

The Carmel Pine Cone

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October 31-November 6, 2025

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City wasn't told beach was closed by sewage spill

By MARY SCHLEY

A SMALL sewage spill on the afternoon of Oct. 22 led the Monterey County health department to shut down all of Carmel Beach the following day — but city officials were unaware of the closure until residents noticed the posting early last Thursday evening and inquired. The lack of communication irked city administrator Chip Rerig and others, while the sewer district said it was the county health department's job to tell the city about the closure.

"We do not own our sewage system, thank goodness," city administrator Chip Rerig said in a video Friday afternoon, two days after the spill and a day after the closure. "We're the stewards of a mile-long, beautiful stretch of beach in the National Marine Sanctuary, and we got a picture yesterday of a sign posted closing our beach."

Delayed reaction

Nearly 48 hours after the spill, the Carmel Area Wastewater District released a statement that it had told the county's environmental health department that a "small sewage spill" estimated at 50 to 100 gallons had entered the water at the south end of Carmel Beach due to a mechanical failure in its system.

While such a spill is tiny in the vastness of Carmel Bay, it could have impacts in the immediate area, and district officials said the agency responded to the spill within 10 minutes of being notified. And it could have been worse.

"The collections team quickly contained and recovered 800 gallons of the approximately 850-gallon spill," the sewer district said in a statement. "Unfortunately, an estimated 40 to 50 gallons reached the rocky tidepool area," initiating the agency's required notifications to the California Office of Emergency Services and the county health department — but not the city.

Bar owner questioned A.W. Shucks permits

By MARY SCHLEY

WHILE HE denied being the instigator of a city inquiry into whether A.W. Shucks is operating in compliance with its use permit, Parker Logan, owner of Sade's bar on Lincoln south of Ocean, raised the question nearly eight months ago, according to public records. The Ocean Avenue business is one of three legally designated "drinking establishments" in Carmel, even though it functions more as a restaurant than as a bar, and the planning commission last month was asked to decide which way to classify it.



Parker Logan

The city "received correspondence questioning whether or not the operation is legal and whether or not the operation is in violation of the conditions of approval in the use permit resolution," planning director Anna Ginette said at the Oct. 8 Carmel Planning Commission meeting.

Stripping A.W. Shucks of its bar permit could benefit someone else who wants to open a drinking place in the city. Logan is losing his lease and can't relocate, since the bar permit belongs to the landlord, though he owns the liquor license.

'Extreme violation'

After the hearing, Logan told The Pine Cone he was not the unnamed person who complained about A.W. Shucks' operations, but in a March 11 email to assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson, he wrote, "It has come to my understanding that A.W. Shucks is under extreme

Metal drapes deployed in battle against rocks



PHOTO/CALTRANS

At Regent's Slide in Big Sur, workers are using every trick in the book to stabilize the hillside and get the highway open — including hanging curtains made of wire mesh. See page 15A.

"As a result, Carmel Beach has been closed and will remain closed until samples indicate that the water is again safe for contact according to state guidelines," the sewer district announced Friday afternoon.

'Almost inexcusable'

The facts that nobody told the city about the spill when it occurred Wednesday afternoon and that officials only learned of it after the county closed the beach and someone asked about one of the "Warning! Keep out!" signs Thursday afternoon were unacceptable to Rerig.

"Failed communication in local government is almost

See CLOSED page 19A

violation of their use permit. I believe it states that if they were to violate, it would be reabsorbed by the city. Can you look into the use permit and confirm?"

The business license issued to owner Karen Basi after she and her husband bought A.W. Shucks in 2023 lists

See SHUCKS page 16A

Politicians, charities brace for SNAP loss

By KELLY NIX

TENS OF thousands of people in the 19th Congressional District, which includes part of Monterey County, are at risk of losing food stamps this weekend if politicians on Capitol Hill don't agree on a spending bill to reopen the federal government, officials said this week.

Democratic Rep. Jimmy Panetta late last week warned of the lapse in monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, or food stamps, in his district, and he joined fellow Democrats in calling for U.S. Department of Agriculture Sec. Brooke Rollins to use reserves to fully fund SNAP benefits, which won't be distributed if the government remains closed Nov. 1.

All opposed

The latest effort to reopen the government failed Tuesday night when 45 senators — all Democrats — opposed it.

"Working families could face even more uncertainty about whether they will be able to put food on the table," Panetta said.

The reserve is used to make up for funding gaps

See SNAP page 17A

Rerig to retire as city administrator

By MARY SCHLEY

NEARLY A decade after his return to Carmel on what he frequently refers to as his "second offense," city administrator Chip Rerig this week announced he will leave city hall at the end of the year.

And unlike when most soon-to-be retirees say it, he really is planning to spend more time with his family — in Bologna, Italy, where his daughter, Rocket, is attending school.

"I am excited to share that I have a plan to spend as much time as possible with my teenage daughter before she graduates from high school, and with my wife, who has worked remotely in local government for the past several years," Rerig said in a Wednesday email to his staff announcing his decision.

"This opportunity to spend time with Rocket is paramount and has to take precedence over my desire to be here for another couple of years," he told The Pine Cone Thursday. He and his family live in Pacific Grove, but he'll head to Italy as soon as he can.



Chip Rerig

Fatherly duties

"I'll be making my daughter breakfast and walking her to school every day," Rerig said, adding that he believes she might be the only American, and is certainly the only Californian, at the International School of Bologna.

Rerig, 59, worked in Carmel's planning department

See RERIG page 20A

Polls predict win for Prop 50

A NEW poll shows more than half of likely voters plan to check "yes" on Proposition 50 in Tuesday's election. The survey conducted this month by the Public Policy Institute of California shows 56 percent support the initiative to redraw California's congressional maps, a shift from August when support for the Democratic gerrymandering hovered just below 50 percent.

Republican opponents of the initiative seem to have taken their foot off the gas in the week before the election,

Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

with Prop 50 supporters reporting more than double the campaign expenditures of their opponents.

The race to reconfigure California's House districts in favor of Democrats has been run as a referendum against President Donald Trump, and it's working. Ninety-five percent of the voters who said they planned to support the measure said they also disapprove of how Trump is handling his job, while 86 percent approve of Gov. Gavin Newsom's performance.

If voters approve Prop 50, they'll replace California's congressional district map, which was drawn by a non-partisan commission, with one Democrats drew behind closed doors. The map could shift up to five congressional seats to Democrats, who already control 43 out

See PROP 50 page 27A

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Sandy Claws

Quirky Companion

While looking for someone else, they found the one who was meant to be theirs.

Nearly everything about this little dog says Pomera-nian. Except her markings, and her tail, which curls up like a Spitz. Thally — a Swedish nickname for her per-son's great aunt Natalia — is a rehomed dog who found her forever home the second time around.

Her person, looking for a companion pup, had called a breeder in South County, who happened to have a dog in need of a new home.

"She sent me the photo, and I said, 'Yep. She's the one,'" her person said. "And she's a good little size for us, as we are retired and wanted a dog who would walk with us but not be overly energetic."

Thally has never been to the beach, owing to a coat so thick and fine, if her person took her down into the deep sand for an hour, she imagines another five hours in canine clean-up.

"But we do have plenty of paths near our Carmel Valley home, offering an easier sandy experience as we walk. And, we have a nice little fenced dog park nearby, where she can run around."

Thally is somewhat protective of her people and will bark at other dogs or when someone comes to the door.

By Lisa Crawford Watson



"She's definitely devoted to us," her person said. "She's not super keen on other dogs, having had little experience with them in her previous home."

Now nearly 11 years old, Thally has proved to be a good companion, a quirky little thing with an enduring sense of humor.

"She gathers up heaps of bedspread to snuggle into and lie down," her person said, "but then she gets off the bed, abandoning it in favor of something else that captures her attention."



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Geisen’s attorney seeks trial delay

■ Testimony reveals motive

By MARY SCHLEY

THE JURY trial in accused murderer Donel Geisen’s case was set to begin next week, but his defense attorney asked Monterey County Superior Court Judge Pam Butler for a delay so he can prepare.

Geisen, 79, was arrested for allegedly stabbing his wife, Barbara, age 78, to death in the bedroom of their home in a neighborhood near Highway 1 and Carpenter Street, in July. He has been held in Monterey County Jail on \$1,015,000 bail ever since.

In the criminal justice system, a suspect has a right to a speedy trial but can waive that right. Geisen did not, Monterey County Chief Deputy Public Defender Jigar Patel noted in his Oct. 28 motion.

“Mr. Geisen’s intent was to swiftly handle this case, with the hope of a reasonable resolution,” he said. “Over the last two weeks — including today — I have been receiving copious amounts of digital discovery that I still need time to review in order to be prepared for trial.”

Blood-soaked

According to a transcript filed in court this week of the preliminary hearing held in August, Monterey County Sheriff’s Office personnel testified about the murder scene and what Geisen told them.

Deputy district attorney Rebecca Garcia questioned deputy Matthew Bradford, who told the court he was on patrol when Geisen dialed 911 at 4:22 a.m. July 24 to report he’d stabbed his wife. Bradford responded to their residence on Raymond Way, walked around the back, and looked

through the blinds to see a woman lying on her back, unmoving, eyes open and staring, on a blood-soaked bed.

He said he tried to find a way in but couldn’t, so he returned to the window and saw Geisen lying on the bed next to her.

When officers from other law enforcement agencies began arriving, Geisen came to the front door. Bradford said his neck and stomach were covered in blood and that Geisen told the officers he had stabbed himself.

In the bedroom, Bradford said he found a bloody kitchen knife, along with a small dumbbell, next to the woman, who showed no signs of life. When he asked Geisen what happened, “He said he hit his wife unconscious with the weight, and I can’t remember if he said he stabbed her at that point, but he had mentioned that earlier,” Bradford told the court. The deputy asked Geisen why, but medics were taking him to the hospital for treatment, so he couldn’t answer.

Money is motive

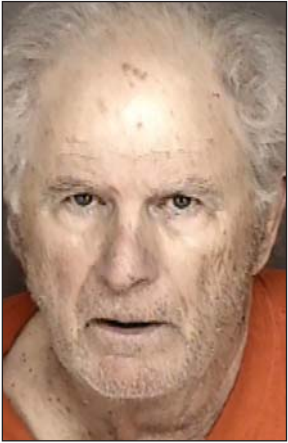
That information came days later, when investigator Rodrigo Lopez interviewed Geisen at the jail July 28.

The elderly man “said he was doing better, but he was refusing to see a doctor because he wanted to die.”

He told the investigator he wanted to speak to his son, Loch Geisen, who lives in Eureka and was recovering from a recent intestinal surgery.

Geisen repeatedly “stated he wanted to speak to his son — that there was money in his house that he wanted his son to be aware of,” Lopez said. “He stated his son

See **MOTIVE** page 21A



Donel Geisen



After four decades of dedicated service to dentistry, I want to announce my retirement. I can say without reservation, I have been truly blessed to live and work in Monterey County with the last 5 years, right here in beautiful Pacific Grove. As I retire, my greatest priority has been to find the right person to continue to provide you with the highest quality dental care. I am excited to introduce everyone to **Dr. Jamie Klienefleter DMD**.

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Deadline for Obituaries is Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. for Friday's Edition

Calendar: calendar@carmelpinecone.com



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Police & Sheriff's Log

We know where your kayak went

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.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Husband, age 48, was arrested at Monte Verde and Ocean for domestic battery on his wife. Transported to Monterey County Jail.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Theft from a vehicle at San Carlos and Ocean. No suspect information.

Pacific Grove: A 44-year-old male was arrested on Jewell Avenue for battery and resisting arrest. He was booked into Monterey County Jail and held on \$5,000 bail.

Pacific Grove: A 52-year-old male was cited at Forest and David for DUI and was released to a responsible adult.

Pacific Grove: Frequent dog at large

found on Lighthouse Avenue and brought into the police department. The dog and owner are known to the department. Dog owner arrived to claim the dog, which was released back to the owner with a citation.

Pacific Grove: Found property turned in to the police department.

Carmel area: A verbal altercation occurred at the Crossroads shopping center.

Seaside: At approximately 2230 hours, Seaside P.D. responded to a reported vehicle collision into a residence near the intersection of San Lucas and Baker streets. The 52-year-old male driver was suspected of operating the vehicle under the influence. A loaded handgun was discovered within the vehicle, and he was subsequently arrested. No one sustained serious injuries during the crash.

See **POLICE LOG** page 6RE
in the Real Estate Section



The gavel falls

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

Sept. 18 — A Monterey County jury found Gregory Lavell Johnson, 62 and a resident of Coalinga, to be a sexually violent predator as defined in California's sexually violent predator laws. Immediately following the jury's verdict, Judge Andrew G. Liu ordered that Johnson be committed to the Department of State Hospitals for an indefinite period where he can participate in sex offender treatment.

On June 7, 1985, Johnson was convicted of the rape of Jane Doe, an adult female, using a firearm. Johnson was sentenced to five years in state prison and was paroled for that offense in July 1988. While awaiting extradition on an out-of-state warrant, Johnson escaped the custody of the Monterey County Sheriff and within hours committed a violent sexual assault on a 14-year-old male resident of Monterey County. On Jan. 12, 1989, fol-

lowing a court trial, Johnson was convicted of four forcible sex crimes, as well as the escape, by Judge Richard M. Silver. He was sentenced to 31 years in state prison for those offenses.

Prior to release, Johnson was evaluated and deemed to meet the criteria for a sexually violent predator. Johnson was tried under California's sexually violent predator laws in 2013, but the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict.

Before he could be re-tried, Johnson committed a drug-related offense while in custody in Fresno County and was sentenced to state prison, which obviated the SVP proceeding. Before his release on the drug charges, Johnson was again evaluated in 2020 and

See **GAVEL** page 25A



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Fire chief Miller to retire — again

By MARY SCHLEY

JUST AS former police chief Paul Tomasi came out of retirement to run the Carmel Police Department for a couple of years before again deciding to wrap up his law-enforcement career, Monterey Fire Chief Andrew Miller announced this week he'll retire in December — for the second time.

Miller, 67, previously retired as chief in 2013 after more than 34 years in the service but returned to the job in December 2023 following the abrupt departure of fire chief Gaudenz Panholzer.

He “leaves behind a legacy of dedicated leadership, operational excellence through shared service models, and a lifelong commitment to public safety,” Monterey city manager Hans UsLAR said.

The department provides fire and emergency services for the cities of Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel and Sand City, as well as the Naval Postgraduate School, La Mesa Village and Monterey Regional Airport. Most recently, it over managing, staffing and operating Carmel's ambulance.

As chief, Miller oversees more than 100 personnel dispersed across a half-dozen stations to provide fire suppression and emergency medical, rescue and community safety services. “When I accepted this role, I made a promise to serve for two years. That chapter is now ending, and the time has come to step aside and make way for the next generation of leadership to guide this incredible department forward,” he said in a message to his staff.

“Serving as your fire chief (for the second time) has truly been the greatest honor of my career,” he continued. “Every day,

I've been inspired by your professionalism, dedication, compassion and the deep sense of pride and purpose that defines us. MFD isn't just a workplace — we're a family, and I am profoundly grateful to have been part of it.”

UsLAR praised Miller's “leadership, expertise and unwavering commitment to the safety of our community” and said the chief — who returned to the job following a tumultuous period that had firefighters at odds with management and publicly calling out failings and deficiencies in their department — “leaves the Monterey Fire Department stronger, more unified and well-prepared for the future.”

Miller said he's leaving “with complete confidence in its future,” given the talented command staff and administrative team, and a strong union executive board.

‘Premier fire department’

“My vision has always been to help lead us back to being the premier fire department I've always known we could be,” he said. “Today, I'm proud to say that together, we've made that vision a reality.”

Miller, a lifelong Pacific Grove resident and brother of architect Eric Miller, started his career as a seasonal firefighter with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in South Monterey County. He went on to run Pacific Grove's fire department and then became chief in Monterey, first retiring in 2013 with a total of 14 years in the position between the two agencies. Miller's second, and presumably final, retirement is set to take effect Dec. 30.

In 2024, he received total compensation of \$366,568, including \$242,192 in base pay, according to a public database. In 2023, his pension was \$184,966.



Andrew Miller

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Lawsuit: County failed to protect deputy from stalker inmate

By KELLY NIX

A MONTEREY County jail inmate obsessed with a female sheriff’s deputy repeatedly harassed and stalked her — even after he went to state prison — and the sheriff’s office and attorneys for the county did little to try to stop it, according to chilling details outlined in a new lawsuit.

In an Oct. 23 civil complaint filed in Monterey County Superior Court, the deputy, called Jane Doe to protect her identity, alleges that the former county jail inmate, called M.F. in the suit, had a long-term obsession with her. He started harassing her in August 2023 via a computerized system to handle inmate complaints.

“His messages were frequently and increasingly inappropriate,” the lawsuit says. “Doe instructed M.F. to stop contacting her, and she reported his misuse of the complaint system to her superiors.”

Despite Doe’s repeated demands that the inmate leave her alone, he continued to do so, even after he received several disciplinary writeups. In October 2023, he was released from jail. The harassment continued, and in several letters to Doe, he addressed her as “baby,” claiming he would send her money and buy her a car so “she could retire.” He ended the notes with “I love you.”

‘Official love business’

Shortly after his release, though, M.F. was arrested on a parole violation after trying to enter Gov. Gavin Newsom’s mansion, the lawsuit says. After being arrested, he said he didn’t mind going back to jail because Doe worked there and “they were in a relationship.” His parole agent noted the man’s obsessive tendencies and requested that he be jailed elsewhere, but the transfer was denied and M.F. landed back at Doe’s workplace at the Monterey County Jail.

“Doe suffered extreme emotional distress that M.F. would continue to stalk and harass her, and she reported these concerns” to a sheriff’s sergeant, who informed staff that M.F. was to not have any contact with Doe.

In July 2024, after M.F. was incarcerated in a state prison, he continued to stalk Doe and ask county staffers

about her. About four months later, after being released, M.F. sent her a package containing black pine tree seeds. He also told Doe’s coworkers he needed to reach her for “official love business,” and asked about her dating life and marital status.

“M.F. somehow obtained Doe’s complete legal name,” the suit says.

In April, she asked a commander for a workplace restraining order, but after M.F. showed up to her work in July under the influence of drugs demanding to talk to her, she was told the order was never filed.

A supervisor said he would follow up with the Monterey County Counsel’s office to obtain a restraining order. Though Doe said a county lawyer tried discouraging her from pursuing the order, saying it would be difficult to prove since she’s a law enforcement officer, Doe told him

she wanted to pursue it anyway. Still, the order was not filed.

“For reasons unknown to Doe, county counsel did not move forward to obtain the restraining order at that time,” she said.

Used ruse

Last month, M.F. convinced a fellow patient at a psychiatric hospital to call the sheriff’s office under the guise of a “family emergency” so he could get Doe’s personal contact information. A sergeant forwarded the report about the incident to the district attorney’s office, but since there was no restraining order in place, prosecutors declined to press charges, according to the lawsuit.

See **STALKED** page 26A

Prisoner harassed her and tried to find out where she lived

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Similar look, but with more seating

By KELLY NIX

THE TAP Room at Pebble Beach — where golfers, celebrities and locals have convened since 1949 — has reopened after a remodel, but the “look, feel and ambience” of the storied restaurant remains, the CEO of the Pebble Beach Company said.

The company closed The Tap Room and the Lodge’s main building in February for some updates, including “reimagined interiors,” new golf memorabilia and a new private dining area. The steakhouse reopened Oct. 25 and features what the company describes as a “polished yet relaxed interior.”

“The Tap Room has always been more than a restaurant — it’s where Pebble Beach history comes to life,” said David Stivers, CEO of Pebble Beach Company. “With a refreshed design and menu, it builds on its legacy as the gathering place where the game’s past and present meet.”

Stivers told The Pine Cone that customers are “happy that The Tap Room

retained the same look,” and are enjoying the “upgraded features, including the bigger bar, new furniture and artwork and photography.”

He said customers have been thrilled to experience the newly built Champions Room, the addition at the back of The Tap

Room which is decorated with historical photos and memorabilia related to the Pebble Beach Company’s past USGA championships, “making the restaurant as much a museum of the game as a dining destination.”

The steakhouse’s reopening is part of a broader remodel of The Lodge at Pebble Beach.

Stillwater Restaurant is the last restaurant to open on Nov. 4, at which point The Lodge main building will be fully reopened,” Stivers said.

The redo of Stillwater Bar & Grill is the perhaps the most significant component of The Lodge remodel. When it’s finished, bar patrons will face the ocean instead of having their backs to it, and two new rooms along the south side of the restaurant will be available for events.

More golf memorabilia but familiar ambience retained



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LUAC TO REVIEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING

By CHRIS COUNTS

DISCUSSED FOR more than two decades, a plan to build 40 inclusionary housing units as part of the Rancho Cañada Village subdivision in Carmel Valley is moving forward on two fronts.

Contractor Don Chapin Co. is busy putting in roads and installing utilities where a golf course once thrived, along with a flood-control gate, and the plan for building the housing units will be reviewed Nov. 3 by the Carmel Valley Land Use Advisory Committee.

The affordable housing and flood-control measures are part of a larger plan that includes 93 market-rate single-family homes and 12 townhouses. The Carmel Development Co. will construct the inclusionary units first and develop the townhouses later.

“We’re working on the roads and the utilities,” Alan Williams of the Carmel Development Co. told The Pine Cone. “We’re putting in fences and doing grading. The most important thing is that we’re getting started on the flood-control improvements — that’s big news for everybody

who has been waiting for years.”

While the flood gate won’t be ready for this rainy season, he’s hopeful it can be used next year.

Located at the end of Rio Road, it will be a “10-foot-by-12-foot rectangular concrete structure built in place with a steel door that will shut to prevent water from flowing up Rio Road,” Williams explained.

First pitched in ‘04

Besides building homes and helping to prevent flooding, the project includes the donation of 36 acres to the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, making a critical link possible for a public hiking trail.

The project dates back to 2004, when the late Nick Lombardo proposed 280 homes, including 140 that would be affordable. Opposition to any type of new housing in the valley delayed the project for years and reduced the number of units, but with the state’s new emphasis on housing, it is finally becoming a reality.

St. Philips Church at 8065 Carmel Valley Road will be the site of the LUAC meeting, which starts at 5:30 p.m.



An artist’s rendering shows what the future Ranch Cañada Village will look like. The development, which is now underway, will feature a mix of singer-family homes, townhouses and affordable units — all located on the site of a former golf resort.

PHOTO/RANCHO CAÑADA VILLAGE

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COMPASS

In limbo due to shutdown, \$52M flood project could start in 2027

By CHRIS COUNTS

AN AMBITIOUS \$52 million flood-control effort that's been in the works for a decade-and-a-half, the Carmel River Free project is waiting on a \$27 million taxpayer-funded FEMA grant — and if the funds arrive by early spring, construction could start in early 2027, according to Rachel Saunders of the Big Sur Land Trust.

If all goes according to plan, the work could be wrapped up before the 2028-2029 rainy season — providing improved flood protection for hundreds of homes and businesses in the Crossroads area, Mission Field and other neighborhoods which were inundated by flooding in 1995 and 1998.

Would raise road

The land trust has been working with Monterey County officials to move the project forward since at least 2010, when the two parties signed a memorandum of understanding. Much of the property for the project was donated to the land trust by Clint and Maggie Eastwood, while some is part of Palo Corona Regional Park and Carmel River State Beach.

The work would remove a portion of the levee on the south bank of Carmel River, grade the floodplain, build a 360-foot causeway under Highway 1 so floodwaters can flow into the south arm of the Carmel River Lagoon, and raise 23 acres out of the floodplain for use as an agricultural preserve. The work would also remove about 1,470 feet of earthen levees on the south side of the Carmel

River channel on property owned by the land trust.

“It’s a significant contribution to the flood-control equation,” Saunders said.

More benefits

The flood-control improvements come at a time when two other major projects located nearby — Rancho Cañada Village and the Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project — are putting in flood-control measures.

The Carmel River Free project also includes putting pipes belonging to the nearby Carmel Area Wastewater District sewer plant underground, constructing hiking trails and restoring riparian habitat to benefit sensitive plant and animal species. When everything is done, a left-turn lane will be added to Highway 1 to make it possible for southbound motorists to turn left into a parking lot for Palo Corona Regional Park.

See **FLOOD** page 26A



This map shows the Carmel River Free project, which will take out levees on Carmel River, grade the floodplain, build a causeway under Highway 1, and raise 23 acres out of the floodplain.

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Pickleball, water, Car Week and copper on council agendas

By MARY SCHLEY

WILL IT heed the cries of those who are demanding the reopening of the Forest Hill Park tennis courts to pickleball? Or will it proceed with a temporary ban while working to pass an ordinance that would require the use of noise-reducing equipment to make the game more acceptable to neighbors? Those are among the questions that will presumably be answered by the Carmel City Council during back-to-back meetings Monday and Tuesday.

The pickleball matter tops the agenda at the council’s regular meeting Nov. 4, followed by a review of proposed updates to the housing plan to remove proposed affordable-housing sites on city property and replace them with programs designed to disperse low-cost units throughout the city.

Councilmembers will then consider a \$143,335 contract with Avila Construction to retrofit the Sixth Avenue fire station so the department’s new engine can fit inside. Last month, the council OK’d a \$136,185 agreement with Moya & Sons Builders for the job, because it was the lowest bidder, but the firm failed to sign the contract and submit all required paperwork within 15 days, rendering the deal void.

Copper is bad

For the last few years, due to reports of toxins leaching into runoff that ends up in the protected Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, where they can harm fish and other aquatic creatures, the city has effectively banned the use of copper gutters and downspouts. At the Nov. 4 meeting, the council will discuss a proposed policy

“prohibiting new installations of architectural copper to protect water quality” and the possibility of drafting an ordinance to enforce it.

According to environmental analyst Valerie Gaino, testing revealed that copper in runoff in Carmel has exceeded acceptable limits for a decade, and while it’s naturally found in aquatic systems and is an essential nutrient at low concentrations, it is toxic to fish and other organisms in higher amounts. Carmel has had the highest concentrations of total copper compared to other regional cities every year.

Finally, councilmembers will decide whether to hire a traffic engineer to study downtown speed limits with an eye toward reducing them, which could lead to the restoration of some of the corner parking spaces lost due to the AB 413 Daylighting Law.

At its special meeting, which starts at 3 p.m. Monday, the council will be also be expected to approve a non-profit’s request to hold a 5K run on Jan. 10, 2026, accept a \$17,514 grant for preservation of city art, and approve a \$173,804 contract for shaving down dozens of sidewalk bumps, as well as a \$92,937 agreement with Technology Integration Group for “managed detection and response services” — in other words, IT security.

Back-to-back meetings with packed programs

Car Week recap

After fielding a request to formalize a compensation and benefits package for at-will employees, the council is set to again consider allocating water for various uses, ranging from affordable housing projects, to residential and business expansions.

The new water has been promised by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and the Pure Water Monterey recycling project.

Police Chief Todd Trayer will present an after-action report on Car Week and will seek feedback and direction from the council in planning for next year’s automotive events, and he’ll take the stage again to describe proposed updates to the emergency operations plan.

The special meeting is scheduled to wrap up with a closed session to discuss the job performance of city administrator Chip Rerig and city attorney Brian Pierik.



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Tricks, not treats, in Pacific Grove

By KELLY NIX

THIEVES AND vandals in Pacific Grove targeted at least two properties last weekend, stealing and destroying Halloween decorations worth hundreds of dollars.

On Sunday, a woman reported on social media that she spotted three or four people stealing decorations on Hillcrest Avenue near P.G. Middle School.

“They stole all my sister-in-law’s stuff out the back of their truck and tried ripping the decorations that were already up,” the woman said, adding that her boyfriend yelled at the thieves and they took off in a small dark colored sedan. “We’re pretty sure a truck was also involved.”

Vandalized skeleton

She also reported that vandals targeted her friend’s father’s property on Hillcrest and Congress, breaking off a skeleton head and arm and a chain that went from the house to the yard.

“They also ripped my sister-in-law’s

inflatable decoration out of the yard and ripped the cord out the plug,” the woman said. They also pretty much mutilated her \$200 projector.

The woman asked other social media users to provide any surveillance camera footage from their houses in hopes of capturing images matching the description of the thieves and their vehicle.

“We had one [reported] incident of Halloween decorations being stolen and vandalized on Oct. 27 in the 700 block of Hillcrest Ave.,” Pacific Grove Police Sgt. Brian Anderson said. “Skeletons were damaged and parts of them were stolen.”

While some suggested that police check the city’s traffic surveillance system for vehicles that matched the description, Anderson said police did not have a “sufficiently detailed description of the suspect vehicle to use our cameras.”

“We have canvassed the neighborhood and checked security cameras with no luck in uncovering any further evidence of the crime,” he added.

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And if you’re still working, consider ramping up your pretax retirement contributions. Not only will this help your future self, but it might reduce your current tax bill.

Now is also a good time to

review your investments. Did they perform as expected? Do they still match your goals? You may need to rebalance.

One more thing: If you’ve had major life changes like marriage, divorce, or a new baby, review the beneficiary designations on all bank and brokerage accounts. These often override what’s written in your will.

Taking care of these and other financial tasks now can help you start the new year on solid ground.

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They’re testing well, but fewer CUSD students seek help with English

■ Enrollment in special program down to 43

By LILY PATTERSON

WHILE MANY students in California are having trouble gaining basic English language skills, their counterparts in the Carmel school district are testing well and there’s been an increase in graduation rates from the English Learner Program, according to administrator Kara Gober. Gober performs double-duty for Carmel Unified School District as the principal of Captain Cooper Elementary School and director of the English program, which include supplemental language classes and tutoring for students, and translation services for their parents.

To determine candidates for the program, CUSD requests all families complete a “home language” survey upon enrollment in the district.

This year, the district has 43 English learners, 16 of them newcomers, or students who have lived in the U.S. for fewer than 3 years, Gober said during the Board of Education’s October 22 meeting. That’s a small fraction of the district’s roughly 2,200 students, and of the program’s enrollment just last year, when there were 65 English learners in total. By the start

of the 2025-2026 school year, 19 students had successfully completed the program, which “serves a variety of language learners, from Spanish to Hmong to Mandarin to Russian,” Gober said. Some spend six years or more working with CUSD teachers and specialists to overcome considerable language barriers. Last year, Gober reported, 36 students gained at least one proficiency level.

Amid the good news, Gober said, fewer students are enrolling in the program, for a variety of reasons.

“A combination of factors”

“The numbers have gone significantly down, from 73 to 67 then 43 over time. What was the reason?” asked boardmember Rita Patel, referring to program enrollment data from 2019-2025.

“I think it’s a combination of factors,” said Gober. She said she’s noticed an increase, at least at Captain Cooper, in the number of multilingual students who are taking English proficiency exams for the first time and immediately testing out of the program.

Gober continued, “I think housing is another factor — I can speak to Big Sur, that there isn’t housing for younger families in the area to move in. And I would also say there are English learners who don’t

currently want to identify themselves.”

Presumably implying the Trump administration’s immigration crackdown, she didn’t elaborate on the claim that some families report their primary language is English, when that is not actually the case — but she did explain how CUSD uses the survey and standardized testing to gauge student needs.

“If a student lists their home language as other than English, they’re identified as someone who would need to take the initial English Language Proficiency Assessment,” she said.

The test is administered to students within the first 30 days of school to benchmark their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, and their scores determine eligibility for English help. Students in the program retake the test each year to ensure they’re in the right classes for their level. To graduate students from the program, Gober and her staff take test scores, as well as parent and teacher input and general academic performance into account.

Compared to MPUSD

Gober said her priority for this year is increasing English learner-specific training and professional development for CUSD teachers and staff at all levels, “to make sure that we’re supporting students in the

best ways possible.”

“We have made stronger family partnerships and heard so many student success stories. One highlight for me was sitting with a high school student who was sharing about her journey as an English learner student, and how she’s now taking classes that are going to put her in a nursing program right out of high school, which was amazing,” said Gober.

Student representative to the board Juliet Norman said, “I moved here in first grade, and watching the English learners in my grade, it’s been amazing to see the growth that they’ve had. A lot of them are taking advanced classes because of this help early on, to set them up for success.”

Carmel’s English learner population is negligible compared to the average in the state, which is neck-in-neck with Texas for the largest such cohort in the U.S. In California, about 18 percent of California students qualify as English learners, while more than 30 percent report speaking a language other than English at home, Spanish by an overwhelming majority.

Compared to Carmel’s 43 students, the far larger Monterey Peninsula Unified School District last year designated 2,465 students as English learners, a quarter of its student population, according to data from the California Department of Education.



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Love it or hate it, Highway 68 gas station project finally gets OK

By CHRIS COUNTS

DESPITE AN outcry by some about its size — along with potential impacts to traffic, the viewshed and the environment — the Monterey County Planning Commission voted 6-2 Wednesday to approve a gas station along Highway 68 between Monterey and Salinas.

Located at 3 Corral de Tierra Road, which fronts Highway 68, and owned by Omni Resources LLC, the gas station would have 12 pumps and a 3,077 square foot convenience store. There will also be an assortment of on-site and off-site improvements, including a large canopy, trash enclosure, fuel price sign, parking, underground diesel and gasoline storage tanks, and the restriping of turn lanes on Highway 68 and Corral de Tierra Road.

While the site is vacant today, a gas station and convenience store were built there in 1966, according to a county report.

“In 2002, the fueling station operator was notified of the need to replace the service station’s underground storage tanks,” the report indicates. “Subsequently, operation of the gas station ceased, and the site’s fuel pumps, and underground storage tanks were removed.”

Representing the applicant was Eric Phelps, who told the planning commission that his family has owned the property since 1974. He noted that the site has been cleaned up.

“I live in the Toro Park area,” Phelps said. “I’ve raised my family here, and I understand what a special place it is. When remediation was required, we cleared the site, remediated the site and prepared it for this moment.”

Phelps pushed back against concerns that the new business won’t fit the rural character of Highway 68.

“This isn’t a modern highway stop,” he insisted. “It’s a neighborhood station built

with board-and-batten siding, earth-tone colors, and a low canopy and landscaping that softens its presence along the scenic corridor.”

Speakers call for EIR

While the county received more than a dozen letters supporting the project — with many backing it enthusiastically — several residents spoke out against it Wednesday and submitted letters opposing it.

Corral de Tierra resident Dwight Stump was one of several speakers who told the planning commission that an environmental impact report should be done before the development is approved. “An EIR needs to be done, especially in light of the huge increase in size [in comparison to what was built in 1966], water usage and potential hazards from leaking buried fuel tanks that previously caused problems,” he said.

Stump also urged the planning commission to update the traffic assessment, which

he said “does not address the current traffic problems that this project will increase by adding 3,200 vehicles each day to this intersection.”

Several speakers also argued the project is far larger than what previously existed on the site, and that’s it’s too visible along a route that’s considered scenic. They also contended there will be more than 12 pumps.

The only planning commissioner to speak out against the plan was Christine Shaw, who represents the county’s 2nd District.

“I do think this strays quite far from the rural character and scenic drive along Highway 68 that I’m used to,” Shaw said. “It’s bulky. Everything else on Highway 68 is screened really well.”

Planning commissioner Etna Monsalve also voted against approval. Planning commissioners Jessica Hartzell and Ernesto Gonzales were absent.



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Fixture in P.G. dies at 95

By KELLY NIX

RICHARD STILLWELL, the former firefighter and business owner known by many as Mr. Pacific Grove, died last weekend at the age of 95. He’s being remembered as a big-hearted man who touched the lives of countless residents.

The original owner of Pacific Grove Hardware, Stillwell became a fixture in downtown P.G., at events and city council meetings, where he did not hesitate to speak his mind. He also spent a dozen years on the city’s economic development commission.

“His roots in Pacific Grove ran deep — from his early days as a firefighter in the 1950s to his service as volunteer fire department chief, Richard dedicated his

life to keeping his hometown safe and strong,” according to a biography from the P.G. Chamber of Commerce for Stillwell, who died Oct. 26.

Friend Moe Ammar, former president of the P.G. Chamber, pointed to his long-time generosity in Pacific Grove.

‘Thoughtful’

“Mr. Stillwell touched the lives of hundreds of people by donating his time and money,” such as a \$100,000 donation to pay for the renovation of the children’s swimming pool at Lovers Point and the longtime Stillwell’s Fun in the Park, in which snow was brought to Caledonia Park for youngsters to play in, Ammar said.

He also decorated the firehouse for the holidays, bringing joy to generations

of families who would stop to admire the lights, and co-founded nonprofit P.G. P.R.I.D.E. — Public Response in Dollars for Education — which has raised money to help schools and student programs since 1982.

Peggy Gibbs, cofounder of Pacific Grove Cares, said Stillwell was highly supportive of the nonprofit group’s efforts this year to revitalize a small open space at Caledonia Park next to the basketball court named for his son, Tommy, who died in 1983, and at Chase Park a few blocks away. Stillwell attended events for the projects.

“He and his wife, Sue, came to both parks and inspired us to do the best job possible,” Gibbs told The Pine Cone. “He was a thoughtful man, generous of heart and willing to go the extra mile to invest in Pacific Grove. I was blessed to have the opportunity to know him and Sue who made a lasting impression on my heart.”

Ammar said Stillwell had the respect through the years from council members



PHOTO/MIKE GIBBS

Richard Stillwell and his wife in July visited two landscape projects in P.G. they supported. Stillwell died last weekend.

and mayors, even though he sometimes disagreed with them and would let them know.

“Richard Stillwell was more than a civic leader; was a neighbor, a mentor, and a friend to all,” his biography goes on to say. “His love for Pacific Grove will continue to shine through every bench repaired, every light strung downtown, and every Good Old Day to come.”

Recreation trail gets new mural

By CHRIS COUNTS

PAYING TRIBUTE to three of Cannery Row’s most memorable figures, a mural that depicts John Steinbeck, Doc Ricketts and Kalisa Moore now adorns the Monterey Bay Recreation Trail behind Austino’s Patisserie.

Measuring 28 by 53 feet, the mural was done by San Jose artist Renae McCollum and commissioned by Austino’s owner Chris Shake.

The mural features a rendering of the Western Flyer — the recently restored boat

assortment of wildlife, including sea birds, a whale breaching and otters surrounded by kelp.

Brought creativity, curiosity

Shake said he’s thrilled to see the mural complete.

“This mural is my way of honoring the remarkable people and stories that shaped Cannery Row. Steinbeck, Doc Ricketts, and Kalisa captured the soul of this place — its creativity, curiosity and sense of community,” he said. “I wanted to bring their spirit to life again on these walls, surrounded by the sea and the Monterey Bay that inspired it all.”

McCollum called the project “an exciting opportunity,” and said the research she did before getting started gave her a greater appreciation for the rich history of one of California’s oldest cities.

“I look forward to hearing reactions from the trail passersby.”

While Steinbeck and Ricketts were world-famous for their writings, Moore was a colorful personality who owned and operated Kalisa’s La Ida Café on Cannery Row for

half a century, starting in the late 1950s. The cafe attracted artists, writers and assorted bohemians from near and far. “A friend to the famous and a mother to the needy,” Moore was known as the “Queen of Cannery Row.”



PHOTO/CHRIS SHAKE

A new mural painted along the Monterey Recreation Trail honors three important figures in Cannery Row’s history.

that carried Steinbeck and Ricketts on their voyage to the Sea of Cortez in 1940, which inspired books by both. There are also images of Kalisa’s landmark Cannery Row restaurant and Steinbeck’s book, “Cannery Row,” along with a can of sardines and an

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Regent’s Slide clearance ‘ahead of schedule,’ work turns to rockfall net

By CHRIS COUNTS

IN THE latest step Caltrans is taking to shore up the hillside that looms over Highway 1 at Regent’s Slide in Big Sur, work crews are installing a system to protect the highway from falling rocks.

“This system uses wire mesh to manage falling debris on steep slopes and safely directs loose rocks down the hillside,” the state roads agency reported this week. “Installation is proceeding smoothly, and the team is taking full advantage of the favorable dry weather to maintain momentum.”

While the wire mesh will help protect motorists from rocks, the site’s stability is reliant on the installation of



PHOTO/CALTRANS

Caltrans officials say the work to clear the Regent’s Slide in Big Sur is “going smoothly” and “ahead of schedule.”

steel bars approximately 60 feet-long that are drilled into the hillside. So far, “crews have installed approximately 4,443 shear dowels” to “anchor the slope and reduce movement” in the work zone. As an added safety measure, remote-controlled excavators are being used to remove loose rocks.

Late March reopening

According to Caltrans, Highway 1 is expected to reopen by the end of March 2026, if winter weather cooperates. By then, the highway between Carmel and Cambria will have been closed for more than three years — the longest stretch since it was built in the 1930s. “The process is going smoothly and remains ahead of schedule, thanks to great coordination among contractors and field teams,” Caltrans added.

Located about four miles south of Esalen Institute, the

slide has blocked Highway 1 since Feb. 9, 2024, when rocks, mud and debris buried a segment of pavement below it. The task of clearing it became even more complicated in August 2024 when “new slide activity and surface cracking in the slope immediately above the project area”

was discovered.

Despite the closure, motorists traveling south of Carmel can access most of Big Sur’s parks, galleries and inns, but the world-famous scenic route connecting Monterey County to San Luis Obispo County remains closed.

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SHUCKS

From page 1A

“full-line restaurant” as the primary use and “drinking establishment” as the ancillary use.

The license also says the operators must comply with the use permit approved in 1993 that lists it as a drinking place that provides limited food, with hours of 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

It was issued to Murray Weaver and Paul Elliot, who were planning to buy “Maxwell McFly’s, an existing bar use that has been in continuous use for many years,” but wanted to amend the permit “to include a seafood menu to be served at an ‘oyster bar.’”

“The permittee shall not be authorized to establish a full kitchen with stove, grill or oven,” the permit states. “Food service shall be limited to a microwave oven, steamer, soup preparation and refrigeration facilities. No takeout food shall be allowed.”

But in the years since the 1993 permit was issued, the city approved several building permits for outfitting and renovating a commercial kitchen at A.W. Shucks, which offers an extensive menu and does,

indeed, provide takeout. Basi’s 2023 business license states that failure to comply with the use permit could result in the revocation of the license, the permit or both.

Abandonment of use?

On Aug. 18, Logan sent an email to planning director Anna Ginette, with a cc to attorney Jason Retterer, asking, “Can we please have an update on the findings for the abandonment of the use permit located at A.W. Shucks??”

That same day, senior planner Evan Kort and Logan exchanged emails regarding a rule prohibiting two businesses with the primary purpose of selling alcohol from being within 200 feet of each other. Logan asked how Barmel on San Carlos near Seventh and A.W. Shucks were allowed to exist, considering that limitation.

“Barmel is located at the site of the former Red Lion. The original use permit for the Red Lion from 1984 states the use was established prior to the need for a use permit and has been in operation for over 10 years,” Kort explained in an email to Logan the morning of Aug. 19. “A.W. Shucks is located at the site of the former Maxwell McFly’s. The original use permit for A.W. Shucks from 1993 states McFly’s is a long-established use and is nonconforming due to a lack of a use



A.W. Shucks is a popular Ocean Avenue restaurant and bar. An inquiry into the legality of its operations was made by a competitor.

PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

permit (presumably established prior to the need for a use permit).”

He went on to explain, “Generally speaking, once a use is established, said use may continue to operate on the site until abandoned or replaced by a new use.” A use that’s abandoned, such as one of the three bar permits, would be “reevaluated prior to being reestablished.”

On Aug. 25, Retterer sent an email to Mayor Dale Byrne questioning the status of A.W. Shucks’ use permit.

Abandonment

“Parker Logan asked me to email you some information relating to the abandonment of the ‘drinking place’ use at the A.W. Shucks property. As you may know, the city’s code caps the number of ‘drinking places’ in the city at three,” he wrote, before providing the definition of a drinking place as a business “serving beverages for consumption on the premises as a primary use and including on-sale service of alcohol including beer, wine and mixed drinks.”

“Because the code only allows three, the code also requires that these uses operate continuously in order to preserve the use,” Retterer continued. “If the use has been discontinued for a period of six months, the use shall be considered abandoned unless the owner has filed a notice of temporary cessation, which has never been done for this property.”

Byrne simply thanked Retterer for the email and attachments, which included the 1993 A.W. Shucks use permit, Basi’s business license and a copy of the menu, and a section of city code pertaining to the abandonment of restricted commercial uses.

