The Carmel Pine Cone

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Pastor bids 'Adieu' to Carmel

■ Says he's had enough of 'this strange community'

By MARY SCHLEY

FOLLOWING ANOTHER stalemate in city hall Monday over the project he's been pursuing on Dolores south of Seventh for the past six years, Patrice Pastor said late Thursday that he's had enough.

"Following this latest city council meeting, it's clear that I need to reconsider my investment in Carmel. We are not treated the same as everyone else. I suppose we are now at the point where we need to accept we are not wanted and draw the necessary conclusions," he told The Pine Cone. "It's time to leave this strange community, if you can call it a community."

Permit ordeal 'makes a mockery of the city's own rules'

Further, he said, the "grotesque situation" at his other project at The Pit at Dolores and Fifth, Ulrika Plaza, "where everything is wanted so as not to let us begin work for reasons that are akin to a schoolyard, confirms that it's time for us to bring our expertise and motivation to other projects, elsewhere, where we will be better received and in a more professional and serious political environment."

His managing director, Chris Mitchell, who has endured numerous hearings on Pastor's behalf, said the permitting process for the Dolores and Seventh project "has made a mockery of the city's own rules."

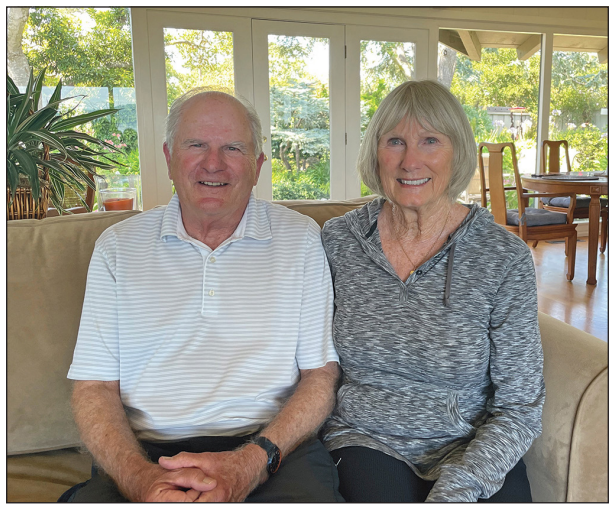
"Our project was reviewed for six years, redesigned five times, and approved by the planning commission and city staff. Then, on Monday, we were undercut again, but this time by last-minute political maneuvering to further stall," he said. "Carmel needs more housing, and we were

See **PASTOR** *page 24A*

Murder victim's house burglarized

By MARY SCHLEY

FOUR DAYS after 79-year-old Donel Geisen was arrested for stabbing his wife to death, their house on Raymond Way in a neighborhood just outside Carmel was burglarized and a car was stolen. While the Monterey County Sheriff's Office confirmed the address, it refused to share any details about the break-in and theft.



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Donel and Lynn Geisen in their living room last fall. He is accused of stabbing her to death July 24, and after their address was shown by some local media, their home was broken into and numerous valuables were stolen, including a car.

Residents in the close-knit community didn't hesitate to talk about it, though.

"This has our little neighborhood pretty shaken up," said a resident who lives a few houses away from the Geisen home and had known the couple for many years, including going with them on ski trips to Bear Valley. "It's a terrifically sad thing for our neighborhood."

According to law enforcement, around 4:20 a.m. July 24, Donel Geisen called 911 and said he'd just killed his wife of 58 years, 78-year-old Barbara Lynn Geisen, who went by Lynn. Monterey County Sheriff's deputies and medics arrived at the couple's home in the High Meadows neighborhood to find them in their bedroom. She died at the scene from multiple stab wounds, while he was transported to the hospital for treatment of "life-threatening injuries" the sheriff's office said he apparently inflicted on himself with the knife.

Car, valuables taken

After a few days in medical care, Geisen was booked into Monterey County Jail July 27 on a charge of first-degree premeditated murder with an enhancement for using a knife, and sometime early the next morning, the Geisens' home was burglarized.

The neighbor told The Pine Cone he found a window screen in the middle of the street. Suspecting that was how the thief or thieves entered the home, he suggested the sheriff's office fingerprint it. Inside, since crime scene investigators had already gone through the residence, collecting further evidence was challenging, he speculated.

The resident went on to say that Lynn Geisen's silver Subaru Impreza was stolen, but not Donel's car, and that the burglar also took a large amount of valuable personal

See **BURGLARY** *page 21A*

Leash rules debated after fatal dog attack

By CHRIS COUNTS

A HEARTBREAKING incident at Garland Ranch Regional Park in Carmel Valley Monday left a puppy dead and some locals wondering why there isn't a ban on unleashed pets in the park.

The dog was killed around 2:45 p.m. near the Dampierre Park baseball fields.

"I'm heartbroken to share that my 6-year-old daughter's puppy was tragically killed during an incident involving another dog," Christine Trejo wrote on Facebook shortly after it happened. She also reported that the dog "attacked her husband and daughter," although there is no indication either of them was injured.

Trejo described the attacking dog as a medium-sized "hound or pointer" with brown spots and a long tail. She said the owner is a tall White male in his 40s with a beard, and she believes he lives nearby.

"This person gave me a fake phone number," she said. "I'm asking for help identifying them so I can take the appropriate next steps."

A local woman witnessed the attack and described it

See **DOGS** *page 30A*

SACRAMENTO DEMS ON BOARD WITH REDISTRICTING

CALIFORNIA VOTERS made it clear in 2008 that they don't want politicians drawing district lines for politicians. But that hasn't stopped Gov. Gavin Newsom from asking state lawmakers to do just that — and Democratic leaders in Sacramento are answering his call.

Newsom's directive to draw new congressional district maps comes in response to efforts in Texas to do the same. At the bidding of President Donald Trump, the

Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

Republican-controlled Legislature in Texas has changed its map in the hopes of adding five congressional seats. Members of the GOP already hold 25 of the Lone Star State's 38 House seats, but Republicans have a razor-thin majority in Congress. An additional five GOP votes could make all the difference following the 2026 midterms.

The partisan power move has spawned a tit-for-tat approach in California.

"Whatever they are doing will be neutered here," said Newsom during a press conference this week.

The governor and fellow state Democrats are confident a new map could be drawn to eliminate an equal number of Republican representatives in the Golden State, essentially nullifying Texas' efforts. However, ramming through the legislation needed to upend the current process in California may not be politically popular, and state lawmakers have just two weeks to get it done.

How lines are drawn

Redistricting in California is not simple. Unlike in Texas, lawmakers need voters to approve a new district map, and since they want to draw the map themselves, they will also need voters to approve a change in the process.

In 2008, by approving Proposition 11, voters took the power to redistrict away from state lawmakers and established the independent California Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Under that law, the independent commission is tasked with drawing congressional district lines, which it did most recently in 2020.

Newsom has proposed a special election Nov. 4 to change those rules. He is asking the Legislature to draw a map and then call for a special election so voters can approve it. He needs the election to happen by November so the new map can take effect in time for the 2026 midterms.

Getting it done will be a tight turnaround for lawmakers who are on a month-long recess until

See **ACCESS** *page 19A*

The invasion of the baby seagulls

PHOTO/SPCA MONTEREY COUNTY

Baby seagulls like this one will soon be large enough to leave their nests. But they won't yet be able to fly, which puts them in danger of being struck by cars. See page 13A.

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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Canine connection

Once her senior dog began to slow down, she thought about getting another to ease life's natural transition. She knew she didn't want a black dog, a puppy or a male.

Until she met Charlie, a 3-month-old black, male cockapoo rescue. He was that cute.

After she lost her elder dog and then her husband, Charlie became her constant companion, the heartbeat in her home just south of Ocean. Until they met a dog with a man.

Disney couldn't write this better.

It started with a "meet cute" kind of "coffee with canines" affair. Yet the dogs, Charlie and a goldendoodle named Tucker, seemed to hit it off first.

"Tucker, who was nearing 14, had begun to slow down, had trouble walking up and down the stairs. Until he met Charlie," his person said. "Now he runs around with his pal, acting like he's no more than 10."

This is not the first tale in which the bond between an unlikely pair of pups brings their people together. Disney's done it, and Hallmark, too.

"If I try to take Charlie somewhere without Tucker, he starts crying. And so does Tucker. They're like Mutt and Jeff," his person said, referring to the long-running comic strip created by Bud Fisher (1907 debut), which portrayed two mismatched characters.

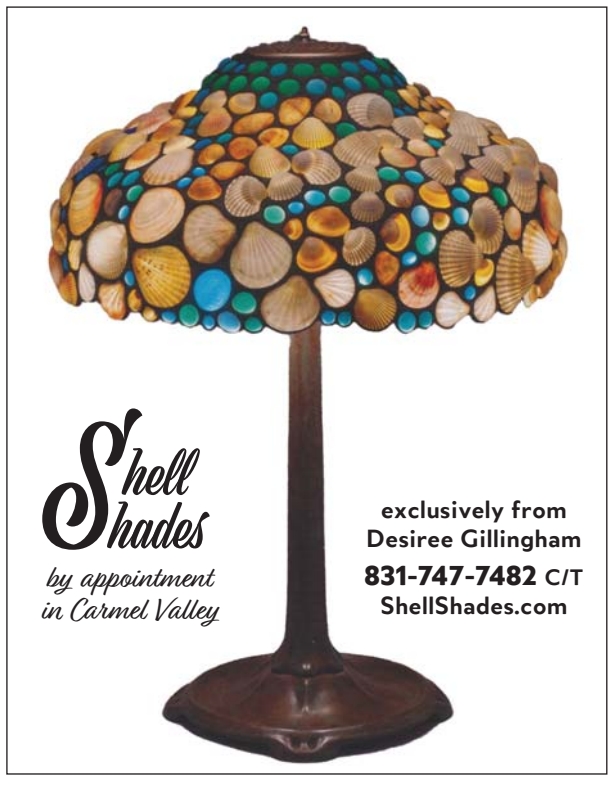
Yet, apparently, everyone is feeling the love.

"Who would imagine falling into a fairytale life at 80, fostered by our dogs?" she said. "It's quite wonderful for all of us — rather shocking for the people but clearly not for our pups. They're best friends."

Every morning, her beau takes both dogs out for a river walk or along the path along Scenic Road, overlooking Carmel Beach, while she heads to The Carmel Foundation for her exercise class.

"It's adorable to see the three of them walking along together," she said.

J. LAWRENCE
KHAKI'S
MEN'S CLOTHIER OF CARMEL



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Street address group to poll public

By MARY SCHLEY

A TRIO of citizens working with Carmel City Councilman Bob Delves has nearly completed its research on the age-old and contentious issue of whether and how to implement standardized street addresses, Delves told the city council Tuesday, with plans to take its ideas to the public late this month or in early September. The group expects to present its findings to the council in October.

The committee includes residents Nancy Twomey, Kevin Ruess and Paula Hazdovac and an administrative analyst for the city, Emily Garay. Delves said it set out with the goal of developing a comprehensive picture of the process required to implement a nationally recognized address system and the associated costs so the council can make an informed decision on whether to proceed with establishing house numbers.

"The beauty of the thing is Nancy doesn't want an address, and Kevin does, so we have a really good conversation about everything we do," Delves added.

Setting the stage for the next debate over house numbers

Reconfirming

The group "did go backward a little bit to reconfirm work already done," including reports prepared by Garay and a former ad hoc group, and reached out to the U.S. Postal Service official in charge of addresses for the western region of the country.

"We confirmed that a standardized address system will not trigger home delivery, nor would it trigger closure of the post office," Delves said, and that the postal service "is the authority for address authentication. Every building in the country has a unique address."

The group met again with police and fire officials and reconfirmed that "not having standardized addresses does cost us in response time," he added.

"Our response times are excellent, and that's primarily a function of the fact that all of us live within a mile of our assets," he said. "But not having a standardized address can add 1 to 3 minutes in response time."

City attorney Brian Pierik reiterated that the city's lack of house numbers does not comply with state law.

100 Lincoln St.

A new system should not require changing street names or adding signs, must meet the USPS address management system's requirements, should be OK with the city's first responders, should be based on the layout of the city, should be logical and intuitive, "and to the extent we can, we need to protect traditions," Delves said the committee decided.

Ruess led efforts to research the minimum requirements for a standardized address system and ran several possible iterations past the USPS specialist, according to Delves.

The directional addresses used in most of the city for decades — such as "Monte Verde 2SW of Ocean" — didn't pass the test, he said, "and our first responders were clear that they don't love it."

Variations of the directional system also didn't fly, and the system Monterey County uses for assigning addresses works, but "it's not very Carmel," he said, without elaborating.

"And then we did develop a prototype of the classic 123 Main St. idea," he said.

Ruess devised guidelines for establishing such a system, with numbers beginning

See **ADDRESS** *page 30A*

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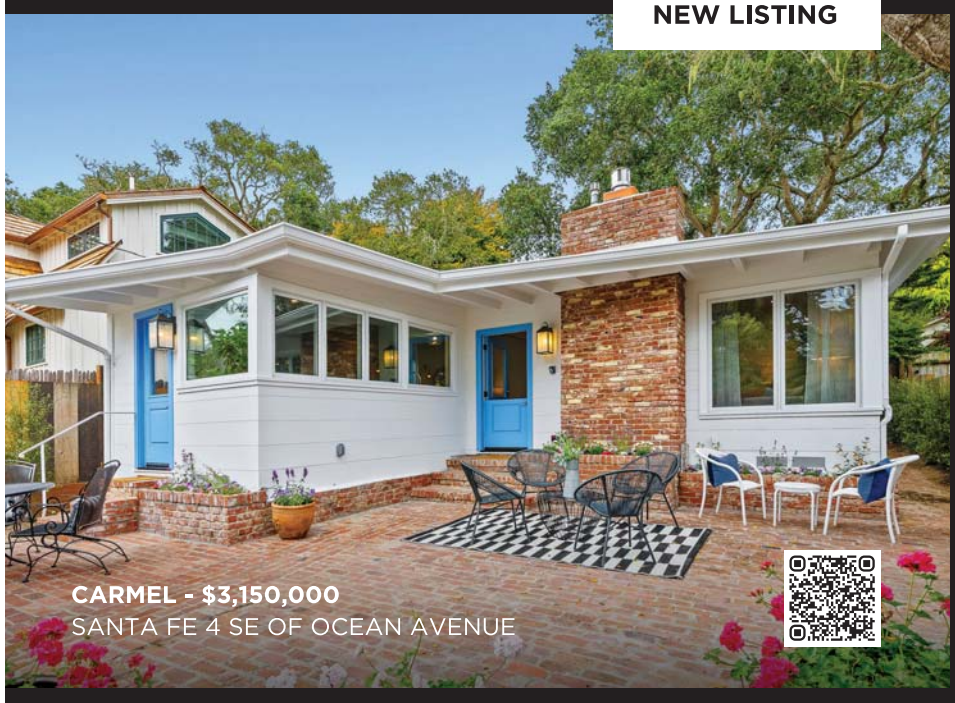

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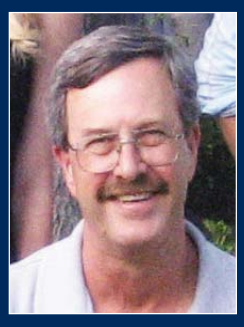

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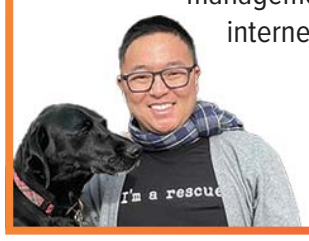

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Police & Sheriff's Log

That's a mighty specific earring

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.

TUESDAY, JULY 15

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Suspicious circumstances investigated at San Carlos and Seventh involving an homeless male exhibiting erratic behavior in front of a female. Information only.

Pacific Grove: A vehicle was stopped on Eardley Avenue for traffic violations. The 30-year-old male driver was arrested for several misdemeanor charges for possession of unlawful paraphernalia, driving without a valid license, failure to maintain insurance, possession of cannabis in an open container while driving, and an outstanding arrest warrant for failure to appear in court.

Pacific Grove: Report on Lighthouse Avenue of checks being forged. Suspect unknown.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle on Lighthouse Avenue was marked for 72-hour parking.

Carmel Valley: Report of neglect of a Piedras Blancas resident.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle towed from Monte Verde and Eighth for blocking a driveway.

Pebble Beach: Report of a stolen package from a mailbox on Hermitage Road.

Carmel Valley: Alleged mental abuse involving a Via Las Rosas resident.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury accident vs. a city vehicle on Junipero Street.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Assisted another agency at Fifth and Dolores.

See **POLICE LOG** *page 12RE in the Real Estate Section*

The gavel falls

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

May 23 — Jesus Tejeda, 37, of Gonzales, was sentenced to 38 years and eight months in prison after pleading no contest to voluntary manslaughter with the personal use a firearm, attempted murder, and assault with a deadly weapon in furtherance of a gang, which arose from three separate incidents in 2021, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

On Dec. 13, 2021, Christopher Connor was shot in the side of his head while driving his vehicle at the intersection of Nacional Court and Clark Street in Salinas. The vehicle then crashed into a wall of the apartment complex at the intersection. The shooter left the passenger seat of the vehicle, got into a vehicle that was following them, and fled the scene. After months of investigation, Tejeda was identified as the shooter, but no motive for the shooting was ever revealed.

On Jan. 5, 2022, before he was identified in the fatal shooting, Tejeda was driving a stolen vehicle near a farm in Gonzales. Another person, the attempted murder victim, was in the vehicle with Tejeda. In front of numerous eyewitnesses, Tejeda and the victim exited the vehicle, and Tejeda began to assault him, causing the victim to fall to the ground. Tejeda then grabbed a 55-pound filled cinderblock and threw it at the victim's head, knocking him unconscious. Tejeda then fled the scene in the vehicle and was apprehended by law enforcement after leading them on a dangerous, high-speed chase. The victim suffered great bodily injury, but he was uncooperative with law enforcement and refused to provide any statement as to what

See **GAVEL** *page 18A*

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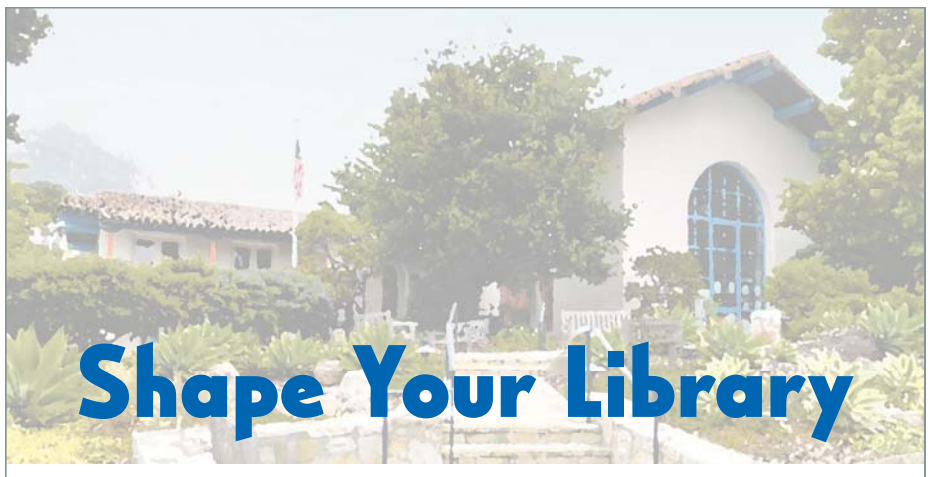

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Dealer gets prison after boy's death

By KELLY NIX

A MARINA man who sold fentanyl pills to a Pacific Grove teenager who days later fatally overdosed after ingesting one was sentenced in June to eight years in prison. But the boy's mother said the punishment doesn't go nearly far enough.

Edward Tellez Solis, 27, will spend about 100 months in a federal prison for selling fentanyl-laced counterfeit oxycodone pills to Angelo Klotz, 15, a high schooler, on March 3, 2022. Klotz overdosed at his P.G. home several days after Solis provided him the drugs.

Senior U.S. District Judge Edward J. Davila handed down the sentence June 9, and Solis was taken into custody at the end of the court hearing, the U.S. Attorney's Office Northern District reported.

'Not justice'

Klotz's mother, Ashley Callau, told The Pine Cone this week that the sentence Solis received for preying on her son isn't enough.

"Eight years for the lifelong sentence my family and I now carry in grief, pain and emptiness," she said. "There is no justice in that."

Callau went on to say that the eight-year term "does not reflect the value" of her son's life, nor does it send a strong enough message about the consequences of selling fentanyl.

"My son is gone forever. The person responsible will one day walk free," she said. "I will continue to speak out — for Angelo, for every family destroyed by this epidemic and for a system that must do better."

The judge also ordered Solis to pay $29,895.85 in restitution to Klotz's family. A grand jury indicted Solis on Aug. 4, 2022, and he later pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, distribution, and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

He used social media applications to advertise, sell, and distribute controlled substances including fentanyl, cocaine, ecstasy, hydrocodone, marijuana and Xanax.

Solis contacted Klotz through Snapchat and offered to sell him 13 pills, aware that they contained fentanyl "or some other federally controlled substance," the court said. Solis provided at least nine pills to him the next day. It's not clear if Klotz was aware he was purchasing fentanyl, or what he thought he was buying.

Fentanyl 'superhighway'

Drug Enforcement Agency special agent-in-charge Bob Beris said Solis used social media as a "superhighway" to sell drugs and line his pockets with the proceeds, adding that the prison sentence "marks a crucial step in bringing justice to the victim and a family devastated by the scourge of fentanyl."

Is eight years a just sentence for selling deadly drugs to kids?

When law enforcement caught up with Solis after Klotz's fatal overdose, they found a stash of illegal drugs, $17,243 cash, a loaded firearm, three fully loaded magazines and an additional 89 rounds of ammunition. Inside Solis' home was another $98,246 cash.

"While this sentence brings a measure of justice to the community for this crime, it can never undo the pain and devastation the defendant's reprehensible actions caused the victim's family," U.S. Attorney Craig Missakian said, adding that "we owe the victim's family and the people of the Northern District of California nothing less."

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MPC preschool reopens with 'sliding-scale' tuition, teacher raises

By LILY PATTERSON

FOLLOWING A $4.8 million renovation, Little Lobos Academy at Monterey Peninsula College is on track to reopen Aug. 18, MPC leadership announced on July 22. The public preschool will welcome up to 96 children at the start of the fall semester, offering "nature-inspired, play-based education" for toddlers ages 2 to 5. Enrollment is open, with priority given to low-income families and children of students and staff at MPC and Cal State University Monterey Bay.

"This preschool space is not an add-on. It reflects our core values of access, equity, inclusion, and social mobility, with a sliding-scale tuition and, in many cases, free tuition," said Marshall Fulbright, MPC's superintendent and president during the press conference.

'Nature-inspired, play-based education' for ages 2 to 5

Local bond measure

"In a national climate of uncertainty, MPC chooses action," he added, alluding to the Trump administration's proposed funding cuts to federal preschool programs like HeadStart. That program supports more than 80,000 children and 25,000 employees throughout California and provides additional benefits for low-income families, including resources for parents seeking jobs, housing and insurance coverage, according to the program's website.

Despite talk of funding cuts, a budget overview released in May by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services indicates that Head Start is on track to receive $12,272,000 in the fiscal year 2026, the same amount it received last year.

Little Lobos Academy is not a Head Start school, instead funded by the California State Public Preschool Program and Monterey County taxpayers. The renovation was funded by a bond passed by Monterey County voters in 2020, Measure V, which asked for $230 million to modernize and expand facilities on Monterey Peninsula Community College District campuses.

