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# Deadly surf strikes again as father, daughter drown

By CHRIS COUNTS

AFTER HIS daughter was swept into the surf Friday at Garrapata State Beach in Big Sur, a father jumped in and tried to save her, but tragically, both drowned.



PHOTO/SCOT SMYTHE

A rescue worker surveys the coastline south of Rocky Point in Big Sur. A search for a missing 7-year-old ended when her body was recovered Sunday about a half-mile north of where she was swept into the ocean Friday.

The fatal incident is the latest along the north Big Sur coast, where a grim toll of drownings has been recorded in recent years.

Yuji Hu, 39, and his 7-year-old daughter, Anzi, were visiting from Alberta, Canada, when the girl was pulled into the water just before 1 p.m. by a 15-to-20-foot wave. To save her, Hu “entered the water and reached her,” but “both were carried farther out to sea,” according to the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office.

**Mother saved**

The girl’s mother, who has not been named, also entered the water to try to save her daughter, but off-duty California State Parks lifeguard Sean Nowland “jumped into action when he spotted a family in distress,” according to California State Parks. He pulled the woman from the surf, and with the assistance of a passerby, he helped do the same for her husband.

The man was pronounced dead at a local hospital, while the woman was treated for hypothermia and released.

A 2-year-old child was also on the beach but was unharmed.

A large-scale search to find the girl was launched Friday and continued through the weekend. Agencies involved in the effort included California State Parks, Cal Fire, the U.S. Coast Guard,

See **DROWNED** page 164

# Revised ‘design guidelines’ would govern every aspect of home design, building

■ Bewildering result after years of effort

By MARY SCHLEY

ANYONE BUILDING or remodeling a house in Carmel must “hand-craft” a wood fence, “craft a garage door either to provide visual interest, to recede completely into the materials and colors of the building wall, or orient it so as not to face the street,” avoid contrasting colors, use authentic materials authentically, preserve trees, never use petroleum-based products, make the building recede into the background while providing space and light for any adjacent historic structures, and “retain and build upon Carmel’s established architectural heritage” of “rustic Tudor, Fairytale, Craftsman, Mission Revival and mid-century Modern,” according to a 31-page draft of residential design guidelines created by a committee during the past 32 months and presented to the planning commission at a special meeting Tuesday.

In March 2022, the city contracted with Nore Winter, who drafted the original “design traditions” guidelines decades earlier, to lead an effort to revise them. The



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Carmel may be world-famous for its whimsical cottages, but you might not be allowed to build anything similar today. Or would you? It’s hard to know.

following month, the council appointed a steering committee to lead the effort, and since then it’s held 36 meetings, many of them running several hours, according to assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson.

Winter and his consultants produced a draft that the committee decided was redundant and overly lengthy, Swanson explained at the Nov. 18 meeting.

“Upon receipt of the first public drafts of the design

See **DESIGN** page 30A

# Sacramento seeks \$16B in new taxes and fees

CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS aimed high this legislative session, proposing a staggering \$16 billion in new taxes and fees. While not every proposal crossed the finish line — some were rejected outright, and others were deferred until 2026 — the measures that passed could inject a substantial \$441 million in new revenue into state and local government coffers while subtracting the same

## Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

amounts from taxpayers’ wallets.

Californians will have some say in whether they are ready to be taxed more. Many of the bills signed into law this year only authorize local governments to place sales tax initiatives on future ballots, including one in Monterey County. Others will be felt in the form of various fees for businesses and services, like increased fees on healthcare service plans and more taxes on prepaid telephones.

Sacramento is facing a deeply rooted deficit, and unless lawmakers make sharp reductions in spending or increase taxes, the gap is likely to continue indefinitely. The

See **TAXES** page 18A

# Investigation finds ‘extreme pricing’ at CHOMP, other MoCo hospitals

■ ‘Crushing costs’ hit residents

By KELLY NIX

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL of the Monterey Peninsula and two other nonprofit hospitals in the county charge exceptionally high prices to patients because they have “a profound lack of competition” — not because of increasing operating costs and other factors — according to a bombshell report by a state agency that said the exorbitant rates have caused a “severe” financial burden on Monterey County communities.

Prices for services and care at the three county hospitals far surpass statewide and San Francisco Bay area standards, with inpatient prices for people with private insurance at CHOMP nearly 6 times more than Medicare rates, the Office of Health Care Affordability said in the report, which investigated hospital market competition in Monterey County.

**‘Profound lack of competition’ brings sky-high rates**

## Contributing factors

“These price levels are not justified by higher labor costs, since wages for most staff are comparable to those in neighboring regions,” the document noted. “Nor are they explained by superior quality of care, as federal quality ratings place Monterey County hospitals in the middle of the pack.”

The 63-page findings said a lack of competition is the reason prices at the hospitals, which include Salinas Valley

See **PRICES** page 22A

# Rainfall totals are biggest in 50 years

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE SERIES of storms that drenched the California coast this week brought double-digit rainfall totals to higher elevations in Big Sur, forced Caltrans to stop to work at Regent’s Slide on Highway 1, created a new slide on the highway that was soon cleared — and set a 50-year record for rainfall at Monterey Airport.

In many places, the rain that’s fallen in October and November represents the highest totals tallied since the

See **RAIN** page 17A




PHOTO/JERMEL LAURIE

With the rains has come the season’s first storm damage, including this tree that fell on a house on Franciscan Way last week.



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# Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

## Shadow pup

Based on his baby face and his behavior, he's still a puppy. But Kenny, a Yorkshire terrier-toy poodle mix, is actually 9 years young. Kenny's person, in town on a getaway from her Sacramento home, has the benefit of being the fourth generation to enjoy a Carmel cottage, just south of Ocean Avenue, purchased by her great-grandmother in 1962.

Kenny likes Carmel as much as his person does, but not the beach.

"He's a funny little guy," she said. "He'll sunbathe on his towel, but he won't go in the ocean. I carry him across the sand because he doesn't like it. I think the texture feels weird on his paws. He's a city boy and seems to feel most confident on concrete."

Trotting uptown on the sidewalks flanking Ocean Avenue, he's in "dog heaven," particularly when his person stops in at Diggidy Dog boutique, where she recently bought him a messenger bag. He loves riding around in it, she said, and she loves that she can pop him in the pack and head down toward Big Sur or out into Carmel Valley for an afternoon hike.

For Kenny and his person, it was love at first sight when they met at the shelter and he jumped right into her car.

"He's like my little shadow," she said. "He doesn't like to be away from Mom. He has a big personality plus a little attitude, so he doesn't like it when I hug people, including my boyfriend."

At home, Kenny likes to help his person work in her garden beds, sniffing the flowers, pawing the earth, and patiently awaiting a snack from the vegetable



garden. He happily ends his day snuggled up next to his person or sleeping at her feet, yet sometimes is reluctantly relegated to his own fluffy bed.





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# Peninsula water use about the same as 1958, agency says

By KELLY NIX

THE AMOUNT of water consumed on the Monterey Peninsula is slightly lower than it was 70 years ago, even though the population here is 40 percent greater and the tourism industry has grown substantially, according to newly released data.

Monterey Peninsula Water Management District general manager Dave Stoldt said that in 1958, a total of 9,132 acre-feet of water — or roughly 2.97 billion gallons — was consumed by Peninsula residents and businesses. That compares to a total of just 9,092 acre-feet the Peninsula consumed between Oct. 1, 2024, and Sept. 30, 2025.

“As a result of the water district’s and California American Water’s water conservation programs, rebate incentives, improved technologies, and tiered rates, the Monterey Peninsula used the same amount of water in 2025 that we used in 1958,” the district said. “Even as population has grown and the area hosts over 9 million visitors a year.”

The Pine Cone asked Stoldt if the methods to measure water use were the same in the late 1950s as they are today.

“We measure how much water has to be produced to feed the distribution system to meet customer demand,” he explained. “The data comes from meters at the sources that produce the water and has been reported consistently for 80-plus years. I am sure

the accuracy of measurement has probably gotten better and some of the savings may have come from reducing leaks and losses, but that is still water saved.”

**‘More housing, jobs’**

In October, an expansion of Pure Water Monterey, a wastewater recycling project, went online for customers. Employing advanced filtration and reverse osmosis, it aims at producing up to 7.6 million gallons per day of advanced treated wastewater.

Stoldt said his agency not only expects new housing and other development on the Peninsula because of the new water, but is encouraging it, “so that we can get housing and job growth.”

“That is why we have asked the state to allow new water meters and increased use,” he explained. “That new growth will help spread the cost of water.”



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Los Padres reservoir was a critical part of the Peninsula’s supply for many years — especially when water use was much greater than it is today.

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Contact the Office of  
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4A The Carmel Pine Cone November 21, 2025



# Police & Sheriff's Log

## At least they agreed on one thing

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 26

**Pacific Grove:** Stolen and damaged Halloween yard decorations on Hillcrest.  
**Pacific Grove:** Vehicle on Laurel Avenue marked for 72-hour parking.  
**Carmel area:** Deputies respond to a report of an at-risk missing adult from a residence on High Meadows Drive.

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Vehicle towed for blocking driveway at Mission and Fourth.  
**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Adult Protective Services report of possible fraud.  
**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Two loose dogs on

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

**Carmel Valley:** Adult Protective Services report at a residence on Via del Zorro.

See **POLICE LOG** page 10RE in the Real Estate Section



## The gavel falls

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

**Oct. 10** — Judge Rafael Vazquez sentenced Salinas resident Brian Molina, 21, to 30 years and four months in state prison for voluntary manslaughter with a firearm enhancement and attempted murder with a firearm enhancement. These charges constitute two strikes under California’s three strikes law.

On May 31, 2022, Salinas Police officers were dispatched to the scene of a shooting at the intersection of Del Monte Avenue and North Sanborn Road in Salinas. The victim, Esteban Ocampo Jr., had been shot in the torso, and he was immediately transported to Natividad Medical Center, where he was pronounced deceased. Through investigation and surveillance video, officers identified the shooter as Brian Molina. Molina fired multiple shots at Ocampo after a verbal argument

between the two men.  
 On May 26, 2022, Salinas Police officers were dispatched to the 600 block of Williams Road in Salinas on a report of a shooting. A vehicle with gunshot damage was seen rapidly driving away from the location of the shooting. Through investigation, officers located the victim and identified Molina as the suspect. Molina was seen on surveillance video standing next to the driver’s door of the victim’s vehicle, before the vehicle accelerated away. Molina ran after the vehicle and fired multiple rounds from a handgun toward the vehicle, striking the vehicle through a window and the rear bumper.

These cases were investigated by detectives Scott Sutton, Luis Toribio, Alejandro

See **GAVEL** page 31A

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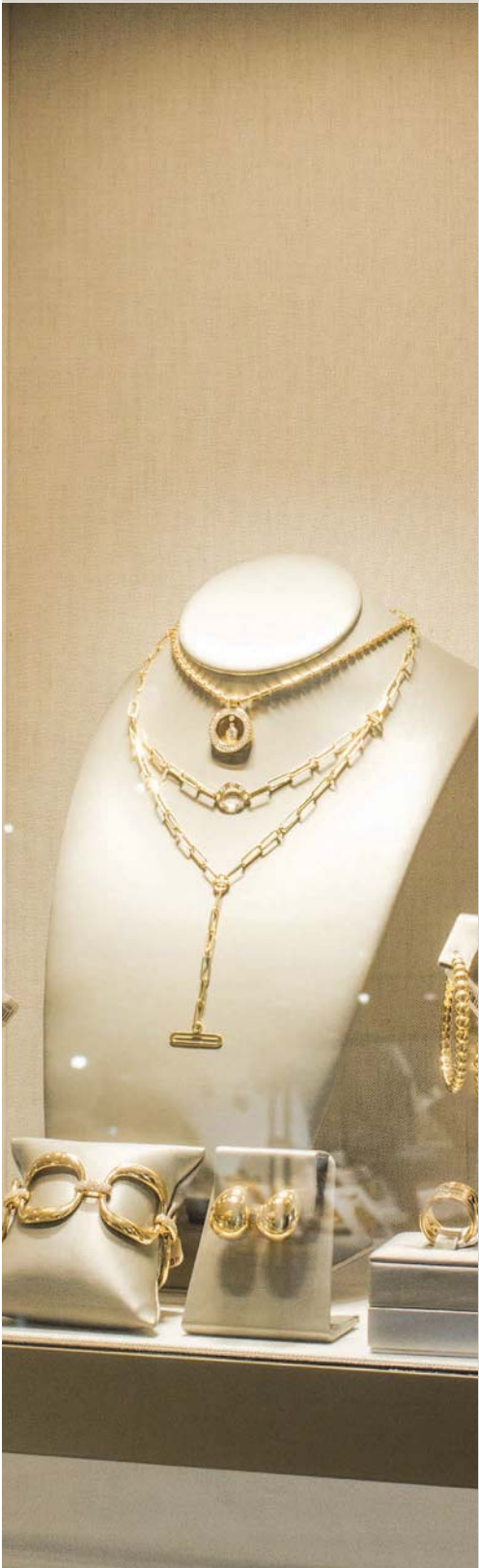




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## Big Sur clinic bravely faces hurdles

By CHRIS COUNTS

**C**UTBACKS IN federal funding for rural medical clinics won't have any impact on the Big Sur Health Center because the small but critical health clinic located just south of the Big Sur River Inn doesn't directly receive any state or federal tax dollars. Instead, it's funded by donors and local grants, along with state, federal and private insurance reimbursements.

But the center, which is located just south of the Big Sur River Inn, still faces challenges, including the same one that every business along the coast faces — finding housing for employees. Whatever housing exists in Big Sur is very expensive.

“One of the biggest challenges is staffing,” executive director Kathie Lester told The Pine Cone “We have to pay competitive salaries to get people to move to a rural area — not everyone is willing to do that.”

## Not keeping up

Meanwhile, insurance reimbursement rates “are not keeping up with the cost of providing services,” Lester told The Pine Cone. “Insurers are covering less and less. Copays are going up and not covering what they once did. All the cost associated with

running a health care facility are going up.”

With shrinking compensation from insurance, the center is more dependent than ever on its donors. To fund its ongoing operations, the center depends on money from private grants and donations to pay for its staff and medical supplies.

“The Big Sur Health Center cannot exist without continued donations,” according to its website, [bigsurhealthcenter.org](http://bigsurhealthcenter.org).

## Big plans for future

Despite the challenges, the clinic's leaders have big plans for the future, including expanding its footprint in Big Sur, where it operates a 2,100 sq. ft. medical facility on land owned by All Saints Church. There is talk about increasing the number of exam rooms from three to five.

“We are in the process of trying to figure out a way to have a little bit more space,” Lester said.

Despite the challenges facing clinics in rural areas, Lester is confident the health center in Big Sur will endure, although she expects there will be hurdles to overcome.

“The next 10 years are going to be critical,” she added. “But we’re not going anywhere — having health care down here is essential for residents and tourists.”



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2	<div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b></div> <h3 style="color: #000080; margin: 0;">Arts &amp; Crafts Fair</h3> <p>Beautifully handcrafted items, baked goods, and succulents - Hot Indian Lunches  <a href="http://Dolores&amp;9th/allsaintscarmel.org/972.567.3572">Dolores &amp; 9th/allsaintscarmel.org/972.567.3572</a></p>	
3	<div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>CARMEL WOMAN'S CLUB</b></div> <h3 style="color: #000080; margin: 0;">Annual Artisan Event</h3> <p>Unique crafts, Succulent Pumpkins, Vintage Christmas Decor            Big Sur Taco Truck  <a href="http://SanCarlos&amp;9th/carmelwomensclubca.org">San Carlos &amp; 9th/carmelwomensclubca.org</a></p>	
4	<div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>CHURCH OF THE WAYFARER</b></div> <h3 style="color: #000080; margin: 0;">Annual Holiday Faire</h3> <p>Holiday in the Garden, Crafts, Delicious Baked Goods, Jewelry            Lunch - Homemade Soups with French-baked Rolls  <a href="mailto:Lincoln&amp;7th/office@churchofthewayfarer.com">Lincoln &amp; 7th/office@churchofthewayfarer.com</a></p>	










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# Man to spend long time behind bars for raping girls

By KELLY NIX

A MARINA man faces a 275-year prison sentence after a jury last week convicted him of numerous lewd acts with two sisters, who testified at trial about the horrific, years-long abuse.

On Nov. 14, Mariano Botello, 60, following a trial in a Salinas courtroom, was found guilty of eight counts of lewd acts on a child under 14 years old, two counts of forcible lewd acts with a child and one count of sodomy of a child less than 10 years old. Botello was the girls' stepfather.

One of the sisters, Jane Doe 1, told jurors she was 6 or 7 years old when Botello began abusing her, including an incident where he raped her in an RV when she was 7 years old, Monterey County Superior Court documents

show. The abuse continued until she was 12.

The girl didn't tell anybody about the sexual assaults until she was 15, when she confided in her older sister, Jane Doe 2.

**'Felt guilty'**

"Doe 2 believed her sister because the defendant had also sexually assaulted her when she was between the ages of 12 and 14," the Monterey County District Attorney's Office said this week. "Doe 2 urged her younger sister to report the defendant to the police, providing her with the support that no one had provided her when she was a child seeking help."

According to court transcripts, the elder sister told investigators that "Botello went into her room with the lights off and started touching her," and that the molestation was a

weekly occurrence until she was 14. She also described Botello taking her to a Salinas hotel.

"He raped me," she told a Marina Police officer, the transcript indicates.

The girl, the DA's office said, felt guilty for not speaking up sooner so that her sister might have been spared abuse from Botello, who faces a 275-year prison sentence because his convictions constitute 11 strikes under the state's three strikes law. He's also required to register as a sex offender.

The girls who testified at the trial, presided over by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Stephanie Hulsey, were offered emotional support by victim advocate Mayra Sandoval.

"Support dog Armani and victim advocate Kristen Peterson provided Doe 1 with invaluable support during her trial testimony," the DA's office added.

# Police: He said he was going to shoot people

By MARY SCHLEY

A MAN who called 911 last Sunday morning to say he was irritated by the noise coming from the Monterey Bay Half Marathon and "protesters" on Del Monte — and said he was going to shoot people — was arrested by Monterey P.D. less than two hours later, according to Lt. Ethan Andrews.

On Nov. 9 at 7:11 a.m., the man later identified as 53-year-old Sean Klinger from Carmichael told an emergency dispatcher he "was trying to sleep and related that there were protesters on Del Monte, indicated he was going to shoot them and that he was on Park Avenue and walking down with an AR," Andrews said, adding that he "mentioned the



Sean Klinger

See **IRRITATED** page 20A



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# DESPITE LEGAL TROUBLES, DOCTOR HONORED FOR JAIL MEDICAL CARE

By MARY SCHLEY

**MONTEREY PHYSICIAN** Taylor Fithian was honored in September by the Western American Correctional Health Services Association as a “pioneer in correctional health” for what the group called his “decades of innovation and compassion in inmate healthcare.”

In 1983, Fithian founded California Forensic Medical Group, which later became Wellpath. The company provides medical services for numerous county jails, including Monterey County Jail.

The award was presented to Fithian at a conference in Sacramento to honor “his lifelong commitment to advancing correctional healthcare,” and the correctional health organization’s president, Karina Purcell, praised his “hands-on clinical involvement and drive to set higher standards for correctional healthcare delivery.”

**‘All hours’**  
“By focusing on access, consistency, and patient-centered care, he has reshaped how jails approach inmate health, ensuring that medical and psychiatric treatment became a core part of facility operations,” she said. “Dr. Fithian’s career reflects a clear vision for elevating care quality in a challenging and often overlooked sector of public health.”

The association credited Fithian with county jails’ adopting more comprehensive and consistent standards of medical and psychiatric care to improve access, quality and reliability for thousands of inmates.



Taylor Fithian

“From piloting his own plane late at night to reach rural communities, to being available at all hours to support our teams, his unwavering commitment to caring for people defined our mission,” Wellpath President Cole Casey said. “His clarity of purpose and dedication to humanity are the very reasons our organization exists today.”

### Class-action suit

But amid the praise, Wellpath has been sued by numerous Monterey County Jail inmates alleging inadequate care and poor conditions.

In the class-action lawsuit that has carried on in U.S. District Court for more than 12 years, then-inmate Jesse Hernandez and others sued Monterey County and Wellpath over staffing, inmate classification, jail facilities, overcrowding, medical care, mental health care, dental care, and access to jail programs for persons with disabilities.

A settlement approved by U.S. District Court Judge Paul Grewal in August 2015 required the sheriff’s office, the county and Wellpath to develop and implement plans to reform certain policies, procedures and practices regarding intake screening, infection control, detox, medications, safety, staffing, medical and mental health care, dental care and disabilities. The federal court retained jurisdiction over the case for five years, and attorneys for the plaintiffs were allowed to monitor the progress.

See **HONORED** page 31A

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# Committee seeks ban on e-bikes in park

■ Also votes to add various signs, deal with street landscaping

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL Traffic Safety Committee can be a peculiar thing. Consisting of the police chief, the public works director and superintendent, and the planning director, the group meets a few times a year to make recommendations on new stop signs, eliminating parking spots, revising laws, adding speed bumps and the like.

On Wednesday, its most important items of business were a proposal to ban e-bikes in Mission Trail park and to post more signs reminding people that their unleashed dogs must be under voice command.

But other items of business went nowhere. The committee’s agendas can be lengthy — such as Wednesday’s list of nine items — but without any staff reports or documentation, some topics are no more than dead ends. And while many of the issues the committee addresses are initiated by the public, whatever communications conveyed those requests aren’t included, either.

Ummmmmm

At the Nov. 19 meeting, for instance, committee members were supposed to “discuss a suggestion from residents to convert certain two-way streets to one-way streets.” But without more detail — like which streets and where — there wasn’t much to say.

Public works superintendent Rob Culver said the

direction came from Mayor Dale Byrne, who told him that “some residents have suggested converting some two-way streets to one-way streets at key pinch-point areas.”

That wasn’t enough to generate useful discussion, however. “It’s too vague right now,” Police Chief Todd Trayer said. Without knowing which areas those unnamed residents have in mind, he said, “my answer today would be there has to be a traffic study.”

The agenda also included a discussion of AB 413, the Daylighting Law that converted numerous parking spaces at intersections to allow more line of sight for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists, but it didn’t say what, exactly, that conversation was supposed to address.

It wasn’t all for naught, though, with committee members voting to eliminate parking on one side of Seventh between Casanova and San Antonio and to add more “no parking” signs in the medians on Junipero south of Ocean.

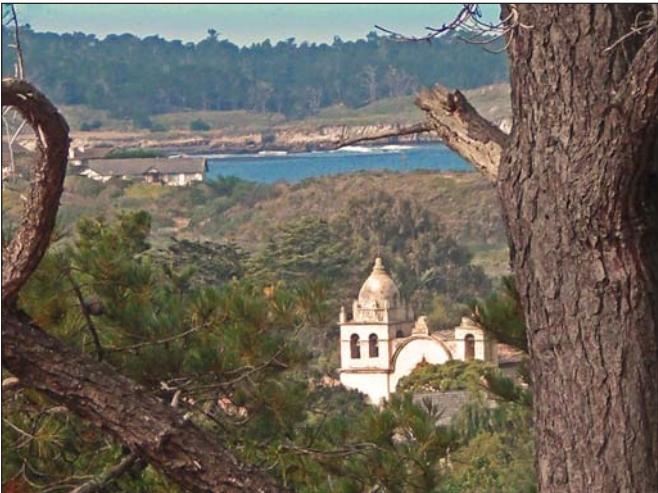
“We came up with a total of nine new ‘no parking’ posts that will fill in the gaps where there are no signs,” Culver explained.

Former councilwoman Karen Ferlito thanked the committee for the decision.

“Thanks for your diligence on this — it’s going to make me happy,” she said.