Principally, “establishment of any different use in a space authorized for occupancy by a numerically limited use shall be considered an abandonment of the numerically limited use,” according to the code.

When the planning commission earlier this month was asked to decide whether A.W. Shucks should be classified as either a restaurant or a drinking establishment, rather than some of both, commissioners made no decision.

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SNAP

From page 1A

during fiscal challenges, such as government shutdowns.

Monterey County officials told the press Wednesday that more than 50,000 county residents in November will not receive CalFresh, California’s version of SNAP. They urged residents to continue to submit reports, so they’ll get the benefits when the government reopens. They also directed those struggling to local food banks for help.

As of June, there were 30,826 households and 58,677 people in Monterey County who were receiving food stamps. Some of the households are in Panetta’s district, while others are in the 18th Congressional District, represented by Democratic Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren.

‘Need to negotiate’

A pause in benefits, Democrats say, would be felt by Americans of all ages and affect every corner and congressional district in the country. As the largest food assistance program in the country, SNAP provides free food for 42 million people, including 5.5 million Californians.

Panetta and his colleagues complained that the USDA has not issued any guidance to states on how to handle the loss of benefits, which they said has led to “significant anxiety and uncertainty for families who depend on SNAP to afford food.”

“We urge USDA to use these funds for November SNAP benefits and issue clear guidance to states on how to navigate benefit issuance,” the Democrats’ letter to Rollins went on to say. “Additionally, while the contingency reserve will not cover November benefits in full, we urge USDA to use its statutory transfer authority or any other legal authority at its disposal to supplement these dollars and fully fund November benefits.”

Panetta said Gov. Gavin Newsom allocated \$81 million for food banks in the state and has deployed the National Guard to pack and deliver meals for families.

Democrats say Republicans need to negotiate on an extension of Affordable Care Act tax credits or they’ll continue to oppose funding the government. The GOP accuses Democrats of holding money hostage to extract concessions.

Younger people need help

Food Bank for Monterey County executive director Melissa Kendrick suggested there will be an increase in demand for the nonprofit’s services if the federal food subsidies, which can provide \$1,175 a month for a household of five, are interrupted.

“The SNAP benefits don’t cover their cost of groceries each month, so imagine what will happen,” Kendrick told The Pine Cone.

The executive director said she’s seen more younger people, and families in which both parents work, asking for help from the Salinas-based organization.

“I’ve been to several distributions in the last week,”



PHOTO/FOOD BANK FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

The Food Bank for Monterey County is seeing an increase in those who get most of their food from the nonprofit, the head of the organization said.

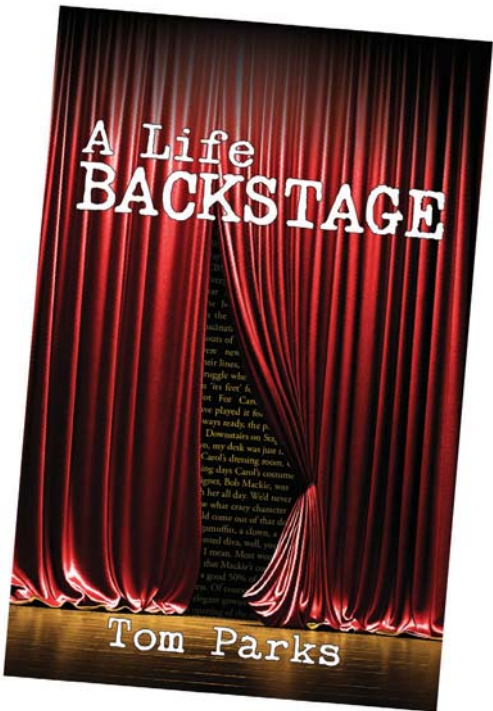
Kendrick explained. “I’ve talked to a lot of young people who said they never, ever thought they would be standing in a food bank line.”

While such charities were typically patronized by those with unexpected expenses, such as medical bills, car repairs or the loss of a job, she said some of the 160,000 people the Food Bank for Monterey County serves go there for their primary source of food.

Meanwhile, the cost of food the nonprofit buys has climbed 30 to 80 percent, not to mention transportation and other expenses, which have also increased. However, Kendrick said the food bank has generous donors, and “as long as people who support the food bank go online and donate, then we’ll be able to continue” providing food for those who need it.

Go to foodbankformontereycounty.org for donation information.

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■ “Last year wasn’t great for my family, but I have to let you know that when I turn on the computer on Friday morning or the weekend and see the Pine Cone, I smile.”

■ “Thank you for your weekly emails. Even though I’ve lived in France since 2008, I read the Carmel Pine Cone almost every week as I still have many friends and some family in the area.”

■ “I love receiving the Carmel Pine Cone through my email. Thanks for the intriguing and interesting information!”

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■ “Tho’ I live 300 miles away and visit the Peninsula only once a year (for the last 35 years), I enjoy your newspaper from the first to the last page every week online and I thank you for that.”

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■ “As a longtime reader of your paper, I want to thank you for the great job you and your team do in covering the area. And I especially like (agree with) your editorial page.”

■ “When in Tucson, I look forward to Friday mornings with great anticipation so I can download the week’s edition of the Pine Cone and read it cover to cover. This helps me feel connected to this very special community. When in our beloved Carmel, each Friday morning I jump in our electric car with our golden retriever, Daisy, by my side and race down to Ocean and Mission to get the newest edition. Daisy insists on carrying it in her mouth the entire way home. We have so much to be proud of in Carmel and the Pine Cone sits near the top of the list.”
- 

“It’s fun to come to work when people think you’re so good”

CLOSED

From page 1A

inexcusable,” he said in his weekly email dispatch Friday. “As stewards of the public trust — the beach — the city should not have to hear about such events through residents or social media.”

Barbara Buikema, general manager of the wastewater district, said her agency didn’t tell the city about the contamination because “past protocol was to notify the health department, and then the health department would notify the various other local entities.”

She said the sewer district was unaware nobody had told the city about the shutdown.

Who’s responsible?

“We were originally told by the health department that it was not necessary to post the beach because the spill was very small, and the spill never reached the sandy beach — only the tidal pool area by the Frank Lloyd Wright house,” she said this week. “It was later that the health department made the decision to post the beach in an abundance of caution. CAWD did not find out about the beach posting until we were contacted by the city. We were also not notified by the health department.”

After the sewer agency tested water at four locations and found the results clear, it notified the health department Saturday morning that the beach was safe again.

“At that time, we were given permission to remove the signs,” Buikema said. “We then contacted the city to relay the instruction/permission we were given.”

In its initial report of the reopening, CAWD stated the county and the city had reviewed the test results and reopened the beach. Moments later, CAWD issued a clarification stating the county, not the city, had made the decision.

“The City of Carmel was informed of the County of Monterey’s determination to reopen the beach through CAWD and based on that information removed the

‘beach closed’ signs,” a CAWD spokesperson explained.

At 11 a.m. Saturday, nearly three days after the spill, the city distributed a notice stating the beach was safe and open.

Rerig said he does not want a repeat of the communications shutdown.

“We always welcome feedback about opportunities to do better, and train to ensure we implement lessons learned,” he said Friday. “My hope is that our sibling agencies will do the same as we waded into the dearth of information regarding the sewage spill on Carmel Beach.”

Assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson reiterated the city’s frustration.

“I am really disappointed by the lack of communication from both CAWD and the County of Monterey Health Department related to such a serious event,” he said. “We have all worked together for a long time, so the city should not have had to find out about the spill from a small red sign that just showed up to close our beach.”

Further, the sewer district’s website continues to include a press release indicating Carmel officials received test results and subsequently decided to reopen the beach, he said.

Mea culpa

“Despite what CAWD’s website says, the city did not receive any technical reports from the health department, nor did we say the beach was open, because we weren’t the ones who closed it,” he said.

In meeting with county and CAWD officials, he said, “I’m confident that our agencies are going to be able to work together to develop a clear plan.”

Marni Flagg, assistant director of the county’s environmental health department, admitted the misstep.

“That’s a breakdown from my group,” she said. “My group should have called the city.”

But she was grateful it wasn’t “a serious event.”

“No one came in contact, and it was a very small amount,” she said. “In the event we have a hiccup, I’m glad we can learn from it when no one was injured.”

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JAMES VORHES

James Vorhes, of Carmel, California, died in Carmel on October 14. He lived on the Monterey Peninsula for many years and always said that he “loved every day of it.” He was born in Pontiac, Michigan, the son of James and Aleatha Vorhes, in September 1923.

Jim was a naval aviator during WWII when he flew Wildcats and Corsairs. He graduated from Michigan Technological University in 1947 with a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering. The university later awarded Jim several honors including the Silver Medal and the Distinguished Alumnus Award. The university also awarded him an honorary doctorate in engineering. He was a founding inductee in the University’s Academy of Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Mechanics and was a graduate of the Harvard Business School’s Advanced Management Program.

Jim enjoyed a 40-year career with General Motors Corporation. He started out as a service clerk and ended up as a vice president. He held many positions in the Pontiac Motor Division and became the division’s general sales and service manager, the only native of Pontiac, Michigan to ever hold that title. He then became a vice president of the General Motors Corporation where, among other innovations, he oversaw the introduction of the Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI) that is so prevalent today. Jim retired in 1986 as vice president responsible for sales and service staffs.

He was predeceased by his wife, Frances. They were married for 61 years during which Jim’s career found them living in 15 different locations, the last being Carmel Valley.

Jim was involved in a number of Monterey Peninsula activities. He served on the boards of the Cypress Point Club, the Old Capital Club, Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, the Monterey Institute of International Studies, Big Sur Land Trust, All Saints’ Day School and the residents’ council of the Carmel Valley Manor. He was a member of the Quiet Birdmen and The Group.

He was an enthusiastic golfer. He always felt that the closest thing to heaven on earth was a round of golf at his favorite golf course.

Jim is survived by his daughter, Vicki Vorhes of San Jose; his granddaughter, Cristin Pearson of Snoqualmie, WA; his grandson, Scott Gray of Carmel Valley and his great-grandsons, Cameron, Hunter and Boden Pearson of Snoqualmie, WA and Soren Gray of Carmel Valley. Jim was very proud of his family.

Memorial contributions may be made to Montage Foundation, P.O. Box HH, Monterey, CA 93942

RERIG

From page 1A

from 1997 to 2003, rising to the rank of department head, when he left to be principal planner, and then chief of planning, engineering and environmental compliance, for the City of Monterey. In the wake of former Carmel city administrator Jason Stilwell’s tumultuous reign, public officials tried to woo Rerig back, and they succeeded in early 2016.

“I was resistant — I really liked what I was doing. They’re like, ‘We want to bring our boy back home,’ and I said, ‘You know I’m from Philadelphia, right?’” he recalled. But he knew what they meant.

“I’ve loved it so much. It’s not cliché — I’m really going to miss the people,” he said, including his staff, boards and commissions, councilmembers and countless others with whom he’s worked and interacted over the years.

“Everybody is pulling for the betterment of this village in a forest by the sea,” he said. “It’s been an indescribably phenomenal experience.”

Carmel has been close to Rerig’s heart ever since he arrived on the Monterey Peninsula after obtaining his master’s degree in environmental land use planning from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1997. He worked for The Nature Conservancy in Washington D.C. from 1988 to 1993 and had a small environmental consulting firm in Santa Barbara from 1993 to 1995.

“Other than raising my children, this has been the joy of my life,” he said. “I love this community. But sometimes you have to leave before it’s time to go.”

He’s done a lot of work to prepare and has more to do before he hands in his keys, though.

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Publication Dates: Oct. 31, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 2025 (PC 1070)

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“We’ve done good succession planning,” he said. Assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson “has been my very faithful second for two years, and he’s a ‘five-tool player.’ He has intelligence, empathy, is a great communicator, is approachable, and is a problem solver.”

Among the bigger challenges is keeping the city council focused on projects and goals that can be successfully completed while “saving a little capacity for something like a pandemic or a state mandate that we have to pay attention to right away.”

Better than “an inch deep and a mile wide,” he said. He’s also learned the importance of the process, even if it seems belabored on occasion, and he encourages his staff to point out how many times whatever policy or project is under consideration has been subjected to public review, hearings and comments.

“If you’ve ignored the process, if you’ve ignored the public, if you’ve ignored the community, it doesn’t matter how good your product is, it’s going to get torpedoed,” Rerig said.

‘It’s about relationships’

The progress the city has seen during his tenure, Rerig said, includes the recent move to have Monterey Fire manage and operate the ambulance and the establishment of a trust designated for funds that will help pay down the city’s mammoth pension liability.

“Financially, for a village of 1 square mile and 3,000 people, we’re doing really great,” he said. “We have some liabilities, but we’re not blind to them.”

He also said he’ll encourage city staff, especially newcomers and department heads, to continue getting out to walk through town and meet the people they serve and represent. Rerig and Swanson are frequently seen downtown, sometimes with pinchers they can use to pick up trash.

“It’s about relationships,” he said. As for parting thoughts? “Memento mori, so seize the adventure when it presents itself to you,” he said, using the Latin phrase for “remember that you will die.” “I don’t know what I’m going to do next, but it’s got to be something.”

His departure will mark the latest in a procession of executive-level staff who have left the city, including Police Chief Paul Tomasi, public works director Bob Harary and community activities and library director Ashlee Wright. Because he’s been a public employee for so long, Rerig is eligible to receive state-funded retirement for the rest of his life. He estimated the annual pay will begin around \$170,000.

JUDY PARSONS GAUGHF

Nov. 16, 1954 – Oct. 7, 2025

Judy Parsons Gaughf passed away at home on Oct. 7, 2025, after a courageous and inspiring journey with cancer. Born to Jim and Billie Parsons, Judy was a Monterey native and longtime resident. She was a proud alumna of Junipero Serra School and Monterey High School, frequently planning reunions for the Monterey High School Class of 1972. She attended Monterey Peninsula College, Cal Poly, and then the University of Washington to pursue her love of teaching. She held various teaching positions in Washington and California until she landed on her ultimate calling at Chartwell School in Seaside. First as a teacher and later as the dean of students, she never forgot a student she taught or a colleague she worked with. Chartwell was a true vocation for her. She remained very committed to its mission even after her retirement in 2020.

Relationships were at the core of Judy’s soul. She was married to the love of her life, Patterson Gaughf, until 2024 when he passed away of cancer. Her two children, Shannon and Tanner, were at the center of her world as well as her beloved grandson, Bronson. She absolutely loved her siblings and extended family and hosting the holidays in the Gaughf family home became an honored tradition. She was also surrounded by an incredible group of friends ranging from childhood best friends all the way through friendships made in adulthood. She remembered every birthday and every milestone, cherishing her relationships with the people in her life. Her family wishes to thank her many friends for being by her side through the best and hardest years of her life.

Judy is survived by countless loved ones including her daughter, Shannon Dillon (Ross); her son, Tanner Gaughf; her grandson, Bronson Dillon; her sister, Stephanie Jones; her brother, Sam Parsons (Janet), and the rest of her beloved family: Lisa, Michael, Chris, Leah, Cameron, Bailey, Alana, Alicia, Lauren, Tony, Emily, Tom, Paige, Austin, Ethan, Jonathan, Eli, Skylar, Owen, Olivia, Sophia and Lucas. She is also survived by close friends Curt and Barbara Petersen, Gene and Teresa Brown, Jim and Nancy Noack, Nora Lee and so many others. In addition, she will be remembered by her caregiver Katrina and Katrina’s daughters, Ryan and Gia, who became her family over the past 12 months.

The family would like to thank her devoted caregivers, Katrina Randazzo, Franz Royo, Tony Royo and Rose Macario; her physical therapist, Michael Romiza; and her doctors, Dr. Nancy Rubin and Dr. Kyla Velaer for giving her so much dignity through end of life. We will never forget their compassionate care of Judy.

Judy was a spirited and kind-hearted woman known for her infectious laugh and competitive streak. Whether she was lighting up a room with her humor or fiercely battling it out on the pickleball court, she brought energy, joy and determination to everything she did. Judy leaves behind a legacy of laughter, love and unforgettable memories. She will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew her.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 41 years, Patterson Gaughf; her brother, Robert Parsons; her brother-in-law, Joe Jones; and her parents, Jim and Billie Parsons.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Chartwell School or Santa Catalina School, two schools that were near and dear to her heart.



MOTIVE

From page 3A

had recently gone through a medical procedure where he was bedridden and was going through hell.”

Geisen also wanted to put Loch in contact with the family attorney in charge of their estate, according to Lopez, which totaled about \$600,000, plus another \$100,000 to \$200,000 in life insurance.

After a visit with their son in late July, Geisen came up with the idea of killing his wife and then himself “so Loch can have access to his assets,” Lopez told the judge.

“He said he grabbed a 5-pound dumbbell from Loch’s old bedroom, struck her in the head as she was lying in bed, and after that, he grabbed a kitchen knife and stabbed her multiple times,” Lopez testified. “He said she was somewhat awake” when he hit her, and that after stabbing her, he stabbed himself and then called 911 “because he believed he was going to bleed to death.”

Their son is the sole beneficiary, and Geisen told Lopez “he just wanted Loch to

be financially stable.”

The autopsy revealed Barbara Geisen was stabbed 13 times and that she had an injury on the right side of her head and a broken hand. The coroner concluded she died from multiple stab wounds.

At the end of the hearing, Butler decided the likelihood of his guilt is high enough to proceed with the case.

Mental evaluation

In addition to the copious amounts of discovery Patel said he needs to review, he wants to have Geisen “seen by a psychologist/psychiatrist to determine his mental state at the time of the alleged incident.”

“There is a possibility that this trial may come down to the issue of premeditation and deliberation,” Patel explained. “Mr. Geisen has no prior record and no history of violence. I believe that Mr. Geisen’s mental state is at issue, and I need time to explore that issue.”

Shortly after he was charged with second-degree premeditated murder with an enhancement for using a knife, Geisen was subjected to a mental-health evaluation after his defense attorney suggested he might not be competent to stand trial, but

Monterey County Superior Court Judge Pamela Butler later deemed him mentally fit.

Patel also said he told Geisen about “my concerns with having a jury trial without adequately having prepared.”

“He understands and, given my

reservations, is willing to enter into a general time waiver,” Patel said. “If trial were to go forward Nov. 3, I would render Mr. Geisen ineffective assistance of counsel due to how quickly this case has proceeded and not having time to adequately prepare.”

JAMES DANIEL ‘J. DANIEL’ TIBBITTS

92 years

By his own words, James Daniel “J. Daniel” Tibbitts was “a friendly guy in a friendly town.” Dan genuinely loved people and enjoyed both “seeing and being seen.” His lifelong commitment to community service and his deep belief in civic duty made him a familiar and beloved presence in all circles. To Dan, everyone was an “F.O.D.” — a Friend of Dan’s.



Dan and his young family — wife Vonda and daughter Kristen — moved to Carmel in 1961, where he helped open the Monterey Branch of Dean Witter & Co. Son Geoffrey was born soon after, in 1963.

Eager to get to know his new community, Dan quickly immersed himself in civic life. His early service included board roles with the Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula (SCRAMP) and the Family Service Agency, where he also served as president. He later became president and campaign chairman of the United Way.

Dan eventually arranged his employment contract with Dean Witter so he could dedicate half of his time to establishing and growing Hospice of the Monterey Peninsula. He served as a board director, chairman of the hospice’s Capital Campaign, and co-chairman of its annual Golf Scramble — which became one of the premier benefit golf tournaments on the Central Coast. He took great pride in the fundraising that helped create the Westland House for the hospice program.

Dan’s final board service was with the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, a role he found especially rewarding. He loved participating in the Pebble Beach AT&T Golf Tournament, both as a player and as a foundation ambassador. The tournament raised millions for local charities — grants that Dan, as a foundation board member, took joy in helping distribute to area nonprofits.

Dan was born on Aug. 28, 1933, in Shelton, Washington, to the Rev. Forrest D. and Marjorie Burrows Tibbitts. Growing up as the son of a Methodist minister during the Depression and World War II, his family often relied on the generosity of the church and community for support, experiences that shaped his lifelong belief in giving back.



A formative influence in his youth was his time spent on a farm in Pomeroy, Washington, with a congregant family who took him in as a young farmhand. Even after his family moved from Pomeroy, Dan would return in the summers to help on the farm. The patriarch, Stanley Fitzsimmons, was a strong influence on him. Stanley’s practical wisdom, grounded values, and sense of humor stayed with Dan throughout his life. When asked what something cost, Dan would often reply, “A dollar, three eighty” — one of many “Stanley-isms” he loved to share (though not all are fit for print!).

Dan was a long-time member of the Monterey Peninsula Country Club as well as the Old Capital Club in Monterey, where he shared great friendships and many good memories over the years.

While Dan’s retirement from Dean Witter marked the end of a successful career in the brokerage business, it was far from the end of his work life. Ever “a friendly guy in a friendly town,” Dan began a second career in real estate, later becoming a consultant and eventually executive director at Tehama Golf Club. A talented “Chief Schmoozer,” as his wife Vonda affectionately called him, he was also known to friends as “Senator,” “Mayor” or by his widely known nickname, “Dapper Dan.”

At sunset at the Mission Ranch, Dan could often be found holding court, the “Chardonnay Cowboy,” with his *mugaboonos* and the many friends who gathered there. His good friend Hank Ketcham immortalized the familiar crowd in a Mission Ranch piano bar cartoon, rendered in Ketcham’s distinctive style that hangs on the Mission Ranch wall to this day. Even in his last years, Dan would sing along to “Pennies from Heaven,” his signature tune, whenever it came on his favorite music station, much to the delight of his family and caregivers.

Dan endeared himself to many with his kindness, generosity and humor. He lived his belief that “you owe something to the community you love.” Dan truly left a legacy and lasting impression on the community he loved.

Dan is survived by his children, Kristen (Baldo), Geof (Molly); his grandchildren, Jackson, Cole, Viggo and Niko; and his beloved caregivers, Umesh, Vanessa and Zouhair.

A Celebration of Life is planned. Friends are invited to raise a glass.



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Editorial

Meaningless warnings

WHEN CARMEL Beach was ordered closed last week by the Monterey County health department after a minor sewage spill, we’re sure the ocean had a pretty good laugh about it, not only because the amount of sewage that was spilled was so tiny — just 50 to 100 gallons, the sewer district reported — it would very quickly be diluted out of existence by the volume of water in the bay, but also because even in its purest, natural form, the ocean is poisonous to humans. It contains so much salt, you can’t drink it. Plus, every mineral found on the land — including highly toxic ones like uranium, mercury and lead — is in the ocean, too. And so are the bacteria and other hazardous components of the urine and feces of billions of fish and ocean mammals, including huge ones, like whales. Surely one adult blue whale releases more than 100 gallons of untreated excrement directly into the ocean a day, but not even the most ardent environmentalist sounds an alarm when they do.

Humans live in great numbers in cities that are oceanfront, or very nearly so, and their untreated excrement contains dangerous pathogens, which means it makes sense for everyone to be warned when sewage spills in large enough quantities to affect ocean water quality. But 100 gallons has to be far below this threshold.

In its zeal to protect the people of California from every danger great and small, in 1997 the state legislature passed a law requiring weekly testing of public beaches for bacterial contamination, and as soon as the testing started, it looked as if the legislature had done something truly significant for public health. Even here on the pristine Monterey Peninsula, contamination started turning up on a regular basis, prompting county officials to post warning signs at even the most idyllic places — Lovers Point, Marina State Beach, Stillwater Cove and even Carmel.

However, a cursory look at the testing methods and the way decisions were made to post warning signs showed that the entire setup was totally flawed and worse than useless. Over the years, we’ve printed editorials warning that there were “too many warnings,” and that trying to alarm beachgoers about things which are, in fact, probably utterly harmless, would inure them to such cautions, leaving them unable to protect themselves in truly dangerous situations. Which also explains why, when a beach is posted, almost everybody ignores it and goes surfing or swimming anyway — as happened on Carmel Beach over the weekend.

Several years ago, a former official with the Monterey County Health Department confirmed everything in our editorials — and, in fact, showed that the situation was much worse than even we thought.

In a commentary in the Monterey County Herald, the former official said the original water testing bill, AB 411, wasn’t based on science, but on something akin to superstition.

First of all, “no comprehensive public health study” had shown a relationship between ocean water contamination and public health in California, the former administrator wrote.

Furthermore, there was a 24-hour lag between picking up a sample at a local beach and testing it for bacteria. And when bacteria was found, he continued, it was usually an example of something that was “transitory” and would be gone in a few hours.

“Warning signs, though they satisfy the requirements of the law, are not accurate indicators of the current conditions at any particular beach,” the official concluded.

We think it’s very important that the public be warned about dangers in their communities, whether they be immediate, like wildfires, or incremental, like pollution. But it’s equally important that the public isn’t warned when no real danger exist, because all that does is teach them to ignore the warnings when they’re real.

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

Saving historic buildings

Dear Editor,

The Carmel City Council’s discontinuation of the Mills Act is a short-sighted decision and another mean-spirited poke in Patrice Pastor’s eye. Considering the minimal impact on the city’s revenue (6 percent of property taxes), no other explanation meets the smell test.

For 2024-2025 the city’s share of property tax lost to the Mills Act was \$4,575. Adding the three homes awarded Mills Act contracts last year, including Pastor’s Frank Lloyd Wright house, brings the total to be lost to the City for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to \$18,789.

How do residents feel about the prospect of the Frank Lloyd Wright house decaying beyond repair and being demolished? Does the city council want to take on its repair and maintenance to preserve it for future generations? What about the negative effect on the maintenance of the

other historic buildings in Carmel which have been granted Mills Act contracts?

If you want to destroy the historic character of Carmel-by-the-Sea, the street address decision is a mere ripple. Canceling the Mills Act is a tsunami.

Arthur Cook,
Carmel

CAA’s future

Dear Editor,

I was saddened to learn that the non-profit Carmel Art Association must rely on its own limited funds to reinforce its historic building on Dolores Street. For nearly a century, the association has enriched the Monterey Bay community with beautiful artworks, lively receptions and a distinctive artistic identity that cannot be replicated. This is our opportunity to give back. By donating as generously as we’re able, we will ensure that this cultural cornerstone continues to thrive for the next 100 years.

Cynthia Wagner Weick,
Carmel

Underwater noise

Dear Editor,

I’m a former divemaster who took customers on SCUBA tours of our area back in the ‘90s and early 2000s.

On Aug. 25, 1994, I and other divers were exposed to developmental testing of the U.S. Navy Low Frequency Active Sonar system. I was exposed dozens of times. It transmits high intensity (over

See LETTERS page 25A

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‘Suspected beatniks’ set the tone for a lifetime of music

IN 1964, 12-year-old Rick Chelew and his brother, John, convinced their conservative-leaning parents to take them to a concert at the Monterey County Fairgrounds featuring Peter, Paul and Mary. “It wasn’t their kind of music,” Chelew said. His folks knew Peter and Paul had beards and suspected they might be beatniks. “I can’t describe how deeply moved I was by their performance and how hugely important it was to the direction of my life,” he mused.

Chelew was born in North Hollywood in 1952. The family moved to Carmel three years later, then to Pebble Beach, where sand dunes, the ocean, Spanish Bay and the forests were great places to build

and ‘Hello Mary Lou’ — I was transfixed,” he recalled. In the early ’60s he became enamored with folk music through the Kingston Trio, Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan and Peter, Paul and Mary. The family often sang together at home, at gatherings and on car trips. At 4 and 5, his singing seemed a little “off” to his parents until they realized he was singing harmony. “I love singing harmony more than anything else I do musically,” he said. “I still do, with the bands I play and sing with here on the Peninsula.”

Hitchhiking

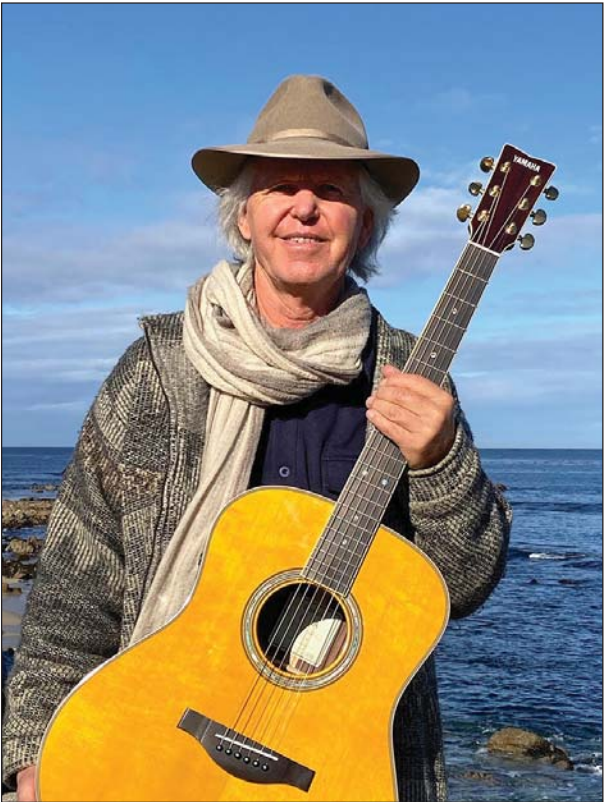
Not long after finishing high school — and with no idea about what else to do next — Chelew traded a green Goodwill corduroy coat for a record album that featured legendary Scottish acoustic guitarist and singer/songwriter Bert Jansch of the British folk rock band,

Pentangle.

“I was so taken by that music, I hitchhiked 300 miles to see them at the Troubadour in Los Angeles and got to meet them backstage. At the next night’s performance, they sat me at the table closest to the band. I was in tears,” he related. They were so impressed that this 16-year-old kid who hitchhiked so far to see them, they stopped by his home in Pebble Beach a few days later on their way to a San Francisco engagement, which they invited him to attend.

“My heroes became my friends and have been so throughout my life,” Chelew said of the encounter. And he began living out his dreams of travel abroad. Upon

See **LIVES** next page



PHOTO/COURTESY RICK CHELEW

Musician Rick Chelew’s life has been marked by adventure and serendipity, including a life-changing hitchhiking trip to L.A.

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



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From whimsy to the apocalypse

AT 82, Pacific Grove artist Don Hughes wasn’t shy about letting a realistic worldview make a not-so-subtle statement in the surrealistic scene he’ll exhibit though Nov. 22 in “Paper Works,” a multi-artist show at Carmel’s Carl Cherry Center.

His colored-pencil rendering, entitled “Valor,” is an apocalyptic scene mixing warm memories of 1950s- and ’60s-era visits to Tijuana, Mexico, with pragmatic, apocalyptic possibilities he sees threatening today’s world.

“I have doubts for any great-grandchildren I might someday have,” lamented

make art when you feel this way, but I see our times reflected in some of mine. I can’t really avoid it.”

Illustrated books

Past creations, like his series of more than 50 vibrantly illustrated books, are far more lighthearted.

For example, Hughes’ playful, 17-page autobiography, “The Authentic 77-Year Summary of Donnie Dick’s Twelve Deeds” (authored and illustrated in 2020), compares his life none too favorably to that of Buddha.

Likewise, “The Three Petit Poops: An Adventure in the Sewers of Paris” — written and self-published in 2014 for his granddaughters — is a mildly raunchy, fairytale-style adventure

inspired by, well, a true story.

“More than 40 years ago, my young son (your father) asked, ‘Where does poop go when I flush the toilet?’” the author explained in his dedication to his grandkids, Isabelle and Margaret. “Some questions just take a while to answer.”

Clearly, Grandpa Donnie still has a mischievous inner child.

An imaginative childhood

Hughes was 2 years old when his father died in Chicago, a trauma that prompted his mom to move her family (Hughes and his 10-year-old sister) to Southern California.

He grew up there “with sunny optimism and B-picture cowboy ethics, where, without uttering a discouraging word, villains in black hats were foiled by good folks in white hats, and liberty and justice for all seemed possible,” he reminisced in a gallery bio.

“I spent most of my time in my imagination, locked up in myself, riding my bicycle, doing my paper route. I think I was an introvert, probably pretty self-indulgent,” Hughes said.

His high school in San Diego was directly across the street from San Diego Junior College, where, during the first semester of his freshman year, a paragon walked in to speak to his art class.

“He was a guy from the California College of the Arts and Crafts — a romantic whose name was Salvador Roberto Torres,” Hughes remembered. “He was all splattered with paint ... and, oh man, that was good!”

The previously directionless 18-year-old romped home, told his mother and stepfather about the exotic bespattered bohemian artist, and announced that he was going to art school. His ever-doting mom happily gave her blessing.

See **ARTIST** next page

Carmel’s Artists

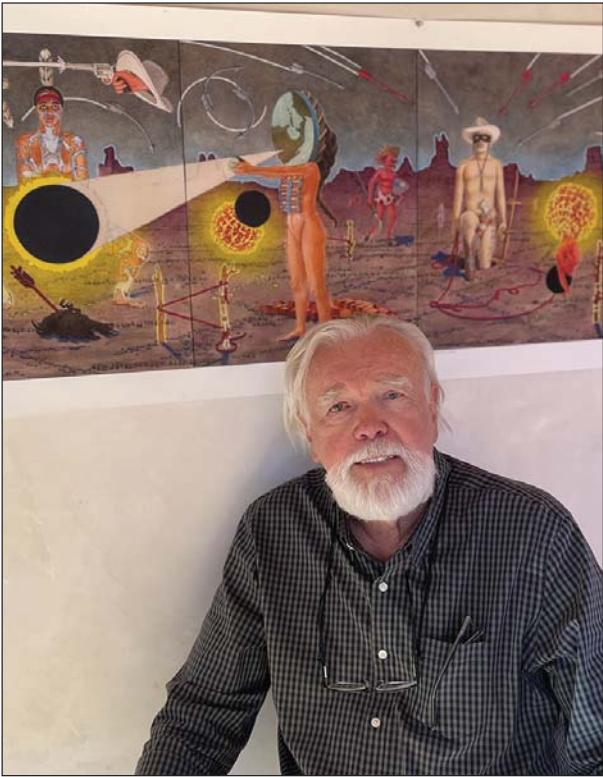
By DENNIS TAYLOR

Hughes, a two-time grandfather.

“Valor” — 6 feet wide, 2 feet tall — recalls tourist-friendly images from the crowded streets of Tijuana: a burro painted to resemble a zebra, a colorful picador astride a Vespa, a red-nosed clown in a Superman shirt clutching a shattered pinata.

Everybody in his scene appears to be in survival mode beneath a horrifying war-torn sky filled with spiraling missiles, orange clouds and chemtrails, flying debris and a godlike apparition (inspired by Michelangelo’s “The Creation of Adam” at the Sistine Chapel) cradling a frightened mother and child under his left arm while shooting orange fire across the sky from the fingertips of his right hand. On the ground, in the backdrop, silhouetted soldiers march, shoot, scramble, and fall.

“There are soldiers behind everything nowadays,” the artist said, alluding to National Guard and ICE troops occupying the streets of American cities. “It’s hard to



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

Pacific Grove artist Don Hughes frequently tells surrealistic stories with his colorful artwork. One of those pieces will be part of a multiartist show through Nov. 22 at Carmel’s Carl Cherry Center.

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ARTIST

From previous page

“She was a very permissive mom,” he said. “She also was pretty controlling, so I don’t remember my stepfather having much to say.”

While earning a bachelor’s in design and a master’s in printmaking from the Oakland-based art school, Hughes’ work included drawings, sculpture and dioramas.

His first showing, at age 19, was a drawing that was part of an “Artists of Northern California” group exhibition at the Crocker Museum Art Gallery in Sacramento. Between 1962 and 1965, he showed his work in galleries, county fairs and campus events until John Baldissari, a well-known conceptual artist from Santa Monica, invited him to exhibit in the “Aspects of California” invitational at the La Jolla Museum of Art.

From 1966 to 1978, Hughes was included in two dozen group exhibitions at

museums and college galleries, beginning with the Newport Annual and finishing with a two-person show at the Southwestern College Art Gallery in Chula Vista. Through 2023, Hughes had participated in about a dozen solo and group exhibits in galleries.

A flirtation with filmmaking

He also forayed briefly into filmmaking, notably creating a black-and-white animated short that premiered at the California College of Arts and Crafts, then traveled nationally to 10 college campuses in 2001.

Another 2001 Hughes endeavor involved creating one video a week, from January until the Twin Towers fell in New York on Sept. 11. That project, called “39 Videodes,” premiered at the Monterey Bay Film Festival.

In the early days, Hughes supported his art as a teacher, spending a year at McChesney Junior High in Oakland, then nine years at Southwestern Community College in San Diego.

“Then it occurred to me that it might be really fun to build exhibits for a museum,” he said. “So I walked into San Diego’s Museum of Natural History, figuring I was the first guy to ever think of that. The guy just kind of looked at me like, ‘Are you crazy? Go to the back of the line!’”

But Hughes managed to skip “the line,” got hired, and spent nine years there, becoming head of the museum’s exhibits department.

“It was loads of fun — I had total control to do whatever I wanted to do with a pretty big gallery space — and an almost unlimited budget,” he recalled.

In 1979, Darcie Fohrman came from Chicago to accept a job across town as director of exhibitions at the San Diego Museum of Art, an eight-year stint in a professional career that spanned 40 years.

She previously had worked as director of exhibitions at the Spertus Museum of Judaica in Chicago, where she created the first permanent Holocaust exhibition in the United States. And she subsequently made an award-winning exhibit, “Revealing Bodies,” for the Exploratorium in San Francisco.

As husband and wife, Hughes and

Fohrman relocated to Pacific Grove in 1986, where he began a 33-year career designing and building temporary exhibits at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, which had opened just 18 months earlier.

Big-budget exhibits

“At the very beginning, my budget for building those temporary shows was about \$3 million a year,” he remembered. “The first show we ever did there had a bigger budget than all 75 of the shows I did in San Diego.”

Hughes thrived as part of a nine-person senior staff under the direction of executive director Julie Packard until his 2019 retirement.

The exhibition at Carl Cherry Center for the Arts at Guadalupe and Fourth) also features the art of Tracey Adams, Andrea Borsuk, Lisa Esherick, Ken Hale, Lisa Hochstein, Kirstine Reiner Hansen, Jennifer Brook-Kothlow, Chris Leib, Rick Soto, Jan Wurm, and Holly and Ashlee Temple.

The Cherry Center is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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



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LIVES

From previous page

arriving in London in October 1969, he walked backstage into Pentangle’s dressing room after a concert. “Hi guys, here I am,” he announced.

“The kid from Pebble Beach,” Jansch exclaimed. “What the hell are you doing here?”

Chelew turned 17 in Cornwall, England, went on to Amsterdam, hitchhiked to Paris and through France, then to Spain, staying in youth hostels for 35 cents to 50 cents a night. He got to Morocco, across to Sicily by ferry, then Greece and a remote village in Crete, where one day he saw Joni Mitchell sitting with friends at a place called the Mermaid Cafe. He had seen her four months earlier opening for Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young at the Greek Theatre in Los Angeles.

He introduced himself and announced, “‘I play music, too’ — not the most erudite thing I’ve ever said. I felt like an idiot. She giggled a little but was very gracious,” Chelew said. By June 1971, Michell’s acclaimed album, “Blue,” was in record stores. It included “Carey,” with the lyrics, “I’ll put on my finest silver. We’ll go to the Mermaid Cafe. Have fun tonight.”

Men’s movement

In the 1980s, he made his living as a tile setter, doing work for Don Henley of the Eagles, Herb Alpert, Cheech Marin and Casey Kasem. In 1990, Chelew quit tiling and with his then-wife and his daughter, Sarah, created Oral Tradition Archives, an audio publishing company working with Robert Bly. The respected poet and writer was an influential leader of the

mythopoetic men’s movement, a body of self-help activities, therapeutic workshops and retreats of the era.

Chelew recorded and sold cassettes of poetry workshops and guest speakers at Asilomar and in cities across the country. The gatherings dealt with art, psychology, music, mythology and the power of human imagination, filling large venues in San Francisco, Palo Alto and Monterey.

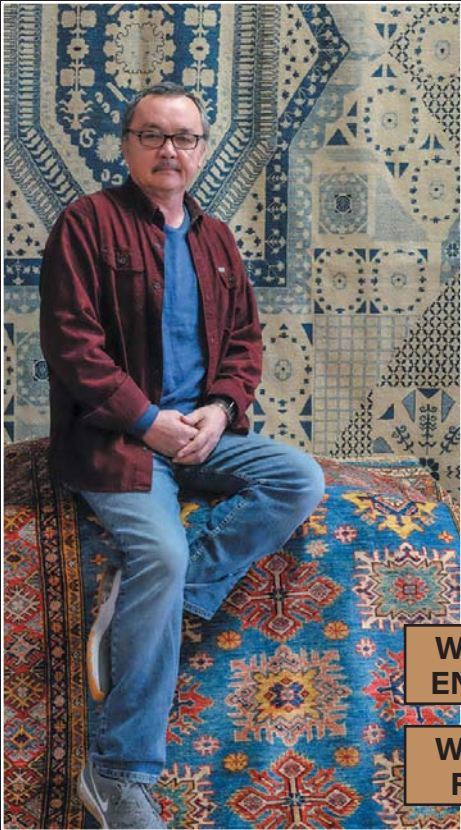
With his brother, Chelew produced a Bert Jansch album in L.A. Its success took them to London, where he was asked to do the same with his friends from Pentangle. The experiences have made a lasting impression.

All about connections

“My connections and experiences with all those incredibly talented people and all that music from my past resonate with me and inform my playing,” said Chelew, who plays acoustic guitar, standup and electric bass, and sings with local groups. He’s on a 30-year run with Andrea’s Fault and spent 25 years with the Cachagua Playboys. The Monterey resident plays Celtic music with Heartstrings and, then there’s the Thom Cuneo Big Band, Hurd, Chelew and Garland, the Hotbox Harry Rock ‘n’ Roll Review in Big Sur, and the Landing Trio.

“It’s taken me 50 years to build the courage to do solo engagements, which I now do regularly. It’s one thing to be in a band, quite another to be up there all alone,” he explained.

Chelew maintains that one of the sweetest things in life is a genuine connection with another person, like people he plays music with or for. “When people step up to say something about the music we’ve just played or sung, how it filled them up and what it meant to them in that moment — that’s what I live for,” he said.



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GAVEL

From page 4A

deemed to meet the criteria for a sexually violent predator, which led to the current jury trial.

Prosecution was assisted by district attorney investigator Alicia Cox. None of Johnson’s prior victims were required to testify at trial.

Sept. 18 — Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni and San Joaquin County District Attorney Ron Freitas announced today a settlement with the California-based elder care facilities Roma Del Monte Inc., A1 Del Monte Inc. and Del Monte Lodi Inc., as well as the owners, Sandeep and Anuradha Saini. The settlement resolves the People’s allegations of the elder care facilities not adequately background checking their staff, as well as having inadequate staffing to see to the needs of their residents.

The Sainis owned and operated three elder care facilities in the State of California, each individually incorporated, Roma Del Monte in Pacific Grove, A1 Del Monte in Stockton, and A1 Del Monte Lodi in Lodi. Beginning in 2022, the Roma Del Monte assisted living facility in Pacific Grove began to see elopements and training issues with staff, repeatedly requiring the intervention of law enforcement, with the Pacific Grove Police Department responding to Roma Del Monte on 16 separate occasions in 2022 alone.

Elopements are when a resident of such a care facility leaves without knowledge of the facility staff, and represents a danger, as many elder care patients may injure themselves or become unable to find their way back to the facility.

The People investigated and found these issues were caused by insufficient night staffing to keep track of residents and inadequate coverage by trained staff for absences. Further investigation by the People found that Del Monte Assisted Living was employing workers who were not appropriately background checked, as required by California law, and allowing those workers contact with residents. While exemptions may be sought for background checks to allow for workers to cover necessary functions, these exemp-

tions were not sought for the majority of those who worked at the facilities without background checks.

The owners, on behalf of themselves and their corporate businesses, agreed to pay a total of \$145,000 in civil penalties and costs to resolve the matter and are prohibited from operating the Pacific Grove facility.

Each Del Monte facility, as well the owners and any future facility they own or operate, are also required to comply with injunctive terms that require them to adhere to requirements for staffing and background checks.

The settlement was negotiated by the district attorneys of Monterey and San Joaquin counties which jointly coordinated their investigations. This case was investigated by Monterey County District Attorney investigator George Costa.