40 percent raises

The preschool boasts playground upgrades, new outdoor learning spaces and improvements to existing classrooms.

The littlest Lobos aren't the only ones getting a leg up, starting this fall. According to the preschool's new director, Aprielle Anderson, full-time teachers will benefit from a 40 percent pay increase in the 2025-2026 school year.

"We keep our class sizes small with about one teacher for every eight children. And that is not counting the guidance our student-teachers provide," said Anderson, who explained that Little Lobos Academy operates as a "lab school," meaning its teaching assistants are either MPC or CSUMB students working toward degrees in education and early childhood development.

Parents attending or employed at either school get priority enrollment for their kids and tuition assistance as needed.

"This work not only supports local parents and caregivers. It strengthens our regional workforce, bolsters economic development, and strengthens the social fabric of the Monterey Peninsula," said

See **REOPEN** *page 31A*

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PROMENADE
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Coastal commission staff backs county short-term rules ahead of showdown

By CHRIS COUNTS

WEIGHING IN on a topic that has sparked dissension in many neighborhoods, the California Coastal Commission Wednesday will consider a set of ordinances passed by Monterey County to regulate short-term rentals in the coastal zone, including Pebble Beach, Carmel Highlands and Big Sur.

The long-anticipated hearing will give vacation rental operators and their opponents a chance to plead their cases. Last August, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to strictly regulate short-term rentals in unincorporated parts of the county — and effectively ban them in residential neighborhoods in Carmel Valley, Carmel Highlands and Big Sur unless a host is living on site. In contrast, unhosted vacation stays are allowed in Pebble Beach, but only with a permit.

'The key is finding a balance that makes sense'

Will the rules stand?

Some opponents of vacation rentals have expressed concerns that the powerful coastal watchdog group would ultimately strike down the county rules due to its general support of the short-term rental industry. A coastal commission report suggests this. "The commission has historically recognized that vacation rentals can provide a unique and important source of visitor-serving accommodations in the coastal zone, especially for families and groups," reads a recent report from coastal commission official Dan Carl and others.

But coastal commission spokesperson Joshua Smith told The Pine Cone Thursday that despite ambiguity in the report, the commission's staff is recommending approval of the county's short-term rental rules.

The report details some of the problems vacation rentals have caused in coastal neighborhoods. "The commission has also recognized a need to restrict vacation rentals in some coastal communities where evidence showed that the vacation rental market was having impacts on coastal resources or significantly impacting the availability of housing," it says.

While the commission's staff is recommending support for the county rules, the report suggests they are trying to strike a compromise. They acknowledge the rules "may impact the availability of visitor-serving accommodations in some part of the county's coastal zone," but they also suggest that "a healthy vacation rental market" would still exist.

"The commission has sought to accommodate a balance between these sometimes-competing interests," the report adds. "Vacation rental regulation is not an all or nothing proposition, and the key is finding a balance that makes sense for both communities and visitors."

In the works since '97

Wednesday's showdown is the latest in a series of hearings on short-term rentals that dates back more than two decades. It's also worth noting that two local residents, Chris Lopez and Ann Notthoff, have joined the commission in recent months — after a 15-year span when no county resident served on the commission. Lopez voted against the county short-term rentals regulations as a county supervisor in August

See **STR** *page 31A*

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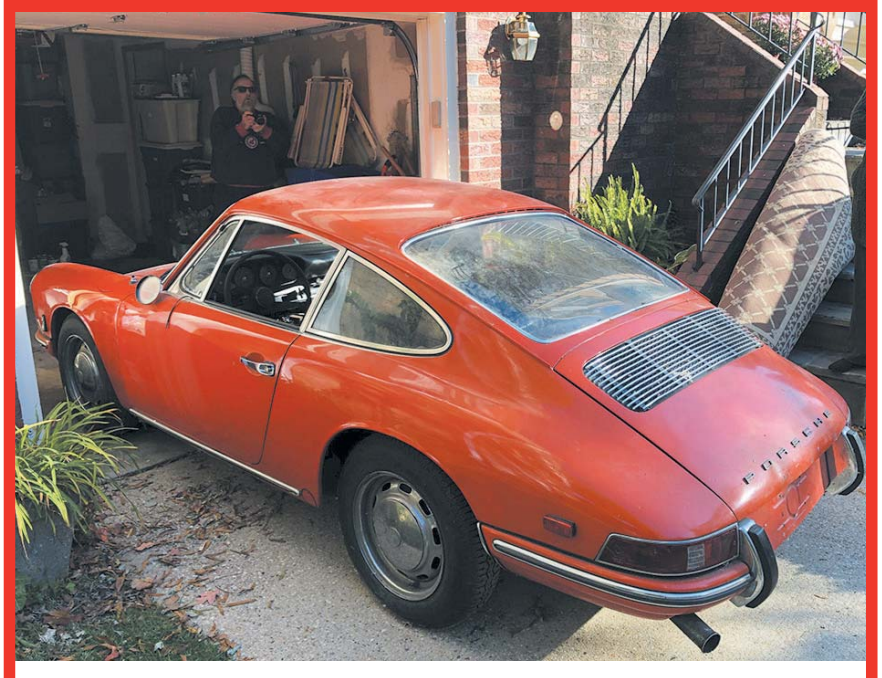

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Meals on Wheels expanding, buys $3.4M building for food prep

By KELLY NIX

PACIFIC Grove-based Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula — which delivers food to homebound seniors and others — has purchased a former motorcycle shop in Seaside to help meet the growing demand for its services.

The nonprofit acquired the old Monterey Powersports building at 1020 La Salle for $3.4 million, with escrow closing July 29. Taylor and Keri Loesch are listed as the sellers of the nearly 16,000 square-foot commercial structure, according to documents filed at the Monterey County Recorder's office.

"The building was purchased to be used as a production kitchen to make more meals to meet the rising demand throughout Monterey County," Jacob Shafer, senior director of advancement for Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula, told The Pine Cone this week.

The kitchen likely won't be up and running until sometime in 2027, Shafer explained.

PHOTO/MOWMP SOCIAL MEDIA

Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula serves paella to hungry diners on July 25, 2022.

'Rising demand'

In Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula's 2025 Impact Report, board president Rory Coetzee talked about the challenge of "meeting the rising demand for our services" and the development of a "state-of-the-art kitchen capable of producing up to 10,000 meals per day."

"This ambitious step will ensure we can meet the ever-growing need for decades to come," Coetzee said.

In the meantime, the organization, which operates from its headquarters at 700 Jewell Ave., is gearing up for a fundraising campaign for the commercial kitchen project.

The home-delivered meals program is the only one of its kind on the Peninsula that offers "nutritious meals every day, five days per week, with an extra meal for the weekend," the organization said.

President and CEO Christine Winge reported that the group served an estimated 619,000 meals in 2024.

Details of how the transaction was handled were not immediately available, but Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula's 2023 tax forms indicate it had $17,343,036 in assets including $12,423,100 in publicly traded securities.

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WHO'S WHO IN LUXURY REAL ESTATE

Officials certify P.G. referendum

By KELLY NIX

THE MONTEREY County Elections office has certified a referendum organized by a group of Pacific Grove residents who are seeking to overturn a decision by the city council to give itself a nearly 130 percent increase in pay. The group wants voters to decide on the issue.

On Aug. 6, the elections office notified Transparent Pacific Grove head Luke Coletti, a former P.G. city councilman, that the group successfully surpassed the required 10 percent threshold of 1,060 signatures from registered voters. The effort took only three weeks.

The certificate will be provided to the city council, which will have the option of nixing the pay hike ordinance at an upcoming meeting or allowing residents to vote on the idea, which means the proposal will go on a ballot.

If the council repeals it, then the ordinance is defeated and a similar proposal to increase the stipend amount for councilmembers cannot be considered for at least one year.

If the city council chooses to allow voters to decide, then the ordinance will be submitted to the voters at the next regular municipal election, which is Nov. 3, 2026, or at a special election.

'Misleading costs'

Special elections are expensive, and Coletti said that the last one in Pacific Grove cost taxpayers $125,000. Placing the question on a regular municipal election ballot will cost $5,000 to $10,000, he said.

"The city council is almost always misled and provided a much higher cost" for elections, "which they then use to justify their no vote," Coletti said.

He said that Transparent Pacific Grove believes voting on the matter is the "most definitive and effective way of settling this."

"We brought the referendum forward to let the voters decide, and that's clearly what they want," Coletti explained in a press release. "To deprive the voters of this would be a betrayal."

Proponents of raising the stipend for the council say that it could attract people interested in running for a seat. They also point to the fact that members haven't had a raise in more than 26 years.

MONTEREY 'LANDLORD WORKSHOP'

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

AN EFFORT to connect property managers and landlords with potential tenants will be offered by the City of Monterey and the Housing Resource Center of Monterey County, which are hosting a "Landlord Workshop" in El Estero Park Center Aug. 14 6 to 8 p.m.

"This workshop is to connect property managers and landlords with clients ready to be housed," organizers said, and will include representatives from Sterling Property Management, ECHO Fair Housing, Downtown Streets Team, Community Human Services and Gathering for Women.

For more information, visit housing@monterey.gov, call (831) 646-3995 or visit monterey.gov/housing.

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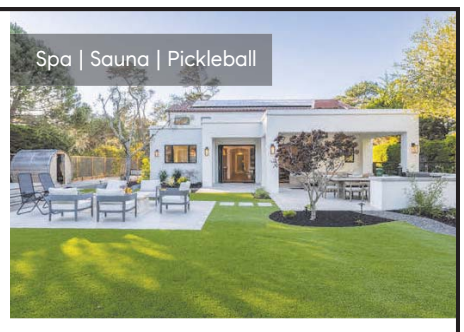

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Western Flyer tours offered Aug. 16

By CHRIS COUNTS

A BOAT that carried literary giant John Steinbeck and pioneering marine biologist Ed Ricketts on a famous ocean voyage more than eight decades ago, the Western Flyer will be available for public visits when it returns to Monterey Saturday, Aug. 16.

The ship will dock at the end of Fisherman's Wharf, just to the left of the Rockfish Harbor Grill, according to the Fisherman's Wharf Association. "This iconic vessel, made famous by John Steinbeck and Ed Ricketts during their legendary 1940 expedition to the Sea of Cortez, has just returned from retracing that historic journey," the group said.

Free public tours will be offered from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. — for one day only — giving people a chance to learn more about the boat, which was built in Tacoma, Wash., in 1937 for Monterey's sardine fishing industry.

Steinbeck and Ricketts took the Western Flyer on a six-week trip in 1940. Ricketts collected samples of marine life, while Steinbeck used the trip as inspiration for his book, "Sea of Cortez," which came out the following year.

See **BOAT** *page 31A*

PHOTO/SOPHIE DARLING

For one day only, you can take a free tour of the Western Flyer, which carried writer John Steinbeck and marine biologist Ed Ricketts on an iconic sea voyage.

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Drivers keep hitting young seagulls

By KELLY NIX

SPCA MONTEREY County is caring for dozens of rescued seagulls, some of which were struck by cars and injured, the organization said.

SPCA spokeswoman Beth Brookhouser said the nonprofit off Highway 68 is taking care of 46 young gulls, which are leaving their nests this time of year so they can eventually make it on their own. They're the same size as their parents but are mostly gray and haven't yet learned to fly.

"Sadly, people are driving way too fast," Brookhouser said. "Drivers expect these large birds, which they don't realize are babies, to fly away, and they simply can't. We are issuing this alert asking people to slow down and give time for the gull babies to walk out of the way."

Hundreds of young seagulls have been hit and killed this season, she said.

Watch out

The most dangerous local areas for young seagulls are along Cannery Row, near CVS on Lighthouse in Pacific Grove, and in the Edgewood Shopping Center in Sand City, especially in front of and behind Target, PetSmart and Lucky, according to the SPCA.

"We strongly recommend slowing down and being compassionate for these birds," Brookhouser explained. "The fledgling season is brief; we can all slow down for a few weeks."

The SPCA Wildlife Center is also rescuing nestling gulls, which have white and gray downy feathers with black spots.

If you see an injured gull, or any other injured wild animal, SPCA Monterey County asks that you call (831) 264-5427 or visit spcamc.org/wildlife.

PHOTO/COURTESY OF SPCAMC

This nestling seagull was rescued by the local SPCA chapter in hopes it can be returned to the wild when it's older and stronger.

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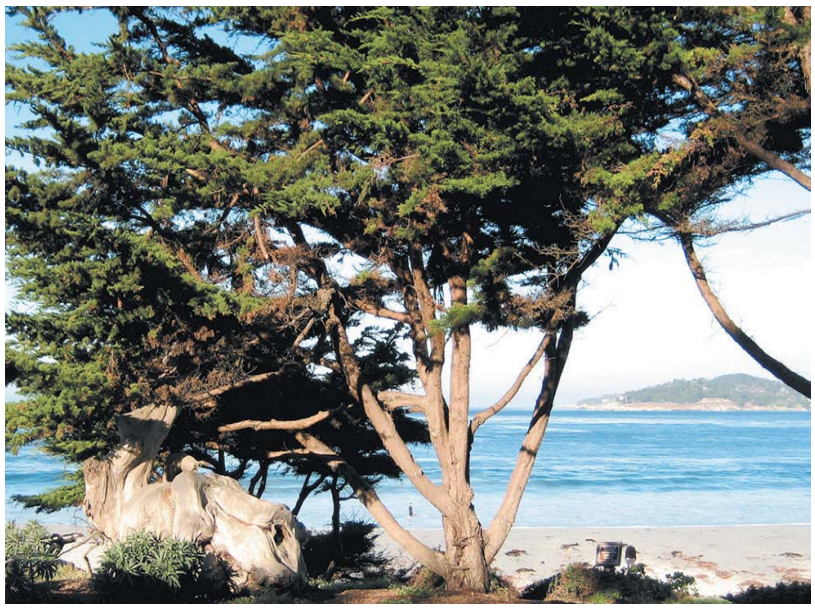

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28 years later, water permit OK'd

By KELLY NIX

A DISPUTE over a water permit for the owner of a Monterey home has been resolved nearly 30 years after it began.

In March, David Fockler was told by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District that a permit issued to him in 1997 enabling him to build his home was unresolved because the district never did a final inspection of the house to ensure the fixtures he installed matched those OK'd by the agency. The district even provided him a copy of the 28-year-old permit.

"Please be advised that properties not in compliance with district water permit may be subject to the recordation of a notice of non-compliance on the property title, along with other potential actions," the agency warned Fockler in the letter.

'Follow the rules'

However, Fockler told The Pine Cone in May that he was sure the permit process was finalized because a Monterey County official said it had a 1997 recorded notice of completion, a document that is only issued after all inspections are finished. He could not find a copy of that notice, though.

In any case, Fockler said he allowed a district official to come into his house last week.

"A very nice lady, Stephanie Locke, did the inspection on Wed. July 30," he explained, saying it took about 15 minutes. "It was really kind of stupid. They were making sure that my builder installed all the fixtures on the permit. I said to Stephanie that after 30 years, I would have noticed a missing toilet or shower."

Locke told The Pine Cone Thursday that the district needed to verify the number and type of fixtures to close the permit, and that everything was in order in Fockler's house.

He later received a note from the water district, a government agency, telling him his "water permit is finalized and closed," and that "no further action is needed."

The water district has said that because more water will be available in a few months from the Pure Water Monterey reclamation project, the agency wanted to resolve "open" permits. The district contacted other homeowners, too.

District general manager Dave Stoldt had said earlier this year that his agency was notifying property owners about unresolved permits by mail, requesting they schedule final inspections.

"Follow their rules and everything is OK," Fockler said.

County fair seeks volunteers

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE MONTEREY County Fair is asking community members "to be part of one of the area's most beloved annual traditions" by volunteering to help pull off the event, this year scheduled for Aug. 28 through Sept. 1.

Volunteer opportunities begin Aug. 17 and continue through Sept. 2, with help needed setting up exhibits, judging various competitions, assisting guests, hosting and other jobs. The roles are open to adults, as well as students seeking community service hours.

To sign up or learn more, go to montereycountyfair.com and navigate to the "Volunteer" section.

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Board of supervisors sets renewal fees for vacation rental licenses

By CHRIS COUNTS

In its latest move to create rules for short-term rentals, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 Tuesday to establish a $135 renewal fee for a rental with no changes to a license and $357.50 for renewals that require changes. Board chair Chris Lopez voted against the measure, which applies in unincorporated parts of the county outside the coastal zone.

According to a county report, fee amounts were set to offset the staff time needed to process the renewals. The $357.50 charge for renewals with changes is higher because they "more in-depth review" and "additional staff processing time."

In September 2024, the supervisors approved an initial license fee of $965 but didn't set renewal fees.

Code enforcement

At Tuesday's meeting, county official Melanie Beretti reported that the planning staff "have been conducting code enforcement operations" on vacation rentals "that continue to operate but have not applied for permits from the county." The crackdown started April 14.

Beretti also offered a progress report on the applications it has received so far, which fall into three categories — homestays, limited rentals and unlimited rentals.

To qualify as a homestay, the owner must be onsite and use the house as a primary residence. Limited rentals don't need an onsite host but can be rented no more than three times a year. Owners may lease out unlimited rentals as often as they like.

The official reported that the county has approved nine homestay applications with 21 pending, four limited rentals applications with 10 pending, and 34 unlimited applications with 33 pending.

Of the 34 unlimited licenses granted, 30 — which were approved before the Monterey County Board of Supervisors finalized its short-term rental ordinances in August 2024 — will need to reapply in 2031.

Classic Motorsports cancels kick-off

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

Organizers of the Classic Motorsports Monterey Kickoff — which was held at Folktale Winery before moving to Pacific Grove a several years ago — announced they are not bringing their event back this year.

"A decade ago, we hosted our first kickoff with the goal of democratizing Monterey Car Week, inviting our readers to show their cars to the public in a venue with free admission and a laid-back, low-stress atmosphere," Classic Motorsports representatives said. "It's been a fixture of the Car Week schedule ever since."

But August on the Peninsula has accumulated more and more events over the years, and the kickoff evolved from a show-up-and-show event to one that required preregistration, fees, security and a lot more formal organization.

Its hosts have decided they're done.

Exponential growth

"As the event has grown, so too has Car Week, seemingly exponentially. And so too have the challenges and expenses of building, hosting and insuring an event with hundreds of cars and thousands of spectators," they said. "Despite these challenges, there are now more events and opportunities than ever for almost anyone to participate in the classic car world's biggest festival."

Classic Motorsports' editorial staff will instead focus on covering Car Week and partnering with other events, they said.

Pacific Grove will be the site of four Car Week events: The Little Car Show Aug. 13, Legends of the Autobahn and the new Woodies in the Woods Aug. 14, and the Pacific Grove Auto Rally Aug. 15.

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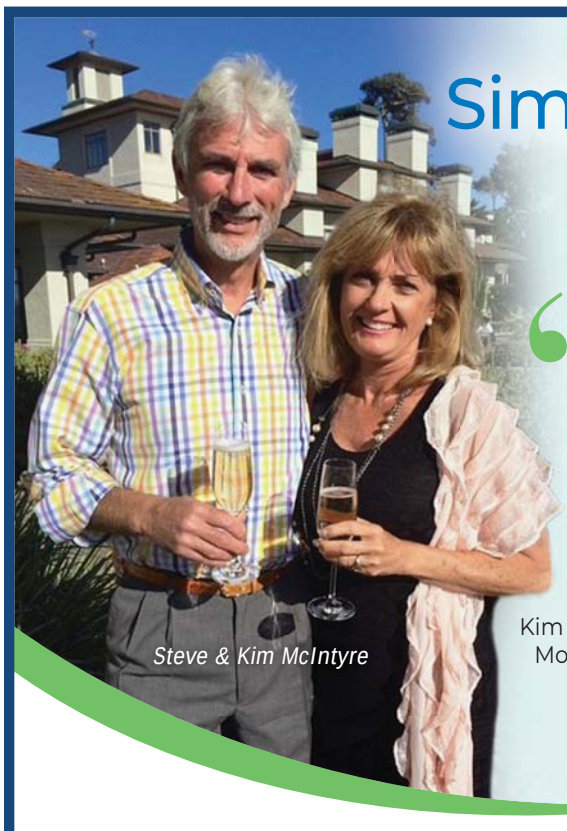

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Music meets astrophotography at Gallery Sur

By CHRIS COUNTS

AN UNUSUAL pairing at Gallery Sur Saturday brings together astrophotographer Gary Lopez and singer and guitarist Jewel Arianna. Titled "Tales Told by Ancient Light," the mixed media show starts at 5 p.m. and is free.

According to gallery director Rohana LoSchiavo, the pair "share their view of the cosmos with beautiful images and captivating songs."

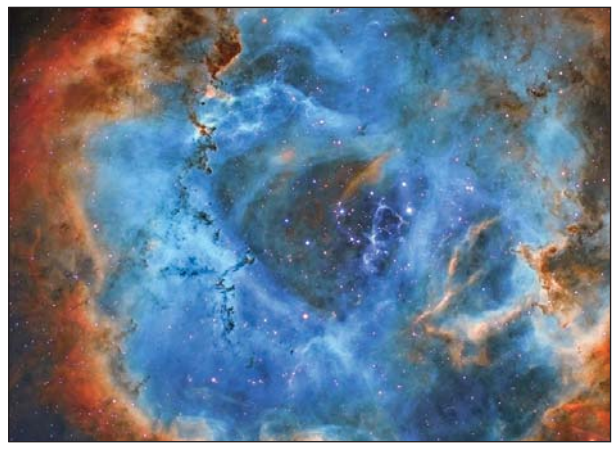
"This is a unique program and beautifully expands our understanding of both the historic and current interplay between art and science," LoSchiavo told The Pine Cone. "Together, their work surrounds and washes over the audience, opening a portal to see and feel a familiar connection to the universe."

Fascinated by the "beauty and drama that is captured in the ancient light of the cosmos," Lopez finds creative inspiration in the nighttime sky. "I strive to create visual experiences that evoke a sense of familiarity and connection, and offer the viewer a portal to a deeper level — a window to see and feel their connection to the universe," Lopez said.

The gallery director described Lopez as one of the world's most respected astrophotographers. "He uses the ancient light of the night sky to create elegant images that tell the stories of the galaxy," she explained.

Arianna is a local singer and guitarist who performed recently at Hyatt Regency Monterey and Bernardus Lodge. And like Lopez, she's enamored with the stars.

"She herself is like an astrophysicist," LoSchiavo said.



PHOTO/GARY LOPEZ

A free show Saturday at Gallery Sur reveals the beauty of the cosmos through astrophotography and original music.

"She has written five original songs inspired by Gary's astrophotography — Arianna transports the listener on a journey through the drama and beauty of deep space with her melodies and lyrics."

The gallery — which will be the site of a reception Saturday for Lopez from 4 to 7 p.m. — is located on Sixth between Dolores and Lincoln.

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PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE CARMEL Chamber of Commerce will run shuttles to and from the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance Sunday, Aug. 17, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The buses allow spectators to avoid having to deal with traffic and parking in Del Monte Forest, and unlimited rides are available to anyone who wants to make the trip more than once.

Wristbands are $40 each for unlimited rides between Ocean Avenue in front of Carmel Plaza and Pebble Beach, one-way tickets are $20, and kids under 12 can shuttle for free. Passes can be purchased online or from the Carmel Visitor Center in the Plaza before Concours Sunday, or at the shuttle stop on the day of the show. For more information and to purchase online, go to carmelchamber.org and click on the "events" tab.

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A serene tableau with more precision moving parts than a Swiss watch

By ELAINE HESSER

'IS THE bar OK here?" "That tablecloth isn't on right." "The groom's boutonniere is over there." Questions and information flew around Heidi Sebok like honeybees buzzing around nearby flowers at Holman Ranch in Carmel Valley. She responded calmly, not breaking a sweat — at least until the temperature climbed into the 80s.

