



Special Section inside this week

Concours

AUGUST 8-17, 2025

WEEK



The Carmel Pine Cone

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WONDERCARS IMPRESS ON STREETS AND TRACK



PHOTO/(ABOVE AND TOP RIGHT) KERRY BELSER, (RIGHT) MICHAEL TROUTMAN

As Car Week got into full swing, F1 cars took over the track at Laguna Seca (right), classic beauties like this 1937 Bugatti tackled the Tour d'Elegance (above), and a spectator or two ran afoul of the law in downtown Carmel while showing off their own hot wheels (top right). For complete coverage, see our special section inside.



CPUC hands Cal Am major victory in desal dispute

■ Supports company's demand estimate

By KELLY NIX

A POWERFUL state agency this week agreed with California American Water's long-term water supply estimates for the Monterey Peninsula, moving the utility a step closer to realizing its "drought-proof" desalination plant. Cal Am expects to break ground on the project by the end of this year.

First mention —

'The Concours is my favorite event'

By ELAINE HESSER

WHEN JAY Leno first came to The Pine Cone's attention on July 28, 1988, it had nothing to do with cars — or Carmel, for that matter. An entertainment column noted that the comedian, who was the regular guest host for Johnny Carson on "The Tonight Show," would be performing at the California Mid-State Fair in Paso Robles. A few years later, readers were alerted that Leno was part of Paul Masson winery's summer entertainment series.

NBC announced in June 1991 that Carson would retire the following year and Leno would be his successor. Two months later, Leno — whose celebrity status had taken a steep upswing — attended the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance.

As we all soon learned, the heir to Carson's throne is a longtime collector and restorer of classic automobiles,

On Thursday afternoon, the California Public Utilities Commission unanimously OK'd a recommendation by its staff to approve a projected 2050 water demand for the Peninsula of 13,732 acre-feet per year — a threshold Cal Am says only desal can meet. While the utility still must meet other conditions set by the California Coastal Commission before it can start building the plant, the CPUC decision is a big win for the company.

'Water security'

"Today's decision confirms the Monterey Peninsula needs additional water supply to meet customer demands today, tomorrow and well into the future to provide water security," Cal Am President Kevin Tilden said shortly after the vote.

The CPUC concluded that the Peninsula faces a water

See CPUC page 13A

Battery removal gets started at Vistra plant

■ 'Flare-ups' possible

By KELLY NIX

A YEAR-LONG effort to remove tens of thousands of batteries damaged in a January fire at a Vistra Energy battery storage facility in Moss Landing is set to begin next month, officials said this week.

Vistra will start removing the lithium-ion batteries under an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency, which will oversee the operation, EPA coordinator Kazami Brockman told reporters.

On Jan. 16, a catastrophic fire broke out at the battery facility, leading to the evacuation of as many as 1,500 people from the Moss Landing area. Many complained of illness from the smoke.

More than a year

Brockman said that crews will partially demolish and stabilize the heavily damaged building before Vistra starts the removal. Preparation for the work has already begun, and people should expect to see construction vehicles,

City mum on Pastor's frustration, but others commiserate

By MARY SCHLEY

FOLLOWING LAST week's marathon meeting in which three members of the Carmel City Council sided with opponents of Patrice Pastor's project on Dolores south of Seventh — and after Pastor's subsequent pronouncement that he is fed up with the city and will take his business elsewhere — those involved on both sides are keeping their lips zipped.

"There's now apparently pending litigation, so in light of that, I'm not going to comment at this point," said councilman Hans Buder, one of the three who spent hours last Monday deliberating over 11 residents' objections to the residential/commercial development Pastor has proposed for three lots south of the Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse. It is unclear what litigation he was referring to.

Similarly, councilman Jeff Baron, city administrator Chip Rerig and assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson chose not to comment, as did Pastor and Esperanza Carmel managing director Chris Mitchell.

But others are saying plenty.

"Ninety percent of the comments I've received, or maybe more, have been very negative about what's been done to Pastor," said Mayor Dale Byrne, who recused himself from last Monday's appeal hearing because Pastor made a contribution to the nonprofit he founded, Carmel Cares, 16 months earlier. "Some people are actually quite angry about it."

'How sad'

Numerous people who submitted letters to the editor of The Pine Cone decried what they see as shabby treatment of Pastor.

"How sad that a dozen residents can cause the overturn of the significant contributions Patrice Pastor has been making to our community," Carmel resident Sandra Berris wrote. "After years of continuous nitpicking, I can't blame

See PASTOR page 16A

Isn't my baby the cutest thing?



PHOTO/SARA COURTNIDGE

This proud mother had just given birth to a pup at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve minutes before this photo was taken. Docent Sara Courtneidge used a telephoto lens to capture several stunning images. See page 12A.

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Sandy Claws

Best buddies

With his dark muzzle, thick cream-and-tan coat, dark ears, curled tail, and strong, muscular build, Buster resembles an Anatolian shepherd. Except he's not. According to his family, this Carmel Valley resident is a Great Pyrenees-Belgian shepherd mix — a blend of breeds that typically results in a large, intelligent, energetic dog, who requires a dedicated owner, early socialization, and plenty of exercise.

Born in Cachagua, Buster, then 2 months old, was hanging out at Hacienda Hay & Feed when his person, 9 years old at the time, claimed him as her own. Already, she said, he was huge. Humongous, actually.

"Buster's always been my dog," she said. "He is a big giant, and he's very pretty but not very smart. He's also really sweet, but he's so big, he's intimidating. We don't bring him around other people or take him out to the beach. He's more comfortable and more adventurous out in the valley."

So is his person. Buster has grown up with her, accompanying her on hikes and out to the Carmel Valley River, where both feel at home.

"Buster, who will be 10 in December, is a sweet boy," she said. "He thinks he's the size of a Chihuahua and tries to cuddle up and lie on me, but it doesn't quite work out. Instead, he's an outside dog who sleeps out



on the patio. He's our devoted protector."

However, Buster's person, 18, is heading off to college this fall. She's not sure whether she's going to miss him more or he will be more bereft without her.

"I wish he could come to college, but Buster is going to stay home, where he'll have a great time with my brother and parents," she said. "They already know they'll have to send me a lot of pictures."

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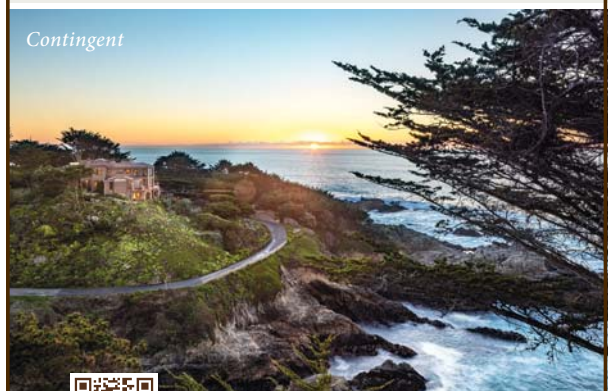


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By Lisa Crawford Watson



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Humans rescue ‘sitting duck’ fawn

By KELLY NIX

A BABY deer that got stuck in a fence in Pebble Beach Monday night was stalked by coyotes but was saved after a resident heard its cries and firefighters came to the rescue.

On Monday night, Loni McCallum was driving home in Del Monte Forest when she heard the fawn’s cries and saw that it had gotten itself stuck in a steel fence on the 2800 block of 17 Mile Drive. The animal was caught at the lower half of its body at the hind legs.

Complicating things were several predators waiting for the chance to pounce on the vulnerable animal.

“A giant coyote and her two pups waited across 17 Mile Drive for dinner,” McCallum said. “Nope, not today!”

McCallum said she called various local agencies for help, but they could not or would not rescue the animal.

She also contacted Carmelita Garcia, the head of advocacy group P.G. Deer Awareness Resource, who called the Pebble Beach Fire Department, which responded.

Four minutes

It took firefighters, who covered the fawn’s head and pried apart the fence so it would fit through, a mere four minutes to liberate the animal before it took off toward the forest, as a nearby resident, Barry Pasquarosa, chased the coyotes away, McCallum said.

“Mama deer was waiting for the baby to get freed,” she added.

Loni’s husband, Kevin, called the coyote threat “very real and imminent,” and said the fawn “was a sitting duck, soon to be a dead duck,” if it hadn’t been for his wife’s actions to help the animal.

The deer “were reunited and ran into the darkness,” Kevin McCallum said.



PHOTO/LONI MCCALLUM

A fawn that got stuck in a fence in Pebble Beach Monday as its mom watched helplessly was freed by firefighters in less than five minutes. The mother and her baby were reunited.

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Police & Sheriff's Log

Drinking and dozing on a bench

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.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

Carmel area: APS referral alleging physical and psychological abuse at a Portola Avenue residence.

THURSDAY, JULY 24

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A business owner at Dolores and Ocean reported a civil issue that resulted in vague threats. Information only.

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

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A subject gained unauthorized access to the victim's online account, altered their personal identifying in-

formation, and initiated the transfer of funds into another account. This fraudulent activity was detected in time to issue a refund to the victim. The case is under active investigation.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A box truck hit a city tree at Eighth and Torres and knocked it over. Pending contact with the registered owner.

Pacific Grove: Report of a dog bite on Lighthouse Avenue.

Carmel area: Male stabbed female at a residence on Raymond Way. Victim was deceased from wounds. Male suspect arrested.

Carmel area: Handley Drive resident reported a damaged doorknob possibly related to visitors at a rental home next door. Both homeowners were in contact with each other.

Carmel area: APS report alleging neglect of residents on Carmel Rancho Boulevard.

Pebble Beach: Online report regarding a lost ring at Bird Rock.

See **POLICE LOG** page 4RE in the Real Estate Section



The gavel falls

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

June 5 — The Hon. Jennifer O'Keefe sentenced Tele Matangi, 37, of Pittsburg, to 150 years to life after he had been found guilty by a jury of multiple charges arising from a daylong crime spree in September 2023. Matangi was convicted of carjacking, attempted carjacking, residential burglary, first-degree robbery, shooting at an occupied motor vehicle, being a violent felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition, possession of a controlled substance with a firearm, and hit and run. The jury also found true that Matangi personally used a firearm during the commission of many of these offenses. On March 18, Judge O'Keefe ruled that Matangi had two prior "strike" convictions within the meaning of California's three strikes law.

On Sept. 18, 2023, Matangi drove in the Gonzales High Parking lot, where he crashed

through a locked gate near the stadium, damaging it. He abandoned his vehicle near the area of Gonzales High. Matangi then carjacked a nearby driver at gunpoint, driving the stolen vehicle northbound to Highway 156 near its intersection with Highway 101 in the Prunedale area. Approximately 40 minutes later, Matangi caused a collision by turning into oncoming traffic on Highway 156.

After crashing into a vehicle on Highway 156, Matangi exited the stolen vehicle and fired multiple shots at a good Samaritan who stopped near the collision site to help everyone involved. One of Matangi's shots struck the good Samaritan's car. Matangi then fled on foot to the nearby park-and-ride lot where he approached a man sitting in his vehicle.

See **GAVEL** page 20A

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Pollacci arrested again for ‘upskirting’ women

By MARY SCHLEY

THE SON of a late convicted rapist was arrested last week for trying to take photos up women’s skirts, according to Monterey Police Lt. Ethan Andrews. Jordan Pollacci, 35, remained in Monterey County Jail this week bail, with court hearings set for next week.

On July 22, MPD officers were dispatched to Cannery Row after a woman reported a man, later identified as



Jordan Pollacci

Pollacci, had followed her into a store and pressed up against her, Andrews said.

“In two other separate incidents, the male was reported holding a cell phone with his hands lowered while standing close to females wearing skirts,” he said. “It appeared the male was pressing up close to the females in an effort to photograph up their skirts.”

Criminal record

One of the victims reported the incident to a security guard, who attempted to detain the

man. After stopping and providing a name — which turned out to be false — Pollacci fled on foot, and police couldn’t find him, Andrews said.

But they knew who they were looking for, thanks to security footage. “Officers noted Pollacci matched the description of the suspect in the surveillance camera videos,” Andrews said. “Pollacci’s vehicle was also captured on automated license-plate-reader cameras arriving and leaving around the same time” the crimes were committed.

He has a previous record for “upskirting” women. In 2014, he was arrested by Monterey County Sheriff’s deputies for felony probation violation and invasion of privacy after he was caught using his cell phone to take photos up a woman’s dress as she admired the ocean view from a Pebble Beach turnout. The woman’s husband saw what Pollacci was doing and confronted him, then photographed him and took note of the license plate on Pollacci’s red 2006 Dodge Dakota pickup truck as he fled.

The July 2014 incident followed a conviction for

multiple burglaries in 2011 after Pacific Grove police tied him to break-ins on Lighthouse Avenue and on 17 Mile Drive in January and February 2010. He removed window screens to get in and stole items that “were fairly low in dollar value and were personal items,” police said at the time. Both burglary victims were women, and he eventually pleaded guilty to felony charges, served 30 days in jail and was ordered to pay restitution, among other penalties.

When he was arrested in 2014, Pollacci was charged with probation violation and misdemeanor invasion of privacy, described by the California Penal Code as, “Any person who uses a concealed camcorder, motion picture camera, or photographic camera of any type, to secretly videotape, film, photograph, or record by electronic means, another, identifiable person under or through the clothing being worn by that other person, for the purpose of viewing the body of, or the undergarments worn by, that other person, without the consent or knowledge of that other person, with the intent to arouse, appeal to, or gratify the lust, passions, or sexual desires of that person and invade the privacy of that other person, under circumstances in which the other person has a reasonable expectation of privacy.”

He was subsequently convicted of invasion of privacy and possession of obscene material, and he was arrested by Newport Beach police in 2022 for taking photos of a woman while she was in a changing room at a store, according to Andrews. “Pollacci is required to register as a sex offender as a result of his convictions,” he said.

Arrested at home

When police went to his house on El Caminito del Norte in Monterey to arrest him following the Cannery Row incidents, he wasn’t there. After obtaining warrants from a judge to arrest Pollacci and search his residence, Monterey P.D. officers returned Aug. 5, found him at home and took him into custody, Andrews said.

Pollacci was booked into Monterey County Jail on charges of invasion of privacy and sexual battery, and his bail was set at \$500,000, according to MPD.

Pollacci’s father, Tom Pollacci, was convicted of multiple counts of rape in 2010 and 2011 and served time in prison before committing suicide in 2021 at the age of 62. After being transferred to Monterey County Jail from state prison, he hanged himself in his cell as the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office was trying to get him committed to a state hospital as a sexually violent predator.

Man arrested for threats, assault rifle

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A MONTEREY man who threatened to kill his girlfriend, shoot cops and then commit suicide was arrested last Thursday evening after being apprehended by police, according to Monterey Police Lt. Jake Pinkas. The Belden Street resident is being held in Monterey County Jail on misdemeanor and felony charges.

Pinkas said that on Aug. 7 at around 5:10 p.m., Monterey Police officers were dispatched to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block after someone called it in.

“Monterey County Communications provided constant updates to the officers as they arrived,” he said. “The suspect, Paul Opsahl, 54, of Monterey threatened to kill the victim, shoot officers as they arrived on scene, and then kill himself.”

Chase

His victim managed to get out of the house, and when Opsahl chased after her, officers took him into custody without any resistance, according to Pinkas.

“Once he came outside, he complied,” he said.

A subsequent search revealed Opsahl had an AR-style assault rifle.

He was booked into Monterey County Jail on charges of making criminal threats, violation of probation from an earlier case, and possession of an assault weapon. Opsahl’s bail was set at \$37,500.

Pinkas asked that anyone with information regarding this incident call detective Sgt. Greg Galin at (831) 646-3872. Those who wish to remain anonymous can call (831) 646-3840.



Paul Opsahl

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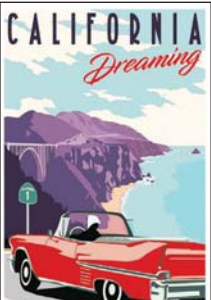
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More stop signs Ok’d for business district

By MARY SCHLEY

COMPLAINING THAT downtown intersections are too confusing for tourists and that locals speed through areas where they’re not required to stop, the Carmel City Council last Tuesday voted to add 16 stop signs at seven locations.

Acting Carmel Police Chief Todd Trayer told the council Aug. 5 that he “visited every intersection and watched the traffic patterns — not in a police car, so people drove normally.”



PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

This intersection at San Carlos and Fifth confuses drivers. Making it a four-way stop should help, the council says.

He spent a lot of time monitoring the troublesome crossing near the post office at San Carlos and Fifth, where drivers heading east and west don’t have to stop and the single block in front of the post office is one-way eastbound.

“I can tell you it needs four stops,” Trayer said.

Contradicting often-heard arguments for not adding stop signs, he said he didn’t see congestion, or vehicles rolling back from the intersection. “What I did see is people driving the wrong way. I saw it twice just in the little time I watched,” he said.

See **STOP** page 19A

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Castroville woman charged with felonies for big drug stash

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A MONTEREY County Sheriff's K9 sniffed out more than 2 pounds of illegal fentanyl and a Castroville woman was arrested for transporting the drugs, officials said.

On Wednesday at about 1 a.m., deputies stopped a vehicle on Highway 101 near Greenfield for an undisclosed vehicle code violation. The deputy had his K9, Rocket, sniff the car, and the dog signaled the presence of a controlled substance.

"A search of the vehicle revealed the driver was in possession of about 2.2 pounds of fentanyl," the sheriff's office said. "The driver, identified as Andrea Salazar of Castroville, 31, was taken into custody without incident."

Crucial K9s

"This arrest is another successful result of the crucial role that our K9 handlers and our narcotics-trained K9s play in protecting the community," Monterey County Sheriff Tina Nieto said. "We are proud of the hard work done by our deputies and K9 Rocket as they prevented this fentanyl from reaching the community. Because of their skilled work, dangerous illegal substances were kept off our streets."

Salazar was booked into Monterey County Jail for possession and transportation of controlled substances for sales and distribution, and violation of probation. Her bail was set at \$40,000.

According to Monterey County Superior Court records, the Monterey County District Attorney's Office charged Salazar Wednesday with the felonies, and she was

set to be arraigned Thursday afternoon. Fentanyl has become a major drug problem in the Monterey Peninsula. In June, a Marina man who sold fentanyl pills to a Pacific Grove teenager, who days later fatally overdosed, was sentenced to eight years in prison.

Edward Tellez Solis, 27, will spend about 100 months in a federal prison for



PHOTO/COURTESY MCSO

Rocket, a sheriff's office K9, sniffed out a 2.2-pound brick of deadly fentanyl during a traffic stop in Greenfield.

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

See **DRUGS** page 25A



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Mayor likes Car Week shuttles

By MARY SCHLEY

IT DIDN'T work particularly well during the now-defunct Concours on the Avenue a decade or so ago, but a shuttle running between Larsen Field by the Carmel Mission this week during downtown car events has been a huge success, according to Carmel Mayor Dale Byrne.

The free shuttles ran loops between the offsite parking area and Carmel Plaza every 10 minutes from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

"The shuttle service was very well received, very professionally run, and about 200 cars (at once) lined Larsen field," Byrne said after the first day the shuttle operated. "It was great teamwork between the Mission, the Carmel Chamber of Commerce, city hall, public works, and National Parking and Valet."

Byrne said he rode the shuttle and chatted with people, all of whom had positive comments. Most were visitors.

Proof positive

"It showed that a shuttle can work," he said, though it didn't appear that many downtown workers used it to get to and from their jobs. City officials had hoped employees would park offsite and ride so they could get feedback on whether and how a similar service could operate all the time.

"By providing a convenient park-and-ride option on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, we helped visitors enjoy easy access to events while significantly reducing congestion downtown," Byrne said.

"This is a great example of how thoughtful planning with city hall, the Carmel Chamber and outside resources like the Carmel Mission can enhance the visitor experience and the quality of life for our residents."

Byrne said he and others who are trying to help reduce traffic and parking congestion in the city, especially in the central



PHOTO/DALE BYRNE

Rented shuttles ran between Larsen Field and downtown Carmel during car events this week, and people were happy about it.

commercial district, "are working on locating a parking lot option within a five-to-seven-minute drive of downtown that can hold a minimum of 300 cars."

"Used in conjunction with strategic paid parking and creative incentives for our workforce, it could provide a real help with congestion and parking until we can execute more long-term solutions," he said.

Assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson was positive about it, as well, and predicted that as word got out this week about the service — which came together at the last minute — ridership would increase.

