



A celebration of the Carmel lifestyle ... inside this week!

In Your *Dreams*



The Carmel Pine Cone

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October 9-15, 2026

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Curious dog rescued from Big Sur cliff



PHOTO/BIG SUR FIRE

Humphrey was visiting Big Sur with his family Monday when he got a little too curious near Kirk Creek and went over the cliff edge, where his owners couldn't reach him, Big Sur Fire said. Capt. Lyle Southall and a crew set up a rope system and brought him back up. He looks like a sheepadoodle — and, in the captain's arms, still a bit stunned by the misadventure.

Police drone proposal grounded by council

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL Police Department's request for a policy governing drone operations — with the prospect of buying an eye in the sky — did not take flight at Monday's city council meeting. Although some councilmembers were cautiously open to the idea of letting police officers have and use a drone, provided numerous safeguards are adopted, they rejected it because of privacy, public trust and other concerns.

In pitching the plan Oct. 5, CPD Sgt. Michael Bruno told the council that deploying a drone during the May 30 citywide evacuation drill proved useful.

"For the first time in my career, we had a drone up in the air, and the drone had an overhead perspective of everything that was going on," he said.

Time critical

Based on what they saw, personnel at the command post relayed information to officers in the field about traffic choke points and other conditions, allowing them to respond accordingly.

Bruno suggested CPD could use a drone for searches, ocean rescues, "critical incidents, including barricaded or armed subjects, perimeter assessment and situational awareness," scene documentation and disaster response.

Missing-person cases are a prime example.

"This happens all the time. When a missing person is reported, we activate the community emergency response team and the fire department, and we start a grid search," he said. "It consumes a lot of resources, and it takes a lot of time. We search areas in a systematic way, and it takes a while."

A drone could help find a missing person much more quickly and safely — especially at night, using thermal imaging — he argued. It could also locate a drowning victim and even drop a flotation device, rather than having to wait for the fire department, California State Parks or the U.S. Coast Guard to send a boat.

Police Chief Todd Trayer suggested a drone could be used by other city departments, subject to policies



PHOTO/COURTESY CARMEL P.D.

A drone captured images of Carmel's citywide evacuation drill May 30. Now the police department wants one of its own.

Are businesses the enemy of town's culture?

■ Plan to share First Murphy draws ire

By MARY SCHLEY

A PROPOSAL that went nowhere in spring 2024 received the full endorsement of the Carmel City Council on Tuesday when it directed the city attorney to work with the Carmel Chamber of Commerce and the Carmel

Heritage Society on a joint lease for the historic First Murphy House in the park at 573 Lincoln St.

The arrangement would allow the 124-year-old house, which serves as the city's only museum, to be open more often because chamber volunteers could be trained as docents, according to proponents. Opponents said they fear that blending commercial and historical interests would favor business over history and culture.

Thumbs up or down?

"Recently, the idea was revived, with interest from both the chamber and the heritage society board," acting city administrator Brandon Swanson explained at the Oct. 6 meeting before turning the presentation over to chamber president and CEO Kati Enea and Carmel Heritage Society executive director Leah Beets.

"What we need is basically a thumbs-up or thumbs-down" on drafting a new lease allowing the nonprofits to share the space, he told the council.

See **CULTURE** page 18A

and legal requirements, including public works, Monterey Fire, community planning and building, and the city administrator's office.

"Potential applications could include storm and infrastructure assessments, damage documentation, emergency response, building or site assessments, wildfire and fire-related incidents, coastal or bluff observations, and other situations where an aerial perspective could improve safety, efficiency or situational awareness," he wrote.

No 'weaponization'

Trayer submitted a draft policy establishing guidelines for drone operations and the collection, storage, retrieval and dissemination of images and data. The policy would comply with constitutional privacy protections and Federal Aviation Administration requirements and would

See **DRONE** page 16A

California math scores are headed down

■ Will screening kindergartners help?

By CAITLIN CONRAD

MOST CALIFORNIA kids cannot do math, at least not at grade level. State testing shows 37.3% of students met or exceeded the standard in mathematics in 2025. The year before, fourth graders' dismal performance on federal standardized tests put California near the bottom of the pack on the Nation's Report Card.

Meanwhile, college professors are complaining that

Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

students arriving in lecture halls are woefully unprepared for their courses. Last year, the University of California San Diego mathematics department reported that one in 12 freshmen arrived with math skills below the middle-school level. At UC Berkeley, calculus instructors have bemoaned the need to teach fractions to students enrolled in their math courses.

See **MATH** page 14A



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Sharing the historic First Murphy House would mean having it open more often, but some worry about blending business and history.

State orders county welfare office to close

■ \$4M bill for ADA improvements

By KELLY NIX

MONTEREY COUNTY is being forced to close a Seaside welfare office after a state agency found that the building fails to meet numerous accessibility requirements.

On Monday, the County of Monterey Department of Social Services announced that the community benefits office at 1281 Broadway will permanently close Oct. 30. The office helps customers apply for CalWORKs, Cal-Fresh and Medi-Cal benefits, among other services.

The problem? The county cannot afford to pay for the roughly \$4 million in upgrades that the state says the 13,000-square-foot office needs to adequately serve people with disabilities.

Cash-strapped

"It turns out there were quite a few improvements that would need to happen to continue to use that facility for the services it was providing," county spokesperson Nick Pasculli told The Pine Cone on Tuesday. The building was constructed in 1975.

The issue arose in June 2025, when the California Department of Social Services conducted an onsite accessibility survey to determine whether the Seaside building

See **WELFARE** page 17A



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Sandy Claws

Cleans up cute

For 12 years, she had been devoted to Angel, a 6-pound Yorkie who had begun to decline. As she worked to manage the little dog's growing health problems, she knew she wouldn't be able to handle life without a dog in her home. She began looking for another.

The first dog she met was a little unattractive. Her face was cute, but she had been shaved to address the matting typical, and the result was less than desirable. She studied the little shih tzu — mixed with a bit of Lhasa apso, Maltese and Tibetan spaniel — languishing in a pen at an adopt-a-dog event and wondered: Would this puppy grow into something appealing?

"When I picked her up, she looked directly into my eyes and licked my nose," her person said. "And that was it. I said, 'You're coming home.' She seemed to know she would be."

She named her Sparkle, perhaps because of the bling-encrusted collar and harness with which she adorns her — plus, on occasion, fuchsia-dyed fur — or because of the light in Sparkle's eyes when their eyes lock.

"Sparkle has been nothing but a dream dog," her person said. "She is super laid-back, very patient and talks to me softly when she wants something. She has taught me what she means."



Sparkle loves walking around her Monterey neighborhood, greeting and being greeted by neighbors who know her by name. She follows her person around the house, barking and nipping at her ankles until the message is received and the leash is out.

"We've also wandered the path around El Estero," her person said. "And my mom and I have taken Sparkle to Carmel Beach. But she is afraid of the water because of the sound of the waves, so unless we set her on the shoreline, she's not getting wet."

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Car Week gets better grades

■ Council seeks some changes

By MARY SCHLEY

BUSINESSES SHOULD be restricted in the number of parking spaces they can rent during Car Week, or not allowed to rent any at all, so they can’t stage impromptu shows, Carmel City Council members said Tuesday during Police Chief Todd Trayer’s after-action report on August’s automotive activities. Cops should write a ticket for every vehicle caught exceeding noise limits, and maybe the three organized shows in town should be reduced to two or even one.

But they nonetheless had relatively few complaints — a striking contrast to their reactions last year, when they called for “fundamentally rethinking what Car Week is” — and the public didn’t have much to say at the Oct. 6 meeting, either.

People who took the city’s annual survey and attended his listening sessions seemed to react more positively, too, Trayer observed.

In recounting the week, Trayer said the three main events — Concours for a Cause, Astons on the Avenue and the Ferrari Owners Club’s Concours Carmel — basically went off without a hitch, in part thanks to having more police officers and volunteers on duty those days.

A shuttle carrying visitors between Larson Field and downtown also cut traffic and parking congestion.

Writing tickets

But a few activities caused some headaches for law enforcement and generated complaints, according to Trayer, including Mad Dogs & Englishmen’s Cars & Coffee, Fourtané’s use of 11 parking spaces on Lincoln Street for fancy cars several days in a row, L’Auberge Carmel’s assortment

of high-end vehicles and Range Rover’s buyout of the Stilwell Hotel to transform it into “The Residence at Range Rover House,” a nearly weeklong, invitation-only luxury experience that included test drives, with vehicles occupying numerous parking spaces.

Lots of pedestrians

“People did call about them, and they had a lot of pedestrian action at some of these events,” Trayer said, especially with Fourtané essentially taking over a block of Lincoln. “They had a ton of people standing there, and it attracted a lot of attention” over the weekend, he said. “There were more people there, and I think it took a lot of our resources just to make sure there were no problems.”

Acting city administrator Brandon Swanson said the Fourtané situation revealed “a hole in the policy of renting spaces, in that there isn’t anything to prevent someone from renting 11 spaces and effectively creating a car show, which is what they did.”

“So, that’s something for next year that we’re going to change,” he said, and councilman Jeff Baron reiterated the council’s direction last year that if a business rents a space and parks a special car in it, that car must remain there all day, rather than having multiple vehicles rolling through.

The Mad Dogs event involved no rented parking but brought crowds and unruly driving, according to Trayer. It dissipated as soon as officers started writing citations. “Somebody was getting quite a ticket, and then that just broke everything up,” he said. “People were not interested in getting those types of tickets from us.”

While the sideshows and shenanigans of the past didn’t plague downtown and

In a survey, nearly 60% said this year’s was an improvement

See CAR WEEK page 21A

ART FERNANDEZ

CUSD GOVERNING BOARD | TRUSTEE AREA 2

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4A

The Carmel Pine Cone

October 9, 2026



Police & Sheriff's Log

Dog vs. officer with clipboard

HERE'S A look at some of the significant calls logged by the police departments of Carmel-by-the-Sea, Pacific Grove, Monterey, Seaside and Marina. This week's log was compiled by Mary Schley.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Monterey: Missing person reported on Del Monte Boulevard.

Monterey: Violation of a domestic violence court order on Alvarado Street.

Monterey: Vandalism on Aguajito Road.

Pacific Grove: Violation of a court order on Eighth Street.

Pacific Grove: Firearms surrendered for destruction.

Pacific Grove: Verbal domestic dispute on Piedmont Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Deceased animal found at Sixth Street and Pine Avenue.

Pacific Grove: A 45-year-old man was arrested at Country Club Gate following a physical domestic dispute and booked into Monterey County Jail.

Monterey: Battery on a peace officer, resisting an executive officer and driving under the influence reported on Del Monte Boulevard.

Monterey: A person on Del Monte Boulevard was placed on a 72-hour mental health evaluation hold.

Monterey: Carrying a loaded firearm in public on Pearl Street.

Monterey: Possession of a narcotic controlled substance and drug paraphernalia on Larkin Street.

Monterey: An 18-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting at Del Monte Shopping Center.

Monterey: Report of a person contacting a minor with the intent to commit a sexual offense and arranging a meeting with the minor on Sonoma Avenue.

See POLICE LOG page 36A



The gavel falls

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

Sept. 9 — Edgar Banuelos, 37, of Castroville was sentenced by Judge Andrew G. Liu to 11 years and eight months in state prison after pleading guilty to gross vehicular manslaughter, felony child abuse causing great bodily injury and a second count of felony child abuse. Banuelos intentionally drove recklessly with his three sons as passengers and crashed, killing his 16-year-old son and seriously injuring his 14-year-old son. Banuelos' 7-year-old son was also in the vehicle but was not injured. The child abuse convictions constitute strikes under California's three-strikes law.

On April 3, Banuelos picked up his three sons after a custody exchange with their mother at the 7-Eleven in Castroville. While driving his Volkswagen sedan on a narrow section of Meridian Road near Revilla Drive, Banuelos intentionally accelerated to a very high speed, causing the vehicle to strike a tree. The vehicle caught fire.

Residents in the area rushed to help. Banuelos and his 7- and 14-year-old sons escaped from the vehicle, but his 16-year-old son, who was seated in the front passenger seat, could not be extracted. He died from blunt-force injuries sustained in the collision. Banuelos' 14-year-old son suffered serious injuries and was flown to a medical facility in Santa Clara for treatment. At sentencing, Banuelos addressed the court and apologized to his children, family and friends.

The California Highway Patrol investigated the case, including officers Jose Garcia-Lara, Gabriel Perez-Trejo, Wesley Barnes, William Milward and Isidro Muro, along with Sgt. Mackenzie Crouch.

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Ex-P.B. man faces prison for fraud

By KELLY NIX

A “CHARMING and generous” former Pebble Beach tax preparer and pastor who offered inspirational, faith-based messages on his church’s YouTube channel faces up to 32 years in federal prison for preparing fraudulent tax returns that cost the government more than \$25 million, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Kerwin Aldric Jordan, 71, formerly lived in a 2,600-square-foot home on Strawberry Hill Road. In May, he pleaded guilty to four counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false federal income tax returns, one count of wire fraud and one count of making a false statement to the U.S. Small Business Administration in connection with a Covid relief loan application. He is scheduled to be sentenced Nov. 16.

Now a resident of Castaic, Jordan was president of the tax preparation business, The Jordan Corporation. He also owned and operated Jordan and Jordan: A Financial Conquest.

But the companies were shams, according to the Justice Department.

“Jordan held himself out as a tax attorney and certified public accountant, neither of which he was,” the department said. “Jordan prepared federal tax returns for his clients which fraudulently reduced his taxpayer-clients’ taxable income.”

Jordan falsely reported that his clients owned one or more businesses despite knowing the businesses did not exist. He then reported losses for those nonexistent businesses to reduce his clients’ taxable income.

From 2018 to 2023, Jordan filed more than 1,370 federal tax returns for clients that reported combined business losses of more than \$73 million, the Justice Department said. Prosecutors said the returns he prepared caused more than \$25 million in losses to the U.S. Treasury.

Lied on forms

“For example, Jordan reduced a married couple’s \$2 million income with fraudulent expenses of more than \$1 million for non-existent businesses, eliminating additional taxes the couple would have owed and generating a tax refund of almost \$25,000,” the department said. “The couple paid Jordan nearly \$28,000 for the preparation of their return.”

Jordan also lied on applications for Covid-era Paycheck Protection Program loans, receiving \$188,667. He obtained an additional \$276,600 in Economic Injury Disaster Loans for Jordan and Jordan, Euphrates Wealth Asset Management and the nonprofit Lifestyles of the Rich in Faith Church.

“To obtain these loans, Jordan falsely reported that the companies had employees when, in fact, they had none,” the Justice Department said.

Words of wisdom?

Nonprofit tax forms Jordan filed in 2025 list him as the “pastor” of Lifestyles of the Rich in Faith Church. The forms describe the church’s mission as providing financial assistance to homeless veterans, law enforcement families, single mothers with children and people with disabilities. They list the UPS Store at the Carmel

See **FRAUD** page 29A



Kerwin Jordan

Hans Buder

FOR MAYOR

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA



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My top priority as Mayor will be to build a more effective and accountable City government that delivers the high standard of service our residents deserve. We'll bring a new focus on performance management—tracking everything from permit processing times to resident satisfaction—and use the results to continuously improve City services.

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SoCal school buys MIIS for \$52.5M

By KELLY NIX

SOKA UNIVERSITY of America closed escrow last week on the Middlebury Institute of International Studies campus in Monterey for \$52.5 million, according to documents filed with the Monterey County Recorder’s Office. The liberal arts school completed the purchase Sept. 30.

The former MIIS downtown Monterey campus includes roughly 20 buildings along Franklin, Pacific, Jefferson, Pierce and Van Buren streets. The sale followed Middlebury’s announcement in May that it had entered into negotiations with Soka and a statement in August that the institutions had signed a purchase agreement.

Soka formed a new company, Monterey Institute of International Studies LLC, for the transaction.

President Ed Feasel said in August that classes at the Monterey campus are expected to begin in fall 2027. Middlebury plans to conclude its in-person programs by summer 2027 and its remaining online master’s programs in August 2027.

“Soka is committed to fostering global citizens who contribute to a more just, peaceful and sustainable world,” Feasel said. “For over 70 years, MIIS has prepared professionals to address critical global issues, training diplomats, interpreters, business leaders, policy experts and nonproliferation advocates. Continuing these graduate programs advances our shared purpose of promoting intercultural understanding and human rights through education.”

The school plans to continue 10 in-person master’s programs, including those in nonproliferation

and terrorism studies, threat intelligence, international policy and development, global governance and policy, translation, localization management and interpretation, according to its website. It also plans to offer three online graduate programs in cybersecurity, localization project management and sustainability.

‘Buddhist principles’

Soka University of America opened its Aliso Viejo campus in 2001. The private, nonprofit university says it was founded on the “Buddhist principles of peace, human rights and the dignity of life” and offers a nonsectarian curriculum.

The sale includes the institute’s main campus buildings. The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, though, will remain part of Middlebury and continue operating in Monterey and Washington, D.C., as well as Middlebury, Vermont, and Vienna, Austria.

Soka enrolls roughly 480 students. Tuition for the 2026-2027 academic year is \$38,486, according to the university’s website.



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

A Southern California university with a similar mission to Middlebury Institute in Monterey bought the campus for \$52 million.

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- Carmel Residents Association Board Member 2024 – 2026

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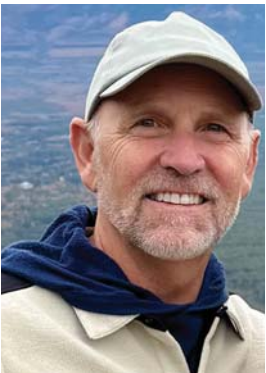
- A council needs experience, different perspectives, and above all, respect for other points of view.
- Protecting Carmel’s special village character while thoughtfully embracing its future.
- Carmel’s success depends on the Council’s strong relationships with residents, City employees, Carmel Unified School District, the Chamber of Commerce, the arts, and our Peninsula communities.

SOME OF MY GOALS

- **Build a stronger regional voice.** Work with our Peninsula cities to anticipate state mandates and advocate together in Sacramento.
- **Strengthen our partnership with Carmel Unified.** Create a relationship where the City and School District work together and benefit one another
- **Work closely with our tourism management partners.** Set clear expectations: attract shoulder-season, fly-in guests who stay longer and experience Carmel without a car.
- **Create a proactive grant program.** Pursue state, federal, and private grants for infrastructure, safety, parks, transportation, and other community projects.

HOW WILL I DO IT?

- **BUILD A STRONGER REGIONAL VOICE**
Meet regularly with Peninsula leaders and lead joint efforts to advocate in Sacramento.
- **STRENGTHEN OUR SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP**
Schedule regular meetings with Carmel Unified leadership and create more opportunities for students to participate with City Hall.
- **PRACTICE SOUND TOURISM MANAGEMENT**
Work directly with Visit Carmel, See Monterey and the Chamber, track progress toward our overnight-stay goals, and regularly report the results to the public.
- **CREATE A PROACTIVE GRANT PROGRAM**
Require regular progress reports on grants identified, applied for and awarded—and celebrate our successes



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Two vie for Carmel school board

By LILY PATTERSON

FOR THE first time in two decades, Carmel voters will be asked to consider a general obligation bond — and not a small one. Carmel Unified School District officials have said the \$250 million proposal is a critical investment to address deteriorating utility lines, aging school buildings and classroom technology upgrades, and an independent campaign committee has been formed to rally support among taxpayers.

Former Democratic Rep. Sam Farr and Democratic Rep. Jimmy Panetta have endorsed the measure, according to Jon Guidi, a CUSD parent and chair of the Yes on Measure I campaign.

Voters also will have a chance to elect new members of the school board Nov. 3 because incumbents Sara Hinds and Jake Odello are not seeking reelection. Carmel Valley resident Joseph Macaluso is set to claim the District 4 seat in an uncontested race, while two candidates are vying to represent District 2, which includes Carmel High and River schools.

‘Consequential investments’

Karey Shaffer is a program manager with the Naval Postgraduate School’s Acquisition Research Program, which supports research into the business of military operations, she told The Pine Cone. Art Fernandez, a CUSD alumnus and technology professional, described working with product development teams at Apple and in other “fast-moving technology environments where consequential investment decisions had to be made despite changing conditions and incomplete information,” says his candidate website.

Although both support Measure I’s broader goals, they expressed concern that parents and taxpayers do not

understand how the district is managing their investments.

Building priorities

“What I’ve seen in the last two years, overarching everything, is that parents want to know what the district’s priorities are. Trust, transparency and communication are issues,” said Fernandez, who serves as treasurer of the parent-teacher organization at River School, where his son attends.

While acknowledging strict legal limits on how the money may be spent, Fernandez said he opposes Measure I because the board failed to establish a clear accountability framework before asking voters for their support. With an estimated tax rate of \$36 per \$100,000 of assessed property value, the bond would generate about \$17.7 million annually for capital improvements.

“A \$250 million authorization can have a lot of scope and breadth of impact. CUSD is beautiful, but buildings are showing their age, and the bond is definitely justified.

“My qualm is that there isn’t a governance piece to Measure I about prioritization, progress and spending. Is rebuilding a gym a higher priority than a technology investment? What’s the impact? What’s the trade-off?” Fernandez said.

Earlier this year, the district completed an assessment of deferred maintenance and facility needs at its nine campuses. Shaffer noted that an itemized list was presented to the board and published online, but “there is more work to be done from a communications standpoint.”

“There’s an assumption that CUSD has money readily available, but the district spends a lot on teachers and staff, and

See **SCHOOL BOARD** page 29A

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DAWN ADDIS is a public school teacher, mom, and former city councilmember who has served in the State Assembly since 2022.

Paid for by Dawn Addis for Assembly 2026

DAWNADDIS.ORG

Hooray, ‘Spooky Season’ is here!

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CITY of Carmel is rolling out its plethora of Halloween festivities — culminating with a celebration of its 110th birthday Oct. 31 — while the chamber of commerce and other groups are hosting similarly inspired events.

The fun kicks off with Third Thursday in the Park Oct. 15 from 4 to 7 p.m. Organized by farmers market manager Good Roots, Inc., in collaboration with the city, in Devendorf Park at 544 Sixth Ave., the event will feature Halloween-themed activities and decor, music, games, food and drinks, including wine and beer. Costumes are encouraged.

With roots in shenanigans, the 11th Annual Pumpkin Roll is set for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 24. In days gone by, locals would steal pumpkins in the darkness of night and toss them down Ocean Avenue to see how far they would get before turning into mush, but the official (and legal) event invites participants to choose a free pumpkin from the pile at Ocean and Santa Fe and roll it down the city’s main drag, with those getting to the bottom landing in a giant dumpster.

Zombie-free zone

“Find out what size pumpkin rolls best in the bright light of day where the zombies can’t get you,” the city’s community activities department says. Ocean will be closed between Carpenter and Junipero from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to allow for setup, lots of pumpkin rolling, and cleanup.

An hour later, the Carmel Chamber of Commerce’s Howl-o-Ween Pet Parade and Costume Contest will take place in Carmel Plaza, where everyone’s four-legged friends will strut their stuff in the spookiest, silliest or most creative costumes their humans can find and convince them

to wear. Categories are best pet and owner lookalike, scariest, funniest costume, best pack and best Carmel-inspired costume.

Registration and a “spooky social” run from 2 to 3 p.m., and the first 50 pets registered will receive free treat bags. The contest and parade will be held at 3, followed by Yappy Hour at Carmel Plaza businesses from 4 to 5 p.m. Entry fees are \$35 for chamber members, \$40 for nonmembers, and \$45 for everyone the day of the event. For more information or to register, visit carmelchamber.org, click on “events.” The Plaza is located at 526 Ocean Ave.

In Pacific Grove Oct. 23-24,



The ever-popular pumpkin roll returns to Ocean Avenue Oct. 24 as part of the city's many Halloween festivities.

public works is staging “Frighthouse Tours: Haunting Tales & Legends of the Point Pinos Lighthouse” at 6:45 and 8:15 p.m.

“These 75-minute excursions will lead you through the lighthouse’s shadowy grounds and candlelit rooms as your knowledgeable guide shares the fascinating, and sometimes tragic, history of the Point Pinos Lighthouse,” P.G. organizers say. “You will even have the chance to venture into the basement if you dare.”

See HALLOWEEN page 35A

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Current Forest and Beach Commissioner, former Chair Kelly Brezoczky
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Tim Twomey
Carolyn White, DDS
Chris White
Frank Williams
Sherry Williams
Lance Wills
Tasha Witt
Dylan Witt, MD
Sara Zirkel
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“Alissandra is a dedicated and highly effective city councilor. We need her voice at the table for another term.” **Bob Delves, Current Carmel-by-the-Sea City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem, former three-term mayor of Mountain Village, Colorado**

“During the past four years I have watched Alissandra become a vital member of our City Council. Always prepared and listening to all points of view, she votes on issues with an open mind. It is with gratitude that I will cast my vote for Alissandra this November.” **Paula Hazdovac, Former Carmel City Council Member (1994-2012) and Vice Mayor, longtime Carmel resident, third generation**

“I am proud to endorse Alissandra Dramov for re-election to City Council. She is deeply knowledgeable about our small-town government, and as the only woman on the council, she brings an important perspective and a strong voice to the table—she is truly an asset to our community.” **Susan Prest, Carmel resident, retired health care executive, Carmel Public Library Foundation co-chair, former Sunset Center Board of Trustees member**

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- Improve our aging infrastructure
- Maintain fiscal sustainability
- Protect the coastline and urban canopy

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Paid for by Nick Smith for Mayor 2026, FPFC #1492151

Finaldi takes over as Concours boss

By MARY SCHLEY

AS PLANNED, after working alongside Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance chairman Sandra Button on the world-renowned event's 75th edition, Vince Finaldi took over the top job Oct. 1 as Button shifted into her new role as "global brand ambassador and strategic advisor."

During her more than 20 years in charge, Button — who is often described as one of the most influential people in the collector-car world — strengthened the Concours' leadership team by instituting a selection committee and an advisory board, increased the range of show cars, added events like RetroAuto, the Tour d'Elegance and the Classic Car Forum, and expanded the event's reach globally. Under her guidance, the Concours has consistently ranked as the top event of its kind in the world, including being named Motoring Event of the Year during the annual Historic Motoring Awards in London in 2024.

Finaldi, a longtime attorney and third-generation car guy, was announced as her heir apparent in January and held the title of president until he was elevated to chairman last Thursday. He "follows in the footsteps of venerable former Concours leaders Gwenn Graham, Alton Walker, Jules Heumann, Lorin Tryon, Ed Gilbertson, Glenn Mounger and Sandra, who collectively transformed a simple gathering connected to the Pebble Beach Road Races into the world's foremost concours," according to the announcement.

