The Carmel Pine Cone

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TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

Unique property in search of the right buyer

By MARY SCHLEY

THE ICONIC China Art Center building — which has been vacant for years — is in need of a new life, but it will take a motivated individual to make it happen.

The reinforced concrete, Mission Revival building designed by San Francisco architect H.H. Winner and built by Hugh Comstock and M.J. Murphy in 1929 on behalf of Monterey County Trust & Savings Bank has retained remnants of its roots — including a night-drop safe and a vault — through subsequent decades as an art museum, gallery, art studio and furniture store. Its striking artistically molded and painted beams are intact, as well, along with large arched windows along its north wall.

The Dolores Street building's most recent opportunity for resurrection called for its transformation into a music recording studio called The Conservatory.

Proposed by owner Sean Moriarty, the project got the city's go-ahead four years ago, but due to various challenges, Moriarty lost his will to do it, according to realtor

See **CHINA** *page 19A*





PHOTOS/TIM ALLEN (LEFT), MARY SCHLEY

The China Art Center in downtown Carmel is one of a kind, and it needs a one-of-a-kind buyer to bring it back to life, whether as a private club, a restaurant, a recording studio, apartments or all of the above.

City: Utility companies will update addresses

By MARY SCHLEY

CARMEL RESIDENTS don't need to go to the trouble of providing their new numbered street addresses to PG&E, Comcast, GreenWaste and other utility companies, a city official confirmed this week after hosting an open house on the process Tuesday, though some patience may be in order.

"Most residents will not have to make changes with the utility service providers that participated in the event," confirmed Emily Garay, an administrative analyst who has become the expert on the transition from the traditional directional addresses used for more than a century to a standardized system. "Those service providers will automatically update the residential physical address information for their customers."

No need to spend hours online or on the phone

The effort to make that happen began in July 2025, even before the council officially approved the new system, when the city reached out to service providers and pitched "the idea of a proactive and collaborative approach to the significant change that the new addressing could entail for their systems," Garay said.

In the case of a new housing development, for instance, proposed address data are submitted to the county and the U.S. Postal Service Address Management System — which is used by government agencies, online retailers, utilities, financial institutions and other businesses and organizations to verify physical addresses — for approval.

Points on the map

The county creates new address points using that information and then allows service providers to access and retrieve the data to update their records, according to Garay.

"My research and communication with other cities established that process as the expected procedure," she said.

But to make things happen more quickly, the committee that helped develop the standardized addresses "tapped

See **UTILITIES** *page 21A*

Planning commission likes Point Lobos shuttle

By CHRIS COUNTS

A PLAN to address traffic congestion near the entrance to Point Lobos State Natural Reserve took a major step forward Wednesday when the Monterey County Planning Commission approved a permit for a day-use reservation system and a shuttle connecting the reserve to a parking area at Marathon Flats, next to the Crossroads shopping center.

Before the unanimous vote, John Hiles of California State Parks urged the commission to support the plan, which calls for bike racks, parking for 100 vehicles, fencing, a ticket machine and drainage improvements.

"This is our moment to act in a thoughtful way that protects the resources we all cherish and provides maximum public access with respect to public safety and reducing congestion on Highway 1, while protecting the natural and cultural resources for future generations," Hiles said.

Backed by Panetta, Daniels

The effort to establish a shuttle for Point Lobos has been underway since 2018, when the late resident Ernest Chung began hosting meetings at his dining room table. 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.

Most speakers supported the project, including Steve Martin of the Mal Paso Creek Property Owners Association.

"Our residents have witnessed the increasingly dangerous traffic and parking situation," Martin testified. "The

See **SHUTTLE** *page 23A*

Californians: We're unhappy but don't want change

ACCORDING TO a September survey from the Public Policy Institute of California, Californians have a bleak outlook on their state's future, with a majority of adults reporting it is headed in the wrong direction. The survey found that people are even more pessimistic when it comes to the economy, with 73% of likely voters expecting bad financial times ahead.

The angst is easy to understand. California is in a three-way tie for the highest unemployment rate of any state, at 5.1%, which equates to more than 1 million jobless workers. The post-pandemic job recovery has been at a standstill since 2022, and personal income, when adjusted for inflation, has dipped ever so slightly.

High prices

Meanwhile, the cost of living has gone up nearly 30% since the Covid-era closures. Drivers are paying the highest gasoline prices in the nation, at $6.33 a gallon, as well as the second-highest electricity rates, behind Hawaii. We can also lay claim to the top slots for home prices and water costs.

Looking at the numbers, one might think the climate was ripe for political change — but not so. The state's

See **UNHAPPY** *page 22A*

Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

SUPES OK SHERIFF'S $3M DRONE CONTRACT

By KELLY NIX

THE MONTEREY COUNTY Board of Supervisors this week approved spending more than $3 million to replace and expand the sheriff's office's drone fleet. The aircraft will be used during emergencies, including searches for missing people and criminals, disaster response and incidents in challenging areas, the agency said.

Supervisors voted 4-1, with District 1 Supervisor Luis Alejo dissenting, to approve an eight-year, $3,034,343 agreement with Axon Enterprise Inc. The contract runs retroactively from Sept. 1 through Aug. 31, 2034. The sheriff's office established its unmanned aircraft systems program in 2016 but said its aging drones need to be replaced.

The new equipment will "provide real-time aerial video and location information to deputies, supervisors, dispatchers and command personnel during critical incidents, searches for missing or at-risk persons, tactical operations, disaster response, major events, and incidents occurring in remote or difficult-to-access areas," according to the sheriff's report to supervisors.

Under the contract, Axon will initially provide the agency with three Skydio X10 drones, three Skydio R10 drones and other equipment, with additional aircraft supplied during the term of the agreement. The R10 is designed for use in confined indoor spaces and includes two-way audio, according to Axon, which also makes police body cameras.

Privacy concerns

Supervisor Glenn Church, whose District 2 includes Moss Landing, said drones are "very helpful." He cited their use during flooding and levee failures in Pajaro, searches for stranded people during emergencies, and aerial assessments of the Vistra battery facility in Moss Landing after a major fire in January 2025 and a smaller fire in September 2026.

During public comment, several people opposed the technology because of privacy and other concerns. But the opposition was much less intense than it was last month, when dozens protested a proposed county contract with Flock

See **DRONES** *page 23A*



PHOTO/U.S. DEP'T. OF WAR

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth holds a Skydio drone during a demonstration at the Pentagon.

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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Scenic love story

She and her husband met while strolling along the Scenic Road path overlooking Carmel Beach. A nod grew into a greeting and, eventually, a marriage. But that's another story.

One day, on that same fortuitous path, they came across a couple walking a black-and-white Boston terrier.

"He's adorable," her husband said, "but my wife is looking for something gray to match her hair."

"They come in gray," the couple said.

They searched online for the breeder and found a photo of 6-week-old gray-and-white Boston terriers sitting in a row, each with a name beginning with M. She saw Mel sitting in the middle and knew she had found her dog.

The next time they saw the couple, she and her husband were walking with Mel in a carrier.

"They were amazed we had found a gray one and were immediately drawn to him," she said. "They contacted the breeder and got his brother, Eli. We get them together to play. Now that they're 9, they're like two old Jewish guys sitting in a deli."

Mel's people keep him on the Scenic Road path, not because that's where his story began, but because they aren't sure how he would behave on the beach.



"Mel has a Type A personality," his person said. "Although he's friendly and loves other dogs 90% of the time, there's that 10% we don't know about. Since Mel is the son my husband never had, he doesn't want anything to happen to him."

They walk from their home behind Carmel Plaza to the Scenic Road path, completing a 4- or 5-mile loop that brings them home.

Mel attended puppy training when he was young, but not everyone in the family embraced the lessons.

"My husband never bought into following through with the commands because he felt it hurt Mel's feelings," his person said. "Mel responds to my commands. He knows who he has to listen to."













What to do if the tax measures fail

■ Candidates weigh in on city finances

By MARY SCHLEY

WITH CARMEL'S finance manager predicting the city will, in the next few years, run out of savings to compensate for its chronic tendency to spend more money than it brings in, and with deferred maintenance estimated at $100 million, the city council put two tax measures on the ballot. One would add .375% to the local sales tax rate, while the other would increase the tax charged to hotel guests from 10% to 12%, with total additional revenues estimated at $3.8 million per year.

Some are confident voters will embrace higher taxes

This week, The Pine Cone asked the candidates for mayor and city council what financial decisions they would make if those ballot measures don't pass, and sought their views on how to bring more of the capital projects on the city's lengthy annual work list to completion.

Hans Buder, who is running for mayor two years into his first term on the council, said he believes the first question is moot.

"Based on my experience knocking on doors and speaking with residents, I fully expect both revenue measures to pass," he said.

Wants more

Regardless of the outcome, Buder said he aims to introduce a measure similar to one in Los Angeles that voters approved in June to require online travel services to collect and remit TOT on the full amount customers pay for accommodations, including various booking fees, markups, and hotel-related amenities and deposits.

The new law "would close the loophole" that exempts online booking services from charging taxes on the total tab, he said. "Making the likes of Expedia and booking.com pay the TOT would provide Carmel with an additional $400,000 to 500,000 per year in recurring revenue," Buder said.

"The city also benefits from increased TOT revenue when hotels are renovated, so it would be worth exploring a targeted program to incentivize hotel renovations," he added, echoing a theme that has come up many times in Carmel's history.

Buder reiterated that the council has worked to reduce operating expenses to free up more funds for capital work and said "improving operational efficiency is one of my top priorities." Specifically, he wants the council to focus on setting measurable goals, tracking progress and using the data "to continuously improve performance."

More on the job

The struggle to complete capital projects has largely been due to staffing constraints, with a single project manager in charge, but now there are three full-time employees dedicated to the cause, according to Buder. Further, he said he wants quarterly budget reports, which "will create another check-in during the year and create more accountability."

His challenger, new resident David Boland, said voters' rejection of the tax measures would lead him to "take seriously what it tells us about their confidence in the city council's ability to deliver."

"Our obligations and deferred maintenance are measurable, and losing the projected $4 million in annual revenue would mean extending the timeline for addressing that backlog," he acknowledged.

Boland took the opportunity to restate

See **FINANCES** *page 24A*

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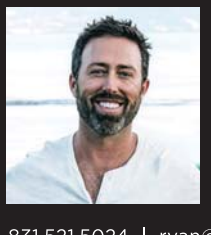


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Police & Sheriff's Log

No capers or hijinks, just crime

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.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found iPad at Dolores and Seventh.

Pacific Grove: Citations issued for feeding wildlife on Ocean View Boulevard.

Monterey: Vandalism reported on Laine Street.

Monterey: Trespassing at Monterey-Salinas Transit.

Monterey: A 70-year-old woman was arrested on East Franklin Street on a misdemeanor warrant from another jurisdiction and a bench warrant for failure to appear on a misdemeanor charge.

Monterey: A 71-year-old man was arrested on English Avenue on a misdemeanor warrant for failure to appear.

Monterey: Suspicious circumstances on Josselyn Canyon Road.

Monterey: Suspicious circumstances on Lighthouse Avenue.

Monterey: Battery reported on Fairgrounds Road.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle towed at Junipero and Seventh.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Traffic stop at Ocean and Junipero led to the arrest of a 48-year-old male Sacramento resident for DUI, an outstanding felony warrant out of Santa Clara County, and possession of drugs, with priors. Vehicle impounded.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found skateboard at Ocean and Mission.

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



The gavel falls

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

Sept. 15 — Judge Jennifer O'Keefe sentenced Henry Isidro Lechuga, 36, of Salinas to four years in state prison for one count of taking a vehicle with prior convictions and one count of evading officers while driving recklessly.

On May 9, 2026, Salinas police officers saw Lechuga, who was wanted on an outstanding arrest warrant, in a vehicle parked in front of 335 Navajo Drive. A woman was in the driver's seat, and Lechuga was in the passenger seat. Officers told Lechuga he was under arrest, but he refused to follow their commands. The driver complied with officers and exited the vehicle. Lechuga moved into the driver's seat, grabbed the keys, stole the vehicle and fled.

Officers began pursuing the vehicle. Lechuga drove through multiple stop signs and red lights, traveled in opposing lanes of traffic, reached speeds of up to 60 mph in residential areas and up to 100 mph on Highway 101, and nearly struck a bicyclist. Lechuga eventually exited the vehicle and fled on foot through the backyard of a residence. Officers established a perimeter and searched numerous backyards but were unable to locate him. A warrant was issued for Lechuga's arrest, and he was later taken into custody.

The Salinas Police Department investigated the case.

Sept. 15 — A Monterey County jury found Salinas resident Sonny Velasco, 33, guilty of one count of committing a lewd or lascivious act on a child younger than 14, one count of assault with intent to commit a lewd

See **GAVEL** *page 18A*

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BOBBY

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BOBBY'S TO-DO LIST

If elected on November 3rd, my to-do list on November 4th.

- [ ] **First, Say Thank You. Be Grateful.**

  Thank everyone who has supported me these past few months, everyone who takes part in voting, and every candidate willing to step up and give their time to serve. Win or lose, be grateful that I am fortunate enough to live in this fantastic village.

- [ ] **Put the Coffee On. Bring People Together.**

  Contact Carmel Unified School District, the Carmel-by-the-Sea Chamber of Commerce, and the Carmel Residents Association. Get together over coffee, share ideas, and build a partnership that makes working for Carmel productive—and fun.

- [ ] **Build a Stronger Regional Voice**

  Bring Peninsula and neighboring city leaders together to help shape state mandates. Meet California's goals while protecting local control, our ordinances, and Carmel's charact

- [ ] **Pursue Grants. Don't Raise Taxes.**

  I don't want to raise taxes. Pursue state, federal, and private grants. Spend wisely, make better use of existing revenue, and find outside funding to improve Carmel.

- [ ] **Build Partnerships That Get Things Done**

  Listen to residents and work with city employees, tourism partners, utilities, and service providers. Improve everyday services—from busy-weekend trash collection to moving safety projects forward.

- [ ] **Support Those Who Keep Us Safe**

  Celebrate our employees and the dedication of police, fire, CERT, and Volunteers in Policing. Provide the equipment, training, and resources they reasonably need to keep Carmel safe.

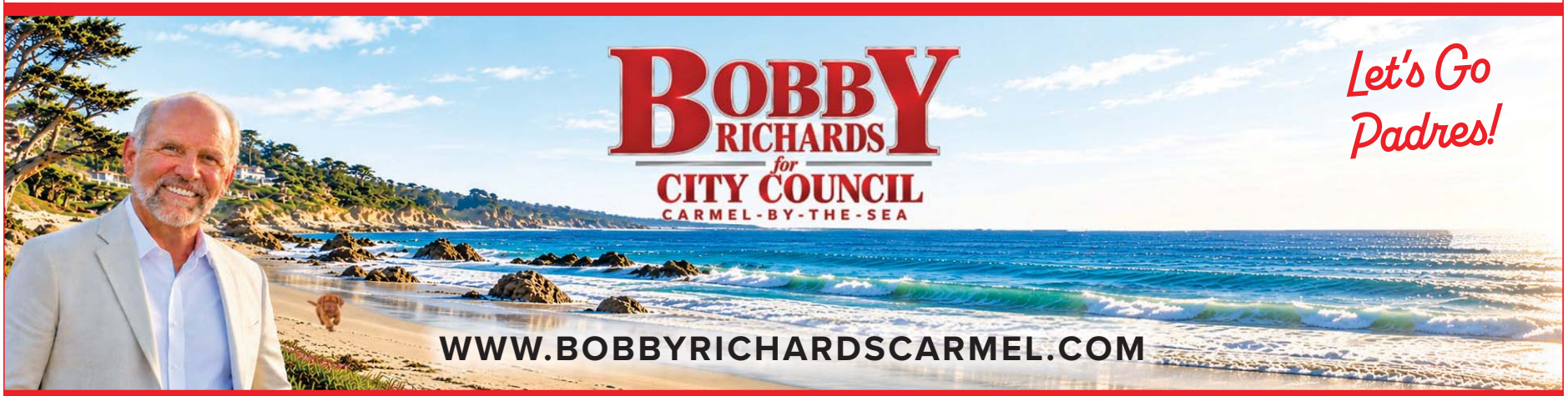
- [ ] **Protect Our Beaches and Shoreline**

  Pursue grants and outside funding for beach preservation, shoreline protection, and revetment improvements. Protect our coast while reducing the burden on local taxpayers.

- [ ] **Celebrate Businesses That Invest in Carmel**

  Show up, welcome new businesses, and recognize their investment in our community. Make City Hall an accessible, responsive partner for businesses that choose Carmel.

I will get these boxes checked if you check my box on the ballot.



EXPERIENCED | INDEPENDENT | COMMUNITY DRIVEN

Swimmer dies at Big Sur beach

By CHRIS COUNTS

A MAN swimming in the ocean near Sand Dollar Beach in Big Sur drowned Tuesday afternoon, the Monterey County Sheriff's Office reported.

A call for help went out around 1 p.m. Sheriff's deputies, Big Sur Fire, California State Parks, the U.S. Forest Service and a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter responded to the remote beach, which is about 14 miles north of the Monterey County line.

"The man was last seen by family members entering the water to swim," according to Big Sur Fire. "After not returning for over an hour, they called 911."

See **DROWNING** *page 20A*

Quick response prevents octogenarian from drowning

By KELLY NIX

MONTEREY SPORTS CENTER lifeguards and firefighters were honored last week for helping save an 83-year-old swimmer who suffered a medical emergency at the city-owned facility in early September.

On Sept. 6, the man became unresponsive while swimming in the shallow end of the large pool at the Monterey Sports Center at 301 E. Franklin St. Lifeguard Jonah Roush immediately went to his aid, assisted by lifeguard Emma Gray and senior aquatics specialist Lindsay Barrella.

"At a certain point, he became unresponsive," Sports Center manager Bill Rothschild told the Monterey City Council at its Oct. 6 meeting. Roush, who was watching that area of the pool, "spotted him having difficulty and then going unresponsive."

Roush dove into the pool to prevent the man from drowning. Barrella and Gray joined Roush to help secure the swimmer to a backboard and remove him from the water. They administered rescue breathing and cardiopulmonary resuscitation until Monterey firefighters and paramedics arrived about 3 minutes later.

"As a result of the actions of the sports center staff and fire department staff, this individual had a successful outcome," Rothschild said.

'Highly trained'

The swimmer was taken to Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, where he was treated. After recovering, he wanted to express his gratitude to his rescuers.

"He came back a couple of days later to thank all of the aquatic staff for their response," Rothschild said, crediting the highly trained employees and immediate support from the Monterey Fire Department with saving the man's life.

The fire personnel recognized were Division Chief Lou Valdez, captains Danny Givvin and Rob Klemek, engineers Russell Stopper and Nathyn Purganan, and firefighters Tyler Keisling and Amy Hubert.

Monterey Mayor Tyller Williamson and the other council members thanked the lifeguards and emergency responders for their efforts. Each received a proclamation from the city.



Re-elect
ALISSANDRA DRAMOV
for CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA CITY COUNCIL 2026

Here's what Carmel voters are saying...

