

# The Carmel Pine Cone

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February 20-26, 2026

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## Wet weather closes 7 miles of Highway 1

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE RAIN keeps falling in Big Sur, where a 6.8-mile stretch of Highway 1 is blocked just south of Esalen Institute. The closure comes after wet weather soaked the coast this week, bringing down enough rocks and debris to

create a mess at Regent's Slide, where the road reopened with great fanfare on Jan. 14 after being blocked since 2024. Adding to the winter drama was snow, which dusted Big Sur's sharp and distant peaks.

According to Caltrans, the road is closed from Esalen to about 2 miles north of the hamlet of Lucia, with flashing signs alerting motorists in advance. The state roads agency reported that a catchment area at the base of Regent's Slide "has filled with debris" that flowed down the hillside in recent rains. "Debris in the catchment area has overtopped the concrete barriers on the northbound shoulder, allowing debris and rocks to travel directly on to the highway," the agency said.

### Treacherous route

Highway officials weren't surprised. Not only do landslides regularly close Highway 1 as it makes its way along the perilous Big Sur coast, "this erosion activity is an expected outcome following recent slide repairs and will continue as the slope ages over time," Caltrans observed.

Highway 1 remains open from Carmel to Esalen, making most of Big Sur's inns, shops

See **STORM** page 17A



PHOTO/CALTRANS

During this week's downpours, mudslides and rocks flowed down a steep hillside in Big Sur, closing Highway 1 in the same spot where it reopened Jan. 14.

## Monterey residents, officials resist housing plan

By KELLY NIX

A PROPOSED 11-story, 239-unit apartment complex near Del Monte Shopping Center has drawn the attention of residents and officials, who say the plan raises a host of concerns, from water supply to fire danger.

Fullerton-based Carmel Housing Group LLC has proposed a 386,510-square-foot complex at 711 Viejo Road, an undeveloped 4.7-acre forested area east of Highway 1

near the Munras Avenue exit. The developer envisions 191 market-rate and 48 low-income apartments on the land. It is just outside the Monterey city limits, which means it will be up to the county to decide whether to approve it. Nevertheless, at a Monterey City Council meeting Tuesday, officials and residents shared their worries.

### 'Fire hazard'

For one thing, city community development director Kim Cole noted in a report, the property is in a high-risk fire zone.

"As proposed, the development at 711 Viejo Road jeopardizes the region's safe environment," said Cole, who told the council she was "extremely concerned" about the proposal.

She said it's also too big. "It's basically the height of the Monterey Marriott or Embassy Suites," Cole said, adding that 85 percent of the property is severely sloped.

Other issues, according to the city, include traffic, evacuation routes, wildlife habitat and municipal services.

"If the county approves the project at 711 Viejo Road, it will have significant impacts on city services," Cole's report said. "There will be increased mutual aid calls for public safety services such as police and fire," which are paid for by City of Monterey taxpayers.

See **RESIST** page 13A

## Sacramento considers teen social media ban

CALIFORNIA COULD follow in the footsteps of Australia this year and ban social media for kids under 16.

A bipartisan group of seven lawmakers introduced a bill this month that would establish a minimum age to open or maintain a social media account. The age limit has yet to be put in writing, but one of the authors, Assemblymember Josh Lowenthal, said based on pediatric research and what's happening internationally, they're gravitating toward 15 or 16.

## Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

"We've set age limits for many addictive issues and products — drinking, smoking, gambling, pornography. Social media should be no different," said Lowenthal, a Democrat from Long Beach.

He traveled to Australia in December to be

See **TEENS** page 23A



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Almost as soon as they were invented, smartphones sparked controversies — and California teens may soon face a ban.

## Spanish Bay gets ready for major renovation

■ Hotel, golf course are 40 years old

By MARY SCHLEY

THE PEBBLE Beach Company's plans for a course that better accommodates golfers of all skill levels while offering challenges to the most proficient players will begin taking shape next month, when the Links at Spanish Bay close March 18 for an overhaul expected to take more than a year.

"The golf course was built in the 1980s, and in the 1980s, the popular golf style was to make courses sharp and hard," Pebble Beach Co. CEO David Stivers explained this week. "At Spanish Bay, you have a lot of holes where there are very difficult bunkers."

Removing some of the sand traps, along with making the greens larger and less undulating, will make it a "much softer, friendlier, more fun golf course to play," he said.

"At the same time, we want it to be a good test of golf for the elite player, so we were able to move the back tees farther back so you can take on additional challenges," he said.

### A long path

More than a year ago, the company announced its plans to overhaul Spanish Bay, following its hiring of Hanse Golf Course Design in September 2023 to oversee the

## Verizon prepares to fight for cell tower on Carmelo

By MARY SCHLEY

THREE DAYS after the Carmel Planning Commission unanimously rejected its application to install a cell tower and other equipment on a power pole on a residential street, Verizon Wireless filed an appeal asking the city council to overturn the decision. The move marks the latest in a years-long battle between the city and the telecom giant over the effort to install wireless facilities in a neighborhood south of Ocean Avenue.

On Feb. 10, planning commissioners voted against Verizon's application based on what they said was the company's failure to prove installing a tower on the Golden Bough Playhouse wouldn't be feasible. Locating equipment on the theater would be less intrusive than putting it on a power pole in front of a historic residence on Carmelo south of 10th, they reasoned.

Without that proof, they said, refusal to approve a tower at the Carmelo location does not constitute an effective prohibition or "material inhibition" of the company's ability to provide telecommunications services, and therefore doesn't violate state or federal laws.

They also called out its potential impact on Ned Spieker's historic cottage and conflicts with the city's general plan, zoning standards and design guidelines.

### 'Little or no explanation'

Pete Shubin of Sequoia Deployment Services, which applied for the permits on behalf of Verizon, was quick to object, saying the denial violates numerous state and federal laws and is not backed by the city's municipal code, its general plan or its ordinance regulating wireless facilities.

"Specifically, the decision was not supported by substantial evidence," he wrote. Associate planner Jacob Olander's notice of decision, which was dated Feb. 11 and amended Feb. 13, "generally recited municipal code findings or standards, but provided little or no explanation of why the proposed facility would not comply."

The commission's decision, Shubin said, focused on the city's desired alternative, the Golden Bough, "without providing substantial evidence to rebut Verizon Wireless' evidence and expert testimony that the playhouse is not a feasible alternative to fill a significant gap in service."

In contrast, the company provided plenty of

See **VERIZON** page 14A

course's transformation. Gil Hanse started the Pennsylvania-based firm in 1993 and brought Jim Wagner in as a partner two years later. They and their associates have had a hand in designing notable courses all over the world, including North Carolina's Pinehurst No. 4, TPC Boston

See **SPANISH BAY** page 20A



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

The inn will stay open, but the golf course at Spanish Bay will close next month for a redo the P.B. Co. says will take more than a year.

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# Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

## Little rascals

The Jack Russell terrier is a small, sporty breed, typically weighing between 10 and 20 pounds. They are known to be alert, good-natured and intelligent animals. With their bright eyes, affectionate personalities and the charming tilt of their heads, these little dogs make popular companions — especially for people who can keep up with their boundless stamina for walking, running or cavorting across the beach.

Just ask a Pebble Beach couple, whose current pair, Maggie and Lucy, bring their lifetime total to 10 Jack Russells.

"It's wonderful to have two of them, because Jack Russells bond, becoming very close," said their person. "Maggie, who's 3, and Lucy, 11 months, have the same mother but different fathers. Lucy's dad was a rough-coat, but Maggie's was a smooth-coat."

Both are soft and sweet, and they love to be petted by passersby as they ride around in tandem shopping carts at Safeway. The employee at self-checkout likes to collect one and "love her up."

"I've had other breeds, but I'm partial to Jack Russells," their person said. "I love their personality. They're creative, mischievous, cute and loving, and they're the absolute best cuddlers and are very devoted to their people."



Maggie and Lucy love to go to the beach. As soon as a ball soars over the sand, both become runners and retrievers.

"I throw the ball, and they go like a hundred miles an hour," their person said. "It's exhilarating to watch. And Maggie's great with the water, but I have to keep an eye on little Lucy. She loves it too, but our baby isn't yet a match for the surf."

Both dogs do very well at the seashore, particularly at Spanish Bay, where they sometimes have the sand to themselves, unlike Carmel Beach, where the puppy gets a little overwhelmed by the crowds.

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# Stationaery owners get unanimous OK for new restaurant, deli

By MARY SCHLEY

AGREEING WITH the dozens of locals who sent letters in support of Alissa and Anthony Carnazzo's latest venture, the Carmel Planning Commission last week approved permits for the restaurant and deli the couple is proposing for former offices on Dolores north of Fifth. The approval also includes a small share of the city's recently expanded water allocation.

The Carnazzos opened Stationaery Restaurant on San Carlos between Fifth and Sixth eight years ago and last week sought permission to turn the former offices on Dolores near the Trevett Court senior housing project and the post office parking lot into a take-away-only deli that will operate in the day-time and a full-service restaurant that will serve lunch and dinner. The planned hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and the deli will have a couple of small outdoor tables in front, while the restaurant will offer interior and exterior seating.

"Mama's Boy will have 'fresh sandwiches assembled to order, pre-packaged salads and pastas, and pantry staples for picnics, quick meals, or a walk to the beach,'" assistant planner Jacob Olander told the commission, quoting the Carnazzos' application. "Mammone will be a 'full-service trattoria inspired by coastal Italian cooking and convivial dining.'"

### 'Deeply personal'

"This project is deeply personal. Mama's Boy reflects our belief in small, neighborhood-serving businesses that add charm and accessibility to Carmel's commercial core," the Carnazzos said in their

project description. "With a light footprint and thoughtful design, it re-imagines an underutilized space as a welcoming, low-impact storefront that complements downtown's walkable, village character."

### 'Joyfully retro'

The Carnazzos said their deli will evoke "the spirit of an idyllic seaside sandwich shop you might stumble upon in a Sicilian village — sun-washed, personal and joyfully retro."

Mammone, meanwhile "focuses on seasonally driven coastal Italian fare, with an emphasis on wood-fired pizza and dishes made from high-quality, locally sourced ingredients." The sample menu they submitted includes antipasti, pastas and pizzas, a couple of main courses, sides and sweets. The kitchen will be overseen by Amalia Scatena, Stationaery's executive chef and "a creative force" behind the restaurant's "continued success."

"Mammone is the older, more sophisticated sister to Mama's Boy — irreverent, layered and effortlessly stylish," the Carnazzos said.

Olander recommended approval of their operating permits, as well as the exterior and interior changes they want to make. The complex is owned by Stuart Clark, who also owns the building next door that contains Chez Noir restaurant and two apartments.

The deli will have only limited food prep, and the residence above it will not be affected by the construction, Olander said. The two-story office building to the rear will be converted into the restaurant,

## New ventures will be a sentimental journey

See DELI page 26A



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## Police & Sheriff's Log

### Thieves get charge out of crime

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, FEBRUARY 1

**Pacific Grove:** Officers responded to a fraud complaint on Egan Avenue.

**Carmel Valley:** Vandalism reported on Miramonte Road. Victim is a 17-year-old male.

Monarch Lane.

**Pacific Grove:** Welfare check on a Grove Acre Avenue resident.

**Pacific Grove:** Welfare check on a citizen on Pacific Avenue.

**Pebble Beach:** An individual at a Spanish Bay Circle residence was reported deceased.

**Carmel area:** Report of mental abuse on Carmelo Street.

**Carmel Valley:** Report of neglect at a residence at Del Mesa.

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** City tree branch fell onto private property at Perry Newberry and Fourth.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Non-injury accident information exchange at Junipero and Fourth.

See **POLICE LOG** page 7RE  
in the Real Estate Section

#### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Private property damage on Rio Road.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Possible theft from private property at 13th and Mission.

**Pacific Grove:** Found property on Caletonia Street.

**Pacific Grove:** Domestic dispute on



## The gavel falls

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

**Jan. 22** — Judge Carrie Panetta sentenced Jose Christian Montenegro, 30, a resident of Gonzales, to 34 years in prison for committing four counts of forcible lewd acts upon a child under 14 and one count of lewd act on a child under the age of 14. These offenses are serious and violent felonies and considered strikes under California's three strikes law. Montenegro will also be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

Jane Doe 1 reported that Montenegro, a family member, had been sexually assaulting her for many years. Doe 1 reported that Montenegro began touching her intimate areas when she was 6 or 7 years old. Montenegro would touch her both over and under her clothing numerous times a week. The touching continued until Doe 1 reported the abuse when she was 13 years old. Doe 1's

brave disclosure to law enforcement resulted in Jane Doe 2 reporting that Montenegro had sexually assaulted her as well. Doe 2 reported that Montenegro touched her one time under the clothing when she was 9 years old. 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.

The case was investigated by Monterey County Sheriff Deputy Brandon Reed as well as other Monterey County Sheriff deputies. The Jane Does were assisted by the district attorney's office victim advocates Alma Sanchez and Mayra Sandoval. Court facility support dog Armani provided the Jane Does with much needed support during the criminal process.

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# CAREGIVER ARRESTED IN FATAL OVERDOSE

By MARY SCHLEY

MONTEREY POLICE officers arrested 36-year-old Scotts Valley resident Dannon Black on Tuesday on suspicion of accidentally killing the elderly man he was caring for, according to Lt. Ethan Andrews.

Black, described as “an informal caregiver,” and the victim had been “engaged in consensual drug use,” Andrews said, when Black gave the man — who police did not name but said was in his 70s — a dose of ketamine. Black, meanwhile, was using methamphetamine.

Ketamine, also known as Special K, is a dissociative anesthetic — meaning it can cause feelings of detachment from reality and self, including altered perceptions of sight and sound — and is commonly used in medical settings for sedation.

Shortly after the drug was administered, the victim suffered a medical emergency, according to Andrews. Black attempted to render aid and called 911, but by the time medics arrived at the Agujito Road address and began lifesaving measures, it was too late. The victim died at the scene.

During their investigation, officers determined Black had also been with the victim during a narcotics overdose on Dec. 30, 2025, in which the man was transported to the hospital, where he recovered.

Police arrested Black on suspicion of involuntary manslaughter and elder abuse, both felonies, as well as misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance. He was booked into Monterey County Jail on \$205,000 bail and remained in custody Thursday. The Monterey County District Attorney’s Office has yet to file a case against him.

While Black has no court history in Monterey County, he has received several traffic citations and has been the subject of two collections actions in Santa Cruz County, one of which was filed late last year and is still active.



Dannon Black



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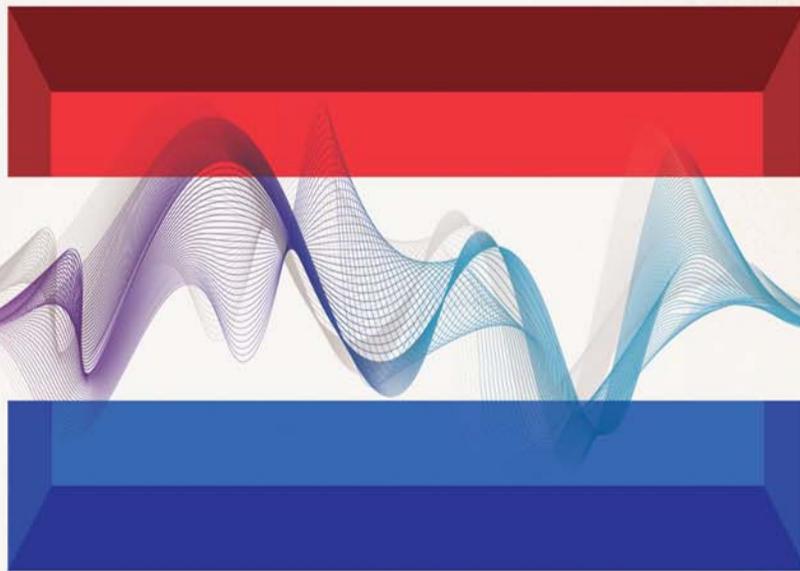
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# Pot farm owner accused of making illegal sales

By KELLY NIX

THE OPERATORS of a Monterey County cannabis farm are accused of a host of illegal practices — including selling large amounts of the drug under the table — according to the Monterey County District Attorney's Office, which is seeking at least \$16 million in penalties.

But the farm's owner told The Pine Cone this week that her attorney has provided the DA's office evidence that someone else was managing the it at the time of the alleged violations.

In a Feb. 13 civil complaint filed in Monterey County Superior Court, the DA's office accused the operators of Cory Farms on Spence Road in Salinas of conducting commercial cannabis activities without a license and falsifying information in a state-mandated software system intended to trace cannabis production and sales.

Cory Farms' operators "repeatedly violated cannabis laws and regulations requiring licenses to track and trace their cannabis activities in California's system, Metrc, allowing them to conduct off-book sales of cannabis," meaning the sales transactions were not recorded with the state or taxed, the Monterey County District Attorney alleges.

Named as defendants in the complaint are Cory Farms owner Jessica Lee, husband Jason Howk Chin, Hong Zou, Sonia Garcia and Hugo Garcia, all of whom are accused of violating state law.

### Not in control

Beginning in 2024, the DA's office said, investigators and inspectors, during routine visits to Cory Farms, found numerous violations, including a false manifest to divert

195 pounds of dried cannabis flower, 1,000 pounds of illicit cannabis not labeled per state law, and the production of 4,012 plants while holding an expired license.

On Wednesday, Lee said she has not received the complaint from the DA's office. But she claimed that she and her husband "had no control over or knowledge about anything happening" at Cory Farms during the time of the alleged violations.

### He says someone else was managing the business

"Our attorney gave the district attorney's office the names of the people who were in charge, as well as information about their continued out-of-compliance operation at a different location in Monterey County," Lee told a Pine Cone reporter. "To my knowledge, the district attorney's office has done nothing to prevent the continued operation. Instead, it has filed this action against me and my husband, even though Cory Farms has not been operational for many months."

The state Department of Cannabis Control indicates that Cory Farms' license was surrendered in June 2025.

### Licensing issue

Prosecutors contend Cory Farms was licensed only to grow cannabis and not to manufacture cannabis products. However, they say inspectors discovered a machine used to infuse cannabis with flavoring chemicals and 48 bags of flavored product, which the company was prohibited from making.

The complaint, filed by Monterey County Chief Deputy District Attorney Emily Hickok, also accuses Lee and Zou of failing to disclose to county and state licensing

See CANNABIS page 23A

# Chopper rescues hiker stranded by rising creek

By CHRIS COUNTS

A WINTER trip in the wilderness near Arroyo Seco Campground turned dangerous for a backpacker who got stuck Monday and couldn't safely cross Santa Lucia Creek, which was swollen from recent rains, the California Highway Patrol reported.

"The hiker camped overnight with proper gear and had been monitoring water levels," the CHP reported. "However, the creek rose approximately 3 feet within just a few hours, cutting off the escape route."

The hiker had started his trek at Arroyo Seco Campground, but with the swollen creek blocking his only way out, he called for help.

"A California Highway Patrol Air Operations helicopter was requested by the Monterey Communications Center to assist a hiker stranded near the Arroyo Seco trail system during rapidly deteriorating weather," the CHP reported.

"The helicopter launched from the Paso Robles Air Base at approximately 10:36 a.m. under challenging weather conditions and responded to assist."

After a brief search of the steep terrain, the helicopter located the hiker at 11:07 a.m.

### Beware of the weather

"A rescue hoist was considered," the CHP explained. "However, the crew identified a suitable off-site landing area nearby. A flight officer/paramedic contacted the hiker and safely escorted him to the helicopter."

The backpacker was flown to Arroyo Seco Campground,

See RESCUE page 22A

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by Mary Bell



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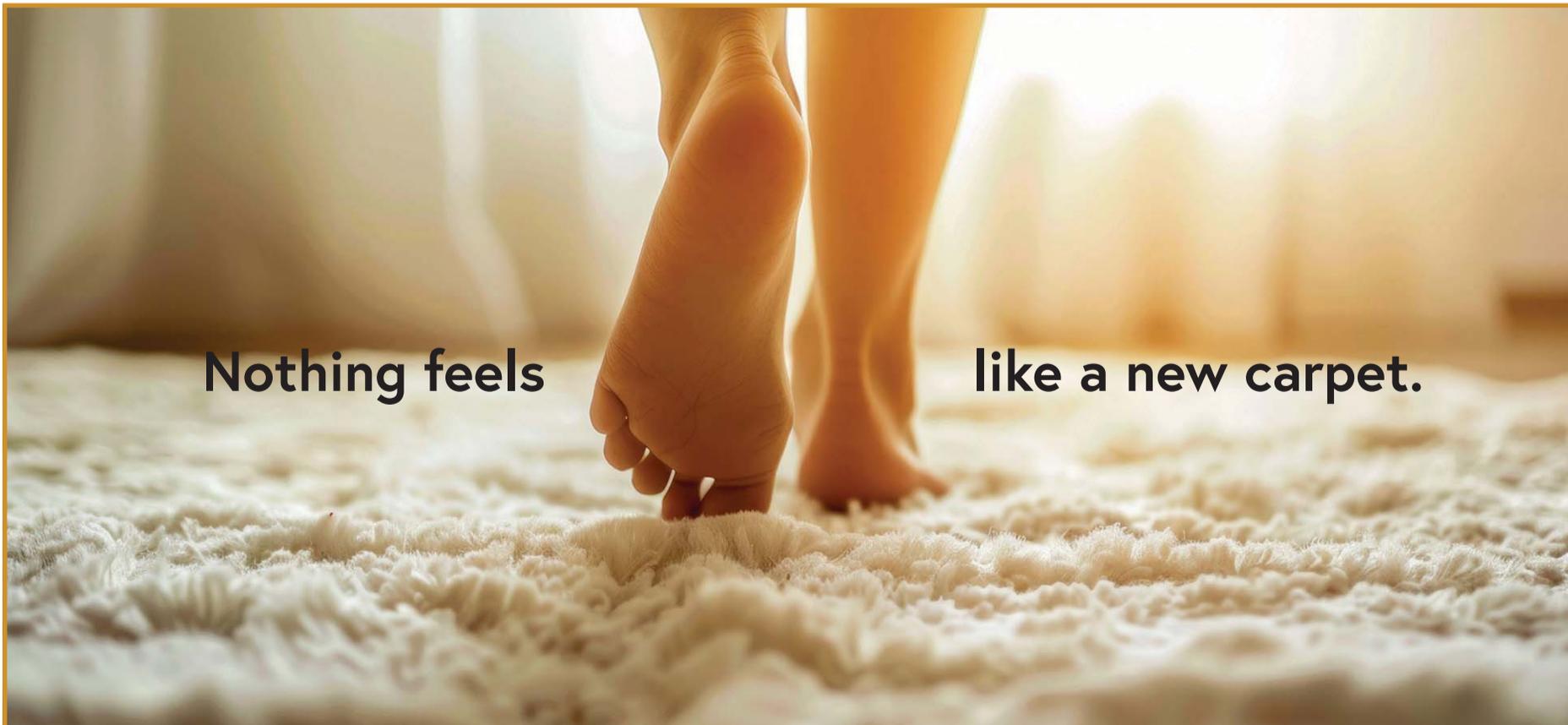
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# Commission tells A.W. Shucks owners to surrender bar permit

By MARY SCHLEY

THE OWNERS of A.W. Shucks and their landlord were told by the Carmel Planning Commission last Wednesday to apply for a new use permit that reflects their business' operations as a full-line restaurant, as opposed to the "drinking establishment" permit it has now. If they do — and considering their repeated objections, that's unlikely — another property owner could apply for the bar permit. The municipal code caps the number of drinking places at three.

