

Coastal commission OKs county’s rules for STRs

By CHRIS COUNTS

TACKLING A subject that has been hotly debated for more than a decade, the California Coastal Commission voted 6-2 Aug. 13 to approve Monterey County’s short-term-rental rules in the unincorporated communities of Big Sur, Carmel Highlands and Pebble Beach, effectively banning vacation rentals in residential neighborhoods in the Highlands and Big Sur unless a host is living on site, while allowing hosted and unhosted stays in Pebble Beach, but only with a permit.

The vote was a surprise to some. The Coastal Act requires the commission to promote visitor access to the coast, and many commissioners have supported short-term rentals because they increase public access.

Arguments about affordable visitor access go unheeded

For more than three hours before the vote, a parade of speakers commented for and against vacation rentals. In general, proponents argued that short-term stays are needed because they provide coastal access for people of all income levels, while opponents contended they bring too much traffic and noise to residential neighborhoods and decrease the availability of long-term rentals. They also argued that there is no such thing as an affordable short-term rental in the county’s pricey coastal communities.

Coastal access

Dick Matthews of the Monterey County Vacation Rental Alliance urged the commission to reject the county’s rules.

“Unhosted commercial short-term rentals are the most sought-after form of visitor lodging,” Matthews said. “Visitors don’t want a stranger in the house when they stay there. Yet this ordinance will permit unhosted short-term rentals along only 6 miles of the county’s 100-mile coastline. This ordinance will deny access to the coast for vast numbers of people.”

Annee Martin also pushed back against the new rules. Martin owns Sanctuary Vacation Rentals, which manages 50 homes in the coastal area and employs a staff of 35.

“Banning short-term rentals in Big Sur and Carmel Highlands goes against everything the coastal commission stands for and is supposed to protect,” Martin said.

She also suggested that some consideration should be given to those who have followed the rules.

“Responsible owners who have paid their taxes should be grandfathered and allowed to continue,” she said.

See STRs page 20A

SEA LION DIE-OFF POSES THREAT TO BEACH DOGS

By MARY SCHLEY

AN UNPRECEDENTED disease outbreak that’s sickening and killing California sea lions up and down the California coast could account for the number of dead and



PHOTO/MARINE MAMMAL CENTER

Veterinary staff at the Sausalito-based Marine Mammal Center hospital examine a California sea lion under anesthesia for leptospirosis, a deadly bacterial infection.

Vandalism, arrests, sideshows mar Car Week

■ 100,000 said to attend, and most of them behaved

By MARY SCHLEY

A TORPEDO-BODIED 1924 Hispano-Suiza won Best of Show at the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance, a Ferrari 250 GT California Spider Competizione sold for \$25.3 million at the Gooding Christie’s auction, several



(Clockwise from above) Huge Car Week crowds took over the In-N-Out parking lot in Seaside. Fisticuffs ensued in the Highlands after a fender bender involving a Rolls-Royce. A McLaren was vandalized in downtown Carmel. And the CHP busted numerous speeders in fancy sports cars.



racing legends drove at Laguna Seca, millions of dollars were raised for charity — and law enforcement all over the Monterey Peninsula seemed busier than ever during this year’s Car Week, especially dealing with unruly crowds that staged impromptu sideshows.

August’s automotive events have grown to span 10 days and number more than three dozen — most of them well organized and professionally managed — and an estimated \$130 million is spent on food, lodging, events and goods while they’re going on, tourism officials have said.

But with them come the traffic, the crowds, and the reckless and drunk drivers, vandals, petty criminals and others who keep local cops busy.

In Carmel, between Aug. 9 and Aug. 18, officers

stopped 137 drivers, issued 70 citations, arrested seven people, towed a dozen cars and wrote 320 parking tickets, according to Acting Police Chief Todd Trayer, who had just experienced his first Car Week.

Topping Carmel P.D.’s greatest hits was the arrest Tuesday morning of a 30-year-old Pacific Grove man suspected of smashing the windshields of two McLarens parked downtown near the Pine Inn early in the morning of Aug. 15. The British-built sports cars command six-to-seven-digit prices.



PHOTOS/SOCIAL MEDIA AND OTHER SOURCES

Investigating officers tracked down the suspect, Samuel Shaffer, through video provided by a witness and identifying his vehicle through Carmel’s and Pacific Grove’s license-plate-reading cameras, according to Trayer.

“They developed a solid lead, they looked for the guy for a couple of days, and they found him early this morning in Pacific Grove,” Trayer said Tuesday. “We wouldn’t have been able to solve this like we did without that

See CARS page 16A

Sacramento Dems OK gerrymander plan

CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATS put the pedal to the metal this week to revamp the state’s congressional districts and give their party an advantage in the 2026 midterms. Lawmakers returned from summer recess on Monday, giving them just days to bang out a process that would normally take months, including authorizing a constitutional amendment, replacing the existing congressional district map and passing a statute calling for a special election in November.

The rush job came at the behest of Gov. Gavin Newsom,

Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

who is leading the charge in a congressional arms race between California and Texas.

On Wednesday, GOP lawmakers in the Texas House of Representatives approved a new district map, with lines rigged to send five additional Republicans to Congress after the 2026 midterms. The Lone Star State has been on a mission during the last few weeks to protect the Republican majority in the House of Representatives, with the outspoken support of President Donald Trump.

Newsom plans to cancel out any potential gains made in Texas with a new map in California, and Thursday afternoon he signed legislation put the plan in motion.

See DEMS page 14A

Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Golden opportunity

She had three criteria for selecting a dog; She wanted a family pet the kids could grow up with, a dog from a loving breeder, not a puppy mill, and a purebred golden retriever.

"My wife did all the research to find just the right breeder and went above and beyond to find the perfect fit for our family," her husband said.

And she got everything she wanted in Lucy, a 6-week-old golden, who has been growing up in Carmel Meadows with, over time, four children.

"Lucy" would have been the couple's second daughter's name, but instead, after their first, they brought three boys into the family. So, the name was given to another beloved member of their household — the dog.

With four children, engaged in all kinds of activities, their parents sought a dog who would want to be part of the family but who wouldn't crave attention. Although rare for a golden, they found that in Lucy. At least during the day.

"At night, she sleeps near our two older boys, 5 and 10, at the base of their bunkbeds," Dad said. "When we rock their baby brother to sleep, she comes in and lies by the chair. Sometimes the children lie down on the floor next to Lucy with their heads on her, and they all rest together."

Lucy loves to go to Carmel Beach and splashes right



into the sea. She ignores all other dogs, according to Dad, unless she meets a golden retriever. Then they play together in a special "golden retriever way," hopping side to side before racing around in the sand.

Otherwise, Lucy loves receiving attention from people sitting by the shore and is willing to sit and wait or slide over to reach someone who might be inspired to offer a little petting.



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Local wins Laguna hillclimb

By MARY SCHLEY

WHEN INDYCAR Championship contenders Alex Palou and Pato O’Ward were here to race last month, they stood in Laguna Seca’s signature corner, the Corkscrew, and remarked that it would be crazy to drive it going uphill, since the quickly descending left-right zigzag is tricky enough when racing through it in the proper direction.

Then someone pointed out that for the past few years, as part of Car Week, the track has organized the Corkscrew Hillclimb to do just that.

During the time-trial challenge, each competitor launches from the start/finish line, drives through the tight righthand (in this case) Turn 11 and ascends through Turn 10, Rainey Curve at Turn 9 and then up the Corkscrew, finishing at the top of the hill. The record, set last year by Max Chilton behind the wheel of a 2022 McMurtry Spéirling — a supercar reminiscent of the Batmobile — is a blistering 21.958 seconds.

First female

Two weeks ago, a competitor with local ties won the fourth annual competition, besting 14 other drivers in her twin-turbo V-8 hybrid Ferrari SF90 XX Spider, a coveted convertible hypercar produced in limited numbers by the Italian marque. The event’s first female winner, Christine Sloss posted a time of 29.535 seconds.

Ned Bacon from Minden, Nev., took second in his 1975 Porsche 911 RSR, and Gardner Nichols finished third in a 2025 Rivian Gen 2 Quad-Motor R1T electric truck. The entertaining competition also saw a 2022 Toyota Supra make it up in 31.026 seconds and a 1958 Austin Healey 110-6 get there in 34.623 seconds.

April Henderson, who was recently



PHOTO/TONY CAMPBELL

Christine Sloss posed with her fellow podium finishers after taking first place in Laguna’s Corkscrew Hillclimb.

way Laguna Seca, and it’s such a fun way to kick off an incredible week in Monterey” that concludes with the Reunion races and the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance.

Sloss and her husband, Ben, chief programs officer and vice president of engineering at Google, have a considerable car collection, but their enthusiasm for autos — especially during Car Week — is probably best recognized locally for the flags,

See LAGUNA page 18A



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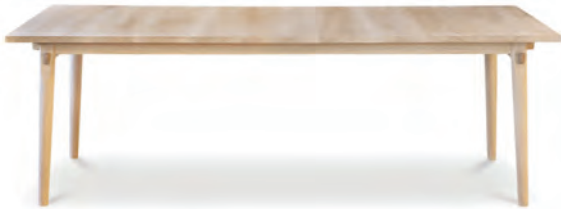
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Police & Sheriff’s Log

On the road, without headphones

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.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Theft of a cell phone, credit card, driver’s license and other personal property from a public space at Del Mar. Under investigation.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Possible child abuse reported with a disclosure of sexual assault at Torres and Third.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Anonymous good Samaritan located a wallet at Junipero and Ocean and turned it over to the police department. All of the contents in the wallet were inside.

Pacific Grove: Officers responded to an individual on Maple Street who harmed himself with a sharp object. Placed on a 5150 W&I hold.

Pacific Grove: Report of indecent exposure at a beach at Sunset and Pico. No suspect information.

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

Carmel area: Adult Protective Services report on Rio Road alleging financial abuse.

Carmel Valley: Shoplifting at Mid-Valley shopping center.

Carmel Valley: A 53-year-old male on Carmel Valley Road was arrested for hitting his wife, a 58-year-old female.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

Carmel-by-the-Sea: No calls to report.

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 18 — A jury convicted Jonathon Charles Sandoval Griffin, 44, a resident of Salinas, of eight felony charges of lewd and lascivious acts on four children under the age of 14. All eight charges are strikes pursuant to California’s three strikes law and will require Griffin to register as a sex offender for 20 years. Griffin faces a maximum sentence of 14 years in state prison when he appears for sentencing.

On Oct. 3, 2023, Salinas Police officer Katherine Linnane responded to a report of a sexual assault by a music teacher, Jonathon Griffin, who was employed in the Salinas school district. The reporting party said that her then-10-year-old daughter was touched by Griffin. Detective Ermelinda Reyes and then-detective Yolanda Rocha were assigned the case and through diligent investigation discovered three additional students who re-

ported very similar incidents of touching by Griffin. All four children were 10 years old at the time of the report and all four were female students in fifth grade.

Some of the victims reported that during class, Griffin would respond to their requests for assistance in learning music assignments and would touch them either on their thigh or buttocks. Other reports included that the student would be standing up, assisting another student when Griffin would walk by and touch the child on the buttocks.

In addition to Linnane, Reyes and Rocha, the prosecution was assisted by district attorney investigators Rebecca Ayala and Daisy Gurley. Jane Does 1 through 4 were assisted by district attorney victim witness program manager Alma Sanchez, as well as district attorney advocate Mayra Sandoval and court facility canine Norma Jeane.

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Nurse aide raped elderly, AG says

By KELLY NIX

A SALINAS caregiver has been arrested and charged with sexually assaulting three elderly patients at a Pacific Grove nursing home, according to an unsettling criminal complaint filed in Monterey County Superior Court by California Attorney General Rob Bonta. Two of the victims were in their 80s.

Certified nurse assistant Paul Nkoy Lumbi Jr., 60, was arrested for multiple felony crimes against patients of Forest Hill Manor, including lewd act on a dependent adult, forcible rape and rape of a person incapable of giving consent.

Among the people Lumbi is accused of sexually assaulting is an 82-year-old patient with a mental disorder and physical disabilities, who the caregiver raped “by means of force, violence, duress, menace and fear of immediate and unlawful bodily injury,” according to the complaint, which says the assault occurred March 15, 2024.

‘Viciousness’

Lumbi committed lewd and lascivious acts on another elderly Forest Hill patient, also 82 years old, on July 7, 2024, and did the same to a third patient, whose age is not listed, on July 25, 2024, the complaint said.

“It is further alleged that the above offenses involved great violence, great bodily harm, threat of great bodily harm,

and other acts disclosing a high degree of cruelty, viciousness and callousness,” the attorney general said.

Bonta did not say when Lumbi stopped working at Forest Hill Manor, but he was most recently employed by Cypress Ridge Care Center on Skyline Drive in Monterey. The facility’s administrator told The



Paul Nkoy Lumbi Jr.

Pine Cone this week that Lumbi no longer works there. He also worked at other facilities throughout Monterey County.

If convicted of the crimes, Lumbi could spend decades behind bars in a state penitentiary.

“Sexual assault is always unacceptable and assaulting an individual during one of the most vulnerable and difficult periods of their life reaches a new low,” Bonta said.

Lumbi also faces numerous special allegations, which could mean

greater penalties if he’s convicted, including violent crime on the vulnerable, having multiple victims, use of force, violence, duress, menace and fear of immediate and unlawful bodily injury.

“Lumbi took advantage of a position of trust or confidence to commit the offenses,” the complaint says.

The former caregiver, whose CNA status is still listed as “active” and “employable” on the state’s public health website, is being held in Monterey County Jail on \$2.7 million bail.

The Pine Cone has been a member of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce for more than 100 years.

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Gym accident claim going to trial

By KELLY NIX

A MISHAP at a local sports facility in which a patron alleges he suffered a shoulder injury after taking a tumble on a slippery floor was set to go to trial this week, more than two years after he filed a lawsuit over the incident.

Monterey resident Richard Rosendale contends that after completing a cycling spin class at the Monterey Sports Center on Feb. 6, 2022, he slipped on a laminate floor that contained cleaning solution and fell backwards.

“The cleaning solution on the already slick studio floor created a dangerous condition, and when Mr. Rosendale attempted to walk on the studio floor, he slipped and landed on his left shoulder, causing a rotator cuff tear,” according to the lawsuit filed

in March 2023.
In court documents filed last week, Rosendale said that after the spin class he left his belongings next to the exercise bike and, while still wearing his cycling shoes, talked to the instructor before briefly leaving the room, called Studio 2, and returned.
“Around this time, two of the sports center’s facility attendant employees” entered “Studio 2 and began cleaning the room, which included both dry mopping the floors and cleaning the bikes using a spray bottle and rag,” the document says, adding there were no warning signs or cones indicating the floors might be slick.
The rotator cuff injury required surgery and months of recovery, and Rosendale said he could not work.

See FLOOR page 18A

PIERIK TO QUIT AS P.G.’S LAWYER

By KELLY NIX

IN A surprise announcement at Wednesday night’s Pacific Grove City Council meeting, city attorney Brian Pierik said he would step down after only three years in the role.

