wingstop on Playa Avenue. Palma told the transients to move on from the business' exit ramp on the rear side of the business.

Cortez-Gerardo refused to do so and had created a makeshift barricade blocking the exit ramp. Palma saw Cortez-Gerardo also had a makeshift spear and shield and had

a pile of small-to medium-sized rocks near Cortez-Gerardo's feet.

Cortez-Gerardo quickly picked up the makeshift spear while Palma spoke with Cortez-Gerardo. Palma called for back-up and continued to politely engage Cortez-Gerardo while asking him to leave the barricaded area. Initially, Cortez-Gerardo gave Palma a fake name and eventually acknowledged he may have some problems with the law. When Palma asked to conduct a probation compliance check, Cortez-Gerardo refused, despite being on probation and subject to search terms.

For 20 minutes, Cortez-Gerardo refused to follow any orders or requests while holding the makeshift spear and shield and sometimes making veiled threats that someone

See **GAVEL** page 28A

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Hyberbaric chamber saves diver

By MARY SCHLEY

A SCUBA diver on Sunday had to be treated in the Pacific Grove Hyberbaric Chamber after surfacing too quickly and losing consciousness, according to Monterey Fire Chief Andrew Miller.

At around 9 a.m. Oct. 20, firefighters were dispatched to a medical emergency at Wharf 2 in Monterey “for a diver who lost consciousness during a rapid ascent from 99 feet below the surface,” he said. The fire department helped treat the diver, who was not identified, until an ambulance arrived and paramedics took over. They took the victim to Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, where the emergency team quickly evaluated the diver’s condition and referred the case to the P.G. Hyperbaric Chamber for treatment, according to Miller.

At 9:45 a.m. the hyperbaric chamber team — comprising volunteer nurses, doctors and other skilled medical providers — was notified of the incident and activated the facility, where the diver underwent treatment for around six hours.

“After treatment, the diver’s symptoms — consistent with an arterial gas embolism or the ‘bends’ — were almost completely resolved,” he said.

Not many

Despite the popularity and prevalence of scuba diving up and down the California Coast, and the dangers that accompany it, the Pacific Grove facility is one of just a few in the state that specializes in

providing emergency care for such diving accidents.

The chamber is also used to treat victims of carbon monoxide poisoning.

The original chamber, which was purchased in 1966 with funds donated by diving clubs, local service clubs and P.G. taxpayers, was housed in the Pacific Grove Fire Station but operated by members of a volunteer coastal patrol group.

It was primarily used for treating injured divers, though military pilots who suffered altitude bends also recovered there, with the process taking 12 to 36 hours.

Staffed 24/7

Later, more than \$210,000 in donations were raised to purchase a new hyperbaric chamber, an air compressor and air storage tanks, and to construct the treatment room, with a new facility coming online in 1984.

In 1991, training requirements changed to follow the standards for the National Board of Diving and Hyperbaric Technicians.

Pacific Grove Ocean Rescue, which was responsible for the chamber, was disbanded in 2006, around the time the Pacific Grove Fire Department merged with Monterey Fire Department, and the Pacific Grove Hyperbaric Chamber organization separated from the fire department.

When an emergency such as Sunday’s diving accident occurs, the hospital’s emergency department or a doctor will notify a chamber supervisor, who coordinates with the team for treatment. The chamber is staffed 24/7.

Correction

CARMEL CITY Council candidate Parker Logan filed a Form 470 statement with the city clerk’s office Sept. 30 indicating he has not received any campaign funds and does not anticipate spending more than \$2,000 in his election bid. A

story last week stated he had not filed the form. Logan said that while he has many supporters who have offered to donate, he has declined. “Instead, I offer a listening ear and a promise to support the values and needs of the residents of this city,” he said.

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Recently another candidate, for mayor, put in big bold print how financial responsibly he is. How the City is running a surplus, when in fact they owe over fifty million dollars to the state pension fund. Then this past week I got an email, with documentation, that spells out the fact that the Mayor Pro Tem recently filed bankruptcy owing over \$180,000. This includes past taxes to the federal government! Meanwhile he continues to drive a 2022 Lexus SUV that he leases for over \$1,200 a month. Is that an example of the fiscal responsibility you take credit for in big bold headlines to reassure the public you’d be a good choice for Mayor? Please ignore the hyperbole and vote responsibly on November 5th. The City’s budget depends on it.

Paid for by Miller For Mayor 2024, 501 Gibson Ave., Pacific Grove, Ca, 93950.
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OLD HOUSE TOO DECREPIT, NOT SPECIAL ENOUGH FOR MANDATORY PRESERVATION

By MARY SCHLEY

A 103-YEAR-OLD house on Camino Real should either be protected because it represents early 20th century architecture in Carmel, or it has no place on the city's inventory of historic properties because it's "at best a mediocre example."

Given those dueling opinions from historical consultants and the exceedingly poor condition of the home, the historic resources board on Monday unanimously voted to keep it off the list of buildings that must be preserved.

In September, city-hired consultant Meg Clovis — who has seen several of her evaluations disregarded by decision makers — determined the board-and-batten home built in 1921 qualifies for the historic inventory because it is representative of the theme of "Architectural Development in Carmel (1888-1965)" and "embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method of construction."

Associate planner Katherine Wallace agreed. "It's not a good example of an architectural style, but it is a good example of a type of construction recognized as significant," she told the board Oct. 21.

Clovis identified the type of construction as "Carmel Early 20th Century Residential Architecture ('Other, with Craftsman

influences')," and concluded that the home has sufficient Craftsman characteristics pertaining to shape, rooflines, floorplan, windows and other elements, even if it doesn't have all of them. The evaluation also concluded it has retained substantial integrity.

'Crumbling in on itself'

"It should be noted the present condition of the building is poor," Wallace said. It's been vacant for several years and is contaminated with black mold.

But its decrepitude should not disqualify it from mandatory preservation, she said, pointing to the Jeffers log cabin on Monte Verde Street that has been condemned for more than two decades — and which the historic resources board decided in 2018 should be replicated since it can't be saved.

"A measure of integrity is not the same as an assessment of condition," Wallace said.

The owner, Tricia Bland, and her agent, Susan Fox, disagreed with Clovis' evaluation and hired consultant Anthony Kirk to review it.

In a one-page letter, Kirk pointed out that Clovis "makes no attempt to define the style of what she calls, 'Other.'"

He also said that according to the

Carmel Municipal Code, "in order to qualify for the Carmel Inventory, the building should be 'a good example of an architectural style or type of construction recognized as significant in the Historic Context Statement' or 'display a rare style or type for which special consideration should be given.'"

"The style of the house is not found anywhere in the Carmel Historic Context Statement, and Ms. Clovis makes no attempt to designate it 'a rare style or type of construction,'" he wrote. "As such, the house does not appear eligible for listing in the Carmel Historic Resources Inventory, and the City of Carmel should not place the property in the inventory."

Wallace said she reviewed Kirk's letter but sided with Clovis and recommended the historic resources board put the residence on the list.

Fox told the board the home has black mold, leaks and bees in the chimney. She

also said contractors have advised the house can't reasonably be salvaged.

"The foundation is gone," she said. "It's really crumbling in on itself."

Preservation's place

Longtime resident Bud Smith, who lives across the street and was a frequent visitor when the previous occupants lived there, said he supports the principle of historic designation.

See HISTORIC page 30A



PHOTO/CITY OF CARMEL

This Camino Real home has some Craftsman elements, but it's not important enough and too bad of shape to force the owners to preserve it.

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Bill to pay for veterans' trips to docs

By KELLY NIX

REP. JIMMY Panetta has reintroduced legislation that seeks to establish a permanent program to transport veterans to their medical appointments. More than 32,000 former U.S. servicemembers live in the congressman's district.

The bill, dubbed the Veterans Earned Transportation Act, would set up a program to offer veterans rides to VA medical centers for vocational rehabilitation, counseling, medical treatment and other appointments. The transportation services, which would be free, would be especially helpful for those who are elderly, visually impaired, mobility impaired, or live in remote and rural areas, Panetta said.

The 19th Congressional District includes South San Jose, part of Santa Cruz, coastal Monterey County and northern San Luis Obispo County.

"This legislation would ensure permanent funding for vital VA transportation services, allowing veterans, regardless of their ability or where they live, to access the mental, physical and vocational care that they may need," Panetta said. "Taking this action is a big step toward ensuring

that the United States is serving all those who served our country."

Panetta introduced similar legislation in 2021, but it failed to get a vote in the House.

'Owe them'

While a few programs offer free transportation or reimbursement for travel, they are limited to specific classes of veterans, or the programs must be renewed periodically, a spokesman told The Pine Cone. Panetta's legislation would make transportation services permanent and open to all veterans.

Panetta, himself a veteran, added that many former servicemembers in the country who live in rural areas have a challenging time accessing healthcare services because of the lack of proximity to VA clinics.

Other backers of the bill are Republican representatives Van Taylor from Texas and Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania, and Democratic Rep. Ted Lieu from California, who said, "We owe it to them to make sure they have access to mental health care, medical treatment, job training services, and more offered by the VA."

POTTER REELECTED TO CITIES LEAGUE

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

IN LONG BEACH last Thursday, Carmel Mayor Dave Potter was reelected as a state director for the Monterey Bay Division of the League of California Cities during the organization's annual conference. The league represents cities in dealings with Sacramento.

"In this role, Potter will continue to represent the needs of Carmel-by-the-Sea, as well as advocating for small cities and towns across California," according to the announcement of the appointment.

As a state director, Potter represents cities in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties.

The League of California Cities "advocates tirelessly on the issues that matter most to California's 482 towns and cities," by working with regional field staff and lawmakers to draft, sponsor and support legislation that promotes and preserves local decision-making. The group also lobbies against policy that erodes local control and forms coalitions with other associations and stakeholders in furthering common goals.

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Panetta secures more money for MRY

By MARY SCHLEY

U.S. REP. Jimmy Panetta has secured \$14.2 million in federal tax dollars to help fund the first phase of construction of the new 65,000-square-foot terminal at Monterey Regional Airport. The congressman announced this week he obtained the grant through the Airport Terminal Program funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which provided \$15 billion for airport infrastructure improvements.

The design phase of the project, which includes building a new terminal south of the existing building, improved internal airport access and enhanced road access — including a Monterey-Salinas Transit hub — has been completed.

The new terminal will also have jet bridges, eliminating the need for passengers to walk across the tarmac and climb stairs to reach their aircraft.

In a statement, Panetta said residents and visitors deserve an airport “that is safe, reliable and comfortable.”

Safety first

“I’m proud to ensure that the federal government is investing in local airports like ours to meet the demands of modern travelers with updated amenities and enhanced safety features,” he said. “With this federal support, we will continue to improve the mobility, economy, and quality of life in California’s 19th Congressional District.”

Airport executive director Mike La Pier, who recently announced he’ll be retiring, said that while Panetta has gotten more than

\$64 million in federal taxpayer funds for the terminal design, tarmac improvements, and other modernization and safety initiatives, the allocation announced this week represents the first earmarked directly for construction.

“With the design completed, we will be ready to move forward with the start of the construction in the spring, with completion sometime in late 2026,” he said, adding that he’s grateful to Panetta for his advocacy on behalf of the airport.

“It means a great deal to the airport to have such strong support in the district and in Washington,” he said.

\$175M cost

In addition to responding to the needs generated by increasing traffic at the airport, the new terminal project was necessitated by the Federal Aviation Administration’s requirement that MRY relocate the passenger facilities to make way for operational safety enhancements to Taxiway A, which connects to and supports the primary air carrier Runway 10R-28L.

To accommodate that, the old general-aviation hangars and fire station were demolished and relocated to the other side of the airport, and work on the new commercial apron and taxiways is underway. In June, long-term parking was moved to make space for those additions. Construction includes laying underground utilities for the ramp and the new terminal and covering them with concrete strong enough to withstand the weight of multiple planes and related equipment.

The whole project is expected to cost \$175 million.

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Lawsuit: Homicide scared customers

By KELLY NIX

THE OWNERS of a King City laundromat have filed a lawsuit against the municipality alleging it's responsible for a significant loss in sales following a March shooting at a home near the business in which four people — including a woman celebrating her birthday — were murdered.

Maria Lopez and Anthony Mora, co-owners of The Laundry Lounge on Second Street, contend in a complaint filed Monday that prior to the fatal shooting on March 3, they complained to the King City Police Department about “municipal violations” at the home — which is across the street from the laundromat — but that officers “did nothing about it.”

‘Negligent’

Lopez and Mora contend they were netting between \$10,000 to \$15,000 per month from The Laundry Lounge before the slayings but have since seen a loss of about \$2,000 per month. They say the reason for the downturn is that customers are

afraid to patronize the business.

“This significant loss of income is causing co-owners Anthony Mora and Maria Lopez financial difficulties that they attribute to the negligence of the King City Police Department,” according to the lawsuit filed Monday in Monterey

County Superior Court by their Salinas attorney, John Klopfenstein.

The pair accuses the King City Police Department of ignoring their complaints which they say was a “substantial factor in causing” them financial harm. The lawsuit does not include details of their complaints.

Lopez and Mora are seeking an undisclosed amount in damages, including punitive damages, which can be awarded in cases involving oppression, malice or fraud.

“Plaintiffs are entitled to punitive damages to punish defendants and to deter such conduct in the future,” their lawsuit says.

City manager Steve Adams said the plaintiffs filed a claim with King City but

See **LOSS** page 25A

‘Significant loss of income due to negligence of police’

BOB DELVES

for *Carmel-by-the-Sea* City Council



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‘Pampas’ disappears, but whodonit?

By CHRIS COUNTS

TO THE surprise of locals who frequently drive past the crest of Hurricane Point in Big Sur, a massive patch of invasive jubata grass (*Cortaderia jubata*) that once loomed over Highway 1 disappeared this past summer.

The topic came up the Sept. 13 Big Sur Multi-Agency Council meeting. Longtime resident Steve Beck asked, “Who can we thank?” El Sur Ranch, it turns out.

The ranch has “sponsored a company out of Oregon that specializes in climbing steep places and eradicating pampas grass in as many places as possible along the coast,” ranch spokesperson David Armanasco told The Pine Cone.

Armanasco said a 17-man team “strategically” mapped out its work before getting started and used special shoes to safely complete the task on acres of steep slopes. “This was a specialized crew,” he explained.

According to Armanasco, the ranch is doing the eradication because the invasive plant’s seeds spread so easily and overtake native vegetation.

The work is part of larger effort to eradicate jubata grass between Garrapata Creek and Big Sur Valley. Armanasco reported that the effort will resume next spring.

The first step in removing the grass is to apply an herbicide. Kevin Drabinski of Caltrans said the product used is approved by the EPA and is the “least toxic” option.

While the work crew was busy treating the invasive plants, Caltrans managed traffic control just below along Highway 1.

‘Slow-moving crisis’

Commonly known as pampas grass, jubata grass clings to many hillsides in Big Sur, where its large feathery plumes can be seen swaying in the breeze. Because some motorists think it’s cool, you’ll see a sprig of it attached to a car’s antenna, which helps spread its seeds to other hillsides.

Beck has long sounded the alarm over invasive weeds along the coast, which he called “a slow-moving crisis.” He noted the patch at Hurricane Point was the largest between Big Sur and Carmel Highlands, and he’s happy to see it gone.

“I couldn’t be more delighted,” he said.

While he and others have called for efforts to remove the nonnative plants, some have suggested the work will be in vain because they are simply too hardy and prolific.

Can it be stopped?

But Beck said he believes invasive plants can be removed successfully, which in turn makes it easier for native plants to thrive. “This is proof you can stop the spread of it,” he said.

Another longtime local, Kodiak Greenwood, said the “critical spot treatment” of invasive plants “has a great success rate with little overall environmental impact,” as long as “it’s kept clear of riparian areas.”

Monterey County Planning Commissioner Martha Diehl said that while she has some concerns about herbicides, she supports the effort to get rid of jubata grass due to wildfire risks and the threat it poses to native ecosystems.

Jubata grass comes from Ecuador, Peru and Chile. While its seeds have a poor germination rate, the plant produces a lot of them, and they are carried afar by the wind and often get caught in car tires.

The spread of jubata grass risks harming native plants, including at least one that is protected.

A Caltrans report from 2016 noted that efforts to protect the endangered Smith’s Blue Butterfly are dependent on ensuring that its host plants, Seaside and Coast buckwheat, survive — something that is threatened by the spread of jubata grass. “Any mitigation replanting” of buckwheat “should be coupled with follow-up measures” that keep the site “free of invasive plant species.”

Hans Buder
CARMEL CITY COUNCIL

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P.G. welcomes Chinese pavilion

By CHRIS COUNTS

HONORING THE contributions of Chinese immigrants to Pacific Grove and other local communities over the past century-and-a-half, a pavilion is set to be built at the Elmarie Dyke Open Space next to Chautauqua Hall.

particular, and educational exhibits.”

The design of the structure will be a blend of Chinese and contemporary architecture. “There will also be an Oriental garden and a Chinese moon gate, which is a traditional circular entrance to a Chinese garden,” according to the plan.

The pavilion will stand as a tribute to the resiliency of the local Chinese-American community and the spirit of cooperation between the United States and China.

Pavilions date back more than 2,000 years in China. Built in varying sizes and shapes, they are often found within temples and in parks and gardens.

Nov. 9 fundraiser

Chinese immigrants first came to California during the Gold Rush in 1849 and played a key role in building the western portion of the first transcontinental railroad and various branch routes within

the state, including from San Francisco to the Monterey Peninsula. They also established fishing villages at Point Lobos and other local sites. In 1906, fire destroyed their fishing village at Point Alones near the site of today’s Monterey Bay Aquarium.

So far, \$200,000 has been raised to pay for the pavilion, and organizers are hoping to come up with the balance by the end of the year. Chef Lee’s Mandarin House in Monterey will host a fundraiser for it Nov. 9, with a silent auction. Meanwhile, final plans for the pavilion “will be brought forth to the city council for approval before construction begins.”



PHOTO/MONTEREY BAY CHINESE ASSOCIATION

An effort is underway to raise money to build a pavilion next to Chautauqua Hall in Pacific Grove to honor the contributions of Chinese-Americans.

In the works for two years, the \$400,000 project is being promoted by the Monterey Bay Chinese Association and was endorsed by the Pacific Grove City Council April 3. According to the group, the pavilion “will be an important step in recognizing the key role that Chinese played in Pacific Grove history.”

Symbolizing ‘harmony’

Known as the Chinese Pavilion, the open-air structure will not only be a distinctive local landmark, it will provide space for “community events, including festivals and the Chinese New Year in



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Newsom in Seattle to help Dems

By CAITLIN CONRAD

WITH JUST days to go until a hotly contested presidential election, California Gov. Gavin Newsom spent the weekend in Seattle rallying Democrats there ahead of Nov. 5.

Newsom was in Washington state to promote the campaigns of Democratic Party candidates, including Vice President Kamala Harris and Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson, who is running for governor.

The Saturday event was held at the Seattle headquarters for the Washington State Democrats. Newsom was there to meet with donors and fire-up volunteers brought in to knock on doors and make calls for the party's phone bank.

In an interview with KOMO News at the event, Newsom was asked if his reason for showing up in Washington was a concern about Democrats chances in the reliably blue state.

"The opposite, I feel like it is a sister state with California in the context of climate, energy policy, and the work we are doing together to eliminate poverty," Newsom said.

Another focus of Newsom's during the trip was a ballot initiative in the State of Washington to repeal the state's Climate Commitment Act, also known as the "cap and invest" program, which some blame for increases in the state's gasoline prices.

"I was here for your current Governor around your cap and invest program, which California advanced over a decade ago, to make sure you're defeating that initiative," said Newsom during the interview.

Supporters of the ballot measure to repeal cap and invest argue the climate law has increased the cost of gas in the state, but opponents claim the law has limited

pollution while providing funding for transportation.

Washington has one of the highest average gas prices in the nation, at \$4.06 a gallon, second only to California where drivers are paying an average of \$4.61.

Backers of the initiative to repeal cap and invest in the State of Washington have called the program a hidden gas tax and blame it for pain at the pump. The program sets a cap on carbon emissions in the state and requires businesses to buy allowances equal to their greenhouse gas emissions.

These allowances are traded at quarterly auctions, and the money funds climate initiatives in the state.

Supporters of the rollback argue the law hasn't stopped drivers from hitting the road, or trucks from transporting goods, but instead has only increased the price of doing so in Washington.

"It punishes working families and doesn't actually reduce emissions in our state. People still need to drive to work, and go to the grocery store, and drop kids off at school," said initiative sponsor State Representative Jim Walsh, a Republican.

We're No. 1

The stated purpose of the climate law is to get the State of Washington to net zero emissions by 2050, similar to California's cap and trade program, which also aims to lower emissions. Both states have been proponents of getting drivers out of internal-combustion-powered vehicles and into electric vehicles and public transportation.

At the Seattle event, Geek Wire reported Washington Governor Jay Inslee and Newsom had a good-humored back and forth over who's state is leading the fight against climate change. According to

See NEWSOM page 22A



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Monterey man faces years behind bars for lengthy list of crimes

By KELLY NIX

A MONTEREY landlord last week pleaded guilty to a litany of crimes, including assault, trespassing into a tenant's home, drugs and weapons violations and

other felonies and misdemeanors, and faces up to seven years in prison when he's sentenced next month.

On Oct. 18, Leslie Flores Sr., 59, pleaded no contest, the same as a guilty plea, to a host of charges, according to

the Monterey County District Attorney's Office. His plea came four days after the start of his jury trial.

Flores — who owns multiple rental properties in Monterey — was involved in what prosecutors described as "crime spree" that began in March 2022, when he and his son, Leslie Flores Jr., assaulted a bouncer at Britannia Arms on Alvarado Street.

"At one point Flores Jr. was strangling the bouncer while Flores Sr. prevented onlookers from coming to the bouncer's aid," the DA's office said. T

he bouncer survived the attack, and the younger Flores was convicted for misdemeanor assault likely to produce great bodily injury.

See CRIMES page 20A

Park clears brush to reduce fire danger

By CHRIS COUNTS

TO REDUCE the risk of a dangerous wildfire, the Monterey Peninsula is thinning vegetation on 6.2 acres adjacent to East Garzas Road in Carmel Valley.

According to the park district, the project's goals include "pruning tree limbs that are near the ground, trimming back shrubs and woody vegetation in the forest understory, removing invasive weeds and other nonnative vegetation, and chipping and scattering cleared vegetation."

By thinning vegetation, fire officials seek to create what they call a shaded fuel break. While such a measure won't stop a wildfire from spreading, it can reduce its intensity and severity, while keeping

flames closer to the ground. By slowing a fire, responders have more time to stop it before it gets out of control.

The work, which will cost taxpayers \$80,000, is expected to take about two weeks, although periodic "maintenance" will be needed every one to three years.

Eucalyptus next

Also, the park district has plans to "remove, thin and treat" three stands of eucalyptus on 12.2 acres in the park. Some will be taken out, while others will be pruned. The trees, which are native to Australia, pose a significant fire risk, and crowd out oaks, riparian trees and native shrubs.

See FIRE page 28A

PANETTA'S DISTRICT IS 30TH RICHEST

By KELLY NIX

THE 19th Congressional District, the area U.S. Rep. Jimmy Panetta represents, is one of the wealthiest districts in the country, according to a study released Tuesday.

Financial technology company SmartAsset ranked 435 congressional areas based on the percentage of households with more than \$200,000 in annual income, the IRS threshold for "high earners."

\$175,010," the company said. "Potentially due to its proximity to Silicon Valley, 44.3 percent of households in this district earn over \$200,000 per year. This makes it the richest congressional district in the U.S."

Coming in a close second is the 16th Congressional District, which includes parts of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, where 43.4 percent of households earn more than \$200,000 annually. Democrat Anna Eshoo represents the district.

The third spot in the nation went to New York's 12th Congressional District, located in the middle of Manhattan, which is represented by Democrat Jerry Nadler.

In addition to the 26.2 percent of households in Panetta's district that earn more than \$200,000, SmartAsset spokesman Steve Sabato told The Pine Cone that 18.6 percent of households in this district earn between \$100,000 to \$149,999, 12.1 percent earn \$150,000 to \$199,999 and 10.9 percent earn \$75,000 to \$99,999. About 4 percent of households in Panetta's district earn less than \$10,000.

Big money

The company, which examined 2023 U.S. Census Bureau income data, found that in Panetta's district, 72,174 of households, or 26.6 percent, earn more than \$200,000, making it the 30th richest in the United States.

The wealthiest district in the country, California's 17th, represented by Democrat Ro Khanna, is just south of San Francisco, stretching from Cupertino to Fremont.

"The median household income in California's 17th Congressional District is

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Cameras to capture illegal dumping

By KELLY NIX

THOSE CONSIDERING discarding an old mattress, furniture, motor oil or other junk along the side of the road in Monterey County might want to reconsider. That's because officials have installed cameras at some of the more popular dumping sites in hopes of catching the scofflaws.

Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau supervisor Maria Ferdin told the press Wednesday that as part of an "illegal dumping pilot surveillance project" it installed two motion-activated cameras Sept. 16 in undisclosed areas in the county where people often discard trash. The county has purchased six and plans on installing the other four soon.

Effective

"The purpose of the cameras is to significantly reduce illegal dumping in Monterey County," Ferdin said. "We are doing it to protect public lands and private properties from dumped household garbage, furniture, unknown liquid wastes, and hazardous wastes."

The cellular-powered Reconyx Hyperfire 2 cameras, which take still photos, are also used by law enforcement agencies, hunters and others.

"The images they capture go to the cloud, and we are able to view them," Ferdin explained.

While they capture images of a lot of

things, including passing cars, dog walkers and families on strolls, just three days after installation one of them caught a man dumping a mattress on the side of a county road near Highway 1 close to an agricultural field.

"The cameras captured an individual in a GMC truck, four-door with tinted windows, disposing of a box spring," Ferdin said. "The man dumped it within 34 seconds."

Though the truck's license plate was not readable, the county released photos in hopes the man can be identified.

Pricey fines

Mattresses and box springs are free to dispose of at the Marina landfill, but the penalties for discarding junk are steep.

"Illegal dumping citations begin at \$2,500 for a first offense, then they go up from there," Ferdin said. "The second offense is \$5,000 and the third offense is \$10,000."

Depending on what is disposed of, she said environmental health sometimes contacts the district attorney's office for possible criminal charges.

While the cameras aren't perfect and don't capture good-quality images when it's dark, the hope is that people will think twice about abandoning their junk in public areas.

"You are paying for illegal dumping as a taxpayer," Ferdin said.



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ROBOTICS

From page 1A

“Our goal is to eliminate the friction points that have slowed the development of new ag-tech solutions,” said Walt Duflock, senior vice president of innovation at the Western Growers Association, one of the conference partners. “Reservoir Farms offers a new model, where start-ups can work side by side with growers to test their technologies, iterate in a low-stakes environment, and build scalable solutions to improve agriculture’s operations.”

When Reservoir Farms opens in early 2025, it will house space for more than a dozen fledgling ag-tech companies to test their new technologies in a real-world agricultural setting at a relatively low cost. With customizable farm plots and crop types, the founders envision the development and testing of autonomous machines to perform tasks such as grading, weeding and spraying.

“As robotics and automation become more integral to California agriculture, it’s essential to have facilities like Reservoir Farms embedded within the farming

community,” said Gabriel Youtsey, chief innovation officer at the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, also a partner in the new ag tech center. “By bridging the gap between lab-based research and real-world application, Reservoir Farms can help build the workforce and technology needed to address the critical challenges on the farm, from labor shortages to climate change.”

With initial locations in the Salinas Valley and Merced, Reservoir Farms is positioning itself to support more than 50 start-ups and create more than 1,000 jobs over the next five years. In addition to the physical farmland and infrastructure, it will provide storage and laboratory space, expert mentorship, access to potential investors, and shared, state-of-the-art equipment that emerging companies otherwise cannot afford.



Many companies are developing agricultural robots, including this one from Naio Technologies, but much more innovation is needed, say the backers of a new ag tech center in the Salinas Valley.

Early-stage startups

The effort is an outgrowth of HawkTower, a new Monterey Peninsula-based venture capital firm that aims to invest in early-stage startups in rural areas of California that have been overlooked by investors.

“We are helping to make Salinas a destination for early ag-tech research and development by providing facilities that are so much more cost effective than the alternatives,”

said Danny Bernstein, founder of HawkTower and CEO of The Reservoir. “The ag companies, especially in specialty crops, are begging for more automation, and this will really set up the Salinas Valley as a center of robotics development.”

Hartnell College in Salinas, which has a growing ag tech training program, has been a collaborator in Reservoir Farms “since Day 1,” Bernstein said. Hartnell will be doing workforce development training at the test farm, with the aim of placing its graduates into ag-tech roles.

California leaders have been making a case for the importance of high-tech agricultural advancements for many years, noting that they are essential for the state’s \$60 billion-per-year agricultural industry to remain competitive with lower-cost produce being imported from countries in Asia and Central and South America.

California growers are facing labor shortages and rising costs across the board, including labor and water, as well as the impacts of climate change and inconsistent weather. Changes to U.S. border policy and impacts to immigration are creating additional pressures for domestic agriculture by curtailing the availability of workers.

Autonomous farming techniques that don’t rely on physical human labor — which can compensate for labor

See AG next page



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AG

From previous page

shortages and potentially reduce crop costs — are considered vital to the state’s agricultural future. Others say that maintaining domestic food production in the United States is also vital to national security.

U.S. Rep. Jimmy Panetta, who lives in Carmel Valley, recently visited a Braga Fresh field in the Salinas Valley for a demonstration of regenerative carbon capture to preserve soil and laser weeding to reduce labor costs. Braga Fresh officials, who are extensively using ag tech today, said that weeding a field would otherwise require 25 to 40 people to work by hand.

Panetta posted to social media afterward, “Great visit to a local producer to see firsthand how innovations in agriculture and technology are having a direct impact in the fields. We’re a leader in sustainable agriculture and ag tech, and with continued federal investments we’ll continue to be at the forefront.”

Showcasing innovations

According to Bernstein, Reservoir Farms is fully funded to realize its ambitions within the next several months. While he declined to state the exact location of the planned 50-acre facility, he said construction will begin shortly on buildings that will include a 40,000-square-foot warehouse and shared workshop, and a dozen 1,000-square-foot “megatronics shops” where rovers and drones can be stored for testing.

Reservoir Farms will operate on a rental model, with businesses paying for access to the research and development equipment, field testing and secure equipment storage. There will be co-working and convening space as well. Customized planting will be available for whatever crop needs to be tested, at a specialized row width or size, as crops are planted at different widths for different machinery. Customer demonstration days are planned, where startups can showcase their innovations, Bernstein said.

High-tech products

While at Reservoir Farms, startups will work with the Western Growers Association on a validation process and a quantitative “scorecard” that give the fledgling companies feedback on scalability, efficacy and financial viability. This validation, combined with field testing by university researchers, will help startups refine their products, build trust with growers, and speed their high-tech products to market.

Businesses already lined up to take part in Reservoir Farms include local names such as Taylor Farms and Driscoll. Additional supporting partners include Central Coast Small Business Development Center, Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action, Digital NEST, Farmhand Ventures, Merced County Farm Bureau, MilanoTechnical Group, Monterey Bay Drone Automation & Robotics Technology, Monterey Bay Economic Partnership, Monterey County Farm Bureau, Tesseract Ventures, and The Vine.

Hundreds of Carmel voters already cast ballots

Opportunities for the not registered

By MARY SCHLEY

WITH A little more than a week to go before Election Day, just over a third of Carmel’s registered voters have already returned ballots containing their choices for mayor, city council and other key local and state offices, according to the Monterey County Elections Department.

And perhaps indicating the level of interest in this year’s race, two dozen more residents registered to vote in the city in the past few months, bringing the total to just under 2,500 people.

Over the years, elections departments in California have sought to make casting ballots easier. Not only is

voting by mail an increasingly popular practice — the vast majority of Carmel’s constituents are registered to always receive mail-in ballots — drop boxes have been placed in every community to allow residents to deliver their ballots any time of day.

In Carmel-by-the-Sea, the secure box is located near the polling place at Sunset Center, while others have been installed at Carmel Valley Library at 65 W. Carmel Valley Road in the Village, 650 Canyon del Rey in Del Rey Oaks, Marina Community Center at 211 Hillcrest Ave., Monterey Public Library (625 Pacific St.), P.G. City Hall at 300 Forest Ave., and Seaside City Hall at 440 Harcourt Ave.

Another way to turn in a ballot early — or to register to

See **VOTERS** page 21A



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Carmel: Practically Halloween Town

By MARY SCHLEY

‘AS WE all know, Halloween in Carmel is a big thing,’ community activities assistant Leslie Fenton said in the city’s weekly video Friday.

That’s because while people everywhere enjoy costumes, candy, parties and shenanigans on Oct. 31, that spot on the calendar also marks the city’s date of incorporation, and it’s turning 108 this year.

The traditional festivities will begin with a not-quite-so-old one. In the 9th Annual Pumpkin Roll on Oct. 26, participants select gourds from a pile available on Santa Fe Street and roll them down Ocean Avenue into a giant dumpster at Junipero, where they land with bangs and splats if they don’t turn to mush along the way.

Pumpkin cheers

The event runs from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Ocean Avenue is closed between Carpenter and Junipero that day until around 3 p.m., “or when we can get everything cleaned up,” Fenton said. Guadalupe, Santa Rita, Santa Fe and Torres will be closed at their Ocean Avenue intersections during that time, as well.

“It’s a lot of fun,” she said, adding that this year, the Carmel Middle School cheerleaders will be there to help egg everyone on.

And for those who worry about the waste, the pumpkin wreckage is taken to

the composters at the dump in Marina.

On Halloween, which falls on a Thursday this year, Ocean Avenue will again close, this time at around 4:15 p.m., for the city’s birthday parade of costumed residents, dogs, kids, dignitaries, clubs, nonprofits and everyone else who wants to take part.

Staging will take place in the area of Mission and Sixth near Devendorf Park, and the procession will head down Ocean, make a U-turn at Monte Verde and return to the park, where a birthday party will run from 5 to 7 p.m. with live music by Shannon and the Night Divers, trick-or-treating for the kids — and snacks for all.

Hot dogs are back

“Due to popular demand, we are bringing back free hot dogs, chips and water,” Fenton announced Friday, “so that’s always a big, fun time.”

Sunset Center is sponsoring the music, while the Carmel Host Lions are providing the food.

The streets around Devendorf Park will be closed from 2 p.m. until the parade and party are over, and the cross streets on Ocean between Junipero and Monte Verde will reopen as soon as the procession has passed and it’s safe for cars again.

To take part in the parade, go to ci.carmel.ca.us/post/spooky-season-almost-here-0 and click on the “parade participation form” link.



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Biff Smith honored with concert, fund

By MARY SCHLEY

COLORFUL IN every respect, including his attire, Carmel resident, jazz pianist, teacher and magician Biff Smith will be remembered next week during a three-hour tribute by the band for which he played and wrote songs for many years, Along Came Betty. The Nov. 3 gig will take place in Characters lounge, the Monterey Marriott bar that was recently reimagined and reopened as a music club with high-top tables, low lighting, and live jazz and other entertainment.

Smith, a renowned musician and former

longtime Stevenson School English teacher and piano instructor who saw many of his students go on to great acclaim, enjoyed a lengthy career with Along Came Betty, drummer Patrick Tregenza's band, and produced solo albums, as well. Smith died June 20 at the age of 81.

Set for 4 to 7 p.m. on the stage in the Characters lounge in the hotel on Calle Principal, the tribute will include Along Came Betty alumni Pete Lips, Stu Reynolds, Brian Stock, Paul Tarantino, Steve Uccello, Bill Spencer and Tregenza, as well as special guests.

"Join us for an immersive experience that celebrates Smith's original Hard Bob compositions featuring a carefully curated selection of tunes from the band's seven albums produced over the last 25 years," Tregenza said.

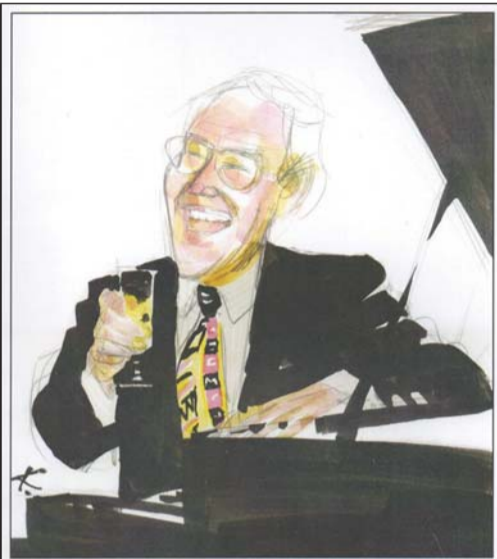
Jazz endowment

No doubt a few anecdotes and observations — such as Smith's penchant for creative song names ("The Surreptitious Sorrows of Suburban Sycophants," for one) — will be shared throughout the evening, too.

There is no cover charge for the show, but donations to the new Biff Smith Jazz Endowment Fund, organized by Smith's widow, Camille d'Avenas, and overseen by The Monterey Jazz Festival, are encouraged.

Lauren Tobin, director of media and strategic relations for the festival — for which Smith was a board member and performer for several years — said she's pleased to be overseeing the endowment, which will award scholarships to deserving piano students.

"I hope that we can build a fund that pays a fitting tribute to Biff and inspires future jazz pianists," she said. To contribute, visit tinyurl.com/Biff-Smith-Endowment.



Biff Smith
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The cover of the program for Biff Smith's recent memorial features the late Hank Ketcham's depiction of him in cheerful and colorful splendor at the piano.

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Lately there have been posts that say I'm a madman, a racist, crazy, that I have anger issues that they are sure to exist in my home and it just goes on and on. Funny thing is not one of these people has met me or talked to me face to face. Reality is that in the 3,000+ times I have spoken on an issue at a city meeting maybe a dozen times I was so frustrated by the lack of understanding of the issue by the powers that be, or due to my passion about the subject, I raised my voice, not in anger, but in an attempt to get their attention. This doesn't mean I have mental or medical issues as some claim to try to marginalize me. It means that the council needs to listen to perspectives other than their own. So please, ignore the keyboard warriors that will stop at nothing to get their candidate elected and vote responsibly on November 5th

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

From page 14A

The elder Flores pleaded guilty to numerous crimes, including having a short-barreled rifle/assault weapon, recklessly evading and resisting police, assault likely to produce great bodily injury, drug-related charges, mail theft and trespassing into one of his tenants' homes without consent.

However, the spree ended on July 4 when he was taken into custody at his Monterey home after a seven-hour standoff. Officers found him hiding in a 6-foot hole that he'd carved out with a chainsaw beneath a floor. He's been held in Monterey County Jail since then.

Monterey County Deputy District Attorney Christopher Puck said Flores has not shown regret for the crimes.

"Mr. Flores has shown absolutely no remorse for his actions throughout this entire saga and has been trying to game the system for quite some time," Puck told The Pine Cone Tuesday.

Changes to bail laws that has allowed most criminals, even repeat offenders, to be released from jail before they face trial benefited Flores, Puck explained.

Often released

"Usually, the only people we can keep in custody are our most violent offenders," he said. "Unless or until they repeatedly disregard court orders, we are unable to keep flagrant recidivists like Flores Sr. in custody even if they continue to commit new crimes. I think it's one of a few

issues that has made protecting the public more difficult."

By 2023, Puck said Flores began to skip court dates while continuing to commit crimes. For instance, from December of that year until February, judges issued bench warrants for Flores' failure to appear in court while he was on bail or his own recognizance for pending felony charges.

"For weeks to months after each failure to appear, Flores would abscond from the criminal justice system until police found and arrested him," Puck said. "Every time police contacted Flores, he would attempt to flee," including when he twice led officers on high-speed chases through residential neighborhoods and city streets.

Flores is set to be sentenced by Judge Andrew Liu on Nov. 15. Flores entered the plea with no conditions or promises from the DA's office or the court.

"My office will be seeking a prison sentence despite this being Mr. Flores' first conviction for felonies," Puck explained.

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SHELL

From page 1A

document states. “The uniqueness and sensitivity of the design were the successful result of the Carmel Planning Commission’s insistence that a ‘manufactured service station’ would never be built in Carmel.”

The station received a Governor’s Design Award in 1966 for being “California’s best example in the service facilities category.”

Historic evaluation

In August, HASCO applied to rebrand the property to Chevron, which calls for replacing all the signs, including the hand-carved hanging one designed by Shaw. The application includes replacing two Shell metal price signs and the hanging sign in the west planter, the “Shell” channel letter signs mounted on the west fueling canopy and north side of the store, and the air and water sign in the east planter, as well as pump decals, with Chevron emblems.

But before that can happen, principal planner Marnie Waffle told The Pine Cone, the property must undergo a historic evaluation.

HASCO submitted an application for that review Sept. 24, and at the Sept. 30 city council meeting, councilmember Alisandra Dramov sought assurance the new look will reflect the property’s history and the old hanging sign won’t be thrown out.

Preserve the sign?

“Since that is a historic station from 1964 with Will Shaw as the architect and that sign is hand-carved, is there any chance we might be able to have the new owner maybe give it to the heritage society or the Monterey American Institute of Architects so it’s saved and not just discarded as trash?” she asked.

“We’ll make sure that there’s a conversation about what happens to it,” assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson responded. “Presumably Chevron’s not going to want to have a Shell sign out in front of their store — I think that’s a pretty good assumption,” but the historic resources board might get involved in how the rebranding is carried out.

Dramov also asked that the new owner be requested to create a Chevron sign that “fits in with that station and the architecture.” Swanson said he would follow up on that as well.

“Thank you for bringing that up,” he said. “That’s a great point.”

CHARGE

From page 1A

customers of the change, and that the wording of the insert was edited by the agency.

“It was part of the tax bill mailer so there was no additional mailing cost,” Stoldt said.

Legal ping-pong

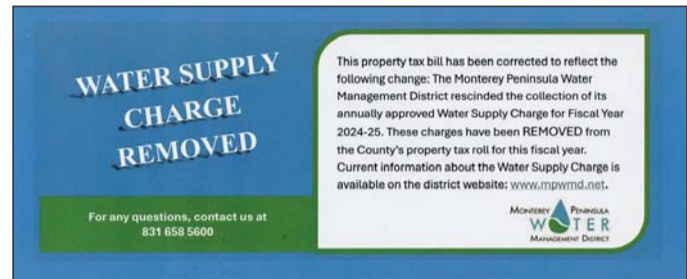
The taxpayers association filed suit against the water district over the charge, which led Monterey County Superior Court Judge Carrie Panetta to rule in March 2023 that the agency’s continued collection of the funds violated a sunset provision in the ordinance that authorized it. While the water district appealed Panetta’s decision, it continued to collect the charge,

The state’s Public Utilities Commission in 2009 determined that the water district could no longer collect an 8.325 percent user

fee that utility California American Water added to customers’ bills, and which was remitted to the water district. The fee generated about \$3.7 million — about half of the district’s then annual revenues.

To make up for the revenue loss, the district started collecting the water supply charge. In 2016, the state Supreme Court overruled the Public Utilities Commission and allowed the old user fee to go back into effect.

But instead of ending the water supply charge — which was spelled out in the sunset provision — the district continued to collect both fees, which the Monterey taxpayers group argued violated the district ordinance and amounted to “double dipping.”



This insert, which was included in Monterey Peninsula homeowners’ recent property tax bills, informed them that the water district is no longer collecting a controversial charge.

VOTERS

From page 17A

vote — is to visit one of the Monterey County Elections Office’s “flex voting” sites, where constituents can also fill out ballots in person and visit with the elections team, according to registrar of voters Gina Martinez.

Her office launched the program in 2022 to bring the elections office to communities “at dates and times outside of normal operating hours.”

Flex voting kicked off this week in South County locations but will be available in some North County communities, Salinas, and in Pacific Grove and Big Sur closer to Nov. 5. Elections officials will visit the P.G. Library at 550 Central Ave.

Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will be at the Big Sur Library on Highway 1 at Ripplewood Resort Nov. 2 during the same hours.

On the Peninsula, voter registration and early voting will be offered during the week running up to and including Election Day at Embassy Suites, 1441 Canyon del Rey Blvd., Oct. 29-Nov. 5. Weekday hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekend hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on the day of the election, the site will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

And, of course, early voting and registration services are also available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the county elections office at 1441 Schilling Place, North Building, in Salinas.

Residents who are unsure of their registration status can check it online at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov.