In February, I reported on Coastside Couture's wedding planning services for a special section of The Pine Cone. Sebok, the owner, said that 10 couples who hire her each year spend at least $1,000 per guest (not including lodging), with an average of $2,500, and she said attendance has ranged from 20 people to 300, averaging around 140. So, I wondered, what does that money get you?

PHOTO/MIKE LARSON

Simple isn't the same as easy. This ceremony and two days of associated events required in-depth planning and coordination.

Sebok let me tag along for a day, and here's what I saw.

Holman Ranch opened in 1928 and became a getaway for silent film stars like Charlie Chaplin. Gracious guestrooms line the driveway to the historic stone hacienda and manicured lawn overlooking rolling hills and vineyards. It's all über-photogenic, with multiple spots for ceremonies, receptions and wedding party preparations. That — and the helpful, professional staff — make it one of Sebok's favorite venues.

By 11:30 a.m. on a Saturday, she was supported by a diligent, resilient and good-natured squad of employees amid preparations for about 140 people who would be part of the 3:30 ceremony.

Lots of traffic

Sebok's seven-page schedule listed seven groomsmen and eight bridesmaids. She said such large bridal parties are common.

A third of that timetable was already yesterday's news. The wedding party and guests had arrived and gotten settled on Friday. The rehearsal, a dinner and a welcome party stretched into the evening, with post-event cleanup starting at 10 p.m.

By 7:30 a.m. Saturday, the hair and makeup artist was setting up large lighted mirrors and workstations in the bridal party's dressing room.

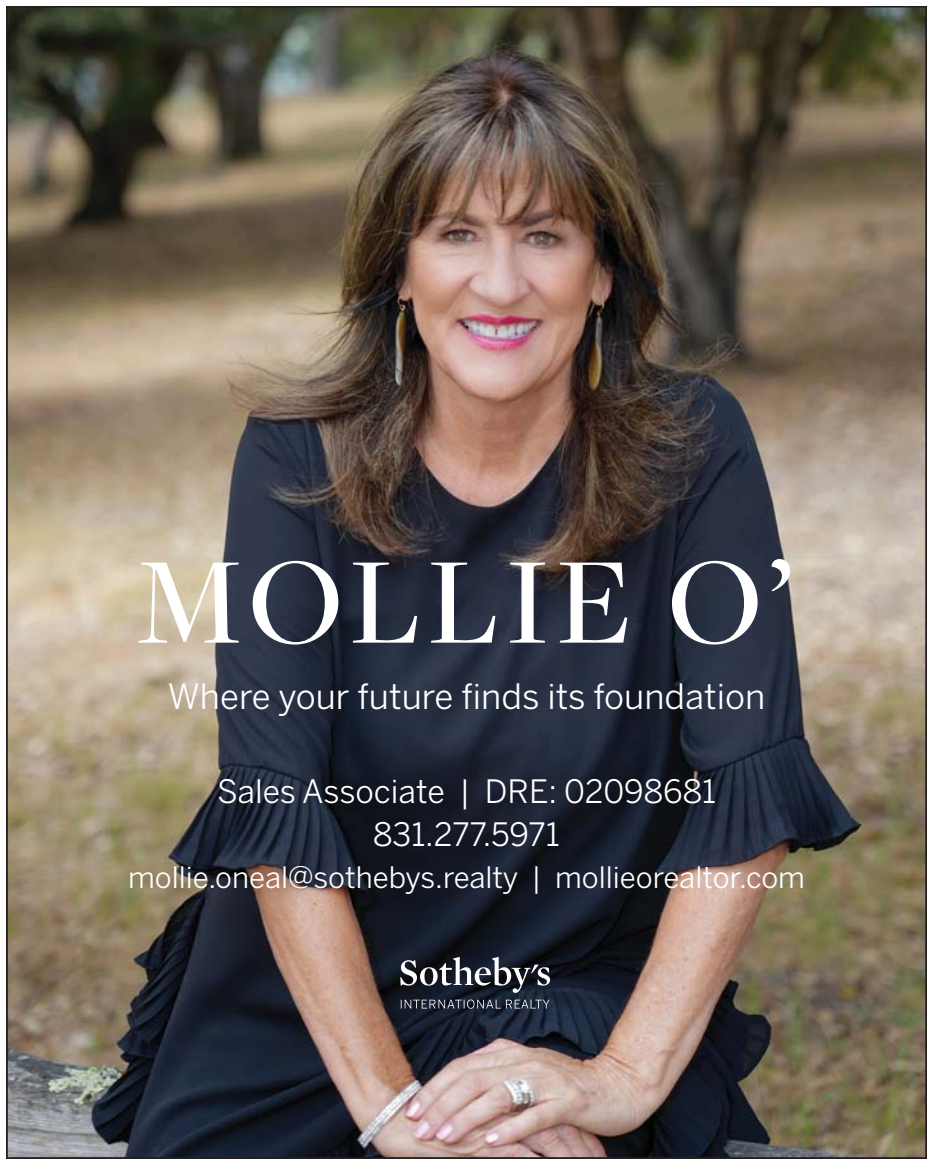
The Coastside Couture team, dressed in black with headsets like a tech crew in a theater, fanned out across a courtyard with undressed banquet tables that were a tad askew. One CC employee had arrived early to tend exclusively to the bride for the day.

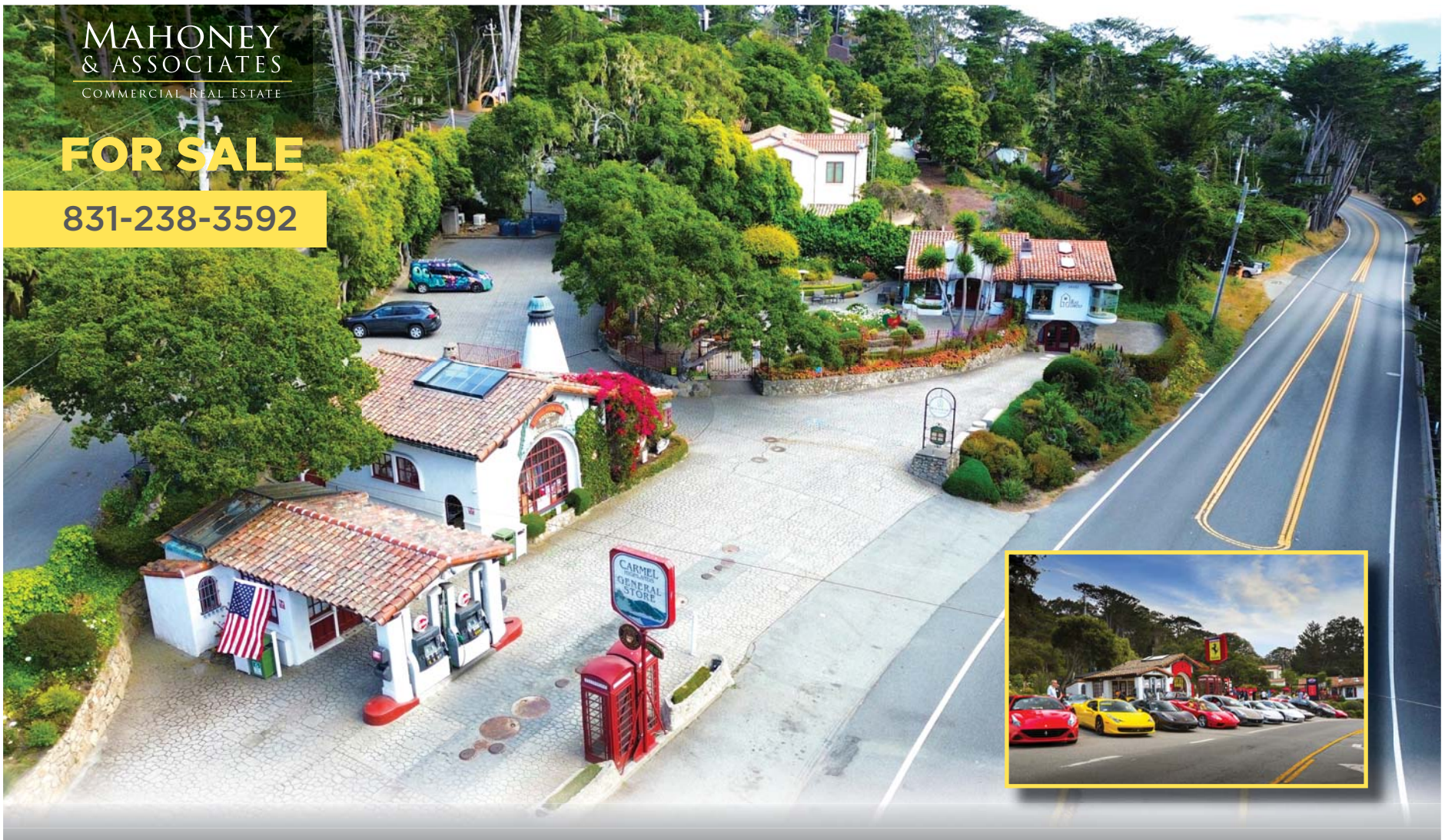
There was an astonishing amount of minutiae, from dozens of childhood photos of the bride and groom displayed in the hacienda's great room, to table numbers for the reception. "These should face the entrance," noted Sebok quietly, turning the numbered cards so guests could find their seats quickly.

Meanwhile, groomsmen sunned themselves in a courtyard, and the mothers of the bride and groom looked relaxed, still in matching blue PJs. They gathered with the bride and bridesmaids — in their own color-coordinated jammies — for a toast recorded by two photographers and a videographer.

Sandwiches from Jerome's Carmel Valley Market arrived for lunch.

See **WEDDING** *page 21A*





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GAVEL

From page 4A

happened or why it happened.

On March 9, 2023, while in custody pending prosecution for the above offenses, Tejeda and multiple other Norteño criminal street gang members in the Monterey County Jail coordinated with each other to stab another inmate in their jail pod. Tejeda and other co-conspirators repeatedly stabbed the inmate, inflicting great bodily haarm on the victim, in furtherance of a criminal street gang.

Tejeda was sentenced by Judge Mark E. Hood. The homicide case was primarily investigated by Detective John Richardson of the Salinas Police Department.

June 5 — Travis Harris, 40, a resident of Scotts Valley, was sentenced to 40 years, 8 months to life in prison, after being convicted by a jury of 8 counts of lewd act on a child aged 14 or 15 in violation of Penal Code Section 288(c); 6 counts of lewd act on a child under 14 in violation of Penal Code section 288(a); 1 count of oral copulation of a child 10 or under in violation of Penal Code section 288.7(b); 1 count of contacting a minor for purposes of committing a sex offense in violation of Penal Code section 288.3(a); 2 counts of sending harmful material to a minor in violation of Penal Code section 288.2; 2 counts of unlawful sexual intercourse in violation of Penal Code section 261.5(c), 1 count of using a minor for sex acts in violation of Penal Code section 311.4(c); and 2 counts of providing cannabis to a minor over 14 in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11361(b). Judge Pamela Butler presided over the trial and sentencing.

The defendant met Jane Doe 1 online, on the chat board "Reddit," in September of 2022. At the time, he was 38 years old, and she was 15 years old. After talking online for approximately a week, they met in person and engaged in sexual intercourse. The defendant was aware that she was 15. They met in person many times, at various locations over the next few months, engaging in various sex acts. He also sent her lingerie, sex toys and adult clothing through Amazon.com. He also sent her nude photographs of himself and took photos and video of the two of them engaged in sexual intercourse. The defendant asked Doe 1 to recruit other young friends of hers to have sex with him and spoke to her about his sexual fantasies.

He also told Doe 1 about a 9-year-old girl who previously lived in his household and described being naked with that child and seemed sexually excited by it. After seeing a news story about the defendant's arrest, that child, Jane Doe 2, now a young adult, came forward to police and disclosed that the defendant had molested her when she was 9 years old.

The defendant was convicted of seven "strike" offenses under California's three strikes law and will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. Doe 1's mother gave an emotional victim impact statement to the judge, describing the impact that the defendant's crimes have had on her daughter and her family. Judge Butler praised Doe 1 and Doe 2 for their courage in coming forward and testifying about a very difficult topic.

This case was investigated by Greenfield Police Officers Jesus Rangel, Armando Lerma and Joseph Dyels, a special agent with the United States Department of Homeland Security, and Monterey County District Attorney Investigator Rachel Maldonado. The victims and their mothers were supported by victim advocate Mayra Sandoval. Court facility support dog Armani and victim advocate Kristen Peterson provided Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2 with invaluable support during their trial testimony.

June 5 — A jury convicted Elon Ocyris Whitaker, 40, from Vallejo, of one count of human trafficking for sexual exploitation (PC 236.1(b)), one count of human trafficking to obtain labor (PC 236.1(a)), one count of pandering by procuring another for prostitution (PC 266i), and one count of false imprisonment by violence (PC 236). These constitute the first felony convictions for Whitaker, who will have to register as a sex offender for the remainder of his life.

On Feb. 26, 2025, at approximately 4 a.m., Marina Police Officers Jasmine Flores and Eduardo Gamboa responded to a motel in the City of Marina after Jane Doe had called 911 and left an open line. Dispatchers could clearly hear a disturbance including a male yelling about giving him money. Once on scene, officers listened at the door and heard the same male yelling to give him his money. Whitaker answered the door and Doe emerged from the bathroom crying hysterically. During the investigation, officers and Detective Ivan Santana learned that Doe was a resident of Alameda County, who had been brought to Monterey County by Whitaker. Whitaker had developed a friendship with Doe, occasionally buying her small gifts over the course of several weeks. However, after Doe rejected his romantic advances, Whitaker became hostile

See **MORE GAVEL** *page 25A*

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ACCESS

From page 1A

Aug. 18. Upon their return, they will have five days to review and vote on any new map before an Aug. 22 deadline from the Secretary of State to get the issue on the November ballot.

The race to get it all done will leave very little time for the public to review changes to their districts. But when pressed by reporters at his Monday press conference, the governor insisted the process will be legitimate.

"The ultimate test of transparency is what voters will decide on — full light of day, completely public, they will have opportunity to review those maps, they will have ample opportunity, and it will be in their ballot box," said Newsom.

Democratic leaders put the wheels in motion this week to fulfill the governor's request by Aug. 22, meeting behind closed doors Sunday night to hash out a battle plan.

"We will fight fire with fire. Our voters must be empowered to push back. California has never backed down — and we won't start now," said Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas.

As speaker, Rivas, a Hollister Democrat, will be tasked with leading the charge on passing two pieces of legislation upon the return from recess. One bill will be needed to approve the special election with a majority vote, and the other would include the ballot initiative to change the maps.

That second piece of legislation requires a two-thirds majority.

Addis weighs in

Central Coast Representative Dawn Addis said she is ready to take action later this month, but only if Texas changes its map. Addis spoke Wednesday from Boston where she attended the National Conference of State Legislatures and spent time with Texas Democrats who have fled the state to stop the Republican-led redistricting effort.

"This is just another form of a poll tax, this isn't only about partisan redistricting it is also about silencing the voices of Black and Brown voters," said Addis Wednesday.

Texas Democrats argue the proposed reconfiguration would take power away from Latino and Black voters in their state. Addis believes Texas may just be the beginning and that other red states may also move forward with maps aimed at gaining more seats for Republicans in the coming weeks.

Vulnerable Republicans

The Democratic lawmaker said blue states cannot allow themselves to be walked all over and that is one reason why she is open to the governor's proposal to redraw California's map. That said, she still has reservations.

"If we move the process forward, I would be looking for the legislature to be in control, I would be looking for a process that is transparent and a process that makes sure that voters have a say in what is happening, and then a process that only moves forward if Texas or another state takes the egregious action of doing mid-decade redistricting," said Addis.

A new congressional map for California has not been made public, but Addis said she does not anticipate any changes to Rep. Jimmy Panetta's 19th District.

"I have yet to examine any maps that are out there. I am not expecting any changes on the Central Coast," said Addis.

She confirmed that state lawmakers are hoping to gain around five seats for Democrats to counteract any gains Republicans make in Texas. Currently, California has 52 representatives and only nine, or 17 percent, are Republicans. Thirty-eight percent of California voters supported Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential election.

One of the vulnerable Republicans in Newsom's redistricting scheme is Rep. Kevin Kiley, who represents the 3rd District, which covers a stretch of Eastern California from Lassen National Volcanic Park to Death Valley. If new lines are drawn to add additional voters in Sacramento County to his district, Kiley could be out of office come 2026. In response to the game of Whac-a-Mole being played between Texas and California, the congressman has authored a bill to ban mid-decade redistricting altogether.

"I've introduced legislation to stop Newsom's plan to abolish the Citizens Redistricting Commission, seize its powers for himself, and remove all checks and balances in California. I'm calling on House Leadership to bring it up for a vote and end this insanity." wrote Kiley on social media platform X.

If passed, the bill would ban redistricting efforts nationwide and nullify any maps approved before the 2030 census.

Republicans in the state Assembly, who have a super-minority and no chance of stopping the redistricting effort on their own, have unsurprisingly come out against Newsom's proposal as well.

"Gavin Newsom and Rob Bonta have concocted a strange legal 'theory' to undermine California voters who unequivocally said citizens should draw maps for politicians, not the other way around. It's undemocratic, it's wrong, and it needs to be stopped," said Assemblyman James Gallagher, a Sutter County Republican.

How much?

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, a likely candidate for governor when Newsom is term-limited out next year, is a big proponent of the plan to call for a special election and move forward with redistricting without the independent commission the people established in 2008.

Whether or not voters will agree is yet to be determined. Many Californians hate Trump, but how much?

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Chamber wants input on parking

By MARY SCHLEY

WOULD SHUTTLES help alleviate downtown parking issues? How many workers take up prime two-hour spots near their businesses, anyway? The Carmel Chamber of Commerce and the City of Carmel are conducting a survey to learn the answers to those and other questions, all to help develop a solution to the decades-long problem of parking and traffic congestion in the city's commercial district.

"We are exploring a shuttle and remote parking program for employees who work in the Carmel business district," the survey says. "Your feedback will help us build a system that supports your business and meets the needs of your team."

The questionnaire asks for business and contact information, followed by how many employees work there, what times they arrive and depart, where they park (business district, residential streets, public transit, all-day parking lots or "other"), and whether "parking limitations negatively impact your employees or customers."

It goes on to ask how parking in general impacts the business, if the owner has established "a standard practice for employee parking," and whether the owner would be interested in participating in a remote parking and shuttle or golf-cart service for employees.

"If yes or maybe, how many employees might participate regularly?" the survey asks, and then queries what measures might help increase participation, such as short wait times, comfortable shuttles, incentives, flexible hours or recognition.

It also inquires about "potential concerns" about the program and seeks additional comments or suggestions.

"As the chamber continues to advocate for improved downtown access for businesses, employees, residents and visitors, your voice is essential," chamber officials said. "Please take a moment to complete the city's parking survey to share your input and help guide future decisions. We're committed to representing the needs of our business community as these discussions move forward."

The survey can be found at forms.gle/6WLLfSvBM1nzzPCc7.

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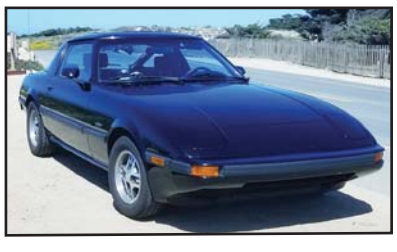

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WEDDING

From page 17A

While swans have been invited to upscale weddings, turkeys are annoying, kicking up dirt and digging up plants.

A small flock strode by near the ceremony area, one more thing for Sebok to think about.

Fancy Pansy florist and Paradise Catering toted carts and boxes to designated locations. Pour Girl mobile bar service brought ingredients for signature cocktails, and racks of glassware. DJs wheeled in speakers, microphones and turntables for the reception and ceremony. The violinist found her spot and began tuning up.

Cold water, lemonade and iced tea dispensers and a bucket of parasols were set up near the ceremony site. By the beginning of the wedding, half the seats would be in the shade, Sebok said reassuringly.

Hours of video and hundreds of photographs were taken and added to those from the previous evening. Boutonnieres were pinned and bow ties were tied.

More than one man asked, "Why can't we wear clip-ons?"

"They don't look as good," answered Sebok, cinching one snugly around a groomsman's neck.

Human moments

Her work involves more than checking off tasks. Sebok loves the joy that blossoms as a wedding day progresses, and everyone commented on how she'd become "part of the family."

When the flowers arrived, she made sure the bride got a peek at her bouquet. There was the adorable detail that the groom's father made chocolate-chip cookies for the reception. Someone reported that the groom cried when he saw the bride in her gown, and everyone within earshot sighed and smiled.

An endearingly earnest grandmother listened intently to instructions for her "flower granny" duties — distributing blooms from a white basket to guests as she walked down the aisle ahead of the bride in a newish trend meant to involve older family members.

Sebok asked the bride and her father if they'd had any water recently. They hadn't, so she vanished and reappeared with two bottles. Nobody swoons on her watch.

By 3 p.m., the entire hilltop had been transformed. Flowers lined the grassy aisle. Reception tables were fully decked out. The smell of barbecue filled the air. A basket of flipflops sat near the dance floor and space heaters stood ready to be deployed against evening chill.

The work area comprised less than a city block. But in four hours, walking back and forth added over 2 miles to my pedometer.

Contrast that with, Sebok, who had almost more seven hours — including the ceremony — to finish before breakdown started at 10 p.m.

She said she was getting the hang of self-care when she got home — it involves a hot tub, perhaps a glass of wine, and lots of peace and quiet.

BURGLARY

From page 1A

possessions.

"Why would they steal her car, but not his?" he asked.

He also said some of the neighbors blame local TV media for showing the house and its address, which perhaps made it a target since people learned it might be vacant.

The Pine Cone has not reported the address.

Trip planned

He and another neighbor also said it was known in the neighborhood that the couple's son, Loch, who lives in Northern California, was having problems and that they were planning to go see him. One of the residents said the Geisens had withdrawn $100,000 in cash in advance of the trip.

When asked on July 31 whether a sheriff's log item from July 28 that read, "A burglary and car theft was reported," involved the home where the murder occurred, Cmdr. Andy Rosas responded, "Yes. A burglary was reported. I do not have details on what type of burglary or what was taken."

Following a request that he read the report and provide whatever information he could, Rosas responded, "I have been told there are no further details available at this time."

Geisen, meanwhile, is undergoing mental health evaluations after the judge at his July 29 arraignment agreed with the defense attorney, who questioned his client's competency to stand trial.

The judge referred Geisen to "a psychiatrist, psychologist or other expert" for review and possible treatment. While that evaluation and prognosis are underway, the criminal proceedings against him are suspended, and he's next set to appear in court for a report on Aug. 13.

Geisen remains in Monterey County Jail on $1,015,000 bail.

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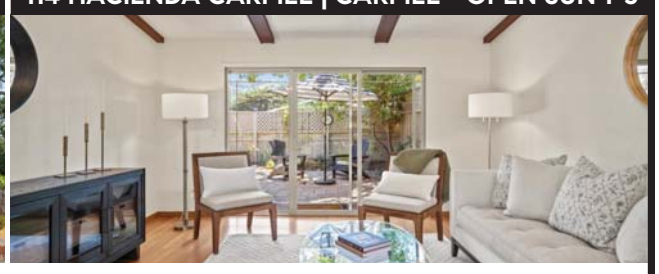

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Historic board OKs Pastor plans for former Cottage restaurant

By MARY SCHLEY

THE FORMER Cottage Restaurant on Lincoln that burned in an April 2023 fire will be replaced by two retail spaces, with a new apartment in the back, according to plans submitted by owner Patrice Pastor's local company, Esperanza Carmel, while the building next door will be updated, as will the apartment complex to the rear. The historic resources board approved exterior changes proposed for the two street-front buildings last week.