LETTERS

From page 22A

235dB) low frequency (below 100Hz) sounds across entire ocean basins hunting for enemy submarines and autonomous underwater vehicles. We divers could feel our lungs vibrating at a range of 150 to 300 miles from the transmit vessel Cory Chouest. Not a pleasant experience.

When I heard there is a potential of offshore oil drilling along the California coastline, my immediate thought was of the extremely high-intensity seismic sound surveys that have to be done to locate the oil deposits. These surveys are conducted by research vessels that use really loud blasts of low frequency sound created by large air guns deployed underwater near the surface. The +200dB pulses penetrate the seafloor, with everything living in the ocean around the survey being negatively impacted.

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Jay Murray,
Carmel Valley

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STALKED

From page 7A

During a court hearing this month, Monterey County Superior Court Commissioner Maria Mendoza issued a



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three-year restraining order against M.F., finding that Doe suffered substantial emotional distress, her lawsuit says.

Doe contends that the county did not properly investigate her complaints, document witness interviews and findings, nor help her secure legal protection.

“As a result of these failures, M.F.’s harassment has persisted for more than two years across multiple custodial statuses and communication channels,” Doe said, adding that the county’s responses were “delayed, insufficient, and ineffective” to protect her.

She accuses the county of harassment in violation of state law, discrimination, retaliation, intentional infliction

FLOOD

From page 9A

Saunders reported that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has completed its environmental review of the work, which was a condition of its approval.

“A finding of no significant impact was approved by FEMA headquarters last month,” she noted. “All the environmental analysis has been signed off.”

The project’s EIR was certified by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors in 2020, and the project was approved by the board in 2021. Some local approvals are still needed, and a contractor hasn’t yet been selected. Some utilities will also need to be relocated to make way for the work.

Shutdown must end

But before anything moves forward, the ongoing government shutdown must end. The grant has been winding its way through the approval process since the county and land trust applied for it in 2019.

“Nothing can happen during the shutdown,” Saunders conceded. “We don’t know how long this will take. We’re waiting excitedly so we can move forward with it — we really want to put this green infrastructure project on the ground to protect communities and improve biodiversity.”

of emotional distress and other claims, and is seeking an undisclosed amount in damages exceeding \$35,000.

County Counsel Susan Blitch told The Pine Cone that the county was served with complaint Wednesday, but that she couldn’t comment.

In a lawsuit in September, a female sheriff’s office deputy alleged that she endured years of sexual harassment and discrimination by a supervisor and others, and that the behavior was overlooked and sometimes condoned by supervisors. The woman claimed that Monterey County Sheriff Tina Nieto dismissed her concerns.

Chamber voting ends on Halloween

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

‘YOU CAN vote more than once — so keep supporting your favorites,” says the Carmel Chamber of Commerce’s entreaty to the public to vote for their favorite businesses that are members of the chamber. But time is running out, since the polls close Oct. 31.

“The Carmel Chamber of Commerce Awards of Excellence are back — and this is the final week to help us honor the best of the best,” the chamber said, with winners to be announced at a gala Dec. 3.

Categories include accommodations, art, food, health and wellness, financial/legal, music/performance, non-profit, professional services, real estate/property management, retail and tourism.

A final ballot with the three top vote-getters in each category will be circulated to chamber members, who will have until Nov. 15 to choose the winners.

They’ll also select their Business of the Year from last year’s category victors: Alvarado Street Brewery & Bistro, Animal Friends Rescue Project, Carmel Art Association, Carmel Drug Store, Carmel Plaza, Carmel Realty Company, Forest Theatre Guild & Films in the Forest, La Bicyclette Restaurant, La Playa Hotel, Mad Dogs & Englishmen Bike Shop, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey Credit Union, Monterey Regional Airport, Refuge, Sanctuary Vacation Rentals, The Carmel Pine Cone, The Cheese Shop and Tickle Pink Inn.

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PROP 50

From page 1A

of California’s 52, in an effort to counteract similar gerrymandering efforts in Republican states, including Texas and Missouri. The margin in the House of Representatives is thin, with Republicans holding 219 seats to Democrats’ 213, and the redistricting fights happening nationwide will impact the midterms. But Prop 50 is also a state issue, one that could directly benefit some of the very lawmakers who pushed it through the Legislature this summer.

Legislators set to benefit

Outgoing State Senate President Pro Tem Mike McGuire made sure the lawmakers were able to jump through all the necessary hoops to get Prop 50 on the bal-

challenge Democratic incumbent Jared Huffman to take his next step up the political ladder Under the gerrymandered map, much of Sonoma County, where McGuire lives, would be added to District 1. Republican Doug LaMalfa has represented District 1 since 2013, but if Prop 50 passes, the Northern California district would no longer reach the Oregon border and would instead shift south to include more liberal territory. The map shows the district encompassing Healdsburg and extending down to Santa Rosa. The change would give McGuire a left-leaning enclave of hometown supporters, should he decide to launch a congressional campaign, while eliminating the need to take on a fellow Democrat. Do we smell opportunism? Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, a Hollister Democrat, was also instrumental in getting Prop 50 in front of voters. If it passes, the reconfigured map could give him a slightly more advantageous congressional district should he decide to move on up.

San Benito County’s 18th Congressional District would expand eastward to include Coalinga and surrounding rural areas. The change would mean a slight shift to the right, but it would also move the district farther into Rivas’ territory and away from representative Zoe Lofgren’s San Jose and Salinas. Even with more Republican voters, District 18 would remain safely Democratic and could make the perfect stepping stone for the ambitious and fast-rising Rivas. When voters authorized California’s independent redistricting commission in 2008, they took the power to draw political lines out of the hands of the Legislature to prevent this kind of scheming. Citizens from both parties were selected to sit on the commission, and each was barred from running for elected office for 10 years following the map-making process. An initiative aiming to apply the same rules to lawmakers who voted to put Prop 50 on the ballot was cleared to start circulating this month. Assemblymember Carl DeMaio, a San Diego Republican, submitted the initiative and has until April to gather the 847,641 signatures needed to put it on the ballot. Former redistricting commissioner Cythia Dai, a Democrat, expressed her support for DeMaio’s initiative on California Politics 360 Sunday. “We want to get rid of the self-dealing that’s going on, where politicians are selecting their voters, rather than the other way around. This way, they will not be able to run in the districts they just designed for themselves,” said Dai. If the proposal is successful, McGuire, Rivas and every other Democrat who voted in favor of the Prop 50 legislation would be barred from running for office for a decade. Only one Democrat, Kern County’s Jasmeet Bains, voted against the bills. Two other Democrats, including the Central Coast’s Dawn Addis and Alex Lee of San José, did not vote. Addis was absent due to a death in her family.

Generational Rift

If Prop 50 passes, which seems likely, it won’t be the only political shift in California come 2026. Democrat-on-Democrat hostilities are already ramping up, with younger candidates posing a greater threat to older incumbents than any potential Republican foes. The most talked about is Rep. Nancy Pelosi’s seat. The 85-year-old San Franciscan has said she’ll wait until after the special election to declare whether she’ll run again, but two primary opponents have already stepped up to challenge her. The first to announce was 39-year-old

Saikat Chakrabarti. The far-left Harvard grad worked on campaign teams for Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Bernie Sanders. Chakrabarti’s announcement seemed to force State Sen. Scott Wiener to announce he wants to go to Congress, as well. The 55-year-old has been waiting in the wings for years, hoping Pelosi would retire. The octogenarian has held her seat for nearly four decades, and if she calls it quits next month, it will be interesting to see if she names a successor. Politicos trying to divine the future have picked up on Pelosi’s efforts to elevate San Francisco Supervisor Connie Chan. The Hong Kong-born progressive was the only local official to speak with Pelosi at a Prop 50 rally this month. Although it’s been predicted the speaker emerita’s daughter, Christine Pelosi, is mostly likely to be anointed, we’ll have to wait to see if California’s dynastic politics will continue after the Prop 50 results, or if change is on the horizon. The other big campaign news is Gov. Gavin Newsom finally admitting he’ll contemplate a presidential run. “Yeah, I’d be lying, otherwise. I’d just be lying. And I’m not, I can’t do that,” Newsom told CBS News Sunday Morning. He has been working to gain traction as a possible presidential candidate for months, attacking Trump at every turn, making campaign-style stops in other states and trying to seem relatable during chats with fellow podcasters. Prop 50 has also become a key part of Newsom’s national strategy, and its passage would serve as another opportunity to raise his profile. The governor is projecting supreme confidence that a win is coming his way, telling supporters of the Yes on 50 campaign to keep their money this week as the fundraising goal has been met. As of Tuesday, 4.8 million Californians had sent in their ballots, with nearly the same number of Democrats and Republicans casting votes so far. If the polls have it wrong and the count is close, it could be days following Nov. 4 before we know the results.



PHOTO/SCREENSHOT FROM CNBC

Senators have rejected a measure to reopen the federal government 13 times, with no movement toward a resolution.

lot on a tight deadline. In return, he’ll be getting an ideal district in which to make a run for Congress himself. The Healdsburg Democrat terms out of office at the end of 2026, and under the current map, McGuire would have to









Peninsula

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NOV 14, 2025









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The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

The pressure of great expectations created drive and composure

FIRST-YEAR coach Chris Mills did a bold thing a month ago when he was asked how high the expectations were for Stevenson’s 2025 girls golf team: He told the unvarnished truth.

“The goal for us this year is to win a state championship,” he said in late September. “I believe we can get it done, and I think our girls think we can get it done.”

Declarations like that are rare among high school coaches, who typically avoid lofty prognostications. Conventional wisdom is that a team might be more vulnerable to the tension that accompanies great expectations, particularly against top-drawer competition.

Acquired taste

While acknowledging pressure as a worthy adversary, Mills believes its impact can be mitigated. Preparation breeds confidence, the coach said, and confidence conquers pressure. The logic is that pressure becomes an acquired taste, and a player is more likely to embrace a pressure-packed environment if they’ve been there before.

This team checks those boxes.

For starters, five of Mills’ top six golfers played last fall on a Stevenson team, coached by Jason McArthur, that took second place at the Central Coast Section and



(Left) Lucinda Wu, Ashley Gettleman and Allison Chan are the top three players on a Stevenson golf team that ranks among the favorites to win this year’s state championship. The CCS tournament will be played Tuesday at Laguna Seca. (Right) Josie Hanson, a junior, is an offensive and defensive playmaker for Carmel High’s playoff-bound flag football team. The first CCS girls flag football tournament begins Monday.



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

more. Ashley Gettleman and team captain Coco He — now in her fourth varsity season — were juniors.

Success against the best

Those battle-tested returning players have made a believer out of their new head coach.

On Sept. 16, they bested 27 other California schools to win the Helen Lengfeld Memorial, shooting 1 over par as a team during six-plus hours in 85-degree San Jose heat, to edge perennial powerhouse Granite Bay by two shots. Sun led the Pirates with a 4-under-par 68, finishing second overall.

Six days later at Crazy Horse Golf Club in Salinas, the Pirates tied defending state champion Torrey Pines for second place at the Cowboy Classic, finishing one shot

behind trophy winner Granite Bay. Wu, Stevenson’s No. 1 player this season, shot the low score in the tournament — a 4-under 68 — and Sun finished with a 1-under 71.

On Oct. 9 at Spyglass Hill, the Pirates routed one of the Central Valley’s tradition-rich teams, Clovis West, by 23 strokes in a head-to-head match.

And 10 days ago, at Laguna Seca Golf Ranch — venue of the upcoming CCS tournament — Stevenson won the Pacific Coast Athletic League postseason tournament with a team score of 1 under par (359) — 79 strokes better than runner-up Carmel.

Pressure? What pressure?

“You’re always going to feel that pressure on the first

Continues next page

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

NorCal tournaments and was disappointed by a fourth-place finish at the state championships.

The only senior in that lineup, Nicole Iniakov, now starts for Harvard University. Isabella Sun and Allison Chan were freshman when they competed on California’s biggest stage, and teammate Lucinda Wu was a sopho-

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Dr. Michelle DiFiore is a Rheumatologist who practices at Sutter in Palo Alto. She did her medical training at Chicago Medical School and then spent 6 years at UCI, completing her Internal Medicine Residency and Rheumatology Fellowship. She grew up in the Bay Area and is happy to provide care in the area where she was raised.

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From previous page

tee of a big tournament, but making sure our players have dealt with that feeling before is part of the game plan for us,” Mills explained. “Whether that experience comes during the offseason tournaments they play as individuals, or the competition we seek out during our high school season, they’re hopefully going to be able to draw on that familiarity in similar situations.”

All want the same prize

Of course, other coaches have realistically affixed their eyes on that same stratospheric goal, knowing (1) all but one will be disappointed, and (2) anything can happen in a mind-messing sport like golf. Some instructors even believe a golf swing has as many as 10-14 moving pieces. As the state’s best golf teams draw closer to their post-season tournaments — sectionals in 11 days, regionals on

Nov. 10, state on Nov. 29 — and the stakes become ever greater, pressure becomes the intangible. During the approaching days, Mills hopes to bolster the team’s well-established confidence, in part, by equipping his players with a solid blueprint for each event.

Advance preparation

“The next few weeks will be about creating a game plan, knowing how we’re going to approach our rounds and how we’re going to attack the golf courses we’ll have in front of us,” he said. “If we prepare well enough, I believe that will be enough to manage the pressure in the best way we can.”

Another confidence builder: Stevenson’s top five players have familiarity with each of the venues: Laguna Seca Golf Ranch, the CCS site, is a home away from home for the Pirates; Berkeley Country Club in El Cerrito has been the NorCal site for the past three years, and Poppy Hills, where the state tournament will be played, is in Pebble



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Leah Sibley, 13, is Carmel’s co-leader in assists this year, and Ava Staehle (right) ranks second in the state with 37 goals.

Beach, a five-minute drive from Stevenson School. **CCS seeding meeting:** Tee times for Tuesday’s CCS girls golf tournament were announced after Thursday’s seeding meeting.

Seeding meetings also were held Thursday for playoffs for girls volleyball and flag football. Monterey, Pacific Grove, Hollister and Carmel were probable volleyball qualifiers from the Peninsula through Monday’s games. That tournament begins Saturday. Carmel will be in the bracket for the first CCS girls flag football tournament, which starts Monday.

Stevenson and Carmel, the top two PCAL field hockey teams, will learn their seedings after Sunday’s meeting for a tournament that begins Wednesday. This year’s competition will be split into Division 2 and Division 2 brackets for the first time ever.

Visit cifccs.org and click on the “Playoffs” tab to view all brackets in each sport.

PCAL championships: The Pacific Coast Athletic League boys and girls cross country championships will take place Saturday morning at Toro Park in Salinas. Boys varsity races are scheduled for 10:15 a.m. for all divisions, with the girls championships at 10:45.

The first two rounds of the boys and girls PCAL water polo tournaments were played Tuesday and Thursday, with the finals set for Saturday. The boys venue is Everett Alvarez High, with the girls tournament finals at Santa Catalina.

Visit cifccs.org and click on the “Playoffs” tab to view brackets in each sport.

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



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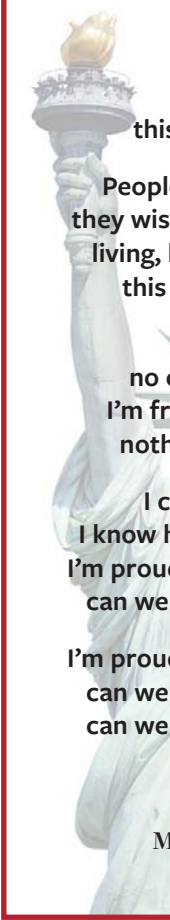
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This Week

Live Music,
Clubs and Events

Quartet kicks off Chamber Music Monterey Bay’s new concert series at Sunset

PRESENTING THE first concert of Chamber Music Monterey Bay’s 2025-26 season, Sunset Center welcomes **The Escher String Quartet** Saturday at 7:30 p.m. The foursome will be joined by violist **Luke Fleming**.
The program includes music by Mozart and Brahms — along with the West Coast premiere of Chris Rogerson’s *String Quintet*, which was commissioned by Chamber Music Monterey Bay.
Founded in New York City while its members were

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

studying at the Manhattan School of Music, the quartet is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Its members include violinists **Adam Barnett-Hart** and **Brendan Speltz**, violist **Pierre Lapointe** and cellist **Brook Speltz**.
Fleming — who presents a pre-concert talk at 6:30 p.m. — is the founding artistic director of the Manhattan Chamber Players and the Crescent City Chamber Music Festival.

Tickets start at \$25. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 625-2212 or visit chamber-musicmontereybay.org.

More than just jazz

Presenting “a dazzling fusion of storytelling, musical theater, comedy and jazz,” the Sand Box in Sand City welcomes guitarist **Bruce Forman**’s one-man show, “Red Guitar” Sunday at 3 p.m.
A gifted instrumentalist who lives in Carmel Valley, Forman has performed and recorded with legends like Ray Brown and Bobby Hutcherson, and he is featured on numerous film soundtracks, including Clint Eastwood’s



Named after the Dutch artist M.C. Escher, the Escher String Quartet (left) will play music by Mozart and Brahms when it opens Chamber Music Monterey Bay’s new season at Sunset Center. The New York-based ensemble will be joined by violist Luke Fleming (above), founding artistic director of the Manhattan Chamber Players.

“Million Dollar Baby.”
“A master storyteller and virtuoso guitarist, Forman uses jazz as both a subject and a medium — creating a spontaneous, theatrical and deeply personal reflection on life in and about music itself,” according to the Sand Box.
Tickets are \$40 for general admission and \$25 for students and active military. The Sand Box is located at 440 Ortiz Ave. and online at sandboxsandcity.com

Jammin’ in Seaside

Embassy Suites wrapped another season of jazz jams this past Sunday afternoon, reminding everyone why the

monthly live sessions in the Seaside hotel atrium are so special.
“For the second year running, the event closed with the world-class energy of **The Latin Jazz Collective**,” co-host and singer **Lee Durley** reported. “The jam session saw many wonderful performers join in, including vocalists **Ruby Rudman**, **Gail Cruse**, **Bari Roberts**, **Amy Treadwell**, **Akina Miyata**, and **Richard Bryant**. We were also thrilled to host **Jim Stainton** and young **Connor O’Brien** on saxes, **Kenny Stahl** on flute, and **Rick Ciardella** and **Amrid Mahi** on drums. A special thank you to sponsor

See **MUSIC** page 35A

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FOOD & WINE

It’s a week for old favorites — bars, restaurants and adorable dogs

ON FRIDAY, things will go bump in the night and everyone will claim they “accidentally” overbought M&Ms and Reese’s peanut butter cups — you know, for the trick-or-treaters. Hope you’ve stocked up on candy and other goodies, not to mention special “potions” for the adults.

And speaking of creeping, something else is materializing in the fog more quickly than you might expect, too: the holiday season. Yes, it’s true — bazaars, craft fairs, hot-cider-soaked musical events and over-the-top food sales are about to kick off. Seems as if we’re not so much getting an extra hour of sleep this weekend as we are an additional 60 minutes for shopping, planning and parties.

Scrolling through all the emails we’ve already received about holiday events, I’d say an extra week or two wouldn’t hurt.

Get out your phone, open the calendar app, and let’s get started!

Tap Room reopens

One of Pebble Beach’s most beloved spots, The Tap Room, reopened last week following a several-month closure during a remodel of the Lodge. In addition to refreshed menus, updated furnishings and finishes, there are more photos and memorabilia — including the wedge Tom Watson famously used to chip in on the par-3 17th Hole to become U.S. Open champion in 1982.

The Tap Room opened in 1949 and has long drawn not only golfers, celebrities and guests, but plenty of locals. It was relocated to the Fairway One building when construction work began following this year’s AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and was then moved to the Terrace Lounge



Tootsie Roll, age 8 (left) and Chris-anthumum, 9 (right) are two of the adoptable pups at Peace of Mind Dog Rescue, which will benefit from a fundraising day at Ami Carmel on Monday. Evening shoppers will find opportunities for discounts, plus wine and small bites.



in the Lodge before finally returning to its home Oct. 21. Only the Stillwater Bar & Grill remains closed, with its anticipated reopening next week.

Thanks to the update, more rare photos, scorecards and golfing legends’ personal items adorn the walls, giving it the feel of a museum, while its dark wood, leather and deep shades of green retain the comfortable and cozy ambiance generations have grown to love.

Vintage bourbon

Chef de cuisine Shane Cassidy and his culinary team updated the menus while retaining many favorites, and the steakhouse part of The Tap Room’s identity remains intact with Japanese and American Kobe-grade selections and USDA Prime steaks, like the 22-ounce Delmonico, prime rib chili, 10-hour smoked Snake River Farms American Wagyu brisket and

Kobe Brie burger.

At lunch, the club sandwich, the Cobb, and chicken spinach salads, along with the Tap Room burger and several other items, remain, but sadly, the Reuben is no more. No doubt other regulars will notice what’s missing, too, but the bar and restaurant’s lunch and dinner menus nonetheless provide plenty of options for appetizers, salads and soups, sandwiches, chop house favorites, sauces, sides and entrées.

A collection of rare and vintage bourbons, Scotches and whiskeys dominate the bar, which also turns out classic and creative cocktails, wine flights and rotating local craft beers.

The Tap Room is open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., with late-night bites (potato skins, soup, chili, vegetarian and traditional burgers, Caesar, chicken sandwich and brisket queso) available until 11:30.

To make reservations, visit pebblebeach.com or call (800) 654-9300. Anyone who pays the gate fee to enter Pebble Beach can have it refunded with a purchase of \$35 or more — which isn’t too difficult to hit.

Highlands Inn hires exec chef

Colorado native Christopher Walenc has been named executive chef of the iconic Highlands Inn and its upscale Pacific’s Edge restaurant.

Welenc was born and raised in Fort Collins and went on to attend culinary school in Florida, after which he spent 20 years working in kitchens throughout the United States and the Caribbean, with stints in Teton, Wyo., Kirkwood at Lake Tahoe, Northern Alaska and the Bahamas.

“He brings not only exceptional culinary experience but flavors of the nation, the oceans and cultural areas he has both worked in and visited,” according to the resort, which is located on Highway 1 south of Carmel. “Welenc’s career phi-

losophy is simple: ‘Put your head down and work hard. Never wait for things to happen, make them happen for yourself through hard work and not giving up.’”

The masters

For decades, with talented and creative chefs at the helm, including Matt Bolton — now at the C Restaurant + Bar at the Inter-Continental — Pacific’s Edge has offered refined regional and seasonal cuisine capitalizing on high-quality local ingredients and products. It hosted the highly regarded Masters of Food and Wine, which drew

Soup to Nuts

chefs and wineries from all over the world, for 21 years, and it has an impressive wine cellar.

Pacific’s Edge serves breakfast and lunch daily, and dinner Wednesday through Sunday, while the adjacent Sunset Lounge is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week, with food available 2 through 9 p.m.

The hotel and restaurant are located at 120 Highlands Drive off Highway 1. Call (831) 620-1234.

Witches and rainbows

Bet you thought we were heading down the yellow brick road just then, didn’t you? Nope — it’s a Halloween costume party Friday night from 5 to 10 p.m. at Other Brother Beer, with \$1 from every pint sold going to Monterey Peninsula Pride.

Two costume contests are free to enter, and prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place in each — bring your dolled-up dog to the front patio at 6:30 p.m. for judging, while humans will show off their finery and fangs in the Taproom at 8. In addition to food and drink specials,

Continues next page



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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

there will be raffles and a scavenger hunt. Other Brother Beer is at 877 Broadway in Seaside. Visit otherbrotherbeer.com to learn more.

Lapping up holiday spirit

Ami, the adorable and eclectic gift shop across from the Carmel Art Association on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth (amicarmel.com), is hosting “Sip, Shop and Support” on Monday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. All day, 20 percent of in-store purchases will be donated to Peace of Mind Dog Rescue, along with 20 percent of online sales that day. Customers who wait until 5 to 8 p.m. to visit the shop will receive 20 percent off their purchases and can enjoy appetizers and drinks from Talbott Vineyards.

Peace of Mind Dog Rescue has been helping senior people and senior dogs since 2006, making sure that aging pet parents don’t have to worry about what will happen to their best friend if they can no longer care for them, and that dogs who are a bit long in the tooth can still find love in their dotage.

Visit peaceofminddogrescue.org to learn about the nonprofit and how to foster or adopt a new bff.

RSVP to (831) 620-1600 to attend.

Oysters!

Holman Ranch tasting room at 18 W. Carmel Valley Road will be the scene of “Happy Hour on the Half Shell,” Friday, Nov. 14 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Oysterman Parker Stokes will shuck the fresh shellfish, which will be paired with

the release of the winery’s latest vintage, the 2022 Reserve Jarman Sparkling Brut Rosé, described as having a “delicate brioche aroma and lively coastal acidity.” A \$35-per-person fee (\$25 for wine club members) garners three fresh oysters and one glass of the rosé. Additional oysters are available for purchase, and attendees will have exclusive access to buy bottles of the smaller-batch sparkler ahead of the holiday season.

Reservations are available at exploretock.com. If you have any questions, email wines@holmanranch.com or call (831) 659-2640, ext. 2.

Make your morning historic

Del Monte Grill & Cafe is celebrating two decades in business by partnering with the Monterey History and Art Association throughout November.

The restaurant at 2030 North Fremont St. — just off of Highway 1 and next to the Monterey Bay Travelodge — will donate 15 percent of breakfast sales to the association when customers mention the fundraiser. Breakfast is served all day, and there’s plenty of parking.

Chef/owner Manuel Aviles and his wife, general manager Malyory Aviles, announced the monthlong event in support of the 94-year-old association’s ongoing programs to “to share the histories and the diverse legacies of people, stories, and places that continue to shape Monterey.”

The nonprofit manages Casa Serrano, Doud House, Stanton Center, the Jo Mora Collection and other historic resources.

Del Monte Grill’s menu features 16 omelet varieties, six styles of eggs Benedict — including turkey avocado, Spanish, and baby shrimp — huevos rancheros,



Holman Ranch Tasting Room in Carmel Valley is hosting a “Happy Hour on the Half Shell” in November. Guests will enjoy freshly shucked oysters paired with a new bubbly rosé, released just in time for holiday meals.

eggs Florentine, chocolate chip and blueberry pancakes, French toast and other morning favorites.

“We are very grateful to Chef Aviles and Del Monte Grill & Cafe for their generous support,” said Gary Spradlin, MHAA president.

“We honor his 20 years in Monterey. Thank you for making a difference, one

breakfast at a time.”

Aviles said he is pleased to help support the association’s work in the community. “We very much support the Monterey History and Art Association and are happy to contribute to its important work in our community,” he said.

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

Jewish Film Festival kicks off Sunday

By CHRIS COUNTS

CELEBRATING A religion and culture that has endured unimaginable trials over the past five millennia, and telling “powerful stories that span comedy, resilience, identity and social justice,” the Carmel Jewish Film Festival kicks off Sunday at the Golden Bough Playhouse.

Organizers say the two-week festival — which utilizes a variety of local theaters and is a major fundraiser for Congregation Beth Israel — is about more than just films.

“It’s conversation, history, and culture woven together by the people who shape our community,” according to the festival. “Each screening will be introduced by a distinguished leader, making every

evening unique and unforgettable — this year’s lineup is designed to spark reflection and dialogue.”

The first film, “No Name Restaurant,” plays Sunday, 3 p.m., at Golden Bough’s Founders Theatre — followed by dinner at Flaherty’s. “In this spirited and absurdist culture-clash comedy, two men of different strict religious faiths must work together to survive in the Sinai Desert.”

The lineup also features “The Other” (Nov. 6, 7 p.m., at Congregation Beth Israel), “Ain’t No Back to a Merry Go Round” (Nov. 8, 7 p.m., at Lighthouse Cinema in Pacific Grove) and other films.

Available at the door, tickets are \$20 for general admission and free for students. For details, visit carmelbethisrael.org/cjff.



The Tap Room in the Lodge at Pebble Beach has reopened, and while the surroundings have been refreshed, they still have the old-school feeling of comfortable, understated luxury. More memorabilia is on display, and the menu’s had a few changes, too.

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FOOD & WINE

Painter explores the fine art of history in new show at Winfield Gallery

ONE OF Monterey County’s most respected artists — and one who’s widely known for his neoclassic approach — David Ligare unveils an exhibit, “On Using History,” Saturday at Winfield Gallery.

As a painter who loves history, Ligare honors the past by infusing his work with symbols, ideas and meaning that date back thousands of years — yet he also keeps his art fresh and somehow modern. “I’m making paintings that explore history,” Ligare told The Pine Cone.

Inspired by Robinson Jeffers’ poetry, Ligare moved to Big Sur from Southern California in 1968. He lives today in Carmel Valley.

Gallery owner Chris Winfield said Ligare’s paintings make the viewer think.

“He’s showing us that the pursuit of knowledge is more important than it’s ever been,” Winfield explained. “We need curiosity. We need awe — people need to start thinking again. David does a great job of daylighting this in his work.”

The gallery, which will be the site of a reception Saturday at 2 p.m., is located on Dolores between Ocean and



“The Tomb of Archimedes,” by David Ligare, is part of a show that opens Saturday at Winfield Gallery. A reception starts at 2 p.m., while the exhibit will be on display through the end of the month.

Seventh. Ligare also has plans to give a free talk about his art Nov. 13, 7 p.m, at the Carmel Woman’s Club on San Carlos between 9th & 10th.

A leap of faith

Once a nurse, Edi Matsumoto is thrilled to be a professional artist. Matsumoto has a new book, “Otter Therapy,” and she will sign copies Saturday from 3-5 p.m. at Venture Gallery. The book features dozens of images of otters created by the artist, along with an array of “otter jokes and fun facts.”

Born in Japan, Matsumoto grew up in a household where “art was valued” and her passion for it “was cultivated at an early age” — in part due to the influence of

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

her maternal great-grandfather, who painted using a traditional Japanese ink brush technique.

Decades later, after moving to the United States — and earning a master’s degree in nursing and working in the healthcare industry — her husband saw an old sketch she had made. He encouraged her to start take art classes at a community college, and that path led her to earning a second master’s degree — this one in Fine Arts.

“So, with a leap of faith, I embarked on a journey of self-discovery, enrolling in art school and embracing my calling as an artist,” Matsumoto said. “With his encouragement, I dared to dream, to believe in the possibility of a future painted with hues of creativity and expression.”

The gallery is located at 260 Alvarado St. venturegallery.com

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CALENDAR

Oct. 31 – American Legion Post 512 Carmel-by-the-Sea presents a Halloween Bash, 7 to 10 p.m. at the post on Dolores Street, two south of Eighth, Carmel. Live music with Slim Checkers, costume contest, fun and food. Open to all. \$10 donation at the door. Details: www.alpost512carmel.org

Oct. 31 – Don't miss the fun free 7th Halloween on the Wharf at Old Fisherman's Wharf from 4 to 7 p.m. with trick or treating at more than 25 wharf merchants, a costume contest with lots of cash prizes, prize drawings for Wharf Dollars, fun photos ops and more! www.montereywharf.com

Nov. 3 – "Health and Wellness in Monterey County" – Tiffany Di Tullio, VP of Partner & Community Relations at Salinas Valley Health and Executive Director of Blue Zones Project Monterey County will speak about health and community engagement in Monterey County. 2 p.m. at Carmel Woman's Club, San Carlos and Ninth. Open to the public, \$10 guests/ members free.

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.

Sundays – Live music 5 to 7 p.m. at Woody's at Del Mesa. Musical guests Brice and Nina perform jazz and popular classics, 500 Del Mesa Carmel. (831) 624-1854

Nov. 5 – Carmel Public Library Foundation presents Community Night with the Library, "Cryin' for Daylight: Honoring Voices of the Land," with photographer and historian Louise O'Connor, 7 p.m., Carpenter Hall, Sunset Center. Register on our website: carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org. Questions: (831) 624-2811

Nov. 5 – The Arthritis Research Coalition will host a free webinar (Zoom) titled "But I'm So Young. How Could I Have Arthritis!" from 6 to 7 p.m. Listen to Sutter Health Rheumatologist Dr. Michelle DiFiore speak on the red flags to pay attention to, and when to

ask for a referral to a rheumatologist. Talk followed by Q&A. Register online at: ArthritisResearchCoalition.org/ program-reg Webinar link will be emailed to registrants before event.

Nov. 7 & 8 – Carmel Orchid Society's Fall Market: Exotic orchids, succulents and Ikebana supplies on display and for sale. Orchid repotting and Ikebana floral arrangement demonstrations as well as orchid care talks. Free. Easy parking. Handicapped accessible. Held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 4590 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel. Details: (831) 626-1120

Nov. 8 – The 15th Annual Asilomar Neighborhood Craft Fair featuring 19 vendors from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Nov 9 if rain) at 1150 Pico Ave., Pacific Grove, will be selling their handmade crafts. A cookie and hot cider bake sale will benefit Hitchcock Animal Road Services of Monterey County and Salinas.

Nov. 8 & 9 – It's Baum & Blume's "Lighting of the Tannenbaum" & Holiday Open House! 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Enjoy live music, tasty appetizers, door prizes, demos and wine tastings while shopping for fabulous holiday gifts. Shop small ... it enriches you and your community! Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito, Carmel Valley. (831) 659-0400.

Nov. 9 – The Monterey County Composers' Forum presents "A Thing of Beauty" at 3 p.m. Guest artists, Amy Zanrosso (piano), Igor Poklad (clarinet) and Amalia Diaz (violin) will perform music by Ettinger, Gatica, Kaiser, Macy, michael, Moncrief, Ovens, Roseman and Victorine. Hidden Valley Music, 104 West Carmel Valley Road. Admission \$20. Info: macy@macalester.edu

Nov. 18 – Join local photographer Douglas Steakley for a Pacific Grove slideshow at the Pacific Grove Library, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Known for stunning images in National Geographic and Outside Magazine, Steakley shares scenes from his books "Pacific Light" and "Big Sur Revealed." Part of the Fall Exhibition, "PG at 150." www.pacificgrovelibrary.org

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MUSIC

From page 31A

Kevin Whittier for providing sound for what was truly a magical musical afternoon.”
The series returns in January.

Live music Oct. 31-Nov. 6

■ Big Sur

Big Sur River Inn — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Saturday at 12:30 p.m.). 46800 Highway 1.
Nepenthe — the restaurant’s annual Halloween party features **Scarlet** (pop and rock) Friday at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under and can be purchased at nepenthe.com. Proceeds benefit Big Sur Fire.

■ Carmel

Barmel — singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Sunday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Tony Burciaga** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). Carmel Square on San Carlos north of Seventh.
Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz, Friday at 5 p.m.), singer **Dino Vera** (jazz, r&b and dance music, Saturday and Thursday at 6 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.
Cypress Inn — singer **Dino Vera** (jazz, r&b and dance music, Friday at 6:30 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.), **The David Morwood Jazz Band** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh.
Links Club — **The Glenn Bell Jazz Band** (Saturday at 7 p.m.), **Songwriters Showcase** (Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.,

See **LIVE** page 37A



Singer and guitarist Taylor Rae plays Monday and Wednesday, 6 p.m., at the Monterey Plaza Hotel.

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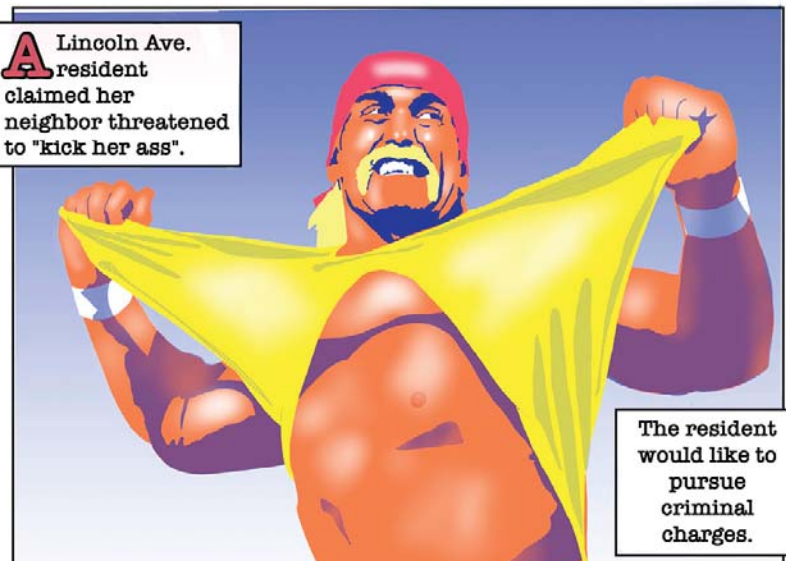
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Police Log: Pacific Grove, Feb. 18

Lincoln Ave. resident claimed her neighbor may be spying on her with a telescopic lens.



A Lincoln Ave. resident claimed her neighbor threatened to "kick her ass".



The resident would like to pursue criminal charges.

LIVE

From page 35A

sign-ups start at 6:30 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

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

Carmel Valley

Baja Cantina — **Lost & Found** (pop and rock, Friday 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 pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 415 Carmel Valley Road.

Carmel Valley Trail & Saddle Club — the club’s annual Halloween party features **Matt Masih & The**

Messengers (funk, soul & reggae, Saturday at 4 p.m.). Tickets are \$35 at cf.trailandsaddle.club/halloween.

Edgar’s Restaurant — singer and guitarist **Sabelle** (Friday at 5:30 p.m.). At Quail Lodge, 8205 Valley Greens Drive.

Folktales Winery — singer and guitarist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Saturday at 5 p.m.), trumpeter **Brian Stock**, (jazz, Sunday at 11 a.m.), singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Sunday at 3 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Monday at 5 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

Trailside Cafe — singer and guitarist **Brad Wilson** (rock and blues, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

Monterey

A Taste of Monterey wine market and bistro — singer and guitarist **Jewel Adrianna** (Thursday at 4:45 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

Albatross Ridge Winery & Kitchen — **The Landing**



In Big Sur, Scarlet plays Friday at Nepenthe restaurant’s annual Halloween party.

Continues next page

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Continues from previous page

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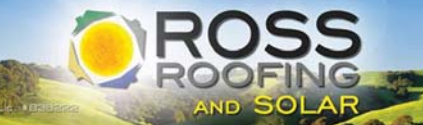
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From previous page

Trio (Americana, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **RJ DeMarco** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

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

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

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

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

Melville Tavern — Memory Lane (pop and rock, Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.). 484 Washington St.

Midici Pizza — multi-instrumentalist **Paul Contos** and guitarist **Bob Basa** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer **Nina Hadzi-Antich** and guitarist **Brice Albert** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

Monterey Plaza Hotel — pianist **Tom Gastineau** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Martan Mann** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Taylor Rae** (Monday and Wednesday at 6 p.m.), multi-instrumental-ist **Gary Regina** (jazz, Tuesday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

Peter B’s — back-to-back Halloween parties feature **The Money Band Duo** (pop and rock, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.). Portola Hotel, 2 Portola Plaza.

Pearl Hour — The Zach Westfall Quartet (jazz, Sunday at 8 p.m.), **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz, Wednesday at 8 p.m.). 214 Lighthouse Ave.

Puma Road at Portola Plaza — singer and guitarist **Patti Gilbert** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

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

Sly McFly’s — The New Wave Band (pop and rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **Back Together Again** (pop and rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **Victory Lane** (classic rock, Monday at 8:30 p.m.), **Blue Fire** (classic rock and modern funk, Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.), **5 Star** (rock and soul, Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.), **Bobby and Friends** (pop and r&b, Thursday at 8:30 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

Continues next page

PUBLIC NOTICES				
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20251912 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1. UNIFORM33 2. MASS APPEAL 3. SALINAS APPLIANCE SOURCE	listed above on Sept. 15, 2025. S/Judith Mendoza Date signed: Sept. 16, 2025 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 16, 2025. Publication Dates: Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 2025 (PC 1057)	Nona Marie, Ste 108, PBM 1043, Carmel, California 93923.. This business is conducted by a married couple. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Aug. 12, 2019. S/Annik Kraft Date signed: Oct. 8, 2025	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20251718 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: EXQUISITE MASSAGE BY MANNY, 1309 Military Ave., Seaside, CA 93955.	County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY Registered Owner(s): MANUEL GONZALEZ-MEIJZ, 1309 Military Ave., Seaside, CA 93955. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 19, 2025. S/Manuel Gonzalez-Mejia Date signed: Sept. 19, 2025 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 19, 2025. Publication Dates: Oct. 31, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 2025 (PC 1070)



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, November 12, 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=xjGuf1VHPManTYPLVc94aawlT24Tld.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.

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 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.

DS 25018 (Wong)
Adam Jeselnic, Architect
Trail View 2 southeast of Flanders Way
Block 104, Parcel C
APN: 010-331-046-000
Consideration of a Design Study Referral 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

DS 25019 (McWhorter)
Eric Miller Architects
Carmelo Street 2 northeast of Scenic Road
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 Street 2 northeast of Scenic Road in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-252-013-000.

DS 24046 (Teresi)
Bess Wiesema, Architect
Carmelo Street 5 northeast of Ocean Avenue
Block: GG Lot: 14
APN: 010-262-016
Consideration of a Concept Design Study for the demolition of an existing 1,818 square-foot, two-story single-family residence inclusive of an attached garage, 414 square foot accessory dwelling unit, and 61 square foot shed, and the construction of a 2,798 square-foot, two-story single-family residence inclusive of a 313-square-foot attached garage located on Carmelo Street 5 northeast of Ocean Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-252-016. The project additionally includes an attached 800 square-foot accessory dwelling unit.

DS 22-057 (Lim)
Angie Phares, Designer
North Casanova Street 2 southeast of Palou Avenue
Block ii; Lot 3
APN: 010-225-003-000
Consideration of a combined Concept and Final Design Study for the demolition of an existing 1,053 square-foot, one-story single-family residence, inclusive of a 205 square-foot detached garage, and the construction of a 1,798 square-foot, two-story single-family residence, inclusive of a 294 square-foot attached garage, in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District, Archaeological Significance (AS) Overlay, and Beach/Riparian (BR) Overlay. APN: 010-225-003-000.

TE 25308 (Britton)
Jeff Britton, Property Owner
Santa Fe Street 2 southwest of Mountain View Avenue
Block 87; Lots 7 and 9
APN: 010-082-002-000
Consideration of a time extension for DS 24089, LM 24151, and Coastal Development Permit (Britton) for the demolition of an existing single-family residence and the construction of a new 3,178 square-foot, one-story single-family residence, inclusive of a 462 square-foot attached garage, located at Santa Fe Street 2 southwest of Mountain View Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-082-002-000.

TE 25261 (Hofsas House)
Eric Miller Architects, Inc., Architect
San Carlos Street 2 northwest of 4th Avenue
Block 34; Lots 1 & 3
APN: 010-124-001-000 and 010-124-014-000
Consideration of a time extension for DR 24059, UP 24060, and Coastal Development Permit (Hofsas House, Inc.) for the demolition of an existing 38-room hotel and the construction of a new 38-room hotel and two apartments, inclusive of the historic “Donna Hofsas House” and associated hotel ancillary uses, located on San Carlos Street 2 northwest of 4th Avenue in the Residential & Limited Commercial (RC) District. APN: 010-124-001-000 and 010-124-014-000.

DS 25153 (Van Selow)
Franshisca Delgado-Claudio Ortiz Design Group Inc., Agent
Lincoln Street 3 northeast of 4th Avenue
Block 33, Lots 14, 16
APN 010-129-028-000
Consideration of a Concept Design Study, DS 25153 (Van Selow), for a 486 square-foot addition to an existing two-story residence and associated site improvements for the property located at Lincoln Street 3 northeast of 4th Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District and Archeological Overlay Zone. APN: 010-129-028-000.

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

Publication dates: Oct. 31, 2025 (PC1067)

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From previous page

YMCA of the Monterey Peninsula — The Stingrays, Counter Current (contra dancing, Sunday at 6 p.m.). 600 Camino el Estero. For details, visit montereycontradance.org.

Pacific Grove

Asilomar Conference Center — Matt Masih & The Messengers (funk, soul & reggae, Friday at 6 p.m.), and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (Saturday at 4 p.m.). 800 Asilomar Ave.

Il Vecchio Restaurant — The Cena Jazz Trio (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 110 Central 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 & Hiss — Sweet Thursday (Dixieland jazz, Thursday at 7 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.). 2700 17 Mile Drive.



Guitarist Bruce Forman presents his one-man show, “Red Guitar,” at the Sand Box in Sand City Sunday at 3 pm.