See SHUTTLE page 25A

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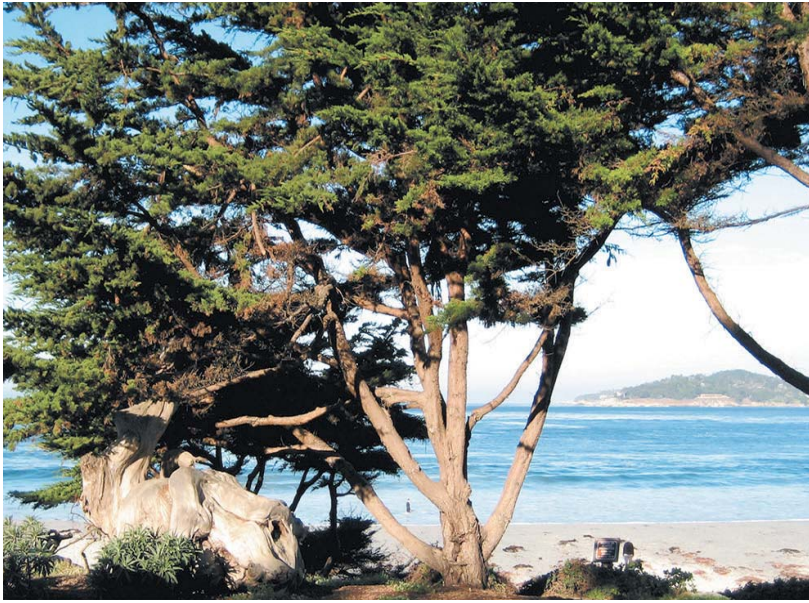
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CITY OKs PASTOR'S LINCOLN REDO

By MARY SCHLEY

DESPITE SAYING last week that he plans to leave Carmel following yet another delay in approving permits for a project he wants to build on Dolores south of Seventh, Patrice Pastor has not withdrawn permit applications for other projects and received a unanimous OK from the planning commission Wednesday to refresh two historic buildings on Lincoln Street and update the small apartment complex behind them.

Last month, the historic resources board signed off on the proposed alterations — which do not call for any increases in floor area or height — after making some minor changes to which Pastor's project manager agreed.

Known as the Aucourt Commercial Block complex, the property on the west side of Lincoln between Ocean and Seventh avenues includes the former Cottage restaurant that burned in an April 2023 fire, another building to the north, and a four-unit apartment complex behind it. While the apartments were built in 1973 and are not 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 Aug. 13 report.

Much-needed repairs

The plans submitted by Pastor's local company, Esperanza Carmel, call for replacing the former restaurant with two retail spaces and an apartment in back and

refreshing an upstairs apartment and its rooftop deck. An exterior set of stairs will be removed, and access to the second-floor unit will be via an interior stairway.

Improvements include rehabilitating doors and windows and removing inauthentic elements, like a wrought-iron gate. "You can see the poor condition of those



PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

The planning commission this week OK'd a refresh of these Lincoln Street buildings and the apartments behind them.

windows and doors," Wallace pointed out.

The building next door that contains a space set to be occupied by a juice bar will have a window on the south side 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.

Updating the apartment complex will include demolishing and replacing balconies and railings, changing windows as needed to accommodate the conversion of two ground-floor offices to residential

See LINCOLN page 20A

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Racetrack’s new chief has cred

■ But this is his first Car Week

By MARY SCHLEY

MEL HARDER, who was named president and general manager of Laguna Seca in March, was practically born for the job. The Indiana native attended Speedway High School, after all.

Like many who are passionate about cars, Harder can point to the origin of his interest. Some family friends raced a car at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, he recalled, and growing up just a few blocks from the track, he’d go there almost every day after school.

He started working at the track while in high school and got to know its CEO, Tony George. After graduating from Indiana University Bloomington with a Bachelor of Science degree in management, Harder asked for a full-time job — and stayed there for 22 years.

He next took a position at the fledgling Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, just after the venue’s first Formula 1 race in 2012.

‘A construction project’

“When they ran that race, it was really still a construction project,” he said. “We took it from a temporary facility to a permanent one and put in the processes and people to get it up and running.”

In the first year, the Circuit of the Americas hosted five major racing events, 180 track days and 21 concerts, according to Harder. “It was very satisfying to get it online,” he said. “It was a very fast-paced time.”

Next came nearly nine years as a team manager for Chip

Ganassi Racing, which competes in the IndyCar series, the International Motor Sports Association, or IMSA, championship, and the Fédération Internationale de l’Automobile, or FIA, World Endurance Championship. Specifically, Harder was charged with getting its Ford GT-based IMSA racing program off the ground, with expectations of winning — especially at the revered 24 Hours of Le Mans endurance race in France.

“There was a lot of pressure to win — and we did,” he said. “We took first and third in that event. It was quite a milestone.”

While he was focused on the team’s

See **CHIEF** page 15A



PHOTO/COURTESY MEL HARDER

Mel Harder, the new president and GM of Laguna Seca, is at home at the track — and has been since he was a kid.

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Charles Gruwell is a national award-winning interior designer who has had a 45-year design career filled with prestigious design mentorships, 40 boutique hotels, luxury residential projects and extensive international world travel. Charles returned to his hometown on the Monterey Peninsula in 2020 and has reestablished himself as the Premier Luxury Residential & Hospitality Designer for Carmel, Pebble Beach and surrounding areas. He was mentored by some of the best designers in the world and has worked on projects in San Francisco, Bali Indonesia, Disney Resorts in Orlando Florida, Seattle Washington, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Hawaii, Sun Valley, Puerto Rico, and Hotels and Luxury homes here on the Peninsula and throughout California.



Photo Credit: Robert Miller Photography



Photo Credit: John Vaughn



Photo Credit: Mary E. Nichols



Photo Credit: Randy Tunnell



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He is a Master in the Art of Design with a passion for Coastal Contemporary, Classical European, Rustic Ranch Style Elegance and Asian inspired projects. Charles has a DIVERSITY of Style and Flair that is second to none and has developed a Curated Home Furnishings Collection called CHARLESTYLE. He is known for his artistic prowess, meticulous attention to detail and exceptional design eye. He is available to collaborate with you on your next Luxury Residential or Hospitality commission.

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Amazing timing leads to tender newborn otter pics

By KELLY NIX

A DOCENT for Point Lobos witnessed the remarkable moments just after the birth of a sea otter pup, and she has the photographs to prove it.

California State Parks docent Sara Courtneidge was on her way to her car a few weeks ago when she noticed an adult California sea otter offshore from Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. She grabbed her camera and started taking pictures.

“The otter was behaving atypically,



PHOTO/SARA COURTNIDGE

This soon-to-be mother otter performed a series of yoga-like stretches moments before she gave birth to a pup.

which is why I began photographing her, even though she was quite a distance away in the water,” she told The Pine Cone Tuesday.

A sequence of several stunning, high-resolution images that Courtneidge uploaded to social media this week shows the female otter with a protruding belly and doing what appeared to be stretches, including raising her forepaws above her head.

Several minutes later, the docent noticed the otter was no longer alone. A newborn baby otter, a pup, was now on her belly.

“I had not noticed a pup before,” she said.

The photos depict the white-whiskered baby partially covered in a green-yellow substance — which is likely amniotic fluid. After some grooming, the mom raises the now-fluffy pup above her head, as if to herald the birth. In another photo, the mother looks directly at the camera as her baby leans forward.

“Wow,” the docent said about the experience.

‘Incredible moment’

Courtneidge has received a ton of praise for the images, which she shot with a Canon R5 outfitted with a 100-500mm lens.

“What an incredible moment to capture, and I’m not surprised that a California State Parks docent captured it,” Point Lobos Foundation executive director Steffanie Gamecho told The Pine Cone. “They’re passionate, dedicated and always in tune with what’s happening on the reserve.”

Courtneidge had never seen the moments following an otter birth.

“I believe that only one other Point Lobos docent has been so fortunate several years ago, although in that case, there were no photographs,” she said.

Because Courtneidge didn’t capture on camera the very moment the baby emerged from its mother, she sought to rule out the possibility that the pup had been floating near its mom and that she simply didn’t spot it while snapping the photos. She downloaded several hundred pictures on a



PHOTO/SARA COURTNIDGE

The proud momma props up her new fuzzy baby. The moment was captured by a docent at Point Lobos.

larger screen at home and looked at all of them.

“I am a cautious scientist, so I wanted to be sure,” she said. “It was clear that I had a sequence of shots; first with no pup visible, followed by several with a pup covered in a greenish substance and what looks like

See OTTER page 28A





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CPUC

From page 1A

supply deficit of approximately 815 million gallons per year by 2050.

The decision resolves a longstanding disagreement between Cal Am — which maintains that its proposed desalination plant is the only project that will provide enough water for its customers for the next 25 years — and those opposed to the plan, including the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, which contends that an expansion of its recycled water project, Pure Water Monterey, will produce more than enough for the Peninsula for new fixtures, housing, lots of record and other uses, and that desal is unneeded.

No green light

Water district general manager Dave Stoldt was critical of the CPUC vote.

“Of course, we believe the CPUC adopted demand numbers that defy reality,” Stoldt said. But he said construction of the desal plant can’t move forward right away.

“The decision in no way is a green light to build a desalination plant — there are many hurdles left in that process,” Stoldt



A rendering of Cal Am’s proposed desal plant in Marina, which the company says could be under construction by the end of the year.

said.

Following nearly two hours of public comment, commissioners deliberated briefly before casting their votes.

“We certainly don’t want utilities to spend ratepayer dollars to build projects that are not necessary,” commissioner John Reynolds said. “But I do believe that the supply and demand estimates adopted here reasonably forecast The Monterey Peninsula’s needs through 2050.”

Commissioner Darcie Houck said she believes the figures present a “reasonable basis for overall demand projections set out in the decision before us.”

Roughly 40 speakers addressed the commission, most of them opposed to Cal Am’s desal plant, saying the \$400 million project is unnecessary and would make rates skyrocket.

Desal proponents said that source water cannot be relied upon to supply the Pure Water Monterey reclamation project and that only Cal Am’s desal plant would supply a sufficient amount.

‘Mixed agendas’

“Let’s be clear about one thing. There is no water scarcity on the Monterey Peninsula,” an unidentified man from Monterey told the commission. “Cal Am’s claims of severe restrictions are simply not true. Our needs are being met right now by Pure Water Monterey, and its expansion will cover our future needs.”

Peninsula realtor Jeff Davi disagreed, arguing that Cal Am’s desal plant and other components are the “only permanent solution” to the longstanding water crisis.

“I commend the CPUC staff for resisting pressures from those with mixed agendas who think we do not need this project by

See **DESAL** next page

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DESAL

From previous page

artificially lowering demand projections,” Davi said. “This is not about demand, it’s about supply.”

CPUC administrative law judges Robert Haga and Jack Chang on May 9 concurred with Cal Am’s projected 2050 water demand figure, while LandWatch

Monterey County argued the estimates were “factually wrong.” The City of Marina, which has its own water supply, is also opposed to Cal Am’s desal plant and has spoken against the plan.

“When the CPUC considered this decision, it was the result of extensive review and analysis of our water supply and demand projections, building on its prior decision and more than six years of work on the project’s environmental impact report,” Tilden said.

Even the airplanes get in on the act

The only airplane to appear at Wednesday’s Astons on the Avenue was a replica of the highly sophisticated Cirrus SR. Every SR comes with a parachute and can land on its own.

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CHIEF

From page 11A

IMSA campaign early on, he was dedicated to all the series during his time with Chip Ganassi Racing.

“I learned a lot about a race team and how they work together, and when you work on a championship team, everyone on the team is a winner of some sort, and they know how to win,” he said. “They are highly motivated people. It’s working together to constantly adapt to new situations, and that’s really what a championship team does.”

Harder also appreciated the chance to visit venues all over the world and to work with the organizations that facilitate, promote and manage various racing series.

Checks boxes

“While I was a race team manager, I was a facility and event guy at heart,” he said.

Accordingly, he kept abreast of what was going on at Laguna Seca as the Friends of Laguna Seca group worked with county officials to negotiate and solidify their deal, which was inked in summer 2023 with a requirement that the nonprofit raise \$6 million before taking charge. It did, and the county handed over the keys at last year’s Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion.

One of Harder’s longtime friends, Bruce Canepa, is on the Friends of Laguna Seca board of directors and had kept him apprised, so when Canepa called in November 2024 to chat about job prospects, he listened.

“This checks some boxes,” he said. “It’s an iconic race-way and an incredible place to live.”

He said he’s found many parallels between overseeing Laguna Seca and his work at Indy, including its “great volunteer network” and the highly capable staff he’s helping to further develop.

“It’s nice to have that history and experience to lean on,” he said.

And with the Friends tasked with investing tens of millions of dollars in improvements, infrastructure and operations over the next 55 years, the Monterey County-owned track and recreation area have a lot going for them.

“The management agreement between the county and the Friends of Laguna Seca is the best opportunity this park has had to really act as a business and be successful,” he said. “Racetracks are continuing to evolve, and there’s a lot more interest in them,” which creates new opportunities to generate daily use and more revenue.

The camping facilities, for instance, could be better monetized, and their use could be more effectively tied in with the biking and hiking on the adjacent Fort Ord National Monument.

Master planning

Those and other aspects of managing and operating the world-famous circuit will be outlined in a master plan on which Harder is set to provide an update to the county board of supervisors next month. So far, he’s been focusing on running events, of course, as well as “discovery and evaluation,” of Laguna’s infrastructure and its business model.

“We’ve got to build that strong foundation — that’s what we’re doing with the master plan — and that takes time,” he said.

Aiding in the planning is an in-depth sound study

called for in the contract, and Harder said a “highly capable local company with sophisticated equipment” has been hired to evaluate all the events through the end of the year. The data will inform the consultant’s recommendations on sound mitigation.

So far, Harder, 57, said he’s found working with the Friends of Laguna Seca board of directors highly gratifying.

“The support from the board has been incredible. To carry out their vision and to be a part of that and lead it has been really phenomenal,” he said. “We’ve made changes here to restore the property but also to improve the guest experience considerably, and I think there’s a lot of excitement about what these events bring.”

And he’ll know even more after Car Week — his first — is in the books.

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PASTOR

From page 1A

Pastor for throwing in the towel, but I hope the city council reconsiders and begs Pastor to continue his investments, subsequently enhancing our town.”

“If you consider how difficult it is to get a project through the process here in Carmel, let alone the exorbitant cost of fees, it’s amazing that anything ever gets done,” said resident Tom Dunham. “Carmel needs Patrice Pastor, and others like him, who want to protect the town’s architectural heritage and help build business and housing for the community.”

“Carmel’s beauty was built on creativity and fairness — but lately, a handful of insiders have been twisting the rules to decide who gets to build and who doesn’t,” resident and developer Fred Kern said. “Mr. Pastor’s project at Seventh and Dolores has been mired in delays for years — not because it fails to meet code, but because a small group has weaponized the process to block it.”

“I am saddened but unsurprised to learn that the tenacious and patient Mr. Pastor finally reached his limit,” wrote Jan Praisner of Pebble Beach.

“Carmel has been unwelcoming and difficult beyond reasonableness,” wrote resident William Baron. “Shame on them, our supposed ‘leaders.’ We, the people, lose in the end. With apologies, Mr. Pastor, you deserve better, as do all.”



PHOTO/KERRY BEISER

Last week, the city OK’d a demolition permit for ‘The Pit’ that owner Patrice Pastor applied for in December 2024.

Only Steve Hillyard, a member of the group fighting the JB Pastor project on Dolores, took a jab at him in a letter. “Patrice Pastor’s conclusion that he and his development group are not wanted by this ‘strange community, if you can call it a community’ confirms his disdain for us and our values,” he wrote.

Potter, Richards comment

Unbound by the circumspection that elected officials and administrators felt compelled to exercise, former councilman Bobby Richards said the outcome was unfortunate and observed that Pastor “wants to be part of this community.”

But Richards is more concerned about what might happen if Pastor decides to unload the considerable amount of property he owns here.

“What I’m afraid of is the only people who can afford this kind of real estate is going to be an investment trust” or some other entity run by people who don’t much know or care about Carmel and its character and traditions, Richards said. “That’s what I’m afraid of if we lose Patrice.”

“At least he shows interest in the community,” Richards continued. “He donated \$100,000 to Carmel Cares.”

See THE PIT next page

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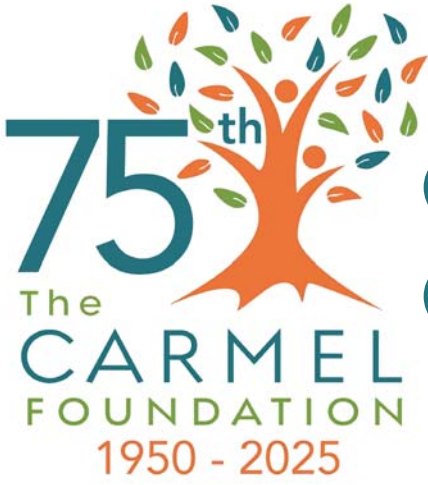
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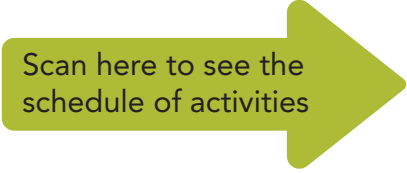


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LENO

From page 1A

starting with a 1934 Ford pickup truck he bought at age 14. When Leno assumed his late-night hosting duties, he became as quotable as his predecessor, and Pine Cone reporters incorporated some of his jokes and references into their stories.

The paper has also reported on the dedicated auto enthusiast’s activities at Concours nearly every year, along with some of the cars he has entered in the event. In 1992, one



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Jay Leno’s appreciation for beautiful automobiles explains why Concours has been making him smile since long before even this 2011 photo.

of his vehicles won its class. The moment was recounted by consummate car guy Gordon McCall in a 1994 Pine Cone interview.

“McCall likes functional cars and he likes to see them driven,” the story noted.

As example, McCall cited the time Leno’s Duesenberg won its class at the Concours d’Elegance. “As soon as he won, Leno jumped in and drove the car all over the forest. It was fun to be part of that,” McCall said.

In 1995, the paper referred to Leno as one of the “cool and stylish Car Guys” at the Concours, and the Aug. 15, 1997, edition noted that he had won the Meguiar’s Award as the Collector Car Hobby’s Person of the Year.

“It was developed to honor one special individual each year whose actions and attitude add to the health and

THE PIT

From previous page

Richards said he wished Pastor’s group and the city “could have found some common ground to get some of these projects done more expeditiously.”

Former Mayor Dave Potter, who encouraged Pastor to purchase The Pit at Dolores and Fifth in March 2020 at a cost of \$9 million, was more dismissive.

“He gets frustrated easily,” he said. “On the other hand, I do think council deliberated a long time on the issue,” and in the end put off a decision to a future meeting, anyway.

“They needed to vote it up or down,” Potter said.

Potter also noted that getting projects through the planning process here is often tricky — not just for Pastor.

“I don’t think anything is easy in this town,” he said.

Ulrika Plaza

Pastor’s most significant project, Ulrika Plaza, also known as The Pit, has been in the works for years. The previous owner, Leidig/Draper Properties, cleared the property in 2017 and 2018 after getting approval from the planning commission for two large mixed-use buildings on the 16,000-square-foot property those same years. But after excavating and beginning construction on the subterranean garage, the developers ran out of money and put the land on the market in September 2019.

After purchasing what was basically a derelict construction site the following spring, Pastor and his design team went through several redesigns before getting their plans approved in 2023. He filed for a permit to clear the site in December 2024 and finally got the OK last week — sort of.

“The final department approvals for the Ulrika Plaza demo permit were issued on Aug. 7. However, they still have a few minor administrative items to address before the actual permit is issued,” senior planner Evan Kort said this week.

Pastor addressed the delays with that project in his statement last week: “The grotesque situation at 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.”

growth of the game,” the paper said, referring to car shows and competitions. Commented Ken Gross, the chair of the awards committee and director of the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles, “Jay Leno is really a compilation of several hobbyists in one. If it’s got wheels — two, three or four — Jay’s very interested.”

Noisy and exploding

In a Sept. 3, 1999, Pine Cone story about Car Week, reporter Sissi Maleki wrote, “Saturday brought the arrival of Jay Leno, ‘the’ main celebrity of the weekend. Never one to miss this car weekend, he began by checking out the action at the historic races at Laguna Seca on Saturday.”

Maleki continued, “A British concept car named ‘Rocket’ particularly fascinated him. Seeing him gingerly climb into the tiny sporty vehicle made me wonder how he would ever get his large frame out of it again.” He succeeded “with a quip here and a joke there.”

In 2001, he emceed the Concours with the late actor

and car aficionado Edward Herrmann. Asked what his favorite cars were that year he said, “Oh, I love anything that rolls, makes noise or explodes!”

It doesn’t get much more Carmel than a Car Week story that manages to include Clint Eastwood. The former mayor made the rounds of the talk shows in 2002 to promote his movie, “Blood Work,” and, as reported in the Aug. 16 Pine Cone, ended up across the “Tonight Show” desk from Leno, who asked about his tenure at city hall.