**Biking havoc**

The committee revisited the idea of amending an ordinance to prohibit electric and motorized bicycles in



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Mission Trail park affords some fantastic views, but no one should be able to ride an e-bike to get to them.

Mission Trail Nature Preserve.

“We’ve been seeing a lot of e-bikes causing damage to the trails,” Culver said, as well as an occasional bicycle with a gasoline engine being ridden through the park.

Ferlito was the instigator of the proposed law. “I brought this up for two reasons,” she said — trail damage and safety concerns, especially with off-leash dogs and children running around.

“The other day, there were seven to nine electric bikes with sidecars and dogs,” she said. “I don’t know if it was a

See **E-BIKES** page 30A



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# Commission proposes tree fines up to \$100K, criminal and civil actions

By MARY SCHLEY

**F**INES AND penalties for illegally pruning, cutting down or otherwise damaging trees are so low, the Carmel Forest and Beach Commission says, people simply break the rules and then happily write the checks. To change that, members are pursuing a number of more severe measures which were revealed last Thursday.

After researching dozens of other California cities’ tree-related policies and laws, commissioner Neal Rutta, chair Tamara Michie and city forester Justin Ono proposed a program they believe will help prevent situations like what occurred on a lot at Santa Rita and Fifth, where excavation led to the deaths of three trees. In January 2020, the commission fined the offender, Connie Mei, \$50,000 based on the estimated values of the trees.

“At the low end, there are some cities that do not actually have any fines,” Rutta said at the Nov. 13 meeting. “Cupertino had the highest, at \$75,000 for an egregious violation.”

### Illegal tractor parking

Even as the state has begun requiring homeowners to remove trees and vegetation close to buildings in fire-prone communities, Rutta said the committee contemplated additional ways to enforce the rules, including by punishing people who knowingly damage or kill trees without going through the necessary channels. Additional potential sticks, he said, include suspending future development on the property or taking an offender to court, because “there will always be someone” who will pay a fine rather than keep a tree that’s in the way, even if that’s what’s required.

Their plan, which has not been vetted by the city attorney, calls for fines of \$100 to \$1,000 for minor/first-time infractions,

like a contractor or homeowner who trims a tree while lacking a permit but doesn’t do any lasting harm, or a contractor who on a single occasion parks equipment over a root zone, with no damage observed.

Repeated unpermitted pruning or root disturbance, or failure to comply with tree protection fencing or conditions during construction, could lead to a stop-work order and fines of \$1,000 to \$5,000, while significant negligence or unauthorized removal, such as cutting down a small tree, heavy root cutting causing decline, or removing a “non-protected” city-managed tree, could cost \$2,000 to \$10,000 per violation, plus “cost recovery for staff/inspection time” and replanting requirements.

Unpermitted removal of a protected tree that’s 1 to 2 feet in diameter or damage during grading or construction that endangers a tree’s survival could net fines of \$5,000 to \$50,000 per tree and replacement ratios of 2 to 4 times the number of specimens lost, as well as a red tag and even larger fines if the appraised value of the tree that was killed is higher.

Major or willful removal or topping of a significant tree with a diameter greater than 24 inches or having “multiple protected trees removed to clear a development site” could result in fines of \$10,000 to \$75,000 per tree, civil action, a stop-work order and the suspension of future permits.

### Kill a tree, go to jail

And the highest level of offense, described as “egregious/intentional violations,” like a contractor or homeowner knowingly removing or destroying multiple protected or significant trees, lying to staff, hiding wrongdoing or failing to cooperate with the city, would result in penalties of \$20,000 to \$100,000 per tree,

See **TREE FINES** page 25A

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# Addis secures \$1.5 million to fund legal services for undocumented

By CAITLIN CONRAD

CENTRAL COAST Assemblymember Dawn Addis was in Seaside Wednesday to present a \$1.5 million check from the State of California to Catholic Charities of the Central Coast.

The funding is part of a \$5 million allocation from this year’s budget, signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom, to expand immigration services in the state in response to increasing federal enforcement of illegal immigration.

Catholic Charities plans to use the money to provide legal representation, community education and rapid response efforts across Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo counties.

“We all know that what is happening in our nation right now. What has happened with militarization in our state is not something that is normal and is something that any immigrant would feel afraid of,” said Addis.

The Morro Bay Democrat has been focused on getting money to the Central Coast since January when the state set aside \$50 million for legal services for immigrants in the wake of President Trump taking office.

### Longstanding reputation

Addis worked for nine months to secure the funds, and Catholic Charities was selected as the best vessel to help non-citizens with legal services because of its longstanding reputation in the community.

“Without organizations like Catholic Charities that are trusted, that have actual attorneys, that have licensed attorneys, that have primary language support, we cannot get the help that people legally are entitled to,” said Addis.

The assemblymember said scammers often prey on immigrants in need of legal

help, accepting their money under the guise of providing legal representation, without providing any real services.

Last year, Catholic Charities of the Central Coast served more than 65,000 people, not just with legal help but with various other services, including financial assistance, healthcare enrollment, access to food, and laser tattoo removal. The \$1.5 million from the state will be dedicated to legal and educational services for immigrants.

### Peninsula included

Catholic Charities executive director Angela Di Novella said often when the state allocates funds for immigrant legal services, the money goes to Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area. She thanked Addis for making sure the Central Coast was included in this allocation.

“This investment is a recognition that our community matters, it really sends the message that our neighbors are important, that our neighbors matter. For years our communities have been neglected on funds for legal representation,” said Di Novella.

Mass immigration enforcement and deportation actions have not materialized along the Central Coast like they have in other parts of the state. Rumors were sparked this summer of mass ICE raids in Monterey County, but they remained just that, rumors. Still, Di Novella said the immigrant community Catholic Charities serves is living in fear.

“We are seeing a climate of fear and anxiety across our community as well as the vilification narrative that we see for immigrant neighbors,” said Di Novella.

In May, ICE arrested a man in Greenfield and over the summer a Pacific Grove restaurant manager was detained during a scheduled check-in meeting with ICE in San Francisco.

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# P.B. Concours celebrates fundraising milestone

■ Hopes to raise \$5M in 2026 while honoring its racing roots

By MARY SCHLEY

THE PEBBLE Beach Concours d'Elegance announced Tuesday it set a record with \$4 million in charitable donations this year — bringing its total distributions since inception to more than \$45 million. Chairman Sandra Button said the event is aiming even higher this year, with a goal of raising an unprecedented \$5 million.

When she went to work for the organization in 1986, Button said, the event's total charitable giving hadn't reached \$1 million, with annual donations often coming in

at a few thousand dollars, generated mostly through selling programs and posters.

But the Concours has grown to become a fundraising powerhouse, with entrants, judges, sponsors and volunteers collaborating with event staff and the Pebble Beach Co. “to elevate the event and increase donations.” And while a ticket to the 2002 Concours cost \$100 and had to be purchased through the United Way, admission to this year's show started at \$595.

Through its primary charitable partner, the Pebble Beach Company Foundation, Concours donations go to more than 100 local nonprofits, with an emphasis on those focused on children's health and education. Many representatives attended a luncheon at The Lodge Tuesday to receive their shares of the funds.



PHOTO/MANNY ESPINOZA PHOTOGRAPHY

Recipients of the Pebble Beach Concours' charitable donations celebrated with company officials at The Lodge Tuesday

In celebration of its origins, the 75th Concours — which began in 1950 as a small show of mostly modern motorcars to complement the Pebble Beach Road Races debuting that year — will showcase racing history, including an automotive specimen most of the world has never seen.

The British-built Sunbeam 1000 HP has been dormant for 90 years, but it was a beast when it broke world land-speed records with a run at Daytona Beach, Fla., that hit 203.79 mph on March 29, 1927, far exceeding the 150 mph barrier that had been set just two years earlier.

Organizers expect the car to occupy a prominent patch on the 18th Fairway on Aug. 16, 2026, following an unprecedented four-year restoration undertaken by a team of experts at the National Motor Museum in Beaulieu, England.

### Two giant engines

The mammoth, one-of-a-kind car is powered by two of Sunbeam's powerful 22.4-liter Matabele aero engines located at the front and rear. According to Concours organizers, the rear engine was disassembled, re-machined, restored and refitted into the frame before being “fired up before an adoring crowd at the Beaulieu International Autojumble in early September,” and the team is now focused on restoring the front engine. After it's installed, the bodywork, which has already been restored, will be put into place.

“Over the last three-and-a-half years, the museum's team have worked tirelessly to make the mighty Sunbeam 1000 HP roar again, with help from a wide range of supporters, stakeholders and heritage engineering specialists,” Jon Murden, chief executive of the National Motor Museum, said in the Concours' announcement. “Having

*Continues next page*



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From previous page

experienced the first of the car’s remarkable engines running once more, we are all now thrilled at the prospect of the Sunbeam returning to the United States for the first time in a century.”

If all goes according to plan, the restored car will make its U.S. debut at the Concours and will go on to attempt a centennial run at Daytona in spring 2027.

Homage to P.B.

The Sunbeam 1000 HP will represent one of many of the Concours’ nods to the history of racing, which pretty much dates back to the moment the second motorcar was built. But locally, it took off in a road race proposed by driver Sterling Edwards.

Edwards and his close friend, Jack Morse — then the president of Del Monte Properties Co. and the son of its founder, S.F.B. Morse — staged the first Pebble Beach Road Race in November 1950 with help from a national amateur racing organization’s San Francisco regional group.

“The Del Monte Properties Company, a 70-year-old tradition, encompassing 20,000 acres of playground and more than 150 miles of private roads, has sponsored almost every type of sports activity in its long history,” Jack Morse wrote in the welcome that accompanied the inaugural event program. “We are pleased to add one more great event to our calendar and take the greatest pride in having Pebble Beach selected by the Sports Car Club of America, Inc.”

On Nov. 5, 1950, driving a Jaguar XK-120, Phil Hill won the first Pebble Beach Cup, which was open to the top four finishers in each of the day’s three prior races. An account published after the races estimated they drew 10,000 spectators.

Hill went on to become America’s first World Drivers’ Champion and the first person to complete the triple crown of endurance racing, with wins at the 24 Hours of Le Mans, Sebring and Daytona. According to Concours organizers, he “often cited Pebble Beach as the start of his road racing career, noting it was certainly ‘the most important’ race on the West Coast.”

“In truth, the Pebble Beach Concours owes everything to that race,” Button said in the Nov. 5 announcement of next year’s featured classes. “The race was clearly the main event, drawing crowds from far and wide. The Concours was secondary — a last-minute addition to serve as a social gathering and add a bit of style.”

The inaugural Concours had 29 entries ranging from

a 1904 Buick to a 1950 Daimler Drophead Coupe, with many American and British vehicles — including 11 MGs — built in the late 1940s and 1950.

The Concours now features some 200 rare vehicles, by invitation only, from all over the globe, and the 75th celebration will include “Pebble Beach Road Racing greats that showcase the evolution of sporting cars in the early 1950s.”

The collection will be curated by selection committee

member Ken Gross and Del Monte Trophy Race Group steward Rob Manson, and the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion is partnering with the Concours to showcase Pebble Beach Road Race cars at Laguna Seca raceway, as well.

Button said next year’s event will also honor “iconic groups of cars that were first brought together at the Pebble Beach Concours,” and ticket sales will open later this month.

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# DROWNED

From page 1A

Monterey County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue and California State Parks. The U.S. Navy provided helicopter support. Search efforts were postponed Friday and Saturday due to darkness.

The body of the 7-year-old was found by diver Juan Heredia of Stockton early Sunday afternoon about 100 yards offshore and about half a mile north of the site where she was swept way.

Heredia learned about the accident while he was watching the news on Saturday night in Stockton. He left for Big Sur the next morning, driving three hours in the rain to get there.

“I came with all my intention to find her,” Heredia told NBC News. “I tried to be in their shoes when the accident happened, and I was lucky that I was able to bring closure to the family.”



Juan Heredia

Heredia noted that many drowning victims along the coast are travelers on vacation. “Most of the accidents that happen, especially in white waters, are people that are coming from far away,” he said.

He urged visitors to heed the many warning signs posted near the beach alerting people to the extreme dangers the surf poses. “There are signs everywhere,” he said.

While the family of the deceased didn’t issue a statement, the sheriff’s office “expressed their gratitude to all agencies, personnel, and community members involved in the search and recovery efforts.”

“The family continues to request privacy and do not wish to make further statements at this time,” the agency added.

## Unforgiving coastline

Due to strong surf, a steep and unforgiving coastline, and its proximity to the Monterey Peninsula, the North Big Sur coast has witnessed many drownings. A fisherman was swept off the rocks near Soberanes Point in late 2020 and drowned. In December 2024, a 72-year-old man visiting Pebble Beach was killed when he was swept off rocks along 17 Mile Drive during a storm. In 2019, a woman from India who was taking a selfie drowned at Garrapata State Beach. Earlier the same year, Braxton Stuntz of Carmel fell through a blow hole at Garrapata Beach and died after he was swept out to sea.

National Weather Service meteorologist Brayden Murdock told The Pine Cone that the surf conditions at the time of the incident were so severe that his agency had issued what it calls a beach hazard statement.

“There are increased risks for sleeper waves and rip currents that make it unfortunately easier for folks to get swept out to sea,” Murdock said. “Strong swells build up behind the storms, and that’s kind of what we were dealing with — there’s a longer period between waves. Every once in a while, you get a stronger wave that can knock people off their feet and sweep them out into the ocean.”

To publish a legal notice in The Carmel Pine Cone contact [irma@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:irma@carmelpinecone.com)  
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*From page 1A*

Hacienda Carmel in Carmel Valley recorded 3.44 inches, Monterey airport picked up 3.11 inches, and downtown Carmel had 2.62 inches.

A mudslide Saturday closed Highway 1 overnight from Ragged Point to about 4 miles north of Lucia — a distance of about 29 miles — but was soon cleared.

At Monterey Airport, 4.37 inches have been recorded since Oct. 1, marking the highest total recorded there since 1973, according to meteorologist Dylan Flynn of the National Weather Service, who noted that there is still more than a week left in this month. Flynn also reported that

There was a report of rocks and debris on Highway 1 near Gorda Nov. 15, and near Nepenthe restaurant Nov. 17, but they were soon cleared from the pavement. At Lincoln and 13th in Carmel, a report was made Nov. 15 of downed utility wires on a vehicle. There was a power outage in portions of Pebble Beach Nov. 16, with one resident saying PG&E told her it was due to a downed tree. There also were reports of lightning and thunder.

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# TAXES

From page 1A

Legislative Analysts Office released its fiscal outlook this week, showing the state will face an estimated \$18 billion budget problem in 2026-27, about \$5 billion more than anticipated in June. Based on the billions in new taxes and fees legislators proposed this year, it seems likely the Democratic supermajority will be more inclined to search for new revenue rather than cut services to close the gap.

### New sales taxes

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed multiple bills this year that empower local governments to seek sales tax add-ons exceeding the current 2-percent cap. California already has the highest state sales tax in the nation at 7.25 percent, with cities and counties adding their own levies on top.

One of the new sales tax bills came from Monterey Peninsula representative Dawn Addis. AB 761 authorizes Monterey Salinas Transit to propose a ballot measure for a sales tax of up to 0.25 percent.

Monterey Salinas Transit general manager Carl Sedoryk said the board of directors has yet to vote on placing a future sales tax on either the 2026 or 2028 ballot, but won't do it unless they believe it will pass.

"MST staff will only consider asking our board of directors to place a measure on a future ballot when we are confident that a supermajority of voters will approve the measure," said Sedoryk.

The MST tax could generate up to \$25.2 million annually to support bus routes. Over the next decade-and-a-half, MST is facing a \$150 million unfunded mandate from Sacramento to transition its entire fleet of buses to electric or hydrogen technology. At the same time, funding from the state's fuel tax is shrinking due to the rise in electric vehicle adoption.

"In a nutshell, we are being asked by our community to provide more service, mandated by the state to buy and maintain

more expensive vehicles, and faced with declining federal and state revenues," said Sedoryk.

While they may seem small on the individual item level, sales taxes add up when calculating the cost of living in the pricey Golden State. Long known to be a regressive tax, the additional cost hits poor Californians the hardest.

"No matter where you are on the income scale, you have to buy certain products as part of your daily life, so that impacts low-income people more" said David Kline with the California Taxpayers Association.

Over the years, local sales tax add-ons have steadily increased across the state, with shoppers paying 10 percent or more in some cities. It's a lot when you consider California's income tax structure, which is written to extract the most out of the wealthy — top earners pay the nation's highest marginal rate at 13.3 percent — and those in the lowest brackets pay as little as 1 percent, or nothing.

While the income tax structure is progressive, Californians with the lowest incomes are paying at the check out counter. The California Budget and Policy Center's latest data, from 2022, shows families with the lowest incomes pay 7.4 percent of their incomes in sales taxes, compared to 0.8 percent for the richest 1 percent.

### Tax the rich more

The battle over wealth is heading to the ballot box in 2026 as two powerful unions prepare separate initiatives — including a billionaires' tax — to make California's well-heeled pay their "fair share."

The National Union of Health Care Workers is trying to qualify a tax measure that would impose a one-time 5 percent asset tax on California's billionaires. According to Altrata, a wealth intelligence firm, an estimated 255 billionaires have homes in California, more than any other state. Not all are state residents, so

*Continues next page*

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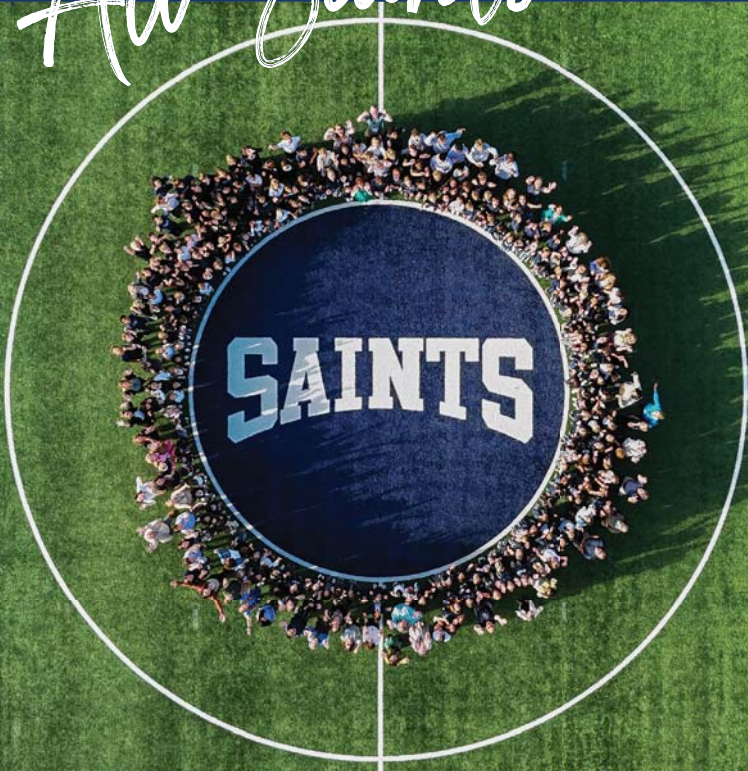
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From previous page

Sacramento couldn’t tax them all, but the Health Care Workers think the one-time tax could raise as much as \$100 billion.

The revenue would be spent to prop up healthcare services, the costs of which have risen astronomically, and to cover looming federal cuts to Medicaid.

The proposal is already facing major opposition, including from the governor himself. Political strategists tied to Newsom have already formed a political action committee with tech and business leaders called “Stop the Squeeze” to fight the billionaires’ tax, which would be imposed not only on things like stocks, real estate and bank balances, but on art, cars and even fine wines.

Taxing billionaires, a class few belong to, may be popular with the masses. As Jon Coupal with the Howard Jarvis Tax Association told Politico this month, “It’s always easy to tax someone else.” However, the problem with taxing someone else is that they can always pull up stakes and move to a low-tax state like Florida or Texas.

Leaving the state

When voters passed Proposition 30 in 2012 and increased the income tax rate on high earners by 3 percent, the rich left the state in large numbers. According to the Washington-based Tax Foundation, those impacted by the increase also reported up to \$436,000 less in taxable income during the first three years of the higher rate. The combination of these two changes eroded about 61 percent of the windfall Prop 30 was supposed to bring to state coffers.

The fact hasn’t stopped backers of the proposal to make Prop 30’s tax rate permanent from placing the issue on the ballot in 2026. The initiative, supported by the California

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Teachers Association, could generate as much as \$15 billion a year for schools and community colleges, they say.

Both new wealth taxes will also likely be placed alongside a measure from the Howard Jarvis Tax Association that would reimpose a two-thirds voter approval requirement on all proposed local taxes. The initiative would overturn a 2017 state Supreme Court ruling that hinted a supermajority might not be a requirement for a new tax if said tax was proposed by a citizens’ initiative.

Appetites for taxes are sure to change over the next year, and how the various measures will add or detract from each other is yet to be seen, but Newsom and his cash will likely play a part. The governor has millions left over from Prop 50 fundraising that can’t be used for his other political ambitions, but can be used for ballot measure spending. How he chooses to wield his power over the next year could significantly impact the outcome of the tax battles at the ballot box.

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# IRRITATED

From page 8A

marathon and hung up.” When the dispatcher and MPD tried to call Klinger back, he didn’t answer.

Park Avenue is in the Oak Grove neighborhood between Lake El Estero and the Naval Postgraduate School, and the race, which took runners through the Lighthouse tunnel into New Monterey and Pacific Grove, had begun less than 15 minutes earlier at Del Monte Avenue and Camino

El Estero. Because the event draws thousands of people, Andrews said, Monterey P.D. “utilizes ‘all-hands’ staffing” and works with organizers, Pacific Grove P.D., Monterey Fire and other agencies to handle logistics and “ensure the security and safety of the event.”

### Cameras help

When the threat was received, MPD “immediately redirected resources” to investigate and to identify the caller while also ensuring the race was proceeding as planned, according to Andrews.

He did not say how police discovered the man is not

a local, but based on that information, officers were able to identify vehicles that might be associated with him. Running their plate numbers through the city’s automated camera system resulted in a hit, and 30 minutes after Klinger made the call, police found his unoccupied car on Park Avenue.

“Officers continued to develop leads and were able to find the subject at a residence in the area and detained him at approximately 9 a.m.,” Andrews said. “Klinger stated he was in Monterey visiting an acquaintance and admitted to making the phone call and threat.”

Police searched the home and found a handgun, according to Andrews, and arrested Klinger for making criminal threats. Investigators also learned he owns several firearms, so they obtained a “gun violence restraining order and search warrant” for his Carmichael home, which MPD officers searched that evening with the assistance of the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Office.

“Officers recovered several firearms, including three illegal assault rifles,” Andrews said. “Klinger faces additional charges for possession of the assault rifles in Sacramento County.”

The Monterey County District Attorney’s Office has not filed a case against him, but Monterey P.D. filed a restraining order against him Nov. 15, according to the Monterey County Superior Court system, and a hearing ordering MPD to show cause is set for Nov. 25.

Andrews said the case “remains under active investigation” and asked anyone with information that might be relevant to call him at (831) 646-3822 or use the anonymous tip line at (831) 646-3840.

## AUBREY LUKE GILQUIST

Aubrey Luke Gilquist, 58, of Carmel, California, passed away on Oct. 15, 2025.