Pastor purchased the property in January 2023 for $6.2 million, according to Monterey County property records, and wants to restore and update it. While the apartment complex at the rear was built in 1973 and is not considered historic, the buildings fronting Lincoln were constructed in 1937, 1938 and 1941 and are "locally significant examples of the Colonial Revival architectural style as designed by architect Milton Latham and designer Jon Konigshofer," associate planner Katherine Wallace said in her July 21 report.

The complex is also in the Downtown Conservation District, so any proposed alterations undergo additional scrutiny relative to any impacts they might have.

'Non-historic' stuff to go

The two structures designed by Konigshofer were later connected to make a single space and contained The Cottage on the ground floor and an upstairs apartment. Both were damaged in a kitchen fire. On the Lincoln Street facade, plans call for removing a wrought-iron gate and a brick planter, replacing light fixtures, reconditioning the bay window "to be like new," repainting the building and replacing the Dutch doors.

Changes proposed for the less visible sides include refurbishing window shutters and removing several non-historic features, such as a stairway, windows, a railing, light enclosures and lights. Some will be replaced. On the south side on the second story, the upstairs apartment's sliding glass doors will be replaced with double doors with side windows, a new awning will be installed, and the deck will get re-tiled.

PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

The historic resources board last month signed off on proposed updates to this Dolores Street property.

No alterations are proposed for the street-facing side of Latham's building to the north, where a juice bar was recently approved, but on the south side, a window will be replaced with a door to provide ADA access to a bathroom, and a door will be swapped out for a window. Stairs, a handrail, a guardrail and the landing will make way for new stairs, and at the back, the non-historic door, stairs, guardrail and landing will be removed.

Combining courtyards

Wallace also noted that all the hardscape on the site, including walkways, stairs, railings and planters, were installed in 1973 as part of the apartment complex and are not historic. The plans include resurfacing the steps in the Paso de Pauline interblock walkway leading down to the apartment complex, as well as adding Spanish tile risers and tearing down a wood fence separating its courtyard from La Rambla's courtyard next door. (Pastor purchased La Rambla, which is also historic and has retail on the ground floor and apartments upstairs, in January 2024 for $7.5 million.)

"New landscaping will be added to soften the space

See **COTTAGE** *next page*

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Angels in Our Lives

by Paul Martin

Could it be someone you idolize, is an unknown Angel in disguise,
from the moment you looked in their eyes, have you had a better life?
As I am growing more aware, it becomes increasingly more clear,
when someone needs an Angel, one will suddenly appear.

When Angels in our lives appear, very little can compare,
to the love and inspiration and the blessings that they bear.
When we find a special friend, is it possible they are heaven-sent,
could it be we are enchanted by their tender love and care?

Have they come to help us find, greater love and peace of mind,
have there been other Angels who have come into your life?
Do you remember everyone? Do you know where they have gone?
When they are no longer needed, are they likely to move on?

So look for Angels in your life and I'm sure you will always find,
you will know them by their kindness and love for all mankind.
They won't be wearing angel wings or doing supernatural things,
they are ordinary people, just the same as you and I.

A delightful Angel in our lives will inspire us to desire,
the insight that is needed to find the love we all require.
If they ever go away, we will see them all again someday,
especially when we hope and pray for Angels in our lives.

Music Credits
Music adapted from America the Beautiful by Paul Martin
and can be heard on Spotify, Apple, CDbaby, and/or www.myprayers.net

(P) 2015 Lyrics and music written and performed by Paul Martin
Produced and arranged by Paul Martin and Daryl Kojak

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COTTAGE

From previous page

and provide a cohesive outdoor environment that links both courtyards," Wallace explained.

Consultant Meg Clovis reviewed the proposal and made several suggestions to ensure it complies with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Original doors

Instead of replacing the Dutch doors, she said, the original ones should be retained and restored, including installing lattice-patterned glass in one and restoring a solid wood panel in the upper half of the other, as Konigshofer's drawings show. In addition, door shutters that were removed last year should be reinstalled, assuming they are being held in storage somewhere, and the original drawings should be referenced when deciding which light fixtures to use.

Clovis panned the Spanish tiles proposed for the risers of the steps leading down to the apartment complex, even though the HRB in 2023 allowed similar tiles under the bay windows in the Latham building.

"To prevent additional conjectural features that are not consistent with the Colonial Revival style of the resource, it is recommended that the Spanish tiles be omitted from the plans for the stairs," Clovis said.

In addition, she said the plans must include promises that certain "preservation techniques" will be followed and "the gentlest means possible will be used for cleaning all historic wood, brick and metal features."

And she praised the proposal to remove the barrier between the courtyards.

"Both the La Rambla courtyard and the Paso de Pauline have been recognized by the Carmel Heritage Society as two of the village's significant courtyards," she said. "The connection of the two courtyards will enhance both and contribute to this aspect of Carmel's historic village design."

A project manager for Esperanza Carmel agreed with Clovis' feedback.

"We take no exceptions to the recommendations by the consultant and would like to incorporate the recommendations into the project," he told the board.

For their part, board members didn't spend much time in discussion.

"I like what's going on here, especially the way it's being cleaned up," Kathryn Gualtieri said, while Esther Goodhue said the plan "has a lot of pluses, so I commend the developer."

'Excited'

Newest HRB member Bobbie Voris said she was "excited" about the planned repairs and restoration work.

Erik Dyar, who is also an architect, said the restoration work and other efforts will improve the property and the historic integrity of the buildings.

"I also appreciate the fact they're doing the multifamily units in the back," he said.

The board unanimously voted to find the project consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and with the Downtown Conservation District, and to determine they will have no impacts on nearby historic resources.

Pastor's plans for the whole property, including the full remodel of the apartment complex, still need to undergo planning commission review.

After his announcement Thursday that "it's time to leave this strange community," it's unknown how his project on Lincoln will proceed.

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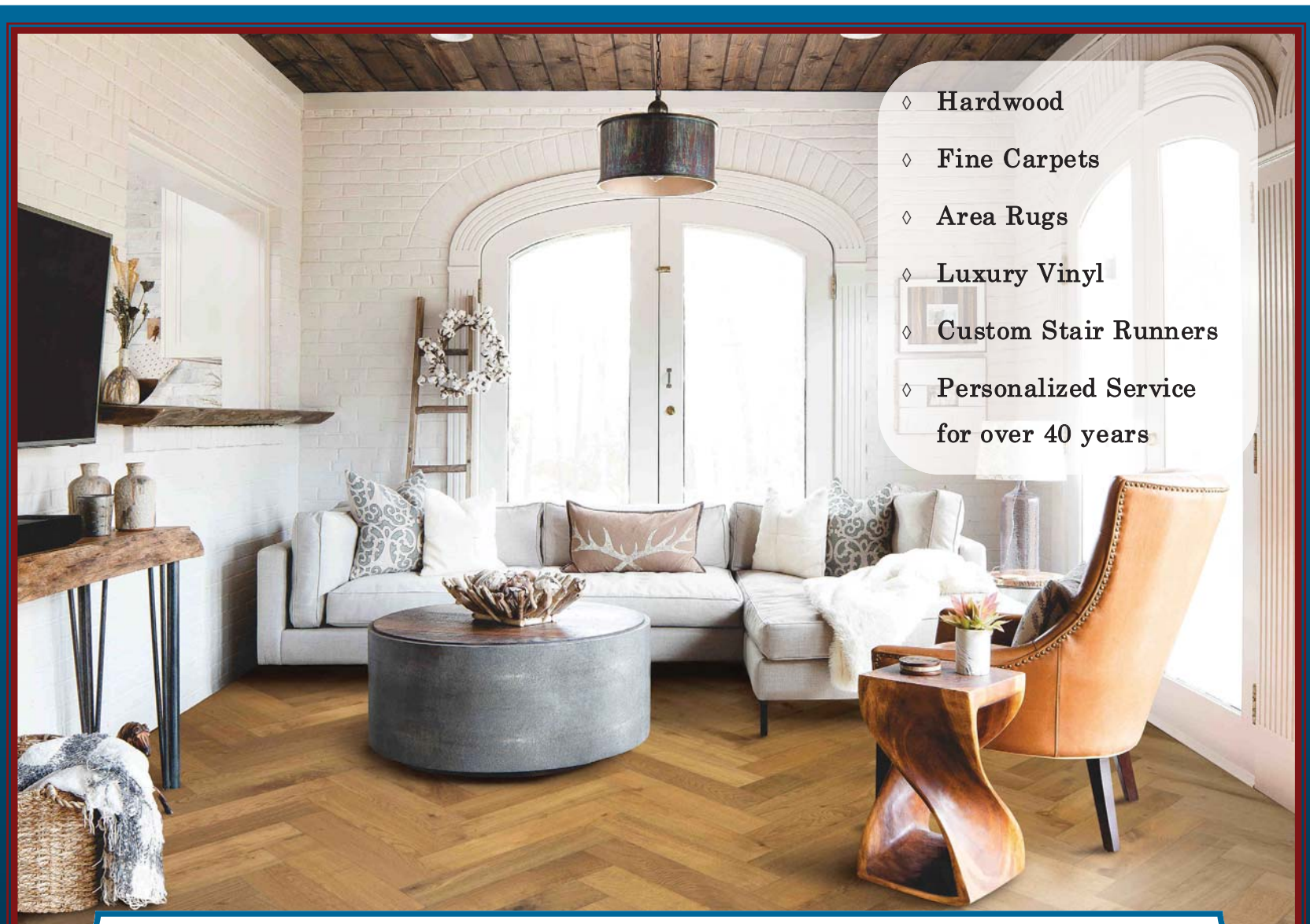

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PASTOR

From page 1A

one of the few businesses willing to invest in doing it right. We have been doing this for over a decade in Carmel. But the message from the city council is clear: It doesn't matter how much you follow the rules, if your business is not wanted here, you won't be treated fairly."

His statement came a few days after a marathon meeting Aug. 4 which revealed doubts among a pared-down group of city councilmembers about whether his project on Dolores south of Seventh is exempt from an environmental impact report, satisfies parking and landscaping requirements, and avoids impacting an architecturally significant former bank complex next door. The council ultimately decided to delay taking any action on Pastor's project until next month, when it is set to request changes and send it back to the planning commission for review.

Pastor's announcement indicates he may kill the project. If he doesn't, the three councilmembers will be asked to state their reasons for agreeing with a group of nearly a dozen residents seeking to overturn the planning commission's April approval of the JB Pastor project, which calls for a 12,971-square-foot, two-story complex that includes eight upstairs apartments, roughly 5,100 square feet of ground-floor retail space, and an 852-square-foot basement containing a dozen parking spaces.

'Structure' and 'interaccessibility'

Represented by attorney Krista Ostoich, the group of opponents includes Mike Brown, Mike Cate, Don Goodhue, Steve Hillyard, Vinz Koller, Courtney Kramer, Cindy Lloyd, Ian Martin, Rich Pepe, Kristi Reimers and Julie Wendt. They contend the project is not exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act and that the planning commission's OK was based on "improper applications of the terms, 'structure' and 'interaccessibility,'" which led to the approval of a structure with more than 10,000 square feet of floor area. They also say the development doesn't include enough ground-floor landscaping and object to allowing Pastor to pay in-lieu fees to compensate for some of the required parking and the use of lifts to stack two cars per spot in the garage. Further, they claim the plans don't meet demands made by a prior city council regarding preservation of a building and decorative wall behind the Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse.

Before the hearing, Mayor Dale Byrne said he would step down on the advice of city attorney Brian Pierik due to a potential conflict of interest. In a letter to the city, Ostoich demanded Byrne recuse himself because the nonprofit he founded, Carmel Cares, received donations from Pastor and realtor Tim Allen.

"Volunteers with Carmel Cares have confirmed, and are willing to do so publicly, that Mr. Pastor has donated substantial resources to Carmel Cares," she said in the letter, though she didn't say what the "substantial resources" were. And Pastor is "publicly known to be a top client of Tim Allen's." His fundraising entity, Carmel Gives, has also supported Carmel Cares projects. Those contributions create a "potential conflict of interest and appearance of bias" for Byrne, according to Ostoich.

"Due to Carmel Cares' close relationship with the city as well as Mr. Pastor's donations to Carmel Cares, I trust that the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will take these concerns seriously and act to uphold both the letter and the spirit of ethical governance," she wrote.

Byrne disagreed but nonetheless recused himself.

"A concern has been raised about my impartiality due to the applicant making a charitable donation to support a Carmel Cares project over 16 months ago — before I decided to run for office — and one of his agents [Allen] contributing to the Community Foundation for Monterey County, which also makes donations to Carmel Cares," he said. "I want to be clear: This concern is misplaced."

'No conflicts'

Carmel Cares, founded by Byrne in 2020, and Carmel Gives, established by Allen during the Covid pandemic, are highly regarded for tackling civic projects, coordinating volunteers and providing funding for nonprofits and other worthy causes.

Byrne said he has no financial interest in Pastor's project and no legal or ethical conflicts with him or his real estate activities.

"Still, based on our city attorney's advice, I will recuse myself — not because I believe it's necessary, but to keep this process moving and avoid giving grounds for further delay," he said. "It's disheartening when honest public service is met with suspicion. I will always stand for transparency, integrity and the value of giving back."

When asked why he advised Byrne to step down — and whether doing so sets a precedent for anyone making charitable donations or affiliated with a nonprofit while in office — Pierik simply said, "Matters need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis."

Separately, councilman Bob Delves recused himself because Pepe, one of the people opposing Pastor's project, threw a fundraiser for him during last year's council campaign valued at $1,000. By law, he could have returned $500 to Pepe to resolve the conflict, but he opted not to.

Councilman Hans Buder also benefited from Pepe's largess prior to the election but opted to return the required amount to avoid any conflicts. He said Monday he had planned to recuse himself, as well, but decided to stay so the council would have a quorum.

With those two stepping down, the fate of Pastor's project was left in the hands of three councilmembers, who would have had to vote unanimously to uphold the planning commission's approval — effectively turning the recused members into "no" votes.

After senior planner Evan Kort gave his report defending the planning commission's unanimous approval of Pastor's project — which has been in the planning stages since 2019 — architect Jun Sillano, representing Pastor, described the plans and how they comply with the city's zoning and land use laws.

Ostoich then presented her clients' arguments, after which several speakers, including residents Nancy Twomey and Karyl Hall, urged the council to support the project, while others, including the appellants, argued for denial or kicking it back to the commission.

Councilmembers spent the next three hours debating each point and picking through the municipal code to draw their conclusions, many of which conflicted with Kort's analysis and recommendations.

On whether the two new buildings should be considered one because they are connected by a second-floor outdoor walkway, councilwoman Alissandra Dramov said they are a single structure that therefore exceeds the code's 10,000-square-foot limit, while councilman Jeff Baron — who was running the meeting since the mayor and vice mayor had left — said he believes the project complies with the code. Councilman Hans Buder expressed uncertainty but agreed with Baron.

The three were united in their views that the parking is inadequate and said it should include all 17 spaces nominally required by the code, rather than the 12 called for in the plans plus the payment of in-lieu fees for the other five, which also meets the city's zoning requirements.

"I want to find a solution, so all the parking spaces are provided," Dramov said, and Buder said that "it feels like there is more opportunity for parking there."

Baron said he believes the garage can be redesigned to accommodate all the required spaces without using lifts.

They also agreed the project should not be credited for landscaped areas on the roof, because it's supposed to be "visually accessible" to the public. The code requires at least 50 percent of the required open space to be landscaped, but contrary to the appellants' view, Kort said that doesn't mean it has to all be on the ground floor.

"I don't think landscaping on the roof applies," Baron said, with Dramov adding, "It's not a Carmel thing to stick all those trees up there," referring to the rooftop garden.

Spatial relationships

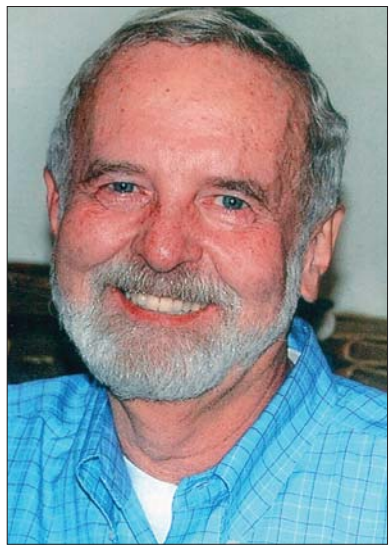
The council spent a long time discussing whether the project complies with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, as it must due to an earlier decision by the city requiring protection of the community room behind the former bank and a decorative concrete wall at the edge of Pastor's property.

Dramov pointed out the council in 2023 ordered changes to the design "to preserve the existing spatial relationship" of the former bank complex and to "preserve the context of the site" so that it "remains a prominent feature as viewed from Seventh Avenue and Dolores Street."

"This project is enormous," she said. "And it ruins the whole composition of the bank building and the lot and its open space," so the planning commission erred in finding the plans in compliance with the standards when it approved them.

The council was divided on that issue and on whether it qualifies for California Environmental Quality Act exemptions for further review.

Because the council's feedback, views and direction were too extensive to summarize for a vote at the Aug. 4 meeting, the three decided to put off taking any action until their September meeting, when they'll ostensibly vote on a resolution rejecting the plans for parking and landscaping, and on motions addressing the points on which they are divided. In essence, they would be granting the appeal and sending the project back to the planning commission with requests for changes and more hearings — if Pastor doesn't abandon the effort. It's unknown if the full council would have decided differently .



JOE JOHNSON

November 28, 1945-July 12, 2025

Joseph James Johnson, born in Binghamton, NY to Joseph F. Johnson and Sophie Nabywaniec-Johnson. He graduated from St. Mary's school in 1958, Susquehanna Valley High 1963, Broome Tech 1965 and earned a BA from Harpur College 1968. He received a master's degree in library science from SUNY Albany. Joe worked at the Binghamton Public Library from 1969 to 1974, when he started at Monterey Public Library where he worked until 2014. He is survived by several cousins and his close friend, Michael Matonick.

A Mass of Christian Burial with be celebrated at 10 a.m. August 11, 2025, at San Carlos Cathedral, 500 Church St., Monterey, CA 93940. Graveside service to follow at San Carlos Cemetery, 792 Fremont St., Monterey CA 93940.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to The California History Room, in care of Monterey Public Library Trust Fund.

ANGIE BUILTA

HAPPY HEAVENLY BIRTHDAY

AUG. 11, 1938 - FEB. 9, 2021

... there are so few words that could ever describe you, but I came across these written by a friend:
"Angie is the most fascinating woman I've met in my life! So beautiful, feminine, strong and talented ... such an honor to have known her." — *(Paige)*

... love you Mom

Your loving Children, Grandchildren and Family

MORE GAVEL

From page 18A

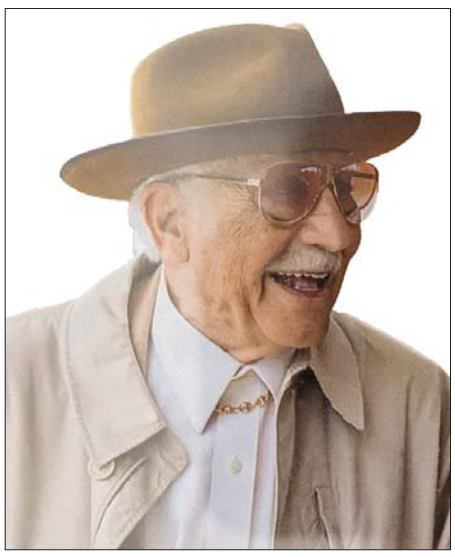
— demanding repayment for the money he had spent on her and accusing her of "wasting his time." Whitaker forced Doe to engage in braiding hair to pay him back. When the income from hair braiding did not meet his demands, he escalated his control by forcing her to engage in commercial sex work and took all the earnings for himself. After one incident where Doe was forced to exchange sex for money, Doe couldn't access the electronic funds from the "buyer" fast enough, which caused Whitaker to become enraged. During a heated exchange at the motel, Doe attempted to leave the room and Whitaker prevented her from escaping.

Doe bravely reached out for help and reported these crimes. She then courageously testified at trial. She was assisted by victim witness Advocate Kristin Peterson and canine companion Armani. District attorney Rachel Maldonado also assisted with the prosecution of this case and offered expert testimony at trial.

WILLIAM BRODSLEY

August 13, 1931 ❖ July 15, 2025
Carmel/Carmel Valley resident since 1956

William Brodsley, a longtime Carmel area resident and beloved community member, passed away peacefully on July 15, 2025, at the age of 93. Born on August 13, 1931, in Bayonne, New Jersey, to Dora and Samuel Brodsley, William lived a vibrant and purposeful life marked by professional success, environmental advocacy, artistic passion and an endearing sense of humor.



After graduating with a B.S. from Rutgers University in New Brunswick in 1953, William served honorably in the U.S. Navy from 1953 to 1955. He was stationed at the Pentagon with top-level security clearance (for what reason he never knew), though he fondly recalled having "a desk and no specific duties" — spending his time trying to look busy when supervisors walked by and occasionally taking naps in the supply closet.

In 1956, William moved to the Monterey Peninsula, where he would spend the rest of his life. That same year, he married Theresa Britten, beginning a devoted partnership that would last 52 years. Theresa established The Guitar Shop in 1957, creating one of the first West Coast guitar shops to import fine European classical guitars and teaching countless students throughout the Monterey Peninsula.

William's business career began when Barney Segal invited him to help with the newly opened Carmel Savings and Loan Association, housed in a modest 400-square-foot space next to Carmel Drug Store on Ocean Avenue. Working closely with Segal from 1956 to 1971, William helped transform the small institution into a major regional financial presence. He spearheaded the transition from pen-and-ink bookkeeping to computerized operations in 1963 — a pioneering move that none of the four employees initially understood but successfully implemented. William also managed the GI loan program during this transformative period.

When the Savings & Loan was sold in 1971, William remained with the new organization until 1983, then established a successful independent real estate appraisal firm that served the Monterey Peninsula until 2001. The success of the Savings & Loan effectively created the Segal Charitable Trust, which has benefited numerous Monterey County nonprofits since 1988. William served as co-trustee of the trust, which received recognition as Outstanding Philanthropic Foundation at the 16th annual National Philanthropy Day event in 2007.

An early environmental pioneer, William championed the use of California native plants for landscaping beginning in the early 1970s — a practice now widely adopted but then considered unconventional. He spent 25 years tirelessly eradicating invasive French broom in Carmel Valley. True to his environmental principles, he was known for allowing volunteer plants to grow wherever they sprouted, even in the middle of patios, creating unusual sculptural protective barriers that family members would inevitably trip over.

Despite his commitment to native plants, he paradoxically maintained a carefully tended rose garden, waging a decades-long battle with deer who constantly ate the buds. His solution — an electric fence — proved futile, as the deer continued their raids regardless.

In retirement, William and Theresa became full-time artists. William specialized in small ceramic sculptures while Theresa focused on watercolor, acrylic painting and printmaking. One particular ceramic sculpture, a life-sized head, would inevitably startle many passersby who thought a person was lurking in the garden. Both were gallery members of the Monterey Peninsula Art Foundation on Cannery Row for 16 years. The couple also shared a passion for tango dancing, dedicating years to perfecting their technique.

William is survived by his son, Adam Brodsley of Mill Valley; daughter-in-law, Justine; and granddaughter, Isabella. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Theresa.