Law career

Finaldi, who moved to the Carmel Highlands with his wife and two daughters

in 2022, served in the U.S. Marines in the 1990s, earned his B.A. from UC Berkeley in 2002 and graduated from UCLA's law school in 2005.

Civil litigator

He started his legal career in 2004 as a clerk and rose through the ranks to partner at Newport Beach-based Manly,



PHOTO/SHERMAN CHU

After nine months as president, Vince Finaldi stepped into the role of chairman of the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance

Stewart & Finaldi, specializing in litigation of civil actions involving sexual harassment, exploitation, molestation and abuse in educational, familial, recreational, employment, religious and other settings. Finaldi garnered nationwide media coverage while successfully litigating claims against large religious entities, municipalities and Fortune 500 companies at the trial, appellate and Supreme Court levels.

But he's also been a lifelong car buff. Finaldi's grandfather moved from Italy to the United States and worked for General Motors in the 1920s before returning to his native country to open an auto shop and

See CONCOURS page 20A

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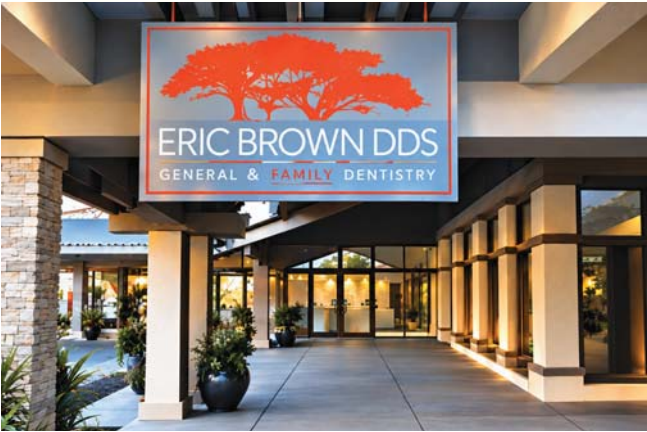


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2023



Golden Pine Cones



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Gonzales gets major housing boost

By KELLY NIX

A SOUTH Monterey County city got approval last week to annex nearly 800 acres for about 3,500 new homes, three schools, 80 acres of parks — and 15,000 new residents.

On Sept. 28, the Local Agency Formation Commission of Monterey County approved the annexation of 768 acres of farmland for the Vista Lucia development about 9 miles south of Gonzales. The plan includes 117 acres of roads and infrastructure, dozens of acres of open space, flood basins, drainage facilities and new paths and trails. The development would be built over three decades and nearly triple Gonzales’ population of roughly 8,200.

Gonzales Mayor Jose Rios said the city needs new homes to meet demand from future generations.

“My daughter graduated from Gonzales High School in 2005,” Rios told the commission at a hearing in Salinas, noting that the development has been in the works for 20 years. “She is now 38 years old. There hasn’t been a single-family home built since then.”

First phase

The first phase of the master-planned community proposed by Pembroke Development would include multifamily homes, affordable housing, a 12-acre school site, park space and other features. In total, the plan calls for 990 traditional single-family homes 1,239 single-family homes on smaller lots, 629 apartments, townhomes and mixed-use units, and 640 market-rate and lower-income apartments, project consultant Brent Slama told commission members.

Gonzales City Manager Carmen Gil told commissioners that the community would

“help secure the future of young people and provide a variety of housing options for those who have been desperately waiting for it to happen in their community.”

A former Gonzales Union School District board member said the adult children of longtime Gonzales families want to return to the city but struggle to afford homes there, despite having college degrees and established careers.

Three families

“In our own home today, we are three families living together,” she said. “That’s not because these families don’t want their own homes. They do.”

A woman whose family home backs up to the proposed development urged commissioners to OK it.

“Our community has a great need for additional workforce housing,” she said. “It is time.”

Several young people, including high school students, also touted the project’s benefits and urged the commission to approve it.

One homeowner, though, said the city lacks the infrastructure and adequate fire protection services to handle the expansion, which he said would generate substantial traffic. He also said the homes “are not going to be cheap.”

“What you don’t see at this meeting is the low-income people,” he said. “You see the people with money who want to buy.”

The slow-growth group LandWatch Monterey County has also raised concerns about the project, including the affordability of the homes. Last year, executive director Mike DeLapa pointed to the city’s median household income of \$74,000.

“None of Gonzales’ moderate-income or low-income families would be able to purchase any of the Vista Lucia units as the project is now planned,” DeLapa said.

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LUIS ALEJO, Monterey County Supervisor, District 1

CHRIS LOPEZ, Monterey County Supervisor, District 3

KEN WHITE - Mayor, Carmel-by-the-Sea (Ret.)

JEFF BARON, Council Member, Carmel-by-the-Sea

GINO GARCIA, Council Member, Monterey City, District 4

MARYANN LEFFEL, Vice Chair, Monterey Peninsula Airport District; Commissioner, LAFCO Monterey County

LISA TALLEY DEAN, Broker Associate, JD, LLM

DINA RUIZ, Community Leader

JEAN HURD, Community Leader

ALONDRA KLEMEK, Community Leader

STEPHANIE HARKNESS - Community Leader

ELECTED EDUCATION LEADERS

DR. CELIA BARBERENA, Chair, Monterey Peninsula College Board of Trustees, District Area 4

DR. BETTYE LUSK, Monterey Peninsula Unified School District Governing Board Member, Trustee Area 3

JASON REMYNSE, Carmel Unified School District Governing Board Member, Trustee Area 5

KARL PALLASTRINI, Former CUSD Governing Board Member; CHS/CMS Principal (Ret.)

MARK STILWELL, Former CUSD Governing Board Member

AMY FUNT, Former CUSD Governing Board Member

MARCY RUSTAD, Former CUSD Governing Board Member

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Measure M

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Measure N

SALES TAX

Raises the sales tax +0.375%

Adds 19 cents to a \$50 restaurant bill.

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POINT LOBOS SHUTTLE FINALLY HEADS TO PLANNING COMMISSION

By CHRIS COUNTS

A LONG-AWAITED plan to establish a shuttle system for visitors to Point Lobos State Natural Reserve goes before the Monterey County Planning Commission on Wednesday at 9 a.m.

The planning commission will weigh in on a day-use reservation system for Point Lobos, a shuttle serving the reserve and Marathon Flats, and site improvements that include creating a 100-space parking lot at Marathon Flats, installing bike racks, fencing and a ticket machine, and improving drainage.

Dangerous situation

For many locals, the shuttle system can't come soon enough. Much like the traffic chaos that clogs the area around Bixby Bridge in Big Sur, congestion near the entrance to Point Lobos has worsened in recent years, with drivers seeking parking spaces routinely blocking traffic, and pedestrians walking in the roadway — creating unsafe conditions for everybody.

“We estimate that there are currently 250-plus parking spots being turned twice daily on peak days on the shoulder of Highway 1 west,” according to ParkITForParks.com, a website dedicated to finding solutions to the traffic woes at Point Lobos. “That’s 500-plus cars pulling in and out of traffic, making illegal U-turns, as well as pedestrians making their way from their cars along the highway to the entrance of Point Lobos.”

“Guiding the effort” to find a fix is the ParkIT steering committee, which includes Pebble Beach Company Foundation executive director Kathleen Lee, Big Sur Land Trust official Rachel Saunders, former Monterey County Planning Director Mike Novo and others.

ParkIT successfully pushed for the removal of parking along the east side of Highway 1 across from the Point Lobos entrance.

The effort to establish a shuttle system has been in the works since 2018, when

See **SHUTTLE** page 20A

Officials say a reservation and shuttle system is needed to help reduce the traffic chaos that often happens near the entrance to Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.

PHOTO/DAN BLOHOWIAK



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PG&E: \$11.7B for undergrounding

By MARY SCHLEY

WITH MUCH of California considered at a high risk for wildfire, PG&E announced this week it plans to put 5,000 miles of powerlines underground by 2037, including 139 miles in Monterey County, if approved by the state.

The utility company — which has faced more than 1,200 lawsuits resulting from recent wildfires and saw 72,000 claims from victims during its 2019 bankruptcy — submitted the proposed 10-year plan to the California Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety “outlining a long-term, risk-based strategy to improve safety and reliability in high-wildfire-risk areas across Northern and Central California that delivers long-term benefits valued at \$117 billion.” Its bankruptcy included a \$13.5 billion settlement for wildfire victims.

Spokesperson Stephanie Magallon said the exact locations of the undergrounding work, which is expected to cost around \$11.7 billion, will be designated during the planning and approval process. Burying power lines has historically been extremely expensive, but PG&E claims it “will continue to develop and test new technology and processes that have already reduced the undergrounding cost per mile by approximately 25%.”

Monterey new addition

“The proposed filing includes initial county-level eligibility, but individual projects remain subject to selection, scoping and refinement over the life of the plan,” she said Wednesday. “However, consistent with California law, we are prioritizing undergrounding in areas that are forecasted to have the greatest impact on reducing wildfire risk and wildfire safety-related outages.”

Monterey County was not included in the company’s round of undergrounding efforts that began in 2021, but the new plan calls for burying power lines in more than 30 Northern and Central California counties, of which a handful, including Monterey, are considered “new or highly engaged communities.” A map of PG&E’s service area shows much of its territory is considered at high risk for wildfires, including most of Monterey County, but that does not include a narrow strip along the coast and the center of the Salinas Valley.

Undergrounding “can reduce ignition risk by nearly 98% and improve reliability with 90% fewer outages,” the company said, and it estimates the project will save ratepayers “approximately \$6 billion in vegetation management, operations and maintenance costs.”

SB 884

The 10-year plan, which must also be OK’d by the California Public Utilities Commission, was developed using “advanced data analytics and risk modeling to forecast where undergrounding will provide the greatest benefits for customers and communities,” according to PG&E. The analysis considers the likelihood and consequence of fire risk, system reliability, customer impacts, project costs and benefits, and whether other measures would be more efficient and effective.

When undergrounding is not the best option, crews can install stronger poles, cover powerlines and make other upgrades to overhead systems. With equipment subjected to those treatments factored in, the company reported it expects to have undergrounded or upgraded more than 11,000 miles of powerlines in high wildfire-risk

See PG&E page 20A

Utility says per-mile costs have been reduced by 25%

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MATH

From page 1A

The laments from university faculty should come as no surprise. By the time Golden State kids reach 11th grade, only about 30% meet or exceed the state standard in math.

Bleak results

The bleak results come despite years of increased spending on public education. California’s 2025-26 budget provides \$137.8 billion in federal, state and local funding for transitional kindergarten through 12th-grade education, or \$25,155 per pupil.

In hopes of solving the math problem without simply throwing more money at it, California legislators are trying a new approach. Under a bill signed by Newsom,

schools will be required to screen all kindergarten through second-grade students for basic math proficiency beginning in the 2027-28 school year. What happens when those screenings identify kids who are struggling remains to be seen.

Under the new law, districts will be tasked with providing additional math support, possibly through tutoring and coaching for teachers, but the law doesn’t provide funding to get it done.

“It’s just a first step. I mean, the critical thing is, what do teachers do, if anything, with that information?” Thomas Dee, a professor at Stanford University’s Graduate School of Education, told San Francisco radio station KCBS about the screening.

Dee argues that early intervention can be crucial to making sure kids are ready for higher-level math as they age.

True, arithmetic problems start young, but California’s math crisis goes much

deeper than kindergartners who can’t count. The poor state of affairs is more likely the result of policy decisions than deficiencies in individual students.

Math hasn’t changed

How mathematics is taught today is very different from when you were in school — especially in the early grades. Just over a decade ago, California and many other states adopted Common Core standards and, as a result, fundamentally changed the math curriculum.

The standard algorithms for addition and subtraction that have been taught for centuries — stacking numbers and computing them by columns, beginning with the ones column — have been de-emphasized in the early grades. Instead, kids are taught to use a variety of models, such as base-10 blocks or cubes they can “put together” or “take apart” to find the solutions to basic computations.

Sure, the methods work, but they also eat up much more time per equation than traditional math, leaving fewer minutes for calculation practice. Common Core critics argue that this can impede children when they reach algebra, and routine math procedures need to be second nature.

At the dawn of the Common Core era, many California districts also changed their advanced math sequences, with some, including Oakland and San Francisco Unified, going so far as to eliminate eighth-grade algebra.

This infamous change wasn’t just the result of Common Core. The school board also justified the 2014 decision as a way to address inequities in who was fast-tracked for advanced high school math.

San Francisco voters backed a return to eighth-grade algebra in March 2024, and the district began restoring it in the 2024-25 school year. The move came after a decade of denying qualified students access to a track that would have allowed them to take calculus during their senior year of high school — a prerequisite for some college programs.

California’s math scores remain below pre-pandemic levels, but it’s impossible to establish a cause-and-effect relationship with Common Core from test data alone because a plethora of other things have gone wrong during the same period.

Many of us have taken off our masks and recovered from pandemic-era losses, but student learning has yet to bounce back. Academic performance took a nosedive

when schools closed in 2020. Test scores have been inching back up in the post-Covid-19 years, but results still lag behind 2019 levels, when about 40% of California kids met or exceeded the standard in math.

Thanks to the pandemic, kids aren’t attending school like they used to, either. In California and across the country, rates of chronic absenteeism — generally defined as missing at least 10% of the school year — roughly doubled once doors reopened. It’s hard to learn math when you’re not in class. Mathematical concepts build sequentially, making absences especially detrimental to long-term comprehension.

Following the school closures, districts were flush with cash from Covid-19 relief funds, but they didn’t spend all the money on academic recovery, and now those funds have dried up.

A FutureEd analysis found that California schools spent \$1.5 billion, or 31% of the funding studied, on summer learning, after-school and extended programs, as well as tutors to address learning loss. But districts also spent \$1.1 billion on maintaining operations and paying existing staff. The analysis

detailed another \$313 million that went to mental health services and \$430 million spent on digital devices that may be making kids dumber.

Laptops, too

The pandemic accelerated the movement to replace textbooks with Chromebooks, with more assignments completed in Google Classroom rather than with pen and paper, likely to students’ detriment.

Part of the problem is that kids are not using the devices solely for learning. Instead, they while away hours of class time on YouTube or playing “educational” games. Another factor is that people may retain more when they write by hand rather than type on a screen. In 2019, the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, a major international assessment of student math performance, examined how often students used digital devices during lessons. Its results showed an association between frequent computer use and lower scores in some contexts, though they did not establish that computer use caused the decline.

Of course, standardized tests are also given on digital devices these days, which can produce a mode effect, as students may perform differently on computerized tasks

See **LEARNING** page 29A

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DRONE

From page 1A

establish training and program oversight requirements. Random surveillance, discriminatory targeting, harassment or intimidation, personal use and “weaponization” would be prohibited.

Several agencies, including Cal Fire, Seaside Fire and the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office, use drones and often assist other departments. In August, for example, drones operated by the sheriff’s office and Seaside Fire helped locate a man whose threats of violence prompted a multi-agency response and the closure of Carmel Valley Road. He was subsequently arrested.

Bruno said he received pricing and contract information from three drone companies. The devices range in price from just under \$11,000 to \$28,000 and offer varying capabilities and contract terms.

Most speakers objected to the proposal, though Carmel Community Emergency Response Team Capt. Wanda Volmer agreed a drone could play a critical role in rescues,

emergencies and other serious incidents. Joe Owens, director of AI platforms for UCSF Health, suggested it would be best to “keep Carmel safe without further militarizing our setting” and to protect residents’ right to privacy under the California Constitution.

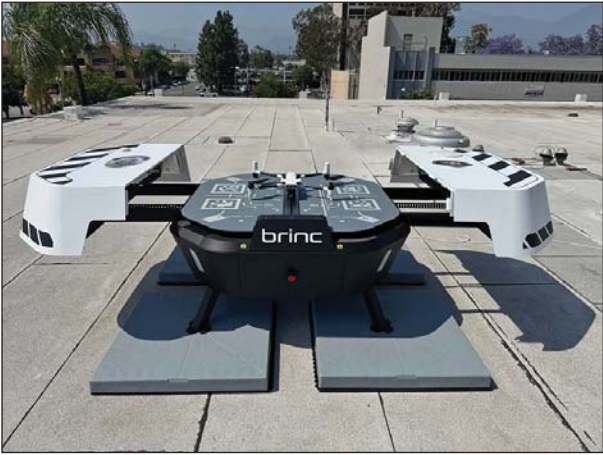
‘Change the relationship’

Resident Christy Hollenbeck described drones as “a powerful surveillance technology that could permanently change the relationship between residents, privacy and policing in our small village.”

Emergency physician Stephanie Campbell recounted an alarming incident in which she looked up to see a drone outside a window while she was bathing in her home’s second-floor bathroom. She also suggested drones could heighten anxiety in critical situations.

Carmel Residents Association board member Nancy Twomey said she believes the police department should have a drone, provided its use complies with a “carefully detailed, crafted policy and privacy guidelines.”

“Our village should not rely on the use of other emergency jurisdictions’ drones,” she told The Pine Cone after the meeting. “A drone should be owned and operated by



PHOTO/BRINCDRONES.COM

An example of a police drone — this one manufactured by Brinc Drones in Seattle, Wash.

our village police personnel,” and “carefully defined use of any of this data/video content is also essential and must receive council and public support.”

Not right now

Councilmember Bob Delves found merit in both sides’ arguments but said now is not the time to undertake the work of drafting a drone policy and buying the technology.

“I’m 67 years old, and I’ve spent most of that in tech, and as a result, I don’t trust tech,” he added. “We don’t really know what a lot of these things are capable of. Given everything else that’s going on, I’m trying hard to distance myself from all the machines.”

“I entered into this with a healthy amount of skepticism,” councilmember Hans Buder said.

The one argument that resonated with him was the potential for using drones to find missing people, he said, but he shared Delves’ concerns about “the amount of time we’re going to invest in wordsmithing those guardrails.”

See **POLICING** page 23A

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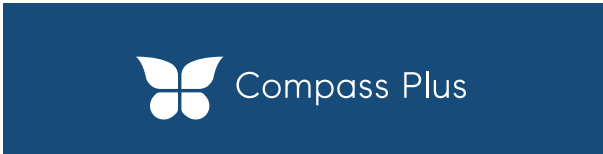
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WELFARE

From page 1A

complied with state and federal requirements. The agency found that it did not and gave Monterey County until the end of the year to make the restrooms, ramps, doorways, thresholds and other building features accessible or move operations to a compliant facility.

Faced with the costly work, the financially strapped county opted to close the office permanently.

‘Uninterrupted Access’

Pasculli said Monterey County will continue providing Seaside residents and other customers uninterrupted access to benefits and services while it searches for another building. In the meantime, it will offer services at its Coastal Office at 2620 First Ave. in Marina beginning Nov. 2.

“That is a temporary solution to provide services without interruption,” Pasculli said, adding that customers can also visit offices in Salinas and King City.

In addition, customers can apply for or manage benefits at BenefitsCal.com or by calling (877) 410-8823.

The half-century-old Seaside building has been slated for replacement for years. In 2024, the estimated cost of a new four-story structure was \$112 million.

“The county is actively engaged in a search for a viable location within our search parameters but has not yet been able to identify a suitable location,” Pasculli said, adding that the county is working with Seaside city officials to find a new site.



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

This Seaside welfare office is being forced to close because it doesn't comply with accessibility standards for disabled customers.



Vicki

Nohrden

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CULTURE

From page 1A

The small wooden house was constructed on Mission Street in 1902 by 17-year-old Michael J. Murphy for his mother and sisters. It was the first of more than 350 homes and buildings he designed and built during his decades in Carmel. His work significantly influenced the city’s character and architecture. In 1990, when the cottage was in danger of being demolished, the First Murphy House Committee was formed under the auspices of the Carmel Heritage Society to relocate and renovate it. It has served as the nonprofit heritage society’s headquarters ever since.

Docents needed

But due to a steady decline in the number of volunteers willing to staff the museum and share stories about Carmel’s history, the small building is often shuttered. That’s where the chamber could help, Enea suggested.

“We are very proud of the strong volunteers we have

working in our visitor center,” she said, referring to the chamber’s space in Carmel Plaza. “We have very highly qualified, trained individuals,” and all but one live within the 1-square-mile city, so “this is their community, too.”

She assured the council that the Plaza storefront would remain, but she and vice president Kimberlie Guerrieri would have offices in the First Murphy House.

Beets explained that the heritage society is dedicated to maintaining and preserving the First Murphy House, which underwent much-needed repairs, termite treatment and repainting in the spring, thanks to the city’s public works department.

The society would also train every volunteer and continue curating exhibits.

The joint effort could expand the museum’s hours to seven days a week and create a “natural connector between the business community, tourism and the residents” by providing information beyond the city’s history. Beets said many people, including residents, aren’t aware of the First Murphy House or its history and that part of the plan is to attract more visitors.

“I really hope to bring more events and more things to

the community through my work as the executive director, which can be supplemented by their support,” she said.

Robin Aeschliman, a great-niece of Murphy, objected to the proposal.

“That is combining an organization specifically created to represent business interests of the community with an organization specifically created to foster the residential character and history of the city,” she said.

Library annex?

Aeschliman suggested the house be used as an annex of Harrison Memorial Library, which Murphy built from plans by architect Bernard Maybeck.

Similarly, lifelong resident Cindy Lloyd opposed a shared lease because it would result in “the dilution of history by an organization whose primary interest is business.”

“My doubt is that the two can coexist,” she said. “The chamber’s strong motivation to promote business could overshadow the heritage society’s defense and

Continues next page



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From previous page

maintenance of Carmel’s history.”

Longtime resident Donna Jett said she volunteers for both organizations and noted that chamber volunteers participate in the heritage society’s home tour, one of its major fundraisers.

‘Nothing to lose’

“We all want to preserve the history,” she said. “I see no downside. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.”

Councilmember Bob Delves said he favors the shared lease and that the organizations’ “cross-pollination” is a good thing, with volunteers who already know a lot about Carmel receiving further training in its history and cultural roots.

Councilmember Jeff Baron expressed discomfort with combining business and historical missions but said he favors the plan if it would lead to the First Murphy House being open and used more often.

Connecting
‘business,
tourism and
residents’

Councilmember and historian Alissandra Dramov, who has been working with the heritage society on a docent training manual, suggested collaborating with the library for its centennial in 2028

“I see both sides of this,” councilmember Hans Buder said. “Most importantly, it’s what both organizations want.”

Buder suggested the lease designate separate areas inside for historical displays and chamber materials, “just so that doesn’t get cannibalized over time.”

and agreed with Buder’s call for safeguards.

“There’s clearly one big advantage, and that would be the heritage society is open and the First Murphy House is open, because it doesn’t serve any purpose when it’s closed,” she said. “And that’s frankly been the case for many, many years,” with people walking by and wondering about the building but never learning about it.

Mayor Dale Byrne said the collaboration would create longevity.

“We need to think about the sustainability of these organizations, or they’re going to die like other organizations do,” he said.

“And it’s too important for this city to let that happen. So hopefully this can breathe some life into the First Murphy House,” he added.

The council voted unanimously to direct the city attorney and staff to negotiate a lease, including safeguards, with representatives of the heritage society and the chamber.



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CONCOURS

From page 10A

put his sons to work alongside him. Those men, including Finaldi’s father, subsequently immigrated to the United States and opened their own automotive businesses.

“During this time, Vince was immersed in the collector car market, learning all aspects of the trade, including restoration, metal work, paint and body, mechanical, electrical, international acquisition and sales, and preservation,” according to his bio at Finaldi, Inc., the Del Rey Oaks business he founded after retiring from law and moving to the Monterey Peninsula.

“Vince is an avid European collector car restorer and collector, owning several historically significant Ferrari, Lamborghini and other European collector automobiles, as well as an extensive collection of rare parts, books and automobilia,” his bio continues. Finaldi’s personal collection of more than 50 vehicles has included a Ferrari 500 Mondial and a 365 GTB/4 Daytona, a Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Gullwing, a Porsche 356 Speedster and several Lamborghini Miuras.

Further, he is a California-licensed retail automobile dealer and is adept at performing legal work regarding international

automobile transactions. Concours officials described him as being “uniquely qualified for the role of chairman,” as he “will draw upon his substantial business experience and longstanding passion for the automotive industry to ensure the continued growth and evolution of the Pebble Beach Concours.”

‘All aspects’

In the announcement, Finaldi said he’s enjoyed spending the past nine months as president, “learning all aspects of the event and interacting with entrants, attendees, staff and sponsors,” and he looks forward “to continuing to grow and evolve the Concours, welcoming new entrants while protecting the collectors, cars and traditions that have secured our legacy as the best Concours in the world.”

He’ll also be challenged with sustaining and expanding the event’s considerable charitable impact. The Concours has generated more than \$50 million since its inception — \$27 million of which has been raised in the last 10 years — to support more than 130 Monterey County nonprofits focused on educational opportunities and promoting the health and well-being of local youth.

Pebble Beach Co. CEO David Stivers described the Concours’ past leaders as “incredible” and said he is confident Finaldi and his team “will take the events to new heights, ensuring the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance stands alone.”

SHUTTLE

From page 12A

the late Ernest Chung began hosting a series of meetings around his dining room table to discuss the topic. The plan has been endorsed by many local leaders and officials, including U.S. Rep. Jimmy Panetta and Monterey County 5th District Supervisor Kate Daniels.

“Our goal is to design a reservation and shuttle system that allows for increased access, flexibility and an element of ease so visitors can continue to enjoy this crown jewel of the California State Parks system in a safer, less impactful manner,” ParkIT added. “In addition, a shuttle will allow visitors to be directly transported to the coastline instead of the mile-plus walk from the highway that now may prove prohibitive to families and people with physical limitations.”

areas by the end of 2037.

The proposal is a response to Senate Bill 884, which was authored by Sen. Mike McGuire and signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom in September 2022. The law, which took effect Jan. 1, 2023, intends to accelerate undergrounding while controlling costs by establishing a process through which the state’s three largest investor-owned utilities — PG&E, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric — can obtain expedited approval for comprehensive, 10-year undergrounding programs.

In December 2025, the PUC strengthened its SB 884 guidelines by adding provisions for cost caps, audits, and more detailed comparisons of costs and benefits.

PG&E

From page 13A

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CAR WEEK

From page 3A

the past didn't plague downtown and the rest of the Monterey Peninsula — thanks in large part to concerted and aggressive enforcement by all city police departments, the Monterey County Sheriff's Office and the California Highway Patrol — drivers and spectators nonetheless kept police busy Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

"And it was real on Thursday night, like it was a tremendous amount of traffic in town," he said, thanks to social media calls for people to converge on Ocean Avenue. But detouring drivers along set routes helped, as did the city's many warnings that laws would be enforced.