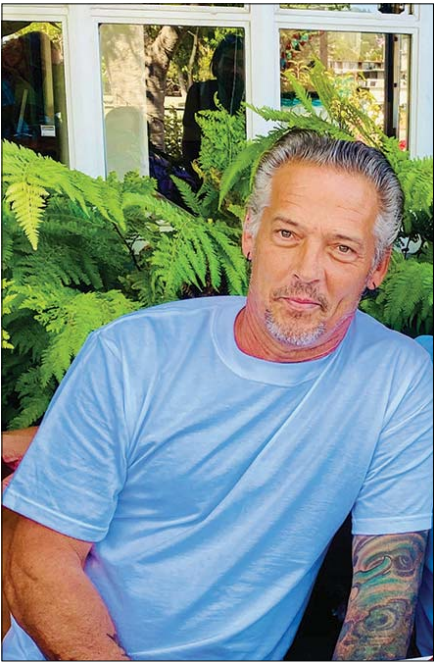
Aubrey was born on Oct. 26, 1966, in St. Paul, Minnesota, to Nancy Jean Cole and Andrew Leroy Gilquist, Jr..

After earning his GED, he pursued his passion for food and craftsmanship by studying culinary arts at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Eagan, Minnesota. His working life was defined by skillful hands and a creative spirit, leading him through years as both a chef and a carpenter.

Aubrey had a big heart and a sharp sense of humor. He loved sports and was a devoted Minnesota Vikings fan. He cherished dogs throughout his life, especially boxers, mastiffs and bulldogs, who were constant companions. His mornings were often spent with his AA community, where he found fellowship, purpose and deep friendships.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Nancy Jean Cole; his father, Andrew Leroy Gilquist Jr.; and his brother, Stephen Jon Hanson.

Aubrey is survived by his beloved friend and partner, Arthur Turqueza; his sons, Jacob Daniel Gilquist and Kaleb Robert Gilquist; his aunt, Christine Raven Yellowthunder (Ralph Yellowthunder); his sisters, Alana Leigh Pixler, Faye Ellen Hanson (Jon Hall) and Shelly Jean Hanson (Abraham Butler); his nephew; and many nieces; as well as his fur babies, Gaston and Sasha.

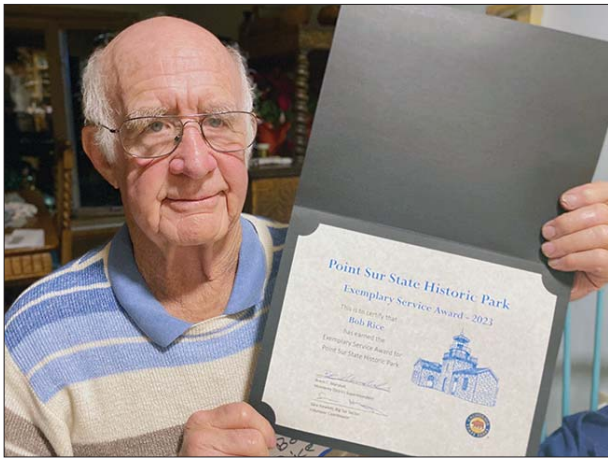


Aubrey’s life was marked by resilience, generosity, and a steady love for his family and the people around him. He will be deeply missed.

## ROBERT WAYNE RICE

Robert Wayne Rice (Bob), born July 3, 1944, passed away on Nov. 4, 2025, at age 81. He and his wife, Carolyn, lived in Carmel, CA for the past 50 years. He was proud of being raised on a family farm four miles north of Emporia, KS by parents W.T. and Annette Alice Rice. He graduated from Emporia High School in 1962 and earned a degree in journalism from Kansas State University.

He married Carolyn Howard from Oakley, Kansas 59 years ago. They raised two children, Pamela of Seaside, CA and James (Katherine Palmer) of Brisbane, Australia. Jim predeceased Bob on April 19, 2021 from an aggressive cancer.



Bob worked in advertising and public relations in New York City and Richmond, VA before moving to California. He was a partner and one of the original staff members at the New York City public relations company, Gibbs and Soell Inc. When in California he headed a branch office for the firm which specialized in agriculture and other fields. Assignments for corporations required frequent nationwide travel to interview farmers and scientists on farming practices. His articles were published in farming and other publications He helped organize conferences for corporations and wrote speeches for their presidents.

Bob pursued many jobs and hobbies after he sold his partnership in the public relations company 30 years ago. Some were paid, such as disaster assignments for FEMA. But most were volunteer, including 13 disaster assignments for American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity housing projects, Carmel Valley Kiwanis projects helping people during floods plus working at numerous fundraiser barbecues, and his weekly work with the preservation crew at the Point Sur Lighthouse. He also served as a Mid Valley Fire Department volunteer firefighter and later on its board and other fire boards when Mid Valley was incorporated into larger service areas. He served as Rancho Tierra Grande board president for six years plus additional years in other offices.

In addition to his volunteer work, he helped many neighbors and friends with handyman jobs. He was happiest when helping others.

Bob died of complications due to lung diseases including pulmonary fibrosis. Prior to learning of his lung issues a few months ago, Bob pursued his active life and continued with many activities throughout his treatments. A bowl turner, Bob wanted to caution woodworkers to wear a mask and avoid inhaling small particles of redwood dust, as researchers recently have learned these small particles can cause pulmonary fibrosis.

Besides his wife, daughter and daughter-in-law, Bob is survived by six grandchildren, Lachlan, Lillian, Laurellen Robnett and Linden Mentor of Seaside, CA and their fathers, Todd Robnett and Peter Mentor; Annabel and Samuel of Brisbane, Australia; and his brother, John Rice (Judith), of Emporia, KS, plus many other close relatives and friends.

His celebration of life will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 10, 2026, at Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 4590 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA 93923.

Those who volunteered or served with him are invited to attend wearing clothing or uniforms representing the organization.



## MARGARET MEAGHER OXFORD

Oct. 30, 1948 – Nov. 10, 2025

Margaret Meagher Oxford, born on Oct. 30, 1948, and passed away on Nov. 10, 2025, at the age of 77, with her brother and daughter beside her. Margaret was a life-long resident of Pacific Grove, California. She received an associate of arts degree from Monterey Peninsula College.

Margaret was a warm and friendly person with an easy laugh, an amazing memory and a sharp intellect. She picked up her artistic flair from her mother and definitely passed it on to the next generation. As a friend, you may have benefited from her talent as a cartoonist. She also had an interest in written Hebrew, Greek and Latin languages and a wide-ranging interest in and knowledge of world geography. Margaret loved Pacific Grove and was always happy to hop in the car to enjoy a beautiful PG sunset drive.

Margaret was baptized in 1973 as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses and has been a member of the Pacific Grove Congregation ever since. She loved Jehovah deeply. Her faith in the Bible promise of the resurrection to life on earth was unshakable.

She was predeceased by her husband, Elery Samuel Oxford; her parents, James and Carmen Meagher; and her brothers, John, Karl, and Fredrick Meagher.

Margaret is survived by her daughter, Suzanna Oxford and granddaughter, Ren Mills of Pacific Grove; sons, Elery James and Samuel Oxford of Boulder CO; brother, Robert Meagher (Caroline) of Rochester, VT; and nieces, Christine Masaba-Meagher (Kizito), Amy Wildt (Sean) and grand-niece Katie Keown of Rochester, VT; sister-in-law, Jesstine Meagher of Hartland, VT; nephew, Joe Meagher (Kim) of Clairmont, NH and grand-nieces Alice and Erin.

A funeral service is set for 1 to 2 p.m. Dec. 5, 2025, at Bayside Community Mortuary, 1610 Noche Buena St., Seaside, CA 93955. A committal service will follow at San Carlos Cemetery, 792 Fremont St., Monterey, CA 93940.





CATHERINE MARIE O'NEILL

May 29, 1954 - Nov. 12, 2025

A kind, caring, and generous sister, aunt and friend whose fearless nature and intrepid spirit blazed a bright trail, Cathy O'Neill passed away peacefully on Nov. 12, 2025.

Born second in what would become a bustling family of 12, Cathy came into the world on May 29, 1954, in St. Louis, Missouri, before the O'Neills relocated to Salinas, California.

Cathy attended Sacred Heart Grade School, Notre Dame High School in Salinas California, and later Gonzaga University in Spokane Washington, where a junior year spent in Florence sparked a lifelong love of travel.

From an early age, Cathy's fearless nature carried her far — both literally, to adventures across the world, and professionally, to the finance world of Wall Street.

Bold and brilliant, it was no surprise Cathy found her footing there. She led trading desks for GE Capital, Robertson Stephens, and others, before (inevitably) becoming a founding partner of Eastbourne Capital in 1999.

Though she thrived in a high-pressure profession, she possessed a light heart and buoyant spirit. Following her retirement, Cathy split her time between her two homes in Carmel-by-the-Sea and Sonoma, California. Her charming cottage, Lilliput, in Carmel-by-the-Sea, embodied the whimsical spirit for which it was named. She knew true joy when watching her beloved dogs Max (Maximus Polonius O'Neill) and Doolin (Doolin Liam O'Neill) run free on Carmel Beach. In Sonoma, Cathy took great pride in her passive home. She rebuilt a historic ranch house into the first Certified Passive House™ retrofit in the entire U.S. Her love of art, design and joyful gatherings were evident in her two remarkable homes.

Cathy had a special gift for bringing people together. She often gathered her family and friends at Coolclogher House in Killarney, Ireland, which she considered her home away from home. For 20 years, Cathy spent relaxing and fun summers at the manor home. She spent her days hiking, exploring the coastline, and popping into the local shops, but her favorite part of those days was hosting home-cooked dinners in the manor home kitchen.

Back in California, her Sonoma walking group brought her much laughter and lasting friendships. She gave generously of her time, energy and spirit — to good causes, charities and to everyone lucky enough to be loved by her.

Cathy was preceded in death by her parents, Kathryn and Thomas O'Neill; her sisters, Lorette Claire O'Neill and Maureen Ann O'Neill; and her faithful dog, Maximus O'Neill.

She is survived by her siblings, Peggy O'Neill of Nampa, Idaho; Thomas O'Neill (Susan) of La Jolla, California; Patricia Ito (Alan) of Lake Havasu, Arizona; Raymond O'Neill (Cathy) of Encinitas, California; Charles O'Neill of Sonoma, California; Lisa O'Neill-Murphy (Terry) of San Jose, California and Elizabeth O'Neill of Atlanta Georgia, nine nieces and nephews, seven great-nieces and nephews and her beloved rescue dog Doolin O'Neill.

Services for Cathy will begin at noon Sunday, Nov. 23 at Rosary Chapel Santa Catalina in Monterey, California, followed by a reception. Burial will take place at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 24 at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Prunedale, California.

Many thanks to the Monterey County VNA & Hospice for their tender care and support in Cathy's final days and weeks. In lieu of flowers please consider donating to Sonoma Valley Catalyst Fund or the Central Coast VNA & Hospice.

Funeral arrangements by  
Struve and Laporte Funeral Home.

Online condolences to  
[www.struveandlaporte.com](http://www.struveandlaporte.com)

DOLORES TROVATO

May 3, 1925 – Oct. 5, 2025

Monterey – After 100 years, five months and two days, Mom passed peacefully in her own home of 68 years. Dolores (“Dee”) was born in Calexico, CA to Aurora Martinez and Jose Mendivil, a farmer/rancher family who traveled from Calexico to the Central Valley of CA. In 1939, the family traveled to Firebaugh, then to Hollister. Once World War II began, they settled in Salinas, CA in 1942. Dee was 17.



Dee was a devoted wife and mother. She created a stable and loving home for her family. Dee retired from Pacific Bell after 45+ years.

Many thanks to our wonderful caregivers who cared for Mom 24/7 from May 15 through Oct. 5, 2025. A special thanks to our main caregiver, Jeannetta Williams and RN extraordinaire, Angelica Jensen, of Hospice. We thank Dr. Eliot Light and his caring staff, Arlene and Deanna of Pacific Grove Family Medicine who provided general medical care for 41 years.

Dolores leaves behind a loving family who will miss her. Dee and her husband, Tony Trovato, were married for 57 years. Dad passed in November of 2005.

For more details on her life, go to <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/dolores-trovato-obituary?id=59947641>

As per Mom's request, there will be no services, except for the private scattering of ashes to be scheduled in the Spring of 2026.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested in memory of Dolores Trovato to the following:

San Carlos Cathedral at 500 Church St., Monterey, CA 93940

San Carlos School at 450 Church St., Monterey, CA 93940

Blind and Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County at 225 Laurel Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Salvation Army of Monterey Peninsula Corps at 1491 Contra Costa St., Seaside, CA 93955

Hospice of the Central Coast at 30 Ryan Court, Suite 250, Monterey, CA 93940.

ELIZABETH MEYERINK “LIZ” LORD

Pebble Beach, CA

October 24, 1937 - October 25, 2025

Elizabeth Meyerink Lord, known to her many friends as “Liz”, passed away one day after her 88th birthday following a brief illness. Liz was a globe-trotter from the start. She was born in the city of Baguio on the island of Luzon in the Philippines as her parents fled the Japanese invasion of Shanghai. Following World War II, Liz returned to Shanghai as her father resumed his import/export business. She lived there until the Communist takeover in 1949 when they left for good and returned to San Francisco where Liz attended and graduated from the Katherine Delmar Burke School. She then went to Sweet Briar College in Virginia (her mother was a proud Southerner from nearby Richmond) where she graduated in 1959 with a degree in Art History. While in college Liz went to a Stanford summer school session in Guadalajara, Mexico where she met a young Charles “Skip” Lord. Coincidentally, Skip's sister was two years behind Liz at Sweet Briar and the two California girls were paired by the school as “big sister/little sister”. This seems to have helped nourish the relationship with Skip because they were married June 11, 1960 at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in San Mateo.



Liz and Skip spent their first four years in Hollister, California where Skip began his career as an aerospace engineer and their two children, Kathy and Chris, were born in 1962 and 1963. However, every possible weekend included a trip to the beautiful Monterey Peninsula and in 1964 they bought a house on Highway 1 near Carmel High School. Skip's work then took them to Corona del Mar for two years and Los Altos for a year before allowing them the opportunity to move back to the Monterey Peninsula in 1969 and they never left. Liz was an active and devoted wife and mother but also a talented artist so she continued taking art classes, becoming quite proficient. When Kathy and Chris left the nest she decided that

her next calling was Interior Design and attended all available classes at Monterey Peninsula College (MPC), graduating in 1983. She gained valuable experience working with local designers and in 1989 was recognized by MPC for outstanding professional achievement by a former student. The California Council for Interior Design awarded her the status of Certified Interior Designer #1664 in 1993 and that same year she won the Monterey Bay Magazine Design '93 award for Best Residential Bedroom. She became a professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) in 1994 and began thirty years as House of Lords Interiors, which included a wide variety of local homes plus one in Paris, France.

She was a charter member (1987) of the Church In The Forest in Pebble Beach and a staunch supporter of the Monterey Symphony. She belonged to the Casa Abrego Club, the Beach and Tennis Club, the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, the Junior League of the Monterey Peninsula, the Carmel Woman's Club, the Carmel Foundation and the Stillwater Yacht Club. She was also a long-time bell-ringer for the Salvation Army and for many years sponsored a table at their annual Red Kettle Kickoff.

She loved family gatherings (especially Christmas), dogs, walks on Carmel Beach and Stillwater Cove, Haagen-Dazs coffee chip ice cream, tennis, good books and movies, skiing, mushrooms, lattes at Carmel Belle and The Bookworks, animal documentaries (Big Cats most recently), traveling anywhere and window shopping everywhere.

A stranger was simply a friend she hadn't yet met. She was a vibrant, active part of the Monterey Peninsula for sixty years and will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her. She is survived by her devoted husband of sixty-five years Charles “Skip” Lord of Pebble Beach, her daughter and son-in-law Kathryn and Kurt Mahosky of Silverton, Oregon, her son and daughter-in-law Christopher and Stephanie Lord of Honolulu, Hawaii, plus grandsons Robert Perry, Kai Lord and Asher Lord.

There will be a celebration of life Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 11:00 AM in the Church In The Forest at Stevenson School in Pebble Beach followed by a reception in Douglas Hall, also at the school.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Operation Smile or Salvation Army of the Monterey Peninsula.



# PRICES

From page 1A

Health Medical Center and the county-operated Natividad Medical Center, have climbed to “extreme levels.”



## DAVID FREDERIC UPHAM

Jan. 30, 1963 • Sept. 22, 2025

David Frederic Upham, beloved son, brother, uncle and friend, passed away unexpectedly in a car accident on Sept. 22, 2025. David was born to Frederic and Beverley Upham on Jan. 30, 1963, at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.

David spent his early years attending Carmel Mission School, Carmel River School, Carmel Middle and Carmel High School. He later graduated from Carmel Valley High School. As part of his continuing education, he learned the craft of welding, discovering a talent for working with his hands and a satisfaction in creating things.

Drawn to the ocean at a young age, David enjoyed many hours of skim boarding and body surfing. He and his father would also take their boat out on the waters around the Monterey Peninsula to fish. David also loved skateboarding, and even had his mother clock his speed while following him in her station wagon, as he raced down the Carmel Mission hill.

Music was his truest passion, and he was known as the only one of his siblings who could carry a tune. David wrote songs, played the guitar with a natural talent that brought joy to everyone around him, and at one point was in five bands at the same time. He was also a gifted artisan and enjoyed creating jewelry, each piece unique and made with care. He spent the final months of his life doing what he loved; working as a rancher, caring for the land and animals, and jamming on his guitar.

David was the only son of Frederic and Beverley Upham and the treasured brother of his five sisters: Debbie Upham, Diane Cook, Mary Daughters, Kathleen Washburn and Linda Gorman. He was adored by his nieces, Ambria Upham, Kayla Young, Kamryn Daughters, Emily Washburn and Jayden Washburn. He is also survived by an aunt, uncle, brothers-in-law and numerous cousins.

David’s life, though far too short, was filled with creativity, humor and love. He will be remembered through his music, his laughter, and the countless ways he brightened the lives of those around him.

He will be profoundly missed and forever loved.

The local hospitals also have “immense negotiating leverage” with insurers because they are considered “must-haves” in their networks due to geographic isolation and network adequacy requirements, according to interviews with insurance officials, the affordability office said.

**‘Doesn’t reflect reality’**

In response to the findings, Mindy Maschmeyer, spokeswoman for Montage, CHOMP’s parent company, said it “takes issue with the accuracy of the data used in this report,” including reliance on information from the Department of Health Care Access and Information — which oversees the affordability office — that she said “required correction.” She did not elaborate.

“This research does not reflect the realities of the cost of providing care in Monterey County,” Maschmeyer claimed. “While we disagree with the methodology, we remain deeply sensitive to the cost of care on the Monterey Peninsula and are committed to working



## BERT ARONSON

Herbert Aronson, known to most as Bert, passed away peacefully on Oct. 27, 2025, surrounded by the love of his family. Born Hubert Aronson in Brooklyn, New York on May 20, 1939, Bert lived a life defined by integrity, curiosity and quiet generosity.

He was the son of Alex and Rhoda Aronson and is survived by his devoted sister, Golda Peskin. Bert and Golda shared a lifelong bond of affection and mutual admiration —an enduring sibling love that shaped both of their lives.

Bert is also survived by his five children — Robert, Jonathan, Charles, Katherine and Margaret — and their mother, his former wife, Susan Grant; seven grandchildren — Jennifer, Edward, Ashley, Rebecca, Allison, Nicholas and Lillian; and four great-grandchildren — Abigail, Nathaniel, Sophie and Theodore. His family was his pride and joy, and he carried their stories and accomplishments close to his heart.

A graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, Bert made his home on the Monterey Peninsula in 1974. He entered the real estate business with a simple but powerful motto: “I start by listening.” That phrase became his calling card — he helped countless people navigate the complexities of buying and selling homes, always with patience, humor and a deep sense of responsibility. Bert worked with integrity and continued serving his clients faithfully until his final days.

Bert was a member of The Beach & Tennis Club in Pebble Beach, Rotary Club of Monterey and the Monterey County Association of REALTORS.

Outside of work, Bert was a passionate tennis player, a traveler and a loyal friend. He played tennis for most of his adult life and found joy exploring the world with his best friend, Maria Lucido. His life was rich with stories, laughter and a quiet strength that touched everyone who knew him.

To honor Bert’s legacy, take the time to truly listen and help others — just as he did.

There will be an intimate Celebration of Life early next year. If you are interested in attending you may contact the family.

with community partners to find ways to ensure that care remains accessible and affordable to our community.”

The Pine Cone asked Maschmeyer whether Montage would lower prices for privately insured patients at CHOMP, and if so, how the company would go about doing that, but she did not say.

If you’re a patient at CHOMP or Salinas Valley Memorial who isn’t on Medicare or Medi-Cal, you’ve probably been hammered at some point with a big bill for a medical test or procedure. The state report found that prices for many procedures are indeed much higher here.

“Monterey County is the most expensive county among the 36 counties included in the analysis for four of the top 10 most common medical conditions and the second most expensive for three others,” the report said. Compared to what San Francisco area hospitals charge, prices at Monterey County hospitals “range from 18 percent above to 168 percent above.”

### Through the roof

For example, the average price to treat someone in a Monterey County hospital for a psychotic episode was \$22,031, compared with \$8,208 for the same treatment at a San Francisco-area hospital. Treating a patient for alcohol or drug abuse or dependence cost an average of \$13,311 in a local hospital versus \$8,449 at hospitals up north.


Giving birth is much more expensive here, too. Vaginal delivery with tubal ligation, for instance, costs an average of \$14,862, compared to \$10,339 at bay area hospitals. Of the 10 procedures listed, only major hip and knee-joint replacements cost less than in the San Francisco area.

The state agency goes on to say that Monterey County “stands out in terms of inpatient admission prices, even

*Continues next page*



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after controlling for a host of reasons prices could justifiably be higher.”

The 23 most common outpatient services were also analyzed, and the county was above the San Francisco area for 19 of them.

“Monterey prices were on average 47 percent above the Bay Area average,” the report said. A CT scan here cost \$3,430, versus \$1,121 in the San Francisco area, while a radiologic exam for a hip was \$611 here, compared to \$270.

Patients hit hard

Meanwhile, CHOMP and the Salinas hospitals, all of which are registered as nonprofits, are apparently doing quite well for themselves.

“These high prices contribute to significant profits,” the report says. “From 2018 to 2023, the operating margins for CHOMP and Salinas Valley were always between 10 percent and 22 percent,” which the agency contends “far surpassed” the statewide hospital average of 0 to 4 percent.”

Interestingly, though, the report notes that Montage Medical Group’s tax filings show operating losses for 13 consecutive years, with the sole exception of 2020, the report says.

“At the same time, analyses of commercial claims data shows that professional service prices in Monterey County are generally in line with other regions, in stark contrast to the Monterey hospitals’ facility prices, which stand out as among the highest in the state,” the report said.

Local hospital prices are hurting county residents, with insurance prices more than tripling in the last 15 years.

Geographic dominance

The “financial impact on the community is severe, depressing wages for workers and leading local unions to encourage members to travel out of the county for common procedures” such as childbirth or joint replacement, to avoid higher costs, according to the report by the affordability office and economic consultant, Arnold Analytics.

Local healthcare prices are amplified by what the state said is “significant physician consolidation,” including the alignment of the county’s largest medical groups with CHOMP and Salinas Valley Health Medical Center through Montage Health and “tight referral patterns that lead back to the high-priced hospitals.”

“The convergence of these factors — geographic dominance, physician alignment, and unfavorable contract terms — has created a market environment where high prices can be sustained, placing a significant financial burden on the families and employers of Monterey County,” the agency said.

Kaiser Permanente, which opened a medical office in Salinas in January, has said it would offer more affordable healthcare options. The state report said Kaiser could offer “competitive pressure,” primarily for outpatient services, but the

Oakland-based company doesn’t have a contract with any hospital in Monterey County.

Big pay

The report also goes into how much the three hospitals pay their employees.

In 2021, the average hourly wage for registered nurses at the county hospitals was above the statewide average of \$65 hourly but below the San Francisco Bay Area average of \$83. CHOMP paid the most at \$81 per hour.