The Feb. 11 hearing was dominated by lawyers representing the city, A.W. Shucks owners Karen and Randy Basi, the owners of the Doud Arcade, and Parker Logan, the former proprietor of Sade's Cocktails, which was forced to close last month after his Lincoln Street landlords opted not to renew his lease. Logan was unable to relocate his business because no additional bar permits are available in Carmel.

But last year, Logan began inquiring whether A.W. Shucks is operating in accordance with its permit, which identifies it as a drinking place that is not authorized to "establish a full kitchen with stove, grill or oven." Those restrictions are in a 1993 permit issued to the former business in the space, Maxwell McFly's. "Food service

shall be limited to a microwave oven, steamer, soup preparation and refrigeration facilities. No takeout food shall be allowed," the permit states.

### Kitchen grows

But over the decades that followed, the city nonetheless approved permits for outfitting and then renovating a commercial kitchen in what would come to be named A.W. Shucks, which offers an extensive menu and provides takeout. And in 2023, when Karen and Randy Basi bought the restaurant and oyster bar, they received a business license from the city identifying it as a "full-line restaurant," with "drinking establishment" as a secondary use.

Regardless of the city's missteps, if Shucks functions more as a restaurant than as a bar, Logan argued, the bar use should be considered abandoned, thereby freeing it up for another property owner — who might be willing to rent to him.

Not surprisingly, each of the four lawyers presented a different take.

City attorney Brian Pierik gave the commission two options: Ask the owners to

update their permit to reflect Shucks' operations as a full-line restaurant and declare the bar permit abandoned, or ask them to amend it to "omit limited food service and add a full-line restaurant as an ancillary use that is greater than 10 percent of the primary use as a drinking establishment."

Either way, the owners would have to initiate the changes by submitting an application, according to Pierik.

Because the commission cannot change use permits on its own, Pierik said the owners and the landlord would have to consent to surrendering the bar permit and that ordering them to do so could get the city sued.

"While it is not possible to predict with accuracy how a court would rule in the event of such a legal challenge," there is a risk

it might find that the owners have vested rights because the building department approved the full kitchen, even though it violated the terms of their permit.

"Litigation takes time, takes money, and there's an uncertain outcome," he said.

An attorney from Hudson Martin, representing Doud Arcade owner TSD Carmel Properties LLC, said in a Jan. 21 letter

that stripping the property of its bar permit "would interfere with A.W. Shucks' and TSD's ability to continue the established businesses in which they have vested rights and would constitute an improper government taking."

A lawyer with the firm told commissioners doing so would lead to "a change in the value of the space for our owner."

"There's a certain amount of attraction in having a drinking-place permit in Carmel when there are currently only three allowed, and certainly the fact that there's scarcity does give it value to our client and interest in that tenant space," she said.

### Marketing tool

John Plastini, who has managed the property for nearly 40 years, suggested the bar permit is "worth about \$250,000," presumably based on his ability to market the space to would-be tenants. The owners of A.W. Shucks, who have said their food sales account for more revenue than their alcohol sales, have nine years left on their lease, according to Plastini.

Representing A.W. Shucks, attorney Derric Oliver observed that the city could amend its codes regarding bars or issue a fourth permit, but "just because

See **A.W. SHUCKS** page 22A

## Property manager claims it's worth \$250,000



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# Why does Carmel have a three-bar limit?

■ At one point, zero was the magic number

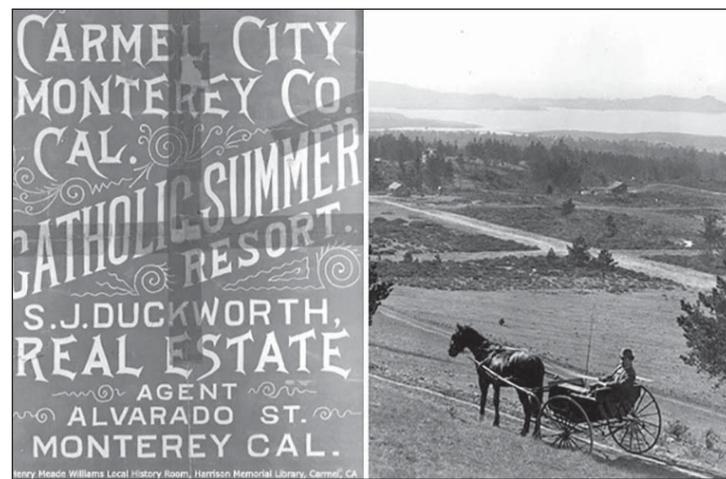
By MARY SCHLEY

WHILE CARMEL'S strict control over "drinking establishments" has been in the news in recent weeks as a bar owner fought to keep his business alive despite being evicted, and as city council members debated the merits of allowing the consumption of adult beverages on public property during special events, the 1-square-mile town's cultural, moral and regulatory struggle with booze is not new.

At the end of last month, Sade's Cocktails, the city's only bona fide bar, shut down as owner Parker Logan's lease expired, bringing an end to its decades-long dive-bar existence.

The Carmel Municipal Code caps the number of bars, and while Logan owns his liquor license, the "drinking establishment" use runs with the land. The two other venues with bar permits are Barmel on San Carlos Street and A.W. Shucks Oyster Bar on Ocean. For months, Logan challenged the owners of A.W. Shucks and the property manager over whether their business operates within the confines of its permit, arguing that the city should consider its designation as a drinking establishment abandoned, thereby freeing it up for another landowner to grab.

The Carmel Planning Commission held a couple of public hearings on the thorny issue — and ruled last week that the restaurant



More than a century ago, Carmel was envisioned as a Catholic retreat, and many properties came with deed restrictions banning alcoholic beverages.

owners and their landlord should give up their "drinking establishment" designation — but that's likely to lead to a legal fight, not another bar opening anytime soon.

## Eyebrows raised

Meanwhile, at a special meeting Feb. 2, the city council briefly debated the idea of allowing Visit Carmel, the city's tourism marketer, to serve alcohol on public property during two Carmel Culinary Week events in June, authorizing the consumption of alcohol at this year's Third Thursday events held in Devendorf Park, and allowing the Carmel Art Festival to do the same during its opening gala in the park. Those events are not new, but council member Jeff Baron feared a slippery slope where alcohol consumption on public property is concerned.

"Two events is pretty much my limit for how much alcohol should be served on city streets," where Carmel Culinary Week is concerned, he said. "My eyebrows are going up at two events for Carmel Culinary Week, and I would raise an objection next year if there were three events."

While Baron and the rest of the council went on to OK the requests, council member Hans Buder supported Baron's desire for further discussion.

"It's the incrementalism," Buder said.

He said he wants to know what business owners think about shutting streets down for events and how much the city loses in tax revenues when that occurs.

See **LIMIT** page 10A

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# P.G. council \$\$\$ to be on June ballot

By KELLY NIX

PACIFIC GROVE voters will have a chance in June to decide whether to give members of the city council a pay raise, the council decided Wednesday.

The council voted unanimously to hold a special election June 2 to allow residents to decide whether to increase the monthly stipend from \$420 to \$987 for council members and from \$700 to \$1,645 for the mayor. If it passes, the change will cost taxpayers more than \$59,312 annually.

At the meeting, resident Inge Lorentzen Daumer questioned how the council could be “fiscally responsible” when a special election is “going to cost way more” than putting the raise before voters on the Nov. 3 general election ballot.

“I think it’s about time you actually show this for what it is — immediate greed,” she said. “Our city is struggling.”

Mayor Nick Smith noted that the increase is “not immediate” and “is actually written” to go into effect “at the beginning of a councilmember’s next term.” The council last received a raise in 1998.

Former Mayor Bill Kampe advocated for the increase, saying the idea contains a “number of important things for the city,” such as potentially expanding the pool of candidates for council, including younger candidates.

“Citizens who would suffer a financial cost for serving on the council will at least have some compensation for their efforts,” Kampe said.

### Collecting signatures

In May 2025, councilmembers decided to give themselves a 130 percent raise. In response, former city council member Luke Coletti’s group, Transparent Pacific Grove, led a successful referendum effort to allow citizens to decide on the stipend increase. However, the council repealed the pay-raise ordinance several months later.

On Feb. 3, Coletti filed a ballot initiative to amend the city’s charter, which can be done through a vote, to place the authority for pay increases and benefits in the hands of residents. The item is set to be on the Nov. 3 ballot.

# FIND THE FACTS ON ‘BRAIN BOOSTERS’

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE CARMEL Foundation will present a talk on “Separating Fad from Fact: How to be Savvy About ‘Brain Boosting’ Products” Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 2:30 p.m. in Diment Hall at Lincoln and Fifth. The talk is free and open to the public.

Stanford graduate Quinn Kennedy, a research psychologist with a Ph.D. in psychology and postdoctoral training in cognitive aging, will cover some of the perils of conducting internet searches for “brain boosting” supplements and will then offer a hierarchy of reputable sites for such queries.

Kennedy is the director of aging research at neuroFit and an advocacy ambassador for the Alzheimer’s Association’s Monterey chapter.

Her 20-plus years of research in adult aging has been recognized through multiple awards, grants and peer-reviewed journal publications.

The Carmel Foundation serves members 55 and older by offering a lunch program, low-income housing, homebound meal delivery, free mobility equipment loans, a lending library, Saturday movies, and more than 65 weekly classes and activities. Visit [carmelfoundation.org](http://carmelfoundation.org) for more information.

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# LIMIT

From page 8A

When questions about the city's tight hold on bars arose a few years ago, planner Katherine Wallace did a deep dive on the history of alcohol sales and consumption in Carmel and produced a white paper summarizing its twists and turns.

"Carmel-by-the-Sea has wrestled with its policies on alcohol from its very founding," she noted in the 2022 document.

In the late 1880s, landowner Honore Escolle conveyed 324 acres of what is now Carmel-by-the-Sea to Santiago Duckworth, "who envisioned the area as a Catholic summer retreat and hired W.C. Little and Davenport Bromfield to survey and map 'Carmel City,'" she noted. But Catholics drink wine, right? Escolle and Duckworth sold more than 500 lots free of any liquor restrictions, including 90 in the business district, but another 134 lots were restricted as they recognized "the selling quality of 'dry territory'" and sought to attract temperance-minded buyers.

In 1902, J. Franklin Devendorf and Frank Powers' Carmel Development Company started selling lots with restrictions as part of their standard deed language, envisioning Carmel as "a place where liquor, even in the privacy of the home, could never be found."

The language, which can still be found on many deeds, said that buyers would not be allowed to "sell, exchange or give away intoxicating liquor of any kind thereon and will not use or employ, nor directly or indirectly suffer, allow or permit any other person or persons whatever to use or employ said land or premises hereby sold, or any improvements which are now or may be hereafter placed thereon,

or any part thereof, for the purpose of selling, exchanging, bartering, delivering or giving away any spirituous or malt intoxicating liquors, wine or cider."

They "felt a moral responsibility to keep liquor and its associated ills out of the community," according to Wallace, and if an owner violated the clause, the company reserved the right to repossess the property.

### Just what ails you

During Prohibition, which ran from 1919 to 1933, the Palace Drug Company (now Carmel Drug Store) sold liquor — but only for "medicinal use" — and while residents and businesses generally obeyed the federal law, they weren't pure as the driven snow.

"There are accounts of Canadian liquor smuggled from British Columbia to the Central Coast during Prohibition," Wallace found.

After Prohibition was repealed with the ratification of the 21st Amendment in 1933, states and local governments retained control over alcohol-related restrictions, and, knowing a cash cow when it sees one, California's board of equalization took over the taxation and regulation of the manufacture, distribution and sale of alcoholic beverages.

So, beer, wine and spirits could be carried through Carmel, and even stored here, but the city council could still tell people they weren't allowed to drink any of it.

That wasn't a popular option. "Many Carmelites, particularly members of the business community, wanted alcohol legally sold in town," Wallace noted.

And as with most issues, not everyone was on board. "We have been some 30 years without a sales place for liquors of any kind, doing very fairly," an anonymous editorial in The Pine Cone noted. It couched the proposal to open those doors as "a chancy decision."

### How drunk?

Perhaps an experiment would be useful, then-Mayor John Catlin suggested. He proposed having "six prominent residents of the village, possibly artists and writers (well known for their capacity)" each drink six bottles of beer over the course of an hour to see how drunk they would get — and what it might do to their singing voices.

"If at the end of the hour, the participants of the experiment can tell their correct names, walk a straight line and refrain from singing in a high tenor voice 'Sweet

A-d-e-l-i-n-e,' Mayor Catlin is willing to be convinced that 3.2 percent beer is a non-intoxicant," Wallace quoted from a March 31, 1933, Pine Cone article.

If the experiment was ever carried out, no one remembered.

After Congress declared beer and light wine "non-intoxicants," Carmel voters decided they could be sold in stores and restaurants, and locals stepped up. The first day, May 24, 1933, produced robust beer sales, according to Wallace's research.

With beer and light wine in the clear, attention turned to the anti-liquor deed restrictions that were still on the books. Complying with post-Prohibition laws meant Carmel Development Co. could no longer restrict liquor sales to medicinal use.

When an Ocean Avenue grocery store sued the developer over its restrictions in the mid-1930s, the judge "found that the number of exceptions and properties without any restrictive liquor clauses — even if they never actually sold liquor — collectively invalidated the Carmel Development Company's general plan of Carmel as a dry city."

### We're a honky-tonk!

Bars quickly opened. Grocery stores added liquor sections. While the state — which had created the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control in 1955 — issued the licenses, Carmel restricted liquor sales to downtown between Sixth and Seventh avenues and Mission and Monte Verde streets unless they were connected with other businesses and subordinate to them.

By 1957, there were 23 licensed liquor outlets in Carmel's little business district, and — cue familiar refrain here — "residents felt the character of Carmel was under assault," Wallace said. A Monterey Peninsula Herald story even warned that if the city continued on its booze-friendly trajectory, "the traditions of half a century will have been shattered and Carmel will be on the road to honky-tonk."

While that sentiment might have persisted through subsequent decades, according to Wallace's analysis, it dissipated somewhat with the rise in popularity of wine tasting, and the planning commission issued the first permit for a tasting room to Jack Galante in 2003.

In the years that followed, city officials came up with policies to control the approval and operation of tasting rooms so they would very definitely not become bars. The wines must be local. Pours have to be small. Wines can't be sold by the glass. Retail has to take up a certain percentage of a storefront. Etc.

And when the owner of a local brewery proposed

See **BAR** next page

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# Strong demand for new water

By MARY SCHLEY

OF THE 2 acre-feet of water the Carmel City Council earmarked last November for commercial uses when it decided how to allocate the 14 acre-feet granted to it by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, business operators have applied for nearly all of it, according to data provided by the planning department this week. The water, which amounts to 4,561,920 gallons per year, was added to the city's allotment following the expansion of the Pure Water Monterey wastewater recycling plant.

The first people to apply for water from the commercial bucket were Anthony and Alissa Carnazzo, who are opening another restaurant and a deli on Dolores Street in a complex formerly used for offices. The couple, who own Stationary restaurant on San Carlos, submitted their request for 0.1622 acre-feet — a little more than 52,853 gallons per year — on Nov. 12, 2025, and the Carmel Planning Commission OK'd the allocation when it approved their permits for the deli, Mama's Boy, and the restaurant, Mammone, Feb. 11. Restaurants' water permits are based on seating capacity, and the allocation will allow them to have 44 seats inside and 22 outside.

On Nov. 21, 2025, the nonprofit Carl Cherry Center for the Arts requested a small amount, 0.02905 acre-feet (9,466 gallons per year) to add two sinks, and in December, the family that owns the Junipero Street building formerly occupied by La Balena requested 0.539 acre-feet, which translates to 175,634 gallons per year, to add seats for a restaurant they are planning to open there. The amount of water required for each restaurant seat is 0.02 acre-feet.

## Lots of water

The largest request came from Scandia Lopez LP, the Pebble Beach developer that's converting a former Dolores Street

storefront into three apartments. The project has been proceeding at a crawl since it was approved in July 2022, and on Dec. 3, 2025, the developer applied for 0.992 acre-feet of commercial water, which amounts to about 323,245 gallons per year. The city's water tracker indicates the water will be used to convert the retail space on the property into a restaurant.

"Restaurants are one of the most water-intensive uses, at least from a water permit perspective," associate planner Jacob Olander said.

The most recent application was made by the owners of Haifa Coffeehouse, the small Dolores Street shop that was repeatedly reprimanded by code enforcement last year for operating without the required permits or a business license. Its Jan. 9 application requests 0.078 acre-feet of water, or 25,416 gallons per year, for the coffee shop.

## House projects

The tracker also lists 15 applications for various residential projects, such as adding fixtures like sinks and showers, expanding bathrooms, and building accessory dwelling units, totaling 0.718 acre-feet from the 6 acre-feet the council agreed to allocate to housing. Those requests run from 0.013 acre-feet (4,236 gallons per year) to 0.101 acre-feet, about 32,911 gallons per year. While 10 of them have received permits from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District because they pulled their building permits, none of the transactions are complete.

"So far, none of the projects where water has been requested have finalized their building permits," Olander explained. "Building permit final will be the last step for the water request/issuance process."

Other allotments include 3.616 acre-feet for low-income housing and 3.224 acre-feet for municipal projects, while 1.69 acre-feet remains unallocated. No one has applied for water from those categories.

# BAR

From previous page

opening a taproom that would function similarly to wine tasting outlets, some constituents nearly fainted.

"We don't need Carmel to be known to be a place to come and drink, more than it already is," a resident told the planning commission in May 2005. "We don't need more drinking establishments, and the last thing we need is an entirely new category of drinking establishments."

## The bar ban is different

Carmel's general plan, which was approved in 2003, calls for restricting types of businesses — market forces be damned — that public officials decided could be injurious if left to proliferate unfettered. Specifically, a policy calls for establishing "methods that will result in limiting or reducing the number of certain uses including but not limited to drinking places, art galleries, gift shops, T-shirt shops, and jewelry stores in the central commercial land use district."

It also notes that "fast-food operations are prohibited," but that's another story.

As a result, the municipal code was amended to require bars "to maintain a minimum 200-foot distance from another use selling distilled spirits intended for either on-site or off-site consumption," allow them only in the commercial area and cap their number at three. In 2015, the planning commission agreed with city staff's identification of Sade's, Barmel and A.W. Shucks as official drinking

establishments.

Also tied to some of its teetotaling sentiments, for years Carmel had a law prohibiting live music where alcohol was sold or served, but that restriction was lifted in 2005, with the Cypress Inn becoming the first among many venues to receive permission to have live music. So far, the city has survived unscathed.

And a code section that's still on the books declares, "It is unlawful for any person to conduct or maintain or permit to be conducted or maintained public dances or any form of entertainment in or on any premises where alcoholic beverages are sold and served to the public within a period of time starting four hours before the commencement of such dance or entertainment, and ending at 2 a.m. of the next calendar day following the commencement of such dance or entertainment."

"Footloose," anyone?



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

There was a time, long ago, when expert barmen like Joshua Perry wouldn't be allowed to work in Carmel.



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A graduate of San Jose State University with degrees in Finance and Business Administration, Bridgette's strong academic foundation complements her deep market knowledge and exceptional negotiation abilities. Her commitment to integrity and results-driven service has earned her a reputation for excellence.

Now residing on the scenic Monterey Peninsula with her husband and two daughters, Bridgette's diverse background further enriches her professional approach. Fluent in both Turkish and French, she enjoys swimming, skiing, and reading, and is an active supporter of community organizations. Bridgette's extensive experience, coupled with her unwavering dedication, makes her a trusted advisor for clients navigating the complexities of the ever-evolving real estate market. Whether buying, selling, or investing, she is committed to helping clients achieve their financial objectives with thoughtful strategies and personalized solutions.