"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 & Vice Mayor

"Alissandra is a dedicated and highly effective city councilor. We need her voice at tahe table for another term."
Bob Delves
Current Carmel-by-the-Sea City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem, former Carmel Planning Commissioner, former three-term mayor of Mountain Village, Colorado

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"Alissandra has been a remarkable Council member. She is intelligent and informed on the issues, and she has a deep understanding of Carmel history. She has my vote!"
Chris Campbell
Carmel longtime resident, retired attorney

"Alissandra Dramov is smart, dedicated, responsible and ethical. She takes her city council commitment seriously and works tirelessly to make the very best decisions for our town. Carmel-By-The-Sea is so lucky to have her!"
Andi and Noel Carr
Carmel longtime residents and community volunteers

"I am proud to endorse Alissandra Dramov for reelection to City Council. Her dedication, intelligence, and knowledge of our community make her an invaluable asset to our town."
Susan Prest
Carmel resident, retired health care executive, former Sunset Center Board of Trustees member, Carmel Public Library Foundation co-chair

"Alissandra cares passionately about Carmel and its residents. She undertakes an exhausting study of the council's issues in order to contribute and collaborate in an effective manner."
Jim Beck
Carmel resident, retired health care executive

"I am pleased to endorse Alissandra Dramov for Carmel City Council 2026. She has my vote for her steady and unwavering values of bringing Carmel-by-the-Sea to its former life. We have seen too much neglect in the downtown area and the residential streets. Her desire to keep the residents in first position is a move back to what we as residents want and deserve!!"
Gail Lehman,
longtime Carmel resident, architectural designer and artist, former Carmel Planning Commissioner and

"Alissandra arrives at City Hall for Carmel City Council meetings prepared and ready to work with other council amembers and city staff. Her deep respect for Carmel's history has been demonstrated by authoring four books on the subject. Alissandra has earned re-election to the Carmel-by-the-Sea City Council."
Cindy Lloyd
Carmel longtime resident, third generation, community volunteer

"I heartily endorse Alissandra's candidacy for reelection to our city council! She has the residents at heart and recognizes the special traditions of our unique hometown."
Mary Condry
Carmel longtime resident, former Carmel Residents Association Board member and president

"Alissandra has written four books on the history of Carmel. This puts her in position to incentivize keeping Carmel and its rich history safe for future generations."
Karyl Hall
Carmel longtime resident, historic preservationist

"I endorse Alissandra Dramov for another term on the city council of Carmel-by-the-Sea. Alissandra clearly has the best interest of the residents in mind and will serve our city well."
William Karges
Carmel longtime resident and business owner

"Alissandra approaches her work on the City Council with thoroughness, thoughtfulness, dedication, focus and concern for reigning in the budget and keeping up with the maintenance of the roads, the beach and other pressing issues facing Carmel-by-the-Sea. Alissandra's approach is pragmatic, flexible and she always makes time to speak with her constituents. We look forward to seeing all the good work she will accomplish given a second term!"
Jeanne and Michael McWalters, third generation Carmel resident

"Alissandra stands her ground on behalf of our amazing Village. We can't lose her historic and community informed voice on Council."
Nancy Twomey
Carmel Residents Association board member, community volunteer

"On land-use and similar issues, we can count on Alissandra to make data- and law-based decisions. On discretionary maters, Alissandra's decisions will be clearly focused on what is best for the city and its residents."
Steve Hillyard
Carmel resident, former Carmel City Council Member, former Planning Commissioner, retired attorney

"I highly respect Alissandra because she diligently prepares for meetings, she thoroughly researches topics and she is willing to stand alone as a dissenting voice…Please join me in supporting her for re-election to city council."
Sherry Williams
Carmel resident, Carmel Residents Association Board member

"Every time I meet with Alissandra to go over issues, she is extremely well prepared and when she explains her position I always concur. She is the most well-prepared council person I have ever known. I urge you to support her."
Frank Williams
Carmel resident, Rotary Club member

"We're voting for Alissandra Dramov for City Council because she makes the city's welfare and Carmel's character major priorities. She does her homework and is always prepared for council meetings… Votes to protect and preserve Carmel's community character and environment… She is well informed on the issues…and strongly supports addressing the city's fiscal management and long overdue deferred maintenance. She a creative and a forward thinker."
Harvey and Melanie Billig, longtime Carmel residents, retired physician, former San Luis Obispo mayor (1981-1985) and former council member

"Having spent most of her life in Carmel-by-the-Sea, having written four history books on our village, and with a background as a journalist, Alissandra Dramov is uniquely prepared to synthesize facts and listen to our community. It is a pleasure to recommend her; please join us in voting to reelect her this fall to continue her dedicated work with the council."
Tasha Witt & Dylan Witt, M.D.
Carmel residents, retired teacher; radiologist

"Alissandra Dramov has already demonstrated that she is uniquely qualified to address (Carmel's future) challenges, and that her love for Carmel and her demonstrated ability to work with our City Council members make her the perfect person to take us where we need to go in the future…(she) can and will make us all proud of Carmel in the years to come."
Gerard Rose, Former Carmel City Council member, retired attorney

"Dedicated to preserving our village charm while building a sustainable future, Alissandra has delivered real results for our village, but her work isn't finished yet. Let's reelect Alissandra to keep that positive momentum going."
Tim Twomey,
Carmel resident, Carmel Residents Association Board member, community

"Carmel by the Sea will be well served by having Alissandra Dramov remain as a City Council member. For many years she has demonstrated a deep care for our city, and for the last 4 years she has developed a wealth of knowledge of how the City operates and how it can operate even better. Her experience, critical thinking skills, and thoughtfulness are very valuable assets in the governance of Carmel-by-the-Sea."
Bob and Allyson Kavner, Carmel residents, retired telecommunications business executive

"Alissandra is thoughful... kind...very smart...and always prepared when she shows up for Carmel. I have never seen anyone who does research and knows both sides of any issue she talks about better than she does…Alissandra is engaging... never condescending...always listening to both sides...and a real advocate to helping plan Carmels' future while preserving its past beautifully. Voting for Alissandra is the right thing for our village."
Sara Zirkel,
Carmel resident, volunteer

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Three vie for seat on P.G. school board

By KELLY NIX

THREE FATHERS are competing for one seat on the five-member Pacific Grove Unified School District Board of Trustees.

On Nov. 3, voters in Trustee Area 1, which covers the northwestern portion of Pacific Grove, will choose among Charles Brinker, Dan Miller and Stephen Bennett. Each candidate has three children. The winner will succeed trustee Laura Ottmar, whose term ends this year.

Three dads compete for one PGUSD school board seat

In his candidate statement, Brinker said that if elected, he "will protect funding that directly impacts our children, prioritize student support and outcomes, and ensure every facility dollar is spent wisely."

"My wife and I are products of public education, and our three children are now benefiting from PGUSD. I want to help ensure this tradition of excellence continues and that our district remains focused on what matters most — our students," Brinker said. He added that during the past year, he has attended board meetings, met with administrators and served on the district's facilities committee.

Won't take pay

Miller, a lifelong Pacific Grove resident, has three children, including two who attend P.G. schools. He said the district should re-examine its priorities, pointing to the limited number of high school electives, recurring proposals to eliminate mental-health therapist positions and the loss of trade courses.

"There are almost no electives at the high school. Mental-health facilitators are proposed for elimination every year, but the cost of administrators increases," Miller said. "Trades that were previously taught have been done away with, and many students have left for other schools."

Miller also said he would decline the $2,880 annual stipend paid to board members, preferring that the money remain with the district.

Bennett, whose daughter is a sophomore at P.G. High School, said his U.S. Navy career sparked his passion for civic duty.

"As a parent of three with 15 years of experience in various school districts across the country, I intend to focus our efforts on the growth, skills, support, and protection of every child in the district," Bennett said. "Whether it be our discussions on budgets, technology, safety, social unrest, or critical school functions, I aim for maximum public outreach and balanced, student-first solutions."

Two of the three candidates offered their opinions on Measure K, a PGUSD-sponsored parcel tax on the Nov. 3 ballot. The measure would levy $85 per parcel for five years and raise about $800,000 for reading and math programs, services for students with disabilities, affordable before- and after-school programs and student mental health counseling. Revenue could not be used for administrator salaries. The measure requires two-thirds voter approval.

Miller said he supports it "as long as it augments current expenditures rather than replaces them." Bennett also backs the measure, calling it "the kind of locally controlled, protected funding schools need when state and federal funding support falls short."

Brinker did not respond to The Pine Cone's request for his position on the measure.

In the district's other board races, Nicole Michel-Rivera in Trustee Area 3 and incumbent Jennifer McNary in Trustee Area 5 were appointed in lieu of election after running unopposed.



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"During the Christmas power outage, Hans stepped up to lead. His email updates were a lifeline for us as residents. He fought for Carmel—taking our concerns all the way to the CEO of PG&E on Christmas night. By the next morning, we were seeing a totally different response." – Mica Hill, Carmel Resident

Paid for by Hans Buder for Carmel Mayor 2026. FPPC #1490162

Monterey can cut lake grass, but boat rental still closed

■ Operator says nearly $300,000 in lost sales

By KELLY NIX

A STATE agency has cleared the way for Monterey to cut an overgrowth of grass in Lake El Estero that forced a longtime paddleboat business to temporarily close. But the owner told the city council last week that the business, which remains dark, has lost nearly $300,000.

Cathy Giammanco and her husband own El Estero Boating, which rents out paddleboats at the city-owned lake. Thick underwater grass has kept the boats from operating properly, forcing the business to shutter months ago while it awaited removal of the vegetation.

'Waived'

Monterey Parks and Recreation Director Nicole Banks told The Pine Cone this week that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, which had required the city to seek authorization to cut the grass, waived the permit requirement. The decision allows the city to clear the vegetation from the lake.

"After ongoing consultation and their review of our application, we are happy to share that they are allowing us to proceed with weed harvesting without requiring a permit," Banks said Monday. "This was the city's desired outcome all along, but ultimately, we required California Department of Fish and Wildlife permission."

At the Oct. 6 Monterey City Council meeting, though, Giammanco said the financial toll on El Estero Boating — which leases its lakefront space from the city — has been severe.

Rent relief?

The business lost "over $150,000 this year and over $120,000 last year," Giammanco told the council. The operation was closed during the summer, normally its busiest season.

"We have asked the city for rent relief, but we've heard nothing," she said. "Are we supposed to pay rent while we are closed because of the city's foolish decision?"



PHOTO/KELLY NIX

This Monterey boating business missed out on the busiest time of year because of an overgrowth of grass in Lake El Estero.

Giammanco blamed the delay on the city's decision to seek authorization from CDFW before cutting the grass, known as widgeon grass, which she maintains was unnecessary.

See **GRASS** *page 18A*

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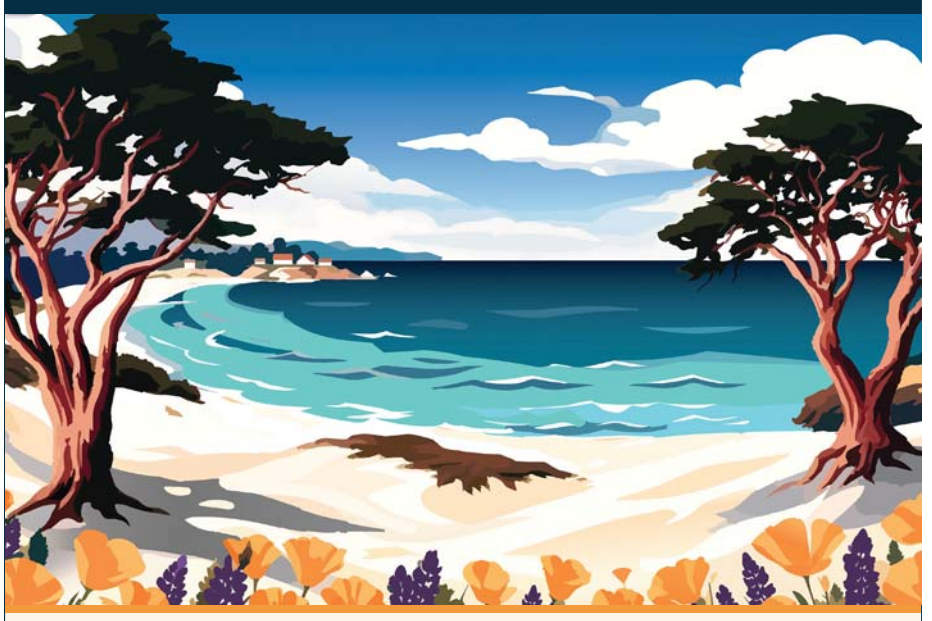
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Paid for by hotel guests.	Paid for mostly by visitors.
No impact on hotels: Carmel's hotel occupancy has remained 70% the past 10 years despite room rates increasing nearly $200/night. Carmel's TOT has not been raised in 28 years.	Allows Carmel to keep local sales tax dollars in Carmel. If Carmel doesn't pass this measure, Monterey County will be able to claim these tax dollars.

Vote Yes! on M and Yes! on N

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Elect

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Mayor of Pacific Grove

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Council Meetings	Pushed for fewer meetings	**Fought for a schedule that complies with the City Charter**
Council Pay	Led the effort to increase Council pay	**Authored a referendum that gave voters the final say on the pay raise**
Election Costs	Supported a costly special election for the pay increase	**Fought for a regularly scheduled November vote with negligible cost**
Council Benefits	Supported taxpayer-funded medical benefits for elected officials	**Authored a City Charter amendment requiring voter approval for City Council pay raises and new benefits**

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Delta to add daily Los Angeles, Salt Lake flights by end of year

By MARY SCHLEY

MONTEREY REGIONAL Airport will welcome back Delta Air Lines in December, according to airport executive director Chris Morello, when the airline resumes service to and from the Peninsula after a nearly two-decade hiatus.

"The flights begin on Dec. 19, just in time for holiday travel," she told The Pine Cone earlier this month. Delta will offer two daily round-trip flights to Los Angeles and one daily round-trip flight to Salt Lake City. The routes will augment service provided by American, United, Alaska and other airlines to Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Denver, Dallas-Fort Worth, Las Vegas and Phoenix, as well as seasonal flights to Burbank, Orange County and Chicago.



Delta's slogan, "Keep Climbing," is said to reflect its commitment to growth and improvement. The airline is bringing service back to MRY in December.

The Windy City service debuted this year, but its return is up in the air.

"The Chicago route was intended to be seasonal," Morello said. "We believe it will be back next May and possibly go through October next year, so a longer season, but we don't have definitive confirmation on that yet."

'Significant milestone'

Morello characterized Delta's return as "another significant milestone in Monterey airport's ongoing efforts to strengthen regional connectivity and expand air service opportunities for the Central Coast" and said it represents "a major achievement for our community" as travel demand grows.

"Delta's investment in Monterey provides local travelers with additional choices, strengthens competition, supports economic growth and enhances access to destinations across the United States and around the world," she said.

The additional routes will connect passengers to two key Delta hubs, giving them more opportunities to reach domestic and international destinations while flying in and out of Monterey instead of opting for larger airports in San Jose and San Francisco.

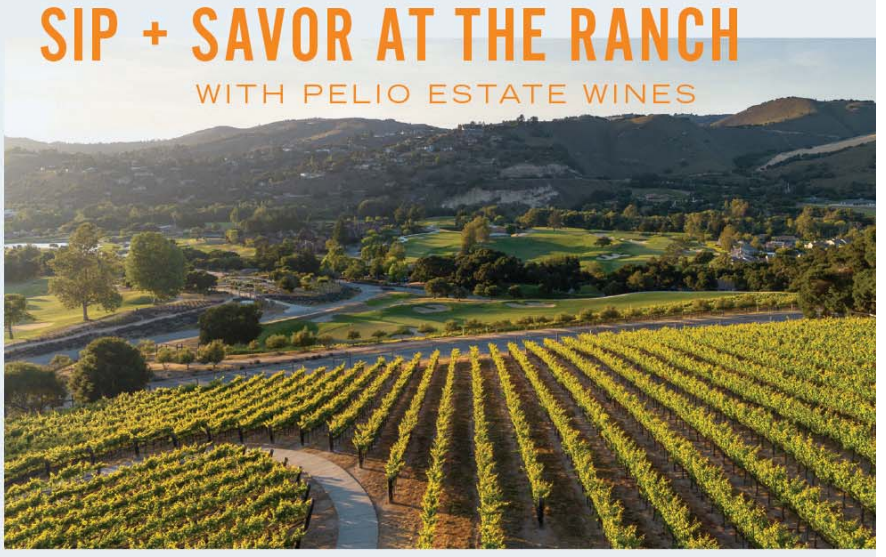
While some people who live near the airport regularly complain about the number, timing and frequency of flights, Morello noted the facility is federally mandated to remain open and available to the public every hour of every day, barring natural disasters and certain other exceptions.

Airports that accept FAA Airport Improvement Program funding — such as the tens of millions of dollars going toward the MRY's new terminal, apron and taxiway — agree to 40 federal grant requirements

See **DELTA** *page 20A*

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—Dawn



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

MISGUIDED MEASURE M

WHY CARMEL RESIDENTS ARE URGING NO ON A 20% TAX INCREASE

"Besides direct harm to local businesses, unnecessary taxes always have unintended negative consequences. By taking Carmel to 14%, the highest on the Monterey Peninsula, a 20% tax increase will worsen, not reduce, our day-visitor problems by forcing more overnight guests to nearby cities where they will drive to Carmel as additional day-visitors. Measure M promotes exactly the wrong type of tourism!"

Bobby Richards: Fmr. Council Member/Current Candidate

"Everything—food, gas, utilities, housing, interest rates, is costing more now with inflation on the rise. Raising taxes fuels the inflation fire, and I am in no mood to raise anyone's taxes or handicap our hospitality industry."

Carolyn Hardy: Fmr. Council Member

"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 ever thinks of that option anymore?"

Danny Hala: Business Owner

"Hotel taxes have been growing exponentially through capital investments without increasing the tax rate. There is no need to burden the most critical part of the City's economy with additional unnecessary, excessive taxation."

Dave Potter: Fmr. Mayor

"As a general tax Measure M contains no controls on City spending and can be used for anything, including salaries, pensions, and consultants!"

Carrie Theis: Fmr. Council Member

"As a Carmel resident and restaurant owner, I know that if higher costs reduce overnight stays even modestly, restaurants and other local businesses will feel it immediately. I believe Measure M creates a $3.5M risk for the businesses that depend on those guests."

Bashar Sneeh: Restaurant Owner

"We're told the tax rate should rise because it hasn't changed in a long time, as if revenue has stood still. At the current rate, hotel tax revenue has grown more than 37% over the past 3 years. 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: Resident

VOTE NO ON MEASURE M

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Your concerns matter. I listen first, so I can represent you well.

I WILL COMMUNICATE
You deserve to know what's happening and why decisions are being made.

I PREPARE
I will study the issues, the data, and the budget before making decisions.

I CARE
I will always put the best interests of our neighborhoods and our community first.

ENDORSED BY:

Clyde Roberson, *Former Monterey Mayor*
Ed Smith, *12-year Monterey City Council-District 2*
Michael Kanalakis, *Sheriff Former Mtry. Co. Sheriff*
Rick Heuer, *Mtry. Peninsula Tax Payers Assoc.*
Carl Miller, *Mtry. Airport Board*
Mike and Laurel Marotta, *neighbors*
Lou Panetta, *Past Pres., Civil Grand Jurors' Assoc.*
Gary Cursio, *Gov. Affairs Director, MCHA*
Rick Aldinger, *former Chair of the MCHA*
Mike and Carole Dawson, *neighbors*
Tom Rowley, *NCIP Rep.*
Carole Charbajian, *Measure S oversight*
Joe Storeli
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Moniquie Kaldy
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Paid for by the committee to Elect Vicki Nohrden FPPC #1492098

El Niño advice: 'We'll do our part, you do yours'

By MARY SCHLEY

PG&E USES AI to predict storm damage and power outages. Urgently needed repairs to fix erosion of the Scenic Road bluffs should begin next month. And Monterey County's office of emergency services can order COWs — cellular on wheels — from the state to provide service when storms take out wireless facilities. Those tidbits and many others were delivered during the El Niño storm preparedness meeting hosted by the City of Carmel Monday night.