A celebration of William's life will be held at a date to be announced. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to local environmental conservation organizations.

JOHN STEPHEN THOMAS

September 14, 1965 - May 9, 2025

Surrounded by his family, John Stephen Thomas passed away peacefully at his Carmel Valley home early on a beautiful Friday morning, May 9, 2025.

Affectionally known as JoJo, Johnny, JT, Hoser, and Stripes, John was preceded into heaven by his father, John Thomas; and is survived by his mom and dad, Peggy and Pat Ward; his son, Cody; daughter, Taylor, and siblings Mike, Doug, Tricia and Shawn.

He will be greatly missed by his aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, and numerous cousins and family members who were tremendously impactful to his life.

Born in the City of Angels, Dodger John personified the truly loyal and never wavering sports fan, with constant chatter and vocalized passion for his love of the Dodgers, Lakers, Rams and Kings.

Regardless of whether he was the favorite or the underdog, he was always ready for game time banter with friends and strangers alike, most especially with buddies from his educational days at Tularcitos, Carmel Middle and Carmel High schools.

John attended San Diego State University with many of these same friends, where he earned a bachelor of arts in applied science.

He began his career at the University of South Florida, working in sports medicine, ultimately returning to the Monterey Peninsula to focus on athletic training and physical therapy.

John was an avid golfer who loved alpine skiing, listening to music and attending concert festivals, catching rays on the beach or in his garden, prideful of his Carmel Valley community, especially the hospitable camaraderie extended to him by the Running Iron.

John's family would like to thank Jenny Johnson for being a loving companion, partner-in-crime – as they fondly called each other – and a meaningful part of his life.

The family would also like to thank the support John received throughout his journey, including Nancy Rubin, John Hausdorff, Dharma Naidu, as well as the doctors, nurses and staff across Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.

Services will begin at 11 a.m. September 13, 2025, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Carmel Valley, followed by a Celebration of Life from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Running Iron. We warmly invite all who knew and loved JoJo to join us.

A memorial website has been created in JoJo's honor – a place to share memories, photos, music, and heartfelt tributes: **www.forevermissed.com/john-stephen-thomas**
You can also find it by searching "John Stephen Thomas."

Editorial

The childless city

'THE TOWN has grown amazingly," an editorial in the Nov. 13, 1931, Pine Cone said about Carmel-by-the-Sea. In the 1920s, the newspaper reported, Carmel had "grown from a few homes hidden among the pines into a big town of businesses and residences with a population of almost 4,000."

The essay, written with evident pride by Pine Cone editor Perry Newberry, shocks the sensibilities of the modern reader who — having been lectured constantly about the virtues of old-time Carmel and the rampant overdevelopment that has supposedly ruined the place in the modern era — discovers that Carmel has many fewer residents today than it had more than 90 years ago.

"Harold, come quick! There's a child at the door."

Carmel peaked at about 4,700 citizens in 1970, but according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates, it now has just a little more than 3,000.

A falling population is inevitable when hardly any housing is being added, a state of affairs which has prevailed in the Monterey Peninsula for decades. In an earlier era, when trees were cut routinely, roads were paved en masse, schools and shopping centers were constructed without a second thought and homes and apartments were built by the score, the population boomed as young families — society's most mobile demographic group — occupied most of the new houses. But those families were just a temporary phenomenon. In the blink of eye, or so it seemed, the children grew up and moved away. Houses that six or seven people once called home are left with just Mom and Dad, and the streets out front are emptied of playing children. This has especially happened in Carmel, where the sounds of little voices emanating from playgrounds have become practically unknown. Data from the Carmel Unified School District show that River School had 230 students from the 93921 zip code in 2016, while today it has just 130. Nowadays, it's seniors playing pickleball that everyone complains about.

The lack of new housing causes tremendous resentment among the people who are excluded from established communities like Carmel. Government officials pay lip service to their needs and the goal of affordable housing. But the traditional "solution" — requiring builders to include affordable units in their housing projects — is meaningless when no housing is being built at all. Even the latest state mandates promise to move the housing supply forward very slowly — and probably not at all, where young families are concerned. A two-income family with combined salaries of $200,000 or so a year might as well dream of living on Mars as having a house on Carmel Point.

Can children come back to Carmel? Perhaps. But it will take a great deal of clever planning at city hall to make it happen.

BEST of BATES

"She was getting so old, she could hardly walk." "NEXT."
"So we had to put her to sleep." "NEXT."
"Well, we didn't know what to do." "NEXT."
"So we decided to go out to the SPCA." "NEXT."
"And are we glad we did." "NEXT." "We found the cutest little ...."

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*

Opposes desal plant

Dear Editor,

The California Public Utilities Commission has a critical opportunity on Aug. 14 to hit the brakes on the outdated, unnecessary and environmentally destructive California American Water desalination project. As mayor of the City of Marina, I urge the commission to do right by Monterey Peninsula ratepayers and communities and reject this fatally flawed project and the obsolete data being used to justify it.

Before locking ratepayers into decades of costly and excessive infrastructure, the CPUC must reconsider whether this project still serves the public interest. A pending decision at its Aug. 14 meeting will answer a fundamental question: Does the Monterey Peninsula actually need an expensive and environmentally harmful desal project, given the region's dramatic decline in water demand and robust new water supplies? The correct answer, based on all the available evidence, is a resounding "no."

A quick history: This project was proposed under vastly different circumstances in 2012. Back then, Cal Am claimed it needed a desalination plant to meet a projected water shortage of nearly 5,000 acre-feet per year by 2021 — mainly to comply with a cease-and-desist order limiting its water diversions from the Carmel River. But it is now 2025. The project still hasn't been built. The water shortage never materialized in 2021 and Cal Am has more than managed to meet its customer needs and comply with that cease-and-desist order without desalination. And the Pure Water Monterey Expansion Project, which will provide an additional 2,250 AFY of water to Cal Am, is expected to come online by early 2026.

In reality, the water demand on the Monterey Peninsula has precipitously declined since 2012 and continues to fall. Cal Am's own updated demand projections now estimate a potential shortfall of just 2,500 AFY by 2050 — half the previous estimate and two-and-a-half decades away. So why would the CPUC rubber-stamp Cal Am's outdated plans for a desal project that would generate three times that much water? Allowing Cal Am to move forward to construct that plant now would come with an exorbitant price tag that would raise customer bills dramatically in one of the most expensive water districts in the country, for a water supply they do not need.

The City of Marina calls on the CPUC

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She hasn't stopped growing and doesn't plan to stop giving

Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

THE YOUNGEST of six children, Margaret D'Arrigo said her father called her "the caboose." But long before she worked her way into the executive offices of produce companies and launched her consulting business, Margaret Inc., she was a Salinas High School Cowboy, learning about her family's business from the soil up.

She's part of the third generation of the clan behind agricultural powerhouse D'Arrigo Brothers, which sells produce nationally and internationally under its Andy Boy label. It's also known for philanthropy, and the family name is on a major clinic at Natividad Medical Center and a vocational education wing at Rancho Cielo.

Now in her early 60s, D'Arrigo recalled her childhood. "It was super simple back then, and I was very independent. My dad worked all the time and Mom was really active in the community." Since her mother volunteered with the Girl Scouts, D'Arrigo became one.

Her mom was part of the Valley Guild, which restored and owns John Steinbeck's boyhood home and runs a restaurant there, so naturally, D'Arrigo became a junior server. She was also a candy striper at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, and that desire to contribute to her community hasn't faded. Nor has her energy.

Crack of dawn

D'Arrigo was introduced to the family history and business as she grew up. "I learned everything except how to drive a forklift," she said, remembering early mornings spent shadowing foremen in the fields, where she was impressed by workers who bent to cut produce with sharp knives for hours on end.

Though she always planned to work for D'Arrigo Brothers, she took a detour after earning her Bachelor of Science in agricultural and managerial economics from UC Davis.

"I wasn't ready to come back to Salinas." She wanted to see if she could find a job where the D'Arrigo name didn't pack so much of a punch. That meant finding employment with a citrus co-op in Southern California, then leaving agriculture to work on Gov. George Deukmejian's re-election campaign for about two years, organizing receptions and dinners.

An attentive listener and plain-spoken, her words are laced with humor and compassion. D'Arrigo is energized by collaboration. Of her campaign efforts she said, "I loved it. I met people all over the state."

Eventually, though, she decided it was time to go home.

"My dad was so excited to have me back," she said.

She worked nights with green onions in a "shed" — a cooling and shipping facility — in Castroville, ensuring the inventory was done, the produce was correctly packed and trucks were properly loaded. "We closed around 2 a.m.," she remembered. She supervised 25 employees whose knowledge and work ethic earned her respect.

In another assignment she described, "I monitored shipments to Japan, making sure the broccoli was iced properly." A two-week-plus trip took the produce from fields to trucks to ships that crossed the Pacific. The broccoli was refrigerated, but, she said, "If the Japanese didn't see ice in the containers, they'd reject the whole load."

'Lots of character'

After a stint in the administrative offices doing workers compensation and health insurance, she found her niche in marketing. She mentioned selling fennel and broccoli rabe, and noted her Sicilian grandfather was responsible for bringing the bitter leafy green "with lots of character" to the United States. He domesticated the company's stock from Italian wild mustard and named it for its resemblance to broccoli, when in fact, it's genetically closer to a turnip. The company trademarked the broccoli rabe name in 1964.

Initially, it only went to markets near Italian populations in Chicago, New York, Boston and Canada, because nobody else knew what it was.

See **LIVES** *page 39A*

PHOTO/MAG MEDIA

With more energy than many 30-somethings, Margaret D'Arrigo continues to put her stamp on agriculture and her community.

Understanding and empathy come from real-life experience

Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

AT 71, one of the Peninsula's most accomplished fine-art photographers shrugs when asked about his "bucket list." He's probably seen more than he ever could've anticipated.

Rick Murai, a Monterey resident, has toted his cameras to India, China, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Russia, the United Kingdom, Western Europe, North Africa and South America — often as a workshop host for fellow photographers. A notable section of his vast portfolio is composed of sacred sites he photographed around the world.

He's been an educator, teaching photography for 35 years at Yuba College in the north Central Valley.

Part of MMA's Biennial

His black-and-white infrared photograph titled "Peace, Hope and Reconciliation" — depicting a dove seeking release — is part of the Monterey Museum of Art's Biennial, which runs through Aug. 31 at 559 Pacific St.

"When I retired in 2014, I had big goals," he said. "I wanted to work for a nonprofit organization, or volunteer as a photographer for an NGO, or document sex trafficking in Southeast Asia, or the diaspora in Africa …

"As I got older, I wondered if I could do those things. I wasn't sure that I could survive in the field with marginal food and bad water," he said, laughing.

Murai remains healthy, happy and energetic. He looks 15 years younger than his age and remains passionate about giving back to the artform that's been his lifeblood. He feels very fortunate and is eager to support the arts community through volunteerism and advocacy.

Next month, he'll lead 10 photographers on a journey through Bhutan — a tiny, landlocked country in the southern Himalayas — for Carmel's Center for Photographic Art. He's traveled there several times.

Living vicariously

"It's gratifying to lead international workshops and turn people on to unique cultures, enhancing their appreciation of the greater world," Murai said. "I enjoy evenings with the group over a glass of wine or a beer and sharing their photographic experiences. I used to live vicariously through my students in the classroom and now enjoy my fellow travelers in the field."

"I'm fortunate to be able to have these opportunities," he said. "I think we gain understanding and empathy by experiencing the real world."

Japanese roots

His Japanese parents lived in San Francisco until the bombing of Pearl Harbor pulled the United States into World War II and they were tossed into internment camps — originally Tanforan Racetrack in San Bruno, then Topaz in Delta, Utah, where they were incarcerated for two years.

"When they were released, they spent time in Salt Lake City before returning to the East Bay because it was familiar and the most tolerant, compared to other cities," Murai said.

They opened a restaurant, Fuji Inn, on Telegraph Avenue, near the UC Berkeley campus.

"I spent a lot of time at that restaurant. I would hang around outside, riding my bike up and down Telegraph when I was 5 or 6 years old," he reminisced. It was the start of the free speech movement.

PHOTO/COURTESY MURAI STUDIOS

Celebrated fine-art photographer Rick Murai, a Monterey resident, has spent much of his adult life traveling the world with his cameras.

When he was 9, his mother was killed in a car crash, leaving his dad to raise three sons on his own. His oldest sister attended Berkeley, while his two brothers engaged in criminal mischief, and Rick, the youngest, was also making dodgy decisions.

"Some young Asians experienced identity problems — you were either Black, Hispanic or White — and after nine years of Catholic school, I rebelled," he said.

"I latched onto the Black Panthers when I was in the 10th grade. I went to some of their meetings and listened to speeches by Eldridge Cleaver and Huey Newton. I

See **ARTIST** *page 36A*

Don't miss "Scenic Views" by Jerry Gervase — every week in the Real Estate Section.

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LETTERS

From page 26A

to fulfill its mandate: Follow the evidence, protect the public interest and stop this boondoggle now.

Bruce Delgado, *Mayor of Marina*

Reckless e-bikes

Dear Editor,

I have been a proud resident of Pacific Grove for more than 10 years. I am writing this letter to raise awareness about a public safety issue and urge the city council, the city manager and the Pacific Grove Police Department to swiftly implement a course of action.

There has been a significant rise in the use of electric bicycles across the Pacific Grove and Monterey communities. E-bike rentals support local business, encourage tourism and provide a more environmentally friendly means for transportation.

However, these bikes are not closely regulated in our communities. Topping out at 28 mph, they present a significant public safety issue. Inexperienced e-bikers on the recreational trail have been known to speed through areas with dense foot traffic, striking or just nearly missing pedestrians and other cyclists. Without close monitoring, these bikes can cause severe injuries or, in extreme cases, fatalities.

To be clear, I am not advocating for a ban of e-bikes. I understand their economic importance and the accessibility they provide to riders; in fact, I own an e-bike myself and use it to commute to work. Instead, I am urging the police department to institute a bike police unit to monitor high-traffic areas on the Pacific Grove sections of the recreational trail, particularly between Lovers Point and the Hopkins Marine Station. This police unit would operate on bicycles and be most active during the weekends and special events in the area. Funding for this unit could be supported by citations issued to cyclists who speed or recklessly endanger other cyclists or pedestrians on the trail.

Finally, I understand that the Pacific Grove Municipal Code dictates a 12 mph speed limit for e-bikes on the recreational trail. However, in all my years of living in this community, I have not witnessed any monitoring to ensure compliance with these rules. We don't post speed limits for cars without monitoring compliance, so why would we do this for e-bikes? My recommendation is to institute monitoring of the recreational trail to ensure Pacific Grove is safe for all.

Rivka Revivo, *Pacific Grove*

City of stops

Dear Editor,

I want to commend the City of Carmel for increasing the number of stop signs in the downtown area. I have served as the Carmel representative to the Transportation Agency for Monterey County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee for the past 13 years. When you serve on this kind of committee, you look at all sides of any topics brought before you. That also means you must look at what drivers and pedestrians are thinking when they approach a typical intersection.

Carmel basically has narrow streets, with the exceptions of Ocean and Junipero, throughout the city. There are no electric signal lights within the city. Records show there are 421 stop signs, soon to be 428, and 169 intersections. Many have all-way stops. Most all four-way, and even a couple five-way, stop-sign intersections. It is the two-way stop sign intersections that occasionally create a confusing situation for drivers, bicycles and pedestrians. Locals have basically learned which intersections only have two-way and which are four-way or five-way. The downtown area is probably utilized the greatest by tourists and visitors who are unfamiliar with our streets. From their perspective, all the street corners look the same. They can easily misinterpret what to do at any intersection

I commend the city for considering the safety of all who enter the city.

D.L. Johnson, *Carmel*

Pickleball advocate

Dear Editor,

I am writing as an advocate of pickleball in Carmel, especially the Forest Hill Park courts.

Our community members all share a need for well-being and healthy living, which for many includes the active sport of pickleball. While the Carmel City Council has reduced the courts by 50 percent (from four to two) and limited hours to 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, this appears not to be enough for many of our quiet-loving residents.

Of course, I would recommend these residents use noise-canceling headsets or close their windows when play is open for residents (like I do when my neighbor does landscaping or gets a new roof). The idea of banning pickleball for all residents at Forest Hill courts is completely unreasonable and inequitable, especially after the recent reductions.

My recommendation is that Carmel City Council conduct a fact-based assessment on what would be equitable for pickleball playing in Carmel, and review how comparable California locations (Belvedere, for example) have solved this challenge.

The idea of listening to only a few residents and banning it for everyone goes against what Carmel-by-the-Sea stands for — a beautiful place where people can live together harmoniously whether they're artists or CEOs.

Maureen Healy, *Carmel*

Henson's achievements

Dear Editor,

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Zan Henson. I met Zan in the late 1970s as we were both friends and supporters of Anne Holliday, a fearless powerhouse and environmental activist. We, along with many others, worked closely with Anne's group, "Stop Supertankers in Monterey Bay," to end an environmentally dangerous plan to build a 1-mile-long oil supertanker port at Moss Landing. All along the way, Zan provided crucial legal guidance. Just two days before the final permit sign-off, the supertanker port was denied by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. There were many crucial supporters all along the way including Leon Panetta, Col. John Adsit, U.S. Corps of Army Engineers, Capt. Charles Domac, U.S. Merchant Marines, City of Carmel, and many more.

Gail Bower, *Carmel*

Solving murders

Dear Editor,

Thank you for drawing attention to the challenges law enforcement faces when trying to solve homicides, especially cold cases.

In June 2025, a group of concerned local volunteers launched the Cold Case Project of Monterey County, a

See **MORE LETTERS** *next page*

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MORE LETTERS

From previous page

501(c)(3) nonprofit. Our mission is to support local law enforcement by helping them access modern forensic tools and scientific methodologies that can breathe new life into unsolved cases. Advances in DNA testing, forensic genetic genealogy, and digital analysis have already helped solve decades-old crimes, and Monterey County deserves access to the same resources.

Unfortunately, these tools are often cost-prohibitive and fall outside the budgets of local agencies. No one should be denied justice simply because the necessary testing is too expensive. The cold case project was created to help close that gap by raising funds, fostering partnerships and advocating for the use of cutting-edge technology in cold case investigations.

What if 40-year-old cold cases no longer existed because we'd solved them decades earlier? That future is within reach. Our goal is not only to solve these crimes, also to bring long-overdue closure to families and restore a sense of justice and safety in our community.

We invite readers to visit coldcasesmonterey.org to learn more about our mission, the cases we support, and how you can help. Every cold case represents not just a tragedy for one family, but an open wound in the community that deserves healing.

With the right tools, the passage of time doesn't have to mean the end of hope. Together, we can help ensure that justice is no longer delayed or denied.

Ann Kern,
Cold Case Project of Monterey County

Break the supermajority

Dear Editor,

As a concerned Californian and Republican, I urge my fellow citizens to reflect on the state of our great state and the consequences of repeatedly voting for the same policies while expecting different outcomes. California faces pressing challenges — skyrocketing prices, a dire housing shortage, rising crime rates, and an education system that fails too many of our children. Yet, year after year, we trust the same leadership to address these issues, only to see them worsen.

The Democratic supermajority in Sacramento has held unchecked power for years, and their go-to solution seems to be throwing more money at problems without addressing root causes.

Higher taxes and increased spending haven't delivered the results we need — housing remains unaffordable for many, crime erodes our sense of safety, and our schools lag behind despite record budgets.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, California's cost-of-living index is among the highest in the nation, and a 2024 report highlights that over 60 percent of Californians view housing affordability as a major issue. Meanwhile, the California Department of Education notes that only 47 percent of students met or exceeded standards in English language arts in 2023.

It's time to break this cycle. Electing a few more Republicans to the state Legislature won't upend the system but could dismantle the supermajority, fostering a balance of ideas in Sacramento. What do we have to lose by inviting diverse perspectives to the table? A Republican presence would push for pragmatic solutions — streamlining regulations to boost housing construction, prioritizing public safety through effective law enforcement policies, and reforming education to empower parents and students. Competition of ideas drives innovation; a one-party monopoly stifles it.

Californians deserve a government that reflects the diversity of thought among its people. Voting for balance in 2026 isn't about abandoning values — it's about demanding accountability and results. Let's stop expecting change from the same playbook and embrace a new approach. Our state's future depends on it.

Brian Higgins,
Monterey

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Just married

Kyra Burns of Carmel, CA and Dylan Herman of Fort Lauderdale, FL are united in marriage on August 8, 2025, at Carmel Mission Basilica. They will be celebrating with their family & friends at Tehama Golf Club on August 9, 2025.

The bride is the daughter of Dan & Melinda Burns. The bridegroom is the son of Tom & Dana Herman. They are thrilled to return to Carmel to celebrate this incredible time in their lives with those closest to them.

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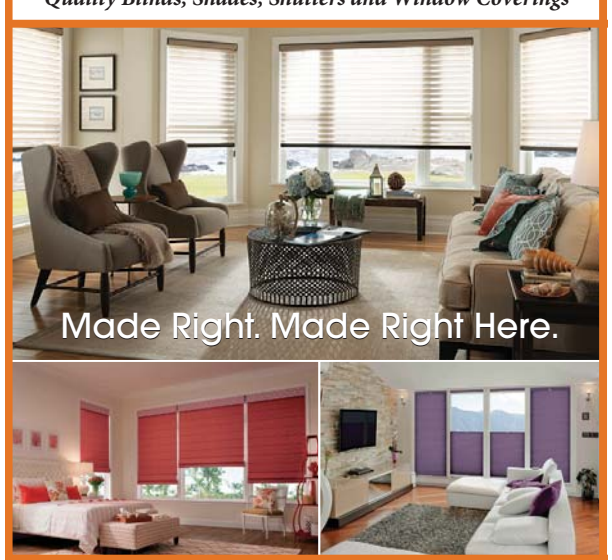

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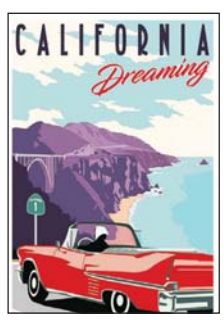

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ADDRESS

From page 3A

at zero at the northern and western edges of town and increasing in increments of 100 each block.

"We tested that with the postal service, and they said that would work," he said.

The committee reached out to Comcast, Cal Am, PG&E and other utility companies to see how they would handle the change and was surprised by the fruitfulness of those conversations.

"I was afraid that they wouldn't care, that they wouldn't return calls, that they'd be difficult. To the contrary, they showed up with their A-teams, and that was really encouraging," Delves said. "PG&E is delivering flammable and volatile compounds to our homes, and it bothers them that they can't find us."

"Based on those conversations, we have a very high level of confidence" that they favor standardized addresses and will handle the change in their systems, he said.

The biggest challenge has been seeking feedback from the county, according to Delves. But conversations with officials in Marina — which has created a lot of address schemes for new subdivisions — shed light on how to work with the county, which would have to update tax records, link the new street addresses to assessor's records, and assist the utility companies.

Through the group's work, Garay has also developed a valuable network of resources that would help implement a new address system, Delves observed.

"The next step is community outreach," he said, with workshops likely to be held in late August and early September, followed by a council presentation in October.

DOGS

From page 1A

on Facebook.

"Today at the river spot by the ballpark, three guys were smoking when their dog wandered," the woman said. "It was some sort of hound or pointer. And it grabbed a little girl's puppy and killed it in front of everybody. And then the guy realized what was happening, grabbed his dog and ran."

Hard feelings

Not surprisingly, the incident elicited anger and outrage. One local accused the man of running away "instead of taking accountability."