“You seem like a private guy to me,” Leno was quoted as saying. “Did people come up to you and say, ‘Hey! The streetlight’s out in front of my house!’?”

“No, they didn’t. We don’t have streetlights in Carmel,” Eastwood explained.

Leno obviously enjoys Car Week, where his “Car Guy” credibility outweighs any other celebrity status he has. With a collection reportedly numbering more than 350 cars and motorcycles, we figure we’ll see the 75-year-old Leno around the Concours for some time to come.



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STOP

From page 7A

At a previous meeting, a majority of the council supported the traffic safety committee’s recommendation to add signs at Monte Verde and Fifth, Sixth and Seventh, Lincoln at Fifth and Sixth, Dolores and Sixth, and San Carlos and Fifth to make them all-way stops.

Trayer noted that over the past two years, there have been 11 crashes in the intersections in question, mostly at Lincoln and Fifth, Lincoln and Sixth, and San Carlos and Fifth. None involved injuries.

But he wondered whether making the T-shaped intersections on Monte Verde at Fifth and Sixth all-way stops is necessary.

“I do support having the one stop going westbound at Fifth and Sixth,” he said, but he doesn’t “see a big need” for more signs on Monte Verde. Installation would cost \$639 per sign, according to Trayer, so eliminating those from the plan would save taxpayers about \$2,400.

Consistency

Former councilwoman Karen Ferlito, who has been fighting for years to get a four-way stop at San Carlos and Fifth, said she is “very happy you’re taking these steps.”

“I do think the primary duty of the council is health and safety,” she said. “To be consistent at each intersection is important.”

She also said traffic enforcement should begin as soon as a new sign is installed, because “otherwise people think they can ignore it.”

Councilwoman Alissandra Dramov favored more signs at all the recommended intersections.

“I would rather go with adding those stop signs on Monte Verde and everything else that’s part of this list,” she said.

“I’m a pretty big believer that adding these will enhance safety,” commented councilman Hans Buder, who admitted that he stops at intersections where he’s not required to just because he’s concerned other drivers don’t know what to do.

“I don’t know if anyone’s going to stop, so I stop at every one, anyway,” he said.

Councilman Bob Delves also backed all the signs.

“We should slow Monte Verde down,” he said.

As was the case in the previous meeting, councilman Jeff Baron was the sole dissenter. “I still feel plaguing downtown with four stops at every intersection will increase congestion,” he said.

The council voted 4-1 to add the 16 signs, which Trayer said would be rolled out deliberately, with plenty of community outreach to prepare drivers for the changes. After they’re installed, the only downtown intersections that will remain two-way stops are on Sixth Avenue at Mission and San Carlos, as requested by the fire department.

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GAVEL

From page 4A

Matangi pointed a firearm at the man and attempted to carjack him, but he could not get the vehicle to start.

Matangi then fled on foot across the street and broke into a home by ripping the window screen and climbing through the window. Once inside, Matangi pointed his firearm at a resident of the home and stole the resident’s car keys at gunpoint. Matangi then fled with the vehicle into the San Benito County portion of Aromas.

While in Aromas, Matangi abandoned the vehicle and stole a golf cart. He then abandoned the golf cart at a nearby property and hid in a separate Aromas resident’s storage unit. The homeowners found Matangi hiding in their storage unit and told him to leave. Soon after, a San Benito County Sheriff’s deputy contacted Matangi while Matangi was

walking southbound on Carpenteria Road. Soon after the contact, while the San Benito deputy followed him, Matangi brandished a firearm at the deputy. Monterey County Sheriff’s deputies responded shortly thereafter and assisted the San Benito deputy in arresting Matangi.

At the time of his arrest, Matangi was in possession of a .40-caliber semiautomatic firearm, multiple magazines with live ammunition, a small baggie of methamphetamine, and the keys to the last stolen car. Due to prior violent felony convictions for robbery and carjacking, he was prohibited from possessing firearms.

After the jury trial, additional evidence proved that the firearm Matangi was arrested with on Sept. 18 was involved in a drive-by shooting in Antioch on Sept. 17. The vehicle Matangi abandoned near Gonzales High on Sept. 18 also matched the description of the suspect vehicle in the Sept. 17 Antioch shooting. Monterey County Sheriff’s Office Detective Arras Wilson obtained addition-

al evidence showing that Matangi was near the Antioch shooting just 18 minutes before it occurred, despite Matangi’s trial testimony that he was in San Francisco at that time. Based on Matangi’s long criminal career as a violent recidivist, O’Keefe sentenced Matangi to the maximum possible punishment of 150 years to life.

June 10 — A jury found Enrique Enriquez, 25, of Royal Oaks, guilty of unlawful taking of a vehicle. After the jury returned a guilty verdict, Enriquez admitted that at the time he committed the vehicle theft, he was released on his own recognizance for a case from another county, which adds two years to his exposure at sentencing.

On Sept. 17, 2024, Enriquez went to a

local car dealership in Salinas. He asked a sales associate if he could test drive a vehicle. When the sales associate told him to wait to be assisted, Enriquez went outside and entered a brand new 2025 GMC Sierra 2500 Denali. Two employees saw Enriquez start the car, so they immediately approached the vehicle and tried to open the doors, but the doors were locked. Enriquez then quickly sped off while the employees chased him on foot and tried to get him to stop. Enriquez proceeded to speed through the dealership lot and hit another vehicle on his way out.

Enriquez abandoned the GMC approximately 14 miles away, on Elkhorn Road in

See **MORE GAVEL** page 22A

LINCOLN

From page 10A

space, and plastering, light sconces and repainting.

“There will be four two-story apartments and no offices,” Wallace explained. “Each unit will have its own separate balcony.”

She also noted the plans include resurfacing the steps in the Paso de Pauline interblock walkway leading down to the apartment complex and tearing down a wood fence separating its courtyard from La Rambla’s courtyard next door.

‘Very conservative’

Pastor owns both complexes. He purchased the Aucourt property in January 2023 for \$6.2 million and bought La Rambla, which is also historic and has retail on the ground floor and apartments upstairs, in January 2024 for \$7.5 million, according to Monterey County property records.

Wallace recommended the commission approve the changes and OK the necessary permits for the addition of a retail space and an apartment. Despite those increases, she said the project does not require more parking or the payment of in-lieu fees.

No one from the public commented on the proposal, which commissioner Stefan Karapetkov described as “very conservative.”

“I think we should support it,” he said.

Commissioner Stephanie Locke favored the project, including the idea of connecting the courtyards in the back, and the other commissioners liked the plans, as well.

‘Dire need’

Chair Michael LePage complimented Wallace for her thorough, well-researched analysis and staff report, including the many findings commissioners rely on in making their decisions.

“It also creates a record in the event of an appeal,” he said. “Even a project like this, which seems kind of simple, has a lot of complexity and a lot of findings.”

He then praised Pastor and his Esperanza Carmel team.

“They’re undertaking a major renovation of a piece of property downtown that is in dire need of it,” he said. “It’s nice that the applicant is going to go in and pay attention to a lot of details.”

The commission unanimously approved the project, which also required additional scrutiny because it’s located in the Downtown Conservation District.



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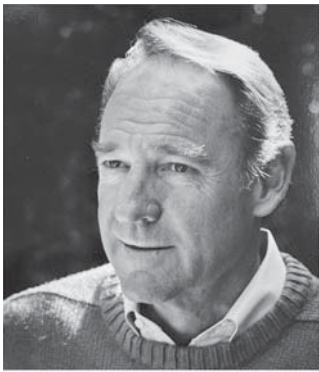
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JOHN THOMAS WALTON

September 22, 1937 – July 1, 2025

John Thomas Walton, an author and distinguished sociologist emeritus, educator, and devoted family man, passed away peacefully on July 1, 2025, at his home in Carmel Valley, CA, surrounded by his loving family. He is survived by his wife of nearly 63 years, Priscilla; his daughter, Casey; son-in-law, Eric; and his cherished grandchildren, Mia and Aidan.

Born in 1937 in Los Angeles, CA, John was the middle of three sons born to Delvy Thomas Walton and Florence Higgins. His two brothers, Craig and Laurence predeceased him. He grew up in Westwood near UCLA and graduated from the UCLA Elementary School. This became the beginning of a long association with the University of California system.

He took great pride in being a native of Los Angeles. Its history was deeply meaningful to him and would later inspire one of his most significant works on California's water and land issues. The spirit of 1940s and '50s of Los Angeles permeated his life

John earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from California State University, Northridge, where his passion for understanding human behavior and social structures blossomed. He was later awarded a NIMH Grant and completed the CSU Northridge Sociology Master's program, where he fused his interest in culture, politics and history with his deep desire to effect social change.

It was in 1958 at CSU Northridge when John met Priscilla Helm, a fellow sociology student with whom he shared a passion for social activism and justice. After her Peace Corps service in Peru, they married on Sept. 8, 1963 in Encino, CA and became lifelong partners in both life and the pursuit of social justice.

After completing his Ph.D. in sociology at the University of California Santa Barbara in 1966, John joined the sociology faculty at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois where he taught from 1966 to 1978. He often fondly referred to these years as the "glory days" of academic freedom and exploration. It was also during this period that John and Priscilla welcomed their daughter, Casey, into the world.

The harsh Midwest winters prompted John in 1978 to accept a faculty position in the Sociology Department at the University of California, Davis, where he would remain for the next 26 years. He served as a senior faculty member and as Department Chair. He was widely admired for his ability to inspire students and his unwavering commitment to their education. While at UC Davis, John wrote "Western Times and Water Wars: State, Culture and Rebellion" (1992) chronicling the social history of the Owens Valley.

During their years at UC Davis, John and Pris became regular visitors to the Monterey Peninsula. It was during this time that John continued his interest in the interplay of social history (events) and cultural history (stories). The narratives about the era of California missions and Monterey's Cannery Row and the writings of John Steinbeck and Robinson Jeffers propelled him to write "Storied Land: Community and Memory in Monterey" (2001). In this book he examined the historical formation and reformation of community in Monterey over a period of 230 years.

John and Priscilla retired in the Carmel Valley, a place that held great personal meaning for them. There, John continued to serve his community through support of organizations like the Big Sur Land Trust, Land Watch Monterey County, the Carmel Valley Association, the Owens Valley Committee and Friends of Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove. His final book (2015), "The Legendary Detective: A History of the Business of Being a Private Detective," examined the true history of private detectives, contrasting it with their portrayal in popular culture. It has recently been translated into Spanish and issued as a paperback edition.

John's legacy as a scholar, mentor and compassionate human being will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He was gentle, kind, empathetic and always sought to uplift those around him, regardless of their background or station in life. He valued hard work, honesty and the pursuit of knowledge. Whether through his academic work, personal relationships, or community service, John's impact will resonate for years to come.

A Celebration of Life will be held in John Walton's honor from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sept. 21, 2025, at Hidden Valley Music Seminars, 104 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley.

MORE GAVEL

From page 20A

an unincorporated area of Monterey County. Enriquez was found hiding nearby in bushes that bordered the Elkhorn Slough. The GMC had an MSRP of \$91,355.

Enriquez faces a maximum sentence of five years. This case was primarily investigated by Salinas Police Officer Peter Magallon with assistance from the California Highway Patrol and the Monterey County Sheriff's Office. **June 18** — A jury found Daniel Maurice Cortez, 35, of Oakland, guilty of felony conspiracy to commit retail theft and shoplifting. After the jury returned its guilty verdict, Judge Pamela Butler ruled that Cortez had suffered a prior strike conviction within the meaning of California's three strikes law. Butler faces a maximum sentence of six years

in prison. On April 2, 2024, Cortez and an unidentified co-conspirator entered a pharmacy in Salinas. The two men worked the cosmetics aisle in tandem, concealing merchandise in their sweatshirts. They exited the store with their sweatshirts full of stolen merchandise. Thirty minutes later, Cortez entered a second pharmacy in Salinas. Cortez began concealing items using the same scheme. Store personnel called 911, and Salinas Police Department officers arrived within minutes. At the time of his arrest, Cortez was found with a set of keys to open locked cases in pharmacies across Monterey County. The crimes occurred before the enactment of Proposition 36 Theft Reduction Act, which increases penalties for repeat commercial theft offenders. Proposition 36 permits felony prosecution after two prior convictions for all commercial

See **CRIMES** page 24A



GERALD 'JERRY' WILLIAM ROBINSON

July 7, 1940 - Aug. 7, 2025

Born and raised in Pacific Grove California, Jerry earned an A.S. degree in police and fire science as well as many other fire certificates. He was a Pacific Grove firefighter for 32 years. He began as a firefighter, then engineer, fire inspector, lieutenant, station captain, and retired as a division chief. He was a musician, photographer, and painting contractor. Jerry married Andi in 1985 after dating for 10 years. Together they put 11 children together: Debbrah Robinson (Don), Denise Schroder, Kevin Robinson (Sundae), Scott Robinson, (Cheryl), Eryn Allen, Domine Zmrzel (Bill), Adam Trosky (Oona), Ian Trosky, Noah Trosky (Candace), Nathan Trosky (Nincy) and Abram Trosky (Jen.) He has 21 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Services for Jerry will begin at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20 at El Carmelo Cemetery in Pacific Grove, to be followed by a late lunch and fellowship at the Hacienda Hay and Feed in Carmel Valley.

Maria Gina Hespen

Feb. 2, 1930 • July 21, 2025

Maria passed peacefully in her home surrounded by her loving family and guided by angels who welcomed her into Heaven. She was 95 years old. She was born in Trieste, Italy and witnessed World War II at 12 years old. In 1948, she met her husband, Robert A. Hespen, an American soldier in the U.S. Army serving in Trieste. They married March 6, 1949, and had their first daughter, Carmen, in Italy. She immigrated to America on Sept. 2, 1950 (75 years ago), and was a resident of Monterey County for 76 years. As a WWII bride and wife to a military soldier, she moved to many bases in those 22 years. She learned English and became an American citizen. In 1952, she had twin girls, Lilly and Dori, at Ft. Ord Hospital. They lived in Oak Grove and she worked at the canneries and the Naval Postgraduate School. A few years later, Robert and the family were transferred to Munich, Germany, and they visited Mom's family in Italy as much as possible.

She was a seasoned saint, prayer warrior, and loved Jesus with all her heart. Her faith and life reflected the love of Jesus and forgiveness. She was a giver and taught us to give to others — to be a servant for Jesus. She always saw the love of Christ in others, and was ready to give hugs and pray with you.



She attended Seaside Assembly of God with Pastor Lee Mildon for many years. She loved "Woman's Aglow," her ladies' Bible study, and visiting nursing homes. She called her family in Italy every day. Her passion was her garden and her flowers. She loved to cook, bake, sew and in her later years she would be found sitting in her special chair, knitting a scarf for whomever wanted or needed one.

She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and "Bisnonna" ... her family meant the world to her.

She is survived by her twin daughters, Lilly Menezes (Fred) and Dori Canepa (Dave); 11 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by family from Trieste, brother-in-law, Livio Lacosegliaz; nephew, Giorgio; and niece, Graziella; Anna and Max Lorant, Luciana Sossi and many nieces and cousins.

Her daughter, Carmen, preceded her in death in 1989 and her husband, Robert, in 1993. They were married for 44 years. Anita, her sister, preceded her in death in 2017.

"My heart has heard you say, 'Come and talk with me.'
And my heart responds, 'Lord, I am coming.'" — Psalm 27:8
We love you, Mom — Baci di farfalla — Butterfly Kisses XXXXXXXX

Donations may be sent to:

- Monterey Bay Christian Center (school)
1184 Hilby Ave., Seaside, CA 93955
- The Fellowship, P.O. Box 97339,
Washington, D.C. 20077-7472
- SPCA of Monterey County

DAVID HOLLINGSWORTH

Beloved husband, father, grandfather, teammate and friend (1937-2025)



Known for his legal acumen, athletic prowess, storytelling, and feisty temperament, David Hollingsworth passed away at his home in Monterey, California, on August 4, 2025, at the age of 88, shortly after a Sunday dinner with the family he loved so dearly.

Born in Seattle, Washington, to Hilda and Raymond Hollingsworth, David’s early years were filled with a spirit of adventure. In 1940, he moved to Juneau, Alaska, where his passions for basketball, food, and fishing took root. A standout at Juneau-Douglas High School, he led his basketball team to a state championship in his senior year.

David attended Davidson College in North Carolina on scholarship, where he captained the basketball team, earning MVP honors, racking up an impressive 445 points his senior year, averaging 18.5 points and 14 rebounds per game. He often stunned teammates, opponents, and spectators with his deadly hook shots, brilliant fake-outs, and clever tricks. Dave remains among Davidson’s top players for points and rebounds alongside his all-time favorite player, Steph Curry.

His college years also brought accolades such as Phi Delta Theta All-American honors, All-Southern Conference honors, and the prestigious Tommy Peters Award, recognizing him as an outstanding senior athlete. Upon graduation, he received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award for outstanding students and community leaders, joining past awardees Eleanor Roosevelt and Mister (Fred) Rogers.

David grew up in Alaska alongside the Tlingit and people of diverse cultures and was bewildered by the South’s deep divides of racism in the 1950s. After witnessing a racially-charged incident during his early college years, he felt called to a career protecting those who needed it most. Driven by this experience, David founded and coached the first recreational baseball league for Black youth in the region.

Like a salmon returning to its home stream, David returned to his beloved Juneau after graduation to determine whether he could tolerate the inclement weather as a permanent location. After serving as a police patrolman and fireman

and fighting one of the largest fires in the history of Alaska, the cold winds of October 1959 convinced him his future lay in the Lower 48. His talents soon took him to the National Industrial Basketball League, where he played for the Seattle Buchan Bakers. He also served as a Reserve Second Lieutenant in the Army Medical Service Corps for nearly 10 years.

David earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence from Willamette University in 1963. He settled on the Monterey Peninsula, where he built a distinguished 60-year career, including 50 at his office on Bonifacio Place, as a sharp, commanding trial lawyer. Dedicated to justice, he specialized in fraud, real estate, construction, and maritime law. Dave championed cases for local fishermen, seniors, and many underdogs. He won numerous appellate victories and was the sole attorney for plaintiffs in one of Monterey County’s longest civil jury trials.

In 1976, David finished building his cherished home and began a beloved tradition of Sunday night family dinners, inspired by his mother, Hilda, who believed that “no one should ever leave the table hungry.” His backyard became a gathering place where children played, dahlias bloomed, wine flowed, and memories were made — but the kitchen was the heart of the home. David taught his family to cook, share stories, and build community around the table.

Highly social, competitive, and driven, David was most likely to be found on a court, in court, or on a boat. He played forward for the Fisherman’s Wharf team, and his pickup basketball games at the Monterey Sports Center and Fort Ord were fodder for stories told to this day. David also played tennis regularly at Carmel Valley Ranch, the Hyatt, and Chamisal, continuing until just last year. He spent much of his time with friends and family diving for abalone in Northern California, chasing game fish in Hawaii, and fishing for salmon, halibut, and rockfish in Monterey Bay and Alaska’s Inside Passage.

Dave’s life was filled with many meaningful chapters and relationships. He married high school French teacher Velma in 1962 and raised four children: Michael, Jill, Heather, and Paul. In 1978,

Dave married middle-school music teacher LaDonne and welcomed stepson Chad. They had three children together: Hillary, Holly, and Daniel. He later shared a long partnership with Lee, expanding the family to include her three children, Stephanie, Derek, and Jason. On his 80th birthday, he married Konstanze, whom he lovingly called “Kosta.” She added three stepsons, Zachary, Xander, and Ziad, to the family and was a devoted, loving partner, providing unwavering support.

David Hollingsworth leaves behind a remarkable legacy of achievements, and we will never forget his devilish grin, twinkling blue eyes, and larger-than-life spirit. He will be deeply missed and joyfully remembered.

Dave took immense pride in his family and is survived by his wife, Konstanze Assaad Hollingsworth, and children and their families:

- Michael Hollingsworth (Jyme’) of Seaside; daughter, Ashley Hollingsworth
- Jill Hollingsworth of Oregon; daughter Kate Bishop
- Heather Hollingsworth of Monterey; children Alex Issvoran, Lauren Briard (Ryan), and Nicholas Issvoran
- Paul Hollingsworth (Jennifer) of Seaside; children Haley and Hannah Hollingsworth
- Hillary Fish (Mark) of Prunedale; daughters Jocelyn and Claire Fish
- Holly Hollingsworth Maas of Marina; children Emelia, Sofia, and Gabriel Maas
- Daniel Hollingsworth (Nicole) of Salinas; daughter Harper Hollingsworth
- Stepchildren Chad Sutter (DeeAnn), Stephanie (John) Martin, Jason (Laura) Martin, Derek Martin, Xander (Amanda) Assaad, Ziad Assaad, and Zachary Assaad

A celebration of life will be held for family and friends. Please email grandpadmh@gmail.com for more information. In lieu of flowers, we encourage you to donate to Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula, The Carmel Foundation, or Davidson College.