The standing-room-only session in Carpenter Hall Oct. 12 was led by acting city administrator Brandon Swanson and included Police Chief Todd Trayer, Monterey Fire Chief Pat Moore, PG&E regional senior manager Jeremy Howard, new city public works director Yanni Demitri, city forester Justin Ono and Kelsey Scanlon, the county's director of emergency management. A meteorologist from the National Weather Service was supposed to be there, too, but Monday was a federal holiday, so no one was available.

After Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency last month in anticipation of unusually strong El Niño-generated storms driven by record-high seawater temperatures at the equator, Swanson followed suit with a local proclamation, which the Carmel City Council ratified Oct. 6. Newsom's action mobilizes state resources, readies the National Guard, enables equipment staging and fast-tracks permitting for flood and landslide preparation, while the city's means it can move more quickly on storm preparation and emergency work and seek state and federal assistance.

"Administrating through El Niño" entails coordinating in advance with various agencies, the state, the feds, mutual-aid partners and others, Swanson explained. It also means keeping city councilmembers updated.

'Way more prepared'

Trayer said he feels "way more prepared this year than I did last year," when back-to-back storms caused considerable damage and left most of the city without power during the Christmas holiday. Warming centers allowed people to charge their phones and grab hot drinks, but Trayer promised to deliver more.

"We have that all in place again, and better," he said. Centers will be located at the Carmel Youth Center behind the police department, and in the library's Park Branch at 523 Sixth Ave.

Residents should prepare themselves to be on their own for 72 hours by ensuring they have enough food and water, their phones and other devices are at 100%, their cars have full tanks or charges, prescriptions are filled, and family members are in touch.

"Don't park your car in your garage if the door won't open without power," he added. And "check with your neighbors and make sure they're as prepared as you are."

See **STORMS** *page 17A*

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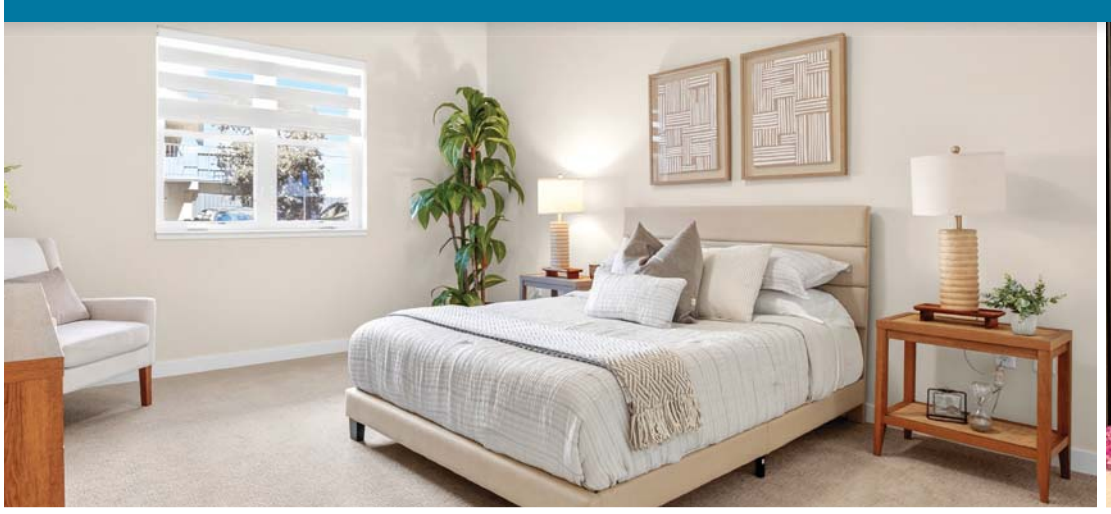
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Voter say over pay hikes for P.G. council qualifies for ballot

By KELLY NIX

A PACIFIC Grove citizens group that collected more than 1,700 signatures from residents who want voter approval of pay increases and benefits for the city council has had its petition certified by the county.

Transparent Pacific Grove gathered the signatures to amend Pacific Grove's charter to require any change in taxpayer-funded compensation or benefits for the council to be approved by voters. The proposed amendment would also require the city council to obtain and release a report on the impact to taxpayers before putting either type of measure on the ballot. Monterey County Registrar of Voters Gina Martinez certified the petition Sept. 22, verifying 1,725 valid signatures, which exceeded the 1,582 signatures required by the Elections Department.

The group, led by P.G. mayoral candidate and former city councilman Luke Coletti, has requested that the proposed charter amendment be placed on the November 2028 ballot, during the next regularly scheduled municipal election.

"This effort was always about establishing a permanent safeguard," Coletti said. "The city council should not have the final say over its own compensation and benefits. The voters should."

There was not enough time after the registrar certified the petition to put the proposal on the Nov. 3 ballot, Transparent Pacific Grove said.

'Extraordinary' work

The group launched the effort after the city council in May 2025 approved an ordinance increasing council members' monthly pay from $420 to $966 and the mayor's from $700 to $1,610. A referendum against the ordinance qualified in August 2025, compelling the council to repeal it the following month.

In February, the council voted to put the pay raise before voters but sought a larger increase. In June, Pacific Grove voters defeated Measure C, 56% to 44%.

"This petition qualified because Pacific Grove residents put in an extraordinary amount of work gathering signatures from enthusiastic voters," Coletti said.

Pacific Grove Mayor Nick Smith — who spearheaded the council pay increase and is challenging Coletti in the Nov. 3 election — did not respond to The Pine Cone's request for comment about the certification of the group's petition.

Woman obstructs deputy

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A SOUTH County man accused of brandishing a gun and threatening someone was arrested after a foot chase in which a friend tried to block the pursuing deputy, according to the Monterey County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies responded to a King City party at about 10 p.m. Sept. 26 after Luis Rodriguez, 22, allegedly brandished a firearm, threatened someone and left, the sheriff's office said. King City Police later learned that Rodriguez was headed to another party in the 500 block of Bitterwater Road and asked the sheriff's office to help find him.

"A sheriff's deputy responded and saw Rodriguez, who immediately fled on foot through a crowd of people while carrying a firearm," the agency said. "During the foot pursuit, Rodriguez threw the firearm to the ground and continued running."

The deputy deployed a Taser, but it did not stop Rodriguez. A female friend then stepped into the deputy's path and interfered with the chase, causing the deputy to briefly lose sight of Rodriguez. The deputy soon found Rodriguez hiding under a car and took him into custody without a struggle.

Deputies recovered a firearm with a 15-round magazine and a round in the chamber. They also found another fully loaded, large-capacity magazine in Rodriguez's vehicle and said he had drugs.

The sheriff's office said it is seeking an obstruction charge against the woman, who it did not identify, accused of interfering with the pursuit.



ELECT

Kevin J. Hanley

Pacific Grove City Council, District #1

13th Street to the Golf Café, 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.

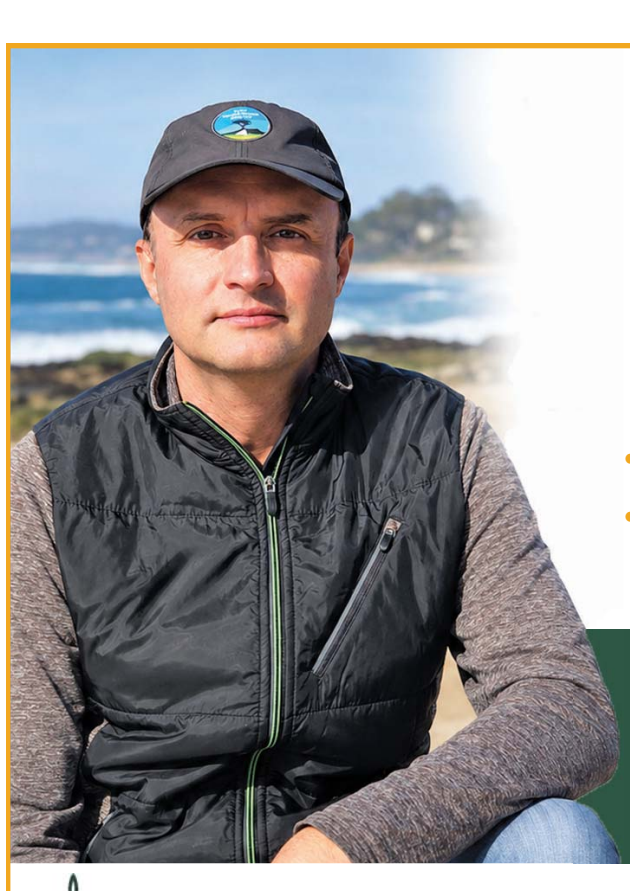
KEVIN HANLEY FOR COUNCIL

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www.Kevin-Hanley.org

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Kevin J. Hanley City Council 2026, FPPC ID 1495833



VOTE

Stefan Karapetkov

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- SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES
- MODERNIZE INFRASTRUCTURE
- PROTECT CARMEL BEACH
- I WILL SUPPORT CARMEL RESIDENTS

I will make *SMART DECISIONS* for a *STRONG CARMEL*

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Learn more at KarapetkovForCarmel.com

Paid for by Noel Carr, Anthony & Jane Diamond

There's a new flood-control fix in town

By CHRIS COUNTS

WITH FORECASTERS warning that a potent El Niño could bring a wet winter, Monterey County officials are preparing for possible flooding — and part of their strategy involves buying Tiger Dams for the first time.

The barriers use heavy-duty tubes filled with water and can be deployed quickly. County officials say they could reduce the need for sandbags.

"Tiger Dams are large, flexible tubes that can be quickly filled with water to create temporary barriers against flooding in neighborhoods like Paso Hondo in Carmel Valley," said 5th District Supervisor Kate Daniels, who represents many neighborhoods vulnerable to flooding or mudslides — particularly in parts of Big Sur that recently burned in the Timber and Plaskett fires.



PHOTO/COUNTY OF MONTEREY

Last January in the Paso Hondo neighborhood, the county demonstrated how Tiger Dams work.

"Instead of relying on heavy sandbags or permanent levees, these systems allow emergency crews to place a sturdy, water-weighted wall exactly where it's needed to redirect rising flows and protect homes, roads and community spaces," the supervisor said.

According to Monterey County spokesperson Nick Pasculli, the county has spent $226,000 on Tiger Dams so far, with $100,000 coming from state taxpayers, $76,000 from Measure A funds and the remaining $50,000 from the county's District 5 budget.

"We would love to buy more if funding were available," Pasculli told The Pine Cone.

A fifth of the cost

Although Tiger Dams have been around for nearly three decades, their popularity has surged in recent years amid increasingly severe weather and growing interest in alternatives to traditional sandbags.

The barriers drew attention in Florida in 2024 after officials said they helped protect a hospital and fire station from flooding during Hurricane Helene. They were also deployed to protect hospitals, fire stations and other facilities ahead of Hurricane Milton.

According to U.S. Flood Control Corp., which manufactures them, one standard 50-foot Tiger Dam can replace about 500 sandbags. The company says the reusable barriers require less labor and can be installed much faster than sandbags.

"Tiger Dams use water-filled bladder technology that assembles within minutes, requires minimal manpower, and leaves no ecological damage — they are easy to deploy, connect, stack and reuse," according to the Louisiana-based company.

Daniels urged residents to be ready for a potentially wet winter.

See **TIGER DAMS** *page 19A*



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Wine businesses get zoning boost

By LILY PATTERSON

In its first significant move to support Monterey County's struggling wine industry, the County board of supervisors approved an ordinance in late September that will allow wineries in the Salinas Valley and South County to expand their hospitality operations.

According to 3rd District Monterey County Supervisor Chris Lopez, "I know that the industry is at a down point, and it may look different when it comes back, but with this plan in place it will be easier for folks to invest along the corridor and start reviving an industry we need in South Monterey County."

Expanded hospitality to provide an economic lifeline

Sixteen years after the plan was drawn up, the ordinance implements the Agricultural and Winery Corridor Plan, which opens the door for wine businesses to build full-service tasting rooms and visitor centers, catering kitchens, employee and guest accommodations, and venues to accommodate large-scale special events. Up to 10 new wineries may be established within the corridor, which includes the unincorporated River Road area, Metz Road in the central Salinas Valley, and Jolon Road in South County.

Declining value

No formal permit process or zoning regulations existed for such projects until the supervisors' 5-0 decision on Sept. 29, though the idea was outlined in 2010 as part of the Monterey County General Plan. It was proposed by the now-defunct Monterey County Vintners and Growers Association — a 40-year-old organization dissolved last August due to loss of membership — at a moment when grapes ranked among the county's top-value crops.

That value has declined by one-third, as yields have plummeted by half since 2010, according to the 2025 County of Monterey Crop and Livestock Report. The same report described a "20% reduction in yields due to unharvested acres" since 2024.

The wine industry has always operated at the mercy of a highly delicate product, consumers' increasingly specific drinking habits and, in recent decades, the costs of regulatory compliance — but this downturn is different, according to big names in local wine.

"There are cycles, but this is entirely different. It's a structural change," according to Steve Lohr, president and CEO of J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines, which farms 1,400 acres in Arroyo Seco and the Santa Lucia Highlands but does not operate a tasting room or hospitality center within Monterey County.

Covid spike

Lohr recalled planting their first vineyards in Greenfield with his father, Jerry, who founded the company in 1972. He noted that J. Lohr was steadily growing its operations "up until about three years ago."

"Fortunately, we have not been pulling out vineyards, as others have," Lohr added.

According to Scott Scheid — who returned to manage his family's namesake business in 1986 after working on Wall Street — the Covid-era boom in alcohol consumption "disguised a downtrend that was already taking place."

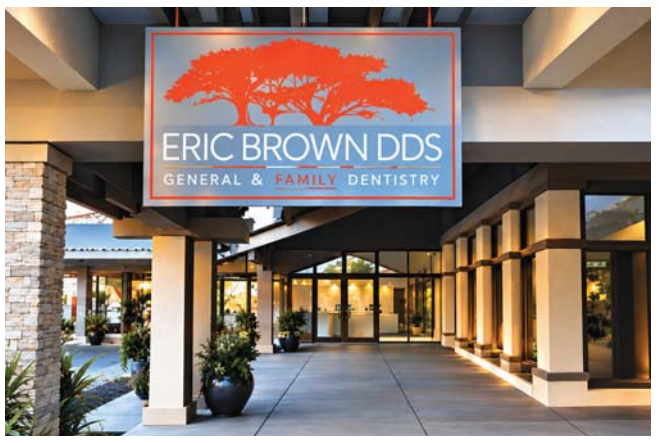
The International Organisation of Vine and Wine reports that global wine sales volumes were relatively stagnant from the early 2010s to 2018, then took a dip. Then came the pandemic.

According to the NIH, alcohol consumption in the United States spiked by nearly 7% between 2019 and 2021.

See **WINERIES** *page 31A*

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STORMS

From page 12A

Residents who call for assistance should use their newly assigned numbered addresses.

The fire department has learned a lot from significant storms over the past several years, Moore said, including how many people to have on duty, how much additional equipment is needed, and where.

"We typically respond to about 10,000 emergencies a year, and we're well-equipped," he said. While the department gets around 30 calls on a regular day, storms often see that number more than triple. They are prioritized based on life, property and environment.

Moore advised staying indoors, and keeping pets in, too, whenever conditions outside could be dangerous.

Lots of tree cutting

Howard, a Monterey County native who has been with the company for 26 years, said PG&E prepares for winter storms every year but has upped its game in anticipation of potentially severe storms generated by what some are calling the "Godzilla El Niño." Crews have completed more than 3,000 maintenance jobs across the Central Coast and replaced more than 700 power poles, and they're using stronger materials designed to take high winds.

"Climate and weather are different than they were 50 years ago," he said, so PG&E has modified its standards accordingly. The utility inspects more than 100,000 miles of powerlines each year and uses satellite images and LiDAR to find encroaching trees.

"In Monterey County, our lines touch more than 60,000 trees a year, so it's a ton of work to get trees away from our powerlines," he said. Indeed, its contractors, as well as the city's, have been busy trimming and removing trees in town. During last December's storms, Howard said, 192 trees impacted powerlines.

Planning has improved, too. Backed with 30 years of weather data, PG&E runs storm predictions through an AI model, "and it will tell us how many customers are going to be impacted, how many outages we should expect, and how much equipment and how many crews we need," he said. Of course, not even AI can predict the future, but it's proved a helpful tool and informs where and when equipment and people are staged in advance of significant storms.

He warned that anyone who sees a tree down should be extra careful to check for entangled powerlines.

"If you see a downed line, please, please, please assume it's energized," and therefore deadly, he said. "Do not touch it, call 911, and the fire department will come out and cordon off the area."

Have a plan for surviving outages, whether it's using a generator or a heavy-duty battery to run appliances or keep the wifi up. He suggested signing up for PG&E text alerts and explained that crews prioritize repairs based on their proximity to the transmission lines that carry electricity into the city, starting with the closest and working their way out. For those located farthest away, he noted apologetically, getting the lights back on can take quite some time.

Demitri described storm-prep work by contractors and public works crews, who are on duty 24 hours a day seven days a week, including holidays. They have been redistributing beach sand — a practice that's supposed to occur annually but had been neglected the past several years — and reinforcing revetments and the bluffs.

Free riprap

At Scenic at 11th, where erosion has caused significant problems, fortification and armoring of the bluffs and beach should begin in the next few weeks. The project includes riprap provided by the

See **EL NIÑO** *page 28A*



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GAVEL

From page 4A

or lascivious act on a child younger than 14, one count of indecent exposure during the unlawful entry of an inhabited dwelling and one count of resisting a peace officer. Two of the charges are violent felonies and are considered strikes under California's three strikes law.

A 7-year-old girl identified as Jane Doe was attending a family birthday party when Velasco, a stranger, entered the residence.

She was alone on a couch when he exposed himself to her and asked her to perform sexual acts on him. She refused, and Velasco grabbed her wrist. She broke free from his grip and ran to tell her mother what had happened. The family's surveillance cameras recorded Velasco entering and leaving the residence.

After he was apprehended, he threatened a Salinas police officer.

Judge Mark E. Hood will sentence Velasco on Oct. 27. He faces a maximum sentence of nine years and eight months in prison. He will also be ordered to register as a sex offender.

Salinas Police Department detective Jared Dominici and other officers investigated the case. Monterey County District Attorney's Office investigator Alicia Cox also assisted. Victim advocates Mayra Sandoval and Kristin Peterson assisted Jane Doe, while the district attorney's office courthouse facility support dog, Armani, provided support during her trial testimony.

GRASS

From page 9A

"It's shameful, and I'm angry about it," she told the council.

Widgeon grass and algae have spread across Lake El Estero, and the water often has an unpleasant odor.

It remains unclear when Monterey — which faces a budget deficit of about $12 million — will be able to clear the lake so El Estero Boating can reopen. The cleanup is estimated to cost about $30,000.

"While we are excited to move forward on getting this work scheduled, we are going to be preparing bid documents and working with our city manager's office to see if and when a funding source is available," Banks said. "I can't give a timeframe for the work until we are further along in this process."