Several locals observed that the park allows dogs off leashes if they are under voice control, although it's also quite common to see dogs ignoring voice commands.

"Dogs should not be off leash in public areas, ever," a local woman said. "The same happened to people I know who were injured by off-leash dogs. There's no help and no consequences for the dog owner. We need to speak out and laws need to require dogs to be on leash at all times."

"Unfortunately, we need stricter — and actually enforced — leash laws because the few ruin it for the many," one resident added.

Mostly, people expressed sympathy for the youngster who lost her dog. One called the situation "absolutely heartbreaking."

"No one should ever have to experience something like that, especially that little girl," a resident said. "It's beyond cruel."

Supervising ranger Caine Camarillo told The Pine Cone that there's an "active and ongoing investigation" into what happened, and it's too early to share details.

"We're doing everything we can to gather as much evidence and info, which we will forward to animal control for possible prosecution," Camarillo said.

Out of control

While Camarillo confirmed the park allows dogs off leash if they are under voice command, he noted that "practically daily" he and his staff encounter unleashed dogs that are not under control.

Camarillo said the attacking dog was not under voice command, and he called what happened "definitely tragic."

"I want to be clear — not only was the dog off leash, it was unattended," he added. "There were no owners present when incident occurred."

Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District board member Monta Potter was asked if she believes the board should be discussing requiring that dogs be leashed in regional parks. While she couldn't speak for her colleagues, "I absolutely think we should be discussing it," she said.

PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

The Carmel River is an inviting spot for hikers and their pets in Garland Park.

Barbara and Jon-Mark are the best thing to happen in our community in a long time."
- Dennis Murphy

Barbara Brussell
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Rex Reed, The New York Observer

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REOPEN

From page 8A

Fulbright.

"Many don't know, but I am a single parent. Having a childcare center on the campus when I was a teacher at a young age, having a 2-year-old at 28, where I could take my son and still work meant a lot to me," he added.

Little Lobos Academy does not offer information about tuition on its mpc.edu website, and staff did not respond to requests for it by press time.

The Carmelo Preschool program through Carmel Unified School District charges $470 per month for students attending two half-days per week, up to $1,425 for five full days. St. Angela's Preschool in Pacific Grove charges monthly tuition of $735 for three half-days per week, up to $1,323 for five full days, and Serendipity Preschool in Monterey charges $539 for students attending two half-days a week, up to $1,655 for five full days.

STR

From page 9A

2024. Notthoff, meanwhile, is recusing herself Wednesday from the vote due to "a family property interest that could be affected by the decision."

Planning Commissioner Martha Diehl, who lives in Big Sur, said she and others have been working on getting rules established for vacation stays since 1997.

"Nothing's perfect, but we did the best we could. We've heard thousands of hours of testimony. I know people on all sides who aren't happy."

Diehl said it's essential that the county regulates the industry, despite the challenges of doing so.

"We're living in the Wild West right now," she added. "Communities are at each other's throats about this."

Have something important to say about a local controversy? Pine Cone readers would like to hear from you! Submit your letter to the editor (350 words max) to letters@carmelpinecone.com.

BOAT

From page 12A

By 2015, though, the boat was in bad shape. That didn't deter marine geologist John Gregg from buying it for $1 million and launching an ambitious effort to restore it. Gregg founded the Western Flyer Foundation and raised about $5 million to fund the repairs. The makeover included installing a hybrid diesel-electric engine, along with a state-of-the-art marine lab.

In 2023, the renovated boat made its first visit to Monterey, where it was welcomed by Congressman Jimmy Panetta and other local leaders.

Earlier this year, the Western Flyer retraced the trip Steinbeck and Ricketts made, traveling about 4,700 miles in 100 days.

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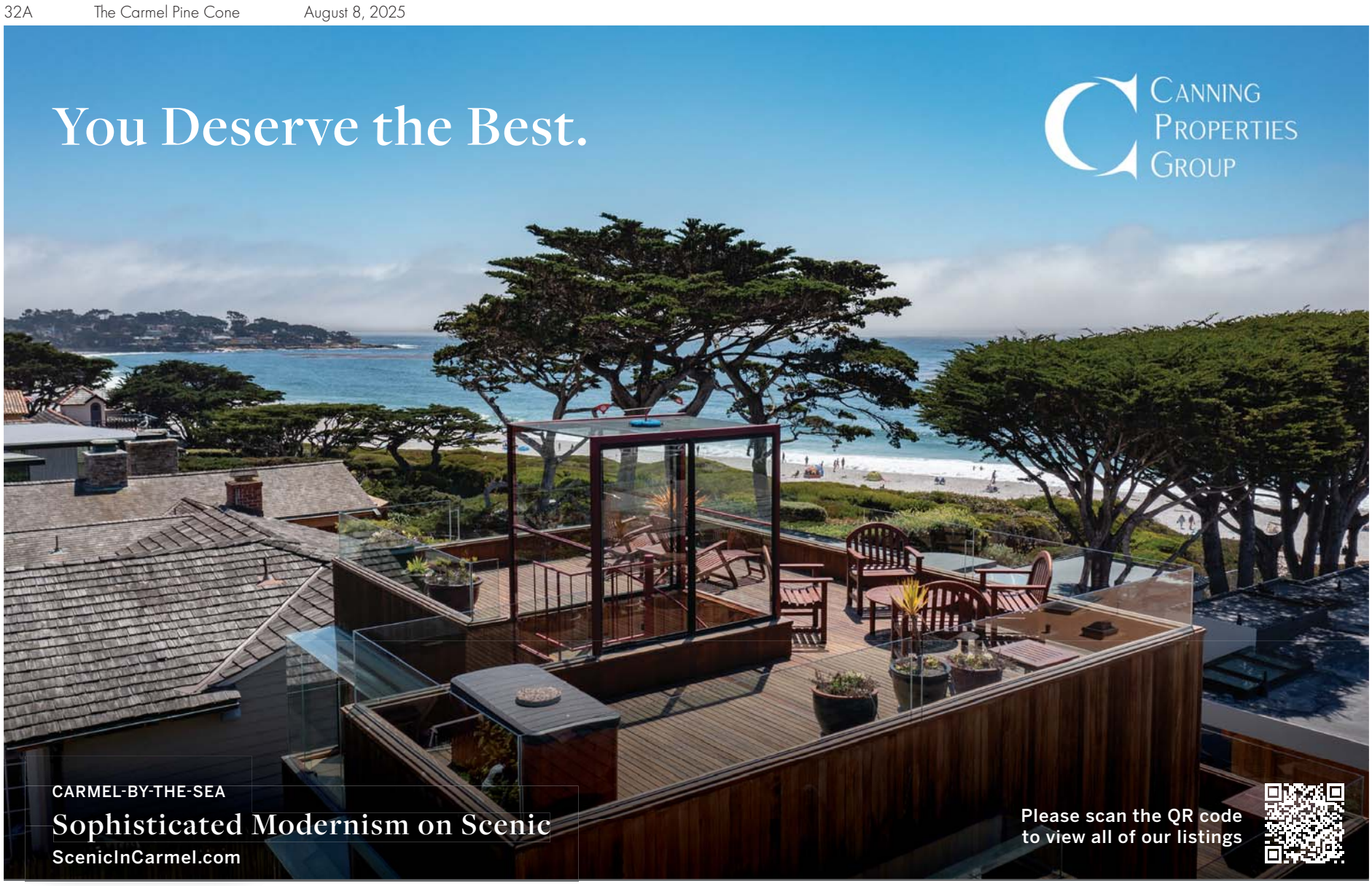

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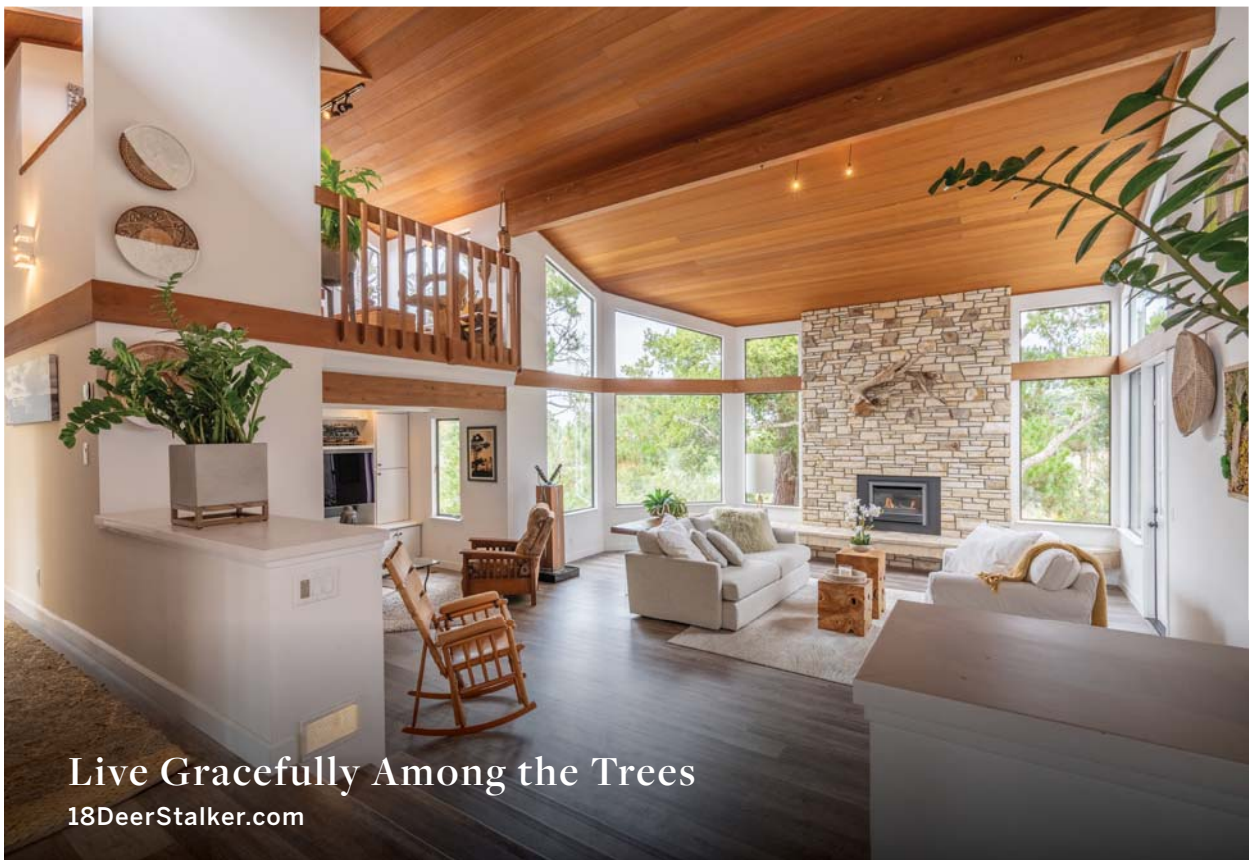

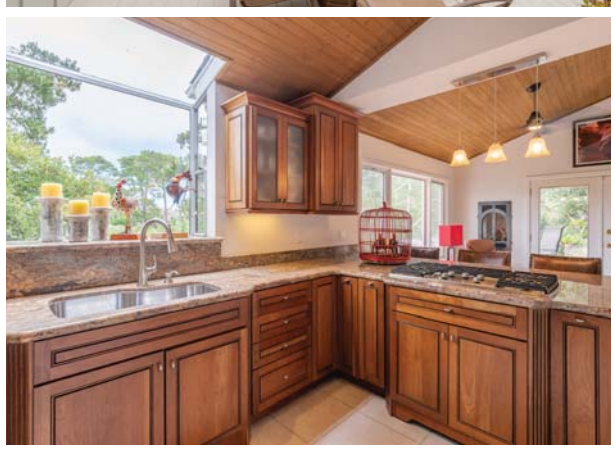

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

From the pitcher's mound, Matt Maxon can see all the way to Stanford

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

It's HUMAN instinct, when you see an athlete like Matt Maxon, to shake your head, lift your jaw off the floor, and label him unreal.

Another natural reaction is to assume he's living his dream — maybe because he's living yours.

But at 17, the Carmel High School wunderkind has a levelheaded understanding of who he is, how he got here, and what he needs to do before his dream comes true.

In fact, this moment is very real to Maxon, who, as he enters his senior year at CHS, already has a full-ride scholarship waiting at Stanford University, one of the most tradition-rich baseball programs in the nation.

He was 11 in 2018, when his parents, John and Laura, took Matt and big brother J.T. to watch Stanford play at Sunken Diamond, when the Cardinal was the defending NCAA champion. That's when he started picturing himself in cardinal and black.

Three years later, after his eighth-grade school year, Maxon was turning heads as a pitcher and slugger for his summer baseball team, Livermore-based Alpha Prime, whose players routinely attract college scouts.

PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Last spring, Maxon led the Padres in hitting, slugging, on-base percentage, doubles, triples, home runs, RBI, runs scored, and stolen bases. He's pictured here with Coach Mike Kelly.

Stanford comes calling

And then — before he played a single inning of high school baseball — he was thunderstruck by a text from David Esquer Stanford's head baseball coach, requesting a face-to-face Zoom conversation.

As his parents watched, Esquer offered their child a full-ride baseball scholarship to Stanford University.

"Unbelievable," Maxon reminisced. "I started crying, gave my dad a hug and gave my mom a hug … yeah, that was surreal."

By then, coaches at Oregon and UC Berkeley had offered him campus visits (without discussing scholarships), so several "what-if" conversations already had taken place in the Maxon home.

"We realized the previous year that Matt probably was more than a big fish in a small pond, he was next-level," Laura Maxon said. "As parents, what probably separated Stanford from the others is that Stanford doesn't make academic concessions."

They had faith in their son, whose grade-point average at CHS exceeds 4.0 as he enters his senior year. (He brought home one B-plus as a sophomore. Otherwise, wall-to-wall straight-A's).

"We realized he'd have to grow up quickly, because a Stanford education is like the Navy Seals of academics," John said. "But Matthew is as serious about studying as he is with baseball."

PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Carmel's Matt Maxon was 14 years old when he verbally committed to accept a full-ride baseball scholarship from Stanford, primarily as a pitcher. He's entering his senior year at CHS.

See **SPORTS** *next page*

GALLERY MAR

CASA Court Appointed Special Advocates FOR CHILDREN SAN BENITO COUNTY

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SPORTS

From previous page

Carmel High pitching coach Scott Brown, who pitched at Santa Clara University, was both excited and concerned when he learned that a freshman-to-be had committed to an NCAA Division 1 baseball school.

Daunting spotlight

"When schools make an offer to a 14-year-old, they're betting on the player you're going to be, not the one you are now," he said. "And that kid suddenly has a target on his back — a ton of scrutiny. It's like learning to play an instrument on a street corner: Everyone knows how you're doing.

"Matty had to learn the art of pitching with all eyes on him," Brown said. "In my experience, the majority of pitchers who commit that early never actually get to that school. Psychologically, it's too much."

But Maxon's journey toward maturity has been supercharged by wise coaches, with special shout-outs to Carmel assistant John Bowker, a former big leaguer, for mental training, and personal trainer Erik Wagle at Kinetic Performance Institute.

He also credits genetics. His grandfather, former Carmel High softball coach Terry McGowan, stands 6-foot-4. His mom, Laura (5-9 1/2), was a stellar pitcher at CHS, Class of '97, who pitched a 1-hitter against Carmel's 1998 CCS champion baseball team at the postseason picnic. His dad, John, played baseball and football at Carmel High.

"My dad is really strong, and I got that from him. My height came from my grandfather and my mom. And I'll credit my mom for my competitiveness — she never let me win a card game as a little kid," Maxon said. "The work ethic, that's just me. Working hard is something I need to do, or I just don't feel right."

Another biggie: He has an athletic big brother, two years older.

"J.T. and I have always been super close. His friend group is basically my friend group, so I hung out with them, rather than kids my age," he said of his sibling, a three-sport athlete at Carmel High, Class of '24.

As a youth, Matt typically played on his brother's team, two years above his own grade level.

"That gave me a lot of confidence when I was really young. I realized I could compete and wasn't intimidated," he said.

At 10, he made Carmel's all-star team in Bronco Division (11- and 12-year-olds) and was the winning pitcher against Pacific Grove in the title game of regional tournament.

"I was a fourth grader, and they were sixth graders," he said. "I pitched the whole game, got a few hits, and my teammates, Ty Arnold and Jackson Lloyd, poured the Gatorade bucket over my head after the game."

Carmel High baseball coach Mike Kelly recalls a 2021 conversation he had with J.T., a freshman at the time. "I said, 'J.T., keep working at this and you've got a chance to be really good,'" the coach recalled. "And he said, 'You think I'm good? You should see my little brother.'"

Big bro then wowed the Padres coach with a video of little bro, 13, crushing a home run over a 330-foot fence.

'He loves that process'

In the fall of Matt's freshman year at Carmel High, 2022-2023, he played in three varsity football games, then immediately pivoted toward baseball.

"Matt loves deliberate practice, which is the case with all great players," Brown said. "With a pitcher, you repeat, repeat, repeat until the involuntary becomes voluntary. Most teens get bored and lose focus. He loves that process.

"He never skips steps," said the pitching coach. "It's pouring rain … the rest of the team has gone home … he's still out there, doing his drills."

One Saturday, Maxon drove south of San Luis Obispo to take his SATs. On the way home, he made a phone call from his car. "He asked us to open up the field that night so he could get his workout in," Brown remembered.

As the only freshman on a 22-player varsity squad, Maxon played in all 32 games for a team that won the CCS championship. The ninth-grader pitched 4.2 innings in the semifinals, allowed a run on four hits, struck out nine, and was winning pitcher in a 3-1 victory over St. Francis SCP. Then he pitched six innings in a 3-1 NorCal win over Pioneer, allowed a run on four hits, fanned five, walked one.

State football champions

As a sophomore, Maxon was a two-way starter on a Padres football team that went 10-0 during the regular season. That spring, at 16, he was 7-3, with a 2.45 ERA on the mound, and batted .387, with 10 doubles and five homers.

As a junior, Maxon was integral on a 15-0 Carmel football team that won a CCS crown. He intercepted two passes in a 42-41 thriller over Acalanes for the NorCal crown, then picked off another pass as Carmel massacred El Capitan, 48-7, for the 5-AA state title.

Last spring, he led Carmel in hitting (.467), hits (50), runs scored (48), RBI (42), doubles (7), triples (2), and home runs (11). The Padres captured their second CCS title in his three varsity seasons and won their NorCal opener 9-0. Maxon drove in four runs with three hits, including a home run in that one, and hammered a two-run double in the NorCal semis, a 6-5 loss to Rancho.

"Matt has unique mental capacity," Kelly said. "He's human, for sure — he has emotions, and ups and downs — but his competitive nature is off the charts, and there's no wiggle room. His attitude is, 'OK, I'm striking you out. I'm telling you I'm striking you out. Let's go.'"

Fun fact: Opposing hitters have a lower cumulative batting average against Maxon if runners are on base.

PHOTO/COURTESY MAXON FAMILY

Big brother J.T. Maxon, left, and 10-year-old Matt flank their dad, John, after winning Carmel's Bronco League championship in 2018. Matt then pitched the team to a victory over Pacific Grove in the regional finals.

Maxon plans to play football this fall as a senior, his fourth varsity season, then hopes to add 15 pounds of muscle to his 6-foot-3, 190-pound frame before reporting to Stanford, where Esquer expects to use him primarily as a pitcher.

His dream, by the way, reaches beyond Stanford, to a Major League Baseball career.

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

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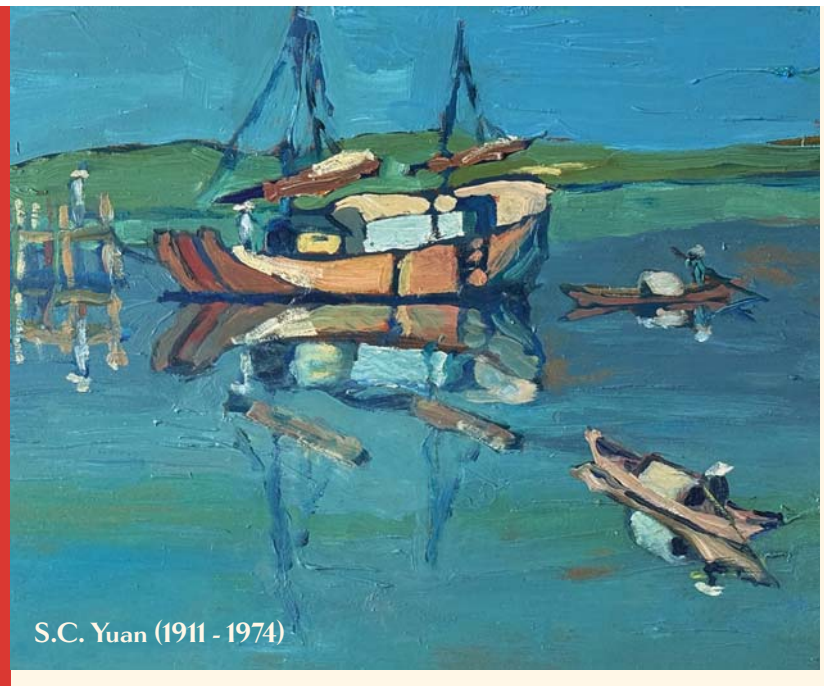
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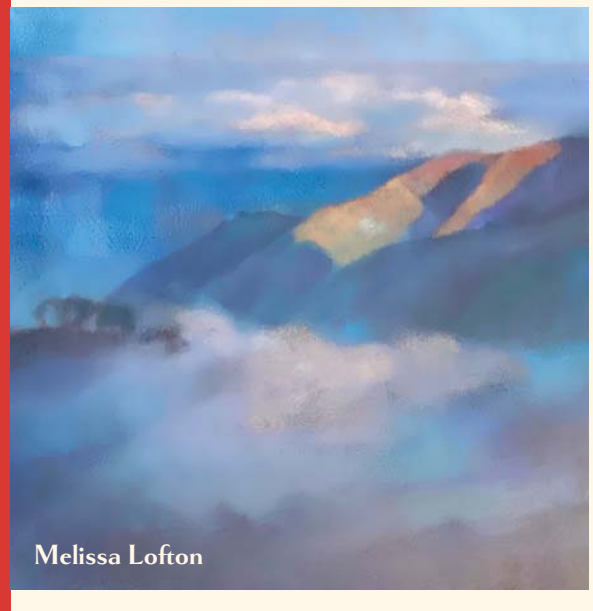
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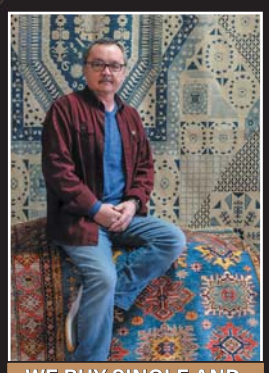

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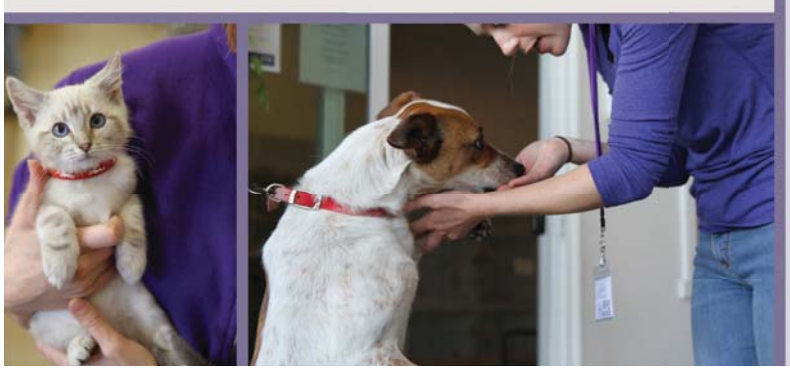

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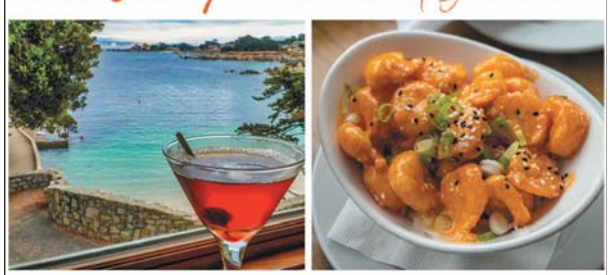

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ARTIST

From page 27A

still have my copy of Mao's Little Red Book somewhere."

