

The Carmel Pine Cone

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August 29-September 4, 2025

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PG&E delays restart of Moss Landing batteries

By KELLY NIX

IT WILL take about 10 months for PG&E to reconnect a Moss Landing battery storage plant after crews discovered a structural failure and coolant leak in one of the battery packs, officials told The Pine Cone.

A PG&E official said that while the company was working on returning the Elkhorn Battery energy storage



PHOTO/PG&E

Tesla Megapacks at the PG&E battery storage facility in Moss Landing, which won't be going back on line until next year, the power company said.

system to service on June 1 — following a Jan. 16 fire at the neighboring Vistra Energy battery storage operation — workers discovered a clamp failure and a subsequent coolant leak in one of the facility's 256 Tesla Megapack batteries.

There were no injuries, power outages, smoke or fire associated with the failures, and officials at the time did not contact the fire department. However, PG&E said reconnecting the battery system to the power grid won't occur until June 2026.

Thorough inspection

Tesla, which maintains the Elkhorn system on PG&E's behalf, evaluated the equipment breakdown and is developing an inspection and repair plan to correct the issue. The clamps are used to hold equipment for the batteries' cooling systems.

"Tesla will address clamps throughout the entire system as a part of their inspection and repair plan," PG&E spokesman Paul Doherty told The Pine Cone. "This will involve addressing thousands of clamps associated with the coolant system in all 256 Megapacks on site. At this time, our best estimate for a return to service is June 30, 2026, and we will keep all appropriate stakeholders and the community informed

See **BATTERIES** page 23A

Dems launch high-stakes redistricting campaign

HOURS AFTER Sacramento Democrats voted to redraw the state's election maps in their favor, voters began receiving mailers asking them to "Say No to Partisan Gerrymandering." Since then, two more anti-redistricting

Newsom and approved last week by the California Legislature, is known as Proposition 50, or the Election Rigging Response Act, and asks voters to approve multiple items at once.

Approve map, suspend power

First, the measure seeks approval of the new map state lawmakers drew behind closed doors in an effort to send more Democrats to Congress after the 2026 midterms. Doing this requires voters to suspend the power of the state's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw political maps until at least 2031.

Then there is a second, largely symbolic, question

See **REDISTRICT** page 15A

CONCOURS MOVING TO SECOND SUNDAY IN AUGUST

■ Date change takes effect in 2028

By MARY SCHLEY

THE PEBBLE Beach Concours d'Elegance — held on the third Sunday in August for the past three decades — will take place on the second Sunday of the month starting in 2028, organizers announced last week, and dozens of other Car Week events are preparing to make the change, too.

Concours chairman Sandra Button explained that the move was driven by the fact that summer vacation ends and kids go back to school earlier than they did in the past.

"We have fielded repeated requests for an earlier date from entrants, judges, volunteers and spectators who want to attend the Concours d'Elegance with their children, but find that increasingly difficult," organizers said in a statement.

Kids in school

While locals have found getting their children to and from school increasingly challenging due to Car Week traffic as the number of events has increased and more people, now estimated at roughly 100,000, flock to the Monterey Peninsula, Button said the move is being made to accommodate people who want to bring their kids to the world's preeminent show of collectible automobiles.

"Parents want to share their love of cars with their kids, and we want to make that more possible," she said in the announcement. "When we look at the calendars for Pebble Beach, for other Concours and for other local large events,

Cal Am asks judge to end takeover bid

By KELLY NIX

IN A bold legal move, California American Water has requested that a judge summarily halt the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's effort to acquire Cal Am by eminent domain. If granted, the move could abruptly end the district's years-long effort to turn Cal Am into a government-operated utility. But the district is fighting back.

In December 2023, the water district filed an eminent domain lawsuit in hopes of taking over Cal Am's Monterey system, which the company refused to sell. While both sides have been preparing for trial, Cal Am attorneys on Aug. 20 filed a motion for summary judgment — basically asking a judge to end the litigation and rule in the company's favor because it believes the water district's case is too weak to be allowed to continue.

If the judge grants Cal Am its request, a decision will be made on the claims without a trial. The first court date on the matter is set for Dec. 12 before Monterey County Superior Court Judge Ian Rivamonte.

'Lacks authority'

Cal Am argues that the water management district cannot meet the fundamental legal requirements to proceed with its takeover bid.

Specifically, it contends that the district lacks the authority to provide water service and has never operated a public system that provides drinking water to homes, schools and businesses.

In January 2022, the Monterey County Local Agency Formation Commission denied the district's request to expand its role to that of a retail water provider. Cal Am has 40,000 customers.

"The district undisputedly does not presently provide retail potable water service and cannot do so without prior LAFCO approval," according to a portion of the 17-page motion that was filed by Cal Am in Monterey County

See **CAL AM** page 23A

Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

ers have gone out — and those are only the beginning of what is sure to be a heated and expensive campaign from now until November.

The challenge for voters is going to be knowing what they are voting on and the implications the results could have on their representation, not only in Congress, but in other levels of government.

The redistricting initiative, hatched by Gov. Gavin

Where'd she come from?



A mysterious stranger suddenly appeared in the Junipero Serra niche at the north end of town several weeks ago, only to disappear Tuesday, but no one knows who she was or how she got there. See page 17A.



PHOTO/PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

This year's Best of Show at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance was this 1924 Hispano-Suiza owned by Penny and Lee Anderson of Naples, Fla. Future winners will be crowned one week earlier.



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Sandy Claws

Canine connection

His wife loves dogs, and their daughter is a dog trainer. But he'd never had a dog, never needed a dog and never felt the connection, until he met a little Shetland sheepdog, or "Sheltie," named Tiffany.

As in "Breakfast at"

When the Shetland breeder suddenly needed to travel for a few weeks, the community rallied around her, offering to house her dogs while she was gone.

"At the end of three weeks, my husband told me Tiffany had picked him, and we needed to keep her," Tiffany's person said. "Here he was falling for his first dog at age 70. It brought tears to my eyes."

As soon as Tiffany came home to her people in Pacific Grove, they sensed she was special. Patient, intuitive and kind. They began training her to become a therapy dog.

"My husband are certified therapy dog handlers, and we took Tiffany through her first six months of training," said her person. "And then I took over and started competing with her. She qualified at every trial she went to and has earned continuing titles in obedience, agility and scent work."

While Tiffany's person recognizes she's a beautiful dog, she's much more interested in performance competition than beauty pageants.



Tiffany's chosen person, who is an artist, sequesters himself in his studio until he realizes she's waiting at the door. This means she's eager for a walk at Asilomar Beach or a stroll past the Point Pinos Lighthouse near their home.

The couple actually have two other Shelties. "Cary Grant" bowls people over, they said, with his charisma and beauty. "Locket" is a new rescue in the family, who is enrolled in puppy classes to learn how to be a dog. There's a chance the other two Shelties will teach her the most.

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Tell the city about your auto blues

By MARY SCHLEY

“GOT A Car Week hangover or post-traumatic stress? Take it out on our Car Week post-mortem survey — we really want and need to hear from you,” Carmel city administrator Chip Rerig said in his weekly newsletter Friday.

The survey, now in its fourth year, gathers information for community activities director Ashlee Wright to include in her after-action report to the city council and now devotes several questions to the free shuttle service offered between Larsen Field Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, when the city hosted organized events.

It begins by asking whether the taker is a resident, restaurant owner, retailer, innkeeper or worker within the city limits, a Monterey Peninsula resident or “a Car Week attendee from outside of the 93921.”

Wants to know why

It then asks, “How did you feel about Car Week in Carmel-by-the-Sea overall this year?” Possible answers include “Loved it,” “It was OK,” “Conflicted. The revenue is good for the Peninsula, but it is a lot,” or “I did not like it at all.” And, of course, the city wants to know, “Why do you feel that way?”

The survey seeks similar feedback for each event — Concours for a Cause on Tuesday, Astons on the Avenue on Wednesday, and the Prancing Ponies and the Ferrari Owners Club’s Concours Carmel on Thursday.

Regarding the shuttle, which Mayor

Dale Byrne has said could serve as a model for a regular service with the goal of reducing traffic and parking congestion downtown, the questionnaire asks if the taker used it for any of the events, and if so, which days. It asks about the quality of the service, whether it was easy to use and frequent enough, and the “niceness of the shuttles.”

“Would you use the shuttle service again during Car Week to attend events? If you didn’t use the shuttle services or didn’t know there was a shuttle service, would you be interested in trying it out to attend next year’s Car Week events?” it also inquires, and requests an explanation if the answer is negative.

It then requests feedback on “the effectiveness of traffic calming measures in place for safety in the evenings in the business district,” specifically, the barriers installed to circumvent the reckless driving, drag racing and other antics that have occurred on Ocean Avenue in the past.

The questionnaire wraps up with a general solicitation of any additional thoughts on Car Week.

To participate, visit ci.carmel.ca.us and search for survey.”

Rerig said the information will also come in handy in more regional discussions and debriefs of Car Week.

“In the coming weeks, Peninsula city managers and police chiefs are going to meet to discuss opportunities to reduce next year’s impacts and shenanigans,” he said. “I’ll report back to you with our plan of attack.”

Love it or hate it, Carmel wants to hear from you

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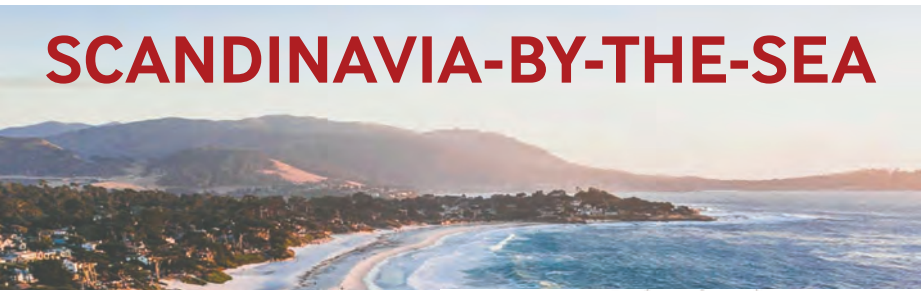
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Police & Sheriff's Log

With Car Week came tow trucks

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.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury hit-and-run accident at Dolores and Seventh.
Pacific Grove: At about 2156 hours, an officer was dispatched to a reported violation of a court order on Lighthouse Avenue.
Pacific Grove: Vehicles on Miles Avenue and Presidio Boulevard and on Lighthouse Avenue were marked for 72-hour parking.
Pacific Grove: Possible harassment on Sunset Drive.
Pacific Grove: Subject on Cedar Street was placed on a mental health evaluation hold.
Carmel area: Sheriff responded to a report of a deceased person on Morse Drive .

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found iPhone turned in to the police department at Junipero and Fourth.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 26-year-old male construction worker from Seaside was arrested at Fourth and Junipero at 0310 hours for DUI. He was booked into Monterey County Jail.

See **POLICE LOG** page 8RE in the Real Estate Section



The gavel falls

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

June 25 — Ashley Garrett, 41, of Marina, pled guilty to felony charges of welfare fraud and perjury.
Between October 2021 and April 2024, Garrett unlawfully obtained \$25,279 in CalFresh benefits (formerly known as Food Stamps) from the Monterey County Department of Social Services. During this period, Garrett failed to report that her partner was employed by the City of Seaside and received regular income. Had she accurately disclosed this information, Garrett would not have qualified for any CalFresh benefits.
The investigation revealed that Garrett repeatedly signed benefit applications under penalty of perjury, falsely certifying that the information provided was true and complete. Despite these sworn declarations, she concealed her partner's employment and earnings.
This case was investigated by district attorney investigator Kara Ells and the Monterey County Special Investigations Unit. The Monterey County District Attorney's Office remains committed to identifying and prosecuting individuals who fraudulently obtain public assistance and defraud the People of the State of California.
June 25 — Judge Jennifer J. O'Keefe sentenced Pedro Baltazar Julio, 27, a resident of Salinas, to 35 years in prison for committing four counts of forcible lewd acts upon a child under 14. These offenses are serious and violent felonies and considered strikes under California's three strikes law. Ortiz will also be required to register as a sex offender.
See **GAVEL** page 47A

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SCHOOLS GETTING TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES AS OFFICIALS PREPARE FOR AI

By LILY PATTERSON

OVER THE summer, Carmel Unified School District underwent a complete rewire, starting with new laptops for teachers, upgraded WiFi on campuses, a powerful data storage center at the district’s main office and Apple computer labs for arts and media students at Carmel Middle and Carmel High.

A faculty-run technology committee will begin meeting this fall, in part to strategize how the school can engage artificial intelligence software as an educational tool, amid concerns that ChatGPT and similar bots are undermining academic integrity and student self-reliance.

Manuel Carrera, senior director of information technology at CUSD, will co-chair the new task force.

Making a plan

“Developing an AI strategy is a priority for the Technology Committee,” Carrera said. “Our work will focus on responsible use guidance that meets legal and ethical standards, professional development that equips teachers to integrate AI meaningfully into instruction, safeguards for student data privacy, and clear procedures for monitoring trends, addressing misuse, and ensuring safe access.”

He said several faculty and staff members expressed interest in such a strategy following an “Artificial Intelligence in Education” seminar held in June, during a two-day series of enrichment workshops for CUSD employees.

The seminar “provided staff with a foundation for understanding AI’s capabilities and limitations,” Carrera said. “And since that session, teachers have approached me about creating districtwide guidelines for both staff and student use.”

Last school year, principal Libby Duethman recruited a group of students to update the high school’s academic honesty policy, according to Michelle Goncalves, executive assistant to superintendent Sharon Ofek.

The group researched how other public and private schools handle plagiarism and other ethics problems in relation to AI and used that information to create a draft policy. “Their recommendations were then reviewed by lead teachers and administrators, resulting in a new Academic Honesty & Artificial Intelligence policy that is being implemented for the first time in the 2025-25 CHS Student Handbook,” Goncalves told The Pine Cone.

The 2022 debut of ChatGPT — the first widely-used AI software — probably sparked informal discussions in Carmel

High classrooms, but senior Daniela Garey said this year “was absolutely the first time I heard of any formal policy” from the district.

Cracking down

Speaking with The Pine Cone this week, junior Olivia Fort seconded Garey, adding that faculty have taken matters into their own hands.

“This year, teachers really cracked down on AI use. I would say most have pretty clear parameters for AI use and a consensus of it being not allowed, specifically for writing assignments,” said Fort.

Still, both shared that “most” of their fellow students use artificial intelligence in some capacity.

A reporter for CUSD’s student newspaper, The Sandpiper, Garey said she has “never once used AI in any stage of my writing process.”

However, she occasionally relies on ChatGPT as a superpowered search engine.



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE PHOTO

Besides looking forward to another successful football season, Carmel High School students are getting a slew tech upgrades.

Garey said the chatbot has “learned” a bit about her, based on previous queries, and uses that information to personalize how it answers her questions.

See AI page 20A



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Man sued over alleged cockfighting

■ County said to be ‘epicenter’
for bloodsport

By KELLY NIX

AN ANIMAL advocacy group has filed a lawsuit against a North Monterey County man they say raises roosters on his 5-acre Aromas property to be used for cockfighting, a cruel sport banned in all 50 states.

The Humane Farming Association claims in a lawsuit filed Aug. 25 that Gonzalo Narez, who owns property on the 19000 block of El Cerrito Way in Aromas, has engaged in unlawful business practices, including aiding and abetting illegal cockfighting in violation of state and county laws.

“Narez keeps roosters on his property for the purpose of breeding and raising them for cockfighting,” the farming group contends in a 14-page complaint filed in Monterey County Superior Court.

Sharp spurs

It points to what it says is evidence he is raising roosters to fight, including keeping them in individual enclosures to prevent the birds from interacting, removing the fleshy crests of their heads and flaps of skin from their throats so opponents can’t tear them off, and trimming the birds’ claws so they can be outfitted with sharp metal spurs, called gaffs, which are used as weapons in cockfights.

The nonprofit also contends that Narez was a member of a game-fowl breeders group it claims promotes cockfighting, and that neighbors have complained to county animal control “about noise emanating from the property due to the number of

animals and the manner in which they are kept.”

Cockfighting typically involves people placing bets on matches.

This isn’t the first time Narez has been under scrutiny for alleged cockfighting on his property, the lawsuit notes.

In May 2024, he applied for a poultry hobbyist exemption so he could keep five or more roosters without a permit. He said at the time that he had 240 birds. The



PHOTO/MONTEREY COUNTY

This photo shows how steel knives — or spurs — are attached to a rooster’s legs to cause maximum injury to its opponent.

county agricultural commissioner denied Narez’s application to raise roosters and chickens.

Narez, who in a letter to the county that month called the decision “unfair and unjust” and denied raising the roosters for cockfighting, appealed the decision to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. During a July 9, 2024, hearing, a Monterey

See **ROOSTERS** page 16A

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Marina roundabouts completed

By CAITLIN CONRAD

THE CITY of Marina announced the unveiling of Imjin Parkway’s four new roundabouts. As housing projects and shopping centers have boomed in the fast-growing city, the roundabouts are part of a \$40.5 million project to convert the former two-lane road into a major artery between the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas, with roundabouts replacing what would otherwise be traffic signals.

Marina is funding the project through Measure X and Senate Bill 1 dollars, with the goal of widening the 1.7-mile stretch between Injim Parkway and Reservation Road from two lanes to four. Imjin Parkway is one of the few connectors between Salinas and the Peninsula with many drivers traveling the thoroughfare daily to get

improvements. “I am glad they are addressing the fact that Imjin is a major corridor that gets a lot of traffic, but I definitely have concerns about people’s ability to use roundabouts at high speeds,” said commuter Faye Bates after the unveiling. Construction is still underway, with just a single lane open through the roundabouts for now, but as the project progresses, that will expand to two lanes in each direction, which may make driving through the roundabouts more complicated.

Video instruction

In anticipation of any confusion the new roundabouts may cause, Marina posted a video to its website from the Federal Highway Administration detailing how to use the traffic circles. The two-minute video reminds drivers of the three basic rules to remember when navigating a roundabout: Slow down, look around, and be ready to yield.

The video also reminds drivers that according to federal data, roundabouts reduce severe crashes at intersections by an average of 80 percent.

“I understand roundabouts are statistically safer than traffic lights, but they don’t appear to have alleviated any of the previous traffic or congestion,” said daily commuter Rebecca Seldin about the not-quite-finished project.

The Marina resident acknowledges she is fortunate to largely be driving against traffic on her way to work in Salinas.

“Hopefully, when it’s completely

See **ROUNDAABOUT** page 16A



PHOTO/CITY OF MARINA

A \$40.5 million project to install four roundabouts along Imjin Parkway in Marina has almost been completed, city officials announced.

to work.

Reviews from Marina residents on the roundabouts are mixed, with some questioning if they will alleviate congestion, others complaining about construction-related snarls, and a number happy to see

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Car broker sued for selling Porsche that ‘never existed’

By MARY SCHLEY

A PACIFIC Grove man failed to turn over a high-end, custom-built Porsche he sold to a man who lives in Guatemala, according to a lawsuit filed in Monterey County Superior Court Aug. 11, during Car Week on the Peninsula. Jose Moreno is suing Chris Darnell, owner of Exclusive Collection MRY, for more than \$500,000.

According to the complaint, Moreno met Darnell through a mutual friend and “entered into an oral agreement for Moreno to purchase a Porsche 911 S/T in Shore Blue Metallic.” The car would be built to order for a cost of \$346,670 plus a \$43,333 seller’s fee.

The following month, Darnell sent Moreno an invoice detailing the car’s specs and the transaction’s terms and conditions, with promises the Porsche would be delivered during Car Week.

“Moreno planned to travel from Guatemala to the Monterey Peninsula for the event and to retrieve his newly purchased vehicle,” according to the complaint, which was filed by Salinas attorney Andrea Avila on his behalf.

Over the intervening months, Moreno says he wired a total of \$361,350 to an account held by Darnell and his wife, while Darnell sent him photos and updates on the manufacture of the car.

‘Questionable, concerning’

“All indications from Darnell’s correspondence up through Car Week of August 2024 were that the Porsche S/T would be delivered per the agreement,” the suit says, and accordingly, Moreno came to the Peninsula to enjoy the week’s events and pick

up his new car.

But after he arrived, Darnell “made questionable and highly concerning excuses for the Porsche S/T’s late delivery,” which caused Moreno to wonder whether the deal was legitimate.

“On or about Aug. 16, 2024, and by way of his own independent research, Moreno learned the Porsche S/T never existed,” the complaint states.

Fraudulent deal

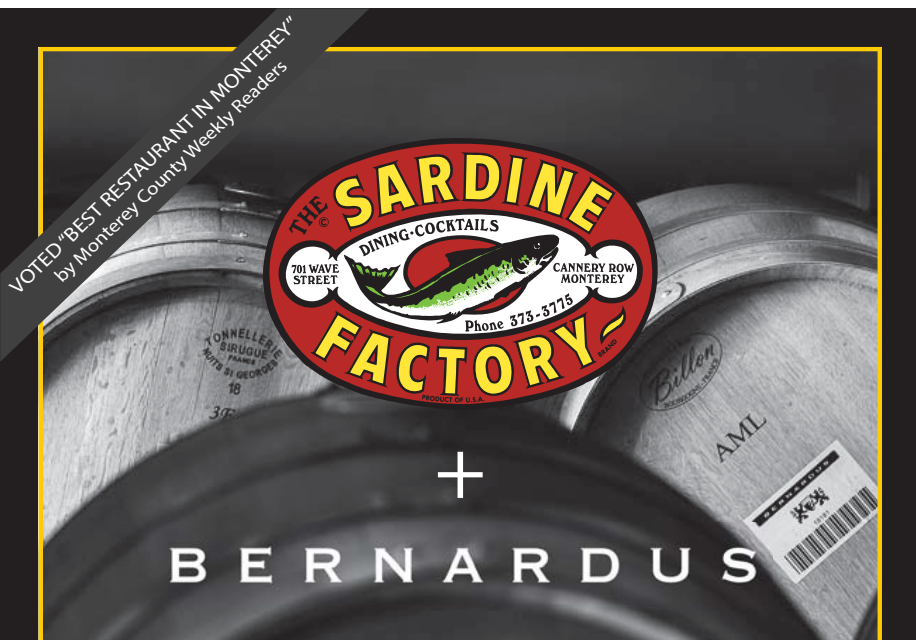
When Moreno confronted him, Darnell allegedly admitted fault and said he used Moreno’s money to purchase a different car, a 2024 Porsche CT4RS valued at approximately \$205,000. In remuneration, he offered to give Moreno that car and repay him the \$361,350, according to the suit. Darnell wired Moreno \$34,000 and signed an agreement to repay the rest by Oct. 22, 2024, and to sign over the title of the Porsche.