"We were clear we would be doing enforcement in Carmel, and once we put that out, it got traction," Trayer said. "I wonder if there's any city close to the enforcement we did with Pipe Down," the devices used to measure exhaust noise.

"I don't think anyone else used that product as much as we did," he said.

All told, from Aug. 7 to 16, officers stopped 235 drivers, a 72% increase over 2025; wrote 139 tickets, up 99%; arrested nine people, a 29% rise; towed 22 cars, a jump of 69.2%; issued 506 parking citations, a 58% increase; and busted 22 drivers for illegally modified and excessively loud exhaust systems.

Trayer said fewer cars came into the city than last year, according to counts he was able to obtain from the city's six remaining license plate-reading cameras.

Loophole

The three residents who spoke at the meeting admitted they are Car Week fans, even if they don't like some aspects of it.

Joe DiNucci said he's loved the Peninsula's automotive week for his entire life and appreciates its reverence for history, but "a lot of things that have annoyed us in the last seven or eight years have nothing to do with history," and have more to

do with people who want to show off their new cars. He described Car Week as "less toxic" than last year.

"There were definite improvements for the overall experience for the village," agreed Nancy Twomey.

Astons and Ferraris

Community activities commission chair Maria Ruess was surprised to hear about the "abuse" of parking spaces. "It used to be one or two or three" that would be rented, she said. "But really, 11 of them is an abuse. It's extreme, and you're right, it's the creation of an event."

Councilman Hans Buder observed there is "essentially zero connection between the events that happen in the daytime and what's happening at night," and he appreciated the "really noticeable increase in police presence downtown."

But he said he wants a "zero-tolerance policy on loud modified exhausts."

"That's the thing that alienates people, especially in the evenings in residential areas," he said.

Baron advocated for eliminating parking rentals and said that while he appreciates the efforts to reduce noise in residential areas, people who live downtown should be protected, too. "When we talk about confining the noise to downtown, what we're doing is confining the noise to their neighborhood," he said. "I don't think it's OK to drop the focus on downtown."

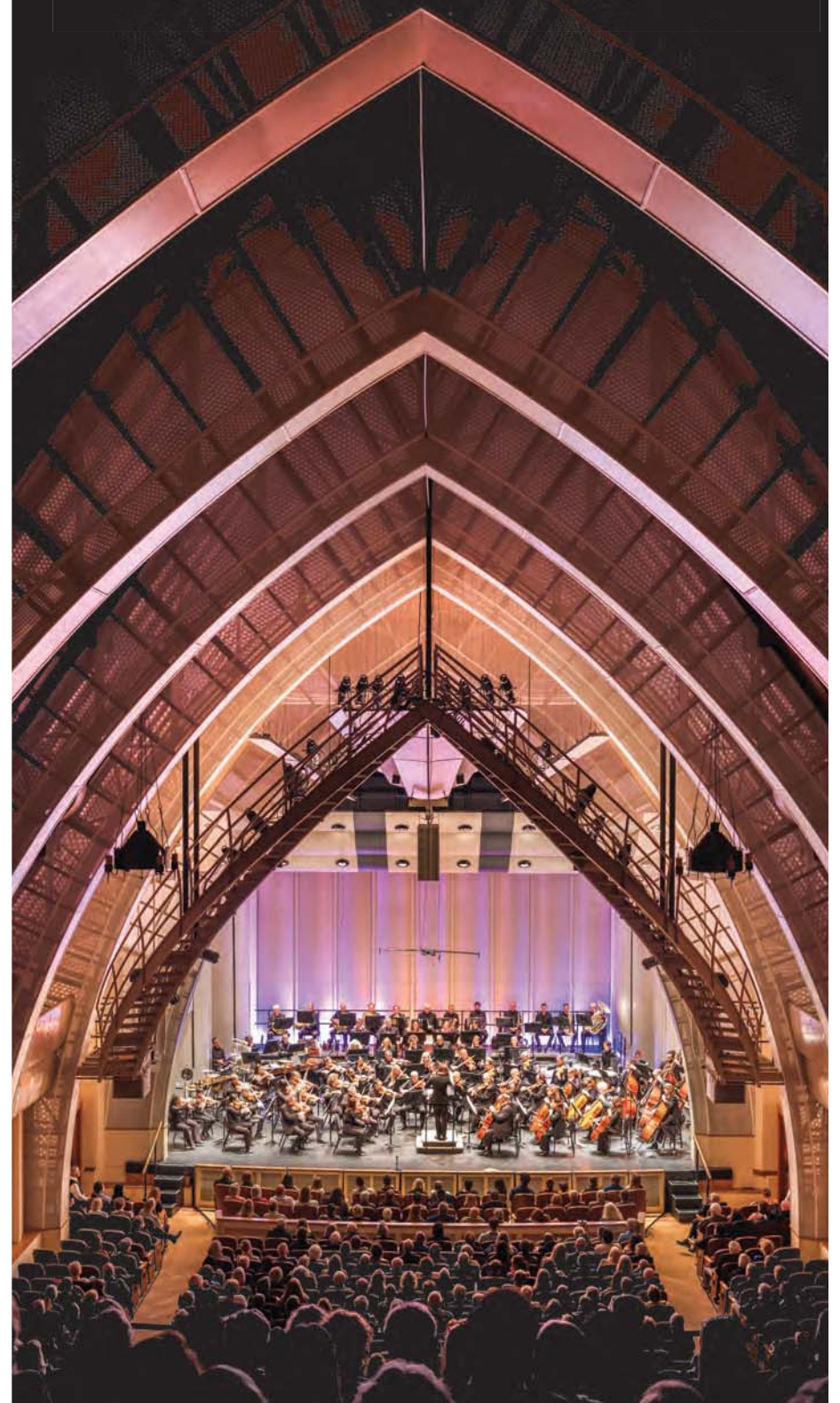
Councilwoman Alissandra Dramov said she's heard from people who want Carmel's Car Week participation limited to a single event. "We also heard at the listening session that it can be disruptive to the community as a whole," and while some businesses "benefit tremendously," others "do terribly during Car Week."

Mayor Dale Byrne argued for capping rented spaces at two per business and suggested limiting the number of organized events to two, as well.

"I saw a lot of empty spaces during the Aston Martin day and the Ferrari day," he said. "If we combined them on Wednesday, I think that would be an incredible show."

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JAMES WILLIAM ‘JIM’ LIPE JR.

Jan. 22, 1970 – Sept. 26, 2026

James William “Jim” Lipe Jr., 56, of Salinas and Tahoma, California, died Sept. 26, 2026. Born in Salinas to James William Lipe Sr. and Penelope Osborn Lipe, he was raised in Salinas and Lake Tahoe.



Jim spent his working life in trucking and agriculture. His first business venture was LipeLine Trucking, which he owned and operated until 2015. In 2007, Jim, his father and his brother purchased NH3 Service Company, a family business founded by his great-grandfather Ralph Iliff in 1938. As the fourth generation to carry on the business, Jim served as president and chief executive officer, continuing to build and grow the company until its sale in 2015. Continuing his father’s and family’s legacy in the Salinas Valley was a source of pride for him.

Outside of work, Jim had many interests, causes and hobbies. He was passionate about skiing, bike riding and driving anything with a motor. Heli-skiing in Alaska, snowmobile treks through the Desolation Wilderness, 24-hour mountain bike rides and dirt bike rides through Baja were all part of his journey, and he reveled in the adrenaline and adventure. Jim lived at full throttle and loved the same way. He left too soon, but those who rode with him, loved him and experienced life with him will never be the same.

In 2013, his daughter Katherine was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. This set Jim on a path to help find a cure and become an advocate for those with the disease. His work with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, now Breakthrough T1D, led to an extremely successful fundraising partnership. Raising awareness and support for this cause gave him immense satisfaction.

Jim is survived by his three children, Katherine, Stephen, along with their mother Shelley; James and her mother Kasia; his sister, Julie Lafferty; his brothers, William (Irit) and Michael (Robyn); his aunt Margy; and his nephews and niece. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jim Sr. and Penny.

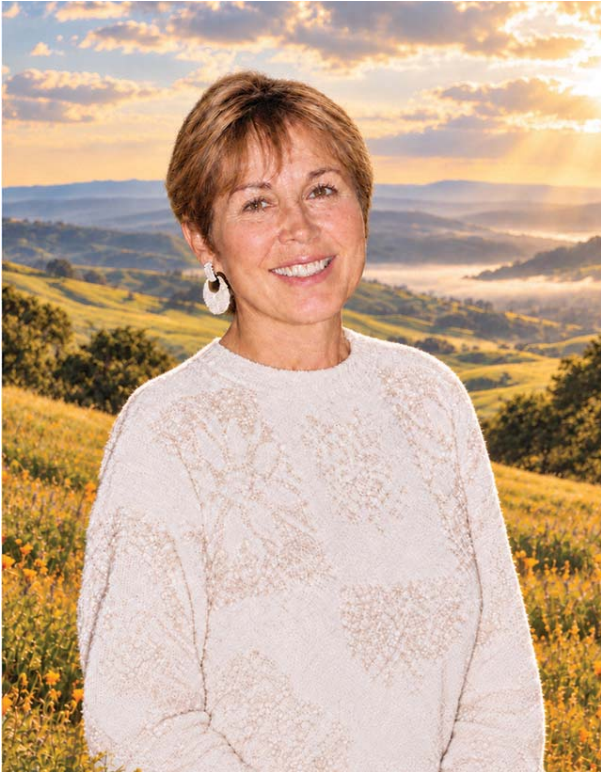
A celebration of life will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Oct. 24, 2026, at the Amaral Barn in Salinas. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Breakthrough T1D, formerly JDRF, in Jim’s memory.

Utilities home address fair

FOLLOWING THROUGH on his promise to try to make transitioning to standardized street addresses as easy as possible, acting city administrator Brandon Swanson announced Monday the city will host a Street Address Service Provider Fair in Carpenter Hall at Sunset Center at 908 San Carlos St. Oct. 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“Stop by to meet representatives from Comcast, California American Water, GreenWaste, plus more,” he said. “You can confirm your new address, ask questions and connect with providers face to face.”

Residents and property owners who need to update their services can drop in anytime but should bring their city-issued postcards verifying their new addresses, as well as utility bills or account numbers.



Jean Karen Powell

Feb. 26, 1937 – Oct. 1, 2026

Jean Karen Powell passed away peacefully Oct. 1, 2026, at her home in Corral de Tierra. She was 89.

Born Feb. 26, 1937, in Hammond, Indiana, Jean was raised there and completed her nursing training after high school.

In 1960, she married Dennis Powell, and together they had three beautiful children. Dennis’ career took the family from Indiana to Virginia and then to California.

Jean was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, daughter, sister and friend. A true matriarch, she hosted every family party and holiday gathering and kept track of her growing family.

Jean enjoyed a busy social life. She met weekly with a close group of girlfriends for fellowship and prayer and was active in her church communities. She loved to travel, especially to Poipu, Kauai, and Eagle River, Wisconsin.

She appreciated the goodness in everyone and everything. She loved looking out her kitchen window to watch the deer, turkeys and birds, and she appreciated every flower she saw.

Jean is survived by her husband, Dennis Powell; her three children, Barry Powell, Jennifer Folck and Sam Powell; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She is reunited with her mother, Betty; her father, Charles; and her brother, John, whom she often asked for during her final months.

Jean was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, daughter, sister and friend. She was a true matriarch, hosting every family party and holiday, and keeping track of her growing family. Some of her favorite years were when she was raising her children in Carmel Valley, going to baseball games and swim meets. Her riverside home was filled with laughter and sunshine. It was a very special time.

Funeral services

A viewing will begin at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Struve & Laporte Funeral Home, followed by a rosary at 6 p.m.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, at Sacred Heart Church in Salinas. Burial will follow at 2:30 p.m. at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Prunedale. A reception will begin at 3 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church in Salinas.

JEAN M. HONTALAS

Jean M. Hontalas, born March 30, 1931, and raised just outside Boston, died Sept. 24, 2026, in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California. She was 95.

Jean graduated from Tufts University and began her career as a teacher in the New York City public school system. Her true calling, however, was health care and physical therapy.

At age 20, Jean joined the U.S. Army. She was commissioned as an officer and given the opportunity to return to school to complete her education in physical therapy. Her first assignment took her to Texas, where she met the man who would become the love of her life, John Louis Hontalas.

After two years in Texas, Jean and John married in Washington, D.C. Jean then began her second Army assignment at Walter Reed Medical Center, continuing her work in physical therapy. The couple later moved to John’s hometown of San Francisco, where he completed his certified public accountant examinations. Jean was discharged from the Army two years later with the rank of captain.

Jean and John eventually settled in Salinas, California, where they raised their family. Jean devoted herself to her family, her profession and her community. Over the years, she volunteered with numerous organizations, including the VNA, which she helped establish. Her commitment to helping others remained a constant throughout her life.

In 1980, when her children were teenagers, Jean opened her own physical therapy practice. Her dedication and accomplishments earned her a Business Excellence Award for a Female Business Professional. She also received a Humanitarian Award from Monterey County in recognition of her many years of volunteer service.

Jean retired from her practice in 1996 but continued serving her community. Following the death of John, her husband of 44 years, she moved to Carmel, where she remained active in volunteer work.

In Carmel, Jean discovered a new passion: dachshunds. Her first dachshund, Jake, was followed by Blitzen. These four-legged companions brought her great joy. Her love for her dogs and the friendships they inspired eventually led to the creation of the Carmel Dachshund Club, adding another special chapter to her life.

Jean embraced her Carmel years with curiosity, friendship and an appreciation for the arts and community. She participated in the Reading Club, Octopus Club, Writing Club, Hat Club and Coffee Klatch, and enjoyed the arts and theater. These activities brought her together with friends and allowed her to continue learning, creating, laughing and enjoying life.

In her later years, Jean especially treasured time with her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed traveling, walking along the beach and sharing those walks and the beauty of Carmel with her family.

She is survived by her children, Anthia Netto (Ken) of Goodyear, Arizona, and Ted Hontalas (Randi) of Salinas, California; her grandchildren, John Cody Hontalas (Ciera) and Branden Theodore Hontalas; and her great-granddaughter, Camden Marie Hontalas.

Jean was preceded in death by her beloved husband, John Louis Hontalas.

Jean lived a life defined by service, compassion, independence and love. Through her service as an Army captain and physical therapist, her volunteer work and her devotion to her family, she continually found ways to make a difference. Her love of her dachshunds and her active life in Carmel reflected her enjoyment of the world around her.

She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

A Mass in Jean’s memory will be celebrated at noon Oct. 29 at Carmel Mission.

In Jean’s honor, the family requests donations to VNA Hospice of the Central Coast. Donations may be made at ccvna.com/vna-donations or by calling 831-372-6668.



Palestinian film to be screened, Monning, rabbi to join panel

By CHRIS COUNTS

A FILM chronicling three generations of a Palestinian family, “All That’s Left of You,” will be screened Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies’ Irvine Auditorium. The free screening will be followed by a panel discussion featuring former state Sen. Bill Monning and others.

POLICING

From page 16A

“I do wonder a little bit if the juice is worth the squeeze,” he said.

Councilmember Jeff Baron was conflicted. He acknowledged that the controversy over the use of data from Flock license plate reader cameras “poisoned this discussion about what surveillance means and how our data is treated,” but said he did not want to “slam the door” on the concept, given the scenarios in which a drone could be valuable.

When another agency, such as Cal Fire, is asked to deploy a drone in the city, Carmel has no say in how the footage and other information are used, he said.

“If we think that we’re safe privacy-wise by not having any drones in the city, I really do think we are mistaken, because when we rely on mutual aid for the rare scenarios when we need a drone, we will not have any control over that data,” he said.

Councilmember Alissandra Dramov questioned the need.

“I think there are definitely questions here about needs versus wants and a solution in search of a problem,” she said, especially since other agencies have drones.

“We’re not an island,” she said. “We are able to get support from surrounding law enforcement agencies routinely.”

Mayor Dale Byrne said he needs to be convinced.

“We need real evidence that this is necessary,” he said.

“I don’t like to repeat what my colleagues have said, but I don’t think that case was built here tonight.”

Written and directed by Palestinian American filmmaker and actor Cherien Dabis, the film follows one Palestinian family across seven decades as its members experience displacement, loss, love and resilience. The film explores a perspective its organizers say is often missing from American classrooms and newsrooms.

Production was set to begin in Palestine in late 2023, but the Israel-Hamas war forced the crew to relocate two weeks before filming was scheduled to start. The movie was filmed in Cyprus, Greece and Jordan. It premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2025 and was Jordan’s submission for Best International Feature Film at the 98th Academy Awards.

Praise and criticism

The film has received widespread praise, though some critics have described elements of its storytelling as blunt, schematic or melodramatic. It has also been criticized by some for portraying Israelis as little more than symbols

of oppression, “leaving little room for Israeli humanity, counternarratives, or security concerns,” according to one review.

Joining Monning on the post-screening panel will be Zeiad Abbas Shamrouch, a Palestinian refugee and executive director of the Middle East Children’s Alliance, and Rabbi Paula Marcus of Temple Beth El in Aptos. Nashwan Hamza, president of the Arab American Club of Monterey County, will moderate the discussion.

“Organizers designed the post-film panel to give audience members, especially those with a limited background on Palestinian history, a chance to dig into the issues the film raises,” the Arab American Club of Monterey County said.

The event is sponsored by the Arab American Club, the Peace Coalition of Monterey County and the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula. To reserve a seat, visit allthatsleftofyou.eventbrite.com. The auditorium is in the building at 499 Pierce St. in Monterey.

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Monterey County Board of Education

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ELECT

Kevin J. Hanley

Pacific Grove City Council, District #1

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Lighthouse Ave to the Bay

My wife and I love living here, cherishing our small town, the glorious Pacific Ocean. But our council is not measuring up.

They have no plan to shore up the eroding beach path along Ocean View Blvd; to significantly reduce the fire risk at George Washington Park; repair our cracked roads and sidewalks. Speeding drivers get a free pass. The council rubber-stamps an unbalanced budget; rapidly decreasing our emergency reserves.

Councilmember Garfield and her colleagues’ attempt to raise their pay by 135% was decisively defeated by PG voters in June. **Send a message to the PG Council: Focus on Core Responsibilities!**

If elected, I will bring my experience as a naval officer; nonpartisan Mayor and Councilmember in Auburn, CA; Chief Health & Insurance Policy Consultant, CA Legislature; Chamber of Commerce CEO; College Economics Instructor; founder and Chairman of an award-winning Fire Safe Council to help steer PG forward in a positive direction for residents.

KEVIN HANLEY

FOR COUNCIL

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DONNA STIRM-MOSES
1936–2026

Donna Stirm-Moses, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and accomplished artist, recently went home to be with the Lord. She was 89. Her love of God, family and country defined her life.

Born in Hillsborough, California, in 1936, Donna grew up in Palo Alto and Atherton, attending both Palo Alto High School and Menlo-Atherton High School. She went on to study home economics at Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington. There, she met her college sweetheart and the love of her life, Deryl E. Moses. Their 68-year marriage was the foundation of a family she deeply cherished.

Donna’s Christian faith was central to who she was and how she lived. She taught Bible studies for many years and spoke at Christian Women’s Club gatherings throughout the Bay Area, sharing her faith and encouraging others. Through her teaching, speaking and friendships, she touched many lives.

A gifted artist, Donna became known for her work in the Pennsylvania Dutch and primitive styles. After moving to Carmel in 1978, she reached an important milestone when her artwork was featured at the Bill Dodge Art Gallery. She later opened her own gallery, The Peasant Folk Collection, in The Barnyard, which she operated for many years. Her artwork was also licensed by Leisure Arts and distributed worldwide, bringing her creativity and message into homes far beyond her community. More recently, she published two adult coloring books with Harvest House Publishers, “Color Heaven’s Angels” and “Color America,” reflecting her enduring love of faith, beauty and country.

When she wasn’t spending time with family or painting, Donna loved to travel. Over the years, she and Deryl visited Greece, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Russia, Austria, Norway, Sweden and other European destinations. She also traveled extensively throughout Asia and the South Pacific. Switzerland held a special place in her heart; she spent so much time there that it became practically a second home.

Donna is survived by her devoted husband, Deryl; her three children, Brad, Brian and Krista; her daughters-in-law, Arlean and Blair; her son-in-law, Jeffrey Yergler; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Donna leaves a lasting legacy of faith, love and creativity. She will be deeply missed by her family and the many people whose lives she touched.

She will be laid to rest at the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery in Seaside, California.

New Palo Corona bridge is on its way

By CHRIS COUNTS

SOMETIME in the next year, hikers visiting Palo Corona Regional Park will be able to cross the Carmel River year-round with the installation of a new bridge. But first, it needs to make its way here from Colorado, where its structural elements are being built.

“Our newest trail feature is about to rack up some serious miles,” the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District reported last week. “The steel truss sections for our new bridge are being built by our bridge builder, based in Loveland, Colo., and are about to make the trip west.”

The bridge will replace three aging golf-cart bridges that span the river.

“Once assembled in October, this roughly 265-foot pedestrian bridge will carry hikers across the Carmel River and anchor a brand-new trail network,” according

to the park district.

The installation won’t be easy.

“So how do you set a bridge the length of nearly a football field? Very carefully and with a very big crane,” the park district explained. “Crews will use a 150-ton crawler crane working from a temporary steel platform to lift the five-part bridge into place piece by piece, with some sections weighing as much as 55,000 pounds. Partway through, the crane will move to the opposite bank to set the final pieces.”

Trails, too

Park officials hope the bridge will be installed by mid-October, weather permitting. But it will remain closed until a work crew completes a new trail network that will connect to it. If all goes according to plan, the bridge will welcome its first hikers sometime next summer.

In late July, a contractor installed footings for the bridge, which is one element of the ambitious \$37 million Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project. The project is transforming 40 acres of a former golf course into riparian habitat, expanding the park’s trail network and adding 81,000 native plants.

Marcia Love-Jackson

Jan. 9, 1952 ♦ Sept. 8, 2026

A Bright Presence, Beloved and Missed

Marcia was shy and preferred not to draw attention to herself, but her sparkling personality naturally attracted those who met her.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, Marcia attended preschool and grammar school at St. Joseph Catholic Parish in nearby Sylvania. She attended McAuley, an all-girls Catholic high school in Toledo, then Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology with a focus on social work. About a dozen years later, she earned a master’s degree in social work at San Jose State University.

After graduating from Ohio University, she moved to the Los Angeles area to be near her older brother, who lived in Marina del Rey. She began her social work career at the Culver City Adult Day Care Center. Not particularly fond of Los Angeles, she decided to follow her brother north to the Monterey Bay area.

Marcia reconnected with a friend she had met while waitressing on Mackinac Island, Michigan, who had recently found work at the Highlands Inn south of Carmel. Together, they moved into the Blue Sky Lodge in Carmel Valley Village in late 1976.

Marcia quickly found work as a waitress at Bully III in Carmel-by-the-Sea, a pub and restaurant popular with locals and regular customers. She was beloved by her customers, who often invited her to their homes for dinner. I imagined they felt as I had when I first met her: I wanted to take her home and keep her. As her husband, I accompanied her to their homes, aboard their sailboats and on other outings.

A local newspaper reporter wrote an article about her remarkable waitressing skills. It filled the front page of the Sunday B section and included several photographs. Marcia followed it up by writing a small book about waitressing, and I was tasked with providing the illustrations. More than a decade later, I searched for Marcia’s name online and discovered that her book had been pirated and republished in Russia, of all places.

During her decade of waitressing, Marcia returned to school at San Jose State to earn her master’s degree in social work. After graduating, she hit the ground running, working as a social worker at Silas B. Hayes Army Hospital at Fort Ord and then at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital. She later took over and expanded the Salvation Army’s adult day care program in Seaside.

After her time at the Salvation Army, she became a social worker with the Visiting Nurses Association. She retired in 2013, stepping away from the emotional demands of social work.

Marcia spent her entire life caring deeply about others, and that concern continued throughout her retirement. Her favorite charity was St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Marcia died of cancer just five weeks after her diagnosis. Perhaps any pain she experienced had been masked by other, seemingly less serious health issues. As one of her Ohio University friends put it, “You sure have compressed years of medical concerns into a brief period.”



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anne@carmelpinecone.com

Tax hikes to keep P.G. schools, city hall afloat

By KELLY NIX

PACIFIC GROVE voters are again being asked to approve tax measures to help the financially struggling city and its school district.

In June, the P.G. school board, at the request of administrators, voted to place an \$85-per-parcel tax proposal on the Nov. 3 ballot. If approved, the tax, which would remain in effect for five years, would generate about \$800,000 annually to pay for educational programs, staff salaries and general operating costs. Measure K, as it is called, needs approval from two-thirds of voters to pass.

‘Strengthen and improve’

The levy would apply to residential, commercial and vacant parcels, while government-owned property and houses of worship would be exempt.

The district recently sent a mailer to P.G. voters saying

Measure K would “strengthen” and “improve” reading and math programs and keep after-school programs “affordable.” Superintendent Linda Adamson told The Pine Cone this week that the district mailed more than 7,000 flyers at a cost of about \$10,500, including \$2,500 for the design. The expense was paid from the school district’s unrestricted general fund.

A consultant told the school board in June that PGUSD has about 10,000 taxable parcels within its boundaries.

“The final fiscal year in which the levy is anticipated to be collected is 2031-32,” the Measure K analysis says.

This is the third tax measure PGUSD has asked voters to approve in the past decade. In 2020, voters approved a \$30 million general obligation bond for school infrastructure repairs.

In 2024, voters approved a \$78 million bond for classroom renovations and other work. Property owners are still paying off both bonds.

Exemptions would be available to people 65 and older “who meet certain qualifications or for people receiving supplemental income for a disability and who apply for an exemption,” according to an analysis of Measure K.

The city of Pacific Grove and its seven-member city council want voters to approve Measure R, which seeks

a 0.375% sales tax. Officials estimate it would generate about \$1 million annually for 10 years and would be used “for general government services,” including public safety and fire prevention, infrastructure and utility repairs, and maintenance of streets, sidewalks and parks.

Simple majority

The Pacific Grove City Council voted in July to place the measure on the ballot. Councilmembers Chaps Poduri and Joe Amelio helped write the argument in favor of the tax, which they say is necessary because city revenue has not kept pace with the cost of providing services.

The city says the levy would be subject to independent audits and all revenue would be locally controlled. Unlike the school district’s Measure K, Measure R requires a simple majority to pass. The tax would automatically expire after 10 years.