Pierik, 75, began working for P.G. in July 2022, after the council voted to retain the Los Angeles-based law firm he works for, Burke, Williams & Sorensen LLP. Another attorney with the same firm attorney, Gregory Rubens, was hired as the assistant city attorney.

“I wanted to say that I am standing down as city attorney for the City of Pacific Grove,” Pierik told the public at Wednesday’s P.G. City Council meeting. “It will be effective toward the end of this year.”

Pierik, who didn’t offer a reason for his pending departure, said his last day would depend on when P.G. hires someone to replace him.

“This will give the city sufficient time to

engage in a recruitment process, to retain a city attorney and for me to complete work in progress in coordination with the city council and city staff,” said Pierik, who is also Carmel’s legal counsel.

‘Enjoyed serving’

The lawyer — who replaced David Laredo, who worked for P.G. for about 17 years — went on to say that he would help make the transition to his replacement a “seamless process.”

Pierik said he’s enjoyed serving as P.G.’s attorney, and wished the council and city staff the “best of luck in the future.”

Only Mayor Nick Smith addressed the news, remarking, “Thank you very much for your service, Mr. Pierik. We really appreciate it.”

According to the 2022 contract, Pierik and other lawyers at the law firm were to be paid \$275 per hour. Special legal services would cost taxpayers \$300 per hour for partners and \$275 for associates.

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Educators help allay student fears

By KELLY NIX

AS TENS of thousands of Monterey County students begin the school year, undocumented immigrant parents and their children are experiencing anxiety and uncertainty over the threat of separation and deportation, according to county education officials, who are offering resources to help them feel “safe and welcome.”

“We know our students and families are very nervous,” Monterey County Office of Education deputy superintendent Ralph Porras told news reporters Wednesday, referring to the Trump administration’s widespread deportations of those who are in the country illegally.

“As school is starting, the fear of deportation or ICE activity leaves a challenge for families. What do you do with your children if something happens to one of your family members?” Porras said.

‘Inclusive, welcoming’

To help families navigate the complicated immigration system, the county education office is encouraging them to look over a list of immigration-related resources on its website. Topics include “what to do if you’re arrested or detained by immigration officials,” “how to find a loved one after an immigration arrest,” and how to “prepare for an immigration raid.”

“We are making sure our schools are safe, inclusive, welcoming environments

for their students,” Porras said.

The education office’s link to a “child safety plan” is similar to a school emergency card containing family contacts. The information, which the county education office is encouraging parents to fill out, is intended to help if one or both parents are detained by immigration officials.

“The concerns we are hearing are that” families are “going to be separated while their children are at school, and what happens with that?” Porras said.

Similarly, the education office has also hosted “know your rights training” seminars offered by the Monterey College of Law to educate parents.

Attendance up

Despite some families’ stress related to the deportations, it hasn’t affected enrollment at county schools, which Porras said are experiencing a “decent uptick.”

He also told reporters that federal funds for local migrant student programs that had been approved by Congress within the past year, then restricted by the Trump administration, have been unfrozen.

“The reason that is so important is that those programs provide the services that a lot of our immigrant families need,” Porras said.

Monterey County superintendent of schools Deneen Guss said the resources webpage was developed in collaboration with local and state legislators.

Immigrant families worry about separation

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‘Paddle Out’ chronicles late local’s inspiring surfing journey

By CHRIS COUNTS

SEVEN YEARS after Melissa Pappageorgas of Monterey died at 33 from a rare disease, a new documentary film, “Paddle Out” — which tells the story of her inspiring relationship with surfing — screens Saturday, 2 p.m., at the Golden Bough Playhouse.

Melissa was just 14 when she and her brother were diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, a genetic disorder that ravages the lungs and other organs. Despite poor health, she excelled academically, graduating with honors from Monterey High School in 2003 and from the University of Southern California in 2007. At USC, she was awarded the prestigious Order of Troy.

In 2010, Melissa learned that a medical study showed that surfing could benefit cystic fibrosis patients — in part because the salty mist created by the waves helps rehydrate lungs and expel mucus.

Due to her illness, she had spent very little time in the ocean. But that year, she surfed for the first time at Cowell Beach in Santa Cruz with the support of the Maui Ola Foundation, a group dedicated to helping people with genetic diseases. She soon fell in love with the sport.

“Through the Maui Ola Family, Melissa was provided opportunities to surf in Hawaii and help spread the love of surfing to other people with cystic fibrosis,” according to her obituary. “Surfing played a crucial role in getting Melissa strong enough to participate in activities she was not able to do before.”

Melissa’s father, Chris Pappageorgas, told The Pine Cone that surfing boosted his daughter’s health.

“She started surfing 4-5 times a week in 2012,” her father said. “For 40 months, surfing kept her out of the hospital.”

A helping hand

Melissa was aided by late local surfer Shawn “Barney” Barron, who often joined her in the waves. “Shawn took her out any time she wanted,” her dad said.

During this same time, she met surf instructor Joey Rodrigues, who would become her husband.

Eventually, Melissa’s condition worsened. In 2015, her respiratory system failed suddenly, and she was placed on life support for 23 days before undergoing a double lung transplant.

Despite a lengthy hospital stay and an arduous recovery, Melissa returned to the

waves.

In 2017, she surfed with oxygen for the first time. Rodrigues, who was by then her husband, joined her on a paddleboard and carried an oxygen tank.

Melissa’s body finally gave out the following year. In need of double lung and kidney transplants, she made the conscious decision “to discontinue the breathing support she was on.” She passed away in 2018.

“Through love and loss, triumph and challenges, Melissa’s journey is one of unshakable courage,” said her friend, Sebi Lee, who directed the film. “She faced every obstacle with grace, pushing through each labored breath, every hospital stay, and the uncertainty of her condition. Her spirit remained unbreakable, her laughter ever-present. She held onto dreams of a second chance, believing in the power of hope, community and the ocean that had always carried her forward.”

Proceeds from the film will benefit the Living Breath Foundation, which was



PHOTO/THE LIVING BREATH FOUNDATION

Despite suffering from cystic fibrosis, the late Melissa Pappageorgas was able to enjoy surfing, which surprisingly helped her condition.

founded by Melissa’s parents and is dedicated to supporting those who are living with cystic fibrosis. The group awards scholarships and helps pay for medical equipment and medication.

Tickets are \$20. The theater is located on Monte Verde between Eighth and Ninth.

For more details, visit paddleoutfilm.com or livingbreathfoundation.org.

DA: senior home was in violation

By KELLY NIX

THE FORMER operators of a Pacific Grove assisted living facility failed to conduct background checks of employees who had direct contact with residents and committed other violations, according to the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office.

A civil complaint filed Aug. 19 by prosecutors contends that Sandeep and Anuradha Saini, who previously owned Del Monte Assisted Living on David Avenue, also allowed non-caregiver staff without background checks to perform duties that

allowed them to interact with residents and did not have adequate staffing to meet residents’ medical and care needs.

The defendants engaged in unlawful and unfair competition “beginning in 2022 and extending through 2023,” according to the complaint.

However, the current owners and managers of the David Avenue facility, Del Monte Village, are not named as defendants and neither they nor their business have anything to do with the DA’s office lawsuit. An administrator told The Pine

See SENIOR page 26A



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SEA LIONS

From page 1A

the animal, photos, location, date and time the animal was last seen, approximate size of the animal, condition of the animal and name and contact information,” some say the city should take charge of all that.

“Every day, the Carmel Police should pull over while on patrol on Scenic and survey the beach with a pair of binoculars to see if anything has washed up,” a resident said.

Public works director Ken Wysocki acknowledged receiving the complaints and said Tuesday that public works crews “have already buried those seals.”

“As we remove seals, new ones get washed up, as expected due to the recent outbreak,” he said. “Our public works team are still on the beach moving sand around, so they have their eyes open for any new ones.”

‘Highly contagious’

He said he appreciates members of the public calling to report dead sea life on the beach so it can be reported to the Moss Landing Marine Labs as soon as possible, and while the city typically waits to hear back from the scientists in case they need to conduct tests, “I am sure they are swamped with the many seals that are becoming ill.”

Giancarlo Rulli, associate director of public relations for the Sausalito-based Marine Mammal Center — which also has an outpost in Moss Landing — said the center treats sick animals but does not retrieve carcasses. It has responded to more than 150 California sea lions with leptospirosis, a highly contagious bacterial blood infection that leads to liver failure. And between January and July,

the center handled 50 cases.

“We’re responding to a half-dozen sea lions between Monterey and Santa Cruz counties every day, so it’s quite significant,” he said, with perhaps another half-dozen inaccessible or unable to be found.

The success rate for treating the animals is low, since often they don’t beach themselves until they are very sick. Rulli said roughly half die in transport or during treatment, or must be humanely euthanized.

“This is a major outbreak, and what is fascinating and concerning about this year’s outbreak is how early it started,” he said, since upticks usually occur in late summer through fall. “To have 150-plus in the six-week period since July is very abnormal.”

It’s so unusual, in fact, that the center hasn’t seen a similar outbreak during its 50-year existence, Rulli said, and the factors at play remain a mystery.

“There’s still a lot unknown about how the disease proliferates in the wild,” he said. “It’s something that’s been known in marine mammals since the ’70s” and began to steadily increase in the 1980s.

And while these spikes generally appeared in five-year cycles, they’ve been more common since “the blob,” a large expanse of the Pacific Ocean stretching from Alaska to Mexico that stayed unusually warm over a several-year period that peaked in 2014 and 2015, drastically affected marine life.

Leptospirosis infections “roared back in 2018, when the center responded to more than 300 cases,” and have

continued to climb since then, rather than following the previously seen five-year cycle.

“The 2012-2017 timeframe is still very much being investigated by our partners at NOAA and UCLA in terms of leptospirosis spread,” he said.

Important advice

More relevant to beach users, however, are the risks the disease presents to other mammals — especially dogs.

“This disease is fatal to dogs,” Rulli warned. “It can be spread among mammals.”

Leptospirosis is typically transmitted through contaminated water and can be contracted through open orifices like noses, mouths and eyes.

“The big concern we’re really trying to raise awareness about is the threat to your pet,” he said.

Dogs can be vaccinated against leptospirosis, according to Rulli. “I would advise, especially for people with dogs going to the beach, to make sure you get your dog vaccinated, keep your dog leashed, and do not allow it to approach a dead or live marine animal.”

He said recent calls to area veterinarians haven’t revealed any instances of dogs contracting the deadly bacterial infection, but scientists also have no idea how long the outbreak will last.

Rulli advised maintaining a 150-foot distance from sick or dead creatures and asked that anyone who encounters a sea mammal in distress call the Marine Mammal Center at (415) 289-7325.

The Monterey Bay Aquarium is the go-to agency for sea otters, dead or alive. The SPCA will care for injured birds, and dead ones, as long as they’re not banded or tagged, can be handled by the city’s public works department. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should be notified if a banded or tagged bird is found dead on the beach.





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City of Carmel-by-the-Sea

Street Address Workgroup

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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>

Historic board minor Carmel Mission upgrades

By MARY SCHLEY

BECAUSE THE Mission San Carlos de Borromeo — better known as Carmel Mission — is one of the most important buildings in California, even minor physical changes require a sign-off from the city’s historic resources board. On Monday afternoon, the HRB unanimously approved plans to make the Rio Road compound’s Blessed Sacrament Chapel accessible to people with disabilities.

Meanwhile, a group devoted to the mission’s restoration and preservation is working with a consultant to develop a comprehensive master plan for the property.

“The new master property plan will guide the preservation, restoration and use of the 22-acre site, which includes the basilica church, museums, courtyards, cemetery and other historic structures,” the committee said in a recent announcement. San Francisco-based Architectural Resources Group will oversee the effort, since the firm “brings decades of expertise in working with culturally significant sites, including previous work with missions, churches and historic campuses across the West.”

Recent work

At the Aug. 18 historic resources board meeting, associate planner Katherine Wallace explained that while Junipero Serra founded the mission in 1771 and construction of its basilica was completed in 1797, many of the buildings on the site, including

the Sir Harry Downie Museum, Mora Chapel, Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Convento and gift shop, were built in the early-to-mid-1900s, as the mission had fallen into ruin after Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821. The complex is a National Historic Landmark and is listed in the national and state historic registers and the city’s inventory of historic properties.



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

By 1882, following secularization of the missions due to Mexican independence, many had fallen into ruin, including Carmel’s.

In 2010, the city approved seismic retrofits and other structural work for the basilica, including replacing siding and roofing materials, electrical and plumbing upgrades, and construction of an ADA-compliant restroom. The work was completed in 2013, followed by approval in 2015 of a second phase that called for changes to the east elevation, redoing the basilica forecourt and the main courtyard, updating various buildings, constructing another ADA restroom and other alterations.

See MISSION page 18A

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DEMS

From page 1A

"I know they say, 'Don't mess with Texas.' Well, don't mess with the great Golden State," said last week at a rally in Los Angeles.

However, California's redistricting plans are no longer contingent on decisions made in Texas or other red states. On Thursday the California Assembly made last minute edits removing the original language in ACA 8, one piece of the state's redistricting legislation, that called for any new map passed by California to only take effect if Texas or other states made changes to their maps. The change was made despite the fact that the stated impetus behind changing California's map was to counteract whatever action the Lone Star State might take.

How it works in California

Unlike in Texas, however, Newsom needs California voters to sign off on redistricting and convince them to eat away at their own power in the process.

In 2008, California voters said no to politicians drawing voting maps for politicians when they passed Proposition 11, which established an independent citizens commission and gave it the power to draw district maps at the start of every decade.

That model went out the window this week in Sacramento, with lawmakers on track to approve their own redistricting bills, replacing the last map drawn by the citizens redistricting commission and leaving it up to voters to OK an override of the commission until 2030.

"On Nov. fourth, you have the power to stand up to Trump. You have the power to declare that you support a system that is not rigged," said Newsom in anticipation of the bills' passage.

California's Republicans say Newsom is the one doing the rigging. This week, four GOP lawmakers filed an emergency petition with the California Supreme Court

to stop the redistricting legislation. The group argues the bills violate the California Constitution's 30-day public review requirement.

"Democracy dies in darkness. What you are seeing is one of the darkest moments of California state government, as Gov. Gavin Newsom and the supermajority in Sacramento literally violate their oath to uphold the state Constitution," said Assemblymember Carl DeMaio, a San Diego Republican and one of the lawmakers behind the petition.

On Wednesday the California Supreme Court rejected the lawsuit with justices writing in part, "Petitioners have failed to meet their burden of establishing a basis for relief at this time under California Constitution article IV, section 8." The ruling gave lawmakers a wide-open path to passing redistricting legislation on Thursday.

Separately, DeMaio filed a citizens initiative this week to ban any state legislator from seeking elected office for the next 10 years if they vote in favor of nullifying California's election map. DeMaio needs 1 million signatures to qualify his initiative and put it before voters in November 2026. He argues citizens serving on the independent redistricting commission are prohibited from running for office for a decade after a new map is made, so lawmakers should be held to the same standard.

The map-drawing process this summer has been shrouded in secrecy as Democrats rush to get it done. The new lines were not made public until Monday, and the identity of the party responsible for drawing the new map remains a mystery.