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# Strangulation, murder plot leads to conviction and possible life sentence

By KELLY NIX

A CANADIAN man who traveled to California in late 2024, strangled a woman he was obsessed with and stabbed her boyfriend was found guilty by a jury of two counts of premeditated attempted murder and residential burglary.

On Feb. 9, the Salinas jury also found that Devin Wolfgang Vanderhoef, 26, of British Columbia, inflicted great bodily injury and personally used a weapon during the commission of the crimes. He faces life in prison when he's sentenced in April.

The bizarre incident came to a head Nov. 24, 2024, several days after Vanderhoef traveled from his home in North Vancouver to Monterey County, where prosecutors said he purchased knives, handcuffs

and duct tape, and surveilled the home and workplace of Christian Alexis Small, a woman he met through online gaming.

### Knife and scissors

That evening, Vanderhoef, pretending to be an Amazon driver, went to a home on Bollenbacher Drive in Salinas where Small and her boyfriend, Andrew Campos, were playing a video game. Vanderhoef knocked, and Campos came to the door.

Vanderhoef "had a package in his hand and immediately started stabbing Campos," according to a Monterey County sheriff's deputy who responded to the crime scene. Vanderhoef "stabbed Campos several times." During the fight, Campos also stabbed Vanderhoef repeatedly with a pair of scissors.

While an injured Campos and Small

fled the house, Vanderhoef continued the attack, tackling Small as she ran back toward the home. He proceeded to strangle her.

Vanderhoef — who had wounds to his face — told the responding deputy that he'd just been stabbed. He claimed he did not know who attacked him but said he'd been walking Small home when it happened.

He also claimed that the stab wounds to Campos were made in self-defense.

But during an interview with investigators, Vanderhoef admitted that for weeks he had planned the attack against Small, with whom he was obsessed, and Campos.



Devin Wolfgang Vanderhoef

"He said his plan was to kill someone," prosecutors alleged.

Vanderhoef and another Canadian man, Darius Whyte, a friend who accompanied Vanderhoef on the trip, were arrested. Though he did not participate in the attack, Whyte later pleaded guilty to assault by means of force likely to cause great bodily injury and being an accessory after the fact to a felony and testified against Vanderhoef at his trial.

Vanderhoef will be sentenced by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Mark E. Hood on April 7, while a sentencing date for Whyte will be scheduled for Feb. 26.

## Planning commission opposes STR ban

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE DECADES-LONG fight between county officials and the Monterey County Vacation Rental Alliance to develop a set of ordinances regulating short-term rentals — particularly in Carmel Valley and Big Sur — took a sharp turn Feb. 11 when the Monterey County Planning Commission voted 7-1 to recommend against a ban on short-term rentals proposed by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors.

### Middle ground

For years, county officials and the alliance sought to find middle ground for regulating an industry that provides significant revenue but often clashes with local housing needs. Ultimately, the county passed a set of ordinances for coastal areas like Big Sur and Carmel Highlands that effectively banned short-term rentals unless a host is living on site. Meanwhile, unhosted vacation stays would be allowed in Pebble Beach, but only with a permit. Many in the short-term rental industry decried the tough new rules.

When the California Coastal Commission approved the county's ordinances Aug. 13, 2025, the matter seemed settled. But in November, the vacation-rental alliance filed legal action, contending the new rules violate the U.S. Constitution by treating out-of-state property owners

differently than resident owners, and corporate or other non-individual entity owners differently from natural persons.

In response, Monterey County 5th District Supervisor Kate Daniels called for tougher regulations that would prohibit vacation rentals in residential zones while allowing them in non-residential zones with county approval.

"We bent over backward to try and make this work for as many people as we could," Daniels said at the time.

After the suit was filed, county officials responded by suspending the two provisions the lawsuit targeted, and the board of supervisors asked the planning commission to weigh in on possible changes to the short-term rental ordinance.

"Whether or not we would be successful in a lawsuit, I don't know, but we needed to protect the county from that potential," county official Craig Spencer told the planning commission.

### 'It's our home'

During the hearing, some who own and manage vacation rentals spoke against the county's restrictive new rules, including Brianna Tringali of Carmel.

"My family was born and raised on the Monterey Peninsula," Tringali said. "It's our home, our history and our future. Like

See BAN next page

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# RESIST

From page 1A

The site is in an area “without fully developed roadways,” and Monterey and county officials say a traffic safety analysis is necessary, considering that access in and out of the Peninsula is constrained. Viejo Road is, at best, a two-lane road that is narrow in parts.

The Pine Cone reached out Thursday to Benjamin Eilenberg, who signed the paperwork filed with the Secretary of State in November 2024 to establish Carmel Housing Group LLC, but he did not respond.

Eilenberg, though, was one of the people behind a recent proposal to build an eight-story, 130-unit housing complex behind the Santa Barbara Mission and an 18-story housing complex on the side of the freeway in Carpinteria, according to a November 2025 article in the Santa Barbara Independent. Both applications — which were filed with that county under a different LLC than the Monterey project — were deemed incomplete, the newspaper said.

### Law on its side

Carmel Housing Group LLC has proposed using what’s called the “builder’s remedy,” a provision in state law that allows developers to bypass zoning and general plan rules for projects with affordable housing when a city or county lacks a certified housing plan. Monterey County

does not have a housing plan.

Cole said it’s not unusual for developers to make proposals that are “clearly inappropriate for the area,” only to sell the plans to another developer who proposes a scaled-down version. She called it a “chess play.”

“It’s also interesting that” Carmel Housing Group LLC “filed two other applications” for smaller developments on the same property, Cole said. “One is for 75 housing units, and another is slightly smaller.”

The developer also proposed using the builder’s remedy loophole in the two Santa Barbara-area proposals.

Carmel Housing Group has refused to identify a water supply for the housing and to disclose other information, Cole said. During public comment, resident Nina Beety questioned why the proposal is being considered, given the lack of transparency.

“If the developer doesn’t comply with application requirements, why isn’t the county denying the project?” Beety asked.

### ‘Spell it out’

Monterey County 5th District Supervisor Kate Daniels urged the city to let county officials know all their concerns with the proposal, which will still have to go through environmental analysis.

“I believe it will be difficult for the county to oppose a builder’s remedy project,” Daniels said. “But that does not mean this project does not have to go through proper environmental analysis. And I know the county will be very thorough in the analysis under our scope, such as septic,

environmental health and water supply.”

A woman who lives across the street from the site, and others, reiterated their fire-risk concerns.

“It could be another situation like they had in Paradise,” she said, referring to a

2018 wildfire that killed 85 people, some of whom were unable to flee due to narrow evacuation routes and traffic jams.

After Tuesday’s discussion, council members voted to send a letter to Monterey County officials identifying their concerns.

# BAN

From previous page

many middle-class families, we’re doing everything to hold on to the place we love. We’re a hardworking family with three children preparing for college. We earn too much to qualify for financial aid, but not enough to comfortably afford tuition for college.”

To raise funds for college, Tringali said she and her family move into her mother’s house every summer so their home can be rented out to short-term visitors.

“We followed every rule and requirement,” she said. “We spent over \$10,000. We were one of the first people to get permits. We work hard to operate responsibly, respect our neighbors and uphold the standards of the community — I respectfully ask you to consider families like ours when making decisions about short-term rentals.”

Another operator of a short-term rental, Fred Faltersack, warned the planning commission that the county’s ban on short-term rentals “will likely be challenged in a future court of law.”

After public comment, planning

commissioner Jessica Hartzell noted that much of the county’s short-term-rental activity takes place in Carmel Valley and Big Sur, which she represents. Hartzell described the original ordinance as a “good compromise” and said she’s a renter because she can’t afford to buy a house in her district.

“I have a lot of empathy for the people who can’t afford to have their house without a short-term rental,” she said. “I want to protect the housing stock that’s in place. I want our original ordinance back.”

### The case against

Some planning commissioners appeared hesitant to back the all-out ban on short-term rentals, including Amy Roberts. She also said she opposed allowing some areas to have different rules than others.

“I feel like we had reached a compromise, but I understand the concerns raised,” Roberts said. “I am not OK with an exception for any residential area. If the board of supervisors is expecting a ban in residential areas, it is important for me that that is true for any residential area.”

Now that the planning commission has made its recommendation, the board of supervisors is expected to take up the short-term conundrum soon.



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# Theater company finds home in Monterey

By CHRIS COUNTS

AFTER SEARCHING for a home for the past four years, a local theater company is hopeful it has finally found one at the Stanton Center in Monterey. According to founder and artistic director Karin Devaney, theater group Soapbox Stageworks just signed a one-year agreement with the center.

"We landed a contract with the Stanton Center in Monterey to be their resident theater company," Devaney told The Pine Cone. "This is a huge score for us, as we can now plan our entire season ahead of time."

Most recently, Soapbox Stageworks had been staging plays at the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts. But the group wanted a more permanent site, so Devaney reached out to the Stanton Center. A short time later, she and the group's board president, Toby Rowland-Jones, met with officials there. "They were definitely enthusiastic about us being there," said Devaney, who founded Soapbox Stageworks in Philadelphia 15 years ago.

Devaney suggested that the theater company's plays will bring more people to the Stanton Center, which presents art and history exhibits.

The center is hosting a show, "Steinbeck in Monterey," through Feb. 28, that explores the writer's relationship with the town where books like "Cannery Row" and

"Tortilla Flat" are set.

The theater company makes its debut at the center March 5-7 with "Winter One Acts: Romance with a Twist." Each show features three one-act plays — "Broken Yolk" by Jeff Westfield, "Wormwood" by Barbara Blatner, and "Hemlock Haven" by Devaney. According to Devaney, the three plays "put a fresh spin on romance, making these performances both heartwarming and delightfully unpredictable."

## Schedule announced

The rest of this year's schedule features "Unsung Heroines: Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Impact" (April 23-25), a series of one-act plays "highlighting women's stories and perspectives through performance," "Summer Comedy Kickoff" (June 25-27), a series of lighthearted one-act plays, and "The Central Coast Solo Festival" (Sept. 18-19, 24-25). There's also, "Playfest 26" (Nov. 5-7), which is the theater company's fourth annual "celebration of the 10-minute play," and its annual Holiday Family Show (Dec. 4-5).

Devaney said the season's schedule "balances artistic excellence with community engagement and cultural enrichment," while the theater company is committed to "creating meaningful, inclusive and high-quality theatrical experiences."

## VERIZON

From page 1A

documentation and data supporting the Carmelo site as the best option, as well as justification for Verizon's demand for exceptions to two code sections that require installations to be outside the public right of way and more than 5 feet away from a home's doors and windows, and not in the single-family-residential district, which is considered a "highly incompatible" location.

"Because a facility at the Golden Bough Playhouse would require a different design than the proposed small wireless facility, denial based on a preference for the playhouse would violate federal telecommunications law by dictating the technology Verizon Wireless would use to provide service," Shubin wrote in the appeal, which was filed with the city Friday.

Therefore, the commission's denial constitutes a "prohibition of service," in violation of the federal Telecommunications Act.

"It also would materially inhibit Verizon Wireless' ability to introduce new 5G services, improve existing service and densify the network," he said.

And as Verizon has argued throughout the process, California law gives the company a statewide franchise to place equipment in any public right of way.

"Verizon Wireless requests that the city council reverse the planning commission's denial and approve the applications," Shubin concluded. "Verizon Wireless reserves the right to supplement these grounds for its appeal to the city council and in any legal challenge it may file in federal or state court."

City clerk Nova Romero said she received the appeal Feb. 13 and that the city council is scheduled to consider it March 2 at 3 p.m.

## Been here before

The battles between Verizon and the city began in June 2019, when the planning commission denied the company's application to install five small cell sites on PG&E poles on San Antonio northwest of 10th and southeast of 13th, on 10th northwest of Dolores, on Lincoln northeast of 12th, and on Mission southwest of 12th. After the city council sided with the planning commission on appeal, the company tried to get the California Coastal Commission to intervene, but the state agency opted not to.

In 2021, Verizon sought permission to install cell equipment on a pole at Carmelo and Ninth near La Playa Hotel, and that application followed a similar route, with the planning commission denying it in October and the city council agreeing with that decision in December of that year. A resident-driven group called Stop Cell Towers in Carmel Neighborhoods also formed that year.

The following January, Verizon sued the city over the denials, but in July 2022, a U.S. District Court magistrate judge decided Carmel did not violate federal telecommunications law and dismissed the company's lawsuit. The next month, Verizon filed a notice in the 9th Circuit to appeal that ruling, and the city also filed an appeal notice objecting to a decision by the same judge to deny the city's bid to recover \$77,583 in legal fees from Verizon.

## Languishing

In November 2022, the court ordered that the appeals be put on hold while the city drafted a new ordinance and design guidelines to address wireless facilities. The law was approved by the city council in 2023 and finally OK'd by the coastal commission in 2025.

Last October, Verizon submitted its application for the tower on Carmelo south of 10th.

Meanwhile, the federal cases remain suspended, with lawyers expected to provide a mediation status update again in June.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. 20260243  
Filing type: ABANDONMENT  
County of Filing: Monterey  
Date of Original Filing: April 2, 2025  
File No.: 20250628  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: R & R ROOFING, 15032 Del Monte Farms Rd., Castroville, CA 95012.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: R & R CENTRAL COAST LLC., 1418 S. Main Street, Ste. 203, Salinas, CA 93908.  
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA  
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.  
S/Ryan Roche, Manager  
Date: Jan. 23, 2026  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 30, 2026.  
Publication dates: Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026. (PC250)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260272  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
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2. BIG SUR HANDWORKS  
3. BRIGGA'S GARDEN  
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Registered Owner(s): BRIGGA MOSCA CRIPE, 46190 Clear Ridge Road, Big Sur, CA 93920.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 3, 2026.  
S/Brigga Mosca  
Date signed: Feb. 3, 2026  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 3, 2026.  
Publication Dates: Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026 (PC 251)

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# Bach Festival returns for 89th year, showcases Puerto Rican composer

By CHRIS COUNTS

**OFFERING** A preview of what's in store for the Carmel Bach Festival's 89th season — which runs July 11-25 — organizers announced the schedule and a slew of details this week.

Highlights include performances of Bach's Cantata No. 214, Kaija Saariaho's Nuits, adieux, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 6, along with a spotlight on the festival's featured composer, Angélica Negrón.

The theme of the festival is "the nature of sound." Venues include Sunset Center, Carmel Mission, Church in the Forest in Pebble Beach, San Carlos Cathedral in Monterey, and the Henry Miller Library in Big Sur.

"Our theme invites us to listen more deeply, not only to music, but to the world around us," Bach Festival artistic director Grete Pedersen said. "Carmel offers this in abundance — the Pacific Ocean waves, the wind in the cypress trees, the stillness of the evenings. And the cars, the coffee making and people chatting. All of it becomes part of the festival's soundscape."

The festival's main concerts celebrate music inspired by nature.

"From the radiant drama of Haydn's The Seasons, the elemental power of Vivaldi's Four Seasons and Beethoven's 'Pastoral' Symphony, to the grandeur of Handel's Water Music and the timeless wisdom of Bach's cantatas, the season offers an immersive journey through sound and story," the festival said.

### Turning back the clock

The Bach Fest also takes a look at its rich past.

"This year, we are excited to dive into the roots of the Carmel Bach Festival and present programs that look to the past and the present," Bach Festival executive director Nathan Lutz announced. "As we continue to dig deeper into the festival's history, we are reminded that it was born in 1935, in a Carmel-by-the-Sea defined by artistic freedom, curiosity and experimentation."

According to Lutz, the upcoming season's schedule "reflects that original spirit of Carmel, placing early music in conversation with contemporary voices — and inviting audiences into the same sense of discovery that shaped the festival from the very beginning."

Negrón, who is from Puerto Rico, said she's excited to be a part of the festival.

"I'm beyond thrilled to explore how nature, science, technology, acoustics, field recordings and music intersect with human connection, curiosity and perception through shared listening with this wonderful community," she said.

For many of the musicians, the Bach Festival is an annual affair. More than 100 attend every summer, and many come from as far away as Europe and Australia.

"Some have been performing for 30 years," Lutz told The Pine Cone. "It's like a big family reunion every summer."

The same can be said of many of the festival's attendees, who return like migrating birds. Some purchase all-access passes for nearly \$1,000 each, enabling them to attend a dizzying array of events, including concerts, open

rehearsals and talks.

"You save quite a bit of money on the passes," Lutz explained. "We have patrons who pack their schedules."

### Welcoming first-timers

While the festival might seem like an old friend to its regulars, it can be a bit daunting for first-timers, especially those with only a passing familiarity with classical music. Lutz said the music is uplifting and accessible, and there are many ways to experience the festival on a budget.

"There are a ton of free events," he said. "We have people visiting for a day and they just want to attend an afternoon concert."

Not only does Lutz encourage everyone to consider attending an event, but he also urged locals to consider hosting a musician who is coming to town for the festival.

"We're always trying to spread the word about donating housing," he added. "It's a huge component of making the festival work."



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

The Carmel Bach Festival's 2026 season utilizes numerous local venues, including Sunset Center.



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<b>LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>		
■ Rancho Cielo	■ Salvation Army	■ Pac Rep Theatre
■ Carmel Woman's Club	■ Monterey Pop!	■ Carmel Cares
■ Gathering for Women	■ Food Bank Mo. Co.	■ Interim
<b>HEALTH</b>		
■ Lions Canine Companions	■ City of Hope	■ Lions Hearing Foundation
		■ Hospice/Tree of Life
<b>SENIORS</b>		
■ Meals on Wheels	■ Comm.Found. Lunch Prgrm	■ Legal Service for Seniors
		■ Alliance in Aging
<b>SIGHT CONSERVATION LIONS INTERNATIONAL / DISTRICT 4-C6</b>		
■ Lions Clubs International Foundation	■ Common Roots Farm Project	■ Lions in Sight Program
■ Rise Against Hunger Project	■ Lions Eye Foundation Program	■ Guide Dogs For the Blind
■ Lions Building for the Blind Pacific Grove	■ Vision Clinics Project	■ AJ Robinson Health Screen
■ Disaster Relief Lions District 4-C6	■ Blind and Visually Impaired Center Pacific Grove	

**OUR THANKS**

A roaring "Thank You" from the Carmel Host Lions to all members of the public and to the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea / Community Activities Department, Lugano Swiss Bistro, Carmel Bakery, The Little Swiss Cafe, Carmel Print & Copy and the VIPS-Carmel Police Department volunteers, which either donated to or collaborated in our Fundraising Events, making it possible to continue our "WE SERVE" mission.

For further information about our Club activities, how to donate, or if you are interested in membership, please visit our Website: [carmelhostlions.com](http://carmelhostlions.com)

## Jeremiah Evan Buck

1973 – 2026

Jeremiah Evan Buck (52) passed away in his Carmel Valley home on January 20, 2026. Jeremy was born on August 31, 1973 in Walnut Creek, California. He lived in Walnut Creek, Bakersfield, and then finally settled in Carmel with his family when he was 5 years old. He attended Santa Catalina School and graduated from Carmel High School in 1992. He graduated from Colorado State University with a BA in Economics and



then received a BS in Atmospheric Science from University of North Colorado. Jeremy loved extreme weather, collecting comics and baseball memorabilia, and walking and doting on his two French bulldogs. He also loved his family, friends, being in nature and hot sauce that brought him to tears.

At a young age, Jeremy exuded compassion, high intellect, and a driving curiosity in every personal interest he had. Whether it was writing poetry or stories, learning magic and performing magic shows, obsessively listening to his National Weather Service radio while venturing into the wilderness on his family's backpacking trips, or collecting baseball cards and comics, Jeremy would dive headfirst into a topic and obsessively learn

everything there was to know. He used his incredibly strong intellect to become a serial entrepreneur: at 9 years old, his summers were spent collecting golf balls from Pebble Beach golf courses with his brother and then selling the golf balls to golfers. As an adolescent, he would attend baseball card and comic book conventions where he would buy and sell collectibles—often being the youngest vendor by 15+ years. Attendees at these shows were always amazed at his ability to negotiate buying and selling as though he were an adult in his 40's. All of these experiences allowed him to take his entrepreneurship to new levels when he gained great success building Ewaxpax.com in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

After the dotcom crash, Jeremy moved to Texas and worked as a meteorologist before moving with his wife, Jennifer Gann, to Amesbury, Massachusetts and starting a coffee shop: J Buck's. After a couple of years building the business, he hung up his coffee cups and moved on from the food service business. Once again, he followed his passion for weather and meteorology and worked in Massachusetts as a meteorologist while living in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. Jeremy always said that Cape Elizabeth was one of his favorite places he ever lived.

After gaining enough experience at these weather companies, Jeremy started a new business: Weather4cast.com. For over 15 years, Jeremy wrote terminal area forecasts for Qatar Airlines in the Middle East as well as for airlines in and around the United States. The people who worked with him always commented on his incredible work ethic, amazing intelligence, attention to detail, and his extreme passion for understanding weather. Jeremy managed teams of programmers and forecasters throughout his career.

Outside of his knack for business, Jeremy had an enormously compassionate heart. He loved with everything he had and was never afraid to introduce himself to any stranger on the street willing to talk to him about weather or his French Bulldogs, Jacques (deceased), Gaston (deceased), Nibbler (4), and Jack (2). He walked everywhere with his dogs and cared for them like they were his children--ensuring they were always put first. Known as "Frenchie" at Garland Park, Jeremy would talk with strangers about weather, their dogs, or anything else that happened to be on his mind. Alex, Jeremy's brother, always told Jeremy that he envied Jeremy's ability to randomly chat with anyone and everyone without hesitation. He spoke quickly, but with great fervor.

