



# PENINSULA BUSINESSES

Behind every great enterprise are a lot of great people,  
and you can meet some of them ... *Inside this week!*

# The Carmel Pine Cone

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## Replacement of three homes gets unanimous OK

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER MONTHS of hearings that included numerous complaints, signed petitions and other vocal opposition, a proposal to demolish three houses on Mission Street and replace them with three contemporary ones received unanimous support from the Carmel Planning Commission last week, with nary a peep of protest.

Craig Collins and Lynne Hermle proposed tearing down three homes, all of which are old but none of which is historic, on the east side of Mission Street between First

and Vista, adjusting the lot lines to accommodate new two-story houses designed by architect Erik Dyar ranging from 1,818 to 2,116 square feet in size after some revisions, and installing extensive landscaping throughout.

### Petition circulated

Monterey County property records indicate Collins and Hermle purchased the homes in February and March 2022 from Eileen and Kevin King for a combined \$4.9 million. Stephanie Cox was also listed as a seller on two of the three properties.

After their proposals debuted last fall, numerous residents complained about the homes' contemporary designs, two-story profiles and other aspects. A few circulated petitions and collected some 60 signatures — though at least one signer later told the city he hadn't been fully informed at the time and subsequently voiced his support. The outcry even reached the public comment period at city council meetings.

See **SISTERS** page 15A



RENDERING/ERIK DYAR

The planning commission unanimously OK'd these three new homes for Mission Street last week after hearing only supportive comments and not one demand for further changes.

## Feds use warrants to take migrants into custody

### ■ Sheriff says county would cooperate

By KELLY NIX

A UNITED States attorney this week launched a new task force — intended to thwart California's protection of illegal immigrants who have committed crimes — by issuing federal arrest warrants for those being held in local jails. A similar program could eventually be established in Monterey County.

On Monday, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California — an area that includes Los Angeles County — announced Operation Guardian Angel, a task force that seeks to "neutralize" California's sanctuary designation, which among other things bars police from helping federal immigration authorities.

### Trump appointee

"Even the worst criminal aliens in state custody are frequently released into the community because California's sanctuary state policies block cooperation with federal law

enforcement," said Bill Essayli, interim head of the Southern California U.S. Attorney's Office, when he announced the task force. Essayli was appointed to the position in April by President Donald Trump.

### 'Circumvent'

California restricts state and local law enforcement agencies, including jails and prisons, from honoring U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees. Those are requests that they notify ICE as early as possible before releasing an illegal immigrant from custody and that they "hold the alien for up to 48 hours beyond the time they would ordinarily release them" so the government can take custody.

Operation Guardian Angel would circumvent California's refusal to help the feds by scanning a criminal database daily to identify undocumented immigrants in county jails who have previously been deported, so the Department of Justice can arrest and charge them with federal felonies for illegally reentering the country. The program

See **WARRANTS** page 14A

## Newsom's budget revisions anger fellow Democrats

By CAITLIN CONRAD

PROGRESSIVES ACROSS California are balking at changes to the state budget Gov. Gavin Newsom unveiled last week, including deep cuts to Medi-Cal and other social services. The program slashes were unveiled at a press conference last Wednesday, and this week, major Democratic interest groups released statement after statement demanding aspects of Newsom's proposed budget be blocked.

"Californians expect state leaders to advance a vision that sharply contrasts with the harmful federal agenda, not cuts that target marginalized communities and deepen inequality," said Chris Hoen, executive director of the left-leaning California Budget & Policy Center.

The revised \$322 billion budget outlines some unpalatable revisions for fellow Democrats, including

See **BUDGET** page 19A

## CUSD boosts housing fee by 671 percent

By LILY PATTERSON

THE CARMEL Unified School District Board of Education signed off on a massive hike in developer fees for local property owners and residential builders last week, picking up a mystifying 20 years of slack. The new fee represents a 671 percent increase from \$0.49 per square foot to \$3.78 per square foot of new construction and per square foot added to existing homes, and will go into effect on July 13.

A 36-page study to justify the increase was prepared by SchoolWorks, the educational consulting firm contracted by Monterey and P.G. school districts to conduct similar studies. The analysis described the increase as "proportional, not punitive."

### On top of taxes

Developer fees are also known as impact fees, and in the case of California schools are levied on residential and commercial developments to accommodate projected population growth within the district and the impact of new students on school facilities.

The construction impact fee increase comes on top of thousands of dollars developers must also pay for permits, inspections, traffic impacts and the like, adding substantial

See **SCHOOLS** page 16A

## Caltrans: Highway 1 won't reopen this summer

By CHRIS COUNTS

ONE MONTH after Caltrans announced it was deploying remote-controlled bulldozers to speed up the pace of work on Highway 1 in Big Sur — the last remaining obstacle to reopening a highway that's been closed for more than two years — the state roads agency reported this week that yet more instability is plaguing the site of Regents Slide, putting the kibosh on any hopes that the road will reopen this summer.

"After gaining one month of improved excavation with the use of traditional and remote-controlled heavy equipment, monitoring devices and field observations identified new slide activity and surface cracking in the

See **HIGHWAY** page 13A

## Street vendor cited for undercooked pork



PHOTO/MONTEREY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The owner of a makeshift taco shop near Castroville was selling meat that was well below safe cooking temperature, and the operation was shut down by the county. See page 6A.



PHOTO/COURTESY CALTRANS

Recent work has revealed more instability at Regents Slide in Big Sur, further delaying the reopening of Highway 1.