Following Tuesday's committee hearings on the map, reporters barraged the Chair of the assembly committee on elections, Gail Pellerin, with questions about the process. The Santa Cruz Democrat said lawmakers were not involved with map-making but told the press, "We can get you the people who actually did that work."

According to the legislation Pellerin and others are set to work on this week,

See **MAPS** next page



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MAPS

From previous page

she is one of the people tasked with doing the work. AB 604, one of the redistricting bills, states:

“The Secretary of State and the elections official of each county shall rely on the detailed maps prepared by the Assembly committee on elections and the Senate committee on elections”

But apparently that isn’t the case. Not only did Pellerin deny working on the map herself, she seemed unfazed that she didn’t know the name of the responsible party.

“When I go to a restaurant, I don’t need to meet the chef, I just enjoy the food,” Pellerin told reporters.

District shakeup

Whoever drew the new map made sure the proposed lines are skewed to eliminate five Republican House seats, or more than half the GOP representatives from California in the House. For those in the affected districts, the new lines may look a little wonky.

“If you want to know what’s wrong with these maps, just take a look at them. How on Earth does Modoc County on the

Nevada and Oregon border have any common interest with Marin County and the Golden Gate Bridge?” said District 1 Rep. Doug LaMalfa, a Butte County Republican who could be vulnerable in 2026.

The newly drawn map shows the northern swath of LaMalfa’s inland rural district, which stretches to the Oregon border, would be cut off and the lines shifted west and south to encompass more Democratic voters as far away as Santa Rosa.

The four other vulnerable Republicans and their districts include Kevin Kiley in District 3, David Valadao in District 22, Ken Calvert in District 41 and Darrell Issa in District 48.

California has 52 seats in Congress, with 43 held by Democrats and only nine, or 17 percent, held by Republicans. If the new maps go into effect, four California Republicans, or 8 percent, would remain. Thirty-eight percent of the state’s voters supported Trump in the 2024 election.

No changes are planned to Rep. Jimmy Panetta’s 19th District, and statewide, 76 percent of districts would remain the same.

Recent polling shows most Californians are in favor of redistricting to help Democrats combat what’s happening in Texas. According to a poll published in Axios, longtime Newsom pollster David Binder found 57 percent of California voters

backed the governor’s plan, 35 percent were against it, and another 8 percent were undecided.

The ballot measure will be contingent on Texas changing its map, a detail that has garnered the support of Democrats in California and across the nation. Former President Barack Obama called Newsom’s plan a “responsible approach” at a fundraiser

this week. And while a separate Politico-UC Berkeley poll found 70 percent of Democrats feel gerrymandering is never acceptable, 63 percent are willing to vote for it if Texas does it first.

The ballot measure being contingent on Texas changing its map was a salient detail that garnered the support of many Democrats in California and across the nation.

City seeks pickleball opinions

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE CARMEL City Council will hold a special meeting next month to seek feedback on another enduring topic: pickleball. While the debate is not quite as old and contentious as that among residents over whether houses should be numbered, views among pro- and anti-pickleballers regarding use of the courts at Forest Hill Park are strongly held and passionately expressed.

And so, after a couple of city council discussions and numerous hearings by

the forest and beach commission, which makes recommendations to the city council regarding use and activities in the city’s open spaces, a special meeting has been set for Sept. 3 at 10 a.m. “to discuss and provide direction on a pickleball policy.”

The meeting will be held at city hall, with participation available in person and via Zoom, and the agenda will be posted on the city’s website (ci.carmel.ca.us) by Aug. 29. Anyone who wants to send written comments should email cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us with “pickleball meeting” in the subject line.

A professional headshot of Mollie O'Neal, a woman with long brown hair, smiling, wearing a dark blue ruffled top and large gold hoop earrings.

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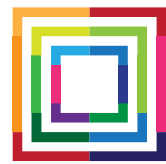
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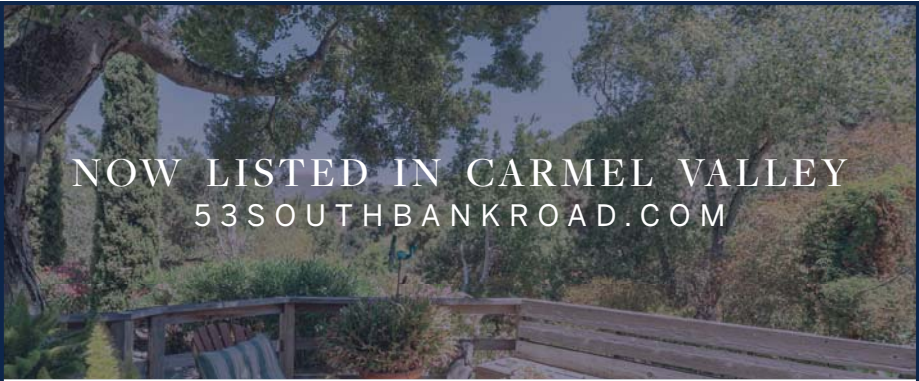
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CARS

From page 1A

information. The two victims are elated — they are really grateful.”

Shaffer was booked into Monterey County Jail but was released on his own recognizance, according to Trayer, who said he doesn’t know why the man may have vandalized the cars.

And shortly after 8 p.m. last Thursday, on suspicion of drunk driving and other violations, Sgt. Gerald Maldonado pulled over a driver who was cruising through town. He discovered 21-year-old Seaside resident Isiah Tovar was unlicensed and had a loaded illegal handgun.

“The driver went to jail, and the car was towed,” Trayer said.

“I can’t overstate how important this type of proactivity is in our village in keeping the criminal element off of our streets, and I’m so proud of officer Mendoza’s intervention, training and intuition.”

Racing past CPD

On Concours Sunday at around 2:30 p.m., 31-year-old Elijah Bagleh was pulled over for racing his Mercedes C63 against another car on Junipero Street in front of the police station and was cited and released with a promise to appear in court. His car was impounded for 30 days.

Four hours later, police spotted a McLaren being driving recklessly — also on the streets near the station — and the occupants “attempted to evade police in the vehicle and on foot,” according to CPD. But officers caught up to 34-year-old Afanasi Danci and 36-year-old Vladimir Zinchenko, both out of Washington state, cited them and impounded their car for 30 days.

“As promised, we provided maximum

enforcement for those who disrespected our village,” Trayer said. “Our figures show that many days had over 65,000 vehicles in town, where we normally have around 47,000.”

Trayer thanked residents and business owners for their support “with food, drinks and high fives,” and praised the department’s officers and staff for their “relentless work this week.”

Seaside mayhem

The City of Seaside, which hosted seven well-organized Car Week events, also became ground zero for nighttime impromptu sideshows provoked by social media influencers, with crowds clogging parking lots at In-N-Out, Home Depot and elsewhere while owners of high-end exotic cars drove through and showed off.

Seaside Police Chief Nick Borges condemned the participants and their actions as “disrespectful” of his city and its hardworking residents.

“We were getting quite a few calls of crowds forming,” Thursday night, he said. “They were essentially putting on their own sideshows, with exotic cars coming in and out, and then they started doing burnouts and peeling out.”

Working with other agencies, police flushed out the mob. “When we got on the loudspeakers telling them to disperse, 75 to 80 percent responded immediately,” he said and while some people yelled profanities at officers, there were no altercations or injuries.

Borges characterized the crowds as younger and said he saw many local high school students among them.

Police were ready on Friday when they

See **MOB** next page



Samuel Shaffer

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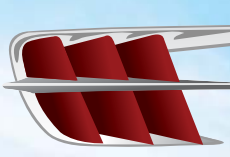
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MOB

From previous page

began to assemble again and successfully dispersed them, but Saturday night brought the largest groups, according to Borges.

“It’s social media influencers who are organizing these things, telling people to ‘roll up’ on these areas,” he said, so as police pushed them out of the In-N-Out lot, they regathered at Home Depot. Officers followed, of course, and flushed them from there as well, eventually getting them to leave the city.

Seaside P.D. is reviewing surveillance camera data and drone footage to identify drivers who broke the law, according to Borges, and while his greatest concern is people’s safety, he said, “I want these influencers to know we want them here, but don’t come to Seaside and disrespect this community.”

“Hopefully these groups will be more respectful next year,” he said. “But if not, we’ll have a robust plan in place.”

Borges said his office is compiling its Car Week numbers.

Top speed

California Highway Patrol officer Saul Perez reported the Monterey Area office issued 547 citations, investigated 96 crashes and made 56 DUI arrests from Aug. 8 through Aug. 17.

Officers pulled over a lot of speeders — including large groups of exotics and high-end sports cars — with one clocked at 146 mph on eastbound Highway 68 Aug. 12.

The officer “observed a BMW driving recklessly at an extremely high speed,” Perez said. Shortly after an attempted traffic stop failed, the BMW was found in a Las Palmas subdivision off River Road and towed, and the driver — 25-year-old Dajoure Shakoure Burress — was tracked down and arrested in Salinas for reckless driving.

“CHP has zero tolerance for reckless behavior on our roadways,” the CHP said, before pointing out that “high speeds drastically reduce your reaction time and increase the severity of crashes.”

In another stop that same day, officers stopped five high-end sports cars “for speeding along our beautiful coastline.”

In Monterey Aug. 14-16, officers from several agencies collaborated to conduct 212 traffic stops, write 129 tickets and arrest 15 people “for warrants, reckless driving, driving under the influence of a drugs/alcohol, unlawful possession of a concealed firearm, and sexual battery,” MPD Assistant Chief Mike Bruno said.

P.G. numbers unavailable

Police were also kept busy with traffic and crowd control. “Over the three days, the MPD responded to numerous complaints of traffic and sideshow-related activity” in the city and in Seaside, Bruno said, and dealt with “reckless driving and other unsafe and illegal behavior on Alvarado Street and Cannery Row.”

Pacific Grove P.D. did not provide similar figures, due to “inconsistencies with the computer-aided dispatch

analytical information coming from the County of Monterey Communications,” but the department wrote 190 parking tickets and arrested 10 people, including four juveniles who allegedly violated the city’s 10 p.m. curfew.

On Aug. 9, 47-year-old Victor Padilla Ramirez Jr. was arrested on Lighthouse in Monterey and booked into Monterey County Jail for driving without a license, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving while addicted to drugs and a bench warrant, PGPD said.

Pablo Josue Cabezas Guevara, 31, was cited and released Aug. 15 for driving on a suspended or revoked license, and Salinas resident Humberto Manzur Vargas, 37, was cited the next day for having a modified steering wheel, no vehicle registration and no front license plate.

The Monterey County Sheriff’s Office didn’t provide figures for traffic stops and the like during Car Week and did not respond to repeated requests for information, but deputies handled a few Car Week cases.

On the afternoon of Aug. 14, two drivers fought after one of them, a 68-year-old man, hit a Rolls-Royce in the parking lot of the Highlands General Store gas station, a video posted online shows, and appeared to intend to keep driving.

An onlooker confronted him, and the two exchanged blows. The video also shows a can of beer in the cup holder of the older man’s Kia, and he was cited for having an open container, according to the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office.

That same day, deputies stopped a 22-year-old man for reckless driving on Highway 1, according to the agency’s daily log.

Thefts turned out to be a problem in Pebble Beach during the Concours, with vendors filing complaints of stolen jewelry, cash and credit cards, other personal items, and two high-end purses. In addition, event passes were taken during a burglary.



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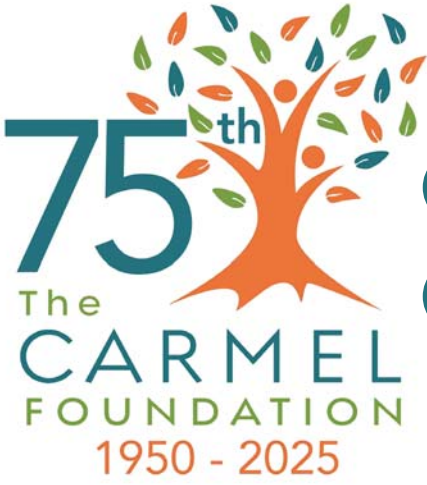
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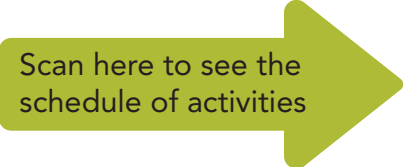
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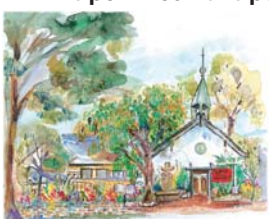
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MISSION

From page 13A

But lack of funding stymied some of those efforts, and in 2020, the city approved revised plans for remodeling and retrofitting the Sir Harry Downie Museum, building new restrooms and updating the basilica forecourt with new paths and landscaping, new paving and a ramp, a new gate and removing two parking spaces. The work was finished in 2021.

In June, Architectural Resources Group submitted plans for improving access to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, which is in part of a 250-year-old building that once contained guest quarters, the kitchen and the blacksmith shop. The chapel was completed by Downie — who is credited with developing a 50-year renovation plan for the then-decrepit mission in 1931 and overseeing much of the work — with funds from Carl Benzberg in 1947.

The improvements will affect the east loggia, which features adobe walls partially covered in plaster, red concrete flooring, plastered columns and concrete stairs.

The plans detail the addition of an accessible parking stall and path to a new sloped walkway to the loggia level, a concrete ramp and steel handrails to replace steps at the chapel entrance, shifting the chapel door closer to the exterior face of the wall — so people in wheelchairs can get through — and reconfiguring the hardware “to meet current accessibility requirements for type and mounting height.”

Resident Cindy Lloyd commended the Diocese of Monterey for the proposal, and after a few questions, the board unanimously declared the plans to be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The alterations will also be reviewed by the planning department before permits are issued.

Master planning

More substantial renovations and improvements will be envisioned in the master plan, which mission representatives described as a “forward-looking initiative” that “marks a major milestone in the mission’s commitment to stewarding its historic buildings, sacred spaces and cultural resources for future generations.”

They said the planning process will include input from parishioners, community members, preservationists and restoration professionals, and that among the priorities are additional seismic retrofits and accessibility improvements, landscape conservation, infrastructure modernization, and enhanced interpretive and visitor experiences. Like the improvements planned for the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, almost everything called for in the master plan will likely require city approval.

Questions from The Pine Cone seeking additional information about the process of developing the plan and a timeline, as well as whether it will address the long-vacant Junipero Serra School facilities, went unanswered this week.

FLOOR

From page 8A

“Prior to his injury, Mr. Rosendale worked primarily as a waiter,” according to the court filing, which adds that he was forced to work in a different restaurant position and lost income because he was no longer earning tips.

While Rosendale acknowledged that the liability waivers he signed with the sports center were a condition of membership, he said he did not read the documents and that sports center staff did not give him copies.

He claims the city-operated Monterey Sports Center was negligent and created a dangerous condition on the basis that the liquid on the floor posed a substantial risk of injury.

Rosendale’s lawsuit said he suffered wage losses, medical expenses and pain and suffering from the fall.

While most personal injury claims are settled out of court, his case was set for jury trial this week at the Monterey County Courthouse on Aguajito Road. The jury selection process began Monday and was ongoing Wednesday morning.