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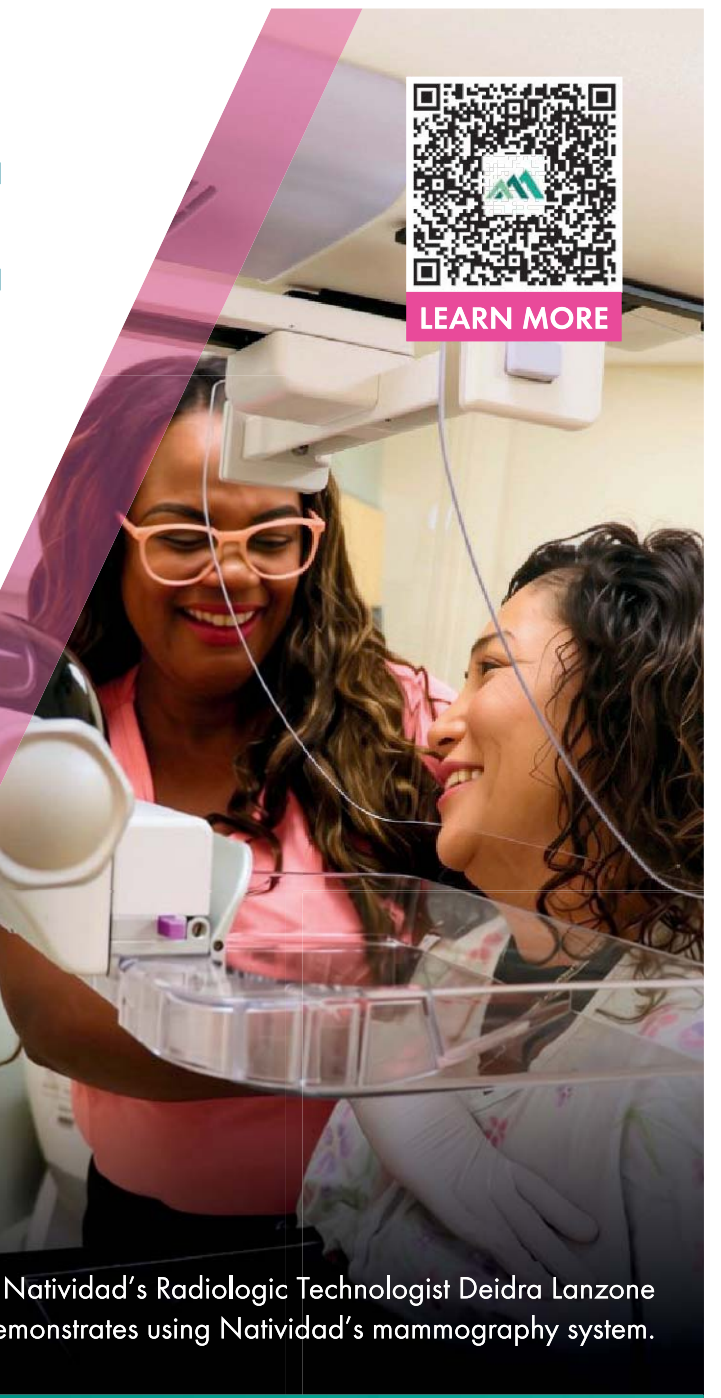
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CHINA

From page 1A

Tim Allen.

"He's a musician, and he had plans to build a recording studio and went to a lot of trouble to get plans approved and electrical service installed," he said. "It just got to be too much for him, and he decided he didn't want to do it. It was sort of a labor of love."

A 'cool club'

Moriarty, a digital media executive and former Ticketmaster CEO who lives on Yankee Point, bought the building in the fall of 2020 for $4.25 million, according to Monterey County property records.

A couple of months ago, he put it on the market for $5.75 million, according to Allen.

"Personally, what I'd love to see would be some type of cool private club, with a recording studio and music, that could also be rented out for events and opened to the public on occasion," he said. "It could be a hip place to hang out."

The cavernous interior could certainly accommodate that, with its high ceilings and molded plaster beams adorned with the painted designs of the day that terminate on the walls with a variety of sculpted historical figures. Allen's listing includes several renderings hinting at its potential.

"If I bought it, I'd almost do it in phases. You could still save what's there," he continued. "I just think it's such an iconic building right downtown, and it's really well built. You could go in there and do something minimal and have it still be really cool."

If his plate weren't already full, it sounds like Allen would buy it.

"I collect stuff like this — great historic pieces — and then kind of figure it out," he said. "The home I bought on the 18th Hole of Pebble is iconic. It's the only one like it that's left. I scrapped and saved and sold in order to get it," and then made updates and upgrades in phases.

The China Art Center building offers one of those rare opportunities, he said.

Allen explained that he sometimes buys and sells with his heart, while also relying on his instincts, intuition, experience and "organic intelligence."

"I've been at this for 42 years, and every so often a really iconic property comes up," he continued.

"It takes someone with some creativity and vision who loves our town to make it into an irresistible asset," he said. "It's going to take the right buyer."

Despite that narrow field, Allen said he's been showing the property a lot.

"Anything you do there, you want to benefit the city and the downtown," he said. "You want to have something enduring, not something that's a quick in-and-out."

TIGER DAMS

From page 15A

"This El Niño season is expected to bring significant rainfall and elevate the risk of flooding in rivers, creeks and streams, as well as debris flows in the Timber and Plaskett burn scars," she said this week in a county newsletter.

Gov. Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency throughout California on Sept. 21 to accelerate storm preparations, and Monterey County followed with a local emergency declaration Oct. 13.

"Our public works, facilities and parks teams are out across Monterey County clearing and repairing culverts, reinforcing drainage systems, replenishing sandbag stockpiles, conducting facility inspections, and preparing for rapid storm response," Daniels added.

"As we head into what forecasters warn may be one of the strongest El Niño seasons in recent history, now is the time to prepare in whatever ways make sense for you and your household."

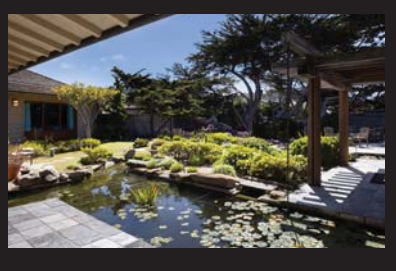
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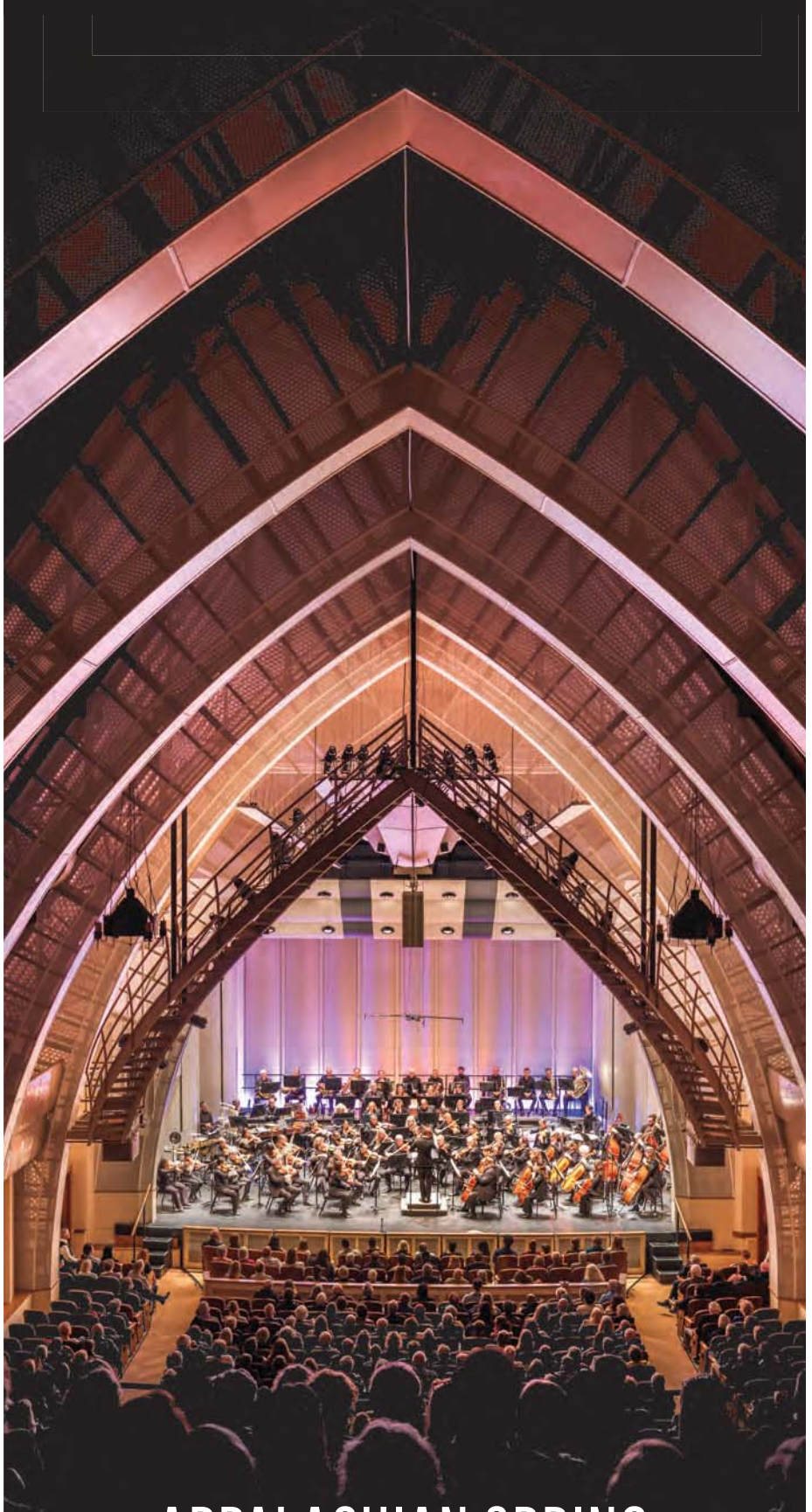
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DROWNING

From page 6A

The initial report suggested a scuba diver was in trouble.

"Once first responders arrived on the scene, it was learned that the missing person was a swimmer and not a scuba diver," Cmdr. Andy Rosas of the sheriff's office reported. "Upon the initial search, a lifeguard was deployed in the water near the last point seen, and additional personnel searched the nearby shoreline."

The missing man was soon located at the south end of the beach. He wasn't breathing, so rescuers started CPR.

Heavy and hazardous

"The male was unresponsive, and life-saving measures were administered," Rosas said. "A helicopter hoisted the individual from the rocky coastline and transferred him to awaiting ambulance personnel for further medical care. Despite life-saving efforts, the male did not survive and was pronounced deceased."

The man was later identified as Trevor Valentine, 38, of Casa Grande, Ariz.

"The sheriff's office extends its condolences to the Valentine family and all those affected by the loss," the agency added.

Surf conditions at the time were described as "heavy and hazardous," with "dangerous rip currents" and waves measuring 8 to 12 feet, according to Surfline.com.

DELTA

From page 10A

that govern everything from maintaining facilities in a safe and serviceable condition, providing reasonable public access and preserving revenue for airport purposes, to preventing "unjust discrimination," maintaining compatible land use and keeping the airport available for aeronautical use, according to Morello. For example, "unjust discrimination" would include allowing a 2 a.m. medical transport to land but denying that privilege to a private or commercial flight.

"We cannot dictate or restrict flights or flight operational times," she said.

Regarding volume, Morello said, "I know there is a perception in the community that the airport is busier than ever."

While it's serving more passengers, she said, it is not seeing more flights — just larger planes.

Some numbers

The numbers bear her out. When Monterey Regional Airport was also a naval air station — which ceased operations in the mid-1970s — it fielded well over 100,000 operations per year. The peak of 133,388 occurred in 1971 and included 11,449 commercial flights, 94,446 general aviation flights and 27,493 military flights, according to FAA air traffic control data.

By contrast, there were 63,842 flights and 179,736 departing passengers in 2015. In 2017, the airport recorded 99,184 flights and 198,803 departing passengers. In 2024, the most recent year for which data are available, there were 290,633 enplaning travelers but only 57,591 operations.

"So yes, we have more passengers," Morello said, but fewer flights. "From the airline perspective, the newer fleet of aircraft hold more passengers than the former fleet that operated out of MRY."

The airport used to offer six daily round-trip flights to SFO and LAX on 26-seat aircraft, she noted.

"We now have two round-trip daily flights to SFO and LAX on 76-seat aircraft," she said. "These flights represent the same number of seats, but with a 60% reduction in daily airline operations."

In 2019, the Denver route used a 50-seat plane. Capacity was increased to 76 seats in 2023, and this year, the route uses a 166-seat aircraft.

"That frequency did not change, but the number of passenger seats has grown by 300%," she explained. "There are other examples like these for other routes."

The airport averages 17 commercial airline flights per day.



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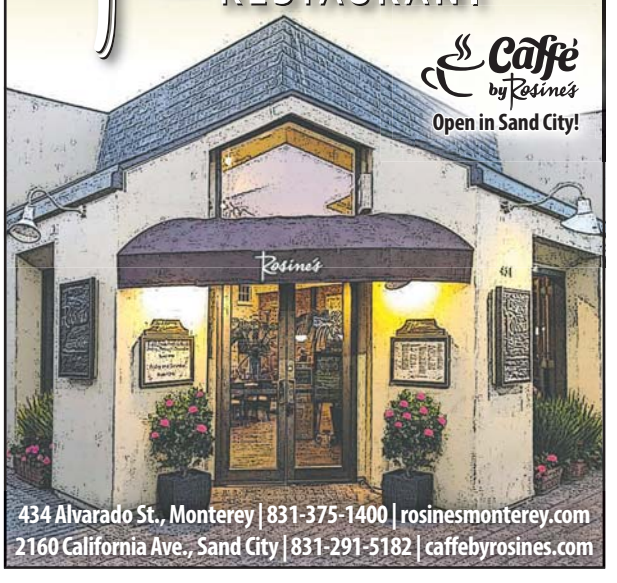
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UTILITIES

From page 1A

into the contacts and network of public works superintendent Rob Culver to bypass what we predicted would be a long process of being transferred between different departments and contacts before reaching the person who could make the decision to devote a team and resources to prepare for the city's new addressing system," she said. "The address group quickly connected with high-ranking company representatives, who were excited and appreciative of the city's offer to work collaboratively."

As a result, each company assigned project managers and teams to the task. Every service provider has a different way of identifying physical addresses in Carmel-by-the-Sea and acknowledged "that even after the county's approval, they would need considerable time to develop a process to 'connect' or update the point-of-service addresses in their system," she said.

They were given the draft data in March to test their processes so they might be ready to update customer accounts as soon as the county and USPS approved the new addresses, according to Garay.

"By being proactive, sharing resources and collaborating with utility service providers, we streamlined what could have been a drawn-out and more complicated process," she said.

She was also grateful they took the time to meet with residents at Tuesday's event.

"I'm glad we were able to build on the collaborative foundation we established with service providers throughout the implementation process and provided the community with an opportunity to speak with real people, in person, and the reassurance of the city's commitment to a streamlined and successful transition to the new addressing system," Garay said.

Apartment complexes tricky

There may be a wrinkle, though, for tenants in condominium and apartment complexes, since the city had to count and identify every unit — information that hadn't been gathered before.

"USPS AMS required secondary address information, as it serves as one of the most reliable and trusted databases for verifying a physical address," Garay explained.

She described the process as "a massive undertaking" that included reviewing zoning data, reaching out to property management companies, combing through property records and using "good old-fashioned legwork, such as visiting publicly accessible areas in buildings and sometimes even counting the electricity meters servicing the building, to the best of our ability."

"Despite our best efforts, we expect some misidentification of unit numbers," which the city will be happy to help correct, she said.

Monterey names acting police chief

A VETERAN police officer has been named interim chief to succeed outgoing Monterey Police Chief Dave Hober, who will retire Nov. 15 after nearly 12 years with the department.

Assistant Police Chief Mike Bruno, who has been with the Monterey Police Department since 2005, will become interim chief Nov. 16. Hober announced his retirement Sept. 3. The city plans to begin a nationwide search for a permanent chief in early November.

"Mike Bruno has risen through the ranks at the Monterey Police Department over the past two decades and brings operational knowledge, community trust, and leadership to this interim role," city manager Dante Hall said. "Our community's safety is in steady and capable hands while we begin the recruitment process."



UNHAPPY

From page 1A

Democratic supermajority is in no danger of losing its status in Sacramento and may even pick up seats in Washingtons. The Public Policy Institute poll found Democratic candidates leading Republicans in local House district races by a 62%-to-36% margin. Similarly, in the governor's race, Xavier Becerra had a 25-point advantage over Steve Hilton, according to a recent survey from the UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies.

Outnumbered

Californians' decision to remain dark blue this election is overwhelmingly the result of Democrats outnumbering Republicans nearly 2-to-1 on the registration rolls, but it also has something to do with a deep-seated hatred of President Donald Trump. With an approval rating in the 30% range, the president has hit a low point in his second term, one that even has seats in deep-red states rated as toss-ups this midterm season.

Inflation and jobs remain top priorities for voters on both sides of the aisle, and this election, California Democrats have an opening to turn the tables on Republicans — pointing to Trump as the reason everything costs so much in California.

"I'm sick of paying six bucks for gas," bemoans a man in an ad targeting Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, a Riverside Republican running for re-election.

Sky-high fuel prices in the wake of the Iran war have given the left a chance to blame someone else for gasoline prices, a tactic that could resonate with blue-collar voters who don't care as much about moral superiority.

The video goes on to tie Gonzalez to "MAGA Republicans" and claims he backed the war before ending with the man telling the camera, "My life's hard enough without my gas going up too."

It's an interesting choice of words for a campaign ad, as it directly implies there's more than just pain at the pump making life in California hard.

Nearly half of the respondents in a recent poll of Silicon Valley residents said they plan to move out of the San Francisco Bay area in the next few years, despite the fact that 66% of those calling it quits still report a sense of belonging in California.

The survey from Joint Venture Silicon Valley and the Bay Area News Group found, unsurprisingly, that renters were more likely than homeowners to report they're leaving, as were those unable to consistently cover their monthly expenses compared with those who could.

Pain at the pump is just the tip of the iceberg in a long list of homegrown problems that have something to do with national politics but much more to do with how state lawmakers have been running things for two decades.

Drivers were paying $2 more than the national average for a gallon of gasoline before the war and are still paying $2 more today. Fuel costs more in California not just because of a war in the Middle East, but because of higher state taxes, added costs for environmental programs and a fuel blend unique to California that is intended to reduce air pollution, all of which the state's hamstrung GOP has been fighting for years.

Financial strain

Bigger than fuel prices is the cost of housing. A quarter of respondents, and more than half of the Black and Latino residents surveyed by the Public Policy Institute in September, said housing places a lot of financial strain on their families.

"What they're concerned about is our inability to solve our basic problem, which is housing — housing and the high cost of living here. That's what is driving people out," Russell Hancock, CEO of Joint Venture Silicon Valley, told the San Jose Mercury News.

Democrats' hegemony in California has given them ample opportunity to solve the housing problem, which has been driven largely by environmental regulations and development fees they've supported — at least, that's the argument Steve Hilton has been making.