But the car was repossessed before he could get it, and Moreno never saw another dollar from Darnell, his suit says.

“Moreno reasonably relied on the false representations made by C. Darnell in the original purchase agreement and repayment agreement,” he says in the complaint. “Darnell’s fraudulent misrepresentations and/or breach of the agreements have caused damages to Moreno,” who is seeking \$566,250 plus interest and \$350,000 in punitive damages.

In a separate complaint filed earlier this year, Darnell is being sued by Mercedes-Benz Financial Services to recover \$42,404.83, the amount remaining on

See **PORSCHE** page 14A



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**MONTEREY
RECREATION**

New harbor rules require boat insurance

By MARY SCHLEY

SOME OF the boats in Monterey Harbor look as if they’ve been forgotten by their owners, or at the very least neglected, and last week, a damaged vessel sank near the dock, requiring a multi-agency effort to clean up the mess and get the wreckage to shore. To protect itself and other owners from damage and liability, the City of Monterey is requiring proof of insurance for all boats in slips or attached to mooring balls to be provided to the harbormaster by Sept. 1.

The updated law, which was adopted by the Monterey City Council in March and took effect in April, also strengthens

owned vessels,” according to city officials. The new rules state that everyone who has a boat kept in a slip or on a mooring ball in the bay must have general vessel liability insurance, including wreck removal and pollution coverage, with a minimum policy limit of \$300,000. Commercial vessels, such as fishing boats and those used for charters, must carry insurance with a \$1 million minimum. All policies are required to name the City of Monterey, and its officers, officials and employees, as additional insureds.

Old boats

While the ordinance took effect in early April, the city gave people until Sept. 1 to provide proof of coverage to the harbor office due to worries that people might have trouble securing insurance for older vessels. Harbormaster Nichole Rodriguez said she would work with any owners who haven’t been able to find coverage.

“This new ordinance is intended to protect both the harbor and fellow boaters in case of accidents or environmental damage. The harbor office has been working to ensure a smooth transition and has been communicating directly with slip and mooring tenants with detailed requirements,” she said late last week. “We have already begun to receive insurance documents from existing tenants and are working with those who are in the process of obtaining insurance.”

When asked what would happen to boat

See **HARBOR** page 16A



PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

Responding to concerns, Monterey recently passed a set of rules to “simplify and modernize regulations governing the waterfront area.”

requirements for boat owners to maintain their equipment and mandates that they move their boats whenever harbor officials tell them to. The amendments “aim to simplify and modernize regulations governing the waterfront area,” and to reduce the city’s liability “in cases involving pollution and salvage incidents related to privately

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From flipping burgers, to writing music for ‘Star Wars’ TV series

BY CHRIS COUNTS

Now AN Emmy Award-winning composer of film scores, Brandon Roberts was just a teenager when he met celebrated composer and longtime Carmel Highlands resident Alan Silvestri. Roberts had a summer job working at R.G. Burgers in the Crossroads shopping center when Silvestri walked in. An aspiring composer, Roberts introduced himself. “He would come in, and I would serve him hamburgers,” said Roberts, who now lives in Tarzana with his wife and two children. “I told him, ‘I’m going to be a film composer.’”

Roberts’ words turned out to be prophetic — in 2018, he won a Creative Arts Emmy Award for Outstanding Music Composition for a Documentary Series or Special for his work on the film, “Free Solo,”

which chronicles Alex Honnold’s successful effort to climb El Capitan at Yosemite National Park without ropes. The project resonated with Roberts in part because he enjoys climbing.

More recently, Roberts was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Music Composition for a Series for writing the music for the second season of the “Star Wars: Andor” series. The 77th annual Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony is set for Sept. 14.

Carmel High graduate

Roberts, who moved to Carmel with his parents when he was 3, attended Carmel River School and Carmel Middle School before graduating from Carmel High School in 1994. It was there that he discovered his love of music, performing in

Carmel High’s Jazz Band and the Monterey Jazz Festival Youth Orchestra. He also met important mentors who would help him along the way, like Silvestri.

“He was kind enough to invite me to visit his studio,” Roberts told The Pine Cone. “I kept bumping into him. At one point, he said, ‘Wow, you made it.’ He’s been a great touchstone. He’s one of the biggest film composers of all-time — it’s great to have someone like that as a role model.”

Roberts also credited guitar teacher Steve Fox — who introduced him to jazz — Carmel High music teacher Richard Robbins, Monterey Peninsula College Jazz Band instructor Don Schamber and local jazz guitarist Bruce Forman with playing key roles in his development as a musician and composer. Today, he has a deeper appreciation for the creative opportunities he had on the Monterey Peninsula as a youngster. “It’s easy to overlook how musically rich Carmel and Monterey are,” he said. “I didn’t realize how lucky I was until I grew up.”

Deep end of the pool

Roberts later attended the University of Southern California, which offered a wealth of opportunities for an aspiring film composer. “The school had an amazing graduate program with iconic teachers,” he recalled. “Every few weeks I would write a piece for a scene and have to record it with a small orchestra — it was like being thrown into the deep end of the pool without a life preserver.”

While Roberts had also considered a career as a jazz guitarist, his experience at USC convinced him to focus on composing film scores.



PHOTO/COURTESY BRANDON ROBERTS

A 1994 Carmel High graduate, composer Brandon Roberts was recently nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for his work with “Star Wars: Andor.”

While “Star Wars: And or” debuted in 2022, its second season, which Robers composed the score, didn’t premier until April 2025.

Born just a year before the first “Star Wars” movie came out in 1977, Roberts fell hard for the franchise at an early age.

“I’m a genuine ‘Star Wars’ fan,” he declared. “One of my earliest memories was seeing ‘The Empire Strikes Back’ in the theater. I still have all my Star Wars toys from the 1980s.”

Because he was so invested personally in the franchise’s legacy, Roberts admitted to feeling the pressure of living up to the expectations of fans. Complicating matters, he needed to weave in parts of previous ‘Star Wars’ scores by legendary composers like John Williams.

“I was scared to death,” he conceded. “I didn’t want to let down fans.”

But once he delved into the project, his creative inspiration kicked in. “I gave it all I had and paid homage to everything that came before,” he added. “I put fear aside, and once I got started the music started coming, and it became a little less daunting.”

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CONCOURS

From page 1A

for us.”

Harder, who took the top post at Laguna earlier this year, said he heard stories from people who were late picking their kids up from school due to Car Week-related traffic.

“I think it helps with volunteers and the labor force,” he added, since their school schedules and activities won’t be in the mix.

“The reasons are good,” he said. “We all agree it’s the right thing to do.”

April Henderson, vice president of events for the track, agreed. “We will also be making the move with the date change announcement, and I would expect all other events to do the same,” she said.

Gordon McCall, who created the Quail Motorsports Gathering more than 20 years ago and is deeply embedded in the local automotive scene — including as a board member of Friends of Laguna Seca — said it’s a given that all other event organizers will move their events accordingly.

“It’s never going to be Pebble first — that’s just not going to happen,” he said, since the marquis event, which was first held alongside the Pebble Beach Road Races, always concludes Car Week.

And, he noted, “I get the same feedback from a lot of people wishing that Car Week was earlier so that it didn’t cut into the last week of summer like it does.”

\$128 million

Pauline Pechakjian, marketing and publicity manager for the Gooding Christie’s auction held in Pebble Beach in conjunction with the Concours, said the company will make the move. This year, the two-day auction garnered more than \$128 million in total sales — a 19 percent increase over 2024’s figures — led by a 1961 Ferrari 250 GT SWB California Spider Competizione that sold for \$25,305,000.

Tanya Kosta, chairman of Concorso Italiano at Bayonet Blackhorse golf courses in Seaside and the new Paddock event, said she learned about the Concours’ date change on the news.

“Our plan is to move our dates to shift with Pebble Beach,” she said. “In my opinion, Pebble Beach is the finale, and we will respectfully align with them.”

The news has been well received by many locals and Car Week fans, too. “As a local, that’s great,” a resident

posted online. “Having it the first week of school was brutal for our morning commute traffic — and my kid being tired transitioning back to school and not really wanting to go to the events.”

Some observed that many local schools will already be in session when Car Week is held in 2028 — and speculated the change won’t make much of a difference to them — but a Carmel Unified School District staffer and parent applauded the decision.

“Hopefully I can attend more events and (some) of the Carmel Valley Road traffic will be lessened,” he said.

The inaugural Pebble Beach Concours was held on Nov. 5, 1950, as a show of contemporary vehicles, and was then staged in spring and early summer in the following years as it morphed to a show of collector cars.

The Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance will take place on Aug. 16, 2026, and Aug. 15, 2027, before the change kicks in on Aug. 13, 2028.



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P.G. COUNCILMEMBERS POISED TO PUT THEIR OWN PAY HIKE ON BALLOT

By KELLY NIX

SEVERAL MONTHS after the Pacific Grove City Council voted to give themselves a 130 percent pay raise, councilmembers last week canceled the increase and took steps toward allowing voters to decide whether they should be paid more for the part-time, elected positions.

The council on Aug. 20 voted unanimously to repeal the raise it gave itself in May and to return Sept. 3 to discuss placing a measure on either the 2026 June primary or November general election ballots. The council’s decision follows a successful effort by Transparent Pacific Grove — which opposed the council pay increase without voter approval — to collect enough signatures to allow residents to decide on the matter.

While some backers of the increase say it would

encourage more residents to run for office, others point to the city’s dire financial situation and say voters should decide on any raise.

‘Big job’

“I think when you all ran for office, you knew what the stipend was,” one woman told the council during the public comment period. “And if this wasn’t enough for you, you shouldn’t have run. And if it’s not enough for you now, you should just resign.”

Former Mayor Bill Kampe advocated for the taxpayer-funded raises.

“The job is probably far more than people realize,” Kampe said. “It’s not just these meetings, it’s all the prep time, it’s the council liaison roles, it’s the regional and state level meetings and engagements and the prep time

that goes along with that. And you’re always on duty when you’re walking on the street.”

The council, which hasn’t had a stipend increase in 26 years, proposed raising the pay from \$420 to \$966 monthly for the six councilmembers and from \$700 to \$1,610 for the mayor. The raise would cost P.G. taxpayers an extra \$50,232 annually.

Councilmembers Lori McDonnell and Paul Walkingstick, who at the time voted against the pay raise, arguing it should go before voters, voted alongside their colleagues last week.

Former P.G. city councilmember and Transparent Pacific Grove head Luke Coletti, who spearheaded the referendum effort, urged it be placed on the November general election ballot for maximum voter participation, since primary elections typically draw fewer voters to the polls.

Some citizens have criticized the council for requesting a pay hike after deciding in March to reduce by four its number of annual meetings.



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PORSCHE

From page 10A

Darnell’s 60-month lease of a 2022 Mercedes EQS 450+. Mercedes is suing for breach of contract for Darnell’s failure to pay the lease.

“As a result of defendants’ breach, the lease was terminated and the vehicle was repossessed,” it says.

Darnell had traded in his 2021 Mercedes Benz GLE 350S for the car and would have paid a total of \$100,208.07 had the lease run its term, according to court documents.

On Aug. 19, Darnell filed a response denying the complaint and saying that Mercedes “failed to provide a legally compliant notice of intent to dispose of motor vehicle after repossession and upon filing of the complaint,” as required by the Civil Code, and therefore is “barred from collecting” funds from him.

“The alleged balance includes improper and unauthorized fees or calculations [improper remaining payments, repossession, storage, interest and/or collection charges] not permitted by contract or law,” he argues.

According to Darnell’s LinkedIn profile, he worked as general sales manager for Mercedes-Benz Monterey from 2019 to 2023.

The case is set for an Oct. 21 court hearing.

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JEFFREY TALBOT BRADY

June 14, 1963 – Aug. 21, 2025

Jeffrey Talbot Brady, 62, died on Aug. 20 at the Carmel home of his parents, James and Suzanne Brady. Jeff was born in Oakland, California on June 14, 1963, while his father was a student in the College of Architecture at University of California, Berkeley.

The youngest of four children, Jeff came to Carmel with his family as a toddler and with his siblings started life as a Carmelite at Bay School with Rosa Doner. Then on to Carmel River School, Carmel Middle School, and because of illness, a short time at Carmel High, then Palma High, then graduation in 1981 from Carmel Valley High.

Except for his time in Little League, Jeff’s sports activities centered around hiking in Big Sur, fishing, the beach, also cooking, and he worked in several local restaurants. During these late teen years he discovered the world of horses which became the abiding love of his life. Much too large to be a jockey, being around racehorses led to J. T. Brady Transportation venture with his uncle, Jim O’Brien, where he provided custom care in equine transportation all over the country.



His other love was big machines, so he settled down at Shasta College in Redding to earn an AA degree in industrial technologies. That led to large construction projects on local highways and the Monterey Peninsula Airport.

But his first love was a kinship with horses and the most satisfying time in his life was as overseer of a horse sanctuary in Novato. He was there with the alive big machines resting comfortably in his care. And there he lived until coming back to his loving family in Carmel and Hospice.

Jeff was a patient, kind and gentle man, appreciated for his delicious meals, the strum of his guitar, the little people he made of collected stones for our potted plants, help to build a fence, help with any thing to make our lives better. He is survived by his parents, James and Suzanne Brady; his siblings and their spouses, Keren Haedrich (Gary), Kristopher Brady (Jona), and Jonathan Brady. He was Uncle Jeff to Kiara Kennedy, Jacob, Ryan and Kristine Brady, Leslie and Hayley Haedrich; great uncle to Emmalyn, Conor, Liesel, Aoife, Avery and Liam; along with uncles John O’Brien and Larry Boehle; aunts Elisa Brady and Hilary O’Brien; many dear cousins and extended family.

Jeff was predeceased by his grandparents, Jim and Peg O’Brien of San Bruno, Dudley and Harryette Brady of Oakland; Uncle Jim and Aunt Gay O’Brien, Aunt Jane Boehle and Cousin Erica Levine.

The family would like to thank caregiver Wendy Adler and the VNA Hospice team for their outstanding care.

A celebration of life Mass will begin at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 9, at Carmel Mission Basilica. A reception will follow at Crespi Hall. In lieu of flowers, please consider contributing to the restoration of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at the Mission or to Central Coast VNA Hospice, Inc., 5 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Monterey, CA 93940.

REDISTRICT

From page 1A

asking voters to endorse the idea of independent redistricting and declare California’s support for using citizens’ commissions nationwide. The phrase, “do as I say not as I do,” comes to mind right about now.

California Democrats have framed the initiative as a way to “fight fire with fire,” after Texas launched a redistricting plan to flip seats from Democratic to Republican. Which brings us to the last important detail for California voters to know: If you vote to change the maps here, the change will happen regardless of what goes on in Texas.

Sacramento lawmakers originally sold redistricting legislation as a change that would be contingent on Texas redrawing its lines, but removed that portion of the bill hours before the vote.

Up in arms

California Republicans are up in arms over Prop 50, as they face losing what little representation they have in Congress. Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher wants to split California into two states over the issue.

The Sutter County Republican introduced a resolution Wednesday that would create a new state made up of 35 inland counties, home to around 10 million people, and leave the more populous and liberal coastal counties in California.

“The people of inland California have been overlooked for too long, it’s time for a two-state solution,” said Gallagher.

It’s an idea conservatives have floated before, but never with any success.

Another group of California Republicans tried to stop the redistricting effort

with a second lawsuit. The emergency petition filed Monday alleged Democrats in the state legislature violated the constitution in multiple ways when it drew Congressional maps it does not have the power to draw. The court denied the petition Wednesday, after rejecting the first petition just one week prior.

“Forty-eight hours later, this case has already been rejected. Keep ’em coming, GOP. We’ll keep winning,” wrote Newsom in a post on X gloating over the ruling.

Trump wants to sue, too

The lawsuits may keep coming. On Monday, President Donald Trump said the U.S. Department of Justice may also sue.

“I think I’m going to be filing a lawsuit pretty soon, and I think we’re going to be very successful in it,” Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

The President — who arguably knocked down the first domino when he asked Texas lawmakers to redraw their Congressional map — has celebrated Republican redistricting success in the Lone Star State but decried California’s effort to do the same.

California Secretary of State Shirley Weber appeared prepared for the litigation to go beyond California when she granted an interview to Sacramento news station KCRA on Monday.

“We’re in a very litigious environment, where everybody files a lawsuit, everybody has an appeal, everybody has an argument, but by the time you get through all of that, most of what we were going to do will have already been done,” said Weber.

As for the cost of the special election, Weber could not give a figure and instead deferred to the Department of Finance, which has also failed to divulge a price tag. The most recent special election in California, Newsom’s failed recall in 2021, cost taxpayers more than \$200 million.

Before checking “yes” on Prop 50 at the

ballot box, voters should question whether the measure will spell the end of California’s independent redistricting process. Democratic lawmakers promise the new map will be temporary, and that the power to draw political maps will be returned to the citizen’s commission. But they may have trouble keeping their word — if they even intend to.

Because of population changes, California is on track to lose up to four Congressional seats following the 2030 Census. Meanwhile, red states could gain seats in the next decade, with Texas alone forecasted to pick up four. It’s hard to imagine Democrats in Sacramento being willing to cede more ground when the time comes if the margins are razor thin once again in the House.

“I don’t believe for a second this would be temporary, and neither should you, and neither should the people of California,” said State Senator Tony Strickland, a Huntington Beach Republican at a Monday press event.

California lawmakers have a bad track record with “temporary” legislation. In 2012 voters passed Proposition 30 raising sales and income taxes in the state under the guise the new tax rates would be temporary. Four years later another ballot measure passed keeping those taxes in effect for an additional 12 years, and we’ll probably be asked to vote on them again in 2030

when they’re set to expire. You see where we’re going here — the precedent has been set.

The Gavimander

Democrats have been looking for a champion this year, someone to push back against Trump and policies they feel are abhorrent, and Newsom has turned out to be their man. This summer, he turned a bluff into a full-fledged campaign when he took on Texas, but if his redistricting effort flops at the ballot box, it will hurt his Presidential chances in 2028.

Polling on Prop 50 is all over the map, largely because of the way pollsters are phrasing their questions. When Democratic pollster David Binder asked if Californians supported temporarily redrawing the maps if Texas also did so, 57 percent of voters said yes. But when the Citrin Center asked respondents if they wanted to return the power to draw political maps to politicians, 64 percent were opposed. And when Emerson College polled voters to find out if they supported a proposal to redraw the Congressional map, 42 percent of respondents were unsure, and only 33 percent were in favor.

November may not feel far away, but the next few months are eons in the life of a campaign, especially when the results could have such long-lasting impacts on politics here and across the nation.

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Carmel, CA 93923
831-647-9861



Christian Ekberg
Financial Advisor
126 Clock Tower Place
Suite 101
Carmel, CA 93923
831-238-9608



Thomas E Carter Jr
Financial Advisor
126 Clock Tower Place
Suite 101
Carmel, CA 93923
831-216-1104

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HARBOR

From page 1A

owners who can’t insure their boats — and whether they might lose their coveted berths if they don’t comply — Rodriguez said, “We’ll review each tenant’s situation as it is brought to our attention.”

Move it

Another provision of the new ordinance is a 60-day deadline for necessary repairs or upgrades to equipment used for attaching boats to mooring balls, and if fixes are not completed within that time, the vessel must be disconnected and moved. If the owner doesn’t handle it, the harbormaster can remove the vessel “if the gear is found inadequate or repairs are not completed within 60 days.”

And while Rodriguez can grant additional time for annual inspections and necessary repairs if an owner shows good cause, “failure to meet inspection or repair requirements within 90 days will result in automatic forfeiture of

the mooring license.”

The new law also gives the harbormaster the authority to “temporarily or permanently relocate any vessel from where it may be stored, anchored, berthed or moored when such relocation is required to ensure public safety, when it is in the best interests of harbor operations due to boat damage or dock repair, for nonpayment of fees, to minimize use or space conflicts, to maximize vessel length or beam ratio, to facilitate city-sponsored events, or for the best allocation of harbor space.”

An official would first notify the owner of the need to move a boat, but if it’s not done in a timely manner, the harbormaster can do it and charge the owner for the work. In addition, the new law notes, the city would not be liable for any damage done to the boat in the process.

As for the fishing boat that sunk in the harbor last Monday, Rodriguez said, “The vessel owner was notified of the sinking; however, due to the immediate environmental risk, the harbor division promptly took action to mitigate potential impacts,” including raising it and removing it from the marina, and containing and absorbing diesel and other contaminants.

ROUNDABOUT

From page 9A

finished it will alleviate the traffic in the opposing direction, but at this point it doesn’t appear to have made much of a difference,” said Seldin.

Are we there yet?

Construction on the project got underway in February of 2024 and has been slowing down commuters for months. Not all of them see the point in the changes.

“I just want it to be over already,” read one social media post from on a Sea Haven resident’s Facebook page.

Others made comments complaining about traffic backing up into residential streets due to the construction and drivers speeding through their neighborhoods.

Completion is not expected until June 2026, however the City of Marina says it is currently a bit ahead of schedule.

In addition to augmenting the lanes for drivers, the project also includes the addition of two bike lanes, a multi-use path, crosswalk beacons, street lighting and landscaping. The city is also modifying the existing signal at the intersection of Reservation Road and Imjin Parkway to improve traffic flow.

Hot topic

To circle or not to circle has been a hot topic in Monterey County for years. Along Highway 68 the Transportation Agency for Monterey County agreed to test adaptive AI traffic signals at nine intersections, rather than construct roundabouts last year. The traffic circles on 68 faced fierce opposition from residents, most notably Dwight Stump who lives in Corral de Tierra. Installation of the AI signals is planned for 2026 and if they improve the painful rush hour congestion on 68, the signals will end up saving millions in taxpayer dollars.

In Carmel Valley construction is ongoing at the intersection of Laureles Grade and Carmel Valley Road where another roundabout is being built. That one is being done in the name of improving safety, as well as traffic flow.

A roundabout on Highway 68 that opened in 2017 near CHOMP was also derided while it was under construction but has provided near-miraculous relief of traffic congestion at the busy intersection since it was completed.

As for Imjin Parkway, Marina’s stated reason for choosing roundabouts over traffic signals is concise, reading, “They are safer than signalized intersections.”