LAGUNA

From page 3A

banners and other decorations they display at their beautiful Carmel Point home every August.

Their Scenic Road property, known as the “dog bar” house for its roadside water fountain and dish dedicated to canine passersby, often showcases their decorating prowess. During the Halloween season, an inspired array of skeletons adorns their oceanfront yard. (Last year’s scene featured Olympic athletes engaged in various feats.)

As for the racing, fans might want to keep an eye out for Sloss, who is in her mid-50s, in the IMSA Michelin Pilot Challenge, where she’s driving an Aston Martin for Van Der Steur Racing in her rookie season. She’ll be co-driving with Glenn McGee of Tampa, Fla., at Virginia International Raceway Aug. 22-24 in the GS class.

Now 93 years old, Rocky Creek Bridge to get \$21M rehab effort

By CHRIS COUNTS

MORE THAN \$3 billion of taxpayers’ money has been awarded by the California Transportation Commission to a slew of road projects throughout the state — including nearly \$21 million for the aging Rocky Creek Bridge in Big Sur, Caltrans reported this week. “Today’s investments reflect California’s long-term commitment to safer roads, smarter traffic management and expanded transportation choices that get people where they need to go,” Caltrans Director Dina El-Tawansy said.

The project is a reminder that many of Big Sur’s iconic bridges have exceeded their anticipated lifespans and need expensive repairs.

According to Caltrans, “preservation work” will be done on the bridge, including “electrochemical chloride extraction, structural steel cleaning and painting, and sub-structure repairs.”

Built in 1932 and made of concrete and steel, Rocky

Creek Bridge measures just under 500 feet long. While the American Road and Transportation Builders Association couldn’t provide updated data about the bridge, a 2019 report by that group gave it a deficiency status of “fair,” and a sufficiency rating of 46.5 — nearly the same as Big Sur’s Limekiln Creek Bridge, which is slated for replacement at a cost of more than \$100 million. Work on the Limekiln bridge is expected to start in 2027 and be completed in 2031.

Work starts in 2026

When Big Sur’s concrete bridges were built, they were expected to last for 60 to 80 years. Limekiln Creek Bridge is 75 years old, while Rocky Creek Bridge is 93 years old.

Kevin Drabinski of Caltrans told The Pine Cone that the Rocky Creek project will start with sandblasting and repairing the “delaminated and spalling” concrete. Next,

an electrochemical process will remove chloride ions from the bridge’s substructure. “This is designed to remove corrosion from within,” he explained.

Drabinski reported that the project is expected to start in early 2026 and be completed in summer 2028. “This timeframe is due to the extensive amount of surface repairs needed,” he added.

Compounding the issues at Rocky Creek Bridge, a slip-out of the pavement next to it in March 2024 led to the construction of a \$25 million viaduct that delayed countless motorists until it was completed 15 months later.

According to the latest data from the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, California ranks seventh among states with the largest number of bridges in poor condition, with 1,527. Fourteen out of 20 of the most deficient bridges in the United States are located in California, but none of the top 250 are in Monterey County.



Leanna MacGowan Towle

Leanna MacGowan Towle, 66, passed away peacefully with her loving family by her side on July 26, 2025, in Monterey. She was born on April 27, 1959, in Palo Alto, and resided for the past 30 years in Carmel. Leanna was a proud graduate of Gunn High School and Foothill College, majoring in wildlife conservation. She was a top track and field athlete in high hurdles and gymnast specializing in all-around events. Leanna raised horses in her youth, training them as jumpers and in dressage.

Leanna met her future husband, Brad, at UC Berkeley, and they married upon his graduation and commission into the USAF. They were stationed in Colorado Springs at the USAF Academy. Leanna excelled as a military wife, enjoying social events, hiking, football games, skiing and storm chasing. She always held very high respect for all veterans.

Leanna worked at Carmel Unified School District (Carmelo) and in real estate with her husband. Hobbies she loved included trips with family to Bass Lake, “old school” and classical music, very early morning walks, gardening, watching tennis with Brad, and watching LMN and all nature movies she could find. Leanna raised generations of quail, rabbits and squirrels at her home. She loved all her past pets (Isabella, Fred, Abby, Sinbad, Jake, Wormy and horses Sooner, Rappy and Dakota). Her special kitty, LuLu, misses her dearly.

Leanna is survived by her devoted husband, Brad; daughter, Krista (Ben); cherished grandchildren, Tyler, Liam and Callum (who lovingly called her Eemes); brothers, John and Tom; sisters-in-law, Kathy (Jamie) and Karen (Steve); and cousins, Jennifer, Janice, Denise, Susan, Arlene and Aunt Linda. Leanna loved all animals big and small. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in her name to the SPCA of Monterey.

Leanna will be deeply missed. Climb your Stairway to Heaven! We hope you can join the Rainbow Bridge with your beloved pets who are there!

Private services have been held.

Obituary Notices

Let us help you pay tribute to your loved one with an affordable obituary in The Carmel Pine Cone.

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ROBERT WILLIAM HATTON

Jan. 30, 1945 ~ July 21, 2025

Monterey, California

Robert William Hatton was born on January 30, 1945, to his parents Jack F. Hatton and Ida M. Hatton (née) Robinson) in Los Angeles, California.

Jack and Ida first met in Los Angeles when their families moved there from Utah in the 1920s.

Robert’s oldest sibling was Nancy, who was 16 years older than him. His brother Jack was born eight years after Nancy.

These people — his father; his mother; his brother, Jack; his wife, Valerie and their children, Curtis and Christopher; and his sister, Nancy; her husband, Lee and their children, Ross and Clay — became the cornerstone of Robert’s eight decades of adventure, discovery and romance.

By the 1950s Robert had latched onto two cousins, Randy Hatton and Clayton Cooper, and added them to his family fun team. Robert’s wife, Carol, can’t remember one picture of Clayton and Robert that didn’t show both of them dressed in cowboy outfits from boots to the crowns of their hats.

Both Clayton and Randy were very important throughout Robert’s life as were his older siblings, Jack and Nancy. Robert, Clayton and Randy were collaborators in boyhood adventures, while Jack and Nancy, given their age differences with Robert’s, served more often as mentors and coaches.

In the early 1950s, Robert’s parents teamed with his Uncle Bus and Aunt Margaret, Randy’s parents. Robert, his brother Jack, and their parents were in one car, and Bus, Margaret and Randy would be in another. The two families caravanned in their respective cars to Bishop, California for trout fishing and then to Yosemite to stay at Camp Curry.

Randy’s father Bus and Robert’s father Jack were both engineers at Lockheed. Wouldn’t you know, in those bygone days of no cell phones, they would develop a flag system to communicate without having to stop and talk while driving.

This rendezvous of fishing and camping became an annual event that lasted well into the ’60s.

Robert grew up in Inglewood, California, which was sandwiched between Los Angeles and the Pacific Ocean, and only a few hours ride in his 1948 Ford Woodie to adventures in the Mojave Desert or the San Gabriel Mountains.

The old Ford was a perfect fit for him, his friends and their surfboards. They spent every summer on the beach surfing and listening to the Beach Boys on the radio.

Robert was born into a family of engineers, but his first year major at Stanford focused on physics. He decided history was more interesting. He often said he loved Stanford so much he stayed for five years.

After graduation, he moved on to Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. He graduated in 1970 and passed the bar shortly thereafter.

Robert’s first job was at the California Attorney General’s office in Los Angeles.

In 1973, he saw an advertisement for an opening in the Monterey County District Attorney’s office. He got the job and was thrilled to work in such a wonderful location. He served as a deputy D.A. for District Attorney Bill Curtis and Assistant District Attorneys John Phillips and Dean Flippo for 31 years. The camaraderie and the lifelong friends he made there became very important in his life. He retired in 2004.

Robert met Carol in Latin class at age 14. They were friends all through high school and reconnected in 1967. They married in 1968, which jump-started their 57-year life of adventure.

Robert’s love of history often took them to England. Of all their adventures, visiting castles and museums full of armor made him the happiest.

His love of genealogy took them to many churches to look at records of family information. He also enjoyed talking with the vicars about their church’s history.

Robert was a voracious reader. He was interested in almost everything.

He had a book of quotes he had collected for many years. Here are three of them:

“He that has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.” — Luke 22:36

“A lawyer without history or literature is a mechanic, a mere working mason; if he possesses some knowledge of these he may venture to call himself an architect.” — Sir Walter Scott

“Until one has loved an animal, part of one’s soul is unawakened.” — Anatole France

Robert loved his pets, which included many cats and a sweet dog.

Robert will be missed by Carol, his family, and his cherished friends who were all happy to have him in their lives.

Thanks go to his doctors — Richard King, Kyla Velaer, Thomas Kehl, the wonderful care at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, Pierre, Brook, Jeff, Anina, and the staff at Paul Mortuary.

Please give to the charity of your choice.



CLAUS HANS SHELLING

May 11, 1929 - Jan 30, 2025

Claus Hans Shelling, beloved husband, father, grandfather, father-in-law, friend and colleague, passed away peacefully at home in the company of his wife, Alison Shelling and son, Peter Shelling.

Claus had a heart of gold, a wickedly funny sense of humor and a brilliant, always young, mind.



Born the only son of Rudolf Otto Schlesinger and Lily Mizel Schlesinger in Breslau, Germany, Claus grew up in Schfinetz, where he attended Catholic school.

He escaped Nazi Germany, with the help of a nun who escorted him on the afternoon of Nov. 9, 1938, “*Kristallnacht*,” to Berlin, to meet his parents who were working to secure a visa to come to America.

Claus and his parents eventually sailed into San Francisco, under the Golden Gate Bridge with the World’s Fair in full swing. Claus loved his new country, America.

After graduation from Petaluma High School, he attended Stanford University for both his undergrad in economics and his M.B.A. Claus was a lifelong sports fan of the Giants and Warriors as well as a Stanford booster, especially involved with Stanford Sports.

He donated his body to Stanford’s Medical School.

Upon graduation from Stanford, Claus enlisted in the U.S. Navy Officer Training Program to fight in the Korean War. The day he graduated OCS the war ended and he finished his tour of duty as the officer in charge of the Navy Base Recreation Department, El Centro, CA. Claus’s friends and family know, thanks to many, many, funny stories, Claus had the whole base hopping!

When his military service ended, he returned to Petaluma to help his father run the family’s business, R.O. Shelling Grain and Feed Mill. On a trip back to visit Stanford, he was recruited into the insurance industry which fulfilled his passion for helping families thrive, and led to his lifelong use of insurance as a tool for business succession planning.

He worked with The Peninsula Community Foundation, setting up charitable remainder trusts for business, closely held corporations and general estate planning. He loved his profession.

Claus enjoyed life to the fullest. His kindness, sense of humor, decisiveness, fabulous mind and loving heart will continue to nurture and guide his wife, Alison Pratt Shelling; children, Susan Shelling Lopes, (Jeffrey Pryer Saake), Lori Olivia Shelling and Peter Camden Shelling, (Cat Shelling); and grandchildren, Olivia Christine Lopes, Sage Bindi Shelling, Lily Jade Shelling and John (Jack) Anthony Shelling; step-grandchildren, Marc Takayuki Saake (Natalie Claire Saake) and Elena Osawa Saake (Charles Sebastian Terris)

He is missed by us all.

A memorial luncheon was held at his Carmel-by-the-Sea home, with family and friends.



STRs

From page 1A

“Many of them, like us, have been here from the beginning in this fight, and we deserve to be able to rent our homes.”

But Marcus Foster of Keep Big Sur Wild asked the commission to back the county’s ordinance.

“There’s no denying that short-term rentals impact opportunities for long-term housing,” Foster said. “You’re seeing this around the world at popular tourist destinations, and locals are starting to push back.”

Foster also took issue with those who contend that vacation stays make it easier for poor people to access places like Big Sur. He noted that one of his closest neighbors formerly rented to a local worker but now hosts guests in the same unit at \$2,500 per night.

A Monterey County planning commissioner and a Big Sur resident, Martha Diehl encouraged the commission to support the county.

“Perfect balance is impossible,” Diehl said. “As you can see from today’s turnout, nobody gets everything they want from the county’s ordinance, which is a pretty good sign that it’s balanced.”

A free-for-all

Monterey County Supervisor Kate Daniels also asked the commission to support the county’s solution for regulating the short-term rental industry along its coast.

“What we have right now is a free-for-all with no regulations,” Daniels said.

“What we will have, when we have regulations, is the opportunity to assess the concerns that you have in real time. What we’re trying to come up with is a proposal with an ordinance that allows short-term rentals but allows us to enforce where there are problems.”

Coastal commissioner Chris Lopez, who is also a Monterey County supervisor, told his colleagues that he wants to make sure “families who live inland get that chance to visit the coast.” Lopez voted against the county’s short-term-rental regulations as a county supervisor in Aug. 2024. “In my role as a commissioner, I have to speak out for those families,” he said.

Lopez said he wanted to see the county do more work on the ordinance to improve coastal access before the commission voted on it. He added that application fees for operators of short-term rentals — estimated to be as high as \$20,000 “to get through the door” — are too expensive.

Continues next page

HUGH (TOM) THOMAS HOY

Aug. 30, 1938 - Aug. 11, 2025

Pacific Grove

Hugh (Tom) Thomas Hoy passed away peacefully in Pacific Grove, California, on Aug. 11, 2025, at the age of 87.

Tom was born on Aug. 30, 1937, in Carmel, California, to Boyd Wallace Hoy and Anne Margaret Hitchcock. He grew up on 13th Street in Pacific Grove and attended Robert Down Elementary School from 1942 to 1952, graduating from Pacific Grove High School in 1955. Tom excelled in athletics, earning letters in football, basketball and baseball, was named All-Central Coast in football in 1954, and All-Conference 2 in baseball in 1954-1955. During high school, he also worked as a lifeguard and wrote sports articles for the Monterey Herald.



Tom attended Monterey Peninsula College (1955–1957), where he continued playing football and baseball, earning letters in each and being named Athlete of the Year in 1956. He then transferred to the University of Redlands, where he played football and baseball from 1957 to 1959 and earned a B.A. in social studies with a minor in kinesiology. The following year, he completed his High School Special Education Certificate at the University of California, Riverside, and later received an M.A. in physical education from San Jose State University in 1969. He also pursued additional graduate studies at Point Loma and Pepperdine Universities. Tom served in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1954 to 1963.

Tom’s career in education spanned almost 56 years. He began teaching Special Education and Adaptive PE at Colton High School (1959–1961) and Mountain View High School (1961-1968), where he also coached junior varsity football and varsity baseball at both schools. During his time at Mountain View, he additionally served as director of student activities. He then became vice principal at Los Altos High School (1968-1972), principal of Bloomington High School in Colton, California (1972-1976), and later served as high school vice principal and junior high principal in the San Marcos Unified School District (1976-1981). From 1982 to 1983, he was assistant superintendent for Reef-Sunset Unified School District in Avenal, California.

In 1983, Tom joined the Turlock Unified School District, where he served 14 years as a junior high and elementary principal. He retired from public schools in 1997 after 38 years of education, but his passion for teaching and mentoring did not end there. Following a year as a consultant for new administrators, he went on to spend an additional 17 years (1998-2015), teaching kinesiology in the California State University system at CSU Stanislaus as an adjunct professor.