"The quickest way to reduce the cost of housing is for the government to stop making it more expensive — a recent survey found that the average new home in California is subject to $200,000 in government fees and regulations," Hilton said during his recent CNN debate with Becerra.

Cap permit fees

The Republican hopeful went on to promise he'd cap fees for builders at $50,000. The $200,000 statistic he used is an amalgamation of data rather than a figure from a single survey. A National Association of Home Builders study found that government regulations added $93,870 to the final price of a new home nationally in 2021, a number that was probably higher to begin with in California. All that is to say, a $50,000 cap would likely halve the cost of fees and regulations.

Becerra's plan, on the other hand, involves doubling down on recently enacted state laws that usurp local zoning authority.

"I will do what I did when I was AG. I will enforce the law that requires local governments to build," Becerra said on the debate stage.

OK, but housing still has to pencil out for a developer.

The two candidates have been running nearly polar-opposite campaigns, with Hilton pledging he'll bring gasoline prices down to $3 a gallon and cut electricity bills in half, and Becerra hesitating to make any promises — when he speaks to the media at all.

The former secretary of health and human services didn't talk to reporters for more than two months after winning the June primary, but that apparently doesn't matter to voters. Becerra could have stayed on an island vacation through the midterm election, and he would likely still become California's next governor.

The most advantageous poll for Hilton on the books was commissioned by his campaign after Becerra finally agreed to debate. The survey, conducted by David Wolfson, found Becerra still in the lead, with 46% support to Hilton's 40%.

It also found that no one likes either candidate much, but they dislike Hilton more.



Xavier Becerra



Steve Hilton

Becerra successfully tied Hilton to MAGA onstage, blaming the president so often for California's problems that you'd think Trump had been governor for the last seven years. It's a strategy Democrats are playing out across the state and one that will likely see Republicans lose by larger margins than they would if someone else were in the Oval Office, despite California's very real homegrown problems.

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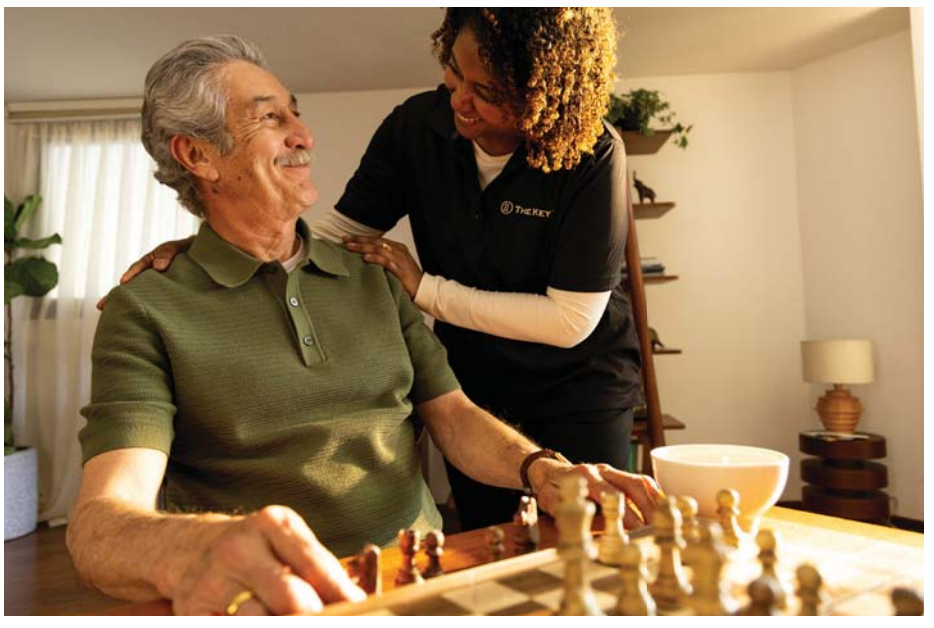
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SHUTTLE

From page 1A

time to address this problem is now."

Several speakers expressed concerns about the plan, including former Monterey County planner Colin Gallagher, who said requiring reservations for all visitors, including bicyclists and pedestrians, could restrict public access.

California Coastal Commission planner Nolan Clark worried about possible fees for bicyclists and people who walk into the reserve.

"We are committed to ensuring that the public resources at Point Lobos are protected but that access remains available to as many people as possible," Clark said.

Visitor increase

Before moving to approve the permit, planning commissioner Martha Diehl, whose district includes Point Lobos, described the urgency of the situation. She said something must be done and that the shuttle plan is the only viable option proposed. "This reserve has gone from 100,000 visitors per year to over 1 million today," she said.

Although much of the hearing focused on balancing public access and safety, Diehl said, "the balance is tipped way in one direction." She also said traffic on Highway 1 backed up as far as Del Monte Center in Monterey during a recent holiday weekend, trapping an ambulance in the gridlock.

Before the shuttle can start running, State Parks must develop an operating and management plan, establish reservation and shuttle fees, select a shuttle operator and complete the improvements at Marathon Flats. Officials also must decide whether bicyclists and pedestrians will be admitted free. The operating plan will return to the planning commission for review, and other permits or approvals could be required before construction begins. State Parks has not announced an opening date for the shuttle system.

The project calls for reservations for nearly all visitors, whether they arrive by car, shuttle, bicycle or on foot. Reservations would be available for parking inside the reserve, parking at Marathon Flats, parking at Palo Corona Regional Park or walk-in entry.



PHOTO/FACEBOOK

A growing number of people want to enjoy Point Lobos State Natural Reserve each year, putting pressure on officials to come up with parking and traffic solutions.

DRONES

From page 1A

Safety for automated license-plate readers in the county's unincorporated areas. Supervisors voted 3-2 against the proposed 10-year, $1.7 million agreement and directed that the 63 cameras be removed.

ACLU of Monterey County spokeswoman Mickey Welsh said the organization is deeply concerned that the county has not analyzed its use of surveillance technology. She urged supervisors to delay approving the contract until the county studies whether the drones are necessary.

'Excessive'

"We haven't studied either the need for drones, Flock cameras or other surveillance technology in Monterey County, and we haven't assessed the alternatives available for that," Welsh told supervisors. She added that "it does chill First Amendment rights to see drones flying overhead."

Sheriff's office Cmdr. Scott Davis said the agency cannot fly the drones wherever it wants and must comply with laws regulating unmanned aircraft.

"We still have to maintain people's rights to privacy, we still have to follow our policies, the law, the Constitution and FAA regulations," Davis said.

Alejo, whose district includes much of Salinas, acknowledged the technology's benefits but voted against the contract because of its cost and the number of drones requested by the sheriff's office.

"We are obligating ourselves $3 million just for drones over eight years. That seems very excessive when we know we are going to be hurting because of other [financial] impacts," Alejo said.

Study included

District 4 Supervisor Wendy Root Askew, whose area includes Marina, said the proposal would cost about as much as enrolling 5,000 residents in the county's healthcare program for low-income residents. She ultimately voted for the $3 million contract.

District 5 Supervisor Kate Daniels said she would support the agreement with Axon if county administrative officer Sonia De La Rosa works with the sheriff's office and other officials and returns to the board with options for a "comprehensive surveillance technology impact study and policy framework" addressing privacy and transparency concerns involving drones and other technology.

"I am concerned about privacy and mission creep," Daniels said of the drone program.

Her suggestion was included in the board's final action, although District 3 Supervisor Chris Lopez, who represents southern Monterey County, expressed concern about the cost to taxpayers for the analysis.

JANE ANN GIFFORD

Oct. 1, 1935 ❖ Oct. 6, 2026

Jane Gifford, a devoted teacher, stockbroker, wife and mother, passed away Oct. 6, 2026, in Marina, California, just five days after celebrating her 91st birthday with both of her children. Jane moved to Carmel in 1982 and loved making her home there before moving to Marina in 2018 to be closer to her daughter.



Jane Ann Sasse was born Oct. 1, 1935, in Midland, Michigan, to Alvin Pratt Sasse and Jeanette Adams Sasse. She attended Central Michigan University and Michigan State University, earning her bachelor's degree from the latter. She later earned a master's degree from the University of Michigan.

Jane taught elementary school in Midland and Ann Arbor, Michigan, for many years before moving to California and becoming a stockbroker with Charles Schwab & Co. She loved the markets and used stock prices to teach her students fractions.

In 1978, Jane met the love of her life, Russell Gifford, in San Francisco. They later moved to Carmel, where they made their home until his death in 2011. A gifted architect, Russ designed and built beautiful homes throughout Carmel, with Jane by his side. Home design and construction were among Jane's great passions, and she was actively involved in his projects.

Jane continued working at Schwab's Carmel branch before returning to elementary school teaching in the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District. She retired from La Mesa School. She was a spectacular bridge player and a passionate gardener. She also loved giving advice, especially to parents about teaching their children to read. Even in her final months, she took great joy in helping a young child improve his reading.

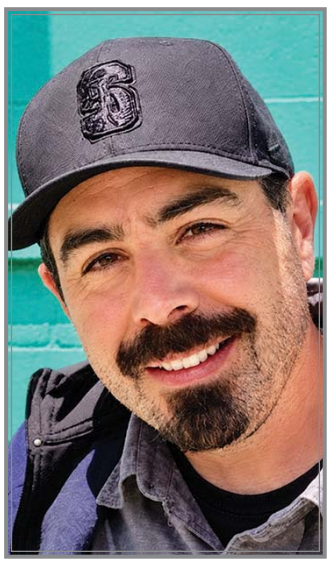
Jane loved telling stories about her two children. Her son, John Hayhoe, earned a degree in civil engineering from the University of Michigan and built a highly successful construction company in Southern California. Her daughter, Jill Hosmer Jolley, followed her to Charles Schwab and rose to regional director for the Northeast. Jill later returned to California, earned a doctorate in business administration and joined the faculty of California State University, Monterey Bay, carrying forward her mother's love of teaching.

Jane was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Russell. She is survived by her son, John Hayhoe (Sharon); her daughter, Jill Hosmer Jolley (Karl); five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and her much-loved Siamese kitten, Missy, named for the cherished cat who was her companion for 21 years.

The family will hold a private memorial at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donating school supplies to individual teachers in your community or making a donation to an animal rescue organization of your choice.

Nicolas Quinto Salas

Nicolas Quinto Salas was born July 8, 1981, to Beth Shammas and Mario Salas, three years after the birth of their triplets. From the moment Nick arrived, he knew he needed to be loud, charming and cute to compete with his attention-getting siblings. He was the most outgoing, had an ease in talking and relating to people and had the biggest eyes and longest eyelashes of us all. So lovable.



In a household devoted to sports and recreation, Nick also exhibited the most natural athletic ability, notably in pingpong and basketball. Although he disliked losing, he was also known for winning without going the extra mile. Only Nick could put in a mediocre effort and still pull off a victory.

We marveled at his intelligence and slight rebelliousness when he deliberately put in a below-average effort in middle school, only to excel academically as a high school freshman, "when it mattered." At Pacific Grove High School, Nick was surrounded by good friends, teammates and coaches. He was proud to be part of the basketball team that won the Central Coast Section and Northern California championships and competed in the state championship game at Arco Arena in Sacramento.

While in high school, Nick was diagnosed with bipolar I disorder, and his life — and ours — changed completely. His academic and athletic plans were disrupted, and his struggles with mental health began.

Despite this diagnosis, Nick's natural abilities helped him find employment as an aide in the Pacific Grove school district's before- and after-school program and with the city's recreation department. Nick enjoyed working with children, and with his big heart, authenticity and love of games and sports, the work was a natural fit.

Nick impressed us most when he coached seventh-grade boys basketball at Pacific Grove and Carmel middle schools. We watched him teach plays, be lighthearted and silly, skillfully manage parents, maintain discipline and, at times, unfortunately, unleash his frustration on the referees. But we also saw the children adore him and parents rally to support him, giving us a glimpse of the impact he could have.

Nick was smart, resourceful and surrounded by friends and family, yet this illness challenged us all. A young man with bipolar disorder who tried to cope on his own, Nick soon found himself also battling addiction and the challenges of living with both conditions.

Throughout his struggles and accomplishments, Nick remained a coach and champion for the underdog. An old soul, he connected with people who had also endured difficult life experiences. His time living on the street gave him — and us — greater compassion and understanding for others facing hardship. Nick's heart was as big as his deer-like eyes. He made friends wherever he went and took pride in encouraging and supporting those less fortunate than himself.

Nick enjoyed being an uncle and cherished being present for the birth of his first niece. An avid animal lover with a particular fondness for cats, he enjoyed the company of his beloved pets. Nick was also a treasure trove of interesting information, whether it was music from the '60s, sports trivia from the '70s, movie lines from the '80s or politics from the '90s. He was usually right and unpredictably opinionated. We will remember the many roles his talents might have led him to pursue: a radio broadcaster for the Hippo, a sports blogger — if he had been more tech-savvy — or an elementary school physical education teacher.

Nick passed away Oct. 6, surrounded by his family. His suffering ended, but his countless comical anecdotes and heart of gold will live on around our dining room tables.

Nick was preceded in death by his father, Mario, in 2016 and his stepfather, Tom, in 1998. He is survived by his mother, Beth Shammas; his stepfather, Richard Gray; his sisters, Lorie, Layla and Marta; his brother, Jamil; and his nieces and nephews, Miriam, Charlotte, Libby and William. He is also survived by his uncle, Joe Shammas; his aunt, Anne Swedberg; and numerous cousins.

A funeral Mass and reception will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, at St. Angela Merici Catholic Church in Pacific Grove.

FINANCES

From page 3A

his priorities: improving parking "and introducing Text Carmel, an AI-powered service to improve the visitor experience, municipal efficiency and public safety."

"I believe that together, these initiatives can be net revenue positive, creating revenue and funding improvements without relying on the proposed tax measures," he said.

Boland suggested taking advantage of other options — such as grants, state and federal programs, public-private partnerships, and bonds — to fund capital work.

"I would prioritize critical projects, match each project to the appropriate funding source and establish clear accountability for delivering work on schedule and within budget," he said. "We need to improve execution while taking a long-term view of our financial obligations."

Paid parking

Councilwoman Alissandra Dramov, who is running for a second four-year term, said if voters don't approve the tax hikes, one of the only remaining revenue options is paid parking. "In the current budget, we already reduced some operating expenditures," she added. "If we make further cuts, it will affect city staffing and services, and residents will notice a decrease in city services, which is not something we want."

Like Buder, she said the addition of two full-time project managers, overseen by Shari Carlet in public works, should help the city complete projects in its capital improvement plan

"And we now have a new full-time public works director, Yanni Dimitri, who has a positive, can-do attitude," she said.

As an aside, regarding the $3.5 million allocation for a public works/police department architect, Dramov noted she and councilmember Jeff Baron are set to bring their recommendations for hiring yet another firm to work on the decade-old effort at next month's council meeting.

"If measures M and N do not pass, it will be difficult to meet Carmel's infrastructure needs, and some capital improvement projects will likely be delayed," commented planning commissioner Stefan Karapetkov, who is running for city council.

In contemplating ways to increase revenues while controlling operating costs, Karapetkov said he would streamline permits for hotel remodels and review the municipal code "to eliminate unnecessarily restrictive requirements that increase renovation costs, while preserving safety and architectural standards."

"This would encourage private investment, accelerate hotel modernization and generate additional hotel tax revenue as room rates increase — even if the tax rate remains unchanged," Karapetkov said.

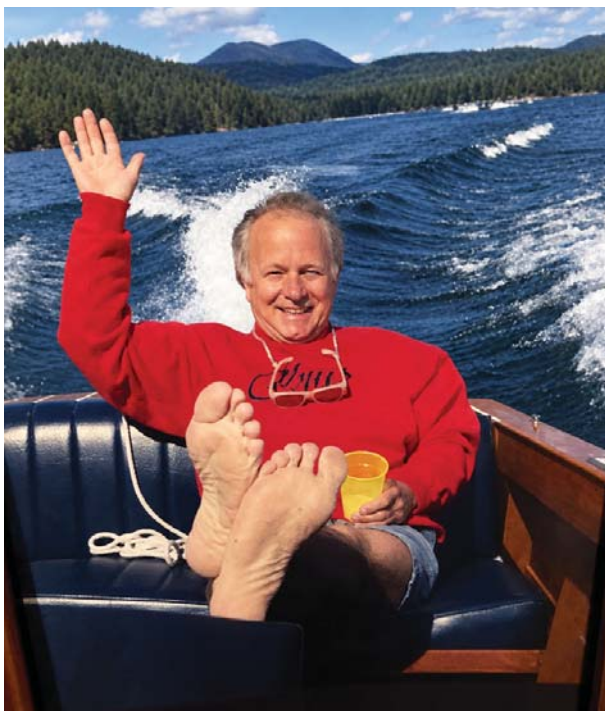
Automation?

Simplifying and automating city processes wherever possible could help cut operating costs, he said. "Drawing on my experience in enterprise architecture and technology transformation, I would focus on improving staff productivity so the city can handle growing demands with its existing workforce, without automatically adding new positions," Karapetkov explained.

See **REVENUE** *next page*

MICHAEL 'HUTCH' HUTCHISON

July 12, 1949 – Sept. 9, 2026



Michael Hutchison, known to his friends as "Hutch," died Sept. 9, 2026, at age 77. He was born July 12, 1949, to Robert and Betty Hutchison, longtime residents of Carmel. His father helped establish Little League baseball in the area.

Hutch grew up with his sister, Victoria, and attended Mission School, Junipero Serra grade school and Carmel High School. Throughout his life, he stayed in touch with many friends he made during those early years.

Hutch loved the outdoors, especially surfing and skiing. A builder by trade, he worked in construction throughout the Carmel area, bringing skill, independence and craftsmanship to his work.

Later, Hutch turned his talents to restoring classic wooden boats. His craftsmanship and dedication earned him many awards. The boats he restored reflected his patience and appreciation for things made to last.

In 1986, Hutch bought a cabin at Priest Lake, Idaho, where he spent many cherished summers. The lake became a special place in his life — a place to enjoy the outdoors, boats, friendships and time away from everyday routines.

Hutch lived in Washington with his wife of 20 years, Carol, and their cat, Spooky. Despite his gruff, no-nonsense exterior, he made many friends throughout the United States. Those who knew him will remember his strong character, craftsmanship, love of the water and mountains, and lifelong friendships.

Hutch will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by the many people whose lives he touched.

In Loving Memory of Myrna Silvia Zepeda Moore

Nov. 16, 1935 – Aug. 11, 2026

Myrna Silvia Zepeda Moore, 90, of Carmel, California, died Aug. 11, 2026, at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula following a brief illness. A force of nature and one of a kind, Myrna will be remembered for her unwavering spirit and faith, fierce loyalty to those she loved, impeccable fashion sense, humor and creative flair. She always found a way to inspire others, whether through a simple but delicious recipe, a tale from one of her many cruise vacations or her deep devotion to the Catholic faith.



Born Nov. 16, 1935, in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, Myrna was the first of two children and the only daughter of the late Salvador F. Zepeda and Maria Luisa Valencia. She graduated from Instituto Nueva Galicia in Guadalajara and pursued her passion for fashion as a buyer for a high-end clothing boutique. Her style once earned her the distinction of "Best Dressed of Guadalajara."

Myrna met her husband, Louis, in the summer of 1958 while he was participating in a study abroad program in Guadalajara. After marrying there in June 1961, the couple settled in Carmel, where they raised three children, all of whom attended Carmel public schools. Some residents may remember Myrna as "Señora Moore," their Spanish teacher at Junipero Serra School at Carmel Mission, where she taught for a couple of years. She is also fondly remembered for brightening neighborhood parties near Carmel Beach with festive food and decor and for hosting many lively gatherings.