THELMA PAULINE LEE (NÉE SAUNDERS)

DEC. 19, 1933 – AUG. 19, 2026
BORN IN PLYMOUTH, ENGLAND
RESIDED IN NAPA, CALIFORNIA

Thelma spent her childhood in Plymouth, England, where her doting father, Frank, a police inspector, served on the bomb disposal squad during World War II. The many nights she spent sleeping with her mother, Marion, in the makeshift bunker he built under the stairs left a lasting impression.

Thelma grew into an independent, resourceful and spirited young woman — the perfect match for Richard Lee, the engineering student she met at Plymouth Technical College while earning her secretarial certificate. Richard was a determined suitor, enduring months of separation while his young love was hospitalized in a tuberculosis sanatorium.



They married in 1955 and set out on their first of countless adventures together, emigrating from England to California in 1957. They initially settled in Marin County. While Richard completed graduate coursework and worked to establish his career, Thelma worked as a stenographer and created a comfortable home.

They soon became enamored with the Monterey Peninsula and settled in Carmel Valley in 1964, where they bought their first home not long afterward. It was the same sunny home on Laurel Drive where they raised their three children and lived happily for 50 years before retiring to Napa in 2013.

Richard credited his bride with working tirelessly, mostly behind the scenes, to support the growth of the successful engineering company they built together. In the early years, she was a constant presence, taking on the responsibilities of a modern-day chief operating officer, chief financial officer, head of human resources and marketing director. And, as she often joked, she was also the “chief bottle washer.”

She did all this while raising three children, volunteering at the Carmel Valley Community Chapel and Laguna Seca Raceway, and even filling in for the school secretary at Tularcitos Elementary School in Carmel Valley. There, she kept a secret drawer stocked with nutritious snacks, fresh undergarments and other necessities for children in need! Later, she did the same at York School in Monterey — although she would be the first to joke that there was no underwear in that drawer.

As a couple, Thelma and Richard were inseparable. They traveled all over the world together and shared their infectious love of adventure with friends and family. Thelma created a warm, welcoming home that was open to everyone. It was a frequent gathering place for her children’s friends, often in large groups. She was a generous host, feeding anyone who happened to linger until dinnertime and making sure they knew they were welcome to return anytime.

In addition to their human children, Thelma and Richard raised countless furry friends together. They were often seen hiking at Garland Park with a very spoiled canine companion by their sides.

When she wasn’t tending her beautiful garden, sewing or knitting up a storm, Thelma was happy to join her husband tooling around the Peninsula in a series of vintage sports cars — driven too fast for her comfort, mind you — or to serve as his co-pilot in the small plane they owned for years.

They both loved the sun and water and enjoyed sailing small yachts in the Caribbean with friends and family, year after year. Despite her own seasickness, Thelma was known to go below deck when the boat was heeling to make hot tea for “Capt. Richard,” even though she never drank tea herself. In fact, it dismayed many a kind host that their “one English friend” couldn’t stand the stuff. A cup of hot coffee, or even better, a cappuccino, was the way to Thelma’s heart.

Thelma was preceded in death by Richard. She is survived by three children: Geoffrey Lee (Deb), of Milledgeville, Georgia; Sandra Coltrin (Tony), of Calistoga, California; and Christine Lee (Eric), of Seattle, Washington; six grandchildren: Christopher and Alexander Lee, Samuel Coltrin, and Frederique, Charles-Antoine and Thomas Vallieres; seven great-grandchildren; and eight cherished nieces and nephews.

She will also be forever missed by her close-knit “village” of family and friends around the globe.

Thelma will be remembered not only as a loving, PATIENT (with a capital P) wife, but also as an active and generous member of her community, a kind and loyal friend, a caring aunt, an affectionate grandmother and a selfless, loving and magical mother. She is already deeply missed.

The family plans to hold a small celebration of life in England next year.

Memorial gifts may be made to Lucky Penny Productions, the local theater company that brought Thelma so much joy during her years in Napa:

Lucky Penny Productions
1370 Trancas St., PMB 228
Napa, CA 94558
www.luckypennynapa.com



BECKY JANE PEARSON

Feb. 2, 1949 – Sept. 19, 2026

Rebecca “Becky” Jane Pearson passed away peacefully Sept. 19, 2026, at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, surrounded by family and after an 11-month valiant effort to treat multiple myeloma.

Becky was born to Norman and Rosemarie Rausch in Arlington, Ohio. She moved with her family to Pacific Grove, California, in 1958. She attended Pacific Grove schools, graduating from Pacific Grove High School in 1967. Becky graduated from Wayne’s Beauty School and began a 55-year career as a beloved beautician in Monterey. During her career, she made many close friends and shared laughter and joy with her loyal customers and friends.

She married the love of her life, Howard Pearson, in June 1977. They would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary next June. Together, they enjoyed spending time with family and vacationing in Switzerland, Italy, Maui and Kauai in Hawaii, Lake Tahoe, and California’s wine country, including Calistoga and Napa. Becky brought joy to those around her and was loved by her family, many close friends and her beloved church families over the years. Becky and Howard also remained active in supporting the school’s Breakers Club as her nephews and grandchildren participated in sports and music at Pacific Grove High School.

Becky is survived by her sister, Cindy (Rick) Bitter; nephews Rickey and Ryan (Kate); great-nephews Callaghan and Ryan John; niece Brynn; stepdaughter Kim (David) Jones; three grandchildren, Taylor (West), Jordan (Brianna) and Connor; and one great-grandchild, Ruach. She was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Norman and Rosemarie Rausch and her stepson, Brian Pearson.

The family would like to express its gratitude to everyone who cared for Becky during her battle with cancer, including Dr. Nancy Tray and the PCC team, Dr. Ruddy, Dr. Magnuson, Dr. Dharma Naidu and the Palliative Care Team at Community Hospital.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. Oct. 17 at Faith Lutheran Church, 1460 Hilby Ave., Seaside, California.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Faith Lutheran Church, Gathering for Women (gatheringforwomen.org) or a favorite charity.

Editorial

Those evil bastards

KUDOS TO the Carmel City Council this week for seeing through the notion that Carmel’s businesses are the natural enemy of the town’s cul- ture and history — so much so that the chamber of commerce could not be trusted inside the First Murphy House without endangering the house itself, the beach, the sky, the forest, the Mission, and the ghosts of Frank Deven- dorf, Junípero Serra and John Steinbeck. Is there anything the owners of a collection of small shops, restaurants, and inns cannot do to ruin Carmel?

The worry is an old one, and it has aged poorly. For roughly two centu- ries the people most likely to keep a crumbling palace, a ruined abbey or a stack of manuscripts from becoming firewood have been the same people who made their money selling oil, steel, automobiles or dry goods. This is inconvenient for anyone who prefers history to arrive unsullied by a profit and loss statement.

John D. Rockefeller Jr. did not restore Colonial Williamsburg because a zoning board ordered him to. He bought the land, hired the architects and spent a fortune reconstructing an 18th-century capital that had been dis- appearing into the 20th. Henry Ford, no one’s idea of a delicate aesthete, bought the Wright brothers’ bicycle shop, Edison’s laboratory and dozens of other buildings and hauled them to Michigan so they would not be scrapped. Andrew Mellon did not endow the National Gallery of Art by accident. He bought the paintings, built the building, and gave both to the public. Isabella Stewart Gardner assembled a Venetian palace in Boston and left instructions that the arrangement was not to be touched. J. Paul Getty spent oil money on antiquities and on the conservation laboratories that still treat them. The Cloisters exists because a Rockefeller wanted medieval architecture in New York City and was willing to pay for the stones.

Europe’s version of the story is older and, if anything, less romantic. The country houses that now charge admission and host school groups were kept standing by families who treated them as assets: farms, timber, rents, and, later, tourists. When those families failed, the next owner was often a brewery heir, a banker, or a merchant who liked the look of a pediment. The Rothschilds restored and furnished houses across England and France with the same attention they gave the stock market. Private collectors, not worrywarts in small towns, assembled most of what later became national museums. The objects moved from a palace to a gallery, despite the very troubling (for some) fact the money that kept them intact was private.

The pattern is not confined to oil barons and people who like to collect the Old Masters with their spare change. Ordinary commerce has been the tenant of historic buildings for as long as those buildings have had ground floors. The shop that occupies a medieval street in York or a gold-rush block in Nevada City is not a contamination of the street. It is the reason the street was not cleared for a parking structure in 1962. Inns, restaurants and small manufacturers have underwritten roofs, gutters and fire suppression in build- ings whose original owners have been dead for a century. When the num- bers stop working, the buildings often stop standing. Philanthropy covers the exceptions. Rent covers the rest.

The United States eventually noticed and began subsidizing the process. The federal historic tax credit, enacted in the 1970s, has since drawn well over \$100 billion in private rehabilitation money into old mills, hotels and commercial blocks. The public contribution is a reduction in tax, while the capital, the risk and the occupancy are private.

None of this means every developer is a steward or that a landmark des- igation never blocks needed changes. Owners demolish when the land is worth more empty. They also restore when the restored building is worth more full. The objection of Carmel’s naysayers treats the second case as a paradox and the first as a law of nature. History’s actual record is plainer. The sites and objects now called the common inheritance were, in large part, bought, repaired and opened by people who had made money at something else and decided to spend it on old stones.

BEST of BATES



“Carmel’s going to the dogs.”

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

More traffic, less benefit

Dear Editor,

Business in Carmel has been good, but that does not mean restaurants are making more money.

Since Covid, the cost of operating a restaurant here has changed dramati- cally. Wages have risen sharply because employees face an extraordinarily high cost of living. Food, insurance, utilities and other expenses have climbed as well. In our experience, costs that once seemed manageable have, in some cases, nearly doubled.

Years ago, an exceptionally well-run restaurant might achieve a 30% operat- ing margin. Today, even a very successful restaurant may be fortunate to earn half that.

That is why increasing the cost of stay- ing in Carmel matters to restaurants.

Overnight visitors are among our best customers. They have dinner, order wine,

return for breakfast or lunch, shop in town and spend money over several days. They also generate the hotel tax revenue that is so important to the city. Once here, they are far more likely to walk through town than drive and compete for parking.

Measure M would raise the city’s hotel tax from 10% to 12%. But Carmel guests already pay an additional 2% hospital- ity assessment, which has already greatly increased transient occupancy tax reve- nue, so the total cost would rise to 14% — higher than in neighboring cities.

If that higher cost reduces overnight stays even modestly, restaurants and other local businesses will feel it immediately. Some visitors may simply stay in Mon- terey, Pacific Grove or elsewhere on the Monterey Peninsula and drive into Car- mel for the day. Carmel could lose hotel tax revenue and some of the spending tied to overnight stays while still experi- encing more traffic, parking demand and congestion.

As a Carmel resident and operator of several local restaurants, I believe Measure M creates too much risk for the businesses, employees and city revenue that depend on overnight visitors. For those reasons, I will vote no on Measure M.

Bashar Sneeh, Carmel

Underlying facts

Dear Editor,

Before voting on Measure M’s 20% hotel tax rate increase, please understand the underlying facts and make an informed decision.

See ISSUES page 31A

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A LENS ABOVE, FROM DOWN UNDER

GROWING UP in suburban Melbourne, near the southern tip of mainland Australia, Sharon Cavanagh always felt she was missing out on something important. Her escape, at least until high school, was through the television. Certain images made “a huge impression” on her — spe-



PHOTO/DART

Sharon Cavanagh moved to Monterey in 2019, where her globe-circling career as a news photographer and production assistant led her to a high-flying project.

cifically, the zany colors and linework of “Looney Tunes” and the skin-crawling horror of “Alien” and other films of the late 1970s. She also loved the news channel. During her junior year of high school, Cavanagh and her classmates were presented with a list of two-week internships. She was a stellar math and science student, and despite being asked to rank three options that interested her, she circled just one.

Rennie Ellis was an Australian photographer who founded Brummels Gallery of Photography, the country’s first dedicated image gallery. His images of Melbourne captured its upper crust and raffish beachgoers with equal curiosity, and his work was exhibited internationally. During her two weeks at his studio, Cavanagh didn’t get much face time with Ellis, but combing through his archive was inspiration enough.

“My mum didn’t speak to me for weeks,” she recalled of her subsequent decision to enroll in art school. Her father, who supported the family as a mechanic for the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, couldn’t wrap his head around it.

Papua New Guinea

After an unusually tense year — living at home without a family car to borrow,

hunting for photography work — good news led to a sentimental reconciliation. She still has her mother’s Kodak Brownie camera and her older sister’s Polaroid, both wrapped as gifts to celebrate her first job offer.

Cavanagh, 59, still regards one assignment from those first five years as “the best thing that ever happened to me.”

She had been hired as a trainee photographer at a suburban daily run by the media group behind Melbourne’s leading newspaper. The publication had an opportunity for a reporter and photographer to cover the construction of a hospital in rural Papua New Guinea. To her, it seemed every name on the masthead was opposed to sending a woman.

“But I was rough and ready,” she recalled.

Celebrity portraits

For three weeks, Cavanagh documented the volunteer construction crew at work. Her appearance — pale skin and red hair — initially provoked screams from local children. Their mothers were less skeptical, and they gradually welcomed her to photograph ordinary moments at home and at work. The experience “really stayed with me and informed the kind of work I wanted to do,” she said.

Eager to expand her resume, she moved to London in 1993 through a work visa program available to Australians. The first photographer who hired her happened to specialize in celebrity portraits.

An assistant is the nearly invisible pair of hands that help shoots run quickly and professionally, Cavanagh explained. The job entails scouting locations, loading equipment, tracking expenses, solving technical problems, soothing temper tantrums and doing whatever else is necessary to preserve “the bubble” around the pho-

Great Lives

By LILY PATTERSON

tographer and subject. In the pre-Instagram era, when tabloids were at their peak, she noted, a flattering image in print could help an actor land a role, or put a Band-Aid on a public scandal.

The Queen of Pop

One of her most memorable assignments was a photo shoot for W magazine’s April 2003 issue, which featured Madonna on the cover. Cavanagh and a couple of assistants spent “two or three days” rigging the set lighting, and it was decided that her complexion was similar enough to

See LIVES next page

Making her own kind of spotlight

LIGHT HAS a special relationship with Shelby Hawthorne, who spends endless hours dreaming up new ways to make it dance and frolic among the colors she lovingly concocts and cooks in the two kilns at her Sand City studio.

She’s a glass artist, a mad scientist who mixes and shapes glass fragments — cut sheets, powder, scraps — into compositions she melts at nearly 1,500 degrees.

“I think I chose glass art because I just love how light goes through it. That really appeals to me,” said the Big Sur native. She found her medium during the first semester of her freshman year at the California College of the Arts in Oakland, solving a perplexing puzzle: How can a second-generation artist, from a family already teeming with artists, establish her own, independent identity?

One of her aunts was a ceramicist, another makes jewelry. One uncle does woodcarving, another owns a gallery in Port Orford, Ore., where his own blown-glass art is on display.

Her father, Greg Hawthorne, is a celebrated painter, sculptor and mixed-media artist who built Big Sur’s palatial Hawthorne Gallery more than 30 years ago on Highway 1. He and his wife, Susan (Shelby’s mom), still operate the business where no fewer than six artists named Hawthorne, including Shelby and her older brother, Taylor — an artistic metal fabricator by profession — are among the 28 exhibitors.

Hanging out with Dad

“I did more painting as a kid, because that’s what was most available to me,” she said. “If I wanted to hang out with my dad, I’d hang out in his studio and paint with him, or just watch him paint,” she remembered. “And then he started giving me challenges — ‘If you cut these pieces out and overlay them, how would that look?’ — trying to make my brain larger

and figure out different ways of making art besides painting.”

Shelby and her brother share a two-story, 10,000-square-foot building on Elder Avenue in Sand City — Hawthorne Glass & Metal — where he creates metal art on the first floor and she makes her glass wonders upstairs.

A 7-foot glass flower

Her custom dinnerware, ornate napkin rings and dessert plates are part of the dining experience at Big Sur’s historic Post Ranch Inn, and other creations adorn some of the guest rooms.

She was commissioned to create a sculpture for the Covid-19 Memorial Garden at the Monterey County Government Center Plaza in Salinas. The work, comprising five luminous freestanding glass panels in artistic steel framing created

Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

by Taylor, honors 940 county residents who died from the virus, along with first responders, frontline workers, educators, healthcare and public health professionals and communities that offered support throughout the pandemic.

Her commissions frequently come from people who want large, ornate windows for their homes. One current project is a three-story wall of glass to be composed of more than 40 individual panels. She’s creating it for a Carmel resident.

“I’m also working for a Pebble Beach client who wants at least 20 pieces of glass that will hang from the ceiling, kind of like a deconstructed chandelier,” she said. “There won’t be any lights — but the light will be reflected from lighting in the room.”

An early moment of validation for Hawthorne came when her father invited her to show a 7-foot-tall flower — made entirely of blown-glass petals — at the gallery. Taylor built the metal stand.

“That was the first object my dad let me sell in the gallery, and someone bought it,” she said.

By the time she graduated from Carmel High School in 2007, Hawthorne knew she wanted to become a full-time professional artist.

Wrong vibe

She originally considered fashion design and went East to check out the Rhode Island School of Design, where Taylor, eight years her senior, had majored in sculpture.

“But I didn’t like the vibe, didn’t like the East,” said Hawthorne, who enrolled instead at California College of the Arts, where, in the first semester, she signed up for a glassblowing class — an elective course.

See ARTIST next page



PHOTO/KENDAL DELAURA

Big Sur native Shelby Hawthorne chose glass art as her preferred medium after the first class she took at the California College of the Arts in Oakland.

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FRAUD

From page 6A

Crossroads as the church’s address.

Although most of the nonprofit’s website is blank, the site says proceeds benefited children at Love Child Care Academy in Kenya.

Jordan posted 142 videos on his church’s YouTube channel, reading Bible verses and offering motivational messages. In his most recent video, posted about a year ago, he said everyone has “two choices every day.”

“You always want to look at the consequence of the result of that choice,” Jordan said. “It’s either going to lead to something good, or it’s going to lead to something bad. Even if it’s something bad, you still have a choice. Either you can keep making a bad choice and it keeps getting worse. Or you decide ‘I’m going to make some different choices to get better.’”

‘Charismatic’

Lorrie Ghose, who befriended Jordan and his wife after meeting them at Spanish Bay, told The Pine Cone that he was “very visible around town.”

“He had a ton of cars, mostly vintage, and wherever he

Team recovers \$1.5M worth of stolen vehicles

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A REGIONAL law-enforcement team focused on combating auto theft has recovered 133 cars, trucks and other vehicles valued at more than \$1.5 million and made 26 arrests since the start of the year, according to the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office, with the most recent occurring on Main Street in Salinas Monday night.

At around 9:30 p.m. Oct. 5, members of the Monterey County Multi-Agency Detail Combating Auto Theft, or MADCAT, saw 55-year-old San Jose resident Brady Sabat driving a stolen truck, according to Cmdr. Andy Rosas. Deputies pulled him over and arrested him without any drama, and he was booked into Monterey County Jail for possession of a stolen vehicle and drugs.

Brady is one of 36 Monterey County Jail inmates whose charges include vehicle theft.

MADCAT is staffed by the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office and Greenfield Police Department, with assistance from various partner agencies, including Salinas P.D. and the California Highway Patrol. The collaboration “allows participating agencies to share personnel and resources while conducting proactive vehicle theft investigations throughout Monterey County,” according to Rosas, and Sheriff Tina Nieto complimented the team for its work this year.

Recovered stolen vehicles have included passenger cars, pickup trucks, SUVs, trailers and heavy equipment, including those used for agriculture.

J. LAWRENCE

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was, a small crowd would gather,” Ghose said. “He was very charismatic.”

She recalled that Jordan once asked her to be a server at a party he hosted for a pay-per-view boxing match.

“They had me wear the most ridiculous outfit, which said, ‘Mermaid Security,’” Ghose recounted. “I was interested in befriending them because he was so charming and professed to be Christian.”

Possible lengthy term

Ghose said Jordan was also generous and once donated \$10,000 to an animal rescue group supported by another Pebble Beach resident.

SCHOOL BOARD

From page 8A

has money readily available, but the district spends a lot on teachers and staff, and there’s not a lot of funding for facilities,” said Shaffer, whose two children attend Carmel High School.

Relating her NPS experience, “This is something we deal with in the federal government. Instead of burying decisions in our own language or in pages of financial documents, we need to be talking in plain terms.

“The board and district could do a better job, and the community has a responsibility to come up with better questions,” she said.

She acknowledged that the potential for public blow-back creates “hesitation” to communicate when projects do not go as planned.

“Construction prices go up, or you open up a septic tank and find stuff that you don’t expect,” she said.

‘It’s been turbulent’

Still, the board’s role is accountability and governance. Said Shaffer, “It’s been turbulent in Carmel, and one of the reasons I decided to run is that the superintendent and the district are open to moving things forward.”

As an alumnus, Fernandez said his long history with CUSD informs an understanding of the district’s “core values.” Speaking with The Pine Cone, he also recalled being a student at Carmel Middle School when the district built its first computer lab there.

“Tech can be a wonderful investment, but we need to ask if those devices are actually a better route for learning,” and measure student outcomes accordingly, he said.

Both candidates are raising children who have required

Jordan faces up to 32 years in prison when U.S. District Judge Stephen V. Wilson of the Central District of California sentences him.

The former Pebble Beach resident’s plea in May came about a month after the Justice Department announced the creation of its National Fraud Enforcement Division, which “investigates and prosecutes those who commit fraud against the American people.” The IRS Criminal Investigation division also investigated the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Rane A. Katzenstein for the Central District of California and trial attorney Matthew R. Hoffman of the Justice Department’s Tax Division are prosecuting the case.

special education support, and each wants to lend that perspective to the board.

Shaffer emphasized the need for “practical support” for educators. After her son received an individualized education plan in elementary school, she became acutely aware of the demands parents place on teachers and aides — and, conversely, how parents often felt uninformed about their children’s needs and options.

“The most important thing is for people to hear each other, especially the students. With technology and everything else going on, they’re the ones who are going to live through this,” she said.

LEARNING

From page 14A

than on paper-and-pencil ones. California did away with paper testing a decade ago when it introduced Smarter Balanced. The state hasn’t specified whether its new math screenings for kindergarten through second grade will be administered on paper or a device.

A number of education groups, including the Association of California School Administrators and the California Teachers Association, opposed the screener, writing in a joint letter that “A mandated assessment is only as effective as the system that supports it.” That roughly translates to: “Where’s the money for our paychecks?”

Funding aside, it’s hard to imagine how having more information about student learning gaps could produce worse outcomes.

Dee is right — at least in part — that what teachers do with the information will be critical. But perhaps even more pivotal is what action policymakers choose to take based on the results.



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ISSUES

From page 26A

The first question you should ask is, have hotel tax payments increased at the current tax rate, and if so, by how much? The answer is yes — by more than 400%, from less than \$2 million per year to more than \$10 million. That is an increase of more than \$8 million in annual hotel tax payments, far in excess of inflation, without any increase in the tax rate.

It is astounding that our 42 small inns and hotels pay almost 30% of the city’s entire tax base. Maybe the city should have proposed a hotel tax rate cut to make Carmel even more competitive and encourage additional private investment in renovations that have increased hotel taxes so much. How come no one thinks of that option anymore?

Instead, the city chose another permanent — yes, forever — unnecessary, “only in California” tax increase. Even Los Angeles’ generally tax-friendly voters recently said “enough is enough” and voted a resounding no on a 2% hotel tax measure there.

I’m not arguing that Carmel doesn’t have deferred capital needs. But ask yourself why the city needs a tax

Have something important to say about a local controversy? Submit your letter to the editor (350 words max) to letters@carmelpinecone.com.

increase when it already receives among the highest tax revenue per capita in California, the state with the highest taxes in the country. What’s more, Measure M’s hotel tax increase isn’t even required to be used for capital projects. Measure M is a general tax which can be spent on anything — salaries, pensions, consultants and more.

If the city really wanted to limit the tax to capital needs, it needed to make it a special tax, but it chose not to do that. Plain and simple, a permanent and unnecessary 20% hotel tax increase on the most overperforming and important segment of our local economy is unfair, unneeded and unwise. Carmel has less risky funding options, including the 0.375% sales tax increase proposed by Measure N.

Measure N is, in the city’s own words, “use it or lose it” and is essential to pass before the revenue is lost to another agency. But we don’t need both. Please choose wisely, based on facts rather than campaign rhetoric, and vote no on Misguided M.

Danny Hala, Carmel

Small increase

Dear Editor,

I am voting yes on Measures M and N.

Some of Carmel’s hotel owners and operators have come out against Measure M, which would increase Carmel’s transient occupancy tax from 10% to 12%. They say that if Measure M passes, it will cause some visitors not to book rooms in Carmel. To those of you who travel and stay in any kind of lodging: Is a 2-percentage-point increase in the tax on your room actually going to cause you not to book it? I doubt it.

Take a Carmel hotel room with a base rate of \$500. Currently, the guest would be charged \$50 in transient occupancy tax at Carmel’s 10% rate. If Measure M passes, the guest would pay \$60, an increase of just \$10 on a \$500 room.

I’m not in the hotel business, but it seems to me that room rates are mostly a function of supply and demand. Just look at how high room rates get during major local events. And when tourism slows, rates go down as hotels do their best to attract customers. It’s pretty simple: supply, demand and basic economics.

Measure N is also a very small, 0.375-percentage-point increase in the sales tax. This tax would also be paid mostly by visitors. As I understand it, if Carmel does not vote to keep these local sales tax dollars in Carmel, Monterey County can claim them. Why wouldn’t we keep the sales tax revenue generated in Carmel here in Carmel?

Carmel is a tourist town. The hotels, restaurants and other businesses in town need tourists. But the influx of visitors also causes wear and tear on our town. The current city council and city staff have done a great job of identifying many things that need to be fixed. The deferred maintenance totals approximately \$100 million, and the council has developed a plan to generate revenue to help get that work done.

Passing Measures M and N is an important part of this plan. Now is the time.

Noel Carr, Carmel

Hotel tax economics

Dear Editor,

We keep hearing that raising Carmel’s hotel tax won’t hurt hotels because “the visitor pays it.” Of course the

See **LETTERS** page 34 *IYD*

Film Fest hands Golden Bough Awards

By CHRIS COUNTS

A MIX of filmmakers, actors, editors, composers and screenwriters took home the inaugural Golden Bough Awards at last weekend’s Carmel International Film Festival. Among them was Sal Bardo, whose “Out of the Woods” was named Best Narrative Feature. The movie explores commitment, reconnecting with the past and fading memories.