Jeremy also loved his family: his brother Alex, his sister-in-law Heidi, his twin nieces Claire and Hazel, his sister Lindsay Maffia (Buck) and his niece, Olivia Chatwin, his mom, Leslie Buck, his stepmother, Lacy Buck, his dad, Robert Buck, and his brother's in-laws, Linda and Warren Weakley and John Giordano. Claire and Hazel liked to say that Jeremy was the only adult that ever truly understood them. He could talk to them for hours about weather, animals, or just about anything while playing with them in the river or in a mountain meadow. Jeremy would often visit Idaho to spend time hiking with his brother and his family or enjoying a family dinner by the river. Jeremy also loved walking with his sister, Lindsay, and his niece, Olivia, on the golf course with their dogs.

Jeremy desired to live a simple life: he wanted some land and a small house where he could enjoy weather, nature, and let his dogs roam free. Prior to his passing, he and his brother, Alex, were working on a plan to achieve this dream. Although he may not have achieved this dream on this planet, his family hopes he found something similar in the afterlife where he can play with his dogs, Jacques and Gaston, watch and influence thunderstorms and Pacific storms, and always be near to the people he loved.

Jeremy (or Uncle Jorm) will be missed more than words can describe. He has truly left a hole in the hearts of his family. He is survived by his mother, Leslie Patterson Buck, Robert B. Buck, his brother Alexander Buck, sister-in-law, Heidi Giordano, and his twin nieces Claire Buck and Hazel Buck, his sister, Lindsay Maffia (Buck) (Justin Maffia) and his niece, Olivia Chatwin, and Linda and Warren Weakley and John Giordano of Carmel (his brother's in-laws who loved Jeremy very much).

A celebration of life will be held on a date to be determined.

For more information about Jeremy's celebration of life, please email [Frenchiebuck@gmail.com](mailto:Frenchiebuck@gmail.com).

## FOR THE SAKE OF HOUSING, CITY URGES STATE BOARD TO END WATER METER BAN

By KELLY NIX

THE PACIFIC Grove City Council this week called for an end to a moratorium on new water connections on the Monterey Peninsula.

Council members on Wednesday night directed city manager Matt Mogensen to ask the State Water Resources Control Board to modify a long-standing order that has prevented the installation of new water meters on undeveloped lots and increases in water use at existing addresses where California American Water provides service.

"On behalf of the City of Pacific Grove, we respectfully request the state water board allow the Monterey Peninsula to experience an increase in much-needed housing and economic development," the letter says.

The moratorium on new connections was implemented by the state Public Utilities Commission in response to a 2009 order by the state water board. It was intended to prevent Cal Am from over-pumping the Carmel River.

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District contends — and Pacific Grove agrees — that the prohibition should end because the wastewater recycling project Pure Water Monterey, which went online in 2021 and was recently expanded, will provide plenty of water for the Peninsula for the next several decades.

### 'Desal needed'

"With the Pure Water Monterey Expansion project now online, there is no threat of Cal Am exceeding the legal water-right limits on the Carmel River in the foreseeable future," Pacific Grove contends. "This was confirmed by the Public Utilities Commission in a decision adopted Aug. 14, 2025."

Cal Am, though, takes issue with that position. In December 2025, it urged the state board to keep the ban on new water

meters — at least for now. The utility says a desalination plant is the only way to provide the Peninsula with a long-term water supply.

Evan Jacobs, Cal Am's director of communications, told The Pine Cone earlier this month that while the company wants the moratorium lifted, it is equally committed to "responsible water management, which is complex and relies on future drought planning, including providing reasonable safety margins to ensure sufficient supply to meet all future demand."

"We have very serious concerns about the long-term availability of water supplies and whether they are drought-proof," Jacobs said. "We want to be cautious about adding new demand until we are sure we have the long-term water supply to do so."

### 'More affordable housing'

In its December filing, Cal Am argued that Pure Water Monterey "is susceptible to drought and source water supply reduction, which are likely to become more — not less — pronounced in the future."

The Carmel City Council called for an end to the water-meter ban in January.

If the state ends the ban, it could help Pacific Grove create "more affordable housing options for local workforce employees," the city said. The state has required P.G. to identify areas that could accommodate 1,125 new housing units over an eight-year period.

"Working to align business and housing-element interests for the benefit of our members is a win for all communities on the Monterey Peninsula," Pacific Grove's letter to state water board Deputy Director of Water Rights Juliet Christian-Smith says.

Pacific Grove touts its conservation efforts, including using non-potable water for public properties. However, the Local Water Project — a municipal water facility that makes that happen — has for years operated at a substantial financial deficit.

Martha Ellen Lewis, 77, of Carmel, California, passed away on January 9, 2026.

Known affectionately as Marty, she was born in Ohio in 1948.

Marty had a successful career in advertising sales for many newspapers and magazines, the last being Carmel Magazine. Her outgoing personality and ability to connect with anyone she met served her well in this role.

She was a devoted mother who emphasized the importance of making memories.

She was a dreamer who promoted peace in the world as much as she could, a passion she carried throughout her life. She was free-spirited and absolutely adamant that "there is only one", by which she meant that everything was interconnected. All paths were the right paths when love and peace defined them.



Marty leaves behind two sons, Justin and Jesse Lewis, her sister-in-law Margaret Pearce, and an extremely long list of people who adored her. A celebration of life is being planned for later this year. We ask those interested in coming to add themselves to the e-mail list. Please scan the QR code to fill out a short form. Donations to support this celebration are appreciated, please contact Justin and Jesse through the form.

**Marty Lewis**  
1948-2026



## Obituary Notices

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

*You'll be surprised at how low our rates are.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Anne Papineau (831) 274-8654**  
[anne@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:anne@carmelpinecone.com)



# STORM

From page 1A

and galleries accessible to visitors, although parks — along with trails and campsites — will be soggy for a while.

Despite the mud and rocks that flowed onto Highway 1 this week, the groomed slope looming over the site is stable, and the latest clean up effort will start once the skies clear. “Our crews will begin to clear debris from the catchment area during upcoming breaks in the rain,” Caltrans reported. Updates will be provided as work progresses, and

at present, there is no estimated time for a full reopening.”

Since Sunday, 7.77 inches of rain has been recorded at Big Sur Station near Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, according to meteorologist Rachel Kennedy of the National Weather Service. At Mining Ridge — which tops out at 4,760 feet — 9.54 inches of rain was tallied over the same time span.

Along the north Big Sur coast, one rain gauge near the coast recorded in 4.78 inches since Sunday, while one higher up in the hills tallied 9.74 inches.

Big Sur is way ahead of its annual rainfall for this time of year. Kennedy said Mining Ridge has received 47.47 inches since Oct. 1, 2025, which represents 284 percent of its normal rainfall.

## PATRICIA ANNE MERRIFIELD

Patricia Anne Merrifield of Carmel Valley, CA, passed away on Jan. 23, 2026, at the age of 79. She was born Patricia Anne Brooks on Jan. 9, 1947, to Agnes and Philip Henry Brooks in Washington, DC. Patricia graduated with a B.A. in English from UNC Greensboro. Patricia dedicated her working life to helping others, from social services to her true calling as a hospice nurse.

Patricia married Charles Woodbridge Merrifield in 1974, and raised their three children as a loving mother on the Monterey Peninsula. Patricia remained steadfast in caring for her whole family, including her siblings, nieces, nephews, cousins and their children, throughout her life.

Patricia found joy in hiking, volunteering, meditation, poetry and gardening. She was a frequent pilgrim on the Camino de Santiago. Patricia believed in peace, social justice and the power of prayer. She was known for her adventurous spirit and kind heart.

Patricia was predeceased by her husband, Charles Woodbridge Merrifield; and brother, Michael Joseph Brooks. Patricia is survived by her siblings, Christine Ella Brooks, Suzanne Marie Herberg and Brian Anthony Brooks; her children, Charles Wesley Merrifield, Emily Anne Merrifield and Ross William Merrifield as well as her grandchildren, Nicholas Calob Morales, Rio Rose Merrifield and Wren Piper Grace Merrifield.

Patricia was laid to rest at the Cool Springs Cemetery in Berryville, VA. A memorial mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church at 11 a.m. on March 7, 2026, followed by a celebration of her life at her home starting at 1 p.m. All who knew her are invited to attend either or both events. Contact the family for more details.

In lieu of flowers the family is collecting contributions toward a memorial bench in Patricia's honor at Garland Park.



## MICHAEL LIVINGSTON CHANDLER

1937-2026

Michael Livingston Chandler was born in Oakland, California on July 7th, 1937, to Charles and Maryjane Chandler. He was a cherished son, husband, father and uncle who had a fierce intellect, quick wit, and deep, fantastic laugh.

Mike spent his youth in the Bay Area, parking cars at Trader Vic's, giving UC Berkeley a try and being a recognized sharpshooter in the Air Force Reserves. Always his own man, Mike eventually settled down in Southern California and carved out a very successful career with his own marketing firm.

It was in Southern California that he met his best friend, partner, and wife Lindy with whom he shared his life for more than 50 years. The first half of those years was spent living in Corona del Mar, where on any given weekend you could see Mike and Lindy either running the neighborhood streets of Balboa island or spending the day on the beach at Little Corona. At night, it was sharing the week's news at the Quiet Woman or dinner in Laguna Beach.

Mike and Lindy moved up to the Carmel area when their daughter Brooke moved to the Bay Area in the 1990s. They first lived in Pebble Beach and later chased the sun to Carmel Valley Village where they made their forever home. It was in the valley that Mike's love of tennis was rekindled. He had a wicked serve, made a fun doubles partner, and spent countless happy days with friends, Lindy and Brooke, down at John Gardiner's Tennis Ranch and Mission Ranch.

It is hard to encapsulate anyone in a few paragraphs, especially a man who lived as big and was as important to us as Mike was. He loved the feel and weight of good paper (the ad man in him), a great book, the beaches of Hawaii, bridge and the crossword puzzle. He was an avid reader, fiercely loyal, and never seemed to age (great genes), even at 88. He had the kind of laugh that filled a room, and wasn't above a run of corny quips. Mostly, Mike was just our person, someone you could always count on no matter what to make you laugh or make you a tuna sandwich.

Mike is survived by his wife, Lindy; daughter, Brooke (Roger); niece, Lori Hightower (Dan) and their daughters as well as his best dog, Petunia. He is predeceased by his parents, Charles and Maryjane Chandler and sister, Sherrill O'Neill.

Mike always wanted to stay home, surrounded by the people and the things that he loved. This wouldn't have been possible without the outstanding care he received from both VNA Hospice (Chris) and his caregivers from Halo Healthcare. Amanda, Christina, Shawuana and Valerie ensured that Mike lived with the dignity and grace that he deserved. A very special acknowledgment to his main caregiver, Dayanna, who became part of our family this last year.

At his request, there will be no services. Instead, read a good book, crack open an 805, or hop on a plane to Hawaii in Mike's honor. He would've liked that.

## ANNAMARIE DELLA SALA-STANTON

AnnaMarie Della Sala-Stanton was born on Aug. 22, 1950, at Carmel Hospital and raised on the Monterey Peninsula. She passed away at home on Feb. 2, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family, friends, cousins and neighbors. She was the first-born, cherished daughter of Rosie (Bruno) Della Sala and father, Charles Della Sala. She grew up alongside her two brothers, Anthony and Chuck, and her sisters, Kathy and Maryann.

AnnaMarie attended Monterey Unified School District, including San Carlos Parochial School, Walter Colton Junior High and graduated from Monterey High School in 1968. She continued her education at UCSD, nurturing a lifelong love of learning that would define much of her life.

AnnaMarie met the love her life, Robert Stanton, a great musician himself, and in 1979 they were married and their partnership spanned more than 46 devoted years.

AnnaMarie devoted 32 years to education as an elementary school teacher in Monterey and Sherman Oaks. She was passionately dedicated and so happy to teach young minds while sharing her love of composing music and playing the guitar.

As a young child, AnnaMarie would set up a chalkboard in the garage and invite all of the neighborhood kids over, so she could play teacher.

Music was one of her greatest passions. She was a self-taught amazing seamstress. She enjoyed gardening and loved sunflowers. She had a knack for designing and remodeling spaces, both inside and out. She was the organizer, the planner, the one with the calendar and the color-coded lists. She gave 100 percent to everything she did.

AnnaMarie had a special place in her heart for furry friends, especially Mozart and Chewy, treating each beloved pet as a treasured member of the family.

Upon returning home to Monterey from Santa Monica, she lovingly dedicated much of her time and energy to her heritage and Monterey's La Merienda and was recognized for her leadership and service with the Laura Bride Powers award. She spent many hours compiling three books, one which was titled *Italian Americans — We Don't Just Fish*.

AnnaMarie was preceded in death by her father, Charles Della Sala, Sr. Sadly, she leaves behind her beloved husband, Robert; her mother, Rosie (Bruno) Della Sala; her brothers, Anthony Della Sala and Charles Della Sala, Jr. (Sandy); sisters, Kathy Della Sala-Shepherd (Tony) and MaryAnn Randolph, and many extended family members and friends who cherished her warmth, creativity and strength.

A service to celebrate AnnaMarie's life will begin at 10 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 23, at San Carlos Cathedral in Monterey. In lieu of flowers, please give to cancer research or your favorite charity.



# Editorial

## Tax and spend

IF YOU think filing your income taxes is a chore, consider the life of an athlete or entertainer who spends a lot of time performing all over the country. These road warriors pay income taxes in every state where they earn money — and for some, that can mean filing 20 or 30 tax returns each year. The only exception is the small group of states with no income tax — which explains why so many professional athletes live in Florida. But even then, athletes and entertainers have to pay out-of-state income taxes from their time on the road.

The situation is even worse for online retailers. Mammoth companies like Amazon, which sell to customers everywhere, and even mom-and-pop businesses with a few dozen customers scattered around the country, are required to collect sales taxes on all those transactions. That means keeping up with the various state, city and county tax rates in all those places. One estimate says there are as many as 12,000 different “taxing jurisdictions” in the United States.

Just here in Monterey County, sales taxes are not uniform. According to a state database, Carmel, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Del Rey Oaks, Seaside, Sand City, Salinas and Soledad all charge 9.25 percent, while Gonzales, King City and the unincorporated parts of the county charge 8.75 percent. And those are just a few among California’s 58 counties and 483 incorporated cities, where sales tax rates vary from a low of 7.25 percent (in 44 cities and counties) to a high of 11.25 percent (in Lancaster and Palmdale). California, meanwhile, isn’t the most complicated state when it comes to assessing sales taxes. Texas has 254 counties and 1,225 cities. It would take a big spreadsheet to keep track of all of those.

One thing that isn’t complicated: whatever the rate, sales taxes generate a lot of money. In 2023, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, almost \$600 billion was collected in state and local sales taxes during the year — about 28 percent of the \$2.143 trillion in total tax revenue for state and local governments during that period.

How did sales taxes get so big and complicated? According to City Journal, until the Great Depression, there was no sales tax anywhere in the United States. But with property tax revenue falling sharply as property values declined, Mississippi enacted the first sales tax in 1930 at a rate of 2 percent. By 1950, 28 states had sales taxes, mostly around 2 percent. In subsequent decades, all but five states imposed them, and the rates kept climbing. “California’s sales tax path is instructive,” City Journal said. “The tax started during the Depression at 2.5 percent, hit 4 percent in the 1960s, and had climbed to over 6 percent by the early 2000s.” It has now reached a statewide average of 9 percent.

As we observed last week, levies on the public’s economic activity — income taxes, property taxes, sales taxes and hotel taxes, to name a few — can be counted on to generate more and more revenue as the economy grows. Even if California’s sales tax rate had stayed at 2.5 percent, revenue would still have grown sharply as the state boomed.

But somehow, politicians can’t help giving themselves regular “raises” by increasing the rates.

The reason is obvious: every dollar taken by a tax gets spent on something. And while the people who pay the tax may not like it, the people who receive the money absolutely love it.

Want to be a successful politician? All you have to do is tax the few and spend on the many.

## BEST of BATES



## Letters to the Editor

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

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

### Not ‘slow growth’

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your recent article highlighting LandWatch’s comments on the Pacific Grove Climate Action Plan and the need for a higher quality work product from the consultants. As we note in our letter, the draft Climate Action Plan lacks both plan and action. LandWatch calls on the city to work with the consultant to create a better draft that addresses the objectives of a climate action plan and more accurately reflects the \$99K+ price tag.

On a related note, I would like to ask again that you please correct your reporter’s mischaracterization of LandWatch as a “slow growth” group. LandWatch isn’t slow growth. We are in favor of thoughtful, sustainable growth, having actively supported numerous development projects across Monterey County that provide housing for our local working families.

LandWatch’s mission is to provide a

blueprint for sustainable growth, using Monterey County as a model. Sustainable, which has a positive connotation, doesn’t mean slow, which has negative implications in our current housing-scarce landscape.

Laura Davis, Deputy Director  
LandWatch Monterey County

### Protecting protesters

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank the Carmel Police Department for protecting our Carmel High School students as they exercised their constitutional right to peacefully protest during their “ICE-OUT” march Friday. The students were chaperoned by multiple units as they walked off campus and down Ocean Avenue. The officers on duty directed traffic to allow the large group of teens to cross busy intersections together and safely. What’s more, the kids felt the support from their P.D. and felt safe lifting their voices.

Tabitha Larsen, Carmel

### Relentless council

Dear Editor,

The recent decision to push for a single ballot measure in the June primary election, rather than the November general election, is a clear display of fiscal irresponsibility.

Despite a referendum with 1,800 signatures indicating that residents want a voice regarding council and mayoral raises, the city council has chosen a path that will cost Pacific Grove taxpayers tens of thousands

See LETTERS page 21A

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# Lost in Carmel, found in Canada, and called to Pebble Beach

A POSTER advertising a one-year study-abroad program in Israel caught the eye of 20-year-old Carmel High School graduate and UC Santa Barbara student Mike Harbert as he passed the window of the education office on campus. With no idea how to pay for it, he applied. By the beginning of summer 1979 — with financial assistance from Carmel Presbyterian

followed by evening skits and music, and ending with a brief talk about the life of Jesus Christ.

At the end of the week, on the boat ride back to Vancouver, he watched campers embracing one another, laughing and saying tearful goodbyes.

"I could feel an internal struggle," Harbert shared. "At that early age, I sensed a profound God-given message that what I was witnessing and feeling in that moment could be found nowhere other than through him."

The trajectory of his life radically shifted. "After two years at Monterey Peninsula College, from 1976 to 1978, I knew I wanted to go into full-time ministry — that it was my calling," he said.

## Unsettling isolation

Harbert transferred to UC Santa Barbara as a history major. He embarked on his 12-month odyssey in Israel the summer before his senior year, beginning with those two months in Haifa, where he experienced an unsettling sense of isolation.

"I was there by myself and I was lonely," he acknowledged. "I think God was telling me that serving him as a way of life involved sacrifice."

He went on to Jerusalem for nine months studying Jewish history with Israeli and Arab dorm mates. During his archaeology class at Mount Scopus University, he could see the ancient city he was studying, often walking down the mountain to explore it. Stepping into the 6,000-year history of one of the world's oldest communities had a far-reaching impact.

"It opened me up to the gift of learning," he said.

In 1982, just before entering Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena to pursue a Master of Divinity, he married a schoolmate he met in Bible study in

See **LIVES** next page

## Great Lives

By CARLIN JARDINE

Church — Harbert found himself in Haifa studying Hebrew in preparation for what was to come.

"That's kind of a metaphor for how life has gone for me," he professed. "I never really planned to do 'this' so I could do 'that.' It's been more, 'Let's do this and see what happens.'" What ultimately happened was that Harbert became pastor of the Church in the Forest in Pebble Beach.

Now a Pacific Grove resident, Harbert grew up in Carmel Valley, where he attended elementary and middle school, graduating in 1976 from Carmel High. His family lived a mile down Carmel Valley Road from Highway 1 in a new development of 1-acre lots that ran from the road to the river. "My four sisters, my brother and I had a great childhood riding horses and playing outside in those bucolic settings," he mused.

## 'Just have fun'

He was raised in a religious home but stopped attending church in high school. "I didn't feel a connection to any of it. I wanted to hang out with friends, play sports, just have fun," he said, adding, "I was getting into a lot of trouble with partying, girls and drinking, all in a misguided effort to discover who I was."

The summer before his senior year at CHS, he attended a Young Life camp near Vancouver, B.C. — complete with all the daytime activities of summer camp,



Mike Harbert

From the mayor's desk —

## A tale of three villages

By DALE BYRNE

LET ME tell you about three coastal villages that faced the same problem but made very different choices. All were beautiful. All were proud of their histories, charming downtowns and loyal residents. All depended on visitors who filled their sidewalks on sunny weekends. And all had aging roads, outdated public buildings, rising costs, growing deferred maintenance and an economic model that was no longer working.

For years, leaders in each village did what seemed reasonable as costs outpaced revenues. They postponed projects, absorbed unfunded mandates and tried to

keep taxes modest, having exhausted the easy options. They assured residents their village would remain just as it was. No one wanted to overreact. No one wanted to be accused of changing character or eliminating popular services.

But the math did not care.

## ■ The first two villages

In the largest village, gaps grew faster than expected. When infrastructure failures became urgent, leaders declared a financial emergency. New taxes went on the ballot. Decisions were made with limited options

See **MAYOR** page 35A

# Some clay, wood and vigilance

"WE ARE a cult ... we are very odd," proclaimed Carmel Valley resident Susan McKendry, describing her tribe of wood-firing potters whose art form invariably involves seven or eight careful, meticulous steps, followed by a horrifying leap of faith, before they know if they've been successful.