During the 1970s, Myrna applied her interior design skills and partnered with Louis to finance, design and build numerous homes in unincorporated Carmel and Carmel Valley. As a member of the Monterey History and Art Association, she participated in the annual La Merienda fiesta celebrating Monterey's birthday. She was immensely proud to see all three of her children serve as attendants in the fiesta's court and, later, her granddaughter, Lauren Allen, serve as a doncella in 2016.

Deeply committed to her Catholic faith, Myrna volunteered for Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Carmel Mission. Her devotion inspired many to develop a deeper appreciation of the church's teachings. She also cherished her native country and Mexican heritage. Her husband and children have fond memories of holidays with her family in Guadalajara and their travels together throughout Mexico. No doubt mariachis played her favorite tune, "Guadalajara," as she was welcomed into the kingdom of heaven.

Myrna is survived by her husband of 65 years, Louis Somavia Moore, of Carmel; her children, Ed Moore of Reno, Nevada, Lisette Allen (John) of San Jose, California, and Carlos Moore (Margarita) of Miami; and her granddaughters, Lauren and Alexis Allen, and Victoria (Jivan) Haddad, Katherine and Natalie Moore. She is also survived by her brother, Hugo Zepeda de Valencia (Alma), of Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico; his children, Maureen (Hector) and Hugo; and beloved cousins in Guadalajara, elsewhere in Mexico and in the United States.

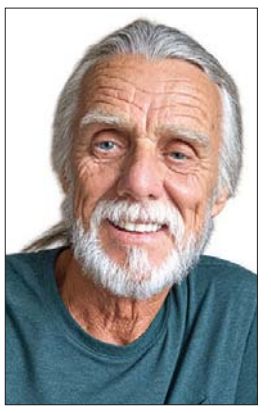
A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026, at Carmel Mission Basilica, immediately followed by a private reception at Crespi Hall. Interment will follow at 2 p.m. at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Prunedale, California.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Myrna's memory to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Monterey, 425 Church St., Monterey, CA 93940.

JIM REAM

Aug. 23, 1947 – Sept. 17, 2026

Jim Ream was born in Yakima, Washington, on Aug. 23, 1947, to Donald and Lorraine Ream. He grew up on a small family farm, where he and his sister Sandra milked the cows before and after school each day. His grandparents lived on either side of the family home, and for a short time, he enjoyed living with his grandfather Gunnar.



Jim worked several construction jobs in Yakima before moving to California in 1980 with his then-wife, Hon Hon, and their daughter, Dawn. They settled in Seaside, on Monterey Bay. He held several jobs that allowed him to use his talent for designing and building before moving into home construction on the Monterey Peninsula.

When a building moratorium was imposed, Jim and his daughter moved to Florida, where he worked with and raised horses. Jim always had a special bond with animals. In addition to the horses, he had three potbellied pigs he adored, sometimes even taking them to the beach.

Before long, a friend in California urged him to return to homebuilding. In 1998, Jim returned to the peninsula with his new love, Deborah. They lived in Pacific Grove until 2014. During those years, Jim worked with various contractors, including two who were especially dear to him, Peter Brown and Tom Long. Together, they built beautiful homes, some of which won awards. Jim met many people while building their homes. One couple became especially close friends whom he and Deborah visited several times after returning to Yakima.

As a young man, Jim loved cars and considered pursuing a career working with them. His passion for music, however, surpassed even his love of cars and continued throughout his life. His collection of more than 1,300 record albums reflected his appreciation for many genres.

Jim died of cancer on Sept. 17, 2026, at his home in Yakima, with his love, Deborah, by his side. He was preceded in death by his mother, Lorraine, in 2009; his father, Donald, in 2014; and his sister Sandra in 2024.

Jim is survived by his love, Deborah; his siblings, Patricia Abhold (Kris) and Kenneth Ream (Guyila), of Yakima; his daughter, Dawn Cohen (David), of Lake Forest, Illinois; his grandsons, Dylan Claytor, of Chicago, and Cody Claytor, of Pace, Florida; and his nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and great-grandsons.

At Jim's request, no services will be held.

Jim's and Sandy's ashes will be scattered at Asilomar, a place they both loved, in accordance with their wishes.

REVENUE

From previous page

As for capital projects, he said better planning, coordination and accountability would ensure "that we make the most of every dollar invested in Carmel's infrastructure."

Finally, former two-term councilman Bobby Richards, who is running for a third term after taking two years off, said the current and prior councils "have been pretty responsible with expenses."

"But there's always a better or more efficient way to do something," he said. For example, before replacing employees who leave, the city should determine whether the position functions the way it should and if there's any duplication of effort.

"Can we cross-train? Are there new tools or technology that could help? The answer may be to refill it, but let's ask the questions first," he said, and exit interviews should seek feedback on what could have made the job better, what tools would have been helpful and what changes should have been made.

"We should be asking our current employees those same questions," Richards continued. "They're doing the work every day. They know where the frustrations are and where things could work better."

He suggested seeking tips on efficiency and effectiveness from other jurisdictions and the League of California Cities. "We don't always need to reinvent the wheel," he said.

Find grants, help businesses

On revenue, the city should be more vigilant in seeking grants to help fund projects, according to Richards, and, because the budget relies so heavily on tourism, it should seek feedback from visitor-serving businesses.

"We need to listen to our hotels, restaurants, retailers and chamber, and give them the tools to succeed," he said. Hotel renovations, for instance, can justify higher room rates that generate more transient occupancy taxes.

"That's the kind of investment we should encourage," he said.

Like some of the others, Richards mentioned the additional staff available to manage capital projects. "Let's make sure they have what they need and routinely ask: Where are we? What's holding this up? What can we do to help?"

Streamlining permits for some types of projects could break logjams, he said, and he proposed building morale and momentum by praising those who get the job done.

"When they get a project across the finish line, let's recognize the people who made it happen," he said.



TERESA TERSOL-WISEMAN

Born: Feb. 7, 1951, in Carmel, California
Died: Sept. 12, 2026

Born at Carmel Hospital,
Teresa was the daughter of beloved parents
Paquito (Pete) Gonzales Tersol
and Joan Anne Tersol.

Teresa spent her life in Carmel.
She attended Woods and Sunset schools,
Carmel Junior High
and Carmel High School, 1965–68.
At 13, she spent six months
with friends and family in the Philippines.

Monterey Peninsula College, 1969–71
Oakes College, UC Santa Cruz, 1972–75
UC Davis School of Law, 1975–78

Teresa practiced law in Monterey
and provided legal and operational advice
to many technology businesses.
Her work included:

Digital Research Inc., 1985–87
Alexander and Lord (UCAL), 1988–93
Vice president

SoftBank Service Group, 1993–97
Managing director

NavTech (Navigation Technologies)
Counsel

Knowledge Adventures, 2005–17
General counsel

Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation

Teresa served on the boards of:

SCRAMP
Assistant director

Monterey Jazz Festival
Director

Monterey County Fair
Director

Teresa is survived by her brother,
Antony Jon Tersol,
and her husband, Jim Wiseman.

She made a positive impact worldwide
and will be missed.

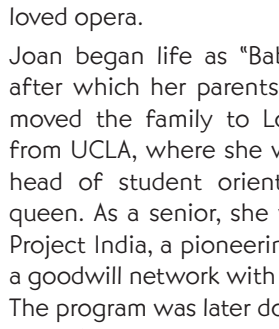
A celebration of life will be held from noon to 4 p.m. Oct. 31, 2026, at the Filipino Community of the Monterey Peninsula in Monterey.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Filipino Community of the Monterey Peninsula Scholarship Fund.

GENEVIEVE 'JEAN' MARY JACQUES

July 29, 1928 – Sept. 20, 2026
Pacific Grove, California

Genevieve Mary Jacques of Pacific Grove, known as Jean, was born July 29, 1928, in San Francisco to Irene and William Dunkle. Jean grew into a woman of deep faith, remarkable creativity, strong convictions and a wonderful, unmistakable sense of humor.



On Dec. 12, 1951, Jean married Frank Jacques in a ceremony at the historic Carmel Mission, beginning a cherished 30-year marriage. Frank died in December 1981, and Jean carried his memory with her throughout the years that followed.

Jean loved needlepoint and knitting, and she even taught herself to write Japanese poetry. She also had a deep fascination with rocks, gemstones and geodes, building an extensive collection of beautiful treasures.

Family held a special place in Jean's heart. She deeply loved her mother, Irene Dunkle, and her brother, Donald Dunkle, and admired her uncle, the Rev. Manoel Botelho, a Catholic priest.

Jean also shared a special bond with Yolanda, her longtime hairdresser and dear friend. Jean was always happy to let Yolanda know exactly what she wanted, a testament to her outspoken nature and the comfort she felt in their friendship. Their bond reflected unwavering loyalty, love and care that went far beyond friendship.

Those who knew Jean will remember that she was never one to keep her opinions to herself. She was outspoken, strong-willed and unapologetically herself. Jean loved to tell jokes, although reaching the punchline was never guaranteed.

Jean died Sept. 20, 2026, at age 98.

May Jean rest in the peace of Christ, reunited with her beloved Frank and the loved ones who went before her. May those who remember her find comfort in their memories, crack a smile at her notorious stories and carry forward her tenacious spirit. May her memory be eternal.

A service will be held at 10 a.m. Oct. 16, 2026, in the chapel at Pacific Grove Senior Living.

JOAN DELORES ROSEN

Joan Delores Rosen, née Meyersieck, 95, passed away peacefully on Oct. 1, 2026. She was an artist and patron of the arts, a published poet and a visionary designer. Part traveler and part farm girl, she also loved opera.



Joan began life as "Baby of the Year" in Seattle, after which her parents, Ray and Mary Meyersieck, moved the family to Los Angeles. She graduated from UCLA, where she was a member of Alpha Phi, head of student orientation and a homecoming queen. As a senior, she was an original member of Project India, a pioneering program that established a goodwill network with university students in India. The program was later documented as a precursor to the U.S. Peace Corps.

Joan lived a full and adventurous life centered on her family, creating beauty and exploring what lay beyond the next mountain, around the corner or behind the "No Trespassing" sign. She and Marty eloped to San Francisco in 1954. During their 72-year marriage, they welcomed two children, Dirk and Marika, and later three grandchildren, Samara, Nina Marie and Maya Gabrielle. Over the years, Joan lived in Berkeley, Merced, Comptche and Borrego Springs, as well as The Hague and Auribeau, France. She made her home in Marin County for more than 40 years before finally settling in Carmel Valley.

Her special gift was her artistic vision, and photography was her talent and passion. It took her around the world, from Jaipur to La Toulzanie. Her work was displayed in Paris, and her photographs illustrate "Farming on the Edge," written by John Hart with a foreword by Wendell Berry. The book received a silver award from the Commonwealth Club of California. Her design for the family home in Mill Valley, developed with architect Michael Siegel, won Sunset magazine's Honor of the Year and was featured on its cover in 1964.

Her love of the outdoors frequently took her to her beloved Sierra Nevada. She also served for many years as a volunteer ranger-naturalist at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in Southern California. She studied ravens and delivered lectures about the clever birds to enthusiastic visitors. She loved her chickens, too, often bringing Petacluck and Mrs. Schnelfrocki on vacation. Throughout her life, she demonstrated a conservation ethic, teaching those around her about flowers, birds and trees, as well as our role as stewards of an interconnected world.

In her final years, Joan received excellent care from the medical and nursing staff at Carmel Valley Manor. She benefited every day from their love and kindness, for which her family is especially grateful.

Those wishing to make a contribution in her honor may consider the Trust for Public Land, www.tpl.org, which helped organize the Big Sur Land Trust and more than 300 land trusts throughout the United States.

— Martin, Dirk and Marika Rosen

Editorial

100 lawsuits and counting

SOME PEOPLE say government officials don't work very hard, but one place that can't be true is the Department of Suing Donald Trump at the California Attorney General's Office. Those lawyers are busier than the Oval Office gilders.

This week, Attorney General Rob Bonta marked his 100th lawsuit against the Trump administration in the first 21 months of the president's second term. According to Bonta, the suits have garnered 57 judicial orders for immediate relief and 26 final orders against whatever Trump was trying to do. Bonta's office also claims that the storm of lawsuits protected something like $200 billion in federal money flowing to California. The White House, meanwhile, has consistently argued that California's lawsuits are frivolous and says Bonta should worry more about crime in his own state.

The 100th case challenges ICE for making civil immigration arrests in and around state courthouses — a tactic Bonta says scares witnesses and victims into staying home, making it harder to convict people of crimes and infringing on California's ability to run its own courts. ICE's view is more practical: If you know where a wanted individual has to show up, you go there. The case is less about whether immigration law exists and more about whether the parking lot outside a courthouse is just another public place.

A few earlier cases carried heavier weight. On day one, the Trump administration tried to narrow birthright citizenship by executive order so that children born here to parents who were here illegally would not automatically become citizens. States sued immediately. In June 2026, the Supreme Court said no, 6-3. Chief Justice Roberts, writing for a majority that included justices Barrett, Kavanaugh and the three liberals, essentially told everyone to re-read the Fourteenth Amendment and the 1898 Wong Kim Ark case, which didn't deal with the offspring of someone illegally in the country, but was similar enough for the majority. The practical effect is that a few hundred thousand U.S.-born kids a year get the citizenship most people thought they already were entitled to. Whether that is a victory for the Constitution or a missed chance to close a loophole depends on who is grading the paper.

Tariffs produced another round of judicial pushback. The Supreme Court ruled that the International Emergency Economic Powers Act doesn't let a president slap broad tariffs on the world. When the administration tried a different statute, the Court of International Trade said that one didn't work either. The net result is that emergency powers and trade laws have clearer limits than they did in early 2025, and a refund process is still grinding along. Economists can argue forever about whether Trump's tariffs were good policy, but the courts agreed they were not authorized by federal law.

Then there was the National Guard. After protesters tried to block ICE arrests in Los Angeles, the administration federalized thousands of California Guard members and used them in roles that looked a lot like law enforcement. A district judge found that this violated the Posse Comitatus Act and questioned the statutory justification for taking control of the Guard from the governor in the first place. The episode was a reminder that the president's power to call out the Guard is real, but not unlimited, and that "support for federal operations" can easily slide into "doing the federal operation."

The bulk of the docket, though, has been about money. Freezes on childcare funds, food stamps, education grants, agricultural money, and research grants produced a steady stream of cases alleging illegal impoundment or improper policy conditions. Courts often issued temporary orders keeping the money flowing. Bonta's office has cited specific large figures — billions here and there — as evidence the lawsuits paid for themselves. Critics note that temporary orders are not the same thing as permanent wins, and some of the conditions the administration wanted to attach were policy preferences rather than outright bans. According to the Sacramento Bee, California's Department of Justice has spent roughly $29 million hauling the president into court. Whether that is a bargain or an expensive hobby depends on how highly one values the particular dollars and principles being defended.

The 100 lawsuits are not just a story of presidential overreach and state-level progressive activism. They are also a vivid illustration of American federalism under stress. Early lower-court success rates for the challengers were high in many categories, but the administration has done much better at the Supreme Court, and many cases remain open.

That arrangement frustrates every party when it holds the White House and suddenly becomes indispensable when it does not. Call it obstruction, accountability, or simply litigation. Either way, the Department of Suing Donald Trump has not been short of work.

BEST of BATES



Oh, this is nice. Do you do cypress trees? Oh, I like this one. Do you do otters? Hmm ... good composition. Do you do waves? Oh, this is great. Do you do rocks?"

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*

Carmel's fairy-tale Measure M

Dear Editor,

I was struck the other day by how much the city's proposed Measure M tax reminded me of the morals of two of the world's most famous fairy tales: "The Emperor's New Clothes" and "The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs." In "The Emperor's New Clothes," Hans Christian Andersen tells the story of an emperor and his subjects, all of whom accept the lie that his "invisible" clothes are real. Aesop's fable of the golden goose is about a farmer who owns a magical goose that lays a golden egg every day, but whose greed and impatience lead him to kill the goose to get all the eggs at once.

Like the emperor and his subjects, Measure M illustrates how easily people can be led astray by the repetition of false and misleading claims if they don't open their eyes and take a critical look for themselves:

■ "Additional hotel taxes are for capital expenditures" — when there's no such legal requirement, and any taxes simply go into the general fund to be used for any government purpose.

■ "Carmel guests pay only 10%, while guests in other local towns pay 12%" — when guests here currently pay 12%. Measure M would take that to 14%, the highest in the county.

■ "The tax rate hasn't been raised in years!" — Who cares when total hotel-tax revenue has increased by more than 500%, from less than $2 million to more than $10 million per year?

If you look critically at the claims behind Measure M, you'll find they are just as imaginary as the emperor's new clothes.

What's even worse are the consequences of Measure M for the local tourism economy — Carmel's own golden goose:

■ $3.6 million in lost business revenue will hurt the city and every hotel, restaurant and other business here.

■ Between 5,000 and 10,000 overnight guests — our most valuable, lowest-impact visitors — will move to lower-cost cities a short drive from Carmel.

■ These former guests will return, but as higher-impact day-trippers who clog our streets and parking spaces.

■ Overtaxation will suppress incentives to renovate, which drive the largest hotel-tax increases — almost 40% over the past three years alone.

Rather than risk killing our golden goose with an unnecessary 20% tax increase, as the greedy farmer did, let's protect the

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Just come as you are and sing

Great Lives

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

In 1965, when "The Sound of Music" premiered, Julie Andrews taught audiences that, singing is a good antidote to fear. And that's especially true if the lyrics are about "raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens" and other favorite things.

Lisa Littlebird feels the same way. The erstwhile web designer — who had begun gathering about eight people in the schoolhouse of the Big Sur Charter School in 2008 to make music and create friendship — decided then that instead of sitting in front of a computer, she'd rather sing with her choir. All the time.

"I led community singing circles internationally for many years, which isn't formal conducting, but it gave me the confidence to direct large groups," she said. "Still, I started small, hosting informal gatherings with no stage and no expectations, where people came every week — as they were — to sing."

Littlebird believes what kept them coming back was the feeling of voices finding each other, along with a room full of strangers becoming a community.

She started a Monterey chapter of her choir, and membership quickly tripled, leading her to incorporate it in 2014 as Wholehearted Chorus. Today, her local choir has 165 singers, and a second group, in San Diego (where Littlebird now lives) has 140 members — unless you include the audiences who often feel inspired to join in.

Littlebird, who grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where her parents remain, was not born with that last name. Finding it both lyrical and well-suited to her sense of self, she adopted it for personal and professional use.

"Lisa Goettel is my given name, which I love, but nobody can spell, pronounce, or google," she explained. "Littlebird is the professional name I've gone by for the last 15 years, and it suits me well." The choir refers to Littlebird's mom as "Big Bird." An opera singer herself, Mom says her daughter sang before she could talk.



PHOTO/COURTESY LISA LITTLEBIRD

Lisa Littlebird, conductor of the Wholehearted Chorus, finds joy in singing with others and in teaching them that songs tap into deeply human needs.

Learning by ear

At 52, Littlebird has more than 30 years of musical experience and a bachelor's degree in music from the conservatory at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Wholehearted Chorus singers learn each song by ear, without sheet music — the way Littlebird began. She says that level of engagement changes everyone's sense of safety, aliveness and joy.