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Thursday at 5 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge. 1700 17 Mile Drive.

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WENDI KIRBY MUSIC
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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9
Great Bowls of Fire Chili Cook-off
1:00pm-4:00pm
Folktale Winery
8940 Carmel Valley Rd.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12
Non-Profit Mixer with
Carmel Woman’s Club
5:00pm-7:00pm
San Carlos & 9th

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20
Bonded Jewelry x Hamilton Hat Lounge
Ribbon Cutting
5:00pm-7:00pm
San Carlos btwn Ocean & 7th

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3
Awards of Excellence – Rock the Boat
6:00pm-9:00pm
The Quail

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17
Annual Holiday Mixer at La Playa
5:00pm-7:00pm
Camino Real & 8th

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SECTION RE ■ October 31 - November 6, 2025

Open Houses on page 8RE

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate



GR
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■ This week's cover, located in Carmel-by-the-Sea, is presented by
Gladney Randazzo Team
of Sotheby's International Realty. (See Page 2 RE)

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INTERNATIONAL REALTY

About the Cover

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate

October 31 - November 6, 2025



OPEN SAT & SUN 11-1

0 San Antonio 3 Se Ocean, Carmel-by-the-Sea

Welcome to Landfall, a true Carmel cottage with all the warmth and delights of a home much loved. With its roomy living/dining space complete with open ceiling, original white oak floors, and brick fireplace you can easily imagine the joys of friendship and family shared here. This 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home located in a prime location just off Ocean Ave and less than two blocks to the beach offers perfect proximity to the magic of early morning beach strolls and the awe of Carmel sunsets. Open the windows and listen to the crashing waves or relax in the sun on the large upstairs deck. Make your way to the lovely back garden with some of the biggest hydrangea blooms in town and gather with friends around the stone fireplace on those chilly summer evenings. Landfall is everything Carmel is meant to be.

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2RE

The Carmel Pine Cone

October 31, 2025

Real Estate Sales Oct. 19 - 25

Escrows closed: 45

Total value: \$71,008,000

Big Sur

46390 Clear Ridge Road — \$1,200,000

James Betts to Matthew Harris and Jaclyn Pelosi

APN: 419-281-007

Carmel

Santa Rita Street, SE corner of Sixth Avenue — \$2,450,000

Michael and Mary Romo to Fionnula and Ian Loughran

APN: 010-034-005

See HOME SALES page 4RE

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SALE PENDING

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Carmel-by-the-Sea ■ 2 beds, 2 baths ■ \$3,250,000 ■ www.PardonMyTree.com



Pebble Beach ■ 4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$3,195,000 ■ www.1268ViscainoRoad.com

Carmel ■ 3 beds, 2 baths ■ \$2,575,000 ■ www.25603CanadaDrive.com



Carmel Valley ■ 4 beds, 2.5 baths ■ \$2,395,000 ■ www.929WCarmelValleyRoad.com

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HOME SALES

From page 2RE

Carmel (cont'd)

Camino Real, 4 NW of Santa Lucia Avenue —
\$3,510,000
Linda Grier to Sherman Ting and Big Sur Trust
APN: 010-284-005

Carmelo Street, NW corner of 12th Avenue —
\$5,600,000
Timothy and Catherine Ramos to John Benefield
APN: 010-279-020

Carmel Highlands

231 Spindrift Road — \$2,750,000
Geir and Mellissa Fjugstad to P&T 2024 LLC



5 Wyndemere Vale, Monterey — \$1,600,000

APN: 241-301-021

159 Spindrift Road — \$6,025,000
Stanford Rubin to Brett Morgen

APN: 241-192-003

Carmel Valley

222 Hacienda Carmel — \$915,000
Victoria Sours to William Scollan
APN: 015-353-005

18 Aliso Road — \$1,000,000
Gary Nakamura to Louis Casarez and Kyung Kim
APN: 189-071-013

2 Peñon Peak Trail — \$1,000,000
Puffin Properties LLC to Jennifer and Malcolm Thorne
APN: 239-071-010

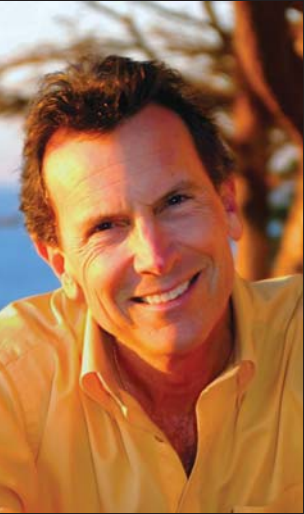
5 Rumsen Trace — \$3,850,000
Jonathan and Sally Green to KB Gems LLC
APN: 239-051-005

See ESCROWS page 13RE

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Status	Address	List Price	Sale Price	DOM
New Listing	5th Ave 3 SE of Perry Newberry	\$2,135,000	---	6
Price Decreased	SW Mountain View at Crespi	\$1,850,000	---	58
Price Decreased	Mission 4 NE of 10th	\$4,845,000	---	195
Sold	Camino Real 5 SW of 13th	\$3,795,000	\$3,510,000	102

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(Data from MLSListings Inc)



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3 BD | 2 BA | 1,982± SQ. FT. | 0.13± ACRE LOT
\$3,295,000
24584CastroLane.com
Truskowski & Freedman & Associates 831.238.7449
License# 01240204 & 01956633



OPEN SAT 1-3 PM
471 El Dorado Street, Monterey
3 BD | 3 BA | 2,897± SQ. FT. | 0.266± ACRE LOT
\$2,500,000
471ElDoradoSt.com
The Bluhm Team 831.277.2782
License# 01075634



OPEN SUN 1-3 PM
146 Seafoam Avenue, Monterey
4 BD | 2 BA | 1,989± SQ. FT. | 0.08± ACRE LOT
\$1,899,000
146SeafoamAve.com
J.R. Rouse Properties Group 831.318.3808
License# 1968946

31420 Via La Naranga, Carmel Valley
5 BD | 4 BA | 2,000± SQ. FT. | 2.31± ACRES LOT
\$1,898,000
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OPEN SAT 1-3 PM



OPEN SAT 1-4 & SUN 1-3
1145 Harrison Street, Monterey
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Ryan Melcher 831.521.5024
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Keck Properties Team 831.710.1655
License# 02070480 & 02168140

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2 BD | 1.5 BA | 1,026± SQ. FT.
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If only there was a Golden Pine Cone for nostalgic curmudgeons

AMONG MY favorite Pine Cone features is the annual Golden Pine Cones, when readers vote for the best local businesses and service providers. This week’s edition has a special section revealing 2025’s official winners — but rarely do my favorites come out victorious, probably because there is no category for Best Long-in-the-Tooth Newspaper Columnist Drowning In Nostalgia Who Keeps Writing About The Past. So I’ve established my own categories and will award the recipients a Silver (color of my hair) Pine Cone.

Best park to sit in and while away the hours conversing with the flowers: The Silver Pine Cone goes to Devendorf Park. This one square block of greenery would be a small patch of grass in New York City’s Central Park. Yet this verdant little jewel box is the welcoming gateway to our charming village. Toddlers romp freely on the plush, free-of-dog-poop lawn. Benches become luncheonettes for people who have brought sandwiches from Bruno’s. People stroll at a leisurely pace in keeping with

the leisurely ambiance one feels within the park’s quiet borders of live oaks, flowering perennials, and old camellia japonica. Return visits are mandatory.

Best memorial bench to sit on overlooking Carmel river beach and Point Lobos: The Silver Pine Cone goes

Scenic Views

By JERRY GERVASE

to the bench at Carmel Point. It sits on a bluff overlooking Stewart’s Beach on Carmel Point. The steps leading down to the bench are at the confluence of Scenic Road, Valley View and 17th. The panoramic view takes in the lagoon, Point Lobos, and a large expanse of the ocean. The bench’s unique feature is the mailbox underneath it containing journals and ballpoint pens.

Anyone can write anything they want in one of the journals, which often reveal the secrets of travelers’ hearts. Many of the entries are the usual superficial doggerel that appears on greeting cards and in high school yearbooks. Yet others are extremely personal, as if the bench were a psychiatrist’s couch and the writers were baring their souls or seeking guidance from the soothing rise and ebb of the tides. The bench’s isolation from the street gives it its confessional aura. Its journals are a seductive repository of Carmel history enhancing the charm and uniqueness of our village.

Best tree on Scenic Road that lifts tree-sitting to a poetic experience: This old cypress tree overlooks the sea. Its long low, bench-like branch extends toward the ocean, saying, “Please come and sit on me.” It looms above a rocky cove where an insistent ocean constantly tries to pull the land back into the water. The location could not be better. The tree and the setting give credibility to Joyce Kilmer’s poem. Not only is God the only one who can make a tree — he knows better than anyone where to place it.

The last time I was there, the day was so clear, I had a direct view of the links at Pebble Beach. I sat on the



A Monterey cypress on Scenic Road that offers an inspiring view of Carmel Beach and the Pacific Ocean.

Just Sold | Golden Rectangle

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JUST SOLD! with Jeff Langham



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Off-Market Sale • Represented Buyer & Seller • SP: \$2,750,000



548 Hannon Ave, Monterey
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limb with closed eyes and let my imagination soar with the seagulls until I thought I could see all the way to Japan. I couldn’t, because Hawaii got in the way.

That’s some imagining, but this spot will do that to you. Robinson Jeffers wrote: “I admired the beauty while I was human, now I am part of the beauty.” I have been back to this special place enough times to feel that, I too, am part of the beauty.

Best location in Carmel with a European flavor to watch the world go by: The Silver Pine Cone in this category goes to (drum roll) Carmel Plaza, a sophisticated open-air experience that perfectly captures the village’s European-inspired elegance. Carmel Plaza offers that rare combination of upscale amenities and small-town charm that defines Carmel-by-the-Sea’s enduring appeal. I also like the Mediterranean-style architecture. The fountains and flowers invite visitors to spend hours browsing everything from high-end fashion and jewelry to unique home décor and art. And the restaurants are *tres bon!* Where else can you get customized donuts, gourmet cheeses, and enjoy the sweet experience of buying honey from someone who is a passionate advocate for saving honeybee populations.

I visit the Plaza two or three times a week because my favorite coffee shop is there. Actually, Café Luna offers more than coffee. It is an indoor-outdoor dining haven. Owners Linda and Mike Karaki know my name and have my coffee ready almost as soon as I walk in. That’s the magic that owner-run places can deliver — they make you feel less like a customer and more like a welcomed regular at their table.

A park, a bench, a tree, a plaza — these are my Silver Pine Cone winners. They remind me daily why nostalgia isn’t about dwelling in the past, but savoring what endures.

Contact Jerry at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.

POLICE LOG

From page 4A

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found watch turned over to Carmel P.D.

Pacific Grove: Report of a domestic dispute, spousal battery and terrorist threats on Devisadero Street. Ongoing investigation.

Pacific Grove: Trespassing admonishment on Arkwright Court.

Pacific Grove: Report of dogs at large on Grand Avenue causing an individual to fall, resulting in minor injuries. Owner retrieved dogs but is unknown to the victim.

Pacific Grove: Registration tag stolen from a vehicle parked on the public roadway on Piedmont Avenue. No suspect information.

See SHERIFF page 13RE



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APTOS		
\$575,000	1bd 1ba	Sa 12-3
315 Seascape Resort Dr Sotheby's Int'l RE 251-1985		
\$3,400,000	3bd 3.5ba	Sa 1-4
625 Quail Run Road Sotheby's Int'l RE 428-3617		
\$5,750,000	3bd 3.5ba	Su 1-3
643 Beach Drive Aptos 251-1985		

CAPITOLA		
\$3,495,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 12-2 Su 1:30-3:30
4840 Cliff Dr Coldwell Banker Realty Capitola 234-2612		

CARMEL		
\$897,000	2bd 2ba	Su 1-3
64 Del Mesa Carmel Carmel Realty Company 250-3399		
\$1,029,000	2bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-3
3850 Rio Road #7 Sotheby's Int'l RE 917-9886		
\$1,099,000	2bd 2ba	Su 12-2
3600 High Meadow, #9 Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-9250		
\$1,495,000	4bd 2.5+ba	Sa 1-4 Su 2-4
25682 Carmel Knolls Compass 238-2022		
\$1,500,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 2-4
9665 Willow Court Preferred Properties 915-1850		
\$1,649,500	2bd 2ba	Sa 1-3
3721 Raymond Way Sotheby's Int'l RE 594-2155		
\$1,699,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 12-2
3610 Oliver Rd Coldwell Banker Realty 277-3914		
\$1,700,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 12-3
NE Corner San Carlos & 8th St 1 Sotheby's Int'l RE 404-401-8647		
\$1,799,000	2bd 2ba	Su 1-4
25601 Carmel Knolls Drive Carmel Realty Company 521-4855		
\$2,135,000	3bd 2ba	Fr 11-1 Sa 3-5 Su 9-2
5th Ave 3 SE of Perry Newberry Monterey Coast Realty 915-0790		
\$2,495,000	3bd 3.5ba	Fr 11-2 Sa Su 10-12
SE Corner of 4th Ave & Torres The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams 224-0020		
\$2,649,000	4bd 4ba	Sa Su 12-3
28069 Heron Ct The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams 261-6468		
\$2,895,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 11-2 Su 1-3
Santa Fe 4 SE of Ocean Ave Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-9250 / 915-6391		
\$2,895,000	4bd 2ba	Su 12-2:30
25905 Junipero Ave The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams 869-3992		
\$3,250,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 12:30-2:30 Su 12-2
24587 Castro Lane Compass 236-5290		
\$3,999,500	3bd 2ba	Sa Su 11-1
San Antonio 3 SE Ocean Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-3444 / 214-2250		
\$4,250,000	3bd 3.5ba	Sa 1-3
3 SW Monte Verde & 13th Carmel Realty Company 277-5544		
\$4,600,000	4bd 4.5ba	Su 12-2
8044 Poplar Lane Sotheby's Int'l RE 595-0797		
\$4,845,000	4bd 3ba	Su 2-4
Mission 4 NE of 10th Ave Coldwell Banker Realty 356-8123		
\$5,850,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 1-3
Palou 8&9 NW of Casanova Staples Gannaway Team, Compass 595-0009		
\$7,275,000	3bd 3.5ba	Sa Su 1-4
Camino Real & 7th SWC Coldwell Banker Realty 206-0129		

CARMEL VALLEY		
\$775,000	2bd 1.5ba	Sa 1-3
51 El Potrero Sotheby's Int'l RE Carmel Valley 277-8622		
\$1,205,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 11-2
146 Calle De La Ventana Sotheby's Int'l RE Carmel Valley 238-1984		



OPEN HOUSE NOV 6, THURSDAY 11 - 2

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\$1,500,000



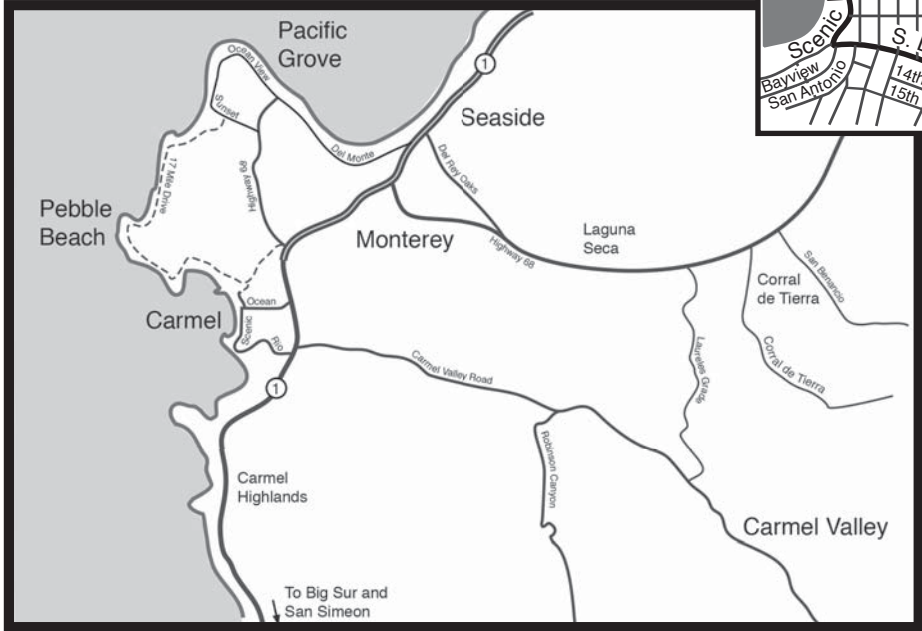
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This Weekend's OPEN HOUSES

Oct. 31 - Nov. 2



\$1,495,000	3bd 3ba	Su 12-2
31 Asoleado Place Carmel Valley 213-503-0300		
\$1,795,000	3bd 2.5+ba	Su 12-3
5 Boronda Road Sotheby's Int'l RE Carmel Valley 402-4394		
\$1,795,000	3bd 2ba	Su 2:30-4:30
42 Upper Circle Sotheby's Int'l RE Carmel Valley 213-503-0300		
\$1,898,000	5bd 4ba	Sa 1-3
31420 Via La Naranja Sotheby's Int'l RE Carmel Valley 277-3371		
\$2,249,000	4bd 4.5ba	Sa 1-3
140 Terrace Way Sotheby's Int'l RE Carmel Valley 238-7559		
\$2,890,000	4bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-3
31499 Via Las Rosas The Agency Carmel Valley 293-4878		
\$3,695,000	4bd 3.5ba	Su 1-3
15340 Via Los Tulares Carmel Valley 277-1169		
\$3,780,000	5bd 5.5ba	Sa 12-2
50 La Rancheria Sotheby's Int'l RE Carmel Valley 293-3030		

CORRAL DE TIERRA		
\$1,975,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 2-4 Su 1-3
25317 Camino De Chamisal Sotheby's Int'l RE Corral de Tierra 915-2800		

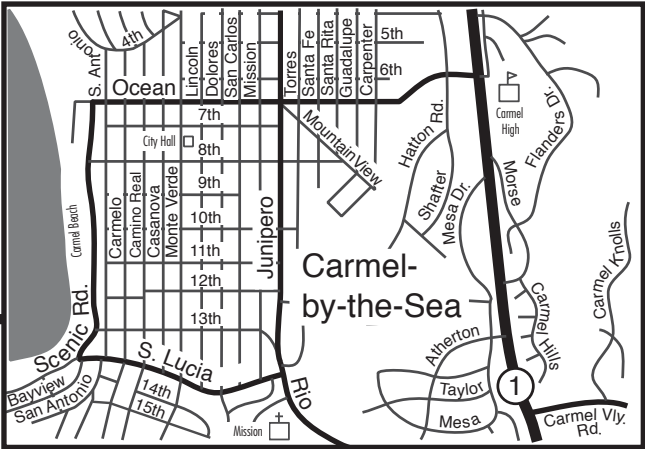
LOS GATOS		
\$2,750,000	4bd 3.5+ba	Sa 11:30-2
24101 Mountain Charlie Road Sotheby's Int'l RE Los Gatos 915-6391		

MARINA		
\$1,249,000	4bd 2.5ba	Sa Su 2-4
2721 Parkview Way Monterey Coast Realty Marina 238-1186		

\$1,269,900	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 2-4 Su 1-4
2962 Bluffs Drive Monterey Coast Realty Marina 293-3668		
\$1,698,000	6bd 4ba	Su 2-4
465 Russell Way Monterey Coast Realty Marina 293-3668		

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MONTEREY		
\$609,000	2bd 1.5ba	Sa 2-4 Su 1-3
420 Dela Vina Ave 7 Coldwell Banker Realty Monterey 717-7815		
\$625,000	2bd 1ba	Sa 1-3
461 Dela Vina #209 Staples Gannaway Team, Compass Monterey 297-2388		
\$643,000	2bd 1ba	Su 1-3
250 Forest Ridge Road #45 Sotheby's Int'l RE Monterey 277-8622		
\$889,000	3bd 2.5ba	Su 1-3
1360 Josselyn Canyon Road #40 Monterey Coast Realty Monterey 717-7959		
\$950,000	2bd 1ba	Fr 12-2 Sa 1:30-4 Su 2-4
642 Cypress Street Sotheby's Int'l RE Monterey 238-8029		
\$1,085,000	3bd 1ba	Sa 1-3
799 Grace Street Carmel Realty Company Monterey 320-6801		
\$1,100,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 2-4 Su 1-3
650 Grace St Coldwell Banker Realty Monterey 596-6118		
\$1,155,000	3bd 1.5ba	Fr 12-2 Sa 11-1 Su 1-3
1271 Fourth Street St Sotheby's Int'l RE Monterey 277-9250 / 601-6453		
\$1,485,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 1-4 Su 1-3
1145 Harrison Street Sotheby's Int'l RE Monterey 760-5126		
\$1,495,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-3
981 Harrison St The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Monterey 236-7976		
\$1,588,000	2bd 2.5ba	Su 10-12
39 La Playa St Coldwell Banker Realty Monterey 594-5939		
\$1,769,000	2bd 1.5ba	Sa Su 1-3
457 Wave St Unit 1 The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Monterey 837-5437		
\$1,795,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 12-2
541 & 539 W Franklin Street Carmel Realty Company Monterey 402-2076		
\$1,850,000	4bd 3.5ba	Sa 1-4
23 Cramden Drive Sotheby's Int'l RE Monterey 510-589-6892		
\$1,899,000	4bd 2ba	Su 1-3
146 Seafoam Avenue Sotheby's Int'l RE Monterey 402-2017		
\$2,150,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa Su 2-4
18 Deer Stalker Path Sotheby's Int'l RE Monterey 915-8989		
\$2,195,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 1:30-3:30
799 Parcel St Coldwell Banker Realty Monterey 320-6391		
\$2,250,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 11-1 Su 12-2
6 Huckleberry Ct Coldwell Banker Realty Monterey 717-7815 / 277-3914		
\$2,500,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 1-3
471 El Dorado Street Sotheby's Int'l RE Monterey 521-4118		
\$3,745,000	3bd 2.5ba	Su 1-3
409 Mirador Ct The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Monterey 236-7976		



PACIFIC GROVE		
\$1,195,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-3
1007 Brentwood Ct Sotheby's Int'l RE Pacific Grove 318-3808		
\$1,298,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 12-1:30 Su 11-12
723 Eardley Avenue Sotheby's Int'l RE Pacific Grove 521-8508 / 238-8116		
\$1,495,000	3bd 3ba	Sa Su 1-4
2896 Ransford Avenue Sotheby's Int'l RE Pacific Grove 293-4190		
\$1,598,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 1-3 Su 1-4
311 Walnut Street Sotheby's Int'l RE Pacific Grove 917-6080 / 510-589-6892		
\$1,655,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1-4
311 Lobos Ave Sotheby's Int'l RE Pacific Grove 402-4394		
\$1,800,000	6bd 2ba	Su 12-2
206 Cypress Avenue Sotheby's Int'l RE Pacific Grove 521-4118		
\$2,785,000	3bd 2ba	Sa Su 1-4
155 12th Street The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Pacific Grove 224-0020		
\$3,495,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa Su 1-4
735 Bayview Avenue Carmel Realty Company Pacific Grove 594-8767		
\$3,550,000	3bd 4ba	Sa Su 1-3
127 16th Street Sotheby's Int'l RE Pacific Grove 318-3808		
\$3,988,000	4bd 2.5+ba	Sa Su 1-3
131 7th Street Sotheby's Int'l RE Pacific Grove 402-2017 / 318-3808		
\$7,800,000	4bd 4.5ba	Sa 12-2
1051 Ocean View Ave Carmel Realty Company Pacific Grove 250-3399		

PEBBLE BEACH		
\$895,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 10-12 Su 1-3
54 Shepherds Knoll Compass Pebble Beach 236-5290		
\$1,229,000	3bd 3ba	Sa Su 12-2
16 Shepherds Knoll The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Pebble Beach 718-7667		
\$2,295,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 2-4
1147 Arrowhead Road Sotheby's Int'l RE Pebble Beach 277-0971		
\$2,395,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 1:30-4
4083 Sunset Lane Compass Pebble Beach 236-4318		
\$2,450,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 1-4
1051 Matador Rd Coldwell Banker Realty Pebble Beach 594-5939		
\$2,850,000	4bd 2.5ba	Sa 11-1 Su 11:30-1:30
1043 Mission Road Sotheby's Int'l RE Pebble Beach 238-8029		
\$2,997,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 12-4 Su 1-4
2869 Forest Lodge Rd Sotheby's Int'l RE Pebble Beach 238-7449		
\$3,095,000	4bd 3.5ba	Sa 12-2 Su 1-3
4171 Sunset Lane Carmel Realty Company Pebble Beach 277-5544		
\$5,295,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 1-3
3093 Hacienda Drive Carmel Realty Company Pebble Beach 717-7156		
\$6,350,000	4bd 3.5ba	Su 2-4
1425 Oleada Road Compass Pebble Beach 915-0653		
\$7,150,000	4bd 4.5ba	Su 12-2
3937 Ronda Road Carmel Realty Company Pebble Beach 277-5544		

SALINAS		
\$885,000	5bd 3ba	Fr 11-6 Sa 9-4 Su 10-4
1690 Piazza Dr The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Salinas 258-9150		
\$1,075,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 1-4
22985 Guidotti Drive Sotheby's Int'l RE Salinas 710-1655		

SEASIDE		
\$919,000	3bd 2ba	Fr Sa Su 12-4
1665 Military Avenue Sotheby's Int'l RE Seaside 277-9022		

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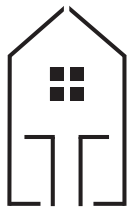
28069 HERON CT,
CARMEL
\$2,649,000
Listed by Pete Ruiz,
DRE#01974535



409 MIRADOR CT,
MONTEREY
\$2,489,000
Listed by The Jacobs Team
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981 HARRISON ST,
MONTEREY
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High-End Market Brings Selective Buyers While the Mid-Range is Strong

As summer brought sun and warmth before transitioning into early fall, the third quarter on the Monterey Peninsula displayed a blend of activity and anticipation. Between the excitement of Monterey Car Week, the arrival of second-home buyers escaping the summer heat, and a general uptick in visitor traffic through Carmel-by-the-Sea, Pebble Beach, and surrounding areas, Q3 often sets the tone for the year’s real estate narrative. Historically, this is when momentum builds, transaction numbers are strong, luxury buyers return to market, and we gain insights into the trajectory for the year’s end.

This quarter, our in-depth analytics report reveals an intriguing mix of stability, strength, and shifting trends across the Peninsula’s micro-markets. While overall buyer demand remains resilient, the nuances of each community tell a more detailed story.

Across Carmel, Carmel Valley, and the Carmel Highlands through Big Sur, homes took longer to sell this quarter, with averages ranging from 65 to 120 days on market. This slower pace reflects more selective buyers (partic-

ularly on the higher-end sales), while all other areas averaged under 50 days, showing continued strength in lower to mid-range markets. Carmel Valley stood out with 54 sales, its highest level of activity since Q2 2022, signaling renewed enthusiasm for its lifestyle and space.

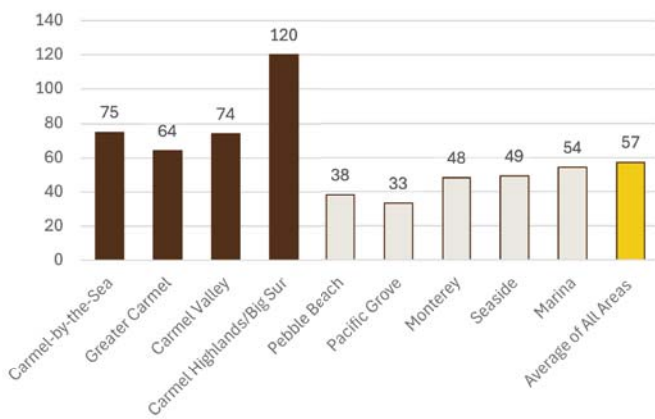
The \$2–\$3 million range remains the market’s fastest-growing segment, with 29 more sales than last year, while sales under \$2 million have declined by 24 transactions, indicating rising values and demand for mid-tier luxury properties. At the high end of the market, four MLS sales over \$10M closed during Q3, compared to just one in the first half of the year, signaling a modest resurgence in ultra-luxury activity.

Through three quarters, 2025 has seen five more transactions than last year and an average sales price growth of 4.8% compared to 2024. Overall, the market remains balanced, defined by patient buyers, steady demand, and enduring confidence in the Peninsula’s lasting appeal.

Each of the nine markets across the Monterey Peninsula

AVERAGE DAYS TO SELL DURING Q3 2025

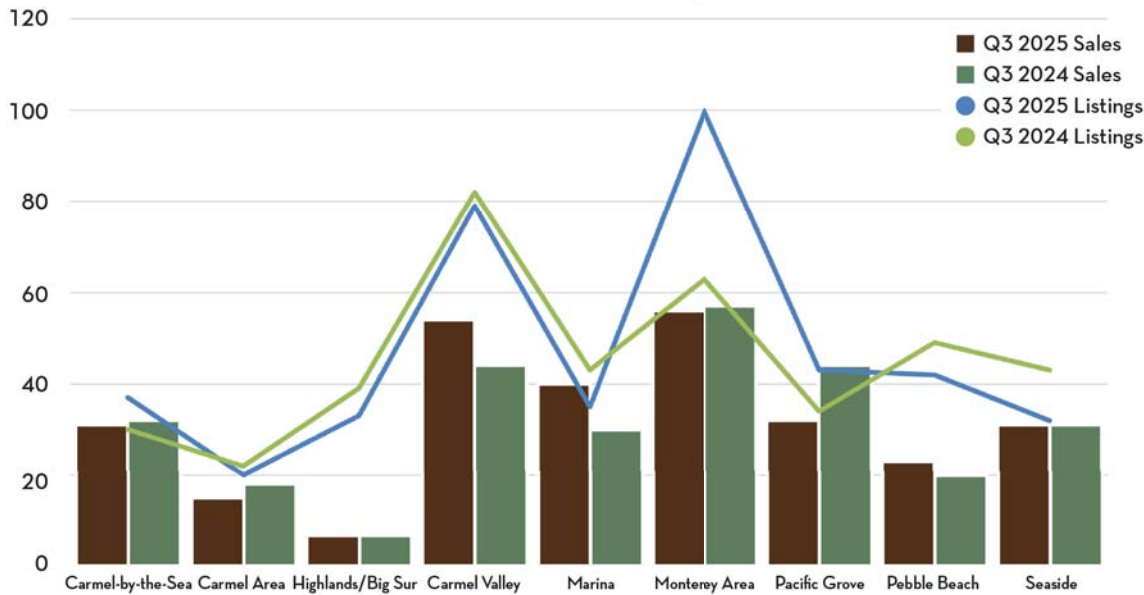
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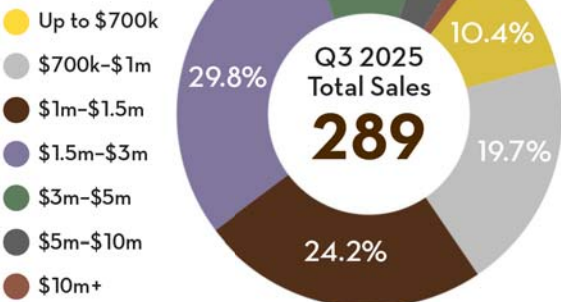
experiences a constant balance between supply, demand, and pricing. This makes it essential to have expert, local representation when buying or selling a home. Our agents are trusted, well-connected, and are specialists at finding their clients the correct homes to enjoy the lifestyle this beautiful community has to offer. Please reach out to one of our full-time professional agents should you and any of your friends or family be considering a real estate transaction here on the Monterey Peninsula.

For additional information, please visit carmelrealty-company.com, contact us at (831) 622-1000, or visit us at any of our Carmel-by-the-Sea locations.

Closed Sales vs. Available Listings Year Over Year



Q3 2025 Sales by Segment



	SALES BY SEGMENT							TOTAL VOLUME SOLD			AVAILABLE LISTINGS QUARTER END		
	Up to \$700K	\$700k-\$1M	\$1M-\$1.5M	\$1.5M-\$3M	\$3M-\$5M	\$5M-\$10M	\$10M+	Q3 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2024	Q3 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2024
Carmel-by-the-Sea	0	1	3	10	13	4	0	\$102,950,550	\$126,796,833	\$113,257,864	37	35	30
Carmel Area	0	0	3	10	1	1	0	\$36,886,000	\$50,166,500	\$32,216,500	20	23	22
Carmel Highlands/Big Sur	1	0	0	3	1	1	1	\$33,625,000	\$32,674,000	\$23,389,000	33	33	39
Carmel Valley	5	9	11	20	6	3	0	\$100,960,500	\$91,216,750	\$99,295,305	79	89	82
Marina	5	18	13	4	0	0	0	\$40,185,234	\$34,993,902	\$27,902,129	35	45	43
Monterey Area	5	12	22	15	2	0	0	\$80,121,701	\$79,544,499	\$88,840,250	100	82	63
Pacific Grove	0	5	13	11	3	0	0	\$55,337,635	\$47,905,851	\$73,237,270	43	26	34
Pebble Beach	0	1	1	11	4	3	3	\$108,188,300	\$79,218,100	\$56,070,000	42	49	49
Seaside	14	11	4	2	0	0	0	\$26,652,600	\$28,512,277	\$26,515,215	32	30	43
Totals	30	57	70	86	30	12	4	\$584,907,520	\$571,028,712	\$540,723,533	421	412	405

	MEDIAN SALES PRICES			AVERAGE SALES PRICES			DAYS ON MARKET			NUMBER OF SALES		
	Q3 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2024	Q3 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2024	Q3 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2024	Q3 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2024
Carmel-by-the-Sea	\$3,275,000	\$2,797,500	\$3,137,500	\$3,320,985	\$4,528,458	\$3,539,308	75	52	43	31	28	32
Carmel Area	\$1,800,000	\$1,922,500	\$1,440,000	\$2,459,067	\$2,508,325	\$1,789,806	64	56	45	15	20	18
Carmel Highlands/Big Sur	\$1,920,000	\$2,050,000	\$3,128,000	\$4,803,571	\$3,630,444	\$3,341,286	120	90	26	7	9	7
Carmel Valley	\$1,592,500	\$1,750,000	\$1,625,000	\$1,869,639	\$2,224,799	\$2,256,711	74	74	64	54	41	44
Marina	\$892,500	\$900,000	\$890,000	\$1,004,631	\$999,826	\$930,071	54	35	40	40	35	30
Monterey Area	\$1,287,500	\$1,130,000	\$1,185,000	\$1,430,745	\$1,348,212	\$1,558,601	48	48	43	56	59	57
Pacific Grove	\$1,379,500	\$1,353,850	\$1,495,000	\$1,729,301	\$1,545,350	\$1,664,483	33	38	42	32	31	44
Pebble Beach	\$2,710,000	\$2,785,000	\$2,192,500	\$4,703,839	\$3,444,265	\$2,803,500	38	38	64	23	23	20
Seaside	\$723,600	\$797,000	\$830,000	\$859,761	\$891,009	\$855,330	49	43	25	31	32	31
Totals										289	278	283

These charts are based on data supplied by the Monterey County Association of Realtors Multiple Listing Service. Neither the association nor the MLS guarantees or is responsible for their accuracy. The data may also not reflect all real estate activity in the market. For more information, go to www.carmelrealtycompany.com.

	TEN-YEAR MEDIAN SALES PRICE										1-Year Change	10-Year Change
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 YTD		
Carmel-by-the-Sea	\$1,607,500	\$1,700,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,875,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,750,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,007,500	\$3,450,000	\$3,038,875	-11.9%	89.0%
Carmel Area	\$1,065,000	\$1,050,000	\$1,297,500	\$1,225,000	\$1,450,000	\$1,550,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,620,000	\$1,625,000	\$1,840,000	13.2%	72.8%
Carmel Highlands/Big Sur	\$1,685,000	\$1,937,500	\$1,597,500	\$1,775,000	\$2,645,000	\$2,375,000	\$3,709,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,640,000	\$2,750,000	-24.5%	63.2%
Carmel Valley	\$950,313	\$937,000	\$1,000,000	\$950,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,495,000	\$1,570,000	\$1,650,000	5.1%	73.6%
Marina	\$490,000	\$537,200	\$599,000	\$639,000	\$675,000	\$792,000	\$849,000	\$875,000	\$930,000	\$875,000	-5.9%	78.6%
Monterey Area	\$656,500	\$722,500	\$772,000	\$740,000	\$850,000	\$930,000	\$1,050,000	\$1,074,000	\$1,054,500	\$1,150,000	9.1%	75.2%
Pacific Grove	\$800,000	\$886,500	\$889,750	\$958,000	\$980,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,390,000	\$1,497,500	\$1,490,000	\$1,400,000	-6.0%	75.0%
Pebble Beach	\$1,525,000	\$1,575,000	\$1,557,500	\$1,767,950	\$2,100,000	\$2,795,000	\$3,150,000	\$2,690,000	\$2,612,500	\$2,690,000	3.0%	76.4%
Seaside	\$445,000	\$495,000	\$525,000	\$540,000	\$593,500	\$700,000	\$757,000	\$750,000	\$817,500	\$785,000	-4.0%	76.4%

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Spacious English Country Estate with Ocean Views
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ROBERT NOORZOY
Team Member

SHARMAINE TORREY
Broker Associate
Monterey Coast Realty | DRE#02071666



CARMEL REALTY COMPANY
ESTABLISHED 1913



PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251763
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
J&DCARPETCLEANING, 215 Carriage Dr., Salinas, CA 93905
County of MONTEREY
Registrant(s):
J&DCarpetCleaning LLC, 215 Carriage Dr., Salinas, CA 93905
This business is conducted by a limited liability company
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 08/15/2025.
J&DCarpetCleaning LLC
S/ James vahos, Managing member
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 09/23/2025.
10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31/25
CNS-3973274#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025. (PC 1014)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251724
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
University Village Apartments, 301 9th Street, Marina, CA 93933
County of MONTEREY
Registrant(s):
University Village, LLC, 22645 Grand Street, Hayward, CA 94541
This business is conducted by a Limited Partnership
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/ Linda Mandolini, President of University Village LLC (General Partner of University Village Associates, a California Limited Partnership
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 09/19/2025.
10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31/25
CNS-3973759#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025. (PC 1017)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251795
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **LIVE OFF THE BENCH, Lincoln 3 SE of Ocean Ave., Carmel by the Sea, CA 93921.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
CARLENE MEGAN MALACK, P.O. Box 221821, Carmel, CA 93922.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 30, 2025.
S/Carlene Malack
Date signed: Sept. 30, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 30, 2025.
Publication Dates: Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025 (PC 1018)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case No. 25CV003928
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, ISABELLA NORMA DESSO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
A. Present name:
ISABELLA NORMA DESSO
Proposed name:
ISABELLA MELGAR
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: Nov. 4, 2025
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
DEPT: 14
The address of the court is 1200 Aguia- jito 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. 4, 2025
Publication Dates: Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025. (PC 1019)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251811
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **GENERATIONS HOME CARE, 599A Country Club Heights, Carmel Valley, California 93924.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
VILMA B. VEA
GEORGE V. VEA
This business is conducted by a married couple.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 2, 2025.
S/Vilma B. Vea
Date signed: Oct. 2, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 2, 2025.
Publication Dates: Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025 (PC 1020)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251761
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **FRESHCO PRODUCE, 495 E. Market St., Salinas, CA 93905.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
YAHYA YAFEAI, 495 E. Market St., 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/Yahya Yafeai
Date signed: Sept. 23, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 23, 2025.
Publication Dates: Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025 (PC 1021)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251821
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **THE EXPRESSIVE APOTHECARY, 44 W. Alisal Street, Suite L, Salinas, CA 93901.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
ALETIA GISELLE EGIPCIACO.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 1, 2025.
S/Aletia Giselle Egipciaco
Date signed: Oct. 3, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 3, 2025.
Publication Dates: Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025 (PC 1022)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251717
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA, 40 West Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel Valley, CA 93924.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
CARMEL SURF SHOP LLC, P.O. Box 2046, Carmel, CA 93921.
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/Ashley Downing, Managing Member
Date signed: Sept. 19, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 19, 2025.
Publication Dates: Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025 (PC 1023)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251592
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **WILD BRANCH BAKING CO., 712 Carmelita Dr., Salinas, CA 93901.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
WILD BRANCH BAKING LLC, 1401 21st Street, Suite R, Sacramento, CA 95811.
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 Aug. 1, 2025.
S/Sarah Rodriguez, Managing Member
Date signed: Sept. 2, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 2, 2025.
Publication Dates: Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025 (PC 1024)

HTTPS://CARMELPINECONE.COM

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251721
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **LA URUAPENSE-BIRRIA & BOWLS, 730 Williams Rd. #134, Salinas, CA 93905.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
YANETH GUADALUPE HERNANDEZ RODRIGUEZ.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 19, 2025.
S/Yaneth Hernandez
Date signed: Sept. 19, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 19, 2025.
Publication Dates: Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025 (PC 1025)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251699
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
1. CS JUNK N HAUL
2. CS LANDSCAPING
1543 Wanda Ave., Seaside, CA 93955.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
MARLON CABRERA-OLVERA.
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/Marlon Cabrera-Olvera
Date signed: Sept. 16, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 16, 2025.
Publication Dates: Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025 (PC 1026)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251801
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
Seraphim's Touch, 17782 Moro Rd, Salinas, CA 93907, County of Monterey
Registered Owner(s):
Jade Michelle Minelli
This business is conducted by an individual
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on Not applicable
S/ Jade Michelle Minelli
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 09/30/2025
10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7/25
CNS-3971987#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 2025. (PC 1029)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251812
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **JIMENEZ AUTO SALES, 25 Brooklyn St., Royal Oaks, CA 95076.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
CYNTHIA SUAREZ JIMENEZ, 25 Brooklyn St., Royal Oaks, CA 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/Marlon Cabrera-Olvera
Date signed: Oct. 3, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 3, 2025.
Publication Dates: Oct. 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7, 2025 (PC 1033)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251813
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MONTEREY FIRST KOREAN SCHOOL, 285 B Carmel Ave., Marina, CA 93933.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
HANNAH KWANGSUN HYUN, 285 B Carmel Ave., Marina, CA 93933.
YONG SOO OH.
This business is conducted by an unincorporated association other than a partnership.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 3, 2025.
S/Hannah Kwangsun Hyun
Date signed: Oct. 3, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 3, 2025.
Publication Dates: Oct. 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7, 2025 (PC 1034)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251869
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **AUTUMN AMOURA, 17779 Vierra Cyn. Rd., Spc. 6, Prunedale, CA 93907.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
AUTUMN ROSE WOHLER.
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/Autumn Wohler
Date signed: Oct. 13, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 13, 2025.
Publication Dates: Oct. 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7, 2025 (PC 1035)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20251754
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Nuevo Amanecer, 15 Salinas Road, Pa-jaro, CA 95076 County of MONTEREY
Registrant(s):
Nuevo Amanecer, LLC, 22645 Grand Street, Hayward, CA 94541
This business is conducted by a Limited Partnership
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/ Linda Mandolini, President of Nuevo Amanecer, LLC (General Partner of Salinas Road Associates, A California Limited Partnership)
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 09/22/2025.
10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7/25
CNS-3975733#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7, 2025. (PC 1038)