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Carmel Forest Management Plan (CFMP)

For additional info, and to access the Administrative Draft of the CFMP, go to:

www.ci.carmel.ca.us/CFMP

“Save The Dates” for October 28th & 29th.

The CFMP’s Steering Committee will review the draft, section by section, over two days.

Monday, 10/28: 1-6pm
Tuesday, 10/29: 11am – 5pm

Sunset Center, Carpenter Hall



We appreciate the community’s interest in our upcoming meetings. While there will be a public comment period at the beginning and end of each meeting, the primary focus is for the Steering Committee, the City Forester, and a local Ecologist to discuss the draft document together. We’re opening this process to the public to listen in, as transparency is important to us.

We want to emphasize that there will be future meetings—like those we’ve held recently—that are designed specifically for engaging in dialogue with residents. For the 28th and 29th, we hope to provide a space for the Steering Committee and local experts to discuss the draft among themselves in a public setting, as they haven’t had that opportunity yet.

We encourage everyone to join us!



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STATE WILDLIFE BOARD TO MEET IN MONTEREY

By CHRIS COUNTS

A STATE agency that gives away millions each year to preserve, protect or restore wildlife habitat, the California Wildlife Conservation Board wants to hear from people how they want their taxpayers' dollars spent over the next five years.

The board is hosting a public meeting Wednesday, 3:30 p.m., at the Japanese American Citizens League Hall in Monterey (424 Adams St.). One of five such meetings to be held statewide, the gathering will give people an opportunity to pitch ideas for funding worthy local projects.

Comments sought

"We want the public's input into our strategic plan," executive director Jen Norris told The Pine Cone. "We're asking people what their priorities are, and what type of habitats they want protected."

The meeting will be done as an informal, open house-style workshop. The Big Sur Land Trust is encouraging people to attend.

See WILDLIFE next page

Caltrans: Expect delays at Rocky Creek Bridge

By CHRIS COUNTS

MOTORISTS TRAVELING between Carmel and Big Sur can expect delays of up to 20 minutes during day-time for the next two weeks at Rocky Creek Bridge, where the construction of a viaduct has been underway since April, Caltrans reported. The work became necessary after a slide March 30 undermined a section of Highway 1 just south of the bridge.

The delays make it possible for the contractor to "bring equipment on site for continued excavation work." Kevin Drabinski of Caltrans told The Pine Cone.

Overnight closures

Despite the delays, "crews have made substantial progress on a construction phase involving the drilling and casting of reinforced concrete columns to support the weight of the viaduct structure," Drabinski reported.

There will also be three full overnight closures at Rocky Creek on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from

10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

For now, the southbound lane of Highway 1 is closed, and a traffic light is regulating one-way traffic in the northbound lane. "Once construction of the southbound section of the Rocky Creek viaduct is complete, travel will be directed onto this southbound section and work will begin on construction of the northbound portion of the viaduct," the plan indicates.

The work is expected to cost taxpayers about \$25 million. The contractor is Gordon N. Ball Inc. of Alamo.

Despite the delays, motorists coming from the Peninsula can visit inns, resorts, shops and parks as far south as Esalen Institute, which is located about three miles north of the Regent Slide. "The vast majority of the Big Sur coast remains accessible and open," Caltrans added.

The Regent Slide has blocked vehicle progress to the south since it was triggered by a storm in February. Due to the discovery of cracks in August along a slope where major excavation efforts were underway, the slide isn't expected to be cleared until sometime in 2025.

NEWSOM

From page 13A

Visual Capitalist, when it comes to electric vehicle uptake, California is No. 1 nationally, but Washington is second in per capita EV registrations.

But California has very little competition when it comes to high gas prices. Just days after the Nov. 5 election, the California Air Resources Board is set to vote on a low-carbon fuel standard that would require refiners to make an even more expensive blend. The board estimated last year the move could increase prices by 47 cents per gallon.

Inslee is not running for re-election and, as they have been for Newsom, climate issues have been a key focus during his time in office. The fight to repeal Washington's Climate Commitment was initiated by Redmond Washington Hedge fund manager Brian Heywood. His group, Let's Go Washington, has spent millions to get five other high-profile initiatives on the ballot all geared at rolling back major policies passed by the state legislature's

Democratic majority.

On the other side, more than \$14 million has come in to fight the ballot initiative and keep the Climate Commitment intact. Much of that money has come from Seattle tech scions, including a large donation from Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates

Why Seattle?

"Bill Gates is committed to finding and funding climate solutions and the Climate Commitment Act is an important way to reduce emissions while spurring innovation, creating jobs, and improving energy security," said a spokesperson for Gates.

One reason Newsom may have decided to make the trip to Seattle to defend Washington's cap and invest is that his own cap and trade is set to come up for a vote in 2025. Next year lawmakers will decide whether to renew the program, which, like in Washington state, opponents blame in part for high gas prices.

Newsom also made campaign stops in Michigan and North Carolina last week, but those are both considered battleground states.

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WILDLIFE

From previous page

“This is a fantastic opportunity for the public in our region to weigh in on how the largest conservation funder in California will be rolling out their programs and priorities over the next few years,” Alisa Selivanova of the Big Sur Land Trust told The Pine Cone.

According to Selivanova, the board

“plays a crucial role” in allocating funds for a variety of local projects that benefit the habitat that supports wildlife. “The Wildlife Conservation Board has been a significant funder of conservation projects throughout Monterey County, including Palo Corona Regional Park, Carr Lake in Salinas, the expansion of Toro Park, Carmel River and Elkhorn Slough restoration projects, and recent projects in Carmel Valley and the Arroyo Seco region to protect riparian and wildlife corridors and cultural resources,” she reported.

JAMES BUELL LINDGREN

1930-2024

James Buell Lindgren, entrepreneur and real estate developer, passed away Oct. 10, 2024. He was 94 years old.

James, known to his friends as “Jim,” Lindgren was originally from Des Moines, Iowa. He was born Sept. 30, 1930, the second of three children, to Buell M. Lindgren and Grace M. (Turner) Lindgren. In 1931, Jim won the Better Babies contest at the Iowa State Fair, allegedly by consuming copious amounts of sour cream and butter. Although he grew up in the city of Des Moines, every summer Jim would work on his uncle’s farm near Sioux City, Iowa. He learned to drive a tractor and developed a passion for the combustion engine and all things automotive. Jim went to Roosevelt High School where he played the trombone in the high school band and graduated in 1947. He attended Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa and was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. Jim was active on the college swim team and the ROTC. After earning his bachelor of arts degree in industrial economics in 1951, Jim served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force from 1953-1957, where he was stationed at Bergstrom Air Force Base, Austin TX and Hirooka, Japan. After his time in the service, Jim worked as a traveling salesman for Kaiser Aluminum and later head of the sales division at Applied Science Corporation of Princeton. Through his sales work, he was able to travel all over the United States, and eventually fell in love with Northern California.



In 1961 Jim relocated to California because, in addition to its natural beauty, he felt California was “the land of innovation.” He founded and was the president of Lind Instruments in Mountain View. The company specialized in building capacitors for the space program and satellites. In 1969, he sold the company and began work at Mobileparks West, a construction company that addressed the need for low-income housing. In 1971, he moved his young family to the Monterey Peninsula and founded Lindgren Construction, and later, Three Cats Construction. These companies specialized in custom residential homes and remodeling projects. Jim remained on the Peninsula for the rest of his life, living in a number of communities including Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Carmel, and lastly, The Park Lane of Monterey.

James Lindgren met his first wife, Joyce A. Johnson, in Palo Alto at a Young Republicans mixer in 1963. They married in December 1964 and had four children together.

Jim was an active volunteer for many organizations on the Monterey Peninsula and contributed to the community as both leader and volunteer. No task was too big or small where help was needed. He was a member of the Church of the Wayfarer of Carmel for more than 40 years, and during that time, he served in various roles: as an usher, member of the scholarship committee, officer on the board of directors, helping with construction improvements, and volunteer at the church rummage sale. Jim also supported the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 3, Carmel, for over a decade. Jim served as a troop leader with Mike Lewis and Don Sortwell from 1991-1993 and all three of Jim’s sons earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Jim coached YMCA Youth Soccer and was a Carmel Padre Parent.

After the death of his wife from cancer in 1996, Jim met his second life partner, Sheila Moore. The couple lived happily in Carmel for 26 years.

James Lindgren took immense pride and joy in his family. He provided them a wonderful life and many precious memories. Jim is survived by his wife, Sheila Moore; and by four children from his marriage to Joyce, Kristin (Jalees Rehman), Conard (Elizabeth), Lars (Virginia) and Jason (Beth). He is also survived by seven grandchildren, Abid, Habib, Zaynab, Charlotte, Otto, Owen and Ashe.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that friends might wish to make a memorial contribution in Jim’s name to the Church of the Wayfarer, Carmel-by-the-Sea.

A Memorial Service for James Lindgren will begin at 3 p.m. on Nov. 9, 2024, at the Church of the Wayfarer, Carmel, California.

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WILLIAM AUSTIN KNAPP

1/15/1943 - 10/9/2024

William Austin Knapp passed away peacefully surrounded by family after a brief illness. Bill was an appreciative resident of Carmel, San Francisco and Lanai City, Hawaii.

Bill “Baba” was born and raised in Alpena, Michigan as a beloved only child. A graduate of the University of Michigan for college and medical school, he remained a lifelong Big Blue fan. Most importantly, he met and married his love and life partner, Katherine Knapp, in Ann Arbor.



In 1970, Bill and Kathy headed west to California and never looked back. He practiced medicine as a pathologist for Yosemite Pathology for 32 years — his interest in science and personal strengths of consistency and dependability defined his career. Along the way, he and Kathy raised three children and lived a full life together, appreciating the Tahoe Basin, the Pacific Ocean and the gift of family.

He is survived by his wife, Katherine Knapp; and his dear friend, Enzo. In addition, he is loved and remembered by his three children — Gretchen Knapp Mello, Jennifer Helen Dovichi and William Caygill-Knapp; his loving sons-in-law and daughter-in-law, (Paul, Eric and Katie) and his seven grandchildren. All loved their dear Baba.

Please help us by honoring and remembering him while walking the north end of the Carmel beach or taking in the sunset over the Pacific.

LUIS 'SY' FLORES

We are heartbroken to share the news that Luis "Sy" Flores suddenly and tragically passed on Aug. 11, 2024, while home celebrating his wife's birthday and preparing to enjoy their anniversary and Car Week.



Luis was a beloved and devoted husband, father, son and friend whose bright spirit touched everyone he met. Luis was known by all for his eagerness and willingness to go above and beyond to help others and for his charm, generosity and kind heart. He was proud to serve the Carmel community at work and was always ready to strike up a conversation about cars or watches. He was an avid collector of watches, pens, fun socks, anime and Star Wars collectibles, Motorsport art and memorabilia, and was a lifelong passionate car and motorcycle enthusiast. He loved participating in Cars n' Coffee events, attending car shows and races, and volunteering at Laguna Seca. While he believed in working hard and giving 1000%, he also prioritized spending time with his wife and son, and took joy in both simple pleasures and all the finer things in life.

Luis was raised in a military family and was proud of his father's service. Being on the move while growing up allowed him to experience life in Europe and the United States and helped forge his friendly and adaptable nature. His family settled in the Monterey Bay area where he completed school and discovered a love for football before attending MPC and Berkeley. He later moved to the Santa Cruz area, where he made lifelong friends, and met his wife, Heather "Kali" Cross. He worked for many years in Silicon Valley before transitioning to a career in finance, becoming a business banker. He was known at every position he held for being a strong team leader that inspired and mentored others at every opportunity, and always strove for excellence. Luis was that rare person who felt that his greatest accomplishment in his work was developing and supporting others so that they could succeed, both with coworkers and clients, and believed in taking the time to get to know people.

Luis enjoyed both reading and watching documentaries and lively conversations with a wide variety of people and was always eager to learn and understand, leading to him becoming a fountain of knowledge on many subjects. Trips to the aquarium with him were magical, as he shared from memory the different species' names, traits and characteristics. He had a love for art and was a talented artist in his own right, having worked briefly as a comic book artist in his younger years, before deciding he preferred his creative freedom. His love for the arts and music was thoughtful and varied, and helped convince his wife when they met that there was a brilliant mind hiding in all that muscle. They enjoyed 20 years of fun and banter together and were known among friends and coworkers for their deep love, devotion and loyalty to one another and their son, Leonceo "Leo" Flores, as well as for their matching cars and shared love of motorsports. Luis is also survived by his beloved mother, whom he and his wife welcomed into their home after she suffered multiple strokes, and his in-laws, Steve and Kim, who visited frequently and enjoyed many happy times together. Luis will be forever cherished in his family's memory and will be missed both professionally and personally by so many.

A Celebration of Life will be held to honor and remember him at 1 p.m. on Oct. 26.
For more information, please contact Heather at carcrazycouple@gmail.com

To place an obituary for your loved one, contact anne@carmelpinecone.com or (831) 274-8654

JOANIE SMITH-WEBB

Joan (Joanie) Ellen (Burnley) Smith-Webb, of Carmel, California passed away peacefully at home on Oct. 12, 2024, at the age of 79, surrounded by family and loved ones.

Born in Oakland, CA on Christmas Day, Joanie was the youngest daughter of Thelma (Pearson) and George Burnley. After her parents divorced she moved with her mom to Millbrae, CA. She attended Mills High School where she starred as a majorette. Shortly after high school she met and married Gregory Smith and they had a daughter, Michelle. After their divorce, Joanie moved to San Mateo, CA and then Walnut Creek, CA.

She worked for Blackhawk Real Estate, and then become a successful sales representative for North American Title company before marrying the love of her life, Jack Webb, and moving to Carmel.

Joanie had a love for fashion, even traveling to France for the Paris fashion shows. She always loved reading the newest fashion magazines and shopping for the latest trends.

She and Jack belonged to Tehama Golf Club where she loved to volunteer for the annual "Clint Tournament." She was so caring and friendly that whether it was in the pro shop, at the gym, or at the restaurant she knew each Tehama staff member by name.

She loved all animals big and small, always having a dog by her side. Holding birthday parties for her beloved dog, Shiloh, writing a book about "Rambo the Wonder Dog," or having Opus grace the page of the annual Humane Society calendar, animals were always dear to her heart.

She was always the life of the party and enjoyed opening her home to host her annual "Christmas Open House," several wedding celebrations, and any other occasion where she could dress up and celebrate.

She loved to travel, visiting friends around the world. Having traveled throughout Europe and to Asia, it was Hawaii that held a special place in her heart. A special memory of Joanie's was hosting a family vacation, last summer, to Kona, Hawaii. There was nothing she enjoyed more than having her family all together.

She was always available with a listening ear, sound advice, and a warm hug and will be remembered for her kindness, generosity and strength.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John "Jack" Webb. She is survived by her daughter, Michelle Smith-Napier (Jack) of Bandon OR; her sister, Diana Mendenhall, of Pleasanton, CA; her stepbrother, Allen Scott, of Danville, CA; her half-brother, Mark Burnley, of San Francisco, CA; her niece, Laurie Fraser, of Lincoln, NE; her nephew Matt Mendenhall of Pleasanton, CA; her grandchildren, Gregory Smith-Napier, Trevor Smith-Napier and Matt Daly (Erin); and finally her two great-grandchildren, Taylor and Samantha Daly. A heartfelt thank you to Lane Lyoko for his unwavering loyalty and friendship which brought immense joy to Joanie's life. The family wishes to thank her beloved caregivers who gave so much of their time and love to Joanie and Jack, Ermelinda (Emy) Pajimola, her husband Jeffrey and Yanira (Yani) Pereira.

There will be a celebration of life at a later time.

In lieu of flowers please send a donation to St. Dunstan's Church www.saintdunstanchurch.org or to Redemption Road Rescue <https://redemptionroadrescue.com> (a horse rescue facility in Jackson, TN).



DAVID WESLEY RICHARDSON

Feb. 25, 1947 ❖ Aug. 22, 2024

David, a brilliant and prolific California landscape artist died unexpectedly at age 77. While recognized for his landscape painting, David was also an accomplished sculptor, portraitist, caricaturist, book illustrator, published author, poet, teacher, writer, historian and raconteur.

A longtime Monterey Peninsula resident, he featured the area prominently in his work. In 2017, "Resemblance, Portraits of Characters from Marcel Proust's In Search of Lost Time" was shown at the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts in Carmel.

David was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth Richardson and Barbara Snider Richardson; and his sister, Elizabeth Victoria Richardson. He is survived by his sister, Sarah Richardson Schafer; his brother-in-law, Harry Schafer; extended family members and a loving circle of lifelong friends.

David will be laid to rest alongside his family in Springville, CA. Plans for a celebration of David's life are pending.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that you please consider donating in David's memory to the California State Summer School for the Arts Foundation (CSSSA Foundation).

Complete obituary at Grisson's Chapel & Mortuary Inc. - David W. Richardson

H. Glenn Bell, Jr., M.D.

Dr. Harry Glenn Bell, Jr. of Carmel-by-the-Sea, California passed away on Jan. 25, 2024, at the age of 87. He was born on March 20, 1936, in San Francisco, California where he grew up in his family home in Ingleside Terraces.

Glenn graduated from Lowell High School in 1954, Stanford University in 1958 and Columbia



Medical School in 1962. After graduating from medical school, Glenn enlisted in the United States Army where he served as a doctor on the army base in Augsburg, Germany. He met the love of his life, Carol von Waaden, a school teacher from San Jose who was also working on

the same base. Carol and Glenn got married on March 11, 1966, in Augsburg and started their adventures together from that very moment. Carol and Glenn then moved to Washington where Glenn earned his degree in radiology from the University of Washington.

Their journey took them back to their native California, where they raised their two daughters, Jennifer and Shannon, in Los Gatos. Glenn worked as a diagnostic radiologist at Kaiser Permanente for almost 30 years. He was dedicated to the care of patients and his warmth and honesty earned him the respect and admiration of both patients and colleagues.

To list all the things that Glenn loved is no easy feat. He enjoyed traveling the world by sea in addition to making frequent trips to Honfleur, France and Mazatlan, Mexico. While seeing some of the most beautiful places in the world, he made friends wherever he went. He loved Lake Tahoe. Spending time at the family cabin on the West Shore was extremely special to him. He would sit in his favorite chair either reading one of his many books on his Kindle or watching a golf tournament ... all while enjoying the view.

Glenn, a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather and brother, is survived by his wife of 58 years, Carol von Waaden Bell; daughters Jennifer Bell of San Jose and Shannon (Eric) Lockman of Los Gatos; his two grandchildren, Matthew Lockman and Abby Lockman; his sister, Janet Bell of San Francisco; and his brother-in-law, Bill von Waaden of San Jose. He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Dr. H. Glenn Bell and Carol Simmons Bell.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in his honor to Hospice of the Central Coast and/or SPCA Monterey County.

LOSS

From page 10A

it was rejected by the city council.

"The city believes strongly that there was no merit or basis to the claim received," Adams told The Pine Cone.

The Monterey County District Attorney's Office contends that several gang members were responsible for the quadruple homicide outside the Second Street home while Alicia Aparicio celebrated her 33rd birthday.

Leal Cervantes, 18, a minor identified only as Angel E., and a third gunman drove up to the party as it was wrapping up, got out and started firing, prosecutors allege.

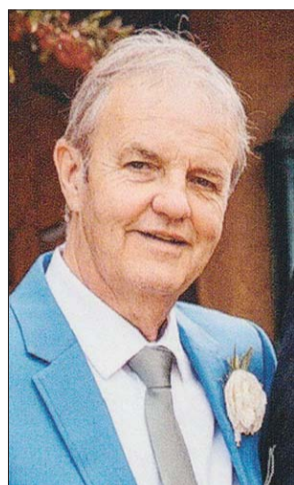
Besides Aparicio, the gunmen murdered Mario Guzman Mendoza, Francisco Aldape Perez and Olivio Perez Pina. Seven other people were injured, some critically, in the attack.

CORNELIUS B. LINEHAN

"Con"

July 1, 1957 - Sept. 5, 2024

Con was born in Oldham, England to Dr. Cornelius and Mai Linehan. He grew up in County Cavan, Ireland where he attended St. Patrick's



College secondary school. Throughout his school years he participated in theater, music, sports, and made many lifelong friends. During his 20s, while setting out to emigrate to Australia, he stopped in Monterey to visit his sister and never left. He then started his long career in the hospitality industry

working as a bartender and restaurant server/manager. Throughout this time, he attended San Jose State University and earned his bachelor's degree in business management. He ended his career with over 30 years of service as the banquet department supervisor at the Monterey Marriott. His work ethic and attention to detail were stellar and he enjoyed and valued his time with his team and colleagues.

If you asked people to describe Con, the first word would most likely be humorous. It would then be followed by loyal, hardworking and kind. He was well-versed in world events, politics, enjoyed gardening, traveling and spending time with family and friends.

Con's greatest love in life was his family. Con is survived by his wife of 39 years, Cathy, as well as his children — sons, Conor (wife Nicole) and Michael and daughter, Jenna. Conor and Jenna — know that your Dad loved you fiercely and was so proud of you and your accomplishments. Sadly, his son Michael died at age 13 of leukemia. Con firmly believed he would see his "Mickster" again and it brings his family comfort to know they are together again.

Con was further predeceased by his parents, Cornelius and Mai Linehan; and brothers, Desmond and Sean Linehan. He is survived by his sisters, Maria (Tony) Salameh and Angela (Richard) Collis; in-laws, Ann Linehan, Dawn (John) Hinz, Karyn (Tom) Wozny, Gail (Bill) Provo, Robb (Lynda) Brzezinski and eight nieces and nephews who are scattered around the globe.

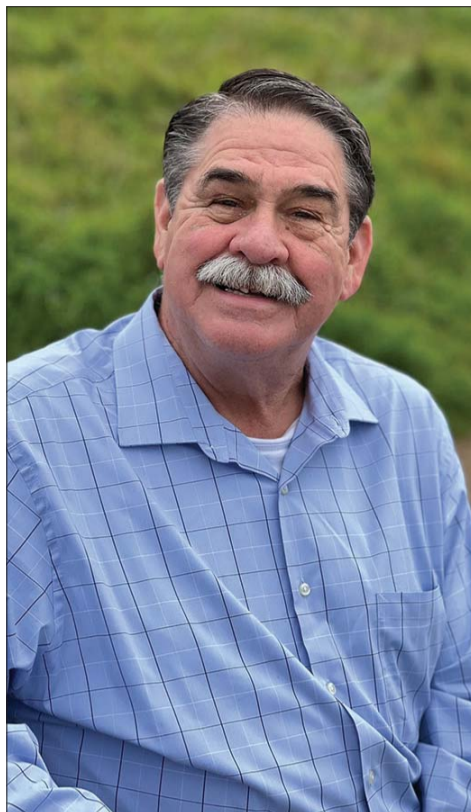
Con left us too soon after a five-year battle against Alzheimer's disease. He was a proud and private man who faced his illness with courage and dignity. A funeral Mass will begin at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 11, 2024, at San Carlos Cathedral. A reception will follow.

We love and miss you so much, Con. We will carry your memory in our hearts always.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests any contributions go to either the Alzheimer's Association or to Jacob's Heart Children's Cancer Support Services.

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DANIEL 'BOOMER' ROCKWELL



Daniel "Boomer" Rockwell, born on Aug. 19, 1952, in Carmel, California, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024. A proud member of the Pacific Grove High School Class of 1970, he was the cherished son of Dean and Jacqueline Rockwell, who preceded him in death, along with his brother Bruce.

Boomer is survived by his beloved daughter, Brook Shadwell (Micah); and son, Daniel Rockwell (Helga); as well as three adoring grandchildren, Dasha, Baylee, and Brighton. He also leaves behind his siblings, Dennis, Dena, and Mike, who will continue to honor his legacy of love and laughter.

For over 30 years, Boomer was a dedicated general contractor, founding Rockwell Builders and making a lasting impact in his community. His commitment to youth sports shone through as he coached baseball and proudly embraced the role as "Coach Boomer."

Known for his gregarious nature and delightful storytelling, Boomer brought joy to everyone around him. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024, at the Portuguese Hall in Monterey. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to a local youth sports organization in Boomer's memory. Friends and family are invited to gather and share their cherished memories of this remarkable man.

JAMES W. KIRSHNER

On June 24, 2024, James "Jim" Walter Kirshner passed away peacefully at his home in Carmel, CA surrounded by his loving family. Jim was born on July 12, 1953, in Long Beach, CA to Hansel Menser and Katherine Thompson (née LaVoy). Jim grew up in Beverly Hills, CA with his younger sister, Cathy Carlson, and older brothers, Tom and Larry Menser. As a kid, Jim loved to ride horses, camp and fish with his family and friends.

Jim graduated from UC Berkeley in 1976, after which, he embarked on a lifelong teaching career. While working at Canyon Verde School in Los Angeles, Jim met his future wife, Patti. They were married on Sept. 1, 1979 in Fullerton, CA. The young couple spent their early years of marriage sailing along the California coastline in their wooden boat, the Amethyst, camping and backpacking in the Eastern Sierra, and traveling.



In 1987, Jim and Patti moved with their 1-year-old son Zach from Redondo Beach to Carmel, CA, the town where they had honeymooned. Jim lived in Carmel for the rest of his life and spent the remainder of his career teaching science at Chartwell School alongside Patti, who taught art. Jim and Patti's students fondly referred to the pair as "Mr. and Mrs. K." Jim created a hands-on learning environment in which students thrived and excelled in the sciences.

Throughout his life, Jim was an avid outdoorsman, lover of nature, a craftsman and a family man. Jim had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and a passion for learning. In his 40s and 50s, Jim became a musician, a beekeeper and a surfer. In true Jim-fashion, he not only mastered those skills, but refurbished and built his own violin, guitar and mandolin; created his own personal line of "Black Dog" surfboards, named after the Kirshners' beloved black Lab, Maggie; and harvested and bottled honey from his hives and helped safely contain unwanted bees nests in the Monterey community. Jim was also an extraordinary writer, and especially in his later years, a poet. Even when Jim struggled with the grips of his Alzheimer's disease, he continued to write beautiful poetry and never missed a harmonica jam session with his friends.

Above all, Jim's primary focus and source of pride and joy in life was his family. Jim is survived by his wife, Patti; his children, Zach (Emily) and Hannah (Shad); his sister, Cathy (Scott); brother, Larry; his sister-in-law, Monika; his mother and father-in-law, Judith and Ken West; father-in-law, Chuck Creswell and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother, Katherine Thompson; brother, Thomas Menser; and sister-in-law, Chantal Menser.

Everyone who knew Jim will miss his unconditional love, curious spirit, dry wit and infectious smile.

Details about a celebration of Jim's wonderful life will be forthcoming.

If you wish to honor his memory, Jim was devoted to:

The Mono Lake Committee www.monolake.org/

Hospice of the Central Coast www.montagehealth.org/locations/profile/hospice-central-coast/

The Southern Poverty Law Center www.splcenter.org/

Chartwell School www.chartwell.org/



Editorial

The warning signs

IF THOSE who don't remember the past are condemned to repeat it, the United States could be in for some rough times ahead, according to a former CIA counterterrorism officer who spoke at Monterey Peninsula Country Club Wednesday night.

Hank Crumpton is a soft-spoken gentleman whose roots are in rural Georgia but whose global experience fighting Al Qaeda would be enough to make a Roman gladiator feel like a wimp. And we're not just talking about what happened after 9/11, when Crumpton commanded a force of CIA officers, U.S. Special Forces and tens of thousands of tribal militias tasked with ending the threat from the group that killed the most Americans in a single day since the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The effort to hunt down Osama bin Laden started years before that.

As Crumpton tells it, Al Qaeda was known to be a serious threat as far back as the early 1990s and became Enemy No. 1 in August 1998 when its fighters truck-bombed the U.S. Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with great loss of life. Just one year later, the attacks moved the FBI to put bin Laden on its Ten Most Wanted list.

The terrorist leader wasn't intimidated in the slightest, however, and planned a horrific series of attacks on the United States and its allies in early 2000, including bombing plots against four tourist sites in Jordan, the Los Angeles International Airport, and USS The Sullivans, and the hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight 814. These global attacks were thwarted by counterterrorism cooperation among numerous countries — and some luck, according to Crumpton.

But in October 2000, bin Laden struck yet again, bombing the USS Cole, a guided missile destroyer of the United States Navy while it was being refueled in Yemen's Aden harbor. Seventeen U.S. Navy sailors were killed and 37 injured.

On top of these overt attacks and attempted attacks were repeated promises from bin Laden to strike the United States — which make it easy to see why, long before 9/11, Crumpton and his CIA colleagues became somewhat obsessed with tracking the terrorist mastermind and, if possible, killing him. And they almost did.

In fall of 2000, thanks to innovative use of Predator drones, they were able to track bin Laden to a compound in Afghanistan and very likely could have killed him, if only the Clinton White House had given the OK. But they didn't, and 9/11, with its tremendous loss of life, destruction of billions of dollars of infrastructure and paralysis of our national economy, was the result, not to mention decades of warfare and anti-terrorism efforts in Afghanistan, Iraq and many other parts of the world, costing "probably trillions of dollars," Crumpton said. All for the want of a single missile to kill bin Laden when we had the chance.

What was it that made the White House hesitate to pull the trigger? Was it complacency, fear of repercussions, or a simple miscalculation that caused such a golden opportunity to be missed?

We'll never know, but one that we do know is that the world is a much more dangerous place today than it was in 2000. And, as Crumpton tells it, the greatest threat facing the United States isn't what's going on abroad, but a series of dire problems within our borders — things like the huge national debt, a substandard educational system, and the fact that 70 percent of young people today aren't fit enough for military service.

Just as in the late 1990s, the warning signs are staring us right in the face. But we aren't prepared, and we don't even seem to be paying attention.

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

Secret weapon

Dear Editor,
Individual Carmelites pride themselves on strong, sometimes differing, beliefs on exactly how to preserve their beloved town, but regardless of our individual beliefs on the issue of, say, affordable housing, virtually all of us believe that the exact approach ought to be up to us locals, and not to Sacramento. However, a teeny village must use brains, not brawn, when challenging a state goliath. Thank goodness we have a secret weapon in the fight — Hans Buder.

Ever since the state panicked the city council and staff into submitting a hasty, one-size-fits-all housing plan, Hans has been the key member of a volunteer group researching how to fix this. This is a guy who has a business degree from Stanford and a public policy degree from Harvard, a guy who nerds out over all the stuff Sacramento throws our way, staying up late to

pore over details that would put the rest of us to sleep.

I remember one group meeting, when we were addressing some harebrained aspect of state law that mandates over-scaled housing projects that don't work for tiny-scaled Carmel. Within hours, we all got from Hans, completely unsolicited, a history of the origins of the law, a full policy analysis of same, possible loopholes and work-arounds, a list of experts for further consultation, the news that Hans had already contacted these experts, that he had extracted agreements from them to provide Q&A sessions, and that, as a further bonus, the experts would be donating their sessions for free!

Frankly, I expect anyone who runs for office here to say they love Carmel. So the question is not just who wants to defend Carmel, but who is capable of defending Carmel. Since living here, I have never met anyone more capable in this regard than Hans. I can only imagine the benefits of unleashing his policy skill on our behalf for all the tough issues we face. How fortunate that we have our own resident secret weapon to vote onto the city council.

Victoria Beach, former mayor pro-tem

A better place

Dear Editor,
Carmel is in such a better place than it was six years ago when Dave Potter took office as mayor. For me, this election is so clear — he has provided stability and thoughtfulness and inclusiveness in the decision-making process. For those of us

See **LETTERS** page 29A

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Making a living by making women look and feel their best

PICTURE IT. Three women study the designer apparel displayed like art in the windows of a boutique in downtown Carmel and decide to shop. Each wears a size small, yet each has a decidedly different shape. The store, Timeless Clothing, is owned by Loes Hinse, who has used her considerable talent to design and make everything in it. She studies the women and selects the same garment in the same size for each of them, knowing it will fit and flatter them all — something that's extremely rare in women's clothing.

"I understand people and fit at all levels," said Hinse. "It's about what suits the

customer. I make a pattern for a size, and the garment works for all different body types within that size frame. So, when I put the same garment on all different body shapes, it works."

What I have been doing for the past 30 years would not have been possible in Amsterdam."

Over the years, had anyone asked Hinse if and when she might retire, when she might stop creating the experience that comes from designing, making and suggesting her clothing to customers, she would have — and has — said, "never."

Brain fog

But that was before Covid, before Hinse came down with it, and before the effects extended into long Covid. As a result, at the end of November, she will shutter her studio. At least, for the foreseeable future.

"Covid has brought me to this closure," said Hinse. "Before, my customer was a businesswoman, a professional or someone who

traveled, and the clothes I made were for that. After Covid, people started dressing differently. Yet part of that is a younger generation that has emerged, who likes the simplicity and quality of what I do."

Nevertheless, part of the challenge for Hinse, whose website is at www.loeshinse.net, has been that the pandemic cut off her creativity, masking it with a brain fog she found startlingly real and severe. What ultimately emerged was a shift in expression, forcing her to realize she would have to design differently.

She said, "Until now, every two or three months, I would go to L.A. to buy the fabric on which I would base my new line. Then I would design it and make the clothes. I have an ability very few people have. This has been interrupted, and nobody can take

See LIVES page 30A

Great Lives

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

'New energy'

When a customer asks Hinse what she should wear, the designer always says, "What attracts you?" When a customer asks how she looks in the garment she's trying on, Hinse says, "How do you feel?"

She's not in the business of designing and selling clothes. These are merely the vehicles that get her to her goal.

"It's not for me to sell an outfit but to help customers look and feel the best they can," she said. "They come in with their own clothes on, go into the dressing room with items I have selected, and when they come out in my garments, I see a different person. And they see it, too, even if they can't explain it. It's a new energy."

This has been Hinse's passionate pursuit ever since she came to the United States from her native Amsterdam and, more than 30 years ago, opened a studio in Monterey. Some 20 years ago, she moved it to a space on Lincoln Street in Carmel and, ultimately, settled in San Carlos Square, near Stationary restaurant. Diners tend to linger at Hinse's display windows, noticing the drape of a sweater, the weight of the fabric, the precise stitching in a crepe skirt.

Another world

"In hindsight, I realize the Dutch mentality wasn't really the same as mine. It is very restricted or not fluid," she said. "Once I was in California, I realized there was a whole other world and way of living."



PHOTO/PHILIP GEIGER

Loes Hinse, who has been designing and making beautiful clothing for decades, has taken a step back from her business.

It's simple: Freedom equals joy

A CENTERPIECE of Valentina Milaychev's art portfolio is a large seascape depicting a boy running along a pristine beach, leaving a trail of barefoot prints in the white sand. His arms are extended like wings as he chases a flock of airborne gulls toward a horizon of puffy, white clouds.

The boy is her son, Johnny, and the painting, entitled "Joy," expresses the effervescent emotions the Milaychevs have felt since they left their home country, Belarus — a dictatorship — and emigrated to the Land of the Free.

"I call this country 'Second Mother,' because America is like the adoptive mother who welcomes you after your own mother doesn't want you," said Valentina,

"If you go to a hospital, you have to bring a bribe or your doctor will not be thorough and will not pay any attention to you later. If you don't give a dollar to the nurse, she'll just pass you by," she said. "When our son needed treatment as a baby, the doctor came to the door and said, 'What are you crying about?' She was so rude! And we had the same issues with our daughter."

Changing doctors was not an option, because physicians were assigned to specific areas by the government.

Teach your children

Parents in Belarus also are careful to teach their children from an early age, what to do and what to say, to avoid unnecessary reprisals from government

oppressors, she said.

"If you didn't like where you were living, you couldn't simply move," Valentina said. "To move

to another town, you first had to have a job in that town. To get a job there, you had to have a local address. If you didn't have the connections or the money, it was impossible."

When the Soviet Union nearing its end, and President Mikhail Gorbachev eased border restrictions, Valentina and Lev, both engineers, were granted working visas to come to the United States.

The Milaychevs arrived in New York on June 30, 1989, made their way to Los Angeles (where Valentina's older sister resided), and lived there until the Northridge earthquake destroyed their home in January 1994.

"We barely escaped. In fact, we didn't escape — we couldn't get out," Valentina remembered. "We shouted for help, and people outside broke the door down."

Anxious to leave L.A., Lev landed a job in Cincinnati, where the Milaychevs co-founded their own emergency-medicine patient-tracking software business.

Rediscovering art

Cincinnati also is where Valentina rediscovered a passion for art and began attending classes, workshops and demonstrations, often at the Cincinnati Academy of Art.

In 2011, a medical-industry conference brought them west again.

"We celebrated my birthday in Marina at the Sanctuary Beach Resort, a place with nice fire pits and beautiful views," she said. "I looked across the ocean and saw the lights of Monterey, and it was instant love."

The Milaychevs decided almost immediately to sell their home in Cincinnati and buy one in Monterey. After navigating through the sticker shock of the Peninsula's real estate market, Lev found an affordable fixer-upper, bought it in 2012 and had it remodeled by 2013, when they moved in.

"My art just exploded after we came to Monterey because there are so

Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

whose impressionist and post-impressionist styles, and colorful, uplifting palette, permeate the landscapes, seascapes, florals, birds and figures she creates for Reflections Elegante Fine Art in Portola Plaza, Monterey.

Born in the USSR

Valentina and Lev Milaychev grew up in Belarus when the country, then called Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, was part of the Soviet Union.

They met as computer science students at Belarusian State University, graduated together, earned master's degrees, and got married in June 1983. Their son was born the following Christmas.

By the time their son was 5 and his sister Alexandra ("Alex") was 1, the Milaychevs knew they needed to leave.

"My kids were not valued there, which is the main reason we left the country," Valentina said. "Belarus, then and now, was a place where you had to have money and connections," Valentina said, "and corruption is second nature to those who live there."



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

Valentina Milaychev left Belarus with her family and found paradise on the Peninsula, where her work is represented by Reflections Elegante in Monterey.

See ARTIST next page

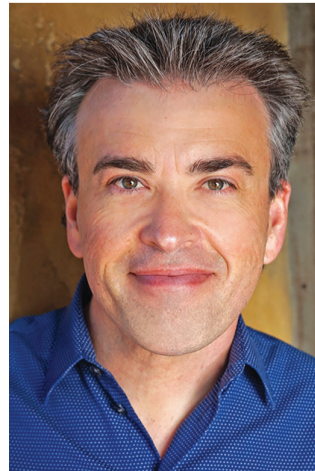
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ARTIST

From previous page

many artists here,” said Valentina, who took her first local workshop with Marie Gilmore and began to meet other creatives. “I joined the Central Coast Art Association (where she is now a board member). Then I joined Monterey Bay Plein Air Painters Association. They promote their members, help them achieve their goals, and arrange exhibits to show the work.”

Exhilarated by her new surroundings and a growing tribe of artistic friends, Milaychev started painting more and more in her backyard studio, then retired from internet technology contracting.

“Some people retire and don’t know

what to do with themselves,” said Valentina, whose husband still does contract work for Aptive Resources Healthcare Transformation Group. “For me, the independence retirement created was wonderful.”

‘You smile too much’

She holds a part-time job at a Carmel winetasting room, usually one day a week, for pleasure. She loves talking about wine and socializing with the people who come through the door. Many ask about her Eastern European accent.

“Where are you from?” one woman asked.

“Belarus,” Valentina told her.

“Oh, you don’t look like a person from Belarus.”

“Really? Why do you say that?”

Valentina wondered.

“You smile too much,” she said.

An invitation from owner Lori Thompson to show her art at Reflections Elegante, a new gallery across from the Monterey Conference Center, was validating.

“That was so exciting,” she said. “It’s the first real gallery I’ve ever been in. It’s big and beautiful, with so many artists, so many different styles, and different prices. People who come in are always commenting on the variety.”

Valentina and Lev have two grandsons, with a granddaughter due in March.

Both of their adult children are creative. Alex, 36, is a resident of Portland, Ore., where she used the Covid pandemic to teach herself how to play the guitar. Then she started writing songs. Then she began to perform them.

Johnny, 40 — the boy in the “Joy” painting — has his own computer-tech administrative healthcare career and also

plays guitar, writes poetry and songs, brews his own beer, and makes kombucha and sourdough bread.

The thrill of citizenships

The Milaychevs were thrilled to become U.S. citizens on Jan. 12, 1996.

“I feel so blessed, not only to be an artist, but also by the life we are living today in such a beautiful place,” Valentina said. “If someone in Belarus had told me that we would be living in the United States someday, in our own home, with a view of the ocean, and have our own cars, I could not have believed them.”

Her paintings can be viewed online at valentinaspalette.com, or on exhibit at Reflections Elegante Fine Art, open seven days a week at 271 Alvarado St. in Monterey.

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



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GAVEL

From page 4A

was about to get hurt. Officer Jonathan Moore then arrived and drew his firearm, ordering Cortez-Gerardo to drop his weapons. After Moore arrived, Cortez-Gerardo dropped his spear and shield and pulled out a slingshot, and Palma drew his taser due to officer safety concerns. Palma deployed his taser at Cortez-Gerardo. The taser was ineffective.

Using the sling shot, Cortez-Gerardo propelled multiple rocks at the officers on scene, striking Palma and Jenkins in their faces. Palma took cover, drew his firearm and fired at Cortez-Gerardo as Cortez-Gerardo continued firing rocks at officers.

Officer Palma fired a total of four gunshots. These shots disabled Cortez-Gerardo

do and officers were then able to subdue him. Palma did not fire the shots in rapid fashion but rather made four controlled shots with commands preceding each one; commands Cortez-Gerardo continued to ignore.

Once Cortez-Gerardo dropped the slingshot, Palma stopped firing and officers rushed to detain Cortez-Gerardo and begin rendering aid.

Once struck, Palma bled profusely from his head wound both during and after the encounter. Palma’s and Jennings’ injuries required medical intervention.

Cortez-Gerardo was sentenced by Judge Pamela Butler. He received a sentence of six years in state prison because he has a prior history of using his slingshot and firing rocks at innocent people. The defendant did not express remorse for his actions.

The case was primarily investigated by district attorney investigators Rachel Maldonado and Matthew Costa.

FIRE

From page 14A

The project also involves planting native vegetation for pollinating birds and insects.

The work is expected to cost about \$1 million and could start as early as this fall “once full project funding is secured.” It has been “partially funded” by the California Coastal Conservancy’s Wildfire

Resilience Grant Program.

According to the park district, “California faces a growing wildfire crisis, driven by climate change, poor historical land management, and increased development in fire-prone areas.” In recent years, the state has experienced some of its most destructive wildfires,” it reported. “The frequency and intensity of these fires are expected to increase.”

In response, the park district “strives to be a leader in wildfire preparedness and resiliency.”

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LETTERS

From page 26A

who lived here prior to 2018, the difference is remarkable, and I am honored to vote for his re-election. He has served us well. Thank you, Dave!

Jill Sheffield, Carmel

'Chief caring officer'

Dear Editor,

I returned to live in Carmel six years ago after growing up here in the 1960s and 1970s. My memories of those times included beautiful landscaping and clean streets. Upon my return, I was disheartened by the changes in the village and took it upon myself to pick up trash and maintain the area around the post office parking lot. One day, I met Dale Byrne, who invited me to join him in cleaning a neglected area at Dolores and Eighth. I was struck by his passion and work ethic. Inspired, I joined Carmel Cares, and three years later, I am now a leader of a dedicated team of volunteers committed to restoring Carmel's beauty.

I have witnessed firsthand what a dedicated chief caring officer Dale is for Carmel Cares. He provides unwavering support and direction, tackling beautification projects with pride and joy. His leadership inspires high standards on every project we undertake.

Additionally, I have participated in Dale's bi-monthly update meetings with public works and city employees. I've seen his informative and collaborative nature as he consistently finds solutions to problems. These qualities are essential for the next mayor of Carmel. There are many city projects to complete and tough decisions to make, and Dale is more than capable of handling them all.

Electing Dale Byrne as mayor isn't merely "change for change's sake" or choosing a "gardener." It's about selecting a proven leader who has engaged

with merchants, city staff, and locals long before his candidacy. Dale has attended city department meetings for years and will ensure policy continuity. He is solution-oriented, streamlining processes and delivering visible results that will bring pride to Carmel-by-the-Sea residents, business owners and visitors alike. Dale's passion is infectious.

Kelly Burke, Carmel

Correcting ad

Dear Editor,

In the Oct. 18 Pine Cone, an advertisement was posted about Hans Buder by Ali Miner. I would like to correct and/or add a rebuttal to an incorrect statement about his residency in Carmel.