"We learn all our songs not by holding sheet music in our hands and looking down but by hearing the

See **LIVES** *page 30A*

From the mayor's desk —

Small town, big-city workload

By DALE BYRNE

Recently, I spoke at the Carmel Woman's Club about the many initiatives we've completed and that have been underway at city hall. Preparing that presentation reminded me of the extraordinary volume of information our small city must process and how important it is that all this activity produces meaningful results.

Carmel has approximately 3,200 residents, yet the complexity of running our village bears little relationship to its population. Between city staff, the council, commissions, residents, consultants and attorneys, an enormous amount of information is generated, reviewed, discussed and acted upon every day. By the time my term ends in December, I will have signed approximately 160 council resolutions.

■ Consider these numbers

City council and planning commission agenda packets can reach 1,000 pages for a single meeting. Council members and commissioners must absorb this material, consider public comments and make informed decisions. Public Records Act requests can exceed 70 per month. Some involve multiple departments and workflows, requiring staff to locate documents, review them, make necessary redactions and coordinate responses.

See **MAYOR** *page 30A*

Welcome to Frances Krebs' wonderful world of color

Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

The Monterey Peninsula is where Frances Krebs spent the first eight years of her life, hiking and camping with her family most weekends in Big Sur and establishing a love affair with nature that's every bit as fervent today.

Krebs is a Carmel artist with a passion for painting landscapes and seascapes and, unsurprisingly, a preference for plein air (painting outdoors) here on the Peninsula or in the American Southwest — New Mexico and northern Arizona — where light, shadows and colors are more intense.

Scenery all around

"I'm a color gal," declared Krebs, who is living the artist's life at 71, seeking out inspiring local vistas at Garrapata State Park, Point Lobos, Garland Regional Park, the Carmel River, Earthbound Farms and the dramatic terrain beyond her front door.

"I'll spend about half an hour on my exercise bike in the mornings, looking out my front window at the scenery outside our home," said Krebs, who lives with her husband, Steve (an architect with Carmel-based Krebs Design Group), near the intersection of Carmel Valley Road and Los Arboles Drive.

"The valley kind of goes east-west and our sunrises and sunsets illuminate the hillsides with really strong shadows. A lot of days, I'll literally jump off my bike, run outside and take a bunch of pictures that become inspirations for my paintings."

Her palette is most frequently bright and vibrant, glowing with warm, bold colors — unless the Peninsula's famous fog has moved in, demanding a cooler, softer look.

"In New Mexico or Arizona, where they don't get fog, there's a lot of direct light and shadows, calling for an intense cobalt blue, as opposed to a cerulean blue, which is more typical of the skies around here," she explained.

Color is a taste she developed throughout her youth and teenage years with a family that traveled extensively.

Worldwide adventures

"My dad was an outdoorsman, and his job with Kaiser Aluminum moved us around a lot. We actually lived in Ghana, West Africa, for about two years while he was setting up schools and hospitals near a refinery they were building," she said.

Her athletic parents also enjoyed international bicycle tourism, and family travels took Frances and her older sister to exotic places.

"In Africa, we hiked Kilimanjaro," she said. "We did a long trip through the Middle East, saw Egypt and India, hiked in Nepal. We went to Thailand and Japan."

When she was a teen, and her parents resided in Arizona, she enrolled in a boarding school in Switzerland.

"I loved it. I wasn't homesick for a minute," she reminisced. "I was very independent, and it was a fantastic experience for me. "It was an Outward Bound school, so they put a lot of emphasis on outdoor stuff. In the winter, we'd have classes in the morning, go skiing for three hours, then come back for a couple of classes in the afternoon."

Krebs was surprised to be accepted into Duke University. She originally aspired to become a veterinarian but felt overwhelmed in classrooms filled with pre-med students.

Appreciating nature

Her fascination for the natural world took her in a different direction: She earned a bachelor's degree in geology (two of her uncles are geologists), graduating a semester early.

Four months after graduation, wanderlust took Krebs to South America, where she traveled for several months with a female friend.

"We hiked the Inca Trail from Cusco to Machu Picchu, which took about four days," she said of one memorable adventure.

"We actually got lost for a while, met a French guy who also was lost, and he traveled with us the rest of the way."

While her companion returned home after several months, Krebs continued her adventure with a Colombian boyfriend, earning money along the way



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

Plein air artist Frances Krebs is living large in retirement, painting dramatic scenery near her Carmel home, as well as in New Mexico and Arizona.

See **ARTIST** *page 30A*

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EL NIÑO

From page 17A

Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District at no charge. "The proclamation of the emergency gives us the ability to move a lot more quickly than normal," he said.

Other efforts include trimming and removing vegetation and trees, inspecting and flushing storm drains, repairing city facilities and stocking the Vista Lobos and Sunset Center parking lots with sandpiles and bags for residents' use. Dimitri said people who are unable to fill and carry bags themselves can seek help from public works.

Crews will also respond as quickly as possible to remove leaning or otherwise threatening trees during storms, but property owners should do their part by noting any that are sick, dying or potentially dangerous and applying for permits and hiring contractors to have them pruned or cut down before the weather turns.

'Tree-hugging forester'

Warning signs include cracks around the foot of the tree, excessive movement at the base, cracks in the soil that are pumping water, and a significant hump in the dirt on one side indicating the tree has started to lean, according to the city forester.

"I'll hug a tree, and if I can feel myself move, the tree shouldn't be moving like that," Ono said.

"The tree-hugging forester is probably going to be my favorite answer of the evening," Swanson quipped.

Scanlon provided the broader picture of the county's role in responding to storms and the conditions and damage they cause. "If something is happening in Carmel, it's likely things are happening everywhere else as well," she said.

The county's emergency operations center is in Salinas, and Scanlon's department coordinates local resources, including fire departments, road and public works crews and law enforcement.

The county has a lot of resources at its disposal, like temporary flood barriers and bridges, heavy vehicles, a swiftwater rescue team, and even portable "hygiene hubs."

Residents signed up for Alert Monterey County likely noticed during the recent Big Sur fires that evacuation warnings and zones were identified by specific numbers. "Know your zone," she said, and encouraged people to find theirs by entering their street addresses at protect.genasys.com. And yes, the system accepts the city's new ones.

In addition to having a kit ready at home, Scanlon suggested assembling another for the car, "with essentials like water, snacks, a flashlight, a first aid kit" and other items, and knowing which routes to follow out of town during an evacuation.

If a storm takes out cell service along with power, she said, the county would work closely with city staff to develop a plan for distributing information. "We can order a cell on wheels — we call it a COW — from the state," she added. "But that takes a couple of days to get here."

However, Carmel's well-equipped and highly involved community emergency response team of volunteers would be of great help, too, she said. "If you really want to be in the know, you should join the CERT," she said. Find more information on that at ci.carmel.ca.us/post/carmel-community-emergency-response-team-cert.

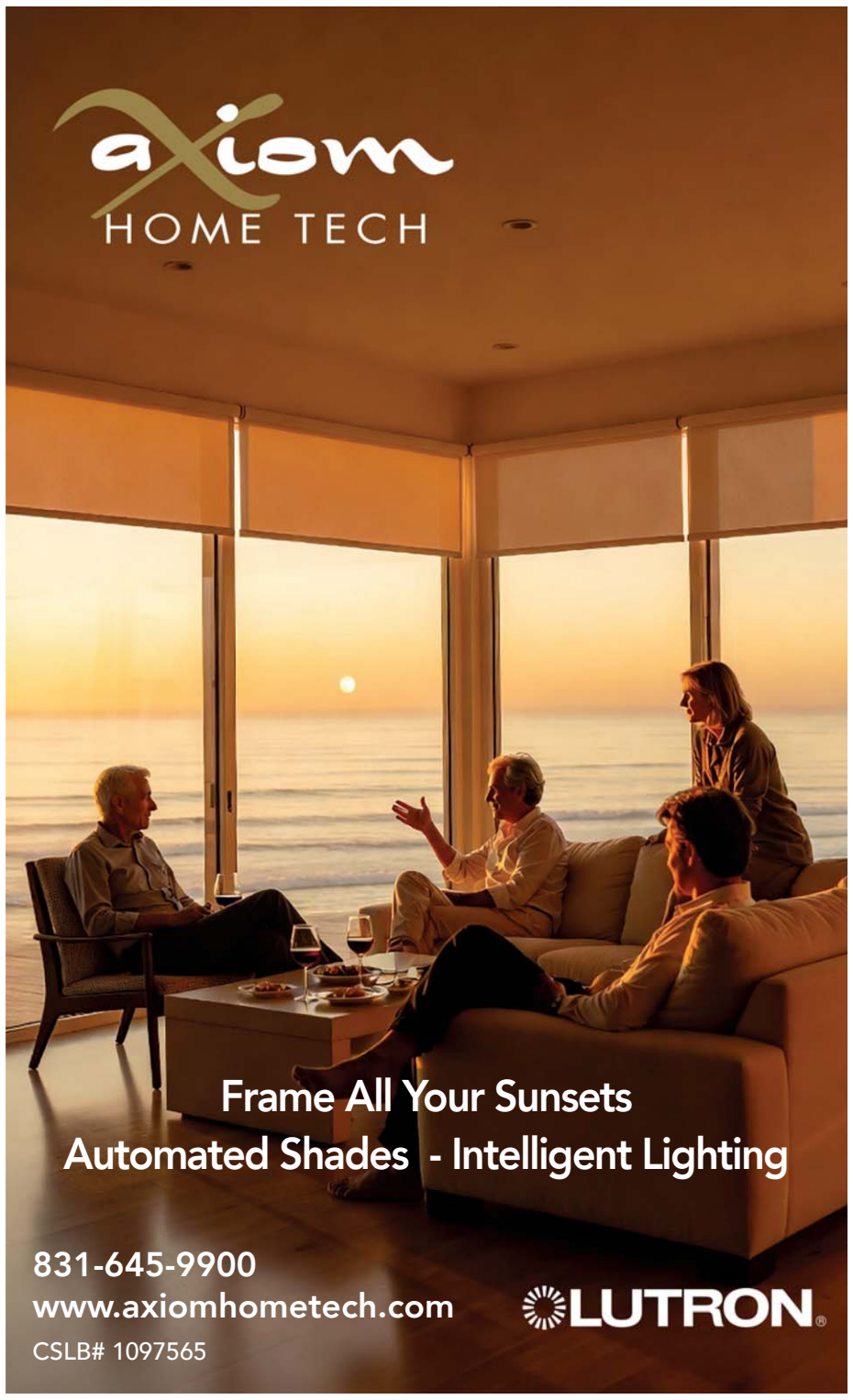
Open paves way to P.B. Invitational

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE MONTEREY Open Championship will be held at Del Monte Golf Course Oct. 19-21, with the best-scoring professional earning a spot in November's Pebble Beach Invitational, which features pros from the PGA Tour, LPGA, Korn Ferry Tour and PGA Tour Champions, and last year, RJ Manke of Lakewood, Wash., won the open with 15 under par, earning $5,000 and entry into the invitational.

However, Monterey local Mina Harigae won the invitational last year, becoming the second woman to do so after Juli Inkster and setting the women's record at Spanish Bay with a blistering 64. Her 69 at Pebble Beach in the first round and 68 at Spyglass Hill in the third round, as well as her 1-over-par 73 at Pebble Beach during the final round, gave Harigae a gross total of 274 and an overall 14 under par, three shots better than second-place finisher Cameron Sisk. Harigae is a Stevenson School graduate who made history as the youngest player ever to win the California State Women's Amateur when she took the trophy in 2001 at the age of 12.

The Monterey Open Championship dates back to 1926, when it was won by "Light Horse" Harry Cooper. Find more information at pebblebeach.com/golf/del-monte-golf-course/monterey-open-championship.





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LETTERS

From page 26A

substantial, sustained tax growth we have enjoyed for the past 14 years.

Apparently, the supporters of Measure M never bothered to read either story. I trust that those who have will vote no on Measure M.

Mark Stilwell, *Pebble Beach*

Yes on M and N

Dear Editor,

Two years ago, when I ran for city council, I promised three things: 1) I would conduct a rigorous assessment of the city's financial condition; 2) I would always tell you the truth; and 3) I would offer a fiscally sound plan for the city's future.

The assessment is clear, and here's the unvarnished truth: Decades of stress from ever-increasing tourism have pushed our city's infrastructure to the point of failure. Just look around. There's hardly a street or sidewalk that does not show signs of unaddressed wear and tear. The bill has come due, and our estimates put it at $100 million. We must address this now, as continued delay only compounds the problem.

The plan is simple: Find the money to fix what's broken, and then fix it. This new city council has enacted policies to limit operational spending, yielding millions more for the recent infrastructure projects you have probably noticed around town. Our workforce is being retooled to provide the skills and discipline necessary to accomplish more with your money. Strong new department leaders are in place in public works, planning and building, police, fire and the library, and a new city administrator will soon join them. This is great progress, but fixing what's broken is expensive, and we need more revenue.

In my personal opinion, ballot Measures M and N offer the best path forward. Measure M increases the lodging tax, paid entirely by overnight guests, from 10% to 12%, putting us on par with neighboring cities and adding $5 to a $250 hotel bill. Measure N raises the sales tax by 0.375 percentage points, adding just 19 cents to a $50 lunch tab. These small individual amounts, mostly paid by visitors, will generate about $4 million per year in new city revenue that will help significantly.

I am rarely a fan of taxes, but in this case, we must do something now. We have to fix what's broken. Asking our visitors to pay a bit more just makes sense, and supporting Measures M and N will do just that.

Bob Delves, *Carmel*

Maintaining our village

Dear Editor,

Although our residents contribute to maintaining our village through property and sales taxes, it is simply not enough. We need to catch up on $100 million in deferred maintenance. Measures M and N will have visitors who enjoy our village contribute just a bit more toward maintaining it.

Measure M would increase the hotel tax by 2 percentage points, bringing Carmel up to the levels already assessed in Monterey and Pacific Grove. Having visitors contribute the amounts that neighboring towns already collect only makes sense.

Measure N would increase the sales tax by 0.375 percentage points. If Carmel doesn't claim that revenue, Monterey County can. Why wouldn't we vote to keep these local tax dollars in Carmel? The proceeds from Measures M and N, along with other actions by our city council, will enable the repair and maintenance of our sidewalks and streets and allow other deferred projects to move forward.

Visitors will pay all of Measure M and most of Measure N. Please vote yes on both Measures M and N.

Stan Meresman, *Carmel*

Visitors should pay fair share

Dear Editor,

Measure M would raise Carmel's hotel tax from 10% to 12%, adding just $5 to a $250 room. Carmel's hotel-tax rate has not increased since 1983 — when Ronald Reagan was in the White House, Magic and Bird ruled basketball, Wayne Gretzky dominated hockey, and Joe Montana's 49ers dynasty was just beginning.

Times have changed since then, including the cost of maintaining a small town visited by millions. Visitors rely on Carmel's streets, sidewalks, public safety services, trees and beach. It is reasonable to ask them to help pay for that upkeep.

Even at 12%, Carmel would remain in the lower tier among California visitor destinations. Monterey and Pacific Grove already charge 12%; Marina, Sausalito and Healdsburg charge 14%; and Malibu and Half Moon Bay charge 15%.

There is little evidence that modest differences in hotel taxes determine where travelers stay. People choose Carmel for its beauty, character, restaurants, shops and accommodations. Hotel prices routinely vary by far more than the additional tax; another $5 on a $250 room is unlikely to change that decision.

Measure N is equally modest. It would increase Carmel's locally controlled sales-tax rate from 1.5% to 1.875% — just 19 cents on a $50 taxable purchase. Most groceries and prescription medicines would remain exempt. Because visitors, by conservative estimates, account for two-thirds of Carmel's dining and shopping, they would contribute the lion's share of this revenue as well.

Together, Measures M and N would generate nearly $4 million annually to help protect the community residents call home and visitors love to experience.

It is time for visitors to participate more fully in preserving Carmel.

Please vote yes on Measures M and N.

Vinz Koller, *Carmel*

Measure M and spending

Dear Editor,

Eight years ago, Carmel had a $25 million budget. The current city council just passed a $41 million budget, an increase of 64%. One wonders: Does the city have a revenue problem, or does it have a spending problem?

During Mayor Steve Dallas' tenure, we looked at ways to encourage hotels to improve dilapidated properties. Instead of raising the transient occupancy tax, or TOT, hotels were encouraged to make improvements that justified higher nightly room rates, thus generating additional TOT revenue without raising the percentage. Many properties have done just that, and more are being renovated.

We took a similar approach to the council in 2012, when it invested in a hospitality improvement district instead of raising the TOT. The result has been a steady year-over-year increase in TOT revenue ever since, without an increase in the tax rate. TOT revenue has increased by 37% over the past three years alone.

Measure M is not clear about what visitors are being charged in TOT. If Measure M passes, visitors will not be paying 12%, as promoted, but 14%. Of that, 2% goes to the hospitality district assessment established in 2012. The city directly benefits from that 2% through targeted marketing.

The rationale for increasing taxes is the $100 million identified in deferred maintenance, which didn't accrue overnight. A 10-year timetable to address it is far too optimistic, though the problem certainly needs attention. Don't forget that this council cannot control how future councils allocate revenue from TOT. The money could be spent on shifting priorities and other unanticipated financial demands rather than maintenance projects because the proposed tax increase isn't earmarked for maintenance; it goes into the general fund.

We keep looking to overnight visitors for funding. When will the city council finally address the cost of day visitors and institute paid parking as a parking-management tool and revenue source? Council members can make that determination themselves, approving and earmarking a source of revenue to fund deferred maintenance without putting a tax initiative on the ballot.

Carmel's lodging businesses face regional competition — think Sand City and Marina — where hotels promote the message, "Stay here and visit Carmel." Everything — food, gas, utilities, housing and interest rates — costs more now, with inflation on the rise. Raising taxes fuels inflation, and I am in no mood to raise anyone's taxes or handicap our hospitality industry.

Carolyn Hardy, *Carmel*

Yes on Measure M

Dear Editor,

As a resident who cares deeply about the future, character and infrastructure of our village, I urge my fellow community members to vote yes on Measure M.

Carmel-by-the-Sea is a magical place to live, but maintaining our iconic infrastructure comes with real financial responsibilities. From repairing aging streets and sidewalks to addressing critical beach erosion, maintaining our urban forest and bolstering wildfire preparedness, our city faces vital public needs that require stable, locally controlled funding.

Measure M provides a sensible, balanced solution by updating our transient occupancy tax, or hotel tax, from 10% to 12%. Crucially, this adjustment ensures that visitors using our lodging accommodations largely provide the financial support for local public improvements, rather than placing the burden squarely on local residents.

By voting yes on Measure M, we are investing directly in the safety, cleanliness and long-term resilience of Carmel-by-the-Sea without straining household budgets. I hope you will join me in supporting Measure M for a stronger, better-maintained village.

Michael LePage, *Carmel*

What the school bond will cost

Dear Editor,

What will the $250 million Carmel school bond, Measure I, cost property owners?

Carmel Unified School District property owners should understand what the proposed $250 million school bond could mean for their property taxes before voting.

The estimated tax rate is approximately $36 per $100,000 of assessed property value each year. Importantly, this is

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LIVES

From page 27A

words and sensing the emotional connections," she said. "Wholehearted music recognizes the soul as a vehicle of transition of both healing and service to a more loving and harmonious world."

That's why she is so passionate about her choirs, finding the experience powerful — a truly magical tool of healing that works in mysterious ways. She travels here to lead rehearsals and concerts in person, sending encouraging "love notes" via email to chorus members in between.