Murai was 16 in the summer of 1969, when California Gov. Ronald Reagan deployed the California National Guard to help police control Vietnam War protestors.

On May 15 — infamous as "Bloody Thursday" — riots erupted around the UC Berkeley campus and at nearby People's Park. A guard member shot a protester on a rooftop during the chaos.

"The man was on the roof of our restaurant," said Murai, whose family closed the business after the incident.

He felt directionless at Berkeley High but discovered a photography darkroom at the local YMCA.

"It was like, 'Wow, this is magical!'" said Murai, who began photographing anti-war protests.

Becoming an educator

Murai earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from San Francisco State University, where he was interested in fine arts and photojournalism.

Ultimately, he gravitated toward teaching. After several offers, he landed at Yuba College — in a remote, agriculture-based region — where he could design his own curriculum.

"I was the teacher, the lab tech, the janitor — basically a one-man band, and I loved it," he recalled.

Three of Murai's students won full-tuition merit scholarships to Pasadena's prestigious Art Center College of Design.

He also had summers off to pursue his fine-art photography. Best of all, the college offered a year-long, paid sabbatical every seven years — a perk that facilitated the global exploration and research that he shared with his students and that inspired much of his early work.

Some career highlights:

■ In 2008, 2010 and 2011, he won first place in various categories from British-based Travel Photographer of the Year.

■ In 2015, a series of images earned Best of Show at the Center for Photographic Art's International Juried Portfolio Competition.

■ In spring 2024, Monterey Museum of Art featured six pieces from his portfolio in a multi-artist exhibition called "Sacred Encounters."

■ Last fall, the museum invited him to curate an exhibition that he titled, "Yu-Gen," for undersea photographers Chuck Davis and Ryuijie, both celebrated Peninsula artists.

He also felt honored to be asked to contribute photographs for Kim Weston's new hardcover masterpiece, "Growing Up Weston: In the Presence of Women."

Murai's work includes a series of vignettes of Edward Weston's Carmel Highlands darkroom along with portraits of Kim Weston and his wife, Gina, and their son, Zach.

In 2015, shortly after relocating to Monterey, he was recruited by newly installed executive director Brian Taylor to help rejuvenate the financially troubled Center for Photographic Art, the country's oldest photography nonprofit. It was founded by Ansel Adams, Cole and Brett Weston, Wynn Bullock, and other photographic legends.

"Brian asked me to lend a hand for several months, which turned into three years," he reflected. "Brian and I worked long days with our seasoned office manager, Chris Wasserbach.

"Brian secured the donors who helped rescue the organization," Murai said. "With the support of the community and our valued volunteers, we stabilized this incredible organization. It was an honor and a labor of love."

Murai stepped down in 2019 but continues to serve on CPA's exhibitions committee, as well as the steering and exhibitions committee of ImageMakers of Monterey, an organization he joined in 2017.

Murai and his wife, Susan — a former registered dietician and school administrator, now a volunteer guide at the Monterey Bay Aquarium — retired to the Peninsula in 2014.

'A sense of community'

"I'd bring my students here for three-day photo workshops and always appreciated the Peninsula's rich photo history. Several established photographers were kind enough to meet with my students," he said.

"When Susan and I moved here, we immediately felt a sense of community that we've never experienced elsewhere. The friends, the climate, the ocean — we're truly blessed to live in this special place."

Find additional information and images from several of his portfolios at richardmurai.com.

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

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Town's oldest gallery turns 98, Gallery MAR aids charity with art auction

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

GALLERY MAR Carmel welcomes a world-famous artist when it hosts an opening reception Wednesday at 6 p.m. for a show — "Hunt Slonem d'Elegance!" — by painter Hunt Slonem.

The gathering will be preceded at 4 p.m. by a fundraising silent auction for one of Slonem's paintings, with the proceeds benefitting CASA San Benito County, which trains volunteers to advocate for abused or neglected children placed in foster care.

Slonem, who was born in Maine and lives in New York City, has a distinctive neo-expressionist style that utilizes bold colors and vibrant brushstrokes — and often, the repetition of birds, butterflies, and rabbits.

"Slonem is considered one of the founders of the Neo-Expressionist painting movement," gallery co-owner Thomas Cushman said. "With work in the permanent collections of over 250 museums world-wide, including the Metropolitan and the Guggenheim, he is one of the most recognized and yet still collectible artists working today."

Gallery MAR Carmel is on Dolores between Ocean and Seventh. GalleryMarCarmel.com.

■ CAA birthday

The Carmel Art Association celebrates its 98th anniversary Saturday, 4 p.m., with new art, live music and birthday cake. The public is invited and the event is free.

The CAA, on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth, was founded Aug. 8, 1927, "on a Monday afternoon in a home on the corner of Lincoln Street and Seventh Avenue," according to its official history. "At that time over 100 professional artists lived on the Monterey Peninsula. Eighteen of them attended this meeting, creating a nonprofit organization that became known as the heart of the Carmel's artist colony."

To mark the milestone, the gallery is presenting a miniature artworks raffle of works donated by artist-members. Proceeds help fund the gallery's exhibits and programs.

"Tickets can be purchased to try and win your favorite little gems," the association's Lili Mendez explained. "This raffle is an incredible way to see what artists who usually work at a much larger scale can do with just 36 square inches to work with."

New shows, too

Also new at the CAA are shows by textile artist Jessica Bovert ("Pond Farm") and Big Sur painters Sarah Healey and Melissa Lofton ("Earth, Water & Air").

As its title suggests, Bovert's display features pieces created at "the historic Pond Farm Pottery, a former Bauhaus-influenced artists colony tucked in the redwoods of Sonoma County."

"Merging structure with softness, the work echoes both the surrounding landscape and the introspective calm of her time at Pond Farm," Mendez said.

Healey and Lofton offer a birds-eye perspective of their surroundings. "Both painters live on ridges high above the sea, providing each of them with insights into the qualities of luminosity, reflection, solitude and wildness," Mendez said. Carmelart.org.

■ Meet Beata

The Carmel Art Association is also participating in this Saturday's Carmel Art Walk from 4 to 7 p.m., which showcases downtown galleries. New on the art walk is Bea's Studio on San Carlos between Ocean and Seventh.

"Bea's Studio is a creative space for artist Beata Vavrova," gallery owner Jaoquin Turner told The Pine Cone. "Tucked in San Paseo courtyard — on San Carlos between Ocean and Seventh — it is her working studio and gallery," offering her original art, along with "keepsakes made by California-based artists and artisans."

Other participants in the art walk include Gallery Sur, Scott Jacobs Gallery and Edi Matsumoto Art & Design. Maps are available at participating shops, which will display blue lanterns to help people on their self-guided tours.

■ Contest hands out $$ prizes

A striking portrait of a cat by painter artist Bonnie Sailer won $6,000 in an art contest hosted by 480 Lighthouse Gallery in Pacific Grove.

Seventy-two of the gallery's 300 artists participated in the competition, which awarded $10,000 in prizes.

The paintings were all done on 16-inch squares. Other winners included Brian Sanders, who took home $3,000, and Karina North, who earned a $1,000 prize. 480Lighthouse.com.

This eye-catching portrait of a cat earned painter Bonnie Sailer a $6,000 prize in a local art contest.

Homecrafters jurying set for Aug. 27

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE 54TH Homecrafters' Marketplace is set for November, and the city is scrutinizing artists and craftspeople who want to sell their wares there. The selection committee will jury new and returning vendors' products Aug. 27 at the Carmel Woman's Club on San Carlos at Ninth between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., and no appointment is necessary.

There are several ground rules: Crafts must be hand-made and presented by the applicant, a completed jury application and a copy of a valid state seller's permit are required, and five to 10 product samples must be shown. Photos of products and a drawing of the booth display will be submitted along with a nonrefundable $25 jury fee.

The 54th Homecrafters' Marketplace will take place in the north lot of Sunset Center at Mission and Eighth Nov. 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more info and an application, visit ci.carmel.ca.us/post/homecrafters-marketplace-jury, call (831) 620-2020 or email communityactivities@ci.carmel.ca.us.

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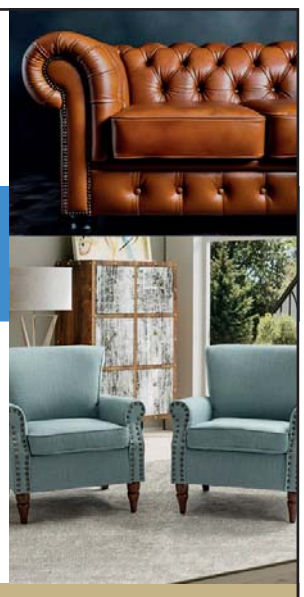

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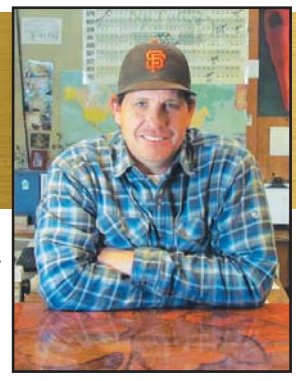

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LIVES

From page 27A

But the company developed recipes and did cooking demos around the country, helping to build a market.

D'Arrigo related that early on, she was often the only woman in business meetings. "Women were quite rare, especially in management. They were mostly secretaries and a few members of other farm families. We had to prove ourselves."

She educated the management team at her own company on avoiding sexual harassment — a new concept at the time. As her career continued, she discovered that many male purchasers enjoyed working with female sales reps who were "smart, interested and not gruff." That enabled her department to build relationships with customers.

Helping start careers

In 22 years as VP of sales and marketing at D'Arrigo Brothers and 13 at Taylor Farms — which collaborates with her family's firm — as vice president of community development, she has acquired a drive to help young women enter and navigate the workforce.

She said, "One of the things I'm proudest of is Impower and its impact on the ag community, as women in produce open doors for more women."

Impower is the nonprofit D'Arrigo co-founded in 2007. "The concept was to bring women together, inspire (hence the 'I' in the name) and motivate them. There's no membership requirement and women could come from any walk of life." That includes those outside of agriculture and stay-at-home moms, who D'Arrigo said "have a very important job," a description she acknowledged was an understatement. Meetings often involve networking, motivational speakers and presentations from nonprofits that support women or girls.

Women were rare in corporate business offices

Highlights of her volunteer efforts include a stint as president of the Grower Shipper Association Foundation, where she was the second woman of three who have held that job. While there, she led the Salad Bars in Schools program, resulting in 55 salad bars being placed in schools countywide. Her work in education has included Children's Council of Monterey County and the Literacy Campaign for Monterey County. The former candy-striper is also secretary of Salinas Valley Health.

City council

In addition to her job at Taylor Farms and her consulting business, D'Arrigo was elected to Salinas City Council representing the city's 3rd district last year, filling a spot left vacant when Steve McShane unexpectedly resigned.

As others urged her to run, she said she realized she'd been preparing "her whole life for the job," which she described as "a huge challenge."

She walked precincts, knocked on doors, and raised $150,000 for her campaign. City government turned out to be more similar to running a business than she'd expected, and her nonprofit experience helps, too. As it is everywhere around here, the housing shortage is a big concern. "We can't fix it today," she said, but she and her colleagues are working on solutions.

Still, "The learning curve was much steeper than I thought. Things don't move quickly — there are policies and procedures, bureaucracy. I'm learning to practice patience, which isn't one of my virtues. It's frustrating, but satisfying."

"I really care about the community," she said.

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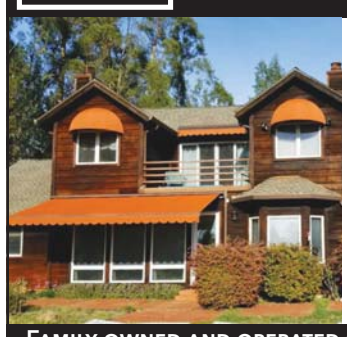
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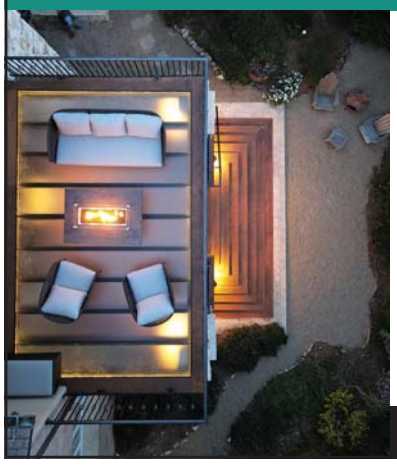
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Fingerpicking guitarist plays Golden State, Cherry Center hosts Ukelele Melee

AN INNOVATIVE instrumentalist whose music blends blues, jazz and folk, fingerpicking guitarist **Leo Kottke** plays Saturday, 7 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

Despite suffering nerve and tendon damage from playing the guitar, as well as experiencing a partial loss of his hearing, Kottke is widely recognized as a master on both the six- and 12-string acoustic guitars. He leans heavily on alternate tunings and has invented a few of his own. Kottke has recorded 21 solo studio albums.

Opening his show is guitarist **Julian Lage**, who performed at the 2000 Grammy Awards when he was just 12. The 5-time Grammy Award nominee has released 16 albums since his first in 2009, including 2025's "Speak to Me."

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

The Carl Cherry Center for the Arts hosts its annual Ukelele Melee Saturday at 2 p.m.

■ 'Little four-string' shines

Often described as the world's happiest musical instrument, the ukelele is the guest of honor Saturday, 2 p.m., at the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts, which hosts its annual Ukelele Melee. "Come and enjoy the music and fun with our little four-string," suggests one of the musicians, **Dixie Dixon**.

The lineup also includes **Ukelele Dick**, **Steve Dixon**, **The Haole Harmony Trio**, **Sandor & Karen**, and **Bruce & Pam Forman**.

Tickets are $30. Cherry Center is located at Fourth and Guadalupe. carlcherrycenter.org.

■ Lent at Wave Street Friday

A professional session player who has recorded and toured with pop singer Barry Manilow for more than two decades, singer and multi-instrumentalist **Mike Lent** takes the stage Friday, 7 p.m., at Wave Street Studios in Monterey.

Lent will be joined by multi-instrumentalist **Gary Meek**, keyboardist **Ron Pedley**, bassist **Dave Marotta** and drummer **Mike Shannon**. Singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** will open the show.

Tickets are $30. The venue is located at 774 Wave St. For tickets, visit eventbrite.com.

A five-time Grammy Award nominee, guitarist Julian Lage shares the bill with guitarist Leo Kottke Saturday, 7 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

Live music Aug. 8-14

■ Big Sur

Big Sur River Inn — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Saturday at 12:30 p.m.), **Paige Too** (jazz, Sunday at 1 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Victor Veysey** and bassist **Kemen Waddell** (funk, jazz and country, Thursday at 6

See **MUSIC** *page 43A*

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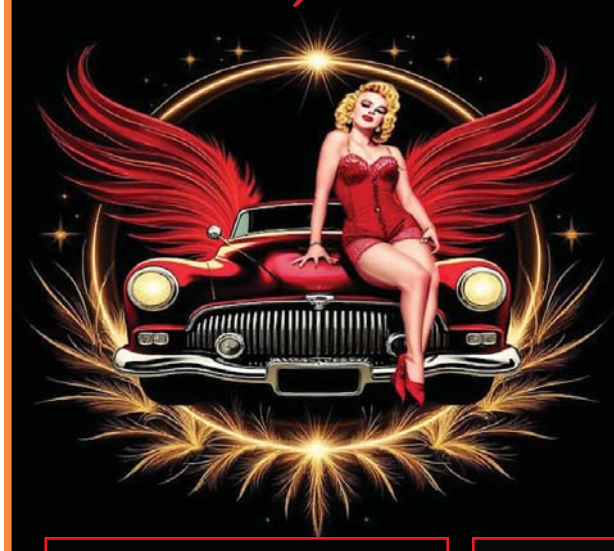

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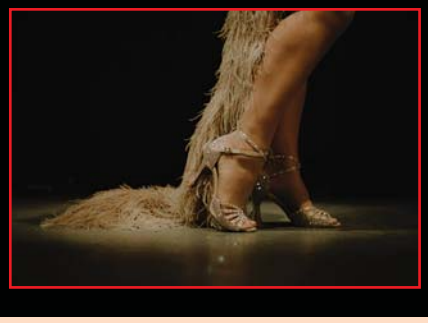

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FOOD & WINE

Pisoni wines, a Chilean feast, and high-octane seasonal cocktails

For all its traditions, spectacle and exceptional fundraising, Car Week can test the patience of locals when roads are closed and their favorite eateries are booked up.

Thankfully, you can always get food to go and enjoy it somewhere quiet, like a park or your deck at home. Bruno's sandwiches and prepared dinners, along with provisions from The Cheese Shop in the Plaza, and Baum & Blume or Jerome's Market in Carmel Valley, are just a few options for great takeaway food.

When you are ready to head out, we have a few ideas.

■ Pisoni is Highland's next guest

The coveted wines of Pisoni Family Wines will be celebrated during the upcoming "Forks, corks, action!" dinner at the Highlands Inn Aug. 14 at 6 p.m.

The inimitable Gary Pisoni, whose Santa Lucia Highlands vineyards consistently turn out high-quality pinot noir, chardonnay and syrah, is set to return to Pacific's Edge "for another legendary evening celebrating fine wines, spectacular views, and vibrant storytelling," organizers said. "A true icon of Monterey County's wine community, Pisoni brings bold personality and acclaimed wines to this unforgettable night."

Pisoni began making wine in the 1970s, planted Pisoni Vineyards in 1982 and crafted the first estate pinot noir with sons Jeff and Mark, who are now the vintner and the vineyard manager, respectively, in 1998. The brothers "work in close collaboration to continue their father's vision" as they create wines alongside legendary French winemaker Emile Peynaud.

Soup to Nuts

Their wines will be enjoyed throughout a four-course dinner created by executive chef Christopher Welenc. It will start with lobster, forbidden rice, sunchoke puree and a vinaigrette. Second will be roulade lamb tenderloin with goat cheese, followed by a third course of smoked duck breast in a pinot noir glaze. Dessert will be dark chocolate ganache dipped in mixed-berry granola and vanilla creme fraiche. Wine pairings are being kept a surprise, for now.

The impending automotive occupation of the Monterey Peninsula includes the bayside area of Old Fisherman's Wharf and Custom House Plaza, home to "Cars, Cocktails and Calamari." When you cruise real collectibles on display in the Plaza, you're within steps of lunch, dinner and libations. Restaurants will offer variations on squid dishes, and Old Fisherman's Grotto has drinks like Red Ferrari Spritz (right) with Veuve Cliquot and Aperol.

The cost is $200 per person, including tax and tip. Seats are available for booking through Open Table. The dinner will take place in the wine room in Pacific's Edge at the Highlands Inn, which is located off Highway 1 south of Carmel. Visit hyattvacationclub.com for more information.

■ Wharf and wheels

Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf is hosting "Cars, Cocktails & Calamari" during Monterey Car Week, Aug. 8–17.

Organizers say you can stop at Custom House Plaza to see some collector vehicles on display before walking out onto the wharf for squid and a boozy beverage or two.

Calamari is, of course, available all year, with each restaurant putting its own spin on the popular dish. Paluca Trattoria has it fried with lemon aioli, and Old Fisherman's Grotto's offers lightly seasoned calamari strips and tentacles, as well as calamari eggplant parmesan. Rock Fish Harbor Grill is serving it with house dipping sauce, and the Crab House has a calamari sandwich, not to be confused with Crabby Jim's lightly seasoned and fried offering or Crab Louie's calamari and chips.

Abalonetti's is going in a different direction with Calamari Napolitana over linguine, Cafe Fina is grilling a calamari steak, and across the way, Domenico's plans to pan-sear its steak with garlic butter sauce.

The Grotto's bartender has also been busy with high-octane glassfuls like the Rolls-Royce Phantom Martini made with Casamigos mezcal, Citronge orange liqueur and fresh lime, a Red Ferrari Spritz featuring Veuve Cliquot, Aperol,

See **FOOD** *next page*

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FOOD & WINE

FOOD

From previous page

and Angostura bitters, and a Little Red Corvette crafted with Tito's Vodka, sweet-and-sour flavors and black raspberry.

■ Summer suppers

Mezzaluna Pasteria & Mozzarella Bar at 1188 Forest Ave. in Pacific Grove announced some menu additions celebrating the flavors of summer. Known for its house-made pasta and cheese, and for taking pride in sourcing ingredients locally, they've added Insalata di Gorgonzola e Noci — crisp gem lettuce salad with creamy gorgonzola dressing, toasted walnuts, oven-dried grapes, and Parmesan — to the antipasti menu.

From the mozzarella bar, try Burrata con Pomodoro — Italy's delightfully creamy, semi-soft cheese on country toast, served with pea tendrils, basil oil and chef/owner Soerke Peters' classic sauce made from oven-dried Swank Farms tomatoes. Prosciutto di Parma con Pesca features mozzarella and grilled summer peaches.

The handmade pasta in Cappellacci di Granchio is filled with Dungeness crab and ricotta and plated with lemon-butter sauce, English peas, Parmesan and crispy sweet potatoes.

Finally, you can enjoy a Watermelon Aperol Spritz, a refreshing Watermelon Margarita, or a sophisticated White Mezcal Negroni.

Mezzaluna in Pacific Grove announced this week that it's got summer favorites on offer, including Burrata Con Pomodoro (right), which pairs creamy burrata cheese with oven-dried Swank Farms tomatoes. With a surfeit of pasta dishes, entrees, small bites and cocktails on the menu, it's hard to save room for dessert (above) — but do. Tiramisu and house-made gelato or sorbetto treats offer a dolce finish to the meal.

■ C hosts Chilean wine dinner

Wine Spectator's No. 1 wine for 2024 — Don Melchor cabernet sauvignon from Chile — will be the star at a Latin-themed al fresco dinner hosted by the C Restaurant + Bar Thursday, Aug. 28, from 6 to 9 p.m.

"We were lucky to be able to source this for the dinner, and it will be held outside in our courtyard by the ocean and under the lights," food and beverage director Joe Valencia said. "We haven't done a dinner like this before."

Don Melchor is named for Melchor Concho y Toro, the founder of Chile's Concho y Toro Wines. A prominent lawyer, politician and businessman who decided to bet on his region's winemaking potential, he launched the business in 1883 and soon expanded it. Today, the company has several labels and boasts that it is "the most admired wine brand in the world," as its products "deliver rewarding and unique experiences to our consumers around the world," with distribution in more than 130 countries.

Executive chef Matt Bolton's menu, developed in collaboration with Concho y Toro, will start with scallop ceviche paired with a sparkling wine, Casillero del Diablo Devil's Brut from the Limari Valley.

Next, heirloom tomatoes and burrata will accompany Terrunyo sauvignon blanc from the Valle de Casablanca, followed by duck confit empanada with English peas and morels served alongside 2021 Amelia pinot noir, also from Valle del Limari.