ROOSTERS

From page 8A

County sheriff’s deputy testified that Narez had been ordered in 2021 to stop raising fowl, but that the case remained open because he “continues to deny access to county staff to inspect the property,” according to the lawsuit.

“The deputy also stated that they are aware of numerous complaints about cruelty to the animals and noise,” the Humane Farming Association said.

A then-report from the county indicated that an inspection of Narez’s Aromas property found the same variety of roosters that are favored for cockfighting.

Unfair

The Humane Farming Association said Narez is violating California law, the Monterey County Rooster Ordinance and the state’s unfair competition law.

“Narez’s business practices are indispensable to illegal cockfighting exhibitions,” according to the civil complaint, which among other things asks a court to order Narez from keeping, selling or giving away roosters and engaging in cockfighting. “Without suppliers there would be no exhibitions.”

Monterey County “has become the epicenter of cockfighting exhibitions and game farms maintained to supply cockfighting throughout California,” the Humane Farming Association noted in the suit.

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Painting in Serra niche disappears as mysteriously as it appeared

By MARY SCHLEY

A PAINTING of a Medusa-esque figure that was mysteriously installed in the niche at Camino del Monte and Serra several weeks ago disappeared Tuesday, after the Carmel Woods Neighborhood Association sent an email demanding that the person who installed it remove it immediately. The painting depicted a woman with flowing hair and holding a painter’s palette and a brush and was illuminated by a small light at night.

The installation of the piece was similar to an instance a few years back when someone placed a sculpture in the place where artist Jo Mora’s century-old wood carving of Carmel Mission founder Junipero Serra stood until the City of Carmel removed it in June 2020 for fear it would be vandalized. Pebble Beach Co. founder Samuel Morse had commissioned Mora to carve the statue, which was installed to celebrate the establishment of the Carmel Woods neighborhood area in 1922, and the art piece now belongs to the neighborhood association.

“Someone placed a picture in the Serra monument niche. Something similar has happened in the past,” a representative of the neighborhood association said in an Aug. 20 email to members. “The reason this is important is because we’ve been working for a long time to get a maintenance agreement in place with the county.”

Don’t make county mad

In 2022, the county agreed to allow the association to retain and maintain the landscaping and benches in the public right of way at the intersection where the Serra statue was located, but ordered that “no religious displays (including the statue) may be placed there.” County officials also required the group to obtain an encroachment permit. Otherwise, the benches, planters and other items could be removed by the county.

In the Aug. 20 email regarding the installation of the renegade artwork, the association representative said progress with county officials was finally made when they recently agreed to waive the group’s permit fees. But a neighbor reportedly overheard county workers remarking that the painting had been erected without permission, and he worried about the potential ramifications.

“I appreciate that the picture was probably installed with no bad intent. However, Monterey County has no

sense of humor and, worse yet, doesn’t like disrespect by violating their rules,” he said in the email. “We will get something installed in the niche, but with the county’s approval. Just as important, that installation will be what the community is happy with and not an anonymous person’s unilateral decision.”

He asked that the person who created and installed the work remove it in the next few days. Otherwise, the neighborhood association would remove it and “place it behind the monument for a week or so.”

“If it’s still there after that it will be thrown away,” he warned.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Monday, September 8, at 3:00 PM**, the City Council of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will hold a Public Hearing via teleconference and in person at the City Hall Council Chambers located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Subject of Public Hearings:

APP 25115 (Esperanza Carmel Commercial - JB Pastor Building)
Krista Ostoich, Agent for Appellants
Dolores Street 2 southeast of 7th Avenue
Block 91; Lots 6, 8, and 10
APNs: 010-145-023-000, 010-145-024-000, and 010-145-012-000
APP 25115 (Esperanza Carmel Commercial - JB Pastor Building): Consideration of an Appeal (APP 25115, Esperanza Carmel Commercial - JB Pastor Building) filed by Krista Ostoich on behalf of Mike Brown, Mike Cate, Don Goodhue, Steve Hillyard, Vinz Koller, Courtney Kramer, Cindy Lloyd, Ian Martin, Rich Pepe, Kristi Reimer, and Julie Wendt for the approval of Design Review, DR 23-140 (Esperanza Carmel Commercial - JB Pastor Building), Use Permit, UP 21-113 (Esperanza Carmel Commercial - JB Pastor Building), Lot Merger, LM 20-394 (Esperanza Carmel Commercial - JB Pastor Building), and associated environmental determination for the JB Pastor Building located at Dolores Street 2 southeast of 7th Avenue in the Service Commercial (SC) District at Lots 6, 8, and 10 of Block 91. APNs: 010-145-023-000, 010-145-024-000, and 010-145-012-000

Public Participation: This meeting will be held via teleconference and in person (“hybrid”) in the City Council Chambers at City Hall located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea. The public is welcome to attend the meeting in person or remotely via Zoom, however, the meeting will proceed as normal even if there are technical difficulties accessing Zoom. The City will do its best to resolve any technical issues as quickly as possible. To participate via teleconference, click the following link to attend via Zoom (or copy and paste the link into your browser):

<https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/81991221369>
Webinar ID: 819 9122 1369
Passcode: 055985
Dial in: (253) 215-8782

The staff report and relevant documents will be available at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting on the City’s website at <http://www.ci.carmel.ca.us>. The Council meeting will be televised live on the City’s website and archived there after the meeting. For more information regarding City Council meetings, please contact the City Clerk’s office at (831) 620-2016.

All interested persons are invited to attend in person or via teleconference at the time and place specified above to give oral or written testimony concerning this matter. Written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk at City Hall located on the east side of Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, 93921 or P.O. Box CC, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, 93921 or by email cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us prior to the meeting. With respect to written comments, please submit them at least 2 hours before the meeting in order to ensure they are provided to the legislative body and made part of the record. Comments received after that time and up to the end of the public hearing will be saved as part of the record but may not be provided to the legislative body prior to or during the public hearing.

If you challenge the nature of the proposed action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the city council at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Nova Romero, MMC, City Clerk

Dated: 8/27/2025
Publish Date: 8/29/2025

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Editorial

Gerrymandering 101

THE U.S. House of Representatives is called the “People’s House” because of its population-based apportionment, two-year terms, and the close ties its 435 members are supposed to have to their constituents. As such, it was designed to offer a more egalitarian form of representation than either the Senate, where each state has two members, regardless of population, the presidency, which is a single person for the whole country, or members of the federal judiciary, who have lifetime appointments and never have to face the voters at all.

As James Madison, fourth president and one of the authors of the Constitution put it in *Federalist No. 57*, “The House of Representatives is so constituted as to support in the members an habitual recollection of their dependence on the people. Before the sentiments impressed on their minds by the mode of their election can be effaced by the exercise of power, they will be again called to account to the people, and in the meantime, the liability to be brought to the bar of public opinion will be a powerful motive for a due respect to that opinion.”

Of course, in Madison’s days, Congressional districts were small, with members of the House representing an average of just 50,000 people. These days, members have about 750,000 constituents — which explains why only a few people in each district ever have any contact with the person who “represents” them or any idea what their representative does while he’s far away in Washington D.C., much less the ability to call him “to account” come Election Day every other year.

For sure, as districts have gotten larger, the House of Representatives has become much less egalitarian, which explains why some analysts have called for a much larger House with 1,000, or even 4,000, members.

But an even more insidious way that members of the House have become detached from their constituents is that so many of them represent districts purposely designed to have a majority of voters loyal to either the Democratic or Republican parties. Drawing district boundaries in this way is called gerrymandering, for Elbridge Gerry, governor of Massachusetts in the early 19th century, who participated in a scheme to guarantee his party, the Democratic-Republican Party, a majority in the statehouse even if it got fewer votes statewide than the rival Federalist Party by drawing district boundaries to scatter Federalist votes while concentrating Democratic-Republican ones.

Once the scheme was invented, it started to become commonplace, to the extent that now almost every state gerrymanders to some degree. All the attention these days is on Texas and California, where officials are busy upping the ante for gerrymandering within their borders, but it must be remembered that nine states (Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Rhode Island and Vermont) have no Republican members in the House even though they have millions of Republican voters, and 12 states (Alaska, Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming) have no Democratic members despite their millions of Democratic Party loyalists. It need hardly be added that, with the country so closely divided between the parties, each seat in the House has great importance.

You might think the U.S. Supreme Court would step in to halt gerrymandering, to protect the principle of equal representation. Shouldn’t each state have roughly the same number of representatives from each party as each party’s percent of the vote?

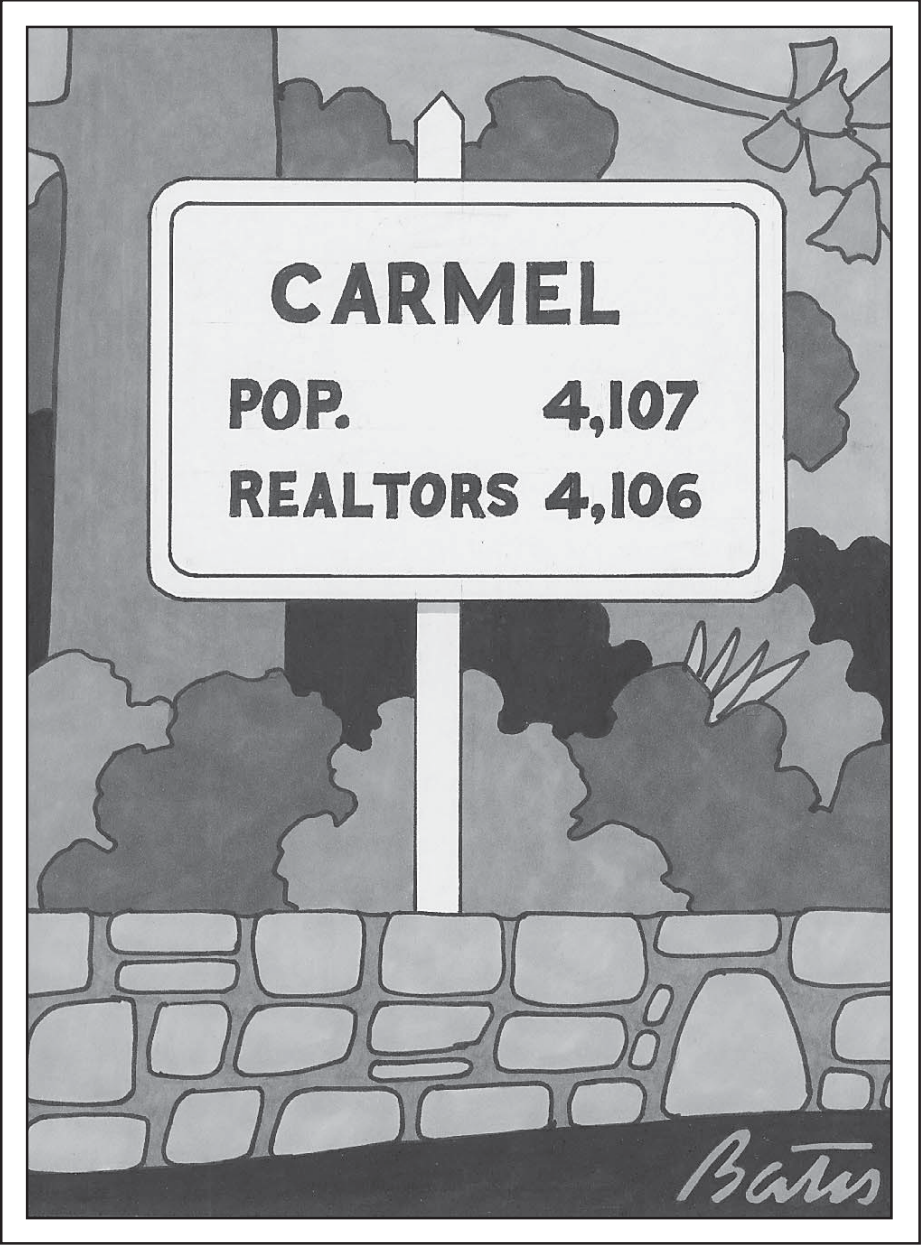
To achieve fairness, the answer should be yes, obviously. But in a crucial 2019 case, *Rucho v. Common Cause*, the Supreme Court ruled that guaranteeing equal representation in the House by forbidding gerrymandering was up to Congress and the states, not the federal courts.

Writing for the majority, Chief Justice John Roberts, joined by justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, acknowledged that “excessive partisan gerrymandering” could be “incompatible with democratic principles” and that the Framers expected districts to be drawn without undue partisanship. However, he concluded there was no constitutional provision to guide federal courts in intervening, and said the Elections Clause (Article I, §4) leaves redistricting issues primarily to states and Congress. Roberts also emphasized that federal courts lack the authority to police “partisan fairness.”

Which explains why all the controversy over gerrymandering this summer is in Texas and California, not Washington.

If you don’t like gerrymandering, you should contact your representatives in Sacramento or Washington, but good luck getting them to pay attention to you.

BEST of BATES



Letters to the Editor

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

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

‘Generous efforts’

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank Patrice Pastor for a decade of generous efforts and investments in Carmel, which not only include preserving and restoring the historic architecture of our beloved village, but also his support of our cultural assets like the Golden Bough, donations to local nonprofits and patronage of local artists and small businesses. He has been a dear friend to our community. I am a third-generation Carmelite, I can assure you that he loves Carmel as much as any of us long-term and multigenerational residents, perhaps even more.

We are truly blessed that someone of his creative genius, experience and expertise is willing to build beautiful, long-term housing that adds to Carmel’s historic, traditional architectural charm and heritage. Our village desperately needs new housing for our small business community

and multigenerational Carmelites, many of whom have and will be forced to sell our family homes due to Prop. 19, which limited Prop. 13 for future generations and was one of the largest tax hikes in American history. We’re talking about property tax increases from \$15,000 to \$50,000 or more a year. For those of us who cannot afford the property tax increase and are forced to sell our family homes, we need long-term rentals and most of us do not qualify for low-income housing. We do, however, qualify for market-rate housing provided by projects like Ulrika Plaza and the JB Pastor Building.

These developments will not only add to the architectural charm of our village, but will also provide new housing, parking and retail spaces for the creative human beings who inhabit it. Carmel isn’t just an artistic village, it’s an artistic community. Every member of our community should take time to read the city’s Housing Element. I had hoped our city council would opt to make Carmel a protected charter city to allow for more flexibility, especially due to our significant lack of parking. Alas, they had other plans and now Carmel needs investors to help us fulfill the housing mandate, or Sacramento will take matters into their own hands, enforce Builder’s Remedy and build for us — whether we like it or not.

So every Carmelite must ask ourselves this: who do we want investing in Carmel? Do we want to make their lives easy, or difficult? If our building codes are outdated, unfeasible or leave too much

See **LETTERS** page 21A

■ **Publisher** Paul Miller (paul@carmelpinecone.com)
■ **Production/Sales Manager** Jackie Miller (jackie@carmelpinecone.com)
■ **Office Manager** Irma Garcia (274-8645)
■ **Reporters** Mary Schley (274-8660), Chris Counts (274-8665)
..... Kelly Nix (274-8664)
■ **Features Editor** Elaine Hesser (274-8661)
■ **Editorial Assistant** Emilie Ruiz (emilie@carmelpinecone.com)
■ **Advertising Sales** **Real Estate, Big Sur** - Jung Yi (274-8646)
Carmel-by-the-Sea, Carmel Valley, Carmel & Pebble Beach
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■ **Office Assistant** Eunice Romero (274-8593)
■ **Circulation Manager** Scott MacDonald (261-6110)
■ For complete contact info: <https://carmelpinecone.com/contact.html>

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U.S. Mail: P.O. Box G-1, Carmel CA 93921

Deliveries: 734 Lighthouse Ave.,
Pacific Grove CA 93950

Telephone: (831) 274-8593

Email: mail@carmelpinecone.com
or firstname@carmelpinecone.com

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SHE’S BEEN THERE FOR 49 YEARS, BUT ONLY GOT PAID FOR 40

LINDA GALUPPO’S public school pedigree deserves more than a footnote in light of her role at Carmel High School, where she’s the master of schedules, more than 800 students, one of their first stops of the new school year.

Great Lives

By LILY PATTERSON

keeper of transcripts, interpreter of student records, and unofficial counselor to over-stimulated freshmen and college hopefuls. As Carmel High’s senior registrar — a position she’s held for all of her 40



PHOTO/COURTESY LINDA GALUPPO

After graduating from Carmel High School, Linda Galuppo returned for a 40-year career as senior registrar.

years with the district — Galuppo insists she learned it all on the job. But there’s a wisdom unique to her situation, since she spent her formative years on the very same grounds. Presently, her office is a hub for

coming of age in a different world and, in Carmel especially, with panoramic opportunities to consider. “I love the fact that young girls now are becoming doctors, lawyers, environmental scientists ... I speak to more girls than ever, and they know exactly what they want to do,” Galuppo said.

Long tenure
A few weeks ago, at the annual “Welcome Back Brunch” hosted for faculty and staff, she was recognized for 40 Years of Service to the Carmel Unified School District — though, technically, she was involved with the district well before 1985. Since 1963, in fact, when her sixth-grade class was the first enrolled at Carmel Middle School. Before that, she’d attended fourth and fifth grade at Sunset School, where the Sunset Center sits today. When Galuppo entered fourth grade, her family had just moved from Southern California. Her father, a teacher, was hired by Seaside High School, and her mother was hired as secretary to the district psychologist at CUSD, a position she held for 20 years.

Galuppo, an only child, grew up riding bikes and running around with the other kids in the neighborhood between the

See LIVES page 22A

From the mayor’s desk — Car Week — joys and challenges

By DALE BYRNE

CAR WEEK has always been one of those magical times when Carmel-by-the-Sea feels both wonderfully expansive and intimately cozy. Expansive, because the world comes to visit — thousands of enthusiasts, stunning automobiles from every era, and that buzz of international attention. Intimate, because our village becomes the perfect stage, with charming streets and courtyards filled with extraordinary cars and people who appreciate beauty, craftsmanship, and community spirit. This year, I experienced all three days of Carmel’s downtown shows, featuring multiple promoters’ events across downtown. On the surface, they seemed impressive, and the show logistics appeared seamless, the atmosphere infectious, and everywhere I turned I saw authentic joy. Yet at times, especially Thursday, I was shocked by the sheer volume of people absorbed into our 1-square-mile village. It raised an important question: Do we need

ways to manage or limit numbers so Car Week remains extraordinary without overwhelming our town?

■ **Infrastructure challenges**
Alongside the celebration came challenges. In a village already facing restroom shortages, adding thousands of visitors without additional facilities created stress. No extra trash receptacles or expanded pickup routes were arranged, leaving 30 volunteers as our main defense against litter. Parking was also severely strained, with downtown spaces almost entirely consumed by the shows. More concerning were visitors who made life difficult for our neighbors. Loud cars shattered our peaceful atmosphere, drivers ignored stop signs, and some treated our residential streets as racetracks. Rows of exotic vehicles raced along our “straightaways” — not for driving joy, but chasing the perfect YouTube video or

See MAYOR page 22A

The bar’s a little higher when you’re selling art here

THE IMPROBABLE art history of Nancy Dodds began more than three decades ago when she walked into Carmel’s Le Celle Gallery and presented herself as a cocktail waitress with no art knowledge, no gallery experience and virtually no sales background. “That’s great,” said Bob Haeger, the owner. “I won’t have to untrain you.” Less than five years later, in October 1996, Haeger summoned his star employee for a meeting and convinced Dodds — who had never run a business — to buy his gallery.

Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

“He had an attorney, I had an attorney, we made a contract that was like making a car payment, and it’s been mine ever since,” she said.

‘By the seat of my pants’
In an art mecca where galleries come and go like fashion trends and feral cats, the Nancy Dodds Gallery has endured the dot-com bubble burst of the early aughts, the global financial crisis of 2008, and the Covid-19 pandemic with a business plan that, according to its owner, mostly amounts to this: “I fly by the seat of my pants,” said Dodds, still airborne as her gallery nears its 30th anniversary. Her against-all-odds longevity is magnified by its relatively cloistered location on Seventh Avenue between San Carlos and Dolores streets — a block from foot traffic on Ocean Avenue. “We’re off the beaten path,” she said.



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

Nancy Dodds, self-taught as an artist and gallery owner, exchanges a loving glance with Finnegan, the cavalier King Charles spaniel who assists as a greeter at the Nancy Dodds Gallery on Seventh Avenue.

“People come in here all the time and say, ‘I’ve been to Carmel a million times, and I’ve never found you before.’” What they find beyond the French doors is a bright, friendly 1,000-square-foot space showcasing 38 contemporary and

plein air artists. Many are well-known, and others probably should be: Gerard Martin, Ruth Carroll, Lesley Rich, Shelley Cost, Alicia Meheen, Randall Sexton, Beth Van Hoesen, Robert Frank, Cindy Wilbur, William Hook, Zoya Scholis, Wayne McKenzie, Peggy McGivern and Carolyn Lord, to name a few. Oh ... and 15 years ago Dodds — with no formal art training — began teaching herself to paint. Her own works, mostly commissioned pet portraits, are a labor of love for Dodds, who has a passion for animals.

Finnegan, a cavalier King Charles spaniel with big eyes and a belly waiting to be rubbed, is a multitalented tail-wagging greeter at the gallery — a muse and sometime model for Dodds’ acrylic renderings. He was also the critic who validated her as an artist.

“I used to put my paintings in a low cabinet alongside a photograph of the animal,” she remembered. “For the longest time, Finnegan would stare into the eyes of one of my paintings and he’d bark, which, I decided, was a compliment.” Dodds was the youngest of three girls — “the oops baby,” she said — born into a military family. Her father taught at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, his alma mater. Her grandfather also collected a diploma from West Point, then won a Silver Star for valor during World War I.

Picturesque path
“We lived all over — Virginia, North Carolina, California and France, and we traveled all over Europe,” she said. “Everywhere I ever lived was beautiful, so I wasn’t overwhelmed when we moved to the Monterey Peninsula.” Nancy was a freshman at an all-girls school in Berkeley when her parents divorced. “I wasn’t used to living in a city, so when my mom asked whether we should stay in Berkeley or move in with my nana in Pebble Beach, I chose Pebble Beach,” she said. “I wanted to live in a place where I could have a big yard and pets.” She enrolled at Pacific Grove High School in 1965 for her sophomore year, but never really found a direction there.