LEGALS DEADLINE
TUESDAY 3:00 PM

legals@carmelpinecone.com

Loan No.: 18-2349 Raley **TS no. 2025-12001** APN: 241-321-002-000

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 8/10/2015, 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. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on 11/25/2025, at 10:00 AM of said day, At the main entrance to the County Administration Building at 168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901, Beneficial TD Services, LLC, a California Limited Liability Company, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to the power of sale conferred in that certain Deed of Trust executed by Richard R. Raley, AKA Richard Raley recorded on 8/20/2015 in Book n/a of Official Records of MONTEREY County, at page n/a, Recorder's Instrument No. 2015046602, by reason of a breach or default in payment or performance of the obligations secured thereby, including that breach or default, Notice of which was recorded 7/23/2025 as Recorder's Instrument No. 2025023990, in Book n/a, at page n/a, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, lawful money of the United States, evidenced by a Cashier's Check drawn on a state or national bank, or the equivalent thereof drawn on any other financial institution specified in section 5102 of the California Financial Code, authorized to do business in the State of California, ALL PAYABLE AT THE TIME OF SALE, all right, title and interest held by it as Trustee, in that real property situated in said County and State, described as follows: ** See Exhibit A Legal Description attached ** EXHIBIT "A" Legal Description For APN/Parcel ID(s): 241-321-002-000 THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA IN COUNTY OF MONTEREY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: PARCEL I: Being in Carmel Highlands property, Rancho San Jose Y Sur Chiquito and being also a portion of the tract of land described in the deed from Carmel Development Co., a corporation, to Lawrence N. Cunningham, et ux., dated August 1, 1946 and recorded August 6, 1946, in Book 923, at Page 67, Monterey County Records, and being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of the tract of land described in the deed from Lawrence N. Cunningham, et ux., to Eugene Duke Mater, et ux, dated January 5, 1959 and recorded February 13, 1959 in Book 1932, at Page 444, Monterey County Records, from which that certain station on the Coast (O Line) Survey designated "O-41-Sik." bears N. 9° 06' E., 194.40 feet and N. 71° 19' W., 139.40 feet, said survey line and station being shown on that certain Map entitled, "Map No. 2 of a Part of Carmel Highlands Property", filed March 18, 1920 in Book 1 of Surveys, at Page 101, Official Records of Monterey County; running thence from said point of beginning and following the exterior boundary lines of the tract of land described in said deed from Carmel Development Company to Cunningham, et ux., (1) S. 9° 06' W., 37.62 feet to a 2" x 2" stake; thence (2) S. 20° 00' W., 97.00 feet to a 2" x 2" stake; thence (3) S. 4° 06' W., 168.00 feet to a 2" x 2" stake at the Southeast corner of that tract of land described in said deed from Carmel Development Company to Cunningham, et ux; thence along the Southwestern line of said last mentioned tract of land, (4) N. 70° 59' W., 56.00 feet; thence continuing along said last mentioned line, (5) N. 75° 25' W., 65 feet, more or less, to the shoreline of the Pacific Ocean; thence (6) Following the shoreline of the Pacific Ocean and the boundary line of the tract of land described in deed from Carmel Development Company, a corporation, to Lawrence N. Cunningham, et ux., dated August 1, 1946 and recorded August 6, 1946 in Book 923, at Page 67, Monterey County Records, in a generally Northerly and Easterly direction to the point of intersection of said shoreline with the Southwestern terminus of course No. 2 (S. 86° 45' W., 199 feet) in the description contained in the aforementioned deed from Lawrence N. Cunningham, et ux., to Eugene Duke Meter, et ux.; thence along the Southwestern line of said last mentioned tract of land, (7) N. 86° 45' E., 199 feet more or less to the point of beginning. The above described real property is also shown on a "Record of Survey" filed January 3, 1956 in Volume X-1 of Surveys, at Page 32, Official Records of Monterey County, California. PARCEL II: A non-exclusive right of way for road-way and access purposes over a strip of land 25 feet wide lying 12.50 feet on either side of the following described centerline: Beginning at a point on the T-Survey line from which "Pipe T-21" bears S. 17° 44' W., 2.00 feet, said survey line and said pipe being shown on said map; thence (1) N. 81° 53' W., 443.30 feet; thence (2) N. 70° 59' W., 160.60 feet. The street address or other common designation of the real property hereinabove described is purported to be: 170 Spindrift Road, Carmel, CA 93923. The undersigned disclaims all liability for any incorrectness in said street address or other common designation. Said sale will be made without warranty, express or implied regarding title, possession, or other encumbrances, to satisfy the unpaid obligations secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest and other sums as provided therein; plus advances, if any, thereunder and interest thereon; and plus fees, charges, and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of said obligations at the time of initial publication of this Notice is \$2,063,798.03. In the event that the deed of trust described in this Notice of Trustee's Sale is secured by real property containing from one to four single-family residences, the following notices are provided pursuant to the provisions of Civil Code section 2924f: 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's 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 916-939-0772 or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 2025-12001. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not be immediately reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. 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 916-939-0772, or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 2025-12001 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, by remitting the funds and affidavit or declaration described in Section 2924m(c) of the Civil Code, so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. 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: October 27, 2025 Beneficial TD Services, LLC, a California Limited Liability Company By: Ashwood TD Services LLC, a California Limited Liability Company, its Agent Christopher Loria, Trustee's Sale Officer 231 E. Alessandro Blvd., Ste. 6A-693, Riverside, CA 92508 Tel.: (951) 215-0069 Fax: (805) 323-9054 Trustee's Sale Information: (916) 939-0772 or www.nationwideposting.com NPP0480521 To: CARMEL PINE CONE 10/31/2025, 11/07/2025, 11/14/2025

Publication dates: Oct. 31, Nov. 7, 14, 2025 (PC1066)

I.T.S. No. 136361-CA APN: 189-341-009-000 **NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE** IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 3/9/2007. 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 On 12/2/2025 at 10:00 AM, CLEAR RECON CORP, as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 3/20/2007 as Instrument No. 2007022517 of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Monterey County, State of CALIFORNIA executed by: OSCAR CUEN GRJALVA, JR., AN UNMARRIED MAN WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, SAVINGS ASSOCIATION, OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE; OUTSIDE THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE MONTEREY COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING LOCATED AT 168 WEST ALISAL STREET, SALINAS, CA 93901 all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 2 ESQUILINE ROAD, CARMEL VALLEY, CA 93924 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any in-correctness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition, or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$586,534.76 If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned or its predecessor caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. 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 (855) 313-3319 or visit this Internet website www.clearreconcorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 136361-CA. 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 Website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: Effective January 1, 2021, 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 (855) 313-3319, or visit this internet website www.clearreconcorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 136361-CA 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. 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. FOR SALES INFORMATION: (855) 313-3319 CLEAR RECON CORP 3333 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 225 San Diego, California 92108

Publication dates: Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7, 2025 (PC1063)

ESCROWS

From page 4RE

Highway 68

105 Laureles Grade Road — \$1,060,000
Suzanne Goldschmidt and Chatwin Trust to Sarah Gandara and John Guzik
APN: 161-231-027

14475 Mountain Quail Road — \$1,195,000
Vicki Lyftogt to Stephen and Laura Williamson
APN: 161-651-057

25440 Boots Road — \$2,950,000
Richard and Renate Soares to Zachary Richardson and Nancy Tray
APN: 416-194-011

Marina

359 Reindollar Avenue — \$600,000
Gloria Regules to Milton Molina
APN: 032-341-020

271 Grant Street — \$625,000
Olmgrant 2017 LLC to Alexander Baskoro
APN: 032-412-008

2798 Telegraph Blvd. — \$989,000
Scott and Rosie Robertson to Angela Ornelas and Rhino Trust



1030 Vaquero Road, Pebble Beach — \$2,600,000

APN: 031-259-065

123 8th Street — \$1,155,000
Shea Homes LP to Peter and Yadira Cling
APN: 031-286-010

14918 Breckenridge Avenue — \$1,220,000
Laurie Bate to Kamran and Parvin Malek
APN: 031-165-074

106 8th Street — \$1,221,500
Shea Homes LP to Marina Longridge
APN: 031-284-016

586 Santa Ynez Way — \$1,240,000

See SALES next page

SHERIFF

From page 6RE

Carmel Valley: Child Protective Services referral alleging neglect at a Laureles Grade residence.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found kayak at Scenic and Eighth.
Pacific Grove: Dog at large from Monterey brought to the police department. Owner unknown. Dog was taken to SPCA.
Pacific Grove: Vehicles on Patterson Lane and on Del Monte Boulevard marked for 72-hour parking.
Pacific Grove: Tampering to a vehicle on Cedar Street.
Pacific Grove: Cat-vs.-raccoon fight on Lighthouse Avenue.
Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to a report of a deceased person found at a Carmel Valley Road location.
Carmel area: Adult Protective Services report on Aguaji-to Road of possible financial abuse.
Carmel area: Deputies responded to a reported theft from an unlocked vehicle on Cypress Drive.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury collision on Dolores Street involving a parked vehicle and property damage.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Loose dog found at Dolores and 12th returned to owner.
Pacific Grove: Verbal domestic on Arkwright Court.
Pacific Grove: Report of possible cyber fraud on Locust Street.
Pacific Grove: Residential burglary on Laurel Avenue.
Pacific Grove: Threats of defamation against a business on Forest.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONTEREY**

**AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

Case No. 25CV003586

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, ADIMANDO PENALOZA, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

A. Present name:
ADIMANDO PENALOZA
ADIMANDO RAFAEL PENALOZA (AKA)
Proposed name:
RAFAEL PENALOZA

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: Dec. 9, 2025
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
DEPT: 14

The address of the court is 1200 Agujito 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, Carmel.

(s) Thomas W. Wills
Judge of the Superior Court
Date filed: Oct. 14, 2025
Publication Dates: Oct. 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7, 2025. (PC 1040)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
File No. 20251672

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

A.R.S. Home Repairs, 3109 Crescent Ave, Marina, CA 93933
County of MONTEREY

Registrant(s):
Andres Ramirez Santos, 3109 Crescent Ave, Marina, CA 93933
Evelin Mena, 3109 Crescent Ave, Marina, CA 93933

This business is conducted by a General Partnership

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

S/ Andres Ramirez Santos,
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 09/11/2025.
10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31/25
CNS-3974028#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025. (PC 1041)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
File No. 20251843

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **PRESIDENTIAL PROPERTY INSPECTION GROUP, 1550 Canyon Del Rey Blvd., Seaside, CA 93955.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):
JUAN JOSE MAGANA 100 W. Alisal St., Box 144, Salinas, CA 93902.

This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 8, 2025.

S/Juan J. Magana
Date signed: Oct. 8, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 8, 2025.

Publication Dates: Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 2025 (PC 1046)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
File No. 20251839

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:

Pure Water Bottling Company, 11265 Commerical Pkwy Castroville, CA 95012, County of Monterey

Registered Owner(s):
PENINSULA PURE WATER, INC., 3622 EASTFIELD ROAD CARMEL, CA 93923; CA

This business is conducted by a corporation

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on not applicable

S/ John Wheeler, President
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 10/08/2025
10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14/25
CNS-3978756#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 2025. (PC 1047)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
File No. 20251902

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **WILD PAIR SEASONING CO., 414 Adams Street, Monterey, CA 93940.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):
ANTONIA MARIA FLORES, 414 Adams Street, Monterey, CA 93940.

This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 17, 2025.

S/Antonia Maria Flores
Date signed: Oct. 17, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 17,

2025.
Publication Dates: Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 2025 (PC 1048)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
File No. 20251822

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **NATURA POLISH, 21 W. Laurel Dr., Suite #57, Salinas, CA 93906.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):
CYNTHIA JIMENEZ DOMINGUEZ, 21 W. Laurel Dr., Suite #57, Salinas, CA 93906.

This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 6, 2025.

S/Cynthia Jimenez Dominguez
Date signed: Oct. 6, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 6, 2025.
Publication Dates: Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 2025 (PC 1049)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
File No. 20251907

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CLARITY NURSING CARE COORDINATORS, P.C., 973 Margaret St., Monterey, CA 93940.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
CLARITY NURSING CARE COORDINATORS, P.O. Box 3162, Monterey, CA 93942.

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

This business is conducted by a corporation. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

S/Benito Espinoza, President
Date: Oct. 20, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 20, 2025.
Publication Dates: Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 2025. (PC 1050)

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME**
File No. 20252059

Filing type: ABANDONMENT:

County of Filing: Monterey
Date of Original Filing: June 11, 2025
File No.: 20251086

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **PREVENTION & WELLNESS NURSING, 973 Margaret St., Monterey, CA 93940.**

Registered Owner(s):
BENITO ESPINOZA, P.O. Box 3162, Monterey, CA 93942.

County of Principal Place of Business: Monterey

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

This business is conducted by an individual.
S/Benito Espinoza
Date: Oct. 20, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 20, 2025.
Publication dates: Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 2025. (PC1051)

T.S. No. 135338-CA APN: 416-091-004-000 **NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE** IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 3/22/2007. 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 On 11/25/2025 at 10:00 AM, CLEAR RECON CORP, as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 4/3/2007 as Instrument No. 2007027164 of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Monterey County, State of CALIFORNIA executed by: JOHN B. ROBERTS AND DANETTE M. ROBERTS, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS COMMUNITY PROPERTY WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, SAVINGS ASSOCIATION, OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE; OUTSIDE THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE MONTEREY COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING LOCATED AT 168 WEST ALISAL STREET, SALINAS, CA 93901 all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 11521 HIDDEN HILLS ROAD, CARMEL VALLEY, CA 93924 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition, or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$954,737.81 If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned or its predecessor caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. 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 (855) 313-3319 or visit this Internet website www.clearreconcorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 135338-CA. 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: Effective January 1, 2021, 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 (855) 313-3319, or visit this internet website www.clearreconcorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 135338-CA 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. 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. FOR SALES INFORMATION: (855) 313-3319 CLEAR RECON CORP 3333 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 225 San Diego, California 92108

Publication dates: Oct. 17, 24, 31, 2025 (PC1016)



County of Monterey Fish & Game Propagation Grant Program

Apply now for this limited
funding opportunity!

The County of Monterey is soliciting grant applications for eligible projects for Fiscal Year 2025-26 Fish and Game Propagation Grant Program. The deadline for submitting applications is November 7, 2026, 5 p.m.

Fish and Game Propagation Grant Funds are intended to provide financial resources to qualified agencies, organizations, and individuals working to protect, preserve, enhance, and promote fish and wildlife resources in Monterey County, including education on habitat conservation, wildlife resources, and outdoor activities.

Application packets and additional information regarding the grant funds and application process are available on the County website at: <https://bit.ly/46hR8y7>. Alternatively, you may contact the County of Monterey Parks and Lakes Division to request an application packet at (831) 755-4895.

The County Board of Supervisors has charged the Monterey County Fish and Game Advisory Commission with reviewing all grant applications and making a funding award recommendation to the Board for approval.





Publication dates: Sept. 19 - Oct. 31, 2025 (PC950)



Daylight Savings Time – November 2, 2025

TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR THIS SUNDAY

This is also a good time to test your
smoke alarms and replace the batteries.

**LEGALS DEADLINE:
TUESDAY 3:00 PM**

legals@carmelpinecone.com
Se Habla Espanol

SALES

From previous page

The Sea Haven LLC to Rosie and Scott Robertson
APN: 031-312-093

2721 Ocean Bluff Avenue — \$1,584,000
Shea Homes LP to Shawn and Marjorie Cunningham
APN: 031-298-021

2405 Ocean Bluff Avenue — \$1,707,000
Shea Homes LP to David and Michael Cook and Dominic and Jessica Avila
APN: 031-284-062

2407 Sea Shell Avenue — \$1,893,500
Shea Homes LP to Brent and Melanie Ingler
APN: 031-284-004

Monterey

548 Hannon Avenue — \$462,500
Rina and Anna Tringali and Nella Cusenza to Daniel Lahnala
APN: 013-134-029

1034 Hellam Street — \$650,000
Estate of Khin Dudley to Mar Vista Real Estate Monterey LLC
APN: 001-242-009

886 Lottie Street — \$670,000
Elaine Kahan and Rowland Trust to Kwan Ryu and Guido Ausenda
APN: 001-192-005



25440 Boots Road, Highway 68 — \$2,950,000

400 Mar Vista unit 5 — \$910,000
Amy Roth and John van Valkenburgh to Jonathan Fountain
APN: 001-959-005

125 Surf Way unit 434 — \$1,098,000
Brian O'Connor to Ava Eagle
APN: 011-443-071

5 Wyndemere Vale — \$1,600,000
Gregory and Jill Clay to Mary Deffinger
APN: 014-081-005

Moss Landing

210 Monterey Dunes Way — \$2,300,000
William Jelavich to Lee Schubert
APN: 229-061-033

Pacific Grove

207 16th Street — \$638,500
Barbara and Jack Britton, Anthony Foux and Gregory Zimmerman to TPA VII LLC
APN: 006-281-009

1113 Patterson Lane — \$700,000
Estate of Sylvia Hitchcock to Melissa and Michael Palmer
APN: 007-631-008

638 Eardley Avenue — \$1,025,000
Nancy Thomas to Eilene Lynch and Savannah Schmidt
APN: 006-522-007

979 Syida Drive — \$1,075,000
Cameron Leavens to Richard and Ann Scott
APN: 007-621-005

1225 Lawton Avenue — \$1,225,000
Theresa Brady to Mary Fryer
APN: 007-562-003

728 Spruce Street — \$1,369,500
Sally Lea to Pamela Looney
APN: 006-462-010

Pebble Beach

3065 Hermitage Road — \$1,732,500
Scott Charland to Sudhanshu Parikh
APN: 007-462-009

See MORE SALES next page

JUST SOLD IN PEBBLE BEACH!

Remodeled Home Perfect for Tranquil Coastal Living



4167 SUNSET LANE, PEBBLE BEACH
4 Beds, 4.5 Baths ■ 3,559 Sq. Ft. ■ Selling Price: \$2,990,000

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Geoff 831.297.3890 Rebecca 831.241.2600
REALTOR* | DRE#02036451 REALTOR* | DRE#01706104

Danielle Germain 303.502.6477
REALTOR* | Monterey Coast Realty DRE#02154598



CARMEL REALTY COMPANY
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OPEN SATURDAY 1 - 3

31499 Via Las Rosas, Carmel Valley

4 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS | 2,826 SQ.FT PRIVATE RESIDENCE ON 2.61 ACRE LOT
NEW PRICE \$2,890,000

Set on 2.61 acres with breathtaking views, Via Las Rosas is an updated 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath home offering privacy and style. Enjoy a sparkling pool, inviting patios, and out door spaces ideal for entertaining, at-home happy hours, and stargazing.



Katherine Hudson

Broker Associate
831.293.4878
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3037 Strawberry Hill Road — \$2,200,000
Kathleen Bohland and Cynthia Kumanchik to Yubin Luan and Lixia Zhou
APN: 007-481-029

1030 Vaquero Road — \$2,600,000
John Salera to Ganjam Rao
APN: 007-314-002

Seaside

1778 Harding Street — \$615,000
Sarah and Gayle Tier to David, Beatrice and Remigio Salgado
APN: 012-796-004

1580 Ancon Street — \$635,000
Estate of Lula Taylor to Coko LLC
APN: 012-643-013

1580 Ancon Street — \$715,000



231 Spindrift Road, Carmel Highlands — \$2,750,000



3037 Strawberry Hill Road, Pebble Beach — \$2,200,000

Coko LLC to Proud Start LLC
APN: 012-643-013

1455 Yosemite Street — \$850,000
Rubio Investments to Kyung Kim
APN: 012-632-024

1622 Flores Street — \$872,000
Estate of Hiroko O'Toole to Miguel and Eduardo Cornejo
APN: 012-703-009

5061 Sunset Vista Drive — \$1,325,000
Joseph and Sophia Kim and Patricia Suh to Daniel and Maria Osorio
APN: 031-241-056

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www.CarmelGem.com
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Centrally located within a few minutes' drive into downtown Carmel, this lovely home built in 2015 in the sunbelt is designed to enjoy indoor/outdoor living.

Hold your applause till all the winners have been announced ...

See **GOLDEN** next page



Established in 1979

GOLDEN PINE CONES

GOLDEN

From previous page

Fishing has long been a major industry in Monterey Bay and is an indelible part of its past and present. Capitalizing on the abundance of local waters, the Pacific and beyond, Sea Harvest opened four decades ago to fulfill a demand for high-quality seafood. The markets in Monterey and at the Crossroads boast the best fresh fish and shellfish every day, from the area’s famous Dungeness crab and sand dabs, to halibut, sushi-grade tuna, locally caught squid, and a wide range of other sustainably harvested bounty from the sea. “We purchase only from the healthiest sustainable fisheries from all over the world,” they claim. The knowledgeable staff will help you select the best and freshest choices, and will offer cooking tips, too, if needed. The owners also reopened a fish market in Moss Landing at 2420 Highway 1, bringing their services back to North County.

Best Butcher

The Meatery — 1534 Fremont Blvd., Seaside – (831) 656-8810, themeateryseaside.com

Since Todd and Ada Fisher purchased The Meatery, they have worked hard to ensure it lives up to its name. It should have prime cuts of the highest quality beef, pork and poultry from local and sustainable farms where animals are well treated — and it does. “Happy cuts for happy cooks,” is one of their slogans, after all.

“Our mission is simple: to provide home cooks with accessible butcher services that prioritize the health and happiness of our animals and the sustainability of small farming practices,” the couple says. “As a family-owned and operated business, we take great pride in the quality of our products and the care we put into our food. We believe that happy animals make for better meat, and that sustainable farming practices are not only

good for the environment but are essential for the long-term health of our communities.” Online ordering is available, and The Meatery offers a wide range of fresh house-made sausages, as well as prepared foods and epic sandwiches. Oh, and for your furry four-legged friends, the butcher shop offers four varieties of freshly made dog food.

Best Bakery

Best Coffee

Carmel Bakery — Ocean between Dolores and Lincoln, and at the Portola Hotel in Monterey – (831) 626-8885 and (831) 402-7373, chefpepe.com/carmel-bakery

Founded in 1899, Carmel Bakery claims to be California’s oldest bakery in its original location, and Rich Pèpe and his family have owned it since 1986. Practically famous for its lavish window display full of pastries and other baked goodies, Carmel Bakery always has a line out the door — especially in the morning — and two years ago, Pèpe opened a second Carmel Bakery location in the plaza next to the Portola Hotel at the foot of Alvarado Street in Monterey to offer signature coffee drinks, baked goods, breakfast and lunch items there, as well. Carmel Bakery also claimed the Golden Pine Cone for Best Coffee this year. While the bakery offered Starbucks in the past, it’s since developed a signature line of organic coffee roasted in small batches in Carmel Valley that’s “crafted with care and precision to offer an unforgettable Italian-inspired coffee experience,” and obviously the newspaper’s readers have taken note.

Best Bread

Ad Astra Bread Co. — 479 Alvarado St., Monterey, and 319 Mid Valley Center, Carmel Valley – adastrabread.com

Pastry-chef-turned-bread-baker Ron Mendoza is a Monterey institution. He quickly became well known locally years ago for his incredible creations at upscale

Aubergine restaurant in L’Auberge Carmel and went on to launch the hugely popular Ad Astra Bread Co. — his “micro bakery focusing on natural leavened sourdough breads.” Ad Astra “is committed to using all-organic flours to create Old World style sourdoughs over a two-day bake process,” he says, and the sourdoughs are “mixed, hand-portioned and shaped, and allowed to slowly ferment overnight,” with baking taking place the next day. Daily offerings include Seaside sourdough, olive and seeded sourdoughs, French baguettes and focaccia, but the bakery also turns out sweet and savory specials each day, from cardamom rolls and bread pudding, to doughnuts and pretzels. It’s hard not to get excited about cutting a fresh slice from one of the best loaves in town. In addition to its busy and popular location in Old Monterey, Ad Astra’s products can be found at local farmers markets, stores and restaurants, and Mendoza recently opened Ad Astra Atelier at Mid Valley Center to offer hot drinks and baked treats, along with a selection of sandwiches. And keep an eye out for Mendoza’s dessert pop-ups, too.

Best Caterer

Paradise Catering — Carmel Valley – (831) 659-3417, paradisecater.com

Carmel Valley residents Jon Kasky and Nancy Rohan have been catering together for more than 30 years, and Pine Cone readers recognize them for their talented use of the best ingredients — including fruits, vegetables and herbs grown in the 1-acre garden at their home in Carmel Valley Village — to create beautiful and memorable dining experiences for clients and their guests. In their cooking, which is elegant but not at all fussy and deftly embodies the farm-to-table philosophy, the duo draw on their experiences learning from highly regarded chefs Wolfgang Puck and Alice Waters, as well as from their travels around the world. “With organic in mind, we source our food from local meat and produce companies (or our own garden!)

and serve real food with no-fuss ingredients and a perfect balance of seasonings to create the farm-to-table experience we are known for,” they say.

Best Wine Store

Total Wine & More — 808 Playa Ave., Sand City – (831) 920-0154, totalwine.com

Since opening its first Monterey Peninsula location in the Sand Dollar Shopping Center in late 2021, Total Wine & More has strived to make its mark here. And it’s clearly succeeding as it offers an ever-expanding selection of beers, ciders, wines, spirits, ready-to-drink cocktails, mixers, ingredients, garnishes, equipment and other bar necessities — including a giant selection of minis — at reasonable prices, hires informed and helpful staff, and participates in local events. The chain was started in 1991 by brothers David and Robert Trone, who opened their inaugural store in Delaware. Since then, they’ve added more than 225 locations focusing on “unbeatable prices and unrivaled service from our expertly trained staff.”

Their store here, though small compared to most, carries thousands of products and contains a climate-controlled wine room for rare offerings and a walk-in humidor for fine cigars. Online ordering is available, easy and convenient, too, and the stock changes frequently, so customers should keep an eye out for their favorites.

Best Tasting Room

Best Monterey County Pinot Noir

Best Monterey County Merlot

De Tierra — Mission between Fifth and Sixth – (831) 622-9704, detierra.com

Under the leadership of Jeffrey Meacham,

See **HONORED** page 4 GPC



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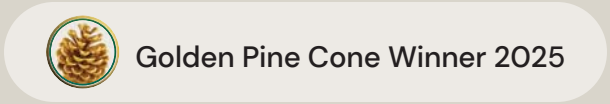
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G O L D E N P I N E C O N E S

HONORED
From page 2 GPC

and Andrew Schoenfeld, who purchased De Tierra several years ago but have long been connected to the winery and its vineyards, De Tierra has thrived, and its tasting room can always be counted on for fun, informative, lively and delicious experiences, whether you’re looking for a traditional tasting flight, a round of trivia or some live entertainment.

“Come visit us and experience our extensive wine portfolio which features many single-varietal wines, unique blends, sparkling and dessert wines,” they say. “Make it a perfect match with our available locally sourced small bites.”

Best Monterey County Pinot Noir is a highly competitive category, considering the incredible wines produced here and the fact that Monterey County has more acres of pinot noir vines than any other in the state. De Tierra earned top honors for its iterations this year, as well as for its merlot. “De Tierra,

as our name suggests, focuses on providing the best representation ‘of the land,’” they say. “Great wines begin in the vineyard, and it is our goal to translate the defining flavors of place into great wine.”

■ Best Monterey County Chardonnay
■ Best Monterey County Sauvignon Blanc

Bernardus — 5 W. Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley – (831) 298-8021, bernardus.com

As Pine Cone readers have said for years, Bernardus Winery produces some of the best chardonnay and sauvignon blanc in Monterey County. Longtime winemaker Dean De-Korth retired a couple of years ago, but not before ensuring the talented and affable Jim McCabe, who has been on the team for many years, was ready to take the helm.

The sauv blanc, made with grapes grown by Michael Gri-va in Arroyo Seco, is bright and crisp, but far less grassy than

most, with notes of citrus and white peach. It’s absolutely perfect to sip during one of the area’s famously beautiful fall days.

As for the chardonnay, well, Bernardus produces several — one that blends fruit grown in some of the best vineyards in the county, and others showcasing single vineyards, including its own Ingrid’s Vineyard in front of Bernardus Lodge (not affiliated with the winery). Styles range from bright to opulent, ensuring there’s a chardonnay for everyone.

■ Best Monterey County Rosé

Dawn’s Dream Winery — NW San Carlos & Seventh – (831) 659-2649, dawnsdreamwinery.com

So many Monterey County wineries produce delicious rosés that this category has become very competitive, but Pine Cone readers consistently say their favorite is made by Dawn’s Dream. Owned by Dawn Galante, the winery produces a dry rosé that goes with just about everything — especially Carmel Beach on a sunny afternoon, or a picnic while on a hike in one of the region’s wonderful parks. A winner annually for more than a decade, Dawn’s Dream rosé is often sold out, but this year, its 2023 vintage is still in stock at \$39 per bottle (or \$88 for a magnum, also known as “party size”).

“Brilliant, pale pink in color, this star in Dawn’s portfolio draws you in with scents of wild strawberry, rose petals and delicate orange zest,” the winery says. “Flinty, light peach and tangerine notes follow, finishing with orange blossoms and a crisp acidity.”

Dawn’s Dream is socially conscious, too, as Galante founded it with a mission of supporting charities benefiting women and children.

■ Best Monterey County Cabernet Sauvignon
■ My Favorite Monterey County Wine

Galante Vineyards — Dolores between Ocean and Seventh – (831) 624-3800, galantevineyards.com

Just as Dawn Galante’s rosé has won the hearts of Pine Cone readers for years, so too have several of the red wines — like the cabernet sauvignon in 2024 — produced by husband Jack’s Galante Vineyards.

While the Galantes sold their vineyards and winery to a young couple several years ago, the tradition of focusing on sharing the finest wines and letting the fruit express itself in each vintage continues — efforts that have been rewarded with praise year after year.

“All our wines originate in vineyards of the highest quality, where the finest agricultural standards are applied and adhered to. Each bottle of wine we produce embodies the characteristics of these unique vineyards, exhibiting the natural flavors that are born from the land,” they say.

Well known for its cabernet sauvignon, Galante also crafts small amounts of estate-grown malbec, petite sirah, merlot, pinot noir, sangiovese and several other blends. Galante Family Wines celebrated its 30th anniversary last year and offers several current releases of cabernet sauvignon, as well as some precious library bottles.

See **BELOVED** page 8 GPC



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G O L D E N P I N E C O N E S

BELOVED
From page 4 GPC

- Best Place for a Beer
- Best Sandwich or Burger

Alvarado Street Brewery — *Carmel Plaza at Ocean & Mission, 426 Alvarado St., Monterey, additional locations in Marina and Salinas – (831) 293-8621, (831) 655-2337, asb.beer*

With Alvarado Street’s stellar lineup of locally made brews, from perennial favorites like the Mai Tai IPA and Monterey Beer, to seasonal, sour and other more creative offerings — paired with delicious high-level pub food, plenty of indoor and outdoor seating at both spots, and a lively yet sophisticated atmosphere — it’s really no surprise ASB won this year’s award as the Best Place for a Beer ... again. And rightfully so. The father-and-son duo that brought immensely successful Alvarado Street Brewery to the Monterey Peninsula in 2014 also operates Alvarado Street Brewery & Bistro in Carmel Plaza, and both are ideal spots to enjoy a beer (or several) on its own or alongside snacks, lunch or dinner. While each location offers many different menu items, its signature burger and its iteration of the popular smashburger can be found at both, and they are equally delicious — as Pine Cone readers will attest. They also offer fantastic specials and deals throughout the week. The Monterey beer garden and the patio in the Plaza provide great spaces for dining and drinking outdoors, with or without the family dog. ASB serves in the taproom at its Salinas production facility, the pitch in Marina where Monterey Bay Football Club plays its home games, and Alvarado Street Brewery Taproom in a former bank on South Main Street in Oldtown Salinas.

- Best Cocktails
- Best Breakfast

Pangaea Grill — *Ocean between Lincoln and Dolores – (831) 624-2569, pangaeaoceanave.com*

Pangaea Grill’s East-meets-West culinary flair is reflected in its signature cocktails, too, earning the restaurant its first Golden Pine Cone in this category. Crafted at the diminutive bar, the drinks are creative, well balanced — and beautiful to look at, as well. The Surfer RX, for example, with bourbon,

apricot liqueur, lemon juice, Campari and orange zest, is at once refreshing while offering enough complexity to be interesting and avoiding being too sweet. When the weather’s warm, it might be hard to resist the little tropical vacation that is The Bixby — Hawaiian light rum, coconut rum, pineapple liqueur, lime juice and demerara sugar — while the Beach Bonfire (tequila blanco, passionfruit liqueur, pineapple juice, agave, jalapeño and a spicy rim) will up the temperature for you. Some postprandial sweet concoctions are available, too.

Also, if you want breakfast to be not only the most important meal of the day, but the most luxurious, our readers think this is the place. Benedicts with smoked salmon, crab cakes or steak, Asian-style repasts — this elegant East-meets-West eatery has lots of options to get you off to a great and memorable start.

Anyone who just wants their bacon, eggs and potatoes won’t be disappointed, and a stack of classic pancakes with eggs, bacon and fruit will certainly keep you full as you wander downtown shops and galleries or stroll along the beach. But if you want breaded sand dabs with lime dressing with your eggs, or kimchi fried rice, you can take a little walk on the wild side here, too.

- Best Restaurant for Seafood
- Best Desserts
- Best Chef
- Best Restaurant in Carmel
- Best Place to Take Clients

Foray — *NE San Carlos & Fifth – (831) 250-6100, forayrestaurant.com*

Since opening in late 2022, Foray restaurant has consistently garnered Golden Pine Cones — netting a half-dozen last year and taking five this year. Proprietors chef Michael Chang and Caroline Singer have been busy testing and showcasing Chang’s impressive culinary prowess, while Singer’s hospitality and all-around knowhow — including behind the bar, which produces creative and elegant cocktails — adds to diners’ overall delightful experience. The venue is contemporary but not cold and is elegantly appointed, making it an ideal place to take (and impress) clients. It also offers a private room that’s perfect for larger parties, including business dinners. And Chang, whose cuisine is stunning to behold and capitalizes on as many local and foraged ingredients as possible — and whose quiet but sociable personality has him visiting with customers at their tables — is being celebrat-

ed as Best Chef for the third year in a row. Foray’s seafood dishes, including Chang’s now legendary roasted scallop, and selection of sweets, among them the foraged candy cap brioche bread pudding and the dark chocolate tres leches, have garnered it praise again this year, as well. “A feast for the eyes” may be cliché when it comes to commenting on food presentation, but when you’re describing dishes at Foray, it’s absolutely on point. The restaurant offers a prix fixe menu, as well as a la carte dishes, a selection of “accompaniments” and a delightful Happy Hour.

- Best Happy Hour

Vesuvio — *Sixth between Junipero and Mission – (831) 625-1766, chefpepe.com/restaurants*

A lively rooftop deck and a long indoor bar make Rich Pèpe’s Vesuvio a fun spot for Happy Hour — which is offered every day from 4 to 6 p.m. — and it’s not unusual to see people lined up around the corner before opening time. The restaurant offers plenty of specials, with anitpasti like bruschetta, arancini, fried calamari, truffled gnocchi, meatball lollipops and baby back ribs, all at reasonable prices, and a full bar capable of turning out a wide range of cocktails. Happy Hour specials include house wine, white or bubbles for \$9.50, and classic cocktails — think martinis, Manhattans, margaritas, cosmopolitans and lemon drops with well spirits — for the same price. The Burger Bar lists \$15 selections, among them the McSuvio burger and a chicken sandwich, and no fewer than eight pizzas are offered for \$18.50 apiece, ranging from the traditional Margherita to the spicy diavola. The place is popular, so reservations are recommended.

- Best Family Restaurant
- Best Outdoor Dining
- Best Restaurant Service

SUR at the Barnyard — *3601 The Barnyard – (831) 620-5456, surcarmel.com*

Sur is easy to get to, and its Barnyard location makes parking a cinch. It’s got a boisterous and happy vibe that’s welcoming to adults and kids alike, not to mention your dog, and the service — cheerful, personal and attentive — gets rave reviews on social media. The servers have a rep for thoughtful problem-solving and cheerfully meeting customers’ needs.

Outdoor dining at the charmingly landscaped Barnyard

See **FAVORITE** page 12 GPC





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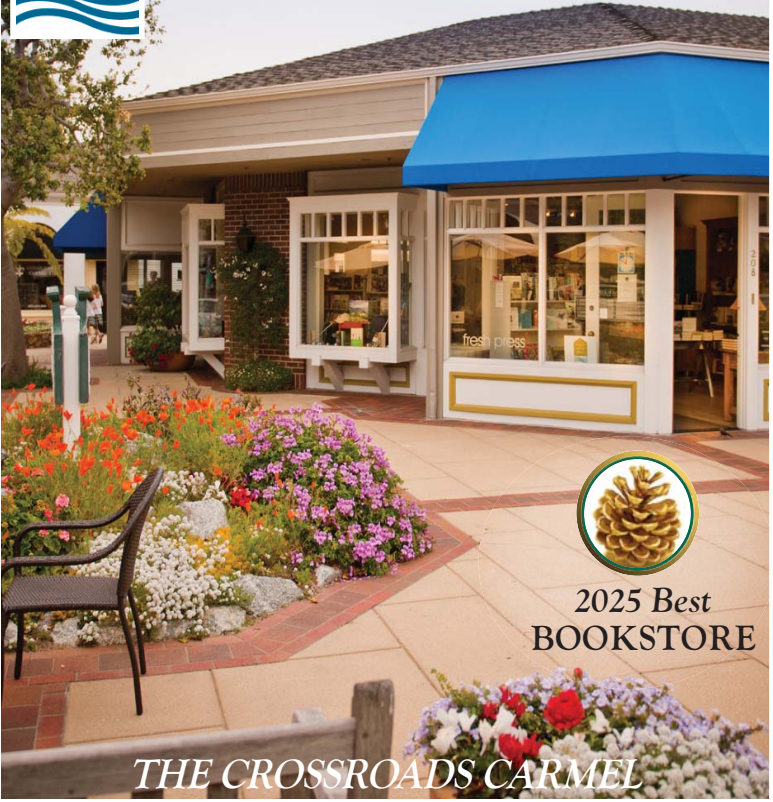
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FAVORITE

From page 8 GPC

shopping center is a great option and is especially romantic under twinkling lights in the evening.

Space heaters — a mainstay of Peninsula outdoor dining — seem to keep everyone sufficiently cozy, and well-behaved doggos are welcome.

The appetizer menu includes the restaurant’s signature cheese bread, crispy ciabatta topped with white cheddar and parmesan, white corn, savory herbs and seasonings. Poached pear salad with arugula, cucumber, orange, candied pecans, sweet poached pear and goat cheese, tossed in orange ginger dressing, is a refreshing change to a green routine.

Get your carnivore fix between bread — maybe the bacon cheeseburger or filet mignon sliders — or have a fried chicken breast and thigh with all the fixings. There’s a traditional herb-roasted chicken, as well as walnut-crusted chicken with butternut squash ravioli. Splurgy options include a 12-ounce

Kona-coffee rubbed steak, lobster ravioli and seared scallop risotto.

For the little ones — or your inner child — you can’t beat the chocolate ice cream bonbons served on dry ice. The server pours in a little water, and clouds of fog bring drama to dessert.

■ Best French Restaurant

La Bicyclette — *Dolores & Seventh* – (831) 622-9899, labicycletterestaurant.com

Old-timers will remember that the Georis family’s first restaurant, La Boheme, opened in this location in 1974. The same family owns La Bicyclette — rustic, charming and bicycle-themed.

According to the restaurant’s website, “The kitchen is tiny, with all food prepared on a six-burner stove and in our wood-fired oven.” But don’t be fooled — whether you pop in for pizza or indulge in one of the exquisite entrees, you are sure to leave delighted.

“Our menu is updated weekly, allowing us to make use of the freshest locally sourced ingredients,” the owners say, for dishes such as Gnocchi Parisiens, Salad Rouge with radicchio, and French classics like coq au vin, featuring organic chicken braised in red wine, with heritage-breed bacon, mushrooms, caramelized onions, baby carrots and potato purée.

That whole rule about “not filling up on bread” shouldn’t apply here, where assorted wood-fired breads are served with local butter.

You can’t skip the wine — the list has something for everyone — or dessert, like profiteroles Madagascar. Those are beignets filled with vanilla ice cream and served with dark chocolate sauce, whipped cream and candied almonds.

■ Best Chinese Restaurant

Tommy’s Wok — *Mission between Ocean and Seventh* – (831) 624-8518, tommyswokcarmel.com

Picking up Chinese takeout from Tommy’s Wok is a quiet way of showing your friends that you know how to find good food. Locals have loved this little spot for years, and our readers keep choosing it as their go-to for favorites like sizzling rice soup, spareribs, egg rolls, Mu Shu or chow mein. Szechuan, Hunan and Mandarin dishes are served up piping hot and ready to go — or eat in, if you like. That’s probably the best way to enjoy the Flaming Pu Pu Platter with BBQ spareribs, veggie egg rolls, paper-wrapped chicken, beef kabobs, deep-fried prawns and cream cheese crab puffs.

Tourists manage to find it, too, giving it rave reviews on social media and travel sites for great food, solid value and excellent service. You can’t argue with the prices, and the portions are substantial. An order of Cantonese roast duck with steamed buns is almost a steal for less than \$20. Asparagus beef, batter-dipped prawns marinated with mayo and topped with honey-glazed walnuts, curry chicken and more have price tags that might make you check to see what year it is.

■ Best Indian Restaurant

Aabha Indian Cuisine — *3690 The Barnyard* – (831) 250-5940, aabhaindiancuisine.com

Aabha is a repeat Golden Pine Cone winner, and no wonder, with a warm welcome and a roster of comforting foods to satisfy people new to Indian cuisine as well as those well-versed in the cuisine. Bring your vegetarian friends — Indian food offers a variety of meatless dishes bursting with flavor. Start with the samosas — crispy pastries stuffed with potatoes and peas — or get a little spicy with Cauliflower Manchurian, in a “tangy soy garlic sauce with a hint of chili.” For a main dish, paneer — a fresh cheese — simmered with spinach is a mainstay, or there’s dal Aabha, black lentils kidney beans, chickpeas, garlic, tomatoes, chili and cream.

If you don’t have a tandoor (Indian clay oven), Aabha’s wide assortment of entrees includes chipotle chicken tikka, ground lamb kebabs, not to mention sea bass and salmon.

Make sure to get some warm naan (Indian flatbread) to mop up the sauces or try a trio of naans — butter-cilantro, whole wheat and one stuffed with onions.

Classic butter chicken, assorted curries, and spicy lamb vindaloo are all there, too. Aabha also serves a wildly popular lunch buffet, where you can sample a variety of dishes without having to commit to one.

Everyone who comes to the hospitable and spacious restaurant feels the love, and the food never disappoints.

■ Best Italian Restaurant

Little Napoli — *Dolores & Seventh* – (831) 626-6335, chefpepe.com/restaurants/little-napoli

Part of the Pèpe Family group of restaurants, Little Napoli is relatively casual — although the website does request that guests remove their hats. Once you get settled, peruse the menu featuring Chef Rich Pèpe’s “signature family recipes reminiscent of Napoli and the Italian countryside, with a side of Pèpe’s gutsy New Jersey roots.”

The place has its own selection of barrel-aged cocktail classics — Negronis, Manhattans, Boulevardier (Kentucky rye, Italian vermouth, Campari and an orange slice). Mocktails, beer on tap and in bottles, and a selection of wines by the glass and bottle are also available.

Lunch and dinner menus offer plenty of options — soups, salads, pastas, pizzas, and, interestingly, hobo stew.

Hobo stew (aka Mulligan stew) has a surprising tie to Pèpe’s New Jersey roots. One possible origin of the term “hobo” is the City of Hoboken, where railroad terminals attracted transients who wanted to hop a freight train and unemployed folks looking for work.

Although in all likelihood the stew wasn’t invented there, it was once a poor man’s repast. Little Napoli’s version with beef short ribs, potatoes, carrots, celery and black pepper comes studded with gnocchi — something that probably didn’t happen on the mean streets of north Jersey. And the “1944” lasagna? That’s a family recipe from the chef’s father, who brought it back from his time in the service during World War II.

The cashless eatery says reservations are “recommended, but not required.”

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

■ Best Japanese/Sushi Restaurant

Toro Sushi — *Dolores between Fifth and Sixth* – (831) 574-3255, torosushicarmel.com

A previous multiple Golden Pine Cone winner, Toro has once again made it to the top of our readers’ list for Best Japanese/Sushi. The spot also won a Wine Spectator Best of Award of Excellence this year. In addition to a lengthy selection of Japanese sake, you’ll also find bottles from California and Europe on offer. You’ll encounter all the things you’d expect — edamame (soybean appetizer), tempura, assorted rolls, and a few interesting twists on the traditional, like the Uni Shooter combining quail egg, Santa Barbara uni — sea urchin — Junmai sake and roe. Teriyaki, poke bowls and combo plates are also available. Online reviewers rave about the freshness, service and ambience.

■ Best Mediterranean Restaurant

Dametra Café — *Ocean between Dolores and Lincoln* – (831) 622-7766, dametracafe.com

A culinary version of a “Small World” (without the song), Dametra offers fare from Greek, Italian, Spanish, Moroccan, Turkish, French, Israeli and Lebanese cuisines and consistently attracts a queue of hungry diners.