While living in Turlock, Tom was active in service and volunteer work. His contributions included serving as an elder, deacon, Sunday school teacher, youth group advisor, church administrator and usher. He was also involved with the Exchange Club, Salvation Army Advisory Board, HIV Advisory Board in Stanislaus County, and the Rotary Club. When Tom and Nancy returned to Pacific Grove in 2018, he supported the reading and mentoring programs at Robert Down and Forest Grove Elementary Schools. He also volunteered as an assistant junior varsity baseball coach at Pacific Grove High School. At the time of his passing, Tom was volunteering at Monterey Peninsula College as a line coach with the Lobos football program and assisting with the study hall program.

Tom enjoyed reading and walking on the beach. He lived by the motto, “Be the best that you can be.” His guiding belief was, “I believe that every person has individual worth and dignity, and I try to live that belief.”

He is survived by his wife, Nancy Williams Burton Hoy. Tom and Nancy met in the first grade in Pacific Grove, became high school sweethearts, and were reunited later in life, marrying in 2016. They were blessed with nearly nine years together. He is also survived by children Thomas Marc Hoy of Tucson, Arizona and Peggy Hoy Barrad of Elk Grove, California; four grandchildren, Alexis, Addison, Kelcey and Brody; and two great-grandchildren, Harley and Bryson. He is further survived by his brother-in-law, David J. Weiland (Lillian) and niece, Julia Weiland Copado (Ivan). He also held close ties with Nancy’s children John Burton (Paula), Jeff Burton (Heather), Jim Burton (Florentina) and Ruth Burton Vaccaro (Paul); 10 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by the mother of his children, Anna Marie Farr Melvin; his son, David (Ted) Theodore Hoy; his third wife of 31 years, Virginia Ann Weiland Hoy; and his brother, John (Jack) Melvin Hoy.

In honor of Tom’s life, contributions may be directed to the Pacific Grove High School Alumni Association (Music and/or Athletics), P.O. Box 51396, Pacific Grove, CA 93950-6396, or to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (Tour America and/or Samaritan’s Purse), 1 Billy Graham Parkway, Charlotte, NC 28201-0001.

A celebration of Tom’s life will begin at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, at the Pacific Grove Community Center, 515 Junipero Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950. A light lunch will be served. Kindly RSVP to thoy4048@gmail.com by Oct. 4, 2025.



From previous page

“I’m not sure that’s fair,” he added.

A Big Sur homeowner who hosts a vacation rental, Lowell Strauss, told The Pine Cone he was disappointed by the commission’s decision.

“This decision doesn’t just hurt my ability to afford a coastal home, it hurts thousands of California families, like the teacher I hosted last year who was able to see Big Sur for the first time and came back inspired to share it with her students, or the family who made lifelong memories celebrating their grandmother’s 80th birthday together in our home. In Big Sur, hotels are scarce and often thousands of dollars a night. Vacation rentals are one of the only ways working families can afford to visit. The commission ignored clear evidence that these rentals do not harm housing supply and instead relied on false narratives that reserve the coast for the extremely wealthy.”

Opponents understandably celebrated the commission’s decision.

“Ten years in the making, the ordinance significantly reduces the number of vacation rentals in the coastal zone, protects neighborhoods from commercial hotelization, and encourages long-term rentals and workforce housing,” LandWatch Monterey County said.

Keep Big Sur Wild, one of the more outspoken opponents of short-term rentals in Big Sur, called the vote a “major milestone.”

“While the ordinance isn’t perfect, it establishes a solid foundation to protect housing for local residents, maintain the rural character of Big Sur, and ensure that tourism remains consistent with the Big Sur Land Use Plan,” the group said. “Importantly, it sets enforceable limits on vacation rentals and provides a framework that can be improved over time as we see how it works in practice.”

The new rules are set to take effect in a few months, and the county says it will be “proactive” in enforcing them.

“We’ll use a software program to monitor vacation rental listings in Monterey County,” county official Craig Spencer told The Pine Cone. “Anyone advertising a short-term rental who does not have a permit will be subject to fines and penalties.”

Operators who violate the rules are subject to fines that start at \$1,000 per day for first offenders — or 175 percent of the maximum advertised rental rate per day. The fines increase for second- and third-time offenders.



ELAINE OTIS VIAU
May 20, 1926 ♦ August 10, 2025

Elaine was born to Earl and Fleeta Otis 99 years ago in Selma, CA. She first met her future husband of almost 75 years, Floyd Viau, at Selma High School in the fall of 1941. They married in Selma in 1950 while Floyd was in law school. They chose to raise their children on a farm in nearby Del Rey where she co-managed the farm with her husband, who worked full-time as a lawyer, while also operating a successful antique business in Selma. Elaine and Floyd retired to Pacific Grove in 1986. She was active in the First United Methodist Church and also in the Christian Church, both of Pacific Grove. She was also very active in the Adobe chapter of Questers, and spent hours helping out at Viau’s Antiques, and later Viau Estate Jewelry in Carmel.

Elaine is survived by her husband, Floyd, of Pacific Grove; her four children, Claudette Moore (Courtney) of Kingsburg CA, Patricia Hoffman of Pacific Grove, Earl Viau (Tom) of Pacific Grove and Larry Viau (Keri) of Del Rey. She is further survived by seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren as well as her brother, George Otis (Sandra) of Selma, as well as a large and loving extended family of many nieces and nephews.

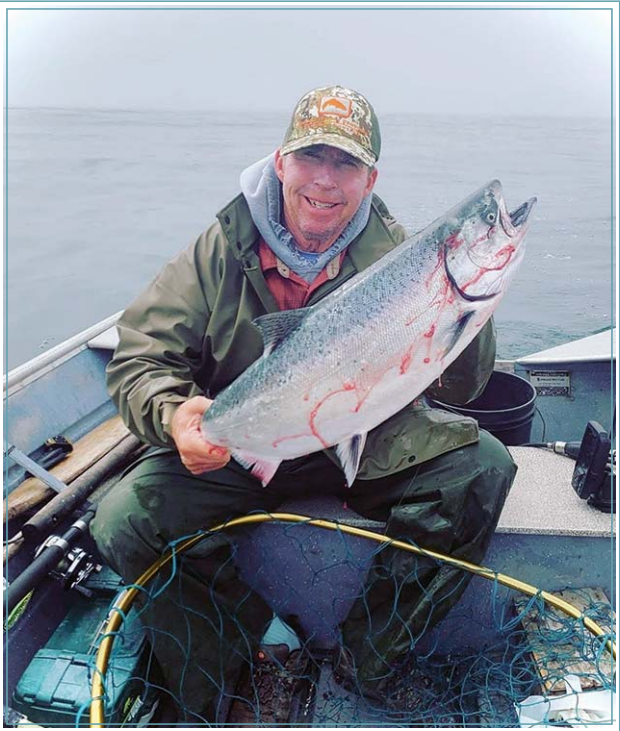
A memorial service will be held for Elaine at the Christian Church of Pacific Grove on August 28 at 2 in the afternoon.

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
MICHAEL JOHN SELBICKY
JULY 19, 1955 – AUGUST 8, 2025

Michael John Selbicky went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus, on August 8, 2025. Mike passed away peacefully at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula after a brave battle with cancer. Mike was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, son and friend who leaves behind a loving family and many beloved friends.

Married for 46 years, Mike is survived by his wife, Patricia Selbicky; and their three children, Jess Michael Selbicky, Julie Anne (Dan) Mendes and Michael Vincent Selbicky. He also leaves behind four grandchildren, Zoie Selbicky, Mollie Alanis, Annaleigh Mendes and Daniel Vincent Mendes. He is also survived by his four siblings, Neil (Joan) Selbicky, Margaret Stewart, Sandy Selbicky and Jon (Dawn) Selbicky along with many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Vincent Selbicky and Frances Selbicky Greene; along with his son, Matthew James Selbicky; and his brother; Vincent P. Selbicky.



Vince and Frances began raising the first part of their family with the birth of their son, Vincent Patrick, in 1932. Three other Selbicky siblings followed, Neil James, Margaret and Sandy. The Selbicky Four were the first of the six siblings. They were all born in the 1930s in a span of five years — from 1932 to 1937! However, the Selbicky Six was not complete until 1957!

Mike was born in Monterey on July 19, 1955. A true Native Son of the Monterey Peninsula, he grew up in Pacific Grove with his younger brother, Jon, who completed the Selbicky Six! As little boys they were taught to fish by their father, Vince. He fostered the love of fishing in both boys which created a strong, unbreakable bond. Throughout their lives, Mike and Jon, along with other family members and close friends, have spent cherished moments fishing from Big Sur to Santa Cruz and beyond to the lakes of the Eastern Sierra. They also enjoyed surfing the shores off PG, Santa Cruz and Big Sur as well as Hawaii! The Selbicky boys have been truly an integral part of the Monterey Peninsula surfing and fishing communities.

Mike graduated from Pacific Grove High School in 1973, playing football and participating in track and field. To this day he still holds the record for the longest throw in the 12 lb. shot put. The record stood for 20 years until Mike broke it! Mike’s record is now more than 50 years old and is still standing strong! It was his love of the field events that brought him to the Monterey Peninsula College Track and Field team. Representing MPC in the 1977 Coast Conference, Mike won the Coast Conference Championship in the shot put event. He also won the affection of the love of his life, Patty, as they both met on the MPC Track Team!

Patty and Mike were married at Lovers Point in Pacific Grove on February 3, 1979. Before they were married and throughout their marriage, Mike taught Patty how to surf. They enjoyed fishing in the bay, trying to catch the waves at the beach, riding bikes in Fort Ord, or just sitting in the car at Boneyard munching on Compagno’s sandwiches and taking in the ocean view.

During the early part of their marriage, Mike was employed by Hayward Lumber and Patty eventually became a registered nurse at CHOMP. Together, they set up their home in Pacific Grove where they raised their four children. In 1980 Jess, the oldest, was born followed by Julie Anne. Their third child, Matthew, passed away at 1 month old due to health issues. In 1990 their fourth child, Mikey, was born. Always a loving father, Mike was known to help coach the kids in baseball, softball and surfing! Like father, like sons ... both Jess and Mikey are avid surfers and fishermen following in the Selbicky family tradition.

Later in their marriage, Mike and Patty shared some wonderful traveling opportunities. Their first trip was to France where they were able to see first-hand The Tour de France. Together they were able to witness the beauty of the mountains and Mike was especially captivated by the beautiful cows that dotted the French countryside. He especially loved their big brown eyes and the bells they wore around their necks.

Their second trip was a life-changing trip for both. They traveled to Israel where their love of the Jewish people, God’s Chosen, came alive for both as they stepped into the Holy Land and witnessed the holy historical sites for themselves. Mike’s love and support for Israel remained unwavering and strong.

Yes, it is true, Mike was known by many titles ... but the one title that Mike would want others to know would simply be, A Believer In Christ. Mike has been a solid member of Calvary Monterey, where he and Patty attend church regularly. His love for Jesus is exemplified in his humble and gentle heart. Mike leaves behind a golden legacy of a loving family and wonderful friends interwoven in a beautiful tapestry of faith and hope in his beloved Savior, Jesus.

And in our faith as a family, we know Mike is now in the arms of Jesus. This is a comfort and a blessing. But Mike’s presence, his gentle and kind nature, along with his soft laugh and his wonderful patient approach and guidance to everything will be greatly missed by his family and his friends. Even his number one dog, Ted, the little Yorkie, who has been a friend as well as a comfort to Mike, will miss him. He will always remain in our hearts, truly loved by all.

The family would like to express their thanks and deepest gratitude for the wonderful care that Mike received from Dr. Nancy Tray, Dr. Baker-Leyva and Dr. Garren. Also, the Palliative Medicine Staff, Dennis, Kim and Dharma as well as all the wonderful nurses and nurses’ aides from Terrace West. You are all angels! And last, but not least, to Dr. Thomas Nelson from UCSF Neuro Oncology.

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service will be held in honor of Mike from 1 to 3 p.m. on September 5, 2025, at Calvary Monterey, 33001 Monterey-Salinas Highway, Monterey, CA 93940

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the following organizations. Thank you.

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www.https://spcamc.org

The Salvation Army Monterey Peninsula Corps:

www.https://montereypeninsula.salvationarmy.org

Leading with a good eye, a generous spirit and an open heart

AMID THE bustling afternoon crowd at the Crossroads shopping center, David Cushing Fuess stood out. In a good way.

A flowing white beard and hair, an infectious smile and a palpably laid-back attitude made him a bit of an island amid the hurrying currents of humanity fueling

Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

up on caffeine at Carmel Valley Coffee Roasting Co.

Fuess worked for The Pine Cone for about a year in 1975, when he wrote features and took photos for \$2.50 an hour. He said he really enjoyed the job.

“I could call up anybody and say, ‘Let’s do a story,’” he recalled. In addition, his nature photos often filled the paper’s front page. And while this area is incredibly photogenic, he noted, “I see beauty everywhere.”

Among others, he wrote for Health and Consciousness newspaper, Gadabout magazine, the Monterey Peninsula Herald, and Game and Gossip magazine, and he was the 1980 art editor of Monterey Peninsula Art Magazine.

Buttoned-down

Born in 1947, Fuess — who lives near the Carpenter Street exit off Highway 1 — has had a remarkably nomadic life. In a generation that first venerated, then rejected, 30-year sojourns on corporate ladders, his path has led like a river-crossing, from stone to stone. He’d stop long enough to learn something, make a contribution and find a new way to help others, then move on to the next adventure or lesson life had for him.

Nothing about him hints at his seemingly buttoned-down ancestry. Grandfather Claude Moore Fuess was headmaster of Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., from 1933 to 1948. The school’s alumni include presidents George H.W. and George W. Bush, John F. Kennedy Jr., and Congressman Patrick Kennedy, along with executives, professionals and artists of all stripes.

His father, John Cushing Fuess, was in the U.S. diplomatic corps. He served as vice consul in Belfast, where he married Cora Frances Henry in 1942. He later became consul general in Trieste, Italy.

David Fuess appeared to be on track to follow in their footsteps, attending the Governor Dummer Academy in Massachusetts

— the oldest boarding school in New England, founded in 1763.

Before he arrived, however, Fuess had his first spiritual experience. At age 12, he visited Assisi and the Italian hermitage dedicated to St. Francis, who is remembered for renouncing a comfortable life as the son of a wealthy merchant for a lifelong vow of poverty and service to God. Fuess said that while there, he “saw infinity” and “that everything was love.”