The main course — dry-aged ribeye with chimichurri, fingerling potatoes, sauce bordelaise — will complement the wine that topped last year's Wine Spectator list of the best 100 wines in the world: 2021 Don Melchor cabernet sauvignon from Puenta Alto.

Dessert will be tres leches cake and fruit and passion fruit espresso martinis.

The cost is $190 per person, inclusive, and reservations may be made by calling (831) 642-2013. The C is located in the InterContinental hotel at 750 Cannery Row.

■ Cars? No. Carbs? Yes.

"A tavola non si invecchia." (One does not grow old at the table.) — Italian proverb

Of course Italian food keeps you young. The 92nd Annual Festa Italia doesn't look a day over 21, after all.

The free event at Monterey's Custom House Plaza runs from Sept. 5 to 7 and begins with a procession honoring Santa Rosalia, patron saint of Palermo, Sicily, followed by the traditional blessing of the fishing fleet. After that, it's all about food, music, dancing and fun — whether you're there for live bands, bocce, or just a plate

See **CARBS** *next page*

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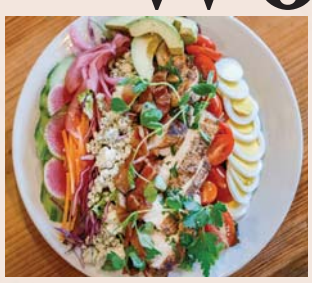

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FOOD & WINE

MUSIC

From page 40A

p.m.). 46800 Highway 1.

Fernwood Resort — **Damma Damma** (jazz and rock, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

Henry Miller Library — multi-instrumentalist **Sam Reider** and bassist **Jeff Picker** (jazz, Saturday at 7 p.m.). 48603 Highway 1.

■ Carmel

Barmel — singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Sunday at 7 p.m.). Carmel Square on San Carlos north of Seventh.

Carmel Mission Inn — pianist **Glen Pearson**, bassist **Kenny Brown** and drummer **Leon Joyce Jr.** (jazz, Sunday at 11 a.m.). In the Shearwater Tavern at 3665 Rio Rd.

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.), **David Morwood Jazz Band** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and guitarist **Kip Allert** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Saturday and Thursday, both at 6 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.

La Playa Hotel — singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Tuesday at 5 p.m.). Camino Real and Eighth.

Links Club — **Kid Dynamite** (rock, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **Songwriters Showcase** (Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., sign-ups start at 6:30 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

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

■ Carmel Valley

Baja Cantina — singer and guitarist **Matt Masih** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 7166 Carmel Valley Road.

Bernardus Lodge — pianist **Mathias Morris** (classical, Friday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea's Fault** (pop and jazz, Saturday at noon), pianist **TJ Kuenster** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at noon), singer and guitarist **Fred McCarty** (Tuesday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Wednesday at 5 p.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Edgar's — singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Friday at 5:30 p.m.). At Quail Lodge, 8000 Valley Greens Drive.

Folktale Winery — singer and guitarist **RJ DeMarco** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Saturday at 2 p.m.), **Monterey Jazz Regional All-Star Combos** (Sunday at 11 a.m.), **The Peter Martin Trio** (jazz, Monday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Brett Perkins** (Tuesday at 5 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

McIntyre Vineyards — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Sunday at noon). 24 W. Carmel Valley Rd.

Trailside Cafe — singer and guitarist **Dan Cioper** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

■ Monterey

Albatross Ridge Winery — singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and. guitarist **Dave Tate** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Sunday at 2 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

Bon Ton LeRoy's Smokehouse — **Alligator** (blues and zydeco, 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 jam (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.). 611 Lighthouse Ave.

Cibo — **The Dave Holodiloff Duo** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Bill Spencer** (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 and classical, Thursday at 5 p.m.). Casa Munras Hotel, 700 Munras Ave.

Hyatt Regency Monterey — singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.

InterContinental Hotel — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Friday at 7 p.m.), guitarist **Richard DeVinck**

See **LIVE** *next page*

Singer and guitarist Natalie Gelman performs Saturday, 6 p.m., at Puma Road Winery at Portola Plaza in Monterey.

CARBS

From previous page

of calamari and a glass of wine.

Also known as Monterey's Santa Rosalia Fisherman's Festival, the event honors the area's Italian heritage and generations of fishermen who have shared their culture and food with the Monterey Peninsula.

Expect classic Italian dishes like calamari, steak and sausage sandwiches, pasta, and cannoli, plus last year's popular eggplant parmesan sandwich and a new smoked salmon sandwich with wild-caught Alaskan salmon, cream cheese, arugula, capers and sliced red onion on toasted ciabatta bread.

Don't try this at home

Topping the list of things you probably wouldn't make at home are arancini. Named for the little oranges they're meant to resemble, the deep-fried breaded balls of rice were a way to make food more portable. The fried carbs come with savory fillings, usually a meat-and-tomato ragu or some blisteringly hot mozzarella cheese. Wine, beer and other drinks will be available.

Don't miss the classic Fisherman's Wharf cioppino cooking demo with chef Tene Shake or the new tarantella dance lessons on Sunday to work off all that food. There'll be plenty of live music, and vendors with Italian-themed merchandise and crafts.

The festival is scheduled for Friday from 3 to 9 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit festaitaliamonterey.org to learn more.

Mary Schley and Elaine Hesser contributed to this week's column.

A Local's Getaway... Baum & Blume's Lunch Patio And Biergarten!
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CALENDAR

Fridays – Latin jazz and blues with Dino Vera, Saturdays – Soulful blues with Debbie Davis, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Terry's Restaurant + Lounge, inside Cypress Inn, Lincoln and Seventh, Carmel-by-the-Sea. For more information, please contact Cypress Inn, (831) 624-3871.

Aug. 9 – Monterey Elks Lodge Rummage Sale, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 150 Mar Vista Drive, Monterey. Something for everyone, reusable and repurpose-able items! Open to all. Vendor fees go to charity.

Aug. 9-Sept. 13 – Joining Hands Benefit Shop 15 Year Anniversary Celebration. Sales events features weekly drawings and themes. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday at 26358 Carmel Rancho Lane, Ste. 1, Carmel. Details: joininghandsbenefitshops.org or (831) 293-8410.

Aug. 10 – Cabaret by the Sea Presents "Love is in the Air! A Cabaret Show," 4 p.m. at Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula (4590 Carmel Valley Road – mouth of Carmel Valley). For information call (831) 601-1462

Aug. 22 – Liz Longley New Life Tour is presented 7:30 p.m. at the Golden Bough Playhouse Founders Theatre, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Tickets available at www.PacRep.org or call (831) 221-0100.

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LIVE

From previous page

(classical, Saturday at 7 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Sunday at 9 a.m.). 750 Cannery Row.

Portola Hotel & Spa — mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.). At Jack's Terrace, 2 Portola Plaza.

Melville Tavern — **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.). 484 Washington St.

Midici Pizza — singer and host **Janice Perl**, keyboardist **Gary Meek**, bassist **Steve Uccello** and drummer **Andy Weis** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), **The Brian Stock Quartet** with keyboardist **Bill Spencer,** bassist **Pete Lips** and drummer **Pat Tregenza** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

Monterey Plaza Hotel — pianist **Martan Mann** (jazz, Friday and Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

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.

Puma Road Winery at Portola Plaza — singer and guitarist **Matt Masih** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Natalie Gelman** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), **The Smoky Vegas Project** (classic lounge, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

Recycled Records — **The Wet Possums** (garage-rock, Friday at 8 p.m.). 604 Lighthouse Ave.

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

Sly McFly's — **The New Wave Band** (pop and rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **Duality** (dance music from the '70s, '80s & '90), Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

Tarpy's Roadhouse — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Alison Sharino** (Friday at 5 p.m.), guitarist **Richard Devinck** (classical, Saturday at 5 p.m.), mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Sunday at noon). 2999 Highway 68.

■ Pacific Grove

The Grill at Point Pinos — **The Andrea Carter Trio** (jazz and pop, Friday at 5 p.m.). 79 Asilomar Ave.

See **CHORDS** *page 47A*

Multi-instrumentalist Sam Reider plays Saturday, 7 p.m., at Henry Miller Library in Big Sur.

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251198
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
MIKE'S PIZZA, 318 Alta St., Gonzales, CA 93926.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
MARIA ANGELICA HERNANDEZ, P.O. Box 839, Gonzales, CA 93926.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan 1, 1994.
S/Maria Angelica Hernandez
Date signed: July 2, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 2, 2025.
Publication Dates: July 25, Aug. 1, 8, 15, 2025 (PC 762)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251060
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
J & Y AUTO BODY COLLISION, 329 N. Main St., Salinas, CA 93901.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
JULIO LOPEZ VALDES.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 2, 2025.
S/Julio Lopez Valdes
Date signed: June 6, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 6, 2025.
Publication Dates: July 18, 25, Aug. 1, 8, 2025 (PC 763)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251268
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
WinnResidential-Walnut Grove, 1002 Walnut Avenue, Greenfield, CA 93927,
County of Monterey
Registered Owner(s):
LLAM Realty Management, Inc., 5200 North Palm Avenue, Suite 109 Fresno, CA 93704
This business is conducted by a limited partnership
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/01/2019
S/ Michael T. Putziger
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 07/14/2025
8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22/25
CNS-3950325#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025. (PC 801)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251312
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MODFRUIT, 3650 The Barnyard, Unit D-23, Carmel, CA 93923.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
MODFRUIT LLC, 3650 The Barnyard, Unit D-23, 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 July 21, 2025.
S/Lauren Dwight, Member
Date: July 21, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 21, 2025.
Publication Dates: Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025. (PC 802)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251320
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
THE JACANA GROUP, 220 Dunecrest Ave. #A, Monterey, CA 93940.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
BENJAMIN A. NURSE, JR, P.O. BOX 1267, MONTEREY, CA 93942.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 1, 2009.
S/Benjamin A. Nurse, Jr.
Date signed: July 23, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 23, 2025.
Publication Dates: Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025 (PC 803)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251292
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
JULIA SALVADOR RAMIREZ, 334 Chaparral St., Salinas, CA 93906.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
JULIA SALVADOR RAMIREZ.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 15, 2025.
S/Julia Salvador Ramirez
Date signed: July 17, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 17, 2025.
Publication Dates: Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025 (PC 804)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251306
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
Main Event Transportation, 5 Justin Court, Monterey, CA 93940, County of Monterey
Registered Owner(s):
GT Monterey, LLC, 2201 W. Broad Street, Suite 105, Richmond, VA 23220; CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 04/22/2019
S/ Brad M. Hungate, Manager
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 07/21/2025
8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22/25
CNS-3951215#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025. (PC 805)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251307
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
CALSTAR, 4917 Bailey Loop, McClellan, CA 95652, County of Sacramento
Registered Owner(s):
Reach Air Medical Services, LLC, 4917 Bailey Loop, McClellan, CA 95652; CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 12/04/2019
S/ Thomas A.A. Cook, Secretary
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 07/21/2025
8/8, 8/15, 8/22, 8/29/25
CNS-3952618#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Aug. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025. (PC 808)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251361
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **INDTEC CORPORATION, 3348 Paul Davis Drive, Suite 109, Marina, CA 93933.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
OHM AERO CORPORATION, 3785 Via Nona Marie, Suite 108 PMB 40, Carmel, California 93923.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: DE
This business is conducted by a corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on July 29, 2025.
S/Matthew Charles Rowe, CFO
Date: July 29, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 29, 2025.
Publication Dates: Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025. (PC 810)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251305
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
The Pest Guy Of Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay, 16411 Castorville Blvd, Salinas, CA 93907, County of Monterey
Registered Owner(s):
Joseph Terra
This business is conducted by an Individual
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on Not Applicable
S/ Joseph Terra
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 07/21/2025
8/8, 8/15, 8/22, 8/29/25
CNS-3953519#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Aug. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025. (PC 811)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251136
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MONTEREY BAY ORTHODONTICS (MBO ORTHODONTICS), 81 Via Robles, Monterey, CA 93940.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
GARRETT R. CRISWELL, DDS, MS, INC.
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 Aug. 1, 2013.
S/Garrett R. Criswell, President
Date: June 20, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 20, 2025.
Publication Dates: Aug. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025. (PC 812)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251135
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MONTEREY BAY ORTHODONTICS, 1270 S. Main 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.:
GARRETT R. CRISWELL, DDS, MS, INC, 81 Via Robles, Monterey, CA 93940
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 Aug. 1, 2013.
S/Garrett Criswell, President
Date: June 20, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 20, 2025.
Publication Dates: Aug. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025. (PC 813)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251381
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
NORTH COUNTY YOUTH SPORTS, 11763 Cypress St., Castroville, CA 95012.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
RICARDO THOMAS DIAZ, 11763 Cypress St., Castroville, CA 95012.
RUDY JOEY DIAZ, 10620 Haight St., Castroville, CA 95012
This business is conducted by a general partnership.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on July 31, 2025.
S/Ricardo Thomas Diaz Jr.
Date signed: July 31, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 31, 2025.
Publication Dates: Aug. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025 (PC 814)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251365
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MOSS & STONE, 2969 Monterey Salinas Hwy, Unit C16, Monterey, CA 93940.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
ASLAN CREATIVE LLC, 2969 Monterey Salinas Hwy, Unit C16, Monterey, CA 93940.
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 July 28, 2025.
S/Jackson A. Arabaci, CEO
Date: July 28, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 29, 2025.
Publication Dates: Aug. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025. (PC 815)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2025158
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **EL CHEGGZ, 72120 Jolon Rd., Bradley, CA 93426.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
EL CHEGGZ CORP, 72120 Jolon Rd., Bradley, CA 93426.
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 Jan. 22, 2023.
S/Elias Chairez-Heggs, CFO
Date: July 29, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 29, 2025.
Publication Dates: Aug. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025. (PC 819)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251369
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **NAMASTE INDIA BISTRO, 538 Lighthouse Ave, Monterey, CA 93940.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
NAMASTE 538 INC.
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 April 15, 2023.
S/Subash Subba Chongbang, President
Date: July 30, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 30, 2025.
Publication Dates: Aug. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025. (PC 820)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 25CV003915
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, ASHIKA VANDANA MALA aka ASHIKA SUNDAR, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
A Present name:
ASHIKA VANDANA MALA aka ASHIKA SUNDAR
Proposed name:
ASHIKA SUNDAR
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: Sept. 30, 2025
TIME: 11:00 a.m.
DEPT: 13A
The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
Date filed: Aug. 4, 2025
(s) Thomas W. Wills
Judge of the Superior Court
Date: Aug. 4, 2025
Publication Dates: Aug. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025. (PC 821)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251349
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
LEO BASS & ASSOCIATES, 738 California St., Salinas, Calif. 93901.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
WILLIAM N. PRUNTY.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on July 21, 2025.
S/William N. Prunty
Date signed: July 28, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 28, 2025.
Publication Dates: Aug. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025 (PC 823)

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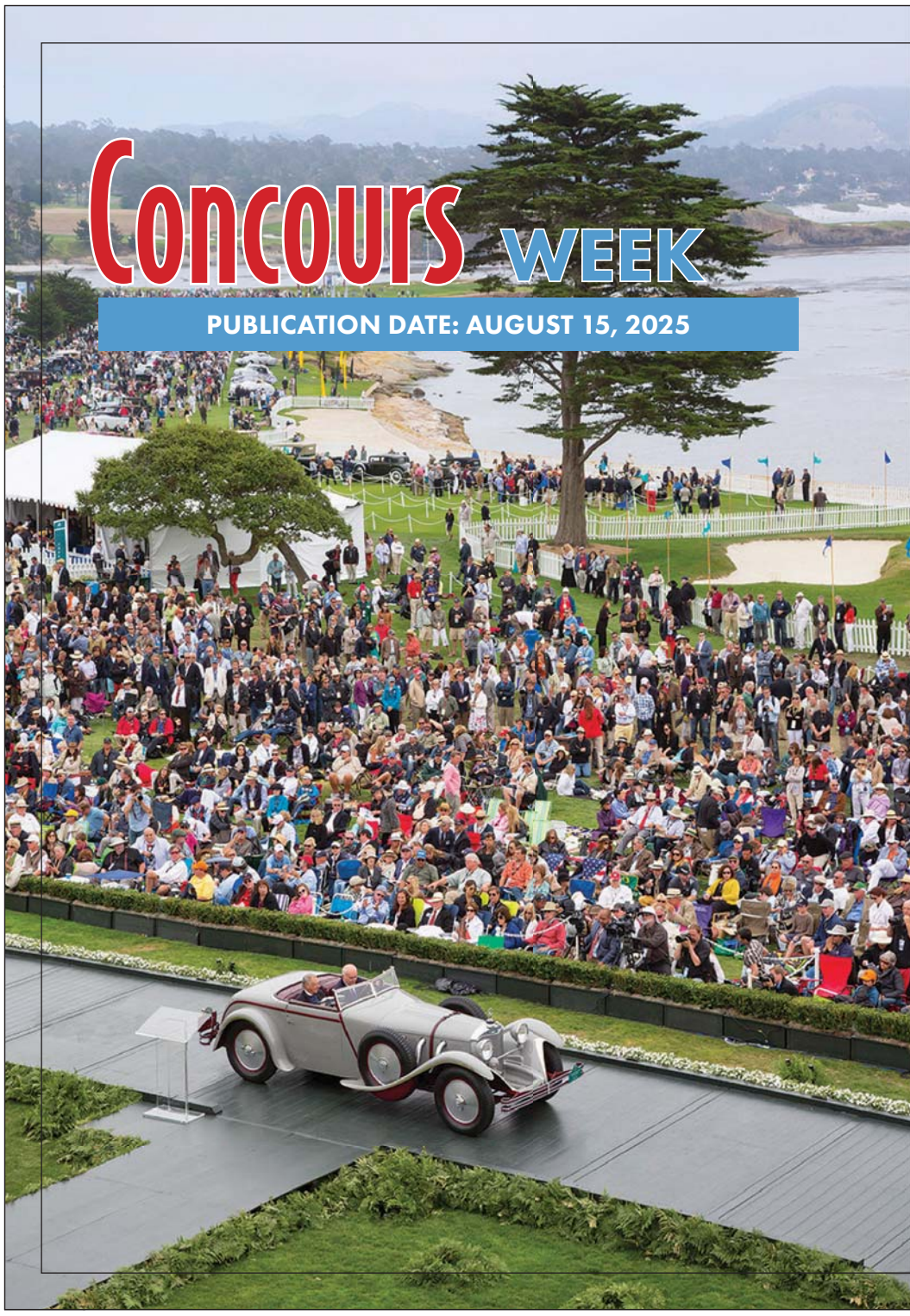

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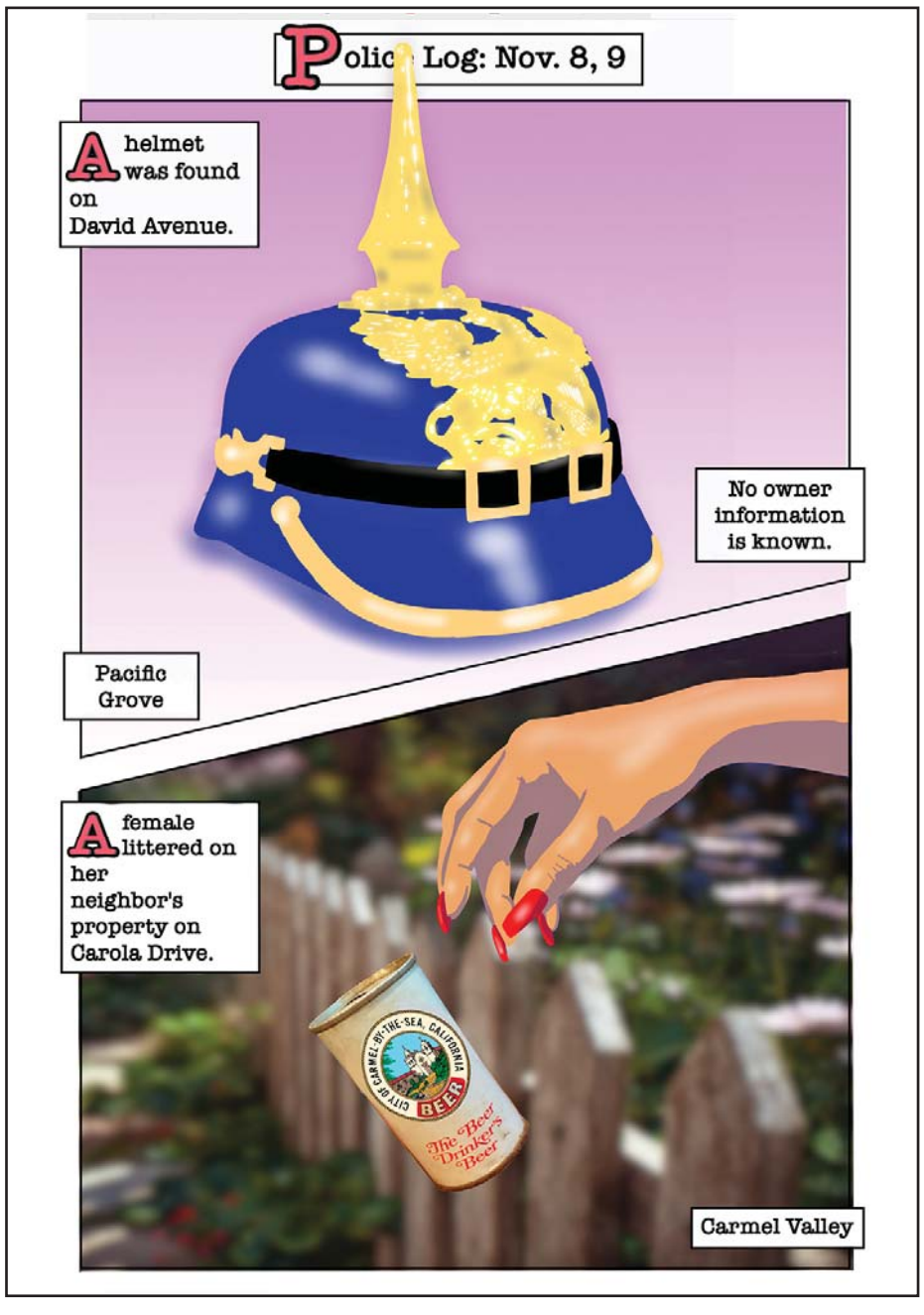

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CHORDS

From page 44A

Il Vecchio Restaurant — **The Cena Jazz Trio** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 110 Central Ave.

Lucy's on Lighthouse — **Rogue Roosters** (rock and blues, Saturday at 2 p.m.), **The Wharf Rats** (rock and blues, Sunday at 2 p.m.). 1120 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.). 1180 Forest Ave.

PG's Meetinghouse — **Shawn & The Skinwalkers** ("Hard rockin', rootsy American goodness," Friday at 6:30 p.m.), **The Miranda Perl Trio** (jazz, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.), **Open Mic** (Tuesday at 6 p.m., sign up by 5 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

■ Pebble Beach

The Inn at Spanish Bay — **The Andy Weis Trio** (jazz, Friday, Saturday and Thursday at 7 p.m.), **The Al James Duo** (r&b and rock, Saturday at 2 p.m.). 2700 17 Mile Drive.

■ Seaside

Bayonet Blackhorse Golf Course — guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Friday at 4:30 p.m.). Bayview Grill, 1 McClure Way.

Deja Blue — singer and drummer **Minor Williams** and others (r&b, Saturday at 8 p.m.). 500 Broadway.

Laguna Grande Park — **The Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra** (soul and blues, Sunday at 1 p.m.). 1249 Canyon Del Rey Blvd.

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