“Our kitchen is really small but with a big heart. Our ingredients are fresh and bought locally, but without a doubt, the best ingredient of them all is love.” So say Dametra Café owners and multiple Golden Pine Cone winners Faisal Nimri and Bashar Sneeh.

The list of starters is a great example of the place’s skillful cultural mashup. You can get pita with Lebanese hummus or Greek tza-tziki sauce. Or order some Italian-style cala-

mari, Spanish-style prawns, or a French plate of smoked salmon with goat cheese.

There are, of course, kebabs, gyros, shawarma and kofta (seasoned ground beef wrapped in lavash bread), but you’ll also find an All-American cheeseburger, a fresh mozzarella sandwich and lasagna, as well as pasta, not to mention a variety of other pastas and generous salads. The international theme continues through dessert — if you have room — with baklava sharing the bill with tiramisu and triple-fudge cake.

■ Best Thai Restaurant

Krua Thai — *731 Munras Ave., Monterey* – (831) 655-9797, kruathaimonterey.com

The Best Thai Restaurant again this year, Krua Thai probably owes part of its popularity to its proximity to, well, almost anything in Old Monterey. You can walk to banks, city offices, the Path of History that winds from Custom House Plaza to Colton Hall, and, of course, that large collection of medical offices on Cass Street.

Of course, none of that matters if the food isn’t good, but when all that walking works up an appetite, this place has you covered. Nearly every item on the menu costs less than \$20, which is nice if you’re watching your wallet. All the usual suspects — pad Thai, tom yum, a collection of curries in many colors — are there, along with Vietnamese rolls (tofu, noodles, cucumber, and cilantro in a rice paper skin), chow mein and pot stickers. There are several duck dishes and vegetarian options, and among the restaurant’s signature items is Panang Salmon, grilled over sauteed asparagus, spinach, bell pepper and carrot, with curry sauce. Wine is available by the glass and bottle, along with Corona, Heineken, and two Thai beers, Chang and Singha.

Krua Thai’s website tells the story of the Susawee family, who immigrated to the Peninsula in 2003 from their native Thailand and

Continues next page

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From previous page

opened their eatery. “You don’t need to travel all the way to Thailand to experience the tastes, aromas and culture,” of their home, their narrative reads. “Relish the flavors of our dishes like pad Thai, chuchee trout, pad prik khing, spring rolls” Our readers seem to think this is sound advice.

■ Best Mexican Restaurant

Nicolás Cocina de Herencia — *Carmel Plaza – (831) 574-8802, nicolascocina.squarespace.com*

If the words, “Mexican food,” conjure up images of taco trucks and big sides of rice and refried beans — not that there’s anything wrong with that — you might want to check out a fancier branch of that culinary family tree. Although it took much longer to open than originally anticipated, Nicolás Cocina de Herencia immediately impressed with its beautiful, expansive space, menu of delicious, sophisticated fare, and its full bar stocked with some of the best tequilas around.

Whether you go for lunch or dinner, you’ll see familiar-looking items with an upscale twist, as well as items that are a bit more unexpected. For example, queso fundido, a reliably delicious dish of melted cheese into which tortillas or chips are dipped, is right there, but with ribeye steak and chorizo, poblano pepper and corn. At dinner, the menu offers lamb chile rellenos, a well-marbled wagyu tomahawk steak with chipotle potatoes, halibut mole and more.

Reflecting its founders’ love and appreciation for family, tradition and cuisine, the menu features “flavors passed down generations,” and every dish is prepared “with the same love and attention that chef Susana’s father, Nicolás, the family’s patriarch, bestowed upon his land in Mexico, ensuring a dining experience that feels both intimate and extraordinary.” This unique restaurant is a welcome addition to Carmel’s culinary landscape and truly is a family affair.

■ Best Restaurant for Steak

Grasing’s — *NW Sixth & Mission – (831) 624-6562, grasing.com*

Grasing’s — the namesake of chef-proprietor Kurt Grasing — is now more than 25 years old, and in addition to serving his fine food in the dining room, he does catering for private jets and cruises. You can learn more about signing up for one of the nautical adventures on the website under the “About” tab — previous voyages have taken guests to British castles, sailed to China, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore, and cruised the Mediterranean from Rome to Bologna. And now our readers, who have honored Grasing’s in the past in several categories, have reconfirmed that it’s the place to go for steak.

That shouldn’t be surprising — coveted cuts of Brandt Ranch prime beef occupy their own section of the dinner menu. They range from an 8-ounce filet mignon, to a 22-ounce T-bone, 34-ounce porterhouse and a whopping 42-ounce tomahawk ribeye with truffle French fries. Decadent wagyu beef is also on the menu, and while wagyu translates simply to “Japanese cattle,” its heavy marbling and tenderness have made it a sought-after delicacy.

There are other things on the menu, of course. You might want to start your dinner with some oysters, for example, or maybe some crispy pork belly or crab cakes. Our readers say you should go for the steaks, but it’s really hard to go wrong at Grasing’s.

■ Best Restaurant for Vegetarians

Julia’s Vegetarian Restaurant — *1180 Forest Ave., Suite F, Pacific Grove – (831) 656-9533, juliasveg.com*

Back on top of our vegetarian readers’ list this year, Julia’s has come a long way from its humble and, dare we say, rustic, beginnings. In addition to an expansive menu, the expanded dining room is home to live music and a nice selection of wine and beer. Vegan and gluten-free options are also on offer.

If you thought this category was for glassy-eyed ascetics and fussy hippies, however, a quick glance at the menu will quickly disabuse you of that notion. French toast is made with three slices of house-made ginger apple bread in a candy cap mushroom batter — and just as the name implies, those are some sweet fungi — and topped with walnuts and candy cap caramel sauce.

Options are available for smaller plates and full entrees, from salads, to curries and pizzas. The taco salad, which combines arugula, red onions, tomato and cucumber in a creamy cilantro dressing, comes with two adorable and tasty fried tamales. House-made kombucha on tap is refreshingly tangy, too.

■ Best Salad

Carmel Belle — *San Carlos between Ocean and Seventh – (831) 624-1600, carmelbelle.com*

What’s so great about the salads at Carmel Belle? Like other menu items, they’re made with organic ingredients whenever possible, “purchased from local farmers markets, farmers, and/or distributors that support small farms,” the pro-

Continues next page

GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

prietors say. The choices range from the Orchard, with mixed greens topped with stone fruit, pecans and goat cheese and served with lemon vinaigrette, to the traditional Greek, with romaine, feta, tomato, red onion and cucumber. The chicken Cobb comes with free-range Mary’s chicken, and other selections include a market vegetable offering, a farmers salad, a walnut-blue cheese-apple combo, and mozzarella and roasted tomato salad — clever, since roasting wonderfully concentrates flavor and brings out the best in the tomatoes. You can add the chicken or wild grilled salmon to any salads.

The Belle Bowl, listed under “Comfort Classics,” gets an honorable mention for its use of quinoa and arugula, as does a veggie plate with truffled mushrooms, roasted tomatoes and goat cheese crostini complementing market vegetables.

This casual spot in the Doud Arcade appears to be perpetually busy, but there always seems to be room for one more diner near the fireplace, or on the periphery that’s great for people-watching.

Best BBQ

The Crossroads Barbeque — 241 Crossroads Blvd. – (831) 250-7616, thecrossroadsbbq.com

Casual? You bet. This BBQ joint feels like one of those Southern spots where everything — metal trays covered in butcher paper, serve-yourself soda fountain, checkered table coverings and the like — is just a supporting character for barbecued and smoked goodness.

You wanna know how good it is? Pre-orders for smoked Thanksgiving turkey were sold out by Oct. 8. But don’t worry, there’s still plenty of food available from breakfast (sandwich or taco options) through dinner, when you can have your favorite slab of meat as a meal or sandwich. Choose from tri-tip, pulled pork, brisket, chicken, St. Louis-style

pork ribs, and burnt ends — the flavorful trimmings from smoked brisket. You can also order smoked turkey breast as a meal or sandwich through November.

Home-style potato salad is chunky and flavorful, baked beans are sweet and savory — just like you might remember from BBQs past — and there’s mac-and-cheese (extra amazing when topped with pulled pork) and creamy crunchy cole slaw. Sip one of the rotating beers on tap, if you like. For dessert, homemade bread pudding and berry cobbler from family recipes are not to be missed, even if you must take them to go. Feeding a crowd? Order a family pack of smoked meat and buy additional sides by the pint.

Best Fish & Chips

Brophy’s — San Carlos & Fourth – (831) 586-5566, brophystavern.com

What’s that? “It’s just fried fish and French fries, for heaven’s sake, even a fast-food joint can pull that off!” Don’t say that around here unless you want to find yourself in the Police Log for starting a brawl. Fish and chips, like roast chicken or beef stew, is one of the holy grails of cooking — and, if you’ll excuse the mixed metaphor, a bone of contention for purists. It’s simple, but elusive.

Pine Cone readers get it. The struggle to find the best is real. The fish, in this case fresh halibut, has to be prepared so that the crust doesn’t shatter or disintegrate at first bite. It should be golden brown on the outside, while the fish stays moist and tender in its batter-quilt. The chips should be crisp, but fluffy inside. Everything must be adequately seasoned straight out of the fryer, and the same temperature — searingly hot — when it hits the table.

We’ll leave you to argue about whether you should add malt vinegar or dunk the chips in the remoulade sauce that comes on the side, along with the cole slaw. You should probably order an ice-cold brew, too.

See STUNNING page 18 GPC

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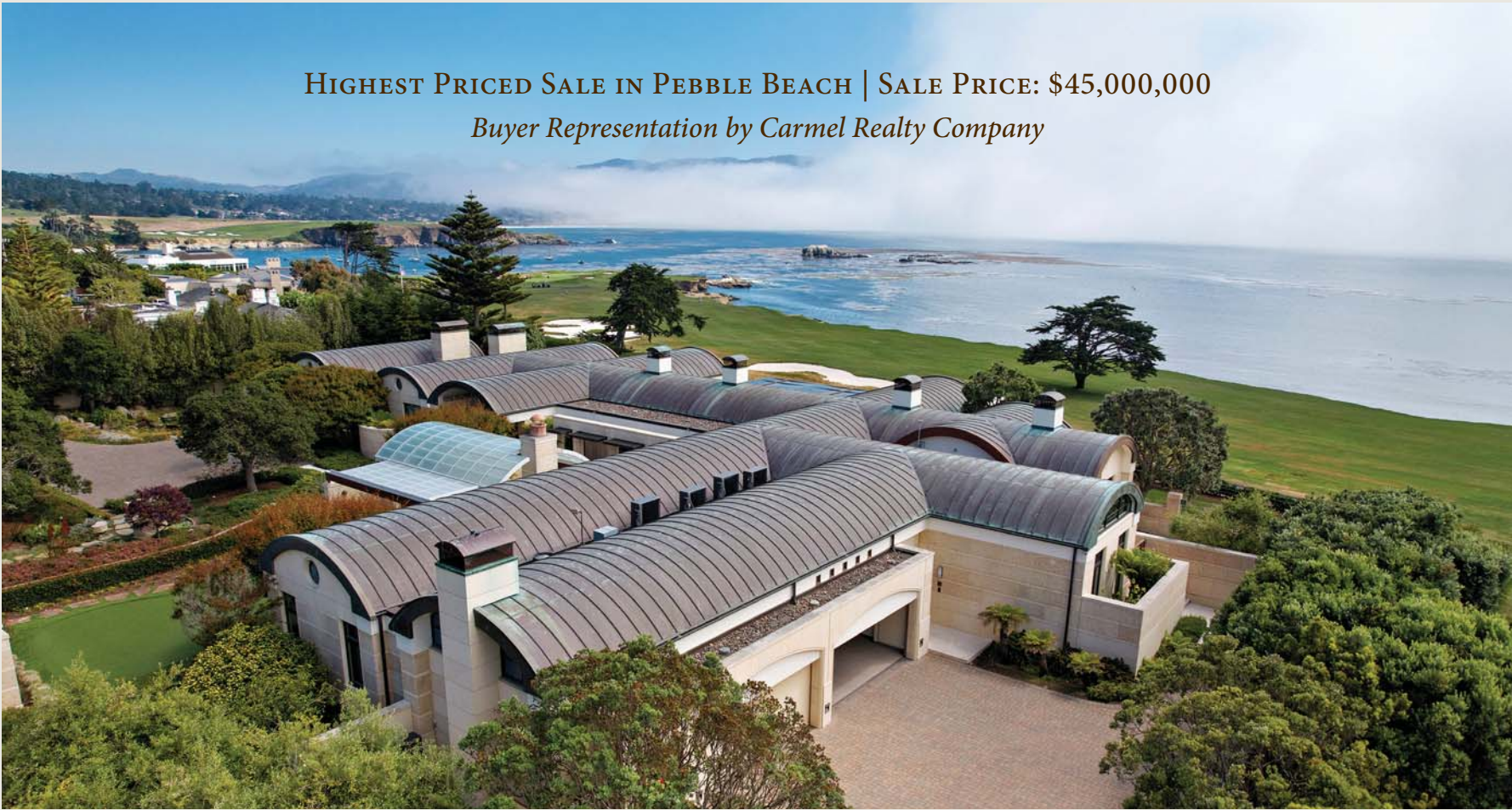
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STUNNING

From page 15 GPC

Best Place to Get Ice Cream

Revival Ice Cream — 463 Alvarado St., Monterey – (831) 747-2113, revivalicecream.com

“It’s more than ice cream...it’s a movement. A movement to uplift our community and to create memorable experiences — through the pure joy of ice cream!”

So says the website for Revival Ice Cream, an exceptional artisanal spot that manages to elevate one of Thomas Jefferson’s favorite desserts while remembering that the customer’s inner child doesn’t care about anything but taste.

Their staff is dedicated to “delicious ice cream you can feel great about eating,” using locally harvest and sustainable ingredients and dairy with no artificial ingredients or sweeteners, selling reusable containers and offering vegan flavors.

They also offer gluten-free vegan waffle cones.

Attention to detail in crafting (and for once, that’s the right word) the frozen treats ensures a high-quality product that still resonates with the part of you singing “I scream, you scream....”

It’s made locally in smallish batches, and the retail shop is right in the middle of Old Monterey, but you can have it delivered or shipped nationwide. Favorite flavors include Bees Knees made with local honey, the eucalyptus mint chip and the dark chocolate. The shop also sells 5- or 9-inch ice cream cakes (advance notice required), ice cream sandwiches and gluten-free cookies.

Not gonna lie — at around \$14 a pint, this is a splurge for most folks, but once you’ve had it, you’ll know why our readers keep going back for more.

Best Coffeehouse

Carmel Valley Coffee Roasting Co. — Ocean between Lincoln and Monte Verde, 3720 The Barnyard and 246 Crossroads Blvd. — carmelcoffeeroasters.com

CVCRC has been roasting, brewing, and supplying the Peninsula with high quality coffee — both retail and wholesale — since 1994. Rory, one of the head roasters, has been operating Big Vinny, the 1940s-vintage Farina Italian coffee roasting machine for just about a decade now, and a recent blog post on the company’s website said, “roasting demands presence of mind — you have to be fully aware of what you’re tasting, open to the nuances, and able to articulate those differences.”

The business prides itself on sourcing coffee ethically and carefully roasting the beans, so the Peninsula always has quality and flavorful brews. It’s no wonder they are a repeat Golden Pine Cone winner.

Whether you visit the Crossroads, Barnyard, or downtown location, you are sure to be greeted by cheerful baristas, you can enjoy the music and a cup of joe while reading The Pine Cone, or catch up with friends while enjoying some of their fresh and locally made pastries — sourced from Ad Astra in Monterey and Lupita’s in Seaside, with gluten-free options from Nece’s in Monterey.

Best Special Occasion Cake

Layers Sensational Cakes — 9 Soledad Drive, Monterey – (831) 655-1544, layerscake.com

Layers’ cakes and desserts have been pleasing the Monterey Peninsula since 1989. Now a multigenerational operation, Layers is a culinary staple. Take a look at their website or Instagram feed, and you’ll understand why people are captivated by the visual ap-

See SUPREME page 20 GPC



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Best Principal



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Best Teacher



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SUPREME

From page 18 GPC

peal ... but have a taste and you’ll be hooked. Whether you’re looking for a wedding cake or just a classic chocolate chip cookie, Layers is there to please. Cakes range from German chocolate cake, Funfetti, and carrot cake, to more elaborate themed confections like one in the shape of a saddle for a “horse-loving girl’s wildest dreams,” They even offer local delivery.

And when it’s holiday time, Layers Sensational Cakes is here for all your dessert needs. You can get cake layers in different flavors and completely customize your confection right on the website, call for a consultation, or better yet, pop into their brick-and-mortar location to place an order — and of course, grab yourself a goodie. They usually have some same-day availability, too, just in case you forgot it was your wedding anniversary, again.

■ Best Pizza

■ Best Restaurant in Monterey

Cibo — 301 Alvarado St., Monterey – (831) 649-8151, cibomonterey.com

Right in the heart of Monterey, Cibo Ristorante Italiano has been charming diners for over 30 years. Now under new ownership — the proprietors of Pangaea on Ocean Avenue and Sur at the Barnyard — Cibo has expanded its hours to serve breakfast. The morning menu includes classics like French toast and eggs Benedict, plus an ample selection of Bloody Marys and mimosas. We suspect that our readers love their pizza, which has gluten-free crust options. Take a classic like the Pizza Margherita with tomatoes, fresh whole milk mozzarella, extra virgin olive oil, and basil), or the Pizza Cibo covered in prosciutto di Parma, crimini mushrooms, mozzarella

and truffled treviso radicchio.

For lunch or dinner, you can enjoy dishes like a Caesar salad, pizza or a burger, grilled salmon or a skirt steak. And dinner offerings include a nice selection of antipasti (appetizers) like bruschetta, tuna poke, and arrabbiata (spicy tomato sauce) chicken wraps. There are also traditional pasta favorites, from prawn pappardelle, to ravioli and even risotto.

Cibo has a full bar and an extensive wine list. “We host live entertainment by talented local artists and offer an exceptional patio space, perfect for al fresco dining under the Monterey sky,” per its website.

■ Best Wine List

■ Best Restaurant for a Special Occasion

■ Best Sommelier

The Sardine Factory — 701 Wave St., Monterey – (831) 373-3775, sardinefactory.com

Opened in 1968, The Sardine Factory is a staple of Monterey fine dining, with tuxedoed staff and white linen tablecloths. The menu includes fine-dining classics like oysters Rockefeller, escargot, and prime beef, as well as a wide selection of salads and other entrées, and you should definitely order the sorbet in an ice swan as a palate cleanser between courses.

If you can, save room for dessert. The chocolate-dipped ice cream bonbons over dry ice are shareable and fun, and the Flaming Sardine, a signature Galliano cocktail that brings its own fiery drama to the table, is also a dramatic end to the meal.

There are various rooms to accommodate larger parties, from 12 in the upstairs wine cellar, to 100 in the Conservatory, and several options in between. The downstairs wine cellar is an experience in itself, carved into

Continues next page

The Carmel Pine Cone

Press Release guidelines

Press releases about newsworthy events should go to the following Pine Cone reporters:

Mary Schley: Carmel-by-the-Sea, food & wine, police, fire, criminal courts and schools mary@carmelpinecone.com

Chris Counts: Carmel Valley, Big Sur, Arts & Entertainment and scholastic sports chris@carmelpinecone.com

Kelly Nix: Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Monterey, Seaside, state government, civil courts and water..... kelly@carmelpinecone.com

Letters to the editor are only accepted by email and should be sent to mail@carmelpinecone.com



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Pictured left to right: Janine Cate Boone, Jud Boone, Candace Cate, Michael Cate, Leo Valdez, Sean Morgan and Noel Hyland (not pictured)



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From previous page

arched brick catacombs with wrought iron-gated wine vaults surrounding the 25-foot banquet table made from a single piece of Big Sur redwood.

But the Sardine Factory offers more than a destination for fine dining — it’s a hot spot for happy hour, when guests enjoy classic cocktails and small bites by the fireplace as they listen to Dave Conley on the piano Tuesday through Saturday evenings.

Dave Sidener, winner of this year’s new Golden Pine Cone award for best sommelier, can help you navigate the multiple-award-winning 60-page wine list. Sidener is a self-described “homegrown Carmel kid” who started as a busboy at the now-closed Butcher Shop and Gold Fork in Carmel — a sister property of the Sardine Factory many moons ago. A second-level certified sommelier, Sidener is also incredibly experienced with the local wine families of the area, having worked with the Antinori family at Péppoli and Bernardus in the Valley, among others. He is passionate about helping people find wines to suit palates and price points.

Best Bartender

Joshua Perry at Cella — 525 Polk St., Monterey – (831) 920-1046, cellarestaurant.com

A San Francisco native who’s been in the bartending business for nearly three decades, Joshua Perry cut his teeth in his hometown and beyond before moving to Monterey about 10 years ago to run the bar at the since-closed Restaurant 1833, which could always be relied upon for creative and delicious cocktails. Perry moved on to oversee cocktails and drinks at Cultura in Carmel, did a brief stint at Carmel Valley Ranch and then joined Cella in February 2022, a month after it opened. There, he said, he has “basically carte blanche” when it comes to creating cocktails, and his menu changes every 12 weeks in step with the restaurant’s seasonal ethos. That includes distinct seasonality and “not relying on a lot of pre-made and prebought stuff.”

“I always want to have something new and fresh for people to come in and enjoy,” Perry says, which is especially important at a restaurant that has so many local regulars. He strives to concoct drinks that complement the menu but which stand well on their own, as well, and it all comes down to “finding the pieces that fit to make the right menu and to be accessible to a wide range of people,” while also perhaps pushing them a bit out of their comfort zones. And all of that

is why, unsurprisingly, Pine Cone readers chose Perry as the Golden Pine Cone winner for Best Bartender. (The honor also makes the “World’s Okayest Bartender” pin on the apron Perry customarily wears even more ironic.)

Best Brunch

Mission Ranch Hotel and Restaurant — 26270 Dolores St. – (831) 624-6436, missionranchcarmel.com

Mission Ranch’s Sunday brunch buffet is loved by visitors and locals alike. The buffet ensures that you don’t have to sift through a menu on a Sunday morning, when maybe your brain is a bit foggy from a glass — or three — of your favorite wine the night before. You can choose from prime rib, made-to-order omelets, French toast or baked salmon. There’s a full bar, although drinks are not included in the \$45 per person price for adults and \$25 for children ages 5-10.

Don’t forget “Chef Charlie’s Fabulous Dessert Table,” from which you can take more than one — because who wants to make that decision? The view is incredible, too — so much so that getting married there has become wildly popular. Rest your eyes on the flock of grazing sheep, or peer beyond to Point Lobos and the blue Pacific ocean.

Best New Restaurant (opened in last 12 months)

Nora’s — San Carlos between Ocean and Seventh – (831) 250-7447, norascarmel.com

Opened in August, it didn’t take long for Nora’s to be packed every night — and with good reason. The owner is Loie Alnimri, a restaurant-industry veteran whose family is involved in several Monterey Peninsula enterprises. In town, Alnimri also lays claim to the Tree House and Anton & Michel. “Nora’s is a heartfelt tribute to the beloved grandmother of the Nimri family, a name well-known among restaurateurs in Carmel-by-the-Sea,” Alnimri says, and the restaurant was created “to celebrate the warmth of home-cooked comfort food” offered on “a menu inspired by cherished family recipes.” The restaurant’s tag line is “Carmel’s comfort cuisine,” and it certainly lives up to that billing. If nothing else, the house chicken pot pie made to order will inspire nostalgia in even the most ardent futurist, and it’s hard to resist the lobster ravioli and the fried chicken and waffles. The menu is diverse but not too large and is delightfully accessible, with its most expensive dish — San Francisco cioppino — coming in at \$39, while most main courses are priced in the \$20s. The fre-

quently bustling but intimate indoor space and busy outdoor patio are evidence of the restaurant’s popularity — as is Nora’s taking the Best New Restaurant crown this year.

Most Romantic Restaurant

Casanova — Fifth between Mission and San Carlos – (831) 216-3811, casanovacarmel.com

Casanova wins again for most romantic restaurant ... and it’s pretty obvious why. The Georis family renovated this cozy little place in 1977 with what they describe as traditional Belgian architectural influences. The spot’s namesake is 18th-century Venetian Giacomo Casanova, whose romantic exploits are legendary. Van Gogh’s table, which the website describes as “the table at which Vincent Van Gogh enjoyed his daily meals while boarding at the Auberge Ravoux in France,” is there, too. Once you’re done swooning over the charming history and cozy décor, it’s time to order.

Casanova gathers ingredients from small, organic farms and local fisheries and seems to make all that attention to detail appear effortless. The menu, which is a love letter from the kitchen, woos you with the promise of French onion soup and lures you in deeper with duck leg confit. An excellent wine list is available along with help to find just the right glass or bottle.

In “History of my Life,” Giacomo Casanova wrote, “Cultivating whatever gave pleasure to my senses was always the chief business of my life; I never found any occupation more important.” The restaurant in this magical village seems to have taken that sentiment to heart.

Most Dog-Friendly Restaurant

Cypress Inn/Terry’s Restaurant + Lounge — Lincoln & Seventh – (831) 624-3871, cypress-inn.com; (831) 620-7454, carmelterrys.com

Once again, Terry’s has been voted by readers as Carmel’s most dog-friendly restaurant, paws down. (Cypress is also the winner for the Most Dog-Friendly Hotel.) It has charmed visitors — and their four-legged best friends — for decades. Continuing the legacy of the late co-owner, legendary singer, actress, and animal lover Doris Day, the hotel’s philosophy takes pet friendliness seriously.

Terry’s Restaurant and Lounge welcomes your furry besties, and the staff there loves feeding people, too, with

Continues next page

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lunch and dinner menus that feature options like a grilled steak salad, the famous Cypress Burger, or truffle-mushroom ravioli in a saffron cream sauce. The bar menu, available all day, offers filling and tasty small bites.

“By combining Mediterranean grace and charm with warm hospitality and exemplary service, Cypress Inn has drawn everyone from kings, queens and Hollywood royalty to the everyday traveler, and especially all those who like to travel with their pets,” the inn says.

■ Best Restaurant in Big Sur

Nepenthe — 48510 Highway 1 – (831) 667-2345, nepenthe.com

More than 800 feet above the ocean, Nepenthe, a frequent Golden Pine Cone winner, is an impressive alchemy of coastal views and great food that makes for a dining experience worthy of the drive and the setting. The family-owned and -operated locale has long been a place where locals gather in good times and bad. “Nepenthe” is derived from Greek and means “no sorrow,” and is also the name of a mythical Egyptian drug said to cause forgetfulness and relieve sadness. Of course, that may also be thanks to the lack of Wi-Fi, spotty cell reception, and spectacular views.

Nepenthe feeds everyone on a first-come, first-served basis — no reservations. The menu offers simple fare done well, like diver scallops, roast chicken and steak frites. Of course, you can always fall back on the Ambrosia Burger, a favorite for decades. Spend a few minutes perusing the impressively curated wine list with great bottles in a range of prices, or enjoy a cocktail from the full bar. Café Kevah — one level down from Nepenthe — opens early and offers a nice selection of breakfasts and coffee. Once your belly’s full, stop in at the Phoenix Shop on the parking lot level of the complex and get lost among the works of local artists and craftsmen.

■ Best Restaurant in Carmel Valley

Café Rustica — 10 Del Fino Place, Carmel Valley – (831) 659-4444, caferustricacv.com

Even though it’s nestled out in Carmel Valley Village, you’d think you were in the Alsatian countryside. Café Rustica has been a destination for locals and tourists since 2000

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

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and Julien Belliard took it over in 2006. He describes the cuisine as “country European,” offering a variety of dishes, like Hungarian goulash, French escargot, classic roast chicken, and ratatouille, among others. There’s something for everyone, from pork to steak, to light dishes like salads, grilled meats and fish, and pastas.

There’s also a wide variety of wood-fired pizzas that are characteristically thin-crust and slightly charred to perfection. The ingredients are sourced locally, and dressings and sauces are made in house. Their wine list offers a nice selection of wines curated to pair with the cuisine, with wines from Spain, France, Italy, California, and even South Africa. Don’t forget to round out your meal with one of their desserts, like country apple galette (a rustic, free-form pie), fresh lemon pudding cake, or an old-fashioned root beer float. Café Rustica is the perfect place to enjoy the Carmel Valley sun and a great meal when Carmel-by-the-Sea is socked in fog.

■ **Best Restaurant in Pebble Beach**

Roy’s — 2700 17 Mile Drive, in the Inn at Spanish Bay – (831) 298-5907, pebblebeach.com/dining/roys-at-pebble-beach/

A regular Golden Pine Cone winner, Roy’s at Spanish Bay is a gift to the Peninsula. The verdant golf course, the azure Pacific beyond, the outdoor fire pits where a bagpiper seems to singlehandedly conjure the sunset and the evening fog ... and of course, great food. Fortunately, Chef Roy Yamaguchi — celebrity chef, James Beard Award winner and the father of Hawaiian-fusion cuisine, and chef de cuisine Pablo Mellin have made sure that the food matches the view.

Although Yamaguchi’s roots are in Tokyo, he’s known as a major innovator in Hawaiian fusion cuisine. While it sounds high-falutin’,

it translates to beautiful and deceptively simple-looking plates that promise big flavors in unexpected combinations. Breakfast is traditional — why would anyone mess with waffles or steak and eggs, anyway? Lunch, however, takes a hard western turn toward Hawaii and Japan with tiger shrimp and beef spring rolls and Kona coconut shrimp. Bento boxes, island-themed salads and a selection of entrees make for a satisfying meal. Dinner continues in the same vein, with entrees like Huli Huli Hamachi (yellowtail) and yuzu chimichurri local halibut with heirloom tomato confit. Meat lovers can choose from roast chicken, beef short ribs, rack of lamb or pork, among others. Signature cocktails include a spicy mango margarita and Roy’s mai tai, and the wine list is excellent.

■ **Best Restaurant in Pacific Grove**

Passionfish — 701 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove – (831) 655-3311, passionfish.net

A repeat Golden Pine Cone winner known for sustainable seafood and an extensive wine list at “realistic prices,” according to its website, Passionfish is committed to fresh, local ingredients, farmers and sustainable farms and fisheries. “America’s Last Hometown” seems like an apt place for a restaurant devoted to quality food that’s harvested nearby. It was recently purchased by a member of the family that owns The Fishwife in P.G., and they have wisely decided to stick close to the eatery’s original vibe while introducing new special dishes now and then.

Diners’ favorites include Nancy’s buttery buttermilk biscuit from the starter’s menu. Dungeness crab salad with avocado, spicy ginger vinaigrette and braised fennel, Alaskan halibut, served with roasted Brussels sprouts, squash, maple pecans, cranberries, lemon-herb oil and many others. If seafood isn’t your thing, try the spoonable 12-hour

Continues next page



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We’re incredibly thankful to readers of The Carmel Pine Cone for recognizing our efforts at The Sardine Factory with awards including *Best Wine List*, *Best Sommelier* — *Dave Sidener*, and *Best Restaurant for a Special Occasion!*

At The Sardine Factory, our staff works tirelessly to provide award winning food, wine, and service that creates a dining experience that’s second to none. From the front of the house to the back of the house, it’s because of their dedication to excellence that we may celebrate these awards together.

To all our staff at The Sardine Factory: We’re truly honored by your dedication to bringing the very best to our customers each and every day. We could not do this without you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We love you all!

Ted Balestreri & Bert Cutino





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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

lamb breast with chickpea and Meyer lemon stew, or the chef’s take on classic duck confit served with a honey reduction, smoked chile-potato cake, and grilled broccolini. For dessert you cannot miss the organic mint and espresso mud pie or the maple-banana bread pudding, then walk some of that off with a stroll down to Lover’s Point and along the coast, enjoying the charming Victorian houses along the way.

■ Best Restaurant in Seaside

Maligne — 600 Broadway, Seaside – (831) 601-1302, restaurantmaligne.com

A repeat Golden Pine Cone winner, Maligne gets its moniker from owner Klaus Georis’ childhood nickname, which means “clever, sly, or even troublesome,” according to him. Georis — a member of the family that has brought much fine food and good wine to the Peninsula over the decades (think La Bicyclette in Carmel and Georis winery) — seems to enjoy playing with people’s expectations. Located in an unassuming corner lot on Broadway and Hillsdale in Seaside, the restaurant is teeming with activity and flavor. The menu feels like it could come have straight from a French country cookbook.

The food is cooked to perfection and presented in a way that’s both beautiful and accessible. The service is excellent, and even simple things like focaccia bread served with the Georis family’s estate olive oil become sublime. Other items, like a whole deboned chicken, grilled rockfish with asparagus and au poivre (pepper) sauce, are excellent examples of treating ingredients with respect, and everything is made with care. Three-course meals can be had for \$40 and up, parking is easy and, if you haven’t been there in a while, you’ll find that Broadway has had quite the facelift in recent years.

RECREATION & THE ARTS

■ Best Local Artist

Delia Bradford Fine Arts — Sixth between San Carlos and Mission – (831) 601-4957, deliabradford.com

The daughter of two professional artists who grew up on Partington Ridge in Big Sur, Delia Bradford has a passion for plein air painting, which is the art of painting outdoors. Surrounded by the elements, she creates impressionist landscapes and florals that showcase her passion and vitality for life and for nature. Vibrant and colorful, her creations also exude peace and tranquility. You can often find Bradford in her downtown gallery, standing in front of an easel with a brush in her hand and a bright smile on her face.

■ Best Local Photographer

Sherman Chu — (925) 683-2320, shermanchu.com

A Carmel Valley resident who specializes in real estate, corporate and golf photography, Sherman Chu goes to great lengths to document an event, employing his camera to tell a story.

“The best photographers are gifted storytellers,” Chu explained. “They allow people to get swept away in the event knowing that their greatest moments will be captured in brilliant photographs.” His online wedding portfolio shows creativity, juxtaposing traditional portraiture with the unusual — a couple standing in a river or a sun-dappled barn — and nicely captured candid moments.

His work is highly respected within the local real estate industry, and you can often find his still, drone and 3D imagery on realtors’ websites and in The Pine Cone’s “In Your Dreams” special sections.

■ Best Photo Gallery

Center for Photographic Art — Sunset Center at San Carlos & Ninth – (821) 625-5181, photography.org

Tracing its roots to the Friends of Photography group founded by Ansel Adams and others in the late 1960s, the Center for Pho-

tographic Art offers a busy slate of group shows, solo exhibits, receptions, juried competitions, book signings and talks. Some exhibits recall long-forgotten photographic processes from the late 19th century, while others explore the future of the medium in the digital age. The group’s gallery is located at Sunset Center, where executive director Ann Jastrab and a host of volunteers create a welcoming place to celebrate photography — and put on a lively mix of events to keep everybody connected.

■ Best Sculpture Gallery

Steven Whyte Gallery — Barnyard shopping center – (831) 620-1917, stevenwhytesculptor.com

Widely acclaimed for his heroic bronze sculptures that adorn many public spaces in England and the United States, Steven Whyte again wins a Golden Pine Cone. Now working out of a studio in The Barnyard, Whyte is widely acclaimed for his public sculptures, which can be found in the United States, Europe and Asia. His work is displayed in multiple Smithsonian museums, as well as at the Florida State Capitol, Texas A&M University and on Cannery Row. He’s also committed to social justice — of the more than 84 life-size and larger bronze public figures he has created, more than 30 depict non-Caucasian subjects and 30 depict women, “reflecting his long-standing commitment to expanding diversity and inclusivity in public art.”

■ Best Art Gallery

Carmel Art Association — Dolores between Fifth and Sixth – (831) 250-3347, carmelart.org

The town’s oldest gallery and one of the most enduring nonprofit galleries anywhere, Carmel Art Association showcases the work of about 80 contemporary local painters and sculptors. Its earliest members included luminaries like Armin Hansen, Francis McComas and E. Charlton Fortune, while today’s roster features notables like Johnny Apodaca, Lucas Blok, Will Bullas, Erin Gafill, Gerald Martin and many others. Founded in 1927, the gallery hosts an array of group shows for adults and students, along with receptions, talks, demonstrations and fundraisers.

■ Best Performing Arts Company

Pacific Repertory Theatre — Monte Verde between Eighth and Ninth – (831) 622-0100, pacrep.org

Founded in 1982 by longtime creative director Stephen Moorer, PacRep is the Monterey Peninsula’s premier theater group, producing a generous number of plays, musicals and concerts. The theater company celebrates the genius of William Shakespeare each year with a festival in his name, kicks off the New Year with a rock ‘n’ roll tribute concert and mentors the next generation of theatrical talent through its School of Dramatic Arts.

“In celebrating the transforming power of the creative spirit, PacRep Theatre produces bold and daring interpretations of the great plays from the world stage — plays that engage, excite, educate and inspire, presenting a world-class theatrical experience,” according to its mission statement.

■ Best Concert Venue

Sunset Center — San Carlos between Eighth and 10th – (831) 620-2048, sunsetcenter.org

Committed to delivering diverse, high-quality arts programming — and promoting arts education for all ages through accessible education programs — Sunset Center attracts big-name talent to its main stage. It also provides a venue for concerts presented by local classical music groups and features a gallery that hosts exhibits by local artists.

Once the historic Sunset School, it has been transformed into a state-of-the-art facility with soaring ceilings and excellent acoustics.

“At Sunset Center, we bring world-class

Continues next page

From previous page

entertainment close to home,” according to its representatives. “We guarantee there’s something for everyone with our curated series.”

■ Best Place to Relax and Listen to Music

Folktale Winery — 8940 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley – (831) 293-7500, folktalewinery.com

With the Santa Lucia Mountains providing a stunning natural backdrop, it’s difficult to imagine a more perfect garden setting to sip wine and enjoy live music than Folktale Winery. Its busy live music schedule highlights local talent as well as up-and-coming acts from out of town. The music is mostly acoustic and often falls within the realm of country, folk and Americana. “Come sip on our award-winning wines, kick back — or jam out — to the music and enjoy the panoramic views of our estate vineyards,” the winery suggests.

■ Best Local Music Group (classical)

Monterey Symphony — (831) 646-8511, montereysymphony.org

Founded in 1946 and dedicated to entertaining and engaging the local community through musical performance and education, Monterey Symphony is dedicated to fostering an appreciation for classical music’s rich past and is committed to keeping it fresh and vibrant in the 21st century. This season’s schedule features six concerts at Sunset Center that not only showcase the symphony’s many gifted musicians, but also an array of world-class instrumentalists. In addition, the symphony celebrates its 80th anniversary Jan. 23 with a Ruby Gala at the Monterey Peninsula Country Club featuring dinner and dancing with a live big band.

■ Best Local Music Group (pop rock or jazz)

The Bubba Pickens Band — instagram.com/bubbapickens

With six local teachers in its expanded lineup, the Bubba Pickens Band plays mostly bluegrass, with an array of influences like blues, jazz, gospel and folk sprinkled in, along with three-part harmonies. While they rarely play far from where they are based in Carmel Valley, the group can often be found performing at local fundraisers or down the coast in Big Sur. They don’t have a website or a Facebook page — if you want to see their schedule, check out their Instagram page.

■ Best Place to Take Visitors

Point Lobos State Reserve — Highway 1, 2 miles south of Rio Road – pointlobos.org

Called the “greatest meeting of land and water in the world” by late local painter Francis McComas, Point Lobos State Reserve is a magnet not only for painters and photographers, but for just about anyone who loves the outdoors. Famous for its rocky coastline, windswept cypress groves and ancient forest of Monterey pines, it’s extremely accessible, and some of its trails can even accommodate wheelchairs. It’s also home to one of the richest marine environments on earth — every weekend, scores of scuba divers explore the mysterious world beneath the waves. If you want to show off the best of where we live, Pine Cone readers agree that Point Lobos is the place to do it.

■ Best Family-Friendly Activity

Monterey Bay Aquarium — 886 Cannery Row, Monterey – (831) 648-4800, montereybayaquarium.org

Located at the site of a former sardine cannery that John Steinbeck made famous through books like “Cannery Row,” the aquarium is one of the world’s best — and easiest — places to see marine life up close. More than 2 million people each year visit the destination, where they can learn about the rich and diverse marine life that inhabits Monterey Bay and be dazzled by the colorful spectacle. While everyone crowds around to see the playful sea otters, don’t miss the “flashy fishes, mesmerizing jellies and swirling sardines” in other areas of the sprawling facility. Penguins and puffins provide adorable distractions, while the multistory Outer Bay and Kelp Forest exhibits can be calmingly hypnotic. The aquarium offers an educational and entertaining experience for all ages.

■ Best Local Festival

The Carmel Bach Festival — 10th & Mission – (831) 624-1521, bachfestival.org

Started in 1935 by Dene Denny and Hazel Watrous as a four-day series of classical concerts at the Sunset School Au-

Continues next page



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From previous page

ditorium — which is now Sunset Center — the Carmel Bach Festival is a two-week celebration of concerts, recitals, master classes, lectures and open rehearsals that brings hundreds of musicians to town every summer. The festival is dedicated to the “works, inspiration and ongoing influence of Johann Sebastian Bach.”

“Our vision is to be a world-class festival of music and ideas transcending the traditional boundaries of performance and presentation — and to provide fresh musical contexts that spark the imagination, stimulate the mind, and enrich people’s lives in multi-faceted ways,” according to its website.

Led by artistic director and principal conductor Grete Pedersen, the festival remains anchored in Bach and the Baroque era, but its musical reach spans the globe — incorporating international influences — and the centuries, with works of contemporary composers performed in the same concerts with the old masters.

■ Best Church-Sponsored Event

Jewish Food Festival — 5716 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley — jewishfoodfestivalcarmel.org

Presented yearly by Congregation Beth Israel in Carmel Valley, the Jewish Food Festival celebrates the many charms of “Jewish Soul Food,” with favorites like hot pastrami, brisket, latkes, blintzes, matzo ball soup and egg creams on the menu. Besides tasty food, the festival features “a tantalizing array” of cultural performances and family-friendly activities. The congregation, meanwhile, “serves the spiritual, educational, and social needs of Jews on the Monterey Peninsula,” and is “a welcoming and inclusive center for Jewish life.”

■ Best Place to Watch the Sunset
■ Best Place to Walk Your Dog
■ Best Beach

Carmel Beach — Ocean and Scenic — ci.carmel.ca.us

With its clean, white sand cooling your toes and a bank of fog framing the horizon, there can’t be many better places to watch the sun sink beneath the waves. Parking is free and often surprisingly easy to find, and it’s one of the most dog-friendly spots you will ever visit — you don’t even need to bring a leash. At sunrise and sunset and in between, canines of every imaginable shape and size can be seen dashing and splashing along the shoreline.

While well-behaved dogs are always welcome, beach fires are strictly regulated. Wood can’t be used, and only propane-fueled devices are allowed — and then only south of 10th Avenue.

Just minutes away from popular take-out spots like Bruno’s Market on Junipero or The Cheese Shop in Carmel Plaza, the beach is the perfect location for a picnic.

■ Best Place to read The Pine Cone

At home — *Where the heart is*

For so many readers, the arrival of The Pine Cone on newsstands every Friday morning — or Thursday evenings on the internet for early birds — is part of a treasured weekly ritual. While some prefer to get their news on the go — or while sipping coffee at Carmel Valley Coffee Roasting Company — many others are content to simply peruse the newspaper in the comfort of their own homes. So put on your robe and slippers, pour a warm soothing drink, put your feet up and dive into the latest edition to learn more about what makes your hometown such an interesting place.

■ Best Hiking Trail

Palo Corona Regional Park — 4860 W. Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley – mprpd.org/palo-corona-regional-park

Palo Corona Regional Park technically isn’t a trail, but it features one that is among the most popular of all local hiking routes — especially with Pine Cone readers. Unofficially known as the Inspiration Point Trail, it’s a 5.4-mile round trip that travels from the park’s Discovery Center to a dramatic vista that offers sweeping views of Point Lobos and Carmel. Along the way, you’ll gain about 750 feet of elevation as you marvel at the sights. Parking is easy and restrooms are available at the trailhead. But be sure to wear sturdy shoes and bring water.

“Hug the hill as you travel under the oak woodland canopy before ascending to Inspiration Point,” reads the park’s trail map. “Take in a birds-eye view of the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary as you stop to take a breath.”