The Buders rented a home from my mother that is well within the city limits for many years. The ad had this wrong.

My mother truly loved the Buders, as they were wonderful tenants. They were always kind to my mother and she always praised them to me. She would be writing this rebuttal herself if she were still alive, for she abhorred false facts.

I understand that this opinion/advertisement was just that — an advertisement. However, I feel that if The Pine Cone is going to allow an advertisement that is incorrect and derogatory in nature, it should be fact-checked first.

Cynthia Williams, Carmel

'Beacon of hope'

Dear Editor,

Dale Byrne is more than a leader, he is a beacon of hope and inspiration for our community. His remarkable qualities shine brightly — authentic, honest, and dedicated to the betterment of Carmel. Dale embodies integrity and stands by his word, reflecting a deep care for our village and its residents. Whether organizing projects or collaborating with PG&E on the undergrounding of utility lines on San Antonio Avenue, Dale's commitment is unwavering.

As an intelligent and charismatic leader,

Dale has built successful businesses, showcasing his entrepreneurial spirit. His outgoing personality enables him to connect effortlessly with residents and visitors, making him an excellent ambassador for our community. A memorable highlight of his leadership was organizing a welcoming party at Carmel Beach for the iconic Jane Goodall, celebrating those who inspire us.

Dale is a visionary problem solver, exemplifying the spirit of community service in challenging times. Just as President Franklin Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression, Dale founded Carmel Cares to beautify our village during the pandemic. This initiative embodies President John Kennedy's call to action: "Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country." Dale lives this philosophy daily, inspiring us to contribute positively to our community.

As he states on his website, "When

neighbors work together, with a passion for mutual values, including transparent government that is open to residents' voices, great things can happen." This vision will guide Dale Byrne as he steps into the role of mayor of Carmel, fostering unity and collaboration.

Let's embrace Dale's inspiring vision and work together to create a brighter, more vibrant future for Carmel!

The Kavners, the Witts, the Faussners, the Berris, the Davies and the Hollenbecks

Check the endorsements

Dear Editor,

This campaign season in Pacific Grove has been the most negative that I can recall. I speak from personal experience.

Realizing we all have our First Amendment right, for no apparent reason, people

See **OPINIONS** next page

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HISTORIC

From page 6A

“Our home has been declared historic, and I like that future generations will be able to see the house and get an idea of what older Carmel was like,” he said, but forcing the preservation of a home in such terrible shape that no one will want to fix it up or live in it “kind of misses the point.”

“I think this one is going to be an old, abandoned house that just deteriorates over the years,” he said.

Smith also said he’s a big fan of Craftsman houses and owns books on the subject, but “this one doesn’t look like any of the Craftsman houses I’ve seen.”

Straw vote

Bland, the daughter of the former residents, explained that she had to move them to Bakersfield “because the house was so uninhabitable.”

“My mom thought she was keeping it up, but she just couldn’t maintain it,” she said.

Board member Kathryn Gualtieri wondered why the home wasn’t included when the inventory was created two decades ago, and chair Jordan Chroman said it didn’t appear to be a very good example of Craftsman style.

Gualtieri was also conflicted over the issue of condition vs. integrity, “because integrity does relate to the physical condition of a property.”

Board member Kathy Pomeroy wondered what the point of forcing its preservation would be if no one would be able to live in it or restore it.

“This is just a really tough one,” HRB member Esther Goodhue said, because it pits Clovis’ analysis against the “human side of it.”

With no clear indication of how the board was leaning, Chroman suggested a straw vote before a formal motion and discovered they were all, in fact, in agreement the house should not be listed.

Gualtieri said she came to the meeting prepared to support Clovis’ conclusions and Wallace’s recommendation, but after touring the property and hearing the presentation, “I would recommend that we not put it on the inventory.”

She made the motion declaring the house ineligible for mandatory preservation, and the rest of the board agreed.

“That was a sad one,” Gualtieri said afterward. “But it seemed right.”

SEALS

From page 1A

carcasses and one pelican on Carmel Beach Tuesday morning, Oct. 8,” she said.

Bilse also provided information on what people should do if they find injured or dead birds and other types of marine life. The Marine Mammal Center responds to stranded or sick seals, sea lions, dolphins, whales and the like, while the Monterey Bay Aquarium is the go-to agency for sea otters, dead or alive. The SPCA will care for injured birds, and dead ones, as long as they’re not banded or tagged, can be handled by the city’s public works department. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should be notified if a banded or tagged bird is found dead on the beach.

OPINIONS

From previous page

whom I have never met, have taken the liberty to spew disinformation and uncanny comments about me on a social media app called Nextdoor P.G.

I believe these particular individuals are supporters of a group called Pacific Grove Progressives, a registered PAC and recognized by the Monterey County Democrats as a “club.”

Nextdoor P.G. has become a mechanism for negative campaigning, spreading disinformation, and for practicing extremism and intimidation.

It begs the question why any Pacific Grove candidate would accept an endorsement from a group that practices such demeaning principles.

Any Pacific Grove candidate who has accepted the endorsement by Pacific Grove Progressives are condoning the behavior that has been exhibited on Nextdoor P.G.

Having said that, to the voters of Pacific Grove, make the right decision. Check each candidate’s endorsements. I urge you to really consider who you vote for in this election.

Carmelita Garcia,
Pacific Grove

LIVES

From page 27A

over, can do this for me.”

When Hinse was in Los Angeles, she said she saw “unsheltered people” dressed in odd pairings of clothing that, somehow, worked together and sometimes ignited a spark that translated into her designs.

“Everything that has happened to me has been spontaneous, in life and in my designs,” she said. “And I have been open to the creativity that emerges. The universe is, for some reason, forcing me to close, which is a big curiosity for me, leaving me to wonder what comes next — hopefully, a continuation of what I am doing now. I trust it will present itself when I’m ready. And for that, I am excited.”

Leffel and the airport

Dear Editor,

I have known MaryAnn Leffel for more than 40 years. We first met while she was managing a bank branch in downtown Carmel. I was a detective with the Carmel Police Department at that time, so we worked together frequently trying to keep fraudsters from victimizing her unsuspecting customers. Her unique ability to see through a scam prevented multiple customers from suffering serious loss.

We stayed in close touch over the years, working together on multiple boards and commissions. Her intellect, drive and compassion always impressed me, as did her unerring ability to listen to her constituents and choose the best course of action for everyone concerned.

MaryAnn has served on the board of the Monterey Peninsula Airport District since 2008. The residents of the Monterey Peninsula, the flying public, indeed everyone with an interest in good and fair government, could do a lot worse than having MaryAnn continue serving as a member of the airport district board. As a resident of Carmel Valley outside the airport district’s boundaries, I am unable to vote in this election. But if I could, MaryAnn would unquestionably be my choice.

Pete Poitras, Carmel Valley

See **MORE LETTERS** page 43A

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TAKING CUE FROM SOCIAL MEDIA, NEW PG GALLERY FEATURES ‘LIKE’ BUTTONS

IN THE age of social media, the lines are blurring between what’s real and what’s virtual — and the latest example is Pacific Grove’s newest art gallery, which opened in early August in the former location of Ham-brook’s Auction Center.

Named the 480 Lighthouse Gallery, the site offers 10,000 square feet of display space, which makes it the biggest art seller on the Monterey Peninsula. It also offers

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

a feature you’ve probably never seen in a retail shop, a “like” button below each piece of art. It works the same way as one on Facebook, tallying the total “likes.” Gallery manager Elizabeth Rodriguez said the “like” buttons are part of an “ongoing effort” to create “a unique environment” in the showroom. “We’ve finished installing over 250 electronic displays alongside every piece of art,” Rodriguez reported.

Not only does every piece of art offer the viewer an opportunity to pick their favorites, but QR codes are placed next to each piece, making a visit to the artist’s website just a click away.

More than 100 artists are represented by the gallery, including painters Karina Svalya, David Seibert, Dick Crispo and Christine Chatwell, and sculptor Paul Russell. 480Lighthouse.com

■ Juried show opens

Up and coming artists from three coun-ties are featured in juried show, “Reso-nance,” which opens Friday, 6 p.m., at Pearl Works in Monterey.

The exhibit, which will be on display for six months, is presented by the Emerging Artists Alliance of Monterey, which offers help to artists, giving them “the exposure and tools necessary to succeed.”

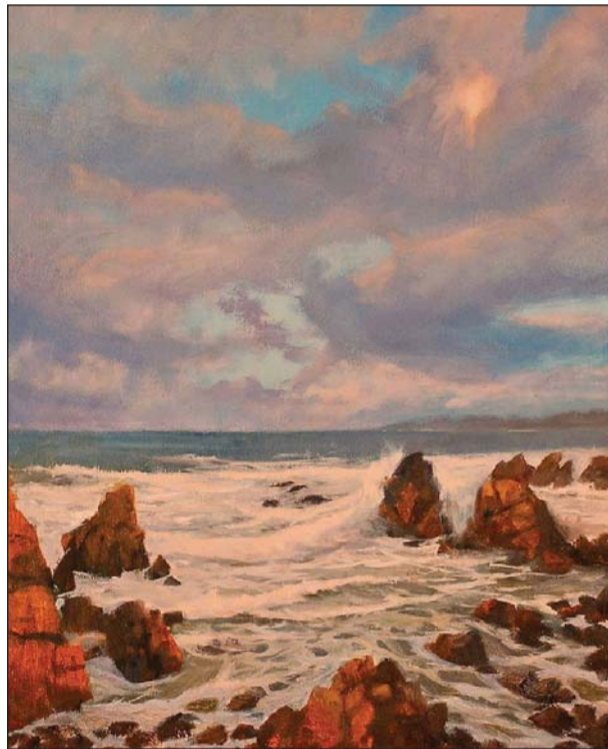
The artists represented in the show come from Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties.

In tandem with the opening of the show, Pearl Works celebrates its third anniversary with live music, interactive art and a mar-ketplace of art vendors.

Describing itself as “a communi-ty-driven flexible workspace, with meeting rooms and virtual mail,” Pearl Works is located at 288 Pearl St.



The 480 Lighthouse Gallery in Pacific Grove features 10,000 square feet of display space for paintings and sculpture.



This striking seascape by David Seibert is on display at the 480 Lighthouse Gallery.

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3Q 2024 | Market Update

A Slow and Steady Summer



The real estate market across the Monterey Peninsula began to shift this quarter as sales held a slow and steady pace with buyers finally able to see more inventory in their search, just in time as interest rates began to drop. There were 156 sales this quarter across Pebble Beach (23), Carmel (38), Pacific Grove (45), Monterey (31), Carmel Highlands (5), the Preserve (5), Quail Lodge/Meadows (1), Tehama (2), Monterra (3) and Carmel Valley Ranch (3). We're pretty much on track to match last year, which had 577 deals, but that is historically low for this area as we usually see just over 800 deals per year. Much of this is due to the fact that so many people moved here over 2020-2021 that it has taken a while for the market to bring back new inventory.

We've seen buyers get fussier this year and start pushing back on pricing, which has brought down median sales prices a notch to \$1.81M (compared to \$1.85M last year). This is the first dip in prices we've seen since 2008. While not a significant drop, it is good to see that the market is overall holding the price appreciation we saw come with the market surge of 2021-2022. The two price brackets that had the biggest bump in activity this quarter were the \$3-4M range (23 sales this quarter, up from just 8 in 1Q) and the top of the market which had 8 sales north of \$8M. The bottom of the market (below \$1M) slowed this quarter from the 29 sold last quarter, to 19, which is more on-pace for this area in that price bracket.

With the increased inventory, we're starting to see sellers come off their original list prices to accommodate buyers that bring an offer. Days on market stretched back up to 54 days this quarter and sellers pulled 3% off the list price to get the deal done. We do anticipate more buyers to come off the sidelines as rates fall and inventory levels rise, so it will be increasingly important to make thoughtful negotiations on both sides over the next few quarters.

The biggest news in real estate is the de-coupling of buyer agent commissions from the listing process. Starting on August 17th, all buyers must now sign an agreement with an agent, akin to a listing agreement, in order to see a house. These agreements can either be property specific or for a specified period of time, and do include the agreed upon agent compensation. Sellers should be ready to receive a request for payment of compensation to the buyer's broker with an offer, either through a seller concession or price reduction. So far, the market has been open to receiving these requests and Sellers are paying for them as part of fair offers.



Jessica Canning
Carmel Specialist

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

Stevenson, Carmel and Catalina teams think globally, win locally

FROM ALL parts of a big, diverse world, they find their way to the Monterey Peninsula — and they bring their tennis rackets and a whole lot of talent.

to Kostkova) are here for one year only as part of a junior year exchange program, which also allows local students to spend the 11th grade in Europe.

I said, ‘Watch her footwork — she gets to the ball about two days before she has to hit it.’”

Fu’s magic stems from a killer approach shot and a sky-high IQ on the court, her coach said of the only senior in Stevenson’s lineup.

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Stevenson star

No. 3 for the Pirates is Cece Li (15-1), a boarding student from China who was promoted from doubles to singles because of her competitiveness and consistency.

See SPORTS next page

Stevenson, Santa Catalina and Carmel wrapped up the regular season this week as the three best girls tennis teams in the Pacific Coast Athletic League, thanks in part to significant international flavor.

For the Carmel Padres, the league’s third-best team, the top player of 2024 was Margarita Sofia, a junior who will miss the postseason tournaments because she’s moving back home to Chile.

The starting lineup at Catalina — the Gabilan Division’s second-place team — is topped by a Persian boarding student, junior Gloria Arastoupour, whose home country is Sweden. She’s one of six foreign-born players on the Cougars’ varsity ladder.

And Stevenson’s Pirates — unbeaten Gabilan Division champions for the second-straight season — had five international players among their top 10, including their best player, Tereza Kostkova, a junior from the Czech Republic.

Pirates are 16-3 overall

“When Tereza got here and became our No. 1 player, that also helped our team depth,” said Stevenson coach Wendy Grover, whose Pirates were 10-0 in the Gabilan Division for the second straight season and took a sparkling 16-3 overall record to San Jose Friday for a non-league test against Archbishop Mitty.

Stevenson’s Kostkova (16-1 this year), and Catalina’s Arastoupour (10-3 — all three losses



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

(Above) Stevenson standout Tereza Kostkova, 16-1 at No. 1 singles, is a junior boarding student from the Czech Republic. Carmel’s top player, Maria Sofia (right), is returning home to Chile after the regular season and will miss the playoffs.



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- Exploration of scientifically unproven “non-human” or unexplained encounters
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Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Our first meeting is NOVEMBER 5th

Residents of Carmel, Carmel Highlands, Big Sur, Carmel Valley, Pacific Grove, Monterey, Seaside and Marina are welcomed in person.

Others are invited to join via Zoom. Zoom link will be sent 24 hours in advance.

- 1- No fee
- 2- Coffee, tea and water will be served (no charge to participants)
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SPORTS

From previous page

"She's a fighter — she'll get every ball back, and she'll just outlast you," Grover said.

No. 4 is Delara Gholami (13-5), a power-hitter with a ravenous appetite for advice, the coach said.

Doubles standouts

At the top of Stevenson's doubles lineup are Chinese boarding student Jesse Chen, a junior, and her sophomore partner, Karen Baker of Salinas.

Sophomore Sloane Escher and left-handed freshman Claire Tite play No. 2 singles, junior Ashlyn Saxon and sophomore Belle Wang are the No. 3 tandem, and the No. 4 doubles pairing is South Korea's Adele Lee with Sophie Petrocelli, a junior from Salinas.

Santa Catalina (11-4 overall), coached by Richie Snelling, was the Gabilan Division's No. 2 team with an 8-2 record, both competitive losses to Stevenson.

With Arastoupour, a high-level club player in Sweden, at the top of their lad-

der, the Cougars also have strength at No. 2 in junior Aspasia Elorduy-Kyriakis (8-3), a second-year boarding student from Mexico, who was Catalina's No. 1 singles player last season.

Another junior, Monterey resident Yunah Baek, is a second-year varsity player, and Mexico resident Jessica Urtusuastegui (9-2), a sophomore, plays at No. 4.

Catalina's doubles tandems are composed of freshman Fiona Fang, a boarder from China who was 5-0 as a singles player this season, and senior Avery Nguyen (4-2 with three partners) at No. 1, sophomores Magdalena Pablos (from Mexico) and Chloe Thompson at No. 2, where they have a 4-2 record, and seniors Maria Amelia Artola and Hannah Brown (3-1 together) at No. 3.

The doubles lineup also has included senior Analu Barron and junior JoJo Castro (4-1 with two partners), a third-year player. A talented freshman, Zamina Singh, missed most of the season because of knee surgery but figures to be a strong player in the future, Snelling said.

The Carmel Padres were 6-4 in the Gabilan Division (all losses to Stevenson

See **TENNIS** page 47A



Catalina's No. 1 player, Gloria Arastoupour, is a Persian boarding student from Sweden, where she is a high-level club player.

PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

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Bee Gees remembered at Golden State, Carmel Valley cafe turns 25

TAKING EVERYBODY back to the glittering heyday of disco, **You Should be Dancing** celebrates the music of the Bee Gees Saturday, 8 p.m., at the Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

The San Francisco-based tribute band serves up what it calls “an unforgettable night of music, dance and nostalgia.”

“With meticulous attention to detail, they capture the essence of the brothers Gibb, delivering an unbelievable experience that transports audiences back to the golden era

students. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. youthmusicmonterey.org.

■ Irish music duo in P.G.

One-time members of Solas, which created a buzz in the Celtic music world in recent decades, guitarist **John Doyle** and accordionist **Mick McAuley** play Sunday, 3 p.m., at St. Mary’s-by-the-Sea in Pacific Grove.

Jackie Pierce of St. Mary’s called Doyle and McAuley two of the “most accomplished players of Irish music in all of the Emerald Isle.”

Tickets are \$30 for general admission and \$12 for kids. St. Mary’s is located at 146 12th St.

■ Halloween party, contest

Celebrating its 25th year, and its 10th in Carmel Valley Village, Trailside Cafe hosts a Halloween/Anniversary party in its beer garden Friday at 5 p.m.

Singer and guitarist **Lindsay Beery** will perform, and there will be a costume contest.

Owner **Sean Allen** gave a shout-out to the staff for the cafe’s long-time success.

“We could not have done it without our great serving and kitchen staff making it happen every day since 1999,” Allen said.

The cafe is located at 3 Del Fino Place.

■ Jazz jam set for Sunday

A busy local group, **The Latin Jazz Collective**, will kick off the fun Sunday when Embassy Suites hosts its latest jazz jam at 1 p.m. The group is led by respected local percussionist **John Nava**.

“It’s sure to be a lively afternoon with great music,

See MUSIC page 39A

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

of disco and beyond,” according to the theater.

Tickets start at \$35. Golden State is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

Five-time Grammy Award-winning **La Mafia** performs at the same venue Friday at 7 p.m. Founded more than four decades ago, the group fuses traditional Mexican music with pop and rock influences. Tickets start at \$55.

■ Group kicks off season

Providing local youngsters with opportunities to explore classical music, Youth Music Monterey County kicks off its 37th year with a concert Sunday, 3 p.m., at Sunset Center.

The concert showcases the group’s Junior Youth & Honors Orchestras, while the program, titled “From the New World,” includes the West Coast premiere of composer Xavier Beteta’s *Tikal Nocturna*.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for



led by singer Kristen Marie (second from right), Dreamsong plays symphonic rock Friday, 4 p.m., at Folk Tale Winery in Carmel Valley.

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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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other supplies. From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., you — and your dog, if you like — can mix and mingle as you create a truly stunning squash. A gift basket and a bottle of wine will be awarded for the best work of gourd

Soup to Nuts

look of jack-o'-lanterns, but wince at the thought of carving one, Sanctuary Vacation Rentals is hosting a knife-free event at its new office at Mission and Eighth on Saturday. Twisted Roots Wines is all in, too, so for \$25 per person, you can get some “nibbles,” a glass of wine, a pumpkin, paint and

art, and a portion of the proceeds will go to the Animal Friends Rescue Project. Register at bit.ly/3AkBXvw.

On Halloween proper, Nielsen Bros. Market,

acquired last spring by Frank Sillman, Mark Lerman, and Michael and Susan Cohen, is celebrating Halloween and the city's 108th birthday with trick-or-treating on the patio and a costume contest for dogs and humans, alike. The party will run from 4 to 7 p.m. — providing ample time after the city's parade ends — and is free, so pop over to the market at San Carlos and Seventh for some mulled wine and cider, bratwurst and hot dogs on the grill, and lots of fun.

More franks, with steins

Peter B's Brewpub in the Portola Hotel at the foot of Alvarado Street in Monterey is ready to celebrate, too. “Our annual Halloween Franks 'n Steins is back Thursday, Oct. 31, from 4 to 10 p.m. at Monterey's favorite sports bar,” the hotel announced.

All-evening food and drink specials include mini corn dogs for \$4, Diablo Ghost Chili Burgers for \$14, \$4 pints of selected beers and the Tequila Mocking-

See **FOOD** next page



Estéban, the Spanish-themed restaurant in Monterey's Casa Munras Hotel, is celebrating Halloween with a party for pups and people. Fall menu additions include this Pesca del Día, seared local halibut over butternut squash risotto.



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FOOD & WINE

FOOD

From previous page

bird cocktail for \$10. Live music is on tap, too. “Wear your Halloween costume and receive a \$5 food voucher” per costumed adult, kid or dog to use that evening, organizers suggest, and say the party continues through Nov. 1.

Spooky Lips

Estéban restaurant in the Casa Munras Garden Hotel invites people and dogs to its Halloween party on Oct. 31 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. The patio and restaurant will be fully decorated for the occasion, and Richard DeVinck will provide live guitar music from a variety of genres. A special Spooky Lips cocktail combines Kahlua, Screwball (peanut butter whiskey) and cream. The regular tapas Happy Hour from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. will go on as usual, and costumed pets will be welcomed with a peanut-butter-oat bone or pumpkin-seed doggy bone, while the pup menu will be priced at 50 percent

off. New items for fall have been added to the humans’ menu, as well.

Trick or treat, smell my...fish?

Monterey’s Old Fisherman’s Wharf will host Trick or Treat by the Bay and a costume contest with cash prizes on Halloween from 4 to 7 p.m. Participating merchants will hand out candy and a DJ will play everyone’s favorite spooky tunes. At 5 p.m., local radio personality and emcee Dave Marzetti will start the costume contest, in which kids and grownups alike can compete (in categories separated by ages) for prizes from \$25 to \$150. Roaming “ghoulish characters,” along with colorful Halloween décor, will provide opportunities for photos. For details, visit monterey-wharf.com.

■ Marinus retrospective at Bernardus

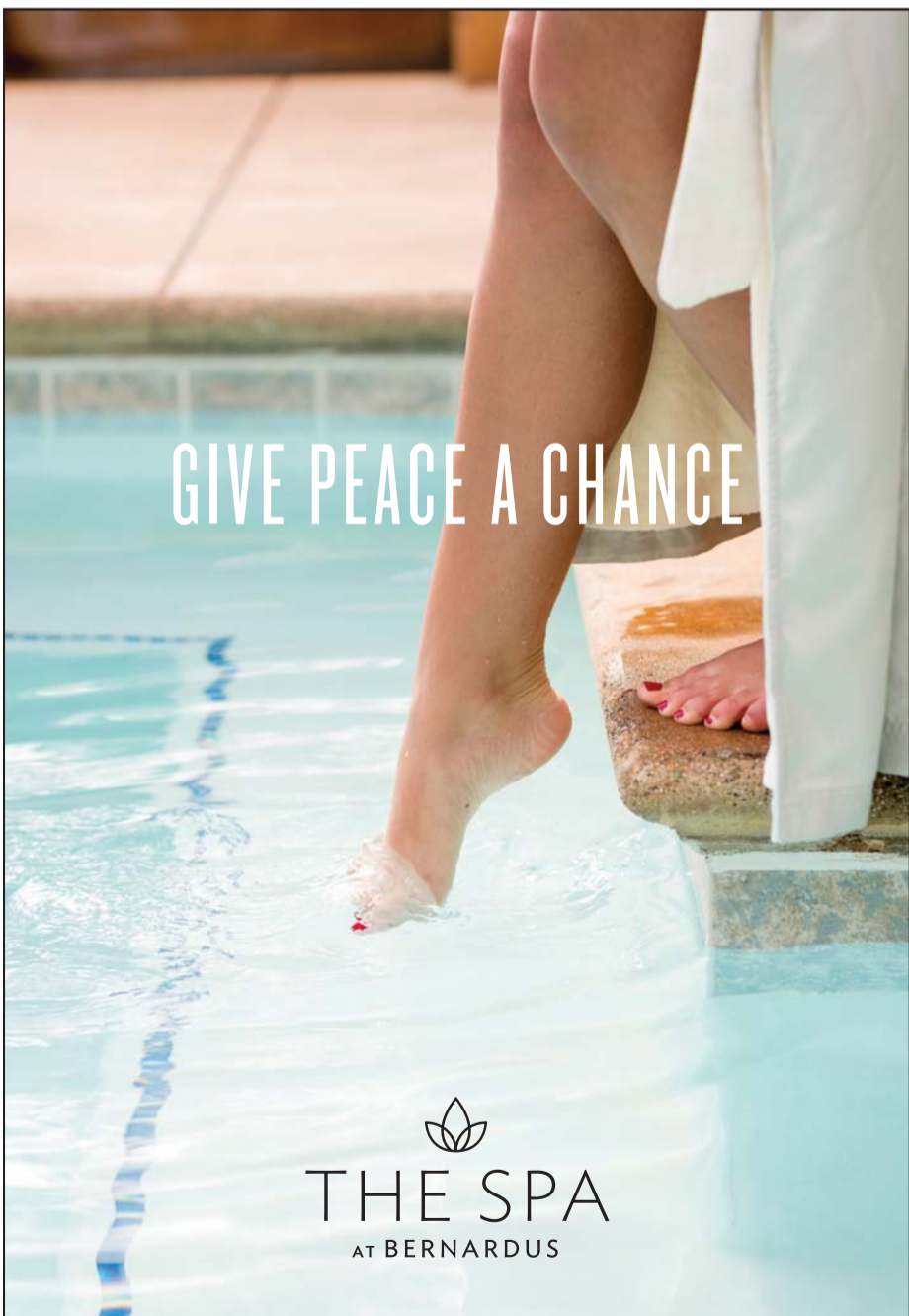
There is never a bad time to explore the storied vintages of Marinus — Bernardus Winery’s signature Bordeaux-style blend made with grapes grown on its estate vineyard in Cachagua — and the rare opportunity to do so will be offered Thursday, Nov. 7, during a special dinner at the tasting room in Carmel Valley Village.

From 5 to 8:30 p.m., vineyard manager Matt Shea and winemaker Jim McCabe will take 25 guests through a retrospective of the wines. Starting with the inaugural vintage of 1993, McCabe and Shea will share stories and offer insight on the evolution of the wine that the late

See **WINE** next page



The Fish Hopper on Cannery Row in Monterey is raising money for the Susan G. Komen foundation for breast cancer by donating half of the proceeds from special pink drinks this month.



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CRISPY ORGANIC CAULIFLOWER 14
Tomato Remoulade

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Shaved PRIME RIB, Caramelized Onions, Three Cheese Blend

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



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FOOD & WINE

WINE

From previous page

Bernardus Marinus Pon, who founded the winery, envisioned to rival the France's best. The retrospective will conclude with the 2019 vintage.

Chef Jerome Viel, owner of Jerome's Carmel Valley Market and a talented chef who has a long-running relationship with Bernardus — he was the chef at the now defunct Will's Fargo restaurant when Pon owned it — will create a menu to pair with specially selected vintages.

The dinner will take place in the Signature Room in the Bernardus Tasting Room at 5 W. Carmel Valley Road and costs \$250 per person (\$200 for club members) plus tax and 20 percent tip. For reservations, email hrammel@bernardus.com or visit bernardus.com.

Half-price wine at Rio Grill

Coastal Roots Hospitality, the group that runs Rio Grill in the Crossroads and Tarp's and Montrio in Monterey, is bringing back half-price wine nights featuring "a wide selection of delightful vintages," a spokesperson for Coastal Roots said. If you want to save money three nights in a row, the promotion takes place Mondays at Rio Grill, Tuesdays at Montrio and Wednesdays at Tarp's.

Not too late to go pink

It's still Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the Fish Hopper at 700 Cannery Row is donating half of the proceeds from four cocktails — also available as mocktails — to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, which, among other things, supports breast cancer research and education. The special pink drinks include a watermelon refresher, guava sparkling mimosa, pomegranate Margarita, and a martini featuring Tito's vodka, raspberry syrup and lemon juice.

Net gain for everyone

The Monterey Beach Hotel (a Marriott Bonvoy property) at the Canyon Del Rey exit on Highway 1 in Seaside has recently been renovated, and on Nov. 7 in The Lantern Room, a dinner in the Get Hooked Community Seafood series will connect guests "with the hardworking men and women who harvest local seafood and the chefs who thoughtfully prepare it," say organizers. Attendees will enjoy "a specially crafted menu featuring sustainably sourced seafood paired with local drinks and wines."

The event, which starts at 6 p.m., supports the Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust Community Seafood Program. The non-profit, launched in November 2020, says it

See LANTERN next page



Some people just don't know when they've overstayed their welcome! Old Fisherman's Wharf is planning a Halloween bash with "roaming ghouls," trick-or-treating at participating merchants, spooky tunes spun by a DJ, and a big costume contest with cash prizes.

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MUSIC

From page 35A

dancing, snacks, and libations—and the best part, there’s no cover,” said singer **Lee Durley**, who will co-host the jam.

Embassy Suites is located at 1441 Canyon Del Rey Blvd.

Live music Oct. 25-31

■ Big Sur

Big Sur River Inn — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Saturday at 12:30 p.m.), **The Bubba Pickens Band** (bluegrass, Sunday at noon). 46800 Highway 1.

Fernwood Resort — **New Issue** (alt-rock, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

■ Carmel

Barmel — singer and guitarist **Tony Burciaga** (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 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 — mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, 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.

La Playa Hotel — singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Thursday at 5 p.m.). Camino Real and Eighth.

The Links Club — **The Wharf Rats** (rock, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **Neon City Lights** (modern country, Saturday

See **LIVE** page 41A

LANTERN

From previous page

“provides healthy, sustainably harvested seafood to local families, farmworkers, seniors, and others in need of food assistance, along with economic support to local fishermen, food workers, and seafood businesses.”

According to its website, in four years, it has purchased more than 20,000 pounds of seafood and donated more than 50,000 meals in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties through organizations including the Food Bank for Monterey County, Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula, Al & Friends, The Big Share in Big Sur, and others. Tickets are available on Open Table and cost \$120 per person.

■ Warm up at Joyce

Although they’re just 13 miles apart, when it’s foggy and soggy in Carmel-by-the-Sea, it’s often sunny in Carmel Valley Village, making the latter a good place to visit when you want to get warm. Of course, with the plethora of tasting rooms that have taken up residence in the valley, wine tasting is often high on the list of things to do when travelers head in that direction. If you love to be outside but still want to sit at a wine bar, try Joyce, which lets the outside in via wide movable doors. If you need more fresh air, there’s a cute serving area to the side of the building as well. The main reason to visit Joyce, though, is the wines.

This family entity, which began in 1986 with Francis Joyce at the helm and only 5 acres of grapes, has grown into a respected Monterey County brand. Now run by Francis son, Russell, the winery and vineyard operations have grown significantly and moved to the old Ventana

operation near Soledad in the Arroyo Seco AVA in 2020. There is a tasting room there, too, but it is only open during the summer.

If you do head over to the tasting room at 1 E. Carmel Valley Road (open daily from 12 to 5:30 p.m.), here are two wines to try:

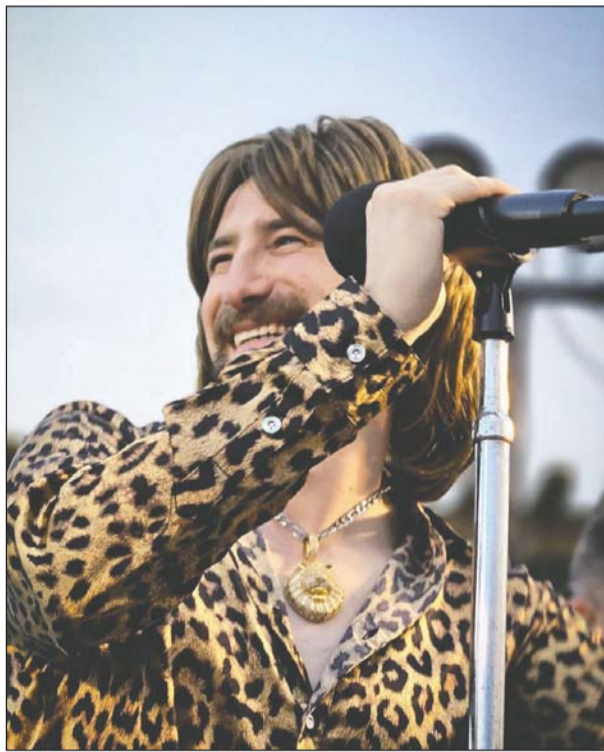
2023 Joyce Pinot Noir Cortada Alta – big red Bing cherry moving to red fruit and cherry licorice ending with earthy shrub and a long, nice finish. It sells for \$60.

Not into red wine? Try the 2023 Vermentino from the Cedar Lane Vineyard in Arroyo Seco, sold under the Russell Joyce brand. It’s herby with refreshing acidity, lemon-lime flavors and ends with a lovely tangy sensation. It’s priced at \$35.

Elaine Hesser, Mary Schley and Roxanne Langer contributed to this week’s column.



The Monterey Beach Hotel’s Lantern Room will be the scene of a fundraising dinner for the Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust Community Seafood Program, a nonprofit that seeks to help fishermen, as well as people in need of healthy meals



You Should Be Dancing, featuring singer James Garcia, plays Oct. 26 in Monterey.

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LIVE

From page 39A

at 7:30 p.m.), Singer-Songwriter Showcase (Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

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

■ Carmel Valley

Bernardus Lodge & Spa — singer and pianist **TJ Kuenster** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Saturday at noon), pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues Sunday at 11 a.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Folktales Winery — **Dreamsong** (symphonic rock, Friday at 4 p.m.), **The Jesse DeCarlo Trio** (jazz and funk, Saturday at 2 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

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

Trailside Cafe — singer and guitarist **Lindsay Beery** celebrates the cafe's 25th anniversary (Friday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

■ Monterey

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

Bon Ton LeRoy's Lighthouse Smokehouse — singer and guitarist **Frida Vossler** (Saturday at 7 p.m.), Open Mic Night (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 794 Lighthouse Ave.

Bulldog Sports Pub — **Tribe in the Sky** presents a weekly Community Jam (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.). 611 Lighthouse Ave.

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.

Estéban Restaurant — guitarist **Catherine Broz** (Spanish music, Friday and Thursday at 5 p.m.). 700 Munras Ave.

InterContinental Hotel — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Saturday at 9 a.m.), guitarist **Terrence Farrell** (Latin music, Sunday at 9 a.m.). 750 Cannery Row.

Melville Tavern — **Tapson & Moseley** (rock, Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.). 484 Washington St.

Midici Pizza — singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** and saxophonist **Arman Sangalang** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa — pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Friday and Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 5 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

Old Capitol Books — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Florez Rain** and singer and guitarist **Alex Ramirez** (Friday at 9 p.m.). 482 Alvarado St.

Pearl Hour — **The Zach Westfall Group** (jazz, Sunday at 8 p.m.), **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz, Wednesday at

8 p.m.). 214 Lighthouse Ave.

Peter B's Brewpub — Halloween party with mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff**, pianist **Juneau Rowe** and percussionist **Will Bates** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). In the Portola Hotel, 2 Portola Plaza.

Salty Seal Pub — **Sixth Street Alternative** (rock, Friday at 8 p.m.), **The Transducers** (funk and rock, Saturday at 8 p.m.), **The Edge** (rock, Sunday at 4 p.m.). 653 Cannery Row.

The Sardine Factory — singer and guitarist **David Conley** (Friday and Saturday, Tuesday through Thursday at 7:30 p.m.). 701 Wave St.

Sly McFly's — **Phil 'n' the Blanks** (classic rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **The Speakeasy Band** (pop and rock, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

■ Pacific Grove

Il Vecchio Restaurant — **The Harpin' and Clark Duo** (rock and blues, Tuesday at 6 p.m.), **The Cena Jazz Trio** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 110 Central Ave.

PG's Meetinghouse — Halloween party with banjoist **Sam Wallace** (Friday at 7:30



Saxophonist Arman Sangalang plays Sunday, 5 p.m., with singer and guitarist Peter Barnes Martin at Midici Pizza in Monterey.

Continues next page

CALENDAR

Oct. 26 – Harvest Craft Faire presented by Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 4590 Carmel Valley Road. Enjoy lunch and hot German donuts. Crafts for sale include jewelry, jams, photos, soaps, cards and more. For details, call (831) 595-9752.

Oct. 26 – De Tierra Vineyards presents Yachtober, Yacht Rock performed live by the Alex Lucero Band. Event includes a luxurious food banquet, paired with exquisite yacht worthy wines, a lively dance floor and full-stocked cash bar. Event held at Carmel Missino Inn, 3665 Rio Road, Carmel. Call (831) 622-9794 or visit info@detierra.com

Oct. 26 – Annual Hunter Moon Arts & Crafts Fair, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Carmel Valley Lodge, 8 Ford Road, Carmel Valley. Stop by to view booths featuring local artists, crafters, galleries and more. This unique and fun event only happens once a year so don't miss out! Food & drink by The Bitter Ginger.

Oct. 27 – St. Mary's By-The-Sea continues its fall Celtic music series with two of the finest acoustic players from Ireland, **John Doyle** and **Mick McAuley**. Tickets and details at www.celticsociety.org.

Oct. 27 – Max's Helping Paws 5th Annual Howloween Fundraiser, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Outdoor Forest Theater, Carmel. Dog costume contest with runway and judges,

professional dog photos, magic show, live music, vendors and more. Kid-friendly, free to attend. Participants urged to pre-register for tickets. Details at: information:www.maxshelpingpaws.org/events.



Oct. 31 – Don't miss the fun free 6th Halloween on the Wharf at Old Fisherman's Wharf from 4 to 7 p.m. Trick or treating at more than 25 Wharf merchants, a costume contest with lots of cash prizes, photos ops and more. Info at: www.montereywharf.com

Nov. 1 – Join us for a Halloween Party, 6 to 10 p.m. with a costume contest. Live music by **Wrockinfoose** starts at 7 p.m. \$10 donation at the door for the band; Dolores 2 south of Eighth, Carmel. Info: alpost512carmel.org

Nov. 9 & 10 – It's Baum & Blume's Kaleidoscope Christmas! Our "Lighting of the Tannenbaum" and Holiday Open House, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. daily. Discover a "New Perspective" on holiday shopping ... find colorful artisan gifts and décor ... enjoy live music, tasty apps and hosted wine tastings too! Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito, Carmel Valley. (831) 659-0400.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31
From 4:00 to 7:00PM

- Trick or Treat at Over 25 Wharf Businesses
- Enter Our Costume Contest and Win Cash Prizes
- Come in Costume on Halloween
- Other Halloween Surprises, too!

More information: www.montereywharf.com or call (831) 238-0777




From previous page

p.m.), **The Miranda Perl Trio** (jazz, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), guitarist **Catherine Broz** (Spanish music, Sunday at 11 a.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 **Holysea** (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave.
Lucy's on Lighthouse — **The Edge Band** (rock, Saturday at 2 p.m.), **Wolf Dog Walker** (rock, Sunday at 2 p.m.). 1120 Lighthouse Ave.
Monarch Pub in Pacific Grove — **Bow River** (Ameri-

cana, Sunday at 3 p.m.). 617 Lighthouse Ave.

■ **Pebble Beach**

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — singer and guitarist **Kevin Pfeffer** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Tamas Marius** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive.
The Inn at Spanish Bay — singer and guitarist **Stu Heydon** and pianist **Michael Martinez** (blues, Saturday at 2 p.m.). 2700 17 Mile Dr.

■ **Seaside**

Cuz's Sportsman's Club in Seaside — **The Vick**

Silva Band (rock, Saturday at 8:30 p.m.). 594 Broadway.
Deja Blue — **The Flow** (jazz and r&b, Saturday at 3 p.m.). 500 Broadway.
Gusto Pasta and Pizza — singer and keyboardist **TJ Kuenster** and bassist **Tony Bianchini** (jazz, Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.). 1901 Fremont Blvd.

To update these listings, email chris@carmelpinecone.com.



Singer and guitarist Holysea plays Tuesdays evenings at Julia's Vegetarian Restaurant in Pacific Grove.

Worship

CARMEL ~ CARMEL VALLEY ~ MONTEREY
 PACIFIC GROVE ~ PEBBLE BEACH ~ SEASIDE

Journey to the heart of Carmel ...
 where it all began

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SATURDAY VIGIL MASS
 5:30 p.m.
SUNDAY MASSES
 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Our streamed Mass is also available.

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You're Invited
 to become
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Ecotheology - "Creation"
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Church in the Forest
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 Multi-Denominational
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 WEDNESDAYS 7 PM
 SUNDAYS 10 AM

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Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula
 Independent & United Church of Christ
 Open and Affirming
 WORSHIP 11 A.M. SUNDAYS

Sermon title:
LIVING WATER

Pastor Paul Wrightman
 4590 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel CA 93923
 (831) 624-8595/ccmp.org

All Saints' Episcopal Church

SUNDAYS 10 A.M.
 SW Corner of Dolores & 9th
 Carmel-by-the-Sea

Centering Prayer - Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.
 (In-Person and Online)

831.624.3883 info@allsaintscarmel.org

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9:30am TRADITIONAL

11:00am CONTEMPORARY

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 to be included in this directory

MORE LETTERS

From page 30A

Odello's diligence

Dear Editor,

I wholeheartedly endorse Jake Odello for the Carmel School Board. I have worked closely with Jake on other challenging nonprofit efforts and know that he will listen carefully, collaborate, and work tirelessly for the betterment of our public schools. Throughout his time in our community, Jake has consistently demonstrated that he listens and studies before he speaks. He values the perspectives of parents, teachers, and students alike, ensuring that every voice is heard and considered.

Moreover, Jake's conciliatory approach is essential to our progress. In a time when divisiveness often dominates our discussions, he brings people together, finding common ground and working towards solutions that benefit everyone. His ability to navigate complex issues with empathy and understanding will be invaluable on the school board.

Finally, Jake's diligence is unmatched. He approaches every task with a commitment to excellence, ensuring that projects are completed on time and to the highest standards. His strong work ethic and willingness to spend the countless hours of unpaid time make him the ideal

candidate for this position. Please give Jake Odello your support!

Suzanne Shaw, Carmel

Halloween invite

Dear Editor,

We're sorry to interrupt the incoming letters about politics, but Halloween does come before Election Day, and we wanted to be sure that all our friends and neighbors in Carmel and the surrounding areas are aware that we will, again this year, be extending our invitation to you to visit our home on Halloween evening for one of the best displays anywhere around.

Many people will remember that our home was consumed by a horrible fire almost two years ago. We have been unable to rebuild (still no permits!) but we will carry on, as we have for the last 25 years, spreading old-fashioned Halloween fun combined with the most up-to-date Halloween animatronics and decorations. This is difficult to do as there is still no electricity on the property, but we promise fun, friendships and a few scares to all who visit. Please come by and visit us on Willow Place in Mission Fields. The Carmel Halloween Extravaganza will be here, no matter what adversities we have faced in the recent past. Seeing all our yearly visitors, and hopefully some new ones, brings such great joy to our favorite holiday.

Stephanie and Bryan Whitehead, Carmel

MONTEREY COUNTY BANK *The Business Bank*

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SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

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OCTOBER 2024

NEW MEMBERS

ENVISION INITIATIVE
envisioninitiative.com

EQUINE HEALING COLLABORATIVE
equinehealing.org

MR. SANDLESS
mrsandless.com

PATIENTGAIN.COM
patientgain.com

SAVE THE DATES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21
Stilwell Hotel Ribbon Cutting
5:00pm – 7:00pm
San Carlos & 5th

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4
Awards of Excellence
6:00pm – 9:00pm
The Quail

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11
La Playa Holiday Mixer
5:00pm – 7:00pm
Camino Real & 8th Ave

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9
Bambace Peterson Ribbon Cutting
5:00pm – 7:00pm
San Carlos btwn Ocean & 5th

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23
Carmel Woman's Club Ribbon Cutting
5:00pm – 7:00pm
9th & San Carlos

CARMEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PO Box 4444, Carmel, CA 93921 (831) 624-3877



Public Voting Ends 10/31



2024 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE
CARMEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOTE NOW AT CarmelChamber.org

The race for the coveted STAR Awards is on! Vote for your favorite businesses and organizations that have exemplified excellence this year. Winners in 18 categories, including Business of the Year, will be honored on December 4th at the 2024 Awards of Excellence.