"The very nature of ceramics — at least the kind I do — is that you can't completely predict the result. You do not

"There's a magic to getting it just right, and I usually throw away something that's not the right weight," she said.

But she'll frequently smash it before tossing it in the trash bin, because she doesn't want to find one of her imperfect pieces at a local thrift store. Not that she cares if a dumpster diver makes an extra buck, but McKendry has standards: She doesn't want a mistake on public display.

Wood-firing requires constant attention, because wood must be manually fed into the kiln to keep the firing on schedule. Firings can last a few hours, or even 10 days or more, with round-the-clock vigilance. Mistakes are easy to make, and avoiding them takes the patience and practice of a scientist.

"I am not a 'science-y' kind of person," said McKendry, a New Zealand native. "I regret that I never took a high school chemistry class. I was abysmal at math and physics."

"I went to Queen Margaret College for Girls, a private school, where we wore uniforms that I hated and were taught that it was important to speak French and play a good game of tennis. I do neither well."

But she was academically talented — at the top of her class in English, history and geography — and loved art.

"My parents were artsy people — theater people — and I grew up around all of that," said McKendry, an only child whose memories are crowded with images of costumes her mother designed for the New Zealand Ballet and Shakespearean productions. "I remember black tutus all over our house," she said.

## 'A giraffe in your room'

No coincidence, probably, that McKendry designs costumes for Pacific Repertory Theatre productions like "Frosty the Snowman," "Finding Nemo," and "Madagascar."

"My daughter called one day and said she'd be coming for a visit," she shared. "And I said, 'That's fine, but there's a giraffe in your room.'"

McKendry's father was a journalist, film director, and actor, and the family owned a theatrical-services company that provided "all the stuff you need to run a theater — curtains, spotlights. They had a library that rented out scripts for plays," she said. "So I grew up going with my dad to all the repertory theaters in little ol' New Zealand."

McKendry, a shy child, never stepped onstage but took every art class she could.

"Art classes were probably the only thing I really liked about high school," she said. "And I think I

See **ARTIST** page 31A

## Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

have total control," said the Carmel Valley Art Association potter, who is frequently reminded that anything can happen when a carefully crafted piece of clay is entrusted to a 2,400-degree kiln.

Ceramics can crack from the heat. Flames can burn unwanted markings onto the surface. Colors from nearby pieces can bleed onto others via contact or atmospheric turbulence inside the kiln.

"But, you know, that's what we like," she said of fellow cult members. "That's part of the fun."

## A weighty standard

Even if the firing goes well, satisfaction isn't guaranteed for McKendry, who has particular standards, such as an unwritten rule about the weight of her pieces — and everybody else's.

"We'll go somewhere, she'll see a piece, and she'll say, 'Oh, this looks lovely,'" said her 31-year-old daughter, Anna. "Then she'll pick it up and say, 'Oh, no ... too heavy!'"

Or too light.

"I'm very big on the weight of things," McKendry explained. "Whatever it is, I think it should weigh what we expect it to weigh when we pick it up."



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

Ceramicist Susan McKendry was a Monterey Youth Arts Collective mentor. She shows her work at the Carmel Valley Art Association.

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# SPANISH BAY

From page 1A

in collaboration with pro golfer Brad Faxon, and the storied Colonial Country Club in Texas, as well as Australia's Royal Sydney Golf Club, Gavea Golf Club in Rio de Janeiro, and the Narin & Portnoo Links in Donegal, Ireland.

"Gil is a very accomplished golf architect. He's been involved in a lot of great restoration projects," Stivers told The Pine Cone Tuesday, including Los Angeles Country Club before it hosted its first U.S. Open in 2023, the Olympic Club south of San Francisco, and Seminole Golf Club in Florida.

"We talked to a lot of great architects, and we felt his résumé was fantastic, and his passion for the project really shined through," Stivers said. "He is super excited about the opportunity — the piece of land he's able to work on and the golf course he's able to create."

With so much coastline, Spanish Bay is unusual, especially on the West Coast and in California in particular, Stivers noted. "Those pieces of land just aren't out there," he said. "This is an opportunity to create something that's really special."

## 'Receptive targets'

The plans released this week show key changes for the 38-year-old course, including relocating several greens — among them the 14th and 18th holes to accommodate a new par-3 13th — expanding the size of greens by roughly 40 percent and resurfacing them "to provide smoother, more receptive targets and variety for hole locations." The rough around the greens will be replaced with low-cut turf to provide more options for recovery after a shot goes awry, fairways will be widened by roughly 30 percent, and contours will be adjusted "to make the playing corridors more forgiving and strategic." Further, tee complexes have been redesigned and repositioned to provide greater sight lines and more first-shot options.

Overall, the forward tees will be about 500 yards shorter, with a total course length of 4,705 yards, while the distance from the championship tees will be roughly 375 yards longer, at 7,115. Par will drop by a stroke to 71.

In addition, the cart paths are being reconfigured to better blend into the landscape, and the course's "year-round conditioning and sustainability will be improved, with new drainage and irrigation systems, 12 percent less irrigated turf, and 3 more acres of environmental habitat area."

Designing the changes around the environmentally

sensitive habitat area was critical, as was close collaboration with the California Coastal Commission's staff, according to Stivers. The project required an amendment to the coastal development permit, and early in the process, the company met with Monterey County officials and representatives of the coastal agency to determine the best path.

"We all agreed coastal commission staff was going to take the lead in the government-approval process," he said. The company and the architects worked with the agency's staff to figure out how to avoid environmentally sensitive areas while re-imagining the entire course.

"It was a collaborative process," he said. "If we had ideas where we wanted to encroach into a particular area, they were supportive of that as long as we didn't cross into

sensitive habitat areas."

Walking those lines has been a factor at Spanish Bay since the course's creation.

In the 1930s, the Pebble Beach Company's sand plant at Spanish Bay was its only profitable enterprise. Nearly a half-century later, in November 1987, the links — which were designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr., former USGA President Sandy Tatum, and Tom Watson to be reminiscent of the old Scottish courses on sandy seaside wastelands with stiff prevailing winds — opened on the former mining site. The late Marvin Davis, who had made his fortune in the petroleum industry and owned 20th Century Fox, had by then added Pebble Beach Co. to his portfolio.

See **LINKS** next page

# LIVES

From previous page

Santa Barbara. The newlyweds — Harbert, a student, and his wife — went to work for World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization.

After completing his degree in 1985, he accepted a position as assistant pastor in Simsbury, Conn., from 1985 to 1989. Two children later, Harbert went to Lubbock, Texas, as an associate pastor from 1989 to 1991.

Then came a 17-year calling as pastor of Pacific Grove's historic Mayflower Presbyterian Church, now Wellspring Church. During that time, another child arrived, he started his doctoral program, and his wife decided she wanted a different life. They entered couples therapy, but eventually she chose to leave the marriage. He became a single parent, pastoring a church and raising three young children in a shared custody arrangement.

"It was difficult for the children, especially my son — the oldest — who asked, 'Where is God in all this? I prayed and you and Mom still divorced.' Those were the hardest years of my life, but, through the grace of God, it was incredibly informative of what I needed to learn about myself," he said.

## Prayed about it

A few years passed, and his therapist said, "I think you're ready to move on to another partner."

He was still friends with Laura, a Santa Catalina graduate he had dated when they were in high school. In 2002, he placed a call, drove to Los Angeles, took her to dinner and asked if she would be willing to date from a distance.

"No," she said.

"Would you pray about it?" Harbert asked. She did, and the next day called back to ask him to a movie. They married at the end of that year, bringing together their five children and bridging a time span of 26 years since they had both headed off to college, when she went to Wheaton College in Illinois. They had run into each other again at Fuller Theological Seminary while she was completing a Ph.D. in psychology and a Master of Divinity.

After finishing up at Mayflower in 2008, Harbert spent six years as associate pastor at Carmel Presbyterian, his home church. He left to follow and support Laura's call as dean of chapel and spiritual formation at Fuller, while he completed a year of study in contemplative spirituality and spiritual direction. He became a lay member of a Benedictine monastery in the desert outside L.A., which he described as "an amazing experience."

## 'Knowing God'

Harbert next served with the Presbytery of San Fernando. Six years later, he was preparing to retire when he learned of an opportunity to pastor an independent nondenominational congregation at the Church in the Forest. Its founders' intent was to design a church they would actually like to attend, which resonated with Harbert.

"They wanted to be incredibly welcoming to anybody who walks on the property on a Sunday morning," Harbert said. He and his wife witnessed that firsthand at his interview. He told Laura, "I think God might be doing something here."

And now, he says, "What gives me the greatest satisfaction in all of this is when people — especially my children — come to understand the gift of knowing God in a very personal way. It's the thing I care most about and why I followed my call to ministry."

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# LINKS

From previous page

A course had been envisioned there since the 1970s, and Jones was already in Del Monte Forest working on the new Poppy Hills Golf Course when he was hired alongside Tatum and Watson to design Spanish Bay.

Because the land had been used for mining, the permit approvals mandated extensive rehabilitation of the dunes and native plants, and the company was also required to preserve the native habitat that

had been left unscathed by the sand plant's operations.

The main hotel and its restaurants will remain open during reconstruction, and impacts on guests should be minimal, according to Stivers, except when the 1st, 2nd and 18th holes, which are located near the hotel, are undergoing their revamp.

"They're basically working on three holes at a time, so a guest at the inn is not going to feel very much of an impact," he said.

But the building containing Sticks restaurant and bar, the pro shop and the Spanish Bay Club's fitness center will be updated, too.

"That's going to get expanded, and we're going to be adding a second floor and putting in an indoor golf simulator lounge," Stivers explained.

"So that project will be going on at the same time."

The course is expected to reopen in April 2027, a few months before Pebble Beach hosts its seventh U.S. Open.

Stivers said he doesn't expect weather to interfere with that schedule.

"Construction starts on March 18, and we're getting toward the end of the rainy season at that point," he said.

"Most of the construction work will be completed by the middle of the fall, so we're doing most of the earth moving in the drier season."

# Free tax help offered for seniors

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

MONTEREY COUNTY announced this week that free tax preparation assistance is available for eligible seniors through the Alliance on Aging.

Trained volunteers help determine filing requirements, filing status, deductions, and credits, and electronically file both federal and state returns at no cost, the county said.

Appointments are offered throughout Monterey County, including the Carmel Foundation, Scholze Park Center in Monterey, Meals on Wheels Community Center

in Pacific Grove, the Alliance on Aging HUB in Salinas, Oldemeyer Center in Seaside, and the Marina, Greenfield, and King City branch libraries. Bilingual assistance and accommodations for disabilities are available.

For the appointment, bring a photo ID, Social Security card or TIN, last year's tax return if available, all income documents — W-2s or 1099s — bank routing information for direct deposit, and any IRS letters received.

To schedule an appointment, call (831) 655-1334 or visit [allianceonaging.org](http://allianceonaging.org).

# LETTERS

From page 18A

of dollars in unnecessary expenses.

If this measure were placed on the November ballot — alongside the mayoral race, council seats, and other initiatives — the costs would be absorbed as part of the regular election. Choosing June instead creates an avoidable financial burden that was not clearly communicated to the public by the city clerk, the mayor, or the city

attorney.

It is disappointing (but typical) to see the council ignore public sentiment in favor of the same rhetoric regarding the need for higher compensation to attract candidates.

Residents deserve fiscal responsibility, transparency, and leadership that prioritizes the community over personal interests. This decision fails to meet those standards and disregards the concerns of the citizens they serve.

**Christie Italiano-Thomas,**  
*Pacific Grove*




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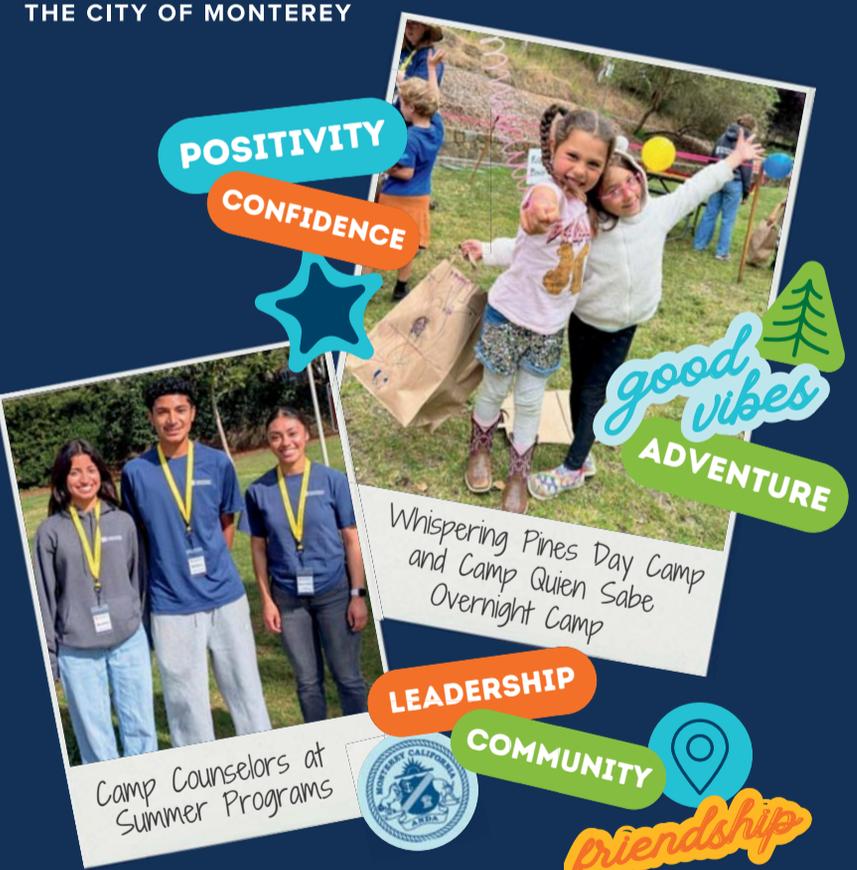
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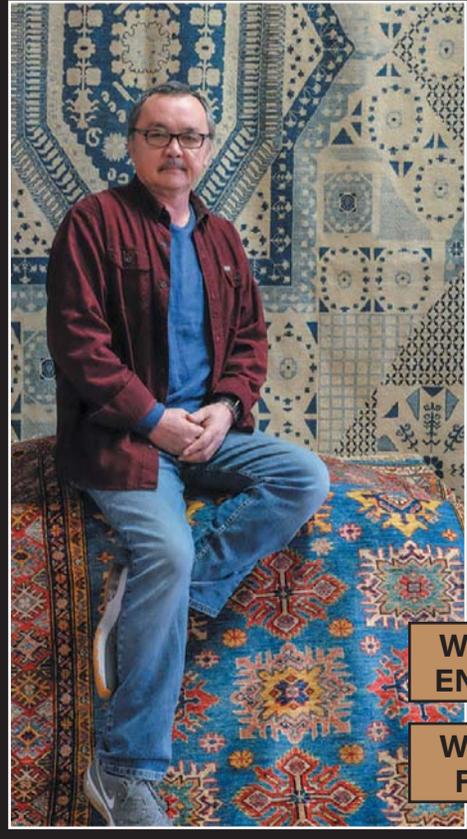


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# A.W. SHUCKS

From page 7A

they're serving more food doesn't mean abandonment." Attorney Bob Rosenthal spoke on behalf of Logan and reminded commissioners and the public that "no one is asking to shut down Shucks," or to prevent it from offering adult beverages. Changing its use to a full-line restaurant, which by definition is allowed to sell a certain amount of alcohol, would not affect A.W. Shucks' operations at all, he said.

"They all talk about harm, but they don't tell you what that harm is," he said. "There's no taking."

Lindi Doud, one of the owners of Doud Arcade, said the city has applauded and facilitated the shift in the space from a full-scale bar, which it once was, to a restaurant/bar. "The evolution is well documented through all the permits," she said.

a full-line restaurant," agreed commissioner Stefan Karpetkov. "We have to make a decision." Commissioner Erin Allen said she was "really torn on this," because the landlord and business owners have done everything they were supposed to and received repeated assurance from the city that their permits and licenses were in order.

"Don't we have to stand by what a city official has told these people?" she asked. "On the flipside, I want to bring these people into compliance. But I don't want to say it's abandoned."

"I do not believe that prior staff-level statements bind the commission," countered commissioner Mel Ahlborn. She objected to the description of the restaurant as a "legal nonconforming use," because "there was not a change in the law that would cause that legal nonconformity."

"I think what the commission is trying to do here isn't at all punitive, it's corrective," she said. "We're trying to match the permit to the operation of the business. I don't think there will be any injustice."

### Lone dissenter

Chair Michael LePage concurred. While the city allowed the use to shift to a full-line restaurant but did not change the permits accordingly, "we as the planning commission are not bound by those decisions," he said.

LePage further stated that designating the bar use abandoned and bringing the use permit in line with the business would not amount to "taking an operator's right away to operate exactly the way they're operating."

He made a motion to "determine the drinking establishment use at A.W. Shucks has been abandoned for more than six months" and to order the owners to obtain a new use permit within six months.

His motion passed 4-1, with Allen dissenting. The owners have 10 days to file an appeal.



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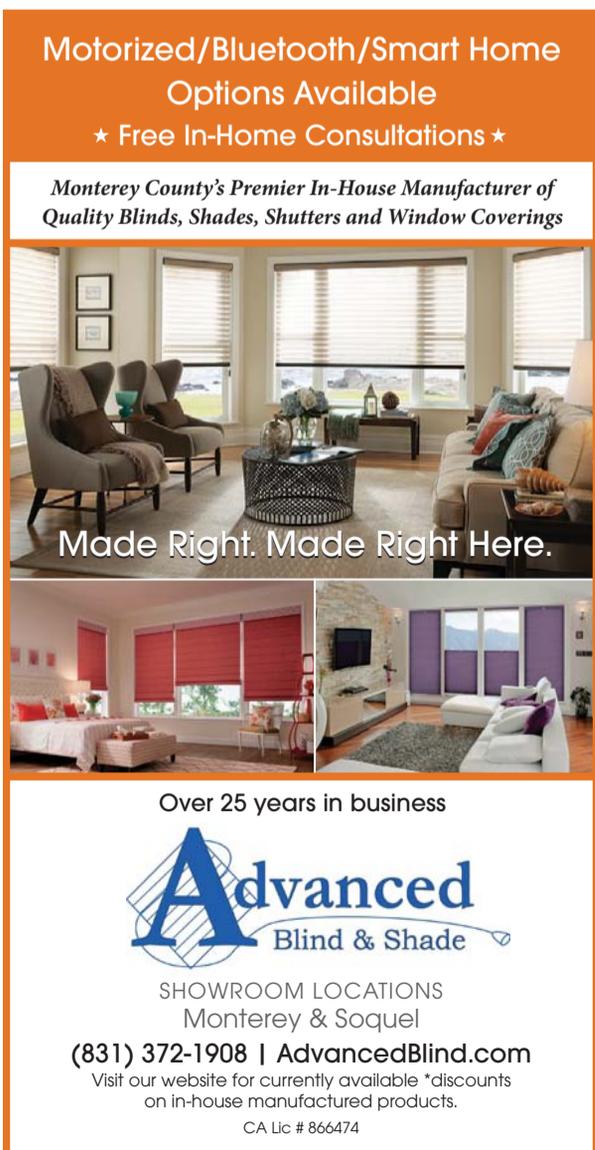
# RESCUE

From page 6A

where medical personnel were waiting. "Thanks to coordinated interagency teamwork and the crew's ability to adapt rescue tactics to weather and terrain conditions, the hiker was brought to safety," the CHP said.

The agency urged outdoor enthusiasts to consider the risks before hiking during wet weather.

"This rescue serves as an important reminder not to underestimate winter storms or flash flood warnings," the report said. "Water levels in creeks and rivers can rise dramatically in a matter of hours."



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# TEENS

From page 1A

there for the rollout of the first-of-its-kind ban to keep kids off major platforms, including TikTok, X, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat and Threads. The father of three spoke with members of Parliament as well as families. He said what surprised him was the lack of pushback from kids; instead, they seemed to breathe a collective sigh of relief.

“It wasn’t about making sure every kid was offline instantaneously — or if not, there would be penalties and hell to pay — it was about breaking the critical mass, stopping the cycle, stopping the pressure, stopping the FOMO that was taking place for kids,” said Lowenthal.

Fear of missing out is one of the primary reasons kids are on social media in the first place. If you’re not participating in the online sphere, you’re socially sidelined. But for those who do log on, it’s a time suck — one that can take children down some pretty dark rabbit holes.

A 2024 study from the University of Chicago found six out of 10 people, including Instagram users, said they would prefer to live in a world without Instagram, and respondents favored everyone getting rid of their accounts over only deactivating their own.

“Social media makes a lot of teens feel like crap, but they don’t know how to stop using it,” a then-18-year-old named Cooper told interviewers in the documentary “Social Studies,” succinctly articulating the problem with kids and the internet.

## The dark corners of social

Eating disorders, sexual exploitation, self-harm and bullying all have homes on the platforms and prove readily accessible to children. In 2024, The Wall Street Journal partnered with an academic researcher to create Instagram accounts purportedly belonging to 13-year-olds. They found apps regularly recommended adult-oriented, sexually explicit content to those accounts, provided they showed interest in racy content.

Following the suicide of Molly Russell (of the U.K.) at age 14, an inquest into her death found her Instagram feed delivered more than 300 posts a month related to suicide, self-harm and depression.