■ My Favorite Park

Garland Park — 700 W. Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley – mprpd.org/garland-ranch-regional-park

The crown jewel of local regional parks, Garland Ranch Regional Park is home to more than 60 miles of trails set aside for hikers and equestrians. It also has an array of natural at-

Continues next page

Monterey County’s

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From previous page

tributes, including majestic stands of oak trees, vast hillsides of dense chaparral, meadows that explode with colorful wildflowers every spring, and an abundance of wildlife that’s full of surprises. It also offers enough topography and elevation to make fitness enthusiasts sweat — and it’s dog-friendly, too.

From cool canyons with meandering creeks, to sun-kissed ridges with distant views, Garland Park, with its many trails, is a hiker’s paradise — yet its trail heads are just minutes from the shops and galleries of Carmel Valley Village.

Best Fitness/Health Center

Carmel Valley Athletic Club — 27300 Rancho San Carlos Road, Carmel Valley – (831) 624-2737, [cvaclife.com](#)

Offering members just about everything they need to reach their health and fitness goals — as well as feel and look good — Carmel Valley Athletic Club offers seemingly endless ways to stay in shape. It features a two-story fitness center, dozens of weekly workout classes, private family changing rooms, nine lighted tennis courts, four lighted pickleball courts, adult-only locker rooms with saunas and steam showers, and array of social events and much more. Local chef and entrepreneur Tim Wood has recently opened an outpost of his popular Woody’s restaurants there, too.

“Start your weekend with a heart-pumping high-intensity interval training workout led by our top-quality instructors,” the club suggests. “Unwind and relax afterward with a sauna session in our luxurious locker room before heading over to your massage appointment next door at Refuge, our award-winning spa.”

Best Yoga Studio

Salty Soul Sanctuary — Ocean & Mission, Carmel Plaza, Third Floor — (831) 877-0042, [saltysoulsanctuary.com](#)

Describing itself as “a nurturing, vibrant community where warmth and love greet every soul,” Salty Soul Sanctuary, with its calming ocean-themed interior, offers a busy schedule of classes, along with workshops and special events allowing students to deepen their practices. A variety of perks are offered, including an unlimited memberships package and a Locals Newbie Exploration Pass.

“Our sanctuary provides a safe space for connection and growth, offering diverse yoga classes that cater to various

movement styles, ensuring accessibility and a welcoming experience for all,” according to the yoga studio. “Whether you’re a seasoned yogi or taking your first steps on the mat, we’re excited to welcome you to our studio and share the transformative power of yoga together.”

Best Golf Course

Pacific Grove Golf Links — 77 Asilomar Ave., Pacific Grove – (831) 648-5775, [playpacificgrove.com](#)

The only golf course on the Monterey Peninsula with both bay and ocean views, Pacific Grove Golf Links doesn’t receive the fanfare that goes to its more famous courses in neighboring Pebble Beach. But the 18-hole course has around since 1932 and has a rich and storied history.

The first nine holes were designed by U.S. Amateur Champion H. Chandler Egan in 1932, partly on land the city bought from Pebble Beach Co. founder S.F.B. Morse for a \$10 gold coin and a handshake promise to maintain it as a golf course for at least five years. In 1960, Jack Neville, who designed the Pebble Beach Golf Links with Douglas Grant, created the second nine holes.

The course is complemented by a clubhouse and a newly constructed golf shop.

The Pacific Grove Golf Links is open sunup to sundown, seven days a week, 365 days a year. “If it’s playing the great game of golf for the first time or playing as a seasoned tournament player, guests of the Pacific Grove Golf Links are sure to find everything they are looking for, and much more,” its website says.

Best Museum

Monterey Museum of Art — 559 Pacific St., Monterey – (831) 372-5477, [montereyart.org](#)

Every year, tens of thousands of people visit the Monterey Museum of Art, which hosts a busy slate of exhibits along with a permanent collection of more than 10,000 works of art. Founded in 1959, the museum features eight galleries showcasing the diversity of local and regional art, displaying paintings, sculpture, photography and mixed media from the 19th century to the present. It also offers educational programs that reach thousands of local students, as well as docent programs, classes, lectures and workshops and exhibit tours.

The museum describes itself as “a collaborative center where art and community engage,” where “there is always something new to discover.”

Best Library

Harrison Memorial Library — NE Ocean & Lincoln – (831) 624-4629, [ci.carmel.ca.us/library](#)

In a town where residents love reading and books, the Harrison Memorial Library is an institution. Located in the heart of town and designed by noted architect Bernard Maybeck, the library was built in 1928. Besides its vast collection of books and a beautifully manicured garden, the library offers a mix of community resources and lectures, as well as the opportunity to borrow day-use passes to California State Parks. If there’s something you can’t find on The Pine Cone’s website, you can find the rest of the newspaper’s 100-plus years via the library’s website. It’s open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Park Branch Library at Mission and Sixth features a kids’ library and history department.

Best Inn/B&B

Carmel Garden Inn — Fourth and Torres – (831) 624-6926, [carmelgardeninn.com](#)

Carmel Garden Inn has once again been chosen by Pine Cone readers as the Best Inn/B&B around. Everything about this place is quaint and screams — or delicately whispers — “Carmel-by-the-Sea.” With a charming garden setting surrounding 10 cozy guest rooms offering wood-burning fireplaces, what’s not to love? Guests enjoy the breakfasts, especially the homemade granola and summer vegetable fritatas.

The inn offers complimentary wine and cheese in the afternoon to top off a day of stress-free vacationing or staycationing. Just three blocks from Ocean Avenue, Carmel Garden Inn is walking distance from downtown and Carmel Beach, where you can watch the sunset or enjoy a stroll with your pooch, who is welcome in the inn’s designated pet-friendly rooms. Staff members can recommend a sitter so pet parents can have some alone time, too.

Best Hotel

La Playa Hotel — Camino Real and Eighth – (800) 582-8900, [laplayahotel.com](#)

This historic spot offers a modern luxury experience

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If You Want to Sue Someone



BEST ATTORNEY IF YOU WANT TO SUE SOMEONE

2025

From previous page

where bohemian spirit meets coastal sophistication. La Playa remains a beloved institution that celebrates the artistic heritage of Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Nestled in a quiet neighborhood just a few blocks from the beach, the 75-room boutique is surrounded by European-inspired gardens and turn-of-the-century architecture, and has expansive views.

During a \$20 million renovation, the hotel was thoughtfully enhanced — preserving its quiet eclecticism while adding three one-bedroom suites, converting all single queen bedrooms to kings, upgrading the bathrooms and generally sprucing up the interior and exterior. La Playa pays tribute to its legendary past, offering an intimate and elevated experience for today’s creatives, adventurers, raconteurs and academics. It’s also a really cool place to hang out.

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■ Most Dog-Friendly Hotel

Cypress Inn — *Lincoln and Eighth – (831) 624-3871, cypress-inn.com*

When a hotel is located in one of the world’s foremost canine communities, and was once owned by legendary dog devotee Doris Day, you know there will be room at the inn and a place at the table for your four-legged companion, where “Canine Delights” are featured on the menu, and dogs may dine from their own tea tray of delectable doggie treats.

Humans can enjoy lunch, dinner, cocktails or afternoon tea at Terry’s Restaurant + Lounge, whether accompanied by a faithful furry friend or not. Rooms are appointed with Fido in mind, including special blankets, a place to shower off your pooch after a romp on the beach, doggie pickup bags, and a list of local pet sitters if you want to venture out to a place for people only.

Longtime owner Denny LeVett may have passed away just a few weeks ago, but his legacy is very much alive at the Cypress Inn.

RETAIL

■ Best Florist

Fleurs du Soleil — *598 Fremont St., Monterey – (831) 656-0455, fleursdusoleil.com*

Customers come into Fleurs du Soleil not just to order a fresh, natural, picked-from-the-garden arrangement, but also for the experience. The design studio with its floral bar and retail boutique offers a delightful oasis next door to El Estero Car Wash. With influences from the South of France and the local coast, Fleurs du Soleil designers create bouquets that combine natural beauty with the substance, form, color and design inherent in fine art. Although floral designer and owner Kim England locally sources most of her flowers, she also introduces blooms from all over the world via the San Francisco Flower Market.

■ Best Furniture Store

Mum’s Place — *246 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove – (831) 372-6250, mumsfurniture.com*

Step into Mum’s, and you’ll find a showroom filled with a full range of furniture styles plus accessories and objets d’art. For nearly 40 years, the shop has been dedicated to bringing in a wide variety of designs to satisfy locals’ needs, tastes and budgets. “Design and quality are important, but so is value,” said owners Mugo and Talin Tersakyan. “Our vision is to bring in the latest and enduring designs at accessible prices.”

Wander among classic, traditional, transitional, country French, and contemporary collections. Tell the knowledgeable staff what you’re looking for and a bit about your lifestyle, and they’ll help you make a great selection. That’s important, because the high-quality furniture is built to last. Clients can also customize their choices with more than 80 furniture lines and some 5,000 fabrics.

■ Best Golf Shop

Pebble Beach Pro Shop — *1700 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach – (831) 622-8723, pebblebeach.com*

Pebble Beach Golf Links is known the world over for its championship pedigree and breathtaking views, and while these attributes draw guests to the resort from around the globe, it is the friendly staff of the Pebble Beach pro shop who are there to welcome first-timers and returning guests alike. Each round played on the famed course is unique to the player, but one thing all of them share is a warm welcome and a genuine “welcome back” after they hole out on the iconic par-5 18th.

Each morning, the team is up with the sun and there around the clock until well after the final group has finished. Whether it’s souvenir golf balls to remember a once-in-a-lifetime round, an extra layer against the morning fog or a few calming words of encouragement before guests approach the 1st Tee, the Pebble Beach pro shop staff delivers the same world-class standard as the course itself. You may not end up driving like Jordan Spieth, but you’ll look and feel your best as you play a round in paradise.

■ Best Hardware Store

Ace Hardware — *290 Crossroads Blvd., 401 Mid Valley Center, Carmel Valley, 229 Forest Ave. and 1136 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove – acehardware.com*

Imagine a Saturday afternoon when you’ve just finished walking your dog, and for the umpteenth time, you’ve thought, “I really should put a hook by the door for that leash,” — but you don’t happen to have the right hardware just lying around. Or, less aesthetically, you’ve discovered a plumbing problem that you know would be an easy fix if you just had the right stuff. Whether it’s duct tape, WD40 or some other antidote, Ace Hardware has you covered. Although each store is a member of the largest retailer-owned hardware cooperative in the business, these shops, locally owned and managed, give customers a sense of being where everybody knows your name, but with the benefit of a big business. In an era when it’s hard to find specialized service or even someone to work the register, a company that says, “Ace is the place with the helpful hardware folks,” invites confidence.

■ Best Housewares Store

Shoshin — *San Carlos, between Fifth & Sixth Avenues – (831) 877-6300, shopshoshin.com*

Interior designer Alexis Smith opened the doors to her Carmel store, Shoshin, in 2022, and has since developed a devoted customer base of design enthusiasts. Named for the Zen principle of “beginner’s mind,” her interior design shop has ideas for every room in the house. She’s been an interior designer for eight years, and her father was an architect. Smith earned a master’s degree in public policy and was successful in that field, but after redoing her best friend’s house, word of her skills got out and she found herself back in the world she’d grown up around — making houses beautiful.

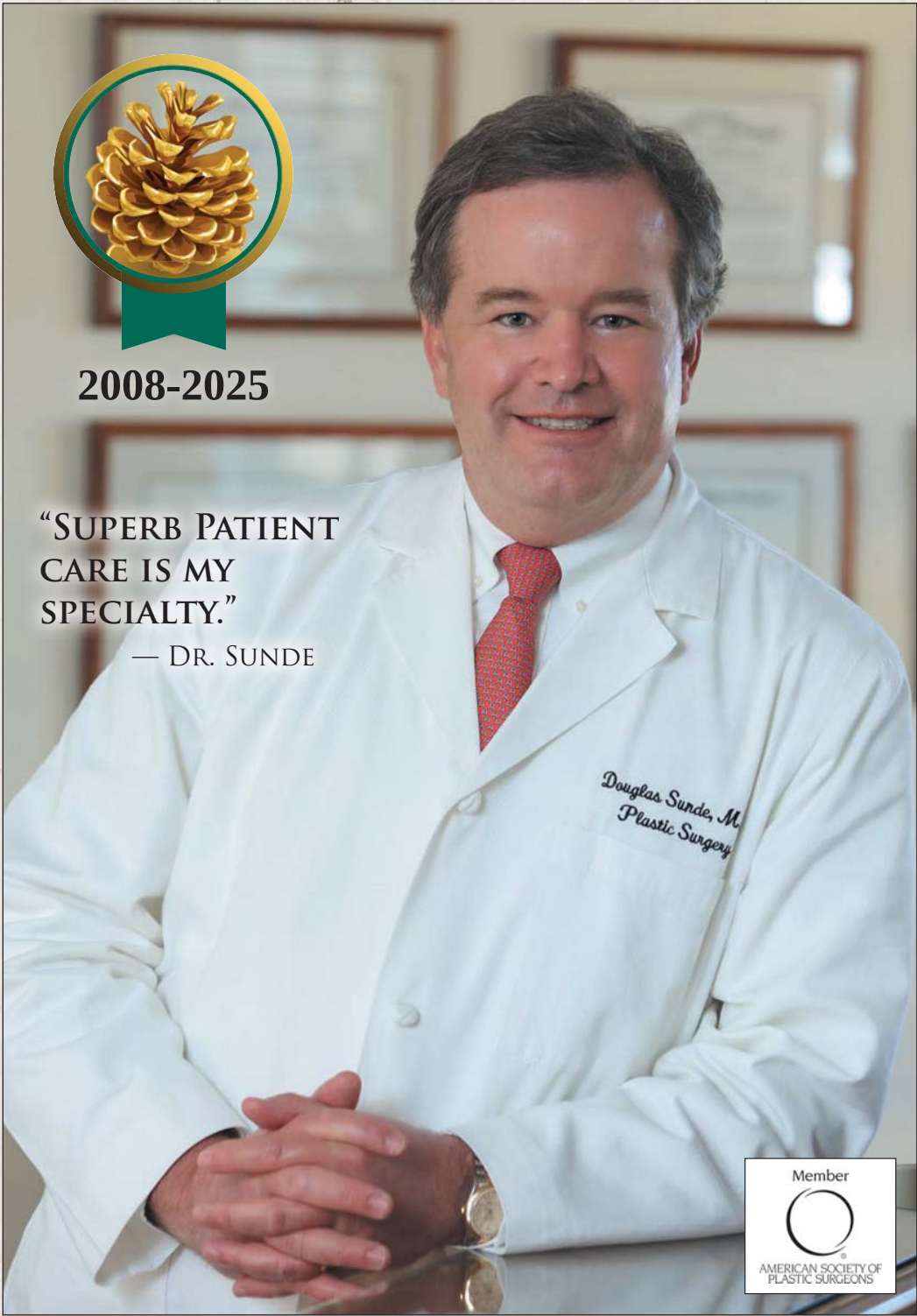
As 2022’s Best New Business and now three-time Golden Pine Cone winner in the Best Housewares category, Shoshin

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

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offers an ever-evolving array of unique, high-quality decor and furnishings for the home.

Best Pet Store

Diggidy Dog — NE Corner of Ocean & Monte Verde
– (831) 625-1585, diggidydog.com

In a canine community, it only makes sense to have a dedicated dog boutique (or two or three). Since 2003, this shop has catered to canines but also doesn’t neglect felines, providing unique, functional and healthy products for dogs and cats. While its primary focus is on animals, a lot of what the shop sells delights people as much as — if not more than — it does their pets. Diggidy Dog’s wide array of quality treats, toys, apparel, collars and leashes is sure to satisfy the most discerning dog or finicky feline — and their people. While they love locals, the staff at Diggidy Dog is also ready to help out visitors who left their friend’s favorite chew-toy at home, or discovered that their Chihuahua needs a sweater in mid-July. Yet surely the biggest attractions are two Westies, plus an English cream golden retriever. The trio are shop dogs who just might make this the happiest store in town.

Best Garden Shop

Griggs Nursery — 9220 W. Carmel Valley Road,
Carmel Valley – (831) 626-0680, griggsnursery.com

Gardeners have long known that digging your hands into the soil has a centering, nurturing effect. Locals count on Griggs Nursery for houseplants and succulents, seasonal annuals, perennials, California natives, trees and shrubs to plant in the places where they spend their days. For more than 20 years, Griggs Nursery has been thriving in Carmel Valley, helping to improve the local landscape one plant at a time. “We know what works here, so we can grow the variety and quality we want for our customers,” said Catherine Griggs. With more than 60 acres dedicated to interesting and exciting California natives and other less thirsty plants, Ken and Catherine Griggs are cultivating a larger variety of offerings, which they bring into the nursery weekly to the surprise and delight of customers. The only thing more important to a growing business than the plants, they said, is their dedicated, longtime staff, many of whom are known and asked for by name.

Best Place to Buy Athletic Wear

The Treadmill — 111 Crossroads Blvd. – (831) 624-4112, thetreadmill.com

For more than 40 years, The Treadmill has been part of daily life for the active communities of Carmel, Carmel Valley, Big Sur and the Monterey Peninsula. Family-owned and operated since 1983, the store has built its reputation on exceptional service, premier athleisure and lifestyle brands, and a genuine passion for helping people live well. The Treadmill’s welcoming team of experts offers thoughtful guidance and personalized care that make every visit feel like a tailored experience. Buying shoes is a walk back through time, as they carefully measure your feet, watch your gait as you walk around the store, ask what kinds of activities you’ll participate in and then patiently pull box after box from the back until you get just the right pair. It’s no wonder Carmel Pine Cone readers have named The Treadmill their go-to place 10 years in a row — a distinction that reflects its enduring excellence and deep local roots.

Best Pharmacy

Carmel Drug Store — Ocean between Dolores and San Carlos – (831) 624-3819, carmeldrugstore.com

Independently owned and serving the community since 1910, Carmel’s classic drug store and family pharmacy invites you to “shop back in time.” Known for giving many a high-school kid their first job, the pharmacy is renowned for providing quality products and service. This drug store just might be the most convenient stop in town — and it also offers a delivery service Monday through Friday for those who are housebound or have difficulty finding parking. Located in the heart of Carmel, the shop’s narrow storefront is chock-full of everything folks might need or maybe forgot on their way into town. The back looks like the old-fashioned pharmacy it is, yet it provides state-of-the-art products. Additionally, there are greeting cards, postcards and books by local authors. You can find high-end bath and body products, including Mason Pearson hairbrushes, hand made in England, and Bonny Doon Farm’s soaps, salves and lotions, in soothing lavender and invigorating lemon verbena. If only the place had a soda fountain, it would complete the hometown experience.

Best Children’s Clothing Store/Boutique

Heaven A Child’s Boutique — Lincoln between Ocean and Seventh – (831) 624-6550

Continues next page



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GOLDEN PINE CONES

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Ash and Monique Vasanji, who hosted the grand opening of Heaven in 2001, are celebrating the 23rd anniversary of their European-style children's boutique, designed for the customer who has exquisite taste and seeks quality and style for their little ones.

"Throughout the years, our family has remained committed to bringing in really special clothing, shoes, and gifts for the children of our community and beyond. We are so grateful for the support and recognition," said Monique.

Located on Lincoln in the site of the legendary Village Straw Shop, Heaven beckons customers through double doors into a gracious, well-lit salon appointed with very special, very select children's apparel.

It's as if you've wandered into the custom wardrobe of a favored child. Perhaps yours.

■ Best Men's Clothing Store

Khakis of Carmel — *Carmel Plaza, Ocean and Mission – (831) 625-8106, khakisofcarmel.com*

Jim and Connie Ockert and their team at Khakis of Carmel have created what some believe is the finest men's store in the United States.

Offering the very best in luxury menswear, Khakis sources an incredible selection of men's clothing from Europe and especially Italy, with bespoke items and a carefully selected sportswear collection from Isaia, Canali, Pescarola, Eleventy, and Maurizio Baldassari, as well as fabrics from Loro Piana, Holland & Sherry, Ariston and customer favorite Peter Millar.

Trained stylists help create and define each customer's personal look.

Said Jim, "We travel the globe to search for unusual handmade luxury menswear products, which emphasizes our own aesthetic for the modern man."

■ Best Men's Shoe Store

Hedi's Shoes — *Ocean and Mission, additional locations at 3630 The Barnyard, and Del Monte Shopping Center in Monterey – (831) 624-5580, hedi.com*

Walking is a preferred mode of transportation around here, and Haydar "Hedi" Movahedi's goal is to make sure customers feel as good as they look while they stroll along Scenic Road or enjoy brunch at Mission Ranch. He opened his first Carmel shoe store more than 30 years ago. Since then, he's cobbled together comfort, quality, convenience and cool, paired with customer service from experienced staff who understand fit, form and function.

Featured brands offering dressy, casual, or rough-wear shoes, include Ugg, Ecco, Pikolinos, Mephisto, Paul Greene, HOKA, Birkenstock, NAOT, Ara, Dansko, Joseph Seibel, Rieker, Remonte, Olukei, and Finn Comfort, plus a complement of Kühl clothing and accessories.

■ Best Women's Clothing Boutique

Girl Boy Girl — *Mission and Seventh – (831) 626-3368, girlboygirlcarmel.com*

How do you find just the right outfit in a community with a reputation for being a bit bohemian, which puts on full theater productions outdoors and hosts the fancy likes of the Carmel Bach Festival? Girl Boy Girl, established in 1991, wants to help. It aims to "to create the most joyous and unforgettable shopping experience for everyone that walks through our doors." Known for its exceptional curation and large selection of more than 80 contemporary brands, GBG, and its sister store, Paloosh, try to present something for everyone seeking fun, festive fashion. Guests have come to expect excellent customer ser-

Continues next page



Thank you Carmel Pine Cone readers for voting us Best Museum on the Monterey Peninsula!

We are grateful to share our passion for the arts and inspire the community with the diversity of California art—past, present, and future.



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GOLDEN PINE CONES

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vice by professionals uniquely qualified to style women from head to toe while honoring each client’s personality.

■ Best Resale/Consignment Shop

Yellow Brick Road Benefit Shops —
26388 Carmel Rancho Blvd. – (831) 626-8480,
yellowbrickroadbenefitshop.org

The folks at Yellow Brick Road say they are pleased, once again, to receive the Golden Pine Cone award. In 1989, Carmel Presbyterian Church developed a plan to more closely connect to the people and needs of Monterey County and worked with the community to establish the Yellow Brick Road Benefit Shops. They offer a meaningful way to offer shoppers the chance to give back through donations, providing others with the opportunity to purchase bargains while raising funds to support local needs.

Thrifters love browsing and shopping there. They can find designer clothing — occasionally with the tags still attached — as well as opportunities to snag high-end accessories, books, and household goods, from fine china and Waterford crystal, to kitchen gadgets, all in one area with ample parking.

Yellow Brick Road has three locations in Carmel Rancho — the main store, with clothing, household items, jewelry and collectibles, a well-stocked bookstore that also carries CDs, and a furniture and art store. Since opening its doors, Yellow Brick Road has generated and distributed \$9.3 million. In 2024, and 2025 to date, it’s funded more than 209 grants, along with 90 scholarships to qualifying students attending colleges and universities throughout the country.

See **PRIMO** page 33 GPC

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The Golden Pine Cones



October 31, 2025

PRIMO

From page 31 GPC

- Best Women’s Accessories
- Best Place to Buy Designer Clothes

Foxy Couture Carmel — San Carlos near Fifth – (831) 625-9995, foxycouturecarmel.com

Since 1991, Susan Galvin has recycled vintage and contemporary designer clothing into a business which, more than 10 years ago, became Foxy Couture Carmel, a sustainable luxury, designer, and vintage consignment store. “We are sustainable because everything in our store is pre-owned,” she said. “We recycle and repurpose timeless products from design houses whose allure typically doesn’t change that much. These luxury fabrics and designs have been gently worn or not at all.”

In a community where a calendar can rapidly fill up with things to see and places to be seen, and the only excuse anyone needs for a special night out is “it’s Tuesday,” an interesting wardrobe that reflects its owner’s individuality is a valuable asset.

Galvin takes pride in the special things she sleuths out all over the world. “We are honored to receive this award from The Carmel Pine Cone, the cornerstone, along with the Carmel Library, of our community,” she said.

- Best Women’s Shoe Store

Lloyd’s Shoes — Ocean and Dolores – (831) 625-1382, lloydsshoes.com

If you want to know what shoes are in this season, check out what Lloyd’s owner Tess Calhoon is wearing. Perhaps her handmade Italian suede ankle booties by AGL, in espresso, the trending color of the season. A third-generation Italian shoe company, AGL is run by three sisters who created this

weatherproof suede boot with the perfect heel for working or wearing for after work out to dinner.

Lloyd’s entire staff is obsessed with sneaker brand Back 70. A slightly elevated alternative to an Adidas, these super-comfortable sneaks come in every color imaginable. Throw them on with jeans, a dress or leggings for a casual errand day.

“And we finally received a reorder of our favorite handbags,” Calhoon said. “Handmade in Milan by Reptiles House, they are the most beautiful, buttery leather in fall colors, and they sit perfectly on the shoulder. Lastly, Falke is a luxury hosiery brand founded in Germany. We are loving the polka dot tights — the perfect accessory to any fall or holiday outfit.”

- Best Vintage Clothing Store

Wally’s — Fifth and San Carlos – (831) 224-7075, wallys-cbts.com

Andrew Chugg was rockin’ it in the digital audio business, which meant sitting in front of a computer screen for 11 hours a day. He decided his next adventure should be more about meeting people and having fun. So, with his wife, Jordan — a seventh-generation Monterey County resident — Chugg, who hails from the East Coast, settled here. They brainstormed a business that would make a social connection, paired with their passion for treasure hunting, collecting, being resourceful — and fashion.

In May 2024, the couple established Wally’s, a vintage clothing store that specializes in menswear they — and their customers — actually consider unisex. The store’s named in honor of their elderly mixed-breed pup.

Chugg curates clothing for the shop throughout California, including a network of auctions and estate sales, and also buys special items from locals.

“We’ve had fantastic support,” said Chugg, who won the Golden Pine Cone for Best New Business last year. “A lot of locals seem excited about the idea of some of their nicer pieces having a second life. Our business is about a little risk taking and a lot of great clothing.”

- Best Jewelry Store

Fourtané Jewelers — Ocean and Lincoln – (831) 624-4684, fourtane.com

Every piece has a story, and anyone who wears estate jewelry from this shop can write the next chapter. Sandy and John Bonifas, who purchased Fourtané Jewelers in the 1980s, have maintained the intimate, friendly and personalized atmosphere customers have appreciated since its founding in 1950.

Although it’s one of the country’s leading providers of estate jewelry and watches, more important than the pieces, said John, “are our dedicated, long-term employees and the relationships we build with our customers from all over the world. Especially in what has become such an impersonal business environment.” People buy these pieces not because they need them, he said, but because of the moments and memories they create.

- Best Shopping Center

The Crossroads Carmel — Highway 1 at Rio Road – (831) 625-4106, thecrossroadscarmel.com

Where can you grab a cup of coffee before perusing the latest novels, finding décor from Africa, having a spa treatment and buying a new pair of running shoes — all without having to move your car? For more than five decades, The Crossroads Carmel has been offering a wonderfully eclectic collection of boutique stores, restaurants and services that have served Monterey Peninsula residents and visitors. Special spots like River House Books are cause for regularly visiting the outdoor center at Highway 1 at Rio Road. Nearly all of the businesses at the Crossroads are locally owned and/or operated — and many are Golden Pine Cone winners, themselves — so you can count on unique shopping and dining experiences from some of the best restaurants on the Peninsula. It’s truly the perfect place for one-stop shopping.

Continues next page



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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

■ Best Antique Shop

Wittpenn's Antiques — *San Carlos between Seventh and Eighth – (831) 624-1336, wittpennsantiques.com*

This place definitely warrants wandering, plus patience and attention to detail. At Wittpenn's Antiques, there is so much to see and something for everyone to discover. Owned by Chip and Kathy Wittpenn, this treasure trove is a short stroll from Ocean Avenue, near Sunset Center. Even the windows of this little gem feature enough eye-catching collectibles to keep shoppers occupied for a while. Browse a wide selection of antiques and specialty items, including sterling silver, furniture, books, vintage musical instruments and more. After 20 years in Carmel, the folks at Wittpenn's Antiques thank Carmel and the customers who make this "a fun, special place to be."

■ Best Bookstore

River House Books — *208 Crossroads Blvd. – (831) 626-2665, riverhousebookscarmel.com*

River House books is the go-to local bookstore for people of all ages looking for that special read. Nature lovers, chefs and hobbyists praise its selection of nonfiction, how-to and guidebooks. Teens appreciate the youth fiction selection, and there are picture books for reading aloud to children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Those who need a news fix from around the world welcome its robust stock of foreign and domestic magazines and newspapers.

River House books is a repeat Golden Pine Cone winner for good reason. It offers its customers what massive online retailers never will — the chance to browse and hold a brand-new book before purchasing it. The staff champions local authors, who frequent-

ly stop by to chat with customers and sign copies of latest releases. A family-owned, independent bookseller, River House offers a comprehensive selection of works, from the classics to architecture, memoir to gardening. Books are selected for the store by highly knowledgeable, experienced staff, who are also friendly and happy to help.

■ Best Bike Shop

Mad Dogs & Englishmen — *Ocean and Mission, and the Monterey Plaza Hotel, Monterey – (831) 709-0007, maddogsandenglishmen.com*

Mad Dogs & Englishmen is once again our readers' favorite bike shop. And why not? The place doesn't just sell bicycles and e-bikes for all sorts of riders and terrains, it carries all the parts and accessories you could want, including a sidecar for your best four-legged pal to cruise with you as you enjoy some of the most beautiful scenery around.

In addition, you can find service and repairs to put things back together after an ill-advised run down a steep, rocky hill, and those who want to try before they buy, or just see the community from a different perspective, can rent bicycles by the day or hour. Mad Dogs even offers guided tours. And it's not all about the tourists. Said the staff there, "We are grateful for the support from our local community."

■ Best Car Dealer

Lexus Monterey Peninsula — *1721 Del Monte Blvd., Seaside – (831) 275-3071, lexusmontereypeninsula.com*

The nice folks at Lexus Monterey Peninsula are aware their clients have a lot of dealers from which to purchase vehicles, and they don't try to hide that. Instead, the family-owned Lexus Monterey Peninsula — which is this year's winner of Best Car

Continues next page



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GOLDEN PINE

From previous page

Dealer — informs potential customers why they should buy a vehicle from them. “Here, it’s all about the community,” the Seaside car dealer says. “We’ve built a dealership that’s welcoming, easygoing, and always looking to give back. Whether you’re from Monterey Bay, Pebble Beach, Salinas, Santa Cruz, or Watsonville, we’re here to make you feel right at home.” They also capitalize on their “friendly, reliable service,” and “top-notch cars.” The manufacturer is known to make exceedingly reliable and comfortable vehicles. “We’ve got an awesome lineup of new Lexus cars, a personalized financing process that’s super helpful, and a state-of-the-art service facility with factory-trained techs ready to handle all your maintenance and repairs,” the dealership says. Perks of buying from Lexus Monterey Peninsula include a 90-day warranty on every used car (and each of them gets a 182-point inspection), extended store and services hours, direct access to managers and a strong relationship with hundreds of lenders for the best rates.

■ Best Gas Station ■ Best Auto Repair Shop

Lemos 76 — 544 Carmel Rancho Blvd. – (831) 624-2925, lemos76service.com

Lemos 76 has been a Golden Pine Cone winner numerous times, which is a testament to the hospitable service it offers its customers. Started in 1961, the gas station is no spring chicken, which is yet more evidence it’s doing something right. More than merely a refueling place, Lemos offers full-service auto maintenance and repair, from a simple oil change to changing belts. “We do work on every make, year, and model with the same integrity we’ve held since opening our doors on day one.” That kind of service and flexibility led Lemos 76 to also garner a second

Golden Pine Cone this year for Best Auto Repair Shop. The service station has a gas pump open 24 hours and a snack shop with fresh sandwiches and donuts. So, next road trip, stop by to get your tune up, fill up, and snack fix — and “Come find out why we’re the best gas station in the county.”

■ Best Car Wash

Swift Car Wash — 26265 Carmel Rancho Blvd. – (831) 622-7060, swiftcw.com

A relative newcomer to the Peninsula auto cleanup scene, Swift Car Wash has quickly become a local favorite. With a mission of providing its customers with the “best car washing experience possible,” it’s no wonder why it won a Golden Pine Cone this year. “We believe that a clean car is not just a luxury, it’s a necessity,” Swift says. It’s invested in the latest technology and state-of-the-art equipment to ensure its customers’ vehicles get the best wash. “Our team of friendly and professional staff is committed to providing you with exceptional services every time you visit us,” the business says. “From the moment you drive in, you’ll be impressed with our attention to detail, efficiency and dedication to making your car look its best.”

■ Best Place for Brides to Shop

Epiphany Bridal Boutique — Mission Street between Fifth and Sixth – (831) 626-7700, epiphany-boutique.com

A repeat Golden Pine Cone winner, Epiphany Bridal Boutique in Carmel describes itself as a place “where coastal charm meets effortless beauty and unforgettable bridal artistry.” The good people at Epiphany love what they do, which is helping people. “As we enter our 17th year in business, our goal is and always has been, to make the

Continues next page

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“A special thanks to everyone who has helped in the studio over the 26 years I’ve called Monterey Peninsula my home. We’re proud to send monuments made here in Carmel, all over the world, it takes a ‘village’.” - Steven Whyte

See Steven Whyte's local public works:

National Monument to John Steinbeck and Cannery Row

Cannery Row, Monterey

Dennis Caprara Memorial

Swiss Rifle Club of Monterey County, Gonzales

David and Lucile Packard

Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey

John Madden Memorial

Bruno's Market, Carmel-by-the-Sea

Michael Marotta Memorial

Alvarado Street, Monterey

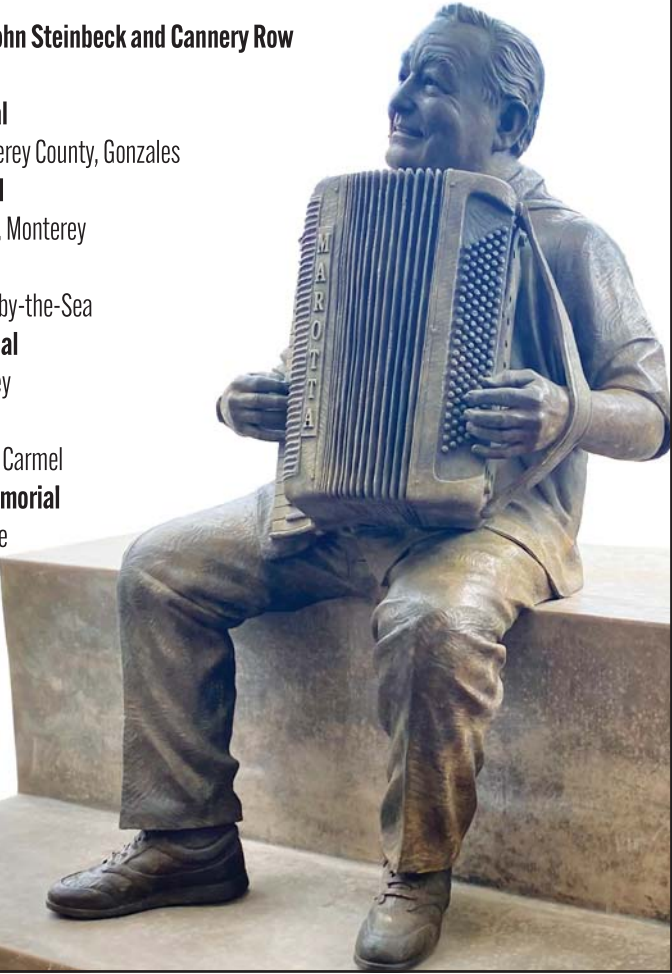
‘St. Anthony and Child’

Carmel Mission Basilica, Carmel

Dr. John L. D. Roberts Memorial

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From previous page

bride, our bridesmaids, moms, prom girls, and all the lovely ladies who enter our doors have the most wonderful shopping experience,” they say.

A dress isn’t merely a dress. It’s an expression of who one is and how they present themselves to the world, Epiphany notes. “Never underestimate how wearing the right dress will make you feel — beautiful, empowered and confident.” Some of the words employees of the Carmel boutique hear when customers enter its doors include adjectives such as “cozy” and “comfortable.”

“You’ll always remember what you wore. You’ll always remember how you felt. Let us create those memories with

you,” Epiphany says. It offers a selection of wedding gowns in its shop and hundreds more are available through its designer collections. There are also alteration services, and the shop pays special attention to plus-size brides. Every gown in its boutique is hand selected.

■ Best Gift Shop

Ami Carmel — *Dolores 5 SE of Fifth – (831) 620-1600, amicarmel.com*

Another repeat winner of a Golden Pine Cone, gift shop Ami Carmel truly seems to have something for everyone. From books, stationery, jewelry, clothing, home décor, prints, accessories, and even stuff for pets, you’d be hard-pressed not to find something for that special someone — or for yourself

— at the shop.

“Ami is one of those boutiques you wander into just to look and end up leaving with treasures,” a customer named Shannon said. “The shop is full of beautiful pieces, from thoughtful gifts to curated items by local artisans.” She went on to say that “the whole space feels intentional and welcoming. And if you’re lucky, there’s coffee and a chocolate chip cookie waiting for you. Don’t skip the little garden out back—it’s a quiet gem.” Another visitor, Meghan, called it one of the most charming and hidden gem boutiques in Carmel. “I ended up coming back a few times for amazing gifts for family and friends! A great place to find amazing statement gifts with personalization. I am obsessed with everything there and the staff was amazing! I will be there in a couple weeks, right in time for Christmas gifts! Highly recommend!”

■ Best Candy Shop
■ Best New Business

Sea Shack Candy Co. — *San Carlos between Ocean and Seventh – (831) 620-2408, seashackcandyco.com*

Sea Shack Candy Co. owner Tiffany Bufkin explains that the origins of the shop she founded began in 2001 when she first moved to Carmel-by-the-Sea. “I was living in a tiny cottage — charming, weathered, and full of potential — and I lovingly named it The Sea Shack.” The name stuck, and as her family grew, they relocated to another home in Carmel. However, the moniker followed them. “The Sea Shack came with us, always representing comfort, whimsy and a sense of place,” she said.

With two of their children in college and another in high school, the family wanted to start a new chapter to allow them to stay connected to the community that had given them so much. “We wanted to create something joyful, meaningful, and lasting — a little sweet spot that reflects the love we’ve poured into our home and family over the years,” Bufkin said. The shop, which opened this year, was designed to be a “playful escape” for locals and visitors. Gourmet chocolates, Swedish sweets and other treats are offered. “Here, you’re invited to build your own mix — flavors that bring back childhood memories or create brand-new ones. Whether it’s a tangy sour, a chewy classic or a surprise, your candy bag is your story — joyful, personal, and made with freedom in every scoop.”

See **GREATEST** page 38 GPC

WHERE BALANCE & EXPLORATION MEET A COMMUNITY OF SELF-DISCOVERY

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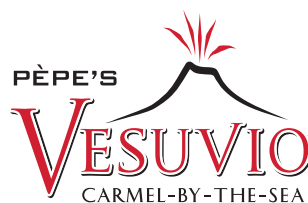
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GREATEST

From page 36 GPC

“This isn’t just a candy store,” Bufkin went on to say. “It’s a space filled with heart, built on memories and meant to spark connection.”

■ Best Carpet and Flooring Store

Carpets and Floors, Inc. — 471 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey — (831) 372-2300, carpetsandfloorsmonterey.com

Carpets and Floors in Monterey has done it again — it’s the recipient of another Golden Pine Cone. The shop carries an extensive collection of some of the finest flooring made. “We are dedicated to helping you find a solution to your flooring needs,” the shop says. “Our collection is based on what we believe are some of the most important things to consider when dressing floors — quality, durability and sustainability.” Carpets and Floors notes that it has the largest selection of wool broadloom carpet and area rugs on the Monterey Peninsula. It’s a member of the International Design Guild, a marketing alliance of about 100 upscale, influential flooring showrooms that focus on and care about quality, durability and sustainability.

“Through The International Design Guild, we’re able to bring you the Dabierri Collection, which includes some of the finest luxury flooring products available today,” Carpets and Floors says. Owner Dan Jones grew up in Georgia, the carpet capital of the United States, and started off installing flooring to make ends meet. He followed that path and became a certified flooring inspector before going into sales and eventually realizing his dream of owning his own company on the Monterey Peninsula.

“Dan has established long-term relationships within the design and flooring commu-

nity,” the business says. “With his creative mind and keen eye for color and design, Dan proudly curated the Carpets and Floors collection for many years,” it went on to say. “Some of Dan’s most memorable projects have been for the Pebble Beach Company, Big Sur’s Esalen, Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula and designing custom rugs for The Pope’s visit to The Carmel Mission” in 1987.

SERVICES & HEALTHCARE

■ Best Place to Work

Sotheby’s International Realty — Brokerages in Carmel, Carmel Rancho, Carmel Valley and Pacific Grove — (831) 624-9700 for Ocean Avenue brokerage, sothebysrealstate.com

Pine Cone readers have awarded Sotheby’s International Realty a Golden Pine Cone for Best Place to Work. With numerous locations on the Monterey Peninsula, the more than 100 Sotheby’s realtors work in what many consider to be one of the most beautiful places on the planet.

Said Tony Pena, senior marketing coordinator, “At Sotheby’s International Realty, we work in a culture built on collaboration, integrity, and support. We show up for each other, celebrate each other, and truly enjoy the work we get to do every day.” That really does sound great!

■ Best Place to Volunteer ■ My Favorite Nonprofit

SPCA Monterey County — 1002 Monterey Salinas Hwy., Salinas — (831) 373-2631, spcamc.org

If you’re an animal lover and have a little

See **FINEST** page 40 GPC

Thank you for your patronage and for voting us

Best Restaurant in Carmel Valley

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2025

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

FINEST
From page 38 GPC

bit of time to spare, helping cats, dogs and other animals at SPCA Monterey County is a dream. The Pine Cone’s readers thought the same thing this year when they voted the animal welfare organization Best Place to Volunteer.

A repeat Golden Pine Cone winner, SPCA Monterey County provides services for more than 12,000 animals a year, including lost and found services, pet adoption, help for injured and sick wildlife, humane education programs, low-cost spay/neuter and humane investigations.

The organization has a staff of around 80 people supported by an astounding 350 volunteers who provide care and service year-round. It’s apparent the group values those who step up to help.

“Volunteers provide essential support to our programs and services that help all animals in need,” the SPCA says on its website. “We truly couldn’t do it without our incredible volunteer team. Our hundreds of volunteers donate thousands of hours every year. The goal of the volunteer program is to support the mission of SPCA Monterey County through dedicated individuals giving their time and enhancing their skills to serve our community.”

It’s no wonder SPCA Monterey County this year garnered another Golden Pine Cone in the My Favorite Nonprofit category. Since 1905, the organization has been helping animals and people.

It offers dog training classes taught by certified, experienced behavior specialists, a variety of veterinary services, and runs the SPCA Wildlife Center, which rescues and rehabilitates wild animals.

It also has a list of animal welfare agencies and groups to contact if one finds a wild animal in distress and doesn’t know who to call.

■ Best Place to Get Married

Carmel Mission Basilica — 3080 Rio Road – (831) 624-1271, carmelmission.org

The Carmel Mission sets the stage for those considering tying the knot at the historic venue founded more than 250 years ago by Father Junipero Serra: “Imagine saying ‘I do’ in a sacred location steeped in history and blessed with beauty.” A regular Golden Pine Cone winner, the Carmel Mission Basilica has a lot going for it as wedding venues go. That history dates to 1771, and the old trees, stone walls, fountains and sanctuary that blends Spanish and native influences provide wonderful backdrops for photos. The acoustics are excellent, too.

By celebrating their wedding at Carmel Mission, couples are “exchanging vows in a setting that holds profound spiritual meaning for countless” others, it says. “You become part of Carmel Mission’s rich history and tradition. We understand how significant your special day is, and we are dedicated to supporting you every step of the way.” The mission has an experienced and dedicated team on hand to guide couples through the process and to offer “spiritual, emotional and practical assistance to ensure the ceremony is a joyous and meaningful sacrament.” However, not everyone can get married at the basilica. The bride and groom need approval from their local priest to marry there and at least one partner must be baptized Catholic.