CARMEL Chamber of Commerce
CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS

a night in
HOLLYWOOD

2024 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE
CARMEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DECEMBER 4, 2024
6:00 – 9:00
THE QUAIL

Vote for your favorite local stars and join us for a night of Hollywood glamour as we celebrate the best and the brightest in business!

CARMELCHAMBER.ORG

PRESENTED BY **MONTEREY COUNTY BANK**



PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241761
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **CAFE SOLEIL BISTRO AND DELI, 8 W GABILAN ST. SALINAS, CA 93901**, County of MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s): **SS JUAN PABLO ENTERPRISES LLC, 8 W GABILAN ST. SALINAS, CA 93901, CA**
This business is conducted by **A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on **NOT APPLICABLE**
S/ JESUS JUAREZ, MANAGING MEMBER
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on **09/17/2024**
10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25/24
CNS-3850907#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024. (PC 1004)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241770
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **ASPIRE CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING, 24751 Handley Dr., Carmel, CA 93923**, County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: **UNITY OF ESCONDIDO, 24751 HANDLEY DR., CARMEL, CA 93923**
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CALIFORNIA
This business is conducted by a corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**. Has not filed since **1996 - June 01**.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241770
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.** A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).

S/ Gregory E Penn, CEO
Date: Sept. 12, 2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 19, 2024.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Oct. 11, 18, 25, 2024. (PC 1006)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241825
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **HILLTOWN INSTRUMENT REPAIR, 22220 Tara Ct., Salinas, CA 93908**.
Registered Owner(s): **DESIREE GABRIELLE YOUNGBLOOD PEDERSEN**
QUINN MARTIN KAUFMAN PEDERSEN
This business is conducted by a married couple.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 30, 2024.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/ Desiree Youngblood Pedersen
Date signed: Sept. 30, 2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 30, 2024.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Publication Dates: Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024 (PC 1007)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241681
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **1. SRS CONSTRUCTION 2. SRS CONSTRUCTION SERVICES 5451 Industrial Way, Benicia, CA 94510**.
County of Principal Place of Business: SOLANO
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: SHARIO, LLC
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability partnership.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 25, 2022.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).

S/ Francisco Vega, COO
Date: Aug. 21, 2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 5, 2024.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 2024. (PC 1009)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241667
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **IN PLAIN SIGHT ADVOCACY ALLIANCE, P.O. Box 1198 1594*, Sacramento, CA 95812**.
Registered Owner(s): **ALICE THERESA CONNORS, P.O. Box 1198 1594*, Sacramento, CA 95812**.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Publication Dates: Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 2024 (PC 1010)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case No. 24CV0004155
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, ASOMOE JOALLE FALESA PUNI, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
A. Present name: ASOMOE JOALLE FALESA PUNI
Proposed name: ASOMOE JOALLE FALESA TUPUOLA
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
DATE: Dec. 6, 2024
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
DEPT: 14
The address of the court is 1200 Agujaito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: *The Carmel Pine Cone*.

(s) Thomas W. Willis
Judge of the Superior Court
Date filed: Oct. 2, 2024
Publication Dates: Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 2024. (PC 1012)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241863
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **GALLAGHER AMMUNITION, 871 Alice St., Apt. 6, Monterey, CA 93940**.
Registered Owner(s): **COLIN GERARD GALLAGHER**.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 3, 2024.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Publication Dates: Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 2024 (PC 1013)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241806
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **DHE Transportation, 880 Airport Blvd, Salinas, CA 93901**
County of MONTEREY
Registrant(s):
AAA Cooper Transportation, 1751 Kinsey Road, Dothan, AL 36303
This business is conducted by a Corpo-

ration
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **07/30/2024**.
AAA Cooper Transportation
S/ Michelle Lewis, CFO
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on **09/25/2024**.
10/11, 10/18, 10/25, 11/1/24
CNS-3859488#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 2024. (PC 1014)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241830
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MONTEREY BAY LANDSCAPE INNOVATION, 1123 ALAMO WAY APT 7, SALINAS, CA 93905**
County of MONTEREY
Registrant(s):
JUAN VAZQUEZ, 1123 ALAMO WAY APT 7, SALINAS, CA 93905
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Publication Dates: Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 2024. (PC 1016)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241782
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CAMINO CIVIL ENGINEERING, 552 San Benito St., Salinas, CA 93905**.
Registered Owner(s):
RUBEN MENDOZA, 100 W. Alisal St., P.O. Box 175, Salinas, California 93902.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 17, 2024.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Publication Dates: Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 1, 2024 (PC 1021)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241839
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **LINEA DE ORO, 1511 MCKINNON ST B, SALINAS, CA 93906**, County of MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
ABRAHAM SIGUENZA, 1511 MCKINNON ST B SALINAS, CA 93906
This business is conducted by AN INDIVIDUAL
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on **03/01/2024**
S/ ABRAHAM SIGUENZA
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on **10/01/2024**
10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8/24
CNS-3855972#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 2024. (PC 1022)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF OVIDIO CASADO-FUENTE Case Number 24PR000481

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of OVIDIO CASADO-FUENTE.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by VERONICA FUENTE in the Superior Court of California, County of MONTEREY.
The Petition for Probate requests that VERONICA FUENTE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
Date: Nov. 20, 2024
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Dept.: 13
Address: Superior Court of California, County of Monterey, 1200 Agujaito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
If you object to the granting of

Lien Sale Auction Advertisement

Notice is hereby given that Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act, (B&P Code 21700 et. Seq.), the undersigned will sell at public auction; personal property including but not limited to furniture, tools, and/or other misc. items.
Auction to be held at **4:00 pm on November 13th, 2024:**
www.selfstorageauction.com
The property is stored at:
Coastal Storage
575 California Ave Sand City, 93955
Name of Tenants
James Cuyno
Danis Taylor
10/25/24
CNS-3861159#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 25, 2024. (PC 1023)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241856
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
1. COAST WILDLAND 2. COAST WILDLAND MANAGEMENT 38493 Palo Colorado Rd., Carmel, CA 93923.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
GROW YOUR LUNCH, LLC, P.O. Box 222962, Carmel, CA 93922.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 27, 2024.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Publication Dates: Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 2024 (PC 1024)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241887
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **BELLA STONE RESTORATION, 1530 Darwin St., Seaside, CA 93955**.
Registered Owner(s):
JIMMY NICK TURTURICI.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Mar. 1, 2007.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Publication Dates: Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 2024 (PC 1024)

statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 2024 (PC 1025)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241793
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MARK'S MOBILE LOCKSMITH, 1206 La Salle Ave., SPC 50, Seaside, CA 93955**.
Registered Owner(s):
JONATHAN PAUL WHITE, 1206 La Salle Ave., SPC 50, Seaside, CA 93955.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 17, 2022.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
Date signed: Oct. 2, 2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 4, 2024.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Publication Dates: Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 2024 (PC 1026)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241693
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **SALINAS POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, 312 E. Alisal St., Salinas, CA 93901**.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
SALINAS POLICE BENEFIT ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 725, Salinas, CA 93902.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 20, 1951.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
Date signed: Oct. 14, 2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 14, 2024.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Publication Dates: Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 2024 (PC 1029)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Tuesday, November 5, 2024, on or after 4:30 p.m.**, the City Council of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will hold a Public Hearing via teleconference and in person at the City Hall Council Chambers located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea.

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. First Reading and Introduction of Ordinance No. 2024-002, amending Chapter 10.36.010 of the Carmel-by-the-Sea Municipal Code by adding subsection (1), under Section (C); Identifying Commercial Loading Zones to comply with CVC 22500 and Assembly Bill 413-The "Daylighting Bill"
Recommendation: Read by title only, waive full reading, and introduce Ordinance No. 2024-002.
2. Consider a recommendation from the Rule 20A Ad Hoc Committee to adopt Resolution 2024-094 establishing the Del Mar Underground Utility District and authorizing the Del Mar Utility Underground Project utilizing Rule 20A Work Credit allocation.
Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2024-094, establishing the Del Mar Underground Utility District utilizing Rule 20A Works Credits for the underground project.

This meeting will be held in person and via teleconference. The public is welcome to attend the meeting in person or remotely via Zoom, however, the meeting will proceed as normal even if there are technical difficulties accessing zoom. The City will do its best to resolve any technical issues as quickly as possible. To view or listen to the meeting from home, you may watch the YouTube Live Stream at: <https://www.youtube.com/@CityofCarmelbytheSea/streams>, or use the link below to view or listen to the meeting via Zoom teleconference:

To attend via Zoom (copy and paste the link into your browser):
<https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/83289524838>
Webinar ID: 832 8952 4838
Passcode: 904814
Dial in: (253) 215-8782

All interested persons are invited to attend in-person or via teleconference or in person at the time and place specified above to give oral or written testimony concerning this matter. Written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk at City Hall located on the east side of Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, 93921 or P.O. Box CC, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, 93921 or by email cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us prior to the meeting. Comments must be received 2 hours before the meeting in order to be provided to the legislative body. Comments received after that time and up to the beginning of the meeting will be made part of the record. If you wish to challenge the action of the City Council in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing.

A complete copy of Ordinance No. 2024-002 is available in the City Clerk's Office, located at <https://ci.carmel.ca.us>, and will be published online as part of the Council packet at <https://ci.carmel.ca.us/meetings> no less than 72 hours before the meeting.

Please direct questions about the Rule 20A item to Javier Hernandez, jhernandez@ci.carmel.ca.us, or 831-620-2070

Publication Date: October 25, 2024 Publication dates: Oct. 25, 2024 (PC1040)

— Be prepared for emergencies —
www.alertmontereycounty.org

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241861
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **ETERNO BEAUTY BY ANA, 423 Pajaro St., Suite A, Salinas, CA 93901.**
Registered Owner(s): ANA CRISTINA HINOJOSA RODRIGUEZ
This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Ana Cristina Hinojosa Rodriguez
Date signed: Oct. 4, 2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 4, 2024.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law [See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code].
Publication Dates: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 2024 [PC 1035]

Lien Sale Auction Advertisement

Notice is hereby given that Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act, (B&P Code 21700 et. Seq.), the undersigned will sell at public auction; personal property including but not limited to furniture, tools, and /or other misc. items. Auction to be held at **4:00 pm on November 13th, 2024.**
www.selfstorageauction.com
The property is stored at:
Coastal Storage
575 California Ave, Sand City, 93955
Name of Tenants
James Cuyno
Danis Taylor
10/25/24
CNS-3861159#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 25, 2024.
(PC 1036)

Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 16, 2024.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law [See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code].
Publication Dates: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 2024. [PC 1035]

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241926
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CHAMP CERTIFIED FARMER MARKETS, 100 Panetta Road Carriage House, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.**
Registered Owner(s): JOSEPH SALVATORE ALIOTTI, BERNADETTE MARY ALIOTTI
This business is conducted by a married couple.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Benedetto M. Aliotti
Date signed: Oct. 17, 2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 17, 2024.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law [See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code].
Publication Dates: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 2024 [PC 1042]

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241874
Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CHANGE OF PLACES, 49 Ocean Pines, Pebble Beach, CA 93955.**
Registered Owner(s): CAROLYN ANIN HOLDER
This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 1, 2020.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Carol A. Holder
Date signed: Oct. 2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 7, 2024.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law [See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code].
Publication Dates: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 2024 [PC 1037]

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 24CV004323
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, JOSE CARLOS RUIZ-MARTINEZ, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
A. Present name: JOSE CARLOS RUIZ-MARTINEZ
PROPOSED name: CARLOS RUIZ-MARTINEZ
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written

objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
DATE: Dec. 6, 2024
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
DEPT: 15
The address of the court is 1200 Agujito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: *The Carmel Pine Cone*.
(s) Thomas W. Wells
Judge of the Superior Court
Date filed: Oct. 15, 2024
Publication Dates: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 2024. [PC 1043]

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241933
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **SELINA'S THERAPY CENTER, 620 Lighthouse Ave., STE 165, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.**
Registered Owner(s): SELINA SAHBA
This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 17, 2024.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Selina Sahba
Date signed: Oct. 17, 2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 17, 2024.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law [See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code].
Publication Dates: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 2024 [PC 1044]

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241956
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **THE PLUSHIE ZOO, 711 Cannery Row, Suite F, Monterey, California 93940.**
Registered Owner(s): MARY JANE PETERSON, PO Box 665, Monterey, California 93942. STEVEN ANTHONY CLOSE, PO Box 665, Monterey, California 93942.
This business is conducted by a married couple.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 21, 2024.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Mary Jane Peterson
Date signed: Oct. 22, 2024

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241956
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **THE PLUSHIE ZOO, 711 Cannery Row, Suite F, Monterey, California 93940.**
Registered Owner(s): MARY JANE PETERSON, PO Box 665, Monterey, California 93942. STEVEN ANTHONY CLOSE, PO Box 665, Monterey, California 93942.
This business is conducted by a married couple.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 21, 2024.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Mary Jane Peterson
Date signed: Oct. 22, 2024

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 22, 2024.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law [See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code].
Publication Dates: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 2024 [PC 1045]

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 3, 2022.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). *I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).*
S/Mary Jane Peterson, President
Date: Oct. 22, 2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 22, 2024.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law [See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code].
Publication Dates: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 2024. [PC 1046]

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241957
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MONTEREY'S FINEST, 700 Cannery Row, Suite H1, Monterey, CA 93940.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: RWB INVESTMENTS, INC., PO Box 665, Monterey, California 93942.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a corporation.



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Monday, November 4, 2024, on or after 4:30 p.m.**, the City Council of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will hold a Public Hearing via teleconference and in person at the City Hall Council Chambers located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Subject of Public Hearings:

- PERM EN 240129 (Voris)**
Brian Congleton, Architect
Torres Street 4 northeast of 6th Avenue
Block 60; Lots 10 and 12
APN: 010-092-010-000
Consider adoption of Resolution 2024-088 approving a Permanent Encroachment Permit application, PERM EN 240129 (Voris), for the legalization of existing encroachments in the public right-of-way, fronting a single-family residence located on Torres Street 4 northeast of 6th Avenue. APN: 010-092-010-000.
- PERM EN 240143 (Pac Rep Theatre)**
Stephen Moorero, Applicant
Monte Verde Street 4 southwest of 8th Avenue
Block C; Lots 11, 12, 13 and 14
APN: 010-194-016-000
Consideration of a Permanent Encroachment Permit application, PERM EN 240143 (Pac Rep Theatre), to install a stormwater overflow bubbler box in the Casanova Street public right-of-way at the rear of the Golden Bough Theatre located at Monte Verde Street 4 southwest of 8th Avenue. APN: 010-194-016-000.
- APP 24177 (Rodriguez)**
Anthony Lombardo, Attorney
Camino Real 4 northwest of 11th Avenue
Block Q; Lots 11, 13
APN: 010-275-006-000
Consider adoption of Resolution 2024-086 granting an appeal of the Historic Resources Board's decision to add an individual property known as the "Henry J. Ohloff House" and issuing a Determination of Ineligibility for the property located at Camino Real 4 northwest of 11th Avenue to the Carmel Inventory of Historic Resources. APN: 011-275-006-000.

EN 240143 (Pac Rep Theatre), to install a stormwater overflow bubbler box in the Casanova Street public right-of-way at the rear of the Golden Bough Theatre located at Monte Verde Street 4 southwest of 8th Avenue. APN: 010-194-016-000.
APP 24177 (Rodriguez)
Anthony Lombardo, Attorney
Camino Real 4 northwest of 11th Avenue
Block Q; Lots 11, 13
APN: 010-275-006-000
Consider adoption of Resolution 2024-086 granting an appeal of the Historic Resources Board's decision to add an individual property known as the "Henry J. Ohloff House" and issuing a Determination of Ineligibility for the property located at Camino Real 4 northwest of 11th Avenue to the Carmel Inventory of Historic Resources. APN: 011-275-006-000.

Public Participation: This meeting will be held via teleconference and in person ("hybrid") in the City Council Chambers at City Hall located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea.

The public is welcome to attend the meeting in person or remotely via Zoom, however, the meeting will proceed as normal even if there are technical difficulties accessing Zoom. The City will do its best to resolve any technical issues as quickly as possible. To participate via teleconference, click the following link to attend via Zoom (or copy and paste the link into your browser):

<https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/87545876814>
Webinar ID: 875 4587 6814
Passcode: 813607
Dial in: (253) 215-8782

The staff report and relevant documents will be available at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting on the City's website at <http://www.ci.carmel.ca.us>. The Council meeting will be televised live on the City's website and archived there after the meeting. For more information regarding City Council meetings, please contact the City Clerk's office at (831) 620-2016.

All interested persons are invited to attend in person or via teleconference at the time and place specified above to give oral or written testimony concerning this matter. Written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk at City Hall located on the east side of Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, 93921 or P.O. Box CC, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, 93921 or by email cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us prior to the meeting. With respect to written comments, please submit them at least 2 hours before the meeting in order to ensure they are provided to the legislative body and made part of the record. Comments received after that time and up to the end of the public hearing will be saved as part of the record but may not be provided to the legislative body prior to or during the public hearing.

If you challenge the nature of the proposed action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the city council at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Nova Romero, MMC
City Clerk

Dated: 10/22/2024
Publish Date: 10/25/2024

Publication dates:
Oct. 25, 2024
(PC1047)

The Carmel Pine Cone Press Release guidelines

Press releases about newsworthy events should go to the following Pine Cone reporters:

- Mary Schley:** Carmel-by-the-Sea, food & wine, police, fire, criminal courts and schools
mary@carmelpinecone.com
- Chris Counts:** Carmel Valley, Big Sur, Arts & Entertainment and scholastic sports
chris@carmelpinecone.com
- Kelly Nix:** Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Monterey, Seaside, state government, civil courts and water
kelly@carmelpinecone.com

Letters to the editor are only accepted by email and should be sent to: mail@carmelpinecone.com

LEGALS DEADLINE: Tuesday 3:00 pm

Call Irma (831) 274-8645

or email: legals@carmelpinecone.com

Loan No.: EWL6883 - Gate TS no. 2024-11104 APN: 189-372-011-000 **NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST** YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 4/20/2023, UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on 11/19/2024, at 10:00 AM of said day, At the main entrance to the County Administration Building at 168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901, Ashwood TD Services LLC, a California Limited Liability Company, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to the power of sale conferred in that certain Deed of Trust executed by Jeremy Christopher Cate and Janette Cate, husband and wife as joint tenants recorded on 4/28/2023 in Book n/a of Official Records of MONTEREY County, at page n/a, Recorder's Instrument No. 2023012841, by reason of a breach or default in payment or performance of the obligations secured thereby, including that breach or default, Notice of which was recorded 7/12/2024 as Recorder's Instrument No. 2024024484, in Book n/a, at page n/a, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, lawful money of the United States, evidenced by a Cashier's Check drawn on a state or national bank, or the equivalent thereof drawn on any other financial institution specified in section 5102 of the California Financial Code, authorized to do business in the State of California, ALL PAYABLE AT THE TIME OF SALE, all right, title and interest held by it as trustee, in that real property situated in said County and State, described as follows: A Portion of Lot Numbered 269, per "Map of Robles Del Rio Carmel Subdivision No. 2" filed November 7, 1927, Volume 3 of Cities and Towns, Page 48, Records of Monterey County. The street address or other common designation of the real property hereinabove described is purported to be: 134 El Hemorro, Carmel Valley, CA 93924. The undersigned disclaims all liability for any incorrectness in said street address or other common designation. Said sale will be made without warranty, express or implied regarding title, possession, or other encumbrances, to satisfy the unpaid obligations secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest and other sums as provided therein; plus advances, if any, thereunder and interest thereon; and plus fees, charges, and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of said obligations at the time of initial publication of this Notice is \$304,746.89. In the event that the deed of trust described in this Notice of Trustee's Sale is secured by real property containing from one to four single-family residences, the following notices are provided pursuant to the provisions of Civil Code section 2924f: **NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee's sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 916-939-0772 or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 2024-11104. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not be immediately reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer", you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder", you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 916-939-0772, or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 2024-11104 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid, by remitting the funds and affidavit or declaration described in Section 2924m(c) of the Civil Code, so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder", you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Dated: October 21, 2024 Ashwood TD Services LLC, a California Limited Liability Company Christopher Loria, Trustee's Sale Officer 231 E. Alessandro Blvd., Ste. 6A-693, Riverside, CA 92508 Tel.: (951) 215-0069 Fax: (805) 323-9054 Trustee's Sale Information: (916) 939-0772 or www.nationwideposting.com NPP0466836 To: CARMEL PINE CONE 10/25/2024, 11/01/2024, 11/08/2024
Publication dates: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8 2024 [PC1048]

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 24CV004349
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, ANTHONY MONDRAGON, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
A. Present name: ANTHONY MONDRAGON
PROPOSED name: ANTHONY RAVEN MONDRAGON
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING:
DATE: Dec. 13, 2024
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
DEPT: 13A
The address of the court is 1200 Agujito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: *The Carmel Pine Cone*.
(s) Thomas W. Wells
Judge of the Superior Court
Date filed: Oct. 17, 2024
Publication Dates: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 2024. [PC 1034]

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241921
Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CULTURARTS, 685 Cannery Row, Suite 111, Monterey, CA 93940.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: SOTO & ASSOCIATES LLC, 685 Cannery Row, Suite 111, Monterey, CA 93940.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 1, 2024.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). *I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).*
S/Roberto Soto, Managing Member
Date: Oct. 16, 2024
This statement was filed with the County

Lien Sale Auction Advertisement

California Self-Service Storage Facility Act, (B&P Code 21700 et. Seq.), the undersigned will sell at public auction; personal property including but not limited to furniture, tools, and /or other misc. items. Auction to be held at **4:00 pm on November 13, 2024.**
www.selfstorageauction.com
The property is stored at:
StoragePro of Carmel
9640 Carmel Valley Rd.
Carmel, CA 93923
Name of Tenants
Joseph Skaro
Ester Elles
10/25/24
CNS-3864075#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 25, 2024.
(PC 1038)

Lien Sale Auction Advertisement

Notice is hereby given that Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act, (B&P Code 21700 et. Seq.), the undersigned will sell at public auction; personal property including but not limited to furniture, tools, and /or other misc. items. Auction to be held at **4:00 pm on November 13, 2024.**
www.selfstorageauction.com
The property is stored at: Rossi Self Storage 10 Rossi Cr., Salinas, CA 93907
Name of Tenants
Rene Jones
Chantel Lameda Davis
Tamara Martin Starr
Margaret Miller
Chawni Pina
William T Morrison
10/25/24
CNS-3864112#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 25, 2024.
(PC 1039)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20241886
Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **INDIGO NATURALS, 25831 Carol Pl, Carmel, CA 93923.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: JUMP STATION LLC, 316 Mid Valley Cnt., R#283, Carmel, CA 93923.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 14, 2018.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). *I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).*
S/Roberto Soto, Managing Member
Date: Oct. 16, 2024
This statement was filed with the County

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Continues on next page

Police Log: Carmel-by-the-Sea, April 9

Person found gold tooth on Ocean Ave.



Finder would like to claim if owner not located.

Person found a cross pendant in the sand at Carmel Beach



and wished to claim if no owner was located.

Person turned in a pink Minnie Mouse scooter found on Ocean Ave.



TENNIS

From page 34A

and Catalina) and compiled an 8-7 overall mark.

"It's unfortunate that we won't have Margarita Soffia for our postseason matches," lamented Padres coach Leslie Tracy. "She's a steady baseline player — a grinder who keeps the ball in play — with a solid forehand and backhand."

An aggressive freshman with a big forehand, Gabby Samchenko, is Carmel's No. 2 player, but she has been nagged much of the season by a wrist injury.

Ruby Iranmanesh, a sophomore at No. 3, is a consistent baseline player with top-spin that creates a "heavy ball," Tracy said. Another sophomore, Meya Lin, also is a baseline-style player at No. 4.

Topping Carmel's doubles lineup is the all-senior tandem of Alyssa Moore and Ruby Myrold (7-0 when the week began), both strong serve-and-volley players who

cover the court well as a team.

"They really understand the basics of doubles play, and could be a strong post-season team for us" Tracy said.

At No. 2 are senior Emma Shin, a steady baseliner, and sophomore Havana Razi-Symes (6-3 as a team), who specializes in attacking the net.

Senior baseliner Aarna Desai (9-3 with three partners this season) and sophomore attacker Naomi Foudy (5-1 with two partners) are the Padres' No. 3 team.

Sciuto 10-1 with 3 partners

Other notables for Carmel this year include Brianna Sciuto (10-1 with three doubles partners) and sophomore Alisa Babenko (4-0 with two partners).

As Gabilan champion, Stevenson receives an automatic spot in the Central Coast Section team tournament, scheduled for Nov. 11-16.

CCS "play-in" games are scheduled Tuesday to determine two other teams that will advance to the main bracket of the team tournament.



Lin Fu, a boarding student from East Bay, went 16-1 at No. 2 singles for Stevenson after playing No. 1 last year.

PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Catalina, as Gabilan runner-up, will travel to face Cypress Division champion Palma (10-0), and Carmel will be on the road to face the Mission Division winner, which is likely to be Pacific Grove.

The CCS individual tournament will be played Nov. 18-20.

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

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Continues from previous page

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SECTION RE ■ October 25-31, 2024

Open Houses on page 10RE

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate



■ This week's cover property, located in Monterey,
is presented by Ben Zoller
of Monterey Coast Realty (See Page 2RE)

 Monterey
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About the Cover

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate

October 25-31, 2024



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Nestled on Paseo Vista Drive in the highly coveted Monterra Ranch community, this custom one-story home is a true masterpiece. From handcrafted fireplaces and wood beams, to ironwork tailored specifically to the home, this residence defines luxury living. Visitors are greeted with high ceilings, a chef's kitchen, and ample room for entertaining. While each of the four bedrooms offer ensuite bathrooms, the primary bedroom pampers owners with a spacious walk-in closet, elegant bathroom, inviting fireplace, and breathtaking ocean views. The property also boasts a versatile home office, large laundry room, and an efficient air conditioning system, making this home a true sanctuary in any season. Bask in the multiple outdoor patios offering three fireplaces, multiple fountains, and a built-in BBQ area. The back patio highlights the natural terrain focused on the stunning views of Monterey Bay to the Santa Cruz mountains. This one-of-a-kind home is ready to meet all your lifestyle needs and should not be missed.

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 DRE#01967810



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Real Estate Sales Oct. 13 - 19

Escrows closed: 24
Total value: \$57,864,500

Kendall Layne to VA Tragani Development LLC
 APN: 243-251-022

Carmel

San Antonio, 3 SW of Eighth — \$6,100,000
 Paul Theren to Carmel Monte Verde LP
 APN: 010-301-002

Carmel Highlands

36652 Highway 1 — \$7,618,000

Carmel Valley

34 Wawona Street — \$800,000
 Justin and Lara Smith to Martin O'Malley
 APN: 197-091-041

273 Del Mesa Carmel — \$1,125,000

See HOME SALES page 4RE



11610 Saddle Road, Highway 68 — \$2,560,000



100 Laurel Drive, Carmel Valley — \$3,000,000

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Pebble Beach ■ 4 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$9,450,000 ■ www.ViscainoRoad.com



Carmel-by-the-Sea ■ 9 beds, 7.5 baths ■ \$7,300,000 ■ www.GalewoodCarmel.com



Pebble Beach ■ 4 beds, 4.5 baths ■ \$5,250,000 ■ www.1080LariatLane.com



Carmel ■ 3 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$4,998,000 ■ www.ViewsOnSanJuan.com



Carmel ■ 2 beds, 2 baths ■ \$3,300,000 ■ www.540AguajitoRoad.com



OPEN SAT 1PM-3PM
Mission 4 SW of 1st

Carmel-by-the-Sea ■ 2 beds, 2 baths ■ \$2,150,000 ■ www.Mission4SWof1st.com



OPEN SAT 2PM-4PM
28062 Heron Court

Carmel ■ 3 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$1,950,000 ■ www.28062HeronCt.com



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HOME SALES

From page 2RE

Carmel Valley (con't.)

Sara Scott and Richardson Trust to Dewey and Caroline Duckham
APN: 015-518-006

100 Laurel Drive — \$3,000,000

Edward Sanders and Sophie Johnson to Nicholas and Jennifer Bartle
APN: 187-661-005



36652 Highway 1, Carmel Highlands — \$7,618,000

APN: 101-241-027

11610 Saddle Road — \$2,560,000

Mark and Jennifer Lupo to David Lawrence and Juliet Peck
APN: 416-132-043



3014 Independence Street, Marina — \$645,000

Marina

3095 Marina Drive unit 3 — \$550,000

See ESCROWS page 12RE

Highway 68

1360 Josselyn Canyon Road unit 27 — \$787,000

Jamie Flores and Lashara Jason to Taylor, Jill and Thomas Houlette



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In conjunction with the TaylorMade Pebble Beach Invitational

Tuesday, November 19th

🕒 12:00 PM SHOTGUN START | 📍 THE LINKS AT SPANISH BAY

Four amateurs paired with a professional from the PGA, LPGA, Champions, or Korn Ferry Tours, competing in a team event.

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5 Beds, 6 Baths ♦ 4,082 Sq. Ft. ♦ \$13,850,000 ♦ 3365SeventeenMilePB.com

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OPEN SAT 1PM-3PM

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3 Beds, 2.5 Baths ♦ 2,996 Sq. Ft. ♦ \$5,850,000 ♦ 1049BronchoRoad.com

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NE Corner of San Carlos & 13th, Carmel-by-the-Sea

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Scan to View My Sales

Nov. 5, a day when our opinions matter — if we express them

MY FAVORITE time of the year. It's less than two weeks before the November elections and I've sharpened my voting knife. Most of the time, we are chattel to the political elite, but during election season they come buttering us up like fresh sourdough, making nice in hopes we pay attention to them so they can continue living large off

our blood, sweat and fears.

I am sort of an election expert, having voted more times than the people in Chicago graveyards. I have voted in schools, libraries, fire stations, and once, in a neighbor's garage. I remember sitting on my front porch as a 16-year-old, listening to the political conventions on a portable

radio. It was my introduction to how people can speak for a long time without saying anything.

The first presidential election when television became the dominant medium for both candidates was in 1956, when Republican incumbent Dwight D. Eisenhower was challenged by Democrat Adlai E. Stevenson. TV may have helped Eisenhower more because of concern about his health at age 66. Television viewers were able to see he was fit for a second term.

Sweaty stubble

My first presidential election was the 1960 match between Vice-President Richard Nixon and Massachusetts Senator John F. Kennedy. I missed voting in 1956 because 18-year-olds were not yet allowed to vote. I voted for ... well, it's a secret ballot, so I'm not telling. Television, which helped Eisenhower, was the undoing of Nixon. In his debate with JFK, Nixon, with his perpetual 5 o'clock stubble, sweated under the TV lights, looking like he was embalmed compared to cool, fresh-looking Kennedy.

The voting demographics in California have changed since 1956. Nationally, Ike won the popular vote, 57 percent to 42 percent and garnering 457 Electoral College votes to Stevenson's 73. Eisenhower received 55 percent

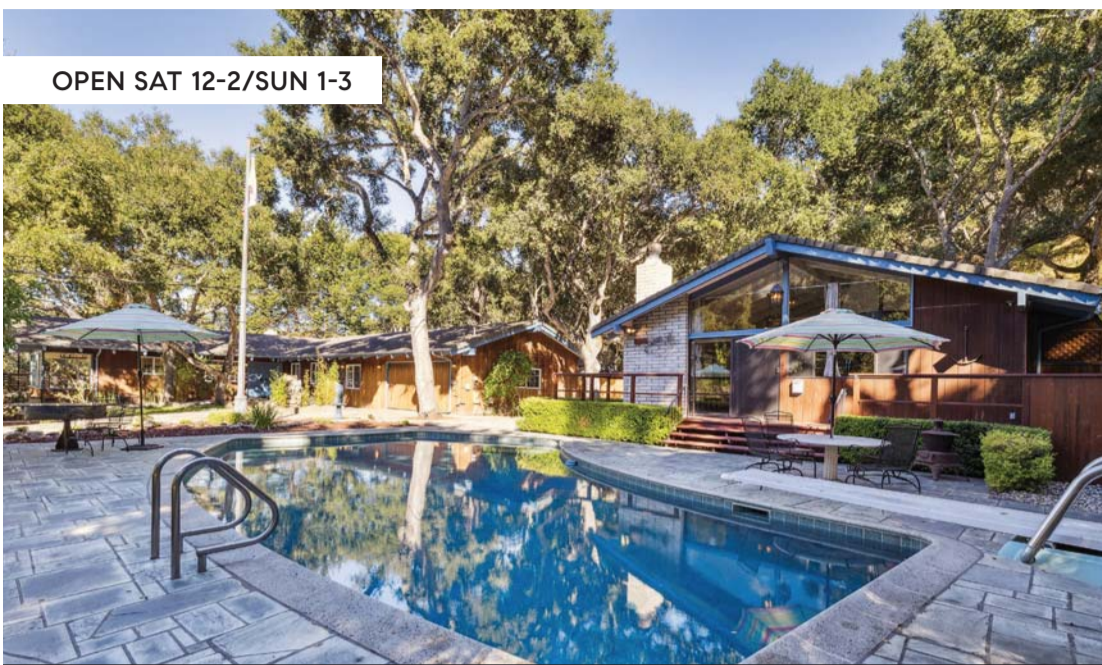
Scenic Views

By JERRY GERVASE

of the vote in California, claiming the state's 32 electoral votes. He even received more than 59 percent of the vote in Monterey County. Quite the change from today's political alignment. Musically, California went from Kelly Clarkson's "Wrapped in Red," to Neil Diamond's "Song Sung Blue."

Political pablum was fed to me at a very tender age. My mother was a worker in one of Buffalo's portable street-corner polling booths. Each green-painted wooden booth was adorned with an American flag and a tin chimney for the cast-iron stove inside. I sat quietly by the stove while Mama checked the voters who were signing the register. You had to be a citizen and show ID before voting. You also had to go to a polling place. People who voted by mail had to have a specific reason for not being able

See GERVASE next page



OPEN SAT 12-2/SUN 1-3

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

POLICE LOG

From page 4A

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Attempted residential burglary at Santa Rita and Ocean.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury collision on San Carlos Street.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found wallet at CHOMP.
Pacific Grove: 22-year-old male caused a disturbance in public. He fled from officers and was arrested at Gibson and Forest for

probation violation, obstruction, and a warrant for failure to appear in court on a felony charge.
Pacific Grove: Vehicle fire in the 700 block of Sunset.
Pacific Grove: Vehicle on Ocean View Boulevard was marked for 72-hour parking.
Pacific Grove: Dogs at large at Country Club Gate.
Pacific Grove: Report of rummaging through of an unlocked vehicle on 19th Street.
Pacific Grove: Concerned citizen requested a report regarding a reckless vehicle on Pine.
Pacific Grove: Property secured to the

roof rack of a vehicle on Devisadero was taken.
Pacific Grove: Citizen turned in several firearms to the department for destruction. Report taken for informational purposes.
Pacific Grove: Theft of a bicycle on Presidio Boulevard. No suspect information.
Big Sur: Deputies were called for a trespasser on Highway 1. A 76-year-old male was arrested.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Barking dogs on Lasuen. No one home. Animal control officer made contact with the dog owner and family member assisting with the dogs.
Pacific Grove: Report of graffiti to a structure in a public park on Ocean View

See **SHERIFF** page 11RE

GERVASE

From page 6RE

to vote in person on Election Day. That began to change in 1978, when California became the first state to allow voters to apply for absentee ballots without having to provide an excuse.

Both political parties have changed over the past several decades, reflecting broader societal changes. Both parties are more extreme. The Democratic party has become more progressive and diverse, while the Republican party has shifted towards populism and nationalism. The key figures of former elections, including Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, Richard Nixon, Adlai Stevenson, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson would not recognize their parties today.

No matter how important presidential elections are, voter turnout hovers at around 60 percent. When one candidate says that “down is up” and his opponent says “up is down,” it makes sense that one of them is playing fast and loose with the truth. Over the years, we’ve all learned that both sides are stretching the truth thinner than Twiggy on a low-carb diet. So, how do we get more people to vote?

One state representative suggested a

good way to counteract voter apathy would be to lower the voting age to 14. What might be key issues for 14-year-olds? Perhaps replacing textbooks with graphic novels and manga? Unfortunately, one of the privileges of living in a free country is the freedom not to participate in the way we are governed.

Get in the game

No October surprises are going to make me change my mind about how I vote. How will I vote? Of course I’m not going to tell you. I will tell you how I play the voting game when it comes to national elections. I cast my ballot for my team — The United States of America. The Stars and Stripes are my team colors. The National Anthem is my fight song, the Statue of Liberty my team mascot, the Pledge of Allegiance my rallying call, and the Constitution the referee I defer to whenever someone tries to cheat or change the rules.

Cicero said, “There are no lasting victories in politics, there is only the remorseless grinding forward of events.” We can tweak those events by voting. So get in the game. Pin the tale on the donkey. Be the mouse that roared and scared the pants off the elephant. It’s our turn now. Show ‘em who’s boss.

Contact Jerry at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.

CARMEL



26261 OCEAN VIEW AVENUE | OFFERED AT \$6,799,000

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15513ViaLaGitana.com

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1268Viscaino.com

Jeannie Fromm 831.277.3371

License# 01348162



OPEN OCT 26th 1-4 & 27th 1-3



OPEN OCT 25th 3-6 & 26th 4-6

1 Surf Way #231, Monterey

2 BD | 2 BA | 1,023± SQ. FT. | \$1,299,000

truskowskifreedman.com

Truskowski Freedman & Associates 831.915.2082

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25905 Junipero Avenue, Carmel

4 BD | 2.5 BA | 2,294± SQ. FT. | 0.17± ACRE LOT | \$2,925,000

25905JuniperoCarmel.com

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OPEN OCT 26th 11-3 & 27th 1-3



OPEN OCT 26th & 27th 1-3

8th Avenue 2 NE of Casanova Street, Carmel

4 BD | 3 BA | 2,304± SQ. FT. | 0.15± ACRE LOT | \$5,895,000

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3 BD | 3 BA | 1,390± SQ. FT. | 0.18± AC | \$5,400,000
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OCT 25th 3:30-5:30, 26th 11-2, 27th 1-4



OPEN OCT 27th 11-1
245 Highway 1, Carmel

4 BD | 3.5 BA | 2,972± SQ. FT. | 0.64± AC | \$2,995,000
245Highway1.com

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46190 Clear Ridge Road, Big Sur Coast

3 BD | 2.5 BA | 1,500± SQ. FT. | 5± AC | \$2,850,000
46190ClearRidge.com

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5496QuailMeadowsLot.com

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126 Chaparral Road, Carmel Valley

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SerenelyCarmelValley.com

Laura & Kent Ciucci 831.236.8571
License# 01135238



OPEN OCT 26th 1-3

22 Del Mesa Carmel, Carmel

2 BD | 2 BA | 1,317± SQ. FT. | \$895,000
22DelMesaCarmel.com

Claudia McCotter 831.293.3391
License# 01982938

17114 Cachagua Road, Carmel Valley

10± ACRES LOT | \$850,000
cv10acres.com

Courtney Stanley 831.624.1566
License# 01958169



OPEN OCT 27th 2-4

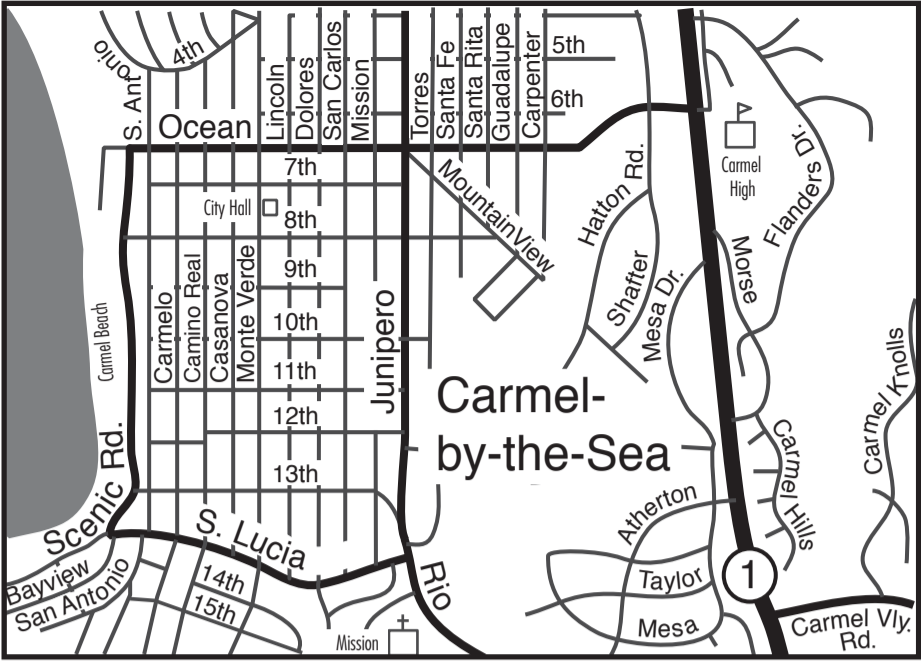
4 Calle De Los Helechos, Carmel Valley

2 BD | 1 BA | 624± SQ. FT. | 0.19± AC | \$685,000
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Oct. 25 - 27



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\$5,785,000 3bd 2.5ba Su 11-3
38462 Highway 1 Big Sur
Sotheby's Int'l RE 297-9805

CARMEL

\$799,000 2bd 2ba Sa Su 1-3
16 Del Mesa Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE 261-3802

\$895,000 2bd 2ba Sa 1-3
22 Del Mesa Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE 293-3391

\$1,119,000 2bd 2ba Sa 2-4 Su 1-3
34 Del Mesa Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE 682-0126

\$1,750,000 3bd 3.5ba Sa 1-3
9606 Buckeye Court Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-8311

\$1,895,000 3bd 2.5ba Su 11-1
25450 Via Cicindela Carmel
Carmel Realty Company 206-9969

\$1,950,000 3bd 3.5ba Sa 2-4
28062 Heron Ct Carmel
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\$1,995,000 2bd 2ba Su 12-3
24620 Lower Trl Carmel
Coldwell Banker Realty 719-799-8540

\$2,150,000 2bd 2ba Sa 1-3
Mission 4 SW of 1st Avenue Carmel
Carmel Realty Company 915-6187

\$2,590,000 3bd 2ba Sa 11-1 Su 12-2
3050 Ribera Rd Carmel
Coldwell Banker Realty 320-6391 / 241-1264

\$2,895,000 3bd 2ba Sa 1-4
NE Corner San Carlos & 13th Street Carmel
Carmel Realty Company 277-5544

\$2,925,000 4bd 2.5ba Sa 11-3 Su 1-3
25905 Junipero Avenue Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE 297-9805 / 620-2936

\$2,975,000 5bd 4ba Sa 12-2 Su 1-3
28275 Robinson Canyon Rd Carmel
Compass 238-1380 / 224-6353

\$2,995,000 2bd 2ba Sa 1-3
125 Cypress Way Carmel
Coldwell Banker Realty 241-1264

\$2,995,000 3bd 3ba Sa 12-2
30772 San Remo Rd Carmel
Coldwell Banker Realty 801-4027

\$3,450,000 3bd 2ba Sa Su 12:30-3
San Carlos 5 SW of 12th Carmel
Carmel Realty Company 574-0260

\$3,500,000 3bd 2.5ba Su 2-4
24332 San Juan Road Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE 236-5737

\$3,950,000 3bd 3.5ba Sa 12-2
7032 Valley Greens Cir Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE 915-8688

\$3,998,000 4bd 3ba Sa 1-4 Su 12-2
3128 Serra Ave Carmel
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\$4,295,000 3bd 3ba Su 1-3
Torres 6 NW of 8th Ave Carmel
Compass 238-2022

\$4,449,000 3bd 2ba Sa Su 12-3
Dolores 4 SW of 12th Carmel
Carmel Realty Company 884-3868

\$4,950,000 2bd 2.5ba Sa 2-4 Su 1-4
Casanova 4 NW of 13th Street Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE 320-1109