However, the hourly pay for nursing administrators locally exceeded the statewide average of \$75 per hour, with CHOMP paying the most at \$107 hourly, which also exceeded the S.F. Bay area average of \$96.

CHOMP also came out on top for compensating its hospital administrators, paying them in 2021 an average of a handsome \$183 per hour, compared to \$116 in the bay area and \$108 throughout the state.

The RAND corporation found that Montage Health was the “second most expensive hospital system” in California

in 2022, in terms of commercial hospital prices, followed by Natividad Medical Center third and Salinas Valley Memorial 10th, the report said.

“Prices in the RAND study were calculated as a percentage of what Medicare would have paid for the same services,” the state agency said.

Montage Health charges more for inpatient services than any hospital in the state, with Natividad second and Salinas Valley Health seventh, the agency said.

“The gap between the Bay Area average and the three Monterey hospitals becomes even more dramatic for inpatient facility prices where CHOMP (572 percent of Medicare), Natividad (465 percent of Medicare), and SVHMC (378 percent of Medicare) were all considerably above the Bay Area average of 311 percent of Medicare,” the report explained.

‘Ineffective competition’

OHCA interviewed several California health plans and insurers to get their perspectives about the Monterey hospitals. They suggested that the primary reason for the high prices in Monterey County is limited and ineffective competition among the hospitals.

“In short, each of Monterey County’s three hospitals occupies a unique and indispensable position in the local healthcare landscape and the health plans and insurers feel they have little to no negotiating leverage,” the report said. “Rather than competing with each other, each of the hospitals has “must-have” status, allowing them to command higher prices, contributing directly to the area’s elevated healthcare prices.”

While there are other hospitals in California in the same position, the state agency said what is so unusual about Monterey County is that its three major hospitals have that status.

The affordability office noted that a significant portion of the physician workforce

in the county is either directly employed or closely affiliated with one of the large hospital-owned groups. It pointed to the April decision by Monterey Spine & Joint to join Montage Health.

“Nationally, a growing body of literature shows that when health systems acquire medical groups, prices for the same services tend to increase significantly without measurable improvements in the quality of care or patient outcomes,” the report said.

‘Conversation needed’

The Office of Health Care Affordability previously designated CHOMP and the Salinas hospital as “high cost” hospitals, compelling them to restrict spending growth to 1.8 percent next year. In 2027, the companies’ growth will be limited to 1.7 percent, and in 2029 it decreases to 1.6 percent.

But the report notes that there can be a significant delay between the performance year and the time at which any performance improvement plans or penalties are imposed. This lag helps ensure data accuracy but also translates to a longer time for

price to trend downward.

Maschmeyer would not answer questions from The Pine Cone this week about the spending restrictions, including if the hospital is prepared for them. They begin in 2026.

Hospital administrators can thank the Democratic-led state Legislature for hospital price scrutiny after it passed the California Health Care Quality and Affordability Act in 2022. The law, signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom, established the affordability agency to “implement strategies to control health care costs and improve the value of California’s health care system.”

Overall, the affordability office concluded, “the lack of meaningful competition in Monterey County points to the need to continue the conversation to bring hospital prices closer in line with other parts of California.”

Fifth District Monterey County Supervisor Kate Daniels hadn’t read the entire report but said Thursday, “we need to decrease the cost of healthcare” and increase access to it. “Now is the time to look collectively at our healthcare landscape and county needs,” Daniels added.



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# Exciting finish for Stevenson girls at state golf championships

STEVENSON SENIOR Ashley Gettleman finished in a three-way tie for second place Wednesday — one stroke behind the medalist — after shooting a 3 under par 68 at the CIF Girls State Golf Championships at Poppy Hills, leading the Pirates to a third-place team finish — second-best

## Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

in school history. Gettleman led the tournament through 13 holes but fell into a tie for first place after carding a triple-bogey 7 on Poppy’s 356-yard 14th, a par 4. She recovered to birdie the 16th, and the competition looked destined for a four-way playoff for the title until Victoria Cul of Crystal Springs Upland birdied the final hole to win the crown outright.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

PCAL Player of the Year Lucinda Wu helped Stevenson to a third-place team finish, second-best in school history, at the 2025 girls state tournament. Wu shot a 2-under 69 at Poppy Hills, tying for fifth place.

Gettleman’s runner-up finish matched the 2006 performance of alumna Mina Harigae, currently playing on the LPGA Tour. Stevenson’s Lucinda Wu birdied No. 18 for a 2-under-par 69, tying for fifth overall in a fever-pitched tournament that featured 15 scorecards that were even-par or better. Stevenson’s third-place team finish — one spot above their 2024 team — was 12 strokes behind the even-par 355-stroke performance of Santa Margarita, which won its fourth consecutive state championship. Stevenson’s 367-stroke day left the Pirates four behind runner-up Torrey Pines. Santa Catalina’s Candy Liu, an individual state qualifier, was the next-highest local golfer, in 25th place with a plus-3 74. Liu was one stroke better than Stevenson’s No. 3 golfer, Isabella Sun, who tied for 26th. Rounding out the Pirates’ scorecards were Allison Chan (plus-5 76, tied for 32nd place) and senior captain Coco He (plus-8 79, tied for 39th). All Stevenson starters except Gettleman and He will be eligible to return next season for the Pirates, who won this year’s Pacific Coast Athletic League, Central Coast Section and NorCal tournaments.

### ■ Stevenson girls win CCS water polo

With five first-year starters in this year’s lineup, the Stevenson Pirates might have been a sucker’s bet to bring home their third Central Coast Section girls water polo championship in the past four years. When they fell behind top-seeded Santa Cruz 2-0 in the opening minutes of Saturday’s Division 2 CCS finals, then fell behind again 4-2 in the second half, they were swimming against a rip current. The Cardinals, after all, had defeated Stevenson 11-6 on Oct. 24. But the Pirates outscored their nemesis 3-1 in the third quarter, smothered Santa Cruz’s offense in the final period, then won, 6-5, on an athletic goal by Anna Bates, who redirected Collette Duarte’s precision pass through the pipes. “It was pretty sweet,” said Jon Burke, who built a legendary coaching reputation at Sacred Heart Prep, where his teams won 10 CCS titles in a row before he came to Stevenson to win three more,



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Ashley Gettleman strolled into Stevenson lore Wednesday with a second-place overall finish in the California girls state golf championships at Poppy Hills. The senior’s 3-under-par 68 was one stroke off the lead.

plus the 2023 NorCal crown. On Tuesday, the Pirates took a 150-mile drive to Stockton to face a first-round NorCal Regional opponent that had handed them one of their nine losses, 15-14, just last month, and pulled another rabbit out of their hat: They beat the Knights 12-11, advancing to the semifinal round. Once again, Bates scored the game-winner for Stevenson in the closing seconds after St. Mary’s tied the score with less than a minute remaining, capping a four-goal rally for the Knights. The Pirates’ triumph also was fueled by Morrow’s four-goal outburst, and ensemble support from Emily Lee, Jacqui Powers, and Kate Solomon, who scored two each. Adi Smith made 10 saves in goal. That second straight upset victory moved Stevenson into NorCal’s Division 4 semifinals for the fourth year in

See **SPORTS** next page



## After 45 Wonderful Years... I'm Retiring!

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# SPORTS

From previous page

a row. Results of Thursday’s game against top-seeded Merced (29-2) were unavailable at press time, but the winning team plays for the regional title at 10 a.m. Saturday at the University of the Pacific.

“When we graduated those five players, we didn’t just lose most of our scoring power, our standout center-defender and a four-year Division 1-level goalie. We also lost that championship-level experience, girls who were used to playing in high-level, high-pressure games,” Burke said of Emmerson Ferreira, Miranda Salinger, and Sienna Cimoli, who are all playing NCAA Division I water polo, goalkeeper Anna Mitchell, who’s enjoying a gap year



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

Charlotte Morrow led Stevenson to thrilling, one-goal victories in the CCS finals, scoring three goals against Santa Cruz, and NorCal quarterfinals, scoring four times at St. Mary’s.

in Denmark, but is likely to return to the sport, and Arielle Dale, who’s in the pre-med program at UC Irvine.

Stevenson’s CCS revenge over the Cardinals included three goals by Solomon, one each from Powers, Bates, and Emily Lee, and seven saves by first-year goalie Adi Smith — including a spectacular, high-pressure stop of a Santa Cruz penalty shot in the second quarter.

## ■ Padres, Stevenson fall in CCS football

The Carmel Padres lost 49-48 to Sacred Heart Prep in a wild quarterfinal shootout Friday at Monterey Peninsula College, and Stevenson was edged 21-17 in its own first-round thriller at Menlo Atherton. The losses eliminated both local schools from the Division 3 bracket.

The visiting Gators — CCS D4 champions a year ago — scored the deciding points against Carmel with 1:21 remaining, converting on their second attempt at a 2-point conversion when wide receiver Alex Ford made a diving catch in the end zone on a pass from quarterback Nico Pollioni. Seconds earlier, Carmel had been

flagged for pass interference while stopping the first try.

Pollioni and Charlie Ford, Alex’s brother, set up that drama moments earlier with a 36-yard touchdown pass on a third-and-10 play.

Carmel (6-5), the No. 2 seed, scored on seven of its 10 possessions, led by senior Matt Maxon, who ran for four scores and caught a pass for another.

Sacred Heart built a 21-14 first-half lead on runs of 26, 60 and 48 yards, while Maxon countered with a pair of 1-yard TD plunges, capping a pair of nine-play drives.

The teams were tied 27-27 at the half, the Gators scoring first on a 23-yard pass, and Carmel responding with a pair of TD strikes from Kaleb Herro — 14 yards to Skyler Brown, 8 yards to Maxon.

The third quarter ended at 34-34, with Maxon getting another 1-yard TD, and SHP countering with a 63-yard trek and a 1-yard quarterback sneak.

With less than eight minutes to play, Carmel moved from its own 30 to the end zone with 12 running plays, including Maxon’s 5-yard TD run.

The Gators answered with five passes on its final drive, moving from its own 35 to Carmel’s 36 to set up Pollioni’s strike, followed by the game-winning 2-point pass with 81 seconds left.

## Near-miss for hobbled Pirates

With record-setting receiver Caden Olson and all-division defensive back Derek Diniz missing with injuries, underdog Stevenson pushed third-seeded Menlo Atherton to the brink Friday before bowing on the road, 21-17, in the D3 quarterfinals.

The Pirates’ potential game-winning drive stalled deep in Menlo territory, due in part to an untimely penalty, to end a 9-2

season — second-best in school history.

Stevenson’s highlights included:

- 16-for-29 passing by Fin Mink, the school’s record-setting quarterback
- 10 receptions, 94 yards for receiver Grady Roth
- 77 yards rushing, 117 on kickoff returns for Tono Borgomini
- 6 tackles, 3 sacks, by Cody Thacher
- 4 tackles and an interception for defensive lineman Alex Wang
- a 29-yard field goal and 2 successful PATs by Zach Da Silva
- a 5-yard halfback pass for a TD by Derek Diniz (still nursing a hamstring injury), his only play of the game

## ■ Bolante paces CCS D4

Carmel junior Jasper Bolante finished first out of 114 runners Saturday in the CCS Division 4 Cross County Championships, completing the 2.95-mile course at Crystal Springs in Belmont in 15 minutes, 42.9 seconds. He was 14.4 seconds ahead of his nearest pursuer. Sophomore Jasmin Jin (20:04.1) finished 18th for Carmel in the girls race.

Stevenson sophomore Nate Gregory

but document everything — photos, measurements and permit history,” base fines on “severity and intent,” always pair penalties with corrective action, and escalate the punishment if multiple trees are affected, the tree is protected or classified as “significant,” or the wrongdoing occurs during construction or grading.

And when exact diameter or appraisal data are available, use a value-based or per-inch formula to determine how much to levy.

Commissioners generally agreed with the proposed tactics, which they’ll consider again after the proposal is run past the city attorney. They would then have to be codified via an ordinance adopted by the city council.



Stevenson’s third-place finish at Wednesday’s girls state golf tournament was second-best in school history. The 2007 team was state runner-up. Left to right, the 2025 Pirates are Coco He, Isabella Sun, Lucinda Wu, Ashley Gettleman, Melanda Ma and Allison Chan.

finished the boys Division 4 race in 17:41.5, 34th among 115, landing the Pirates a seventh-place team finish. Stevenson’s girls, also seventh as a team, were paced by sophomore Landyn Martis (20th, 30:51.7).

Santa Catalina’s lone runner, freshman Laia Davis-Santos, was 49th in the 87-girl

Division 5 race with a time of 23:13.8.

Visit cifccs.org to view all playoff brackets in every sport.

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

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# TREE FINES

From page 12A

plus “civil recovery” for damages amounting to 3 times the value, misdemeanor prosecution, a red tag and suspended permits.

They also suggested contractors who are caught breaking tree rules could have their business licenses suspended or revoked, property owners who fail to plant replacement trees could be fined, and jobsites where work continues despite a notice of violation could be red-tagged and fined \$5,000 to \$100,000.

The committee provided “implementation tips for staff,” such as, “Use discretion

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# Editorial

## Contamination realities

AFTER OUR Oct. 31 editorial mocking the idea of closing Carmel Beach because of a nearby sewage spill of fewer than 100 gallons, a reader sent us an email lamenting our ignorance of the dangers of even a tiny spill. “Halloween was a fitting day for your ghastly editorial minimizing the health and environmental risks of the recent sewage spill at Carmel Beach,” the reader wrote. “Your unscientific message misled the public and downplayed the real dangers of sewage contamination.”

Multiple studies, she said, “have shown higher rates of gastrointestinal and skin infections among swimmers and surfers exposed to contaminated coastal water.”

And don’t think you can rest easy when a minuscule amount of sewage flows into a vast ocean. “Even a 100-gallon spill in a partially enclosed bay like Carmel’s can drive bacterial counts thousands of times above safe levels for multiple days,” the reader wrote.

The tempest reminded us of the outcry several years ago when somebody decided to notice that cruise ships routinely discharged sewage into the ocean — as they had done for centuries. And it hardly mattered that the effluent from cruise ships was treated sewage, the practice must be banned, indignant politicians said.

We wonder where they think their sewage goes. For Monterey Peninsula residents, it goes to a treatment plant and then, of course, into the ocean, but nobody closes a beach because there’s a sewer plant nearby.

Raw sewage is very dangerous, and while the reader was getting hot and bothered about a drop in our local bucket, in most of the world, the UN says, sewage treatment is nonexistent, which means the excrement from billions of people in Asia, Africa and South America is simply dumped into the ground or directly into the nearest river, lake or ocean, leading to all sorts of nasty health consequences for the unlucky masses. She didn’t mention any of that. And maybe she didn’t have to. The oceans are so big, the huge quantities of urine and feces from those continents that end up in the sea are diluted to less-than-harmful levels before they have a chance to reach our shores. At least that’s what we hope.

Unfortunately, Mexico is also on the list of countries with inadequate sewage treatment, and it is perilously close — especially Tijuana, a large city that abuts the border and routinely dumps massive quantities of untreated sewage into a river that crosses into the United States at a place called Border Field State Park, fouling miles of beaches between its source and San Diego.

“Since late 2021, swaths of the south San Diego County coast have been closed every day — 1,345 days in a row and counting — because of sewage and industrial pollution flowing in from the Tijuana River,” the Los Angeles Times reported in August.

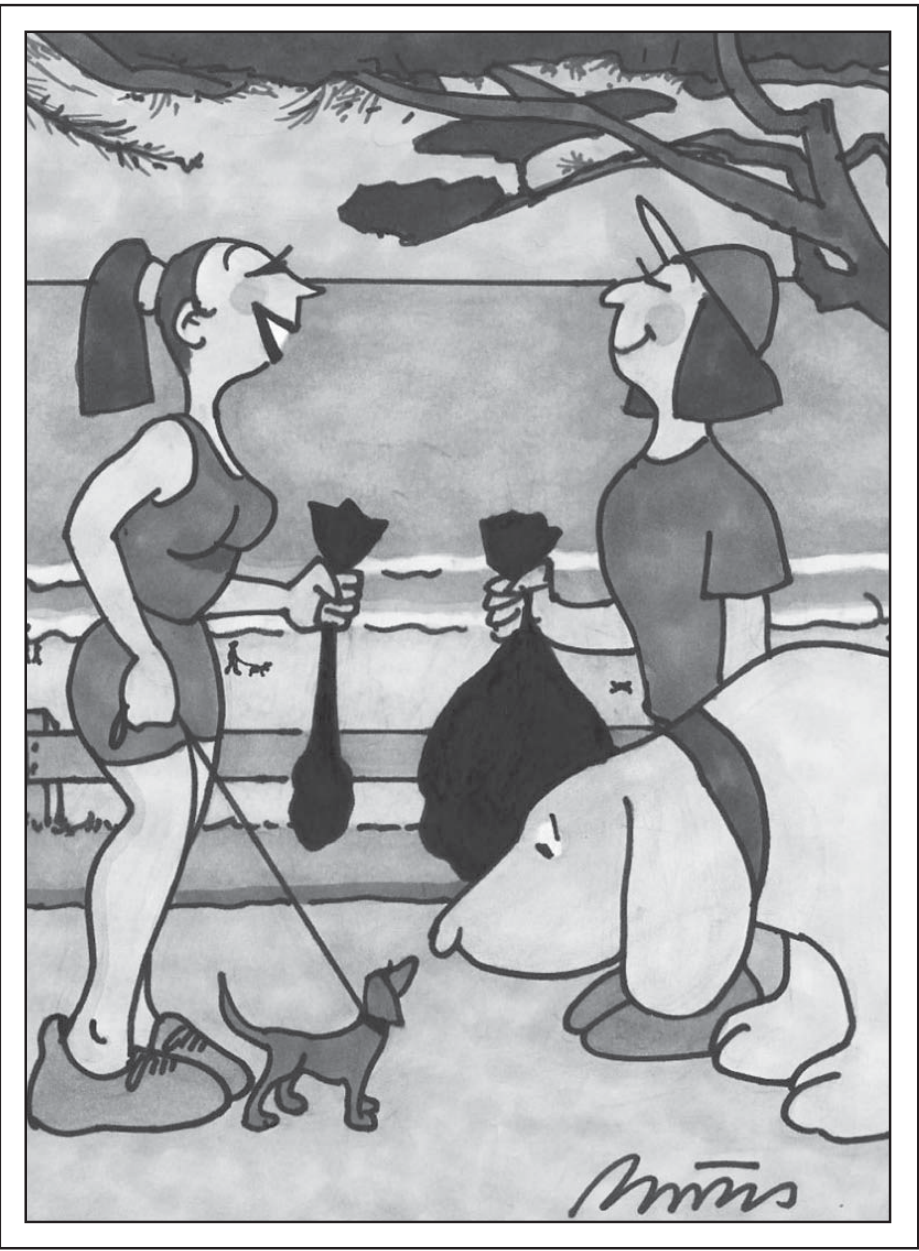
The constantly closed areas include the City of Imperial Beach, the Times added, and according to a local youth advocate, the only way to protect the health of the beach-loving children who live there is to bus them to beaches farther north.

“They’re not able to enjoy our waters in Imperial Beach — the nearest beach that they have to go to for clean water access is at least 35 minutes away,” said Santos.

Our reader also didn’t mention the sewage that keeps big stretches of the California coast closed on a 24/7 basis.

A story from the Bible tells of a man who complains about a tiny speck in his neighbor’s eye while ignoring the log in his own. In this case, the problem is the reverse. Our tiny sewage spill resulted in the weekend closure of a very popular beach, which was definitely an overreaction. Meanwhile, sewage contamination of the ocean is a huge global problem, including places just a few hundred miles away.

## BEST of BATES



## Letters to the Editor

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](mailto:mail@carmelpinecone.com)

### Thanks to staff

Dear Editor,

As we prepare to gather with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving, let’s take a moment to express our gratitude to our city hall family of employees who keep our city running 24/7. From administration, to public safety, to public works and every job in between, our city employees provide services to our residents which maintain our quality of life in our village.

They provide stability and continuity through times of change; it has been 109 years since Carmel-by-the-Sea was incorporated as a city, and it’s still going strong. We are a unique city of only 1 square mile, yet the institutional knowledge of how things are done in our village in the forest is what makes our employees invaluable.

So with gratitude and appreciation, Happy Thanksgiving to those who work in our city government!

Alissandra Dramov,  
Carmel City Council member

### Thanks for traditions

Dear Editor,

As a former planning commissioner, mayor and longtime resident of Carmel-by-the-Sea, I write with deep appreciation for the individuals who have shaped our village through decades of public service. This Thanksgiving season offers a moment not just for reflection, but for honoring the institutional knowledge that continues to guide our community.

Since Carmel’s founding in 1916, our village has been stewarded by a diverse and passionate group of citizens — staff, volunteers, appointed and elected officials — whose collective wisdom and commitment have built the foundation we stand on today. Their decisions, values and vision form a civic memory that informs how we respond to challenges and preserve our unique character.

Institutional knowledge is more than history, it’s the lived experience of those who understand the rhythms of our town, the nuances of our governance and the priorities of our people. During the pandemic, this depth of understanding proved invaluable. Thanks to thoughtful and steady leadership, we not only endured but emerged stronger, guided by the lessons and legacy of those who came before.

Let us give thanks to all who have contributed to Carmel’s enduring vitality. Their dedication is the quiet architecture behind our quality of life, and their service deserves our gratitude. Wishing everyone a joyful and reflective Thanksgiving.

Ken White, Carmel

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# The Carmel Pine Cone

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The Carmel Pine Cone

was established in 1915 and is a legal newspaper for Carmel-by-the-Sea, Monterey County and the State of California, established by Superior Court Decree No. 35759, July 3, 1952



# In her experience, all politics is local — and deeply personal

IT WAS Christmas 1998, and the soon-to-be Stihlers were shackled up at Deetjen’s in Big Sur.

“We made a deal that if I got elected — because he was saving up to go to law

started a family, and Stihler held office until 2019, just before the U.K. split with the EU.

A year after Brexit, the Stihlers sold their home in Dunfermline, said goodbye to Scotland’s ancient capital city and moved to the Monterey Peninsula.

Since 1997, they had paid yearly visits to David’s family in Carmel, so it felt like a second home, and a rental at San Carlos and Second Street made it official. David was, of course, a U.S. citizen. Catherine arrived in the United States on a special visa.

“To qualify for an O-1 visa, you must

## Great Lives

By LILY PATTERSON

school — he’d come and be with me in Scotland and go to school there,” Catherine Stihler recalled. “But if I wasn’t elected, I’d come to Carmel to be with him.”

Elected to what? Read on.

They had made long-distance work since graduating from the University of St. Andrews, where they met in 1996. David had returned to his childhood home of Carmel and started a career as a special education teacher, while Catherine stayed in the U.K. and landed a job as a researcher for the “passionate, caring and practical” Dame Anne Begg, a fellow Scot and the first wheelchair-bound member of the U.K. Parliament.

### 20 years later

The deal swung in her direction — and Carmel would always be there.

In 1999, Stihler was elected to the European Parliament, the youngest member ever to represent the United Kingdom at 25 years old. David moved to Scotland, where they



Family, faith and a formidable background in European politics roused Catherine Stihler to address the greatest challenge facing Monterey County: housing families and working people in need.

See LIVES next page

# From the mayor’s desk — Progress and gratitude

By DALE BYRNE

USUALLY, THINGS quiet down as the holidays approach, but not in Carmel this year. The December city council meetings will tackle issues that matter to residents and are essential to keeping Carmel safe, beautiful and productive. The same is happening with our commissions. I’ve also represented our city at the Mayors Association, the Monterey County Hospitality Association’s recognition awards, the Carmel Innkeepers gathering and the Panetta Institute’s Lincoln-Jefferson awards. These are all reminders of how we’re working together to keep Carmel and all of Monterey County thriving.

