

# The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 111 No. 26 <https://carmelpinecone.com> June 27-July 3, 2025

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## Park neighbors want pickleball banned

By MARY SCHLEY

ALMOST 50 residents of neighborhoods around Forest Hill Park want the city to prohibit pickleball there, Junipero Street resident John Jaramillo told the Carmel



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

A lot of people like playing pickleball, but residents who live near the courts don't like them playing it.

City Council June 3.

The friction between residents and pickleball advocates has escalated over the last few years as the sport's popularity has grown, prompting numerous hours-long hearings by the city's forest and beach commission and the council.

In March, forest and beach commissioners developed rules for the courts and asked the council to codify them — but doing so is not among the council's top priorities, so the item has yet to land on an agenda.

Regardless, restricting the days and hours of play, as commissioners proposed, isn't good enough for the neighbors, who have long complained the constant pop-pop noises and accompanying raised voices are ruining the quiet enjoyment of their homes.

### 'A human right'

"Our neighborhood coalition of 47 Carmel-by-the-Sea residents is requesting that a municipal code section be created prohibiting pickleball from being played on the tennis courts," Jaramillo said during the public comment segment of the meeting. "The constant noise generated by pickleball is intolerable."

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## \$50M flagship vessel preparing for research

By KELLY NIX

A NEW 164-foot-long research vessel headquartered in Moss Landing will greatly enhance scientists' ability to explore the ocean and will be a command center for the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute's robotic submersible, the organization said.

Named after the institute's founder, the R/V David Packard arrived in Moss Landing March 31. It was built in Spain and made a 59-day voyage from that country to Monterey Bay.

### 'Exciting addition'

"The David Packard is an exciting addition to MBARI's fleet of research vessels and an essential tool for ocean exploration," Kaya Johnson, director of marine operations, said of the vessel, which was about a decade in the making. "The ship will not only support advanced

technology developed by the MBARI team but also promote collaboration across the marine science and technology community."

The vessel will be the command center for the Doc

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PHOTO/COURTESY MBARI

Spanish shipbuilders put together this ocean exploration vessel for the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

## Sacramento hashes out \$321 billion budget

By CAITLIN CONRAD

THE CALIFORNIA Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom reached a tentative budget deal Tuesday night that puts the state on track to spend \$321 billion during the next fiscal year.

California faced a \$12 billion shortfall this spring as a result of exorbitant healthcare costs and forecasts showing billions of dollars in reduced state tax revenues. The governor and fellow Democrats have blamed the budget woes in part on federal funding cuts and new tariffs impacting California industry.

### Cuts to social services

Newsom's May revision proposed sharp cuts to social services, including ending free healthcare for undocumented adults, but the governor has since backed off that plan. Instead, lawmakers agreed to limited healthcare services for undocumented immigrants but not to eliminate the program altogether.

Local representative Dawn Addis chairs the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Health and said this budget

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## GIRL SCOUT RESCUED AFTER HEAD INJURY IN BIG SUR FALL

By CHRIS COUNTS

A GIRL Scout who suffered a head injury from falling in a remote and rugged canyon in Big Sur was airlifted to safety Sunday, the California Highway Patrol reported.

The injured youngster was part of a group of seven Girl Scouts and two leaders who were camping overnight southwest of Pico Blanco. According to the CHP, the group was "lost and unfamiliar with the area." It's unknown where the group came from or where they started their hike. Local Girl Scout groups were contacted, but to no avail.

"Early in the morning, a rescue helicopter from Lemoore Naval Air Base responded," the report continued. "The injured Girl Scout and one Scout leader were hoisted from the canyon and flown to Natividad Medical Center in Salinas."

After a second helicopter arrived to pick up the rest of the group, Big Sur Fire Chief Matt Harris told The Pine Cone that it was the largest number of rescues he's seen at one location. Harris said the group entered the backcountry from the East Molera Trail, which starts at Andrew

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## Council seeks path to shorter meetings

### ■ Curfew, streamlined comments considered

By MARY SCHLEY

IMPOSING A 9:30 p.m. curfew, setting specific start times for hot-button issues like house numbers, and asking public speakers not to repeat each other should increase efficiency and end the trend of meetings going late into the night, according to the Carmel City Council, which is set to formalize those and other rules governing how agendas are set, information is distributed and the public's business is conducted.

Nearly a dozen revisions are proposed for the policies governing council meetings and will be voted on in the June 30 session.

The updates are part of the consent agenda, which means they'll be approved without discussion unless a member of the council or the public requests otherwise.

At their June 2 meeting, councilmembers spent most of their time discussing how meetings agendas are developed and ways to make public comments more efficient, along with the proposed curfew — an idea raised by councilwoman Alissandra Dramov, because when a meeting starts at 4:30 p.m., after five hours, "everyone gets tired, you're not at your best, and it's hard to concentrate and focus." She said she hopes having a curfew will speed up the meetings and make them more efficient.

But councilmember Bob Delves said he was on a city council that had a six-hour limit, at which point the group had to vote on whether to proceed. "We always did, so I'm not sure it's worth much," he said.

### 'We can go home'

Councilman Jeff Baron worried ending at 9:30 p.m. would inconvenience people who wait hours for a hearing or issue they're interested in only to be told it won't be heard, after all, and Mayor Dale Byrne said he doesn't think a curfew is necessary, "because as mayor, I can just continue an item and we can go home."

In the end, the council decided to go with verbiage proposed by city attorney Brian Pierik: "New items will not be started after 9:30 p.m. unless the city council votes to extend the time of the city council meeting."

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PHOTO/BIG SUR FIRE

Seven girls and two adults were rescued by helicopter from a remote part of Big Sur Sunday.