\$5,150,000 3bd 2.5ba Sa 1-3
Camino Real 3 NW of 10th Avenue Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-5535

\$5,200,000 3bd 3ba Su 2-4
24509 Portola Ave Carmel
Compass 238-1380

\$5,400,000 3bd 3ba Fr 3:30-5:30 Sa 11-2 Su 1-4
26166 Valley View Ave Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE 917-9886 / 277-3371

\$5,895,000 4bd 3ba Sa Su 1-3
8th Avenue 2 NE of Casanova Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-0971

\$6,950,000 3bd 4.5ba Su 1-3
2416 Bayview Avenue Carmel
Carmel Realty Company 277-5544

\$8,600,000 3bd 3ba Sa Su 1-4
2385 Bay View Ave Carmel
Coldwell Banker Realty 206-0129

\$9,100,000 3bd 3.5ba Su 2-4
Casanova 8 NW of Ocean Avenue Carmel
Carmel Realty Company 915-8010

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\$685,000 2bd 1ba Su 2-4
4 Calle De Los Helechos Carmel Valley
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\$1,199,000 3bd 2ba Sa 1-3
5 Laguna Robles Carmel Valley
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\$1,399,000 3bd 2ba Su 12-3
15 El Potrero Carmel Valley
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\$1,700,000 2bd 2.5ba Su 1-3
12500 Saddle Way Carmel Valley
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\$1,747,000 3bd 2ba Sa Su 1-3
35 Lilac LN Carmel Valley
Sotheby's Int'l RE 236-5737 / 402-4394

\$3,050,000 4bd 4.5ba Sa 12-2
15513 Via La Gitana Carmel Valley
Sotheby's Int'l RE 408-833-4255

\$3,095,000 3bd 2.5ba Sa su 1-3
13369 Middle Canyon Road Carmel Valley
Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-7559 / 601-6271

\$3,895,000 4bd 2ba Sa 11-2 Su 11-1
9140 Carmel Valley Rd Carmel Valley
Coldwell Banker Realty 272-2172 / 227-3914

CORRAL DE TIERRA

\$1,295,000 3bd 2.5ba Sa 1-3
28900 Underwood Road Corral de Tierra
Sotheby's Int'l RE 760-7091

LA SELVA BEACH

\$849,000 1bd 1ba Sa 1-3
101 Shell Drive, #109 La Selva Beach
Sotheby's Int'l RE 227-9008

\$1,850,000 3bd 2ba Sa 12-3
9 Benito Ave La Selva Beach
Sotheby's Int'l RE 887-8022

MARINA

\$1,250,000 3bd 2.5ba Sa 11-1
2605 Sandy Clay Lane Marina
Compass 325-5851

\$1,725,000 5bd 4ba Su 1-3
465 Russell Way Marina
Monterey Coast Realty 521-4855

MONTEREY

\$465,000 1bd 1ba Sa 3-5
3207 Golden Oaks Ln Monterey
Coldwell Banker Realty 220-9817 / 884-3919

\$750,000 2bd 2ba Sa 11-1
3303 Golden Oaks Lane Monterey
Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-9022

\$1,299,000 2bd 2ba Sa 4-6
1 Surf Way, #231 Monterey
Sotheby's Int'l RE 408-833-4255

\$1,495,000 3bd 2ba Fr 4-6 Sa 11-3:30 Su 12-4
10 Via Cimarron Monterey
Sotheby's Int'l RE 293-4190 / 214-3377

\$1,498,000 3bd 2ba Sa 1-4
26 El Caminito Del Norte Monterey
Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-8622

\$1,549,000 3bd 3ba Sa Su 12-2
5 Shepherds Place Monterey
Sotheby's Int'l RE 318-3808 / 596-9726

\$1,795,000 3bd 2.5ba Sa 1-3
989 Madison St Monterey
Sotheby's Int'l RE 214-2545

\$2,449,000 3bd 3.5ba Sa 1-3
127 Las Brisas Dr Monterey
Sotheby's Int'l RE 200-5007

MOSS LANDING

\$1,950,000 2bd 2ba Sa 1-4
150 Monterey Dunes Way Moss Landing
Sotheby's Int'l RE 760-5126

PACIFIC GROVE

\$849,000 1bd 1ba Sa Su 2-4
1007 Funston Avenue Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-0464

\$1,225,000 2bd 2ba Sa 11-1
406 10th Street Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE 869-6117

\$1,249,000 3bd 2ba Sa 12-2 Su 11:30-1:30, 2-4
34 Country Club 34 Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE 915-0265 / 238-0464

\$1,595,000 3bd 2.5ba Sa 4-6 Su 11-2
407 7th Street Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-8688

\$1,695,000 3bd 2ba Su 12-2
313 Bishop Avenue Pacific Grove
Carmel Realty Company 277-5821

\$1,697,000 3bd 3ba Sa Su 1-3
2926 Ransford Avenue Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE 620-2936 / 915-7256

PEBBLE BEACH

\$2,149,000 3bd 2.5ba Sa Su 2-4
1121 Circle Rd Pebble Beach
Coldwell Banker Realty 594-6158 / 565-6118

\$2,250,000 3bd 2ba Sa 12-2
2975 Cormorant Road Pebble Beach
Carmel Realty Company 277-1224

\$2,325,000 3bd 3.5ba Sa Su 12-2
3093 Stevenson Drive Pebble Beach
Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-8029

\$3,999,000 3bd 3ba Sa 1-4 Su 1-3
1268 Viscaino Rd Pebble Beach
Sotheby's Int'l RE 333-6060 / 277-3371

\$5,850,000 3bd 2.5ba Sa 1-3
1049 Broncho Road Pebble Beach
Carmel Realty Company 277-5544

\$6,995,000 3bd 3.5ba Sa 12-2
1425 Oleada Road Pebble Beach
Compass 915-0653

\$7,950,000 5bd 4ba Sa 1-3
3301 17 Mile Drive #10 Pebble Beach
The Agency 277-7200

Pebble Beach reads The Pine Cone

SANTA CRUZ

\$1,998,000 3bd 3ba Sa 1-4
21130 E Cliff Drive, #C Santa Cruz
Sotheby's Int'l RE 566-2263

\$2,395,000 4bd 3ba Su 1-4
623 High Street Santa Cruz
Sotheby's Int'l RE 278-1642

SEASIDE

\$864,000 3bd 2ba Sa 11-1
1759 Hilton Street Seaside
Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-8688

To publish a legal notice in The Carmel Pine Cone contact irma@carmelpinecone.com | 831-274-8645 (Se habla Español)

THE ARNOLD TEAM A Personalized Approach

"This was our second home purchase with Rebecca. We were equally as happy with this transaction as we were with our first! Rebecca and Geoff worked tirelessly on our behalf to preview and show us properties to fit our specific needs and within days we had secured a deal! They work with your best interests at all times, remaining committed to making sure your transactions go smoothly and without issues. We highly value their dedication and work ethic and recommend them to anyone in need of wonderful Realtors!" -C.&A. W., Buyers, Carmel-by-the-Sea



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The Arnold Team

www.Arnold-Team.com | Arnold-Team@CarmelRealtyCompany.com

Geoff Arnold 831.297.3890 REALTOR* | Carmel Realty Company DRE#02036451

Rebecca Wolf Arnold 831.241.2600 REALTOR* | Carmel Realty Company DRE#01706104

Danielle Germain 303.502.6477 REALTOR* | Monterey Coast Realty DRE#02154598



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3903 RONDA ROAD, PEBBLE BEACH
Classic & Timeless Pebble Beach Estate



6 beds, 5.5 baths ▪ \$14,500,000 ▪ 3903RondaRoad.com

27540 VIA SERENO, CARMEL
California-Style Ranch Home in Mid-Valley



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160 15TH STREET, PACIFIC GROVE
Great Location in Downtown Pacific Grove



4 beds, 3 baths ▪ \$2,649,000 ▪ 16015thStreet.com

5 LAGUNA ROBLES, CARMEL VALLEY
Walking Distance to Carmel Valley Village



OPEN SAT 1PM-3PM
3 beds, 2 baths ▪ \$1,199,000 ▪ 5LagunaRobles.com



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REALTOR® DRE#01375876



SHERIFF

From page 7RE

es on Rancho Fiesta Road.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle towed from Mission and Seventh per section 22651(id) VC — blocked driveway.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Battery at San Carlos and Vista.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fall on city property at Lincoln and Seventh.

Pacific Grove: Report of vandalism to a parked vehicle on Hillside Avenue. No suspect information.

Carmel Valley: Theft of a bag occurred at a church on Carmel Valley Road during an AA meeting.

Carmel area: Online report regarding a suspicious circumstance at a residence on Whitman Circle.

See LOG page 13RE

Boulevard. No suspect information.

Pacific Grove: Check fraud, conspiracy and petty theft reported on Grand Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Truck and trailer marked for 72-hour parking.

Carmel Valley: Family quarrel on Laurel Drive.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Carmel-by-the-Sea: No calls to report.

Pacific Grove: Subject found deceased at a residence on Shell Avenue.

Pacific Grove: A 19-year-old male was arrested on Glen Lake Drive for making criminal threats.

Carmel Valley: Suspicious circumstanc-

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-3 PM
\$200,000 PRICE ADJUSTMENT



13369 Middle Canyon Road, Carmel Valley
3 BD | 2.5 BA | 3,108± Sq. Ft. | 1.32± Acres
New Price \$3,095,000

- Stunning Views from Every Room
- Beautifully Remodeled
- Vaulted Wood Beam Ceilings
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- Gated Community
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- Solar

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DRE: 01233599

ROBIN ANDERSON
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DRE: 01518311

SARAH MYERS
831.238.7559
DRE: 02033114

The Carmel Pine Cone

Press Release guidelines

Press releases about newsworthy events should go to the following Pine Cone reporters:

Mary Schley: Carmel-by-the-Sea, food & wine, police, fire, criminal courts and schools
mary@carmelpinecone.com

Chris Counts: Carmel Valley, Big Sur, Arts & Entertainment and scholastic sports
chris@carmelpinecone.com

Kelly Nix: Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Monterey, Seaside, state government, civil courts and water
kelly@carmelpinecone.com

Letters to the editor are only accepted by email and should be sent to
mail@carmelpinecone.com



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\$7,950,000
HUGE OCEAN AND GOLF LINKS VIEWS
5 Beds | 4 Baths | 3,200 Sq.ft.
NEXT TO GOLF AND RESTAURANTS
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BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED



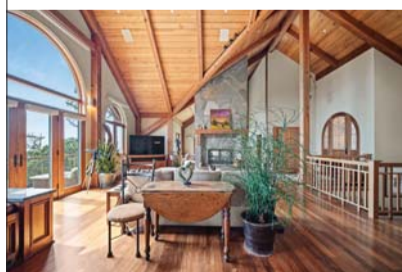
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Celebrate this season and all the seasons to come at 24 Mentone, Carmel Highlands. This 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath is perfect for gatherings with family and friends.



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*Per MLS data for Monterey County 08/06/2024 Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

COMPASS



casanova4nwof13thst.com

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INTERNATIONAL REALTY

NEW ON MARKET

Casanova 4 NW of 13th street, Carmel

OPEN THIS WEEKEND

Saturday 2 - 4PM

Sunday 1 - 4PM

Newly refreshed. Quality and exquisite craftsmanship by the builder Fred Slabaugh in the Golden Rectangle.

2 bed + bonus room
2.5 bath
1,753± sq. ft.
Offered at \$4,950,000



DAVID M. CRABBE

DavidCrabbeRealEstate.com
831.320.1109 | David.Crabbe@sir.com
DRE# 01306450

ESCROWS

From page 4RE

Marina

Elaine Sison to Sally Sawyer

APN: 033-152-003

3014 Independence Street — \$645,000

Derrick and Michelle Manlalac to Daniel and Alice Mei

APN: 032-383-008

2996 Bonte Drive — \$687,000

The Sea Haven LLC to Brian and Sandra Taitingfong

APN: 031-278-021

218 Reindollar Avenue — \$15,000,500

Russell Realty Enterprises to SCG Mar LLC

APN: 032-421-003

Monterey

565 English Avenue — \$487,500

Banderwood Holdings LLC to Jacqueline Canterbury

APN: 013-144-001

300 Glenwood Circle unit 166 — \$545,000

Mary Halatsis to Larry and Carmela Borelli

APN: 001-776-003

1207 Hoffman Avenue — \$1,012,000

Shawn and Misty Paul to Cheryl Moore

APN: 001-143-006

471 Montecito Avenue — \$1,200,000

Nathan Voigtschild and Sarah Maloney to Claire and Jacob Avershal

APN: 013-054-024

38 Skyline Crest — \$1,500,000

Steven Nemeth to John Kessel

APN: 014-072-061

Pacific Grove

125 16th Street — \$1,250,000

William and Margaret Conners to Ronald Wright

APN: 006-156-024

Pebble Beach

2 Spyglass Woods Drive — \$1,955,000

David Lazares to Brian Vanyo

APN: 008-542-002

See TRANSACTIONS page 15RE

DOWNTOWN CARMEL | COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

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ICONIC DER LING BUILDING ON OCEAN AVENUE

\$10,000/month plus NNN ■ Approx. 1,089 Sq. Ft. ■ Unit B



LINCOLN 3 SW OF OCEAN, UNIT #3



\$4,000/month plus NNN ■ Approx. 825 Sq. Ft.

LINCOLN 2 SW OF OCEAN, UNIT #2



\$3,812/month plus NNN ■ Approx. 562 Sq. Ft.

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\$2,300/month plus NNN ■ Approx. 405 Sq. Ft.

Please inquire for more information at Commercial@CarmelRealtyCompany.com

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* There is a 10-word minimum on all classified ads.

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LOG

From page 11RE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury accident on Ocean Avenue.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fall on city property

at Ocean and Lincoln.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle towed from Mission and Sixth per section 22651(d) VC — blocked driveway.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 40-year-old male was arrested after evading officers on a motorcycle. He was booked into Monterey County Jail on numerous charges.

Pacific Grove: Subject warned about trespassing at a store on Forest Avenue.

Peninsula
BUSINESSES
NOVEMBER 8, 2024

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 8th edition.

Don't miss a chance to be a part of it

CONTACT YOUR REP TODAY!

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3 Beds, 3 Baths ■ \$3,300,000
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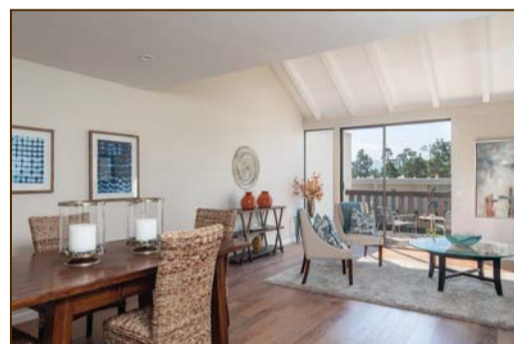


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Sale Pending \$1,475,000



SOLD

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SOLD \$843,000



SOLD!

Spectacular Bay Views
830 Balboa Ave, Pacific Grove
SOLD \$3,350,000



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to Punkin and her assistant Peggy
at 216 17th St, Pacific Grove
Find out what's coming soon.

Peggy Jones

Broker, REALTOR
DRE 01299648



SOLD OVER ASKING!

Bay Views & City Lights
1570 Flores St, Seaside
SOLD over Asking \$650,000



SALE PENDING

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Sale Pending \$799,000

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SOLD IN 2023-24 (SO FAR!)

830 Balboa Ave, PG	\$3,350,000	859 Balboa Ave, PG	\$2,250,000
910 Del Monte Blvd, PG	\$2,300,000	38 Calera Cyn, SAL	\$1,500,000
911 Shell Ave, PG	\$1,818,000	864 Del Monte Blvd, PG	\$1,225,000
216 2nd St, PG	\$1,490,000	606 Mar Vista, MTY	\$1,225,000
45 Del Mesa, CAR	\$1,255,000	400 Mar Vista, #15, MTY	\$1,050,000
1107 Presidio Blvd, PG	\$1,050,000	1221 Roosevelt St, MON	\$855,000
24501 Via Mar Monte #74 CAR	\$939,000	145 Hacienda Carmel, CAR	\$843,000
300 Glenwood Cir, #265, MON	\$635,000	700 Briggs, #83 PG	\$710,000
1570 Flores St, Seaside	\$650,000	409B Tyler Pl, SAL	\$375,000

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LOCAL, INDEPENDENT AND DELIVERS BIG RESULTS



A Well-Performing Q3 Leads to a Strong Market this Holiday Season

As the Monterey Peninsula's Indian summer brings sunshine and warmer temperatures across the region, the real estate market is also experiencing an enjoyable period. After a spike in activity during the second quarter, the market experienced another well-performing quarter during Q3. This means we have seen six consecutive months of good activity and sales volume in our market, following a slower sales cycle over the prior 18 months. In addition, there is promise for a third consecutive strong quarter ahead as September saw 115 homes go into escrow, the most of any month since May 2022. Inventory also closed the quarter with 379 active listings, over one hundred more than the same time last year, and the most we have seen on the Peninsula since the summer of 2020.

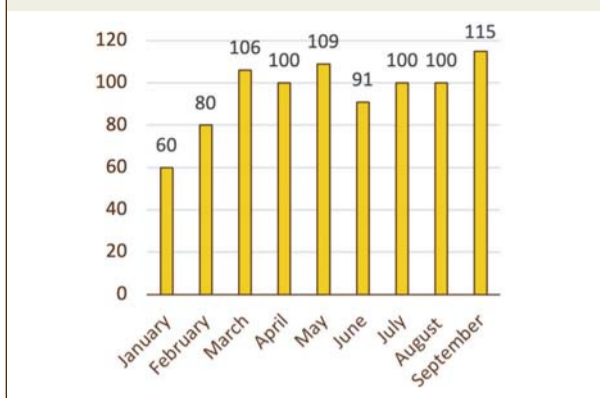
Q3 was just a step behind Q2 in total sales, coming in at 281 compared with 310 sales last quarter. The average sales price came in 2% down from Q2, but up 8.6% from Q3 2023. A \$45M off-market sale occurred during the quarter, setting the new highest price sale in Monterey County. Carmel Realty Company's sister bro-

kerage, Monterey Coast Realty, represented the Buyer for this record sale, located along the 18th fairway of the esteemed Pebble Beach Golf Links. As this sale was not put on the MLS for comparison purposes, it was not included in our market report data. If this sale was included, it would push the average sales price for the quarter over \$2.06M and sales volume for the quarter would come within \$22M of Q2, while experiencing 28 less sales.

While most areas across the Peninsula are on track to outperform 2023's slow year, Pebble Beach continues to struggle selling \$5M+ listings. This could result in the area's lowest sales volume in over a decade, even with the \$45M off-market sale included. Pacific Grove was the top performing area during the quarter. The area saw a 47% increase in units sold and a 43% increase in sales volume. The Carmel Valley area saw a record in average sales price (\$2.27M) as the Santa Lucia Preserve saw three homes sell for over \$7M. Both Carmel-by-the-Sea and Greater Carmel saw a strong number of sales, while the mix of sales prices was lower than average for the regions. Sales volume across the Peninsula was up 9%

NUMBER OF CONTINENT LISTINGS EACH MONTH OF 2024

- 115 home sales put into escrow in September
- Most in any month in 2024 and since May 2022

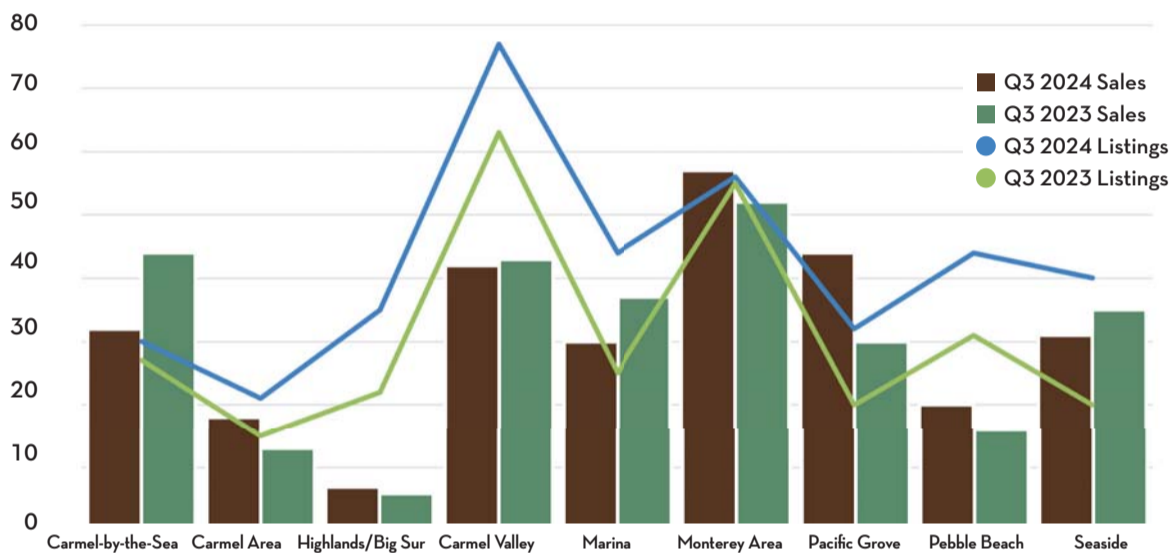


compared with Q3 2023.

With inventory up and demand proven to be strong as we move into Q4 and the holiday season, the market is primed for a strong close to 2024. Expert local insight alongside quality service can add significant value when demand, product, and pricing is changing rapidly like it is right now. Please reach out to one of our full-time professional agents should you or any of your friends or family be considering a real estate transaction here on the Monterey Peninsula.

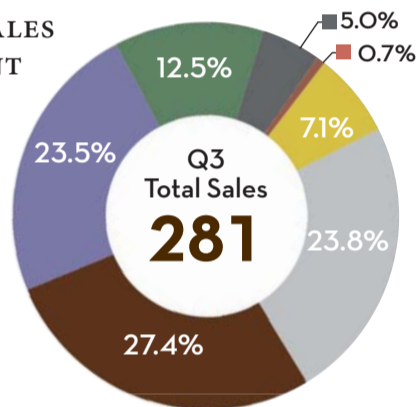
For additional information, please visit carmelrealtycompany.com, contact us at (831) 622-1000, or visit us at any of our Carmel-by-the-Sea locations.

Q3 2024 CLOSED SALES VS. AVAILABLE LISTINGS YEAR OVER YEAR



Q3 2024 SALES BY SEGMENT

- Up to \$700k
- \$700k-\$1m
- \$1m-\$1.5m
- \$1.5m-\$3m
- \$3m-\$5m
- \$5m-\$10m
- \$10m+



	SALES BY SEGMENT							TOTAL VOLUME SOLD			AVAILABLE LISTINGS QUARTER END		
	Up to \$700K	\$700k-\$1M	\$1M-\$1.5M	\$1.5M-\$3M	\$3M-\$5M	\$5M-\$10M	\$10M+	Q3 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2023	Q3 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2023
Carmel-by-the-Sea	0	0	5	9	12	5	1	\$113,257,864	\$142,488,600	\$184,973,000	30	35	27
Carmel Area	0	1	9	5	3	0	0	\$32,216,500	\$37,757,000	\$27,444,125	21	15	15
Carmel Highlands/Big Sur	0	1	1	1	2	2	0	\$23,389,000	\$16,182,500	\$22,931,000	35	24	22
Carmel Valley	5	5	9	14	5	3	1	\$95,433,805	\$103,112,248	\$79,565,788	77	71	63
Marina	3	19	7	1	0	0	0	\$27,902,129	\$47,020,171	\$35,141,983	44	35	25
Monterey Area	8	14	20	9	3	3	0	\$88,840,250	\$98,308,291	\$65,459,130	56	54	55
Pacific Grove	0	5	17	18	4	0	0	\$73,237,270	\$51,101,185	\$53,375,342	32	30	20
Pebble Beach	0	0	4	9	6	1	0	\$56,070,000	\$77,376,400	\$58,537,500	44	34	31
Seaside	4	22	5	0	0	0	0	\$26,515,215	\$30,856,304	\$34,784,394	40	26	20
Totals	20	67	77	66	35	14	2	\$536,862,033	\$604,202,699	\$562,212,262	379	324	278

	MEDIAN SALES PRICES			AVERAGE SALES PRICES			DAYS ON MARKET			NUMBER OF SALES		
	Q3 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2023	Q3 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2023	Q3 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2023	Q3 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2023
Carmel-by-the-Sea	\$3,137,500	\$3,737,500	\$3,075,000	\$3,539,308	\$4,452,769	\$4,203,932	43	39	58	32	32	44
Carmel Area	\$1,440,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,620,000	\$1,789,806	\$2,517,133	\$2,111,087	45	41	55	18	15	13
Carmel Highlands/Big Sur	\$3,128,000	\$3,640,000	\$3,775,000	\$3,341,286	\$3,236,500	\$3,821,833	26	102	56	7	5	6
Carmel Valley	\$1,625,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,272,233	\$1,945,514	\$1,850,367	67	45	53	42	53	43
Marina	\$890,000	\$980,500	\$835,000	\$930,071	\$1,022,178	\$949,783	40	28	27	30	46	37
Monterey Area	\$1,185,000	\$1,058,000	\$1,187,500	\$1,558,601	\$1,244,409	\$1,258,829	43	31	35	57	79	52
Pacific Grove	\$1,495,000	\$1,557,500	\$1,599,500	\$1,664,483	\$1,703,373	\$1,779,178	42	45	22	44	30	30
Pebble Beach	\$2,192,500	\$2,962,500	\$2,607,500	\$2,803,500	\$3,868,820	\$3,658,594	64	46	58	20	20	16
Seaside	\$830,000	\$835,500	\$875,000	\$855,330	\$1,028,543	\$993,840	25	25	38	31	30	35
Totals										281	310	276

These charts are based on data supplied by the Monterey County Association of Realtors Multiple Listing Service. Neither the association nor the MLS guarantees or is responsible for their accuracy. The data may also not reflect all real estate activity in the market. For more information, go to www.carmelrealtycompany.com.

	TEN-YEAR MEDIAN SALES PRICE										1-Year Change	10-Year Change
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 YTD		
Carmel-by-the-Sea	\$1,550,000	\$1,607,500	\$1,700,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,875,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,750,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,007,500	\$3,300,000	9.7%	112.9%
Carmel Area	\$869,000	\$1,065,000	\$1,050,000	\$1,297,500	\$1,225,000	\$1,450,000	\$1,550,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,620,000	\$1,600,000	-1.2%	84.1%
Carmel Highlands/Big Sur	\$1,857,500	\$1,685,000	\$1,937,500	\$1,597,500	\$1,775,000	\$2,645,000	\$2,375,000	\$3,709,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,004,000	0.1%	61.7%
Carmel Valley	\$836,000	\$950,313	\$937,000	\$1,000,000	\$950,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,495,000	\$1,575,000	5.4%	88.4%
Marina	\$442,500	\$490,000	\$537,200	\$599,000	\$639,000	\$675,000	\$792,000	\$849,000	\$875,000	\$936,500	7.0%	111.6%
Monterey Area	\$610,250	\$656,500	\$722,500	\$772,000	\$740,000	\$850,000	\$930,000	\$1,050,000	\$1,074,000	\$1,099,500	2.4%	80.2%
Pacific Grove	\$780,000	\$800,000	\$886,500	\$889,750	\$958,000	\$980,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,390,000	\$1,497,500	\$1,495,000	-0.2%	91.7%
Pebble Beach	\$1,378,750	\$1,525,000	\$1,575,000	\$1,557,500	\$1,767,950	\$2,100,000	\$2,795,000	\$3,150,000	\$2,690,000	\$2,628,200	-2.3%	90.6%
Seaside	\$405,000	\$445,000	\$495,000	\$525,000	\$540,000	\$593,500	\$700,000	\$757,000	\$750,000	\$827,500	10.3%	104.3%

TRANSACTIONS

From page 12RE

Pebble Beach (con't.)

1441 Riata Road — \$5,200,000

Rene Goddard to Stuart Wells
APN: 008-331-030

Seaside

1342 Vallejo Street — \$730,000

Triad Rentals to Nicholas Daly and Catherine Harris
APN: 012-293-025

3 Serape Court — \$775,000

Allyson Yoshida to Dennis Simunovich
APN: 012-621-052

1868 Judson Street — \$790,000

Michael and Deborah Waxer to Sonny Ortiz and Kristina Brown



1441 Riata Road, Pebble Beach — \$5,200,000

APN: 012-833-004

1 Lorraine Court — \$810,000

Peter Snider to Alysha Hyland
APN: 012-453-030

Cypress Lane — \$2,737,500



2 Spyglass Woods Drive, Pebble Beach — \$1,955,000

Shea Homes LP to Christopher and Sarah Baldwin
APN: 031-054-011

The Pine Cone prints all Monterey Peninsula real estate sales shown on recorded deeds, and we do not omit sales for any reason. For more on our home sales policy, please go to pineconearchive.com/homesalespolicy.html.

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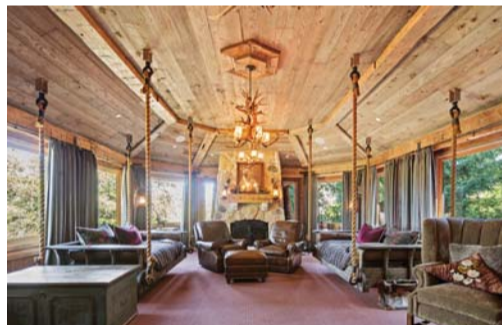
Located just a few blocks from downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea's world-class selection of restaurants, shopping, and idyllic beaches, this newly built modern home with stunning curb appeal showcases the pinnacle of style and sophisticated charm.



PEBBLE BEACH

www.PebbleBeachIcon.com
\$19,750,000

Originally built in 1924, this dramatic residence set on almost six and a half level, usable acres recently completed an extensive renovation.



SANTA LUCIA PRESERVE

www.PreserveCompound.com
\$6,800,000

Set in the forest of the Santa Lucia Preserve on 16.6 acres with a scenic fishing pond awaits a compound of 3 individual homes centered around a courtyard.



NEW LISTING

CARMEL VALLEY

www.CarmelValleyTreasure.com
\$3,895,000

Farmhouse charm sets the tone of this idyllic, Mid-Valley ~1 acre compound with a main house, 2 cottages, an event barn, and outdoor pavilion.



CORRAL DE TIERRA

www.StunningCountryEstate.com
\$3,695,000

This gorgeous country estate set in the sunny hills above Chamisal enjoys an impressive list of features for entertaining friends and family.



MONTEREY

www.MonterraOceanViews.com
\$2,150,000

Sited on a ~3-acre parcel, this beautiful Monterra home site includes permitted plans for a stunning modern main house, guest house and more.



CARMEL

www.CarmelGem.com
\$1,675,000

Centrally located within a few minutes' drive into downtown Carmel, this lovely home built in 2015 in the sunbelt is designed to enjoy indoor/outdoor living.

The Golden Pine Cones



October 25, 2024

Amid all the election tumult, small-town quality offers comfort

HERE AT The Carmel Pine Cone, we take election security very seriously. The virtual ballot box is as secure as it can possibly be. A whole bunch of online subscribers, duly registered at some point before the voting closed, got together to produce the most important balloting outcomes you'll read about this year — The Golden Pine Cones.

There are a few new categories, like Best Roofer and Best Tree Service (you really shouldn't have one without the other around here), and you'll read about a brand-new retail business called Wally's. Restaurant voting has produced what we believe is a record six-category win for one establishment, and a breakthrough champ has sprouted up as the best place to buy produce.

Keeping it simple

If you're already tired of the noise about those other elections — the ones where the ballots are due on Nov. 5 — our readers have recommendations on spots to get a good book, a wonderful cup of coffee, some exceptional chocolate, and find trails that will get you into the woods and up onto hilltops far from the nearest pollsters. They've bent over backwards to find the finest yoga class, the most luxurious spa, and the beachiest beach (sorry, we've used up most of our superlatives). If all else fails, there's a travel agency that will book you onto a cruise somewhere far from the shouting crowds. Closer to home, readers favor a restaurant in Big Sur where the wifi's a bit spotty, and that's considered a good thing.

Pets are well represented by their people, who voted for veterinarians, groomers and other related businesses that really get those tails wagging. Discerning car owners endorsed places to get the dings out of a Dusenberg or stop a fine vintage Chevy Nova's engine from knocking. And speaking of vintage, there's an awful lot of highly recommended wine, not to mention cocktails and a stellar bartender, here, too.

You voted, and you waited patiently while the ballots were carefully tallied by a real, decidedly overqualified human be-

ing, so you can rest assured that the results are valid. Secure in that knowledge, please enjoy reading all about the winners of the 2024 Golden Pine Cones.

FOOD AND WINE

Best Neighborhood Market

Bruno's Market & Delicatessen — NE Junipero and Sixth — (831) 624-3821, brunosmarket.com

Fermin and Ryan Sanchez's Bruno's Market has been a downtown institution for decades and wins praise from Pine Cone readers every year. It's stocked with everything you might hope to find at a local market — freshly baked bread from area bakeries, the best hot sauces in a variety of flavors, locally made jams and everyone's favorite gourmet ice cream, to name a few. Out of detergent and don't want to get in the car? Looking for a missing ingredient? Want a snack or a good bottle of wine to take to the beach? Bruno's has you covered. Considering its convenient downtown location and easy parking, it's the ideal spot to pick up necessary supplies and picnic items, and its deli is famous for turning out freshly made, delicious — and gigantic — sandwiches made to order. Carmelites, as well as the city's many visitors, always appreciate being able to find exactly what they need. And now, thanks to famous local sculptor Steven Whyte, Carmel Cares, donors and the Madden family, customers can take a seat next to a brilliant bronze sculpture of one of the market's biggest fans, the late John Madden.

Best Fruits and Vegetables

Elroy's — 15 Soledad Drive, Monterey — (831) 373-3737, elroysfinefoods.com

For the first time since anyone can remember, a store beat

out local farmers markets in this category, so it's saying a lot that Pine Cone readers picked this beautiful gourmet market as their favorite spot to find the best fruits and vegetables on the Monterey Peninsula. Opened in August 2020 in the historic Monte Vista Market spot by Jay and Chloe Dolata, Elroy's — named for their pet pup — offers a carefully curated selection of the best prepared foods and ingredients, all with environmental sustainability and social responsibility in mind. They turn to the area's abundant local farms to source the best produce money can buy, and it shows.

Best Seafood Market

Sea Harvest Fish Market & Restaurant — 100A Crossroads Blvd., and 598 Foam St., Monterey — (831) 626-3626, seaharvestfishmarketandrestaurant.com, facebook.com/seaharvestmontereyca

Capitalizing on the abundance of local waters, the Pacific and beyond — and meeting a widespread demand for high-quality seafood — Sea Harvest opened four decades ago and added restaurants soon after. The markets in Monterey and at the Crossroads boast the best fresh fish and shellfish every day, from locally famous Dungeness crab and sand dabs, to halibut, sushi-grade tuna, locally caught squid, and a wide range of other sustainably harvested bounty from the sea. "We purchase only from the healthiest sustainable fisheries from all over the world," they claim. The knowledgeable staff will help you select the best and freshest choices, and will offer cooking tips, too, if needed. The owners also reopened a fish market in Moss Landing at 2420 Highway 1, bringing their services back to North County.

Best Butcher

The Meatery — 1534 Fremont Blvd., Seaside — (831)

See **GOLDEN** next page



GALLERY MAR



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GOLDEN

From previous page

656-8810, themeateryseaside.com

Since Todd and Ada Fisher purchased The Meatery, they have worked hard to ensure it offers the best of everything a business with that name should. It should have prime cuts of the highest quality beef, pork and poultry from local and sustainable farms where animals are well treated — and it does. “Happy cuts for happy cooks,” is one of their slogans, after all.

“Our mission is simple: to provide home cooks with accessible butcher services that prioritize the health and happiness of our animals and the sustainability of small farming practices,” the Fishers say. “As a family-owned and operated business, we take great pride in the quality of our products and the care we put into our food. We believe that happy animals make for better meat, and that sustainable farming practices are not only good for the environment but are essential for the long-term health of our communities.” Online ordering is available, and The Meatery offers fresh house-made sausages, too, along with prepared foods and sandwiches.

■ **Best Bakery**

■ **Best Place to Get Ice Cream**

Carmel Bakery — *Ocean between Dolores and Lincoln, and at the Portola Hotel in Monterey* — (831) 402-7373, chefpepe.com/carmel-bakery

Founded in 1899, Carmel Bakery lays claim as California’s oldest bakery in its original location, and Rich Pèpe and his family have owned it since 1986. Practically famous for its lavish window display full of pastries and other baked goodies, Carmel Bakery always has a line out the door — especially in the morning — and last year, Pèpe opened a second Carmel Bakery location in the plaza next to the Portola Hotel at the foot of Alvarado Street in Monterey, serving up signature coffee drinks, baked goods, breakfast and lunch items there, as well. Carmel Bakery also took the prize this year for Best Place to Get Ice Cream, and it’s difficult to argue with that, considering Marianne’s of Santa Cruz is the featured producer and is a longtime local favorite. “Each flavor is a tribute to our commitment to quality and enjoyment,” they say.

■ **Best Bread**

Ad Astra Bread Co. — *479 Alvarado St., Monterey* — adastrabread.com

At this point, pastry-chef-turned-bread-baker Ron Mendoza is a Monterey institution. He quickly became well known locally years ago for his incredible creations at upscale Aubergine in L’Auberge Carmel and went on to launch the hugely popular Ad Astra Bread Co. — his “micro bakery focusing on natural leavened sourdough breads” — several years ago. The bakery “is committed to using all-organic flours to create Old World style sourdoughs over a two-day bake process,” he says, and the sourdoughs are “mixed, hand portioned and shaped, and allowed to slowly ferment overnight,” with baking taking place the next day. Daily offerings include Seaside sourdough, olive and seeded sourdoughs, French baguettes and focaccia, but Ad Astra also turns out sweet and savory specials each day, from cardamom rolls and bread pudding, to doughnuts and pretzels. It’s hard not to get excited about cutting a fresh slice from one of the best loaves in town. In addition to its busy and popular location in Old Monterey, Ad Astra’s products can be found at local farmers markets, stores and restaurants.

■ **Best Caterer**

Paradise Catering — *Carmel Valley* — (831) 6593417, paradisecater.com

Carmel Valley residents Jon Kasky and Nancy Rohan have been catering together for more than 30 years and are finally being recognized for their talented use of the best ingredients — including fruits, vegetables and herbs grown in the 1-acre garden at their

home in the Village — to create beautiful and memorable dining experiences for clients and their guests. In their cooking, which is elegant but not at all fussy and embodies the farm-to-table philosophy, the couple draw on their experiences learning from highly regarded chefs Wolfgang Puck and Alice Waters, as well as from their travels around the world. “With organic in mind, we source our food from local meat and produce companies (or our own garden!) and serve real food with no-fuss ingredients and a perfect balance of seasonings to create the farm-to-table experience we are known for,” they say.

■ **Best Wine Store**

The Cheese Shop — *Carmel Plaza* — (831) 625-2272, thecheeseshopinc.com

The Cheese Shop is, of course, absolutely amazing as a source of exceptional cheese, with hundreds of different offerings in every taste, texture and flavor, produced from cow, sheep or goat milk — or any combination thereof — and from every origin imaginable. But it’s also the go-to place for wine, and longtime owner Kent Torrey knows his stuff. He keeps his store stocked with many hard-to-find bottles, as well as affordable but high-quality options — and he knows about every producer in his inventory. Need advice? He’s the one to talk to, but he makes sure everyone who works at The Cheese Shop is extremely knowledgeable, as well. Fledgling sommeliers have flourished in his employ, and his customers benefit from that knowledge and the well-curated selection. After all, “Eat cheese, drink wine, live life happy!” is The Cheese Shop’s motto.

■ **Best Tasting Room**

■ **Best Monterey County Pinot Noir**

■ **Best Monterey County Merlot**

De Tierra — *Mission south of Fifth* — (831) 622-9704, detierra.com

Under the leadership of Jeffrey Meacham and Andrew Schoenfeld, who purchased De Tierra a couple of years ago but have long been connected to the winery and its vineyards, De Tierra has thrived, and its tasting room can always be counted on for fun, informative, lively and delicious experiences, whether you’re looking for a traditional tasting flight, a round of trivia or some live entertainment.

Best Monterey County Pinot Noir is a highly competitive category, considering the incredible wines produced here and the fact that Monterey County has more acres of pinot noir vines than any other in the state. De Tierra earned top honors for its iterations this year, as well as for its merlot. “De Tierra, as our name suggests, focuses on providing the best representation ‘of the land,’” they say. “Great wines begin in the vineyard, and it is our goal to translate the defining flavors of place into great wine.”

■ **Best Monterey County Chardonnay**

■ **Best Monterey County Sauvignon Blanc**

■ **My Favorite Monterey County Wine**

Bernardus — *5 W. Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley* — (831) 298-8021, bernardus.com

As Pine Cone readers have said for years, Bernardus Winery produces some of the best chardonnay and sauvignon blanc in Monterey County — but really, its entire portfolio is impressive. Longtime winemaker Dean DeKorth retired last year and was replaced by the talented and affable Jim McCabe, who has been on the team for many years. The sauv blanc, made with grapes grown by Michael Griva in Arroyo Seco, is bright and crisp, but far less grassy than most, with notes of citrus and white peach.

As for the chardonnay, well, Bernardus produces several — one that blends fruit

See **HONORED** page 4 GPC

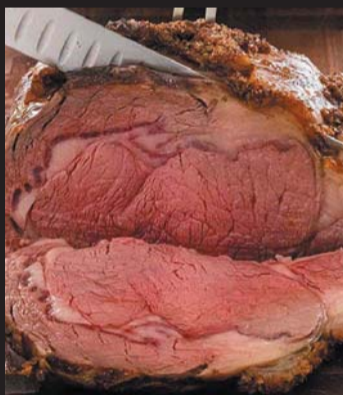
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17 TIME WINNER



Best Butcher 2023
14 TIME WINNER



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2024 & 2023



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2024



Best Wine List
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G O L D E N P I N E C O N E S

HONORED

From page 2 GPC

grown in some of the best vineyards in the county, and others showcasing single vineyards, including its own Ingrid's Vineyard in front of Bernardus Lodge (which hasn't had a direct affiliation with the winery for a decade). With Bordeaux varietals growing on its estate vineyard in Cachagua, and long-running relationships with some of the county's most highly regarded winegrowers, Bernardus also produces a highly regarded red blend, merlot, cabernet sauvignon and several pinots noir, so it's no surprise the winery also took My Favorite Monterey County Wine this year.

Best Monterey County Rosé

Dawn's Dream Winery — NW San Carlos and Seventh — (831) 659-2649, dawnsdreamwinery.com

At this point, many Monterey County wineries produce such delicious rosés that this category has become very competitive, too, Pine Cone readers consistently say their favorite is Dawn's Dream. Owned by Dawn Galante, the winery produces a dry rosé that goes with just about everything — especially Carmel Beach on a sunny afternoon. A winner annually for more than a decade, the rosé is often sold out, but this year, it's still in stock at \$39 per bottle (or \$88 for a magnum, also known as "party size"). "Brilliant, pale pink in color, this star in Dawn's portfolio draws you in with scents of wild strawberry, rose petals and delicate orange zest," the winery says. "Flinty, light peach and tangerine notes follow, finishing with orange blossoms and a crisp acidity." Dawn's Dream is socially conscious, too, as Galante founded it with a mission of supporting charities benefiting women and children.

Best Monterey County Cabernet Sauvignon

Galante Vineyards — Dolores between Ocean and Seventh — (831) 624-3800, galantevineyards.com

Just as Dawn Galante's rosé has won the hearts of Pine Cone readers for years, so too have several of the red wines — the cabernet sauvignon for 2024 — produced by husband Jack's Galante Vineyards. While the Galantes sold their vineyards and winery to a young couple several years ago, Galante continues to focus on sharing the finest wines from their

former Cachagua estate and other sources, and letting the fruit express itself in each vintage — efforts that have been rewarded with praise year after year. Galante Family Wines celebrated its 30th anniversary this year and offers several current releases of cabernet sauvignon, as well as some precious library bottles.