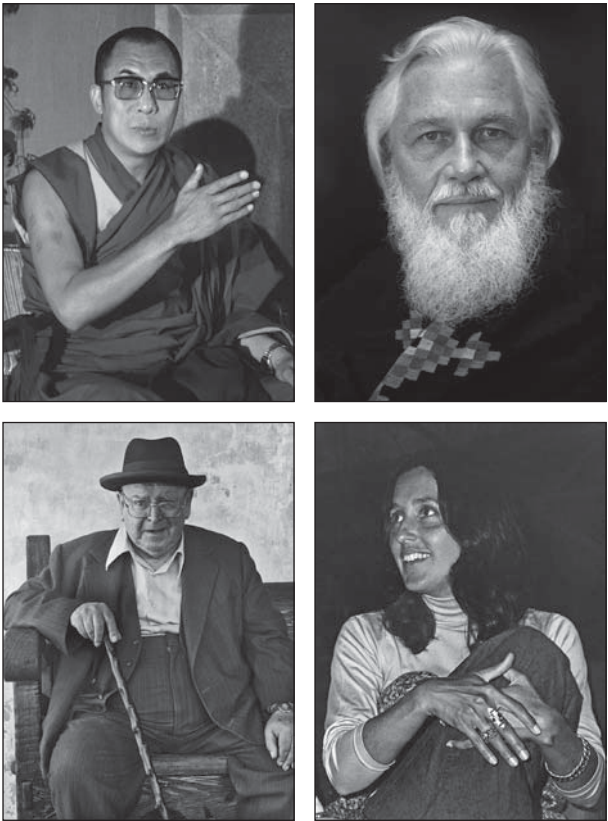
When he was in school in Rome, museum and bus passes helped feed his curiosity. “I learned about Renaissance art at 13 and Roman history at 14,” Fuess said. In 1958, he met Charlton Heston during the filming of “Ben Hur.”

An honest man

Back in the United States, he said, he turned his attention to the issues of the day, joining the NAACP in Boston. He recalled hearing Quakers like popular writer and outdoorsman Euell Gibbons speak about their beliefs, including pacifism. He thought deeply about their words, and by 1965, he had become “a serious conscientious objector” to the war in Vietnam.

“Dad was extremely opposed” to that stance, Fuess recalled. But before his draft board hearing, his father gave him a letter that said, “I completely disagree with everything my son is doing, but he’s the most honest man I know,” and that he supported his decision. Fuess said he was denied conscientious objector status, but his draft lottery number saved him.

See LIVES page 26A



(Clockwise from top right) David Fuess has had 25 one-man photo shows. He’s enjoyed capturing the images and personalities of people like singer Joan Baez, Sir Harry Downie, who restored the Carmel Mission, and the Dalai Lama. It’s one of several careers.

Don’t miss “Scenic Views” by Jerry Gervase — every week in the Real Estate Section.

He likes painting ‘rot and decay’

IN THE eye of beholder Brian Sanders, beauty often is derived from visions some of us reflexively ignore.

The Monterey Peninsula artist sees the allure of peeling paint, rusting metal, weatherbeaten wood, fractured pavement — the character, mystery, scars and decomposing history of good times that became harder times.

Sanders creates acrylic, photorealistic paintings of scenes that most likely have interesting backstories: a splintery red barn within walking distance of his Pacific Grove home, a 1950s-vintage pickup truck parked alongside a grimy building with barred windows on a North Hollywood side street, a once-proud fishing boat, filthy, flaking and forgotten on a trailer in a Moss Landing weed field ...

“I like painting rot and decay — houses that are falling apart, with dead trees in the front yard ... moss growing on an old boat,” said Sanders, who shows his work at the Nancy Dodds Gallery in Carmel and 480 Lighthouse Gallery in Pacific Grove.

Thought-provoking art

“I feel like a painting should evoke a question in your mind, give you a chance to think about what you’re seeing, maybe make up your own story about its history,” he said.

Creating photorealism on canvas can be a cumbersome exercise in patience, determination, tedium, and — on a good day — exhilaration.

“There are times when everything is working. I’m not making mistakes, I’m not having to go back and redo anything. That’s a wonderful, wonderful feeling, and it doesn’t come frequently enough,” Sanders said. “Sometimes, the rest of the painting is done, and one little inch doesn’t look quite right. That will drive me crazy.”

He’s been known to rework a troublesome flaw relentlessly, scraping, sanding and repainting until he creates a scab on his canvas. Such is life for a self-taught artist

whose education came entirely through trial and error.

Sanders took a couple of art classes as a sophomore and junior at Leigh High School in San Jose, then spent pieces of the next four decades figuring things out for himself: lighting, shadows, perspective, colors, composition, proportion.

A stack of near-success stories hides in a corner of his studio, waiting to be reworked, painted over or discarded. It’s a

Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

common story.

So, too, is an artist’s journey toward validation.

“Once in a while, a friend would say, ‘Hey, I’d love to have one of your paintings on my wall,’ and I’d trade a painting for a gift certificate or something else that was mostly worthless,” he said. “But eventually, I started taking it a little more seriously.”

The next step, of course, was to impress somebody in the art world, another road infamously fraught with peril. Sanders holds onto a rude rejection he got years ago from an art competition.

“I keep that thanks-but-no-thanks letter to this day, because it still hurts to read it. When I received it, I realized I was out of my depth,” he said.

“At that point, I kind of decided art should be something I did as a hobby. I figured nobody was likely to be interested enough to actually buy one of my paintings, and I kind of put my head in the sand for about six years.”

Sanders credits his wife, Jackie, with popping that bubble of negativity. They had walls in their home that needed décor. She had a talented husband.

‘My driving influence’

“Jackie would find photographs of things that looked like my subject matter, and she started pushing me to paint again,” he said of the woman he married 39 years ago.

“She’s always believed in me, and she’s been my driving influence. She keeps shoving ideas in front of me, keeps me inspired.”

Twenty years ago, when the couple moved to the Peninsula with their daughter, Juliet, then 7 years old, one of their earliest acquaintances was Nancy Dodds. She liked Sanders’ work and invited him to exhibit at the Carmel gallery she’s owned since 1996.

“The first time I sold a painting to somebody who didn’t know me was out of Nancy’s gallery,” he said. “That, for me, was a real epiphany. Someone looked over that broad spectrum of art on those walls and said, ‘That’s the one I want.’ And I realized, ‘Maybe people aren’t just being nice and coddling my ego!’”

His ongoing challenge is finding time to create.

Sanders works full-time as a luggage handler with American Airlines



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

Pacific Grove photorealist Brian Sanders shows his highly detailed acrylic paintings at The Nancy Dodds Gallery in Carmel, and 480 Lighthouse Gallery in P.G.

See ARTIST next page



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LETTERS

From page 22A

What a shame

Dear Editor,

“C’est dommage,” M. Pastor. As a pragmatic resident of Carmel, I thank you for your investments in our community — from purchasing the hazardous “Pit,” to restoring aging buildings into the Carmel Beach Hotel, to supporting Carmel Cares.

It is disappointing that the city council, the planning commission, and a small group of residents have created

City to host workshops on house numbers

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

Do YOU want a standardized address? Or do you fear having house numbers would destroy one of Carmel’s enduring, quirky charms? What are the ramifications of either course?

Following through on a pledge to get community feedback and answer questions on the contentious topic, a committee is hosting daytime and evening workshops in hope of hearing from as many people as possible.

The group — which includes city councilman Bob Delves, residents Nancy Twomey, Kevin Ruess and Paula Hazdovac, and city staffer Emily Garay — will present its findings accumulated from research during the past several months, with discussion to follow. Its mission is to develop a comprehensive picture of the process required to implement a nationally recognized address system and the associated costs so the council can make an informed decision on whether to proceed with establishing house numbers.

Sessions at Sunset

The workshops will be held in Carpenter Hall in Sunset Center at Mission and Ninth to ensure there’s plenty of room for everyone, and people will be able to participate in person and online. The first will run from 1 to 4 p.m. Aug. 27, and the second will be Sept. 4 from 5 to 8 p.m.

“Each workshop will include a Q&A session, and feedback is encouraged and appreciated,” the city’s announcement stated. Logon information for Zoom will be available on the agendas posted at ci.carmel.ca.us, and the meetings will also stream on YouTube for anyone who wants to watch but not comment.

Correction

LAST WEEK’S front page story, “CPUC hands Cal Am major victory in desal dispute,” incorrectly attributed a statement about the Peninsula’s water supply to Monterey city manager Hans Uslar. We apologize for the error.

so many obstacles to projects that could strengthen Carmel’s safety, beauty and unique charm. Our permitting process has become a byzantine maze that too often deters those who want to enhance our town.

The “Pit” remains an unsafe eyesore. Potential projects that would add housing through infill and breathe new life into historic homes and commercial buildings are being stymied. Creative, sustainable ideas like rooftop landscaping — embraced in cities such as San Francisco for cooling, beauty and environmental benefit — have been dismissed here for questionable reasons. Protecting Carmel’s charm means embracing smart progress, not bureaucratic roadblocks.

Our city deserves a permitting process that is clear, objective and timely, with fair guidelines for both historic and coastal projects. These reforms would help major investors, small businesses, and homeowners alike, while protecting the qualities — beauty, safety and charm — that make Carmel special.

I call on the mayor and city council to prove that Carmel can protect its charm and character while still embracing smart progress. A streamlined process will encourage projects that reflect our values, strengthen our community and keep Carmel as magical tomorrow as it is today. Let’s choose vision over red tape — and make this a town that says “yes” to the right kind of future.

Colleen Logan,
Carmel

Process is working

Dear Editor,

Despite all the noise and media coverage to the contrary, the municipal appeal process for the Seventh/Dolores project is working. Code section 17.54.040 (C):

ARTIST

From previous page

at San Francisco International Airport. He puts in 40 hours in three days — consecutive shifts of 16, 16 and eight hours every weekend. “It used to be easier. I’m 63 now, and it just crushes me, physically,” he said.

But he prides himself in customer service, even when a task isn’t part of his job description. “I can’t drive past a lonely bag that I’ve seen sitting off to the side for a day or two, even if it’s not part of our airline. I’ll stop to see if I can find identification, call the number and try to get that piece of luggage back to the person who’s waiting for it.”

Keeping paradise pristine

Sanders frequently sleeps through Monday, then walks local streets, beaches, trails and roadways with Jackie on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Armed with a trash-grabbing tool and a bag, he collects every scrap of litter in his path.

Jackie, his muse, points out potential subject matter for his paintings. “I try to paint for a few hours each night, but I also need to find time to exercise and be with Jackie on our couch, and rub her feet,” he said. “Our relationship is

“Decisions to approve or deny projects made by the planning commission ... may be appealed to the city council.” This has been the due process embedded in the code since at least 1975.

It provides either an applicant or a citizen(s) a procedure to petition the council for review of a decision from the planning commission. Had the commission rejected the Seventh/Dolores project or assigned conditions or made interpretations which the owner found onerous or objectionable, the owner would have had the same right of petition for review that some Carmel citizens exercised.

Douglas J. Schmitz,
Carmel

Yes to solutions

Dear Editor,

On one hand, Carmel-by-the-Sea is a town that cherishes beauty, preservation and community character. On the other hand, it repeatedly punishes those who come forward with well-crafted visions to protect, restore and uplift that character.

Like Patrice Pastor, I know what it feels like to try — earnestly and respectfully — to bring something beautiful to Carmel, only to be told no. Or worse: “Not now, come back later.”

Through our nonprofit, Carmel Outlands, we proposed a community-driven plan to restore Flanders Mansion — offering to conduct a feasibility study worth \$61,000 at no cost to the city. We asked for just one day’s access to take scans so we could deliver a comprehensive restoration plan and were told, “Not now.” We assembled a board, recruited preservation experts, and invited the neighbors

See **MORE LETTERS** next page

as wonderful today as it was 41 years ago, when we first got together.”

Sanders was genuinely surprised to win second prize — \$3,000 — for his rendering of a pristine adobe cottage in a competition at 480 Lighthouse Gallery, which opened last year.

The contest attracted 72 of 480 Lighthouse’s 300 artists, each of whom was given 30 days to paint any subject or style on one of the 16-inch squares set up in the gallery.

“I went in there four times, for an hour each, and just stopped as fast as I could. ” he said. “That’s as loose as I’ve ever painted — by necessity, because I really only had a few hours to get it done, which is not good for photorealism. It was rough.”

Jackie arranges flights and accommodations for a women’s surf camp in Mexico — a company owned by Brian’s brother and sister-in-law — and fills in at the Nancy Dodds Gallery. Juliet, their daughter, is married and lives in Austin, Texas.

See Sanders’ paintings at nancydoddsgallery.com, or visit the Nancy Dodds Gallery in Carmel on Seventh between San Carlos and Dolores on Wednesday through Saturday, and Monday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The 480 Lighthouse Gallery is open Friday through Sunday, noon to 3 p.m.



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MORE LETTERS

From previous page

to participate in the process. The city’s favorite answer for us in 2023, 2024 and finally in 2025 was delay. And while delay might feel like a neutral act, it isn’t. Inaction is a choice. The longer the city says “maybe,” the more the town loses — culturally, economically and generationally.

Pastor’s departure should be a wake-up call. If this city can’t work constructively with someone who owns some of our most iconic buildings — and who can afford the best architects and legal counsel — what hope is there for grassroots efforts like ours?

We’re not writing this letter to plead for reconsideration. We simply want the public to understand the city had its chance. After years of being ignored, sidelined and made to wait, we’re no longer sure we want to move forward.

The soul of Carmel isn’t preserved by leaving buildings empty and unchanged — it’s preserved by engaging with our heritage, restoring what’s been neglected, and making space for meaningful public use.

The city should say yes to people bringing forward real solutions and no to the pattern of delay.

Mike Buffo
Founder/executive director,
Carmel Outlands

Follow the rules

Dear Editor,

This is to assure Patrice Pastor he is not the victim of a deep-state conspiracy within our Carmel city government. We just expect people of means to follow the same rules as the rest of us folks here in Carmel. A reading of our history will reveal many examples of this eccentricity or strangeness, if you will.

Frankie Laney,
Carmel

It’s our choice
Dear Editor,

I won’t restate the many good points made in the Pastor-oriented letters published in last week’s edition. What troubles me about government in general is when its defenders use the “that’s how the system works” excuse to explain dysfunctional, as if “the system” had been imposed from on high. Punchline: Change the system! When Steven Hillyard cites 100-year-old laws and uses phrases like “protect the city’s character,” I strap in for yet another “anything-but-change” narrative. He contends that staff (and council and the city attorney, by association) owe their collective allegiance to the community; how does Carmel’s archaic, flawed, glacially paced system serve the community (other than negatively, at least in the case of Mr. Pastor)?

My perception as a relatively nascent observer is that a few “preserve the status quo” voices continue to carry weight disproportionate to their numbers on a variety of issues. How jerking around a guy who is clearly invested in our community and seems to want to work within the system to improve things (like giant ugly holes in the ground and the village’s economic profile) reflects “allegiance to the community” is lost on me. On many publicized issues facing Carmel, a drag-it-out-needlessly-until-they-give-up process seems to be standard operating procedure. But this standard operating procedure is a choice. It is neither a mandate nor a requirement.

I don’t blame Mr. Pastor a bit for having had enough. The private sector sometimes refers to departments like compliance, risk and legal as “business prevention units.” By mandate, they fill key organizational roles, but often they advocate that “no business” is safer than “new business,” which may be true on its face but in reality is anathema to successful business management.

Our town’s government repeatedly demonstrates the same inclination. By choice, not by requirement. They could

See **OPINIONS** page 27A

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LIVES

From page 23A

He came to San Francisco for the Summer of Love in 1967 and graduated from Bucknell University in Pennsylvania in 1969 with a degree in Asian studies. Fuess earned his master’s in Chinese history and philosophy from Washington University in St. Louis.