As we head into Thanksgiving week, it feels good to pause from the constant pressure of city government, take a breath, and remember why we do this work. It’s about caring for our beautiful village that so many of us love and feel grateful to call home.

### ■ Giving thanks

Thanksgiving is a natural time to say, “thank you,” but gratitude should not be

limited to one week in November. Every day, people across Carmel are doing the quiet, steady work that keeps this place special. This season simply gives us a chance to notice it a little more.

Last week, nearly 800 people gathered for the Monterey County Hospitality Association’s annual meeting where two of our hospitality professionals received major awards. With about 27,000 hospitality workers in the county, having two honorees from our 1-square-mile village says a lot about the standard of care here. Carmel is full of people who take pride in doing things well, reflected locally and regionally in recognitions like the Golden Pine Cones and the Carmel Chamber’s Awards of Excellence.

### ■ The people behind the village

These awards highlight what we value: service, hospitality, creativity, kindness and a genuinely welcoming spirit toward residents and visitors. When a local innkeeper, restaurant, bank, spa or gallery is recognized, it shows that the Carmel

See MAYOR next page

# Painting a ‘journey of the mind’

THE ARTWORK that Reiko Michisaki creates in her studio at the Pacific Grove Art Center reflects deep ruminations about who she is, where she’s been and where she wants to go.

“I feel today like I can see the horizon,” said the Japanese-American artist, who is showing 19 of her pieces in PGAC’s Boyer Gallery, an exhibition entitled “Between Memory and Light,” that runs through Dec. 11.

“I hear myself saying, ‘You might have 15 years to do those things you’ve always wanted to do. There’s no time left to put them off,’” explained Michisaki, who took her first trip to Japan earlier this month.

or not.”

Her spirituality, she said, leans toward Shinto, an indigenous Japanese religion that revolves around “kami” — spirits or divinities found in nature and ancestors. “I call animals my spirit guides,” said Michisaki, whose PGAC exhibit also includes paintings of birds, cats and other animals.

### A spiritual river journey

The grief associated with the passing of her father inspired her to imagine a spiritual kind of “journey of the mind,” she said.

“I am trying to find some signs from my ancestors to help get me through this period of my life,” explained Michisaki, whose muse for the journey was her father, captured in an old photograph as he stood happily in a desert.

“I look in the distance and see mountains and know that’s where I need to go,” she said of her spiritual travels. “So I cross the desert and climb the mountain, expecting to find nirvana.”

At the mountaintop, she said she finds a river, builds a raft, and floats through what she calls “part of my ‘hero’s journey.’ I’m going through passages, noticing different things.” Those images inspired her to create a sequence of abstract paintings she calls “my river series.”

Michisaki was born in Santa Monica, grew up in Los Angeles and was educated at UC Santa Cruz. Both parents were California-born. Her father was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II and served in Italy. Her mother’s family was incarcerated during that same period at Heart Mountain, a fenced and guarded 740-acre Japanese internment camp near Cody, Wyo. Michisaki and her mom visited the camp a few years before her mother’s passing.

## Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Several pieces in her show depict geishas — traditional Japanese entertainers culturally trained as conversationalists, dancers, singers and instrumentalists — typically playing a three-stringed lute called a shamisen.

### Spirit guides

“The geisha figures in my art are not portraits of myself, per se, but mythical travelers through my subconscious. They are what I call the shadows, ancestor shadows,” said Michisaki, who avoided acknowledging her heritage until more recent years.

“People always looked at me and thought, ‘Oh ... geisha!’” she reflected. “And I always responded, ‘No, no ... I’m American. I don’t speak Japanese. I’ve never even been to Japan.’”

“It wasn’t until much later that I decided to accept that part of who I am, consciously



Part of Reiko Michisaki’s exhibition at the Pacific Grove Art Center explores her Japanese culture and her spirituality.

### Cutting edge

At UC Santa Cruz, she earned a degree in computer science, which led her to a 27-year career as an academic researcher with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, commonly referred to as MBARI.

“I loved it there. They’re a great company, really nice to their employees, always trying to do the right thing,” she said.

“I worked with great people at MBARI, where we were always on the cutting edge of whatever’s going on in ocean engineering and the discovery of what’s out there.”

In 2005, she took her first art class, which was taught by artist/educator Betty Edwards, author of “Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain.”

See ARTIST page 48A



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# LIVES

From previous page

demonstrate extraordinary ability by sustained national or international acclaim or a level of expertise indicating that you are one of the small percentage who have arisen to the very top of the field,” according to government literature.

“Extraordinary” and “distinguished” are words written in official blurbs and spoken by friends attempting to describe Stihler, 52, and her involvement in some of the most significant legislation in recent European history. Lately, her career in public service has brought her to the groundbreaking of 22 affordable homes as CEO of Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay.

But back to the time she was a rising politician in her early 20s — after graduating from the University of St. Andrews with degrees in geography and international relations, she was made youth delegate to the Labour Party’s national executive committee. She also stood for election to the U.K. Parliament in 1997, jockeying to represent Scotland’s Angus County. She lost, but was swiftly hired as a policy researcher for Begg. The two subsequent years she described as an “amazing” convergence of opportunities for young, progressive politicians like herself.

In that election, for instance, Scotland got its Parliament back for the first time since 1707, in a referendum driven by newly elected Prime Minister Tony Blair and Labour Party officials. There was a massive public parade in Edinburgh to celebrate, with Queen Elizabeth II attending along with thousands of Scottish students, including graduates of Stihler’s alma mater, Coltness High School.

“Wherever you are politically, it was just a beautiful moment. Someone from my high school had just been elected as a member of the Scottish Parliament,” Stihler remembered.

### Black pudding and Brexit

To grasp her own 20-year career in the EU Parliament, where she was one of eight U.K. delegates, consider issues as varied as fisheries advocacy, tobacco and pharmaceutical labels, data privacy, and the admission of post-Soviet Hungary to the EU. She served as vice-chair for the EU’s consumer protections committee and — between weekly commutes to Brussels — as the 52nd rector of the University of St. Andrews from 2014 to 2017, a position elected by the student body.

“This might sound really funny, but another thing I was really proud of was getting a geographical indicator for Stornoway black pudding,” said Stihler, who cited

Parmesan and Champagne as proof of how a local specialty product can transform a regional economy.

Advocating on behalf of blood sausage was more than a symbolic victory for Stihler, in light of what occurred in 2016.

Brexit is one decision she’ll never quite stomach, partly because it upended nearly three decades of economic advocacy for British goods and services. The loss of joint European citizenship has had spiritual and material consequences, she emphasized.

“The constituency I represented voted to remain part of the European Union, and our voice was ignored. It’s been almost 10 years since the referendum, and Britain’s in a really challenging economic situation,” Stihler said. “I feel very sad for the United Kingdom and what we lost.”

In 2019, she resigned her post and was hired by the Open Knowledge Foundation, followed by Creative Commons. Both nonprofits promote the free digital trade of information, and the latter creates the licenses that make copyrighted material on websites like Wikipedia and The Metropolitan Museum accessible to the public. She served as CEO from 2020 to 2023, by that time living in Carmel with David, who works in data security, and their two sons.

### ‘Very practical’ politics

Last summer, an ad in The Pine Cone posted by Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay presented Stihler with a unique opportunity. The 50-year-old organization was searching for a new CEO, and its mission of promoting home ownership, personal dignity and self-reliance moved her. Stihler’s grandmother had lived in a housing project outside Glasgow, and her mother’s rudimentary childhood home wasn’t much better, its only toilet an outhouse.

“I really enjoyed working in tech, trying to solve some of the tricky problems of public access, but this is a trickier problem. It was an opportunity to serve in a different way. After a career of 20 years in politics, it was very practical,” she said.

Under her leadership, the group has just completed 11 homes in the Santa Cruz area and is about ready to break ground for nine homes on the former Fort Ord and 13 in Watsonville. Not only does Habitat offer low-income families a chance to own a home, it can provide mortgage assistance and rebuilding crews for disaster relief, Stihler said.

A member of Carmel Rotary and First Presbyterian Church in Monterey, she’s excited to be a part of more progressive conversations about housing, even outside of her day job. The effort to add affordable homes in Carmel should be commended, she said.

“We also need to be thinking about our ‘missing middle.’ We want our schools, hospitals, police and fire stations to have a workforce who can afford to live here,” said Stihler. “I’m really excited about the potential in Monterey County. There’s something special happening here, and I hope — I know — Habitat will be a part of the conversation,” she said.

# MAYOR

From previous page

experience is shaped daily by people who care about their craft.

Even without formal awards, the same is true for city staff. The forestry team caring for our trees, police officers building trust, crews supporting holiday events, planners and inspectors protecting village character long before a project is visible, and librarians who greet everyone with warmth. Their work rarely makes headlines, but it’s essential to our civic fabric.

This leads to a thought we might explore. As part of the city’s customer service focus, perhaps we could create a community-driven way for residents to nominate outstanding city staff. A People’s Choice Staff Award could shine a light on those who consistently go above and beyond. The goal would be appreciation, not competition — another way to say, “your work matters.” Cities like Healdsburg and Ukiah already have this type of program.

### ■ Gratitude every day

We don’t need to wait for an award ceremony to thank a neighbor who volunteers, a shopkeeper who greets people with a smile, or a staff member who quietly handles details that keep Carmel running. A simple thank you, a note of appreciation, or a kind word can make a real difference and brighten their day.

I hope we celebrate Thanksgiving not only with family and friends, but with gratitude for the people around us. When we notice and honor outstanding service, we strengthen the fabric that holds this village together. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank you for reading these columns and for your kind and supportive words.

To hear a podcast generated from this column, go to [cli.re/gratitude](#).

*Dale Byrne is mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea. His email is [dbyrne@cbts.us](mailto:dbyrne@cbts.us).*



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# LETTERS

From page 26A

## Thanks for Rerig

Dear Editor,

I'd like to comment on the news of Chip Rerig's notice to retire. I've spent some one-on-one time with Chip walking our downtown streets, hearing him engage with citizens and visitors, listening to observations of future initiatives, items of safety, sharing the history of his tenure. He is passionate about Carmel, not only taking his role as No. 1 ambassador to heart, but instilling that ambassadorial attitude in our city administrative team. He will be missed, even if he has put in place a succession plan with technical capabilities.

Consider the number of councilmembers and mayors that have come and gone during his tenure; and yet, Carmel continues to inspire a unique cultural experience for residents and visitors in a safe environment year over year. He is singularly responsible for that outcome. I hope our council spent some time probing to find a way to have him stay on longer, and if not, we should hope that they extract as many suggestions he could offer to maintain the momentum he has built on city employee engagement and satisfaction.

His contribution was exceptional. His spirit must be maintained.

Jim Beck, Carmel

## Breakfast place

Dear Editor,

I had breakfast at the Grill at Pt. Pinos in Pacific Grove early Sunday morning. It was raining, and all the tables were occupied. This location has consistently been at the top of my favorite restaurants list, but it will be closing Nov. 21 because the City of Pacific Grove wouldn't negotiate a reasonable lease renewal amount. Instead, it will be vacant for months until a lesser qualified operation tries to duplicate the success.

I blame the city council and the city attorney for the failure to negotiate reasonable terms. A percentage lease, or one with a base rent that increases as restaurant revenue increases, would be one of many options that might be relevant. It seems that the city never makes good financial decisions, in this case insisting on rent exceeding \$15,000 monthly that the current operator, who also has a successful catering business, deems unsustainable. She should know — she's been there more than five years. Let's vote

for more business-savvy candidates the next time around.  
Sharon Buttimer, Pacific Grove

## Massage permits

Dear Editor,

The Monterey County Sheriff's Office has made a concerning decision to stop issuing work massage practitioner work permits, citing liability concerns. This is not a responsible solution — it is a direct attack on a vital, legitimate profession. I was a massage therapist for 30-plus years and started my career with a sheriff's work permit.

This action threatens to cripple the local wellness industry. There is only one massage school left in Monterey County, the Esalen Institute. They just cancelled their fall class. This creates a perfect storm. The county has now closed the door on new, certified massage therapists. The result will be the erasure of professional practitioners in a region famous worldwide for its healing arts and wellness tourism. Decades-old wellness traditions are now being thrown out, the primary pipeline for legal, certified therapists is now closed.

Wellness is a major economic driver for Big Sur and the Carmel coast. The county's policy is short-sighted and economically damaging. With no massage schools and programs left, there is less appeal to the Big Sur coast. How sad; it is such a beautiful area. I spent many days at Esalen, enjoying the baths, food and beauty while taking continuing education classes.

Instead of blanket elimination, the sheriff's office, with the county counsel and community stakeholders, should develop a secure, standardized and enforceable permit and oversight process. This is an opportunity for the county to demonstrate leadership by finding a solution that mitigates liability while supporting legitimate, certified and background-checked professionals.

The county could also adopt the guidelines established by the California Massage Therapy Council, which oversees massage school curriculum throughout the state. There is a 500-hour minimum established. Maybe there is a way for practitioners to work while earning CEU hours. I taught at two massage schools in California during my career and always emphasized professional standards of practice and continued learning.

We urge the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and the sheriff's office to immediately reestablish the work permit process and partner with organizations like the CAMTC and the Esalen Institute to find a pathway that ensures public safety while preserving the jobs and traditions of our region's dedicated wellness practitioners.

Joseph Hutchinson, Monterey



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# DESIGN

From page 1A

guidelines, and after spending just under a month reviewing, the steering committee and some members of the public provided feedback at their March 1, 2023, meeting that they believed the draft had missed the mark and that it had actually made the design guidelines more complicated rather than easier to read and use,” he said. “Members of the committee felt the guidelines were supposed to have been streamlined, but that this had not been accomplished by Winter & Co. Another concern of the committee was that the drafts had added pages to the total count, making them even longer and more difficult to navigate.”

In addition, the group decided commercial design guidelines should be revised, municipal design guidelines should be drafted, and several appendices should be written, including one on “historical context” that runs 17

pages and is separate from the “historic context statement” that’s already part of the code. The committee also compiled lists of preferred plants and construction materials.

“The concept is that the supporting sections of the design guidelines will do just that, support the user in working with the document,” Swanson explained.

He asked the commission for “feedback on the form, function and usability” of the draft guidelines, which break down numerous directives under six “core principles”: enhance, subordinate, fit, respect, design and detail.

### Core principles

The first principle, “Enhance, restore and preserve the forest in all improvement projects, private, public and otherwise,” includes directives to preserve “all existing healthy upper canopy and lower canopy trees,” provide enough space on a building site to allow trees to grow to maturity, and leave rights of way “an unpaved, natural forest floor with an informal edge” containing trees and other vegetation “to create connectivity with adjacent properties.”

Further, parking areas should “reinforce the forest image” by being separated from driveways with plantings and being composed of dirt or wood chips.

“Do not wall off properties at the front property lines

but instead extend the forest character of the right of way into the visible parts of the site by keeping a large portion of each site as open space, with plantings located to filter views of structures,” the rules continue.

The second core principle, “Subordinate every built structure to the character and continuity of the forest, natural environment, and to the natural features of its own site,” includes mandates to “nestle a building in the trees to minimize the mass visible from public view,” and to “decrease the apparent size of buildings by building less than the maximum allowable floor area,” among other methods.

“Minimize the impact of a garage or carport by concealing them from the street, detaching them at the back of the lot or elsewhere, subsuming them into the building design by, for example, tucking them underneath, locating them partially below grade (while avoiding any three-story appearance), orienting the garage door away from the street, and, on small lots, using only a single, one-car garage door,” one of the guidelines says.

Paving should be muted in color, and shrubs, hedges or other landscaping should be used instead of front fences.

Core principle No. 3, “Fit every built structure within

See **GUIDELINES** next page

## Join Point Sur Volunteers!



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## E-BIKES

From page 10A

tour from Mad Dogs & Englishmen, or what.”

The committee voted to proceed with getting the law revised.

Also involving Mission Trail was a request for signs reading “off-leash dogs must be under voice control.”

“This is personal for me. I was all but knocked over by a dog in Mission Trail park, and it resulted in an altercation that I’m not proud of with the dog’s owner,” resident Kevin Ruess said, adding that he’s known two people who suffered broken legs from being hit by dogs on the beach.

He said the owners did nothing to help the victims and left.

“This is actually a problem in Carmel that nobody talks about,” Ruess said, because “dogs are third rail of local politics.”

“You can’t say anything that makes you seem like you don’t love dogs no matter what,” Ruess added.

Committee members voted to install the dog-related signs in Mission Trail park.

Fielding two requests for removing bits of landscaping on the side of the road, the committee instead decided to reduce their size and formalize them with berms or curbs.

The larger of the two, located on the north side of Fifth east of San Carlos, formerly contained two large pines that were cut down a couple of years ago, and someone has planted succulents and an olive tree in their place.

While Ferlito supported getting rid of it — especially because the area contains no native plants and eliminating it would create more parking — Culver recommended keeping it in order to better protect a new ADA ramp that will be installed at that corner.

### They have character

“It does serve as a traffic-calming measure,” he added, even though it’s adjacent to a new stop sign, and he advocated for preserving the landscaped bump-outs that dot Carmel’s streets and contribute to the town’s character.

The smaller spot on the west side of Lincoln near Eighth contains a small oak and will be reduced to provide more room for parking.

Someone asked for “temporary speed bumps” at Scenic and 13th in the belief they would encourage drivers to slow down and not run the stop sign there, but the committee said other measures would be more effective, including one more stop sign.

“I think we have an epidemic in this town of people running stop signs,” Ferlito commented.

Trayer told her it’s a widespread problem and that his officers are focusing on enforcement.



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# GUIDELINES

*From previous page*

its neighborhood context,” includes directives like situat- ing open spaces so they link with neighboring properties, and, on larger lots, maintaining “the open-space character of Carmel’s typical 4,000-square-foot lot sizes, avoiding the appearance of a ‘compound’ or ‘estate.’”

The mass of a building should relate to “the context of other homes nearby” but should vary in design “from that

## A lot of detail about what to do and what not to do

ing,” one of the rules states.

In the chapter directing property owners to “retain and build upon Carmel’s architectural heritage,” they must “preserve historic and existing resources” by reusing buildings and their components, respecting “adjacent his- toric resources by preserving adequate light, open space and views of and around the structure,” and “continue Car- mel’s tradition of architectural diversity.”

“Do not use designs that resemble those in speculative or ‘McMansion’ developments or that present a commer- cial or industrial appearance,” the document says, and “use manufactured materials only if they are ecologically sensitive: able to form a natural patina over time, able to be maintained rather than disposed, able to be fully dis- mantled and recycled or reused, biodegradable, and envi- ronmentally non-toxic or beneficial.”

“Do not use petroleum-based architectural elements,” the rules say.

### ‘Modesty and restraint’

Under the core principle of “design every built struc- ture with modesty and restraint,” designers and architects should “avoid visual complexity, ‘busy’ building forms, too many different materials, excessive and overly ornate or ostentatious details, and materials and details that con- trast strongly within a single building or with neighboring buildings.”

“Do not use building elements that are complex, mon- umental, formal, out of scale or that increase the visual prominence of the building,” and “keep the overall color scheme muted to blend with the forest palette,” while avoiding “starkly contrasting color schemes,” they say.

Buildings should not have fake chimneys, doors or

# HONORED

*From page 9A*

In the years that followed, both sides fought over the release of records after an inmate died in jail in 2019. In spring 2023, after repeatedly notifying the county and Wellpath that they were not complying with the settlement agreement, the plaintiffs asked a judge to order the com- pany to do its job.

In September 2023, U.S. District Court Judge Beth Labson Freeman found Wellpath “to be in civil contempt” of 43 different requirements outlined in the settlement agreement. The judge ordered Wellpath to comply by March 25, 2024, or be fined \$25,000 per violation.

### Bankruptcy

Since then, numerous documents and exhibits have been filed, monitors appointed and hearings held, with ongoing settlement discussions. Wellpath filed for bank- ruptcy in November 2024, and in October, Freeman denied the plaintiffs’ motion to enforce Wellpath’s settlement agreement against the county after they learned Wellpath’s contract will expire at the end of the year.

On Nov. 6, she granted a mutual request for an exten- sion to work out the final settlement agreement and set a December date for their joint motion for approval of the proposed deal.

This week, with Wellpath’s contract to provide inmate healthcare at the county jail about to end, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors approved a \$139 million contract with a new company, San Diego-based Correc- tional Healthcare Partners, for prisoners’ medical, dental and mental-health services.

windows, and shutters should be sized “so that they would cover their entire window, whether or not they are in active use.”

Finally, “detail every property authentically and consistently.”

For instance, “rather than installing a standard over- head product, craft a garage door either to provide visual interest, to recede completely into the materials and col- ors of the building wall, or orient it so as not to face the street,” and “handcraft any fences, using unfinished grape stakes or wood pickets and not ornate wrought iron or chain link.”

“Never use gate posts or columns that are monumen- tal or out of scale with the building design, nor stone col- umns that are not integrated into other stone elements,” and posts and columns should be “the same height as their adjacent fence or wall.”

The guidelines also address “house identification devices,” saying that any names or numbers should be “subordinate to and appropriate to the architecture.”

### Easy to use?

Opinions on the draft varied.

Planning commission chair Michael LePage noted the guidelines contain no references to fire safety or state requirements for using fire-resistant building materials and designing landscaping to minimize the risks of a fire spreading from house to house.

“Wood products are mentioned throughout,” he noted, including shingles, siding and fencing.

He suggested adding a seventh core principle, “Protect.” Commissioner Mel Ahlborn criticized the process and suggested the task of revising the guidelines be returned to the staff and the planning commission.

“Thirty-two months is entirely too long,” she said. “We can’t run a business this way, we can’t run a city this way.”

She preferred the draft created by Winter & Co. and worried that the steering committee’s 158 guidelines don’t comply with the city’s codes and practices.

She also requested “more yes/no examples, easier nav- igation and improved cross-referencing.”

Commissioner Stephanie Locke said that while the committee’s version “is difficult to follow,” the concept makes sense, and she appreciates that “there is more use

# GAVEL

*From page 4A*

Rodriguez, Robert Miller, Chayene Garcia, and John Richard- son from the Salinas Police Department. The victims were as- sisted by Monterey County District Attorney’s Office victim advocate Susana Reyes.

**Oct. 17** — Pedro Quezada, 55, was found guilty by a Monterey County jury of 11 counts of forcible lewd or las- civious acts on a child under 14 years of age. All 11 of the charges are violent felonies and are considered strikes under California’s three strikes law. Quezada faces up to 110 years in prison. Quezada will also be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

Jane Doe disclosed that Quezada, a family member, had molested her on numerous occasions over a seven-year peri-

od. Doe was around 4 years old when the molestations began.

After the first molestation Quezada told her that it was “their little secret” and that if she told anyone something bad would happen. This kept Doe from disclosing the ongoing abuse for over 12 years. Doe testified bravely at the jury trial. She stated that she delayed reporting the crime because she was afraid of Quezada.

According to research into sexual assault victim behavior, it is very common for victims to delay reporting the sexual abuse, especially when the victim is a minor and has a close relationship with the perpetrator.

This case was investigated by Det. Edwin Cruz and other officers from the Salinas Police Department. District attorney investigator Daisy Gurley also assisted in the investigation. Jane Doe was assisted by district attorney victim advocates Mayra Sandoval and Kristin Peterson. Court facility support dog Armani provided Doe with much-needed support during her testimony at trial.

Most important, she said, is whether people can under- stand them. For example, she wondered how the commit- tee defines “speculative” and “McMansion.”

She suggested the section on landscaping refer to the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District’s rules for new and revamped yards and gardens.