“I was just trying to make it,” she said. “I had no idea what I wanted to do when I got out of high school — not at all — which is how you end up being a waitress.” After high school, Dodds earned an associate’s degree in general studies from Monterey Peninsula College, then lived in

See ARTIST page 36A



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AI

From page 6A

“I sometimes use AI as a study tool, especially if there is a topic I’m having difficulty grasping. Sometimes, I find that AI can simplify topics in a way that I can

understand and is directly adjusted to the way I learn,” Garey said.
She feels that most students treat AI as “yet another learning tool that can be used in order to help us, rather than something that is replacing our intellectual abilities.”
As for using AI to write essays or solve math problems, the 2025-26 handbook dedicates a page-and-a-half to the new

Academic Honesty & Artificial Intelligence policy.
It begins, “Students who copy work from others [plagiarism], allow others to cheat from them, submit work that is not the result of their own efforts, engage in forgery, etc., are guilty of ‘academic dishonesty.’”
Following that is a list of “minimum interventions” for violating the honesty policy, including a grade of zero for the work in doubt, detention, and parent-teacher conferences. For repeat offenders, consequences may include “a discipline referral, college notification, no scholarship opportunities from CHS foundation, or impacted teacher letter of recommendation.”
The policy goes on to say that “any unapproved use of AI will be subject to the Academic Honesty consequences list above,” then enumerates three “designations” that teachers should use when assigning work to students: AI Recommended, which requires them to cite any AI sources, AI Permitted, when “AI may be used as a resource for planning, research or editing, but is not required or necessarily recommended,” and AI Forbidden, when “students are expected to complete an assignment or project using their own knowledge and skills.”

AI isn’t perfect

Similarly, Monterey Peninsula Unified School District has circumscribed the use of artificial intelligence throughout its student handbooks, and in an eight-page academic honesty policy on Monterey High’s website.
Neither policy entirely bars students — or teachers — from using AI as a research assistant, writing coach, or “a teacher that is able to reply to a question within a matter of seconds, at any time of the day,” as Fort described it.
Like Garey, Fort has some self-imposed limits on how she uses artificial intelligence. She said her primary concern is the accuracy and verity of thousands of online sources her preferred AI software, Microsoft Copilot, may access to answer a

simple question.
“This year, I’m serving as the co-president of the Model United Nations club. In past conferences, I’ve utilized AI to help me find reputable sources and paraphrase information when preparing content or writing position papers. But sometimes the AI will provide sources that aren’t real, so I always have to double-check all the information it provides me. Meanwhile, in mock trial, I would never dare use AI to write any part of the trial work product, as then I wouldn’t be able to learn the material as thoroughly,” said Fort.
“Like teachers, sometimes AI makes mistakes, so it’s important to stay vigilant and not be overly dependent on it,” she added.

Proofreading tool

When used as a mere proofreading tool, on the other hand, Fort feels AI has “improved” her writing.
“I also don’t have to spend pointless time searching for perfect synonyms when I can feed AI the context or sentence and ask for it to provide me synonyms for a specific word. Do I feel concerned that sometimes my classmates or I may be overly dependent on AI? Yes, but at the same time I believe it’s something that our society will just have to adapt to,” she said.

Both Garey and Fort shared that a few teachers, in spite of strict parameters on student use, have experimented with the technology to create lesson plans and generate assignments.
“They were up front about this, and in all honesty, the AI did a good job,” said Fort.
In his role as co-chair of the faculty-run technology committee, Garrera shared that one of his priorities is getting more teachers on board with artificial intelligence software as a “powerful” classroom tool.
“My role is to help the district view AI not as something to fear or prohibit, but as a powerful tool that, when implemented thoughtfully, can enhance teaching, deepen learning, and prepare students for the future,” Carrera said.



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LETTERS

From page 18A

room for interpretation, perhaps we should make those codes more clear and concise? Because if we don’t get our act together, we will lose not only Patrice Pastor, we will lose any other qualified investor and if Sacramento takes control, we will lose Carmel.

Julia Christopher, Carmel

Seal carcasses

Dear Editor,
Last week’s edition had a front-page article on seal carcasses in which some were quoted as suggesting that the City of Carmel has not been properly addressing the carcasses. In fact, a clear and active process has been in place every day on Carmel Beach, involving Carmel Cares in partnership with the City of Carmel Public Works department. The result has been that Carmel Beach is monitored daily and marine mammal carcasses, as well as other issues, are promptly reported to the required agencies for research purposes and then disposed of as allowed.

For example, when a carcass is observed on Carmel Beach, a Carmel Cares beach volunteer immediately emails photos and the location to the proper agency, the public works department, and Carmel Cares. This ensures accurate tracking, minimizes delays, and allows for the required waiting period — minimum 24-48 hours for seals — before removal.

When the required waiting period is over, public works professionals again step in. The advised approach is to bury the carcass where it lies. Previously, this required up to four workers being available to hand-shovel a large hole, a time-consuming and tedious task. To make the work more efficient, Carmel Cares donated, and the city council recently approved, a Skidster-type tractor, which allows for much faster and safer disposal. It is now in operation for this and many other applications.

Because Carmel Cares patrols the beach at least once daily, any seal/sea lion carcass you discover has almost certainly been reported and should be buried shortly after the required agency timeframe. At times, this might take a little longer, especially if the removal day falls on a weekend or holiday. Still, residents and visitors are encouraged to notify Carmel Cares directly at carmelcares1@gmail.com to ensure that the process begins immediately.

Thanks to Carmel Cares and its strong partnership with the City of Carmel, this difficult but necessary work is handled as efficiently as currently is possible. Alongside daily litter collection, reporting of other marine mammals and birds, fire-remnant removal and clearing of unsafe materials like nail-embedded wood, these efforts help keep the Carmel Beach beautiful, safe, and inviting, while protecting the marine sanctuary waters we all treasure.

New volunteers are always welcome to join the Carmel Cares beach team. Visit carmelcares.org and click the “Volunteer” button to learn more.

Kelly Francis, Carmel Cares

Find a bench

Dear Editor,
Having visited Carmel as a child in the 1950s, an Army recruit in the ’60s, a honeymooner in the ’70s, numerous visits in the ’80s, and on working visits as a golf television producer during the early 2000s, it’s fair to say I’ve seen Carmel rise and fall — depending on your point of view.

The charm of quaint shops with one-of-a-kind merchandise has pretty much passed the city by. Gone is the feeling of a charming beach community. It has been replaced with international merchants and international travelers. The renowned restaurants are still here if you can be fortunate enough to obtain a reservation.

The image of quaint, charming real estate here has pretty much been wiped out by affordability that’s for only the super-rich and international buyers.

Could this have been avoided? Sadly, progress is pretty much unavoidable.

Carmel will never be the charming artists community it once was. No amount of zoning will make that happen.

The truth is we all need to accept Carmel the way it is. (Or move on to other charming seaside villages that exist elsewhere.) For now, find a bench on Scenic and breathe deeply the soothing ocean breeze. That’s really what Carmel is all about and why you will come back again and again.

Mark Ohlson, Wilsonville, Oregon

Expertise and means

Dear Editor,
I am one of the lucky people who call Carmel home. As a full-time resident, I join the majority in this community who are dismayed that Patrice Pastor may throw in the towel on the myriad plans he proposed for our city. This includes part-time and second-home owners from the U.K., Texas, Boston, Silicon Valley, etc. I have the distinct pleasure to know Patrice; he is a thoughtful and considerate neighbor and friend. In addition to the improvements and development proposed by his company, Esperanza, he has demonstrated his support and commitment to our community by contributing substantially to Carmel Cares, the Carmel Foundation, Pac Rep and the Golden Bough Theater, for example. He is a staunch supporter of

the arts, and shared ideas of building a program for visiting artists, evocative of Carmel’s roots as an artistic haven.

The quality improvements Esperanza has already made speak for themselves, and the vision for The Pit and Ulrika Plaza, (not to mention Rocky Point, etc.), are eagerly anticipated by the community at large, despite an inordinate amount of sturm and drang. Almost all the letters last week (and conversations outside of The Pine Cone) confer support for Patrice.

We residents share his frustration. I hope there is a way to turn this situation around, because Patrice is a smart, funny, loyal, hard-working and generous individual. And, yes, he is a motivated and talented high-end international real estate developer, as were his father and grandfather before him. It seems a few locals resent this hard-earned success, while I view our town lucky to have sparked his creativity, commitment, and vision. Patrice has plans that enhance Carmel, and our charming city-by-the-sea will benefit from the expertise, means, and infrastructure improvements offered by Esperanza Carmel. Patrice, I hope you won’t throw the baby out with the bathwater. C’mon, city council, get it together.

Paula Robichaud, Carmel

See **MORE LETTERS** page 38A



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COMPASS

LIVES

From page 19A

Carmel River and Monastery Beach.

At 17, she graduated from Carmel High and life, as it’s said, happened fast. She began attending beauty school and earned her cosmetologist’s license just before her first daughter was born. Galuppo and her paramour wed in October of that year.

The young couple soon had two daughters, eventually three, but the marriage was short-lived. Worrying how she would support herself and her children after her divorce, Galuppo took on part-time work at her alma mater.

“It was just clerical work at the district office, until a new principal was hired at Carmel High, Maria Ishida. She was extremely supportive of me. I was the youngest in the office by a stretch, but she said, ‘Why don’t you come to work for me?’ She taught me how to do the master schedule. It was so different 40 years ago, doing all that with paper and pencil.”

Like a puzzle

Since then, the methods have grown more efficient and been computerized, but the process is no less painstaking, according to Galuppo. Each spring, she teams up with the principal and vice principal to begin developing the next year’s master calendar from scratch.

“It’s like starting a puzzle you don’t yet have the pieces for. Though you start to see things, notice patterns, after doing it for so many years.” The months-long process involves looking at core subjects, electives and advanced placement classes, determining enrollment numbers, taking into account teacher workloads, holidays and vacations, and then making sure students get the classes they need for the next school year.

That schedule becomes the basis for dozens of other decisions, too. Come August, Galuppo and her fellow registrars assign each student an academic counselor and support those individuals as they steer dozens of students apiece through the frenzy of the enrollment period, which closes Aug. 21. Then it starts over again in January for spring semester.

December and May bring their own storms of paperwork. There are grades to collect from teachers and report cards to be processed, then sent to families and colleges.

“I always tell the boys and girls who say to me, ‘Oh, I don’t think I can get in there, I’m not going to apply there,’ that all a college can do is tell you ‘no.’ You have

the opportunity and the means, so don’t ever squash your dreams before you put them out there,” said Galuppo.

Then, she sees them off.

“That’s my favorite part of the job — when all the kids come in and tell you where to send their final transcripts — let alone to see them when they come back from college. As corny as it sounds, it’s like watching a flower bloom.”

Those are the “regular” years. Consider that, during Covid, it fell to her to nail together a virtual school in which hundreds of students were expected to bloom.

The master calendar was scrapped and it was all hands on deck to conceive a reality in which high schoolers — at home, many “Zooming” from bed, one eye on pandemic news and the other on addictive apps like TikTok — were still going to do some substantive learning.

“I would never want to repeat that year,” Galuppo said. Beyond the administrative strain, it was hard to watch her granddaughter, a student at Tularcitos, “walking around with her laptop, doing P.E... Seeing what that teacher had to navigate,” she said.

In the aftermath, she was genuinely moved to witness students, staff, and faculty return to campus.

“The staff here, they become your family. You watch new teachers get married, you see their families grow — I feel very blessed.”

It had happened for her, during her first few years with the district, that a second chance at love and family came along.

Her youngest daughter was in kindergarten when a fellow parent invited the girls to a birthday party. Mingling with the other parents, Linda met Ron — a single dad who also happened to have three children, and was something of a cowboy, with horses in Carmel Valley.

Happy couple

The happily married couple have been together nearly 40 years, and their free time is all about the grandkids. Galuppo sees a lot of her grandson, a junior at Carmel High, and loves to entertain her granddaughter and her fifth-grade girlfriends, who attend Tularcitos. Their mom is Lacee, Galuppo’s youngest, who works at the elementary school as a teacher’s aide.

Weekends are often spent with the Galuppo side, her husband’s “big, Italian family,” a late but welcome contrast to her only childhood.

Several weeknights this fall are reserved for her other Carmel “family,” and she’s glad to do it.

“I love being a part of what’s going on at the school, so the kids know me and I know them. I try to go to a lot of football games, work the gate, attend any parades

“This job, it’s not a monetary thing, but it’s rewarding in its own little way. They are our future, and we have to make some sort of investment in them.”

MAYOR

From page 19A

Instagram post. One resident texted me a couple times saying that at times their neighborhood felt like “hell on earth.”

What makes Carmel unique is that every street is residential and our entire village is one extended neighborhood. When visitors forget this, it undermines what we’ve worked hard to preserve. Families walking our streets should never feel at risk, and visitors should seek the peace and authentic charm that define us — not roaring engines echoing between cottages.

■ Solutions within reach

So what’s our path forward? We must implement stronger measures to prevent disruptive behavior — or reconsider Car Week’s role in our community. Protecting our residents’ quality of life must always be the priority. If we cannot achieve balance, no publicity or economic benefit can justify compromising what makes Carmel irreplaceable.

Several residents have said they miss the relaxed atmosphere that once accompanied the Tour d’Elegance’s casual arrival over lunch — a moment that beautifully brought community and visitors together with truly classic cars in a simpler, more relaxed spirit. Can this feeling drive future events?

■ A vision where everyone wins

The good news is that solutions exist. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors, Peninsula city managers, and police chiefs will be meeting to discuss collaboration efforts for the entire region. Focusing only on Carmel won’t solve the larger problem because in the eyes of Car Week visitors, all the cities run together connected by the roads they’re driving on. We can also insist that organizers provide more portable facilities, extra waste management, and balance their enthusiasm for their events with the effect on our community.

This year reminded us of both Car Week’s extraordinary potential and its real challenges. The next steps are in our hands. I’ve met with the new chair of our Community Activities Commission, and they will be gathering your public input while moving forward thoughtfully. Show up at their public meetings so, together, we can ensure Carmel remains not only a place for extraordinary celebrations, but above all, a village where residents’ daily life and wellbeing always come first.

To hear a podcast generated from this column, visit [cli.re/carweek](#).

Dale Byrne is Mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea. His email is [dbyrne@cbts.us](#).



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CAL AM

From page 1A

Superior Court. The company also challenges what it claims is the water district’s lack of experience in operating and managing such a system.

The only potable water assets the district says it owns are “limited components” of aquifer storage and recovery, Cal Am’s says. That project — which diverts water from the Carmel River during the winter months and releases it for use in the summer months — is mostly owned and operated by Cal Am, it argues.

“The district does not deliver any water from the aquifer storage project to Monterey water system customers,” the filing said. “That is done entirely by Cal Am.”

However, water district general manager Dave Stoldt maintains that the agency provides both retail and wholesale water service. Cal Am, he claims, is trying to create a new distinction in the law that has no precedent.

“Previously, the law has only distinguished between retail and wholesale service in the provision of electricity, but not water,” Stoldt told The Pine Cone Thursday. “It’s clear that we have provided both retail and wholesale water service. So, Cal Am has to ask the court to further narrow what provision of water service must be for it to be a new or different service, subject to LAFCO approval.”

Stoldt went on to say it’s like telling a judge that the water district is providing a different type of service because it “used to sell blue water and green water but now wants to sell red water.”

About the same time Cal Am filed its court motion, the district filed a motion for summary adjudication, which

Stoldt said addresses “Cal Am’s claims head-on.”

The utility also challenges the district’s argument that it doesn’t need LAFCO approval because it “has provided retail water sales” as part of its involvement in the Pebble Beach reclamation project — which provides non-potable water to irrigate open spaces in Del Monte Forest.

“The reclamation project is not a potable water system. It is not certified to deliver potable water to customers, and it is not regulated by the Division of Drinking Water,” according to the Cal Am filing which adds that the district’s role is “purely administrative.”

‘Affordable water’

Cal Am cites a 2008 appellate case, South San Joaquin Irrigation District vs Superior Court, in which the appeals court found that “special districts” such as the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District need LAFCO approval if they seek to provide services that they don’t immediately offer.

The Peninsula utility said that because retail potable water service is a new or different function than what the district currently provides, the district needs LAFCO approval to operate the system.

“Because the district is not authorized to exercise the power of eminent domain for the project’s particular public use, it cannot establish all requisite elements of its sole cause of action for eminent domain,” and takeover effort should be dismissed, the company said.

For Cal Am to obtain a summary judgment, it must demonstrate to the court that there are no significant issues of “material fact” and that it is “entitled to a judgment as a matter of law.”

“The water management district needs to focus on its original charge, to secure reliable new water sources for

the Monterey Peninsula and protect the Carmel River,” said Evan Jacobs, Cal Am’s director of external affairs. Jacobs also said that the district has spent more than \$3 million so far on the takeover effort. “Instead, they are focused on lawsuits that are driving up costs.”

City workshops on house numbers

By MARY SCHLEY

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 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.

BATTERIES

From page 1A

of progress or an updated timeline.”

The Elkhorn system, which is not part of the Vistra facility, automatically disconnected from the power grid when its infrared fire detection system sensed flames from the Vistra fire.

“With the exception of connecting to maintain at or near minimum state of charge, the Elkhorn system will remain electrically disconnected from the grid in a safe, idle state until the necessary repairs are completed,” the utility explained.

Tesla is responsible for the upgrades and repairs, and an estimated cost for the work was not available.

The Elkhorn Battery operation stores excess solar energy and releases it to the state’s power grid when needed. PG&E said, “energy storage plays a key role in supporting grid reliability while providing cost savings for electric customers and helping to integrate more renewable resources into PG&E’s power mix.”



PHOTO/MIKE BUFFO, HOUSE OF 8 MEDIA

This drone photo shows the burned Vistra battery plant in the foreground and the PG&E battery operation in the background.



KATHY ANN FARRELL

We are saddened to announce the passing of Kathy Ann Farrell. She passed peacefully surrounded by family on Aug. 8, 2025. Kathy was born on Feb. 3, 1943, to Jerret and Helen Clark in Los Angeles. While attending California State University at Northridge she met Louis J. Farrell whom she married on Aug. 25, 1962. They quickly started their family, welcoming three children before moving to Monterey in 1969.

Kathy was a wonderful wife, mother and an amazing cook. She owned multiple restaurants in the Monterey area before she settled on a career as an office manager in the medical field.

Kathy and Lou built many great friendships over the years and loved entertaining family and friends. Most notable would be their Farrell’s Fourth of July party which started in the ’70s and continued into the 2000s.

Kathy could be described in so many ways: caring, loving and committed, but to sum her up briefly would be to call her a Class Act.

We would like to thank lleines Care Inc., Central Coast Hospice, Vaea and Marie for their wonderful care of Kathy over the last months of her life.

Kathy is survived by her husband, Lou; daughters, Dawn Fisher, Dana Pryune (husband Greg) and son, Shawn (wife Mary Beth) as well as her grandchildren, Case Fisher, Darcy Fisher and Ryan Farrell.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the SPCA Monterey County.

Kathy had a life-long love of adopted dogs. She cared for and loved numerous family dogs throughout her life.

Private services will be held.



LAUREL THERESA JACKSON

July 3, 1955 ❖ May 3, 2025

Laurie Jackson, age 69, of Marina, CA, passed away peacefully on May 3, 2025, surrounded by loved ones. She was born on July 3, 1955, in Ottawa, Illinois to Shirley and Jack Jackson.

She is survived by her three daughters, Sarah, Jenni and Erin Vaughn and two beloved grandchildren, Jamison and Brooklyn. She is also survived by mother, Shirley Jackson; and brother, Michael Jackson. She is preceded in death by her father, Jack Jackson; and sister, Leslie Jackson.

For more than 10 years, Laurie worked as an editor at Brooks/Cole Publishing Company, where she was admired for her keen eye for detail and her dedication to supporting authors.

Laurie will be remembered for her kindness, dedication to her church choir, and her love for her daughters. She touched many lives as a devoted member of her church and was a light to everyone she met.

A service to honor her life will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025, at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research.

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HEALTHY

Lifestyles

Joint pain: A common problem with a variety of treatments

By ELAINE HESSER

AS PEOPLE age, complaints about aching knees, sore hips and hands that hurt too much to type or open a jar seem to multiply.

Among many possible causes of joint pain, the most common by far is arthritis. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says it affects about 1 in 5 adults. The most frequently occurring type is osteoarthritis, which the Mayo Clinic describes as “the wearing away of the cartilage that caps the bones in your joints.”

Since the problem’s so prevalent, it’s no surprise that everyone seems to have advice. Suggestions about ice baths, acupuncture, cannabis, arnica gel, Bengay, herbal supplements and more can quickly crowd your social media feed and dominate real-life conversations, leaving you asking, “What really works?”

It turns out that a better question is, “What works for you?”

Complex issue

Dr. Amir Rahnavard spoke with Healthy Lifestyles about the complexities of joint pain. He’s a physiatrist — someone who specializes in physical medicine and rehabilitation — with Montage Medical Group and is the associate medical director of the inpatient rehabilitation unit at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.

To keep things simple, we’re going to

limit this discussion to a representative sore spot — a knee with a combination of arthritis, cartilage loss, and other changes caused by wear and tear and the passage of time. Rahnavard said many of the concepts discussed below can apply to other joints, like shoulders, elbows, wrists, hips and ankles. (He cautioned, however, that the spine is tested, diagnosed and treated differently.)

Two causes of pain in the knee he mentioned are bones rubbing together and the inflammation the body creates to increase circulation and bring blood to the area in an attempt to heal it.

However, Rahnavard noted, the body often “over-shoots” — it doesn’t produce the “perfect amount” of inflammation. “It’s either fully off or fully on,” he said. “Fully on” hurts.

Dealing with the pain is complicated by the fact that the same problem can be agonizing for one person but barely noticeable for another. The effectiveness of different treatments varies just as widely.



Treating joint pain is not a one-size-fits-all proposition — what works for one person may not help another.