CRIMES

From page 22A

thefts, regardless of the value of the property taken. Proposition 36 was passed overwhelmingly by the voters of California in a November 2024 referendum.

This case was primarily investigated by Salinas Police officers Robert Zuniga, Carlos Rios and Daniel Garcia. District attorney investigator Sabrina Currier also assisted with the prosecution of this case.

June 18 — Judge Andrew G. Liu sentenced Luis Arthur Aragon, 38, a resident of Fresno, to eight years in state

prison for pimping, procuring for prostitution, and criminal threats. This constitutes a serious felony strike pursuant to California’s three strikes law.

On March 30, 2023, Salinas Police dispatch received two calls from Jane Doe’s phone in which the line was kept open and Doe was heard screaming that she was being hit. In the background, a male later identified as Aragon could be heard yelling at Doe about not following his rules. Law enforcement responded immediately, pinged the victim’s cell phone and a short while later linked her phone to the suspect’s vehicle, which was abandoned at the Northridge Mall. On March 31, 2023, Doe again called 911 and reported that she was at a local motel and Aragon had abused her. Salinas Police officers responded to the motel and met with Doe, who was cry-

ing hysterically. Once she calmed down, she told detectives that Aragon had been sexually exploiting her for the past few years in various California jurisdictions before bringing her to Salinas. She recounted how he recruited her through Instagram. Evidence from Aragon’s social media confirmed that Aragon was sexually exploiting Doe. He also contacted her after his arrest about the pending case.

This case was investigated by Salinas Police officers Alejandro Rodriguez, Chayene Garcia, Peter Magallon, David Puckett, Francisco Hernandez-Deleon, as well as detective Ermelinda Reyes. Assisting with prosecution was district attorney investigator Kris Hunsaker. Jane Doe was assisted by district attorney victim witness program manager Alma Sanchez and advocate Kristin Peterson.

MARY LINDA ‘LIN’ SULLIVAN

September 19, 1947 - July 22, 2025
Monterey, CA

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Mary Linda “Lin” Sullivan, an amazing wife, devoted mother and loving Nana. She died on July 22, 2025, surrounded by her family, at 77 years old.

Lin’s life was filled with love, adventure, travel and unwavering devotion to her family. Those who knew her would say that her family was the center of her universe and her love for them was endless. Lin was surrounded by friends, family and colleagues who loved her deeply. People have described her as someone who was full of grace, who always knew the right thing to say or do, who consistently showed up for others, and who was forgiving and strong yet peaceful. She was clear about what mattered to her, she was kind, angelic, smart, inviting, encouraging, selfless and someone whose influence on others was quietly powerful.

Lin believed that we can choose how we respond to life’s difficult moments and that resilience can be strengthened by our mindset. Lin demonstrated this consistently throughout her life, approaching setbacks with groundedness, remaining flexible to change when needed and moving forward with joy and purpose no matter the circumstances.

Born on September 19, 1947, in Fulton, New York to Isaac and Mary Wilcox, Lin grew up on the East Coast and attended Oswego Catholic High School in upstate New York and later attended the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, New York. She enjoyed a close bond with her beloved sister, Judy Casey, in the Bronx who married a well-respected physician, Edward Casey. Their family of eight children held a very dear and special place in Lin’s heart. She also stayed in close touch with her lifelong East Coast friends whether joining monthly Zoom calls with high school classmates or meeting up with her East Coast girlfriends on memorable girls’ trips over the years, keeping these connections strong.

Lin moved to California in the early 1970s, initially taking a job teaching art at a private school in Santa Barbara. She later moved to Monterey and started her career at CTB/McGraw-Hill where she met Harvey Sullivan in 1974. While dating, Harvey introduced Lin to his young son Darren. The two quickly formed a close bond, and Darren was always delighted to be included in activities with Lin. Before long, Harvey and Lin married in 1978, and together with Darren, they shared many wonderful adventures. When Darren passed away in 2017, Lin consistently celebrated and kept Darren’s memory alive within the Sullivan family household.

Lin and Harvey built a lasting marriage of 47 years, grounded in partnership and a shared love of travel, discovering new places and creating memorable experiences. In 1982, they welcomed their daughter, Erin Sullivan, and Lin took on motherhood with glowing pride. From the moment Erin arrived, she embraced her role with a steady devotion that shaped the course of Erin’s life. Their bond was profoundly close, and Lin’s unwavering support carried Erin through many seasons. Her consistent encouragement laid the foundation for Erin’s path toward becoming a physician and was an integral force behind her success. The two spoke daily, sometimes two or three times, sharing their lives and bringing each other up to speed on even the smallest details.

Lin also played an essential role in the lives and upbringing of her beloved grandchildren, Damon and Layla Sullivan, whom she loved deeply. Whether she was volunteering at their schools, planning family trips, or simply being the constant ever-loving presence in their day-to-day lives, the time they shared with Lin is a gift both Damon and Layla will cherish forever.

Professionally, Lin built a remarkably successful career in educational assessment. Throughout her 34 year career at CTB, Lin was consistently recognized by CTB and the McGraw-Hill Companies for her achievements. She was a regular recipient of the CTB Team Player award and was frequently nominated and chosen as Employee of the Month. At CTB, she earned a reputation among colleagues for her knowledge, experience and leadership in publishing, her commitment to her staff and to the company and for her participation in the group that re-established CTB’s Mission, Values, and Principles.

Lin took on the role of Senior Project Manager in 1982 and, by 1986, advanced to a more senior position as Director of Norm-Referenced Test Development, where she led the development of CTBS/4, a K-12 achievement test widely adopted by school districts in the United States in the 1980s and 1990s. In 1994 Lin was promoted to Vice President of Product Development. In this role, she was responsible for the successful development of CTB’s assessment series, TerraNova. TerraNova was first published in 1996 and was a series of educational standardized achievement tests widely adopted throughout the United States and internationally. Updated versions are still in use today.

For her work on TerraNova, Lin was honored with the prestigious McGraw-Hill Companies Corporate Achievement Award for Innovation which was presented to her during a ceremony hosted by the McGraw-Hill Companies corporate headquarters in New York.

In 2005, Lin was recruited to join Hampton-Brown as Director of Assessment and continued in this role for several years after its merger with National Geographic. There, she took on the role of Vice President of Assessment and built the assessment department from the ground up. She led the development of comprehensive assessment materials to accompany core high school, middle school and elementary programs in language and literacy. Not only did Lin bring highly specialized expertise to this effort, but her positive approach and her spirit of collaboration enriched the working environment. The combination of her working style and her commitment to quality earned her department the nickname, “A-Team.” As a result of the talent and commitment by Lin and her A-Team, tens of thousands of students and teachers have benefited from the way the assessments informed instruction and made it more effective.

Lin’s legacy and many contributions to CTB/McGraw-Hill, Hampton-Brown and National Geographic were celebrated by colleagues, many of whom remained close to her long after her retirement. She was remembered as smart and gifted, generous with her time and love, and possessing a gentle spirit marked by vitality, beauty and grace. As her career progressed, she became a trusted mentor to those building their own careers and someone deeply attuned to the needs of working parents.

Lin more recently served as Vice President on the Monterey Peninsula College Foundation Board of Directors, a meaningful way to give back to the community that supported her family. Lin played a key role in establishing the Sullivan Family Scholarship to support local students, reflecting her enduring belief in the value of education.

Lin is survived by her husband, Harvey Sullivan; her daughter, Erin Sullivan; and her grandchildren, Damon and Layla Sullivan, as well as her sister, Judy Casey. She was preceded in death by Harvey’s son, Darren Sullivan; her sister-in-law, Helen Sullivan; her brother-in-law, Edward Casey; her mother and father, Isaac and Mary Wilcox; and her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Susie and Harvey Sullivan Sr.

Please join us for an afternoon of shared memories as we reflect on the light and joy Lin brought into the world. The gathering will be held on September 28th at The Perry House, 201 Van Buren Street, Monterey, CA 93940 from noon to 3 p.m.

If you’d like to share a short note, reflection, or video tribute about Lin, you are welcome to send it to: celebratinglinsullivan@gmail.com.



SHUTTLE

From page 9A

“Everybody was really thankful that we were doing it,” Swanson said Thursday. “We’re also using it as somewhat of a test of an employee shuttle in the future. We’ve been collecting a lot of data.”

Costing roughly \$15,000 between van rentals, renting the field from the Carmel Mission, paying a person to direct cars to their parking spots, and advertising, the service created “goodwill and positivity,” Swanson said, while alleviating some of the traffic congestion and parking stress downtown, where five Car Week events were staged.

“It’s been an overall success, and it came together sort of last minute,” he said.



PHOTO/DALE BYRNE

Avoiding parking headaches, visitors waited at Carmel Plaza Tuesday for a free shuttle running between downtown and Rio Road.

DRUGS

From page 8A

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. The judge also ordered Solis to pay \$29,895.85 in restitution to the dead boy’s family.

According to law enforcement sources, Solis used social media to advertise illegal drugs, including fentanyl, cocaine, ecstasy, hydrocodone, marijuana and Xanax.

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

KENNETH K. NISHI

Feb. 28, 1943 - June 8, 2025

A memorial service
will be held for
Ken
at 11 a.m.
on Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025,
at the Monterey Peninsula
Buddhist Temple
1155 Noche Buena St.,
Seaside, CA

IN LOVING MEMORY of KAREN SUE REDMON

Oct. 10, 1949 ♦ April 7, 2025

Karen Sue Redmon (Estep), age 75, a longtime resident of the Monterey Peninsula, passed away peacefully at Community Hospital on April 7, 2025, one of her beloved sisters by her side after a short but courageous battle with cancer.



Born in Hamilton, Ohio, at 10:10 a.m. on Oct. 10, 1949, Karen was the cherished daughter of Orpha and Fred Estep. She was predeceased by her loving husband, George Redmon; her mother, Orpha Estep and father, Fred Estep.

Memories of her vibrant spirit are treasured and carried on on by her sisters, Betty Estep and Vicki Richard (George); her nephew, Nicholas Imperial (Bonnie); her niece, Alexandra Imperial (Sarah Goldberg); her great-nephews, Ryan Imperial and Trevor Imperial; her half-brother, Fred Estep (Crissi) and her stepson, Michael McFearin (Shannon). She also leaves many half-nieces and nephews, stepnieces and many cousins.

Karen was known for her beautiful, generous spirit that naturally attracted others to her. Even in her illness, she maintained her positivity and laughter until the very end. Her adventurous nature showed itself early in life and became even more apparent when she moved, along with her mother and sisters, from Hamilton, Ohio, to Carmel, California, in 1974. Her journey later took her from Chicago to Texas, and then, together with her husband George, riding across California on the back of their motorcycle.

Karen made her home base in Carmel, where she managed The Coachman’s Inn for Sandy and Gordon Steuck for more than 29 years. During these decades, she touched countless lives with her warmth, welcoming personality, and infectious laugh, forming many lasting friendships and acquaintances.

Outside of her work, Karen treasured time with her family. She was fiercely loyal and generous, always a shoulder to cry on and a true helper at heart — someone you could always count on. Her passion for shopping shone through in her unique and beautiful sense of style, which was a reflection of her personality.

A celebration of Karen’s life will begin at 1 p.m. Sept. 14 in the Hofsas House gathering room. Friends and family are invited to join and share memories and stories to honor Karen’s remarkable life. A light lunch will be served.

Karen will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Her legacy of kindness, laughter and love will remain in our hearts forever.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF MACALLISTER CRANE

June 9, 2025, Age 32
Carmel, California

Born in Carmel, California, Macallister embodied quiet strength and unwavering determination. He attended Carmel Unified School District, where he stood out as a multi-sport athlete, competing in football, baseball and wrestling. On the football field, he was especially known for his exceptionally long snapping abilities as well as his record-setting three touchdown game against Monterey followed by an unprecedented three interception game against Stevenson. His precision, grit and leadership earned the admiration of teammates and coaches alike.

Macallister pursued his passion for technology with purpose and dedication. He earned a bachelor of science in network and security from Western Governors University and was in the process of completing a master’s in cyber security through Georgia Tech. For him, technology was more than a profession — it was a calling.

As a network engineer at Micron Technology, Macallister played a key role in the design of a major building and was developing a patent for innovative communication methods. He was deeply respected and genuinely beloved. His boss once said, “The day didn’t start until Mac showed up.”

Macallister’s journey also included recovery, which he embraced with honesty, courage and hope. He inspired others through his openness and resilience. Devoted to his family and friends, he was always present — with support, laughter and love. A voracious reader and self-taught pianist, he found joy in music, philosophy and peace in nature.

He is survived by his sister, Emma; brother, Chandler; mother, Jennifer Claudel and father, Ward Crane. He also leaves behind a loving extended family, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and dear friends.

**A memorial service will begin
at 3 p.m. Aug. 31, 2025,
at Community Church
of the Monterey Peninsula,
4590 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA 93923**

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Teen Challenge (Venmo ID @TCMBAB) honoring Macallister’s struggles and finding Jesus Christ.

WENDY BROATCH HOLMES

9/12/1944 ♦ 7/27/2025

Wendy Broatch Holmes, born on September 12, 1944, in Vancouver, Canada, to Peggy Winifred Green, passed away peacefully in Marin County, nearly one year after the loss of her beloved husband, Robert “Bob” Holmes.

At the age of 3, Wendy and her mother took the train to Los Angeles, where she was raised and later attended South Gate High School. She became a U.S. citizen in 1961, which she was incredibly proud of. A determined and independent young woman, Wendy paid her own way through college with money she had diligently saved since childhood. She studied at Cal Poly Pomona before transferring to Long Beach State, where she earned her bachelor’s degree.

In 1971, Wendy moved to San Francisco, working multiple day jobs while taking real estate classes at night. Her dedication paid off when she earned her real estate license. Shortly after meeting her future husband, Bob, she moved to the Monterey Peninsula. The two were married on November 9, 1974, in Carson City, Nevada, and shared nearly 50 wonderful years together. In 1980, they welcomed their only child, Nicole.

Wendy built a successful career in real estate, eventually becoming a broker and founding Holmes By-The-Sea Real Estate, serving the Monterey Peninsula with a genuine commitment to her clients.

Wendy was a lifelong animal lover who donated hundreds of hours to the local SPCA benefit shop and supported animal welfare causes throughout her life.

In 2020, Wendy and Bob moved to Marin County to be closer to their daughter, Nicole, and son-in-law, Larenz. Her greatest joy was time spent with them.

Wendy is survived by her daughter, Nicole Dumitrescu; her son-in-law, Larenz Dumitrescu; her stepbrother, Dean Hickerson; her sister-in-law, Madge Holmes; her niece, Jenni Copeland; and her nephew, Patrick Copeland.

Nicole can be reached at nicole.holmes@gmail.com.
**In honor of Wendy’s lifelong love of animals, donations
may be made to your local SPCA or Humane Society.**



Editorial

Shameful, embarrassing or despicable?

IF A European billionaire with a record of hiring world-class architects to design and develop high-quality, tasteful projects in various parts of the world started buying property in a charming small town and proposing to build things, he’d probably be seen as a threat by people who want everything to stay the way it has “always” been in that town, at least in the very narrow timeframe of their own lives.

But anyone with the slightest awareness of history and the dynamic forces shaping the future would see the arrival of the billionaire — with all his resources and experience — as a once-in-a-century opportunity to make sure the town changes in ways that will make its residents proud and visitors envious.

Experience shows that the narrow-minded, afraid-of-everything-that’s-not-already-in-their-comfort-zone types are usually in the minority, while the optimistic, practical people who see the future as a time when wonderful things can happen are usually in the majority.

But if that small town is in California, it won’t matter who’s in the majority, because the laws under which the billionaire will have to operate while he pursues his development ambitions are so hostile to property owners and developers, no matter how great his projects are and how many in town support him, he’ll have to spend huge sums and countless frustrating hours trying to get them to the permit finish line — if he ever gets there.

Truly, in many parts of California, even if you hire the greatest team of lawyers, architects, engineers and land-use consultants ever assembled and give them an unlimited budget to design a home, apartment building or mixed-use complex that conforms to all general plan, CEQA, Coastal Act and zoning requirements and is guaranteed to be approved after one or two hearings, they won’t be able to do it. In California, and especially in places like Carmel, permit approval is a matter of taste, which is not something that can be pinned down, even by experts. Which is to say that development in places like Carmel isn’t governed by laws, it’s governed by opinions. Sure, there are plenty of laws requiring this or that, but nobody can be certain what they mean.

The lack of a zoning code that’s specific enough to be understood is just one of the problems.

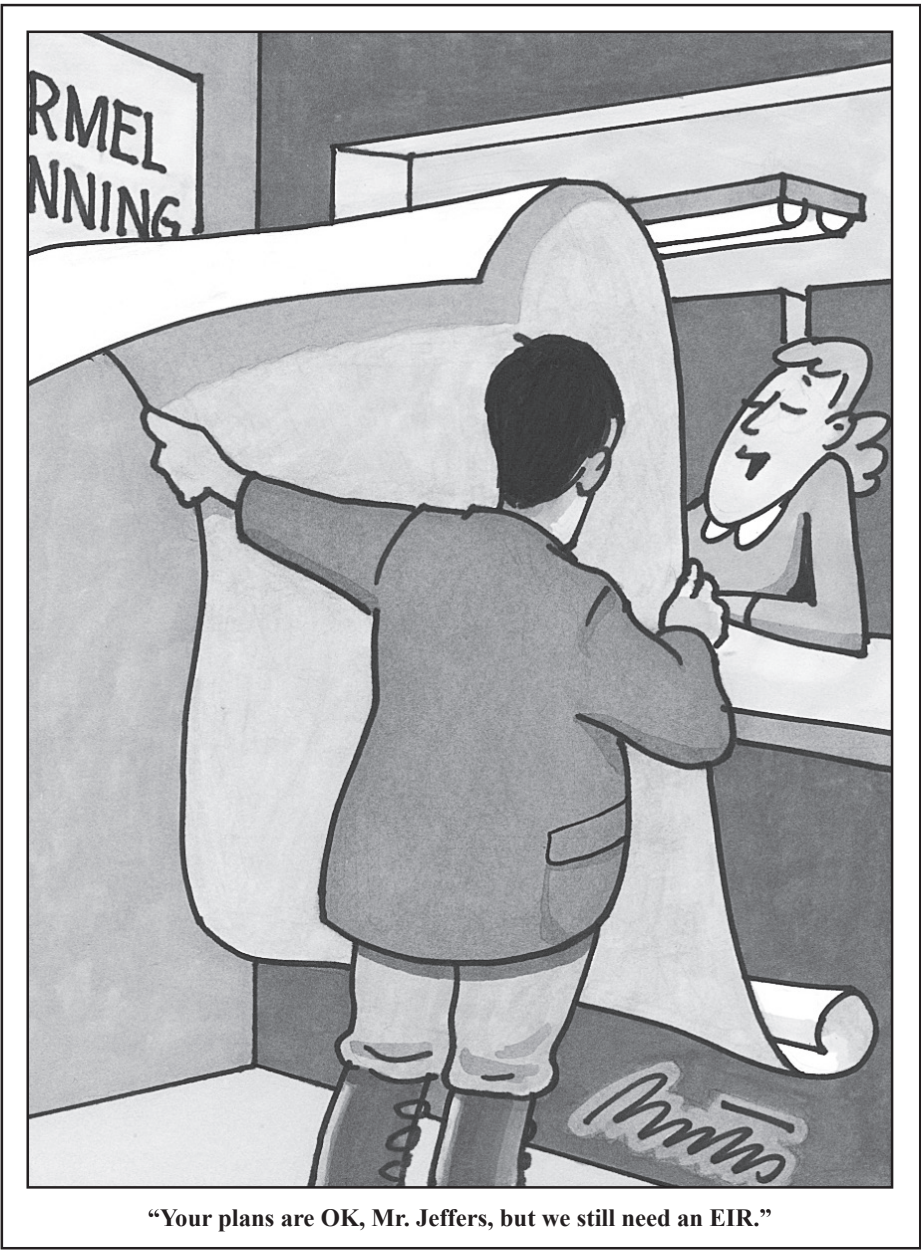
Another key part of the anti-development buzz saw is the lack of respect for a property owner’s dignity, and for the expense and trouble he has to go through to get a permit application ready to be filed. Even if it costs you \$100,000 to get to your first permit hearing, the people on the forest and beach commission, historic resources board, planning commission, city council or what-have-you may treat your project as a blank slate they are at liberty to fill with anything that suits them. Likewise, when they ask you for changes, and you go to great expense to make them, they can still act like their earlier requests have no bearing on what they’ll do next. On and on the process can go, with phrases like, “too massive,” “out of scale” or “incompatible with community character” being tossed around like confetti. And if you ask the good commissioners or city councilmembers to be more specific, they’ll just say, “It’s not our job to design your project for you,” leaving you to rend your garments in lonely frustration and grief.