Best Place for a Beer

Alvarado Street Brewery — Carmel Plaza at Ocean and Mission, 426 Alvarado St., Monterey, additional locations in Marina and Salinas — (831) 293-8621, (831) 655-2337, asb.beer

With Alvarado Street's stellar lineup of locally made brews, from perennial favorites like the Mai Tai IPA and Monterey Beer, to seasonal, sour and other more creative offerings — paired with delicious high-level pub food, plenty of indoor and outdoor seating at both spots, and a lively yet sophisticated atmosphere — it's really no surprise ASB won this year's award as the Best Place for a Beer ... again. The father-and-son duo that brought immensely successful Alvarado Street Brewery to the Monterey Peninsula also operates Alvarado Street Brewery & Bistro in Carmel Plaza, and both locations are ideal for enjoying a beer (or several), along with some snacks. The Monterey beer garden and the patio in the Plaza also offer great spaces for dining and drinking outdoors. ASB serves in the taproom at its Salinas production facility, the pitch in Marina where Monterey Bay Football Club plays its home games, and Alvarado on Main in a former bank on South Main Street in Oldtown Salinas.

- Best Cocktails
- Best Restaurant for Seafood
- Best Desserts
- Best Wine List
- Best Chef
- Best Restaurant in Carmel

Foray — NE San Carlos and Fifth — (831) 250-6100, forayrestaurant.com

In what might be a record sweep, a single restaurant garnered Golden Pine Cones in six categories this year. Chef Michael Chang and wife Caroline Singer opened Foray in late 2022 and have been busy testing and showcasing Chang's impressive culinary skills as executive chef, Singer's hospitality

and all-around knowhow — including behind the bar, which produces creative and elegant cocktails — and their ability to provide a space that is elegant, contemporary but not cold, and intriguing. As a sommelier, Singer has also curated an interesting and diverse wine list that includes bottles from all over the globe. And Chang, whose cuisine is beautiful to look at and capitalizes on as many local and foraged ingredients as possible — and whose quiet but sociable personality has him visiting tables in the restaurant every night — is being celebrated as Best Chef for the second year in a row. Captivating readers this year, especially, are his seafood dishes (what he can do with scallops is nothing short of amazing) and selection of sweets, including a stunning candy cap mushroom brioche bread pudding. "A feast for the eyes" may be cliché when it comes to commenting on food presentation, but when you're describing dishes at Foray, it's absolutely on point.

Best Happy Hour

Bar Napoli — Dolores and Seventh — (831) 626-6335, cheffepe.com/restaurants/little-napoli

Imbibers at Bar Napoli have plenty of options to enjoy for a happy two hours from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Feel like you're in Napoli-by-the-sea amid the terracotta tiles of the charming downtown establishment. For \$8, enjoy a signature cocktail like the Carmel Cola made with Ramazzotti Amaro, Top Note ginger beer, cherry bark/vanilla bitters, and lime or a classic negroni, barrel-finished in "Doc Pèpe's Lab." The cocktail menu is run by master mixologist Christian Pèpe and offers a full menu. Small bites include truffle gnocchi, saffron-risotto arancini with marinara sauce, or meatball lollipops, to name a few. During happy hour, pizzas are \$14 and house wines, well drinks and draft beers are \$6.

- Best Family Restaurant
- Best Restaurant for Vegetarians
- Best Sandwich or Burger
- Best Restaurant Service

SUR at the Barnyard — 3601 The Barnyard — (831) 250-7188, surcarmel.com

Sur is easy to get to, and its Barnyard location makes parking a cinch. It's got a boisterous and happy vibe that's welcoming to adults and kids alike, and the service, which

See LOVED page 6 GPC

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FOURTANÉ

CARMEL - BY - THE - SEA

Best Jewelry Store on the Monterey Peninsula



Golden Pine Cone Winner 2024



G O L D E N P I N E C O N E S

LOVED From page 4 GPC

gets rave reviews on social media, is cheerful, personal and attentive. The servers have a rep for thoughtful problem-solving and cheerfully meeting customers' needs.

Grownups can start with a cocktail like the Mango Tango made with reposado tequila, mango puree and Cointreau, or one of several other tropical-themed drinks. Or they might enjoy the Bixby Bourbon, which combines bourbon, orgeat (almond syrup), Grand Marnier and lime. In honor of some of the area's most famous annual visitors, The Monarch is made with gin, blood orange, lemon and simple syrup.

Vegetarians can find lots of love, too. The appetizer menu alone includes the restaurant's signature cheese bread — crispy ciabatta, white cheddar and parmesan, white corn, savory herbs and seasonings, fried artichokes, and crispy Brussels sprouts. There's a nice selection of salads, and in addition to the eggplant parmesan, there's a veggie ratatouille bowl and an Asian rice bowl.

Meat lovers are hardly lost in the fog. We're not sure which are our readers' favorites, but you can choose from filet mignon sliders, chargrilled with pecorino truffle queso and caramelized onions, served on sweet island bun, the house bacon cheeseburger with a half-pound of all-natural Angus beef with bacon and cheddar, and the Japanese Diablo Burger with Japanese ground beef, bacon, onion rings and a spicy sauce. And we haven't even gotten around to the longish list of seafood selections or fried chicken served with a waffle or mashed potatoes and gravy. This is the sort of place where you're almost expected to steal something off someone else's plate — but please, stick to your own table.

Best French Restaurant

La Bicyclette — Dolores and Seventh — (831) 622-9899, labicycletterestaurant.com

The Georis family of restaurateurs and vintners brings us yet another Golden Pine Cone winner. La Bicyclette is a favorite of locals, tourists and celebrities — Taylor Swift and her NFL player boyfriend, Travis Kelce, dined there earlier this year. The restaurant is rustic, charming, excellent and bicycle-themed. Whether you pop in for pizza from the wood-fired oven or indulge yourself in one of the exquisite entrees, you are sure to leave delighted.

"La Bicyclette features European country cuisine, hand-crafted using local ingredients and Old World artistry," according to the restaurant's website. The kitchen is tiny — everything is prepared on a six-burner stove or in the pizza oven. The menu is updated weekly to allow for the freshest seasonal ingredients for dishes such as salade de betteraves, a beet salad featuring baby greens, rainbow beets, triple-cream brie, oranges and candied walnuts tossed in a Champagne vinaigrette; poisson Saint Tropez with pan-seared freshly caught fish, roasted fingerling potatoes, sauteed spinach and crispy leeks, or steak au poivre, pan-seared filet mignon with a peppercorn cognac sauce and truffle pommes frites alongside a mixed green salad. You can't skip the wine — the list has something for everyone — or dessert, like the pot de mousse au chocolat that is meant to be shared.

Best Chinese Restaurant

Tommy's Wok — Mission between Ocean and Seventh — (831) 624-8518, tommyswokcarmel.com

If you want do something that's quintessentially Carmel, pick up Chinese takeout from Tommy's Wok and watch the sunset at Carmel Beach. Locals have been loving this little spot for years, savoring the bright, fresh dishes as tempting aromas waft from the kitchen. It has been repeatedly voted Best Chinese Restaurant by Pine Cone readers. Tourists manage to find it, too, giving it rave reviews on social media and travel sites for great food, solid value and excellent service.

Guests at Tommy's Wok expect substantial portions that won't break the bank, and they get them. You'll find all your favorites — pot stickers, spareribs, egg rolls, sizzling plates and soups, chow mein and mu shu chicken — plus a few that might be new to you. Be a little more daring and give one of the lamb dishes a try, or bite into the satisfying texture of battered and fried prawns served with honey-glazed walnuts. Szechuan, Hunan and Mandarin dishes are served up piping hot and ready to go.

Best Indian Restaurant

Aabha — 3690 The Barnyard — (831) 250-5940, aabhaindian.com

Bringing the exotic flavors and dishes of India to our own backyard, Aabha is a repeat Golden Pine Cone winner. Executive chef and proprietor Bhupender Singh's food is as warm as he is, and from the coconut lentil soup, to decadent butter

chicken and saag paneer, every dish is sure to satisfy a diverse range of palates. One great thing about Indian food is that it offers a variety of vegetarian dishes bursting with flavor. Start with the samosas — crispy pastries stuffed with potatoes, peas and spices. Make sure you get some warm naan (Indian flatbread) to mop up the sauces, and wash things down with a mango lassi or order a bottle of wine. Everyone who comes to the hospitable and spacious restaurant feels welcome, and Singh's delicious food never disappoints. The restaurant is serves its wildly popular lunch buffet from noon to 3 p.m., so you can sample a variety of dishes without having to commit to one.

Best Italian Restaurant

Best Pizza

Best Bartender

Vesuvio — Junipero and Sixth — (831) 625-1766, chefpepe.com/restaurants/Vesuvio

Part of the Pèpe Family group of restaurants, Vesuvio is a favorite among locals and visitors alike. Serving classic Italian dishes like eggplant parmesan, truffled gnocchi, and saffron risotto arancini (filled and fried rice balls), all with local flair, the restaurant has won several spots in our readers' hearts. The bar features housemade spirits from "Doc Pèpe's Lab," and for dessert you can enjoy the limoncello mousse cake.

It's no wonder Vesuvio won Best Pizza, as the chefs who make it have been trained and specialize in the art of creating the traditional Neapolitan variety. Take your pick, from the classic margherita, to a white truffle pie with mushrooms, cambozola, mozzarella, truffle oil and caramelized onions, or the diavolo, made with soppressata, Calabrian chili, and two kinds of cheese. Gluten-free crust is available.

The rooftop bar is the perfect place to enjoy a bite and a drink, especially when the weather is nice, but when it's not, there are plenty of heaters to keep you warm. Bartender Jay Wallace has been at Vesuvio for 12 years and bartending for more than 30. "I got started as a teenager in the UK at my local pub," he explained. Be sure to ask him for the "The Drop," his favorite among the signature cocktails, made with Pèpe-cello limoncello, Doc Pèpe's Lab citrus vodka, Pèpe raspberry shrub, or his personal favorite, a Sazerac, the classic New Orleans cocktail made with rye whiskey. "This is one of the best places in the world to be a bartender," he said, because of the interesting people he gets to meet and interact with across the bar.

Best Japanese/Sushi Restaurant

Akaoni — Mission btwn. Fifth and Sixth — (831) 620-1516

Akaoni is a no-frills sushiya (sushi restaurant) in the heart of downtown. It is quaint, to say the least, seating about 20 people, but what it might lack in size, it makes up for in quality and freshness. The restaurant is staffed by the owner and his wife, who are the sushi chef and server, respectively. The fish is sourced locally or from the Tsukiji Fish Market in Tokyo. Order from the daily specials written on the chalkboard or from the live tank, and delight in the freshness of the seafood. Enjoy classic sashimi, sushi and other Japanese dishes, such as house-made tofu, tempura seafood or vegetables, soups, or steamed dishes like clams or shrimp dumplings. You can get a glass of the Japanese beer, Asahi, as well as cold and hot sake, and wines. For dessert, don't miss the green tea ice cream with red bean or vanilla mochi, a delicate Japanese rice cake.

Best Mediterranean Restaurant

Dametra Café — SE Ocean and Lincoln — (831) 622-7766, dametracafe.com

"Our kitchen is really small but with a big heart. Our ingredients are fresh and bought locally, but without a doubt, the best ingredient of them all is love." So say Dametra Café owners and multiple Golden Pine Cone winners Faisal Nimri and Bashar Sneeh. A culinary version of a "Small World" (without the song), it offers fare from Greek, Italian, Spanish, Moroccan, Turkish, French, Israeli and Lebanese cuisines and consistently attracts a queue of hungry diners.

The Greek pita bread is satisfying, especially paired with cucumber-yogurt tzatziki sauce on the starter menu. Calamari with marina sauce evokes Italy, while Spanish-style grilled jumbo prawns, a French take on smoked salmon, and Damascus labneh cheese from Syria are just a few other ways to get warmed up for the main course.

There are, of course, kebabs, gyros, shawarma and kofta (seasoned ground beef wrapped in lavash bread), but you'll also find an All-American cheeseburger, a fresh mozzarella sandwich and lasagna, not to mention a variety of other pastas and generous salads. The international theme continues through dessert — if you have room — with baklava sharing the bill with tiramisu and triple fudge cake.

Best Thai Restaurant

Krua Thai — 730 Munras Ave., Monterey — (831) 655-9797, kruathaimonterey.com

Krua Thai's website tells the story of the Susawee family,

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G O L D E N P I N E C O N E S

WINNERS

From page 6 GPC

who immigrated to the Peninsula in 2003 from their native Thailand and opened a restaurant that's on the way to pretty much everything in and around Old Monterey. You can walk to banks, city offices, the Path of History that winds from Custom House Plaza to Colton Hall, and, of course, that large collection of medical offices on Cass Street, affectionately referred to as "Pill Hill" by some locals.

If all that walking works up an appetite, this restaurant has you covered. Nearly every item on the menu costs less than \$20, which is nice if you're watching your wallet. All the usual suspects — pad Thai, tom yum, a collection of curries in many colors — are there, along with Vietnamese rolls (tofu, noodles, cucumber, and cilantro in a rice paper skin), chow mein and pot stickers. There are several duck dishes and vegetarian options, and among the restaurant's signature items is a deep-fried rainbow trout with apple relish. Wine is available by the glass and bottle, along with Corona, Heineken, and two Thai beers, Chang and Singha.

■ Best Mexican Restaurant

■ Best New Restaurant (opened in last 12 months)

Nicolás Cocina de Herencia — Carmel Plaza — (831) 574-8802, nicolascocina.squarespace.com

It took years longer to open than originally anticipated, but when it did, Nicolás Cocina de Herencia impressed with its beautiful, expansive space, menu of delicious, sophisticated Mexican fare, and full bar stocked with some of the best tequilas around. Brought to the Peninsula by the owners of the highly popular Villa Azteca on South Main Street in Salinas, Nicolás is described as "a modern Mexican restaurant that blends the family's deep culinary heritage with an innovative approach to fine dining." Reflecting its founders' love and appreciation for family, tradition and cuisine, the menu features "flavors passed down generations," and every dish is prepared "with the same love and attention that Chef Susana's father, Nicolás, the family's patriarch, bestowed upon his land in Mexico, ensuring a dining experience that feels both intimate and extraordinary." This unique restaurant is a welcome addition to Carmel's culinary landscape and truly is a family affair.

■ Best Restaurant for Steak

Grasing's — NW Sixth and Mission — (831) 624-6562, grasings.com

Grasing's — the namesake of chef-proprietor Kurt Grasing — sailed past the quarter-century mark last year, and in addition to serving his fine food in the dining room, he caters private jets at Monterey Regional Airport as well as cruises. And now our readers, who have honored Grasing's in the past in several categories, that it's the place to be for steak.

That's with good reason — coveted cuts of prime beef occupy their own section of the dinner menu. The filet mignon comes in 6- and 9-ounce portions, there's a 12-ounce aged New York, and a big old ribeye that weighs in at just over a pound.

There's also a 32-ounce bone-in ribeye for two that comes with rosemary-goat cheese scalloped potatoes and cabernet-shallot sauce, and a choice of two Japanese wagyu steaks. While wagyu translates simply to "Japanese cattle," its reputation for heavy marbling and tenderness has made it a sought-after delicacy.

There are other things on the menu, of course. You might want to start your dinner with some oysters, for example, or maybe some crispy pork belly or crab cakes. Our readers say you should go for the steaks, but it's really hard to go wrong at Grasing's.

■ Best Salad

Carmel Belle — San Carlos between Ocean and Seventh — (831) 624-1600, carmelbelle.com

Carmel Belle in the Doud Arcade appears to be perpetually busy, but there always seems to be room for one more diner. What's so great about the salads? Like other menu items, they're made with organic ingredients whenever possible, "purchased from local farmers markets, farmers, and/or distributors that support small farms," the proprietors say. There are seven salads, from the orchard, with mixed greens topped with stone fruit, pecans and goat cheese and served with lemon vinaigrette, to the traditional Greek, with romaine, feta, tomato, red onion and cucumber. The chicken Cobb comes with free-range Mary's chicken, and other selections include a market vegetable offering, a farmers salad, a walnut-blue cheese-apple combo, and mozzarella and roasted tomato salad — clever, since roasting wonderfully concentrates flavor and brings out the best in the tomatoes.

The Belle Bowl gets an honorable mention for its use

of quinoa and arugula, as does a veggie plate with truffled mushrooms, roasted tomatoes and goat cheese crostini complementing market vegetables.

■ Best BBQ

The Crossroads Barbeque — 241 Crossroads Blvd. — (831) 250-7616, thecrossroadsbbq.com

You wanna know how good this place is? By mid-October, you couldn't even pre-order a smoked Thanksgiving turkey because they were already sold out. But don't worry, there's still plenty of food available from breakfast (sandwich or taco options) through dinner. Choose from tri-tip, pulled pork, brisket, chicken, St. Louis-style pork ribs, and burnt ends — the flavorful trimmings from smoked brisket. Choose regular or large orders, or get it in a sandwich. Regular is just about right for most people, but if you want the large, nobody is judging.

Prices range from \$13.50 for a regular chicken meal to \$46 for a full rack of ribs with two sides and bread. Home-style potato salad is chunky and flavorful, baked beans are sweet and savory — just like you might remember from BBQs past — and there's mac-and-cheese (extra amazing when topped with pulled pork) and creamy crunchy cole slaw. Have one of the rotating beers on tap, which might include some from Alvarado Street Brewery, maybe a cider or an amber from Santa Cruz Mountain Brewing. For dessert, homemade bread pudding and berry cobbler from old family recipes are not to be missed, even if you must take them to go. Feeding a crowd? Order a family pack and buy additional sides by the pint.

■ Best Fish & Chips

Brophy's — San Carlos and Fourth — (831) 586-5566, brophytavern.com

Fish and chips, like roast chicken or beef stew, is one of the holy grails of cooking. It's simple, but elusive. What's that you say? It's just fried fish and French fries, for heaven's sake, even a fast-food joint can pull that off! Don't say that around here unless you want to find yourself in the Police Log for starting a brawl.

Pine Cone readers understand that the struggle to find the best is real. The fish, in this case fresh halibut, has to be prepared so that the crust doesn't shatter or disintegrate at first bite. It should be golden brown on the outside, while staying

Continues next page

Thank You!

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Best Restaurant for Steak

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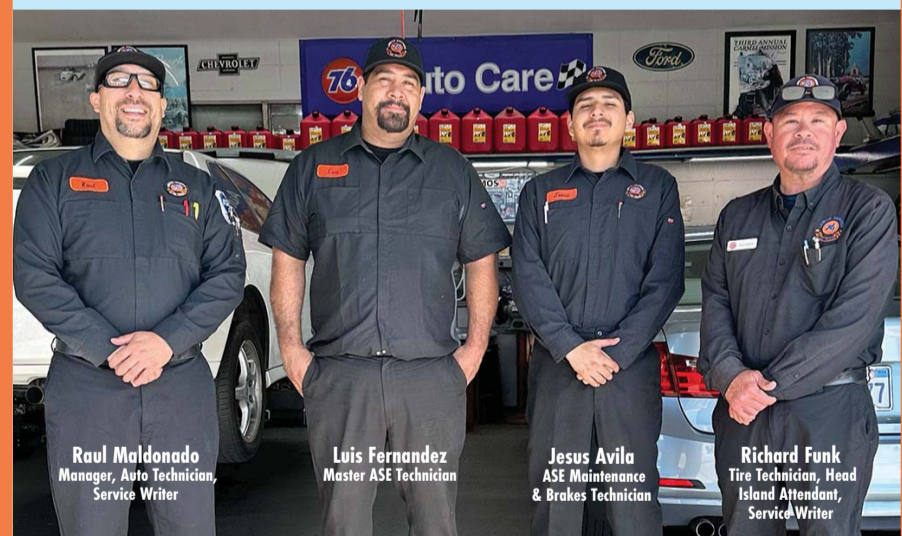


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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

moist and tender on the inside. The chips should be crisp, but fluffy inside. Everything must be adequately seasoned straight out of the fryer, and the same temperature — seriously hot — when it hits the table. We'll leave you to argue about whether you should add malt vinegar or dunk the chips in the remoulade sauce that comes on the side, along with the cole slaw. You should probably order an ice-cold brew, too.

Best Breakfast

From Scratch — 3626 The Barnyard — (831) 625-2448, fromscratchrestaurant.com

For nearly half a century, From Scratch has been helping locals and tourists start their days with bellies full of happiness. Chef/owner Steve Grebing bought it 1995, and in January 2022, Matthew, his oldest son, took over. Per the restaurant's website, "Matthew and his wife Nicole value and appreciate every patron we serve and this will remain the same From Scratch everyone loves!"

The front page of the menu reminds diners to have a little patience — when you call a place From Scratch, people tend to expect things to be made, well, you know. Sip on coffee, an espresso drink or a cocktail while you peruse the offerings. There's cinnamon French toast, an assortment of flapjacks, eggs every which way, sides that include grits and house-made cheddar cheese biscuits, and nearly a whole page devoted to omelet combos.

While you can get breakfast all day, there are also two pages of sandwiches, salads and other lunch items. From Scratch doesn't take reservations and it's usually hopping, even on the weekdays, so bring some friends or a copy of The Pine Cone and relax. It's worth the wait.

Best Coffee

Acme Coffee Roasting Co. — 485B Palm Ave., Seaside — (831) 393-9113, acmecoffeeroasting.com

"Resist corporate coffee," advises Acme. With graphics and product names that evoke the inside of a garage that specializes in hot rods, there's no doubt that they're serious about getting everyone fueled up. The Seaside spot is a little hard to find the first time — it's actually a little hidden in an alley — but once you find your way there, you can reward

See FAVORITES page 12 GPC

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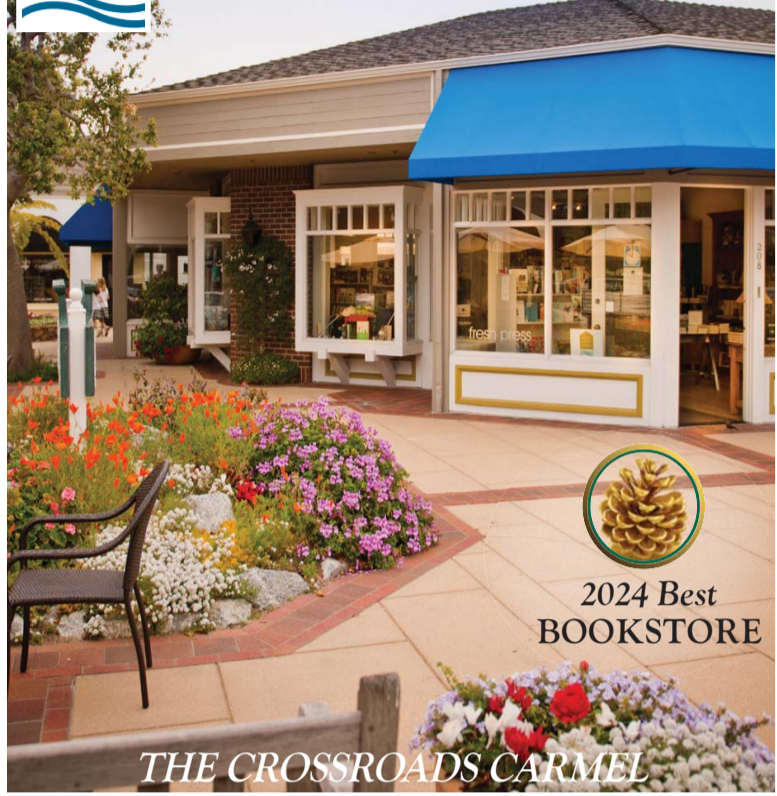




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FAVORITES

From page 9 GPC

yourself with a cup of joe made from freshly roasted beans. Yes, there is a difference. If Seaside's not on your daily errand list, you can find the coffee at numerous local spots like Passionfish or the Bagel Kitchen in P.G., Parker-Lusseau bakery, Deetjen's Big Sur Inn, The Santa Lucia Preserve, Community Hospital, and Bear + Flag in Carmel Valley. Or buy the beans at Grove Market, Cornucopia, Elroy's Fine Foods or Carmel Valley Market. The company calls Road Dog, "A well-balanced cup made for varying palates," Ninety Weight is the Italian blend ("heavy body with low acidity"), while Power Glide is a lighter roast. Check out their other varieties at the website, where you can have your beans shipped to the house. No need to even get out of your pajamas.

Best Coffeehouse

Carmel Valley Coffee Roasting Co. — *Ocean between Lincoln and Monte Verde, 3720 The Barnyard and 246 Crossroads Blvd. — (831) 626-2913, (831) 620-0844 and (831) 626-8784, carmelcoffeeroasters.com*

Big Vinney, a 1940s-vintage Farina Italian coffee roasting machine, is probably responsible for caffeinating half the Monterey Peninsula by now. For more than a quarter century, CVCRC has been supplying retail and wholesale customers a wide variety of outstanding brews with names like Foglifter, Jamaican Me Crazy (flavored with vanilla, caramel and coffee liqueur), Cone Peak organic espresso, and a light roast called Mission Trail. The company's website reminds everyone, "We roast and ship within hours and days, not weeks. The difference between fresh-roasted and less than fresh coffee is staggering," which is not an overstatement to true coffee lovers.

A good coffeehouse is more than just

great coffee, though. There has to be great service, offered with a cheerful attitude that's tempered by the knowledge that not everyone's a morning person. There has to be a convivial atmosphere, and if there's music, it has to be pleasant and not so loud you can't have a conversation. It's nice if you can find fresh snacks and sandwiches, too. Our readers believe CVCRC is the place for all that and more.

Best Special Occasion Cake

Layers Sensational Cakes — *9 Soledad Drive, Monterey — (831) 655-1544, layerscake.com*

Why are Pine Cone readers drawn to Layers' luscious desserts? Just have a peek at the website or follow them on Instagram, where you can see a large collection of photos. There are traditional wedding and birthday cakes, but you can also find one in the shape of an Air Jordan sneaker — with a shoelace dangling realistically from one side — confections decorated with gold leaf and real flowers, and even a disco cake with, yes, a mirror ball perched up top.

Order a special dessert for a holiday meal or bring one to a party at work to be a real office hero.

In this case, beauty is more than frosting-deep — although the frosting is quite tasty. Varieties include traditional yellow, strawberry shortcake, carrot cake, Funfetti, red velvet, German chocolate, Oreo cookie and many more. You can get layers in different flavors, and completely customize your confection right on the website, or call for a consultation. They usually have some same-day availability, too, just in case you forgot it was your mother-in-law's 29th birthday, again.

Continues next page

BEST ELECTRICIAN

Thank You, from the team at Cate Electric

Pictured left to right:
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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

Best Deli

5th Avenue Deli — Fifth and San Carlos — (831) 625-2688, 5thavedeli.com

A lot of locals pop into 5th Avenue Deli to pick up chili, a salad, a sandwich or other quick but gourmet goods for lunch, but this longtime favorite near the downtown post office also sells picnic accessories, wine, packaged foods, gift baskets and other items to please just about anyone who enjoys great snacks or an elegant al fresco experience. Simply put, 5th Avenue Deli is far more than your average deli. In addition to custom-made sandwiches, the best soups in town, and a well-stocked salad and taco bar, 5th Ave offers catering, boxed lunches for customers on the go, sandwich platters and other culinary services. On any given day, you'll find regulars clustered outside the door as they wait for their goodies from the family-run establishment, and it's particularly popular during the work week as one of the few spots in town to get great food to go at reasonable prices.

Best Brunch

Best Place to Get Married (non-church)

Mission Ranch Hotel and Restaurant — 26270 Dolores St. — (831) 624-6436, missionranchcarmel.com

We were shocked — shocked, we say — to discover that some foodies disdain Sunday brunch. The late celebrity chef, author and raconteur Anthony Bourdain gave the haters a voice by proclaiming most, but not all, Sunday brunches were made up of recycled leftovers and cooked by the kitchen's B-team (since the A-team typically works Friday and Saturday nights). It's too bad Bourdain apparently never made it to the Monterey Peninsula, where the meal has been elevated

to an art form. So, when Pine Cone readers say Mission Ranch has the best, you know it has to be pretty special. Let's start with that magic word, "buffet." You don't have to sort through the menu, trying to settle on just one. And that's good, when you can choose from prime rib, made-to-order omelets, French toast or baked salmon. There's a full bar (drinks aren't included in the \$45/person price) and a dessert table where you can take more than one.

The view is incredible, too — so much so that getting married there has become quite popular. There are two historic barns, patio and lawn areas for ceremonies and receptions. The lush green lodge and historic bridge make beautiful backdrops, and the patio barn has a built-in stage and dance floor, along with a wall of glass doors that open out onto the brick patio, from which you can see grazing sheep, Point Lobos and the ocean. What a great start to "happily ever after!"

Best Outdoor Dining

The Bench — 1700 17 Mile Drive in The Lodge, Pebble Beach — (800) 877-0597, pebblebeach.com/dining/the-bench

The 18th Hole at Pebble Beach is in front of you, with the ocean just beyond and a lovely view of Point Lobos. You're sitting around a fire pit, maybe with a warm blanket, as the fog creeps in. Food is playful, diverse and accessible, even when it sounds fancy — portobello mushroom fries are crispy on the outside and meaty on the inside, and duck fat fries with truffle salt truly elevate the humble potato. Thanks to a wood-fired oven, the menu includes flatbreads, roast shrimp and roasted beets. There's an impressive wine and beverage selection, too.

Why "The Bench"? The Pebble Beach Co. website harkens back to the days when Japanese owners were in charge of the iconic property, noting, "To symbolize the return

See SUPER page 16 GPC

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SUPER

From page 13 GPC

of Pebble Beach to American ownership in 1999, a commemorative bench has been placed overlooking the 18th Hole, where this acquisition was consummated. The bench honors the vision of its owners to preserve this national treasure for future generations.”

■ Best Place to Take Clients

The Sardine Factory —
701 Wave St., Monterey — (831) 373-3775,
sardinefactory.com

This is one of those restaurants that’s done things so well for so long (since 1968, to be exact) that it has lists of the “best of” lists it’s been on. If you want to impress a client, our readers say, look no farther than this spot, with tuxedoed staff and white linen tablecloths. You and your colleagues will be well taken care of.

There’s plenty of expert advice available to navigate the 60-page wine list, for starters. The menu includes fine-dining classics like oysters Rockefeller, escargot, and prime beef, as well as a wide selection of salads and other entrées, and you should definitely order the sorbet in an ice swan as a palate cleanser between courses. If you can, save room for dessert. The chocolate-dipped ice cream bonbons over dry ice are shareable and fun, and the Flaming Sardine, a signature Galliano cocktail that is flamed at the table, is also a dramatic end to the meal.

■ Most Romantic Restaurant

Casanova — Fifth between Mission and San Carlos — (831) 216-3811,
casanovacarmel.com

The Georis family renovated this restaurant in 1977 with what they describe as traditional Belgian architectural influences. The spot’s namesake, of course, is 18th-century

Venetian Giacomo Casanova, whose romantic exploits were legendary. Van Gogh’s table, which the website describes as “the table at which Vincent Van Gogh enjoyed his daily meals while boarding at the Auberge Ravoux in France,” is there, too. Once you’re done swooning over the charming history and cozy décor, it’s time to order.

Casanova gathers ingredients from small, organic farms and local fisheries and makes all that attention to detail appear effortless. The menu, which is a love letter from the kitchen, woos you with the promise of French onion soup and lures you in deeper with duck leg confit. An excellent wine list is available along with help to find just the right glass or bottle. In “History of my Life,” Giacomo Casanova wrote, “Cultivating whatever gave pleasure to my senses was always the chief business of my life; I never found any occupation more important.” The restaurant in this magical village seems to have taken that sentiment to heart.

■ Most Dog-Friendly Restaurant

■ Most Dog-Friendly Hotel

Cypress Inn/Terry’s Restaurant & Lounge — NE Lincoln and Seventh — (831) 624-3871, cypress-inn.com; (831) 620-7454, carmelterrys.com

Once again, Cypress Inn has been voted by readers as Carmel’s most dog-friendly hotel, paws down. It has charmed visitors since its opening in 1929. Continuing the legacy of the late co-owner, legendary singer, actress, and animal lover Doris Day, the hotel’s philosophy takes pet friendliness seriously. Doggie pick-up bags and a wash station are available in the hotel’s courtyard, the staff keeps a list of pet sitters on hand, and there are always little snacks for your pooch in the lobby. Four-legged friends staying overnight get special blankets, so they can stay warm, too.

Terry’s Restaurant and Lounge welcomes

your furry besties, and the staff there loves feeding people, too, with lunch and dinner menus that feature options like grilled steak salad, the famous Cypress Burger, or truffle-mushroom ravioli in a saffron cream sauce. The bar menu, available all day, offers filling and tasty small bites.

“By combining Mediterranean grace and charm with warm hospitality and exemplary service, Cypress Inn has drawn everyone from kings, queens and Hollywood royalty, to the everyday traveler, and especially all those who like to travel with their pets,” the inn says.

■ Best Restaurant for a Special Occasion

Pangaea Grill — Ocean Avenue between Lincoln and Dolores — (831) 624-2569,
pangaeagrillcarmel.com

It’s understandable that Pine Cone readers chose this easy-to-find spot on Ocean Avenue for special celebrations. The colorful dishes and clever plating always evoke a party. Pangaea is the name of the supercontinent believed to have existed 200 million years ago that broke up into the continents we know today, possibly because the historic resources board wasn’t around to declare the original land mass untouchable.

In the spirit of global dining, the breakfast menu offers Asian specialties like kimchee fried rice and dumpling egg soup alongside steak and eggs. Lunch might be tuna poke, a quesadilla, shrimp scampi or tempura shrimp salad. At dinner, the menu can take you Italy with Alfredo, Asia with lettuce wraps, spring rolls and dumplings, or just to Monterey Bay with some sand dabs. Not only can everyone at Uncle Fred’s birthday party get just the kind of food they want, they can wash it down with beer, wine or a special cocktail, like the Doc Ricketts, with banana-infused bourbon and chocolate bitters. Whether you’re celebrating an anniversary or just Tuesday night, this is the right place to do it.

■ Best Restaurant in Big Sur

Nepenthe — 48510 Highway 1, Big Sur — (831) 667-2345, nepenthe.com

More than 800 feet above the ocean, Nepenthe, a frequent Golden Pine Cone winner, is an impressive alchemy of coastal views and great food that makes for a dining experience worthy of the drive. The family-owned and operated spot has long been a place where locals gather in good times and bad. Its name is derived from Greek and means “no sorrow” and is also the name of a mythical Egyptian drug said to cause forgetfulness and relieve sadness. Of course, that may also be related to the lack of wifi and the spotty cell reception.

This place feeds everyone on a first-come, first-served basis — no reservations. The menu offers simple fare done well, like diver scallops, roast chicken and steak frites. Of course, you can always fall back on the Ambrosia Burger, a favorite for decades. Spend a few minutes perusing the impressively curated wine list with good bottles in a range of prices, or enjoy a cocktail from the full bar. Café Kevah — one level down from Nepenthe — opens at 9 a.m. and offers a nice selection of breakfasts and coffee. Once your belly’s full, stop in at the Phoenix Shop (open 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily) and get lost among the works of local artists and craftsmen.

■ Best Restaurant in Carmel Valley

Café Rustica — 10 Del Fino Place, Carmel Valley — (831) 659-4444,
caferustricacv.com

Even though it’s nestled out in Carmel Valley Village, you’d think you were in the Alsatian countryside. Café Rustica has been a destination for locals and tourists since 2000, and Julien Belliard took it over in 2006. He describes the cuisine as “country European,”

See **STUNNING** page 18 GPC

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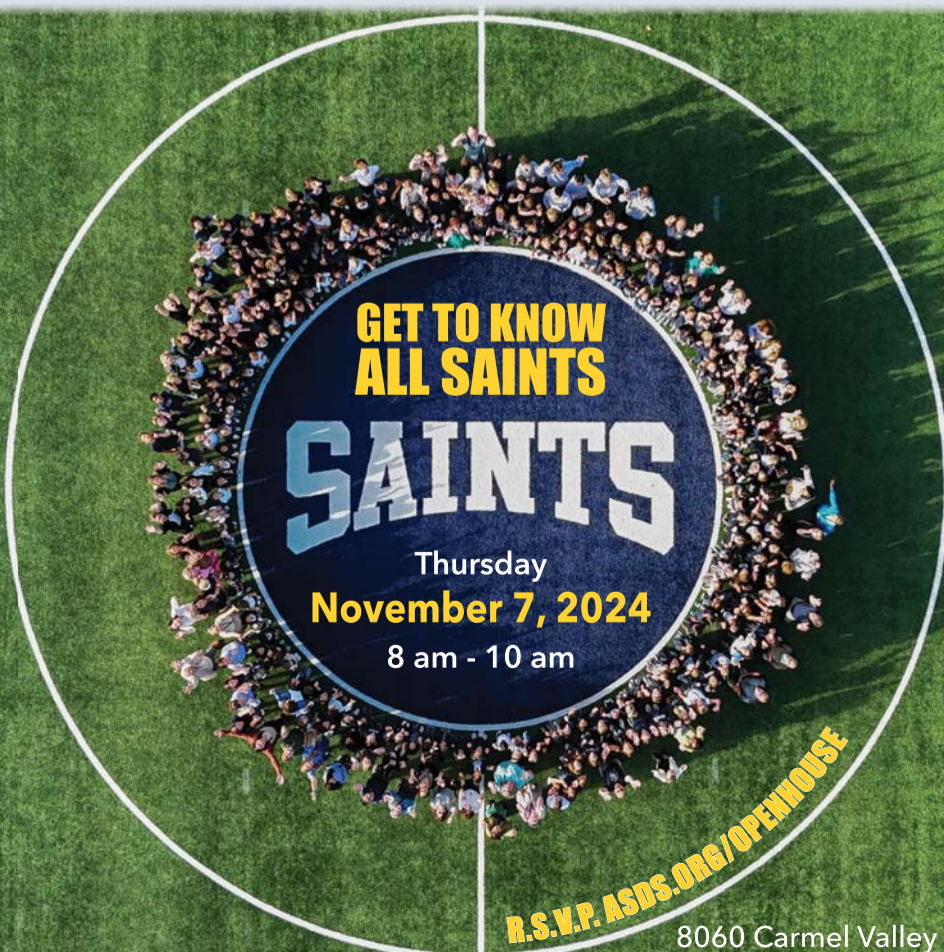
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STUNNING

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offering a variety of dishes, like Hungarian goulash, escargot, classic roast chicken, and ratatouille, among others. There's something for everyone, from pork to steak, to light dishes like salads, grilled meats and fish, and pastas. There's also a wide variety of wood-fired pizzas that are characteristically thin-crust and slightly charred to perfection. The ingredients are sourced locally, and dressings and sauces are made in-house. Don't forget to round out your meal with one of their desserts, like country apple galette (a rustic, free-form pie), fresh lemon pudding cake, or an old-fashioned root beer float. Café Rustica is the perfect place to enjoy the Carmel Valley sun when Carmel-by-the-Sea is socked in fog.

■ Best Restaurant in Pebble Beach

Pèppoli — *In the Inn at Spanish Bay* — (831) 233-3489, pebblebeach.com/dining/peppoli

Does bagpipe music clash with Italian food? Apparently not at Spanish Bay, where the piper appears outdoors at sunset while diners enjoy Tuscan cuisine at Pèppoli. Sit down to a classic Italian dinner after you've golfed a round at Spanish Bay, or any old day, for that matter. Pèppoli comes to us by way of a partnership between the Italian Antinori family — which has been producing wine since 1385 — the Pebble Beach Co., and restaurateur Rich Pèpe.

After you've taken in the nods to Mediterranean décor — golden-hued walls, ornate (but not rococo) chandeliers and subtle floral prints — you'll find the menu is just like what you'd find in Italy, with antipasti, soup and salad, pasta dishes, main dishes, and, of course, dolci (sweets). For starters, enjoy fritto misto, crispy calamari and rock shrimp with a spicy tomato sauce, and deconstructed bruschetta. Pastas include traditional lasagna, pappardelle Bolognese, and pesto rigatoni. The main dishes will have your mouth watering just reading the menu, from grilled fish, to a grilled Florentine-style T-bone steak for two, or traditional osso buco (veal shank). The wine list is excellent, as you might imagine.

■ Best Restaurant in Pacific Grove

Passionfish — *701 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove* — (831) 655-3311, passionfish.net

Known for sustainable seafood and an extensive wine list

at “realistic prices,” according to its website, Passionfish is committed to fresh, local ingredients, farmers and sustainable farms and fisheries. The “Last Hometown” seems like an apt place for a restaurant devoted to quality food, harvested nearby. It was recently purchased by a member of the family that owns The Fishwife in P.G., and they have wisely decided to stick close to the eatery's original vibe, while introducing new special dishes now and then.

Diners' favorites include Nancy's buttery buttermilk biscuit from the starters menu. Gifts from the sea include Dungeness crab salad with avocado, spicy ginger vinaigrette and braised fennel, Alaskan halibut, served with roasted Brussels sprouts, squash, maple pecans, cranberries, lemon-herb oil and many others. If seafood isn't your jam, try the spoon-able 12-hour lamb breast with chickpea and Meyer lemon stew, or the chef's take on classic duck confit served with a honey reduction, smoked chile-potato cake, and grilled broccolini. For dessert, try the organic mint and espresso mud pie or the maple-banana bread pudding, then walk some of that off with a stroll through P.G., where you can take in the Victorian homes or the crashing waves along Ocean View Boulevard.

■ Best Restaurant in Monterey

Stokes Adobe — *500 Hartnell St., Monterey* — (831) 264-8775, stokesadobe.com

Built in 1833 and purchased by James Stokes, a fraudulent “doctor” whose patients died with alarming regularity — though not alarming enough to stop them from seeking his services — Stokes Adobe is said to be haunted by ghosts of former occupants and malpractice victims. Stokes sold it to baker and potter Honore Escolle and it subsequently housed a variety of inhabitants and businesses until 1950, when it became a restaurant. While some locals might think of it as the poster child for restaurant reincarnation (Gallatin's, Stokes, Restaurant 1833), Pine Cone readers say it's back to being the best in town. One of the charming things about this place is the variety of dining room settings and plentiful, comfortable outdoor seating. If they're available, tables in the balcony above the bar are especially fun for people-watching. Food is elegant and straightforward. Starters include crispy potatoes and duck liver mousse. Entrees start at \$34 for cavatelli carbonara, a Roman classic that is damned near magical, featuring handmade pasta tossed with sugar snap peas and pancetta. Fish, chicken and pork are all on offer, and you can get a 7-ounce American wagyu steak or prime porterhouse, too. And there's a lovely happy hour daily in the bar and on the patio from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

■ Best Restaurant in Seaside

Maligne — *600 Broadway, Seaside* — (831) 601-1302, restaurantmaligne.com

Winning again, Maligne is named in honor of a nickname owner Klaus Georis had as a child, and means “clever, sly, or even troublesome,” according to him. Georis — a member of the family that has brought much fine food and good wine to the Peninsula over the decades — seems to enjoy playing with people's expectations. The building and its interior are industrial chic, yet the food comes on pretty china with floral patterns. The neighborhood is more Home Depot than House Beautiful, but the menu is straight out of a French country cookbook. All of it seems to say, “Don't take yourself so seriously.” That does not, however, apply to the food. It's cooked to perfection and presented in a way that's beautiful and accessible — after all, eating shouldn't be like a round of Jenga. Service is excellent, and even simple things like focaccia with the Georis family's estate olive oil become sublime. Morel mushrooms make an appearance in season, served simply with peas and spinach or with pasta, and everything is made with care. You can get a three-course meal for \$40 and up, parking is easy and, if you haven't been there in a while, you'll find that Broadway's been gussied up quite a bit in recent years.

RECREATION AND THE ARTS

■ Best Local Artist

Delia Bradford Fine Arts — *Sixth between San Carlos and Mission* — (831) 601-4957, deliabradford.com

The daughter of two professional artists who spent her childhood on a mountain in Big Sur, Delia has a passion for plein air painting, a style beloved by locals and visitors alike. Using the outdoors — where the natural light provides her with inspiration — as her studio, she creates impressionist landscapes and florals that showcase her passion and vitality for life and for nature. While her paintings are vibrant and colorful, they also exude peace and tranquility. You can visit Delia at her downtown studio, where you can often find her with a brush in hand.

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La Playa Hotel

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

SUPREME

From page 18 GPC

■ Best Local Photographer

Ashley Beem — (805) 801-9054, beemvideo.com

The owner of a videography business and a mother of two children, Ashley began photographing moms, along with their babies and children, in 2007. Since then, she has thrived “capturing the moments that fly by so quickly.”

Ashley focuses her camera on the interactions that occur between parents and their kids — and she keeps them loose. She’s much more interested in seeing them laughing and looking at each other than having them strike a perfect pose. “I like it when they come out of a shoot and say, ‘That was fun,’” she said.