Social media platforms have also been linked to numerous accidental deaths. On TikTok, the Blackout Challenge has led to the demise of at least 20 children, including 9- and 10-year-olds. The challenge involves kids choking themselves with belts and leashes until they pass out, and then prompting others to do the same.

The companies are well aware their sites expose young people to bad things. In 2024, the state of New Mexico took Snapchat to court, alleging the platform was a haven for child predation and blackmail. The lawsuit forced the company to release an internal analysis showing that Snapchat receives 10,000 reports of sextortion each month. Kids on there can easily be lured into sending nude photos of themselves because the content disappears after being opened. But receivers can take screenshots on their

devices and use the evidence to extort kids for money and sexual favors.

Sounds like fun, huh? Of course, these examples are the extremes, but when it comes to kids, it’s impossible to tell who’s going to have bad experiences with social media.

Lowenthal and his fellow lawmakers are hopeful their bill will offer a collective solution to what has become a collective problem by getting all young kids offline in one go. Their legislation, however, is likely to face strong opposition from the California companies that have worked for years to bring products to a young audience.

## Social media companies target kids

Getting kids on your platform is big business.

A 2023 study published in the National Library of Medicine found social media companies make \$11 billion a year in advertising revenue from children. An internal Meta presentation in 2018 shows what the company believes teens are worth.

“The lifetime value of a 13-year-old is roughly \$270 per teen,” one bullet point reads, followed by another stating, “This is driven by the fact that young users have much higher long-term retention than older users.” And therein lies the business model: Hook them young, and they will make you money for years to come.

Meta is embroiled in a landmark personal-injury trial in Los Angeles which claims, among other things, that it built its products to be addictive to adolescents. The avalanche of discovery coming out of the case has been a bit cringeworthy.

“We’re going after under-13-year-olds now?” reads an instant message between two Meta employees from one case file.

“Zuck has been talking about that for a while,” responds a coworker.

“Yeah, it was gross the last time he mentioned it,” another follows up.

“Gross” is right. Kids under 13 are legally prohibited from opening online accounts under the 1998 Children’s Online Privacy Protection Rule. However, circumventing the federal law is as simple as clicking a box stating you’re of age, and Meta knows it.

In yet another internal doc, Meta describes tweens, defined as 10- to 12-year-olds, as being particularly special for their long-term retention and specifies they should consider investing more heavily in bringing larger volumes of tweens onto Facebook.

Of course, it’s not just the proprietor of Instagram under the magnifying glass for ignominious conduct. YouTube parent company Google is also named in the suit. Damningly, Snapchat and TikTok chose to settle rather than defend themselves in court.

## Can I see your ID?

Enforcing any new age requirement in California will be complicated. Lowenthal says the onus will be on the social media companies to get the job done, as it is under Australia’s new ban.

“Let’s be honest, social media platforms have always been able to determine a user’s age. We know they can

do this. They’ve already deactivated nearly 5 million accounts in Australia,” said the assemblymember.

The Aussie law requires companies to make the call on whom to shut down using a variety of approved practices, including government IDs, face or voice recognition, or age inference — which analyzes online behavior and interactions to estimate a person’s age. Social media companies found in violation of the law face fines up to \$49.5 million, a figure some say isn’t high enough.

“It takes Meta about an hour and 52 minutes to make \$50 million in revenue,” former Facebook executive Stephen Scheeler told the Australian Associated Press in the lead-up to the ban.

California lawmakers could also model their legislation after a Louisiana state law that requires sites with pornographic content to verify users are 18 using the state’s digital wallet app. The process forces visitors to present a state driver’s license or ID for verification before gaining access. One roadblock, even for older teens, is that many don’t have ID. Federal Highway Administration data show the share of 16-year-olds with drivers licenses has dropped drastically over the past few decades — from nearly 50 percent in the 1980s to about 25 percent in 2022. Who needs to go out when you can stay home and scroll?

Some parents may see the lack of teen drivers as a positive, but it also goes hand in hand with a trend toward less real-world independence for today’s kids. Fewer go out on dates or work at paid jobs than in previous generations; fewer go anywhere without a parent tagging along.

Australia may have been the first to ban social media for under-16s, but it won’t be the last. Indonesia and France raised the minimum age this month, and Denmark, Norway, Spain and the Netherlands are considering similar moves. California better get a move on if it wants to keep its trendsetting reputation.

# CANNABIS

From page 6A

authorities that Zou obtained a majority interest in Cory Farms in June 2024.

Prosecutors want Lee and Chin to pay no less than \$8 million in penalties, while they want Zou to pay at least \$6 million. They are also requesting that Sonia Garcia, who is accused of making fraudulent entries into the Metrc system, and Hugo Garcia, who is alleged to have participated in off-book cannabis sales, pay \$2 million.

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# The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

## On the pitch, in the paint and one the mats, postseason's calling

ACHIEVING A spot in the Central Coast Section playoffs is a big deal for any team, but it's especially significant for a team whose seniors were just 6 years old the last time their school got there.

Santa Catalina school's soccer team hasn't earned a

From 2014 to 2025, the Cougars have had four winning seasons but no division titles or CCS invitations — a drought that ended Feb. 12, when they traveled to Pacific Grove High for a high-tension showdown with the Santa Lucia Division championship on the line.

Catalina, which handed Pacific Grove its only division loss of the year — 5-1 on Jan. 2 — battled the Breakers to a 1-1 tie last week to capture the division trophy with an 8-0-2 record (11-4-3 overall).

That result gave the Cougars an automatic CCS home game against Mission Division runner-up Watsonville (12-5-1) on Thursday, with the winner advancing to the eight-team main bracket, where quarterfinals will be played Saturday.

### Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

postseason berth since 2014, when a squad led by Allie Aiello, Daisy Villegas, Samantha Mudd, Sara Franks, Sofia White and Tamara Attia went 15-2-2 overall and won the Monterey Bay League's Mission Trail Division crown with a 13-0-1 record.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Andrea Fernandez leads a crowd of Pacific Grove pursuers en route to scoring the game's only Santa Catalina goal after a long pass from Delilah Fujita, who leads the PCAL in assists.

#### Defensive battle

Win or lose, it's been a season to savor for Santa Catalina, a team with only three seniors on its roster.

"The P.G. game was the first time we've been in a situation where everything was at stake," said Catalina coach Julian Salas. "We were in first place in the standings, based on points, going into the game, so the championship was basically ours to lose."

The nerves were evident during the first 10 minutes of the game, Salas said, but then the Cougars settled in. At about the 20-minute mark, two of Catalina's top offensive players collaborated for a go-ahead goal.

Co-captain Delilah Fujita, who leads the Pacific Coast Athletic League with 20 assists, got the ball near midfield, then launched a long kick that connected with Andrea Fernandez.

"Andrea took on their defender one-on-one, got past her, went around their goalkeeper, and placed the ball in the goal," Salas said.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Santa Catalina senior midfielder Delilah Fujita battles Pacific Grove's Liliana Papandreopoulos for control during a 1-1 tie that lifted the Cougars to the division crown last week.

In the second half, the Breakers tied the game on a similar play when a midfielder fed the ball downfield to Eliana Vilella, who slipped it past Catalina goalie Sophie Thompson in a one-on-one matchup.

The remainder of the game was a defensive battle, with Fujita and Sofia Wiberg controlling the midfield for the Cougars, and Isabella Fujita (Delilah's twin) teaming with Vera Gutierrez on defense to shut out the Breakers for the rest of the game.

See SPORTS next page

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# SPORTS

From previous page

“Everybody on our side is pretty excited to find out what the playoffs are like,” Salas said. “We’re working every year to build a strong culture in this sport at Catalina, and hopefully this will be a big step.”

All division champions are guaranteed postseason action. Any other team with a .500 or better winning percentage — either in league games or overall — is evaluated at CCS seeding meetings on the basis of overall win-loss records and strength of schedule.

Teams that achieve successful records in tougher divisions have a far greater chance of inclusion, so a .500 or better record does not guarantee a CCS berth.

In girls soccer, Stevenson (11-6-3 overall) and Carmel (8-6-3), both Mission Division teams, were eligible for inclusion in sectionals.

## Girls hoops

In girls basketball, the Stevenson Pirates, a Gabilan Division team, earned consideration on the final day of the regular season by balancing their overall record at 12-12 with a dramatic 49-47 victory at Watsonville, where the Wildcatz were also vying for playoff eligibility.

The Pirates trailed 26-25 at halftime but outscored Watsonville 12-8 in the pivotal third quarter.

The Pirates’ victory avenged a 53-39 loss to Watsonville on Jan. 22

Carmel revived its playoff prospects by winning four of its final five games, defeating Monte Vista Christian, Rancho San Juan, North County and Everett Alvarez on their way to a 6-6 Mission Division record.

The Padres haven’t received a CCS berth since 2022.

“This has been a season of overcoming adversity for us,” said Carmel coach Alan Shipnuck.

“Four of our key players have missed extensive time with bronchitis, sprained ankles. One of the girls missed two weeks with serious blister issues. It’s been very rare when we’ve had all 11 of our players in the gym at the same time, even for practice,” he added,

Santa Catalina entered the week with realistic postseason expectations based on a 10-4 overall record, 8-4 in the Santa Lucia Division, where the Cougars tied Anzar (12-8, 8-4) for second place. Oakwood (21-2, 12-0) got the guaranteed spot as the Santa Lucia champion.

The 2025 CCS playoffs included five qualifiers from the Gabilan, three from the Mission, four from the Cypress and three from the Santa Lucia.

## On the mats

The other winter-season sport, wrestling, has its CCS Regional Championships tournament Saturday at Watsonville High.

Three Carmel wrestlers — Skyler Madsen (157 pounds), Dominik Ranansky (215) and Alexander Noto-Hagan (285) — qualified to compete via their third-place finishes at last week’s Pacific Coast Athletic League tournament.

Madsen will face Leland sophomore Adam Mushell in his first-round match. Ranansky drew Gunderson senior Elijah Reyna in his opener. Noto-Hagan’s opponent is Willow Glen senior Micah Pisoni.

Visit the playoffs tab at cifccs.org for all postseason schedules and updates.

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

# DELI

From page 3A

with most of the functions on the ground floor and additional work areas, a second restroom and a private dining room upstairs. A small patio and garden will accommodate outdoor seating.

“The property requested water from the commercial bucket of the city’s recent water allocation, so as a condition of approval, you would be allocating some of the water to that site for Mammone,” he said. The city was given 14 acre-feet of water when the Pure Water Monterey recycling project’s expansion came online last year, and the city council earmarked 2 acre-feet for commercial uses.

Fans of the Carnazzos and their restaurant — including fellow restaurateurs and the owners of several nearby businesses — sent emails urging the commission to OK their next project. Among them was Ashlee Wright, the city’s former library and community activities director.

## Sicilian heritage

“As a longtime patron of Stationary, I have had the opportunity to experience firsthand the quality of their operations, their attention to detail and their commitment to thoughtful design, hospitality and community-oriented businesses,” she wrote. “The application materials for this project are comprehensive, well-prepared, and demonstrate a clear understanding of the city’s standards and review criteria. The applicants have a proven track record of working collaboratively with city staff, complying with established guidelines and approaching projects with care and professionalism.”

Anthony Carnazzo told commissioners at the Feb. 11 meeting that he’s long dreamed of opening a deli and restaurant that reflect his Sicilian heritage and his love of Carmel, his lifelong home.

“We intend to be good dance partners with the city and to be communicative,” he

said. Only one letter writer worried about impacts on parking in the area and noise from the restaurant, but Carnazzo said he and his family and staff encourage people to walk as much as possible, and the 8 p.m. closing time will ensure all is quiet at night.

At the hearing, Hofsas House owner and former councilwoman Carrie Theis said the Carnazzos “have put a lot of thoughtful pride into what they’re doing,” and she observed that Stationary is “a well-run business that’s consistent and very considerate of what Carmel is about.”

“I think this is something our town really needs,” agreed architect Adam Jeselnick. “It’s been exceptionally thought through, with a lot of consideration given to the neighbors and the needs of our town.”

## Double-check

Monique Black, who lives next door with husband and chef Jonny Black and their children above their Michelin-starred restaurant, Chez Noir, said she’s “very excited” about the project.

“It’s hard for me to think of anybody who’s more committed to Carmel than Anthony and Alissa,” he said.

Planning commissioners did not take much convincing.

“I’m fully supportive. We have excellent restaurateurs opening a couple of nice businesses,” said chair Michael LePage, who made the motion to approve, which was seconded by commissioner Stephanie Locke.

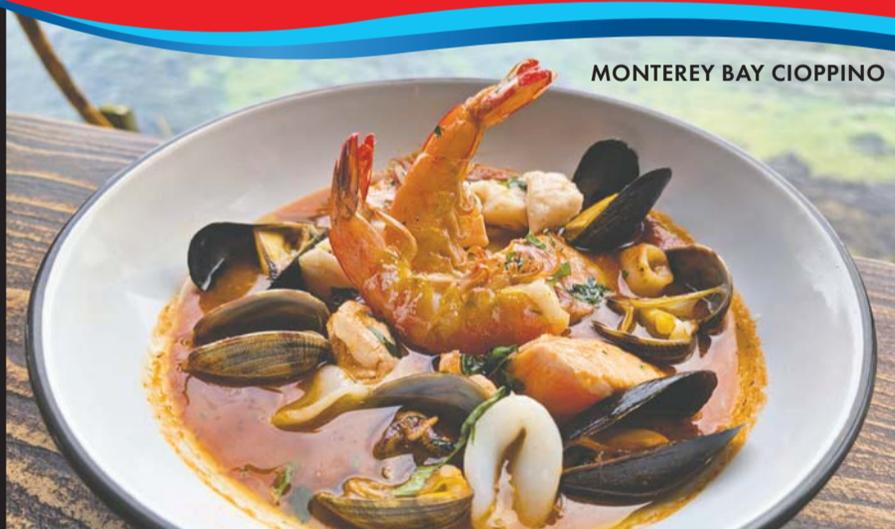
Locke, the longtime water demand manager for the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, also advised the Carnazzos to double-check their water calculations, as it appeared there are more credits available on the property than those shown on their plans.

Not only could they pick up another seat to have 44 inside and 22 outside at Mammone, she said, it will slightly reduce the amount of water needed from the city’s allocation.

And with that, the commissioners gave their “enthusiastic” unanimous approval.

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

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# This Week

Live Music,  
Clubs and Events

## Singers join symphony at Sunset, student-musicians rally for a good cause

SUNSET CENTER will celebrate the genius of four of classical music's greatest composers when the **Monterey Symphony** performs Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.

The instrumentalists will be joined by the **Monterey Symphony Singers** on two pieces.

"Monterey Symphony embarks on a long-awaited choral collaboration, presenting Mozart's miniature masterpiece 'Ave verum corpus' and Schubert's radiant Mass in G major," said **Jayce Ogren**, the symphony's music director and conductor. "For the Schubert, we have the honor of welcoming renowned vocal soloists

military members can attend for \$12. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos Street and Ninth Avenue. Details at (831) 646-8511 and monteresymphony.org.

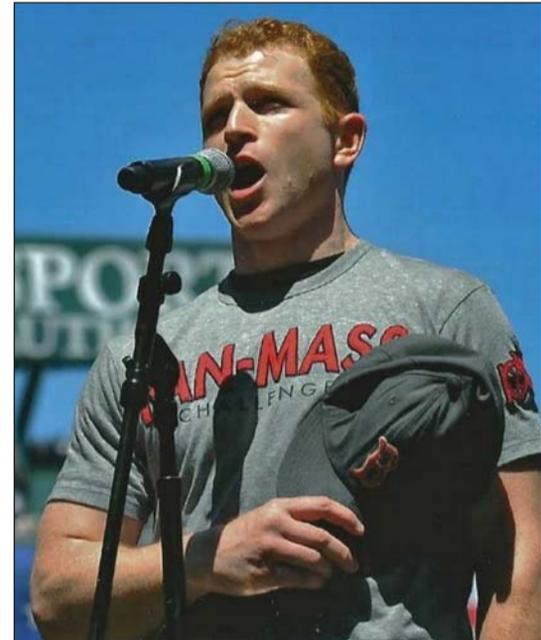
### ■ Music program fundraiser

To raise needed funds for the Monterey High School music program — which will help pay for instruments, equipment, uniforms and scholarships — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Moira Smiley**, singer and guitarist **Luke Wallace**, and the

**Real Vocal String Quartet** will play a benefit concert Sunday 6 p.m., at the Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

The lineup also includes performances by Monterey High student musicians.

"These exceptional artists are generously donating their time and talents to support our students," according to the music program. "Their commitment to developing creative youth is truly inspiring and reflects our vision of building a collaborative community."



Singers Deanna Breiwick and Andrew Garland join Monterey Symphony when it plays Saturday and Sunday at Sunset Center.

## On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

**Deanna Breiwick, Alek Shrader and Andrew Garland.**

The program also includes Haydn's Symphony No. 104 and Mendelssohn's "Hebrides Overture."

Musicologist **Christopher Anderson-Bazzoli** will present a pre-concert talk Saturday at 6:30 p.m., while Ogren will do the same Sunday at 2 p.m. Also, the symphony's principal flutist, **Dawn Walker**, will perform in the Sunset Center lobby before Sunday's concert.

Tickets for general admission start at \$50, while students, teachers and active

The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. For tickets, visit [givebutter.com/goldenfolkbenefitconcert2](http://givebutter.com/goldenfolkbenefitconcert2).

### ■ Jazz jam Sunday

Featuring some of the region's top jazz instrumentalists, the **Andy Weis Trio** steps into the spotlight Sunday when Embassy

Suites hosts its monthly Jazz Jam at 1 p.m.

Led by Weis — a bandleader and one of the Monterey Peninsula's most respected drummers — the trio also includes keyboardist **Gary Meek** and bassist **Steve Uccello**.

"Following the trio's opening perfor-

See MUSIC page 29A

## Celtic Music Series at St. Mary's

### St. Mary's kicks off the SPRING CONCERT SERIES

with a spectacular guitar player, **Jordan Tice**. This show will be an exceptional treat, and a bit of an evolutionary journey from Celtic, to present day Americana to "Newgrass." Jordan will be joined by the extraordinary fiddler **Patrick M'Gonigle**, we are so fortunate that these exceptional musicians are coming for a visit to our humble stage! **Proud to collaborate with our friends at The Otter Opry!**



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## Food & Wine section

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# FOOD & WINE

## SPIFFY NEW RESTAURANT, REBA'S MAKES LEMONADE, 'BACHELOR' TRIVIA

NOTHING GETS a bunch of food writers quite as excited as the opening of a new restaurant. Normally, the crowd here at The Pine Cone fans out to bring you food and wine news from all over the Peninsula, but we all got curious about the restaurant in P.G.'s fancy new hotel at the same time. One intrepid reporter went with

butter breadcrumbs, and the shrimp tostada features coconut aguachile, avocado, Fresno chili, radish, cucumber and chervil. Other starters are caramelized onion dip (add caviar for \$125!), a pair of salads, yellowtail crudo, Hokkaido scallop, shrimp cocktail and fresh oysters.

sparkling rosé. The bold, rich coffee is a serious eye-opener, too. A collection of eclectic dishes runs from \$15 for a generous yogurt parfait with house-made granola and fresh berries, through \$25 for a couple of eggs with Baker's Bacon, crispy potatoes and thick slices of toast, to \$56 for a 7-ounce New York strip with eggs and potatoes.

cakes in two sizes — one suitable for two adults and one more family-sized — and she said she might have some banana pudding on hand, too.

### Soup to Nuts

friends to investigate dinner, and two more of us had a lovely breakfast with fantastic service (great job, Jade) the very next day. We've got a full report for you.

Main courses include a pan-fried pork chop with traditional sweet-and-sour flavors, roasted chicken, a double-patty burger, Scottish salmon, a whole branzino, a cauliflower steak for vegetarians and three steak options for carnivores: Filet Rossini with duck liver mousse, New York strip au poivre, and a 32-ounce prime ribeye with salsa verde. Prices range from \$32 for the burger and the cauliflower to \$155 for the Cowboy steak.

The ricotta toast comes on a thick slice of Otto's sourdough — from the trendy Salinas bakery — with whipped fennel pollen ricotta, seasonal house-made jam, honey and berries. Don't let the honey fool you — it's more savory than sweet, with the creamy fennel-scented cheese piped onto the toast for a pretty presentation. The contrasting textures and flavors make it a delightful combination.

### Grab and go

Mirth is a combination catering business and event space owned by Annie Hobbs, best known from A Taste of Elegance catering.

In addition to pop-up markets posted on its website, mirthcv.com, the kitchen turns out refrigerated grab-and-go dishes and snacks like Greek chicken with lemon potatoes, rice-and-lentil salad, and Mexican street corn (see online schedule), as well as frozen items, including soup, that are available Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Meanwhile, Wilson — a familiar and always cheerful presence at both of her

Meanwhile, Sweet Reba's regulars visiting the bakery in the Crossroads shopping center have found the door locked after a fire last week — but the owner's not letting that slow her down, and she's taking steps to make sure the sweet tooth (sweet teeth?) of her Peninsula customers are satisfied. You can also get a look at the menu from a new spot in Monterey and find out about a trivia fundraiser for Animal Friends Rescue Project that might involve admitting to a guilty TV pleasure.