No wonder so many applicants — and Patrice Pastor is just the latest — have been inclined to channel Oliver Cromwell, speaking to the British Parliament in 1653: “It is high time for me to put an end to your sitting in this place, which you have dishonoured by your contempt of all virtue, and defiled by your practice of every vice. Ye are a factious crew, and enemies to all good government.”

The solution to all this is to make one simple change. Give every member of city government a brief mandate: “Due process requires that permit applicants receive the benefit of the doubt. Close calls will be made in their favor. No changes to their plans will be imposed except ones specifically required by law.”

The way the process works now isn’t shameful, embarrassing or despicable. It’s all three.

BEST of BATES



Letters to the Editor

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

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

‘Years of nitpicking’
Dear Editor,

How sad that a dozen residents can cause the overturn of the significant contributions Patrice Pastor has been making to our community. Each of his properties has been quality construction and an asset to Carmel-by-the-Sea. After years of continuous nitpicking, I can’t blame Pastor for throwing in the towel, but I hope the city council reconsiders and begs Pastor to continue his investments, subsequently enhancing our town.

If Pastor puts each of his properties on the market, who is going to purchase them, contribute significantly to our tax base, and make the effort to jump through the Mickey Mouse hoops?

Sandra Berris, Carmel

You wouldn’t want to live here
Dear Editor,

Carmel’s new motto should be, “Nice

place to visit, but you wouldn’t want to live here.”

The Carmel City Council has lost touch with the needs of its residents and businesses. They’ve made it extremely challenging and expensive, to do business with the town, from simple tasks to complex projects.

The most glaring example is how the city council has treated Patrice Pastor so poorly. Pastor has the means, drive and passion to invest in the community and preserve its heritage. Why wouldn’t the city want that? On the surface, it looks as if councilmembers Hans Buder, Jeff Baron, and Alissandra Dramov are hiding behind regulations, going against recommendations and requiring total and expensive rework. This is not just on the Dolores and Seventh project, but The Pit and others. The Pit is an earlier council’s blunder that has remained an eyesore downtown for years. How many times did they beat Pastor down with massive redos? The answer is five times! Not what you’d normally do to someone willing to take on such a monumental city mistake.

If you consider how difficult it is to get a project through the process here in Carmel, let alone the exorbitant cost of fees, it’s amazing that anything ever gets done. Dale Byrne was elected on the basis of being an agent of change. I met him, and I believe he will do that ... but he needs the community’s support.

Carmel needs Patrice Pastor, and others like him, who want to protect the town’s architectural heritage and help build

See LETTERS page 31A

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Above the clouds or on the ground, this volunteer’s been taught to help

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN Sydney and Hong Kong, a Pan Am flight attendant noticed the cockpit door was ajar, giving a view of the flight engineer at his workstation. He noticed her, too, and took advantage of that sightline repeatedly en route. She, in turn, had seen him on the crew bus earlier and was intrigued.

Great Lives

By CARLIN JARDINE

They later managed to meet for a dinner date, and a year later, in 1997, flight attendant Jane Durant, 27, married engineer and pilot John “Jay” Jones and became Jane Durant Jones. They began a 45-year adventure that she said was “too short.”

In 2011, Jones was honored as the first Volunteer of the Year for the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance. When asked whether a love of cars drives her passion for the event, she replied, “No, I love the people.”

Travel beckoned
Jones was born in Oakland. Her family settled in Piedmont, where she attended elementary and high school. Together, her parents turned their love of the water into a living — they built a marina in Oakland. “My dad was a yacht broker. He sold beautiful boats, sailed beautiful

boats, and I grew up sailing on San Francisco Bay,” Jones recounted.
In 1970, she graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.A. in history. It was the climax of the Free Speech Movement, when folks gathered in People’s Park and there were speeches by activists like Mario Savio.
“For a kid from very insulated Piedmont to jump into the tumult of that era was really something. I loved my time there,” she said.
She intended to teach at the college or university level, but Jones instead landed a position with Pan American Airways, which offered training before she even graduated.
“The lure of international travel proved to be much more enticing,” she said. “I

See LIVES page 38A



Veteran volunteer Jane Durant Jones said that her experience as a flight attendant was good training for the Concours d’Elegance.

From the mayor’s desk — The foundations of effective government

By DALE BYRNE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT works best when roles are clearly defined and consistently respected. In Carmel-by-the-Sea, our municipal code creates a deliberate structure: Specialized bodies with specific expertise make decisions within their authority, while maintaining accountability through a defined appeal process.
Last week, an appeal of a large development project brought potential questions about this process to light. While I cannot comment on that specific matter, it offers a timely opportunity to examine how our municipal decision-making systems work and how we might strengthen them. How well we honor our established structure determines whether our government functions effectively or gets bogged down in inefficiency and uncertainty.

The role of the planning commission

The planning commission serves as our primary design review body, applying municipal codes and design guidelines to development proposals. Commissioners are resident volunteers who develop expertise through the regular practice of reviewing applications, studying plans, reviewing

professional staff recommendations, hearing public testimony and deciding how the city’s standards apply to specific projects.
This work requires technical knowledge and judgment. While some requirements are straightforward, others deliberately incorporate subjective standards about compatibility and character. The commission’s job is to apply these consistently while exercising necessary discretion.
The commissioners’ investment in each project, often spanning multiple meetings that could extend over years, creates institutional knowledge about our design priorities. This expertise helps maintain Carmel’s distinctive character.

Understanding the appeal process

Appeals serve essential functions: providing transparency, creating opportunities for additional public input, and ensuring accountability. When properly used, appeals strengthen public trust.
However, appeals work best when focused on process and legal compliance rather than relitigating design judgments. Constructive appeals examine whether proper procedures were followed and

See MAYOR page 30A

Her father’s work helped her carved new pathways

THE WOODCARVER’S Daughter — 8071 Moss Landing Road, catty-corner from the post office — is Nicole Gillott’s fine-art galleria, lounge, boutique, occasional supper club, and home base for “Can’t Stop. Won’t Stop,” her grassroots nonprofit foundation. It was all inspired by the health catastrophe that changed her life 10 years ago.
Gillott, an oil painter and driftwood artist, opened the Moss Landing galleria in July 2024 and named it to honor her dad, Tom Gillott, a prolific, self-taught woodcarver who — until his daughter stepped

Speak or communicate in any way. She couldn’t walk or stand. She had lost the use of her right arm and hearing in one ear.
“But I could hear the doctors and my parents talking about me. I could hear things they were planning to do, but I couldn’t respond, couldn’t write, couldn’t react, couldn’t share my thoughts,” she remembered.
“If you can’t communicate, it’s all left up to the people who think they can translate for you. That can be frustrating.”
Gillott needed a feeding tube for six months, during which her weight dropped from 160 to 107 pounds on her 6-foot frame.
That was only the beginning.

Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

in — never displayed his remarkable art.
Gillott was a 36-year-old single mother of a 12-year-old boy and engaged to be married when she suffered a massive stroke at her Prunedale home on July 19, 2015.
Her stroke, the brain’s equivalent of a heart attack, was caused by an arteriovenous malformation, or AVM, a tangled mass of abnormal blood vessels. The tangle created a shortcut between her arteries and veins, bypassing her capillaries and dangerously accelerating her blood flow.
“I was born with an AVM, but didn’t know — and my parents didn’t know — until the stroke happened,” she said.

Dismantling her skull
Salinas neurosurgeon Chris Carver saved her life, she said. Carver, her dad’s old surfing buddy, removed three of her skull plates to find the brain bleed that “filled up my face,” she said. “There’s a gnarly scar under my hair because I don’t have a plate there anymore.”
After three weeks in an induced coma, she woke up to a nightmare. She couldn’t

walker. It had to be modified to accommodate her immobile right hand, which was taped to the apparatus.
Recovering her ability to speak was a long process.
“Cognitively, I was a 2-year-old and had to learn to talk all over again,” she said. “After the first year, I had eight recognizable words that only familiar listeners could understand. I was thinking way better than I was talking at that point.”
Her parents, Tom and Brenda, felt overwhelmed, she said. “They weren’t prepared to take care of a disabled adult child but grew into the role.”
They sometimes seemed emotionally distant, said Gillott, who lived in their home for three months after her release from the hospital.
Her fiancé also eventually decided that the caregiver role was too much and broke away.
Loneliness as a companion
Her loneliness was profound. “You wonder where all your friends are and miss the caregiver teams you had come to rely on,” she said.



Nicole Gillott, of The Woodcarver’s Daughter in Moss Landing, stands beside a piece of her driftwood art. The woodcarving behind her was done by her father, Tom Gillott.

But the time at home with her parents led to a life-altering epiphany for Gillott, who throughout her life had mistakenly interpreted her father’s quiet stoicism as an absence of affection.
“He never said ‘I love you’ — he just wasn’t a person who know how to express that,” she said. “But after my stroke, Dad started carving ‘Nicole’s Bowls.’ I didn’t know about that until I found them all over his house — and that was a wake-up call for me.
“Having a stroke, and becoming so needy ... that changed my family,” said Gillott, who today feels much closer to her parents.
Her sister, Allison, now 35, was her rock — a major part of her healing, Gillott remembered.
“Alli said, ‘You’re an adult. If you don’t like what

See ARTIST page 29A



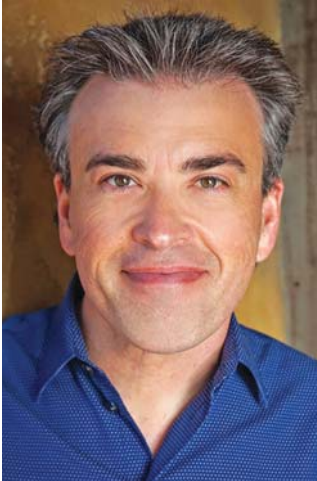
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CALIFORNIA’S ROADS AMONG THE WORST IN THE NATION

SUMMER IS prime road-trip season, and whether you’re zipping from charging station to charging station in your Tesla, hauling a fifth wheel or bringing a million-dollar classic car to the Concours d’Elegance, you may have noticed it’s a rough ride through the Golden State.

Come Labor Day, millions of people will have traveled through California, and many may be wondering how the world’s fourth largest economy let its infrastructure deteriorate to this level.

Potholes, uneven pavement and a quilt of patches found throughout long stretches of major highways and interstates can make for a bumpy and, at times, unsafe ride.

“I would not dispute that. I have worked in four counties across the state, and road conditions are pretty bad,” said Randy Ishii, director of public works for Monterey County.

The American Society of Civil Engineers gave California roads a D in its latest infrastructure report card, which read, “The condition of California roads is among the worst in the nation,” and U.S. News & World Report ranked California 43rd in road quality.

Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

The Reason Foundation gave California an even lower ranking, placing it 49th in its Annual Highway Report, with only Alaska — which faces much crueler winters — ranking lower than California.

These private evaluations look at a number of categories, including, congestion, fatalities, bridge condition and the roughness of the pavement.

Caltrans’ recent State of the Pavement Report found 10 percent of highways were in the “red” or poor category, indicating they have structural distress and bad ride quality. Ten percent may not sound like a lot, but it only takes into account highways and interstates, yet still represents 1,447 miles of road that can wreck your suspension.

“The fact that the state has in some categories more than 5 percent of its roadways in poor condition is noteworthy. The best states generally have less than one percent,” said Baruch Feigenbaum, senior managing director of transportation policy for Reason.

Cities and counties are responsible for maintaining

urban and rural streets in their jurisdictions, and local pavement conditions also rank poorly. In Monterey County, the public works department uses a pavement condition assessment index, which scores roads on a scale of zero to 100, with zero being fully deteriorated, 100 being brand new and anything below 49 considered poor. The overall index for Monterey County is 45, meaning the county’s pavement needs to be fixed.

More than half of Monterey County’s funding for road and bridge maintenance comes from the state, which means decisions made in Sacramento have a big impact on local budgets.

Spending

Contrary to what your mechanic may say, California does spend money on its roads. In fact, it ranks seventh in the nation, but the money hasn’t translated to smooth rides for drivers.

Caltrans has an annual budget of \$18.7 billion, but last year only allocated \$2 billion to maintaining its 50,000 miles of pavement. For context, Monterey County estimates it will take \$1.5 billion to bring its 1,260 miles of roadway up to “fair” condition.

Part of the problem in Monterey County and across the state is that degradation of the roads is happening faster than they can be repaired, and the worse the condition, the more expensive the repairs. According to the county, basic seal coats can cost \$250,000 to \$300,000 per mile, but if the road is in poor condition and needs a full overlay, that price jumps up to \$1 million a mile. If the pavement is in really, bad shape, requiring full reconstruction, you’re looking at \$2 million a mile.

Not only is it more expensive to fix roads once they deteriorate, in California, labor costs are higher, materials cost more, and environmental policies require more mitigation. Add it all up and we are not getting the same bang for our buck other states enjoy.

Californians pay the highest gas tax in the nation at 61 cents a gallon, generating \$7.8 billion annually intended to primarily fund road maintenance. But your money isn’t just going to fix roads. Instead, a large portion is spent on clean energy priorities.

In June, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced \$1.4 billion — or a fifth of the state’s gas tax funds — will be spent not on roads this year, but on zero-and low-emission transportation and infrastructure. Those projects include electric vehicle charging hubs for heavy-duty trucks, ultra-fast



PHOTO/CALTRANS

Potholes aren’t just an annoyance, if you hit them hard enough they can do serious damage to your car.

vehicle charging stations, and rapid bus and rail service.

State Sen. Tony Strickland is vice chair of the Senate Transportation Committee and said there needs to be an end to highway funds being used for non-road-related projects.

“Over the years, the majority party has redirected hundreds of millions of dollars to their pet projects, including expanding bike lanes and shifting the Caltrans fleet

See **ROADS** next page

OTTER

From page 12A

an umbilical cord,” she said. There were also several pictures of the otter grooming the baby.

The docent said she shared them with several local sea otter experts, all of whom concluded the pup was born during the time she was taking photos.

“I should add that this pup appears to have the very fluffy, dense coat called a natal coat, which they have from birth to about 8 to 10 weeks old,” Courtneidge said. “This coat is very buoyant and prevents pups from sinking, so it was not possible for it to have been underwater.”

Female sea otters typically have their first pup after a four-to-five-month pregnancy. Newborns weigh 3 to 5 pounds, according to the Marine Mammal Center. When a mother hunts for food, she wraps her baby in kelp so it will bob on the surface, frequently emitting tiny cries until she returns.

HEAD AND NECK PAIN

A CHIROPRACTIC MESSAGE

from Dr. Steven MacDonald, D.C.

Dr. MacDonald’s specialty is the Cervical Spine and Skull alignment. The skull and the cervical spine (Cranial-Cervical segment) must be in alignment to keep the rest of the body in balance. This section of the spine houses and protects the most important area of the central nervous system-the brain and brainstem. There are also so many life forces housed here, often called the mouth of God where the skull meets the cervical spine. The nervous system, Cerebral spinal fluid, circulatory system must be able to flow freely here to keep us healthy. Head and neck injuries and stress can misalign this area and interfere with these systems. Old and new injuries can hurt this spinal alignment and then be the cause of many of the symptoms people have today and distort posture later in life. Headaches can occur, balance problems, middle ear problems, neck and shoulder pain, mid and low back pain, poor memory, brain fog, blurred vision, speech, mood, depression, numbness and tingling, constipation, Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue. Cranial-Cervical misalignment can hurt every system in the body. It’s not something to take lightly.

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Harmony At Home	\$5,000	Partners For Peace	\$3,000
Valley Health Associates	\$5,000	Point Lobos Foundation	\$2,500
Central Coast VNA & Hospice	\$5,000	Elemental Synchronicity	\$1,000
Family Service Agency of the Central Coast	\$5,000	The Lyceum of Monterey County	\$3,000
Independent Transportation Network		Young Life Salinas Valley	\$4,000
Monterey County	\$5,000	Foundation for Monterey County Free Libraries	\$2,000
NAMI Monterey County	\$5,000	Greenfield Community Science Workshop	\$5,000
Friends of Cachagua Children’s Center	\$1,000	Carmel High School Cheerleading Team	\$1,000
Alzheimer’s Association	\$5,000	Carmel High School Mock Trial Team	\$3,000
Cancer Patients Alliance	\$5,000	Pacific Grove High	\$700
Coastal Kids Home Care	\$6,000	First Mayor’s House	\$500
Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce	\$3,000	Salinas Area Reading Is Fundamental	\$1,500
Breast Cancer Assistance Group of Monterey County	\$2,500	Central Coast YMCA	\$3,000
		Monterey High School Parent Teacher Student Association	\$1,000
		Salinas Regional Sports Authority	\$2,500

ARTS	\$9,500
Monterey Peninsula Gospel Community Choir	\$1,500
Monterey Jazz Festival	\$2,000
Monterey Peninsula Ballet Theatre	\$1,500
Sunset Cultural Center	\$1,500
Camerata Singers of Monterey County	\$1,500
Monterey County Pops, Incorporated	\$1,500

Grants, Scholarships & Donations

Total to date: \$9,235,400

ROADS

From previous page

to zero-emission vehicles all funded by gas tax money from the state highway account. This practice needs to stop,” said Strickland, a Huntington Beach Republican. Beginning in 2022, Caltrans launched a \$455 million fleet replacement using gas tax funds to shift its aging fleet to zero-emission vehicles. Those vehicles not only cost more on average to purchase than traditional combustion engine vehicles, they require Caltrans to install charging infrastructure.

On average, drivers of gasoline-powered cars in California spend \$300 annually in gas taxes, while drivers of EVs pay zero.

The number of drivers paying fuel taxes has been on the decline in California for several years, which Ishii, with Monterey

County Public Works, says is a major cause for concern. His department received \$11.9 million in gas tax funds this year, a significant chunk of its \$44 million budget. With a billion-dollar road problem, it can’t afford to lose a cent.

“The decrease in overall fuel tax brought in due to an increase in electric vehicles and more fuel-efficient cars is a problem the state is still struggling to address,” said Ishii.

Mileage-based tax

To shore up road maintenance funding, Sacramento policy makers are considering a switch to a mileage-based, road user tax. The model would require all drivers to pay a per-mile fee, regardless of vehicle type, and could eliminate the fuel tax altogether. In what may foreshadow things to come, in January, the state wrapped up a pilot program that charged participants a fee of 2.8 cents per mile.

Ishii said the problem with a user tax is

determining how to accurately count miles driven without invading privacy. A final report on the pilot program is expected before the end of the year.

Whether you drive a Ford Lightning or a V8, no one appreciates the damage done to their vehicle on rough roads. According to California Road Charge, drivers spend an average of \$840 a year on repairs due

to bad pavement. Poor roads wear out tires and suspension systems, increase the cost of maintenance and can decrease the overall life of your vehicle.

While California’s road problems may be of greater concern to residents, they can also leave a bad taste in the mouths of visitors, who may be wondering what else the state can’t manage.

ARTIST

From page 27A

you are, you can reprogram yourself into whatever you want to be. Get rid of the negativity.”

Her son, Davin, now 22 — who was three days past his 12th birthday when she was stricken — was her motivation. “I knew I had to show my son — not tell him — that I could do it,” said Gillott, who once was a standout track and field athlete. As a freshman at Hartnell College, she broke the school record for the javelin throw.

Her recovery process also revealed the bureaucratic mess of government-sponsored healthcare.

At \$4,200 per month, state disability checks allowed her to live comfortably on her own for a year. But when that money ran out and the feds took over, her situation dramatically changed. “With no warning, my disability dropped to one-fourth of that,” she said. “All of a sudden, I was only getting \$1,100 and barely making it. My rent, by itself, was \$1,100.”

Paying it forward

Her communication challenges rendered her largely incapable of self-advocacy. Problem-solving depended on the kindness of others. Those others, too often, weren’t there.

“Then I found an advocate — a wonderful Santa Cruz social worker, Melissa Klein, who fought for me and helped me jump through all the hoops,” she said.

Gillott’s decade-long recovery, still in progress, dramatically altered her outlook on life and became the inspiration for the Can’t Stop. Won’t Stop. Foundation.

“I’ve found my superpower: promoting positive change,” said Gillott, who, over the past three years, has dedicated herself to helping others with disabilities navigate their mazes of challenges.