He explained, “One in every four people in the world was Chinese. And my middle name, Cushing, was for Caleb Cushing, who signed the first treaty with China.” In 1844, Ambassador Cushing, a distant relative, signed the Treaty of Wangxia — highlighting “peace, amity and commerce” — with that nation.

Fuess’ spirituality continued to evolve. He has visited or climbed 15 “holy mountains” — an international group of peaks including Mount Sinai “in the snow and ice” in Egypt, Mount Taishan in China and Mount Kailash in Tibet.

And, he noted, “I have had teachers in all religions.”





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After marrying and moving to the Monterey Peninsula, Fuess took courses at the Monterey Institute of Foreign Studies, now Middlebury Institute. A job at the Monterey Peninsula Youth Project brought him to the Aquarian House on Jackson Street in Monterey, where he worked with young adults living on the street. He was a peer and drug counselor and was a liaison with local police, the sheriff, and adult and juvenile probation departments, and was an outreach counselor at Carmel High School. It was rewarding but difficult, often requiring 12-hour days, and he left after about a year-and-a-half to pursue writing and photography. They’re linked, for him, in that “photography is writing with light.”

Trout farm

What interested him most was capturing people’s personalities on film. However, his arrival on the Peninsula had exposed him to the works of the Westons, Ansel Adams and Wynn Bullock, next to whom, he said, “I couldn’t take a picture.”

He persevered, eventually capturing images of Brett Weston, Adams, Joan Baez, and dozens of other notables, and having 25 one-man photography shows.

He did all right by The Pine Cone, too, with features about locals like the late author Randall Reinstedt, who wrote “Shipwrecks and Sea Monsters of California’s Central Coast,” international art dealer Ed Fritzie, and photographer Brett Weston. There was a photo essay about Peninsula Potters in Pacific Grove, coverage of the city’s annual sandcastle contest, and an in-depth look at Richard Mack’s Garrapata Trout Farm.

Following a divorce, Fuess traveled the world for a year (with help from his uncle), and in 1983 became the co-editor of Community Spirit Magazine/Well Street Journal, which he said had a circulation of 30,000 from

Santa Cruz to Big Sur.

For three years, Fuess taught the history of photography at MPC, plus two semesters on Mao Zedong, as well as giving instruction on healing therapies. He noted that he was a co-founder of the Monterey Institute of Touch.

A licensed acupuncturist, Fuess noted that he’s treated thousands of people, was staff acupuncturist at the Esalen Institute, and taught Chinese history and philosophy at Meridian Acupuncture College in Monterey and Five Branches Institute in Santa Cruz. His teaching and speaking experience includes appearances in Mexico, Australia, India and Japan.

Studies of tai chi, yoga, acupuncture and acupressure were all part of his training. Ultimately, he gravitated to polarity therapy, a holistic practice combining Eastern and Western medicine and working to balance energy in the body. Fuess has been helping others and teaching the practice for years and said he makes house calls and visits The Park Lane assisted living facility in Monterey.

Everything he does seems to be infused with a genuine desire to support his fellow man, especially one on one, listening and offering healing.

And, after decades of moving among the worlds of international studies, art, journalism, spirituality and healthcare, he seems to know more than a little about being properly balanced.

SENIOR

From page 10A

Cone Thursday that since it was purchased in November 2023, Del Monte Village has provided “exceptional progress and care to seniors” and has had “zero issues.”

The civil complaint, filed jointly by the Monterey and San Joaquin County district attorney’s offices, alleges violations at facilities in Lodi and Stockton that prosecutors say were also owned by the Sainis and their companies, including Roma Del Monte.

Additionally, they failed to have adequate staffing during absences and at night “to prevent elopement by residents,” which violated California regulations for residential care facilities, the DA’s office said.

The lawsuit seeks civil penalties of \$2,500 against each defendant, including the Sainis, and recovery of attorney and investigation costs.

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

Stevenson Pirates expect great season, thanks to 22 returning players

THEY GRADUATED important players — no doubt — from their 2024 division championship team. And they’re moving upstairs this season to face tougher competition.

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

But the Stevenson Pirates return this fall with a big, fast, strong, skilled, battle-tested football roster that includes 22 returning players, mostly three-sport athletes who have learned how to win and have no reason to expect



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Senior Caden Olson is an explosive receiver, a stellar defensive back, and a game-breaking return man for the Pirates.

anything less.

Last year’s Pirates went 6-0 to capture the Pacific Coast Athletic League’s Santa Lucia Division — the second football title in school history, and the first in 23 years — and went 7-3 overall, bowing out in the first round of the Central Coast Section Division 5 playoffs.

The upside of playing football at a small school is that an abundance of players on the roster get significant game experience during a 10-game season.

“It’s almost like having 22 returning starters,” said Kyle Cassamas. “So our job, as coaches, is mostly about moving some pieces around to make things work a little better.”

A standout at QB

A key piece is quarterback Fin Mink, who was voted Offensive Player of the Year in the Santa Lucia Division after passing for 2,079 yards in his junior season — his first as a starting QB — completing 129 of 190 passes (68 percent) for 25 touchdowns, with just 3 interceptions.

Mink also glittered in the Pirates’ only postseason game (a 30-20 loss to Leland), connecting on 22 of 35 passes for 290 yards.

“Having Fin back takes a lot of pressure off our shoulders as a coaching staff,” Cassamas said. “As a passer, he’s extremely accurate, and a good decision-maker who does a really good job of protecting the ball.”

“He understands the offense, to the point where he’s kind of creating some of his own,” the coach said. “It’s exciting to watch him take that next step in his own development.”

Also returning are Mink’s three favorite targets: Grady



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

All-division interior lineman Cody Thatcher (6-5, 220) and quarterback Fin Mink (2024 Offensive Player of the Year) bring leadership to a talented Stevenson roster.

Roth (33 catches, 583 yards, 17.6 per catch, 5 TDs), Caden Olson (26-526, 20.2, 8 TDs) and Derek Diniz (27-501, 18.6, 4 TDs), all seniors.

Olson, a first-team all-division choice, played his best game on the biggest stage, making 12 receptions for 205 yards in the Pirates’ CCS playoff loss.

The air attack also includes running backs Reggie Bell (6 receptions for 113 yards, 22.4 yards per catch) and Tono Borgomini (6-49), a second-team All-Santa Lucia choice.

Borgomini (551 yards on 59 carries, 9.3 per carry, 10 TDs) led a balanced rushing game that also featured Bell (52-438, 8.4) and Mink (32-335, 10.5).

Facilitating their success is a big, experienced offensive line, led by first-team all-division blockers Tucker Biggs (6-foot-3, 240 pounds, committed to play next year

See **SPORTS** next page

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And crown thy good with brotherhood and our Sweet Liberty.
To those whose lives were taken by this senseless tragedy,
you’ll always be an honored part of our country’s history.
You’ll live on in our memories, for we meant what we said,
we will remember 9/11 and the freedom we defend.
America, America, God shed His grace on thee.
And crown thy good with brotherhood and our Sweet Liberty.*

Credits

The music for Sweet Liberty is adapted from America the Beautiful. America the Beautiful is a poem written by Katharine Lee Bates, first published in 1895. It was combined with music composed by church organist Samuel A. Ward in 1910.

(P) 2017 New lyric written and music adapted by Paul Martin.

New arrangement produced by Paul Martin and Daryl Kojak.

Musical version may be heard on Spotify, Apple, or www.MyPrayers.net

Paul Martin © 2/25/2017 | Sweet Liberty | Phm2000@aol.com | www.MyPrayers.net

SPORTS

From previous page

at Colby College) and Tucker Green, plus Cody Thacher (6-5, 220), Alex Wang (5-10, 240), and Hunter Guerrero – all returning starters. Jacob Wall, a stellar sophomore with an extensive football background, also figures prominently in that mix.

Leaders at DL, linebacker

The defensive line will be built around Thacher (first-team all-division), Wang, and Jack Dalhamer, another athletic 200-pounder.

“Most years, I’ll find myself grasping to figure out how our offensive and defensive lines are going to look. You can have all the star power you want at the skill positions, but high school football games are won in the trenches,” Cassamas said.

“If you can’t move the ball inside, it’s going to be a long season, but I’m really looking forward to having so many experienced players on both sides of our line this year,” he said.

Linebacker Zryan Morgan — the team’s second-leading tackler (70) as a sophomore, where he’ll be re-joined by twin brothers Brooks and Brady Andrade.

A deep and talent-stacked defensive backfield will be led by first-team all-division cornerback Diniz (55 tackles, 2 interceptions), Logan Lund (2 interceptions), Olson, Roth, Bell, plus Barak De La Rosa, and Phinn Thomas.

Stevenson also figures to be explosive on special teams.

Olson averaged 28.6 yards on 5 punt returns, and Bell had a 26.1 average on 7. Bell returned 9 kickoffs for a 45.6-yard average, and Olson raced 99 yards on his only kickoff runback. Diniz and De La Rosa also are expected to work into that



All-division Tucker Biggs (6-3, 240), a force on both sides of the line, already has committed to play next season at Colby College.

PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

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rotation.

Zach Da Silva will do the placekicking, and Thacher will handle the punting, both in first-year roles.

Moving to Mission South

After dominating the Santa Lucia Division in 2024, the Pirates move up to the Mission South Division, replacing the state champion Carmel Padres, who were bumped upstairs to the Gabilan.

Mission South competition will include Everett Alvarez, Greenfield, King City, Pacific Grove and Soledad.

“I think this team has really earned the opportunity to move up, and we’re all really excited for that challenge,” Cassamas said. “These last couple of years, it’s

been a bit of a challenge to get up for some of the opponents on our schedule, but this year we’ll be facing teams that can compete with us on a week-to-week basis.”

The Pirates open their season with a road trip to Rancho San Juan at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, then play back-to-back home games against Livingston and San Lorenzo Valley — both with 2 p.m. kickoffs.

Other non-division opponents include Monte Vista Christian (Sept. 26 on the road) and Scotts Valley (Oct. 4 at home).

Division play begins at Greenfield on Oct. 10, and the home opener in the Mission South is Oct. 18 against Pacific Grove.

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

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10CC plays Thursday at Golden State, Turkish festival showcases big band

FAMOUS FOR a song that masterfully masks its writer's true feelings, **10CC** takes the stage Thursday, 7 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

While the group enjoyed quick suc-

cess in the United Kingdom — their first three singles were Top 10 hits — they didn't catch on along this side of the pond

until 1975, when "I'm Not in Love" was released in the United States and climbed to No. 2 on the pop charts.

Noted for its lush and mesmerizing background vocals, the song was not only a huge critical and commercial success, but pioneered a slew of recording techniques. This year's mark's the song's 50th anniversary.

Today, 10CC is led by singer, guitarist and bassist **Graham Gouldman**, the last of its members to play on "I'm Not in Love." Besides his contributions to the song, he wrote an impressive number of pop hits for British Invasion bands, including "For Your Love" and "Heart Full of Soul" for the Yardbirds and "Bus Stop" for the Hollies.

Tickets start at \$47. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

Also, at Golden State this week is jazz saxophonist **Dave Koz**, who will be joined onstage by an ensemble of his musical friends Friday at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$50.

■ 'Be dazzled'

Set for Aug. 23-24 at the Custom House Plaza, the 25th annual Monterey Turkish Arts & Culture Festival offers a



The Expendables (left) play Saturday at Sand City's annual West End Celebration, while singer and guitarist Anthony Arya (right) performs the following day.



stage for **The Taksim Big Band**, which plays Turkish, Anatolian, Mediterranean and Balkan music. The ensemble performs Saturday at 1:15 and 4:30 p.m., and Sunday at 12:30 and 3 p.m.

The concerts will offer "energetic performances of traditional Turkish folk songs and dances that bring the country's rich cultural heritage to life," organizers said, and promise to dazzle the audience with "colorful belly dancing shows and cultural presentations that showcase Turkey's vibrant history and customs."

Besides live music, the festival fea-

tures an array of food, dance, art and family-friendly fun.

For more details about the festival, visit turkfestca.org.

■ Street fair set for Aug. 23-24

Featuring dozens of musical acts playing on three stages throughout Sand City, the West End Celebration returns Aug. 23-24. The family-friendly gathering is free.

See **MUSIC** page 34A



Singer and multi-instrumentalist Graham Gouldman joins 10CC Thursday at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.



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Autumn comes to town and great fair food is already on the horizon

LABOR DAY is nearly upon us. We don't have many trees that change color, although you can find a nice swath along the Carmel River where it winds through the valley, and the vineyards out there do turn luminous yellow-gold. We also usually have warm and sunny weather and plenty of fun events as one season slips into the next.

At the local farmers markets, you can pick up tomatoes at their peak of ripeness, fragrant strawberries, peaches bring childhood memories to life. Fresh apples — as opposed to their flavor-impaired cold-storage cousins —

Soup to Nuts

are also making an appearance. At many events, offerings go beyond fruits and vegetables to include baked goods, small-batch cheeses, local olive oil, grass-fed beef and other delicacies.

Visit Everyone's Harvest at everyonesharvest.org to see schedules for markets on Sundays in Marina, Mondays in P.G., and Thursdays in Seaside near Embassy Suites. The Old Monterey Market on Alvarado Street is open Tuesdays from 4 to 8 p.m. through September before returning to a 7 p.m. closing time in October.

Monterey Bay Certified Farmers Markets (monterey-bayfarmers.org) include the Friday event at Del Monte Center, the Sunday market — which closes at the end of September — at the same location, and the seasonal Tuesday market at the Barnyard shopping center. And of course, there's the one at Sixth and Mission on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the market at Mid-Valley Center on Sundays starting at 10 a.m.

■ It's time for Pigs n Pinot

Bernardus Winery's recently refreshed outdoor patio and its nicely appointed tasting room will be packed with fans of pinot noir and Rob Baker's famous slow-smoked pulled pork for the 11th Annual Pigs n Pinot Sunday, Sept. 7, from noon to 4 p.m. This popular event almost always sells out.

Bernardus' winemaking team, headed by Jim McCabe, produces a half-dozen versions of pinot noir. The grape

grows well in Carmel Valley and the Santa Lucia Highlands, where the climate is similar to their native Burgundy. Among the offerings are four pinot noirs, each from a specific local vineyard: Ingrid's Vineyard in Carmel Valley, and the Soberanes, Sierra Mar and Rosella's vineyards in the Santa Lucia Highlands. Having the opportunity to taste them side by side is extra special because it lets wine lovers appreciate the differences that soil and location make even among wines crafted from the same kinds of grapes. Bernardus is pouring the 2022 vintage, and those bottles typically sell

The perfect pairing for those wines is Baker's signature slow-smoked pork, especially when it's accompanied by slaw and served on rolls. Baker, who headed sales for Bernardus for years, has also long offered catering through his Me and the Hound Memphis BBQ, an homage to his culinary roots.

Tickets to Pigs n Pinot are \$75, with a \$5 discount for wine club members. The afternoon will also feature live music. Reserve at bernardus.com/product/pigs-and-pinot.