■ Best Place to Get Married (non-church)

Mission Ranch Hotel and Restaurant — 26270 Dolores St. – (800) 538-8221, missionranchcarmel.com

Just down the road from the Carmel Mission is Mission Ranch Hotel and Restaurant,

See **PREMIER** page 42 GPC



VOTED
Best Salads



THANK YOU

- Jeff, Chantal and Jaydon Nelson

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PREMIER
From page 40 GPC

which this year received a Golden Pine Cone for the best place — other than a church — to get hitched. In fact, it’s the fifth year in a row Mission Ranch has snagged the title. A property rich in history, many wedding couples have chosen the serene ranch as a place for their special day.

With historic barns, outdoor patio and lawn areas, a built-in stage and dance floor, and views of grazing sheep, Mission Ranch is an ideal wedding location. “Weddings are memorable,” its website says.

“At the Ranch, there will only be one wedding each day, to ensure that your special day will be perfect! You could not ask for a better ceremony site with Point Lobos, Carmel River Beach and the ocean as a backdrop to all your photos.”

The ranch was originally 160 acres and was owned by Juan Romero, a Native American who is believed to have lived in the village next to the Carmel Mission. In 1852, Romero deeded the property to William Curtis, a Monterey storekeeper, for \$300. In the 1850s, the property became one of the first of the early California dairies.

The creamery, which supplied the county with cheese and butter, now houses the restaurant. The barns were used for hay and milking. During that time, the Martin family, who owned the ranch for 60 years, also farmed potatoes for Sierra gold miners. Clint Eastwood purchased the property in 1986, saving it from a planned condominium development.

■ Best Retirement Community

Del Mesa Carmel — 500 Del Mesa Drive, Carmel Valley – (831) 624-1853, delmesacarmel.org

The much-loved Del Mesa Carmel is a consistent Golden Pine Cone winner for Best Retirement Community. Perched on a plateau in Carmel Valley about a mile east of Carmel-by-the-Sea, Del Mesa Carmel has 289 residences for active adults. The community’s website describes life at the popular retirement enclave, where the tree-lined entry road has a 24-hour, on-duty security guard.

“Life at Del Mesa is anything but ordinary,” it says. “Whether you’re indulging in a delicious meal at Woody’s, our onsite restaurant, staying active in our fitness center, or unwinding on scenic walking trails, there’s always something to inspire and delight. Engage in a rich calendar of social events, cultural programs, and outdoor adventures, all while surrounded by the stunning landscapes of the Monterey Peninsula.”

Speaking of Woody’s, the fortunate residents of Del Mesa can eat at the popular restaurant without leaving the property. Woody’s at the Airport, owned by Tim Wood, its chef, opened its sister eatery at Del Mesa in 2023. “Here, neighbors become lifelong friends, and every moment is an opportunity to embrace the best that retirement has to offer,” Del Mesa goes on to say. “Experience the charm, elegance, and energy of Del Mesa Carmel — where your next chapter is waiting to unfold.”

See FOREMOST page 44 GPC

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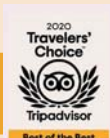
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2025

- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
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- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017
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- 2022
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G O L D E N P I N E C O N E S

FOREMOST

From page 42 GPC

■ Best Electrician

Cate Electrical Co. — *Seventh and Dolores – (831) 624-5631, cateelectrical.com*

If you recall seeing Cate Electrical in this category of The Golden Pine Cones before, don’t worry. You’re not caught in a time loop — the Carmel electrician is just that reputable. The company has offered its services to locals for decades, and Pine Cone readers consistently crown it Best Electrician. “Cate Electrical Co., Inc., has been a trusted name in elec-

trical contracting since 1960,” the company says. “As a family-owned and operated business, we take pride in delivering exceptional service to our community.” Whether it’s cleaning or replacing an aging electrical box that’s been infested with mice (Cate has the photos to prove it) or wiring high-end lighting fixtures for a new build in Pebble Beach, the company provides all the services one will likely need.

One customer, Barbara, summarized the type of service Cate is known for. She called on Dec. 23 with the expectation that nobody would be able to help until after Christmas. “To my surprise, the electrician called the next morning to say he could come right over,” she said. “He came, he checked the overhead fixture that had died, determined which part was working and which needed to be replaced. He set it up so one side worked, and we agreed that I should find a new fixture

and then call them to install it. No bill yet.”

■ Best Plumber

After Hour Plumbing & Drain — *5 Harris Court, Bldg. N6, Monterey – (831) 661-9543, afterhourplumbingmontereyca.com*

Led by owner and head technician Cedric Johnson, After Hour Plumbing & Drain realizes that when people have plumbing problems, they need help immediately. “In many cases, the faster you can have the issue addressed, the better off you’ll be,” the Monterey-based company says. “Waiting can often cause problems to get even worse, so don’t hesitate to reach out to a professional for assistance with urgent plumbing and drain issues.” The business believes in honesty, character and the value of a job well done.

“We pride ourselves on our integrity, ensuring that every task we undertake is completed with the utmost professionalism and attention to detail,” After Hour Plumbing & Drain says. “We’re not just a team; we’re a family committed to providing you with the best plumbing and drain services using state-of-the-art tools and techniques.” And no matter how complex the job, After Hour says it’s on call to help. “We’re available 24/7 to take your call because we know that sometimes you need help outside normal business hours,” it explains. “We even offer same-day service when available to address your needs promptly.” After Hour Plumbing & Drain is a repeat Golden Pine Cone winner.

■ Best Architect

Samuel Pitnick — *P.O. Box 22412, Carmel – (831) 241-1895, samuelpitnick.com*

For 15 years, Monterey Peninsula native Samuel Pitnick has been an architect. And for the third year in a row, Pine Cone readers have named him Best Architect. A native of the Monterey Peninsula, Pitnick started his company in 2017. He’s designed dozens of homes, including in Carmel and Pebble Beach. “As an advocate for sustainable and environmentally responsible architecture, Samuel’s designs strive for a harmonious balance between nature and building,” his website says. “He believes each new project is an opportunity to create a home that balances the client’s needs and lifestyle with the surrounding natural site.”

With a full-service architectural firm, Pitnick guides clients from their initial concept design through the complexities of the often challenging permitting process, eventually pairing them with a builder who suits their needs and will ensure their dream home becomes a reality. He’s designed single and multifamily residences, and retail, commercial, educational, recreational and healthcare buildings. “These projects spread from California, to Hawaii, New York, Europe and Asia,” his website goes on to say. “His award-winning competition designs have been published online and exhibited in New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Miami, Los Angeles, and Istanbul.” Pitnick graduated with honors from the University of Southern California.

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See SUPERLATIVE page 46 GPC



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SUPERLATIVE

From page 44 GPC

■ Best Engineer

Monterey Peninsula Engineering
— 192 Healy Ave., Marina – (831) 384-4081, mpe2000.info

If you’ve lived in Monterey County for a minute, it’s no doubt you’ve seen Monterey Peninsula Engineering’s vehicles around town. They’ve been involved in thousands of large, heavy-duty projects in the past 45 years, including for federal, state and local governments, special districts, private developers and homeowners.

This year, the company is the inaugural winner of Best Engineer, a new category in the Golden Pine Cones. Founded in 1980, Monterey Peninsula Engineering is a family-owned general engineering contractor headquartered in Marina. It specializes in grading, paving, excavation, site work, and the installation of underground utilities such as water, storm, and sewer infrastructure. “In any business, success can be directly related to one’s reputation,” company founder Bart Bruno opines. “Understanding this fact, we view every project as an opportunity to reaffirm and advance our name.”

Monterey Peninsula Engineering has grown one project at a time, “not by huge leaps and bounds,” Bruno said. Its projects include improvements to Salinas’ Main Street, improvements at the Seaside High School sports field, at a roundabout at CSUMB, and many others. “With the third generation of family firmly in place, new energy and spirit have been infused into our company,” Bruno said.

One of them is son Paul Bruno, the company’s chief financial officer, who also serves on numerous board and committees, including the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy, Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster,

Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association, Monterey Bay Action Committee PAC and the MPWMD Ord 152 Citizens’ Oversight Committee.

■ Best Interior Design Business

■ Best Staging Company

Sea Blush Studios — Eighth & San Carlos – (831) 238-7598, seablushstudios.com, or on Instagram @SeaBlushStudios

Carmel-based Sea Blush Studios believes timeless design is the most personal, so its interior design experts collaborate with clients to create an “approachable and relaxing home that speaks to you,” the firm says. Offering residential and commercial interior design services for all budgets, the business garnered its fourth consecutive Golden Pine Cone for Best Interior Design Business.

Sea Blush Studios also landed a Golden Pine Cone for Best Staging Company, a new category this year. It’s clear from Sea Blush’s website that it offers exceptionally personalized consultation services. Whether you’re trying to stage a place for sale in this competitive luxury real estate market or just make the place you’re living into the home of your dreams, our readers say that Sea Blush is the place to call.

■ Best Home Technology

House Wires — (831) 659-8324, housewires.com

Worried that your house is smarter than you are? For more than 20 years, House Wires has been a go-to business for locals with technological needs in areas such as cable installation, home audio systems, home automation, home theater design, smart homes, smart lighting, installation of surround sound, TVs and total system designs.

See **WONDERFUL** page 48 GPC

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FABULOUS
From page 48 GPC

■ Best Pest Inspection
Monterey Bay Pest Control — (831) 394 7378,
montereybaypestcontrol.com
Someone once remarked, “Whoever said ‘out of sight, out of mind,’ never lost track of a spider in the bedroom.” Or a mouse, or a gopher in that well-manicured garden, popping up like it’s taunting Bill Murray. This locally owned business serves Monterey and Santa Cruz counties, specializing in insect, rodent and gopher control, tree and garden spraying, live bee removal and other services, using environmentally safe methods with pet-friendly options.
Available programs include monthly service for ongoing, integrated pest management, bimonthly service to maintain low pest populations, one-time visits to knock down common household pests, quarterly service to prevent ongoing problems, and semiannual services for oak and pine pest problems.

■ Best Real Estate Company
Carmel Realty — Dolores between Seventh & Eighth –
(831) 622-1000, carmelrealtycompany.com
Founded here 1913 by the Mitchell family, Carmel Realty predates the incorporation of Carmel and has built a towering reputation, locally and beyond, for integrity, hard work, communication, and exemplary customer service.
Dan and Shelly Mitchell Lynch bought the company in 2005, keeping it in the family and continuing the practice of establishing trusted relationships with homeowners, visitors, buyers, sellers and tenants.
“We leverage our experience and network to make connections between buyers and sellers that no other company on the Peninsula can match,” they wrote on the company website. “We look forward to demonstrating our exceptional abilities and our commitment to quality for decades to come.”
Carmel Realty, a multiple-time Golden Pine Cone celebrant, has also been previously honored as Best Real Estate Brokerage in the Peninsula, Best Property Management Company and Best Company to Work For.

■ Best Real Estate Rental Company
San Carlos Agency — 26358 Carmel Rancho Lane –
(831) 624-3846, sancarlosagency.com
There are any number of reasons to rent a home — a vacation, a trial run in a prospective new community, or simply not wanting the responsibilities and commitment that come with home ownership.
This fourth-generation family business founded in 1954 is known for its comprehensive real estate solutions in Carmel-by-the-Sea, Carmel Highlands, Carmel Valley, Pacific Grove and Monterey, including long-term unfurnished and furnished rentals.
San Carlos Agency manages an extensive inventory of properties, including vacation and beach homes in the Peninsula’s most scenic venues.
The company also manages more than 300 long-term rental properties, a selection providing options for every budget and client need.

■ Best Real Estate Lender
Chad Hawker at Synergy One Lending —
Dolores near Seventh, Unit D – (831) 521-9378,
s1l.com/loanofficer/chadhawker
Providing a five-star customer experience leads the mission statement of Synergy One Lending and area manager Chad Hawker, a lifelong Carmel resident with a legendary work ethic.
Hawker was an undefeated tennis player at Carmel High School (Class of ’92) before becoming world-ranked as an Ironman triathlete, and he brings that same diligence and tenacity to the business world as a senior loan officer at the Carmel branch of Synergy One.
Hawker and his friendly, accommodating expert staff help clients navigate seamlessly through the process of securing a loan to purchase or refinance a home, utilizing the company’s trademarked “Modern Mortgage Experience.”

■ Best Personal Bank
Wells Fargo — San Carlos and Ocean Avenue –
(831) 624-5302, wellsfargo.com
The bank with more locations than any other on the Peninsula — five between Carmel Valley and Del Rey Oaks, not including ATMs — and the longest operating history in California is the locals’ natural choice for personal banking. In downtown Carmel, the branch at San Carlos and Ocean is a convenient and familiar stalwart in the era of online banking, with services including checking and savings, credit cards, home and auto loans, as well as investment and wealth man-

See AMAZING page 52 GPC

VOTED #1 CAR WASH!



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AMAZING

From page 50 GPC

agement. An honorable mention is owed to the P.G. Wells Fargo, since despite the tiny parking lot, the convenience of the drive-through location off Forest Avenue is tough to beat.

■ Best Business Bank

Monterey County Bank — 3785 Vía Nona Marie, Suite 100 – (831) 625-4300, montereycountybank.com

The hallmark of Monterey County Bank is “48 Years of Local Commitment and Care.” The testament is multiple Golden Pine Cones, because our discerning readers see the importance of keeping their business banking close to home. Understanding the idiosyncrasies of doing small and big business on the Peninsula is a daily task, but Monterey County Bank knows that modern banking is changing by the minute, lately through its introduction of digital transfer services between MCB accounts and other U.S. banks and brokerage accounts.

“We focus on driving smart, sustainable expansion; embracing digital transformation to better serve our clients; and delivering tailored business banking solutions designed for today’s entrepreneurs and small businesses. Equally important is our dedication to the community we serve,” says its website.

A full suite of business banking services is a given. Commercial loans extend lines of credit for everyday ops and seasonal shifts, as well as real estate and equipment financing, while Small Business Association loans are the choice of many of Carmel’s entrepreneurs.

■ Best Investment Advisor

Melanie Pitnick — Merrill Lynch, 3775 Vía Nona Marie, Suite 101 – (831) 264-9172

“It’s helpful being a local. I grew up in Carmel Valley, going to Carmel schools, and I work in Carmel. While we work under the Merrill Lynch umbrella, we run our own little family practice,” said Melanie Pitnick, a certified financial planner and retirement planning specialist.

As VP of the Ganji, Gregory, Pitnick Group of wealth management advisors — she’s also VP of Carmel Community Girls Softball, and a coach — Pitnick’s approach goes beyond the bracket and into the intricate and often emotional work of growing and maintaining hard-earned assets. Affluent clients trust her investment guidance and management services, and her insight into tax minimizing strategies, allocations, retirement and estate planning.

After 10 years with the group, which has earned top recognition from Forbes and Financial Times, Pitnick’s commitment is also being acknowledged by Pine Cone readers.

“She is passionate about educating people and providing personalized advice and guidance to help ensure one is financially prepared before, during and after life’s transitions,” reads her bio.

■ Best Accountant

Finn & Cohen CPAs — 425 Pacific St., Suite 302, Monterey – (831) 375-5166, fc-cpa.com

The poet Robert Frost recognized a surprising kindred spirit when he said, “A good accountant is a good poet. He appreciates the true value of things.”

A Golden Pine Cone winner three years running, Finn & Cohen’s output is prolific, between the firm’s two partners and 12 CPAs who help Peninsula people and businesses to understand their own value and how to appreciate it.

For more than 30 years, Finn & Cohen has offered full-service accounting and tax

See **SUPERB** page 54 GPC

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SUPERB

From page 52 GPC

assistance with a mission to “help clients maintain financial viability in the present while taking a proactive approach to

achieve future goals.” That includes tax management, accounting and advisory services, trust planning, tax preparation and the tools you need to get things done at home — including the time- and travel-saving convenience of uploading paperwork and forms via the company’s secure website.



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Best Veterinarian

Heart Dominguez — *Animal Hospital at Mid Valley, 312 Mid Valley Center – (831) 624-8509*

For exceptional vet care, Pine Cone readers have chosen Heart Dominguez for the second year in a row. The first alum of Cal State Monterey Bay to graduate from the prestigious UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, Dominguez said he works primarily on cats and dogs and takes particular interest in brachycephalic (“short-headed”) breeds, such as bulldogs, French bulldogs and pugs. At home he cares for one of each. He’s also a frequent contributor to Pine Cone columns about pet care and is known for his excellent communication skills.

Online reviews enthusiastically commend Dominguez for his efficiency and clear knowledge, with one pet parent writing, “Dr. Dominguez answered all my questions about our dog, and gave me tips on what to watch for and when to be concerned. Prompt, helpful and kind.”

Previously with SPCA Monterey County, Toro Park Animal Hospital and Romie Lane Pet Hospital in Salinas, Dominguez’s expertise covers “high-touch, comprehensive” veterinary medicine as well as orthopedic and soft tissue surgery.

Best Pet Boarding

All-Starr Pup Camp — *Robinson Canyon Road, Carmel Valley – (831) 402-4633, allstarrpetservices.com*

Dog heaven is a place in Carmel Valley, where Michelle Starr and her team understand exactly what Peninsula pups expect from “sleepaway” camp. What’s that you say? A kennel? No, they don’t use that term anymore.

“Your dog(s) will be treated and catered to like one of the family in our home,” says Starr and her team. During recreation hours, campers may choose to run their ya-yas out in the Zoomie Zone, enjoy a leisurely “Sniffari” outdoors, primp in the Groom Room, or nap in the sunny backyard. All-Starr’s packages include overnight stays and the option of half- or full-day care, with day camp running Tuesday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Starr has earned her stripes as a handler and groomer — she also offers pick-up and drop-off service for her grooming clients — and is trained in pet first aid and CPR. She ensures her team is up-to-date on pet safety and nutrition. They will happily administer medications and provide solo walks or anxiety-reducing snuggles to all campers. Pine Cone readers

Continues next page



I'm deeply grateful for your admiration in voting me the best local artist for two years. Your support fuels my passion to continue creating meaningful art.

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Peninsula
BUSINESSES
NOV 14, 2025

Besides its history, culture, scenery and great weather, one of the things that makes the Monterey Peninsula so wonderful is its outstanding business community. But who are the hard-working people behind all those amazing shops, restaurants and service providers? We will answer that question in our November 14th edition.

Don't miss a chance to be a part of it

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G O L D E N P I N E C O N E S

From previous page

don't trust their friends to just anybody!

■ Best Pet Care

Suds N Scissors — 223 Crossroads Blvd.
— (831) 624-4697, sudnscissorsinc.com

Curly hair can be notoriously difficult to cut just right. But since the poodles and doodles are happy, it's safe to say all creatures are in expert hands at Suds N Scissors. (You, too, felines.)

A professional all-breed dog show handler since he was 16, owner Todd Harris ran several other pet businesses before taking over this Carmel institution with a history that dates back 65 years. He's attracted a calm and skillful team of stylists and technicians who will ensure Carmel's cutest residents emerge feeling rejuvenated and ready for whatever comes next. Suds N Scissors has the signature look of long and short-haired breeds down pat, but even tough customers leave satisfied, according to our readers.

Book an appointment online to save time — confirmation comes via email, and first-timers get 15 percent off — but remember that this place is a multiple-time

Golden Pine Cone winner. It's savvy to book in advance of the holidays. Bath: check. Hair: check. Nails: quadruple-check.

■ Best Auto Body Shop

Gene's Import Auto Body —
531 Shasta St., Sand City — (831) 899-0343,
genesimportautobody.com

It's tough to be a car shop in a community so fanatical that you can buy your beloved auto its own condominium, but Gene's must be doing something right. Celebrating its 46th year as a locally owned and run business, the company proudly labels itself as "the Peninsula's most trusted name in auto body," a reputation built on expertly servicing vehicles both foreign and domestic.

More than 85 percent of Gene's business is due to word of mouth from loyal customers, according to the website, which promises the highest level of professional service and quality repairs at a reasonable price, always upholding factory standards.

Gene's is highly experienced in Mercedes-Benz, Tesla, BMW, Toyota, Porsche, Lexus, Bentley, Ferrari, Audi and most other imports.

Continues next page

To the Carmel Pine Cone Readers, including the best clientele, family and friends...



THANK YOU

from the bottom of my heart!

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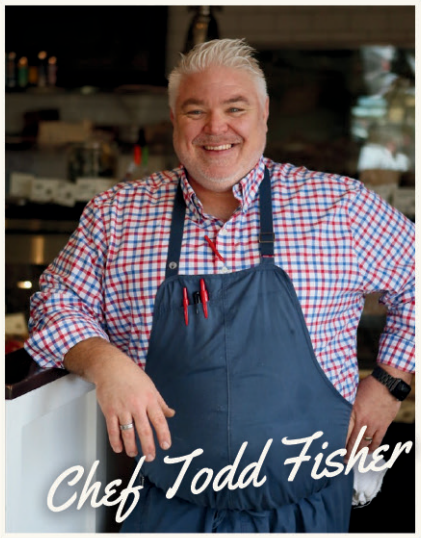
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GOLDEN PINE CONE BEST BUTCHER
2024 & 2025

From previous page

Best Dry Cleaners

Vapor Sudden Service Cleaners
— 1193 10th St., Monterey – (831) 375-5221,
vaporcleanersmonterey.com

Founded in 1921, the family-owned business declares itself “dedicated to making a difference for California and the environment,” utilizing its unique GreenEarth Cleaning process — safer because it uses no hazardous chemicals. “Our eco-friendly technology is one of the many ways we try to be a green dry cleaner,” the company states on its website.

Specialties also include alterations and repairs, shirt laundry, and wedding gown cleaning and restoration, always while using reduce, reuse, and recycle practices. Pickup and delivery services also are available.

Best Travel Agent

Carmel Monterey Travel —
2511 Garden Road, Suite B200, Monterey –
(831) 649-4292, carmelmontereytravel.com

It’s challenging to find somewhere else to vacation when you live in paradise, but this independent, family-owned company has been a full-service leisure and business travel agency in one of the most famous destinations in the world for more than 40 years, with a staff of experts with decades of national and global travel experience.

Carmel Monterey Travel clients are not only assured of personal service for worry-free travel arrangements, but also are provided with exclusive privileges and complimentary benefits to make their experience more rewarding.

“We work for our clients — not the travel supplier — so our main concern is always the client’s unique needs,” the company says in its mission statement.

Best Hair Salon

Mantra Salon Carmel — Seventh Avenue, Hampton Courtyard – (831) 626-1223,
mantrasalon.com

For people seeking longer, fuller tresses, hand-tied, sewn-in extensions are a popular specialty at Mantra Salon, always performed after a thorough consultation with a certified stylist. Mantra’s expert staff also offers stylish haircuts, shampoo and blow dry, partial, mini, baby-light and full-head highlights, root touch-up, full coloring, conditioning treatments and other decidedly fancy services at this full-service salon.

Everything is done with the goal of helping clients to look their best. “I am dedicated to continuing my education throughout the year, staying updated with the latest trends and techniques,” said Monterey County native Veronica Dokie, owner of Mantra since 2008.

Best Skin Care

Shelley Bennett Skincare —
588 Houston St., Monterey – (831) 324-4611,
shelleyskin.com

“My interest in skin health began as a young girl. Having to manage my own acne and pigmentation inspired me to learn about skincare, and how to keep skin healthy. Every day, I get the opportunity to make someone’s day!” said proprietor Shelley Bennett, who trained at Hotel George V in Paris, France, and refined her knowledge and skills working at luxury spas that included The Spa at Pebble Beach, The Four Seasons Beverly Wilshire, and Le Merigot Hotel and Spa in Santa Barbara.

“Through my experience, I have developed a technique and manner with a strong focus on the individual and their skin concerns,” she said. “I believe in a clinical approach within a luxurious facial that enhances your skin’s natural beauty.”

Continues next page



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parasoldermatology.com

GOLDEN PINE CONES

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ces, relaxes, and gives results.”
She also offers her own extensive line of Shelley Bennett Skincare products.

Best Nail Salon

Carmel Rancho Nails Spa — 26135 Carmel Rancho Blvd., Suite B5 – (831) 250-5832

Beautiful hands are important to many people. Ragged cuticles, cracked nails and chipped polish simply don’t make the first impression they’re seeking. Besides, getting a nice mani-pedi is an affordable form of pampering and a great excuse to sit and relax for a while.

Carmel Rancho Nails Spa promises a luxurious, modern-inspired salon that seamlessly balances its clients’ needs and appearance through “spectacular spatial offerings,” including its signature spa pedicure and manicure treatments and stunning nail designs, always using top-of-the-line products, and adhering to the highest industry standards in a warm, welcoming space.

Best Spa

The Spa at Pebble Beach — 1518 Cypress Drive, Pebble Beach – (800) 877-0597, pebblebeach.com/the-spa-at-pebble-beach

Relax and revitalize your mind, body and spirit in this world-class, 22,000-square-foot spa, which includes 16 massage rooms, six facial rooms, a full-service salon, a flotation wrap suite, an outdoor pool, conservatory and a sanctuary with a warming fire pit.

The Spa at Pebble Beach — rated as a five-star facility by the 2025 Forbes Travel Guide — reduces stress and enhances balance with unparalleled services that include massages, body scrubs and wraps, and water treatments, as well as nail care and hair styling.

Best Dentist

Bradford Carl — 26485 Carmel Rancho Blvd. – (831) 624-2111, bradfordcarl.com

Bradford Carl is his own best ambassador for bright smiles and the easygoing laughter that reveals them, providing the Peninsula with “personalized, gentle care” for more than 30 years. Carl and his team of hygienists use the latest in dental technology, while advising patients on the simple, daily preventive strategies that keep their visits to the recommended minimum. No snazzy 3D imaging machine or handheld camera can replace the power of “routine cleanings, flossing, sealants and fluoride in preventing dental disease,” as they describe their primary care arsenal.

Adding on to that are some exciting newcomers to the dental space like Invisalign retainers, as well as cosmetic procedures including teeth whitening and veneers, and minimally invasive interventions for early-stage periodontal disease. (The CDC estimates nearly half of U.S. adults have some form of the condition, typically from subpar oral hygiene.) Carl’s longtime administrative staff can offer a full rundown of insurance coverage options for those treatments.

Best Dermatologist

Christina Bolante — Parasol Dermatology, 900 Cass St., Monterey – (831) 574-8425, parasoldermatology.com

Who better than someone from the rainiest town in the U.S. — Forks, Wash. — to relate to skin concerns unique to our damp and foggy climate? Golden Pine Cone winner Christina Bolante is just that doctor.

Preventing sun damage is the drumbeat of every dermatologist, but Bolante worked at the California Skin Institute in Monterey before opening her own practice, giving her several years of experience treating a variety of Pen-

Continues next page

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insula patients with age-specific needs. “We see kids for warts and acne, patients with eczema, older patients with skin cancers, grandparents with thinning skin and wounds, and those who want cosmetic improvements,” she says. “Skin changes so much. It is an evolving organ, so to be able to be there for the whole run of it is exciting to me.”

Bolante’s office is also equipped with a state-of-the-art 3D imaging machine called the Vectra M2, “helping patients visualize their current condition and simulated changes” to treat skin concerns today, and tomorrow.

Best Ophthalmologist

Philip Penrose — 880 Cass St., Suite 105 and 21 Upper Ragsdale Drive, Suite 201, Monterey – (831) 373-2275 and (831) 740-8934, [eyemdmonterey.com](#)

Previous Golden Pine Cone winner Philip Penrose is a professional do-gooder, too. Bringing his board-certified surgical skills to underserved areas around the world — he has a long history with remote communities in Guatemala — those occasions are among the only times of the year he’s not treating loyal patients at two offices, one on Cass in Monterey and the other out at Ryan Ranch.

In-depth eye exams cover the basics like glasses and contact prescriptions, though in the case of an abnormality, Penrose is also the guy to see. His patients have routinely commended his personal yet high-tech approach and his skill in diagnosing and addressing issues common to aging eyes.

“In addition to helping Monterey LASIK eye surgery and cataracts patients achieve clear vision, his clinical interests include the medical and surgical management of diabetic eye disease and glaucoma,” says the website for his clinic, Eye M.D. Monterey.

Best Optometrist

Blink Optometry — 217 Crossroads Blvd. – (831) 250-6999, [blinkcarmel.com](#)

Gum, lip balm, birthday cards, The Carmel Pine Cone — notice that although there are many items we recommend you pick up in the checkout line at your favorite drugstore, reading glasses are not among them. You know, those things you wear on your face all day — when you can remember where you put them?

Instead, consider consulting the experts at Blink Optometry, the boutique eye center located just a few minutes away in The Crossroads. The shop stocks upscale glasses from Gucci, Tom Ford, Ray-Ban and others, as well as sporty everyday options from brands like Oakley, Nike, Costa and Salt. They’ll also tell you all the reasons that prescription readers are better than over-the-counter “cheaters.”

You may leave with something more than flattering new specs, since Carmel native Trevor Fogg and Telma Barseghian, O.D.s, also offer comprehensive vision care. The former specializes in ocular infections and allergies, chronic dry eyes, diabetic eye disease, and corneal refractive therapy, which is a non-surgical alternative for improving nearsight-

edness. Barseghian enjoys helping her clients fit glasses and lenses to perfection, and is likewise trained to treat eye infections, injuries and other conditions. She can also help you find a cataract or laser surgeon from among local and S.F. Bay area doctors.

Best Orthopedist

Christopher Meckel — 12 Upper Ragsdale Drive, Suite A, Monterey – (831) 648-7200, [msjhealth.com](#)

Cofounder of the successful Monterey Spine and Joint in Ryan Ranch, orthopedic surgeon Christopher Meckel performs an astounding nearly 300 hip and knee replacements annually. He received training up and down California from some of the state’s finest institutions, including UC Berkeley, Cal Poly and USC, before settling into his niche as an authority in joint replacement and reconstruction. Meckel has spent the past 20 years realizing what sounds too good to be true — minimally invasive, total replacement of hips and knees — thanks to his credentials and computer-enabled surgery background.

Carmel Pine Cone readers know the value of a pain-free stroll along the beach, the ability to walk around Spyglass for a round of golf, and all the other activities that tempt everyone who lives here, so they know a hip and knee replacement expert when they see one.

Best Pediatrician

Jill Airola — 2 Upper Ragsdale Drive, Suite B210, Monterey – (831) 333-0999, [mppmg.com](#)

Pediatrician and repeat Golden Pine Cone winner Jill Airola is warm, friendly, professional, funny (sometimes wacky) and has an extraordinary rapport with her young patients.

She may crawl on the floor of the exam office with a toddler and hand them a necklace to play with, or paint a teenage girl’s nails to soothe and comfort them.

Never one to rush an appointment, “Dr. Jill,” as she’s known, makes each young patient and their parents feel like they’re her only care in the world. As a mom herself, she just gets it.

The doctors and pediatric nurse practitioners at Monterey Peninsula Pediatric Group have a lot to offer young families. The group ensures same-day appointments for sick kids and as-needed consultations with UCSF and Stanford children’s hospitals. Immediately following that joyful and often terrifying entry into new parenthood, lactation specialists and postpartum experts are ready for Mom and baby.

Best Primary Care Physician

Jon-Peter Meckel — 2 Upper Ragsdale Dr., Building A, Monterey – (831) 333-3040, [montagehealth.org](#)

Everyone deserves to find the primary care doctor they want to spend the rest of their life with. This year, our readers’ pick is Jon-Peter Meckel, a young board-certified physician who takes special interest in preventive care and addiction medicine. The Carmel Valley native works out of Montage Health in Ryan Ranch, where his practice also provides a low-

stress environment for day-of procedures. Meckel has earned five stars across the board from the over 400 patients who completed surveys. They commended their physician, who joined Montage in 2020, for his unique attention to their concerns, detailed explanations and treatment options, and said they would recommend him to family and friends.

Best Plastic Surgeon

Douglas Sunde — 856 Munras Ave., Monterey – (831) 372-0200, [drsunde.com](#)

As Douglas Sunde says, “Plastic surgery is about more than looking good. For a lot of men and women, it helps correct years of discomfort, improving their comfort and quality of life.”

Known for his reassuring bedside manner, the Monterey-based plastic surgeon is the first choice of exacting patients who can expect Sunde’s thorough attention to their needs and desires. Expert in a broad range of cosmetic and reconstructive procedures, his practice offers Botox and fillers, face, neck and feature lifts, scar revision, breast lifts and reductions for both men and women.

Seventeen Golden Pine Cones to date, every year from 2008 to 2025, and Sunde makes it look natural. Ever the gracious winner, he acknowledged his dedicated staff and what the (many) accolades mean to him, in light of our selection committee. “It’s the greatest honor to be recognized by your patients,” he said.

Best Physical Therapist

James Takehara — Cypress Coast Physical Therapy, 101 Wilson Road, Unit C, Monterey – (831) 375-1885, [facebook.com/pacificrehabmonterey](#), [tinyurl.com/3vtr7rce](#)

Few would describe the atmosphere of medical facility as “motivational.” But Cypress Coast Physical Therapy is no ordinary office. Its clinicians are among the best on the Peninsula, according to our readers. Anyone recovering from an injury or operation — the primary goals of physical therapy — deserves some encouragement, says James Takehara.

“It’s a fun atmosphere. We treat in a very open gym setting. Everyone gets to meet other people, and we cheer each other on,” he said.

For 20 years, Takehara and his support staff at Cypress Coast Physical Therapy have stretched and strengthened patients to the point of relief from chronic pain, limited mobility, and other strains on their well-being. He brings an inquiring and evidenced-based approach to sports rehab, pre- and post-pregnancy care, falling and balance issues, headache and TMJ treatment — even sprained-ankle recovery to get you back on the pickleball court.

Said Takehara, “If you see patients as just a knee problem, just a back problem, you end up giving this cookie-cutter solution. You certainly don’t get better insurance reimbursements for taking the time and care to be different and good. For me personally — and I instill this in a lot of my aides — I try to teach an innate sense of curiosity. Why is something feeling or moving in a certain way? Everyone is unique.”

Best Chiropractor

Aaron Gaily — 1299 Pacific St., Monterey – (831) 657-0191, [chiropractormontereyca.com](#)

Aaron Gaily has some spine moves for you. The repeat Golden Pine Cone winner and Carmel High Class of 1995 grad opened his practice in 2003 as a one-doctor operation with no support staff. The Back and Neck Pain Center of Monterey has since grown into one of the most sought-after chiropractic clinics on the Peninsula. When he’s not helping you get back in alignment, Gaily gives back to the community through his youth basketball club, Rogue Basketball. It helps kids grades in first through 12th grades learn the fundamentals of the game.

Whether on the court or in the office, Gaily enjoys helping people get better.

“Being a chiropractor is one of the most rewarding things,” he said. “We get to watch people reduce or eliminate their pain, and get back to healthy living, day in and day out.” Gaily studied kinesiology and exercise science at Northern Arizona University before heading graduate school at Southern California University of Health and Sciences in Whittier.

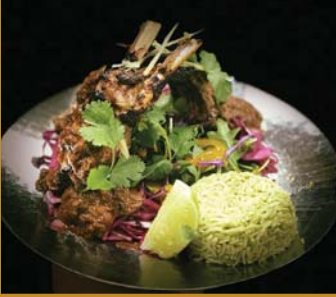
Best Divorce Lawyer

Sarah Cavassa — 50 Ragsdale Drive, Suite 201, Monterey – (831) 655-6868 [cavassaconnell.com](#)

For seven years running, Pine Cone readers have voted Sarah Cavassa the best divorce lawyer around. Ending a marriage is never easy, but having an attorney looking out for your best interest can alleviate the stress. Cavassa has been practicing law since 2008 and founded Cavassa O’Connell with partner Justin O’Connell. Both are graduates and professors at Monterey College of Law. The firm always seeks settlement as the preferred option, but Cavassa is an experienced trial lawyer who is ready to go to court for her clients.

“Whether it is an issue over tens of millions of dollars, or an issue over childcare, we know it is an issue that is important to the client, and so it is important to us,” says the

Continues next page



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legal team. Cavassa is certified by the California State Bar as a specialist in family law, including divorce, custody and support. She also prepares and reviews pre- and postnuptial agreements. Cavassa O’Connell represents clients in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties but has been willing to work outside that area, helping clients as far away as Santa Clara and Alameda counties.

■ Best Estate Planning Attorney

Jeannette Witten — 26515 Carmel Rancho Blvd., Suite 200 – (831) 375-3151, hudsonmartin.com

Getting your affairs in order is an important task and Jeannett Witten, Esq., is here to help. Pine Cone readers have voted her Best Estate Planning Attorney three times in the last five years. Witten has been practicing law since 1998 and became managing partner of Hudson Martin PC in 2013. The attorney views estate planning as a “neat opportunity to get to know people” as well as a “positive area of the law.” Writing a will is crucial to making the distribution of your assets simple for your family, and without one, your estate may be subject to probate in California, a long and sometimes costly process.

If you’ve been searching the internet for “estate planning lawyers near me,” our readers think that Witten should definitely be on your list. During her 20 years of practicing law she has also served as general counsel to a Securities and Exchange Commission-registered investment advisor with more than \$1.6 billion in assets under management. In her free time, she is an avid runner and has completed four Big Sur International Marathons.

■ Best Lawyer If You Need to Sue Somebody

Christina Goebelsmann — 26515 Carmel Rancho Blvd., Suite 200 – (831) 375-3151, hudsonmartin.com

Taking someone to court is never fun, but if you find yourself in need of a litigator, Christina Goebelsmann is ready to fight. Licensed to practice law in California since 2010, she holds the title of senior litigation attorney at Hudson Martin PC. The Loyola Law School graduate started her career in the public sector, representing the federal government in civil litigation and bankruptcy cases.

Prior to joining Hudson Martin, Goebelsmann worked in private practice, handling civil litigation and bankruptcy matters on behalf of financial institutions and lenders for a firm in Southern California. Her cases covered everything from breach of contract, to fraud and unfair competition. The attorney says she is happy to have the opportunity to bring her expertise to Monterey County.

“There is just something special about being able to practice here on the Monterey Peninsula, and it has been a complete privilege to represent the various businesses and individuals that we have here locally and throughout the Central Coast,” said Goebelsmann. When she’s not busy preparing a legal brief, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two dogs, as well as traveling and trying new restaurants.

■ Best Defense Attorney

Jennifer Rosenthal — 26364 Carmel Rancho Lane, Suite 201 – (831) 625-5193, jsrattorneyatlaw.com

Our readers believe that Jennifer Rosenthal’s phone number is a good one to save in your phone, even if it’s one you hope you’ll never need. This marks the third time they have voted Rosenthal Best Defense Attorney. “I find a lot of reward in the work I do and getting people back to a better place and back on their feet,” said Rosenthal. The defense attorney helps her clients navigate the complicated court and legal system and truly believes in giving a voice to those who don’t have an opportunity to use theirs.

Her online bio says she “champions justice for all and ensures quality representation with compassionate and continued personal contact through all stages of the legal system.” Rosenthal has experience as both a criminal defense attorney and a civil litigator. In addition to criminal defense, her firm specializes in real property, land use, business formation, cannabis regulatory work, landlord/tenant law and family law. When she is not working in defense of her clients, Rosenthal serves on the board of directors for Rancho Cielo and as president of the board of the Carmel Chapter of the National Charity League.

■ Best Public Relations Company

The Buzz PR/Marci Bracco — info@thebuzzpr.net, thebuzzpr.net

With more than 25 years of experience at what she has called “the only job I ever wanted,” Marci Bracco — and her bulldog mascots — are well known to local businesses and reporters alike. It’s rare when a day, let alone a week, goes by without an email promoting one of her clients landing in the inboxes of those who work in local media. She represents people and businesses from a wide swath of industries and is always eager to learn about how someone else makes a living. In fact, that curiosity makes her a great listener and gives her

a good grasp of the details of clients’ operations.

Bracco understands how to work with media outlets for clients, with a firm grasp of deadlines and publications’ profiles. She’s also adept at connecting people with mutual interests — business or otherwise — and building relationships.

Her generosity is well known, and leading with her heart as well as her mind, Bracco has a soft spot for nonprofits, especially those that benefit animals.

■ Best Insurance Agent

Matt Little Jr. — 126 Clock Tower Place, Suite 102 – (831) 624-1234, carmelinsurance.com

Matt Little Jr. has won the Golden Pine Cone many times for Best Insurance Agent in town. Little’s family has a long legacy in the insurance industry, dating back three generations in Carmel. His grandfather, Robert L. Little, opened Carmel Insurance Agency, Inc., in 1948, and the company has remained family-owned and operated ever since. Matt Little Jr. began his career in 2000, and, 25 years later, he is still dedicated to assisting members of the community with all their insurance needs. Carmel Insurance Agency works with commercial, personal, health and life insurance coverage. Many clients count their time working with the firm in decades, not years, and that kind of service is hard to find.

■ Best Shoe Repair

Federico Shoe Repair — 542 Abrego St., Monterey – (831) 649-3322

Federico Shoe Repair has been saving soles on the Monterey Peninsula for 86 years. The shoe repair shop can resurrect old shoes and boots with a variety of services, including heel and zipper repair, resoling and restitching. The shop also keeps its customers well-heeled with dyeing and shining services. You can even task them with dyeing luggage, handbags and shoes to match the color of your garments.

Founded in 1939, the family-owned business has passed from father to son, generation to generation, before selling to longtime employee Jose Perez. Federico prides itself on offering services at reasonable prices. Customers can enjoy the convenience of a drive-up window for drop-off and pick-up, saving you from searching for a parking spot in downtown Monterey. Mail-order service is also available within the United States — the work is that good. But if you take the time to step inside the shop, it offers while-you-wait service for rush orders, and you can get those old soles spiffed up and ready to go in a jiffy.

■ Best School

Stevenson School — Lower and Middle Divisions, 24800 Dolores St. – (831) 574-4600 and Upper Division, 3152 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach – (831) 625-8300, stevensonschool.org

Stevenson Schools offers pre-K through 12th grade education at its two campuses, with younger students attending its lower and middle schools in Carmel, and high school students moving on to its Upper Division in Pebble Beach. The

private school is a day and boarding community where students explore a diverse range of academic interests through a rich curriculum. Stevenson’s website says it cultivates critical thinking, communication and analytical problem-solving skills through personal guidance and engaging learning experiences. “We understand that joyful learning and academic achievement are not mutually exclusive — learning is far more powerful and enduring when driven by curiosity, wonder and the freedom to explore big ideas,” said Stevenson President Dan Griffiths. The school invites interested families to speak with its admissions department and see if Stevenson is right for them.

■ Best Teacher

Savannah Britton — All Saints Day School, 8060 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley – (831) 624-9171, asds.org

Kindergarten teacher Savannah Britton was honored this year as Best Teacher. Britton has been at All Saints Day School for seven years and says teaching kindergarten is a gift, with her students bringing immense joy, laughter and discovery each day. “There’s something so special about witnessing the ‘light bulb’ moment when a child grasps something new, their excitement and love of life and learning make every day so much brighter,” said Britton. Kindergarten is an important year for children, laying the foundation for lifelong learning.

Britton helps her students develop independence, confidence and a love for learning, while also gaining academic skills for first grade and beyond. She calls it a “magical year.” The educator started her career in teaching 13 years ago working with preschool children and spent her first two years at All Saints teaching pre-K before transitioning to kindergarten. “There’s no place I’d rather be and nothing else I’d rather do,” said Britton.

■ Best Principal

Sara Brown — All Saints Day School, 8060 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley – (831) 624-9171, asds.org

Head of All Saints Day School Sara Brown has been awarded Best Principal for the second year in a row. Brown started her career more than 30 years ago, teaching sixth grade in the San Francisco Bay area before moving to Carmel in 2004. She’s been with All Saints ever since, first as teacher, then as an administrator and now as head of school. Brown says the trans-kindergarten-through-eighth-grade school in Carmel Valley is truly special.

“Our small size allows teachers to truly know each student and their family, caring for and teaching them in a personal and meaningful way,” she said. The veteran educator sees it as her role to continue the All Saints legacy of nurturing both the mind and the heart. “Watching them grow, discover new strengths and support one another is the best reminder of why this work is so important,” said Brown.

The head of school makes sure every student is seen, known and supported in a way that honors who they are becoming.
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