### A place for principles

In considering the issues planning commissioners regu- larly field, such as “architecture and design, materials, roofing, fences and gates, site coverage, human scale, doors and windows, views and height,” commissioner Erin Allen said she wasn’t convinced the revised guide- lines are “super easy to use and answer questions quickly.”

“I do love the core principles — I do feel there’s a place for those,” she said. “I don’t know that there’s a way for someone who’s working on a project to quickly get an answer when it’s laid out this way.”

LePage said they seem logical, and resident Ian Martin said he supports the use of core principles, because they indicate what “we expect.” He also said he appreciates the introduction describing the history of the town.

“This should be a fun, interesting, pithy thing to read,” he said.

Martin backed LePage’s proposal to add references to wildfire hardening but said it “should be done with a lot of deliberation,” and respect the other core principles.

Carmel Residents Association board member Nancy Twomey also supported LePage’s suggestions and recom- mended sticking with the committee’s format rather than Winter’s. “I don’t see value in going back to something that was redundant, confusing and verbose in a way that was not helpful in engaging the user,” she said.

Resident and preservationist Karyl Hall said she attended all 36 committee meetings, and that she couldn’t imagine “making ourselves totally fireproof” while pro- tecting the forest.

She decried the “ruination of Carmel.”

“I’m worried we’re going to lose Carmel completely,” she added. “I’ve just sort of lost hope.”

In the end, commissioners didn’t take formal action on the draft but expressed general support for its concepts.

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# HEALTHY *Lifestyles*

It’s easier than ever to prevent cavities, but you still have to do your part

By LISA LAPIN

**TOOTH DECAY** is one of the most pervasive diseases in the world, yet it is also perhaps the most overlooked, as many people take for granted that their good dental hygiene, electric toothbrushes, fluoridated water and healthy eating habits have it largely solved.

Innovations in testing and treatments are also making it easier than ever to stop dental caries before it causes significant damage. A new topical treatment can patch early decay before full cavities form (we’ll get back to that). But the rest of the work of prevention is still up to us.

And over our lifetimes, 9 out of 10 people will experience tooth decay.

“That’s a big number when you are talking about any kind of disease,” said dentist Ryan Lehr of the Monterey Peninsula Dental Group. “Something that affects 90 percent of the population, that’s a big deal.” And it’s the most prevalent disease for kids, he said.

### Mineral imbalance

It’s much easier than you might think to develop cavities, which are painful holes in the enamel that protects your teeth. A mineral imbalance in your mouth is the primary cause. Once a loss of minerals forms a hole in the tooth, the repair process can be an unpleasant whirl of dental drills and even root canals.

“It is a dynamic disease,” Lehr said, adding that the biofilm — a community of bacteria that sticks to surfaces like tooth enamel — in

your mouth is affected by the foods you consume.

“Are you eating a proper diet? Are you exposing your mouth to sugar for prolonged periods of time? Are there things in the mouth that are going to attack when environment is acidic?” Lehr asked.

### High tide

The environment inside everyone’s mouths is awash in minerals carried in saliva. They constantly refresh the teeth and then leave them dry again, Lehr explained. “Like high tides and low tides, it’s water in and water out,” he said. “When you eat, the environment inside your mouth gets acidic, then the minerals go out of your teeth. When the higher pH comes back through your saliva, minerals go back into the teeth.”

Problems crop up when foods that create acidity, such as sugars and carbonated drinks, are eaten frequently or over a prolonged period of time, leaving teeth vulnerable to more mineral loss.

“Things that dissolve slowly that you keep in your mouth for a long time are the worst. For example, I love dried mangoes, but they are not great for your teeth,” Lehr said. “If food is in your mouth all the time, your mouth is acidic longer, and it’s more susceptible to mineral loss.”

**CAVITIES** *con’t. page 35A*



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# Ditching scalpels for lasers

By LILY PATTERSON

**TWENTY YEARS** after it was approved by the FDA for treatment of periodontitis, Laser-Assisted New Attachment Procedure, or LANAP, is one of several popular laser treatments available to dental patients and is possibly the most illustrative example of how high-intensity light is changing the face (and feeling) of dentistry.

Not only is LANAP proven to halt gum disease, studies show it can reverse the harm done to bone and gum tissue, with a minimum of bloody gauze to show for it.

“It’s touted as a no-cutting, no-suturing procedure. It’s still surgery, because we use a local numbing agent, but it’s minimally invasive. There’s no ‘flapping open’ of the gums, like we used to do,” said dentist Matthew Wetzel, who practices at Monterey Coast Periodontics & Implant Center in Carmel, referring to the traditional surgical methods that laser dentistry is gradually beaming into oblivion.

**Mild cases**

For mild cases of periodontitis, there’s something called scaling and root planing, in which plaque is manually cleaned from around the gumline. A general dentist or hygienist can typically handle it.


The traditional protocol for severe gum disease has been the painful-as-it-sounds “flap” surgery, in which gums are cut and pulled away from the teeth so a dentist can clean the infection out and remove pockets of plaque and bacterial buildup. Damaged bone is smoothed out, if necessary. Typically, new tissue has to be sewn on top in order to stabilize the treated area, and at least a week of soft foods and mouth pain ensues.

**No incision**

LANAP can accomplish the same cleaning task, said Wetzel, with no incision necessary. The laser goes farther than any scalpel or scraper could, as thin and ultrapowerful light wavelengths start the healing process at the bone by encouraging new cells to grow.

Laser treatment can help restore soft tissue, too, making it useful for ordinary cases of receding gums. Previously, the only way to “regrow” a gumline was to graft new tissue on top of it — often taken from the roof of a patient’s mouth.

In Monterey, dentist Sarah Frahm’s practice began incorporating laser technology.



LANAP lasers make treating gum disease less painful.

**LASERS** *con’t.* page 37A

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# HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

## CAVITIES from page 33A

Some people have a mouth chemistry that makes them more vulnerable to cavities, Lehr said. He mentioned a saliva test that can uncover a variety of conditions in the mouth, including susceptibility to fungus and periodontal (gum) disease. According to the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, it can also indicate genetically inherited changes that



Dr. Ryan Lehr

allow for more organisms that make the mouth naturally more acidic, and it can reveal the presence of certain types of bacteria that make teeth more susceptible to decay.

Older adults can have issues after a lifetime of thinning enamel. It's possible that someone can go their entire life without a cavity, only to have one appear in their 60s or 70s.

Some medications also create a dry mouth, leaving people with less saliva to bring minerals back into their teeth.

In addition, abrasive toothpastes can wear away at tooth enamel, particularly those with whitening formulas.

"I do not recommend whitening toothpastes for that reason," Lehr said. He urges his patients to look for a low "RDA value" in toothpaste, meaning "relative density and abrasiveness." His office has a chart of the RDA value of various toothpastes, something that's not required to be listed on labels. Sensodyne Pronamel is a brand with a low enough RDA to avoid damage.

And by all means, though it sounds counterintuitive, don't brush your teeth immediately after eating, especially sugar and

acid. Wait awhile, even more than 30 minutes. While it may seem counterintuitive to not immediately wipe the sticky stuff off your pearly whites, dentists say to hold off. "You don't want to brush immediately after eating something acidic. If you are going to eat or drink something that's acidic, you need to wait for the pH in your mouth to return to normal before you brush," Lehr said. "If you are in a low-mineral state and you use an abrasive toothpaste, you can actually damage your teeth."

### Restoring minerals

Fluoride can be helpful to re-mineralize teeth and fluoride toothpaste is safe, Lehr and other dentists say. But they still report seeing more and more patients wanting to avoid it. Alternatives include specialty toothpastes that incorporate nano hydroxyapatite, a substance that mimics the minerals in your tooth enamel. Nano hydroxyapatite can do almost the same job restoring minerals to your teeth as fluoride.

That chemical is also the key to a new topical dental treatment that can patch and repair a tooth before a cavity fully forms. If caught early, before dental caries have caused a hole all the way through tooth enamel, a treatment called Curodont pulls minerals and hydroxyapatite from saliva mouth to regenerate tooth enamel. No drilling or fillings are necessary, and the decay is stopped. Invented by the Swiss healthcare company vVARDIS, one version of the treatment, marketed as Curodont Protect, was approved for over-the-counter use by the FDA in 2019.

"Here's the takeaway. You want to enjoy your life and occasionally eat sugar or a carbonated drink. If you are going to drink it and going to eat it, do it in short spurts," Lehr said. "Don't sip on something for prolonged periods of time. If you go to a movie theater and get the big soda and box of candy, then don't sip on it through the whole movie and eat candy the whole time. That's when the real damage happens."

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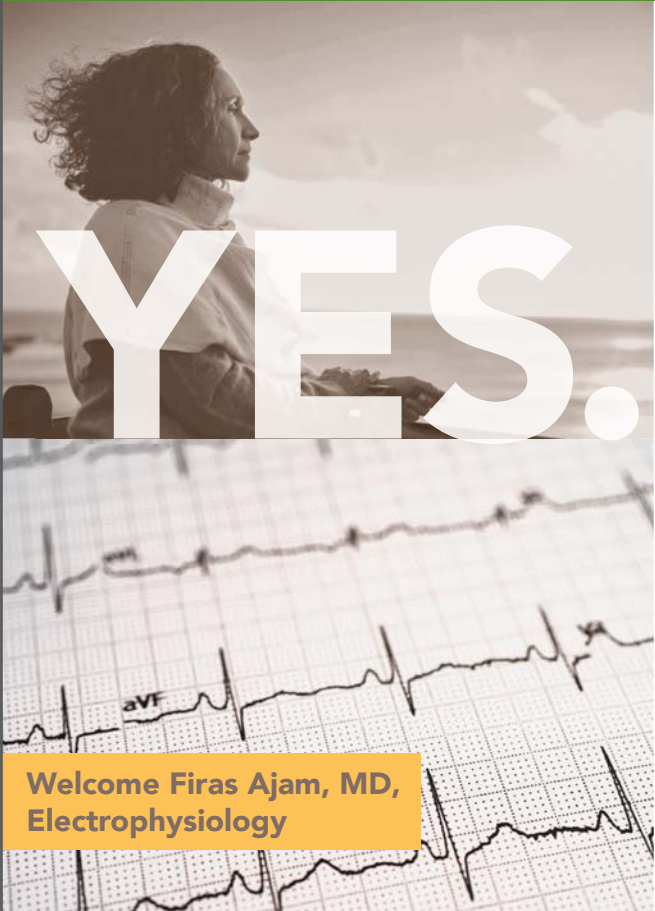


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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

‘It was covered in shiny things. Also, it’s the dog’s fault.’

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

*Editor’s note: This is the second in a two-part series about hazards to pets during the holiday season.*

**THE WINTER** holidays are a busy, meaningful — and, for people and their pets, an often overwhelming — time of year. Many homes are transformed into wonderlands of beautiful and sentimental decorations. Yet, from the pets’ perspective, their proverbial safe space is suddenly loaded with unfamiliar — yet enticing and sometimes dangerous — objects.

On behalf of our dogs and cats, let’s take a look at what lurks beneath the glittering façade.

The Christmas tree

A climbing cat or a running dog, or a pup trying to tear off a branch for an epic game of fetch, can knock a tree down, creating shards of crystal, glass and plastic — which could be ingested or wound the animal. A large tree can injure a pet if it falls on it, something that’s more common that you might imagine.



Dr. Heart Dominguez

Dominguez of Animal Hospital at Mid Valley. “And make sure wrapped food gifts are not reachable. Your pets can smell through the packaging and may decide to open them early.”

In addition, an animal who drinks from the bowl at the base of a tree risks poisoning from preservatives added to tree water. Stagnant water can also contain harmful bacteria.

And don’t get us started on tinsel. The seduction of the glistening strands can encourage a cat to lick and swallow the PVC or mylar film, potentially causing intestinal blockage. Ribbons can also damage the digestive system.

So, in deference to pets — and toddlers — some people anchor their trees to the wall or ceiling. They skip the tinsel and opt for plastic and cloth ornaments, without hooks (which are also dangerous if an animal swallows them). Although safety is the primary consideration, you might want to display Grandma’s fancy-but-fragile ornaments on garland that’s hung out of reach of paws and little hands, saving irreplaceable family heirlooms along with preventing tiny shards of glass from littering the floor.

Cover stands full of water with tree skirts and use battery-operated lights or keep wires out of reach. Vacuum up fallen needles — they can be sharp enough to hurt a cat or dog if they’re swallowed.

A remarkable number of dangers lurk among holiday decorations. “The milky sap in poinsettias is mildly toxic to cats and dogs, which can cause vomiting and diarrhea,” said Beth Brookhouser, vice president of marketing and communications at SPCA Monterey County. “Also dangerous are lit candles, whose flame can be both seductive and dangerous for the animal and the household if our pet touches the flame or knocks over the candle.”

Realistic-looking flameless candles are widely available, and they don’t leave drips on the tablecloth.



Anchoring a tree to the ceiling or wall can prevent a whole lot of holiday unhappiness.

While kissing under the mistletoe is romantic, use the plastic imitation stuff. Like amaryllis, lilies and holly, mistletoe is toxic, says Contra Costa County’s animal services website.

Holiday foods

The festive season encourages everyone to indulge in the miracles of sugar-and-butter alchemy. While people can be sickened by overindulgence, it can be deadly for dogs and cats.

Cooked, boneless, skinless, unseasoned turkey can be good for a cat or dog. Bones, however — cooked or not — can splinter and cause obstruction. Excessive fat, like that found in turkey skin or gravy, can lead to pancreatitis.

Then there are the foods that are toxic to pets yet so prevalent during the holiday season, among them onions, garlic, grapes, raisins, apple seeds, raw yeast (found in

bread dough, for example), alcohol, foods with high salt or sugar content, and chocolate, as well as candy containing xylitol, an artificial sweetener.

“It is so important to keep human food for humans and pet food for pets,” said Stuart Allen, store manager at The Raw Connection in Carmel. “While we may think we’re showing affection by treating them, table scraps are not good for pets.”

“When guests leave unfinished plates on the coffee table, or the charcuterie platter is within reach, or children are carrying food and treats at the animal’s mouth level, we can’t blame the cat or dog — or the child, really — when one of them snatches the food,” said Allen. “Adults need to be vigilant, despite all the distractions of entertaining.”

In addition to getting into potentially

PETS cont. page 39A

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# HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

## LASERS from page 34A

ogy two decades ago. She also specializes in cosmetic laser procedures like teeth whitening and gum contouring, which trims away excess tissue to remedy the “gummy” smile some are bothered by, as well as laser treatment for cavities.

Frahm said she considers anyone who is “healthy enough to receive routine dental care” a potential candidate for laser dentistry, though a thorough intake appointment and medical history review are



Dr. Sarah Frahm

necessary to determine what’s right for them. Sometimes, laser treatment is the more — or only — viable option. Patients taking blood thinners, for instance, will always benefit from less invasive alternatives to scalpels and scaling.

The most common question she gets is the obvious, “How much is this going to hurt?”

Not much, according to Frahm. “Lasers offer faster healing because there is less bleeding, reduced swelling, and less discomfort. I also tell them the risk of infection is reduced because the laser decontaminates the treatment site,” she said.

### Effective, gentle

A handheld device with significant healing potential is music to a dentist’s drill-deafened ears. More than 40 percent of U.S. adults have some form of periodontal disease, Wetzel said, from its earliest indicator — gingivitis, or mild gum swelling — to extremely advanced periodontitis, which brings on foul breath, bone damage and tooth loss. That number jumps

to 60 percent for adults over 65, according to the National Institutes of Health. Wetzel said some of those cases can be tied to poorly placed implants and aging dental interventions, like crowns and bridges.

Most of his patients are older than 40, Wetzel said, but his treatment of teenagers and septuagenarians using the same kind of laser demonstrates that the most effective treatment for gum disease is also the gentlest.

### Often painless

Across the board, Wetzel said his patients describe post-op as pretty manageable, often painless, not unlike the first 24 to 48 hours after a deep cleaning from a dental hygienist. Laser treatment can cause mild inflammation and redness, so soft foods and very gentle brushing are recommended for a day or two.

To minimize discomfort, Wetzel said he typically splits his laser treatments into two 45-minute procedures, one half of the mouth per appointment. Including paperwork, prep and time for the numbing agent to kick in, each appointment lasts less than two hours.

Prior to treatment, protective eyewear is donned by everyone, including the patient, and a local anesthetic is injected. The laser takes a first pass along the gumline, followed by an intermission for gentle manual cleaning. Wetzel said he adjusts the laser’s intensity several times throughout treatment, depending on the type of tissue being treated. Occasionally, he will manu-

GUMS cont. page 39A



Dr. Matthew Wetzel



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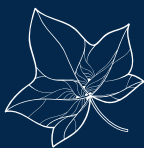
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# T H E K I T C H E N

## Chestnut Soup

Courtesy Sarah Boyle, “Sundays with Sarah”

**JUST IN** time for the holiday season, here’s a healthy and festive soup from Sarah Boyle, host of the culinary webcast “Sundays with Sarah.”

She enthusiastically described the dish as, “A favorite in our house! This delicious soup engages all of your senses. Appealing to the eyes, it is a rich and toasty brown color. It smells and tastes nutty, and sweet. This soup is naturally creamy in texture without the added fat.”

Sweet chestnuts are a longtime holiday tradition, owing to Nat King Cole’s rendition of “The Christmas Song.” Composed by Robert Wells and Mel Tormé in 1945, it ironically became popular just as chestnut blight finished killing off nearly all of the American trees. (Those shiny brown-and-white local buckeyes are toxic unless they’re subjected to a lengthy preparation process developed by Native Americans.)

Unlike other nuts, says WebMD, chestnuts are low in fat and high in vitamin C, magnesium and potassium, and they’re a good source of antioxidants and fiber.

Nowadays, they’re grown mostly in China, South Korea, Europe and South America. Julia Child’s “Mastering the Art of French Cooking” and Irma Rombauer’s “Joy of Cooking” include instructions for preparing them from their raw state, but you can also find them in jars or shelf-stable pouches with all that hard work, including peeling the little rascals, already done. This is what Boyle recommends in her recipe.

“I try to make cooking easy on myself,” she said. “The point is for you to love

what you create, and enjoy yourself while you’re crafting it!”

Heck, many grocers’ produce sections have mirepoix — the combination of chopped carrots, onions and celery that are the basis for so many dishes — already prepared in plastic containers.

Although the soup looks and tastes creamy, there’s no dairy at all.

Start with the smaller amount of vegetable broth or stock to cook everything, then add more as you purée if you want a thinner consistency.

If you decide to puree your soup in a blender, it’s best to let it cool down a little and hold the lid in place with a folded kitchen towel until you’re finished to avoid splattering hot liquid. Another trick is to use a slotted spoon to scoop all the chestnuts and vegetables into the blender first, then ladle in some of the broth, run the blender, and repeat until you get to the desired consistency. Or just use the immersion (stick) blender, noting that Boyle said it doesn’t make the soup as creamy.

Either way, Boyle thinks that once you’ve had this soup, you’ll want to make it again — and soon.

- INGREDIENTS**  
(Serves 4-6)
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil, enough to sauté the vegetables
  - 1 carrot, scrubbed and chopped
  - 1 stalk celery, scrubbed and chopped
  - 1/2 yellow onion, peeled and chopped
  - 1 jar or package prepared chestnuts,

- drained**  
**4-6 cups veggie broth of choice, depending on desired thickness**  
**Salt and pepper to taste**  
**Fresh thyme, chives, sour cream, or croutons for garnish (optional)**
- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- Coat the bottom of a soup pot with olive oil and place over medium-high heat. Add the chopped carrot, onion, celery, a pinch of salt, and a grind of pepper. Sauté until slightly reduced, approximately five min-

utes.

Add the chestnuts and 4 cups of the broth. Bring to a boil, then lower the heat and simmer uncovered for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Turn off the heat. Use a blender to puree the soup. “You can use an immersion blender, but I find I get a smoother consistency with my regular blender,” said Boyle.

Add more broth for a thinner soup. Taste and add salt and pepper as needed.

Serve garnished with fresh thyme, chives, sour cream, or croutons, if desired.



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### Chef Bio

**SARAH BOYLE** is an interior designer who launched her “Sundays with Sarah” webcast in part to let potential clients know that she understands kitchens are workrooms, not frou-frou showplaces. Of course they can be beautiful, but they have to function well for cooks. The show is filmed in her own kitchen, where she prepares meals for herself, her husband, Shawn, and their two sons.

Just as important, though, Boyle wants to help people make home cooking part of their lives. She learned from her mother, who appears in a “Sundays with Sarah” episode. Mom not only made meals from scratch, but canned her own foods. “We’d do things like go pick the cucumbers and then make pickles,” she reminisced. Mother and daughter watched Julia Child together, too. Her dad appeared in a special Fathers’ Day episode where they made jerky.

“If you love your kitchen, delicious things will come out of it,” Boyle observed. She’s got plenty of tips, including, “Be mindful of what you use most and put in in reach of the area where you’re going to use it.” Sounds simple, but it’s not hard to find a home where the coffee is kept in a pantry across the room even though there’s a shelf right over the coffeemaker.

Her efforts are rubbing off on her sons, too. “I don’t think my kids realize you can buy pancake mix. They’re cooking now, ‘doing science,’” she said proudly. “It breaks my heart when people say, ‘I can’t cook.’ Give yourself grace.”

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# HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

## PETS from page 36A

dangerous foods, pets, like people, can overindulge, eating more food than their stomachs can accommodate. That means making sure children and guests understand not to feed human foods and scraps during holiday parties and dinners, Dominguez said.

Brookhouser said that not only should you put away leftovers promptly, but garbage should be bagged and taken out or placed in a covered bin.

“Our pets are furry little dumpster divers who don’t know when to stop, even if they’re full,” she said. “Goodness, gracious, I don’t always, either. A tummy ache is no fun, but we can manage this for them.”

There is so much unusual activity going on during the holiday season, and it can be overwhelming for a dog or cat.

“This can



Stuart Allen

cause behavioral responses that are not normal for the animal,” Allen said. “Our pets often go from being the center of attention to being sidelined as we lose focus with so much happening in the home. The animal can become depressed or bored and act out — so can kids. It’s important to give them all loving attention, not anger or impatience.”

**An eye on the kids**

And when guests include little ones, remember that not all children have been taught how to approach pets safely, so keep an eye on those interactions. What seems like a game of tag to a 6-year-old can be frightening for, say, an aging cat.

And, as on Halloween, ask guests to make sure they close doors as they come and go, and maybe give your pet a quiet space where they can retreat if things get too crazy for them. Keep the holidays safe and happy for everyone.



Beth Brookhouser

## GUMS from page 37A

ally file a tooth down if necessary, since an uneven bite can exacerbate gum problems. A final laser sweep helps break up infected tissue, stimulate healthy tissue and sterilize the area.

Wetzel added that laser treatment is ideal for patients whose teeth can’t hold up to manual scraping and scaling. “Lasers clean and disinfect around the teeth and at the same time stimulate the regrowth of bone and tissue, even around implants.”

Bone loss related to dental implants can be genetic, or the implant may not

have been placed properly, or the site not properly prepared, he explained. There’s apparently a 15 to 20 percent likelihood of bone loss among implant patients, significant enough to merit a special term — peri-implantitis. It’s treatable, of course, with a laser procedure, which won’t disturb weakened enamel, or roots hanging on by a thread. For most people, however, regular flossing goes a long way toward preventing gum disease.

Still, it’s good to know that if you do end up with periodontitis, the light at the end of the tunnel is quite an improvement over earlier treatments.



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This Week

Live Music,  
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Symphony welcomes pianist at Sunset, cowboy-rocker is back in town

MONTEREY SYMPHONY’S 80th season continues Saturday and Sunday at Sunset Center with a visit by a world class pianist and the performance of one of music director **Jayce Ogren**’s favorite compositions. Saturday’s

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

concert starts at 7:30 p.m., while Sunday’s matinee begins at 3 p.m.