■ Transition time

Another sign of fall on the Monterey Peninsula is when the autumnal dishes start arriving, and Cafe Carmel (cafe-carmel.com) on Ocean Avenue near Mission is on point, as usual. Chef/owner Sarah Cook has a great lunch suggestion — a lovely salad of pears poached in red wine and cinnamon, mixed greens, candied pecans, locally produced East of Edam cheese, and ambrosia vinaigrette (\$14). For dessert, Cook has a marvelous chocolate cake with chocolate mousse filling, and a nice-sized piece goes for \$5.50. For a dash of energy, try the iced banana matcha



Whether it's an ice cream cone that's almost as big as you are, or that doughy Pennsylvania delicacy, the funnel cake, the Monterey County Fair can satisfy a sweet tooth.



latte with caramel drizzle. Finish it off with a nice walk down to the beach and back beneath the blue September and October skies that seem to be made just for us locals.

■ C.V. Uncorked

The rare opportunity to dine in a vineyard alongside winemakers from 10 local producers presents itself Sept. 13, when Rancho Carmelo Vineyard just east of Carmel Valley Village hosts Carmel Valley Uncorked.

While billed as a dinner, the event will run from 3 to 6 p.m. But there will be plenty to eat, with chef Jerome Viel, owner of Carmel Valley Market, cooking up one of his famous paellas.

“This is a very exclusive and rare opportunity to dine in the vines at the beautiful Rancho Carmelo Vineyard on the banks of the Carmel River,” organizers said. “Dinner features 10 wineries and their winemakers on hand to show their best wines and chat with guests. Rancho Carmelo Vineyard is not open to the public, so this is indeed a very special opportunity.”

Continues next page

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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

Participating wineries include Carmelo Vineyards, Chesebro, Corral Wine Co., Georis, Holman Ranch, Joyce, Lepe Cellars, Parsonage, Pelio Estate and Rombi, and tickets can be obtained by contacting them directly.

The cost is \$185, and customers will also be entitled to a 20 percent discount at each winery during the week after the event.

“It is like you are a wine club at 10 wineries for an entire week,” organizers noted.

Rancho Carmelo Vineyard is located at 124 E. Carmel Valley Road, and entry is via Klondike Canyon Road. Ticket proceeds will benefit the Carmel Valley Village Improvement Committee.

Coastal Roots and local roofs

Coastal Roots Hospitality, the company behind the Rio Grill in the Crossroads shopping center, Montrieo in downtown Monterey and Tarpy’s near Monterey Regional Airport, announced this week that Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay will be the September and October beneficiary of its Pick It Up — Pay It Forward program.

The local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International works to build and sell affordable homes to qualified families in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. The organization’s mission, per its website, is to create home ownership opportunities, strengthen neighborhoods and foster hope.

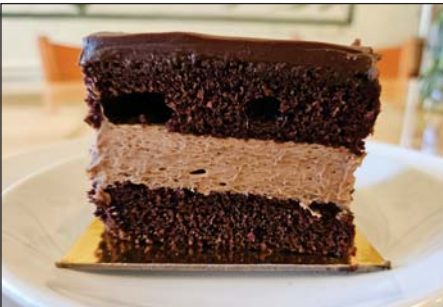
“Our region is fortunate to have a nonprofit that is literally building futures,” said Ken Donkersloot, co-owner of Coastal Roots Hospitality. “Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay doesn’t just put roofs over people’s heads. They’re architects of sta-

bility, empowerment and dignity. We’re honored to contribute to their mission this fall.”

Pick It Up — Pay It Forward, launched in 2020, donates 10 percent of every take-out order from the company’s restaurants to a different nonprofit every two months. The program has generated a total of more than \$300,000 for dozens of local organizations.

Donkersloot, president and CEO of Coastal Roots, explained that he and his

See WINE next page



Cafe Carmel is ready for fall — and if you want to try the chocolate mousse cake before a beautiful poached pear salad, nobody’s going to stop you. Life is uncertain, after all.



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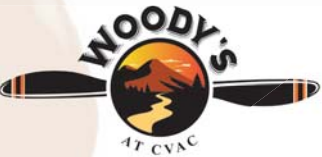
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FOOD & WINE

WINE

From previous page

Coastal Roots, explained that he and his wife, Mona, the company’s vice president, receive about 60 applications annually for the program.

“It’s hard to pick,” he said. “My wife and I spend a fair amount of time going through them.” Priorities include groups that help children, women and faith-based groups. Coastal Roots aims not only to assist them financially, but to help raise community awareness of what each non-profit does.

Earlier this year, Coastal Roots donated more than \$10,000 apiece to The Bridge Restoration Ministry and the Monterey County Film Commission. The Monterey Firefighters Community Foundation was the May and June honoree.

Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay says it provides more than homes, offering homeowner education and long-term affordability for families. Beneficiaries purchase their homes with an affordable mortgage and contribute significant sweat equity.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay, visit habitatmontereybay.com.

tereybay.com. Details about Coastal Roots Hospitality, its restaurants and the Pick It Up — Pay It Forward program are available at coastalrootshospitality.com or by calling (831) 647-1085.

Diet-free midway

All of us face times when the calorie-counting needs to take a back seat to celebration. Birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, Tuesdays ... OK, not that last one. Nevertheless, the Monterey County Fair — from Aug. 28 to Sept. 1 — ought to be on your list.

In addition to old favorites like turkey legs the size of your forearm, corn dogs, fish tacos and lamb gyros, newcomer Just Cheezen’ is bringing “grilled cheese classics and innovative creations,” the Bunbao Truck will sell adorable Chinese bao — slightly sweet, white dough stuffed with pork and other fillings — and Fire & Slice Pizza Truck is going to create artisanal wood-fired pies.

For dessert, try a funnel cake with confectioner’s sugar. The donut’s Dali-esque cousin satisfies the sweet tooth while covering every inch of clothing and exposed skin with powdery evidence like some sort of confectioner’s crime scene. There’s ice cream, cinnamon rolls and lots more to try,

too.

Visit montereycountyfair.com for a full event schedule and ticket and ride wrist-

band information.

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

MUSIC

From page 31A

Saturday’s Main Stage performers include **Eyes Like Lanterns** (indie folk rock, 1 p.m.), **Monks of the Blue** (rock and blues, 1:30 p.m.), **The Rumba Madre** (world music, 2:30 p.m.) and **The Expendables** (reggae, 5 p.m.). Sunday’s Main Stage lineup includes shows by **The Anthony Arya Band** (rock, 1 p.m.) and **James Durbin & The Lost Boys** (’70s and ’80s dance rock, 2:30 p.m.).

Besides live music, the yearly event showcases the region’s artistic talent with more than 150 vendors lining the streets.

For more details, visit westendcelebration.com.

Live music Aug. 22-28

Big Sur

Big Sur River Inn — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Saturday at 12:30 p.m.), **Andrea’s Fault** (jazz and pop, 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 — singers and guitarists **Mia Wilson** and **Nydia Gonzalez** (Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

Henry Miller Library — **Two Runner** (bluegrass duo) and singers and guitarists **Richard Gans** and **Joe Mann** (Friday at 5:30 p.m.). 48603 Highway 1.

Carmel

Cypress Inn — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Friday at 7 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Loktionov** and singer **Debbie Davis** (cabaret, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), **The Andrea Carter Trio** (jazz and pop, Sunday at 11 a.m.), **David Morwood Jazz Band** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz, Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Tamas Marius** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Paul Behan** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.

Continues next page

Big Sur cookbook coming Sept. 1

By CHRIS COUNTS

‘**RECIPES FOR** Surviving in Big Sur,’ which follows in the footsteps of one of Big Sur’s most popular books, is set to be released Sept. 1.

Published by the Big Sur Historical Society, the new book includes an array of tasty recipes, along with “thoughtful reflections on the challenges, losses, triumphs and new beginnings that the people and community of Big Sur face with wildfires, landslides and extended highway closures on central California’s rugged Big Sur coast.” It’s clearly far more than just a cookbook.

More than 100 Big Sur locals have their shared recipes, including Robin Burnside, Nadine Clark, Corinne Colen, Martha Karstens, Sue Malinowski, Jaci Pappas,

Sharon Petrosino-Wilson, David Wood and the late Mary Trotter.

The dishes include “inventions born out of necessity during a natural disaster or extended closure” — something pretty much every Big Sur resident is familiar with. The current closure of Highway 1 between Carmel and San Luis Obispo County has been in place since January 2023.

Thriving with taste

The book also includes fascinating tidbits about life along the rugged and isolated coastline. “Intertwined with these recipes are narratives from 70 contributors as well as illustrations and photographs from an additional 20 contributors related to wildfires, slides and closures of Highway One,” the historical society said.

According to the historical group, “Recipes for Surviving in Big Sur” is “more than a story about survival — it is a tribute to a community that has persevered and thrived in the face of adversity.”

Three years after the Big Sur Historical Society formed in 1978, the group published the first edition of “Recipes for Living in Big Sur.”

The book, which also provides a colorful snapshot of life in Big Sur, is in its fifth printing.

To order a copy of “Recipes for Surviving in Big Sur,” which will retail for \$25, visit bigsurhistory.org.



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From previous page

La Playa Hotel Carmel — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Tuesday at 5 p.m.). Camino Real & Eighth.
Links Club — **Vinyl Revival** (pop and rock, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **Songwriters Showcase** (Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., sign-ups start at 6:30 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.
Mission Ranch — singer and pianist **Maddaline Edstrom** (jazz, Friday through Sunday at 5 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Loktionov** (jazz, Monday through Thursday at 5 p.m.). 26270 Dolores St.

Carmel Valley

Baja Cantina — **The Money Band** (pop and rock, 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), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Tuesday at 4 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Wednesday at 4 p.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.
Edgar’s — **Evergreen** (pop and folk, Friday at 5:30 p.m.). 8205 Valley Greens Drive.
Folktale Winery — guitarist **Lindsey Wall** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Saturday at 5 p.m.), **Monterey Jazz Regional All-Star Combos** (Sunday at 11 a.m.), **The Peter Martin Trio** (jazz, Monday at 5 p.m.), **Two Rivers** (pop and rock, Tuesday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Tim Brady** (Wednesday at 5 p.m.), **The Al James Duo** (r&b and rock, Thursday at 5 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.
Trailside Cafe — singer and guitarist **Scott Fenton** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.



Singer and bassist Tebo plays Saturday, 5 p.m., at Deja Blue in Seaside.

Monterey
A Taste of Monterey — singer and guitarist **Jewel Arianna** (Thursday at 4:45 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.
Albatross Ridge Winery — singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Tim Brady** (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.
Hyatt Regency Monterey — **Andrea’s Fault** (jazz and pop, Friday at 7 p.m.), multi-instrumentalist **Dan Cortes** (American roots and traditional Mexican music, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.
InterContinental Hotel — multi-instrumentalist **Dan Cortes** (American roots and traditional Mexican music, Friday at 7 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Saturday at 7 p.m.), mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz,ww Sunday at 9 a.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 750 Cannery Row.

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Melville Tavern — **Shilstone & Wilson** (rock, Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.). 484 Washington St.
Midici Pizza — singer **Lee Durley** and keyboardist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), **The Bobby Phillips 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 **Tom**

See MORE MUSIC page 37A

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CALENDAR

Register now to join the non-audition community choir, Monterey Peninsula Voices. Rehearsals take place Mondays for the December concert. For details, visit www.mpvoices.org

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. 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.

Sundays – Jazz brunch with the Andrea Carter Trio, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Terry’s Restaurant + Lounge, inside Cypress Inn, Lincoln and Seventh, Carmel-by-the-Sea. For more information, please contact Cypress Inn, (831) 624-3871.

Aug. 30 – J. McLaughlin invites you to join in an afternoon of sips and shopping in support of Central Coast VNA and Hospice. Event is set for noon to 5 p.m. at the shop, NW corner of Dolores and Ocean, Carmel. Details: (831) 741-1057.

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>

Oct. 18 – Monterey Firefighters Charity Ball comes to The Inn at Spanish Bay. Black-tie elegance meets community spirit! Enjoy gourmet dining, thrilling auctions, and a lively dance floor – all to benefit local causes and outreach programs led by the Monterey Firefighters Community Foundation. Tickets \$250: www.montereyfirefighterfoundation.org

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MORE MUSIC

From page 35A

Gastineau (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.
Peter B's — singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). At Portola Hotel, 2 Portola Plaza.
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 **Jacob Chase** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Asher** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.
Sardine Factory — singer and guitarist **David Conley** (Tuesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m.). 701 Wave St.
Sly McFly's — **Everyday People** ("classic Latin rock with an old-school twist," Friday at 9 p.m.), **Phil 'n' The Blanks** (classic rock, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.
St. James Episcopal Church — mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff**, singer **Ginger Lauren**, guitarist **Tony D'archie**, violinist **Elijah McCullar** and bassist **Bill Sullivan** (jazz, Saturday at 7 p.m.). 381 High St. Tickets are \$50 at the door.
Il Vecchio Restaurant — **The Cena Jazz Trio** (Thursday at

6 p.m.). 110 Central Ave.
Lucy's on Lighthouse — **Meez** (rock, Saturday at 2 p.m.), **Wolf Dog Walker** (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 — **Up A Creek** (Americana, 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.

■ Seaside

Deja Blue — singer and bassist **Tebo** (r&b and jazz, Saturday at 5 p.m.), **The Joint Chiefs** (r&b and blues, Sunday at 4 p.m.). 500 Broadway.

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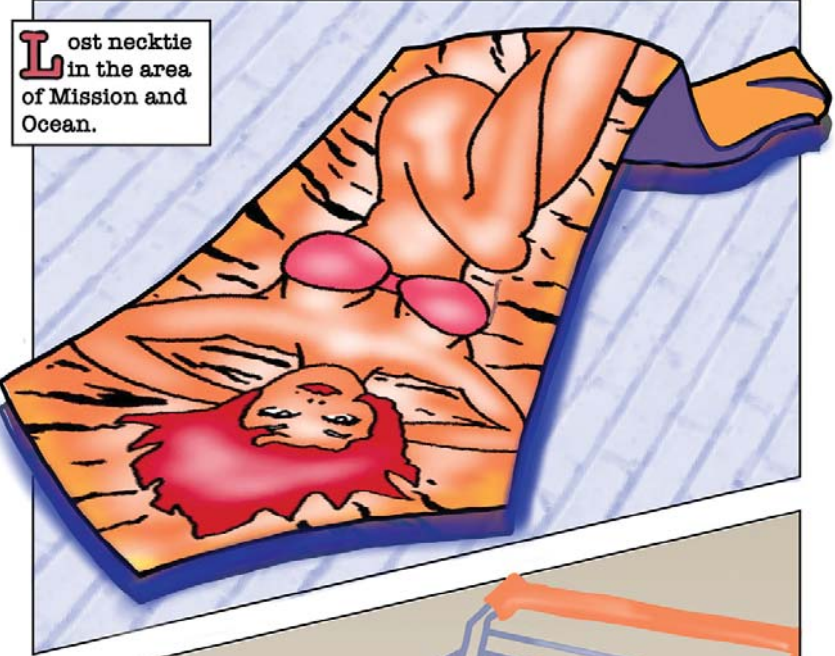


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