Creating the galleria and foundation — thanks to the financial and emotional

support of philanthropic friends — was a catalyst. The Woodcarver’s Daughter is an eclectic and important multipurpose space:

■ The galleria doubles as a headquarters for Can’t Stop. Won’t Stop, and its ever-evolving purpose to raise funds, create resources, and advocate for neurodiverse and acquired neurodiverse communities. The foundation’s motto is, “Believe in yourself, we are powerful,” and it promotes and supports inclusive wellness, adaptable awareness, self-belief and a positive lifestyle.

■ Gillott exhibits her painted driftwood and abstract oil paintings including birds, wildlife and oceanic art in the galleria alongside her father’s huge array of intricate and ornate burl carvings — large and small. Other notable exhibitors include Holley Southworth (ceramics), Casey Glovin (acrylic paintings, mixed media), and Vincenzo (chalk drawings).

■ The Woodcarver’s Daughter Supper Club, priced at \$25 per person, is a recurring fundraising event featuring small bites and drinks, live music, artist showings and poetry. The next one is scheduled for Aug. 30, from 5 to 9 p.m.

Can’t Stop. Won’t Stop. also schedules regular offerings for neurodiverse people. Earlier this month, the foundation participated in an adaptive river-rafting trip.

Gnomes

On Aug. 16 and 23 from noon to 3 p.m., the galleria will host ceramic gnome workshops by Southworth. Instruction, materials, tools, and two firings are included for \$100 per person, but scholarships are available to cover the fee. Advance registration is required. Email mygstones@gmail.com for information.

For more information about The Woodcarver’s Daughter and the Can’t Stop. Won’t Stop. foundation, visit promoting-positivechange.org.

Call (831) 253-8082 or email nicolegil-lottpositive@gmail.com to learn more.

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



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BATTERIES

From page 1A

vehicles, equipment and cranes on the property.

“We anticipate this work to continue for over a year due to the technical complexity as well as the safety measures that are being put in place to protect workers and the community,” Brockman told reporters Wednesday afternoon.

Dust control measures and air monitoring will also be employed during the removal process.

Fire possible

Still, Brockman said damaged batteries can be “unstable,” and pointed to an emergency response plan developed by Vistra and reviewed and approved by the EPA to “address any potential flare-ups,”

he explained.

“Our goal is to get these batteries out as safely and as quickly as possible,” Brockman said.

Vistra, a nationwide energy generation and transmission company, has round-the-clock firefighters on the property. The 300-megawatt system held about 100,000 lithium-ion batteries, of which about 55 percent were damaged in the blaze. All of them will be removed.

Once the batteries are out of the burned building, they will be inspected and treated or deenergized on site before they’re taken away and disposed of. Where they will be taken for possible recycling and disposal has not yet been determined.

“However we will recycle as much as possible,” Brockman said.

The Moss Landing facility — and others next to it, including a PG&E storage yard which uses Tesla batteries — were supposed to be the “clean energy”

alternative to fossil fuels, a lofty goal that California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Democratic lawmakers have long pursued. The batteries stored surplus energy from the grid’s windmills and solar panels.

Vistra spokesman David Yeager said Wednesday that the battery facility will remain disconnected from the power grid during the removal process and that there are no plans to reconnect and restart it.

‘Reparations’ sought

The EPA is working on a “community engagement process,” which will include a plan that was developed with feedback from local officials, residents and business owners.

“We know the fire was deeply felt by the community and we want to ensure that we are doing everything we can to provide transparency and clarity as the work starts,” Brockman said.

A website launched by the EPA with updates, resources and other information is at shorturl.at/NXBwu.

An investigation to determine how the fire started is well underway, according to Yeager, who called it a “very complex,” multistep process. There have been no “definitive findings” as to what happened, he said.

The Monterey County Republican Party earlier this month demanded the Texas-based Vistra provide monetary reparations in the amount of \$500 million to



PHOTO/EPA

Workers stand in front of a heavily fire-damaged building that housed 100,000 lithium-ion batteries.

those impacted by the fire, party official David Burkean told The Pine Cone. Vistra was given a total of \$500 million in federal tax credits and state-mandated power purchases, the GOP claimed.

“Such reparations probably won’t be the total of Vistra’s liability, but it will help ameliorate the immense losses suffered by the good people and businesses in the surrounding area,” the group said Aug. 4.

Numerous residents claiming they were injured by the fire have filed lawsuits seeking monetary damages from Vistra and other defendants.



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City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Street Address Workgroup
Public Workshops

The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea invites you to participate in upcoming public workshops where the Street Address Working Group will present its findings. Each workshop will include a Q&A session, and your feedback is encouraged and appreciated.

Dates and Times:

- Wednesday, August 27 - 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
- Thursday, September 4 - 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location:

Sunset Center, Carpenter Hall Room (Located near the southwest corner of 8th and Mission Street, Carmel)

Remote Participation:

Workshops will be held in person at Carpenter Hall and via Zoom Webinar. Zoom access information will be available on the workshop agendas posted to the City’s website (ci.carmel.ca.us) prior to each workshop. Recordings will also be available afterward on the City’s YouTube channel.

Do you have questions or specific information you would like covered at the meeting?

Email your questions to: askstreetaddresses@ci.carmel.ca.us

For more info visit:

<https://ci.carmel.ca.us/street-addresses>

MAYOR

From page 27A

decisions fell within the reviewing body’s authority.

When appellate review shifts toward substituting different preferences or reopening settled questions, some challenges can emerge. Decision-makers without deep project history may face difficulty maintaining consistency, and specialized knowledge from regular design review practice may become underutilized.

■ The value of decision finality

Effective governance requires that thorough decisions carry weight. When approvals reached through extensive review can be easily reopened, problems follow. Process efficiency suffers with staff time getting redirected from new projects to re-examining settled matters. The initial review process also loses value when decisions feel preliminary.

In addition, public engagement becomes uncertain. Citizens participating in planning meetings expect their input to influence final outcomes. When those outcomes carry less weight, participation may decline.

Predictability is important and projects designed to meet existing standards should have reasonable approval certainty. When compliance feels insufficient, it affects project quality and discourages proposals from being submitted.

Process challenges are likely to affect

the ability to achieve state mandates such as housing requirements. Carmel must demonstrate progress on new housing opportunities over the coming years. Creating predictable approval pathways helps ensure appropriate housing projects will be encouraged and can move forward efficiently while maintaining our design standards and community character.

■ Continuous improvement

Good governance requires ongoing evaluation of our systems. Different perspectives on how our processes work can highlight opportunities for improvement: more specific and even objective design criteria, clearer decision-making procedures, or refined standards that better serve everyone involved.

The goal is creating systems where thorough initial review produces reliable outcomes, where appeals address genuine concerns, and where all participants understand their roles. When these elements work together, local government functions effectively: fairly, predictably, and focused on community success.

Municipal government works best when we make decisions well, within proper authority, with appropriate respect for established processes, and with empathy for all parties.

This approach builds public trust and creates conditions for addressing our community’s needs.

To hear a podcast generated from this column go to cli.re/balancing.

Dale Byrne is Mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea. His email is dbyrne@cbs.us.

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LETTERS

From page 26A

business and housing for the community. I urge those who feel the same way to get involved and help turn this travesty around.

Let’s make Carmel the place that you’d genuinely want to say is, “A great place to visit and you would want to live here.”

Tom Dunham, Carmel

When equal treatment isn’t

Dear Editor,

Carmel’s beauty was built on creativity and fairness — but lately, a handful of insiders have been twisting the rules to decide who gets to build and who doesn’t. As a longtime Carmel developer, I believe in projects that respect our municipal codes, follow our design guidelines, and enhance our village. But those rules must apply equally to everyone.

Mr. Pastor’s project at Seventh and Dolores has been mired in delays for years — not because it fails to meet code, but because a small group has weaponized the process to block it. If one of their friends owned the property, it would likely have been approved long ago. The same thing happened with his “Big Dig” project at Fifth and Dolores, which faced no such obstacles under previous, well-connected owners. They even tried to deny Patrice Pastor Mills Act benefits — granted freely to the prior owner — by claiming he was “too rich,” a criterion that simply doesn’t exist in the law.

This is not about special treatment; it’s about equal treatment. In Carmel, property rights and the rule of law should not depend on how long you’ve lived here, your income, or whether you’re part of a certain social circle. Carmel’s charm was built on creative freedom and architectural variety. Now, a handful of people want to dictate what’s acceptable, twisting the system to enforce their personal tastes. That’s not preservation — it’s control.

We must stand up for fair, consistent application of the law so that all lawful, code-compliant projects—whether from longtime locals or new residents — can move forward without years of unnecessary obstruction. If you

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value fairness, speak up. Show up at hearings. Write letters. Please don’t let a small entrenched group of people decide the future of our town. Equal treatment under the law isn’t just a principle — it’s the foundation of a healthy, vibrant Carmel.

Fred Kern, Carmel

Called it quits
Dear Editor,

I am very sorry, but not surprised, to hear that Patrice Pastor has called it quits in Carmel. Following the story of The Pit in The Pine Cone made it very clear that he has not been treated fairly. He took on a pit that someone else created, that was detrimental to its neighbors, and the city turned him down repeatedly when he submitted plans. He even had to downsize from the previously approved project.

He’s spent years trying to provide needed housing at Seventh and Dolores. An elevated walkway between

buildings does not make them one building and a concrete wall isn’t historic.

Unfortunately, I must agree with Pastor, it seems that following the guidelines and codes doesn’t get your projects approved if the city doesn’t want your business.

Pastor has sought answers for problems in Carmel and the city has allowed 10 or so people to throw roadblocks in front of every project. The planning commission unanimously approved his project on Dolores. The city council should have taken their decision and given final approval.

Bunny Ginn, Carmel

What the staff must do

Dear Editor,

Patrice Pastor’s conclusion that he and his development group are not wanted by this “strange community, if you can call it a community” confirms his disdain for

See **MORE LETTERS** page 36A

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

CHS alum pursues business degree and football stardom at Georgia Tech

BORN AND bred Southerners will educate you, lickety-split, that there ain’t no such thing as autumn in those parts.

The four seasons where the catfish jump and the cotton is high are winter, spring, summer — and football.

That’s a big part of the attraction for J.T. Byrne, a Yankee from Carmel who couldn’t be more excited about playing the final season of his college football career for the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets.

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

The Carmel High alumnus (Class of ’21) reports that he’s acclimating almost too well.

“I was on the phone with my buddy, who I grew up with, and I said, ‘So, what are y’all up to tonight?’

“And he said, ‘What did you just say? Dude, you’ve only been there for, like, five months!’”

Byrne made previous stops at Oregon State — 2021, when he took a redshirt year, and 2022, when he played nine games as a redshirt-freshman — then two seasons at UC Berkeley (appearing in 16 games in 2023 and 2024), where he earned his bachelor’s degree in political economy.

Different kind of history

At Georgia Tech, he’s pursuing his master’s in business management, cashing in his final year of NCAA eligibility, and savoring the Southern charm, fried food (in moderation, of course), and the football fever that makes the Deep South famous.

“The way the people in this state embrace Georgia Tech football is pretty cool,” Byrne said. “Their enthusiasm makes you flippin’ proud to represent a school with so much history.”

Not to say that there wasn’t history at Oregon State and



PHOTOS/COURTESY GEORGIA TECH ATHLETICS

A playmaker at Carmel High, J.T. Byrne was a blocker at Oregon State and Cal, but loves the offense at Georgia Tech, where tight ends are part of the Yellow Jackets’ passing game (left). Thousands of football enthusiasts showed up at Georgia Tech Fan Day, where Byrne and his teammates signed countless autographs (above).

Cal, “but it’s a different kind of history in the South” he said. “Coach Brent Key is a guy who played at Georgia Tech (Class of 2001), and he instills a sense of all the pride that’s behind the Tech logo.”

Byrne already has witnessed the zeal of the fiercely loyal fanbase of the team they call “The Ramblin’ Wreck of Georgia Tech.”

“Thousands of people showed up to get our autographs

at Georgia Tech Fan Day. They didn’t even get to watch us on the field, but their enthusiasm was off the charts,” Byrne said. “It was something I obviously hadn’t been a part of before.”

At Carmel High, Byrne earned all-state honors in 2020, his final football season, amassing 1,321 total yards,

See **SPORTS** next page



GALLERY MAR



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SPORTS

From previous page

scoring 12 touchdowns and passing for six more while playing tight end, wide receiver, and occasionally at quarterback. As a linebacker and defensive end, he was credited with 14.5 tackles for a loss, including 7.5 sacks. He forced six fumbles and intercepted two passes. In Georgia, they bellow, “That dawg will hunt!” about a kid like that. And those stats are from his junior year. His senior season, in 2021, was limited to one game by the Covid pandemic. Oregon State coaches gave him a full-ride scholarship and immediately converted him to a blocking tight end. He added almost 50 pounds to his 6-foot-5 frame during his two years there. Byrne never caught a pass for the Beavers, or the Cal Golden Bears.

At Georgia Tech, he also figures to be primarily a blocker, but calls the Yellow Jackets’ offensive system “a perfect fit” for his tool set. “The tight ends will be involved in the passing game here, for sure,” he said. “I’d love to disclose everything we’re going to do, because it’s pretty exciting, but I’ll just say I think it’ll be a really fun year for everyone.” Big positive for Byrne: Before becoming head coach of the Yellow Jackets in 2022, Key, an all-conference guard in his playing days, coached tight ends for four seasons at two previous stops.

Biscuits and gravy

Byrne already has a fondness for Southern cuisine, noting, “I treat myself to a biscuits-and-gravy dinner every once in a while — we all deserve an occasional cheat day,” and declares that he has fallen in love with Atlanta, where the university is based. “I live right in midtown, about a half-mile from the stadium,” he said. “Everything is within walking distance, and the

city has some good little taverns and a very cool live-music scene.” He also has sampled that famous heat and humidity that inspired the city’s infamous nickname — “Hotlanta.” The temperature on the field for the first practice of the year was 103 degrees — or, as Southerners might say, “hotter’n a blister bug in a pepper patch,” “hotter’n a pair o’ sweat-pants full o’ barbecue,” or “hotter’n hell, and half o’ Georgia.” Byrne’s folks, Tom and Marilyn, flew from the Peninsula last week for parents weekend and a chance to watch the Yellow Jackets scrimmage, and he expects to see them at multiple games this season.

Eastbound planes

“They’re empty-nesters — my sister is also on the East Coast now, playing volleyball at Middlebury College,” in Vermont, he said of Caroline (CHS ’24), a 5-11 outside hitter in her sophomore year with the Panthers. “We’ve got a football game at Boston College — a three-hour drive from Middlebury — so they may try to hit my game, then drive up to watch my sister play some volleyball.” He anticipates another reunion with his folks on opening day — Aug. 19 — when the Yellow Jackets will face Colorado (coached by Deion Sanders) in Boulder. Georgia Tech’s Atlantic Coast Conference opener is two weeks later (Sept. 13) against Top 10-ranked Clemson in Atlanta, where Bobby Dodd Stadium, capacity: 52,000, will be rockin’. “The ACC is always competitive, and Clemson historically is a really good team, so I’m excited for that one, as well,” he said. “But every team in this conference is going to give you a good run, so you just have to focus on going 1-0 every week.”



J.T. Byrne was a three-sport standout at Carmel High, where he earned first-team all-state recognition as an all-purpose player in football.

PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Among five tight ends at the school, Byrne (6-5, 265) is No. 3 on the depth-chart in camp — but he’s still very much in the getting-acquainted stage. “As a transfer, you don’t want to come in and do a lot of talking right away,” said Byrne, who turns 23 on Nov. 14. “Nobody knows who you are, and the best way to

become a leader is to earn credibility by doing all the little things correctly. You show up on time. You do well in school. You set an example. You have to earn the respect.” Dennis Taylor is a professional freelance writer in Monterey County. Contact him at scribelaureate@gmail.com.

Carmel Foundation sets open house

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

IN CELEBRATION of 75 years of service to people 55 and older, The Carmel Foundation will host an open house Aug. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. “This free event offers a chance to explore the foundation’s vibrant campus and experience a day filled with activities, creativity and connection,” the Foundation said. Guests will be invited to tour the campus at Lincoln and Eighth and sit n on free classes and demonstrations in “art, wellness, games and lifelong learning,” as well as visit the new Jill Sheffield Wellness Studio — named for the organization’s former president — featuring yoga, qi gong, medi-

tation and other classes. Activities planned for the afternoon include ping-pong, bridge, chess, Rummikub and cornhole alongside creative arts like woodcarving, watercolor, wool felting and papercrafts. The Lee Durley Duo will play, and Pablo Veliz will offer a talk on aging well. “And of course, it wouldn’t be a celebration without good food,” organizers said, with free tacos from Taquitos Nayarit and freshly baked treats from the foundation’s kitchen. “Whether you’ve been a member for decades or are visiting for the first time, everyone is welcome, no matter your age,” the group said. For more information visit carmelfoundation.org or call (831) 624-1588.

Do Souls Have Colors, Daddy?

by Paul Martin

“Do Souls have colors Daddy?”
a child was heard to say.
When someone goes to heaven,
does their color stay the same?

Does each different color Soul
go to a different color place.
Is it likely Souls in heaven,
are separated in this way?

Will Souls have nationalities,
or do they leave them all behind?
Do they speak in different languages,
will Souls alike be hard to find?

Sad Souls whose hearts are bound to
those, from whom they’ve had to part.
Will God relieve their suffering,
will He mend their broken hearts?

Can Souls be men or women,
is it possible to choose?
Will they stay forever young,
will they continue to improve?



My child, her caring father said,
I’m sure our Souls are all alike,
they’re colorless and genderless
and are all equal in God’s eyes.

Relationships are different there,
Love is true, like Best Old Friends.
and everyone is very happy,
just to be with God again.

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PAINTERS PAY TRIBUTE TO SHELBY'S

CELEBRATING ONE of America's most iconic sports cars, a display of paintings, "The Art of Speed," is on display through Aug. 24 next to the putting green at the Lodge at Pebble Beach.

The exhibit, which includes both originals and limited-edition prints signed by some of racing's greatest drivers, pays tribute to the legendary 427 Shelby Cobra on its 60th anniversary.

"This captivating exhibition showcases a collection of original and limited-edition motorsport artwork," said Tim Martin, who founded the event. "More than a display, it is a stirring homage to the automobile itself — and to the legendary Carroll Shelby,

Martin said the exhibit offers a fascinating look into one of racing's most memorable chapters.

Besides Shelby Cobras, the show features paintings of Ferraris, Porsches, McLarens and other extraordinary race cars.

The display is open from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily.

Old works and new

Delving into its archives, the Monterey Museum of Art last week unveiled a show that celebrates California art before 1945.

"Selected from the museum's permanent collection, this exhibition includes the work of iconic California artists who helped shape the artistic region," the museum said. "Whether visiting to see an old favorite or explore something new, this exhibition is a rare chance to experience this historic slice of our collection."

The show continues through Jan. 18, 2026. The museum — which is open Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. — is at 559 Pacific St. montereyart.org.

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

whose vision and passion forever changed the world of performance and design."

The painters — Danny Day from San Diego and Nicholas Watts from England — not only capture the iconic car on their canvases, but five of its drivers as well, including Dan Gurney, Phil Hill, Brian Redman, Vic Elford and John Surtees.



This painting of a 427 Shelby Cobra by Danny Day is one of the pieces in a special exhibit, "The Art of Speed," at the Pebble Beach Lodge.

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MORE LETTERS

From page 31A

us and our values. His local manager, Chris Mitchell, may share that contempt. He states that the permitting process for the Seventh and Dolores development “has made a mockery of the city’s own rules.”

Hyperbole aside, his complaint has some validity; it’s the basis for our appeal — process mistakes were made. But mistakes in the city’s process are management issues, and for now, the city council must correct the substantive consequences of those mistakes.

Since 1929, Carmel residents have used our laws to protect the city’s character. The last generation adopted a general plan and land use laws that have worked well in this regard. The appellants asked that the council interpret those laws to further their intent and then ensure that this development conforms to those requirements. Unfortunately, current city practices may be muddling that quasi-judicial process.

One of your articles reports that, “In the event of an appeal, staff will always recommend backing the decision made by the lower body, as Kort does in his Aug. 4 report.” That loyalty is misplaced. Staff owes its allegiance to the community, its laws and its elected representatives. In the present context, that means that the staff must fully, correctly and without bias inform the city council on the issues presented in the appeal. The city attorney shares that obligation.

Steve Hillyard,
Carmel

Shame on the Gang of 11

Dear Editor,

Why pull this last-minute protest against Patrice Pastor’s project to redevelop the property on Dolores and Seventh? The project has been redesigned five times over six years, and unfortunately during this significant time delay, the bank property slipped over the 50-year mark, making it “historical.” But it is not historically significant. In fact, I think it is ugly and not in keeping with the European flavor found in the rest of the downtown area. The “community center” building is an add-on and looks like a total afterthought. The decorative concrete wall looks like a kindergarten’s first classroom project — which, by the way, has previously been reduced in size. If this piece of art needs to be preserved, move it down to the foot of Ocean next to the beach. And, Gang of 11, if you are so opposed to the current project proposal, why don’t you pony up the money and build something there yourselves. Then you can have all the underground parking and landscaping you so desire.