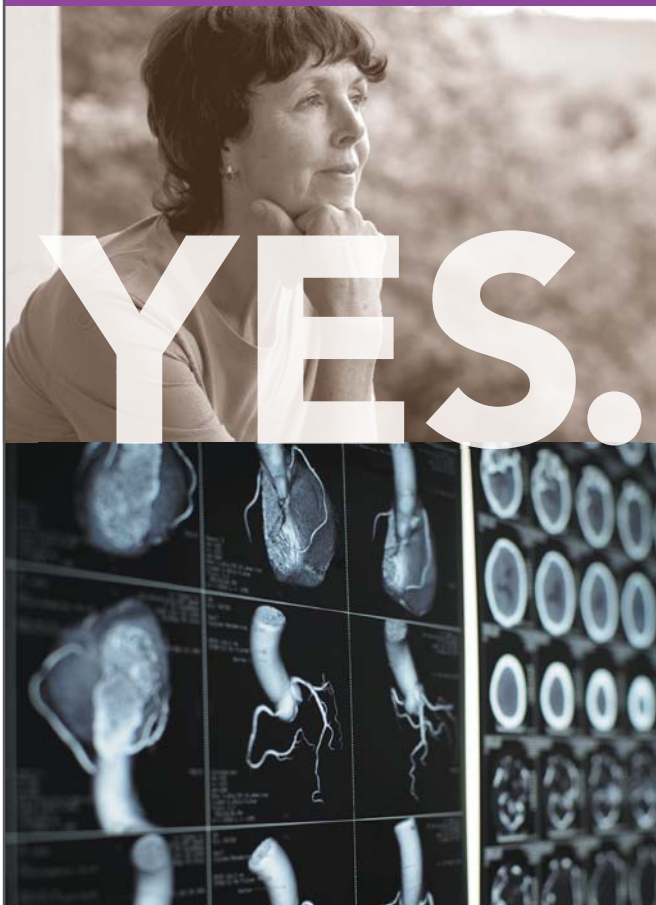
“Everyone’s a little different,” Rahnavard explained. “Someone might have no pain and suddenly, at 83, learn they have bone-on-bone arthritis. It’s genetics — the body decides not to tell you there’s a problem until it passes a threshold. But even

mild arthritis can cause big pain in other people.”

Surgery and/or joint replacement are possible solutions, but they are not the only ones.

JOINTS *con’t. page 29A*

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HEALTHYLIFESTYLES

Menopause is inevitable but misery doesn’t have to be

By SALLY BAHO

YOU’VE HEARD all the jokes and, likely, a few harrowing stories about women’s midlife “change.” But what exactly is menopause, and how can women understand and alleviate the symptoms?

Jennifer Zeidberg, an obstetrician and gynecologist who is passionate about menopause education and hormone therapy — which we will get to later — spoke with Healthy Lifestyles about the subject.

Let’s take a step back. Ovaries, which produce and store eggs, develop in baby girls before they’re born. At puberty, these reproductive glands become active, with the production of various hormones, and the young woman begins a monthly cycle, releasing an egg and preparing the body for fertilization and pregnancy. When the latter does not happen, the egg is discharged and the cycle starts again.

Hormones associated with the menstrual cycle first provide feelings of well-being and increased sex drive. That’s followed by the release of the egg and feelings of discomfort — often with unpleasant mood swings — collectively known as premenstrual syndrome, and lastly, a period, or menses.

“Menopause is the time when there are no more eggs left and is usually around the age of 51,” Zeidberg explained. This is accompanied by sharp declines in the production of some hormones, while others stop being made entirely. These natural chemicals play important roles in preventing negative outcomes — like osteoporosis — and promoting positive things like the libido, or sex drive.

A full year

The technical definition of menopause is having one full year without a period, Zeidberg noted. Before that, women experience perimenopause, “the gray area around age 45, five to 10 years before menopause, when the eggs are not as stable,” she said. The highest rates of unplanned pregnancies are during perimenopause, she said, because women think they are no longer fertile due to an inconsistent menstrual cycle.

The symptoms of menopause are real, wide ranging, and almost universally intense and disruptive. They often include weight gain, vaginal dryness, decreased libido, and bladder infections, irritability, osteoporosis and bone

fractures, hot flashes and night sweats that can cause sleep disturbances, and more.

Finding relief

The good news is that there are solutions to not only help treat the symptoms, but also to allow women to live longer, healthier lives.

In the past 20 years, the medical community has learned a great deal about women’s health during and after menopause thanks to the Women’s Health Initiative. According to the National Institutes of Health, this research began in 1991 and has involved more than 150,000 women. “Sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, it is a long-term national health study that focuses on strategies for preventing heart disease, breast and colorectal cancer, and osteoporosis in postmenopausal women.”

Zeidberg noted that other outside-the-box thinkers and researchers have developed various hormone therapies during that period, as well.

Hormone replacement therapy can help women have longer, healthier lives, Zeidberg said. Since menopause is accompanied by the decreased production of estrogen and progesterone, replacing these hormones can alleviate the symptoms of menopause. Further, there are numerous ways in which these hormones can be administered — transdermally, meaning through the skin, orally, or even internally via an intra-uterine device, commonly called an IUD.

It has also been found that the outcomes of hormone therapy are better if they begin within five years of the onset of menopause. These therapies must be evaluated individually, as there are risks involved, making it important to

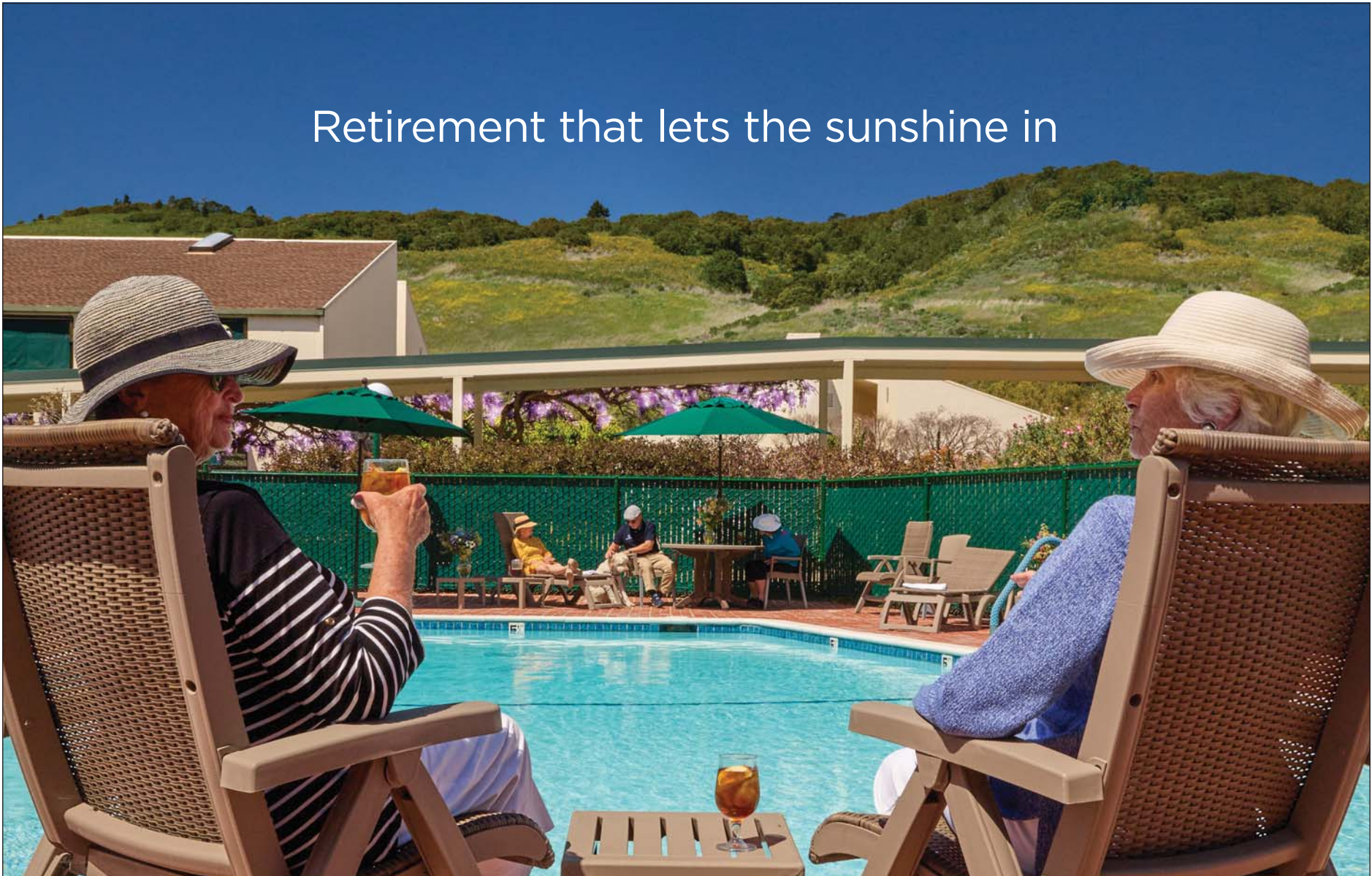


Hot flashes are annoying, but they — and long-term effects of menopause — can be treated.

speaking to your gynecologist about your background and medical history.

For example, if a woman had family members who got

MIDLIFE con’t. page 31A



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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

They bring companionship, love and purrs. You supply the home.

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

MARGARET SLABY has always loved dogs, particularly Kayden, her “once-in-a-lifetime” golden retriever who died suddenly. Then came Shanti, a border collie whose name means “peace,” as she brought peace and healing to her person, rescuing her from grief.

Yet Slaby cares even more deeply for cats — their soft, sleek or plush hair, wise eyes, playful nature, and the soothing rumble of purring. She loves all cats, really, but has a special place in her heart for seniors who have been lost or abandoned, those living in fields or boxes, in shelters or on “death row.” Which is why, in 2016, she established Golden Oldies Cat Rescue, a nonprofit dedicated to “mutual rescue.”

“While we are rescuing the animal and providing the security of a loving home, cats are often rescuing our hearts and minds and souls, providing unconditional companionship,” she said. “And cats who have been rescued seem to know it. They show their gratitude through affection.”

“People like to foster and adopt kittens because they’re so cute,” she said. “I love kittens. But older cats won’t climb up the drapes, unfurl the toilet paper, or attack your feet in the middle of the night. This is an argument that makes sense but doesn’t always sway decisions.”

Grateful for greetings

What does it mean that a mature cat, who has known one person its whole life, becomes traumatized by suddenly losing the security and stability of their home, their person — their whole world.

Said Slaby, “We find them confused, scared, grieving and hungry, so we place them in a foster home to give them time to heal while we find them their forever home



Margaret Slaby (center, with Shanti), a self-described dog lover, founded Golden Oldies Cat Rescue to look after seniors like River (left) and Duke.

where they can start their next chapter.”

She remembers a 10-year-old blind, long-haired black cat found under a bridge in Greenfield. After visiting a veterinary ophthalmologist, he was taken to Canterbury Woods senior living facility to visit, where a woman fell in love with and adopted him. She named him River Cat.

“Animals are so forgiving and willing to love,” Slaby said. “River was found cowering and cold, yet now, said his new person, all he does is purr. She calls him her family and is so grateful to have a companion who greets her when she gets home. I believe he feels the same.”

Cats may find themselves without a home for several reasons. Perhaps they escaped the security of their house or went out on a night prowling and were startled by another animal and fled. When an older person is faced with moving into a senior living facility, they often can’t take their cat with them. Or maybe someone died before they could make arrangements for their pet. Occasionally, the owner wants to keep their furry friend, but can no longer attend to their physical care. Maybe it’s allergies.

“We always want to talk with cat owners about options

and alternatives to surrendering their feline friend,” Slaby said. “It is so much better if the cat can remain at home with their person and avoid separation.”

Caregivers needed

If it is an issue of allergies, Slaby encourages people to talk to their doctor to see if there’s medication that can help with their symptoms. If the cat has behavior issues, it may be worth a visit to the veterinarian to make sure this is not medically driven. Sometimes, she said, bad behavior is caused by stress. There are calming medications and collars that may resolve those issues.

Rarely is the need to relinquish a cat due to a lack of love or affection, Slaby said. Sometimes it’s a financial issue, in which case she refers folks to financial assistance organizations.

Slaby once worked at a shelter as an animal care technician, where she saw a lot of cats come and go, some 50 percent of them leaving through the euthanasia room.

KITTIES cont. page 31A



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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

JOINTS from page 25A

While individual differences in physical makeup, lifestyle and genetics rule out a one-size-fits-all approach, one question to discuss with your doctor is whether your condition can be managed to keep it from getting worse. Approaches include things like strengthening the joint — possibly with physical therapy and home exercise — or losing weight to reduce wear and tear.

Results may vary

There are several remedies for which little or no scientific support is found, but which seem to provide some patients with relief. Cannabis products fall into that category, Rahnavard said.

“All the research hasn’t been done thoroughly. There are no long-term evaluations

and outcomes,” and double-blind trials — where neither patients nor researchers know who is getting the real treatment — haven’t been done, so a placebo effect can’t be ruled out.

“But, in the big picture, that doesn’t mean it can or can’t work,” he said.

Arnica gel, which is derived from a plant, is another example. It’s usually applied to the skin near the joint and has been



Dr. Amir Rahnavard

PAIN cont. page 32A

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T H E K I T C H E N

Spanakorizo (spinach and rice)

Courtesy Mike Gonzalez, winner of Quail & Olive’s Mother’s Day recipe contest

WHAT ON Earth is spanakorizo? So glad you asked. It’s a Greek rice-and-spinach pilaf. The “spana” is the same root as “spanakopita” — the delicious layered phyllo-and-spinach dish — and “rizo” refers to the rice.

The recipe comes not from one of our local restaurateurs or caterers, but from a fellow named Mike Gonzalez, of Prunedale, who won this year’s Mother’s Day recipe contest at the Quail & Olive in Carmel Valley.

If you’re unfamiliar with that shop, you should check it out. It’s at 14 Del Fino Place in Carmel Valley, and it is — deservedly — a bit of a foodie magnet. Small stainless-steel vessels dispense individual tastes of olive oils and vinegars, and a surprising variety of other local and imported ingredients line the shelves.

The challenge for Gonzalez and other competitors was to use one of the Quail & Olive’s products to make an appetizer. He chose koroneiki olive oil, which is named for the variety of olive used, just as wines are named for different types of grapes. Other well-known varietals include arbequina and kalamata.

After Gonzalez’s recipe was pronounced the winner, the Quail & Olive’s “resident epicurean,” Camilla Mann — aka food blogger and educator “Culinary Cam” — tweaked it and suggested using other items from the store. These include Ane-to brand all-natural chicken stock, Big Sur Salt, and pepper from Il Boschetto. But of course, you can use what’s in your pantry.

Whatever you do, don’t omit the fresh

mint and dill, which give the dish its distinctive Greek flavors. You can grow both yourself in pots on your windowsill (the plants are nearly impossible to kill), or purchase them in the produce department of almost any grocery store.

If you’re watching your saturated fat intake, fat-free feta is widely available, and you and your guests probably won’t notice if you swap it out. Feta in any form is salty, so taste before you adjust the seasonings at the end. The lemon juice and zest add a lot of flavor, too. And, in case you’re wondering, you should zest first, then juice.

If you decide to use brown rice or some other grain to increase the fiber content, you’re going to have to adjust the cooking time.

Finally, let’s talk about that spinach. The recipe doesn’t specify what kind to use, but if you can locate Bloomsdale spinach at a local market, give it a try. It’s a little sturdier than other varieties and doesn’t have the bitter or metallic flavor some others do.

If ever there was an argument for buying pre-washed greens, sandy, gritty spinach fills that bill. There’s some controversy over whether to clean pre-washed spinach, but if you want to rinse it, wait until you’re ready to cook.

To clean fresh spinach, remove or trim any roots and thick stems, then give the leaves a quick rinse under a running faucet. Fill the sink or a large bowl with cold water. Add the spinach and gently swish it around, then let everything settle. Scoop out the spinach and drain the water. Repeat two or three times to make sure all the sand



and dirt comes off.

This dish would be excellent with chicken, lamb, portobello mushrooms, or pretty much anything grilled.

1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill
1/2 to 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
Fresh lemon slices for garnish, optional

DIRECTIONS

Pour olive oil into the bottom of a heavy-bottom pan with a lid. Stir in the rice to coat with oil. Add the spinach and green onions, and pour in the stock. Bring to a boil, then cover and reduce heat to a simmer. Cook for 25 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand for five minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

To serve, squeeze lemon juice over the dish. Stir in lemon zest, mint, and dill. Top with crumbled feta and serve immediately with slices of lemon on the side (optional).

INGREDIENTS (Serves 4-6)
2 tablespoons koroneiki olive oil
2 cups rice
2 cups fresh spinach
2 tablespoons fresh chopped green onions
4 cups chicken broth or stock
1 lemon for juice and zest
Salt and pepper to taste
1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

KITTIES from page 28A

“It broke my heart, broke me,” she said. “Determined to get them off the euthanasia track, I started thinking, ‘Why don’t I start an older cat rescue organization?’ I’d walk around the shelter, dreaming about it. Once I came up with a name, it made my idea seem real, possible.”

Golden Oldies can take in cats only if there are folks available to foster each one. That means they’re always looking for new folks who can foster or adopt.

When John Blair retired in 2013, he began looking for a way to give back to the community. The Marina resident now has three cats of his own, all “foster fails” — an endearing term used when pets are adopted by their “temporary” caretakers. “I foster because I really like cats,” he said. “I typically house a foster cat anywhere from a month or two, to nine months. I’ve had one now for five months.

It takes time to find the right home for these special cats.”

Since 2016, Golden Oldies Cat Rescue has welcomed 90 active volunteers into their program and has taken in and placed nearly 220 cats.

“It’s not my achievement,” Slaby said. “I had the dream, but it’s all about the people who stepped forward, joined hands, and said, ‘We can do this together.’ We’re getting a real foothold in this community and beyond.”

The rescue group’s motto has become, “Second chances and new beginnings.”

“People are rescuing cats,” she said, “but we understand that the cats are rescuing them right back. Cats give us a reason to get up, a routine, a companion we can talk to. They provide the opportunity to both give and receive affection we otherwise might not have.”

For more information or to become involved, visit gocatrescue.org.

MIDLIFE from page 26A

breast cancer, Zeidberg would test to determine whether it was genetic. This would allow her to prescribe the appropriate hormone therapy, as oral progesterone is associated with an increased risk in breast cancer. On the flip side, if she had a patient with no risk factors, she would prescribe transdermal estrogen and oral progesterone. However, Zeidberg said, “the benefits far outweigh the risks.”

She also counsels her patients to educate themselves on menopause with their partners. A spouse may feel rejected due to their partner’s decreased sex drive without understanding that it’s a hard-wired physical change, not a reflection of a transformation in the relationship or a loss of love. Zeidberg often refers her patients to couples counseling to help navigate the changes in intimacy due to menopause.

Is there anything else you can do to ensure better postmenopausal health? “When you’re talking about longevity healthcare, it’s prevention, prevention, prevention,” Zeidberg said. While some women are fortunate enough to win the genetic lottery when it comes to symptoms and health after 50, she said, “the best things you can do are eat healthy — no processed food, do not drink alcohol, and exercise daily.”



Dr. Jennifer Zeidberg

MENOPAUSE con’t. page 32A

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

MENOPAUSE from page 31A

For those interested in learning more about menopause, Zeidberg recommends the book “The Menopause Manifesto” by Dr. Jen Gunter, who also has a Substack called “The Vajenda.” Zeidberg also recommends the Galveston Diet for women

going through perimenopause, menopause and beyond. Several books are available on that topic, as well.

While moving beyond childbearing age may cause physical and emotional symptoms — not to mention being a vivid reminder of the passage of time — it doesn’t need to be mysterious or miserable.

PAIN from page 29A

used for centuries to relieve pain. Rahnavard said it has some numbing properties like menthol — the potent-smelling ingredient in products like Icy Hot, Bengay, and Absorbine Jr.

It’s also important to note that, as is true for many alternative treatments, CBD and arnica are not FDA-approved. That means there’s no reliable way to ascertain their quality, source, potency or consistency.

The same goes for herbal and supplement combinations that claim to alleviate joint problems. They may “work tremendously” for some people, the doctor said, while for others they have no effect. There are often variations among brands, too, so a supplement your friend calls “a miracle,” may do nothing for you.

Over-the-counter nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory pain relievers, or NSAIDs, like ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil), naproxen sodium (Aleve), aspirin, and topical NSAIDs, like Voltarin, can provide some relief but come with warnings about potentially harmful side effects.

Injectations can help

Two kinds of FDA-approved injections are available and are usually given in a doctor’s office. Steroids can “curb the initial onslaught of inflammation,” Rahnavard said, and provide temporary relief. Once the discomfort from inflammation has been alleviated, however, the pain of bone-on-bone contact can become more

pronounced. Additionally, a great deal has been written about long-term effects of steroid use, including contributing to further damage.

Hyaluronic acid gel, which the body also produces naturally, can be injected to lubricate the joint. This must be repeated every six months or so. Said Rahnavard, “The gel deteriorates. It’s like putting oil in the car.”

(As an aside, in reading about hyaluronic acid, I learned that it was originally sourced from rooster combs, explaining some older relatives’ perplexing references to “cocks-comb injections.”)

Other approaches, which have not yet been approved by the FDA, include regenerative injections, which promote healing in the affected area. One type uses platelet-rich plasma — a concentrated product made from the patient’s blood — while another uses stem cells from the patient’s bone marrow.

Prolotherapy is an injection of saline and sugar designed to stimulate a “just right” inflammatory response that promotes healing, as opposed to that “fully on” response that causes pain.

For anything your doctor recommends, you should ask how soon after treatment to expect relief, how long that will last, what the possible side effects are and how often treatment will be necessary. It’s always a good idea to see if a recommended course of action is covered by insurance, too.

Finally, if you’re in pain, speak up. “Being brave” is overrated.



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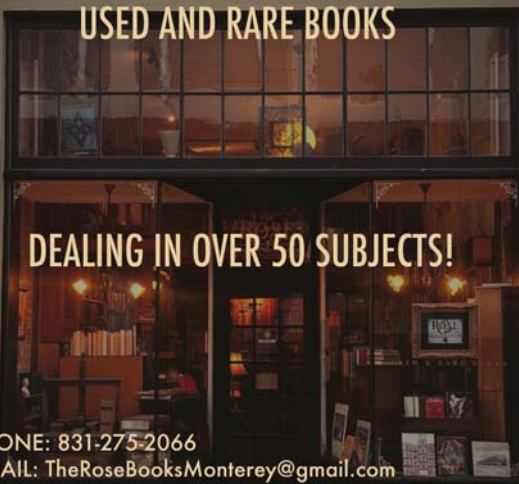
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Champion Padres ready to tackle the biggest and best in new division

IF YOU were a varsity football player in California last fall, the odds that you played on a state championship team are somewhere around 12,500 to 1.