Options for sweets are gelato, affogato,

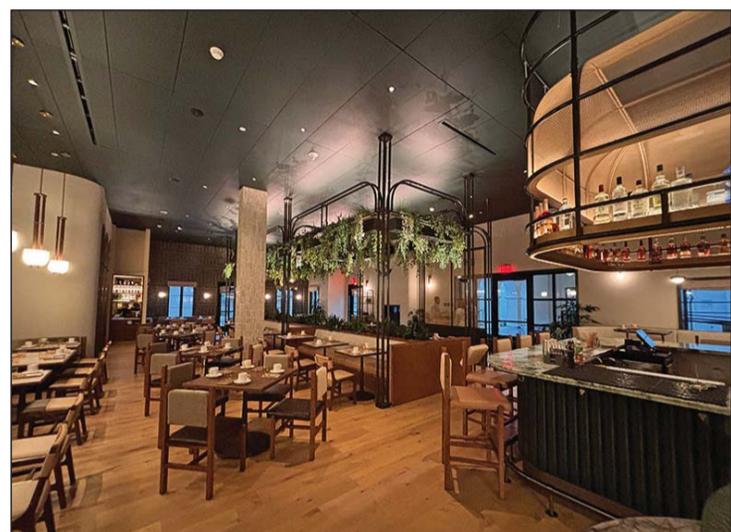
The Caledonian is open daily for breakfast (7 to 11 a.m.), happy hour from 5 to 7

### The Caledonian shines

Chef Aaron Rayor, who most recently helmed the kitchen at Stokes following stints at several other highly regarded Monterey Peninsula restaurants, has brought his affection for traditional culinary methods and high-quality ingredients to The Caledonian, the restaurant in Pacific Grove's new Kimpton Mirador Hotel.



The new Kimpton Mirador Hotel in P.G. is home to The Caledonian restaurant, a sophisticated eatery with a friendly atmosphere. With a menu that's simultaneously familiar and creative, and warm, deft service, it's great for breakfast or dinner (lunch coming soon) — just be prepared to splurge a bit.



"I believe great food comes from respecting the ingredients — every element deserves care, time and intention," says Rayor, who came to the area from Bestia, an acclaimed Los Angeles restaurant, in 2017. A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., he received a baking and pastry diploma from The Art Institute in Orange County.

sticky toffee pudding, a citrus tart and French beignets

p.m., and dinner from 4 to 9 p.m. The bar opens at 4 p.m. and offers service until 10 on weeknights and 11 on Friday and Saturday. The restaurant is at 150 Fountain Ave.

locations — said she's very much looking forward to reopening the Crossroads location. "We love our Carmel crew and miss everybody dearly," she said.

"I honor classical methods such as slow fermentation for doughs and starters, handmade pastas and wood or hearth-based cookery, but I do not replicate tradition blindly and instead reinterpret it with local context, modern sensibility and flavor-forward thinking."

The Caledonian offers a full bar, and its inaugural lineup of "thoughtfully curated cocktails" lists a barrel-aged Paper Plane with Rod & Hammer peach whiskey that's a bit light on the liquor, a rum drink with coffee liqueur and cold brew, and several other concoctions based on a wide range of spirits.

### Lemonade from lemons

### Odds and ends

Rayor capitalizes on the city's weekly Monday farmers market, and at dinnertime, you'll find creative dishes that respect the classics over the edgy.

Where the dinner menu leans toward the classics, the drinks menu includes ingredients like "cocoa puffs milk wash" and spiced coconut agave. Various wines and draft beers are available as well.

As you probably know by now, Sweet Reba's location next to River House Books in the Crossroads Shopping Center had an electrical fire last week.

Nami Restaurant — from the same folks who have Sur at The Barnyard and Pangaea on Ocean Avenue — recently opened in the former Cibo restaurant at 301 Alvarado St., across from the Portola Hotel. Open Sunday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 2 a.m., Nami serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. The fusion menu is reminiscent of Pangaea, with morning choices that include traditional egg dishes, waffles, pancakes and French toast, along with spicy gyoza (dumpling) soup and miso egg drop tofu soup. Later in the day, sashimi and sushi share the page with fish tacos, hamburgers, oysters Rockefeller and more. Pizzas — including an option for a gluten-free cauliflower crust — and pastas are also available. From 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, "Nami Lounge" features a full bar with a DJ and dancing, as well as small bites.

Starters lean heavily toward seafood. Oysters Rockefeller are made with lemon aioli and a generous coating of brown

You can get cocktails at breakfast, too — the Cannery Row Kick is a take on a bloody mary with some lager added, while the Coastal Rose combines Aperol and

Owner Reba Wilson said there was damage from smoke and water, but the shop was structurally OK. She's having professionals assess what repairs need to be made and thinks the doors might stay closed for 4 to 6 weeks.

"We want to clean it up and move on," she said. In the interim, customers experiencing withdrawal can still get their fixes. If you call the Salinas location on South Main Street at (831) 676-0628 and order a box of goodies or a cake, Wilson said her team will deliver it to the Peninsula.

On Friday, from 2:30 to 6 p.m., the bakery will have a pop-up market at Mirth at 13762 Center St. in Carmel Valley.

Wilson said the theme was "making lemonade from lemons," so in addition to her popular chocolate chip cookies and chocolate brownies, there will be lemon brownies, lemon crinkle cookies and lemon mousse. She'll also debut lemonade

On Feb. 26, a short walk away, Alvarado Street Brewery's original location at 426

See FOOD next page

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# FOOD & WINE

## MUSIC

From page 27A

mance, our traditional jam session will begin, and all professional musicians are welcome to participate,” event co-host and singer Lee Durley told The Pine Cone. “This is truly a world-class ensemble, and the opportunity to hear and jam with them is a special treat.”

There’s no cover. Embassy Suites is located at 1441 Canyon Del Rey Blvd.

### Live music Feb. 20-26

#### ■ Big Sur

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

#### ■ Carmel

**Barmel** — singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). Carmel Square on San Carlos north of Seventh.

**Carmel Mission Inn** — **Dr. T & The**

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** — **Vinylducers** (rock, Friday at 6 p.m.), **Side Hustle** (rock, Saturday at 6 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** — **Andrea’s Fault** (jazz and pop, Saturday at noon p.m.), singer and pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at noon). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

**Big Sur Vineyards Tasting Room** — singer and guitarist **Tom Faia** and singer **Kate Miller** (Friday at 5 p.m.). 1 Del Fino Place.

**Edgar’s** — **Evergreen** (folk and pop, Friday at 5:30 p.m.). At Quail Lodge, 8205 Valley Greens Drive.

**Folktale Winery** — **The Landing Trio** (Americana, Friday at 4 p.m.), **Two Rivers** (pop and rock, Saturday at 4 p.m.), **The Peter Martin Trio** (jazz, Sunday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Monday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Tim Brady** (Thursday at 4 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

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

#### ■ Monterey

**Albatross Ridge Winery** — singer and guitarist **Dan Cioper** (Friday at 6 p.m.), **The Landing Trio** (Americana, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

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

**Golden State Theatre** — **The English Beat** (ska and new wave, Saturday at 8 p.m.). 417 Alvarado St. Tickets start at \$43. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

**Hyatt Regency Monterey** — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.

**InterContinental Hotel** — guitarist

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

**Midici Pizza** — multi-instrumentalist **Paul Contos** and guitarist **Bob Basa** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer **Janice Perl** and keyboardist **Ayana Bradley** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

**Monterey Plaza Hotel** — pianist **Martan Mann** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Tom Gastineau** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Bray** (Monday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Daniel Cortes** (Tuesday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Jewel Arianna** (Wednesday at

See LIVE next page



Singer and guitarist Luke Wallace plays for a good cause Sunday at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

## FOOD

From previous page

Alvarado is hosting a trivia night focused on “The Bachelor,” a show no one admits to watching but which somehow gets consistently excellent ratings. The event is a fundraiser for Animal Friends Rescue Project, with the entry fee of \$10 per team going to help cats and dogs find new homes.

From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the beer garden, “We’re delving into the dramatic rose ceremonies, surprise twists, and countless spin-offs in The Bachelor Nation,” says the restaurant’s announcement.

Even if you know nothing about any of that silliness, you’re welcome to bring a team and take some, ahem, educated guesses. Visit [tinyurl.com/y2azd8s7](http://tinyurl.com/y2azd8s7) to learn more.

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



Sweet Reba’s in the Crossroads shopping center is temporarily closed after a fire at the popular bakery. Owner Reba Wilson will have a “lemons into lemonade” pop-up in Carmel Valley Friday with goodies like lemon crinkle cookies.

Be prepared for emergencies! Sign up for alerts at [alertmontereycounty.org](http://alertmontereycounty.org)



Singer and multi-instrumentalist Moira Smiley headlines a fundraiser in Monterey Sunday.

**Remedy** (rock, Tuesday at 5 p.m.), **Open Mic Night** (Wednesday at 6 p.m.), **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Thursday at 5 p.m.). In the Shearwater Tavern, 3665 Rio Road.

**Hyatt Carmel Highlands** — singer and pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz, Friday at 4:45 p.m.), singer **Dino Vera** (jazz, r&b and dance music, Saturday and Thursday



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# FOOD & WINE

## LIVE

From previous page

6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

**Pearl Hour** — **The Al James Trio** (rock and r&b, Friday at 8 p.m.), **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 **Sarah Canet** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Saturday at 4 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

**Sardine Factory** — singer and guitarist **David Conley** (Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.). 701 Wave St.

**Sly McFly's** — **The Hackjammers** (pop and rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **The Bridget Marie Band** (pop, rock and r&b, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Monterey** — singer **Rebecca Sayre**, guitarist **Bruce Forman** and multi-instrumentalist **Gary Meek** ("beloved swing and

Latin standards along with original gems," Saturday at 2 p.m. 490 Aguajito Rd.

### ■ Pacific Grove

**Asilomar Conference Center** — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Tuesday at 4 p.m.). 800 Asilomar Ave.

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

**Julia's Vegetarian Restaurant** — singer and guitarist **Rags Rosenberg** (Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Smith** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea's Fault Duo** (jazz and pop, 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.

**PG's Meetinghouse** — **Open Mic** (Tuesday at 6 p.m., sign up by 5 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

**Pop 'n' Hiss** — **Ricketts' Folly** (jazz, Thursday at 7 p.m.). 215 Forest Ave.

**Wild Fish** — **The Lighthouse Jazz Quartet** (Friday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m.). 545 Lighthouse Ave.



Singer and multi-instrumentalist Bray, who has recorded eight albums, plays Monday, 6 p.m., at Monterey Plaza Hotel.

### ■ 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** — mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Friday at

5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (Thursday at 5 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive.

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

## Will AI make multilingualism obsolete?

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A MIDDLEBURY Institute of International Studies professor will discuss AI's impacts on language learning during the next Carmel Public Library Foundation talk Feb. 25. The fireside chat is the seventh in the nonprofit's series, "The Power of Language."

"The Future Tense: What's Left for Human Language Learners?" will be led by professor Gabriel Guillén at 6:30 p.m. in Harrison Memorial Library at Lincoln and Ocean.

Guillén will seek to answer several questions: "With AI translating speech in real time, why learn another language at all? In this fireside chat, we'll challenge assumptions and explore urgent questions: What does it mean to learn a language

in the age of AI? Can machines teach us empathy, intercultural competence or the skills to connect across differences? And in a world shaped by climate migration and global instability, what roles do human language learners still play?"

"Learning a new language is still one of the most challenging and rewarding adventures of human cognition," he said. "AI now lets us communicate with almost anyone in the world, yet its greatest potential is not to replace language learning but to partner with us as we use language to build identity, empathy, and meaningful connection across cultures."

Registration is required. The event is free and open to the public, with a suggested \$10 donation to benefit the library. For more information, visit [carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org](http://carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org).



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A suspicious dream and a single missing sock ignite a chain of betrayals among two couples. *Broken Yolks* is a sharp, intimate dramedy about love, guilt, and the messy accidents that can scramble families-only to remake them in unexpected ways.

**Wormwood** by Barbara Blatner  
Wormwood follows a woman moving through daily life as the Ukrainian war hums in the background of her texts with her husband as he was conscripted.

**Hemlock Haven** by Karen Devaney  
Five strangers arrive at an elite Vermont retreat to cure their anger, only to discover their tempers-and secrets-won't stay quiet. As the weekend unravels in hilarious and heartfelt ways, each must face the burn.

March 5, 6 & 7 • 7:00 PM  
Stanton Centre Theatre • Monterey  
[www.soapboxstageworks.org](http://www.soapboxstageworks.org)

# ARTIST

From page 19A

would have been perfectly happy as a mediocre student at an art school, but I was dissuaded."

She finished her secondary education learning graphic arts at a co-ed polytechnical school, where her circle of friends included Martin McKendry.

"I didn't care for him. I thought he was kind of obnoxious," she said of Martin, the editor of the school newspaper and a bit of a rebel. He got suspended for growing a beard. "He also had a girlfriend at the time, and I didn't care for her, either."

But their friends got interested in motorcycle riding and camping, the girlfriend faded from the picture, and, 50 years later, Susan and Martin are happily married, with four adult children.

The following year, McKendry joined her husband as a graduate student in the Midwest, where the average temperature was 45 degrees — which seemed sufferable until she experienced winter and summer in Champaign, Ill.

"Most places in New Zealand don't vary by more than 10 degrees all year," she said. "Turns out, 'average temperature' in Illinois is calculated from minus-whatever in the winter, to 99 degrees and 99 percent humidity in the summer. It was evil."

### Vivid memories

Martin's tech career took them to Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Detroit and, eventually, Silicon Valley, with children arriving along the way. Clare was born in 1990, twins Anna and Grace came along in '95, and Harry made his debut in 2000.

By then, their mother had become enamored with ceramics.

"One of Clare's most vivid memories is watching me at my throwing wheel, not being able to reach the clay because I was so pregnant with the twins," McKendry reflected with a laugh.

In 1992, when Martin retired, the McKendry clan moved from the Santa Cruz mountains to Carmel Valley.

All four kids are artistic in their own way.

"Clare sets the example every year by making a gingerbread-house monstrosity, and also does stained glass," Anna said of her big sister, a lawyer who works with teenage boys at a Colorado correctional facility (after a similar gig at Rikers Island in New York), teaching them about the legal system.

"And, of course, we frame Grace's art," said her twin, gesturing, perhaps with a hint of envy, toward a painting hanging in Mama McKendry's ceramics studio.

"Where I work, we started making crazy Halloween decorations every year, building stuff out of cardboard. This year, we made an indoor circus tent — my brainchild," boasted Anna, whose job at a Campbell-based electrical construction company is training recent college grads to join the project-management team.

Harry, who lives in Flagstaff, Ariz., is a maintenance manager, using skills he learned as a 14- and 15-year-old set designer for Pac Rep, where he was on the payroll as a teen.

Clare, Anna, and Grace are Stevenson School gradu-

ates. The twins were homeschooled through their earlier years, and Harry was educated entirely at home.

Their mom looks forward to the time she spends in her studio, but also works as a court-appointed special advocate (CASA) in conjunction with Fresh Lifelines for Youth, a nonprofit serving youth who have been impacted by the justice system. And she served for several years as a mentor and board member for Monterey's Youth Arts Collective, which includes Grace as an alum.

Martin remains a motorcycle enthusiast in retirement.

"He rides his motorcycles, and I sit here and do my pots," said McKendry, whose husband was away on a riding trip with a friend.

Images of McKendry's ceramics can be viewed on Instagram @susanmckpottery. Her work can also be seen on exhibit at Carmel Valley Art Association, 9 Del Fino Place, Carmel Valley Village.

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

# Worship

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# CALENDAR

**Fridays – Dino Vera**, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Terry's Restaurant + Lounge, inside Cypress Inn, Lincoln and Seventh, Carmel-by-the-Sea. For more information, please contact Cypress Inn, (831) 624-3871.

**Feb. 22 – Cabaret By the Sea presents: Musical Duo "Schoolcraft and Murray,"** Groove, Wit, and Harmony! w/**Barbara Brussell Fessler**. 3 p.m. show, reception to follow, at Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 4590 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA 93922. \$20 (o.b.o). Tix at door. [www.schoolcraftandmurray.com](http://www.schoolcraftandmurray.com) For more info, (646) 298-4772.

**Feb. 22 – Cabaret By the Sea presents: Musical Duo Saturdays – Soulful blues with Debbie Davis and Gennady**, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Terry's Restaurant + Lounge, inside Cypress Inn, Lincoln and Seventh, Carmel-by-the-Sea. For more information, please contact Cypress Inn, (831) 624-3871.

**Feb. 25 – Carmel Public Library Foundation presents Fireside Chats at the Library, "The Future Tense: What's Left for Human Language Learners?"** with **Professor Gabriel Guillén**, Middlebury Institute of International Studies, 6:30 p.m., Harrison Memorial Library Reading Room. Register on our website: [carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org](http://carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org). Questions: (831) 624-2811

**Feb. 27 – The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB)** will present a luncheon lecture at the Hilton Garden Inn. **Professor Anna Grzymala-Busse of Stanford University** will address "The Future of NATO and the Liberal Order." Visit <http://www.wacmb.org> for event registration and information.

**March 2 – "An Insider to Outer Space" – James Hansen Newman**, provost of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, American physicist, and former NASA astronaut who flew on four Space Shuttle missions will share his pathway to space. 2 p.m. Carmel Woman's Club, San Carlos and Ninth, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Open to the public. \$10/guests/members free.

**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

**March 5, 6 & 7 – Soapbox StageWorks presents "Romance with a Twist,"** three incredible plays, "Broken Yolks" by **Jeff Westfield**, "Wormwood" by **Babara Blatner** and "Hemlock Haven" by **Karen Devaney**. Curtain is at 7 p.m. at the Stanton Centre Theatre, Monterey. For information and tickets, visit <https://www.soapboxstageworks.org>

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260011  
 Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**1. QUALITY PRINT & COPY**  
**2. CARMEL MAIL & SHIP**  
**3785 Via Nona Marie, Ste. 206, Carmel, CA 93923.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:  
 QUALITY PRINT & COPY, INC., 3785 Via Nona Marie, Ste. 206, Carmel, CA 93923.  
 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 Jan. 2, 2026.  
 S/Natalie Sweet, CEO  
 Date: Jan. 2, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 2, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026 (PC 207)

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: SF2075 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 N/A.  
 S/Ashish Panchal, Manager  
 Date: Jan. 27, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 29, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026 (PC 209)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260230  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**EVENSON DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT, 12747 Sundance Lane, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Registered Owner(s):  
 SALLY EVENSON LOPEZ, Trustee of the Evenson Family 2006 Revocable Trust dated 12-11-2006, 12747 Sundance Lane, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.  
 JENNY EVENSON, Trustee of the Evenson Family 2006 Revocable Trust dated 12-11-2006, 12747 Sundance Lane, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.  
 This business is conducted by a trust.  
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 30, 2026.  
 S/Sally Evenson Lopez  
 Date signed: Jan. 30, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 30, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026 (PC 210)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260229  
 Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**MEDALLION APARTMENTS, 1120 McLellan Avenue, Monterey, CA 93940.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Registered Owner(s):  
 SALLY EVENSON LOPEZ, Trustee of the Evenson Family 2006 Revocable Trust dated 12-11-2006, 12747 Sundance Lane, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.  
 JENNY EVENSON, Trustee of the Evenson Family 2006 Revocable Trust dated 12-11-2006, 12747 Sundance Lane, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.  
 This business is conducted by a trust.  
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 14, 2026.  
 S/Sally Evenson Lopez  
 Date signed: Jan. 30, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 30, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026 (PC 211)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260255  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**1. THE JOY STANDARD**  
**2. CUP OF JOY**  
**3. JOY RIDE**  
**655 Jewell Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:  
 ENGEL MAX LLC, 655 Jewell Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.  
 State of Inc./Org./Reg.: FL  
 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/Bryan Maxson, Member  
 Date: Feb. 2, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 2, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026 (PC 212)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260219  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**PRIME GEN CONSTRUCTION, 6795 Valle Pacifico Rd., Prunedale, CA 93907.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Registered Owner(s):  
 GUILLERMO MOLINA JIMENEZ.  
 This business is conducted by an individual.  
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 1, 2026.  
 S/Guillermo Molina Jimenez  
 Date signed: Jan. 29, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 29, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026 (PC 214)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260179  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**LA URUAPENSE PRODUCTS, 730 Williams Rd, Apt. 134, Salinas, CA 93950.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Registered Owner(s):  
 YANETH GUADALUPE HERNANDEZ-RODRIGUEZ.  
 This business is conducted by an individual.  
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 23, 2026.  
 S/Yaneth Hernandez  
 Date signed: Jan. 23, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 23, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026 (PC 215)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260252  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**GRAVE MASTERS, 25605 Row Pl., Carmel, CA 93923.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Registered Owner(s):  
 FADI ISSA ALNIMRI.  
 CASEY MICHAEL MILLER  
 This business is conducted by a general partnership.  
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.  
 S/Fadi Alnimri  
 Date signed: Feb. 1, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 2, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026 (PC 216)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260143  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**THE POPPY COLLECTIVE, 216 Grand Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:  
 THE POPPY COLLECTIVE OF PACIFIC GROVE, LLC, 216 Grand Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.  
 State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA  
 This business is conducted by a limited liability company.  
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 8, 2026.  
 S/Christy J. Porter, Manager  
 Date: Jan. 21, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 21, 2026.