Gail Farmer,
Pebble Beach

‘Reached his limit’

Dear Editor,

The small group of people who have made Patrice Pastor’s life miserable for the past six years should teach a master class entitled, “How to ensure nothing ever gets done in Carmel.” I can only assume this group has a hidden agenda that will soon be revealed along with their plan to develop The Pit in a way to benefit the entire city, not just themselves.

I am saddened but unsurprised to learn that the tenacious and patient Mr. Pastor finally reached his limit.

Jan Praisner, *Pebble Beach*

‘How sad’

Dear Editor,

Short and sweet — how sad for Carmel. We see a person of substance who is able to say, “I’m not going to take it anymore.” And rightly so. Carmel has been unwelcoming and difficult beyond reasonableness. Shame on them, our supposed “leaders.” We, the people, lose in the end. With apologies, Mr. Pastor, you deserve better, as do all.

William B. Baron, *Carmel*

The childless city

Dear Editor,

When we moved to Carmel in 2020, at the start of the pandemic, we were excited. As a returning local, I hoped to raise our kids in the community I once loved. But what we found was far from welcoming.

Almost immediately, our children were met with hostility just for being kids. Their bike rides and laughter drew scowls from neighbors. One man cursed and threw a ball at our child’s window. Another shouted expletives because they were outside “too late” — on the first night of summer break. That same summer, our youngest broke her elbow after hitting a pothole. There’s only one playground in the village, and it’s in poor condition: outdated equipment, litter and dead grass. Clearly, child-friendly spaces aren’t a priority here.

We expected a high cost of living and did our research. What we didn’t expect was how quickly it would become unsustainable. Since 2020, our rent has risen nearly 50 percent. Our home — owned by elderly landlords with multiple properties — hasn’t had a kitchen update since the 1990s. And buying? Completely out of reach, despite our past experience as homeowners.

The neighborhood’s makeup tells the story. To our right, an elderly woman living alone in a 2,000-square-foot home. To our left, a seasonal couple here a few weekends a year. Across the street, an Airbnb full of noisy tourists. Down the road, a run-down bungalow sold for \$1.4 million in cash to an out-of-state investor, who turned it into a mini-mansion he visits quarterly. The rest of the year, it’s either empty or rented out.

Carmel doesn’t act like it wants children — or working families. It caters to tourists, investors, retirees, and cars.

For families like ours, hoping to plant roots and build community, the message is loud and clear: you don’t belong.

To put it bluntly, Carmel treats young families like gum — chewed up and spit out.

Wren Renee, *Carmel*

Happier news, please

Dear Editor,

In one of the busiest times of the year for the Monterey Peninsula with its influx of visitors from around the world in town for the start of Concours-related festivities and events, topics that the front page of last week’s Carmel Pine Cone elected to focus on included murder, burglary, fatal dog attacks, suggestions that locals might enjoy driving over birds that are still apparently learning to fly, and a false, misleading and unproven allegation that our community might be “strange.” This is a lot to digest for one single page of headline news. How about we switch back to the quaintness and charm of the village, all of the beautiful trees, and the lovely summer weather for a little bit?

Adam Moniz, *Carmel*

Let dogs be free

Dear Editor,

I still remember the sound of two pit bulls attacking a little puppy in the Home Depot parking lot and the screaming and crying of the owner carrying the dying puppy away. I sympathize with the poor child that had to witness her beloved puppy being killed by a loose dog but making all dog owners place their dogs on leash at Garland Park will not stop this kind of thing from happening again.

People like this jerk who sat there smoking while his dog ran around unsupervised and passing out fake phone numbers would more than likely ignore any leash law. No, the only people that would be hurt by such a leash law at Garland would be responsible dog owners who are looking for a large area to run and exercise their dogs.

There are so many county parks and beaches where dogs are not allowed or must be kept on a leash. Please let us have Carmel Beach and Garland Park as areas where we can be responsible owners with big dogs who need to run.

Trying to rid the area of a**holes by restricting the actions of everyone is not the answer.

Susan Rogers, *Carmel Valley*

Truth about water

Dear Editor,

Jack Angel says we need more water, but there is no restriction on amounts now except outside watering twice weekly and the high cost. Cost would worsen under his proposed solution. And conservation is common sense if we appreciate this vital resource.

If he wants to remove the cease and desist order on

Continues next page

An Open Letter to the Carmel Community

Many of you know me through my local real estate business, and some of you truly know me. I was born in the old Carmel hospital up on Valley Way and raised here. My parents purchased the La Playa in 1962, and later the Sundial Lodge. My father owned Bud’s Pub, later Bud’s Too, and was a remarkable local entrepreneur, hotelier, and restaurateur. He gave back to the community, thought creatively, and was generous and kind. My mother was exactly the same.

I’m grateful to have grown up with such parents. I learned the value of teamwork while working at La Playa, starting in the laundry room at the age of 10. Our team at La Playa came from many backgrounds, races, and perspectives, yet we worked together for one goal: the best guest experience possible. That’s why I believe in growing the pie by working together for the betterment of all.

Why I’m Writing

I recently read an article in The Pine Cone about the appeal against the Pastor Project at Dolores and Seventh. I sold this property to Patrice Pastor six years ago. At the time, the city confirmed there were no historic issues with the site, including the annex building and certainly not the concrete wall, which I understand has been modified multiple times.

Patrice submitted a beautiful plan, ample parking, public restrooms, EV chargers, additional much-needed housing, and smaller, more affordable retail space. His design was thoughtful, elegant, and community-minded.

Unfortunately, the process became mired in delays. The city later declared parts of the property historic, prompting Patrice to redesign five different times, in response to various requests, including preserving the “historic” wall. Eventually, he earned unanimous approval from both the Planning Commission and city staff after six years of work, involving thousands of hours of investment by city staff and planners, architects, consultants, and community input, as well as hundreds of thousands of dollars in costs and fees.

Yet, a small self-interested group appealed the decision. City staff reviewed their points and found them unjustified. Even so, the project was halted, seemingly due to political influence and behind-the-scenes maneuvering that forced certain commissioners to recuse themselves.

My Two Main Concerns

1. Dysfunction in City Process
How can a city function when planning experts evaluate design and development, approve a project unanimously, city staff supports it, and yet a small group can derail it through procedural gamesmanship? This undermines trust and progress.

2. Misusing Goodwill as a Weapon
What hurts most is that our history of charitable work has been twisted and used against my friend, Patrice. I’ve known Patrice and his family for years; he is kind, generous, and committed to Carmel’s future.

When COVID hit, my friend Dale Byrne and I both started nonprofits to help the community. Dale launched Carmel Cares, and I started Carmel Gives through the Community Foundation. We worked together to help struggling businesses, provide food and masks, support first responders, clean beaches, repair walkways, plant neglected spaces, and much more. Since its founding, Carmel Gives has granted over \$2.5 million to causes benefiting our community, and we’ve supported Carmel Cares, which has contributed many thousands of hours benefitting our city and local businesses, with regular funding.

Our efforts kept businesses afloat, fed the hungry, and improved our public spaces. To see this goodwill turned into a political weapon employed against my friend, who is doing good work in our community, is deeply discouraging.

Why This Matters for Carmel’s Future

The property known as “The Pit” is just that, a long-vacant, undeveloped eyesore. Patrice has the resources, vision, and commitment to turn it into something beautiful and beneficial for Carmel. This project, along with the Dolores and 7th project, would bring housing, jobs, retail opportunities, and tax revenue. Our infrastructure is aging, our buildings need updates, and our city needs long-term investors who care about quality.

Carmel’s future depends on encouraging thoughtful development, not stifling it through insider politics and obstruction. We must work together, as we once did in my family’s hotel, to make Carmel better for everyone.

I love this city. It is my home. My business, my heart, and my history are here. Let’s stop letting politics override expertise, and let’s stop weaponizing kindness. Let’s grow the pie together.

— Tim Allen

From previous page

new water connections, he should talk to Cal Am. Completion of Pure Water Monterey has meant no illegal water taken from the Carmel River for three years. Cal Am could apply to the State Water Resources Control Board for removal, but refuses. Why? They're holding us hostage to build their expensive, environmentally damaging desal plant charging over \$6,000 an acre-foot and raising rates an additional 50 to 70 percent. Cal Am's new 2027 rate request starts at 14 percent, growing to over 20 percent by 2029. Together, this could double our water rates. Would you still use more?

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District will pursue removal of the cease-and-desist order in 2026 because expansion of Pure Water Monterey will provide 5,750 acre-feet per year in additional water and no illegal Carmel River water. The district will offer some water credits due to this expansion. Current Peninsula usage is about 9,000 AFY. The fact is there is about 12,000 AFY available for development to proceed, but Cal Am won't help by requesting removal of the CDO.

AMBAG estimates the growth rate for the next 25 years at 10.4 percent, not 50 percent pushed by Cal Am with its nearly 14,000 AFY estimate. The CPUC proposed demand decision is highly inaccurate because Cal Am double-counts data already included. In fact, since 2005, Cal Am has overestimated yearly demand by 20 to 173 percent. Yes, we should write to the CPUC, but we should tell them, like all of the public agencies who testified, that the demand need is no more than 11,200 AFY.

Susan Schiavone, Seaside

School district plans

Dear Editor,

At a recent meeting of the Carmel Rotary Club, the guest speaker was Sharon Ofek, superintendent of Carmel Unified School District. Her topic was the Carmel School District's Strategic Plan, CUSD Forward. She was joined by Dan Paul, the district's chief operations officer, and Yvonne Perez, the chief business officer. Their presentation involved a summary of the strategic plan as well as an explanation of the immense amount of time and effort that was involved in achieving it.

Successful education involves includ-

ing a wide array of stakeholders whose input is crucial in crafting a plan that is educationally sound, transparent, and perhaps most importantly, allows the students to be successful. The strategic plan focuses on four areas: Student Achievement and Instruction, Student and Staff Safety and Wellness, Engaged Families and Community Partners, and Optimized Resources. If you would like more detail on these four categories, please visit the district's web site at carmelunified.org.

At this point, I am aware, as are others, that some of the recent missteps of the school board and the district in general might not inspire confidence in the implementation of this important plan. My response is that there comes a time when you have to not allow past performance

to weigh too heavily on future endeavors. Look through the windshield, not the rear-view mirror.

The enthusiasm, dedication, and passion Ofek brought to her presentation was immediately evident as was her commitment to stay the course on this plan. I believe that the hard work by the many individuals involved in crafting this strategic plan bodes well for its success. Speaking to Carmel Rotary was the first stop on a tour that will have Ofek speaking to local groups, clubs and stakeholders. An informed public is crucial to the success of any school district. I wish her and her staff and all the others responsible for helping Carmel Unified remain on its path towards continued excellence.

John Ruskell, Carmel

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LIVES

From page 27A

really only planned to work for Pan Am for two years but ended up staying for 15.” Jones traveled extensively throughout Europe, a little of Africa, all over South America, and in Asia, which she called her favorite destination.

Stories — often about celebrities — abound from 15 years of dealing with passengers on international flights. They range from Jones having food thrown at her by a fading film and television actress, to Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward inviting her and the entire crew to a party in their suite at the Turnberry Hotel in Scotland. “They were wonderful people,” she recalled.

Aplomb, self-assurance

In 1984, Jones and her husband moved from San Mateo to their home in Pebble Beach. She worked in real estate finance for 15 years in Carmel and Monterey, including a stint as president of Coastal Mortgage in Pacific Grove from 2000 to 2009. In 2018, she decided to retire. “I enjoyed the mortgage business, but it was just 50 percent of my passion, and it allowed me to do other things. Jay agreed it was time.”

“Just don’t expect me to fix you lunch everyday,” she

cautioned him.

She volunteered at Concours in 1998, working three three-hour shifts weekly in the front office, answering phones and greeting people.

“It was so interesting and exciting, and I enjoyed it so much I wanted more,” she said. The next year, Jones asked to work full-day shifts. In the early 2000s, she was working six days a week in the run-up to the event and found herself in charge of the eight volunteers in the front office group. By 2010, she was responsible for recruiting, training and organizing the front desk staff for show week. She took on similar responsibilities for 18 volunteers who sell posters, provide general information and hand out maps at Concours Village, the main gate, and the show field. Jones was named to the Concours executive committee in 2016.

One challenge is making sure the 1,000-plus volunteers want to return each year. Because of their responsibilities, many never get to see the show, though Jones said she tries to build the schedule “so they all get time to see the cars and get involved in the excitement.” The volunteers do it because of their dedication, their love of the event and the considerable money it brings to the community, she said. And the work is not without its challenges.

“Concours week is busy — really busy — especially Sunday, where there is a fairly high stress level. It’s a very expensive one-day event, and people want what they want, and if it’s not what they expected, they can get angry,” she said. But nothing has arisen that come close to stress levels brought on by the bomb scares and aircraft mechanical issues that Jones experienced as a flight attendant.

Everyone at the front desk was a flight attendant

One year, someone pointed out that everyone at the front desk was either a current or former flight attendant. “That gives one a vision of what the ladies of the front desk are all about. All are excellent hosts and greeters, able to handle stress or difficulties with aplomb and self-assurance,” said Jones.

Volunteering has been a way of life for her, evidenced not only by her more than a quarter-century with Concours, but by the 30 years she’s worked with the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.

“Community Hospital was an edict from my mother, who volunteered there for 20 years,” she explained. Jones started in the office and was chairman of various services. She and her mother ran the gift shop for two years and Jones served two years as president of the Volunteer Auxiliary. She also co-chaired three U.S. Open volunteer groups at Pebble Beach in 1992, 2000 and 2010 on behalf of Pacific Grove Unified School District and in conjunction with P.G. Pride.

Pacific Grove, Monterey and Carmel School districts each received \$100,000 for providing student, parent, teacher and staff volunteers for the event. And Jones recruited 200 of them.

Not by knitting alone

As president of the P.G. Rotary Club in 2000 and 2001 — she’s still a member — she was instrumental in bringing the nationwide Dictionary Project to Pacific Grove. Every year, the project brings grade-level-specific dictionaries to every third grader in public or private schools in town.

“It’s really a cool little book and a great way to interact with kids when we deliver them,” enthused Jones.

Since her husband passed three years ago, volunteering has become even more of a focus in her life. “I can’t see myself sitting on the couch, knitting — as much as I love to knit,” she said. “Through all these years I’ve really enjoyed feeling that I’ve made someone’s life experience a little better.”

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This Week

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Drummer honors dad by playing landmark album Tuesday at Golden State

CAPTURING THE energy of a rock band his father helped make one of the most famous on earth, drummer **Jason Bonham** celebrates the music of Led Zeppelin Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

Bonham and his band — under the banner of “A Led Zeppelin Evening” — are marking the 50th anniversary of that group’s “Physical Graffiti” album, a two-record set that featured “Kashmir” and other memorable songs.



Jason Bonham and his band pay homage to the music of Led Zeppelin Tuesday, 7 p.m., at the Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

Many fans consider the album to be the band’s creative pinnacle.

On stage, Bonham will be joined by singer and guitarist **James Dylan**, lead guitarist **Jimmy Sakurai**, keyboardist **Alex Howland** and bassist **Dorian Heartsong**.

Tickets start at \$65. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 659-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

Also at Golden State, **Fleetwood Macramé** pays tribute to Fleetwood Mac Saturday at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$25.

■ Chamber music tickets on sale

Tickets are now on sale for Chamber Music Monterey Bay’s new season, which kicks off Nov. 1 with a concert by **The Escher String Quartet** with violist **Luke Fleming**.

The rest of the schedule includes performances by **The Lysander Piano Trio** (Jan. 10), **The Morganstern Trio** (Feb. 28), **The Dover Quartet** (March 28) and **The Calidore String Quartet** (May 2).

“We are proud to announce our 59th season, which includes five unforgettable Saturday evening concerts at Sunset Center,” said the group, which is “dedicated to preserving chamber music’s legacy and fostering its future.”

Season packages and individual tickets are on sale. A limited number of free tickets are available for kids in grades 3 through 12. For more details, call (831) 625-2212 or visit chambermusicmontereybay.org. Sunset Center is at San Carlos and Ninth in Carmel.



Chamber Music Monterey Bay’s new season begins Nov. 1 with a performance of Mozart and Brahms by The Escher String Quartet.

■ Trio plays jazz at Cherry Center

Jazz pianist **Dick Whittington** will be joined by bassist **Dan Robbins** and drummer **Leon Joyce Jr.** when he plays Sunday, 2 p.m., at the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts. “Dick and his trio will treat us to an array of tunes from the Great American Songbook, featuring works by composers Harold Arlen, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Richard Rodgers, as well as jazz standards

See MUSIC page 43A

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FOOD & WINE

A dog day in August, lots of kebabs and Bernardus gets a new chef

IT’S FINALLY arrived — the big weekend celebration that caps off 10 days of car mania on the Monterey Peninsula. It all culminates with the swanky Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance Sunday, where folks will sip champagne while evaluating the finer points of vehicles that cost as much as some houses — even around here. And, of course, lots of money will be raised for local charities.

Just a reminder that if the crowds keep you from getting a seat at your favorite eatery, many local shops and restaurants offer takeout, including Golden Pine Cone winners like Tommy’s Wok, Vesuvio, Carmel Belle, Crossroads Barbeque — where the pulled pork with hogwash sauce is terrific — 5th Avenue Deli, Café Rustica in Carmel Valley, which has great wood-fired pizza, and so many others.

The world doesn’t stop turning when the fancy wheels do, although it will be a bit quieter, so here’s some news about life after Car Week.

■ Bernardus gets new chef

Bernardus Lodge at 415 W. Carmel Valley Road announced it has named Gus Trejo as its new executive chef.

Trejo has extensive experience in kitchens around the state and in Europe, a hotel representative said, and he will oversee the culinary program at the hotel’s Lucia Restaurant & Bar. Known for his seasonal, sustainable approach, Trejo will bring his vision to the property’s fresh, local menus and “signature culinary experiences.”

“We are delighted to welcome Gus, with his soulful, ingredient-driven approach to cuisine,” Hartmut Ott, the resort’s general manager, said in a statement. “His arrival marks an exciting new chapter for Bernardus Lodge and reaffirms our reputation as a culinary destination.”

Trejo’s cooking style reflects his Portuguese and Latin background and is influenced by “years spent on his uncle’s ranch in Portugal.” He emphasizes sustainability,



It’s time to think about life after Car Week. The 25th annual Monterey Turkish Arts & Culture Festival is coming to the city’s Custom House Plaza, with the smells and delicious flavors of kebabs, along with Turkish music and dance, and artisans selling textiles, handmade jewelry, and ceramics.



heritage and a deep respect for this area’s land and sea. The folks at the lodge expect that their new executive chef’s cuisine will showcase ingredients from Bernardus’ on-site organic gardens, neighboring farms, and fresh seafood from Monterey Bay.

Trejo previously led the culinary team at Jack O’Neill Restaurant & Lounge at the Dream Inn in Santa Cruz and previously worked in Monterey for more than a decade. He’s also done turns at prominent properties in San Diego, Maui and Granada, Spain, and enjoys blending European

Soup to Nuts

techniques with California’s seasonal produce.

The lodge said Trejo will bring elevated California cuisine paired with the resort’s extensive wine program, which includes a 15,000-bottle cellar. Signature experiences, such as the Chef’s Table, will offer customers a behind-the-scenes look at Trejo’s creative process. The small dining venue seats five guests for a multicourse tasting menu and is available by reservation only at bernar-

duslodge.com/carmel-valley-hotels/culinary-experience.

“The hotel’s commitment to sustainability, community partnerships and culinary excellence aligns beautifully with my personal philosophy,” Trejo said. “I see each dish as a way to honor the people and places behind the ingredients.”

■ Cypress Inn celebrates Dog Day

There’s no way the Cypress Inn was going to miss this observance. The landmark hotel — formerly owned by legendary singer, actress and animal advocate Doris Day — will host Paws & Pour at the Inn from 4 to 7 p.m. Aug. 26, in celebration of National Dog Day.

The event will take place in the hotel’s pet-friendly courtyard and Terry’s Restaurant + Lounge. Guests are invited to bring their four-legged companions and enjoy specialty cocktails while supporting the Doris Day Animal Foundation, the nonprofit the singer, who died in 2019, founded to benefit animals across the country.

Said organizers, “Established in 2004 by animal behaviorist Colleen Paige, National Dog Day aims to raise

See **FOOD** next page

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FOOD & WINE

FOOD

From previous page

awareness around pet adoption, animal abuse prevention, and support for rescue organizations.”