■ Best Photo Gallery

Center for Photographic Art — Sunset Center at San Carlos and Ninth — (821) 625-5181, photography.org

Tracing its roots to the Friends of Photography group that was founded by Ansel Adams and others in the late 1960s, the Center for Photographic Art offers a busy slate of group shows, solo exhibits, receptions, contests and talks. Some shows revive interest in long-forgotten photographic processes from the late 19th century, while other displays push the medium beyond its known limits. The group’s gallery is located at Sunset Center, where executive director Ann Jastrab and a host of volunteers create a welcoming place to celebrate photography.

■ Best Sculpture Gallery

Steven Whyte Gallery — Barnyard shopping center — (831) 620-1917, stevenwhytesculptor.com

The last time sculptor Steven Whyte’s gallery won a Golden Pine Cone, it was located on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth. Today, you can find Whyte working on his large-format sculptures in his studio and gallery in the Barnyard shopping center.

Widely acclaimed for his heroic bronze sculptures that adorn many public spaces in England and the United States, Whyte is known locally for his mystery sculptures which take shape each spring at Devendorf Park during the annual Carmel Art Festival.

■ Best Art Gallery

Gallery MAR Carmel — Dolores between Ocean and Seventh, and Dolores between Fifth and Sixth — (831) 624-2000, gallerymarcarmel.com

Two years after opening on Dolores between Ocean and Seventh, Gallery MAR took home its first Golden Pine Cone for Best Gallery in 2021. Since then, it’s added a second gallery just a short stroll north along Dolores. Gallery MAR specializes in museum-quality contemporary art, representing a distinctive array of national, regional and local artists, including Carmel Valley glass artist Nick Leonoff and painters Beau Frank, Annie Hooker and America Martin.

■ Best Performing Arts Company or Group

Pacific Repertory Theatre — Monte Verde between Eighth and Ninth — (831) 622-0100, pacrep.org

Founded in 1982 by longtime creative director Stephen Moorer, PacRep is the Monterey Peninsula’s premier theater group, producing an array of plays, musicals and concerts. The theater company celebrates the genius of William Shakespeare each year with a festival in his name, kicks off the New

Continues next page



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G O L D E N P I N E C O N E S

From previous page

Year with a rock 'n' roll tribute concert and mentors the next generation of actors through its School of Dramatic Arts. This year, PacRep wrapped up an ambitious \$10 million remodel of the Golden Bough Playhouse.

■ **Best Concert Venue**

Sunset Center — San Carlos between Eighth and 10th — (831) 620-2048, sunsetcenter.org

Owned by the city, Sunset Center attracts world-class talent to its main stage. Once the historic Sunset School, it has been transformed into a state-of-the-art facility with soaring ceilings and excellent acoustics. Over the past year, the theater has hosted a bounty of big-time talent, including shows by Van Morrison and Bonnie Raitt, and concerts presented by local artists like the Monterey Symphony, Chamber Music Monterey Bay, Carmel Music Society and Youth Music Monterey County. Sunset Center is also home to the Carmel Bach Festival, one of the longest-running musical events in the country, and the Marjorie Evans Gallery, which hosts art exhibits.

■ **Best Place to Relax and Listen to Music**

Folktale Winery — 8940 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley — (831) 293-7500, folktalewinery.com

It's difficult to imagine a more perfect garden setting to sip wine and enjoy live music. A sought-after venue for local acoustic musicians, the winery also hosts shows by up-and-coming musical acts from out of town. Featuring stunning views of the Santa Lucia mountains to the south, it was known as Chateau Julien before Gregory Ahn bought it in 2015 and renamed it Folktale. "The name is inspired by the thrill of discovery, the joy of gathering, and the idea that every great bottle of wine holds a story," its website explains.

■ **Best Local Music Group (Classical)**

Aria Women's Choir — ariamonterey.org

Founded in 2012 by conductor Sean Boulware, the choir comprises local women who sing historic and contemporary choral works. In 2015, the group presented a solo concert at Carnegie Hall. Accepting new members through an audition

process, the choir is dedicated to singing new works by women composers. It plays three concerts each year, performs mostly at Pacific Grove Methodist Church and Carmel Presbyterian Church, and is often accompanied by pianist Jon-Mark Hurley. The group presents its next concert Nov. 23 and 24 at Pacific Grove United Methodist Church.

■ **Best Local Music Group (Rock, Jazz and Pop)**

The Bubba Pickens Band — [instagram.com/bubbapickens](https://www.instagram.com/bubbapickens)

Continues next page





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G O L D E N P I N E C O N E S

From previous page

Still the favorites of Pine Cone readers, the somewhat elusive group takes home yet another Golden Pine Cone. Featuring six teachers in its expanded lineup, the band plays mostly bluegrass, with an array of influences like blues, jazz, gospel and folk sprinkled in, along with three-part harmonies. Their set list includes “original tunes, bluegrass takes on rock and pop classics, and heartfelt ballads.” If you want to catch one of their shows, follow their Instagram page.

■ **Best Place to Take Visitors**

Point Lobos State Reserve — Highway 1, 2 miles south of Rio Road — pointlobos.org

Called the “greatest meeting of land and water in the world” by late local painter Francis McComas, Point Lobos State Reserve is a magnet not only for painters and photographers, but for just about anyone who loves the outdoors. Fa-

mous for its rugged coastline, windswept cypress groves and ancient forest of Monterey pines, it’s remarkably accessible, and some of its trails can even accommodate wheelchairs. It’s also home to one of the richest marine environments anywhere — every weekend, scores of scuba divers explore the mysterious world beneath the waves. If you want to show off the best of where we live, Pine Cone readers agree that Point Lobos is the place to do it.

■ **Best Family-Friendly Activity**

Monterey Bay Aquarium — 886 Cannery Row, Monterey — (831) 648-4800, montereybayaquarium.org

Located at the site of a former sardine cannery that John Steinbeck made famous through his writings, the aquarium is one of the world’s best places to see marine life up close. More than 2 million people each year visit the site, where they can learn about the rich and diverse marine life that inhabits Monterey Bay and be dazzled by the spectacle. While everyone crowds around to see the playful sea otters, don’t

miss the “flashy fishes, mesmerizing jellies and swirling sardines.” Penguins and puffins provide adorable distractions, while the multi-story Outer Bay and Kelp Forest exhibits can be calmingly hypnotic. The aquarium offers an educational and entertaining experience for all ages.

■ **Best Local Festival**

West End Celebration — westendcelebration.com

The premier annual street fair in Monterey County, Sand City’s West End Celebration hosts performances by more than two dozen musical acts on three stages. Besides serving up an abundance of live music, the two-day festival features a colorful marketplace of local art and creativity that showcases more than 100 artists and food vendors.

The street fair was established in 2001 by county assessor and music promoter Steve Vagnini, who just stepped down from his role coordinating the event after more than two decades.

■ **Best Church-Sponsored Event**

Jewish Food Festival — 5716 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley — carmelbthisrael.org

Presented yearly by Congregation Beth Israel in Carmel Valley, the Jewish Food Festival shines a spotlight on the many charms of “Jewish Soul Food,” with favorites like hot pastrami, brisket, latkes, blintzes, matzo ball soup and egg creams. Besides tasty food, the festival features “a tantalizing array” of cultural performances, and family-friendly activities. The congregation, meanwhile, is “an inclusive Jewish community open to people of all ages, races, and abilities, welcoming interfaith families, people who are single, and LGBTQ+.”

■ **Best Place to Watch the Sunset**

■ **Best Place to Walk Your Dog**

■ **Best Beach**

Carmel Beach — Ocean and Scenic — ci.carmel.ca.us

With its clean, white sand cooling your toes and a bank of fog framing the horizon, there can’t be many better places to watch the sun sink beneath the waves. Offering easy access at the west end of Ocean Avenue and from several points along Scenic Road, the beach is one of the best ways to spend some time without spending money. It’s also one of the most dog-friendly spots you will ever visit, and leashes are optional, assuming your pooch comes when he’s called. At sunrise and sunset and in between, canines of every imaginable shape and size can be seen dashing and splashing along the shoreline.

But don’t think about starting a beach fire with wood, because it’s against the law, although beach fires sparked by propane-fueled devices are OK. Then, maybe have a picnic — a DIY from Bruno’s Market on Junipero or The Cheese Shop in the Plaza — and simply enjoy the view.

See **PRIMO** page 24 GPC

Thank You!

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

PRIMO

From page 22 GPC

■ **Best Place to Read The Pine Cone**

At home — Hours and service are up to you. We assume you can find it on your own.

Every home, from the humblest of cottages to the largest and most beautiful coastal mansions, looks better with one simple accessory that can be rotated each week to be 100 percent up to date at absolutely no cost to you — a copy of The Carmel Pine Cone.

Not only does having this week's issue in your abode immediately enhance your surroundings, but the quality of the beverages, the service and the ambiance are all in your hands. And if the coffee isn't hot enough, you know where to find the microwave.

■ **Best Hiking Trail**

Garland Park — 700 W. Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley — mprpd.org/garland-ranch-regional-park

Technically not a trail, but packed with lots of them, Garland Ranch Regional Park is the granddaddy of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District — the first of the district's park acquisitions. Garland Ranch Regional Park was purchased in 1975 from William Garland II, who the district said, "generously gifted a portion of the cost by reducing the purchase price to below fair market value." From the tree-lined banks of the Carmel River, through the open, flat area of the old floodplain, dog- and bike-friendly Garland is home to a variety of landscapes at elevations from 200 to 2,000 feet above sea level and a labyrinth of trails you'll delight in discovering. "Along the way, you will travel through maple-filled canyons, dense oak woodlands, and thick stands of chaparral. Garzas Creek gently bisects the park and provides a peaceful, shaded trail that reaches a secluded side canyon of redwoods," the park district says. It's a beautiful place to watch the subtle change of the seasons — who says we don't have seasons here? And, if you pay attention, you might even see some deer or turkeys.

■ **My Favorite Park**

Devendorf Park — Ocean and Junipero — ci.carmel.ca.us/post/parks-1

Devendorf Park has long been Carmel-by-the-Sea's main gathering place. Whether it's an art festival, the farmers market, the annual Christmas tree lighting, or one of myriad other community events, it's the place to be. J. Frank Devendorf, known as the "Father of Carmel-By-the-Sea" gave the land for the park to the city and a bust of him can be found there. There are plaques honoring those who gave their lives in World War II, and those who fought in Korea and Vietnam, as well as part of a beam salvaged from the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The lawn is neatly manicured and trees provide ample shade as koi swim placidly in a small pond. It's the perfect place to bring a sandwich from Bruno's or Nielsen Bros. Market and read a book. In what must be the exception that proves the city's pet-friendly rule, though, dogs are not allowed.

■ **Best Fitness/Health Center**

Carmel Valley Athletic Club — 27300 Rancho San Carlos Road, Carmel Valley — (831) 624-2737, cvalife.com

Established more than half a century ago, Carmel Valley Athletic Club gives members just about everything they need to reach their health and fitness goals (provided they actually show up and work out, of course), while providing a sense of community. CVAC offers state-of-the-art fitness equipment to help you stay in shape, as well as group exercise classes, personal training services and social events, including weekend drop-in tennis. A two-story fitness center, 50-plus weekly group exercise classes, a heated 25-yard lap and recreation pool, family and adult hot tubs, social activities for adults and kids, childcare, and a bocce ball court are among CVAC's offerings. The cafe serves fresh and healthy options for gym-goers, from veggie wraps, to smoothies and the best sweet potato fries with saffron aioli (all right, not the most virtuous snack, but hey, you just worked out), and much more, including daily specials.

■ **Best Yoga Studio**

Om Studios — 631 B Cass St., Monterey — (831) 480-9293, omoasis.com

Om Studios is a locally owned yoga and fitness studio offering something for everyone, from yoga, to Pilates, to barre — which combines the first two disciplines with ballet for low-impact, full-body exercise sessions. Om Studios opened in 2008 and offers "all levels of classes that range from warm and sweaty to slow-down and chill-out," according to its website. The menu includes intro-level Pilates and more advanced sessions, as well as heated flow yoga, yoga sculpt, and yoga nidra — a guided meditation, often referred to as "yogic sleep," with no prior yoga experience required.

Continues next page



2024

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Monday-Thursday 1PM-6PM & Friday-Sunday 1PM-7PM

GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

Best Golf Course

Pebble Beach Golf Links — 1700 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach — (831) 574-5609, pebblebeach.com

Pebble Beach Golf Links is voted in again as a readers' favorite, which is not a surprise, considering it's a universal favorite among golfers everywhere. Boasting more than a century of top-notch golf with breathtaking views, the links opened for play in 1919. Who wouldn't want to walk in the footsteps of Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and a host of legendary players, not to mention the celebrities who've appeared during the Crosby Clambake, now known as the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. Since Bing brought the tourney here in 1947, it's been played by presidents, show business A-listers, professional athletes from other sports and corporate bigwigs, although the PGA recently revamped it to make it more focused on pro golfing and less on celebrity antics. Rated the No. 1 public course in the United States by pretty much everyone and steeped in history like no other American course, Pebble Beach hosted its sixth U.S. Open in 2019 — more than any other location over the last five decades. Four more U.S. Opens are on the books for 2027, 2032, 2037 and 2044. In 2023, it hosted its first U.S. Women's Open, with plans for three more in 2035, 2040 and 2048.

Best Museum

Monterey Museum of Art — 559 Pacific St., Monterey — (831) 372-5477, montereyart.org

The Monterey Museum of Art was founded in 1959, and, according to its website, "cultivates curiosity in the visual arts and engages community with the diversity of California art — past, present, and future." The museum's vision is "a collaborative cen-

ter where art and community engage" — and engage it does. In addition to offering 15 to 20 exhibits annually, the museum regularly hosts community events for the whole family to enjoy, including kid-friendly tours, artist workshops such as a "Spooky Owl Illustration" and "afternoons with the curator." Year-round First Fridays offer free after-hours access to the museum with music and socializing. Even after it closes for the day, art lovers can sit on a welcoming bench in the mural garden and enjoy a book or simply revel in the presence of nature and beauty.

Best Library

Harrison Memorial Library — NE Ocean and Lincoln — (831) 624-4629, ci.carmel.ca.us/library

"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need," Cicero said, long before Carmel was founded. Harrison Memorial Library has books and a garden, checking both boxes for great attractions. Opened in 1928, the building was designed and built by local wunderkind Michael J. Murphy in consultation with renowned California architect Bernard Maybeck. It was financed by a bequest from Ella Reid Harrison as a memorial to her husband, California Supreme Court Justice Ralph Chandler Harrison, who, oddly, never lived in the city.

In 1992, the library began to rely solely on private gifts for books, supplies, electronic resources and computer equipment. Today, it says private support "has become the foundation of the library's free public services." In addition to books and a beautifully manicured garden, the library offers many community resources and lectures, as well as the opportunity to borrow a day-use pass to California State Parks. (If you can't get enough of the online archives on The Pine Cone's website, you can find the rest of the newspaper's 100-plus years through the library's website, too.)

Continues next page

THANK YOU

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See Steven Whyte's local public works:

John Madden Memorial

Bruno's Market, Carmel-by-the-Sea

Dennis Caprara Memorial

Swiss Rifle Club of Monterey County, Gonzales

Michael Marotta Memorial

Alvarado Street, Monterey

National Monument to John Steinbeck and Cannery Row

Cannery Row, Monterey

'St. Anthony and Child'

Carmel Mission Basilica, Carmel

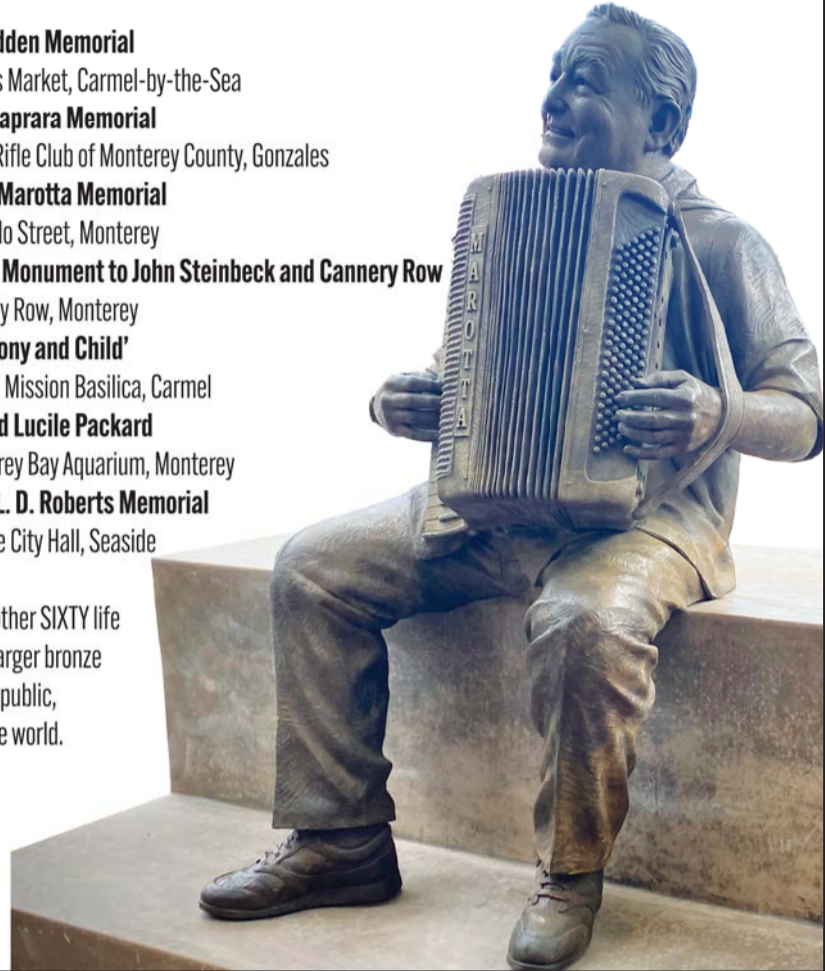
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OCEAN AVENUE, 5 NE LINCOLN STREET, CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

From previous page

carmelgardeninn.com

■ Best Inn/B&B

Carmel Garden Inn —
Fourth and Torres — (831) 624-6926,

Carmel Garden Inn has once again been voted by Pine Cone readers as the Best Inn/B&B around. Everything about this place is quaint and screams — or delicately whispers — “Carmel-by-the-Sea.” With a charm-

ing garden setting surrounding 10 cozy guest rooms offering wood-burning fireplaces, what’s not to love? Guests enjoy the breakfasts, especially the homemade granola and summer vegetable frittatas. The inn offers complimentary wine and cheese in the afternoon to top off a day of stress-free vacationing or staycationing. Just three blocks from Ocean Avenue, Carmel Garden Inn is walking distance from downtown and Carmel Beach, where you can watch the sunset or enjoy a stroll with your pooch, who is welcome at the inn’s designated pet-friendly rooms. Staff members can recommend a pet sitter so Mom and Dad can have some alone time, too.

■ Best Hotel

La Playa Hotel — Camino Real and Eighth — (800) 582-8900, laplayahotel.com

In 1905, artist Christian Jorgensen began building a stone mansion as a gift to his wife, Angela, heiress to the Ghirardelli Chocolate fortune. Converted to a full-service hotel in 1922, La Playa is an historic Carmel fixture fully equipped with timeless and modern amenities. Not far from Carmel Beach — your Favorite Beach and the Best Place to Walk Your Dog — La Playa is within an easy stroll of almost everything Carmel has to offer. Not only that, but there are plush platform beds, a complimentary Champagne brunch, and spacious gardens with a heated pool. Other amenities include a wine and sangria reception in the afternoon, freshly baked chocolate chip cookies in the evening, and live music in Bud’s, its bar, on select evenings.

With a \$20 million renovation that included all 75 rooms completed just last year, the inn’s promise of “informal elegance with premium amenities” seems eminently attainable. Locals can frequently be found enjoying cocktails and light bites at Bud’s on the terrace. The next time you have out-of-town guests, our readers recommend you put them up at La Playa, or enjoy a staycation yourself.

RETAIL

■ Best Florist

Burst + Bloom — 238 Crossroads Blvd. — (831) 625-8111

Beneath a sign that reads, “Make it Simple but Significant,” floral artist Lauren Orman studies a blossom, picks a couple of leaves from the stem and lets them fall to the cement floor. Then she adds the flower to the table bouquets she’s making for a wedding reception, all similar but not quite the same. Orman, the owner of Burst & Bloom, creates custom floral designs — festive or fancy but not fussy. Many of the blooms are sourced from local gardens. “I appreciate so many different things about working with flowers,” Orman said. “I love working with a perishable product. I love that I am making something artistic, sculptural, but it’s also completely ephemeral. I like that I have to understand timing and surrender to it. Floral design is a completely Zen practice; I can’t get too attached to the product.”

■ Best Furniture Store

Mum’s Place — 246 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove — (831) 372-6250, mumsfurniture.com

Step into Mum’s, and you’ll find a showroom filled with a wide range of furniture styles, plus accessories and objets d’art. For nearly 40 years, Mum’s has been dedicated to bringing in a wide variety of designs to satisfy locals’ needs, tastes, and budgets. “Design and quality are important, but so is value,” said owners Mugo and Talin Tersakyan. “Our vision is to bring in the latest and enduring designs at accessible prices. Among classic, transitional, country French, and contemporary collections at Mum’s Place, clients can customize their choices with more than 80 furniture lines and some 5,000 fabrics.

See AMAZING page 29 GPC

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The Golden Pine Cones



October 25, 2024

AMAZING

From page 26 GPC

■ Best Golf Shop

Pebble Beach Pro Shop — 1700 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach — (831) 622-8723, pebblebeach.com

Pebble Beach Golf Links is known the world over for its championship pedigree and breathtaking views, and while these attributes draw guests to the resort from around the globe, it is the friendly staff of the Pebble Beach pro shop who are there to welcome first-timers and returning guests alike. Each round played on the famed course is unique to the player, but one thing all of them share is a warm welcome and a welcome back after they hole out on the iconic par-5 18th.

Each morning, the team is up with the sun and there until well after the final group has teed off. Whether it's an extra towel, a warm sweater or a few calming words of encouragement before a golfer heads out to the 1st Tee, the Pebble Beach pro shop staff lives up to the same world-class standard as the course itself.

■ Best Hardware Store

Ace Hardware — 290 Crossroads Blvd., 401 Mid Valley Center, Carmel Valley, and 229 Forest Ave. and 1136 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove — (831) 293-8050, (831) 250-5666, (831) 372-3284, (831) 646-9144, acehardware.com

Imagine a Saturday afternoon when you've brought home a special piece of art from one of the local galleries, and you want to hang it immediately — but you don't have the right hook. Or, less aesthetically, you've discovered a plumbing problem that you know would be an easy fix if you just had the right stuff. Whether it's duct tape, WD40 or some other antidote, Ace Hardware has you covered. Although each store is a member of the largest retailer-owned hardware cooperative in the business, these shops, locally owned and managed,

give customers a sense of being where everybody knows your name, but with the benefit of a big business. In an era when it's hard to find specialized service or even someone to work the register, a company that says, "Ace is the place with the helpful hardware folks," invites confidence.

■ Best Housewares Store

Shoshin — San Carlos between Fifth and Sixth — (831) 877-6300, shopshoshin.com

Shoshin owner Alexis Smith named her interior design studio and shop after the concept of "Beginner's Mind" from Zen Buddhism as a reminder to herself and her clients and customers that an openness to new ideas can yield exciting design discoveries. Since being selected 2022's Best New Business by our readers, Shoshin has quickly grown a devoted customer base to its mix of new and vintage housewares and furnishings, which features an ever-evolving array of unique and high-quality items. Whether it's colorful throw pillow for the bedroom or a whole new look for your dining room, Smith offers sound advice and exceptional products to bring your vision to life.

■ Best Pet Store

Diggidy Dog — NE Corner of Ocean at Monte Verde — (831) 625-1585, diggidydog.com

It only makes sense, in a canine-centric community, to have a dedicated dog boutique. Since 2003, the shop has catered to canines but also focuses on felines, providing unique, functional, and healthy products for dogs — and cats. While its primary focus is on the animals, a lot of what the shop sells delights people as much as — if not more than — it does their pets. Diggidy Dog's wide array of quality treats, toys, apparel, collars and leashes is sure to satisfy the most discerning dog or finicky feline — and their person. Yet surely the biggest attraction are two Westies, plus an English cream golden retriever. The trio are shop dogs who just might make this the happiest store in town.

■ Best Garden Shop

Griggs Nursery — 9220 W. Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley — (831) 626-0680, griggsnursery.com

Gardeners have long known that digging your hands into the soil has a centering, nurturing effect. Locals count on Griggs Nursery for houseplants and succulents, seasonal annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, to plant in the places where they spend their days.

For more than 20 years, Griggs Nursery has been thriving in Carmel Valley, helping to improve the local landscape, one plant at a time.

"We know what works here, so we can grow the variety and quality we want for our customers," said Catherine Griggs. With the recent purchase of Suncrest Nursery in Watsonville, a 60-acre growing ground dedicated to interesting and exciting California natives and other low-water plants, Ken and Catherine Griggs are cultivating a larger variety of offerings, which they bring into the nursery weekly to the surprise and delight of customers.

The only thing more important to a growing business than the plants, they said, is their dedicated, long-time staff.

■ Best Place to Buy Athletic Wear

The Treadmill — 111 Crossroads Blvd. — (831) 624-4112, thetreadmill.com

For more than 40 years, The Treadmill in the Crossroads shopping center has been the embodiment of a friendly, community-driven, trustworthy locally owned business that supports and anchors the active community in and around Carmel, Carmel Valley, Big Sur, Pebble Beach, Pacific Grove and Monterey. These special communities are best experienced outside of a car on a trail or footpath, and the folks here not only will help you find the best footwear for your chosen activity, but it will help you to keep cozy with the right gloves, hat and jacket.

Continues next page



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G O L D E N P I N E C O N E S

From previous page

Since 1983, the family-owned and operated location has been known to locals as the place to find premier clothing and ath-

letic footwear brands. After talking with the shop's experienced and knowledgeable staff, it becomes clear why, year after year, Carmel Pine Cone readers have voted The Treadmill as the "go-to place" for everything you need to support your healthy lifestyle.

■ **Best Pharmacy**

Carmel Drug Store — *Ocean between Dolores and San Carlos – (831) 624-3819, carmeldrugstore.com*

Independently owned and serving the community since 1910, Carmel's classic drug store and family pharmacy invites you to "shop back in time." Known for giving high-school kids their first jobs, the pharmacy also is renowned for providing both quality products and service. This drugstore just might be the most convenient stop in town. Located in the heart of Carmel, its narrow storefront is chock-full of everything folks might need or maybe forgot on their way into the village. The back of the shop looks like the old-fashioned pharmacy it is, yet it provides state-of-the-art products, including veterinary medicines for pets.

The front of the store offers greeting cards, postcards and books by local authors. You can find high-end bath and body products, including Mason Pearson hairbrushes, made by hand in England, and Bonny Doon Farm's soaps, salves and lotions in soothing lavender and invigorating lemon verbena. If only the place had a soda fountain, it would complete the nostalgic experience.

■ **Best Children's Clothing Store/Boutique**

Starchild — *Ocean between Mission and San Carlos – (831) 625-0300*

Owner Kerith Harrison stepped through the welcoming double doors into Starchild this past February, and has enjoyed getting to know neighborhood supporters and visitors alike of this treasured, local boutique. A partnership with "Heaven A Child's Boutique" on Lincoln, both boutiques are designed for the customer who seeks quality and style for their little ones.

"Both children's boutiques were started more than 20 years ago by the VasANJI Fam-

ly," Harrison said. "Since then, Starchild has been delighting children, from newborn up to age 8, as well as the adults who dress them. We are grateful for the support and recognition this award brings." Starchild attracts children with their collection of world-renowned Jellycat plush toys and welcomes adult customers past the landmark red geraniums into the welcoming world of adorable children's apparel and shoes. It's as if you've wandered into the custom wardrobe of a favored child. Perhaps yours.

■ **Best Men's Clothing Store**

Khakis of Carmel — *Carmel Plaza, Ocean and Mission – (831) 625-8106, khakisofcarmel.com*

Jim and Connie Ockert and their team at Khakis of Carmel have created what is considered the finest men's store in America — but, of course, our readers were already hip to the outstanding quality and selection there, not to mention the service. Offering the very best in luxury menswear, Khakis offers an incredible selection of men's clothing from Europe and especially Italy, including made-to-measure and bespoke garments, and a sportswear collection that includes Isaia, Canali, Pescarola, Eleventy, and Maurizio Baldassari, as well as fabrics from Loro Piana, Holland & Sherry, Ariston and customer favorite Peter Millar. Trained stylists help to create and define each customer's personal look. "We travel the globe to search for unusual handmade luxury menswear products," said Jim Ockert, "which emphasizes our own aesthetic for the modern man."

■ **Best Men's Shoe Store**

Hedi's Shoes — *Ocean and Mission (additional locations at 3630 The Barnyard, and 330 Alvarado St. and Del Monte Shopping Center in Monterey) – (831) 624-5580*

See SUPERLATIVE page 32 GPC

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SUPERLATIVE

From page 30 GPC

Haydar "Hedi" Movahedi opened his first Carmel shoe store more than 30 years ago. Since then, he's cobbled together comfort, quality, convenience, and cool, paired with customer service from experienced staff who understand fit, form, and function. Walking is a preferred mode of transportation around here, and Hedi's goal is to make sure customers feel just as good as they look as they stroll along Scenic Road or enjoy brunch at the Mission Ranch. Featured among various brands offering dressy, casual, or rough-wear shoes, are Ecco, Pikolinos, Mephisto, Paul Greene, HOKA, Birkenstock, NAOT, Ara, Dansko, Joseph Seibel, Rieker, Remonte, Olukei, and Finn Comfort, plus a complement of Kühl clothing and accessories.

■ Best Women's Clothing Boutique

Debra C — 129 Crossroads Blvd. — (831) 624-9400, debrac.com

Debra Couch, clad in a cashmere twinset over a slim pant, pulled together with a fabulous alligator belt, makes it look easy. It is, she says, particularly if you shop at Debra C, her eponymous boutique of European designer apparel for women. She started with a store in Beverly Hills in 1997. Then, in 2012, she opened a second store at the Crossroads shopping center.

The important thing, she says, is whether you are looking at the many French and Italian collections exclusive to Debra C, or even its own private label, you don't have to look any further. "It's all about the way it's put together to give the total chic, elegant look. And we pride ourselves on great customer service, thanks to our wonderful, talented staff."

■ Best Resale/Consignment Shop

■ Best Women's Accessories

■ Best Place to Buy Designer Clothes

Foxy Couture Carmel — San Carlos 2SW of Fifth — (831) 625-9995, foxycouturecarmel.com

Since 1991, Susan Galvin has recycled vintage and contemporary designer clothing into a business which, more than 10 years ago, became Foxy Couture Carmel, a sustainable luxury, designer, and vintage consignment store. "We are sustainable because everything in our store is pre-owned," she said. "We recycle and repurpose timeless products from design houses whose allure typically doesn't change that much. These luxury fabrics and designs have been gently worn or not at all." Galvin takes pride in the special things she sleuths out all over the world. "We are honored to receive this award from The Carmel Pine Cone, the cornerstone, along with the Carmel Library, of our community," she said.

■ Best Women's Shoe Store

Lloyd's Shoes — Ocean and Dolores — (831) 625-1382, lloydsshoes.com

If you want to know what shoes are in this season, check out what Lloyd's owner Tess Calhoon is wearing. Perhaps her Chic Mihara super-cool platform bootie — her favorite style is back in stock. Crafted in Elda, Spain, the brand's bestseller in Europe feels very fashion forward and edgy. Calhoon prefers to pair them with kick-flair or straight-leg jeans; although "Emily in Paris" design might draw attention with a flirty little dress.

On other days, Calhoon and pretty much her entire staff slip on one of her newest brands, Oncept, which she calls the perfect convergence of fashion and comfort. The company, based in New York City, uses the softest materials to make sneakers that are versatile, flexible and lightweight. "I'm most excited that my absolute favorite, the White Cloud 5, is back in stock after almost a year," Calhoon said. "The best travel shoe, it's lightweight, comfortable, and great for walking. For me, running after a 3-year-old, it's an absolute must. I wear them daily."

■ Best Vintage Clothing Store

SPCA Benefit Shop — 26364 Carmel Rancho Lane — (831) 624-4211 — spcamc.org/how-to-help/benefit-shop.html

Imagine finding a pair of mint-condition vintage boots, a gently worn jacket, and just-your-size jeans for less than the cost of a tank of gas and knowing your money will be used to support the compassionate treatment of animals through rescue, rehabilitation, protection and education via SPCA Monterey County. Recalling the hundreds of animals it placed during the pandemic and rescued during wildfires, it seems all that cool clothing supports a pretty nifty cause.

■ Best Jewelry Store

Fourtané Jewelers — Ocean and Lincoln — (831) 624-4684 — fourtane.com

Every piece has a story, and the person who wears this

Continues next page

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

shop's estate jewelry will write the next chapter. Sandy and John Bonifas, who purchased Fourtané Jewelers in the 1980s, have maintained the intimate, friendly and personalized atmosphere customers have appreciated since its inception in 1950. Although it's one of the country's leading providers of estate jewelry and watches, more important than the pieces, said John Bonifas, "are our dedicated, long-term employees and the relationships we build with our customers from all over the world. Especially in what has become such an impersonal business environment." People buy these pieces not because they need them, he said, but because of the moments and memories they create.

Best Shopping Center

Carmel Plaza — Ocean and Mission — (831) 624-0138, carmelplaza.com

With so much to offer, it's no wonder Carmel Plaza reached a wide diversity of voters. Nestled in the heart of downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea is Monterey Peninsula's premier shopping and dining destination with more than 40 clothing shops, distinctive restaurants, gourmet boutiques, wine-tasting rooms, wellness studios, and more. Carmel Plaza truly is the destination for the best of everything, and it's all in a sheltered outdoor setting where just sitting and watching people is a favorite way to pass the time. No wonder it's this year's recipient of the Golden Pine Cone for Best Shopping Center.

Shop at stores and boutiques including Anthropologie, Tiffany & Co., and Khakis of Carmel. Dine on an assortment of tasty cuisines from eateries like Flying Fish Grill, Pâtisserie Boissiere, Nicolás Cocina de Herencia, and Dutch Door Donuts. Sip and savor wines from three notable tasting rooms or enjoy a beer from Alvarado Street Brewery & Bistro. Head into Lula's Chocolates and Car-

mel Honey Company for the perfect sweet treat. Grab a cup of coffee from Cafe Luna or Rise & Roam. Enjoy virtual golf and live entertainment at the Links Club. And don't forget to stop by The Cheese Shop, a destination for many locals and visitors, renowned for its extensive fine cheese selection for more than 35 years.

Best Antique Shop

Wittpenn's Antiques — San Carlos between Seventh and Eighth (831) 624-1336, wittpensantiques.com

This place definitely warrants wandering, plus patience and attention to detail. At Wittpenn's Antiques, there is so much to see and something for everyone to discover. Owned by Chip and Kathy Wittpenn, this treasure trove is a short stroll from Ocean Avenue, near Sunset Center. Even the windows of this little gem feature enough eye-catching collectibles to keep shoppers occupied for a while. Browse a wide selection of antiques and specialty items, including sterling silver, furniture, books, vintage music instruments and more. After 19 years in Carmel, Wittpenn's Antiques thanks Carmel and all the customers who make this a fun, special place to be!

Best Bookstore

River House Books — 208 Crossroads Blvd. — (831) 626-2665

River House books is the go-to local bookstore for people of all ages looking for that special read. Nature lovers, chefs and hobbyists praise its selection of nonfiction, how-to and guidebooks. Teens appreciate the youth fiction selection, and there are picture books for reading aloud to grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Those who need a fix of news from around the world welcome its

Continues next page



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G O L D E N P I N E C O N E S

From previous page

robust stock of foreign and domestic magazines and newspapers. River House books is a repeat Golden Pine Cone winner for good

reason: It offers its customers what massive online retailers will never be able to — the chance to browse and hold a brand-new book before purchasing it. The staff has a soft spot for local authors, and you'll frequently find one or more of them there, signing copies

of their latest releases. A family-owned, independent bookseller, River House offers a comprehensive selection of works, from the classics to architecture to gardening. Its employees are highly knowledgeable, friendly and happy to help.

tional selection of hard to find, eclectic, and bespoke automobiles," it says on its website, adding that "having such a selection" makes it "even easier to get your dream car, regardless of where you live." The shop also has certified preowned cars, retired loaners and demo vehicles. And it will service every Porsche make and model, "from the earliest air-cooled 356's, to the rarest super cars such as 959, Carrera GT, 918, all the way up to the newest and most technologically advanced models."



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<p>SPCA Benefit Shop 26364 Carmel Rancho Lane, Carmel near the Barnyard Shopping Village 831-624-4211 Open Mon-Sat 10-4 • Sun 12-4</p>	<p>SPCA Monterey County 1002 Monterey Salinas Highway Salinas, CA 93908 831-373-2631 Open for adoptions daily, 11-5</p>
--	---

■ **Best Bike Shop**

Mad Dogs & Englishmen — SW Ocean and Mission, and 400 Cannery Row, Monterey — (805) 837-0033, maddogsandenglishmen.com

This comprehensive bike shop with locations in downtown Carmel and Cannery Row is perhaps best known for its sales and rentals of the adorable bicycle sidecars that carry dogs and children around town. It's always a joyful sight to see furry friends, sometimes adorned in goggles, riding shotgun in the customized sidecars, which are ordered from Europe.

But Mad Dogs & Englishmen also carries a full complement of bicycle brands and types, from electric models, to beach cruisers. They also rent bikes and offer guided tours from both locations. And they have a full array of bike repair and tune-up services, including free service for life with a bicycle purchase and annual service memberships for those who put the miles on their wheels. Interested in trying a new bike style? Check one out by renting first. Or just drop by the Carmel flagship's coffee bar to see what's new.

■ **Best Car Dealer**

Porsche Monterey — 1781 Del Monte Blvd., Seaside — (831) 920-0744, porschemonterey.com

If you'd like to own one of the automobile industry's most prestigious marques, Porsche Monterey's got it. The business sells the German manufacturer's most popular models as well as one-of-a-kind and custom cars. "Porsche Monterey offers an excep-

■ **Best Gas Station**

■ **Best Auto Repair Shop**

Lemos 76 — 544 Carmel Rancho Blvd. — (831) 624-2925, lemos76.com

Whether you want to fill up your car before heading to Big Sur or are in need of a repair, Lemos 76 — a repeat Golden Pine Cone winner in both categories — has it all. The family-owned and operated station is a local fixture. "Since 1961, we've been doing our business the exact same way: with integrity and a handshake that counts," owner Ron Lemos says in response to online reviews and praise. "Our gas station and Better Business Bureau-accredited garage specializes in full-service auto maintenance and repair. From a simple oil change to changing belts, we do work on every make, year, and model with the same integrity we've held since opening our doors on Day 1." Lemos also has a stocked snack shop serving yummy sandwiches from Bruno's Market in Carmel and irresistible donuts from Red's Donuts in Seaside.

■ **Best Carwash**

El Estero Car Wash — 590 Fremont St., Monterey — (831) 373-1801, elesterocarwash.com

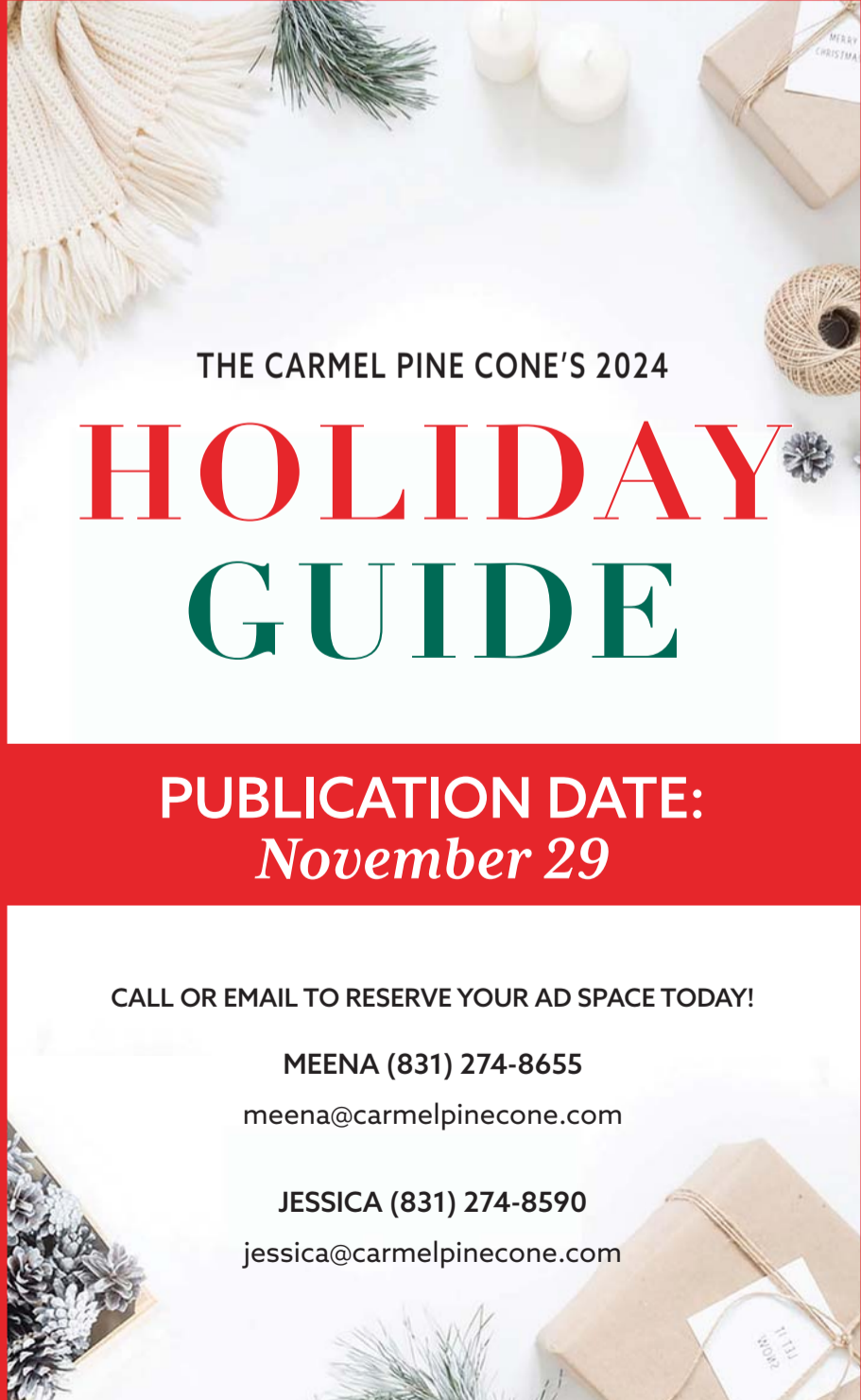
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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

El Estero Car Wash has been repeatedly voted Best Car Wash over the years by Carmel Pine Cone readers, who take their rides pretty darned seriously. And it's not just you — the business displays numerous awards of excellence and official accolades from local leaders. Its employees provide thorough, professional, cheerful service every time. When it comes to the wash itself, El Estero uses something called Envirosoft Foam," which the business says is made from a "high quality microcellular closed-cell foam," a "significant development" for cleaning vehicles because it's gentle on their finishes.

"El Estero also offers numerous interior and exterior detailing services, such as waxing with clay treatment, headlight renewal to make those dull and cloudy headlights bright again, and carpet shampoo and leather and vinyl seat conditioning." Browse the shop with greeting cards and more than 170 different air fresheners while you wait.

Best Place for Brides to Shop

Epiphany Bridal Boutique — Mission between Fifth and Sixth — (831) 626-7200, epiphany-boutique.com

Setting out to buy a bridal gown is either the most thrilling or the most stressful shopping trip of someone's life — or maybe it's a little of both. But you need someone calm, knowledgeable and professional to hedge your bets in favor of blissful browsing, and our readers recommend Epiphany Bridal Boutique.