The awards were selected by a panel of judges that included Academy Award-winning actor Timothy Hutton, writer, director and producer Stephen Gyllenhaal (father of actors Maggie and Jake Gyllenhaal), and actor and former Carmel resident Frances Fisher, who appeared in the hit films “Unforgiven,” “Titanic” and “The Lincoln Lawyer.”

Fisher, who starred in “Out of the Woods,” received the Golden Bough for Best Actress, while Ka’Prise Colvin won best actor for his role in “The Novel.” The film follows a struggling writer who becomes entangled with an aspiring actress whose father had recently died under mysterious circumstances.

Film producer Stephen Nemeth, who founded Rhino Films and produced “The Sessions” and “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas,” received a lifetime achievement award for “outstanding contributions to the cinematic arts.”

Adam Angel’s “Bleeding Humanity” won Best Student Film. Angel is a student at Carmel High School.

Other winners included Aaron Straight’s “We Simply Liked It: Steinbeck, Ricketts and the Return of the Western Flyer” for best historical legacy film; Dorian Lloyd Jeffers’ “Deep Above” for Best Experimental Short Film; Jason Stuart’s “Redlining” for Best Short Film; Asa Bailey’s “Something Pointless” for Best International Short film; Wendy Toliver for best short screenplay for “Double-Crossed Christmas”; Michael Louis Gould for Best Feature Screenplay for “Scared Sun”; and Kurt Rosenberg for Best Original Score for “Strolling Down Bright Pier.”



Frances Fisher

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

Stevenson’s Pirates were supposed to rebuild. They went overboard.

TWO SURPRISE packages from Germany arrived this fall on the doorstep of Stevenson school field hockey coach Rosanna McCormick, who quickly recalibrated her expectations for the 2026 team. What was expected to be a season-long rebuilding process turned into a realistic pursuit of the school’s first Central Coast Section championship.

A few miles away, Carmel High’s varsity squad is now in the experienced hands of a lifelong educator who coached field hockey for 13 seasons at Leigh High School before retiring from the San Jose Unified School District four years ago. She then began commuting to the Monterey Peninsula to coach the Padres’ junior varsity squad.

Meanwhile, fifth-year Santa Catalina coach Julian Salas is teaching the fundamentals to a young squad. He has the largest roster of his tenure at the Monterey private boarding school — and a surprisingly effective defense.

After graduating 18 seniors last spring, including four

first-team all-league players, from a team that won back-to-back PCAL championships and lost in an overtime shootout in the CCS Division II semifinals, McCormick was braced for a very different kind of season.

“I really thought this would be our rebuilding year. I figured we were going to put up a good fight but lick some wounds this season,” she said.

“Instead, I think we’re playing some of the best hockey Stevenson has ever played, thanks to some wonderful senior leadership and the level of play of our two new international students.”

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR



Stevenson co-captain Zola Ducker (right), the 2025 PCAL Goalie of the Year, battles teammates Ella Bradford (left) and Gretta Jungjohann (center) in a pregame drill.

Reinforcements from overseas

Those newcomers, junior Gretta Jungjohann and freshman Lottie Schulte — both midfielders — arrived from Germany with uncommon field hockey skills honed since age 5.

“They elevate everything to another level,” said McCormick, who added them to a starting lineup that already featured 2025 PCAL Goalie of the Year Zola Ducker and second-team all-league selection Charlotte Schipper, who can play any field position. Both are senior co-captains.

Two other players saw notable varsity action a year ago: senior Ella Wang, a sweeper, and junior Ella Bradford, another versatile player who excels on defense and in the midfield and can also attack the goal as a forward when needed.

“We have a small roster this year — just 14 players — which makes flexibility a necessity for us,” McCormick said of the challenge of keeping 10 field players fresh when only four substitutes are available, assuming everyone is present and



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Carmel’s Emma Stiver battles with Stevenson’s Gretta Jungjohann, a German boarding student, in a matchup of two of the PCAL’s best center midfielders. Both are juniors this season.

healthy.

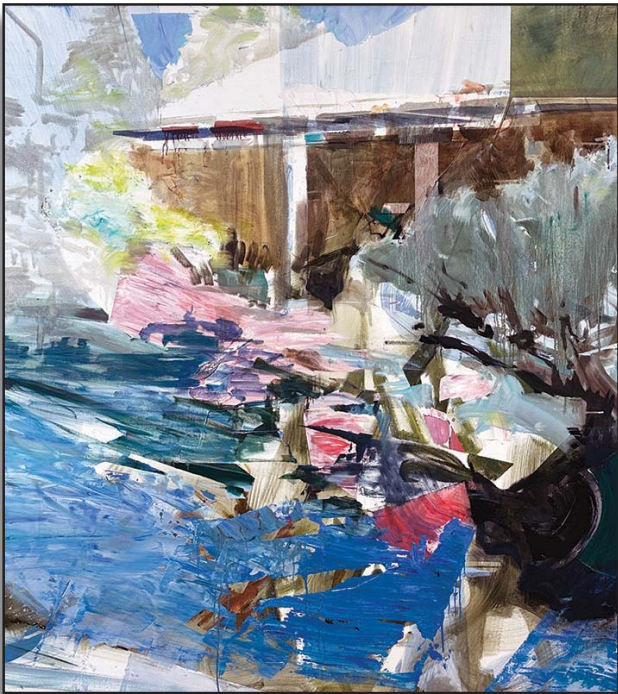
Ducker, who has 65 saves, is a third-year starting goal-keeper and four-year varsity player. She has recorded seven shutouts against PCAL opponents this season and 15 consecutive league shutouts dating to 2025.

With help from a defensive line that includes Wang at sweeper, juniors Levan Cheng in the center and Emma

Continues next page



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HALLOWEEN

From page 9A

Hot apple cider and sweets will ensure everyone departs on a warm note. The lighthouse is located at 80 Asilomar Ave., and tickets are \$30 per person. Purchase at cityofpg.org/lighthouse.

The tour is not suitable for children under 7, and all minors must be accompanied by adults.

Parading, trick-or-treating

The city's Halloween parade has been held on the holiday for the past several years, but to make time for its 110th birthday party, it's set for Oct. 30 at 4:30 p.m. this year. The procession, in which all are welcome, will stage on Mission Street and Sixth Avenue in the footprint of the Thursday farmers market and head south on Junipero Avenue before making a right onto Ocean, going down to Monte Verde Street and looping back up.

Everyone and their well-behaved pets are invited to walk in the parade, but groups are asked to register via the parade participation form available at ci.carmel.ca.us/post/spooky-season-almost-here-0 under the "city Halloween parade" line.

The best locations for watching the parade and cheering people on are anywhere along Ocean Avenue and in Devendorf Park, but no one is allowed to stand or sit in the medians.

From 4:15 to 5 p.m., Ocean will be closed to through traffic between Junipero and Monte Verde. After the parade, trick-

or-treating will be offered in Devendorf Park.

Disco inferno

That night, Folktale Winery will host a Disco Inferno party in its barrel room, which will be transformed into "a glittering corner of the underworld, where disco balls, music, wine and devilishly good bites set the stage for a night of dancing and Halloween mischief," and guests are encouraged to "come dressed for the occasion and lean fully into the spirit of the night." DJ Baddj will provide the tunes.

Tickets are \$70 plus tax, with a \$10 discount for Folktale wine club members and include a welcome wine cocktail and Halloween-inspired bites. A cash bar serving wine, beer, cocktails and nonalcoholic



Local parades often include antique fire trucks, and Carmel's birthday parade is no exception, but in Carmel you also get a magical wizard.

beverages will be available all night. Visit folktalewinery.com/upcoming-events. The winery is at 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

The fun will wrap up with Carmel's 110th Birthday Bash on Oct. 31 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Devendorf Park. The Hovering Breadcat Band will play, free hot dogs will be available for the taking, and the city promises face painting and other surprises.

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POLICE LOG

From page 4A

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Possible prowler reported near residences and a hotel at Mission Street and Third Avenue.

Pacific Grove: At about 10:11 p.m., a woman reported receiving threatening messages and harassing phone calls from a man she knew in high school. The man was identified as a Morgan Hill resident. Charges under California Penal Code Section 653m are being sought.

Monterey: A 42-year-old man was arrested on Del Monte Boulevard on suspicion of obstructing or resisting an executive officer.

Monterey: Misdemeanor identity theft reported on Seventh Street.

Monterey: Vandalism at Camino El Estero and Webster Street.

Monterey: Vandalism on Olivier Street.

Monterey: A 47-year-old woman was arrested at Camino El Estero and Webster Street on suspicion of vandalism and public intoxication.

Monterey: A 73-year-old man was arrested at Lighthouse and Hoffman avenues on suspicion of driving under the influence.

Monterey: A 23-year-old man was arrested on Del Monte Avenue on suspicion of violating probation, driving with a suspended license and driving under the influence.

Marina: At about 7:45 p.m., officers patrolling the area of Fourth Avenue and 12th Street saw a suspicious vehicle parked in a posted no-trespassing area. Officers contacted the occupant and saw a rifle protruding from the back seat. The man was removed from the vehicle and detained without incident. The rifle was determined to be loaded and unregistered. During a further search of the vehicle, officers found multiple methamphetamine pipes, methamphetamine and several boxes of ammunition. The man was booked into Monterey County Jail on suspicion of possessing a controlled substance, possessing drug paraphernalia, possessing a controlled substance while armed with a firearm, carrying a loaded firearm while not its registered owner and carrying a concealed weapon in a vehicle.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Possible trespassing at Scenic Road

and Eighth Avenue.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fall on city property at San Carlos Street and Seventh Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Vehicles on Fountain Avenue and Laurel Avenue were marked for 72-hour parking violations.

Pacific Grove: A woman reported a physical domestic incident on Forest Avenue.

Pacific Grove: A woman was arrested on Asilomar Avenue on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol.

Monterey: Missing person reported on Herrmann Drive.

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

Pacific Grove: A person was cited for violating a municipal code by feeding wildlife at Mermaid Avenue and Ocean View Boulevard.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Pacific Grove: Officers responded to the 900 block of Lighthouse Avenue for a possible restraining order violation and harassing phone calls. Officers determined that the restraining order had not been served. The victim provided voicemails in which the suspect repeatedly called to annoy or harass her. Charges under California Penal Code Section 653m(b) were filed against the man.

Monterey: Burglary reported on Ramona Avenue.

Monterey: A 51-year-old man was arrested at Fisherman's Wharf on suspicion of assaulting a custodial officer, resisting an executive officer, violating probation and alcohol-related disorderly conduct.

Monterey: A 37-year-old man was arrested on Munras Avenue on suspicion of burglary, possessing burglary tools and possessing drug paraphernalia.

Monterey: A 31-year-old man was arrested at Tyler and East Franklin for vandalism and disorderly conduct due to alcohol.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Pacific Grove: Animal bite reported on Junipero Avenue.

Pacific Grove: A possible sexual assault occurred near the 1100 block of Lighthouse Avenue at 8:45 a.m. Sept. 16. The victim notified hospital staff, who reported the incident to officers. The victim declined to provide information about the incident or the suspect.

See CRIME page 38A

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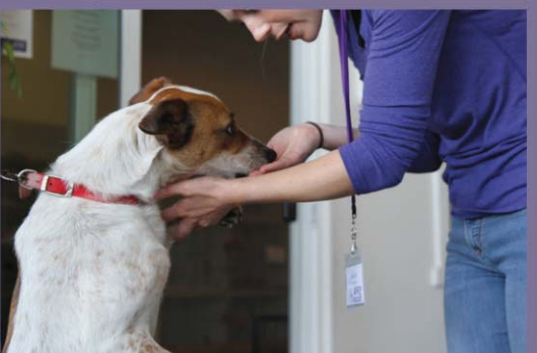
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CRIME
From page 36A

Pacific Grove: Officers were dispatched to the first block of Arkwright Court for a suicidal person. The person made suicidal statements to family members but fled before officers arrived. Officers located the man on Ocean View Boulevard and placed him on a 72-hour mental health hold under Section 5150 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code. He was taken by ambulance to Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.

Monterey: Public intoxication on Calle Principal.

Monterey: Theft involving the use of access card information on Hawthorne Street.

Monterey: A 24-year-old person was arrested at Tyler Street and Munras Avenue on suspicion of violating probation and alcohol-related disorderly conduct.

Monterey: Indecent exposure on Glenwood Circle.

Monterey: A 55-year-old man was arrested on Pacific Street on suspicion of possessing drug paraphernalia.

Monterey: A 32-year-old person was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting at Del Monte Center.

Monterey: Vandalism on Watson Street.

Monterey: A 35-year-old man on Lighthouse Avenue was found to be under the influence of a controlled substance.

Marina: A Marina community services officer was investigating a previous dog-bite incident at a residence when the dogs involved breached their fence and attacked her. The officer used her clipboard to defend herself and sustained minor puncture wounds to her hand. She received appropriate care. Both dogs will be quarantined for 10 days at the Salinas Animal Shelter in accordance with applicable procedures.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Suspected child abuse reported on Santa Fe.

Pacific Grove: Municipal code violation resulting in a citation for feeding wildlife on Ocean View Boulevard.

Pacific Grove: A shipment of medication was believed to have been stolen by a FedEx driver on Lighthouse. Unfound at this time. Informational report only.

Monterey: Vandalism reported on Calle Principal.

Monterey: A 50-year-old man was arrested at Fisherman’s Wharf on a felony warrant for failure to appear in court.

Monterey: A subject on Abrego Street was placed on a 72-hour mental health evaluation hold.

Monterey: A 31-year-old man was arrested at Del Monte Shopping Center for exhibiting a deadly weapon.

Monterey: A 27-year-old man was arrested at Foam Street and Cannery Row for driving on a suspended license and a probation violation.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Sexual battery at a restaurant at San Carlos and Ocean. An employee reported that a customer contacted and touched them inappropriately. The detective is actively investigating the case.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of physical abuse of a dependent adult at Lincoln and Seventh Avenue. A resident of an assisted living community reported physical abuse. This case is under further investigation by the detective.

Pacific Grove: Officers responded to the 1100 block of Ripple Avenue on a medical call for service. An ambulance

See LOG page 32 IYD

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The Carmel Pine Cone

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Letters to the editor are only accepted by email and should be sent to mail@carmelpinecone.com

SPORTS

From page 34A

playing time as Carmel’s goalkeeper of the future.

Stiver, the center midfielder, ranked among the 2025 team leaders with 15 assists and has emerged as this year’s top offensive threat.

“Emma gets our offense started, she plays excellent defense, and she never comes off the field. She’s our most solid player,” Wolf said of Stiver, who plays in the midfield with senior Elizabeth McDona-ld and sophomores Anya Grieser and Maddie Whitford. Another sophomore, Gretchen Peelman, adds depth.

Attackers include senior Hayden Murillo and sophomores Vivian McIntyre, Tenaya Stoney and Tessa Mirski, with junior Grace Grahl recently moving up from the junior varsity team.

“This is a very connected team — they enjoy being around each other,” Wolf said. “They’re learning to compete, learning from their mistakes, and they’re getting better.”

Evidence came Monday, when the Padres, 4-9-2 overall and 3-2-1 in the PCAL, battled Hollister to a 1-1 tie after losing to the same team 4-0 on Sept. 3.

Strong Catalina defense

More than half of the 20-plus players on Catalina’s roster are freshmen or first-year students at the school, and only one of those ninth graders had played field hockey before, Salas said. He views the 2026 season as “an investment in the future.”

The present also offers reason for opti-mism. Despite a 2-4-1 record, all in league play, the Cougars have the PCAL’s third-best defense.

Senior goalkeeper Evie Wright, a four-year varsity player, and freshman backup Jillian Yurko have worked with center

defenders Kali Peck, a junior in her third varsity season, and sophomore Avery Maz-za. Outside defenders include senior Bianca Mason and junior Laurel Donnelly, both third-year players. Together, they have allowed fewer goals than every league team except Hollister and Stevenson.

“We’ve focused a lot on getting our defense solidified, then working our way up the field,” Salas said. “I think we’re in a good place right now and hoping to build off that.”

The midfield is built around sec-ond-team All-PCAL selection Paloma Reyes, a senior serving as team captain for the second consecutive season.

“Paloma is a player with a great atti-tude, and her teammates follow her leader-ship,” Salas said of his center midfielder, a four-year varsity starter.

She is flanked by senior Annie Beas-ley, a second-year player, and sophomore Vera Gutierrez, one of many first-year field hockey players on the roster.

The attackers are senior Hope Yoshi-yama, an exceptional athlete in her sec-ond season, and freshman Jocelyn Spear, another newcomer to the sport.

“This is a challenging game to learn, with a lot of rules you don’t find in other sports,” said Salas, a former soccer player at CSU Monterey Bay who also coaches lacrosse and soccer at Catalina. “Players have to familiarize themselves with the feel of the stick and the rhythms of the game.”

The Cougars also face the inconve-nience of traveling to York School for all practices and home games while their ath-letic facilities are renovated.

Carmel will travel to York today, Friday, Oct. 9, for a 4 p.m. game against Catalina. Stevenson hosts Salinas at 4 p.m. Monday in Pebble Beach.

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

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Live Music,
Clubs and Events

Homegrown classical music group launches centennial season at Sunset

THE CARMEL Music Society kicks off its 100th anniversary season with a concert by **The Anderson & Roe Piano Duo** Sunday at 3 p.m. at Sunset Center. The duo presents an eclectic program, with music by

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

Bach, Brahms, Schumann, Leonard Bernstein and Radiohead. “Known for their adrenaline-fueled performances, original compositions and notorious music videos, **Greg**



Carmel Music Society kicks off its centennial season Sunday, 3 p.m., at Sunset Center with a concert by the Anderson & Roe Piano Duo.

Anderson and **Elizabeth Joy Roe** are revolutionizing the piano duo experience for the 21st century,” said the Carmel Music Society, which was founded in 1926. “What better way to launch a landmark season than with two artists who embody the spirit of musical imagination, virtuosity and sheer joy?” Tickets start at \$45. Sunset Center is at 980 San Carlos St. Call (831) 625-9938 or visit carmelmusicsociety.org.

■ Byrd still flying

A key player in one of rock ‘n’ roll’s greatest transformations, folk-rock pioneer **Roger McGuinn** plays Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Sunset Center. As the leader of the Byrds, McGuinn sang lead vocals and played guitar on the group’s cover of Bob Dylan’s “Mr. Tambourine Man.” With its jangly 12-string electric guitar sound and trademark harmonies, the song not only became a No. 1 hit in 1965, but also represented a landmark fusion of folk, with its emphasis on storytelling, and rock, with its electric energy. More hits followed, including “Turn! Turn! Turn!” and a cover of Dylan’s “My Back Pages.” Tickets start at \$50. Call (831) 620-2048 or visit sunsetcenter.org.

■ Bluegrass at Golden State

A Grammy Award-winning bluegrass act from North Carolina, **The Steep Canyon Rangers** take the stage Thursday at 7 p.m. at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.



Singer and guitarist James Houlahan takes the stage Saturday, 7 p.m., at the Trilside Café in Carmel Valley Village.

The band has recorded 15 albums since its debut in 2001, including three with comedian Steve Martin. Its 2013 LP, “Nobody Knows You,” earned a Grammy Award for Best Bluegrass Album. Out West for just three shows, the band is making its local debut. Tickets start at \$37. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

■ Jazz at the Cherry Center

A jazz pianist who has shared the stage with luminaries

See **MUSIC** page 43A

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- Meet and Greet with Monterey's Heroes: Monterey Police and Fire Departments
- Face Painting - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- "Wharf Walks" with Maritime Historian Tim Thomas - 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
- Information Table/Giveaways for the "Walk to End Alzheimer's" -
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Presented by FISHERMAN'S WHARF ASSOCIATION | For more information: www.montereywharf.com

FOOD & WINE

Falling tea leaves, another mixologist melee, and lots of wine

THERE’S A lot going on — a wine, food and art celebration at Asilomar, a tea party in Monterey, the wharf’s birthday party and another round of bartenders facing off to see who can shake, stir and pour their way to victory. It’s all wrapped up with a bunch of odds and ends, including a Steinbeckian cocktail, so grab some cold cider and enjoy.

Tasting by the Tides

The Santa Lucia Highlands Wine Artisans group is hosting Tasting by the Tides Oct. 17 at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove to celebrate the wine, food, creators and multigenerational farmers of the Monterey coast. The gathering will be staged in Cypress Meadow from noon to 3 p.m., with chefs and wineries offering small bites and tastes while guests enjoy live music and peruse artisans’ wares.

Participating wineries include Belle Glos, Bernardus, Bruliam Wines, Caraccioli Cellars, Clarice Wine Company, CRU, Dawn’s Dream, I. Brand, Joyce, McIntyre, Mer Soleil, Morét Brealynn, Morgan, Odonata, Pelio Estate, Pisoni Family Vineyards, Private Property Wines, Riboli

Also, Nice Kid Pizza, Oyster-town, Paradise Catering, Quoign Chocolates, Sea Shack Candy Co., Stationaery, The Cheese Shop and Toro Sushi.

And the artistic/creative element? Look for Casey Starks Studio, Coastal Club 831, Valley Botanicals, and Bonded Jewelry x Hamilton Hat Lounge.

High Flow Gallery artists Bekah Bull and Jason Kurzer (featured in last week’s Pine Cone) will be painting donated Boynton Surfboards to auction off in support of the Monterey State Historic Parks Association.

Tickets are \$125 each, plus sales tax and a fee, and can be ordered at santaluciahighlands.com/events/tides-and-terroir. A dinner set for the evening of Oct. 16 is sold out, but a waitlist is available.

Harvest fundraiser

Everyone’s Harvest, the nonprofit behind numerous local farmers markets, will benefit from a Field to Market fundraiser at the Kimpton Mirador in Pacific Grove on Monday from 5 to 7 p.m.

For \$60 in advance or \$80 at the door, guests will get a beverage and an assortment of small bites from The Grove at Point Pinos, Happy Girl Kitchen, Snack Shack, Spotted Duck, Wild Fish and others, including Everyone’s Harvest’s resident chef, Alex Hernandez. There will also be a silent auction.

Tickets are available at tinyurl.com/5n-8n7yd2. The Kimpton Mirador is at 150 Fountain Ave.



Baker’s Bacon (left) and Bernardus Winery are just two of the vendors who will be participating in Tasting by the Tides at the Asilomar Conference Grounds Oct. 17. Presented by the Santa Lucia Highlands Wine Artisans group, the event is meant to celebrate wine, food, creators and multigenerational farmers of the Monterey coast.



Soup to Nuts

Family Wines, Roar, Rustiqué, Testarossa, Tondré and Wrath.

Accompanying them are restaurants and purveyors from all over the Peninsula, among them Ad Astra, Adam Silverstein, Bee’s Knees Bakery, Baker’s Bacon, Chieftess Monterey Bay, Earthbound Farms, Grasing’s, Crema Lovers Point and La Crème Monterey and La Playa Hotel.

Veterans fall to newcomers

Two veteran bartenders succumbed to challengers in the Links Club’s Monterey rounds of the Battle of the Bartenders Sept. 28 and Oct. 5. The victors, Nica Farrahi and Anarely Baeza, will face each other in next week’s championship round.

Farrahi was a last-minute addition last week after the scheduled competitor called in sick, and she faced the 2025 overall Battle of the Bartenders champion, Andrew Weld of the Salty Seal.

The competition began with a signature drink round. “While Weld brought the expertise that earned him last year’s title, Farrahi’s innovative approach captured the judges’ attention, earning her the win for the first round,” Links Club owner

April Montgomery said. “The intensity increased in the second round, where the competitors were tasked with a mystery basket challenge: crafting a cocktail using Aspen Vodka and lavender syrup.”

Farrahi took that round, as well, and Weld was unable to come back with enough points to prevail in the final bout.

“Nica stepped in under incredible pressure and showed exactly what the Monterey cocktail scene is capable of,” Montgomery said.

The second upset occurred Monday when extremely talented Cella Restaurant bartender Joshua Perry was defeated by Hotel 1110’s Anarely Baeza, proving “once again that anything can happen

See FOOD next page

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FOOD

From previous page

when the Peninsula’s top mixologists go head to head,” said Montgomery.

After the initial rounds of competition, with each contestant concocting highly scored drinks, the victor was unknown going into the final challenge. Montgomery reported there were more scores of 10 given that evening than in any other competition this year. But Baeza prevailed.

“The Battle of the Bartenders has become a showcase for the Peninsula’s hospitality industry, highlighting the talent, creativity and competitive spirit of local bartenders,” Montgomery said.

Farrahi and Baeza will compete Oct. 12 at 7:30 p.m. Links Club is located in Carmel Plaza at 526 Ocean Ave. Tickets

ner. The venue is furnished with historic Monterey furniture, paintings and decorative arts.

In addition to “lashings” (large quantities) of tea made from the caterer’s proprietary Gold Blend, there will be finger sandwiches, sweet treats and freshly baked scones with jam and Devonshire cream, owner Dot Findlater said. Everything will be served using charming, mismatched vintage china, and Findlater will give a short, entertaining talk about the evolution of teatime.

Attendees can also buy traditional scones in packs of three, or four-packs of miniature cranberry scones for \$20 apiece. A gift basket drawing will help support the Monterey History and Art Association.

Tickets are \$90 per person, including gratuity. For more information and reservations, visit rosemaryandthymehighteas.com.



Anarely Baeza (left) and Nica Farrahi reigned supreme in the two most recent rounds of the Battle of the Bartenders at the Links Club in Carmel Plaza. Both successfully unseated veteran winners.

are \$35 and include six drink samples and snacks. They are available at linksclubgolf.com.

■ A break from the ordinary

Is doomscrolling making you question the survival of Western civilization? For a potentially soothing remedy, try Rosemary & Thyme High Teas’ next genteel gathering in a history-infused setting.

“A Proper Autumn Tea” will be held Sunday, Oct. 18, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at Casa Serrano, 412 Pacific St., Monterey.

The historic adobe was the 1840s home of Thomas Larkin, the only American consul to Mexican Alta California. It has since been used as a home, a school and Cademartori’s restaurant, where the Monterey History and Art Association — which now owns the home — was conceived over din-

■ In other news of the old

Old Fisherman’s Wharf at Monterey is turning 181 (really, it doesn’t look a day over 150). On Sunday, it’s celebrating with the best kind of bash — no admission and free cake. Starting at 10 a.m., radio personality Dave Marzetti will oversee seven hours of frivolity laced with a little education.

The Money Band will perform from 1 to 4 p.m., and cake will be served in front of Abalonetti’s from 3:30 p.m. until it runs out. There will also be face painting and the wharf will be decked out in spots for photo ops.