Publication Dates: Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026 (PC 218)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260244  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**ZENTHETICS, 1283 N. Main St., Ste. 105, Salinas, CA 93906.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Registered Owner(s):  
 JASMINE COBARRUBIAS, 1283 N. Main St., Ste. 105, Salinas, CA 93906.  
 This business is conducted by an individual.  
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 1, 2026.  
 S/Jasmine Cobarrubias  
 Date signed: Feb. 2, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 2, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026 (PC 219)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260245  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**STARFISH FIBERS, 492 Clay Street, Monterey, CA 93940.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Registered Owner(s):  
 STEPHANIE CERVI, 492 Clay Street, Monterey, CA 93940.  
 This business is conducted by an individual.  
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.  
 S/Stephanie Cervi  
 Date signed: Feb. 2, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 2, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026 (PC 221)

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY**

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

Case No. 26CV000545  
 TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES: Petitioner, DEBRA STEPHENS, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
**A. Present name:** DEBRA STEPHENS  
**Proposed name:** DEBRA LEDGER  
 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: April 7, 2026  
 TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
 DEPT: 14  
 The address of the court is 1200 Agujito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.  
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: The Carmel Pine Cone, Carmel.  
 (s) Ian A. Rivamonte  
 Judge of the Superior Court  
 Date filed: Feb. 3, 2026  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026. (PC 222)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260137  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**SALEM HANDYMAN, 914 Acosta Plaza, Unit 83, Salinas, CA 93905.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 SALEM CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC.  
 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 Jan. 20, 2026.  
 S/Oraldo Garcia Garcia  
 Date signed: Jan. 20, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 20, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026 (PC 223)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260224  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**IL FORNAIO, Ocean Ave. at Monte Verde, Carmel By The Sea, CA 93921.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business:

MONTEREY  
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:  
 IL FORNAIO (AMERICA) LLC, 770 Tamalpais Dr., Ste. 208, Corte Madera, CA 94925.  
 State of Inc./Org./Reg.: DE  
 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. 16, 1995.  
 S/Michael Beatrice, CEO  
 Date: Jan. 27, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 29, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026 (PC 225)

**Lien Sale Auction Advertisement**

Notice is hereby given that Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act, (B&P Code 21700 et. Seq.), the undersigned will sell at public auction; personal property including but not limited to furniture, tools, and /or other misc. items.  
 Auction to be held at 4:00 pm on March 10th, 2026:  
 www.selfstorageauction.com  
 The property is stored at:  
 Coastal Storage  
 575 CALIFORNIA AVENUE,  
 SAND CITY, CA 93955  
**Name of Tenants**  
 Perlecia Hunt

2/20/26  
**CNS-4012040#**  
**CARMEL PINE CONE**  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 20, 2026 (PC 226)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260121  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**1. WURIMAL SARANG**  
**2. WURIMAL**  
**935 Lighthouse Ave., Apt. 19, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Registered Owner(s):  
 YUN-HEE RHOADES-KO, 935 Lighthouse Ave., Apt. 19, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.  
 This business is conducted by an individual.  
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 12, 2026.  
 S/Yun-Hee Rhoades-Ko  
 Date signed: Jan. 16, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 16, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026 (PC 227)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260062  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**PEQUEENOS MILAGROS DAYCARE, 209 La Mesa Dr., Salinas, CA 93901.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Registered Owner(s):  
 CAROLINA DE LOS SANTOS-LAINEZ, 209 La Mesa Dr., Salinas, CA 93901.  
 This business is conducted by an individual.  
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Dec. 13, 2025.  
 S/Carolina de Los Santos-Lainez  
 Date signed: Jan. 8, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 8, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026 (PC 228)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260095  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**R & R HEATING AND SHEET METAL SERVICE, 1637 Del Monte Blvd. #B, Seaside, CA 93955.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:  
 R & R HEATING AND SHEET METAL SERVICE LLC, P.O. Box 271, Marina, CA 93933.  
 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 Jan. 14, 2026.  
 S/Rudy Lionel Lopez Canchola, Managing Member  
 Date: Jan. 14, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 14, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026 (PC 230)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260323  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**HABIBI'S KABAB, 223 Reindollar Ave., Suite A-1, Marina, CA 93933.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Registered Owner(s):  
 MAY SAID ALRSHADAT, 152 Via Vaquero Sur, San Juan Bautista, CA 95045.  
 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/May Alrshaidat  
 Date signed: Feb. 11, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 11, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Jan. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026 (PC 231)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260326  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**CENTRAL COAST MARKETING STRATEGIES, 620 Lighthouse Ave. #165, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Registered Owner(s):  
 SELINA SAHBA.  
 This business is conducted by an individual.  
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 11, 2026.  
 S/Selina Sahba  
 Date signed: Feb. 11, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County

Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 11, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Jan. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026 (PC 232)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260324  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**TERIYAKI MADNESS, 1606 N. Main St., Salinas, CA 93906.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:  
 AZASA INC., 1674 Noreen Dr., San Jose, CA 95124.  
 State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA  
 This business is conducted by a corporation.  
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.  
 S/Avez Bashadi, CEO  
 Date: Feb. 11, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 11, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026 (PC 233)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260050  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**1. LUMINOUS BEING**  
**2. GOLDYDN**  
**3. GOLDEN LIGHT HEALING CRYSTALS**  
**4. SYMBOLIC MEANING OF A FLOWER**  
**5. HARMONY WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY**  
**6. HARMONY BOUDOIE PHOTOGRAPHY**  
**7. TSAR IMPERIA**  
**45560 Carmel Valley Road, Greenfield, CA 93927**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:  
 ROYAL GOLD STAR 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 N/A.  
 S/Morningstar Foaiada, Manager  
 Date: Jan. 8, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 8, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026 (PC 234)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260335  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**LUNA ROSE & ESENCIA, 1157 San Rafael St., Soledad, CA 93960.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Registered Owner(s):  
 BRENDA DE LA PAZ ESTRADA MADRANO, 1157 San Rafael St., Soledad, CA 93960.  
 This business is conducted by an individual.  
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 11, 2026.  
 S/Brenda de la Paz Estrada Maadrano  
 Date signed: Feb. 11, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 11, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026 (PC 236)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260336  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**FLOR DE LA MONTANA TRIQUI, 1600 Monterey St., Apt. 12, Soledad, CA 93960.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Registered Owner(s):  
 IRAIS HERNANDEZ GUZMAN.  
 This business is conducted by an individual.  
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 11, 2026.  
 S/Hernandez Guzman Irais  
 Date signed: Feb. 11, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 11, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026 (PC 237)

**Lien Sale Auction Advertisement**

Notice is hereby given that Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act, (B&P Code 21700 et. Seq.), the undersigned will sell at public auction; personal property including but not limited to furniture, tools, and /or other misc. items.  
 Auction to be held at 4:00 pm on March 11th , 2026:  
 www.selfstorageauction.com  
 The property is stored at:  
 Rossi Self Storage  
 10 Rossi Cir, Salinas, CA 93907  
**Name of Tenants**  
 Angela Garcia  
 Christian Ortiz  
 Sharon Quarles  
 Joel Vargas Hernandez

2/20/26  
**CNS-4013492#**  
**CARMEL PINE CONE**  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 20, 2026 (PC 238)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260338  
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**OWL STEAM ACADEMY, 222 Katherine Ave., Salinas, CA 93901.**  
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
 Registered Owner(s):  
 ROBERTA KATHERINE CHATMAN, 222 Katherine Ave., Salinas, CA 92901.  
 This business is conducted by an individual.  
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Aug. 12, 2020.  
 S/Roberta Chatman  
 Date signed: Feb. 12, 2026  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 12, 2026.  
 Publication Dates: Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026 (PC 240)



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on **Monday, March 2, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.**, the City Council of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will hold a Public Hearing via teleconference and in person at the City Hall Council Chambers located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea.

**SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING:**

**APP 26046 (Verizon Sequoia Deployment)**  
 APP 26046 (Verizon Sequoia Deployment)  
 Verizon Wireless, Appellant

Location: PG&E utility pole In Front of Carmelo 4 southeast of 10th Avenue  
 Coordinates: 36.549328, -121.926906

Consideration of an Appeal (APP 26046, Verizon Sequoia Deployment) appealing the Planning Commission's decision to deny a Use Permit, Design Review, and Coastal Development Permit for the construction of a Small Wireless Facility on a replacement PG&E pole in the public right of way in front of Carmelo Street 4 southeast of 10th Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District.

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

<https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/88134597723>  
 Webinar ID: 881 3459 7723  
 Passcode: 954379  
 Dial in: (253) 215-8782

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

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

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

Nova Romero, MMC  
 City Clerk

Dated: 2/17/2026  
 Publish Date: 2/20/2026

Publication dates:  
 Feb. 20, 2026  
 (PC239)



Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the District Board, Carmel Area Wastewater District, at the District office, 3945 Rio Road, Carmel, CA. 93923, until

**3:00 P.M., Wednesday, February 25th, 2026**

at which time they will be publicly opened and read for performing the work as follows:

**LAB HVAC Replacement**

The results of the bidding will be reported to the District Board within forty-five (45) days of the date of the bid opening at which time if bids are found to be acceptable by the District Board, written notice of award will be given to the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder. However, said District Board reserves its right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities of any bids or to re-advertise for all or any part of the equipment contemplated.

No bidder shall withdraw his bid for a period of forty-five (45) calendar days after the date set by the Board for the opening thereof.

Specifications and proposal forms may be secured at no charge by emailing the District's Facilities Manager [foley@cawd.org](mailto:foley@cawd.org) and requesting the documents..

Publication dates: Feb. 13 & 20, 2026 (PC224)

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on **Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 4:30 PM**, the City Council of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will receive a presentation via teleconference and in person at the City Hall Council Chambers located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea.

**SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Annual General Plan and Housing Element Progress Reports for 2025**  
Location: Citywide

Annual General Plan and Housing Element Progress Reports for 2025

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

<https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/86890317537>  
Webinar ID: 831 3897 6374  
Passcode: 862068  
Dial in: (253) 215-8782

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

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

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

Marnie Waffle, Principal Planner

Dated: 2/18/2026  
Publish Date: 2/20/2026

Publication dates:  
Feb. 20, 2026  
(PC245)

LEGALS DEADLINE: Tuesday 3:00 pm • [legals@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:legals@carmelpinecone.com)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260341  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**NEST NUTRITION, 25770 Partridge Pl., Carmel, CA 93923.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:  
DENISE KLEIN NUTRITION LLC, 25770 Partridge Pl., Carmel, California 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 Feb. 12, 2026.  
S/Denise Klein, Manager  
Date: Feb. 12, 2026  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 12, 2026.  
Publication Dates: Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026 (PC 241)

**Lien Sale Auction Advertisement**

Notice is hereby given that Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act, (B&P Code 21700 et. seq.) Auction to be held at 4:00PM on March 11, 2026 at [www.selfstorageauction.com](http://www.selfstorageauction.com). The property is stored at:  
**Marina U Store Self Storage 475 Reservation Road Marina, CA 93933**  
Joshua Eby  
Tonya D. Mahone  
Brija Hernandez  
2/20/26  
**CNS-4013490# CARMEL PINE CONE**  
Publication Dates: Feb. 20, 2026. (PC 242)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260276  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**COASTLINE JUNK REMOVAL, 39 Navajo Dr., Salinas, CA 93906.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:  
SALINAS VALLEY APPLIANCE REPAIR, INC., 1628 N. Main St., Salinas, CA 93906.  
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. 20, 2025.  
S/Frank Jacobo, President  
Date: Feb. 3, 2026  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 3, 2026.  
Publication Dates: Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026 (PC 243)

**BE PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES**  
Register your phone number at:  
[alertmontereycounty.org](http://alertmontereycounty.org)

**Lien Sale Auction Advertisement**

Notice is hereby given that, Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act (B&P Code 21700 et Seq.), the undersigned will sell at public auction personal property, including but not limited to furniture, clothing, tools, and/or other misc. items.  
Auction to be held at 4:00 pm on March 11, 2026, at [www.selfstorageauction.com](http://www.selfstorageauction.com)  
The property is stored at:  
Leonard's Lockers Self Storage, 816 Elvee Drive, Salinas, CA 93901  
**Tenant Name:**  
Josefina Roldan Raya  
Frances Toni Alicia Morales  
Lute Fukofuka Vea  
Gabriel Martinez  
Juan Gabriel Santiago Vivar  
Elba Gomez  
2/20/26  
**CNS-4013491# CARMEL PINE CONE**  
Publication Dates: Feb. 20, 2026. (PC 244)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260253  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:  
**America's Tire, 75 Iron Point Circle, Suite 180, Folsom, CA 95630,** County of Sacramento  
Registered Owner(s):  
Southern California Discount Tire Co., Inc., 20225 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85255.  
This business is conducted by a corporation.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on February 12, 2013.

S/ David Scott Fehrman, Secretary  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 02/02/2026.  
2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13/26  
**CNS-4012206# CARMEL PINE CONE**  
Publication Dates: Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026. (PC 246)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260366  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **ANTHEM CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING, 577 Powell St., Salinas, CA 93907.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s):  
TIMOTHY MICHAEL OXENDINE.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 18, 2026.  
S/Timothy Oxendine  
Date signed: Feb. 18, 2026  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 18, 2026.  
Publication Dates: Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026 (PC 247)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260360  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**MYCARD.GOLF, 21112 Country Park Rd., Salinas, California 93908.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:  
KINGMAN TECHNOLOGY GROUP LLC., 21112 Country Park Rd., Salinas, CA 93908.  
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/John Thomas Kingman, CEO  
Date: Feb. 17, 2026  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 17, 2026.  
Publication Dates: Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026 (PC 248)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20260102  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **ALL GOOD THINGS, 58A Calera Canyon, Salinas, CA 93908.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s):  
THOMAS JOSEPH SILVA.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 13, 2026.  
S/Thomas Silva  
Date signed: Jan. 13, 2026  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 14, 2026.  
Publication Dates: Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026 (PC 249)

REACH YOUR CLIENTS IN THE CARMEL PINE CONE



**Auto, Home & Garden**

The Auto, Home & Garden Section is Published Every Other Week

Meena Lewellen (831) 274-8655 [meena@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:meena@carmelpinecone.com)

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**Police Log: Dec. 29, 30**

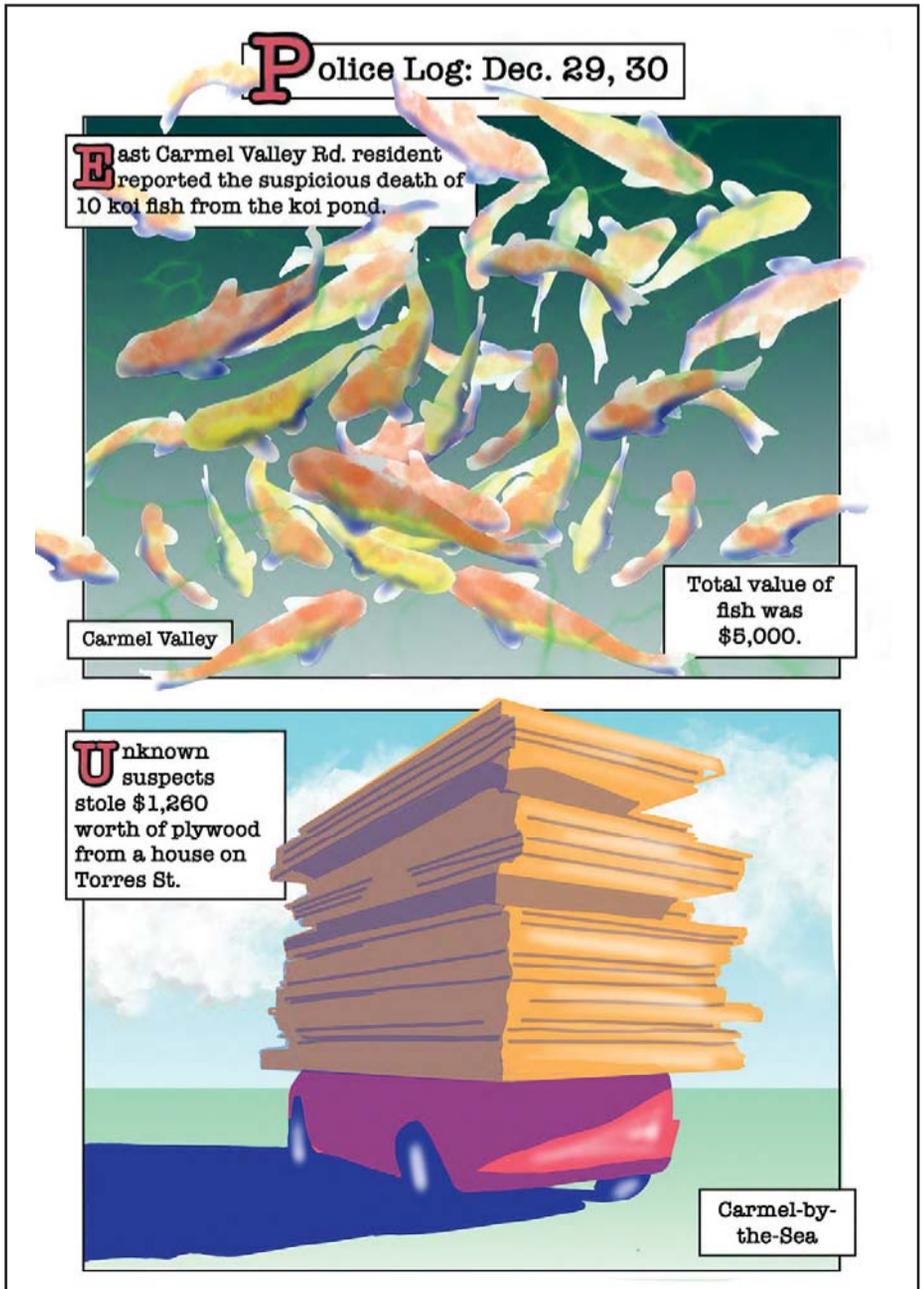
**East Carmel Valley Rd. resident reported the suspicious death of 10 koi fish from the koi pond.**

**Carmel Valley**

**Total value of fish was \$5,000.**

**Unknown suspects stole \$1,260 worth of plywood from a house on Torres St.**

**Carmel-by-the-Sea**



# MAYOR

From page 19A

and little leverage, and painful service cuts followed.

In the second village, leaders believed incremental adjustments would be enough. A fee here. A bond there. Another project deferred. It worked, until it didn't. As they watched their larger neighbor, they tried bringing in outside professionals, but residents resisted. Their emergency would arrive later.

## ■ The third village

The third, much smaller village watched this unfold and recognized it faced the same pension and maintenance pressures. Its residents loved their town and feared overbuilding, even as their economy had shifted to a dependence on tourism. Instead of asking how to preserve things exactly as they were, they asked: What if protecting our village requires planning at the scale of the pressures we face?

They looked at what they already owned: public land and facilities. They looked at surface parking lots and saw housing, structured parking, and a revenue stream. They committed to projects addressing state housing requirements that could also fund infrastructure instead of burdening residents with costs and parking issues. They retained public control but partnered where expertise and capital were needed. Projects were structured so that developers who benefited from valuable public land also delivered new public facilities the village could not afford to build on its own.

It was not simple. It was not universally popular. But it was intentional. They chose to act while they still had options and could still write their own story.

## ■ The choices before us

Financial emergencies do not appear suddenly. They follow years of deferred decisions. Deferred maintenance is not a spreadsheet entry. It is the pothole that grows, the roof that leaks, the building that no longer meets modern standards. By the

time emergencies are declared, flexibility has narrowed.

Carmel is not in a financial emergency today. But we face many of the same pressures: huge deferred maintenance, pension liabilities, unfunded housing mandates, and heavy dependence on tourism, all while operating with limited tools as a General Law City.

The real choice is not whether change will happen. We are watching it unfold around us. The choice is whether we shape it deliberately, using the assets we possess, or wait until urgency shapes it for us.

The first two villages did not lose their character. They gradually lost leverage and options. The third understood that protecting character and quality of life requires courage before crisis.

We still have time. We still have assets. We have already started taking a hard look at our finances. With budget season approaching, let's make sure Carmel looks like the third village.

To hear a podcast generated from this column, go to [cli.re/threevillages](https://cli.re/threevillages).

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

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# SERVICE DIRECTORY

Continues from previous page

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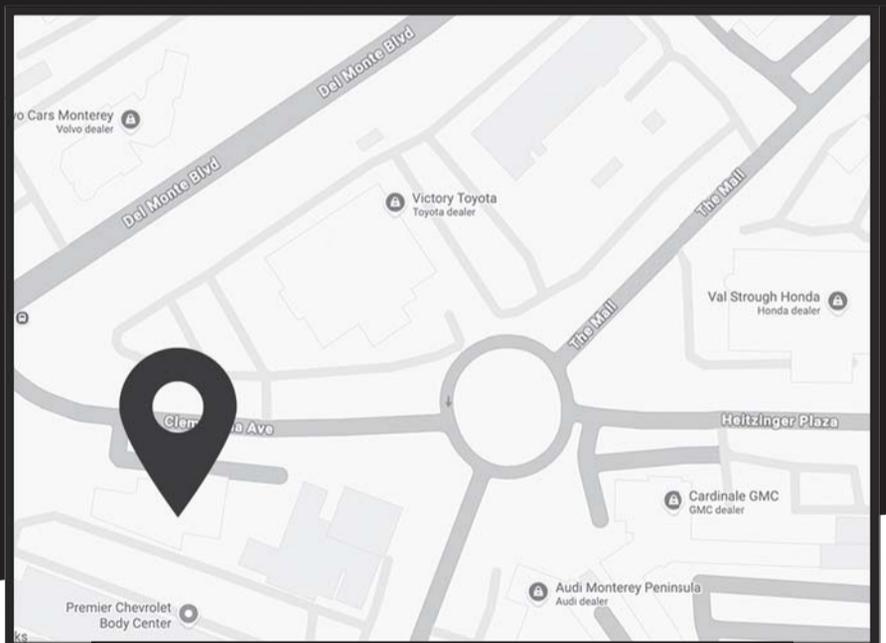
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