Calling itself the area's "premier bridal" shop, it offers the latest styles in wedding gowns, bridesmaids' dresses, outfits for mothers-of-the-bride and flower girls, as well as Carmel's largest selection of prom dresses and gowns for any formal occasion. Epiphany's staff provides personalized service to everyone who comes in, asking for details such as event location, time of year and formality, to recommend the right look and fabric. Or, book a personal shopping appointment to find the right dress to feel your best on that special occasion. They also offer customized alterations and can fit almost any dress style to any body — taking in shoulders, waists, adding fabric or taking it away as needed — no adjustment is too challenging. The Carmel business — which also has a shop in San Luis Obispo — carries a wide variety of accessories, too. Its online blog offers tips and advice for your special occasion,

Continues next page

Carmel Plaza
Downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea



Voted Best Shopping Center 2024



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| Bottega Veneta | Land & Sea Golf | Tiffany & Co. |
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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

and you can glimpse some local brides on its Instagram feed.

■ Best Gift Shop

Ami Carmel — Dolores between Fifth and Sixth — (831) 620-1600, amicarmel.com

Ami Carmel has been voted Best Gift Shop over and over since it opened in 2021. Owned by Annee Martin, the store offers jewelry, artwork, gift cards, accessories, tabletop and home décor and even clothing. “To present things to people in a beautiful way, create experiences for people, and give back to the community, is our collective mission,” Martin says on the website. A longtime hospitality professional, Martin believes in providing positive experiences for customers. Ami Carmel holds community events, including taking part in book signings or celebrations of local artists. The store is relaxed, friendly, and offers treats for your pet as part of the shopping experience.

■ Best Candy Shop

Lula’s Chocolates — Carmel Plaza and 224 Crossroads Blvd. — (831) 624-5852, (831) 626-3327, lulaschocolates.com

Locally made, owned and operated since 2006, Lula’s Chocolates have become the Monterey Peninsula’s celebratory candy for special occasions and year-round. As owner Scott Lund says, he decided to start his business in the scenic Carmel area, because it’s always “chocolate weather” here. Lula’s Chocolates is named for Lund’s grandmother, who taught him candy-making. Lula’s truffles, chocolates, toffee and special holiday-themed confections are sold at many local stores, but you should also pop into its retail stores for occasional sales. Lula’s is also popular throughout the region, sold by many local vendors on the Monterey Penin-

sula, as well as in grocery stores along the West Coast. You can also shop at the factory in Ryan Ranch near Monterey Regional Airport.

■ Best Carpet and Flooring Store

Carpets & Floors — 471 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey — (831) 372-2300, carpetsandfloorsmonterey.com

With a large selection of flooring, from carpet, to hardwood to luxury vinyl tile, Carpets & Floors in Monterey means there’s no need to go to a big-box home improvement store. “We are pleased to present an extensive collection of the finest floor coverings made,” Carpets & Floors’ website says. “And we are dedicated to helping you find a solution to your flooring needs. Our collection is based on what we believe are some of the most important things to consider when dressing floors — quality, durability and sustainability.” The business is proud of its staff, saying they’re top-notch and more than willing to help. It’s also a no-pressure kind of place. “May we invite you to visit our showroom to see, touch and learn about our wonderful flooring options? The collection is large — feel free to take your time, browse, ask questions, take home samples, ask for a floor design consultation and/or an expert measure,” Carpets & Floors says. “Most of all, please enjoy.”

■ Best New Business

Wally’s — San Carlos 3 SW of Fifth — (831) 224-7075, wallys-cbts.com

New on the Carmel scene with a niche market is Wally’s, specializing in men’s vintage clothing. The shop carries specialty duds, particularly outerwear, and some unisex and women’s items. Classic early 49ers

Continues next page

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2024



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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

bomber jacket? Check. Black leather moto jacket? Check. Label golf shirts? Check. They prefer to purchase gently used menswear collections and do not accept consignments. In true Carmel fashion, the shop is named for “a family dog that is well-loved, long-lasting and made in the USA, much like many of the items we carry.”

SERVICES AND HEALTHCARE

- Best Real Estate Company
- Best Place to Work

Carmel Realty Company — Dolores south of Seventh and eight other offices — (831) 622-1000, carmelrealtycompany.com

It’s no wonder that Pine Cone readers recommend Carmel Realty if you want to buy or sell a home. After all, its reputation in the community spans four generations, so readers know that these folks understand the ins and outs of the market. The longevity of Carmel’s oldest real estate company is no accident. Operating for more than a century on the principles of integrity, strong work ethic, teamwork, collaboration, communication, and customer service has created an exceptional work environment for a crack team of agents, brokers and employees. Carmel Realty takes mentoring seriously, making sure each of the firm’s agents is equipped to provide great service.

Up-to-date approaches and robust advertising campaigns enhance the company’s relationship with the community and help employees excel at their jobs, while also helping clients to sell their homes or find exactly the right new place, whether it’s for a young family, retirees who are downsizing, or anyone who just wants a special spot in paradise. And, as the firm’s website says, “We look

forward to demonstrating our exceptional abilities and our commitment to quality for decades to come.”

■ Best Place to Volunteer

SPCA Monterey County — 1002 Monterey Salinas Highway, Salinas — (831) 373-2631, spcamc.org

Any animal lover can find a volunteer role at the Monterey County SPCA, an independent non-profit animal welfare organization serving more than 12,000 animals a year. Volunteers outnumber employees 4-to-1, with more than 350 who are critical to the nonprofit’s day-to-day operations. A dozen different volunteer opportunities include being a foster friend, working in the Carmel benefit shop, assisting in the veterinary or wildlife rescue clinics, or helping with community outreach and special events. The “doggy-day-out,” “pawjama parties” and “hug-a-pet” programs call for lots of love and one-on-one time with shelter pets. Applications for all roles are always welcome via the SPCA Monterey County website.

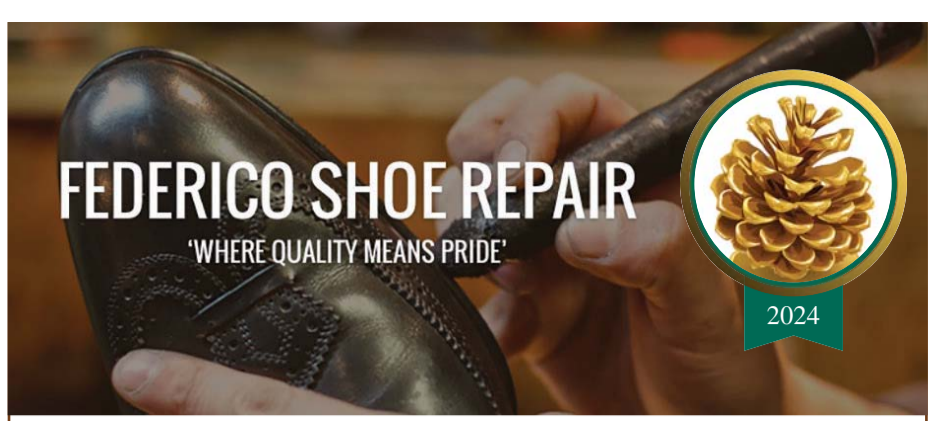
■ Best Place to Get Married

Carmel Mission Basilica — 3080 Rio Road — (831) 624-1271, carmelmission.org

The Carmel Mission Basilica is repeatedly voted Best Place to Get Married, and it’s not hard to understand why, considering its rich history and beautiful setting. The Basilica is the second of the upper California Spanish missions, founded in Monterey in 1770. But only a year later, it was moved by Saint Junipero Serra to Carmel, and the famous priest is buried there.

“Here at the Mission, we know that this is both a wonderful time in your lives as well as a stressful time,” the website says about tying the knot. “The church seeks to help you

Continues next page



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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

prepare yourselves for the great day of your wedding as well as helping you with spiritual, psychological and practical things that will make your wedding day a Sacrament that will last a lifetime!”

There are restrictions, though. Only Catholics may wed there, and couples must obtain permission from their local priests to get married outside of their own parishes. And because it's an active parish, the Basilica's schedule only allows weddings to occur on most Fridays and Saturdays.

■ Best Retirement Community

Carmel Valley Manor — 8545 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley — (831) 624-1281, cvmanor.com

Founded in 1963, Carmel Valley Manor celebrates more than six decades of introducing its 65-and-older community to “the good life” at one of the Peninsula's most scenic locations. The facility offers a range of services to help residents as they age, including independent living, assisted living and skilled

nursing, all on one campus.

Carmel Valley Manor's tranquil 65-acre property features breathtaking views of the valley and amenities that include ground-floor residences, outdoor patios, lush gardens, and easy access to shopping, restaurants, entertainment and recreation. There's a range of wellness activities, too — the website lists “a fully equipped fitness center with professional staff; swimming pool for lap swimming or water aerobics; scenic trails for enjoying nature and fresh air; a community garden where you can grow vegetables or flowers, and fresh, locally sourced meals in our elegant dining room.”

No wonder more than one visitor has come away wondering, “When will I be old enough to live here?”

■ Best Electrician

Cate Electrical — Dolores and Seventh — (831) 624-5361, cateelectrical.com

When it comes to wiring, you don't want to mess around — you want to feel safe and secure. Customer satisfaction has been the primary focus of this iconic, family-owned and operated local business, which has been trusted with the Peninsula's electrical needs

since 1961. Cate Electrical specializes in prompt, efficient service calls, offering home remodels, landscape lighting, and much more to the residential and commercial community.

Customers frequently comment on the genial attitude, professionalism, promptness and fairness of Cate's electricians.

■ Best Plumber

After Hour Plumbing & Drain — 5 Harris Court, Bldg. N-6, Monterey — (831) 204-4450, afterhourplumbingmontereyca.com

This much-trusted, locally-operated family business prides itself on honesty, character, integrity and the value of a job well-done, providing cheerful, round-the-clock services for all of your plumbing needs, from routine checks to emergencies. After Hour Plumbing & Drain typically offers prompt, same-day service when needed and guarantees satisfaction with its workmanship.

■ Best Architect

Samuel Pitnick Architects — 1357 Ord Grove Ave., Seaside — (831) 241-1985, samuelpitnick.com

Monterey Peninsula native Samuel Pitnick, an architect since 2010, has a body of work that includes single- and multi-family residences, retail, commercial, educational, recreational, and healthcare designs. Since graduating with honors from the University of Southern California, he has produced award-winning projects, from Hawaii, to New York, Europe and Asia, and his competition designs have been exhibited and celebrated in New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Chicago, Miami, Los Angeles, and Istanbul.

A LEED-accredited professional, Pitnick is a fierce advocate for sustainable and environmentally responsible designs that strive for harmonious balance between nature and architecture.

■ Best Interior Designer

Sea Blush Studios — Junipero 2SW of Fourth — (831) 238-7598, seablushstudios.com

Since opening Sea Blush Studios in 2022, proprietor Heather Palmer has become a multiple Golden Pine Cone winner for home-staging and design services, a passion she equates to the natural beauty of her surroundings.

“Like the familiar, easygoing pink wildflower native to the Monterey Peninsula coastline, Sea Blush Studios found its roots on the Central California Coast,” she wrote on her website. “Though beautiful, the flower is extremely hardy and well-equipped to handle the elements, just as our team is able to take the ever-changing climate in real estate and give our clients the edge.”

Palmer's specialty at Sea Blush Studios is helping clients prepare their homes for market in innovative, aesthetically pleasing ways, and she prides herself on designs that fit any budget.

■ Best Home Technology

House Wires — “Serving the greater Monterey Peninsula” — (831) 659-8324, housewires.com

This award-winning local business has been satisfying Monterey County's technological needs for more than 20 years by adhering to a philosophy that any computer user can appreciate: “Simpler. It's what we all want from technology.”

House Wires, a multi-year Golden Pine Cone honoree, specializes in cable installation, home audio systems, home automation, home theater design, smart homes, smart lighting, installation of surround sound, TVs, and total system designs.

The company's motto — “Integrity is core

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Nelson V. 20 years	Felipe G. 4 years	Bryan L. 2 years	Mikayla L. 1 year
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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

to everything we do” — and its execution have been lauded by clients in Carmel, Carmel Valley, Pebble Beach, Big Sur, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Seaside, Sand City, Marina, Castroville and Salinas.

of a project is the ability to choose the right group of individuals to involve. We take pride in the quality of our work, as well as the organization and efficiency of a project.” McNickle Construction is dedicated to maintaining clear communication and providing daily updates throughout each project.

■ **Best Roofing Company**

Scudder Roofing — 3342 Paul Davis Drive, Marina — (831) 373-7212, scudder-roofing.com

Now in its 43rd year, this local company has guaranteed satisfaction to customers all over Monterey County, offering all types of roofing applications, including slate, custom and specialty metal, shingles, and shake roofs, as well as waterproofing, custom gutters, and more. Scudder craftspeople take pride in “going the extra mile” for clients, which is why the company boasts that more than 89 percent of its business comes from word-of-mouth referrals.

Last year, the company’s founder, Pete Scudder, along with several other local building powerhouses, helped the students at Rancho Cielo, the vocational high school in Salinas, secure first place in the Orange County Sustainability Decathlon, in which the kids’ off-grid tiny house triumphed over more than a dozen entries from colleges and universities. That’s just scratching the surface of the company’s philanthropic spirit.

■ **Best General Contractor**

McNickle Construction — 26425 Laureles Grade, Carmel Valley — (831) 915-3393, mcnickleconstruction.com

For owner Ryan McNickle, “high-end projects are a personal passion” as he helps design and build your new home, or your dream-come-true remodel.

“A product is only as good as its design and assembly,” McNickle emphasizes on his website. “One of the most important aspects

■ **Best Painting Company**

Cypress Painting and Decorating — 224 Reindollar Ave. #128, Marina — (831) 624-9018, cpdpros.com

To understand why our readers selected Cypress Painting and Decorating as their go-to service for lightening and brightening homes and businesses, just have a look at its website. You’ll see dramatic before-and-after photos of a beautifully restored Victorian home in P.G., testimonials, examples of faux finishes, interior work and even a new, epoxy showroom floor.

And, the business prompts you to wonder, do you really need new kitchen cabinets, or do you just need to have them freshened up with a new finish? Reviews highlight the professionalism, meticulous approach, friendliness and efficiency of this business that’s been around for more than four decades.

■ **Best Landscaper-Gardening Service**

INCA Landscape Management — 2210 Del Monte Ave., Monterey — (831) 625-0900; incalandscape.com

How’s your yard looking these days? A little raggedy and sad? Our readers think you ought to call INCA. This family-owned business, founded in the Peninsula in 1981, can handle virtually any landscaping needs with services that include landscape design and installation, garden maintenance, installation and upgrades of irrigation systems, installa-

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tion of walkways and driveways, cleanups, tree trimming, pruning, deck and fence installations and repairs, and more. They'll look at special projects upon request, too.

INCA strives to treat each client as an individual to custom-fit the work to the customer's needs, desires, and financial budget.

■ Best Tree Service

Tope's Tree Service – 26700 Rancho San Carlos Road, (831) 204-1703, topestree-serviceca.com

Pacific Grove native Andrew Tope, born fourth among 10 siblings, exhibited an early penchant for making things happen, moving from a \$4-an-hour job as a 17-year-old grounds man to other moneymaking opportunities that included selling firewood and trimming trees.

He launched Tope's Tree Service with "a chainsaw, pickup truck, and lots of dreams," and still operates that family-owned business more than four decades later.

In 2013, he added Tope's Sustainable Garden Center, specializing in sustainable plants and landscaping mulch produced from the tree trunks and branches he removes through his tree service, which focuses on fire clearance, emergency tree services and storm-damage cleanups, pruning, tree and stump removal, and multiple other services.

In a town where trees are treasured, Pine Cone readers think Tope's is the company to call — and that's saying something.

■ Best Real Estate Rental Company

San Carlos Agency — 26358 Carmel Rancho Lane, No. 5 – (831) 624-3846, sancarlosagency.com

Serving the Carmel area since 1954, this local company diligently focuses on fulfilling

the needs of each individual client, helping them make the best possible decision for their specific situation.

That unwavering integrity is, no doubt, why San Carlos Agency is in its fourth generation of family ownership and operation.

San Carlos manages one of the largest housing inventories on the Peninsula, with more than 400 furnished vacation rentals, long-term unfurnished homes and condos, as well as commercial spaces for lease. Other services include property management, maintenance and accounting, and, of course, luxury home listings throughout the Peninsula.

■ Best Real Estate Lender

Chad Hawker at Synergy One — Dolores 2 SW of Seventh, Unit D – (831) 521-9378, S1L.com/branch/carmel

Native son Chad Hawker established his reputation for unrivaled dedication and work ethic a long time ago as an undefeated tennis player at Carmel High (Class of 1992) before becoming a world-ranked Ironman triathlete.

Today, he brings that same diligence and tenacity to the business world as a senior loan officer and area manager of the Carmel branch of Synergy One.

Hawker and his well-trained team help clients navigate quickly and seamlessly through the process of securing a loan to purchase or refinance a home, utilizing the company's trademarked Modern Mortgage Experience, along with cutting-edge technology and a friendly, accommodating, expert staff.

■ Best Personal Bank

Chase Bank — San Carlos and Sixth, 26378 Carmel Rancho Lane and 27845 Berwick Drive, Carmel Valley – (831) 625-2400, (831) 624-8224, and (831) 625-1313, chase.com

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Besides being conveniently located downtown and right off Highway 1, Chase also has branches in Monterey and throughout the Peninsula. According to its website, when it provides financial service through personal banking, credit cards, mortgages, small business loans, investment advice, Chase Bank is able to create a personalized banking experience for each individual. Through excellent customer service, as an online review said, going “above and beyond to help solve my issue,” Chase Bank aims to support everyone’s differing financial needs.

■ Best Business Bank

Monterey County Bank — four locations, including 3785 Via Nona Marie — (831) 625-4300, montereycountybank.com

The oldest locally owned and managed bank in Monterey County, Monterey County Bank has been committed to assisting local businesses with their financial needs since 1977, from helping merchants who accept credit cards, to working with the latest payment technology and security. In addition, the bank helps new entrepreneurs and seasoned managers secure commercial and Small Business Administration loans.

Local business owners won’t soon forget how the bank — and especially then-CEO Charles Chreitzberg — lent a hand during the pandemic, assisting in securing aid through various government programs to help keep everyone’s business afloat. Chreitzberg has since become chair of the bank’s advisory board, while new president and CEO Bill Wilson, who brings more than 25 years of banking and financial experience to the job, will no doubt keep Monterey County Bank’s long tradition of local service alive.

■ Best Investment Advisor

Monterey Private Wealth

Management — 2340 Garden Road, Suite 202, Monterey — (831) 372-3426, montereyprivatewealth.com

Monterey Private Wealth Management uses its expertise and dedication to support the changes and growth in its clients’ financial lives. Through its extensive knowledge, this financial planning firm helps clients with cash-flow management, investment strategies and management, risk assessment, debt management, and business retirement plans. In addition to a wide variety of clients, including high-net-worth folks, independent women, retirees, business owners, and executives, Monterey Private Wealth Management helps local nonprofits and maintains a blog on its website that covers financial topics like Medicare, capital gains taxes and more.

■ Best Accountant

Finn & Cohen CPAs — 425 Pacific St., No. 302, Monterey — (831) 375-5166, fc-cpa.com

Finn & Cohen, a full-service accounting and tax firm, for the last three decades has provided clients locally and beyond with a team of highly educated, qualified and dedicated workers.

With services such as tax management, accounting, advisory services, trust planning, and tax preparation, the group’s mission is to “help clients maintain financial viability in the present while taking a proactive approach to achieve future goals.” The Finn & Cohen team have “years of valuable experience assisting professionals with their accounting needs.”

■ Best Veterinarian

Heart Dominguez, Romie Lane Pet Hospital — 755 E. Romie Lane, Salinas — (831) 424-0863, romielanepethospital.com

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The first graduate of Cal State Monterey Bay to be accepted to and graduate from the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, veterinarian Heart Dominguez cares deeply for every animal that comes into his office. Selected by the previous owner to take over the long-established practice in 2020, Dominguez says, "Our clients and their pets are the reason we continue to thrive in the Salinas community that we have served for over 55 years!" He says of his extensive experience, "I have had the opportunity to practice medicine in high-volume, multi-doctor practices as well as in shelter medicine, and I am thrilled to now serve as the clinical director at Romie Lane."

Best Pet Boarding

Home Away From Home Pet Spa
— 1231 10th St., Monterey – (831) 392-6296, montereypetspa.com

Hey, if your dog's watching you pack your bags for a trip and looks jealous, why not send her to a special spot for a spa vacation designed just for her? Home Away From Home Pet Spa is this year's choice among our readers, and everyone knows that in this area, dogs, cats and other critters run a close second only to trees in terms of influence. Not only does this place board pets, it'll give them a bath, trim their nails and make sure they're having a good time.

Also, we'd like to give special mention to whoever's responsible for bathing cats there

— you are some brave and/or crazy people. Seriously, though, with a highly trained and passionate staff there to help and care for pets, Home Away From Home is able to pamper a large variety of animal friends. The business also works with the UnChained, a nonprofit that brings struggling young people together with homeless dogs so that both can have better lives. Spa owner Joel Jensen brings positivity into the unique work environment and said on the website, "When I was a boy, I wanted one (pet) of every breed...I got my wish."

Best Pet Care

Suds 'N Scissors Inc. —
223 Crossroads Blvd. – (831) 624-4697, sudsandscissorsinc.com

It's the fall social season — Halloween parades, dressing up for holiday photos or just gussying up for sniff-and-greets with those oh-so-sophisticated dogs one sees at the Cypress Inn or along Ocean Avenue — and your four-legged buddy wants to look at least as good as you do. They come with their own coats. The least we can do is help them keep them clean and well groomed! Suds 'N Scissors provides a variety of services for pets in the area. From bathing to specific dog breed haircuts, this spa creates a magical experience for every pet whose paws come through the door. Suds 'N Scissors proclaims itself the "area's most elegant grooming retreat," and obviously, our readers agree. Suds 'N Scissors has a staff of specialists ready to care for all furry friends. A professional all-breed dog show handler since he was 16, owner Todd Harris ran several other pet businesses before taking over this Carmel institution with a history that dates to 65 years ago.

Best Auto Body Shop

Marina Collision — 1625 Santa Barbara Street, Seaside – (831) 883-1014

Pine Cone readers and online reviewers from communities up and down the Monterey Peninsula rave about the service provided by Marina Collision, which receives numerous 5-star reviews. Customers say this small, family-run body shop takes the stress out of collision repair with work that is perfectly executed, completed on time and at reasonable prices. And where body shops are concerned, what else is there?

Best Dry Cleaners

DiMaggio's Classic Cleaners —
124 Central Ave., Pacific Grove – (831) 375-6113, dimaggiosclassiccleaners.godaddy.com

DiMaggio's has been locally owned and operated for more than 20 years and is a fixture on Central Avenue near the border of Monterey and Pacific Grove. Not only do the folks there provide all laundry and dry-cleaning services, they do alterations as well. Wedding dresses or uniforms or Halloween costumes pose no problems. Seamstress Sue receives rave online reviews for altering all types of garments. DiMaggio's will also happily clean those more unusual items, such as comforters. Praised for professionalism, affordability and easy parking, DiMaggio's is "the best around," its customers say.

Best Travel Agent

Carmel Monterey Travel — 2511 Garden Road, Suite B200, Monterey – (831) 649-4292, carmelmontereytravel.com

Carmel Monterey Travel is an independent, family-owned company that's been specializing in full-service leisure and business travel for more than 40 years. Its team of travel experts brings clients decades of national and global travel experience, helping travelers not only with cruise and land

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vacations, but in identifying the best hotels and group tours. “We deliver unforgettable moments and provide our clients with personalized, cost-efficient services,” says the website. No service is too unusual or specialized for this team, which has access to luxury hotels, private villas, off-book private islands, high-end city apartments and exotic experiences.

■ **Best Hair Salon**

Oya Salon — 201 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey — (831) 656-0570, oyasalon.com

This sleek salon offers a full array of hairstyling services, with a deep expertise in color. Highlights, baby streaks, color balance, cellophane, and color correction are all part of the repertoire. Blowouts start at \$75 and keratin treatments at \$110. Its website and social media depict the latest styles and brands. “Oya is a hub for cultivating creativity in hair artists, makeup artists, models and photographers. We support the local community and provide the best in customer service,” owner and artistic director Brian Bode says in his online business profile. Customers praise Oya’s cleanliness and quality service.

■ **Best Skin Care**

Skin Care by Loty — 81 Soledad Drive, Monterey — (831) 917-0388, skincarebyloty.com

Owner and esthetician Loty McClain’s motto is “love yourself,” and she believes that her clients should feel beautiful, glamorous and confident. After her own struggles with acne in her youth, McClain sought training to become a California State Board Licensed practitioner. She says on her website that her “extensive experience in dermatology and aesthetics prepared her to focus on educating and empowering clients to be proactive with

the health of their skin.” McClain’s detailed skincare consultations and customized treatments include facials, chemical peels, microdermabrasion and at-home skincare regimens. She also offers facial waxing services. Her shop carries a wide array of her own Loty-branded skin care products, including cleansers, masks, serums and toners.

■ **Best Nail Salon**

Tina Nails Pacific Grove — 709A Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove — (831) 732-1334, tinanailspg.com

Tina Nails offers a wide array of nail and waxing services, and not just for women. This salon welcomes men and also offers services for kids, with special prices for children’s manicures and pedicures. Spa pedicures are \$40 and manicures \$25, with additional costs for special extras such as sea scrubs, foot masks, cooling gel and paraffin wax. Acrylic nails and intricate multicolored nail designs are also offered. Customer reviews praise the salon’s cleanliness and the friendly environment. Open seven days a week, it’s easy to make an online appointment, but walk-ins are also welcome.

■ **Best Spa**

Spa at Pebble Beach — 1518 Cypress Drive, Pebble Beach — (800) 877-0597, pebblebeach.com/the-spa-at-pebble-beach

This world-class, 5-star sanctuary not only welcomes guests of the Pebble Beach Resorts, it’s also open to the public daily, including holidays. This is truly a place to spend a full morning, afternoon or most of the day. That’s because a Pebble Beach spa treatment also includes use of the sauna, cold plunge and steam room, the relaxation room, an outdoor pool, indoor conservatory with cozy blankets and fire pit, and access to the juice bar and café, which serves light fare and salads. Sip a glass of bubbly by the pool. Browse a well-stocked boutique fea-

turing active and casual wear. A full-service salon is also available for nails and hair. Spa services go well beyond basic massage and include wellness rituals such as sound healing and chakra balancing. The menu of men’s services includes pre-golf warm up, post-golf

therapy and sports body work. And this is a spa where it’s a true treat to take a relaxing shower at the end of it all, with luxurious bathing products and clean, private, spacious shower rooms.

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Best Dentist

Bradford Carl — 26485 Carmel Rancho Blvd # 3 — (831) 624-2111, bradfordcarl.com

For more than three decades, Dr. Bradford Carl has served patients in his Carmel office. A repeat Golden Pine Cone winner, the well-known local dentist and his staff believe that preventative care and education are the keys to optimal dental health. “That’s why we focus on thorough exams — checking the overall health of your teeth and gums, performing oral cancer exams, and taking X-rays when necessary,” The website states. “We also know that routine cleanings, flossing, sealants, and fluoride are all helpful in preventing dental disease.” He is current on all the latest dental research and has an office outfitted with cutting-edge technology. In addition, Dr. Carl’s friendly, long-term employees are knowledgeable, helpful and always glad to check patients’ insurance benefits for coverage.

Best Dermatologist

Mary Dahl — 977 Pacific St., Suite A, Monterey — (831) 644-9740, marydahlm.com

Board-certified dermatologist Mary Dahl and her team pride themselves on providing patients with personalized and excellent care. The popular clinic offers treatment for skin cancer, infections and rashes, mole mapping and facial rejuvenation. The clinic’s aesthetician services include custom facials tailored to a patient’s individual needs that feature thorough cleansing, exfoliating, skin analysis, and serum, to “leave your skin refreshed and glowing,” facials for teens and adults with acne, and dermal infusion, which is described as a “highly effective three-in-one treatment that simultaneously exfoliates, extracts and infuses the skin with a targeted serum for your specific skin condition.”

Best Ophthalmologist

Philip Penrose — 880 Cass St., Suite 105, Monterey, and 21 Upper Ragsdale Drive, Suite 201, Ryan Ranch, Monterey — (831) 373-2275 and (831) 740-8934, eyemd-monterey.com

Previous Golden Pine Cone winner Philip Penrose is a board-certified ophthalmologist and a member of a litany of professional medical organizations, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Monterey County Medical Society. Penrose does more than determine a prescription for a patient’s eyeglass and contact lenses, he provides a full range of eye-care services. “In addition to helping Monterey LASIK eye surgery and cataracts patients achieve clear vision, his clinical interests include the medical and surgical management of diabetic eye disease and glaucoma,” says the website for Eye M.D. Monterey, his clinic with offices in Monterey and Ryan Ranch.

Best Optometrist

Blink Optometry — 217 Crossroads Blvd. — (831) 250-6999, blinkcarmel.com

A full-service vision care center and a boutique optical shop, the optometrists at the Blink Optometry in The Crossroads offer full-scope optometry, from the youngest of patients, to seniors. Trevor Fogg, O.D., a Carmel native, practices full-scope optometry including the treatment of eye infections, ocular allergies, dry eye syndrome, removal of foreign bodies, and diabetic eye disease and is certified in corneal refractive therapy. Telma Barseghian, O.D., specializes in fitting glasses and contact lenses, treating eye diseases, infections and injuries, and co-manages cataract and laser surgeries with local docs and surgeons, as well as in the San Francisco Bay Area. The online reviews for Blink are glowing. “Dr. Fogg is a super optometrist,”

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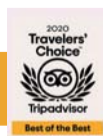
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one patient said. “I recently relocated to Carmel and needed to find a local provider. I was nervous about finding a new doctor, but I needn’t have worried: he’s friendly, approachable, and put me at ease immediately.” The patient went on to say that Fogg fitted him for glasses and contacts, and praised him for recommending a new type of soft contact lens. “His staff is also great. Thank you, Blink Optometry!”

■ Best Orthopedist

Christopher Meckel — 12 Upper Ragsdale Drive, Ryan Ranch – (831) 648-7200, msjhealth.com

Cofounder of the successful Monterey Spine and Joint in Ryan Ranch, orthopedic surgeon Christopher Meckel performs an astounding nearly 300 hip and knee replacements annually. With about two decades of experience in joint replacement surgery, Meckel is supremely popular, based on the hundreds of positive patient reviews, including several this month alone. “I was fortunate to have Dr. Meckel step in when I needed an emergency full right hip replacement,” one patient wrote on Google, calling the doc the “best-kept secret” on the Monterey Peninsula. “In two weeks, I had moved from bed, to walker, to cane with virtually no sign of having had a pretty major surgery. A kind, caring, knowledgeable doctor and staff.” Another patient this year said Meckel and his staff were warm, welcoming and helpful. “He took his time to look me in the eye and explain to me what he reviewed on my X-rays. He did an exam, and we were able to discuss ways to heal my injury.”

■ Best Pediatrician

Jill Airola — 2 Upper Ragsdale Drive, Suite B210, Ryan Ranch – (831) 333-0999, mppmg.com

Pediatrician and repeat Golden Pine Cone winner Jill Airola is warm, friendly, professional, funny (sometimes wacky), and has an extraordinary rapport with her young patients. For example, Airola may crawl on the floor of the exam office with a toddler and hand them a necklace to play with, or paint a girl’s nails — even teenage girls — to soothe and comfort them. Never one to rush an appointment, Dr. Jill, as she’s known, makes her young patients and their parents feel like they’re her only care in the world. It’s obvious that Airola and the other doctors at Monterey Peninsula Pediatric Medical Group love what they do. “Whether you are caring for a healthy newborn, a sick toddler or a busy teen, we are here to help your family thrive!” the clinic says.

■ Best Primary Care Physician

Gregory Tapson — 26607 Carmel Center Place, #104 – (831) 624-3077, montage-health.org/doctors/profile/gregory-tapson/

A quick internet search will tell you that Gregory Tapson is a well-liked and respected Carmel physician. Patients say the primary care doc is trustworthy, accessible and determined. One woman, who has been going to Tapson for two decades, noted a particularly lengthy period in which she suffered from an extremely debilitating condition that took nearly 10 years to diagnose. She credited Tapson for being determined to find the cause. “He never gave up in trying to find the source,” the patient said. “Unlike many other physicians, he never attributed my illness to anxiety or suggested that it might be in my head. He was always tenacious, loyal, sincere, and very smart. He’s a good man, and I am deeply indebted to him.”

■ Best Plastic Surgeon

Douglas Sunde — 856 Munras Ave., Monterey – (831) 372-0200, drsunde.com

Most of us want to feel better about ourselves, and many turn to professional help to make that happen. Enter Douglas Sunde, a Monterey plastic surgeon who has been awarded a Golden Pine Cone every year, including this year, from 2008 to 2023. Sunde, who is personable and takes his time to understand what patients want and to explain to them in detail what to expect, offers a long list of cosmetic and reconstructive procedures, including facelifts, neck, chin and brow lift surgeries, neck contouring, scar revision, breast lifts and reductions and Botox and fillers.

As Sunde says, “Plastic surgery is about more than looking good. For a lot of men and women, it helps correct years of discomfort, improving their comfort and quality of life.” While his surgical goal is to achieve beautiful, natural-looking results, Sunde’s ultimate

aim is to help his patients feel better about the way they look. His staff is friendly and professional, while his patients are extremely grateful. “Excellent care throughout the process,” one woman said in an online review this year, adding that Sunde communicated clearly and gave her special attention post-surgery. “My physician husband and I met with him several times before surgery,” she said. “Dr. Sunde is a highly skilled surgeon who is accessible, direct and empathetic. Ten stars!!!”

■ Best Physical Therapist

Claire Kristl — 26537 Carmel Rancho Blvd. – (831) 601-6007, carmelptbythesea.com

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

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A lifelong athlete, Claire Kristl, who operates Physical Therapy-by-the-Sea, has been practicing physical therapy in Monterey County since 1986. Physical therapists help patients regain functional capacity after an injury, and Kristl takes a thoughtful, research-based approach to providing care for each patient. She offers treatment for joint replacement, orthopedic issues, sports-specific retraining, golf rehabilitation, fall prevention, chronic pain, injury recovery, geriatric conditions, and other conditions.

She employs manual therapy and massage, biomechanics assessment and training, therapeutic exercise and stretching, and other techniques to help her patients reach their goals. "She is a master clinician who treats the whole body by carefully obtaining one's personal history, assessing biomechanics that are impeding function and crafting a personal rehabilitation program for each client," Kristl's bio states. "Her objective is to return clients to their maximal functional level while meeting their personal goals whether it is competing in a triathlon, recovering from surgery or remaining independent at home."

■ **Best Chiropractor**

Derek Barkalow — 550 Camino El Estero #103, Monterey — (831) 655-3255 ext. #3, drbarkalow.com

Monterey Peninsula native and chiropractor Derek Barkalow followed the career path of his father, Stephen Barkalow, who has been a licensed chiropractor since 1977. The younger Barkalow always wanted to contribute to the health and wellbeing of others, which ultimately led him to pursuing and obtaining a Doctorate of Chiropractic degree. On a patient's

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G O L D E N P I N E C O N E S

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first visit to his office, Barkalow will gather a complete medical history and perform a detailed physical evaluation. If the exam examination confirms the need for care, Barkalow will initiate appropriate chiropractic care and order any diagnostic procedures required. “Most often treatment will begin on the first visit,” according to his online bio.

“This may include manual medicine, physiotherapy, Class IV Laser therapy and many more modalities to help you return to optimal health as quickly as possible. Whatever your physical health issues may be, Dr. Derek looks forward to helping you on your path to optimal physical health and peak performance.”

■ Best Divorce Lawyer

Sarah Cavassa — 50 Ragsdale Drive, Suite 201, Monterey – (831) 655-6868, cavassaconnell.com

Divorce is never easy, but having a competent, tenacious and understanding attorney can soften the blow. Experienced trial attorney Sarah Cavassa, cofounder of Cavassa O’Connell law firm in Monterey, has nearly 17 years of experience practicing law. A certified specialist in family law, certified by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization, Cavassa practices family law and civil litigation and represents those experiencing divorce, custody and other issues. She also prepares and reviews premarital and postmarital agreements.

While her law firm notes that the primary goal in each case is to resolve a matter as quickly and efficiently as possible, while also achieving the best possible outcome for their clients, Cavassa and the other attorneys in her office are experienced litigators prepared to take a case to trial.

“Every case is unique, and every client has her or his personal interest in the outcome,” they say. “Whether it is an issue over tens of millions of dollars, or an issue over childcare, we know it is an issue that is important to the client, and so it is important to us.”

■ Best Estate Planning Attorney

■ Best Lawyer if You Need to Sue Somebody

Jeannette Witten — 26515 Carmel Rancho Blvd., Suite 200 – (831) 480-6608, hudsonmartin.com

The winner of two Golden Pine Cones this year, attorney Jeannette Witten, who lives in Carmel with her family, has practiced law since 1998 and is well-versed in business law and estate planning. Witten represents companies in business and corporate law matters and transactions, including securities transactions and issuances; intellectual property licensing, management, and use; mergers and acquisitions; entity counseling and formations; and trademark and copyright matters.

She has been the managing partner of Hudson Martin PC since 2013, when her firm

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merged in with one of the most historic practices in California. “Under Ms. Witten’s leadership, this historic firm has connected with the next generation of entrepreneurs and lead-

ers and is now one of Monterey County’s most economically vibrant firms,” the Hudson Martin PC website says. A local restaurant owner offered an online testimonial on Witten. “I’ll never forget leaving Jeannette’s office the very first time we met with her,” the owner said. “I’ve unfortunately had a bad

taste in my mouth of dealing with attorneys over my lifetime, but I’ve never walked out of an attorney’s office being so thankful that I had the privilege of doing business with an attorney such as Jeannette Witten. I truly mean that to this day. She and her staff are always giving us not only confidence, but the most important thing for me is extreme clarity of what we are working through with extreme patience.”

■ **Best Defense Attorney**

Jennifer Rosenthal — 26364 Carmel Rancho Lane, Suite 201 – (831) 625-5193, jsrattorneyatlaw.com

Sometimes people find themselves on the wrong side of the law. It happens. But having a dedicated lawyer to come to your defense is not only an emotional relief, it makes navigating the complicated court and legal system much easier. Pine Cone readers this year deemed Carmel defense attorney Jennifer Rosenthal worthy of a Golden Pine Cone.

In addition to having a passion for justice, Rosenthal is driven to make a difference in the world. She truly believes in giving a voice to those who don’t have an opportunity to use theirs. One need only look to the boards of the nonprofit organizations Rosenthal has served on — Legal Services for Seniors and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Monterey County — to realize she cares about the less fortunate. Rosenthal “champions justice for all and ensures quality representation with compassionate and continued personal contact through all stages of the legal system,” her online bio says. “She has extensive experience as both a civil litigator and criminal defense lawyer.” Her boutique law firm specializes in land use, real property, business formation, cannabis regulatory work, family law, landlord/tenant law, and all aspects of criminal defense. She successfully handles complex cases and achieves favorable results for her clients.

■ **Best Public Relations Company**

Armanasco Public Relations — 585 Abrego St., Monterey – (831) 372- 2259, armanasco.com

Founded by David Armanasco in 1985, Armanasco Public Relations was the only formidable PR game in Monterey County for a very long time. After nearly four decades, the firm — a repeat Golden Pine Cone winner — has grown to become the one of the most recognized public relations companies on the Central Coast. Armanasco Public Relations has

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served hundreds of businesses and organizations in various fields through the years and continues to grow and excel. In an industry built on relationships, Armanasco understands every segment of the rich and diverse Monterey Peninsula and beyond and has helped clients “enhance public perception, establish credibility, develop brand awareness, and create stronger relationships with their targeted audiences,” its website says. Among the businesses the firm has worked with are the Pebble Beach Company, Granite, Montage Health, the Cannery Row Company, Taylor Farms, Tehama Carmel and many others. In 2013, David Armanasco became a partner of California Strategies, a full-service public affairs consulting firm with extensive experience and statewide reach and depth.

■ Best Insurance Agent

Connally Farmers Agency — 404 W. Franklin St.,

Monterey – (831) 424-0829, agents.farmers.com/ca/monterey/jessica-connally

As a local Farmers agent, Jessica Connally said her insurance agency helps customers select the best coverage that fits their needs. “This process is straightforward and personalized to help make you smarter about insurance,” Connally said. “We have six fully licensed staff ready to meet, or answer a call and help you with auto, home, renters, motorcycle, business insurance and more! We love to help our customers, and our agency is always ready!” One of Connally’s customers praised her in an online review. Connally Farmers Agency “truly went above and beyond to secure a policy for me,” the female client wrote. “Despite having only a two-week window, they managed to get it done with an impressive three days to spare. The communication throughout the en-

tire process was exceptional, providing me with updates and clarity. In a nutshell, Connally proved to be absolute lifesavers, demonstrating unparalleled dedication and efficiency in meeting my insurance needs.”

■ Best Shoe Repair

Federico’s Drive In Shoe Services — 542 Abrego St., Monterey – (831) 649-3322

Few businesses on the Monterey Peninsula have been operating as long as Federico’s Drive In Shoe Service. For an astonishing 84 years, Federico’s has been resurrecting old shoes and boots. The business’ skilled workers offer a variety

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of services, including heel repair, resoling, and restitching. It also repairs leather goods and luggage and offers dyeing and shining services. One Federico's client even had great things to say about a wallet she took to the shop for repair. "Federico's has been around forever; they never disappoint," the woman said. "I took a vintage wallet in today for some stitching and within a couple of hours I had it back looking brand new. Prices are ridiculously reasonable, and the folks are friendly."

Best School

All Saints Day School — 8060 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley – (831) 624-9171, asds.org

Founded in 1961 in Pacific Grove by three Episcopal parishes, All Saints Day School moved to its location in Carmel Valley four years later. The pre-through-eighth-grade school, headed by Sara Brown, prides itself on a warm and welcoming community whose members are valued as the heart and soul of the school.

"Our community is built not only upon the shared commitment to education and the All Saints mission, but upon our working together in partnership and good spirit to achieve excellence," the private school states on its website. "We take joy in our combined responsibilities to help children achieve their potential consistent with their unique gifts and to prepare them for life as citizens of the world." All Saints explains that its academic program is shaped by an appreciation of how much young minds can understand and achieve. Teachers strive to build upon students' curiosity while instilling a spirit of cooperation, respect for others and their ideas, and satisfaction in personal intellectual growth.

Best Teacher

Cat Meyers — All Saints Day School, 8060 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley

Middle school teacher Cat Meyers is a dedicated educator and must be well loved, because our readers are pretty meticulous about the quality of their kids' education. "I currently teach science at All Saints Day School, where I have the opportunity to share my love of learning with students in grades

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six to eight,” Meyers wrote on her LinkedIn page. “I enjoy creating a dynamic and inquiry-based learning environment that encourages students to explore, question, and discover the natural world and their place in it.” Teaching science, Meyers said, has also made her a better scientist, as she must constantly challenge herself to improve her skills and knowledge. “For over 20 years, I have been working in education, and I am grateful for the insights, perspectives, and questions that students have enriched my life with,” Meyers went on to say.

Best Principal

Sara Brown — All Saints Day School, 8060 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley

All Saints Day School and its staff were awarded several Golden Pine Cones this year, and that can be partly attributed to principal Sara Brown, who joined the faculty of the private school in 2004. The school says alumni, students and their parents say Brown quickly became their favorite “for her skill, kindness, humor and sharp intelligence, in a way

that her students consistently appreciated, year after year. Brown offers a message to students and parents on the All Saints website: “Confidence, character, and community are the cornerstones of what we strive to instill in our children,” she said.

“Together, as families and teachers, we walk alongside our children on this journey of growth and discovery, creating a place where both children and adults feel seen, valued, and loved.”

My Favorite Nonprofit

CASA of Monterey County — 945 S. Main St., Unit 107, Salinas – (831) 222-3965, casaofmonterey.org

CASA of Monterey County’s mission is unquestionably an honorable one: “To recruit, train, and support community volunteers who advocate for children and youth in foster care and the juvenile justice system. To uphold children and youths’ rights and pursue a safe and permanent home while providing the support, empowerment, and resources needed to heal and flourish into adulthood.” Volunteers with CASA of Monterey County are dubbed “court-appointed special advocates,” and they advocate for children in foster care and the juvenile justice system to help break the cycle of abuse and neglect. Those interested in becoming a CASA can start by applying on the nonprofit’s website. An interview and a background check are scheduled, and those selected undergo five weeks of training, with classes held twice weekly.



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