Historian Tim Thomas will give free wharf walks at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., and if you’ve never done one of his tours,

See **MORE FOOD** next page



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FOOD & WINE

MUSIC

From page 40A

such as trumpeter Chet Baker, saxophonist Stan Getz and bassist Scott LaFaro, **Dick Whittington** plays Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts.

“We are pleased to welcome him back once again for what promises to be another outstanding afternoon of straight-ahead jazz, featuring music by Dizzy Gillespie,



Visiting from Los Angeles, the Young Lovers rock Fernwood Resort in Big Sur Saturday at 7 p.m.

Miles Davis and Benny Golson, along with beautiful standards by Harold Arlen, Johnny Mandel, Antonio Carlos Jobim and others,” according to the center. “Dick will be joined by a couple of his favorite sidemen.”

Tickets are \$45. The center is located at 729 Guadalupe Street. Visit carlcherrycenter.org.

■ ‘Timeless emotional power’

Pianist **Lucian Ban** and violist **Mat Maneri** celebrate the folk music of Transylvania — and pay tribute to composer and ethnomusicologist Béla Bartók — Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Sand Box in Sand City.

The concert “invites audiences into Bartók’s remarkable journey across the villages of Transylvania while revealing the timeless emotional power of the music he preserved,” said the Sand Box, which is located at 440 Ortiz Ave.

Tickets are \$40 for general admission and \$25 for students and active-duty military. Visit sandboxsandcity.com.

■ Free in the park

The final offering in a series of free, family-friendly Third Thursday shows, **The MAAK Band** plays in De-

vendorf Park Thursday at 4 p.m. “Blending Moroccan melodies with Latin, reggae and rock influences, [they craft] original dance grooves that tell stories of love and global unity,” according to Sunset Center, which presents the music.

Devendorf Park, which also hosts a farmers market, is located at 544 Sixth Avenue in Carmel.

Live music, Oct. 9-15

■ Big Sur

Big Sur River Inn — The Dave Holodiloff Trio (jazz, Sunday at noon). 46800 Highway 1.

Fernwood Resort — Young Lovers (rock, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

Henry Miller Memorial Library — Singer Mignonne Profant (French music, Sunday at noon). 48603 Highway 1.

MORE FOOD

From previous page

they’re pretty entertaining.

The General Pershing fishing boat, built in 1930 by Monterey boatbuilder Angelo Siino for fisherman Neno DiMaggio, will be at the Rockfish Grill end of the wharf from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for tours. A World War I veteran, DiMaggio reportedly named the boat for Gen. John J. Pershing, under whom he had served. Now back in the hands of the Siino family, the boat is being restored for use as a floating classroom devoted to Monterey Bay’s maritime history and ocean conservation.



The General Pershing once plied Monterey Bay’s waters for the DiMaggio fishing clan. Now, it’ll be at the Wharf’s birthday party in its new life as an educational vessel.

■ Carmel

Carmel Mission Inn — Open Mic Night (Wednesday at 5 p.m.). 3665 Rio Road.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — Singer and pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Tamas Marius** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Sunday at 3 p.m.), singer **Dino Vera** (jazz, R&B and dance, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.

La Playa Carmel — The David Morwood Trio (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m. and Tuesday at 6 p.m.) in **Bud’s Bar**, 827 Camino Real.

Cypress Inn — Singer **Dino Vera** (jazz, R&B and dance, 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

See **TUNES** next page

For more details, visit montereywharf.com or call (831) 238-0777.

■ Odds and ends

First, a couple of reminders — Hay’s Place at Pebble Beach is having its fifth anniversary Oct. 17, as described in our Sept. 4 issue, which you can read in the archives at carmelpinecone.com. If you want to cut to the chase and buy a ticket, go to tinyurl.com/4jt6makj.

And don’t forget Saturday’s fundraiser at Carmel Youth Center with BBQ by the students from Rancho Cielo Youth Campus in Salinas. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at tinyurl.com/yj7x5w6c.

Pèppoli at Spanish Bay is having a four-course wine dinner Oct. 15, featuring “the next generation of winemakers” from Paul Hobbs, Occidental Wines and Turley Wine Cellars. A full description and tickets are at tinyurl.com/4ucnne52.

Finally, in honor of Netflix’s new limited series, “East of Eden” — directed by Zoe Kazan, granddaughter of Elia Kazan, who directed the 1955 James Dean movie — Jacks Monterey is serving a cocktail named for Cathy Ames, the femme fatale of John Steinbeck’s novel. The drink combines Bulleit Rye, blackberry liqueur, crème de cacao and a little absinthe, finished with a black cherry. “It charms you first and ruins you later,” says an announcement from the restaurant in Monterey’s Portola Hotel. It’s almost enough to make you forget the whole production was filmed in New Zealand.

Almost.

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

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TUNES

From previous page

a.m.), pianist **Evan Wiederanders** and bassist **Marcus Johnson** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 684 Lincoln St.

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.



A Grammy Award-winning bluegrass act, The Steep Canyon Rangers take the stage Thursday, 7 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

■ Carmel Valley

Baja Cantina — **The Money Band** (pop and rock, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 7166 Carmel Valley Road.

Bernardus Lodge — Singer and guitarist **Jewel Arianna** (Saturday at noon), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at noon). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Folktale Winery — Singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Friday at 5 p.m.), **Magenta Spreen** (folk, Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Sunday at 4 p.m.), singer and keyboardist **Taylor Safina** and guitarist **Jesse DeCarlo** (Monday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Bobcat Rob** (Tuesday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Trianna Feruza** (Wednesday at 4 p.m.), **Two Rivers** (pop and rock, Thursday at 4 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

Trailside Cafe — Singer and guitarist **James Houlahan** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

■ Monterey

Hyatt Regency Monterey — Singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Friday at 7



Pianist Gennady Loktionov and singer Debbie Davis present a cabaret show, Saturday, 6:30 p.m., at Cypress Inn.

p.m.), singer and guitarist **Jewel Arianna** (Saturday at 7 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.

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

Medici The Neapolitan Pizza Company — Singer **Lauri Hofer Romero** and keyboardist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer **Janice Perl** and keyboardist

See **MORE TUNES** next page

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“Zip” Godwin – A Carmel Caricature

“Zip” Godwin
A Carmel Caricature
William Godwin

Harrison “Zip” Godwin was a man of action with a flair for success on the playing field of life. He was a jack of all trades, a go-getter salesman, newspaper cartoonist, real estate entrepreneur, sportsman, and a major influence on early Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, where he was owner of the Pine Inn and the La Playa Hotel.

With more than 100 vintage photos and illustrations, this detailed biography by his grandson provides an insight into the early characters and societal happenings of Carmel, hostelry competition with his brother (former mayor) Fred Godwin and the establishment of the area as a bohemian village and sports playground. In essence it places Harrison Godwin in the social, cultural, and historical context of early to mid-20th Century California.

Author William (Bill) Godwin is a native Carmelite and will be giving presentations and book signings in the near future.

This biography is available at local retail bookstores in both hardbound and softbound versions.

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MORE TUNES

From previous page

Murray Low (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.
Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa — Singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (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.). 400 Cannery Row.
Old Fisherman’s Wharf — **The Money Band** plays at the wharf’s 181st anniversary celebration (pop and rock, Sunday at 1 p.m.). 201 Washington St.
Pearl Hour — **The Zach Westfall Quartet** (jazz, Sunday at 8 p.m.). 214 Lighthouse Ave.
Sardine Factory — Singer and guitarist **David Conley** (Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Tuesday through Thursday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.). 701 Wave St.
Sly McFly’s — **The Money Band** (pop and rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **The Blanks** (pop and rock, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

■ Pacific Grove

Il Vecchio Restaurant — **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.
Lucy’s on Lighthouse — **Wolf Dog Walker** (rock, Friday at 4:30 p.m.), **Akoustics** (Americana and soul, Saturday at 2 p.m.), **The Dan & Laurel Quartet** (folk and Americana, Sunday at 2 p.m.). 1120 Lighthouse Ave.



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PG’s Meetinghouse — **The Sonics** (rock, Friday at 7 p.m.), singer **Nina Hadzi-Antich** and guitarist **Brice Albert** (jazz, Saturday at 11 a.m.), **The Brew’s Blues Band** (Saturday at 7 p.m.), **Three Good Reasons** (Americana, Sunday at 11 a.m.), **Open Mic** (Monday at 6 p.m., sign-ups start at 5:30 p.m.), **Tribe in the Sky** (“Sign up to play or simply enjoy amazing musicians jam,” Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.
Pop & Hiss — **Organism** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer **Elliot Jones** (cabaret, Sunday at 6 p.m.), **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.

■ Pebble Beach

The Inn at Spanish Bay — **The Andy Weis Trio** (jazz, Friday, Saturday and Thursday at 7 p.m.). 2700 17 Mile Drive.
The Lodge at Pebble Beach — Singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (jazz, Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Saturday at 5 p.m.), multi-instrumentalist **Gary Regina** (jazz, Thursday at 5 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge, 1700 17 Mile Drive.

■ Sand City

Courtyard by Marriott — Guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.). 800 Morgans Way.
To update these listings, email chris@carmelpinecone.com.



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CALENDAR

Oct. 9 & 10 – Carmel Orchid Society’s Fall Market: Exotic orchids, succulents and supplies on display and for sale. Orchid repotting and mounting demonstrations as well as orchid care talks. Free. Easy parking. Handicapped accessible. Held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 4590 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel. Details: (831) 626-1120

Oct. 11 – The Monterey County Composers’ Forum presents “COMPOSERS AT AN EXHIBITION,” featuring an exhibition of poster art by David Price; music by Ettinger, Kaiser, Macy, Moncrief, Ovens, Roseman, Victorine, and Yramategui. 3 p.m. at Hidden Valley Music, 104 West Carmel Valley Road. Admission \$20. For further info: macy@macalester.edu

Oct. 11 – Party in Pink™ Zumbathon® brings 15 local Zumba® instructors together from 3 to 5 p.m., at Oldemeyer Center, 986 Hilby Ave., Seaside. Dance, cheer, enjoy the raffle or simply support local women undergoing breast cancer treatment. No dance experience is needed. Proceeds stay in Monterey County. Tickets and donations: bcagmc.org/pink

Oct. 11 – Don’t miss the free fun 181st Wharf Birthday Party at Old Fisherman’s Wharf from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy a great performance by The Money Band, free birthday cake, face painting, Wharf Walks, meet Monterey Fire and Police representatives, tour and view the historic General Pershing boat, take photos with costumed strolling sea creatures, and much more! www.montereywharf.com

Oct. 14 – The Gentrain Society of MPC will sponsor a special lecture about “Treasures of the Pharaohs,” an exhibition currently at the de Young Museum. The speaker is **Tom Logan**, a former curator in the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Egyptian department. The free public lecture begins at 1:30 p.m. in Lecture Forum 103. Parking costs \$3.

Oct. 18 – A Proper Autumn Tea: Join Rosemary & Thyme High Teas 3 to 4:30 p.m. at Casa Serrano, Monterey. Enjoy traditional afternoon tea with finger sandwiches, scones, clotted cream, jam, sweet treats and our Signature Gold Blend. Bring a friend for a delightful autumn afternoon. Tickets: \$90 per person. Reservations: rosemaryandthymehighteas.com

Oct. 19 – “Is Making a Lasting Impact Important to You?” **Cecelia Romero**, vice president of philanthropic services of **The Community Foundation for Monterey County** will share her knowledge and provide suggestions. Carmel Woman’s Club, 907 San Carlos St., 93921, Carmel-by-the-Sea. 2 p.m. Open to the public. \$10 guests/members free. www.carmelwomansclubca.org

Oct. 23 – Grammy Award-winning classical guitarist Jason Vieaux performs 7 p.m. at the Founders Theatre at the Golden Bough Playhouse, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Tickets are \$55 to \$80 and can be ordered through CarmelGuitarSociety.org

Oct. 28 – The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay area (WACMB) presents a luncheon lecture Monterey Marriott. Speaker is **Bill Taylor, former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine**, whose topic will be the status of the Russian war in Ukraine. Ambassador Taylor makes his fourth visit with WACMB to provide the most current summary, having recently returned from Kyiv. Event registration and information at www.wacmb.org

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

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.

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.

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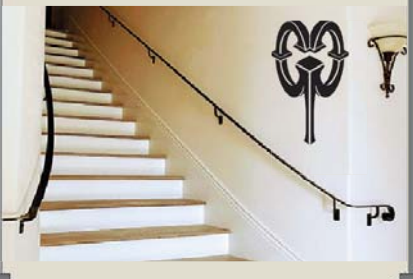
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Police Log: Carmel-by-the-Sea. Jan. 25

Report of two males at Mission and 8th



who appeared to have guns in their pockets.

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The other subject was his brother.



He had no gun either.

Domeniconi

Downtown gallery honors late painter, Gallery MAR welcomes duo

THE CARMEL Art Association welcomes three shows Saturday with a free public reception at 4 p.m., including a display that honors painter Cornelia Emery, who died last year at 88. Titled "I Have to Paint," the dis-

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

play "celebrates a lifetime of work, dedication and love of painting."

Working "primarily *en plein air* across the Monterey Peninsula" and employing "a style grounded in modernism," Emery was a prolific artist who was constantly painting or drawing.

A lifetime of creativity

"Emery studied technique, composition, color and light through books, workshops and webinars, surrounding herself with monographs and exhibition catalogs from artists she admired. She painted until the very end of her life," said the gallery, which is located at 555 Dolores St.

Also new is the show "Seasons," which showcases artists Chris Sawyer, Richard Tette and Jan Wagstaff, who share an appreciation for nature and landscapes.

"There is a richness in capturing the shift between the seasons of the year," said Wagstaff, whose work explores places where water and land meet.

The shows will be on display through Nov. 2. The Carmel Art Association is at 555 Dolores Street.

■ Bold and loose

"Exploring the frontiers of contemporary landscape and figurative painting," Michael Azgour and Ross Moore share their latest paintings in "Surface and Depth," which opens Friday at Gallery MAR Carmel with a free public reception at 5 p.m.

"I admire the way each of these artists applies paint to their canvases," said the gallery's Thomas Cushman. "That's why I wanted to show their artwork together. Their brushwork is bold and loose, yet you can also see how carefully they construct space and meaning through color. Moreover, they always leave some mystery behind, which makes their artwork quite compelling."

The gallery is on the west side of Dolores Street, just south of Ocean Avenue.

■ Illuminating enduring voices

Dugan Aguilar's "Photographs of Native California" opens Saturday at the Monterey Museum of Art. The images were captured over a 30-year span. Aguilar, who was mentored by renowned photographer Ansel Adams, died in 2018.

"Aguilar's photographs illuminate the diverse and enduring voices of California's indigenous peoples as they continue to shape the present and future of the region," the museum said. "This exhibition celebrates contemporary indigenous life while documenting its rich history, experience and enduring presence in the story of California art."

The exhibit continues through Jan. 17. The museum is located at 559 Pacific St. in Monterey.



Carmel Art Association presents a retrospective display through Nov. 2 honoring the late painter Cornelia Emery.

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Continues from previous page

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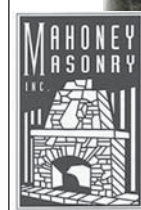
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■ “The Carmel Pine Cone is an informative, well written newspaper. Lots of hard work goes into this fine publication. Keep moving forward!”

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

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

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

■ “I have been a faithful reader of the Pine Cone (the email version as well as the paper one) ever since we moved to Pebble Beach from Woodside in 2001. You are very informative about whatever happens here. Thank you!”

■ “You have a wonderful publication. We read the online edition every week.”

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■ “When in Tucson, I look forward to Friday mornings with great anticipation so I can download the week’s edition of the Pine Cone and read it cover to cover. This helps me feel connected to this very special community. When in our beloved Carmel, each Friday morning I jump in our electric car with our golden retriever, Daisy, by my side and race down to Ocean and Mission to get the newest edition. Daisy insists on carrying it in her mouth the entire way home. We have so much to be proud of in Carmel and the Pine Cone sits near the top of the list.”
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SECTION RE ■ October 9-15, 2026

Open Houses on page 14RE!

The Carmel Pine Cone

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Real Estate
Home & Garden



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■ This week's cover property, located in Carmel Highlands,
is presented by Tim Allen of Coldwell Banker
Global Luxury. (See Page 2 RE)

TA

About the Cover

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate

October 9 - 15, 2026



163.5 Spindrift Road, Carmel Highlands
2,450 SqFt | 0.76 Acres | \$19,675,000
2 Bedrooms | 2.5 Bathrooms

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2 IYD The Carmel Pine Cone October 9, 2026

Real Estate Sales Sept. 27 - Oct. 3

Escrows closed: 42
Total value: \$152,576,000

Carmel

3111 Serra Avenue — \$1,775,000
Stanley Hwang and Margaret Phillipson to Heather Link and Simon Hodgson
APN: 009-094-006

682 Scenic Road — \$2,100,000
Eric Durham to John Hoagland
APN: 010-311-017

26047 Atherton Drive — \$4,100,000
Richard Alpers to John Miller
APN: 009-273-003

26357 Scenic Road — \$16,500,000
Cappo Real Estate Holdings LLC to Carmel Coast Holdings LLC
APN: 009-442-018

See **HOME SALES** page 4 IYD



1143 Porque Lane, Pebble Beach — \$19,800,000

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Carmel-by-the-Sea ■ 4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$6,495,000 ■ www.Ikeniwa.com



Big Sur ■ 3 beds, 2 baths ■ \$5,995,000 ■ www.40990Hwy1.com



Carmel ■ 4 beds, 3+ baths ■ \$5,250,000 ■ www.5ViaVaquera.com



Carmel ■ 3 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$3,495,000 ■ www.568Agujito.com



Carmel ■ 3 beds, 3 baths ■ \$2,550,000 ■ www.28094BarnWay.com



Carmel Valley ■ 4 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$2,395,000 ■ www.216VistaVerde.com



Carmel-by-the-Sea ■ 2 beds, 2 baths ■ \$1,699,000 ■ www.3rdAve2NEMissionCarmel.com



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HOME SALES

From page 2 IYD

Carmel Valley

41800 Tassajara Road — \$510,000

Marilyn Jones and Dina Rowe to Elliot Shabram

APN: 418-321-005

14 Hacienda Carmel — \$569,000

Margaret Duvall to Ann Artz

APN: 015-333-008

9500 Center Street unit 4 — \$670,000

Alan and Linda Terry to Adam Olthof and Nicole Woodson

APN: 169-237-004

31 Paso Cresta — \$730,000

Merritt Bruce to Robert Karlsen

APN: 189-231-001



485 Grove Acre Avenue, Pacific Grove — \$2,225,000

3850 Rio Road unit 63 — \$1,099,000

Nicholas Guarte to Maria Escobar

APN: 015-532-015

7012 Valley Greens Circle — \$3,600,000

Donald and Nina Bentley to Quail Property LLC

APN: 157-071-007

Highway 68

2969 Highway 68 unit C3 — \$800,000

C4 Property Holdings LLC to MMP3C LLC

APN: 259-022-036

20325 Espana Court — \$840,000

George O'Toole to Mary and Richard Vitamanti

APN: 161-043-001

20091 Portola Drive — \$897,000

Jason Kirmil and Stevie and Marth McKim to Jarred and Alexandra Augusta

APN: 161-333-007

See ESCROWS page 28 IYD

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3217 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach ■ 4 beds, 3 baths ■ 3,531 sq. ft. ■ \$7,950,000 ■ PebbleBeachPerfection.com



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Pebble Beach ■ 3 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$6,300,000 ■ www.1475AlvaLane.com



Salinas ■ 3 beds, 2 baths ■ \$3,475,000 ■ www.28000UnderwoodRoad.com



Pebble Beach ■ 4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$2,250,000 ■ www.2962ClubRoad.com



Pebble Beach ■ 4 beds, 2 baths ■ \$1,995,000 ■ www.3037LopezRoad.com



Pebble Beach ■ 3 beds, 3 baths ■ \$1,595,000 ■ www.41ShepherdsKnoll.com



Salinas ■ 4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$1,275,000 ■ www.77LaurelesGrade.com



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PHOTO/SHERMAN CHU

A luxury compound situated on one of the tallest hills in Tehama includes (clockwise from top) a main house with open-plan living area and upstairs primary suite, an airy wing for guests, a single-level guest house and a complete fitness center with a specially designed swimming pool and sauna.

YOU WON'T BE THE RULER OF ALL YOU SEE, BUT IT'LL FEEL LIKE IT

BY ELAINE HESSER

FOREVER VIEWS. A home fitness center. Magazine-worthy interior design. As real estate goes around here, those things are almost *de rigueur*. But when you combine them with a commanding location, you get a truly elevated living situation.

“The Summit” sits atop a steep hill less than 3 miles from The Quail in Carmel Valley, where the entrance sign for Tehama — the large gated community between the valley and Highway 68 — is so small you might miss it.

You can’t miss the brand-new estate at 38 Tehama, though, and Tim Allen has it listed at \$32 million. The main building’s as big as a barn — and it’s the most elegant version of one you’re likely to see.

See-through walls

The exterior is covered in reclaimed barnwood and New England stone, with two enormous central doors on the first floor that slide open to create what you might call a breezeway in an average house. It is, in fact, large enough to drive through in an SUV. Not that anyone’s doing that. The open-air passage through the

unusually tall first floor of the main residence is complemented by a see-through second floor, and everything’s topped off with a corrugated metal roof.

What is there to see? Everything. The views past the olive trees, pool and shaggy sedge-grass yard include the Monterey Bay and Point Lobos. Tehama’s clubhouse and golf course are visible on a not-too-distant hilltop. But there are no sounds from cars passing below, and even jet noise is surprisingly rare, despite its proximity to Monterey Regional Airport.

There are high ceilings with exposed reclaimed beams, not to mention one ut-

terly bodacious crystal chandelier in the living room, where glass walls open almost completely to the outdoors.

Cocktail room

An ingeniously engineered roof extends far beyond the interior — with no visible means of support — providing shade for a deck with a fire pit near an outdoor kitchen.

The open floor plan with hardwood floors includes a generous dining area with an adjacent, intimate “cocktail room”

See **TEHAMA** page 13 IYD

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Stunning Ocean-view Homes in Carmel



53 Riley Ranch Road, Carmel Main House | 2 Guest Houses | 10-Stall Barn | 8.5 Acres | \$11,500,000 | 53RileyRanchRoad.com

Overlooking Point Lobos and Monastery Beach, Sea Star Ranch is a fully equipped equine property. Surrounded by hundreds of acres of protected State Park land, the property features diverse micro-climates and is zoned for commercial use with an undeveloped two-acre parcel. The main residence, designed in 2023 by Mary Ann Schicketanz, embraces open-concept living with abundant natural light, spa-like bathrooms, and refined wood and stone finishes. A guest house and dedicated office provide added flexibility, creating a private coastal compound just five minutes from Carmel-by-the-Sea.



24950 Outlook Drive, Carmel 4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 3,193 Sq Ft | .66 Acres | \$2,475,000 | 24950OutlookDrive.com

Set amid Carmel's natural beauty, this inviting single-level residence has remarkable views of Point Lobos. A welcoming stone entry opens to an expansive living room with a vaulted wood-paneled ceiling and dramatic stone fireplace. Generous windows frame the surrounding scenery, while multiple access points create an effortless connection to the outdoors. With four bedrooms and two-and-a-half baths, including a peaceful primary suite with a soaking tub and dual vanity, the home offers ample space for family and guests. Expansive patios and decks extend the living spaces outdoors, with an outdoor kitchen, fire pit, and various areas for dining and lounging.



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I N Y O U R D R E A M S

A HOSPITABLE SPOT IN A SETTING TORN FROM THE PAGES OF STEINBECK

BY LILY PATTERSON

THE HOUSE at 372 Corral de Tierra Road is what realtor Alessia Ucelli of Monterey Coast Realty calls “a blank slate.” John Steinbeck put the entire area into more poetic terms.

In a May 1931 letter to his literary agent, Mavis McIntosh, while describing the work that became “The Pastures of Heaven,” he wrote, “There is, about 12 miles from Monterey, a valley in the hills called Corral de Tierra. Because I am using its people, I have named it Las Pasturas del Cielo.”

In that 1932 collection of short stories, Steinbeck described one character’s first impressions of the locale this way: “He arrived at the top of the ridge and there he stopped, stricken with wonder at what he saw — a long

valley floored with green pasturage on which a herd of deer browsed. Perfect live oaks in the meadow of the lovely place, and the hills hugged it jealously against the fog and the wind.”

Newcomer

The four-bedroom home, listed at \$3.3 million, is a relative newcomer, but it evokes Corral de Tierra’s rancho past. Here, the open design of the kitchen, living and dining areas is no 2010s concept, but a callback to the old hacienda style of arranging indoor living spaces around a central courtyard. Much of the 10-acre property is untouched earth, save for a grove of nearly 60 olive trees, and it neighbors a small horse ranch.

The original residence dates to 1990, and county records show it remained in the same hands until 2007. The

structure was taken to the studs and renovated in 2024. (The present owner, it bears mentioning, is also selling the Castroville building that houses The Giant Artichoke. The landmark recently closed after more than 60 years in business.)

Situated in the virtually perpetual summer of the hills near Laguna Seca, the house has been rented as a vacation property since the makeover of the 3,500-square-foot structure. It’s contemporary yet romantically Western, with a striking terracotta-tiled roof — and yes, it has central air conditioning.

The two-story retreat is only minutes from Corral de Tierra Country Club, the Church of the Good Shepherd Preschool, Washington Union Elementary, and Highway

See **PASTURES** page 18 IYD



The sunny Mediterranean climate of Corral de Tierra occasions luxuries you won’t find among the fog-blanketed estates of Pebble Beach, such as an interior courtyard featuring a glittering lap pool. Beyond the bocce court and driveway, a grove of young olive trees was recently planted.



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15286ViaLaGitana.com
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I N Y O U R D R E A M S

A ROUGH-RIDING TRADITION AMID CONTEMPORARY COMFORT

BY LILY PATTERSON

IT'S ONLY five minutes to Carmel Valley Village, where locals go to unbutton and enjoy the comforts of the countryside 25 miles from Carmel proper. The owners of 7 San Clemente Drive, for what it's worth, say they're loath to leave the tight-knit community in the scenic valley, even as they're heading for bigger skies in Montana.

The neighborhood, Sleepy Hollow, is home to some of the valley's most striking inhabitants and the people who build their lives around them. Abutting the Santa Lucia Preserve to the south and west, the gated community bills itself as a collection of 25 equestrian estates. Among the perks of the homeowners association fees is access to miles of private hiking and riding trails to explore the foothills. The wilder parts, one imagines, haven't changed



PHOTO/AERIAL CANVAS

The family who previously owned the 5-acre estate were avid Western riders, and built a four-stable barn and facilities to suit their needs. Beyond it, they also planted a small orchard of fruit trees.

much since the days of Rancho Los Laureles.