Fifteen players who beat those odds were on the practice field at Carmel High this week as the Padres prepared

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

for the 2025 season as defending champions of the California Interscholastic Federation 5AA Division.

Among the teams who brought home a state championship trophy from one of California’s 15 postseason divisions, only two had perfect seasons: Mater Dei, a private Catholic school in Santa Ana, won the CIF’s Open Division with a 13-0 record, and Carmel went 15-0 to capture the state 5AA crown.

Suffice it to say, the Padres can expect a raucous welcome from their hometown crowd Saturday when they



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Matt Maxon was a first-team All-Mission South Division choice a year ago on defense and was one of Carmel’s leading receivers in a passing attack that gained 4,228 yards. He’ll play safety and wide receiver this season.

take the field for their 2 p.m. season opener against Soledad, the first of back-to-back preseason home games for a Carmel team that is 25-1 over the past two years.

After consecutive unbeaten seasons in the Pacific Coast Athletic League’s Mission South Division, the Padres have been boosted into the Gabilan Division, home of the biggest and best schools in the league.

Heavy losses

And after 19 seniors graduated, including five first-team all-leaguers, that promotion seems ill-timed, but Coach Golden Anderson has pronounced his team ready for the challenge.

“Our guys have been working hard, and they aren’t shying away from this opportunity — they’re excited to play those teams and find out where we stand,” he said.

The list of luminaries on the Padres’ roster begins with senior safety Matt Maxon, a first-team All-Mission South Division choice a year ago as a linebacker and is the leader among Carmel’s returning receivers after catching 45 passes for 579 yards and scoring six touchdowns.

“Matt’s a great athlete in every sport he plays,” Anderson said of Maxon, who will be at Stanford University next fall on a full-ride baseball scholarship. “He’s a fierce competitor, with a ton of experience — he’s been on our varsity roster since the end of his freshman year.”

Also returning are three starters from the offensive line, led by 6-foot-7, 280-pound Robert Beverly, who committed last May to play next year at UC Davis after sorting through offers from Fresno State, Sacramento State, Cal Poly and the Air Force Academy.

Beverly, a tackle, will be rejoined in the trenches by center Carl Weigel (6-4, 260) and guard Simon Papazian (6-1, 215), both juniors, plus David Spencer, who made the varsity squad a year ago as a 6-1, 215-pound freshman. He can play tackle or guard.

Another significant presence should be 6-2, 205-pound Carter Lloyd, younger brother of all-state tackle Jackson Lloyd, who is now No. 2 on the depth chart at right tackle as a freshman at the University of Alabama.

Carter started the state championship game at both tight end and defensive end as a sophomore and intercepted a pass in the title game.

Up from JVs, fighting for starting positions, will be



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Tackle Robert Beverly (6-7, 280 pounds) anchors a big, experienced offensive line for the Carmel Padres, who are defending California 5AA state champions this season. Beverly has committed to play next fall at UC Davis.

junior Kaleb McKean and sophomore Jack Benson

“Football is a big man’s game, and we have some experience on the offensive line and some depth on our defensive line. Those things are significant as we move into the Gabilan Division,” said Anderson, whose 2022 team went 3-3 against Gabilan opponents, 5-5 overall. “The last time we were there, we had some very skilled players, but we were very, very small up front. We gave up a lot of size, which resulted in some mismatches for us.”

Lost to graduation was all-division quarterback Hudson Rutherford, who, as a two-year starter, passed for 6,300 yards and 69 touchdowns with just 15 interceptions, completing 73 percent of his passes.

Herro earned his chance

Waiting in the wings has been senior Kaleb Herro, who glittered when his opportunities came up. As a sophomore and junior, Herro connected on 40 of 72 passes (56 percent) for 608 yards, with four TDs and one interception.

“Kaleb had a good season as our starting JV quarterback as a freshman, then spent the last two years behind a

Continues next page

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Salinas (8-3, 5-1), Monterey (6-5, 4-2), Aptos (7-6, 2-4), Palma (7-6 2-4), and Hollister (5-7, 1-5) also return, and North Salinas joins the division after going 7-4 and



Coach Golden Anderson ushers his Padres into the Gabilan Division after compiling a 25-1 record over the past two seasons, including 15-0 last year, when they won California's Class 5AA state title.



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U.S. Department Of Housing And Urban Development Recorded in accordance with 12 USC 3764 (c) 9A 187-461-013-000 Property Address: 2 Valle Vis Carmel Valley Area, CA 93924 Title Order No.: 95531054 Whereas, on 9/11/2009, a certain Deed of Trust was executed by H Russell Wilks Jr and Judith C Wilks, as Trustees of the Wilks Family Trust, a revocable Living Trust dated December 13, 1995 as trustee in favor of MetLife Home Loans, a Division of MetLife Bank, N.A. as beneficiary, and Placer Title Company as trustee, and was recorded on 9/16/2009, as Instrument No. 2009058757, in the Office of the County Recorder of Monterey County, California; and Whereas, the Deed of Trust was insured by the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (the Secretary) pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family housing; and Whereas, the beneficial interest in the Deed of Trust is now owned by the Secretary, pursuant to an Assignment of Deed of Trust dated 10/7/2015, recorded on 10/23/2015, as instrument number 2015061435, in the Office of the County Recorder, Monterey County, California; and Whereas, a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of the Deed of Trust in that the payment due on 3/1/2025, was not made and remains wholly unpaid as of the date of this notice, and no payment has been made sufficient to restore the loan to currency; and Whereas, the entire amount delinquent as of 9/16/2025 is \$1,150,929.36; and Whereas, by virtue of this default, the Secretary has declared the entire amount of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust to be immediately due and payable; Now Therefore, pursuant to powers vested in me by the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR part 27, subpart B, and by the Secretary's designation of Total Lender Solutions, Inc. as Foreclosure Commissioner, recorded on 2/11/2019 as instrument number 2019005336, notice is hereby given that on 9/16/2025 at 10:00 AM local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder: Legal Description: Lot 16 Of Tract No. 119 "Valle Vista" As Shown On The Map Filed June 12, 1946 In Volume 4 Of Maps, Cities And Towns, Pages 89, In The Office Of The County Recorder Of Said County. Commonly known as: 2 Valle Vis, Carmel Valley Area, CA 93924 The sale will be held at main entrance County Administration Building, 168 West Alisal Street, Salinas, CA. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development will bid an estimate of \$1,150,929.36. There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before closing, his prorata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale. When making their bids, all bidders except the Secretary must submit a deposit totaling \$115,092.93 [10% of the Secretary's bid] in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made out to the Secretary of HUD. Each oral bid need not be accompanied by a deposit. If the successful bid is oral, a deposit of \$115,092.93 must be presented before the bidding is closed. The deposit is nonrefundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within 30 days of the sale or at such other time as the Secretary may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified or cashier's check. If the Secretary is the high bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveyancing fees, all real estate and other taxes that are due on or after the delivery of the remainder of the payment and all other costs associated with the transfer of title. At the conclusion of the sale, the deposits of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to them. The Secretary may grant an extension of time within which to deliver the remainder of the payment. All extensions will be for 15-day increments for a fee of \$500.00, paid in advance. The extension fee shall be in the form of a certified or cashier's check made payable to the Secretary of HUD. If the high bidder closes the sale prior to the expiration of any extension period, the unused portion of the extension fee shall be applied toward the amount due. If the high bidder is unable to close the sale within the required period, or within any extensions of time granted by the Secretary, the high bidder may be required to forfeit the cash deposit or, at the election of the foreclosure commissioner after consultation with the HUD Field Office representative, will be liable to HUD for any costs incurred as a result of such failure. The commissioner may, at the direction of the HUD field office Representative, offer the Property to the second highest bidder for an amount equal to the highest price offered by that bidder. There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant. The amount that must be paid if the Mortgage is to be reinstated prior to the scheduled sale is \$1,150,459.67, as of 9/15/2025, plus all other amounts that would be due under the mortgage agreement if payments under the mortgage had not been accelerated, advertising costs and postage expenses incurred in giving notice, mileage by the most reasonable road distance for posting notices and for the Foreclosure Commissioner's attendance at the sale, reasonable and customary costs incurred for title and lien record searches, the necessary out-of-pocket costs incurred by the Foreclosure Commissioner for recording documents, a commission for the Foreclosure Commissioner, and all other costs incurred in connection with the foreclosure prior to reinstatement. Date: 7/2/2025 Total Lender Solutions, Inc. U.S. Dept. of HUD Foreclosure Commissioner By: Rachel Seropian 10505 Sorrento Valley Road, Suite 125 San Diego, CA, 92121 Phone: 866-535-3736 Fax: 866-242-8599 A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document. State Of CA County Of San Diego On 7/7/2025 before me, Kimberly Alise Lokey, a notary public personally appeared, Rachel Seropian who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument. I certify under Penalty Of Perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct. Witness my hand and official seal. Kimberly Alise Lokey (Seal)



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ARTIST

From page 19A

Vancouver, B.C., San Francisco and Los Angeles, where she worked for Odyssey Records. She lived in Paris,

where her sister, Berta, was studying fashion design, and Dodds worked in that industry for a year.
In 1991, she was serving drinks at the Highlands Inn — where she once made a milkshake for pop idol Ricky Nelson — when she learned about the opening at Le Cella, the gallery at Seventh and San Carlos.
“I got all dressed up for the interview, and Bob Haeger

and I just hit it off,” she remembered. “He hired me and said, ‘You don’t need to dress up like that to work here — whatever you wear is fine.’”
As Haeger’s main employee, she learned from watching, listening and picking her employer’s brain.
“We loved to chat on the phone about the business,” she said. “We could talk for a long time.”
“When I took over a few years later, I decided that running an art gallery isn’t all that complicated,” Dodds said. “You take money in, you pay your artists, you learn to do sales tax for the state, and you find a good accountant.”
And she sold paintings largely by giving clients room to breathe and browse.
“I hear horror stories about how salespeople in other galleries treat customers,” she said. “I just try to let people have a good time, and I interject little things here and there until they need me. Then, I’m right there for them.”
A large part of her clientele consists of longtime customers, and many of her closest friends are Peninsula artists.

Feels needed

She still enjoys coming to her gallery and predicts she’ll still be there in her 90s, but life and age have slowed her pace.
“I’ve actually had a horrible three years,” said Dodds, who had hip replacement surgery in 2022 and more recently was diagnosed with interstitial lung disease, characterized by inflammation and scarring in the lungs.
“I’ve been on steroids and a lot of other meds, so running the shop hasn’t been easy,” she said. “But I love being here, and the shop needs me — my clients expect me.”
Dodds’ art was featured this year in the June edition of Fine Art Connoisseur magazine.
View the works of all 38 of her artists at nancydodds-gallery.com, or visit the gallery. The hours are on her website.
Call (831) 624-0346 or email ndg@nancydodds-gallery.com for additional information.
Dennis Taylor is a professional freelance writer in Monterey County. Contact him at scribelaureate@gmail.com.

Monterey landmark hosts First Theater Fest

AFTER KICKING off the family-friendly event last year, California’s First Theater hosts its second annual First Theater Fest Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
The event will feature performances by the Monterey Peninsula Theatre Company and singer and guitarist Katherine Lavin, along with free popcorn and cream soda. There will also be a display of vendors offering food, art and more.
Part of Monterey Historic State Park, the theater was built by Jack Swan in the mid-1840s as housing for sailors. It was the site of California’s first paid theatrical production in 1848.
The theater reopened in 2024 after being closed for more than two decades. It’s located at Pacific and Scott streets.

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Museum looks at Henry Miller’s Big Sur, gallery welcomes hot wax painter

AN ARTIST who has pushed the boundaries of painting with hot wax, Tracey Adams shares her latest works on paper in a month-long show, “Complex Topographies,” which opens Sept. 1 at Carmel Modern Art.

As a youngster, Adams was encouraged to be creative by her mother, who was a ceramic artist. Following her own path, she found ways to weave her love of math, science and music into her art.

Inspired by jazz musician Charlie Haden’s belief that it’s an artist’s job is to “bring beauty into a conflicted world,” Adams starts each of her pieces without a fixed plan.

“My ideas evolve as I apply my sense of order and play to the images and materials at hand,” the artist explains. “I may start with an idea in mind, but somewhere between intention and chance I find new directions — I’m never

“The years between 1944 and 1962 were Henry Miller’s Big Sur years, which he spent living life and enjoying the process of creating,” Toren said. “This exhibition is a reconstruction of Miller’s time in Big Sur, an attempt to capture a moment in time via a collage of memories of his existence in Big Sur and the lasting impressions that he left on the people who knew him.”

The exhibit will be on display through Nov. 16. The museum is located at 559 Pacific St. in Monterey.



Painter Tracey Adams, who has a new show on display at Carmel Modern Art, uses her creativity to “bring beauty into a conflicted world.”

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

quite sure how a painting will look until it’s finished.”

Besides being an accomplished artist, Adams teaches Pilates locally at several sites, including Monterey Sports Center.

While the show opens Monday, the gallery hosts a reception for Adams Saturday, Sept. 13, at 4 p.m. The gallery is on Sixth between Dolores and Lincoln. It’s open Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Monday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

You can also find Adams’ work at Winfield Gallery, which is on Dolores between Ocean and Seventh. For more details, visit carmelmodern.art.

■ A moment in time

The first in a series of exhibits at the Monterey Museum of Art that celebrate art in Big Sur, a new show that opens this week offers a fascinating look at life on Partington Ridge in the mid-20th century.

Titled “A Garden of Earthly Delights: Henry Miller’s Big Sur,” the show takes its cue from Miller’s book, “Big Sur and the Oranges of Hieronymus Bosch,” which delves into the interesting and creative neighbors that lived near Miller on the ridge. The exhibit uses old photos, art, mementos and memorabilia to capture the spirit of the time and place.

The show is curated by Magnus Toren, executive director of the Henry Miller Library.

■ Pumpkin patch seeks volunteers

One of the coolest and most creative local fundraisers is MEarth’s annual Glass Pumpkin Patch show, which is set for Sept. 12-14. But to make it happen, help is needed.

“We’re looking for volunteers to help make it our best year yet,” organizers announced. “This fundraiser is our largest of the year, drawing over 2,000 guests to the Habitat to explore and shop hundreds of hand-blown glass pumpkins by local artists — It’s a joyful weekend and volunteers are the heart of it all.”

For more details, visit mearth.org.

‘SAINT JOAN’ OPENS AT PACREP’S CIRCLE THEATRE

By CHRIS COUNTS

OFFERING A new perspective on Joan of Arc, one of the most fascinating women in military history, a PacRep Theatre production of George Bernard Shaw’s “Saint Joan” opens with a discounted preview Thursday at the Golden Bough Playhouse’s Circle Theatre.

PacRep calls the performance “an extraordinary opportunity to experience Saint Joan in a bold new light.”

The 13th-century figure will be played by a local theater veteran.

“At the heart of the drama is the indomitable Joan — played for PacRep by long time alumni River Navaille — a fearless and visionary heroine whose passionate quest for justice challenges both societal norms and the conventions of her time,” PacRep said. “With a performance that is both riveting and transformative, our leading artist brings Joan’s inner turmoil, unyielding courage and magnetic presence to life, inviting audiences to witness the forging of a legend.”

The play is directed by Kenneth Kelleher. The cast also

includes James Brady, Howard Burnham, Matt Kropschot, Brian Herndon and Michel Ray Wisely.

Three years after the Roman Catholic Church canonized Joan of Arc, Shaw’s play premiered in 1923, offering a “multifaceted exploration” of her short but remarkable life. The play portrays her as a complex heroine, pushing back against previous characterizations of her as a romanticized victim of circumstances.

The play continues Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Sept. 21. All shows start at 7:30 p.m. expect Sunday matinees, which begin at 2 p.m. The official opening is Sept. 6.

While the Golden Bough is located on Monte Verde between Eighth and Ninth, the Circle Theatre has its own entrance on Casanova, along with just 90 seats. Thursday’s performance marks the first time the theater has hosted a show in five years.

General admission tickets are \$40 with discounts for kids, students, seniors, teachers and active military. For tickets or more details, call (831) 622-0100 or visit pacrep.org.

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MORE LETTERS

From page 21A

‘We deserve better’
Dear Editor,

It was appropriate for Mayor Dale Byrne to recuse himself from the August 4 city council hearing on the appeal of the planning commission’s approval of Patrice Pastor’s project on Dolores south of Seventh Avenue. Byrne’s comments since the hearing have made it very clear that his allegiance to Pastor clouds his judgment about what is in the best interests of Carmel; in addition, his criticism of the council’s decision and his attack on the appellate process are the epitome of bad form.

What’s troubling about Byrne’s “From the Mayor’s

Desk” column in the Aug. 15 Pine Cone is that it is essentially an attack on councilmembers Baron, Buder and Dramov, who worked diligently at the hearing to deal with the five separate grounds for the appeal and did so thoughtfully and carefully. A few days earlier, in an interview he gave to the UK Daily Mail, Byrne blamed “two or three people” for “blocking” Pastor’s development, and he described Pastor as “a good guy.” He told of calling Pastor after the decision and reported that Pastor’s team was “pissed,” continuing that “anyone would be.”

Byrne, who has claimed that solving the parking crisis in Carmel is one of his top priorities, was apparently untroubled by the fact that the project not only fell five parking spaces short of the required number for the project (in lieu fees were proposed for the five spaces) but also removed eight parking spaces which have been used by the adjacent property. For the Pastor project, Byrne’s commitment to solving the parking crisis apparently went out the window.

Even more baffling is Byrne’s apparent position that the rights of citizens to appeal decisions of the planning commission should be limited. This contradicts his position on other appeals which did not involve Pastor projects. An example is the April 1, 2025, hearing on an appeal of a planning commission decision denying the applicant the right to install a metal roof. Despite the fact that the city staff had recommended denial of the appeal, Byrne joined the rest of the council in granting the appeal. Byrne even added a “friendly amendment” in which he proposed that the appeal fee paid by the appellant be refunded to her. At the time, evidently, he had no problem overruling both the planning commission and the recommendation of the staff.

We deserve better than this.

Chris Campbell,
Carmel

Water needs
Dear Editor,

The author of a recent letter to the editor that claimed we have plenty of water didn’t seem to understand supply vs. demand. Over the last 30 years, we’ve been through drought, moratorium, rationing and state-mandated restrictions severely reducing our water supply.

As a result, we have all been trying to reduce demand,

either voluntarily by tearing out our lawns or installing drip irrigation, or by being forced to install low-flow plumbing fixtures or not being allowed add a bathroom or build a house or apartment or any other public or private project unless you could somehow come up with water credits. Not too long ago, we couldn’t even get a glass of water at a restaurant, and both the Monterey Peninsula Water Management Agency and Cal Am are continuously running ads promoting water conservation. All in an effort to reduce demand.

There are two reasons water demand is now at an historic low. First, the State Water Resources Control Board severely limited pumping from the Carmel River, and second is our sky-high cost of water. The California Public Utilities Commission’s tiered rate structure really penalizes us for using water. None us want see our water bill equal our PG&E bill, so cost is a huge factor in reducing demand.

Years ago, before all of the restrictions, we were using 18,000 acre-feet per year, so once we have a reliable unlimited supply and the water restrictions are lifted, pent-up demand will increase water use. Second, because 90 percent of Cal Am’s cost to produce water is fixed, excluding desal for a minute, theoretically we could use twice as much water for the same cost. Obviously, that’s not going to happen and, yes, desal is going to cost more, but the way to reduce the per-unit cost is to allow Cal Am to increase supply and, with increased water use, the CPUC needs to require Cal Am to eliminate the tiered water rates.

An environmental desalination plant using slant wells that taps seawater without damaging underground water sources will theoretically give us an unlimited supply. Is the cost higher? Of course, but the way to minimize the cost, as previously stated, is to increase supply.

Jack Angel,
Monterey

Car Week craziness
Dear Editor,

This year Car Week seemed to be even crazier than normal with loud cars racing around the streets and highways of the peninsula.

I write this as a car fanatic who enjoys the activities of

Continues next page

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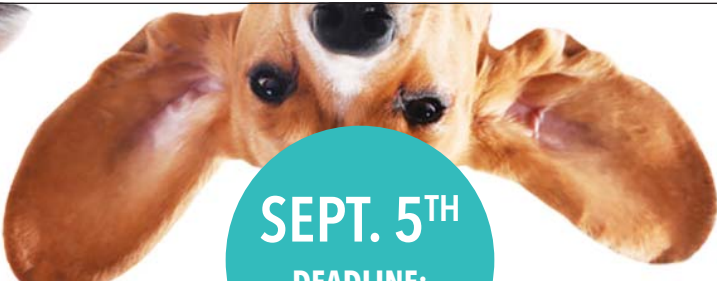
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From previous page

Car Week. I go to the shows downtown, at Laguna Seca and in Pebble Beach. I collect cars and sometimes show them.

So, I get the traffic congestion and certain amount of noise. I’m fine with that.

But from our home, which overlooks 17 Mile Drive in Pescadero Canyon, the race car wannabes ran out of control.

Friday and Saturday night at midnight sounded like I was out at Laguna Seca. People not just driving 17 Mile Drive but racing up and down it at high speed.

Finally, on both nights around midnight, I called 911 and reported cars racing. They patched me through to the CHP dispatcher.

I told them, “Someone is going to get killed. These cars can’t be going this fast and not crossing over the center lane on blind corners. Some resident is going to be coming home and get smashed in a head-on collision. Or someone is going to go off into the ravine at the bottom of canyon.”

Within 10 minutes of calling the noise and racing stopped. Evidently, the CHP

responded.

My question is, why is the CHP waiting until someone calls 911? Every year during Car Week on Friday and Saturday night the same thing occurs on 17 Mile Drive in the Pescadero Canyon.

Why not have officers patrolling 17 Mile Drive to stop this from occurring?

Or are we going to wait until someone is killed and then try to stop it?

It seems like a better idea to stop it before that happens.

The authorities have a year to set up a plan. I hope they do before someone dies.

Doug Armye,
Carmel

Out of hand
Dear Editor,

Car Week this year was a disaster, in my opinion. If Car Week is going to continue, there needs to be more money spent on law enforcement and traffic controls to stop the reckless drivers and traffic issues.

Many of these drivers were all trying to “one up” each other on attention. The theme this year was, “Look at me.” Highway 1 had become a racetrack for atten-

tion-seeking jerks threatening the lives of all who drive the coast, and most of them are tourists. I called 911 and so did many others on reckless drivers. One guy we reported was pulled over in Pebble Beach the next day and ticketed. Highway 1 is not a racetrack for Car Week!