Tito’s Handmade Vodka will partner with the inn and make a donation to Day’s namesake charity. The company’s Vodka for Dog People program was “inspired by stray dogs found around the distillery,” its website says, and it donates funds to animal welfare nonprofits. With a track record of supporting more than 2,500 such groups over the last five years, Tito’s says it gives 100 percent of net proceeds from the program’s merchandise sales (dog toys, bowls, leashes, bandanas, etc.) to benefit

those organizations. Signature cocktails using the American-made spirit will be served at the event, and there will be giveaways, as well. Said the inn’s general manager. Joseph Violi, “Cypress Inn has always been a home away from home for pets and their people. Partnering with Tito’s on National Dog Day is a natural fit—this event combines our love for dogs with our passion for community and good hospitality.” The Cypress Inn is at Lincoln and Seventh.

Carmel Mission Inn’s dog party

By now, you no doubt know that Tuesday evenings from 5 to 8 p.m. are Dog Bar time at the Carmel Mission Inn’s patio. Though the name conjures up adorable images of Chihuahuas with margaritas and



Look, it’s a salon of poodles! And yes, that’s the right word. Who in their right minds would call these beauties a “pack”? They’re probably headed to the National Dog Day celebration at Cypress Inn later this month.

poodles with champagne, the pups will have to stick to water. Owners can order food for them from a special menu, however, while enjoying Happy Hour bites for humans. Those include short rib poutine, calamari, wings, and anything on the menu in the hotel’s restaurant, Shearwater Tavern. Live music starts at 6 p.m. Since National Dog Day also falls on a Tuesday this year, the timing was too good to pass up, so in addition to the regular fun on Aug. 26, there will be raffles with prizes like doggie gift baskets and at least one hotel stay. Carmel Mission Inn is at 3665 Rio Road.

the Turkish American Association of California.

Planning for Labor Day

The next three-day weekend’s not that far off, and Tidewater restaurant in the Monterey Beach Hotel at the west end of Canyon Del Rey Boulevard is planning a Labor Day beachfront barbecue on Sunday, Aug. 31, and Monday, Sept. 1, from 4 to 8 p.m.

In addition to smoked tri-tip, pork baby back ribs, smoked chicken wings and pulled pork — all served with BBQ sauce or pineapple mustard sauce — guests can choose three sides from options including baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad and mac-and-cheese.

Meals are priced by weight — 8 ounces of meat for \$26, 12 ounces for \$32 and a pound for \$39.

Live music is planned, and Other Brother Beer will be selling some of its craft brews so you can soak up some suds with (one hopes) the sunshine.

Turkish Fest in Monterey

The sights, sounds and flavors of Turkey will come to Monterey as the 25th annual Monterey Turkish Arts & Culture Festival returns Aug. 23-24.

The event, hosted by the Turkish American Association of California, will run from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. both days at Custom House Plaza, next to Old Fisherman’s Wharf. Admission is free.

Marking its 25th year, the festival will feature live Turkish music, folk dancing, art and authentic cuisine. Festivalgoers can watch whirling dervish performances, belly dancing, and take part in new interactive demonstrations, including a Turkish wedding dance lesson. Organizers say visitors can sample different types of kebab — the Turkish spelling of kebab — including Adana (named for a city in southern Turkey), comprising long strips of meat on skewers, and doner, which is meat cooked on a vertical rotisserie. There will also be baklava and Turkish coffee to enjoy while browsing artisan booths offering handmade jewelry, ceramics and textiles.

Special guests tenor Orazio Aiello and accordionist Mike Marotta are scheduled to appear. Children’s activities, including dancing, face painting and games, will be available throughout the weekend.

The festival is presented by



Carmel Mission Inn’s restaurant, Shearwater Tavern, is celebrating National Dog Day during weekly Dog Bar happy hour on Aug. 26.

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Contact your rep today to reserve space in our next edition of Healthy Lifestyles — August 29

Meena Lewellen | (831) 274-8655

meena@carmelpinecone.com

The Carmel Pine Cone

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MUSIC

From page 40A

by Dizzy Gillespie and John Lewis,” the Cherry Center announced.

Tickets are \$45. The Cherry Center is at Guadalupe and Fourth. carlcherrycenter.org

Live music Aug. 15-21

■ Big Sur

Big Sur River Inn — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Saturday at 12:30 p.m.), flutist **Tim Jackson & friends** (jazz, Sunday at 1 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Victor Veysey** and bassist **Kemen Waddell** (funk, jazz and country, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 46800 Highway 1.

Fernwood Resort — **Matt Nice & The Derls** (rock, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

■ Carmel

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

Carmel Mission Inn — **Scarlet** (dance music, Saturday at 7 p.m.). 3665 Rio Road.

Cypress Inn — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz,



(Top) Singer and guitarist Jeffrey A. Meyer plays Pop ‘n’ Hiss in Pacific Grove Saturday, while The Soul Shake (above) performs rock and reggae, Wednesday at Folktale Winery.

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.

De Tierra Vineyards — singer and guitarist **Ted Welty** (Sunday at 3 p.m.). Mission and Fifth.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — multi-instrumentalist **Gary Regina** (jazz, 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.

Links Club — **Cannery Joe** (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.

O’Callaghan’s — **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Friday at 7 p.m.). In The Barnyard shopping center.

■ Carmel Valley

Baja Cantina — **Scarlet** (dance music, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 7166 Carmel Valley Road.

Bernardus Lodge — pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, 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), mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Tuesday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Paul Behan** (Wednesday at 5 p.m.).

415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Edgar’s — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Alison Sharino** (Friday at 5:30 p.m.). 8205 Valley Greens Drive.

Folktale Winery — guitarist **Daniel Cortes** (American roots and traditional Mexican music, Monday at 5 p.m.), **The Soul Shake** (rock and reggae, Wednesday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Thursday at 5

p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

Trailside Cafe — **Boscoe’s Brood** (rock and folk, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

Twisted Roots Winery — mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Sunday at 1 p.m.). 12 Del Fino Place.

See LIVE next page

Worship

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WORSHIP 11 A.M. SUNDAYS

Sermon title:
JESUS ON MARRIAGE

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





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- 10:30 a.m.
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Next opportunity to showcase your business: Sept. 19, 2025
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CALENDAR

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Fridays and 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.

Through 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. 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.

Aug. 23 – The Carmel Foundation celebrates its 75th anniversary with an open house, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at SE corners of Lincoln/Dolores at Eighth, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Enjoy live music, refreshments, take free classes and workshops, and view the new wellness studio. For details, visit carmelfoundation.org or call (831) 624-1588.

Aug. 26 – The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB) will present a dinner lecture at the Hilton Garden Inn. **The presenter is Dr. Craig Whiteside (Lt.Col. U.S.Army, Ret.), professor of National Security Affairs at NPS, whose topic is "The Rise of Violent Non-State Actors and Their Threat to U.S. Interests."** Visit http://www.wacmb.org for event information and registration.

Aug. 29 & 30 – "Neil Diamond Superstar," Jack Wright's National Touring Tribute, is presented at 7 p.m. at Lighthouse Cinema and Event Center, Pacific Grove. Tickets at www.jackwrightshow.com

Sept. 5-7 – Don't miss the 92nd annual Festa Italia at the Custom House Plaza in Monterey. All ages are welcome at this free festive event. Enjoy three days of authentic and delicious Italian cuisine, live music, dancing, bocce tournament, cioppino cooking demo, crafts, Italian-themed merchandise, fun and friendship. www.festaitaliamonterey.org

Sept. 22 – Join us for the Gen Giammanco Foundation Charity Golf Tournament at Corral de Tierra Country Club. The foundation's mission is to provide scholarships to Monterey County college-bound student athletes. For inquiries, donations, or sponsorships, contact Annie Giammanco at (831) 915-1005 or gensfoundation@gmail.com. For golf tournament registration or to join the event reception, visit https://gengiammancofoundation.org/golf-tournament

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LIVE

From previous page

■ Monterey

A Taste of Monterey — singer and guitarist **Jewel Arianna** (Friday at 4:45 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.
Albatross Ridge Winery — singer and guitarist **R.J. DeMarco** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Dan Cioper** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Keith Rayburn** and singer **Maya Rayburn** (Sunday at 2 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.
Bon Ton LeRoy's Smokehouse — **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.



(Top) Singer and guitarist Adam Behan plays Friday at Puma Road Winery. (Above) The Speakeasy Band performs at Sly McFly's on Saturday.

Hyatt Regency Monterey — mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.
InterContinental Hotel — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Sunday at 9 a.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 750 Cannery Row.
Melville Tavern — **Wild at Heart** (country and classic rock, Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.). 484 Washington St.
Midici Pizza — singer **Janice Perl** and keyboardist **TJ Kuenster** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), **The Zach Westfall Trio** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.
Monterey Plaza Hotel — multi-instrumentalist **Gary Meek** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Steve Mann** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (Monday at 6 p.m.), multi-instrumentalist **Gary Regina** (jazz, Tuesday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea's Fault** (jazz and pop, Wednesday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.
Peter B's — guitarist **Richard DeVinck** (classical, Thursday at 6 p.m.). At Portola Hotel, 2 Portola Plaza.

See TUNES next page

TUNES

From previous page

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 **Adam Behan** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Gin Fragonard** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

The Salty Seal Pub — **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 653 Cannery Row.

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

Sly McFly’s — **3 Mile Smile** (classic

rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **The Speakeasy Band** (classic rock, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

■ Pacific Grove

Asilomar Conference Center — **River Voices** (Americana, Friday at 4 p.m.). In the Phoebe Hearst Social Hall at 800 Asilomar Ave.

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

Lucy’s on Lighthouse — **Scarlet** (dance music, Friday at 5 p.m.), **Moon-dance** (pop and rock, Saturday at 2 p.m.), **The Vick Silva Band** (rock, 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.

Pop ’n’ Hiss — singer and guitarist **Jef-frey A. Meyer** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 215 Forest 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.

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



August 29 • 7:00pm

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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

CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA SUMMARY NOTICE OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-003

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at its meeting of Tuesday, July 1, 2025, the City Council conducted the introduction and first reading, and at its meeting on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2025-003:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA ADDING SECTION 2.52.686 TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ESTABLISH A PAID PARENTAL LEAVE BENEFIT FOR CITY EMPLOYEES

AYES: Councilmembers Baron, Buder, Delves, Dramov, and Mayor Byrne. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. This Ordinance was enacted and will go into effect thirty (30) days from the date of its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available in the City Clerk’s Office, Monte Verde, between Ocean and 7th Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA, 93921. If you wish to challenge the action of the City Council in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea City Hall at, or prior to, the public hearing.

/s/ Nova Romero, MMC, City Clerk
Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA
Published: August 15, 2025

Publication dates:
Aug. 15, 2025
(PC843)

PUBLIC NOTICES

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)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251372

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **FOREVER BLESSED BARBERSHOP, 301 Gabilan Drive #335, Soledad, CA 93960.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s): IVAN RODRIGUEZ, 742 Vida St., Soledad, CA 93960.

This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on July 30, 2025.

S/Ivan Rodriguez
Date signed: July 30, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 30, 2025.

Publication Dates: Aug. 15, 22, 29, Sept. 5, 2025 (PC 826)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251414

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **BUSY BEE DAYCARE, 235 4th St., Gonzalez, CA 93926.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s): JENNIFER LYNNE YNIGUEZ, P.O. Box 1510, 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 Aug. 1, 2025.

S/Jennifer Lynne Yniguez
Date signed: Aug. 6, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Aug. 6, 2025.

Publication Dates: Aug. 15, 22, 29, Sept. 5, 2025 (PC 828)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251362

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **RAINBOW ELDERBERRY BLISS, 930 Casanova Avenue, Apartment 53, Monterey, CA 93940.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):

This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on July 29, 2025.

Publication Dates: Aug. 15, 22, 29, Sept. 5, 2025 (PC 831)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251441

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **GMG ACCOUNTING SERVICES, 9315 Canyon Oak Rd., Salinas, CA 93907.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s): GLENDA MOTZ-GAMINO, 9315 Canyon Oak Rd., Salinas, CA 93907

This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Aug. 11, 2025.

S/Glenda Motz-Gamino
Date signed: Aug. 11, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Aug. 11, 2025.

Publication Dates: Aug. 15, 22, 29, Sept. 5, 2025 (PC 832)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251452

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MONTEREY COUNTY REPAIRS,**

undersigned will sell at public auction; personal property including but not limited to furniture, tools, and /or other misc. items.

Auction to be held at 4:00 pm on September 4, 2025:

The property is stored at: StoragePRO of Carmel 9640 Carmel Valley Rd. Carmel, CA 93923

Name of Tenants
Craig Rothen

8/15/25
CNS-3956674#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Aug. 15, 2025 (PC 834)

Lien Sale Auction Advertisement

Notice is hereby given that, Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act (B&P Code 21700 et seq.), the undersigned will sell at public auction personal property, including but not limited to furniture, clothing, tools, and /or other misc. items. Auction to be held at 4:00 pm on September 4, 2025, at www.selfstorageauction.com. The property is stored at: Leonard's Lockers Self Storage, 816 Elvee Drive, Salinas, CA 93901

Tenant name:
Ashley Dorado
Steven Barrus
Sadie Ruvalcaba
Michael Gonzales
Cynthia Crespo
Christopher Lopez
Lute Fukufuka Vea
Denee Krzyzanski
Vanessa Gonzales
Chris Logue
Elena Irona
8/15/25
CNS-3956675#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Aug. 15, 2025 (PC 835)

Lien Sale Auction Advertisement

Notice is hereby given that Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act, (B&P Code 21700 et. seq.) the undersigned will sell at public auction; personal property including but not limited to furniture, tools, and /or other misc. items.

Auction to be held at 4:00 pm on September 4th, 2025:

www.selfstorageauction.com

The property is stored at: Rossi Self Storage 10 Rossi Cr., Salinas, CA 93907

Name of Tenants
Shawn Wells
Cristian Mejia
Sadie Stephens
Luellyn Miltz

8/15/25
CNS-3956673#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Aug. 15, 2025 (PC 833)

Lien Sale Auction Advertisement

Notice is hereby given that Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act, (B&P Code 21700 et. seq.) the undersigned will sell at public auction; personal property including but not limited to furniture, tools, and /or other misc. items.

Auction to be held at 4:00PM on September 4, 2025 at www.selfstorageauction.com.

The property is stored at: **Marina U Store Self Storage 475 Reservation Road Marina, CA 93933**

Mayra Zendejas

8/15/25
CNS-3956677#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Aug. 15, 2025 (PC 836)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251409

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **TINT MASTERS, PAINT PROTECTION FILM, CERAMIC COATING, CAR AUDIO, 905 Harkins Rd., Unit E, Salinas, CA 93901.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Automotive Masters of Greensboro LLC, 905 Harkins Rd, Unit E, Salinas, CA 93901.

State of Inc./Org./Reg.: NC

This business is conducted by a limited liability company.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Aug. 5, 2025.

S/Juan Campos, Managing Member
Date signed: Aug. 5, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Aug. 5, 2025.

Publication Dates: Aug. 15, 22, 29, Sept. 5, 2025. (PC 842)

[HTTPS://CARMELPINECONE.COM](https://carmelpinecone.com)

447 Sonora Way, Salinas, CA 93906.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.

Registered Owner(s): JHONI CESAREO MENDOZA.

This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 11, 2025.

S/Jhoni Cesareo Mendoza
Date signed: Aug. 11, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Aug. 11, 2025.

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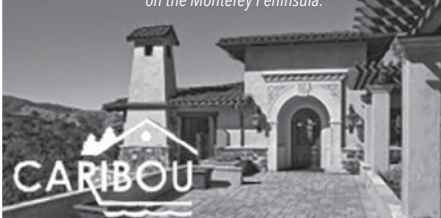
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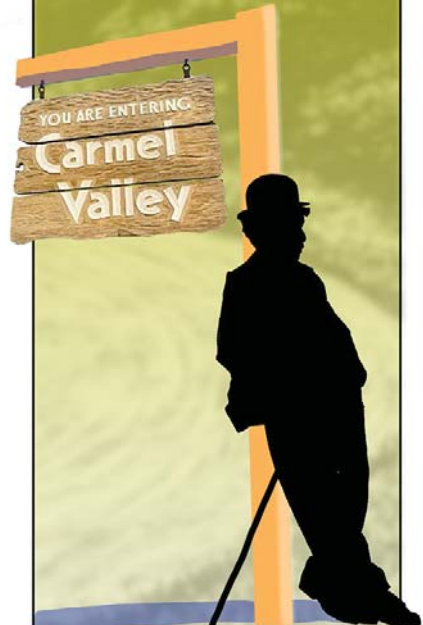
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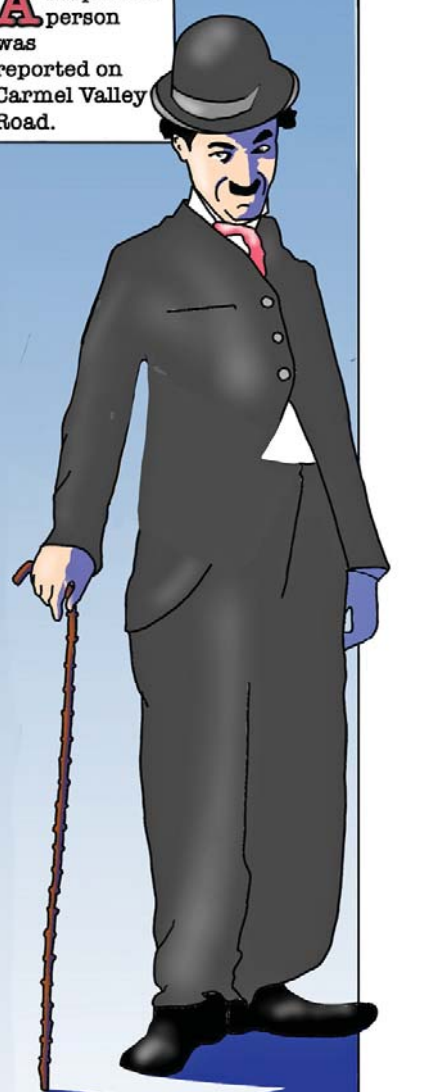
Police Log: Carmel Valley, Nov. 8, 9

Loitering on East Carmel Valley Road.



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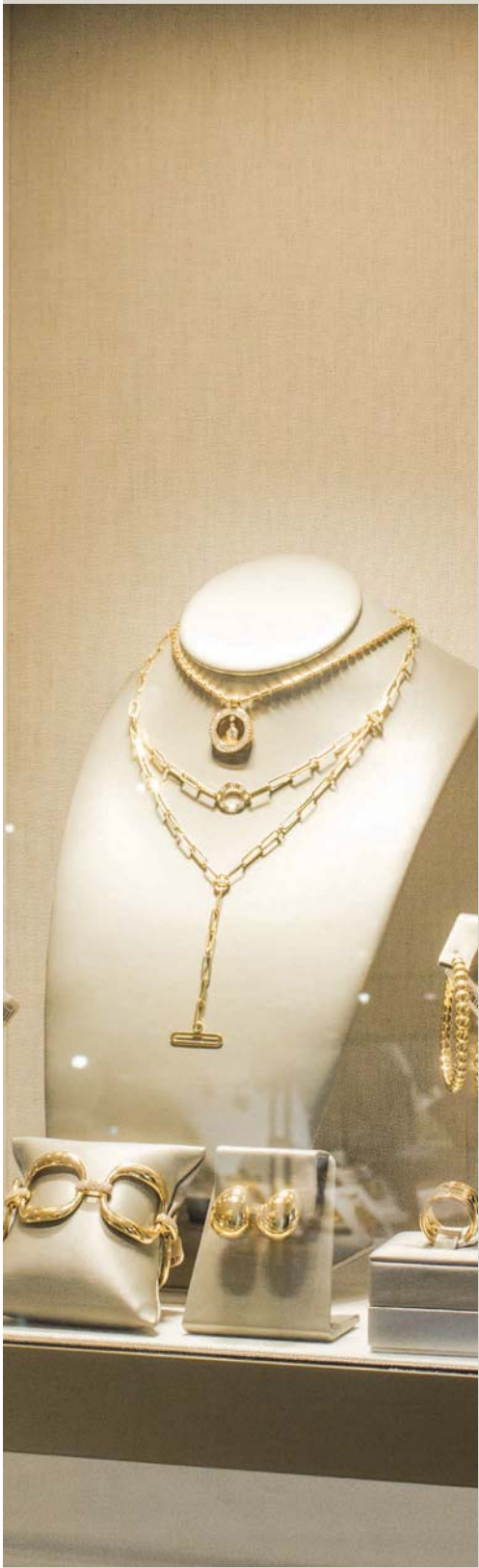
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