Established via land grant from the Mexican governor in 1839, the 6,600-acre property belonged to a branch of the Boronda family, whose patriarch is credited with building the first adobe house outside the walls of the Presidio in Monterey.

Legacy property

The family lived 20 years on their ranch, which was later acquired by an affiliate of Southern Pacific Railroad. The railroad, in turn, sold the land to S.F.B. Morse's Del Monte Properties. By the 1950s, the area had been parceled out, and nearby Holman Ranch was established as a working dude ranch where rodeos, horse shows, and other equine spectacles were staged. Nowadays, those have given way to lavish destination weddings, working vineyards and a boutique winery — though ancient oaks that have seen it all still dot the property.

And 10 minutes north of Sleepy Hollow via Carmel Valley Road, Stonepine Estate was once the oldest thoroughbred breeding farm west of the Mississippi, and it still offers a boarding and riding center. While we're on the subject of convenience, Jerome's Carmel Valley Market in the village is a full-service grocery, and Tularcitos Elementary School is about 15 minutes away. But, getting back to the house...

A rambling, pine-floored country manor sits at the heart of the 5.28-acre property on



PHOTO/AERIAL CANVAS

The bubbling koi pond is just for show, but a morning dip in the saltwater pool looks like a mighty nice idea from the breakfast table, since the kitchen opens out onto the back patio.

San Clemente, listed with Angolee Bode of Compass for \$4.23 million. The two-story farmhouse — with the coastal touch of a saltwater pool — is encircled by three guest cottages, two garages and a workshop. The equestrian facilities include a four-stall barn, a recently built riding arena and white-picketed pastures along the front drive. The property avails itself of a well and Cal Am hookups to water those elysian fields, and it's largely run on solar power.

Preparedness

Of course, preparedness is key when living in a sun-baked valley populated by very old trees. Up or down Carmel Valley Road, the Monterey County Regional and Cal Fire Tularcitos stations are each located within 4 miles of Sleepy Hollow, which is recognized by the Firewise USA

See RAMBLING page 21 IYD



IN YOUR DREAMS

TEHAMA

From page 6 IYD

that has elements of Rat Pack swag. It's outfitted with an abstract light fixture that suggests a cocktail garnished with a skewered olive. Also beneath the glossy copper-and-green-colored ceiling are the wet bar and an avocado velvet sofa with faux-fur ottomans. (At this point, we wouldn't have been surprised if the furnishings had included Michael Bubl .)

And oh, that kitchen! Dramatic lilac-veined marble covers two counters and continues up the rear wall — where cleverly hidden shelving flanks the stove — all the way to the ceiling. Everything is organized for someone who knows how to cook, be it the homeowner or a caterer.

Directly behind the kitchen is a large pantry painted deep blue and accented by brass and ostrich leather fittings, with its own prep table and a wine cooler. Its large sink was installed specifically for the nearly forgotten art of canning fresh produce, perhaps grown in the raised-bed garden.

The one-car garage opens into the pantry, and automobile fanciers will be pleased to know that adding another garage is entirely feasible.

Pampered

In addition to humans, The Summit is also home to some pampered pets, so the mudroom is more of a pet spa. The sink is an easily accessible dog-wash station, and there are niches for critters to chill and nap. Best of all, a couple of areas are linked

See **DRAMATIC** page 20 IYD



PHOTO/SHERMAN CHU

From a kitchen lavished with lilac-veined marble, a home chef can look through a generous dining area and living room onto a wide panorama that takes in the Monterey Bay and Point Lobos — once the fog burns off.



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\$1,025,000 2bd 2ba 154 Del Mesa Carmel Sotheby's Int'l RE	Su 12-2 Carmel 236-8571
\$1,150,000 2bd 2.5ba 3850 Rio Rd 47 David Lyng Real Estate	Sa Su 12-2 Carmel 915-8292
\$1,249,000 2bd 2ba 3599 Eastfield Court Sotheby's Int'l RE	Su 10-1 Carmel 277-3371
\$1,285,000 3bd 2ba 37 Del Mesa Carmel Sotheby's Int'l RE	Su 12-2:30 Carmel 293-3391
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\$2,895,000 4bd 3ba 3540 Oak Place Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa 11-1 Carmel 200-5007
\$3,650,000 4bd 2.5ba 24400 S. San Luis Ave. Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa 1-3 Carmel 277-3371
\$3,695,000 2bd 2.5ba 7086 Valley Greens Cir Coldwell Banker Realty	Sa Su 1-4 Carmel 206-0129
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4bd 3.5ba

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Sa 12-3 Su 1-4

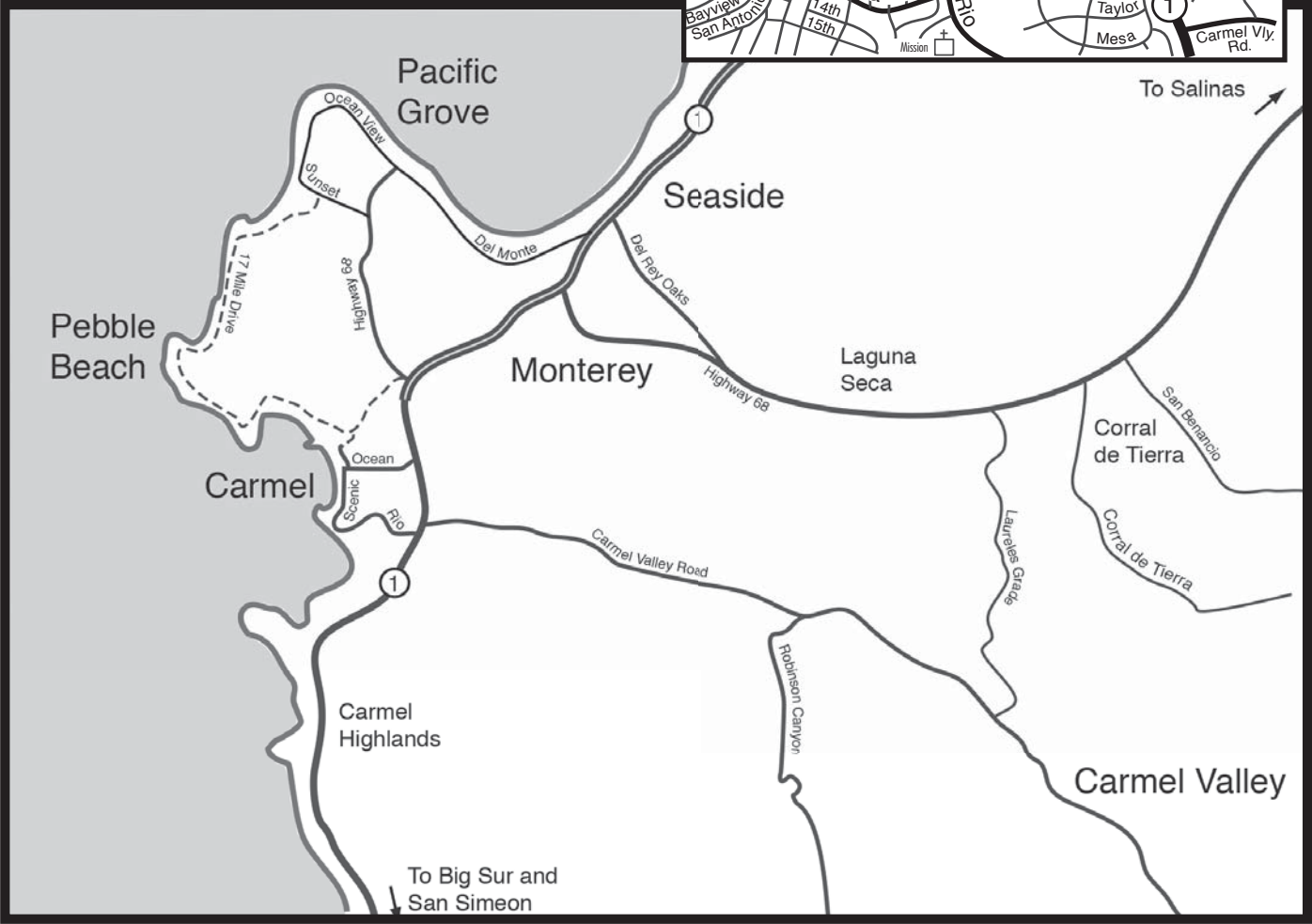
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OPEN HOUSES

October 9 - 11



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Fr 4-7 Sa 1-4 Su 11:30-2

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See OPEN HOUSES page 16 IYD



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402-2017

\$1,195,000 2bd 2ba
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Fr Sa 1-4 Su 10-1
Pacific Grove
402-2884

\$1,299,000 1bd 2ba
211 Grand Ave
Compass

Sa 11:30-1:30
Pacific Grove
915-9710

\$1,319,000 2bd 1ba
315 Cypress Avenue
Sotheby's Int'l RE

Sa 1-3 Su 1-4
Pacific Grove
238-8116 / 333-6060

\$1,549,000 2bd 2ba
212 1st St
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Sa 1-3
Pacific Grove
915-9927

\$1,795,000 2bd 1ba
963 Crest Ave
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Sa 12-2 Su 1-3
Pacific Grove
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\$1,850,000 3bd 3.5ba
917 Fountain Avenue
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Fr 12-3
Pacific Grove
318-3808

\$1,950,000 3bd 2.5ba
441 Pine Avenue
Carmel Realty

Sa 12-2
Pacific Grove
915-8153

\$2,195,000 5bd 4ba
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Pebble Beach
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75 Ocean Pines
Monterey Coast Realty

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Pebble Beach
317-6336

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27 Shepherds Knoll
Compass

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Pebble Beach
236-5290

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3017 Forest Way
Sotheby's Int'l RE

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Pebble Beach
760-5126

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Pebble Beach
293-4935

\$7,920,000 4bd 3.5ba
3978 Ronda Road
Compass

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Pebble Beach
236-5290

\$8,275,000 3bd 2.5ba
1651 Crespi Lane
Compass

Sa Su 2-4
Pebble Beach
236-5290

\$8,995,000 5bd 5.5ba
3159 Stevenson Drive
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Sa Su 1-3
Pebble Beach
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Salinas
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\$999,000 3bd 2ba
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Salinas
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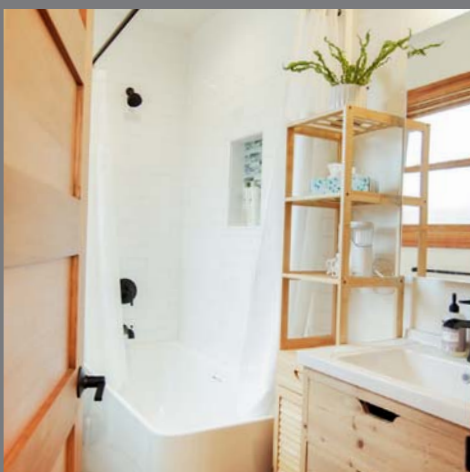


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PASTURES

From page 10 IYD

68. That works out well for a growing family, but it's also an excellent locale for hosting types.

A whole steer

The hall, with its vaulted ceiling, combines the kitchen, dining and living areas is, in fact, even larger than it appears in the photos. And all you have to do is open the two grand entrances (plus four additional doors) for the al fresco experience. Guests can enter through the front terrace — a dramatic walk-up from the cobblestone round-

about driveway, overlooking a natural pond and a bocce court — and walk right out the other side to the pool.

One special feature becomes apparent here: The estate sits in the cradle of a canyon. Nestled up against the lush greenbelt is a generous, heated lap pool with an ornamental waterfall and hot tub, and an enormous flagstone patio for dining and sunbathing.

Situated to shade the primary suite, the upstairs gallery provides a view of the side yard with its outdoor kitchen featuring a fire pit, prep and barbecue stations. Indoors, the kitchen with two sinks, a professional-quality range and ovens and a refrigerator-freezer that looks as if it might accommodate a whole steer, was made for hospitality. Its marble-topped island alone could fit a breakfast buffet for a few dozen hungry

ranch hands (or golfers).

A combination mud-and-laundry room is located on the same side, and at the opposite end of the yard is a separate pool house for changing, not to mention stowing those giant floaties shaped like sprinkled donuts and palm trees.

Car barn?

Perhaps its most appealing quality, the house ticks all the boxes — with the exception of a garage, though Ucelli suggested the double carport could be replaced with relative ease — on less than an acre. The remainder of the expanse has potential for additional dwelling units, a collector's car barn, equestrian facilities, orchards or a substantial vegetable garden. Heavenly pastures indeed.



PHOTOS/CRC MARKETING

The linear flow of the central room is a seamless transition from living, to dining, to cooking space — which features one of the largest kitchen islands ever seen in these pages, along with plenty of cold and dry storage for provisions.

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DRAMATIC

From page 13 IYD

via secret cat-sized passages built into the walls.

Upstairs, the primary suite features a show-stopping lacquered brass bathtub along with a startling blue-and-white marble vanity and matching shower that provides floor-to-ceiling views of the countryside. The cozy bedroom — with a fireplace and private deck — faces west, the better to watch the sunset or wake up to dawn-lit vistas. Glass doors on the walk-

in closet reduce time spent trying to find that thing you wanted to wear, and while skylights add natural illumination, they're also UV-filtering so those designer duds won't fade.

Guest bedrooms

A separate portion of the main house has two upstairs guest bedrooms, and a ground-level guest house delivers comfortable accommodations on a single level. Its central glassed-in bedroom opens almost directly onto the swimming pool. There's a marble shower and a bespoke

See **BESPOKE** page 22 IYD



PHOTO/SHERMAN CHU

Relatively simple geometric elements and lighting combine to create a stunning perspective — the fire pit and open kitchen/living area flanked by the primary suite and cocktail room (left) and the open-air entry (right).

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RAMBLING

From page 12 IYD

program. To remain certified, the community submits proof of annual fire risk reduction work and must renew a neighborhood action and evacuation plan every three years.

That's a worthwhile precaution to protect a potential family heirloom — and its four- and two-legged occupants. Built in 1991 and remodeled around 2019, the 5,294-square-foot residence holds court at the end of a drive lined with Italian cypress trees. The road banks left toward the stables and an apple, pear and cherry orchard, leading to a driveway large enough to host the Carmel High team for basketball practice.

A lap around the wood-shingled home reveals a pool, expansive sun deck and outdoor barbecue station. A set of French doors leads to a charming kitchen, complete with a working fireplace and generous farmhouse sink in sage-green concrete. Other touches are less rustic —

namely Viking and Sub-Zero appliances, plus a spiffy espresso machine built into the cabinetry.

From the front porch entry, a left turn yields a snug dining room, also with fireplace, while the right shows an enormous living area — the “great room” indeed, at 600 square feet.

Genteel or over-the-top

This is, admittedly, a stunning turn, between the handsome picture windows and knotty pine floors. New occupants could go the genteel route — say, a formal library — or make it the ultimate family room with an over-the-top entertainment center, a dedicated LEGO construction site, plus that exquisitely carved walnut coffee table you managed to pry from your in-laws.

Upstairs, two kids' bedrooms are separated by a rolling barn door, creating a playful Jack-and-Jill situation. Parents can expect to referee the fight over who gets the one with the window seat. Also upstairs is where the grownups go to take

See **ELYSIAN** page 38 IYD



PHOTO/AERIAL CANVAS

If your horse ends up in your neighbor’s pasture, they’ll likely help you wrangle it. The gated equestrian community of Sleepy Hollow carries on Carmel Valley’s rough-riding traditions.



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BESPOKE

From page 20 IYD

bathtub made from a single piece of soapstone — not a seam to be found on the soft white surface. Large windows offer views across a small deck with an outdoor shower.

The freestanding fitness center has all the amenities you might expect, and then some. There's dedicated space for exercise machines and weights, and you could put in a Pilates machine or two. A ballet barre runs along one mirrored wall, and a room with a springy floor could support an aerobic workout. It can also be set to temperatures suitable for hot yoga.

One glassed-in corner holds a roomy sauna, and another outdoor shower and a cold plunge are steps away.

Two offices

Internationally acclaimed surfer Laird Hamilton's workout program for building strength inspired an XPT (extreme performance training) swimming pool with a variety of levels beneath the surface. The idea is to strap on weights and walk or crawl across the bottom (hence the levels) or lift weights underwater. Hamilton is said to have taken the idea from an old Hawaiian training practice using heavy rocks in the ocean. The pool seems much more civ-

ilized, but just as difficult. There are two office spaces, and if you can work remotely, you might not want to leave the grounds, raising the question, "What is this newly built paradise doing on the market in the first place?" Ironically, the owners have to relocate out of state for work. But their departure provides an opportunity for someone to make this unique spot their own. See more details at timallenproperties.com.



PHOTOS/SHERMAN CHU

The Summit highlights the beauty of water, whether it's in a brass tub and marble indoor/outdoor shower, or a pool that contributes to fitness — and the landscape.



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ect details.

Make sure timelines are realistic. A trustworthy contractor should provide a reasonable schedule for completing the project.

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www.CarmelValleyMasterpiece.com
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www.AndersonValleyRetreat.com
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www.QuailLodgeHaven.com
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CARMEL

www.CVRanchLiving.com
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PACIFIC GROVE

www.PacificGroveCharm.com
\$1,795,000

Charming and move-in ready, this single-level home in Pacific Grove’s coveted Beach Tract is set on an unusually large lot with expansive outdoor space.



CARMEL

www.PreserveHomeSite.com
\$650,000

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WHERE GOOD TASTE PERSISTS, WELCOMES STAY WARM, AND LEISURE RULES

BY ELAINE HESSER

THE WORLD has changed, but the view — waves splashing onto Carmel’s sandy white beach and the rocky, evergreen-covered hills of Point Lobos — is still reassuringly beautiful. So, too, is the \$11.5 million home at 3321 17 Mile Drive listed with Shelly Lynch of Carmel Realty.

It’s one of those places that conjures up phrases like “timeless elegance” and is reminiscent of a time before computers and cell phones made restful solitude a vanishing commodity.

After turning up the short driveway to the nicely landscaped grounds in a Packard or Rolls-Royce — both equally at home in the first decades of Pebble Beach — you’d be able to tee up for a round of golf and cocktails at the Lodge, just a stone’s throw away.

West Point grad

Alternatively, a horseback ride along approximately 100 miles of trails and a picnic on the beach might be appealing. The original occupants, retired Army Col. John Hudson Poole — a West Point grad who served with Teddy Roosevelt in the Spanish-American War and Gen. John Pershing in World War I — and his wife, Caroline, whose brother founded Boeing, built a large stable near the house for English hunting horses. It’s not on the property, but it helped spur plans for an English-style hunt club.

Fishing, yachting and tennis were other options. The resort was meant to beckon guests outdoors, the kind of spot where you might “accidentally” leave your watch

behind and return only when the sun begins to set. You could take in the crimson skies from the living room or a chair on the back deck or lawn.

The evening would be spent in quiet luxury, perhaps with a formal meal served to guests attired in classic couture. Then, imagine padding along the limestone floors to read by one of several fireplaces before bed.

At Villa Chê, named for an owner’s family member, you can still have pretty much that same day. But, if you must, you can use your laptop and all the other modern conveniences that make life easier.

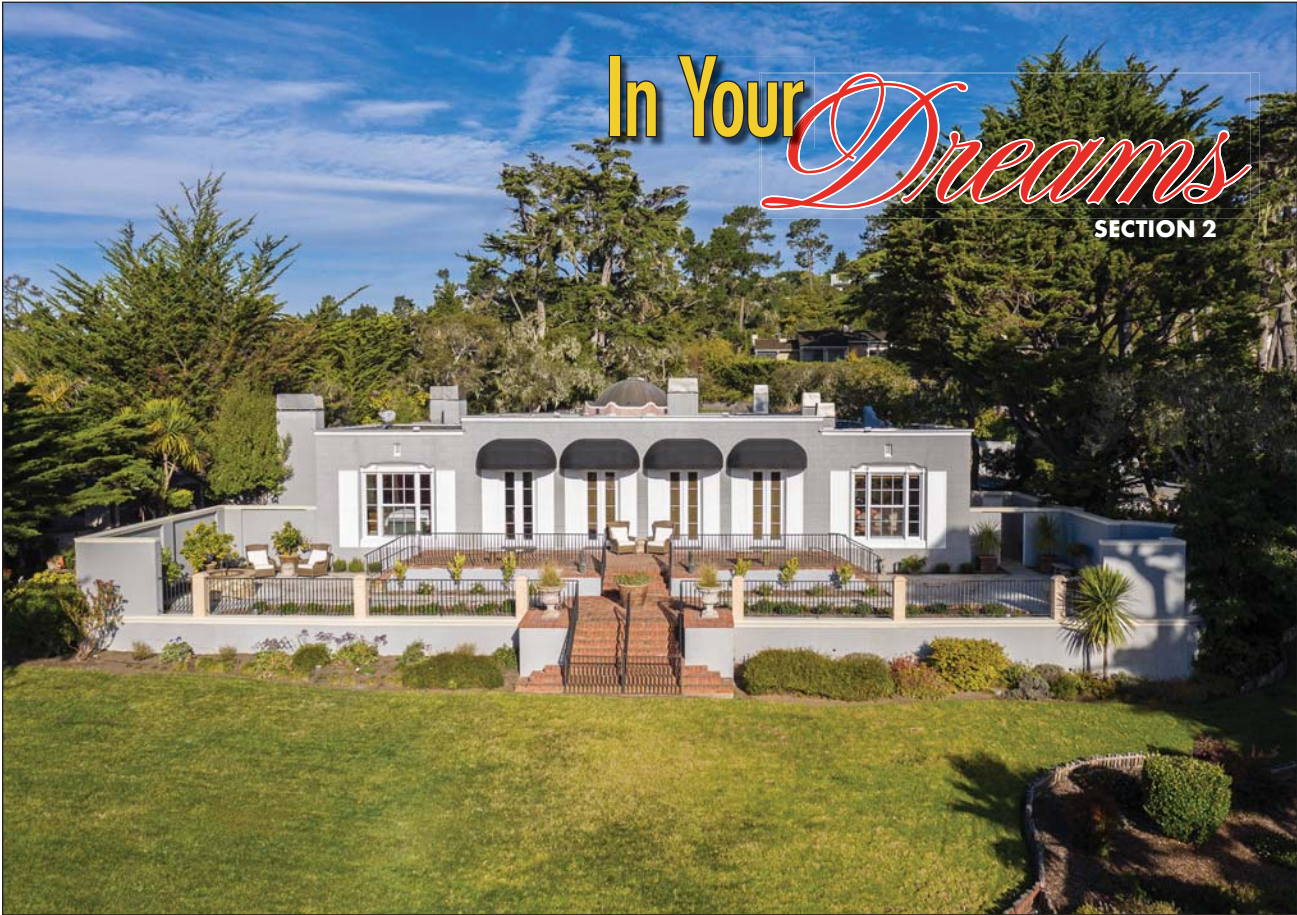
The Pooles engaged Lewis Hobart — a renowned Cal-

ifornia architect whose other works include the original Lodge at Pebble Beach and, with Clarence Tantau, its replacement after a devastating 1917 fire — to design their home. Beyond the gates of Del Monte Forest, Hobart is best known for San Francisco’s stunning Grace Cathedral.

From every pore

With that in mind, it’s no surprise the Spanish Revival mansion oozes quality. Rose marble is used throughout in extravagantly thick slabs with softly rounded edges.

See 17 MILE DRIVE next page



PHOTO/SHERMAN CHU

This early 20th-century mansion in Pebble Beach was designed by Lewis Hobart, the architect responsible for The Lodge at Pebble Beach. You can see the resemblance in the house’s oceanside façade.

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I N Y O U R D R E A M S

17 MILE DRIVE

From previous page

Gray exterior paint gives way to cheerful, barely subdued pink in an expansive stone-paved central courtyard that features a lighted fountain with a classical sculpture. Easy indoor-outdoor flow intentionally facilitates entertaining, and there's more than enough room to dine and dance.

Painted ceilings

A colonnaded walkway that borders the courtyard on three sides has painted ceilings in geometric designs, another nod to Spanish influence, while the oceanside view

of the mansion's facade strongly suggests its shared architectural DNA with the Lodge.

Seven bedrooms and six bathrooms account for just a bit more than 5,800 square feet of living space on the terraced 1.1-acre lot. The primary bedroom, living room and dining room, along with a large brick deck, are positioned to take advantage of that terrific view, which also includes stretches of the golf course.

In the spacious primary suite, the bathroom has its own fireplace and enough marble to make a sculptor weep, and the home's ties to the past were more than strong enough to absorb the installation of a jetted bathtub. Windows open onto a small enclosed garden, providing fresh air and privacy. The spacious bedroom has plenty of built-in storage concealed behind full-length mirrored doors.

The kitchen — all 300-plus square feet of it, including a pantry — is next to the dining room. Two long marble counters would easily accommodate a culinary assembly line, and there is a double sink in the middle of one and a deep farmhouse sink at the end of the other. At the stove, the bold backsplash is complemented by a copper hood, and an adjacent nook with a fireplace seems like a great spot for a morning cup of coffee.

Second full kitchen

Continuing around the building, several guest bedrooms and bathrooms are arranged so that they can be reached directly from the courtyard, and there's a second full kitchen that opens into the garage.

See **GOOD TASTE** page 38 IYD



PHOTOS/SHERMAN CHU

One of the most prominent features of the home at 3321 17 Mile Drive is the large central courtyard (left) with considerable room for outdoor entertaining. The domed structure at the left side of the photo is a spacious recreation room (right), that could also work as a music or art studio.