Pianist **Orion Weiss** will join the symphony when it plays Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg’s *Piano Con-*

*certo*. Weiss has earned a slew of honors, including, most recently, a 2019 Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Award.

“This is his third time performing with us,” executive director **Nicola Reilly** told The Pine Cone. “He’s like the Energizer Bunny — he brings so much positivity, joy and life into everything he does.”

The program also includes 19th-century Austrian composer Anton Bruckner’s *Symphony No. 9* and contemporary composer Jonathan Bailey Holland’s *Dream Elegy*.

Close to the heart

Ogren said Bruckner’s symphony is “incredibly close to my heart.”

“Even though it was left incomplete at his death, it’s hard to imagine a more fitting or poignant farewell than the *Adagio*’s final bars,” he said. “It’s a soulful, powerful and ultimately uplifting work which will receive its first Monterey Symphony performances.”

Holland’s piece represents a “somber response” by the composer to the events leading up to start of the Black Lives Matter movement.

**Christopher Anderson-Bazzoli** offers a free pre-concert talk Saturday at 6:30 p.m. Ogren and Weiss present a Q&A after Saturday’s concert. On Sunday, the symphony’s principal clarinetist, **Sarah Bonomo**, will play in the lobby at 1:30 p.m., while Ogren presents a free pre-concert talk at 2 p.m.

General admission tickets start at \$50, with \$12 tickets available for students, teachers and active military. Call (831) 646-8511 or visit [montereysymphony.org](http://montereysymphony.org).



Award-winning pianist Orion Weiss joins the Monterey Symphony Saturday and Sunday when it performs composer Edvard Grieg’s Piano Concerto.



Singer and banjoist Banjer Dan takes the stage Saturday, 6 p.m., at Trailside Café in Carmel Valley.

Back together again

A one-time local who works as both a cowboy and a professional musician, singer and guitarist **Mike Beck** plays Saturday, 5 p.m., at the Carmel Valley Trail and Saddle Club. Beck, whose music is equal parts rock, folk and Americana, will be joined by his longtime band, **The Bohemian Saints**, which includes guitarist **Tom Ayres**, bassist **Dennis Murphy** and drummer **Joe Wedlake**. Beck has released seven albums.

A folk-rock group from Carmel Valley, **Brianna Mai Colliard & the Desert Marigolds**, open the show.

Beck and his band also play Nov. 28, 10 p.m., at Fernwood Resort in Big Sur, and Nov. 29, 7 p.m., at the Amer-

See **MUSIC** page 45A

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# FOOD & WINE

## At last, it’s time to find your place at the table and pass the turkey

TO EVERYONE who has opened those old-school cookbooks to the gravy-splattered pages with treasured Thanksgiving recipes, we salute you. To the planners whose calendars contain all the information for a family-sized reservation Thursday, we say, “Well done.” And as for you procrastinators — keep reading and get to it, would you?

### Soup to Nuts

Along with more suggestions for your holiday meal, we’ve got a way for you to help others celebrate, too. Also, since the day before Thanksgiving is one of the busiest of the year for pizza sales, you might want to know that a local pizzeria wants to give Baby Boomers a break on



Roast turkey, ham and so much more are symbols of the abundance we share, and a group of local restaurateurs is working to make sure families in need are part of the celebration.

prices. To all of our readers, thanks for being part of The Pine Cone community, and have a wonderful holiday.

### ■ Spirit of gratitude

Chris and Sabu J.R. Shake, restaurateurs at Old Fisherman’s Grotto, The Fish Hopper Monterey and The Fish Hopper Kona in Hawaii, are teaming up with the Salvation Army of the Monterey Peninsula again this year to raise money to buy Thanksgiving necessities for families in need.

“Many local families face difficult financial decisions during the holidays. By donating a turkey or ham, community members can ensure that their neighbors have the opportunity to gather around the table and share in the joy of Thanksgiving,” they said.

Last year, they raised \$46,810, supplying more than 2,300 turkeys and hams and feeding more than 9,000 people. This year, they hope to hit the 2,500 mark.

A \$20 donation purchases a 16-to-18-pound turkey or ham. To contribute, call (831) 372-2406 or email Adminfh@fishhopper.com through Dec. 1. Checks and credit cards are accepted. Food will be distributed via the Salvation Army’s Sabu Shake Sr. Good Samaritan Center, named for the family patriarch.

### ■ Allegro honors age

Jeano Abraham announced last week he’s honoring Boomers and beyond by offering discounts at his Allegro Pizzeria in the Barnyard shopping center at the mouth of the valley.

“I know this won’t apply to many of you in Carmel, but if you know any old people, let them know that tomorrow we are starting a discount for them,” Abraham said when he announced his discount program Saturday.

Those who qualify for the “Boomer discount” will get 15 percent off, while the Greatest Generation, defined as 85 to 99 years old, will get 40 percent off and centenarians eat for free.



Sabu J.R. Shake and Chris Shake, restaurateurs with Old Fisherman’s Grotto and Fish Hopper Monterey, are seeking donations and teaming up with the Salvation Army to provide turkeys and hams for families who can’t afford them this holiday season.

In addition to offering 20 pizzas of all persuasions, Allegro serves antipasti like fried artichoke hearts and bruschetta, minestrone, a variety of salads, creatively assembled panini, burgers, pasta dishes and sweets. The restaurant is open from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily.

Find more information at [allegrogourmetpizzeriamenu.com](http://allegrogourmetpizzeriamenu.com) or by calling (831) 626-5454. The Barnyard is located off of Carmel Rancho Boulevard near Highway 1.

### ■ The last turkey roundup

If you can’t find a turkey in the Barnyard, you’re just not looking hard enough. The shopping center is home to pet-friendly SURCarmel, which plans a three-course dinner from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Start with soup or salad, followed by a choice of slow-roasted turkey with all your favorite sides, or a prime rib dinner. Dessert is pumpkin

See **FOOD** next page



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**FOOD**  
*From previous page*

terey Bay snapper and broiled prawns over artichoke ravioli, or Cajun swordfish and prawn salad.

And how about lobster risotto, blackened ribeye with prawns, macadamia-crusted halibut or seared fresh salmon?

Visit fishhopper.com for the whole spread. Reservations can be made on Open Table, or call (831) 372-8543.

**Just up the street ...**

The venerable Sardine Factory at 701 Wave St. in Monterey will be open from noon to 8 p.m. A special four-course dinner in those elegant surroundings starts with butternut squash bisque, then a harvest salad with cranberries, whipped goat cheese, candied pecans and pomegranate vinaigrette.

Next up is turkey with sage-and-sausage dressing, gravy, vegetables and cranberry orange relish. Finish strong with cherries jubilee, pumpkin pie, or flourless chocolate cake served with fresh raspberries.

Pricing is a pleasant surprise at a wal-

Oystertown in Monterey is offering oyster kits for people who don't mind popping the fresh shellfish open themselves before the turkey feast, along with sides of oyster stuffing, as well as a vegetable side dish combining heirloom butter beans and Swiss chard.



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**Pumpkin Cheesecake**  
*Slice of pumpkin cheesecake seasoned with cinnamon, ginger & nutmeg, topped with whipped cream*

**Passion Fruit Crème Brulee**

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(Select one)

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FOOD & WINE

CELEBRATE

From previous page

let-friendly \$69 per person, \$66 for seniors (62 and older), \$39 for kids 5-12 and complimentary for children younger than 5. Limited a la carte and kids' menus will also be available. Visit [sardinefactory.com](http://sardinefactory.com) to learn more, or call (831) 373-3775 to reserve.

Featuring "abundant California produce and the finest locally sourced ingredients," the Monterey Beach Hotel plans a prix fixe menu featuring a choice of roasted-tomato-and-fennel soup and seared sea scallops, followed by roast turkey with chestnut stuffing, cranberry compote and gravy, or grilled flank steak, butternut squash truffle risotto, or king salmon, accompanied by sweet potato purée or cider-glazed Brussels sprouts. For dessert, choose between pumpkin cheesecake and warm bread pudding topped with caramel sauce, ice cream and glazed pear.

Additionally, the hotel's lobby lounge will offer a seasonal turkey plate for those seeking "a more relaxed dining experience," paired with a complimentary glass

of wine from the lobby's wine wall.

The prix fixe dinner is \$90 plus tax and tip per adult and \$35 for children 12 and under. Reservations are required and can be made at [opentable.com](http://opentable.com). Seatings are available from 4:30 to 10 p.m. For parties of six or more, contact [ehrusa@monterey-beach.com](mailto:ehrusa@monterey-beach.com).

**More on the water**

The Portola Hotel at the foot of Alvarado Street in Monterey is adjacent to the rec trail, right next to the Custom House Plaza and Old Fisherman's Wharf — perfect for an after-dinner stroll. Reportedly, Ice Skating by the Bay will be up and running, too.

But first, the food. It's a buffet, so you're adding to your step count by walking back and forth — or whatever else you want to tell yourself.

From 1 to 8 p.m., the De Anza Ballroom will be the site of feasting on — for starters — cheeses and cured meats, veggies and dips, salads, and peel-and-eat shrimp. Plenty of turkey will be carved and all the fixings are there, too, including candied yams, roasted squash, and green beans with balsamic glaze and toasted almonds.

See **DINE** next page



The Sardine Factory's four-course prix fixe menu offers a traditional turkey dinner served in elegant surroundings, starting with soup and salad and finishing with pie — or try the cherries jubilee or flourless chocolate cake.

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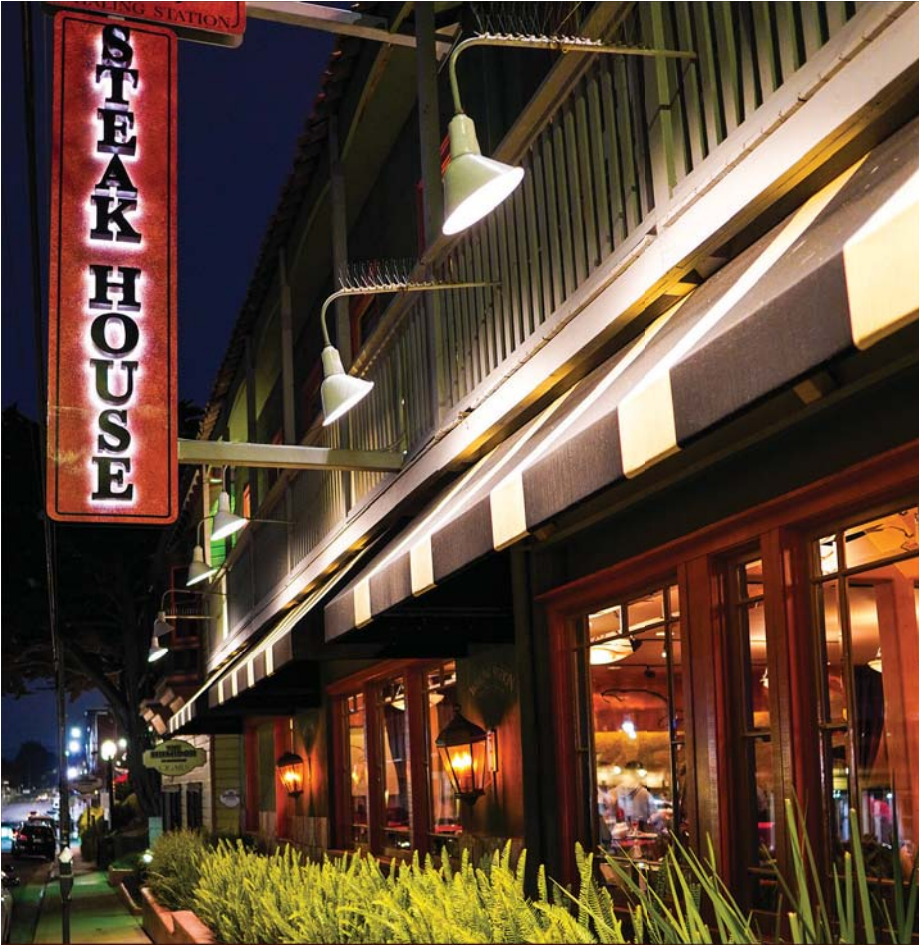
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# FOOD & WINE

## DINE

*From previous page*

If you'd rather, there's Harris Ranch prime rib and a fisherman's sustainable catch with herbes de Provence. And of course, you'll find a dessert display with pecan and pumpkin pies, a French butter pear crisp and more.

Dave Conley will provide live music for the event.

Prices are set at \$89.95 for adults, \$79.95 for those 65 or older, and kids 6 to 12 eat for \$39.95. Children 5 and under dine for free. Tax and 20 percent gratuity will be added to all checks.

Required reservations can be made by calling (831) 649-7870 or emailing [lhenderson@portolahotel.com](mailto:lhenderson@portolahotel.com).

■ Pearls not included?

If you're seeking something to — as the foodies say — “elevate” your home-

cooked dinner, check out Oystertown's take-out suggestions.

Oyster kits for you to shuck at home are \$35 per dozen, which includes mignonette (a tangy sauce/relish), lemon, and cocktail sauce. For an extra \$10, they'll throw in a shucking knife. (And, one hopes, a quick tutorial — or check out a video like this one from America's Test Kitchen: [tinyurl.com/7hemdbpw](http://tinyurl.com/7hemdbpw). We love CHOMP, but it's not that festive, so follow all recommended safety precautions.) Ask the fine folks at Oystertown for storage suggestions, too.

You can also order enough “super delicious” oyster stuffing to serve four for \$32, or, for those who would just as soon skip the shellfish, Heirloom Beans and Greens — Iacopa Farms butter beans with Swiss chard, carrots and garlic — feeds four as a side dish for \$36. Order by Monday at noon and pick up Wednesday, Nov. 26, between 3 and 6 p.m.

Call (831) 312-8150 or email [oystertownusa@gmail.com](mailto:oystertownusa@gmail.com) to order.

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

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**1025 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove**  
(PG Adult Education Main Hall)

Pacific Grove Unified School District neither endorses nor sponsors the organization or activity represented in this document.



# FOOD & WINE

## MUSIC

From page 40A

ican Legion Hall, which is on Dolores between Eight and Ninth.  
The club is located at 85 E. Garzas Road Carmel Valley. Tickets are \$45. Visit [trailandsaddle.club](#).

### Live music Nov. 21-27

#### ■ Big Sur

**Big Sur River Inn** — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Saturday at 12:30 p.m.). 46800 Highway 1.



A cowboy and a musician, singer and guitarist Mike Beck plays three local shows over the next two weeks.

**Fernwood Resort** — **Michael Michael Motorcycle** (yes, that’s two Michaels — indie rock and Americana, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

#### ■ Carmel

**Barmel** — singer and guitarist **Tony Burciaga** (Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Wednesday at 4 p.m.). Carmel Square on San Carlos north of Seventh.

**Carmel Mission Inn** — singer and guitarist **Brett Freshour** (Tuesday at 5 p.m.). In the Shearwater Tavern, 3665 Rio Road.

**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 New Wave Band** (rock, Friday at 7 p.m.), **The Vinylducers** (rock, Saturday at 7 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

**Bernardus Lodge** — pianist **Martan Mann** (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.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at noon). 415 Carmel Valley Road.

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

**Scratch Wines** tasing room — singer **Akina Miyata** and guitarist **Jesse DeCarlo** (jazz, Saturday at 5 p.m.). 1 E. Carmel Valley Road.

**Trailside Cafe** — singer and banjoist **Banjer Dan**

See LIVE next page



### It's Time to Ship Those Gifts!

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For more information please visit: [tr.ee/christmas-menu](http://tr.ee/christmas-menu).  
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# LIVE

From previous page

(Americana, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

## Monterey

**Albatross Ridge Winery** — singer and guitarist **Maya Rayburn** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (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.). 750 Cannery Row.

**Midici Pizza** — singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

**Monterey Plaza Hotel** — pianist **Gary Meek** (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.), guitarist **Richard Devinck** (classical, Monday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Tamus Marius** (jazz, Tuesday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (“familiar favorites and under-the-radar gems,” Wednesday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

**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 **Kito Rayburn** (Friday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.



An acoustic duo that plays pop and jazz, Andrea’s Fault has shows this week in Carmel Valley and Pacific Grove.

**Salty Seal Pub** — **Cannery Joe** (country and folk, Friday at 7 p.m.), **Blind Pass** (rock and reggae, Saturday at 7 p.m.), 653 Cannery Row.

**Sardine Factory** — singer and guitarist **David Conley** (Tuesday through Thursday at 6:30 p.m., and Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.). 701 Wave St.

**Sly McFly’s** — **Mad About You** (’80s and ’90s hits, Saturday at 9 p.m.), **The Rod Wilson Band** (classic rock, Monday at 8:30 p.m.), **Sean & the Skinwalkers** (rock and blues, Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.), **Johnny Tsunami** (rock, Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.), **Bazooka Jones** (dance music, Thursday at 8:30 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

## Pacific Grove

**Asilomar Conference Center** — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith**

**McHenry** (“familiar favorites and under-the-radar gems,” Thursday at 6 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.), **Andrea’s Fault Duo** (“folky stuff mixed with surprises,” Monday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Holysea** (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave.

**Pacific Grove Art Center** — singer and guitarist **Laura Dare** and guitarist **Josh Gordis** (Saturday at 7 p.m.). 568 Lighthouse Ave.

Continues next page



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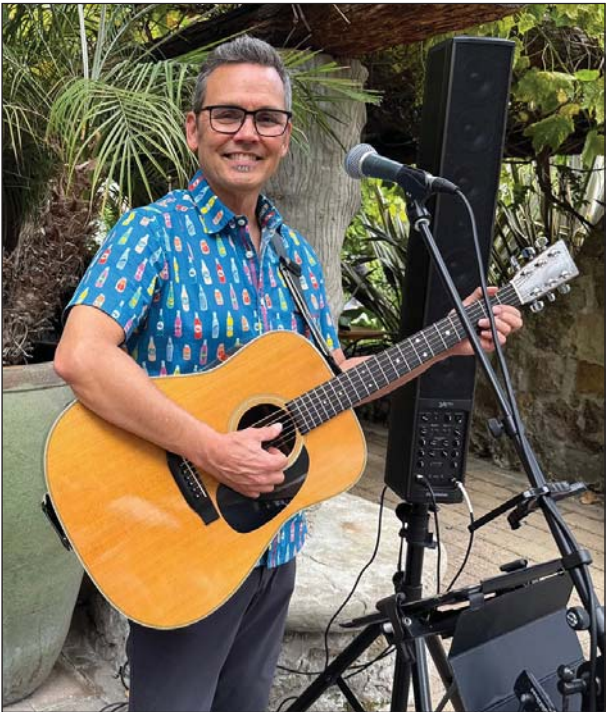


From previous page

**Pop & Hiss** — **Dan Cioper & the Jokers** (Americana, Saturday at 7 p.m.), **Hotbox Harry** (“Big Sur country,” Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 215 Forest Ave.  
**Wild Fish** — **The Lighthouse Jazz Quartet** (Friday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m.). 545 Lighthouse 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.  
**The Lodge at Pebble Beach** — singer and guitarist **Kip Allert** (Friday at 5 p.m. in the Terrace Lounge), singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Saturday at 5 p.m. in the Terrace Lounge), singer and pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (pop and jazz, Thursday at noon, in The Stillwater Bar & Grill),



Singer and guitarist Kip Allert plays Friday, 5 p.m., in the Terrace Lounge at the Lodge at Pebble Beach.

flutist **Kenny Stahl** (jazz, Thursday at 3 p.m. in The Stillwater Bar & Grill), guitarist **Gil Cadilli** (jazz, Thursday at noon in the Card Room/Library), guitarist **Javier Sanchez** (Latin American music, Thursday at 3 p.m. in the Card Room/Library). 1700 17 Mile Drive.

■ Sand City

**The Sand Box** — singer **Tammy Hall** pays tribute to the late vocalist **Shirley Horn** (Friday at 7 p.m.). Tickets are \$40 for general admission and \$25 for students and active military. 440 Ortiz Ave.

To update these listings, email [chris@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:chris@carmelpinecone.com).

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

# CALENDAR

**Nov. 21 – A “Meet The Artists” event from 6 to 9 p.m. at The Breakwater Collective,** a new gallery located at 201 Cannery Row, Suite 1, Monterey. Our opening show celebrates the best underwater photos taken in the Monterey Bay and submitted for this juried exhibition. Come enjoy complimentary tapas, beverages and engaging conversation. For more information, please reach out to [info@breakwatercollective.com](mailto:info@breakwatercollective.com).

**Nov. 21 – Please join us for the reception of “Johanna Keefe: Paradiso Perduto”** 5 to 7 p.m. in the Marjorie Evan’s Gallery at Sunset Cultural Center, San Carlos at Ninth, Carmel-by-the-Sea. The exhibition is free and available to the public through Jan. 4.

**Nov. 22 – Order deadline for Baum & Blume’s “Good to Gather” take-home Thanksgiving!** Shouldn’t your Thanksgiving meal be prepared with love and care? Well, that’s what B&B’s chefs will do for YOU! But don’t delay ~ order soon! View menu @ [www.baumandblume.com](http://www.baumandblume.com). Baum & Blume Catering, 4 El Caminito, Carmel Valley. (831) 659-0400.

**Nov. 22 – City of Carmel-by-the-Sea Craftapoloosa!** Unique crafts, baked goods, vintage Christmas decor and more featured 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at four Carmel locations: All Saints’ Episcopal Church, Dolores and Ninth; Carmel Woman’s Club, San Carlos and Ninth; Church of the Wayfarer, Lincoln and Seventh; and the 54th Homecrafters Marketplace in the Sunset Center North Lot, San Carlos and Eighth.

**Nov. 22 – Third Annual Ten-Minute Play Celebration, Playfest ’25,** presented 7 to 9 p.m. at the Carl Cherry Center in Carmel. Six brand new plays will be performed. Buy tickets at [www.soapboxstageworks.org](http://www.soapboxstageworks.org)

**Sundays – Live music 5 to 7 p.m. at Woody’s at Del Mesa.** Musical guests **Brice and Nina** deliver an eclectic mix of jazz, rock and reggae, 500 Del Mesa Carmel. (831) 624-1854

**Nov. 25 – Monica Graham Fine Art** is the setting for **“Out West,” Diesel Ledbetter’s first solo show.** Ledbetter is

**JOHANNA KEEFE: PARADISO PERDUTO**  
NOV. 8, 2025 – JAN. 6, 2026  
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known for his evocative creations that capture the essence of the American West. His works often include intricate details, mixed media, vibrant colors, drawing inspiration from nature, animals and the culture of the region. Reception hours are 5 to 7 p.m., Sixth Avenue between San Carlos and Dolores, Carmel-by-the-Sea.

**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.

**Nov. 26 – Invited over for Thanksgiving?** Take your hosts a thoughtful gift! From handmade frozen appetizers, artisan chutneys, wines and French caramels to linen cocktail napkins, candles and fun kitchen towels, we have you covered! Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito, Carmel Valley. (831) 659-0400. Shop noon to 7 p.m.

**Nov. 28-30 – Big Sur Grange Harvest Fair – local artists coming together in a community fair fundraiser for the Big Sur Grange.** Hours are 2 to 5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, at the Big Sur Grange, 26 miles south of Rio Road, one mile north of River Inn and south of Pfeiffer state park. For more information follow us: IG@bigsurcraftfair, FB@bigsurgrangeharvestcraftfair, bigsurgrangeharvestfair@gmail.com, <https://bigsurgrange.org>

**Dec. 5-21 – Don’t miss the fun free 9th Annual Christmas on Fisherman’s Wharf for three weekends, (Dec. 5-21)** through the end of the year. Enjoy dazzling NEW decorations and a 23 -foot Christmas tree, free Santa visits at his Santa House, talented choirs, singers and other live musicians, dancers, a Salvation Army Toy Barrel plus a hot cocoa and cookies fundraiser for Salvation Army, and much more! Additional information and the entertainment schedule are on [montereywharf.com](http://montereywharf.com).