I enjoy the historic and classic cars, but Car Week has turned into a show of fast,

expensive new cars with wealthy, entitled drivers who lack total respect for others, the laws of the road, and who just want to show off with loud cars while leaving their skid marks.

Car Week used to be enjoyable, but it has gotten out of hand!

Cara Weston,
Carmel Highlands



PUBLIC NOTICES



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will conduct a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.,** or as soon thereafter as possible. Immediately prior to the Public Hearing, the Commission will visit some or all the project sites in person as part of a Tour of Inspection. Interested members of the public are invited to attend both the Tour and the Hearing.

This meeting will be held via teleconference and in person in the City Council Chambers at City Hall located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues. To participate via teleconference, use this link: <https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/85075274055?pwd=xjGuf1VHPManTYPLVc94aqlwt24Tld.1>. **To participate via phone, dial +1 (669) 444-9171.** Webinar ID: 850 7527 4055. Passcode: 001916.

All interested people are invited to attend in person or via teleconference at the time and place specified above to give oral or written testimony concerning this matter. Written comments may be submitted to the Community Planning & Building Department at City Hall located on the east side of Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, 93921, or P.O. Box CC, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, 93921, or by emailing aginette@ci.carmel.ca.us prior to the meeting. With respect to written comments, please submit them at least 2 hours before the meeting to ensure they are provided to the legislative body and made part of the record. Comments received after that time and up to the end of the public hearing will be saved as part of the record but may not be provided to the legislative body prior to or during the public hearing.

The staff report and relevant documents will be available at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting on the City’s website at <http://www.ci.carmel.ca.us> and found by clicking on “Government” and then “Meetings.” The Planning Commission meeting will be broadcast live on the City’s website at <http://carmel.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/meetingsresponsive.aspx> and the City’s YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofCarmelbytheSea> and archived there after the meeting. For more information regarding Planning Commission meetings, please contact the Community Planning & Building Department at (831) 620-2010.

Water Management Program, Allocation of Water Resources Citywide

The Planning Commission will consider an allocation of water resources in accordance with the City’s Water Management Program, Carmel Municipal Code Chapter 17.50, and make a recommendation to the City Council. This action is an implementation measure of Program 1.2.A (Water Distribution Prioritization for Affordable Housing-AFFH) in the adopted General Plan Housing Element (2023-2031).

DS 25196 (Raine)

Cynthia Spellacy, Agent
Lincoln Street 5 southwest of 10th Avenue
Block 114; Lots 9
APN: 010-182-004-000

Consideration of a Track 1 Design Study Referral, DS 25196 (Raine), for the after-the-fact construction of fencing that exceeds six feet (6’) tall previously approved as part of DS 20-205 (Raine) located Lincoln Street 5 southwest of 10th Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-182-004-000.

DS 23-005 (Schwartz-Young)

Benjamin Schaefer, Architect
Casanova Street 10 northeast of Ocean Avenue
Block EE, Lots 26 and 28
APN: 010-214-024-000

Consideration of a Final Design Study, DS 23-005 (Schwartz-Young), and associated Coastal Development Permit for a 411-square-foot addition to an existing 2,045-square-foot two-story single-family residence located at Casanova Street 10 northeast of Ocean Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-214-024-000

DS 25019 (McWhorter)

Eric Miller Architects
Carmelo Street 2 northeast of Ocean Avenue
Block: GG, Lot: 4 & 6
APN: 010-252-013-000

Consideration of a Concept Design Study, DS 25019 (McWhorter), for the demolition of an existing single-family residence and the construction of a 1,750-square-foot two-story residence, inclusive of an attached garage, located at Carmelo 2 northeast of Scenic in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-252-013-000

DS 25074 (Ahmed)

Alan Lehman, Designer
Santa Fe Street 3 southwest of 4th Avenue
Block 47, Lot 7
APN 010-091-019-000

Consideration of a Combined Concept and Final Design Study, DS 25074 (Ahmed), and associated Coastal Development Permit for substantial alterations to an existing single-family residence located at Santa Fe Street 3 southwest of 4th Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-091-019-000

DS 25092 (Pike)

Jay Auburn, Lewis Builders
Guadalupe Street 5 southeast of 4th Avenue
Block 44, Lot 10
APN: 010-031-015-000

Consideration of a Combined Concept and Final Design Study, DS 25092 (Pike), and associated Coastal Development Permit for substantial alterations to an

existing single-family residence located at Guadalupe Street 5 southeast of 4th Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-031-015-000

DS 25095 (DCV Enterprise Partners II, LLC)

James Newhall Smith, Architect
Camino Real 2 southwest of 7th Avenue
Block N, Part Lots 3, 5, 7
APN: 010-265-002-000

Consideration of a Concept Design Study, DS 25095 (DCV Enterprise Partners II, LLC), for the demolition of an existing 1,990 square-foot, one-story single-family residence and detached 361 square-foot garage, and the construction of a 2,684 square-foot, two-story single-family residence and 231-square-foot detached garage and 200 square-foot parking pad located on Camino Real 2 southwest of 7th Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-265-002-000. The project additionally includes an attached 794-square-foot accessory dwelling unit.

DR 25119 (PRG Carmel LLC) & UP 25191 (Svendsgaard Inn)

PRG Carmel LLC, Property Owner
Northwest corner of San Carlos Street and 4th Avenue
Block 34, Lot 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, & 20
APN: 010-124-012-000

Consideration of a Track 1 Design Review Referral, DR 25119 (PRG Carmel LLC), Use Permit, UP 25191 (Svendsgaard Inn), and associated Coastal Development Permit for the alterations to an existing hotel and the addition of a kitchen and bar for patrons located at the northwest corner of San Carlos Street and 4th Avenue in the Residential and Limited Commercial (RC) Zoning District. APN: 010-124-012-000

DS 25017 (Hobbs)

Adam Jeselnick, Architect
Santa Rita Street 3 northeast of 1st Avenue
Block 4, Lot 2
APN 009-146-029-000

Consideration of a Final Design Study, DS 25017 (Hobbs), and associated Coastal Development Permit for the demolition of an existing 1,111-square-foot one-story single-family residence, and construction of a new 1,795-square-foot one-story single-family residence, inclusive of a 224-square-foot detached garage located at Santa Rita Street 3 northeast of 1st Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 009-146-029-000

DS 25018 (Wong)

Adam Jeselnick, Architect
Trail View 2 southeast of Flanders Way
Block 104, Parcel C
APN: 010-331-046-000

Consideration of a Design Study Referral, DS 25018 (Wong), and associated Coastal Development Permit for the construction of a new 400 square foot 2nd-story attached accessory dwelling unit located at Trail View 2 southeast of Flanders Way in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District, Archaeological Significance (AS) Overlay District, Park (P) Overlay District, Beach and Riparian (BR) Overlay District. APN: 010-331-046-000

City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Anna Ginette, Director of Community Planning & Building

Publication dates: Aug. 29, 2025 (PC865)





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KANSAS TOURS CALIFORNIA, CHURCH RAISES \$\$ FOR STUDENT ORCHESTRAS

A PROGRESSIVE rock band best known for the hit songs “Dust in the Wind” and “Carry on Wayward Son,” Kansas takes the stage Thursday, 7 p.m., at Sunset Center.

Kansas, along with Yes, Styx and a host of other similar bands found success in the 1970s by blending rock with

jazz and classical influences. The latest incarnation of Kansas includes two of its original members, guitarist **Rich Williams** and drummer **Phil Ehart**. **Ronnie Platt** took over for lead singer **Steve Walsh** when he retired a decade ago.

The band, formed in Topeka in 1973, is in California for a five-show tour.

Tickets start at \$77. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (83 1) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.



Led by singer Ronnie Platt, the progressive rock band Kansas takes the stage Thursday, 7 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.



Singer and guitarist Peter Barnes Martin plays jazz Friday, 7 p.m., at the Hyatt Regency Monterey.

■ Rockin’ the county fair

Besides pig races, livestock contests and magic shows, this weekend’s Monterey County Fair boasts a busy lineup of musical performers on multiple stages, including singer and guitarist **Jimmy Becker** (rock, Friday through Monday at 5 p.m.), **Greasy Peaceful** (rock, Friday at 7 p.m.), **Kenny and Luke’s Country Beach Party** (country, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **Stormy Strong** (rock, Saturday at 4 p.m.), **The Harper Canyon**

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

Band (Saturday at 9 & 10 p.m.), **Journey Revisited** (Journey tribute, Sunday at 7:30 p.m.), **Sheryl & the Pretenders** (Sheryl Crow and Pretenders tribute, Monday at 8 & 9 p.m.). For a complete schedule of events, visit montereycountyfair.com.

■ New violins

To raise money for Youth Music Monterey, Carmel Presbyterian Church presents its 10th annual Jazz & Deserts concert Friday at 7 p.m. The musicians include saxophonist **Tony Bolivar**, keyboardist **Bobby Valderrama** and bassist **Mark Kenoly**.

“It is a free concert for the public, but we do take donations in lieu of tickets to benefit Youth Music Monterey,” said **Abby Warburg**, the church’s minister of worship. “This year, we are hoping to collect enough donations for Youth Music Monterey to cover several new violins, violas and bows.”

See **MUSIC** page 43A

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for more information on our Bocce Tournament, schedule of events, and the history of this great annual event.

THREE DAYS
Friday: 3:00pm–9:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am–9:00pm
Sunday: 10:00am–6:00pm

Hog’s Breath and Cypress get makeovers, and a zoo throws a gala

IT’S NOT every day that two iconic local eateries — each associated with a bona fide movie star — get a new look, and we’ve got details on both. You’ll also find info on a fundraiser to benefit the king of the jungle and his minions, and reservations are about to open up for the county’s trendiest high school dining room. A Barnyard wine purveyor wants you to take it outside, and finally, if you’re ready for some football, so is Portola Hotel. Let’s dive in.

■ Goings on at Hog’s Breath

Following a several-month refresh, the Hog’s Breath Inn has reopened and next month will host a Carmel Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting and a fundraiser for the Carmel Heritage Society’s home tours, allowing locals and visitors to discover what’s new at the iconic restaurant founded 55 years ago by former Mayor Clint Eastwood.

Now owned by seasoned restaurateur Lee Morcus, son of Eastwood’s longtime friend, Kaiser Morcus, the San Carlos Street spot was “lovingly restored and respectfully reimaged,” with hand-laid Carmel stone, custom-milled redwood slab tables and “thoughtful enhancements to the guest experience,” according to the chamber.

“This is not a reinvention,” the announcement says. “It is a tribute.”

Morcus and his staff describe the renovation’s “high-



For more than 50 years, the Hog’s Breath Inn — founded by none other than former Mayor Clint Eastwood — has been a fixture in town. It recently closed for several months so owner Lee Morcus, the son of one of Eastwood’s longtime friends, could give it a bit of a refresh. Now it’s reopened and ready for customers.



business owners and Morcus as they “celebrate the next chapter of a beloved Carmel landmark.” Tickets are \$15 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. Find more information at carmelchamber.org.

The next day, the Carmel Heritage Society and the American Institute of Architects Monterey Bay chapter have organized a fundraiser at the Hog’s Breath to support their self-guided home tour, which is set for Sept. 20.

“Hosted in partnership with the Hog’s Breath Inn, the evening promises cocktails, delicious bites and lively company — all set in one of Carmel’s most iconic venues,” organizers said. The event runs from 6 to 8 p.m. and costs \$109, which includes a tour ticket. For more details, visit carmelheritage.org.

The Hog’s Breath is located on San Carlos between Fifth and Sixth avenues.

■ Cypress Inn’s new look for Dog Bar

The Cypress Inn in downtown Carmel is well known for catering to canines alongside their owners, and last week, nationally recognized local artist Lisa Haas put the final touches on a trompe l’oeil mural she created for Terry’s Lounge. The Morocco-inspired bar and lounge — one side

of which accommodates guests who prefer to bring their pups with them for cocktails and snacks, lunch or dinner — now further embraces the theme with “a richly textured, Moroccan-inspired tent-like escape, blending global influence with the inn’s iconic pet-friendly atmosphere.”

Haas and her flock of fellow artists at Lisa Haas Design & Paint, which is also known as Paintqueen Designs and Acanthus, specialize in decorative arts, murals, textures, finishes and original works, and for the Cypress Inn, she created the piece that “will serve as the visual centerpiece of the Dog Bar’s immersive new design,” according to the inn’s team. Interior designer Charles Gruwell is overseeing the overhaul and said he visited Morocco in search of inspiration, which led to his commissioning Haas to help capture his vision of “a tented room.”

The late Doris Day was a co-owner of the Cypress Inn with Carmel resident Denny LeVett, and the lounge is named after her son, Terry Melcher, a record producer who died in 2004. Terry’s focuses on classic cocktails and signature drinks, like the Pink Paradise (Ketel One Grapefruit & Rose, Cocchi Rosa, fresh lemon juice, simple syrup and Fever Tree sparkling grapefruit) and Take Me to

See **FOOD** next page

Annual

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wine & jazz

DINNER

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025 AT 6PM

Live Music with the International Duo

FIVE COURSES

Menu highlights include, Petit Beef Wellington, Seared Ahi Tuna, Jumbo Scallops, Watermelon Salad with Mixed Greens, Filet Mignon, Lava Cake with Fresh Berries and Chocolate Ganache all expertly paired with the exceptional wines of Michael David Winery.

RESERVATIONS

\$95 inclusive per person

Reservations are required

(831) 649-7870 or email

lhenderson@portolahotel.com

Two Portola Plaza

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portolahotel.com

PORTOLA HOTEL & SPA

AT MONTEREY BAY

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FOOD

From previous page

Jalisco (Tres Generaciones Blanco Tequila Plata, Pama liqueur, fresh lemon juice and cucumber, and agave nectar).

Terry’s offers brunch, lunch and dinner, as well as an all-day bar menu with perfect-to-share items like the Cypress Foursquare, the restaurant’s superb burger served a la carte and cut into quarters and the short-rib sliders with bleu cheese and caramelized onions. The club sandwich offered during lunch is among the best on the Monterey Peninsula, and a few of the dinner hits include the endive salad and the seared sesame tuna with julienned vegetables, Thai chili cream sauce and soy-dressed soba noodles.

And, of course, we’re talking about the Dog Bar, so Fifi has choices, too, including the Strutz Special (ground beef patty, rice and carrots), the Hearty Hyden, with chicken breast instead of beef, and Dino’s Choice, which subs in a Nathan’s hot dog.

For more information and reservations, visit cypress-inn.com.

Outdoor terrace at LadySomm

LadySomm, the wine education and tasting venue at The Barnyard shopping center, is celebrating California Wine Month next month on its new private outdoor wine terrace, where customers can enjoy wines by the glass or bottle. It can also be reserved for private events.

Throughout September, the business will spotlight California wine regions, including Monterey County, Paso Robles, Santa Barbara, Sonoma and Napa Valley.

Customers can get 10 percent off two bottles of California wine and 15 percent off six bottles throughout September.

LadySomm is open Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 7 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Learn more at ladysoomm.com or (831) 295-0612.

Wild times on River Road

Monterey Zoo on River Road — about 10 minutes from the exit off Highway 68 — is home to lions, tigers, bears, camels, rhinos, elephants and more, all on view in appealing and thoughtfully designed habitats. The nonprofit facility focuses on conservation and education.

To raise money for its continued operation and ongoing improvements, Monterey Zoo is hosting “Welcome to the Jungle,” a dinner gala Sept. 20 featuring auctions, live music and what organizers are calling “a very special animal presentation.”

Tickets for the adults-only party start at \$195 per person, with an optional \$75 “strolling zoo pre-party” beginning at 4 p.m. To reserve, call (831) 455-3180. For more information, visit montereyzoo.org.

Rancho Cielo: Great food, great cause

Get those fingers ready to fly across the keyboard, because Rancho Cielo’s 2025 Friday night dinners open for reservations Sept. 1. Seats in the Drummond Culinary Academy’s dining room on the alternative high school’s campus just outside Salinas go quickly and will be available for Oct. 10, 17 and 21, and Nov. 7, 14 and 21.

Three-course dinners are \$75 per person, not including tax and tip, and wine and beer are available for purchase. Supervised

students prepare and serve the dishes, but these meals aren’t kid stuff. Rancho Cielo is a top-rated dining destination on TripAdvisor and Yelp. Even though it’s minutes from town, the vibe is pure country with views of rolling hills at sunset.

Rancho Cielo is at 710 Old Stage Road. Visit ranchocieloyc.org or call (831) 444-3521 for more information.

Portola Hotel’s September happenings

Peter B’s and Jacks Monterey at Portola Hotel have some special events in September, marking the end of summer and the start of football season. (The hotel’s announcement also said “wine season,” but when is it not wine season here?)

College football fans can come on Saturdays to cheer on their favorites, sample craft beers and have a bite to eat. “Football season” hours through Jan. 11, 2026,

are Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. (with breakfast served till 11:30 a.m.), and Monday and Thursday through Saturday from 4 to 10 p.m. It’s closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

Jacks Monterey will celebrate California Wine Month throughout September with flights featuring Monterey County wines, including selections from Bernardus and Joyce. Guests can try red or white flights for \$20 each.

The Club Room will host a Michael David Wine & Jazz Dinner on Friday, Sept. 12, at 6 p.m. The event will feature a five-course dinner by chef de cuisine Santiago Mendivil with wines from Michael David Winery.

Tickets are \$95 per person, and required reservations can be made by calling (831) 649-7870 or emailing lhenderson@portolahotel.com.

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



At the Cypress Inn, general manager Joseph Violi, owner Denny LeVett, and local artist Lisa Haas stand with her stunning trompe l’oeil painting, which designer Charles Gruwell said is meant to evoke a “tented room” in Morocco. Formerly owned by the late Doris Day, the inn offers an elegant welcome to people and dogs alike.



OPEN DAILY FOR LUNCH

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Outside event around our beautiful open fire pits.

When it rains it pours = No Dog Bar.

3665 RIO ROAD, CARMEL • SHEARWATERTAVERN.COM

MUSIC

From page 40A

The church is located on Junipero just south of Ocean.

■ City Hall celebrates

Monterey County Pops celebrates Labor Day Monday at 2 p.m. with a performance on the lawn in front of Seaside City Hall. The orchestra promises to “delight audiences of all ages” with a program filled with popular and patriotic songs. The group, which is marking its 40th anniversary, is dedicated to “providing free concerts that resonate throughout our beautiful region, ensuring that the joy of music reaches every corner of our community.” City hall is located at 440 Harcourt Ave.

■ Jammin’ with Akina

When Embassy Suites in Seaside welcomes its month jazz jam this Sunday, the spotlight will fall on singer **Akina Miyata**.



Keyboardist Kevin Jachetta, along with Journey Revisited, rocks the Monterey County Fair Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Considered one of Japan’s top jazz vocalists, **Miyata** will be joined by pianist **Bob Phillips**, multi-instrumentalist **Jim Stainton**, bassist **Steve Uccello** and drummer **Rick Ciardella**. There’s no cover, and professional musicians are encouraged to join in. Embassy Suites is located at 1441 Canyon Del Rey Blvd.

Live music Aug. 29-Sept. 4

■ 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.). 46800 Highway 1. **Fernwood Resort** — **Junk Parlor** (indie rock, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

■ Carmel

Carmel Mission Inn — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Tuesday at 6 p.m.). In Shearwater Tavern, 3665 Rio Road. **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. **De Tierra Vineyards** — singer and guitarist **Greg Brock** (Sunday at 3 p.m.). Mission and Fifth. **Hyatt Carmel Highlands** — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), 120 Highlands Drive. **Links Club** — **The New Wave Band** (pop and rock, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **Meez** (rock, Saturday 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 Lok-**

tionov (jazz, Monday through Thursday at 5 p.m.). 26270 Dolores St. **■ Carmel Valley** **Baja Cantina** — **The Mister Lucky Band** (rock, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 7166 Carmel Valley Road. **Bernardus Lodge** — pianist **Michael**

Culver (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea’s Fault** (jazz and pop, Saturday at noon), singer and multi-instrumentalist **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Sunday at noon). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road. **Edgar’s Restaurant** — guitarist **Dan**

See LIVE page 44A

Celtic Music Series at St. Mary's

**An Evening with Nic Gareiss
& Simon Chrisman**

**Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025
St. Mary's By-the-Sea**
Tickets: www.celticsociety.org

Experience world-class artistry! Nic Gareiss — hailed by The Boston Herald as “the most inventive step dancer on the scene”— brings his electrifying blend of Irish and Appalachian dance. Simon Chrisman redefines the hammered dulcimer with jaw-dropping skill and energy.

Dance Workshop 1–2:30 p.m., Evening show 7 p.m
St. Mary's Edwards Hall
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED FOR WORKSHOP.
\$25, or \$20 with concert ticket (pay at the door)
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FREE concert to benefit the *Youth Music Monterey*.
Donations welcome. Doors open at 6:30pm.
More information about Carmel Presbyterian Church at
www.carmelpres.org.

SWEET LIBERTY

Remember 9/11

*America, America, God shed His grace on thee.
And crown thy good with brotherhood and our Sweet Liberty.
Remember 9/11 and the heartbreak it has caused,
we'll always be remembering those whose lives were lost.
We were shaken and forsaken on that fateful day,
united by uncertainty, we all began to pray.
“Lord guide us in our darkest hour, let us appreciate,
the liberty and equality that make our country great.
Help us to remember that our freedom’s never free,
lives are lost to pay the cost of our Sweet Liberty.”
America, America, God shed his grace on thee.
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

LIVE

From page 43A

Cortes (“American roots and traditional Mexican music,” Friday at 5 p.m.). At Quail Lodge, 8205 Valley Greens Drive.