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I N Y O U R D R E A M S

ESCROWS
From page 4 IYD

Highway 68 (con't)

25955 Colt Lane — \$1,400,000
Carson and Kemay Eoyang to Margaret Peterson
APN: 416-122-013

Marina

603 Santa Ynez Way unit D — \$380,000
The Sea Haven LLC to Helen Fann
APN: 031-295-025

3080 Crumpton Lane unit 2 — \$600,000
Chong Hartley to Ju Young Park
APN: 032-501-002

17302 Logan Street — \$700,000
Brady Smith and Elizabeth Kakudo to David and Julie Hamblin
APN: 031-292-015

3033 Andesite Drive — \$1,157,500
Leslie Hamilton to Sung Kook and Young Suk Pak
APN: 031-274-068

107 Maritime Street — \$1,259,000



150 Littlefield Road, Monterey — \$2,450,000



25955 Colt Lane, Highway 68 — \$1,400,000

Shea Homes LP to Michael and Mihaela Kennedy
APN: 031-297-014

3092 Arroyo Drive — \$1,328,000
The Sea Haven LLC to Geraldine West
APN: 031-311-054

3053 El Capitan Drive — \$1,814,500
The Sea Haven LLC to John and Johanna Leonard
APN: 031-311-016

Monterey

300 Glenwood Circle unit 186 — \$535,000
Patricia Szasz to Linda and Alan Terry

APN: 001-776-028

570 Casanova Avenue — \$786,000
Lanier Sammons and Clara Shirley to Gary and Ying Lew
APN: 013-132-014

425 Via del Rey — \$1,550,500
Frederick Morris to Richard and Gretchen Ankiel
APN: 001-272-030

564 Mar Vista Drive — \$1,290,000
Maria Escobar to Michael and Khrisffer Devine
APN: 001-791-020

See DEEDS page 30 IYD

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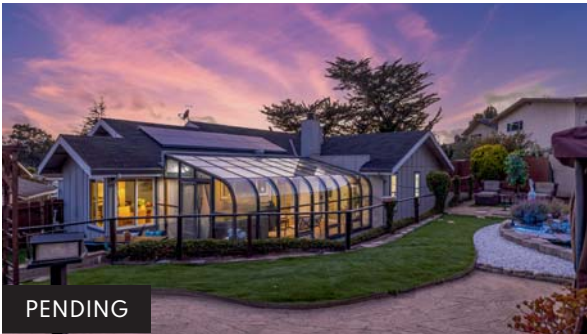
3 Beds | 1 Bath | 1,289 SF

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DRE: 01974535

SOLD IN 13 DAYS

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1184 Barbara Ct, Seaside

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Listed by Adam Bomarito | 831.917.4707

DRE: 02026191

SOLD IN 3 DAYS

\$37,000 OVER ASKING



6 Campana Cir, Salinas

3 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,529 SF

Sold by Kimberly Flores | 831.224.0020

DRE: 02062789

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DEEDS

From page 28 IYD

Monterey (con't)

556 Abrego Street — \$3,250,000

Monterey County Bank to MMJ LLC

APN: 001-696-009

150 Littlefield Road — \$2,450,000

Philip Neumann and Rosalyn Voget to David and Lesa Tegrotenhuis

APN: 101-053-006

530 W. Franklin Street — \$52,500,000

President and Fellows of Middlebury College to Monterey Institute of International Studies LLC

APN: 001-382-003

Pacific Grove

309 Pine Avenue — \$680,000

Maryn Sanchez and Russella Kissell to Randy Randazzo

APN: 006-504-002

315 Willow Street — \$1,425,000

Jayne Moore to Kevin and Annette Boggs

APN: 006-326-006

849 Marino Pines Road — \$1,720,000

Jo Lauer to Eric Benson and Jennifer Rettick

APN: 006-633-021

1134 Ripple Avenue — \$1,795,000

Christopher Suhr to Albert and Cynthia Salvador

APN: 006-051-018

485 Grove Acre Avenue — \$2,225,000



26047 Atherton Drive, Carmel — \$4,100,000

Joseph Yarborough to Andrew and Mandi Ackerman
APN: 006-432-032

Pebble Beach

2809 Raccoon Trail — \$2,000,000

Colonel Betz to Mark Vincent

APN: 007-152-018

3113 Sloat Road — \$2,275,000

Richard and Elizabeth Leary to David and Ana Borrelli

APN: 007-431-003

2907 Colton Road — \$2,425,000

Jason and Amy Lund to Daniel and Mary Weiler

APN: 007-541-024

2905 Bird Rock Road — \$2,865,000

Joseph and Sophia Kim to David and Shaylynn Crandall

APN: 007-661-004

1143 Porque Lane — \$19,800,000

Edward and Lisa Vaughan to Nestledown Fairway LLC

APN: 008-281-010



26357 Scenic Road, Carmel — \$16,500,000

Seaside

1600 Canyon del Rey Blvd. — \$7,273,000

Peninsula Petroleum LLC to Hasco Stations LLC

APN: 011-561-026

1610 Soto Street — \$755,000

John Belcher to Samantha Lopez and Jim Donovan

APN: 012-654-042

1841 Judson Street — \$847,500

Michael Horner to Aung Aye and Kay Maung

APN: 012-832-014

4560 Peninsula Point Drive — \$1,300,000

Duane and Cecelia Davis to William and Jessica Moon

APN: 031-233-017

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I N Y O U R D R E A M S

LOG
From page 38A

transported the patient to the hospital.
Pacific Grove: Unauthorized use of a stolen credit card on Forest.
Pacific Grove: Theft of a bicycle on 17th Street.
Monterey: A 20-year-old man was arrested at Pacific Street and Del Monte for driving under the influence, driving without a valid license, and driving with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.01% or greater while under 21.
Monterey: Vandalism on Del Monte Avenue.
Monterey: Petty theft on East Franklin Street.
Monterey: Exhibiting a deadly weapon other than a firearm reported on Glenwood Circle.
Monterey: A subject on Barnet Segal Lane was placed on a 72-hour mental health evaluation hold.
Monterey: Petty theft reported on East Franklin.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Trespass admonishment on Ninth Avenue.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Death following a medical emergency at Monte Verde and Ninth.
Pacific Grove: Report of vandalism on 18th Street.
Pacific Grove: A subject was found deceased in a home on Lincoln Avenue.
Monterey: Grand theft from a vehicle reported on Holman Highway.
Marina: At approximately 9:14 p.m., a Marina officer observed a black Honda sedan traveling at a high rate of speed on Imjin Parkway. The vehicle continued speeding eastbound on Reservation Road as the officer caught up to it. The officer conducted a traffic stop near Reservation Road and Watkins Gate. The driver, a man from Salinas, was arrested for violating California Vehicle Code sections 23152(a), driving under the influence of alcohol, and 23152(b), driving with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.08% or higher. During a search of the vehicle, officers recovered and seized a loaded Kimber 9 mm semiautomatic pistol as evidence. The driver was booked at the Monterey County Jail.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Account hacked, resulting in financial loss, at Junipero and Fourth. A resident's airline profile was hacked and miles were stolen. Total property loss could

be close to \$1,700. The fraud was reported to the airline. It is not known where the scammer resides.
Monterey: Driving while license suspended or revoked for DUI-specific violations at Casa Verde Way and Encina Avenue.
Monterey: A 59-year-old woman was arrested at Del Monte and Figueroa for driving under the influence and driving with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.08% or greater.
Monterey: A 40-year-old man was arrested on Sand Dunes Drive for possession of unlawful paraphernalia.
Monterey: A 31-year-old man was arrested at Tyler and East Franklin for vandalism and disorderly conduct due to alcohol.
Monterey: Burglary, petty theft and vandalism reported on Del Monte.
Monterey: Evading a peace officer reported on Fairgrounds Road.
Monterey: A subject on Ocean Avenue was placed on a 72-hour mental health evaluation hold.
Monterey: A 29-year-old man was arrested on Abrego Street for disorderly conduct due to alcohol.
Monterey: Probation violation and disorderly conduct due to alcohol on Wave Street.
Marina: At approximately 8:11 p.m., a Marina police officer stopped a vehicle for a California Vehicle Code violation. During the traffic stop and subsequent investigation, officers recovered a loaded Springfield 9 mm semiautomatic pistol. The driver, a resident of Salinas, was arrested and cited for violations of California Penal Code sections 25400(a), carrying a concealed firearm in a vehicle, and 25850(a), carrying a loaded firearm in a public place. The man reportedly believed he possessed a California license to carry a concealed weapon. However, the document was a firearm safety certificate, which is not a permit to carry a concealed firearm.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Carmel-by-the-Sea: No calls to report.
Pacific Grove: A medical emergency was reported in the 500 block of Asilomar at approximately 7:46 p.m. The man was declared deceased on scene by medical personnel and taken into custody by the Monterey County coroner's office.
Pacific Grove: An incident near the 500 block of Light-house Avenue resulted in approximately \$734 in damage. The incident did not appear to be intentional.
Monterey: A 37-year-old man was arrested on Eighth Street for driving under the influence and driving with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.08% or greater.
Monterey: A 70-year-old man was arrested on Cannery Row for a probation violation and disorderly conduct due to

alcohol.
Monterey: A missing person was reported on Ramona Avenue.
Monterey: Disorderly conduct due to alcohol on Foam Street.
Monterey: A 29-year-old man was arrested on Fairgrounds Road for disorderly conduct due to alcohol.
Monterey: A 41-year-old woman was arrested on Surf Way for inflicting corporal injury on a spouse, cohabitant or dating partner and obstructing or resisting an executive officer.
Monterey: A 76-year-old woman was arrested at La Playa Street and Park Avenue for aiming a laser pointer at a peace officer.
Monterey: An 18-year-old woman was arrested at Del Monte Avenue and Hannon Avenue for driving under the influence, driving with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.08% or greater, driving with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.01% or greater while under 21, and child abuse without great bodily injury or death.
Marina: At around 9:20 p.m., two juveniles exited a driveway on an e-bike and collided with another vehicle. Neither juvenile was wearing a helmet at the time of the collision. The e-bike was towed for California Vehicle Code violations, and one of the juveniles was transported to the hospital with minor injuries. The other involved vehicle stayed on scene, and the driver was cooperative with the investigation. Not every e-bike is legal to ride on public streets, and some require DMV registration and a valid driver's license to operate.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Carmel-by-the-Sea: No calls to report.
Monterey: A subject at Del Monte Shopping Center was placed on a 72-hour mental health evaluation hold.
Monterey: False imprisonment reported on Dela Vina Avenue.
Monterey: A 35-year-old man was arrested at Del Monte Avenue and Portola Plaza for disorderly conduct while under the influence of drugs.
Monterey: Sodomy by force, violence or fear reported on Belden Street.
Monterey: A 46-year-old man was arrested on Casanova Avenue for possession of unlawful paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance, possession of less than 25 pounds of a dangerous firework, contempt of court and battery on a spouse, former spouse or dating partner.

See MORE LOG page 34 IYD



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I N Y O U R D R E A M S

LETTERS
From page 30A

visitor pays it. That is precisely the problem. The visitor is the customer.

Measure M would increase the total hotel tax and assessment paid by Carmel guests from 12% to 14%, the highest on the Monterey Peninsula.

Economics has a name for what happens next: price elasticity. Raise the price and demand falls, all else being equal. That means fewer room nights, fewer overnight visitors and less spending at Carmel businesses.

Hotels face a difficult choice. Pass along the higher cost and risk losing guests, or absorb it through lower room rates. The city's own five-year budget forecasts annual hotel tax revenue growth of just 2.1%. If visitor spending grows only at that pace, Measure M's added tax would consume nearly all of that increase, leaving hotels with little additional revenue to cover rising costs and protect their margins.

We're also told the tax rate should rise because it hasn't changed in 43 years, as though the revenue has stood still. At the current rate, hotel tax revenue has grown more than 37% over the past three years. The city's June 2026 budget proposal projected \$10.2 million in hotel tax revenue by 2031. Carmel reached that figure last year, five years ahead of schedule. How does that justify a higher tax rate?

With that performance, the council should focus on sustaining revenue growth rather than raising the tax rate and putting that growth at risk.

John Turner, Carmel

P.G. endorsement
Dear Editor,

I urge voters in Pacific Grove's City Council District 1, the Beach Tract, to elect Kevin Hanley. I have known him

for 20 years and worked with him for 12 years. He has the experience, knowledge, integrity and personality to be an effective representative. What I don't understand is why he wants to do it.

He served on Auburn's City Council for 10 years and as mayor for two years. Auburn is outside Sacramento. Even Dale Byrne, Carmel's well-qualified, conscientious, energetic and literate mayor, has had enough after two years.

Auburn's population is 13,850, compared with Pacific Grove's 14,660, and its median household income is \$82,675, compared with Pacific Grove's \$106,065. Kevin understands that tax revenue must be spent carefully. During his 12 years in office, Auburn's budget was balanced each year, and the city maintained an emergency reserve.

The Pacific Grove City Council proposed a 135% increase in members' pay and sought approval by spending \$63,000 on a June special election, though the measure could have appeared on the November ballot at almost no additional cost. Some increase in pay might be justified, but the council displayed a gross lack of judgment by trying to obtain such a large raise in one step. Kevin is a more prudent decision-maker.

Kevin moved here six years ago after his wife finally convinced him that enduring 100-degree temperatures and inhaling wildfire smoke were not as pleasant as living in Pacific Grove, which they had visited for many years. That is one reason he has worked to reduce the threat posed by George Washington Park, a potential fire trap surrounded by homes built of thoroughly dry timber.

Kevin has a bachelor's degree in political economy and a master's degree in public policy. He taught college economics and served as chief executive of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce. He also was a policy consultant in both the legislative and executive branches of state govern-

ment. Perhaps even more valuable, should Pacific Grove ever be attacked from the sea, are his four years of service as a U.S. Navy officer.

I confidently and enthusiastically recommend Kevin Hanley for the Pacific Grove City Council.

Roger Magyar, Pacific Grove

Surveillance state
Dear Editor,

It's sad when the only argument to be made is that we've already had the vast majority of our privacy taken from us, so why not give up the last remaining scraps? That's the defeatist argument The Pine Cone recently put forth in an editorial equivalent of "Surrender Dorothy" written across the sky.

Sure, Flock cameras may catch people doing bad things, but so would those same prying cameras if placed inside our homes.

At what cost does this willing submission to such extensive surveillance come? What does it mean for humanity to be observed like the voiceless creatures scurrying around an ant farm? We now live in a high-tech era of retinal and thumbprint scans, voice and facial recognition, law enforcement drones, and all manner of recording devices that track us the moment we leave our homes. Having no other options has driven us into grudging acquiescence. And those who claim that law-abiding citizens have nothing to fear are completely missing the point. Where does this end? More importantly, what happens when bad actors control the information gathered by these technologies?

It's no surprise that police lobby for Flock cameras, but we aren't living in a police state. Not yet, anyway. The role of

See TOPICS page 36 IYD

MORE LOG
From page 32 IYD

Monterey: Trespassing and disorderly conduct due to alcohol on Cass Street.

Monterey: A 21-year-old man was arrested at 12:38 a.m. on Madison Street for vandalism and battery on a spouse, former spouse or dating partner.

Monterey: A 50-year-old man was arrested at 5:17 a.m. on Surf Way for threatening a crime with intent to terrorize.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 35-year-old man and a 35-year-old woman were arrested on Hatton Road for possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia.

Pacific Grove: Report of possible child abuse that occurred Sept. 24 near the 900 block of Piedmont Avenue.

Monterey: A subject on Madison Street was placed on a 72-hour mental health evaluation hold.

Monterey: A 23-year-old woman was arrested at Pacific Street and West Franklin Street for possession of a narcotic controlled substance, driving under the influence and driving with a blood-alcohol concentration

of 0.08% or greater.

Monterey: A 19-year-old man was arrested on Clay Street for vandalism causing \$400 or more in damage.

Monterey: A 27-year-old man was arrested on Madison Street for evading a peace officer with wanton disregard for safety.

Monterey: A 38-year-old man was arrested on Alameda for obstructing or resisting a peace officer or emergency medical technician, threatening a crime with intent to terrorize, and disorderly conduct due to alcohol.

Marina: At approximately 1 p.m., Seaside police responded to a report of an adult man who allegedly used his vehicle door as a weapon, striking a victim in the leg at a local Seaside coffee shop. The suspect fled the scene in a white Audi convertible. A proactive Marina officer monitoring the call for service via the department's onboard computer utilized Flock license-plate-reader cameras, which captured the suspect vehicle traveling in Marina. Marina officers conducted an area check for the vehicle, which was subsequently located parked in the Walmart parking lot. Officers established surveillance of the vehicle and, a short time later, observed the suspect enter the driver's seat. Officers converged on the vehicle and safely apprehended the suspect. Seaside police responded to the scene and took custody of the suspect without further incident.

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Those who know Bailey will tell you that she hustles harder than most. Salinas-born, the beloved local REALTOR® has always been imbued with an entrepreneurial spirit and is known for her strategic approach, strong work ethic, and exceptional results. She earned her Business degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and worked as an Operations Manager at Tesla, where she developed the systems-driven mindset and attention to detail she brings to every transaction. Since launching her real estate career, Bailey has closed over \$100 million in sales across more than 100 transactions, representing luxury homeowners, investors, second-home buyers, and first-time purchasers. Recognized among the Top 1.5% of agents nationwide by RealTrends, Bailey is known for her thoughtful communication, honest guidance, and ability to navigate complex transactions with clarity and confidence while prioritizing her clients’ best interests.

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I N Y O U R D R E A M S

TOPICS
From page 34 IYD

law enforcement has always been to find criminals through proper police work, not simply to monitor the masses and see what officers can find. Fishing doesn't mean dragging everything out of the sea to find the halibut you're looking for.

Millions of Americans across the political spectrum are protesting Flock cameras for the same reason they're fighting data centers. We aren't even given the choice to opt out of these invasions of our privacy, whereabouts and activities. We feel powerless in the face of so much madness, with an anti-human future bearing down on us like a meteor. Protesting loudly and fervently is all we have to push back against this relentless dehumanization, driven by a handful of unspeakably wealthy, poorly socialized men you wouldn't let your daughter date.

Flocks are for sheep, not human beings.
Christopher Armen, Carmel Valley

Solve parking problem?
Dear Editor,

Do we really want to solve Carmel's parking problem?

Recently, my wife and I spent some time in Europe, including Paris. Most European cities, even those smaller than Carmel, have gone underground. Paris, in particular, has underground parking beneath streets and sidewalks in its densest commercial districts. This works extremely well because it allows workers and tourists to park close to shops and hotels.

Carmel has an opportunity to do the same on Junipero Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues. Sure, there will be disruption and expense. Staged construction, block by block, could be scheduled to minimize traffic jams during high-volume periods.

Or we can talk about it ad nauseam and continue to be frustrated.
Buck Jones, Carmel Valley

Perennial issue
Dear Editor,

Parking is a perennial issue for Carmel residents and visitors alike. Amid that discussion, there should be a focus on safe and legal parking. Unfortunately, Carmel seems reluctant to address this issue in any meaningful way.

As a full-time resident, I declare that enough is enough. I'm weary of having to work my way around cars parked on sidewalks — what few sidewalks there are — or trying to maneuver around oversized vehicles parked in single-car spaces and virtually blocking the street. Why are our city employees not addressing this issue daily with tickets and towing? Why is the City Council not working toward meaningful, long-term solutions?

I find it interesting that a consulting firm must be hired to find a cure for Carmel's woes, using Lake Tahoe and Vail as examples. There is nothing unique about this little town that everyday common sense can't cure. Vail blocks off its main streets for pedestrian traffic only. It seems to me that Ocean Avenue and several side streets would be much more pleasant if they were open only to pedestrians.

Let's stop trying to lure visitors to our overcrowded streets until we have a plan to accommodate them and their parking needs without inconveniencing those of us who live here 365 days a year.

Michael Jones, Carmel

Point Lobos traffic
Dear Editor,

For years, residents of Carmel Highlands have been sounding the alarm about Highway 1 at Point Lobos. On sunny days, cars line the narrow shoulders, pedestrians walk in traffic lanes, drivers make U-turns across double yellow lines and a trip home

from Rio Road can take 20 to 30 minutes. Most troubling, fire engines and ambulances can struggle to reach our community when every minute counts.

Our neighbors did not simply complain. They signed a community petition, spoke at meetings, wrote to agencies and photographed conditions on the highway. That persistence is paying off.

I want to thank 5th District Supervisor Kate Daniels for championing this issue and the full board of supervisors for voting unanimously to pursue an emergency permit for no-parking restrictions south of the Point Lobos entrance. The board also directed staff to work with Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol on higher fines and to return with a plan for the pedestrian bridge. Thanks as well to state Sen. John Laird, whose SB 178 would require California State Parks to study traffic, safety and access at the reserve.

This is a meaningful first step, but more is needed. The emergency permit should become permanent. Enforcement must extend to illegal U-turns and lane blocking, not just parking. Officials should watch whether parked cars simply move farther south into our neighborhoods. Emergency vehicle access must be a central part of any plan, including the SB 178 report. The proposed ParkIT! shuttle from Marathon Flats would also go a long way toward easing demand.

Point Lobos belongs to everyone, and visitors should keep coming. But a scenic highway cannot continue to function as a parking lot. To my neighbors, thank you, and please keep documenting what you see. To our officials, thank you for listening. Let's finish the job.

Gwyn De Amaral, Carmel Highlands

Benefit store
Dear Editor,

I have volunteered at Spirals Consignment Store since 2014. Spirals is a benefit store for the Alliance on Aging. How

insulting it was to read on Nextdoor that people who don't know us took someone else's word and formed the opinion that we steal from the store. Apparently, they don't know the store or understand the mission of Spirals and the Alliance on Aging, yet they accuse us of being thieves.

We are retired. We have already worked and bought the clothes and other things we wanted. We no longer have to dress up or buy nice jackets, shoes and purses. If we wanted fancy jackets, we would buy them, not steal them from a benefit shop.

Spirals is a community store. We get shoppers from the area, outside the area, out of state and outside the country. Many locals come in to share stories or burdens, or simply to talk. A man once came in and told me he had just lost his partner. He spoke about her and how wonderful she was, and I listened. Another woman came in and told me about the divorce she was going through. She just needed to unload her burden.

Some people are lonely or may not have family or many friends, so they come in and talk to us. Consignors who have lost a spouse and are finally able to let go of their belongings know that we are an understanding and caring group. We listen to their stories and assure them that we will make every effort to help.

Yes, we are short-staffed, but we cover for one another. We fill in where and when we can, work extra shifts and do the best we can. It's disheartening to hear people say they'd like to volunteer at Spirals, only to decide it's inconvenient when I offer them a volunteer application.

Shoplifting is rampant, especially in today's economy. We try our best to watch what's going on, but it's hard to keep an eye on everything. Even department stores with surveillance cameras suffer from theft.

If you've never visited Spirals, please

See OPINIONS page 39 IYD





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I N Y O U R D R E A M S

GOOD TASTE

From page 26 IYD

An octagonal windowed rec room opens into one end of the courtyard and features high ceilings and a domed roof — a popular design element in Spanish Revival and some other early 20th-century architectural styles. Although it currently houses a pool table, a musician’s or artist’s studio would be equally at home.

The well-established landscaping on the grounds, like an indulgent grandparent, seems as if it’d be just fine with children and dogs. It’s also the sort of place where one might put in a croquet court on the lawn at the foot of the herringbone-patterned brick stairs and enjoy a game or two before dinner.

And while the house is furnished with a splendid assortment of antiques, it could be easily adapted to a number of other design styles. After all, that’s what “timeless elegance” means.



One of the guest bedrooms in Villa Che, a 20th-century estate in Pebble Beach, is shown with its cozy fireplace.

ELYSIAN

From page 21 IYD

five: the primary suite, with his-and-hers closets and a quiet reading room, where the pitched ceiling catches the light.

The property includes three detached guest cottages, the smallest of which the family repurposed as a classroom building during the Covid years. The other two are substantially more spacious, and one with an airy barn-style layout could easily be adapted as a private office, homework room or creative studio.

Similarly, the two-car garage is open to interpretation. Outfitted by the previous owner with auto lifts and a bike rack, it also has the well-ventilated makings of a home gym.

Solid digs

Sleepy Hollow boasts private tennis courts for the community, and Carmel Valley Village has a couple of membership-based fitness options, but it’s worth noting that CVAC or Chamisal are a bit of a drive.

According to Bode, the previous family had a few good reasons to hang around home — and the horses’ crayoned likenesses are still pinned inside the tack closet in the stables.

And while Montana is a pretty nice place to be a horse, they left some solid digs behind.

Inside the barn, which includes feed storage and a grooming station, four stalls open onto a turnout pasture. A few years ago, a dedicated riding arena was added to the facilities.

Bode said the new owners could easily muck out the main building and renovate it for another purpose. But there’s also a when-in-Rome argument to be made for picking up the local equestrian habit.

Our suggestion? Buy the house before the horse.



A Carmel Valley farmhouse is a mix of great spaces — the 600-square-foot family room, for instance — and peaceful annexes such as two dreamy twin bedrooms, each with its own unique layout.

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IN YOUR DREAMS

OPINIONS
From page 36 IYD

come in to shop, shoot the breeze or simply find out what’s going on in the community. A few volunteers grew up in Pacific Grove and remember the old Top Hat Market, Hallmark store and Ford’s Department Store. When tourists ask, we offer suggestions for local restaurants, bakeries and other services. We share information.

We are a benefit shop. We are not thieves.

Cynthia Lopez-Frincke, Pacific Grove

Waste Management
Dear Editor,

Waste Management’s California residential model treats paying customers as unpaid labor — then fines them for imperfect work.

Customers pay for collection. In return, typical California programs impose roughly 40 to 60 preparation and sorting rules: three-stream trash, recycling and organic waste under SB 1383; curb-placement rules; bagging prohibitions; “do not include” lists; hazardous-waste and electronic-waste diversion; bulk scheduling; and more. That is not a tip sheet. It is a large unpaid workload the customer must perform so Waste Management’s trucks and processing facilities can run as designed.

If that unpaid work is imperfect, the customer is fined or otherwise punished. Contamination or overage fees are often about \$10 to \$30 per incident, per cart, under published California franchise agreements. Other penalties include noncollection and forced cart upsizing. The customer pays, works for free and is penalized for imperfect work.

Rates compound the insult. Nationwide, the consumer price index for garbage collection rose by about 50% from 2015 to 2025; many California franchises have climbed faster still. Locally, unincorporated Monterey County’s exclusive franchise with Waste Management — USA Waste of California, doing business as Carmel Marina Corp. — has residents paying Waste Management under county-approved rates while Waste Management remits a franchise fee to the county. The county does not write a second check to Waste Management for ordinary collection, but the franchise fee is still ratepayer-funded government revenue included on the trash bill.

I wrote to Waste Management Cares about this structure. Its replies asked for my billing address and customer ID, as if a policy complaint were a missed pickup. I refused. The point is the model, not my cart.

A company that charges customers, extracts extensive unpaid sorting labor, raises rates and fines customers for imperfect work should answer for that structure in public, not bury the issue in an account lookup.

Tyson Hillard Holmes, Carmel Valley

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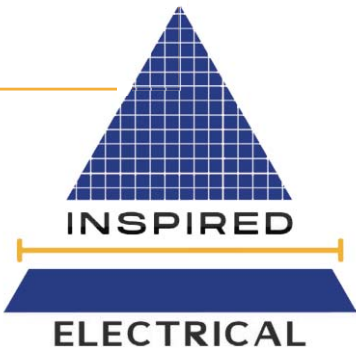
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