**Dec. 24 – A beloved Carmel tradition, Christmas Eve at Terry’s** features regular dinner service with festive touches, served from 5 to 8:30 p.m. **Debbie Davis** sets the mood with classic holiday music in the Living Room from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, please contact Cypress Inn, (831) 624-3871.

To advertise, email [anne@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:anne@carmelpinecone.com) \$0.50 per word (\$25 min. charge)  
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# ARTIST

From page 27A

“That kind of started it all,” said Michisaki, whose second-floor studio at Pacific Grove Art Center is dec-

orated with highly detailed charcoal portraits of Delta Blues musicians like John Lee Hooker, Mississippi Fred McDowell, Robert Johnson and Son House. The two largest are of blues legend Billie Holiday.  
Another rendering — much smaller — is Michisaki’s self-portrait from her teenage years, when she was part of the punk music culture popular in the mid-1970s.

“Yes, I had blue hair. I wore a ring in my nose. My niece loves to say, ‘Auntie Reiko was a punk! Can you believe that?’” she laughed, gazing at her drawing of the girl with the jagged and rebellious black hairstyle, black miniskirt and knee-high boots. “I never got a tattoo, though.”  
After retiring from MBARI in 2021, Michisaki and her husband of 40 years, Pacific Grove native Patrick Lovejoy, purchased a home in Pebble Beach.  
In April 2022, she realized a longtime dream by becoming a studio artist at Pacific Grove Art Center, where her bright, second-floor space overlooks Lighthouse Avenue.  
“This studio made me feel like an artist,” she said. “The little community of artists is wonderful. We’re all friends, and we’re all supportive of each other.”  
“We also get a lot of visitors here — people wandering through, looking at the art — which is something else that I really enjoy. If my door is open, people are very welcome stop in and say hello,” she said. “Some sit down and talk for hours.”  
Most leave with a tiny, handcrafted Guatemalan “worry doll” (share what’s worrying you with the doll, place it under your pillow at bedtime, and your worries will go away, she explained) or one of the simple Japanese dolls, called kokeshi, that Michisaki taught children to make during school projects.

### Loving Pacific Grove

And her husband’s hometown has become Reiko’s favorite place. “It’s such a lovely small town ... it’s my speed,” she said.  
The Monterey Peninsula’s relaxed lifestyle feels like a perfect fit for Michisaki and Lovejoy, a retired landscaper who, like Reiko, enjoys volunteering with local organizations.  
“We both enjoy habitat rehabilitation,” she said. “We volunteer at Point Pinos Lighthouse and in Pebble Beach, mostly pulling out invasive plant species and keeping the native species healthy. Patrick is also a docent at Point Lobos and loves to talk to the people there.”  
The exhibit at PGAC (568 Lighthouse Ave.) includes felt art by Syrian native Sahar Jabr, paintings by Sofanya, Carole R. Rossi, Claire Frances, Lion Schiffner, Sue Siefkin, and Karen Illman Miller, fine-art photography by Brett Thomas and Cara Weston, and photo poetry by Monterey High Digital Arts students Bishop Singer, Ella Altermeyer, Idris Lyman Vallenga, Jayma Garrard, Kiana Tobias, and Maddy Burnham. Visit [pgartcenter.org](http://pgartcenter.org) for more information.  
Images of Michisaki’s art can be viewed online at [instagram.com/reikomichisaki](https://www.instagram.com/reikomichisaki) or at [facebook.com/reikopm](https://www.facebook.com/reikopm).

# Worship

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WORSHIP 11 A.M. SUNDAYS  
Sermon title:  
WRESTLING WITH  
TEMPTATION AND EVIL  
Pastor Paul Wrightman  
4590 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel CA 93923  
(831) 624-8595/[ccmp.org](http://ccmp.org)



## Church in the Forest

on the  
Stevenson School Campus



Preaching this Sunday  
Rev. Dr. Mike Harbert  
“Christ our King”

Special Music 9:45 am  
Worship Service 10:00 am  
Complimentary Pebble Beach Gate Entrance  
3152 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach  
[churchintheforest.org](http://churchintheforest.org)

## All Saints' Episcopal Church



SUNDAYS 10 A.M.  
SW Corner of Dolores & 9th  
Carmel-by-the-Sea  
Centering Prayer - Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.  
(In-Person and Online)

831.624.3883 [info@allsaintscarmel.org](mailto:info@allsaintscarmel.org)



## Carmel PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9:30am TRADITIONAL  
11:00am CONTEMPORARY

Corner of Ocean & Junipero  
and [carmelpres.org](http://carmelpres.org)



## BELONG TO A CARING COMMUNITY



video JOIN US THIS SUNDAY

Chapels & Services

1 Skyline Forest Dr, Monterey

- 10 a.m.
- 1230 p.m.. (single adults)

1024 Noche Buena St, Seaside

- 10:30 a.m.
- 1 p.m. (Tongan)

QUESTIONS?  
(408) 708-8800  
[ComeUntoChrist.org](http://ComeUntoChrist.org)

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
MONTEREY STAKE

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# MULTIMEDIA ARTIST AT SUNSET CENTER, ‘OUT WEST’ AT DOWNTOWN GALLER

MULTI-MEDIA artist and educator Johanna Keefe has a show at Sunset Center’s Marjorie Evans Gallery through Jan. 5 — and Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. the gallery

## Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

will host a public reception for her. Titled “Paradiso Perduto,” the exhibit opened Nov. 3. The show is the third in a series of five that Sunset Center is planning through June 2026.



Monica Graham Fine Art is hosting painter Diesel Ledbetter’s first solo show, which opens Tuesday.

A professor of ceramics at Hartnell College in Salinas, Keefe employs “a wide range of aesthetic and material strategies” in her art, “with a focus on ceramic vessels.” Her creations are “heavily influenced” by her travels, which include living in Europe.

“Joh’s work remains playful as it illuminates the beauty and brutality embedded in the banalities of art history, luxury, and contemporary American culture,” according to Sunset Center. “In her work, she vacillates between the domination and the decline, the relic and the collectible, the pristine and the defaced. Drawing from a variety of source materials and influences, Joh plays interchangeably with the sacred and the profane.”

Located in Sunset Center at San Carlos and Ninth, the gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily and during evening performances.

### ■ Way “Out West”

Painter Diesel Ledbetter’s exhibit “Out West” opens Tuesday at Monica Graham Fine Art, showcasing an up-and-coming local artist. A public reception is set for 5-7 p.m., while the exhibit will be displayed through Dec. 1.

As the show’s name implies, the show features “evocative” Western-themed art. Just 19 years old, Ledbetter is a lifelong local whose work draws inspiration from both the nature and culture of the region. He paints

on canvases and other surfaces, including wood.

“Although he’s not professionally trained, Diesel is very detail-oriented,” said Graham, who called the young man “extremely talented.” “His work is so intricate and deep.”

Ledbetter comes from a family that values creativity. Both of his grandmothers were artists, and one of them, Emy Ledbetter, owned a gallery in town in the 1990s. His father, meanwhile, made art from reclaimed wood.

According to Graham, the show highlights Ledbetter’s family’s “deep artist roots,” as well as his own skill as an artist. The gallery owner told The Pine Cone “she jumped at the chance” to host his first solo show.

Monica Graham Fine Art is located on Sixth between San Carlos and Dolores.

### ■ Inspiration & connection

A haven of creativity that offers classes and studio space for artists of all ages and experience, Open Ground Studios unveils a group show Friday and hosts a public reception from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Titled “Warm Hearts, Local Arts,” it showcases “10 talented artists whose handmade works span a wide range of media,” along with a bounty of “unique treasures made with intention and personality.” “The time is ripe for inspiration, connection and beauty,” announced Open Ground Studios, which is at 1230 Fremont Blvd. in Seaside.

## ‘Love Project’ book signing

“THE LOVE Project,” Carmel author Alison van Diggelen’s book exploring “what love means today” via personal stories from the village’s residents, will be the focus of an event at the BookWorks, 667 Lighthouse Ave. in Pacific Grove (across from the post office) from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Van Diggelen, a BBC journalist and native of Scotland, gathered 29 stories about different kinds of love — romantic, secret, family, community, and more — from Carmelites and wove them together in a collection that has been receiving plenty of positive reviews.

Interviewees for the book included a group from widely varying backgrounds, among them Carmel Mayor Dale Byrne, developer Patrice Pastor and restaurant owner Bashar Sneeh, along with those who have worked in fields as diverse as horticulturist, massage therapy, customer service, music and art.

After selling out during a book launch at Pilgrim’s Way earlier this month, van Diggelen said she’s excited to lead attendees at Friday’s gathering in a discussion about “love, community, and kindness.” She will also have books available for sale and signing. The event is free.



# PLAYFEST '25

*Third Annual Ten-Minute Play Celebration!*  
**This Saturday, November 22 | 7pm-9pm**  
at the Carl Cherry Center in Carmel

**We have Six Brand New Plays to be performed:**

**"The Productive Cough"** by David Kosky- An absurd comedy about a patient's allergy to news that creates unusual side effects that an MD diagnosis as psychosomatic.

**"Meet Me in Paris"** by Kacie Devaney- When Judy tells her husband, Marty, that she wants a radical change in their forty-year marriage, the discussion doesn't go as planned.


**"Proxima B"** by Robert Paul Moreira- A brilliant Latina astrophysicist yearns for her colleagues recognition, but instead gains the attention of a person she wished she'd never met.

**"Days of Separation"** by Gordon M Bolar- When a cynical actress and her theatre critic husband attempt to discuss their impending divorce, a secret is revealed.

**"Sacramental Blocks"** by Karen Devaney- A dark comedy about Catarina, an Italian woman in Sonoma California trying to save the family vineyard during Prohibition.

**"I'll Be Seeing You"** by Donald Luftus- It's 1944, and Joey wants his girl Jenny to wait for him before shipping off to Europe. But is she ready to commit?

**Buy your tickets now at [www.soapboxstageworks.org](http://www.soapboxstageworks.org)**





## The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual CHRISTMAS IN THE ADOBES


**December 12-13, 2025 | 5 - 9pm**

For two enchanting nights, the city’s historic adobes glow with the warmth of brightly lit luminarias, adding holiday décor, festive music and refreshments to the mix. Guests will stroll through over twenty historic sites, many of which are open exclusively for this event, and experience the stories of California’s earliest days.

Info & tickets available at [www.MSHPA.org](http://www.MSHPA.org)

Monterey State Historic Park Association and California State Parks invite community members and visitors alike to step back in time for a beloved holiday tradition.






## THE CARMEL PINE CONE’S 2025 HOLIDAY GUIDE

**PUBLICATION DATE: November 28**

**CALL OR EMAIL TO RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE TODAY!**

**MEENA (831) 274-8655**  
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**JESSICA (831) 274-8590**  
[jessica@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:jessica@carmelpinecone.com)





PUBLIC NOTICES

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251876  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **RELIABLE HOUSE CLEANINGS, 665 Amador Ave., Seaside, CA 93955.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): TANIA FUENTES, 665 Amador 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. 27, 2025.  
S/Tania Fuentes  
Date signed: Oct. 14, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 14, 2025.  
Publication Dates: Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025 (PC 1108)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251987  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MONTEREY CUSTOM WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC, 1062 Cass Street #200, Monterey, CA 93940.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: WALKER DEERING LLC, 1062 Cass St., Ste. 200, Monterey, CA 93940.  
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 Oct. 26, 2020.  
S/Marian Deering, Manager  
Date: Oct. 22, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 30, 2025.  
Publication Dates: Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025. (PC 1109)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20252010  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **PIECES OF HEAVEN, 3686 The Barnyard #F11, Carmel, CA 93923.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: BDS HOSPITALITY LLC, 3686 The Barnyard #F11, Carmel, CA 93923.  
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA  
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 4, 2020.  
S/Bhupender Singh, Manager  
Date: Nov. 4, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 4, 2025.  
Publication Dates: Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025. (PC 1110)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251885  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **BEAR BITEZ, 333 South Mildred Ave., King City, CA 93930.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: RIOS SYNDICATE LLC, 2108 N. St., Ste. N, Sacramento, CA 95816.  
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/Ezequiel Rios, Managing Member  
Date: Oct. 15, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 15, 2025.  
Publication Dates: Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 2025. (PC 1112)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251969  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **MovingUp Coaching, 1754 Darwin St, Seaside, CA 93955,** County of Monterey Registered Owner(s): Hye-Yeon Lim, 1754 Darwin St, Seaside, CA 93955  
This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on not applicable  
S/Hye-Yeon Lim  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 10/28/2025 11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5/25  
**CNS-3984211# CARMEL PINE CONE**  
Publication Dates: Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 2025. (PC 1116)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251979  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **1. 831 MOBILE BAR 2. MOBILE BAR 831 708 Monterey Salinas Hwy., Salinas, CA 93908.**  
County of Principal Place of Business:

MONTEREY  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: SATOW CONSULTING LLC, P.O. Box 251, Monterey, CA 93942.  
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: WY  
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 29, 2025.  
S/Olivia Satow, Managing Member  
Date: Oct. 29, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 29, 2025.  
Publication Dates: Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 2025. (PC 1117)

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME**  
File No. 20252022  
Filing type: ABANDONMENT.  
County of Filing: Monterey  
Date of Original Filing: April 16, 2024  
File No.: 20240784  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:  
**1. 831 Mobile Bar 2. Mobile Bar 831 3. LIV AND SIP 4. LIV & SIP 5. LIV N SIP 6. 831 MOBILEBAR 7. MOBILEBAR831 3166 Vista Del Camino Cir., Marina, CA 93933.**  
Name of Corporation of as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: CRABILL FAMILLY LLC., 3186 Melanie Dr., Marina, CA 93933.  
County of Principal Place of Business: Monterey  
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA  
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.  
S/David Crabill, Manager  
Nov. 5, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 5, 2025.  
Publication dates: Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 2025. (PC1118)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251859  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MEJICREWS LLC, 404 Victoria Ave., Salinas, CA 93906.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: MEJICREWS LLC.  
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 Oct. 10, 2025.  
S/Sophia Crews, Manager  
Date: Oct. 10, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 10, 2025.  
Publication Dates: Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 2025. (PC 1121)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251799  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **VERO'S JANITORIAL SERVICES, 1005 N. Sanborn Rd., Apt. 2, Salinas, CA 93905.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): KASSANDRA DESIREE CENTENO-PARRA, 1005 Sanborn Rd., Apt. 2, Salinas, 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. 30, 2025.  
S/Kassandra Centeno  
Date signed: Sept. 30, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 30, 2025.  
Publication Dates: Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 2025 (PC 1122)

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY**  
**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
Case No. 25CV005792  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, EMME NORDYKE, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
**A. Present name:** EMME EVANS NORDYKE  
**Proposed name:** MONJA EVANS NORDYKE  
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: Jan. 27, 2026  
TIME: 11:00 a.m.  
DEPT: 13A

The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.  
(s) Hon. Thomas W. Wills  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Date filed: Nov. 12, 2025  
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025. (PC 1124)

**Lien Sale Auction Advertisement LIEN SALE**  
City of Monterey Harbor, 250 Figueroa Street, Monterey, 12-03-2025@ 11:00am  
CA CC HIN# 27614  
11/21/25  
**CNS-3986785# CARMEL PINE CONE**  
Publication Dates: Nov. 21 2025 (PC 1125)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20252076  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**SHINY DETAILZZ, 311 Quebrada Del Mar, Marina, CA 93933.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): ANTONIO CAZAAREZ, 311 Quebrada Del Mar, Marina, CA 93933.  
AARON GONZALEZ MAGANA, 311 Quebrada Del Mar, Marina, CA 93933.  
This business is conducted by co-partners.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 12, 2025.  
S/Aaron Gonzalez Magana  
Date signed: Nov. 13, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 13 2025.  
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025 (PC 1126)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20252067  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **SOFIA'S CLEANING SERVICES, 522 Santa Maria St., #A, Salinas, CA 93905.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): SOFIA LOPEZ RODRIGUEZ.  
This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Aug. 1, 2025.  
S/Sofia Lopez Rodriguez  
Date signed: Nov. 12, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County

THANKSGIVING EARLY DEADLINES:  
Legals must be submitted by 3 P.M. Friday, November 21

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE ZANITA M. MCGUINNESS CASE NO. 25PR000444**  
  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ZANITA M. MCGUINNESS.  
**A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by SHANNON K. MCGUINNESS** in the Superior Court of California, County of MONTEREY.  
The Petition for Probate requests that SHANNON K. MCGUINNESS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
**A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:**  
Date: Nov. 5, 2025  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Address: Superior Court of California, County of Monterey, 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.  
**If you object** to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
**If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent**, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the **later** of either (1) **four months** from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. **Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.**  
**You may examine the file kept by the court.** If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a *Request for Special Notice* (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A *Request for Special Notice* form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Petitioner:  
Ivette M. Santaella Esq.  
111 Deerwood Road, Suite 200, San Ramon, CA 94583 (925) 831-4840  
This statement was filed by Superior Court of California, County of Monterey on \_\_\_\_\_. 2025.  
Publication dates: Nov. 7, 14, 21, 2025. (PC1105)

Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 12 2025.  
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025 (PC 1129)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20252067  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **COASTAL EXOTICS, 101 Martella St., Salinas, CA 93901.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): NATHAN GUADALUPE PLASCENCIA, P.O. Box 221992, Carmel, California, 93922.  
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/Nathan Guadalupe Plascencia  
Date signed: Nov. 7, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 7 2025.  
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025 (PC 1130)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20252017  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **SANTES M.E.X. ORGANIC FARMS, 28750 Corda Rd., Apt. 11, Gonzales, CA 93926.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): PAULO SANTOS GUERRERO, P.O. Box 2098, Gonzales, CA 93926.  
This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 3, 2025.  
S/Paulo Santos Guerrero  
Date signed: Nov. 3, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 4, 2025.  
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025 (PC 1131)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20252091  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **FAITH WORKS AUTO DETAILING, 2006 San Miguel Canyon Rd., Salinas, CA 93907.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s): MATHEW VIRAK, 2006 San Miguel Canyon Rd., Salinas, CA 93907.  
This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.  
S/Mathew Virak  
Date signed: Nov. 17, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 17, 2025.  
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025 (PC 1132)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251849  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **LIVING WITH FIRE US, 12165 Carola Drive, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: CENTRAL COAST RX FIRE COUNCIL, P.O. Box 1715, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.  
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 Oct. 9, 2025.  
S/Stephen E. Davis, President  
Date: Oct. 9, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 9, 2025.  
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025. (PC 1134)


**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251850  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CENTRAL COAST RX FIRE COUNCIL, 12165 Carola Drive, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: CENTRAL COAST RX FIRE COUNCIL, P.O. Box 1715, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.  
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 Oct. 9, 2025.  
S/Stephen E. Davis, President  
Date: Oct. 9, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 9, 2025.  
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025. (PC 1137)

listed above on Oct. 9, 2025.  
S/Stephen E. Davis, President  
Date: Oct. 9, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 9, 2025.  
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025. (PC 1135)

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME**  
File No. 20251858  
Filing type: ABANDONMENT:  
County of Filing: Monterey  
Date of Original Filing: Sept. 9, 2025  
File No.: 20251646  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **DFINE CULTURE, 1514 Moffet St. #J, Salinas, CA 93905.**  
Registered Owner(s): JESUS JAVIER CRUZ NARANJO IVET MADAI LOPEZ CRUZ  
This business is conducted by a general partnership.  
S/Jesus Cruz  
Oct. 10, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 10, 2025.  
Publication dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025. (PC1136)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251851  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **LIVING WITH FIRE FOUNDATION, 12165 Carola Drive, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: CENTRAL COAST RX FIRE COUNCIL, P.O. Box 1715, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.  
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 Oct. 9, 2025.  
S/Stephen E. Davis, President  
Date: Oct. 9, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 9, 2025.  
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025. (PC 1137)

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CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA,  
CALIFORNIA

**NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS**

**For: ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE NEW POLICE AND PUBLIC WORKS FACILITIES PROJECT**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea requests proposals from qualified persons/organizations for the purpose of providing professional architectural services for the complete demolition and new construction of the Police and Public Works facilities. Proposals shall be submitted to:

City of Carmel-by-the-Sea  
ATTN: Nova Romero  
City Clerk  
P.O. Box CC, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921

**Proposals must be postmarked no later than Thursday, January 22, 2026.**

The RFP packet can be obtained at: [ci.carmel.ca.us/requests-bids-and-rfps](https://ci.carmel.ca.us/requests-bids-and-rfps) OR [ci.carmel.ca.us](https://ci.carmel.ca.us) (under the tab “I Want to Submit a Bid or Proposal”)

The City will conduct a **MANDATORY** pre-proposal meeting and tour of the Police and Public Works buildings on **Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 11:00 AM** .

Final selection/non-selection of a firm will not be solely based upon cost. Firms/Proposals will be evaluated by the City and determinations/selection will be made based upon a wide range of factors, and selection of a most qualified firm will be based upon a total review and analysis of each proposal.

The City reserves the right to waive any minor irregularity, to negotiate for the modification of any proposal with mutual consent of the Proposer, to re-advertise for proposals if desired, and to accept the proposal, which in the judgment of the City, even though it does not offer the lowest cost, is nevertheless deemed the best value for the public and City. Any proposal which is incomplete, conditional, or obscure, or which contains irregularities of any kind, may be cause for rejection. This solicitation of proposals does not commit the City to enter into a Contractor or to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of responses to the request. The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Documents required after Award of the Contract: The successful Proposer will be required to execute a Contract furnished by the City, along with all certificates of insurance within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of the Notice of Award issued by the City. Should the successful Proposer fail or refuse to execute the Contract, the City reserves the right to accept the proposal of the Proposer offering the next best value to the City.

Publication dates: Nov. 21, 2025 (PC1138)

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# PacRep gets \$50,000 challenge grant

By CHRIS COUNTS

A LONGTIME donor, Bertie Bialek Elliott, has offered to match every dollar up to \$50,000 that’s given to PacRep Theatre through the end of the year, the theater company said. The donations will be used for PacRep’s daily expenses for productions and staff.

Executive director Stephen Moorer said Elliott’s “incredible” gift offers “momentum and hope” for a theater group like PacRep. Many similar groups struggle to stay alive, and PacRep “is not immune to these challenges.”

“Regional theaters across the country are canceling seasons or closing their doors,” Moorer reported. “Those that remain are struggling with rising costs and uncertain futures.”

### Dollar-for-dollar

According to PacRep, the challenge grant “will match every new contribution dollar-for-dollar, amplifying the impact of community support during a pivotal time for

regional theater.”

The announcement coincides with PacRep’s official launch of its Golden Circle premium membership program, which offers donors exclusive benefits and behind-the-scenes access.

“Through the Golden Circle, our patrons can help sustain PacRep’s creative excellence, arts education and the preservation of our historic stages for generations to come,” Moorer added.

Perks offered by Golden Circle program include complimentary tickets, concessions and parking, invitations to rehearsals and backstage tours, recognition in programs, in the lobby and on digital platforms, and naming opportunities on seats or pavers.

Moorer said the program will “keep our stages vibrant, our students inspired, our venues safe and our staff fairly compensated.”

A one-time board member for Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bach Festival and Monterey Bay Aquarium, Elliott is the sister of investor Warren



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

PacRep’s Golden Bough theater recently underwent an extensive re-modeling. A matching grant program helps pay for productions there.

Buffet. She previously gave \$5.1 million to PacRep for the Golden Bough renovation.

For more details, call (831) 622-0100 or visit [pacrep.org/golden-circle](http://pacrep.org/golden-circle).

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Service Directory continues on next page

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Continues from previous page

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