Folktale Winery — Burnout (country and folk, Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Jacob Chase** (Saturday at 5 p.m.), **Monterey Jazz Regional All-Star Combos** (Sunday at 11 a.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

McIntyre Vineyards — singer and guitarist **Adrea Castiano** (Sunday at noon). 24 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Trailside Cafe — singers and guitarists **Patti Gilbert** and **Jim “Nomad” Miller** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

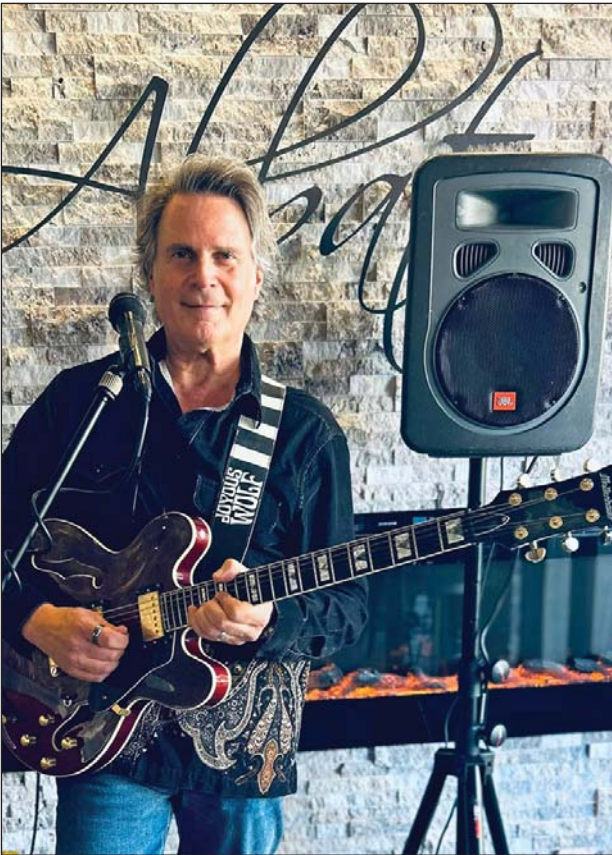
Twisted Roots Winery — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (Sunday at 1 p.m.). 12 Del Fino Place.

■ Monterey

A Taste of Monterey — singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Friday at 4:45 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

Albatross Ridge Winery — singer and guitarist **RJ DeMarco** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer **Maya Rayburn** and singer and guitarist **Keith Rayburn** (Sunday at 2 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

Bon Ton LeRoy’s Smokehouse — Open Mic Night (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 794 Lighthouse Ave.



Singer and guitarist Greg Brock (left) plays Sunday, 3 p.m., at De Tierra Vineyards tasting room at Mission and Fifth. Paige & The Overtones (right) of Las Vegas plays country music Friday, 6 p.m., at Pop & Hiss in Pacific Grove.



CALENDAR

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.

Thursdays – Live jazz with The David Morwood Jazz Band, 6 to 9 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.

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

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. 6 – Nic Gareiss & Simon Chrisman – Live! St. Mary’s by-the-Sea Dance meets dazzling music! Nic’s electrifying Irish-Appalachian footwork and Simon’s jaw-dropping hammered dulcimer will leave you amazed. Workshop 1-2:30 p.m. \$25 (\$20 w/ concert ticket). Text (831) 224-3819. Tickets: celticsociety.org

Now through October – Baum & Blume’s secluded patio now available for summer fêtes! Intimate wedding rehearsal dinner? Birthday party? Social club meet-up? Afternoon tea? Wine dinner group? Our chefs plan and prepare your menu, you just come and party! Baum & Blume Café and Catering, 4 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley (831) 659-0400.

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

Bulldog Sports Pub — Tribe in the Sky presents a weekly jam (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.). 611 Lighthouse Ave.

Cibo — The Dave Holodiloff Duo (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Tuesday at 7 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz and swing, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St.

Estéban Restaurant — guitarist **Catherine Broz** (Spanish and classical, Thursday at 5 p.m.). Casa Munras Hotel, 700 Munras Ave.

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

InterContinental Hotel — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.), guitarist **Terrance Farrell** (Spanish, classical and jazz, Sunday at 9 a.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 750 Cannery Row.

Midici Pizza — singer **Miranda Perl** and keyboardist **Ayana Bradley** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

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

Peter B’s — guitarist **Daniel Cortes** (“American roots and traditional Mexican music,” Thursday at 6 p.m.). At Portola Hotel, 2 Portola Plaza.

Pearl Hour — The Al James Trio (rock and r&b, Friday at 8 p.m.), **The Zach Westfall Group** (jazz, Sunday at 8 p.m.), **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz, Wednesday at 8 p.m.).

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214 Lighthouse Ave.

Portola Hotel & Spa — singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Friday at 6 p.m.), multi-instrumentalist **Paul Contos** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). At Jack’s Monterey, 2 Portola Plaza.

Puma Road Winery at Portola Plaza — singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Linda Arceo** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), **Songbird Meadow** (Latin, jazz, and pop, 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 — Lost and Found (classic rock and r&b, Friday at 9 p.m.), **The 831 All-Star Band** (rock and r&b, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

Tarpy’s Roadhouse — guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (Saturday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Sunday at noon). 2999 Highway 68.

■ Pacific Grove

Asilomar Conference Center — The Alex Lucero Band (rock, Friday at 6 p.m.). 800 Asilomar Ave.

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

Lucy’s on Lighthouse — Octane (rock, Saturday at 2 p.m.), **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Sunday at 2 p.m.). 1120 Lighthouse Ave.

Julia’s Vegetarian Restaurant — singer and guitarist **Rags Rosenberg** (Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Smith** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave.

Pop ’n’ Hiss — Paige & The Overtones (country, Friday at 6 p.m.), **Hotbox Harry** (“Big Sur country,” Sunday 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

Bayonet Blackhorse Golf Course — mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Friday at 4:30 p.m.). Bayview Grill, 1 McClure Way.

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

Want to get out of the FOG? Baum & Blume’s Patio & Biergarten is Fun in the Sun!

Lunch Menu Highlights Tasty Appetizers, Fresh Soup & Salad, Popovers, Avocado Shrimp Louie, BBQ Onion Quesadilla, Chinois Salmon Burger, Classic Kraut Dog, Capresé Ravioli w/Basil-Citrus Butter + Yummv Desserts. Wine & Beer!

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Reservations Recommended
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Boutique: Mon-Sat 11:30-7
Catering Office: by appt.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251463

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
WEDGEWOOD WEDDING & BANQUET CENTER, 4860 CARMEL VALLEY ROAD, CARMEL, CA 93923, County of MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
WEDGEWOOD BEVERAGE, INC., 43385 BUSINESS PARK DRIVE, SUITE 120, TEMECULA, CA 92590
This business is conducted by A CORPORATION
STATE OF INCORPORATION: CALIFORNIA
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/01/2025
S/ WILLIAM ZARUKA
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 08/12/2025 8/29, 9/5, 9/12, 9/19/25
CNS-3959617#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Aug. 29, Sept. 5, 12, 19, 2025. (PC 855)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251464

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
WEDGEWOOD WEDDING & BANQUET CENTER, 4860 CARMEL VALLEY ROAD, CARMEL, CA 93923, County of MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
Z GOLF FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICES, LLC, 43385 BUSINESS PARK DRIVE, SUITE 120, TEMECULA, CA 92590
This business is conducted by A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
STATE OF ORGANIZATION: CALIFORNIA
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/01/2011
S/ WILLIAM ZARUKA - CEO
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 08/12/2025 8/29, 9/5, 9/12, 9/19/25
CNS-3959611#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Aug. 29, Sept. 5, 12, 19, 2025. (PC 856)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 25CV004057
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, ANNABEL FAULKNER DE LUCA, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
A Present name: ANNABEL FAULKNER DE LUCA
Proposed name: DAISY FAULKNER DE LUCA
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING:
DATE: Oct. 7, 2025
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
DEPT: 13
The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
Date filed: Aug. 12, 2025
(s) Hon. Thomas W. Wills
Judge of the Superior Court
Date: Aug. 12, 2025
Publication Dates: Aug. 29, Sept. 5, 12, 19, 2025. (PC 857)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251509
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **LUPITA'S SERVICE, 766 Elkington Ave., front house, Salinas, CA 93905.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s): MARIA GUADALUPE HERNANDEZ GUTIERREZ.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Maria Guadalupe Hernandez Gutierrez
Date signed: Aug. 14, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Aug. 20, 2025.
Publication Dates: Aug. 29, Sept. 5, 12, 19, 2025 (PC 858)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251534
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **COMMUNITY FITCAMP, 1207 Forest Avenue, Apt. 1, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
COMMUNITY FITCAMP, LLC, P.O. Box 158, Pacific Grove, CA 93950
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Alfred Soto, Member
Date signed: Aug. 22, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Aug. 22, 2025.
Publication Dates: Aug. 29, Sept. 5, 12, 19, 2025 (PC 861)

2025. (PC 859)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. 20251543
Filing type: ABANDONMENT:
County of Filing: Monterey
Date of Original Filing: March 15, 2022
File No.: 20220567
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **PRONTO INCOME TAX SERVICES, 600 E. Market Street #100, Salinas, CA 93905.**
Registered Owner(s): FERNANDO SAMAYOA, 17591 Pesante Rd., Salinas, CA 93907.
This business is conducted by an individual.
S/Fernando Samayoa
Aug. 22, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Aug. 22, 2025.
Publication Dates: Aug. 29, Sept. 5, 12, 19, 2025. (PC860)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251542
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **PRONTO INCOME TAX SERVICES, 600 E. Market St., Ste. #100, Salinas, CA 93905.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s): ROSAURA MEDINA FRIAS, 600 E. Market St., Ste. #100, Salinas, CA 93905.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Rosaura Medina Frias
Date signed: Aug. 22, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Aug. 22, 2025.
Publication Dates: Aug. 29, Sept. 5, 12, 19, 2025 (PC 861)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251550
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **HICKS PAINTING, 5 Verde Way, Royal Oaks, California 95076.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):
DARREN ADAM HICKS, 5 Verde Way, Royal Oaks, California 95076.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Darren Hicks
Date signed: Aug. 25, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Aug. 25, 2025.
Publication Dates: Aug. 29, Sept. 5, 12, 19, 2025 (PC 862)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 25CV004284
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, MARIA LOURDES MANZANO, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
A Present name: MARIA LOURDES MANZANO
Proposed name: LOURDES MANZANO
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
DATE: Oct. 21, 2025
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
DEPT: 15
The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: The Carmel Pine Cone.
(s) Thomas W. Wills
Judge of the Superior Court
Date filed: Aug. 22, 2025
Publication Dates: Aug. 29, Sept. 5, 12, 19, 2025. (PC 863)

SUMMONS (Family Law)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(Aviso al demandado)
EMMANUEL MORA SOTO
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(Lo esta demandando el demandante)
ALICIA SANCHEZ HURTADO
CASE NUMBER: 25FL000579

You have **30 CALENDAR DAYS** after this *Summons and Petition* are served on you to file a *Response* (form **FL-120**) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter, phone call, or court appearance will not protect you.

If you do not file your *Response* on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs.

For legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. Get help finding a lawyer at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courts.ca.gov/self-help), at the California Legal Services website (www.lawhelpca.org), or by contacting your local county bar association.

NOTICE — THE RESTRAINING ORDERS ON PAGE 2: These restraining orders are effective against both spouses or domestic partners until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. They are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of them.

FEE WAIVER: If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. The court may order you to pay back all or part of the fees and costs that the court waived for you or the other party.

Tiene 30 días de calendario después de haber recibido la entrega legal de esta Citacion y Peticion para presentar una Respuesta (formulano FL-120) ante la corte y efectuar la entrega legal de una copia al demandante. Una carta o llamada telefonica o una audiencia de corte no basta para protegerlo. Si no presenta su Respuesta a tiempo, la corte

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T.S. No.: 250404283
Notice of Trustee's Sale

Loan No.: 1499 Alva (3rd) Order No. 95531301 APN: 008-441-006-000 Property Address: 1499 Alva Lane Pebble Beach, CA 93953 You Are In Default Under A Deed Of Trust Dated 4/19/2023. Unless You Take Action To Protect Your Property, It May Be Sold At A Public Sale. If You Need An Explanation Of The Nature Of The Proceeding Against You, You Should Contact A Lawyer. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. No cashier's checks older than 60 days from the day of sale will be accepted. Trustor: 1499 Alva Lane LLC, a California Limited Liability Company Duly Appointed Trustee: Total Lender Solutions, Inc Recorded 4/25/2023 as Instrument No. 2023012325 in book N/A, page N/A of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Monterey County, California, Date of Sale: 9/16/2025 at 10:00 AM Place of Sale: main entrance County Administration Building, 168 West Alisal Street, Salinas, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$691,816.03 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 1499 Alva Lane, Pebble Beach, CA 93953 Legal Description: Please See Attached Exhibit "A" The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. Notice To Potential Bidders: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. Notice To Property Owner: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (877) 440-4460 or visit this Internet website www.mkconsultantsinc.com, using the file number assigned to this case 250404283. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Notice To Tenant: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (877) 440-4460, or visit this internet website www.mkconsultantsinc.com, using the file number assigned to this case 250404283 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. When submitting funds for a bid subject to Section 2924m, please make the funds payable to "Total Lender Solutions, Inc. Holding Account". If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 8/5/2025 Total Lender Solutions, Inc 10505 Sorrento Valley Road, Suite 125 San Diego, CA 92121 Phone: 866-535-3736 Sale Line: (877) 440-4460 By: Rachel Seropian, Trustee Sale Officer Exhibit "A" Legal Description Beginning At The Southeast Corner Of Lot 106, As Said Lot Is Shown On The Map Of Amended Map Of Pebble Beach, Monterey County, California, Filed October 13, 1911 In The Office Of The County Recorder Of Monterey County, California, In Map Book 2, Cities And Towns At Page 31, 31A And 31B, Running Thence Along The Northeasterly Boundary Line Of Said Lot, North 33° 12' 56" West, 231.69 Feet To A Point, Thence Leaving Said Northeasterly Boundary, South 56° 47' 04" West, 102.09 Feet To A Point On The Southwesterly Boundary Line Of Said Lot 106; Thence Along Said Southwesterly Boundary Line, South 32° 51' 48" East, 233.03 Feet To The Southwesterly Corner Of Said Lot 106; Thence Along The Southeastern Boundary Line Of Said Lot 106, North 56° 02' 27" East 103.5 Feet To The Point Of Beginning.

Publication dates: Aug. 15, 22, 29, 2025 (PC829)

T.S. No.: 250404282
Notice of Trustee's Sale

Loan No.: 1499 Alva Lane (2nd) Order No. 95531300 APN: 008-441-006-000 Property Address: 1499 Alva Lane Pebble Beach Area, CA 93953 You Are In Default Under A Deed Of Trust Dated 4/19/2023. Unless You Take Action To Protect Your Property, It May Be Sold At A Public Sale. If You Need An Explanation Of The Nature Of The Proceeding Against You, You Should Contact A Lawyer. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. No cashier's checks older than 60 days from the day of sale will be accepted. Trustor: 1499 Alva Lane LLC, a California Limited Liability Company Duly Appointed Trustee: Total Lender Solutions, Inc Recorded 4/25/2023 as Instrument No. 2023012324 in book , page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Monterey County, California, Date of Sale: 10/7/2025 at 10:00 AM Place of Sale: main entrance County Administration Building, 168 West Alisal Street, Salinas, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$1,584,143.58 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 1499 Alva Lane, Pebble Beach Area, CA 93953 Legal Description: Please See Attached Exhibit "A" The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. Notice To Potential Bidders: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. Notice To Property Owner: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (877) 440-4460 or visit this Internet website www.mkconsultantsinc.com, using the file number assigned to this case 250404282. 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First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (877) 440-4460, or visit this internet website www.mkconsultantsinc.com, using the file number assigned to this case 250404282 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. When submitting funds for a bid subject to Section 2924m, please make the funds payable to "Total Lender Solutions, Inc. Holding Account". If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 8/5/2025 Total Lender Solutions, Inc 10505 Sorrento Valley Road, Suite 125 San Diego, CA 92121 Phone: 866-535-3736 Sale Line: (877) 440-4460 By: Rachel Seropian, Trustee Sale Officer Exhibit "A" Legal Description Beginning At The Southeast Corner Of Lot 106, As Said Lot Is Shown On The Map Of Amended Map Of Pebble Beach, Monterey County, California, Filed October 13, 1911 In The Office Of The County Recorder Of Monterey County, California, In Map Book 2, Cities And Towns At Page 31, 31A And 31B, Running Thence Along The Northeasterly Boundary Line Of Said Lot, North 33° 12' 56" West, 231.69 Feet To A Point, Thence Leaving Said Northeasterly Boundary, South 56° 47' 04" West, 102.09 Feet To A Point On The Southwesterly Boundary Line Of Said Lot 106; Thence Along Said Southwesterly Boundary Line, South 32° 51' 48" East, 233.03 Feet To The Southwesterly Corner Of Said Lot 106; Thence Along The Southeastern Boundary Line Of Said Lot 106, North 56° 02' 27" East 103.5 Feet To The Point Of Beginning.

Publication dates: Aug. 15, 22, 29, 2025 (PC830)

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Continues on next page

Police Log: Nov. 13

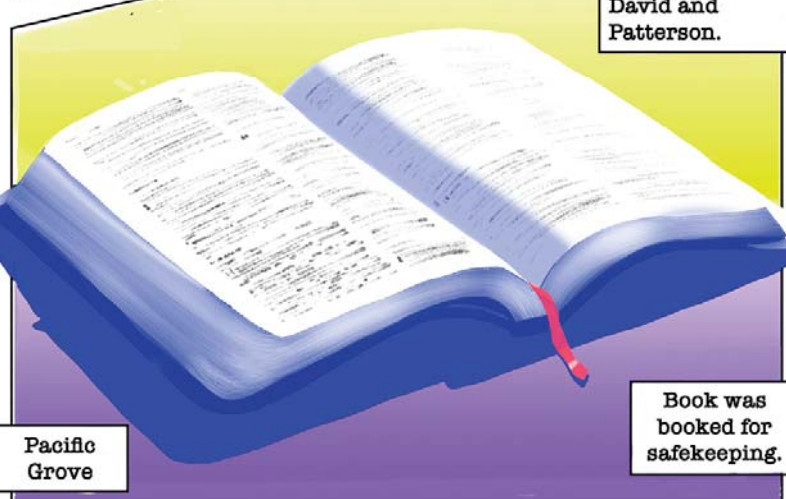
Female fell on a pine cone on Ocean Ave.



AATIEEEE!

Carmel-by-the-Sea

Found book at the intersection of David and Patterson.



Book was booked for safekeeping.

Pacific Grove

GAVEL

From page 4A

fender for the rest of his life.

Jane Doe reported that Julio, a family member, had molested her repeatedly beginning when she was 9 years old. Doe reported that the abuse continued nightly and that Julio threatened her to keep her from telling anyone. Doe delayed reporting the crimes for over a year because she had a close relationship with Julio and was afraid of him. According to research into sexual assault victim behavior, it is very common for victims to delay reporting the sexual abuse, especially when the victim is a minor and has a close relationship with the perpetrator.

This case was investigated by Salinas Police Detective Yolanda Rocha as well as other Salinas Police Officers. The victim in this case was assisted by victim witness program manager Alma Sanchez.

June 25 — Judge Rafael Vazquez sentenced Giovanni Lopez Orozco, 25, a resident of Soledad, to six years in prison for committing one count of lewd act upon a child under 14 Years. This offense is a serious and violent felony and is considered a strike under California’s three strikes law. In addition to his prison sentence, Orozco will also be required to register as a sex offender for at least 20 years.

Jane Doe reported that Orozco, a family member, had molested her on three occasions over her clothes when she was under 14 years of age. Doe delayed reporting the crimes to police because she had a close relationship with Orozco and was afraid that she would not be believed. According to research into sexual assault victim behavior, it is very common for victims to delay reporting the sexual abuse, especially when the victim is a minor and has a close relationship with the perpetrator.

This case was investigated by Soledad Police Officer Lizet Diaz as well as other Soledad Police officers. The victim in this case was assisted by district attorney’s office victim witness program manager Alma Sanchez.

June 27 — Judge Rafael Vazquez sentenced Armando Rodriguez Garcia, 37, to 15 years to life in prison plus an additional

See MORE GAVEL next page

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Continues from previous page

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MORE GAVEL

From previous page

term of 41 years and eight months. In May 2025, Garcia was convicted by jury of willful, deliberate and premeditated attempted murder of a peace officer, seven counts of assault on a peace officer with a semiautomatic firearm, three counts of armed robbery, being a felon in possession of a firearm, and being a felon in possession of ammunition. The jury also found true that Rodriguez Garcia personally used and discharged a firearm during the commission of many of these offenses.

On June 4, 2024, Garcia approached three men who were walking over a bridge in King City, pointed his semiautomatic firearm at them, and demanded their phones and wallets, which they surrendered. Garcia then ran and entered the passenger seat of a black Mazda, which was being driven by a female friend. The three male victims then ran back to their residence and used a friend's phone to report the armed robbery. Garcia and his friend drove around King City for an hour and a half before they then entered northbound Highway 101.

At 7:15 p.m., a Greenfield Police officer spotted the black Mazda traveling northbound on Highway 101. Other units from Greenfield Police Department and King City Police Department joined in and initiated a traffic stop on the Mazda with lights and sirens. The Mazda failed to stop and continued

to evade officers for 8 miles, traveling at speeds ranging from 55 to 72 miles per hour. Near Soledad, the Mazda slowed and pulled to the shoulder. Before the Mazda came to a stop, Garcia opened the passenger side door and began to step out of the vehicle with his .40-caliber semiautomatic firearm. The lead King City patrol vehicle stopped directly behind the Mazda. The five other patrol vehicles stopped as well. Garcia pointed his firearm directly at the lead King City patrol vehicle and began firing. In total, Garcia fired four shots at the lead officer and the six other Greenfield and King City officers who were also present on scene. All of the officers were within 50 feet of Garcia when he shot at them. Two King City officers returned fire. Garcia ran northbound on Highway 101, toward a shopping center in Soledad, continuing to shoot behind him and in the direction of officers as he tried to flee. He ultimately stopped shooting when he was struck by gunfire and fell to the ground, dropping his firearm out of his reach.

Garcia was transported to Natividad Medical Center, where he was treated for his injury. Recovered at the scene was a .40-caliber semiautomatic firearm with three rounds in the magazine and one in the chamber of the firearm. Due to a prior felony burglary conviction, Garcia was prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition.

This case was primarily investigated by district attorney investigators Matt Costa, John Magana and Daisy Gurley, and California Highway Patrol Investigator Charles Rodriguez with the assistance of the California Highway Patrol Multi-disciplinary Accident Investigation Team.

AUGUST 2025

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5:00pm – 7:00pm
San Carlos btwn 5th & 6th

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Lighthouse Wellness Studio Ribbon Cutting
5:00pm – 7:00pm
San Carlos btwn 7th and 8th

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
September Women's Business Council
9:00am – 10:00am
Lighthouse Wellness Studio
San Carlos btwn 7th and 8th

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
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San Carlos btwn Ocean & 7th

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