Through her online program, "Littlebird Flight School," she has trained more than 1,000 song leaders around the world.

"My method is to be patient and plain," she said. "The songs are sacred technologies of the heart, learned slowly, by repetition, until they become allies for life."

The choruses are nonreligious and nondogmatic, yet they hold to a published set of values: invitation without pressure, belonging without "othering" — making someone feel like an outsider — and expression without judgment.

She said, "In 2025, working with singer-songwriter duo MaMuse, the chorus asked how people who see the world differently can live in harmony — and answered the question, in part, by singing together."

More than 1,000 people filled Monterey's Golden State Theatre to take part.

"During our 2025 concerts, audience members ended up singing along, invited to join in, and not just listen," Littlebird said. "Song is one of the most ancient technologies of belonging. So singing together has an incredibly powerful and lasting ripple effect on our sense of well-being and connection to all that's good."

More than a choir

This year's question, says Littlebird, may be quieter but just as big: "What is mine to do?"

"In today's world, that can be a hard question to answer, when it's so tempting to give in to overwhelm, confusion, reactivity, or numbness. Yet together we are embodying a playlist of songs that broaden our bandwidth for thriving aliveness in these wild times," she said.

"We sing to help attune to our deeper wisdom, and we sing to build capacity for powerful, loving action."

This season's songs were created in collaboration with song leader Lyndsey Scott, who wrote seven of the chorus' 15 pieces and will also be with them on stage.

"We are more than a choir," Littlebird said. "We don't just sing the songs. We explore the theme we're singing about. Lyndsey has a life-defining forgiveness story. She experienced harm in her 20s that put someone in jail, and she forgave them, which put her on a lifelong journey of finding healing and restoration."

She continued, "We are not just singing about love, light and rainbows, but to the dreams of seeing a world of more peace while flexing the spiritual muscle that is difficult to flex and practicing the forgiveness we would like to see."

And, Littlebird affirms, the Wholehearted Concert is "the best time ever." While there are some serious themes and moments, the chorus strikes a good balance to present its music with lightheartedness, joy, and celebration.

Littlebird welcomes everyone to experience the magic of music as the Wholehearted Chorus presents three concerts — an evening at Hidden Valley in Carmel Valley on Saturday, Oct. 17, at Pacific Grove Performing Arts Center Oct. 18, and at Sunset Center Carmel Oct. 20. Tickets can be purchased at wholeheartedchorus.org, and prices vary by venue.

MAYOR

From page 27A

Studies and estimates from California and Vancouver suggest that a public meeting can cost around $10,000 when staff preparation, reports, attendance and follow-up are considered. We spend more than $400,000 annually on legal services alone. Add public safety, permits, planning applications, infrastructure maintenance, financial oversight and resident inquiries, and the scale becomes clearer.

■ Hidden cost of new initiatives

Much of this work is essential. Transparency, public participation and careful legal review are fundamental to good government. But every hour spent processing information is an hour unavailable for something else. One of my biggest lessons as mayor is that the true cost of a new initiative extends far beyond its approval. Every additional program, policy or council directive can create work lasting years. Research, staff reports, public meetings, legal reviews, implementation and ongoing monitoring all require resources.

Therefore, adding something to a priority list doesn't necessarily make it a priority. Every new commitment competes with existing work. Before taking on something new, we should ask how much staff time it will require, how long the commitment will last and what other work may have to wait.

■ Discussion to results

Coming from a business background, I've always believed information should lead to decisions, and decisions should lead to results. Government is different. Legal requirements and public participation make the process more complicated. But that makes disciplined management even more important. Before an item reaches a council agenda, we should be able to state clearly what decision needs to be made. And before launching a major new initiative, why not include a workload estimate alongside the financial cost? Knowing how many staff hours, meetings and legal reviews might be required would help us make more informed choices.

We've worked hard to establish clearer priorities, strengthen project management, improve financial reporting, recruit experienced leadership and invest in modern equipment for public works and emergency services. The objective now should be to help our talented employees spend more time delivering results. Artificial intelligence offers another tremendous opportunity to organize documents, research issues, summarize information and reduce repetitive work while maintaining human oversight.

■ Measuring what gets done

As my term approaches its end, one of my strongest takeaways is that Carmel doesn't lack ideas, committed residents or dedicated employees. What we need is a continuing focus on translating that energy into completed projects and measuring the results. We shouldn't have to choose between transparency and effective government. We need both.

Our government shouldn't be measured by how busy it is, how many meetings it holds or how many reports it produces. It should be measured by what gets done.

To hear a podcast generated from this column, go to cli.re/workload.

Dale Byrne is mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea. His email is dbyrne@cbts.us.

ARTIST

From page 27A

by making jewelry and selling it on the streets.

Fond memories of her childhood brought her back to this area as a young adult, and her geology degree led to a job with the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District.

"Then I met Steve, a third-generation Monterey boy, and the rest is history," she said of her longtime husband and father of their two adult children, Stephanie and Roy. The Krebs also are four-time grandparents.

Subsequent employment for Krebs included sales jobs at The Ginger People and Carmel's Terwilliger Gallery, then 10 years as a landscape designer before she retired.

"Retiring to become a full-time artist was an awesome feeling — it was so lovely to be able to spend more time painting," said Krebs, who credits her art education to lessons and workshops from Peninsula artists Mary Burr (1922-2016), Mark Farina and Marie Massey, Los Angeles painter Ian Roberts, and South African landscapist Malcolm Dewey.

"Marie Massey was a big influence because she does brightly colored underpainting, then goes over it again, which totally appealed to me. Accents in bright colors really add pizzazz," she said.

"Malcolm Dewey likes to use really thick, juicy paints, which also spoke to my style."

Her medium of choice is oil paints, but Krebs often uses gouache or watercolors while traveling.

Painting pals

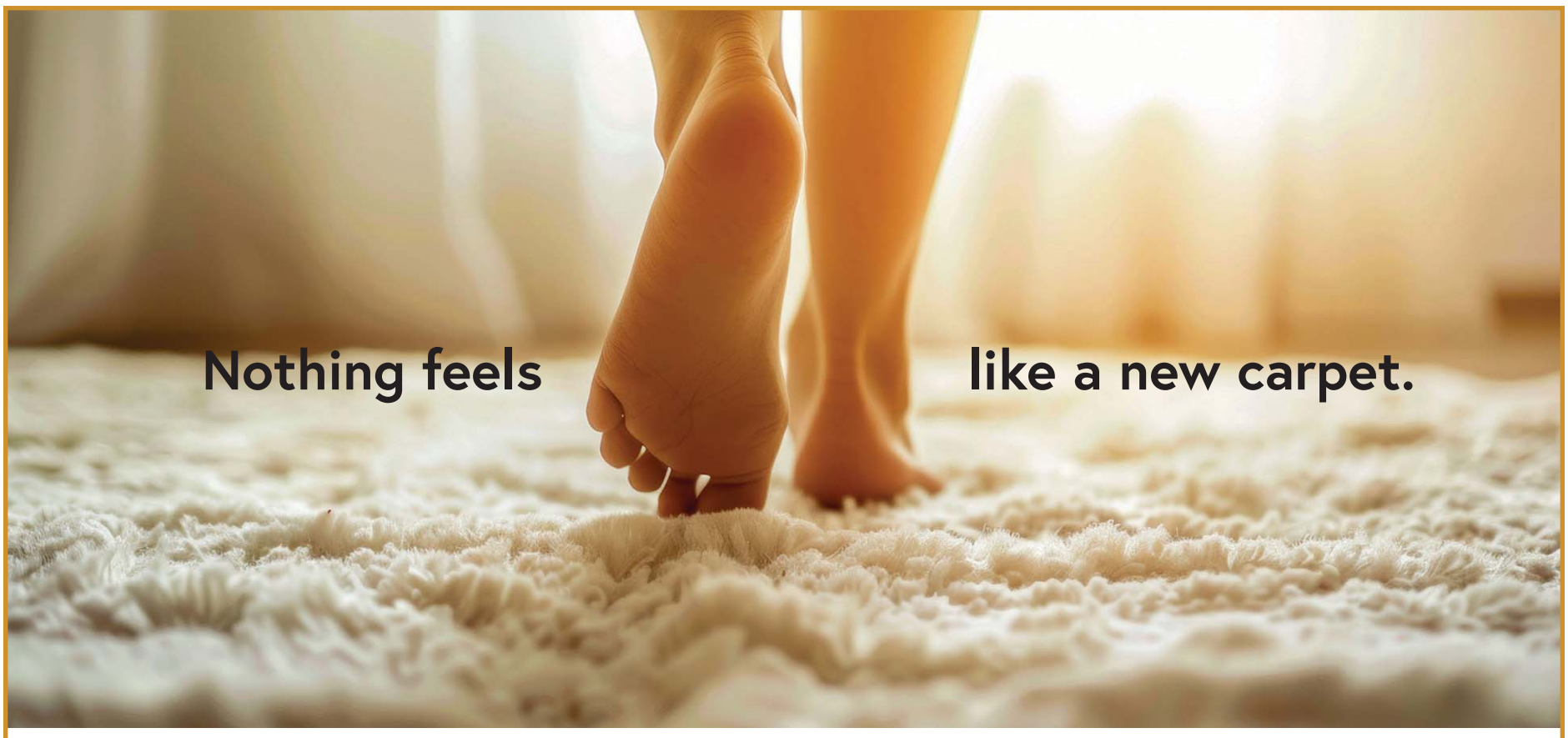
Krebs regularly paints with fellow members of the Monterey Peninsula Plein Air Painting Association.

In recent years, her art has been included in exhibits and juried shows at the Pacific Grove Art Center, Natividad Medical Center and Carmel Valley's Chesbro Winery. She also participated in the Mendocino Open Paint Out at the Mendocino Art Center.

In addition to landscapes and seascapes, her portfolio includes architecture, boats and ships, flora and fauna, still lifes, nocturnals, seasonal and international scenes.

For additional information, and to see images of her art, visit franceskrebsfineart.com or Instagram @frances.krebs.artist.

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



WINERIES

From page 16A

In response, Scheid said, winemakers accelerated production and found themselves in oversupply when the market took a nosedive after 2021, as drinking habits settled back to pre-Covid norms.

"It takes five or so years to get into production after you plant a vineyard — very expensively. It's been tough. This is an unprecedented decrease in value," said Scheid, who serves as president and CEO of the 54-year-old family business.

In the meantime, Scheid Vineyards has adapted how it grows and markets its product.

A few vineyards have been "mothballed," Scheid said, a practice which can reduce costs up to 70% by performing the minimum necessary maintenance, and can be sustained for a couple of years before bringing the vines back to production.

Recently, the business did not renew its lease for 600 acres of cabernet and petit verdot vineyards located in South County, Scheid confirmed.

'Hanging on'

At the same time, the company has maintained a tasting room in Carmel and a full-service event venue at its Greenfield estate winery; expanded its product range with low-alcohol varieties of popular white and rosé wines; and invested in its private-label business for national supermarkets including Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, Kroger and Total Wine.

"We're hanging on for a market recovery," said Scheid, who said the winery produces approximately 750,000 cases each year.

Among the more recognizable names on shelves, J. Lohr reported sales of 1.32 million cases last year, distributing through national and international chains as well as bottling under single-vineyard and estate labels.

Co-owned by Lohr and his siblings, the company manages grape production in-house, which is unusual for a large commercial operation.

"Things are very different for a grower depending on whether he or she has a contract with a winery. It costs $3,500 to $4,000 to farm an acre, so if you don't have a contract, it's very difficult. Wineries aren't buying grapes like they used to," Lohr said.

But for a few small-time Monterey County growers who, many years ago, shook hands with the right people, or bought their own slices of heaven in the Santa Lucia Highlands, business isn't so bad.

Santa Lucia

Greg Vita is a longtime local vintner who has been cultivating pinot noir and chardonnay grapes in the Santa Lucia Highlands since 1980, he said. He acknowledged that the industry is "realigning," and small growers like himself are in a unique position.

"How wine is distributed today is totally different than years ago. Now, in almost every state, you can ship directly to consumers. It was a dramatic change for small wineries," Vita said.

Vita consults for a number of outfits including Holman Ranch, which operates a historic resort property near Carmel Valley Village, offers wine club memberships, and hosts local culinary and tasting events. Most clients he works with, Vita said, produce no more than 5,000 cases annually.

"Since we don't have volume, we won't relent on quality," Vita said.

Said Mark Pisoni of Pisoni Vineyards, whose family owns four vineyards in the Santa Lucia Highlands, "We have been very intentional about staying small. We farm biodynamically, our harvest team is about 30 or 40 guys and gals, and it's all hand labor."

The Pisonis' signature pinot noir, for instance, is limited to 500-800 cases annually.

He noted that consumers' turn away from heavier reds like cabernet and merlot hasn't much affected their output, since the cool, ocean-moderated climate of the Santa Lucia suits more popular varietals like pinot noir and dry whites, which are also sold under the labels Lucia and Lucy.

"We continue to do well. People are tracking down our wines, and I think visitors who come to Monterey County are interested in trying local wines. We have some very loyal customers.

"Maybe people are drinking less, but they're drinking better," Pisoni observed.

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3Q2026 MARKET UPDATE

Pebble Beach | Nic Canning | 831.241.4458

Pebble Beach remained relatively healthy in the third quarter, with 27 sales totaling $132M. Activity moderated from 30 sales and $147.7M last quarter but remained broadly comparable to 3Q25, which recorded 25 sales totaling $122M. The median sale price eased to $2.84M, largely reflecting a greater concentration of sales at lower price points. The upper end remained active, with three sales above $8M accounting for nearly 46% of dollar volume, led by a $24M sale on Pebble Beach's 2nd fairway.

Location and condition continued to shape buyer demand. Move-in ready homes in desirable settings commanded premiums, while properties requiring substantial renovation faced longer marketing times and larger discounts. Demand remained strong in MPCC, particularly near the club, while ocean-view homes in Central Pebble Beach generally moved more readily than those without views. These differences underscore the importance of evaluating each property individually.



Despite the lower sales count, average days on market for sold homes fell to 44 from 75 last quarter, suggesting buyers remained decisive when the right opportunity emerged. With 44 active listings representing roughly six months of supply, buyers have time to compare options, while sellers benefit from pricing that reflects a home's condition, location, and competition.

The late-quarter pickup around the Lodge provides an encouraging lead into the fourth quarter. Across Pebble Beach, 15 properties are under contract, including four offered above $8M, signaling steady momentum across price points. With an estimated 80% of purchases made in cash, the market is also less dependent on mortgage financing. This combination of ongoing buyer engagement and a healthy contract pipeline supports a positive outlook for the remainder of the year.

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

Peninsula tennis teams have lots of talented aces up their sleeves

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

HOME IS where the heart is for the Santa Catalina Cougars, who hope to wrap up their first girls tennis championship since 2022 on Thursday, when they take their 12th consecutive road trip of a remarkable undefeated season.

The Pacific Coast Athletic League's Gabilan Division crown will be on the line when the Cougars travel (yet again) to Pebble Beach to battle the Monterey Peninsula's most successful tennis school, Stevenson, winner of 22 team trophies since 1980.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Adena Franklin, Stevenson's No. 2 player, is one of three freshmen in the Pirates' singles lineup this season. She has a 10-3 record.

Renovations to the school's athletic facilities (to be completed in November) have turned Catalina's tennis players into perpetual vagabonds, unable to use their home courts. They schlep to Seaside's Meadowbrook Swim & Tennis Club for after-school practices, and they've played every match on the road.

"We had to drop off our middle school volleyball team in Pebble Beach on the way to a match at Pacific Grove, and some of our players got carsick as the bus was weaving through the forest," Cougars tennis coach Ned Stork said. "The girls took half an hour to regroup, then went out there and beat P.G."

Is Dramamine a performance-enhancing drug? Maybe.

If they defeat winless Salinas on Tuesday, the Cougars will arrive on Stevenson's home court for Thursday's 4 p.m. showdown with an 11-0 overall record — 9-0 in the Gabilan Division.

The Pirates, who played Salinas on Wednesday, presumably will be waiting with an 8-1 Gabilan mark — the lone blemish being a 4-3 loss to Catalina on Oct. 6.

They also met Sept. 12 in the Santa Catalina Invitational (a tournament that had to be played in Pebble Beach), when the Cougars handed Stevenson (13-3 overall) a 5-2 defeat. The Pirates also lost a nonleague match to Aptos, 4-3, on Sept. 1.

A Catalina victory on Thursday would leave the Cougars alone at the top. A Stevenson triumph would create a first-place tie for the second straight year.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Junior Alexia Robinson-Bours, one of several boarding students from Mexico, is Santa Catalina's No. 1 singles player with an 8-2 record.

Ferocity, depth

Last year's Gabilan co-champion, Carmel, entered the final week of the regular season with a theoretical chance at an at-large berth in the Central Coast Section team tournament. The Padres would need to beat all three of their remaining opponents — Salinas on Monday, Hollister on Tuesday and Pacific Grove on Thursday — to finish 6-4 in the Gabilan and 10-6 overall.

Carmel, Stevenson and third-place Santa Catalina all qualified a year ago, and the Padres advanced to the second round.

Catalina's perfect run can be attributed to a deep lineup topped by junior Alexia Robinson-Bours, a first-year boarding student from Mexico with an 8-2 record at No. 1 singles.

"She's strong with every stroke, a tough competitor and a tournament player," said Stork, whose No. 2 player, sophomore Avani Singh, showed up at tennis tryouts

See **SPORTS** *next page*

SPORTS

From previous page

this fall after scoring eight goals for the 2025 water polo team.

Singh is 7-0 in singles and 2-0 as a doubles player.

Last year's No. 1, senior co-captain Jessica Urtusuastegui (another Mexican boarding student with a clay-court background), is 9-1 at No. 3 singles, thanks largely to heavy groundstrokes and fierce competitiveness.

Fiona Fang, a junior from China, is 10-0 at No. 4 singles in her third varsity season with the Cougars after going unbeaten in league play in 2025 as the team's No. 2 player.

Chloe Thompson, a senior, and Stacy Kim, one of five varsity freshmen, have combined for a 9-1 record at No. 1 doubles, thanks to aggressive net play and good serves.

Co-captain Zamina Singh (a third-year player) and Chloe Wigdahl, both juniors, have used exceptional chemistry and good positioning instincts to emerge at No. 2 doubles, where they've gone 8-2.

Two more Mexican boarders, freshman Regina Cajiga and sophomore Ivonne De La Vega Kastis, partnered late in the season as the No. 3 team, where they are 2-2.

Depth has been a key

Depth and versatility have been provided by Magdalena Pablos Zazueta, a senior from San Diego, and varsity veteran Andrea Fernandez-Coppel, a junior from Mexico (both 2-0 in singles and 1-0 in doubles), and ninth graders Georgia Dotto, Taelen Jones and Zoey Schlenker, who have combined to go 7-0 in doubles action.

"We have a great mix of day students and boarders who have built a lot of camaraderie and spirit," said Stork, who stepped in as head coach after the position became vacant late last season.

Stork, who played NCAA Division I tennis at Santa Clara University, is assisted by former Fresno State No. 1 singles player Greg Anderson and JV coach Jane Wigdahl (Chloe's mom), who played at Utah State.

Stevenson (6-1 in the Gabilan, 11-3 overall) can claim a share of its third consecutive Gabilan Division crown by beating Catalina on Thursday with a starting lineup featuring one sophomore and five freshmen.

Topping that list of talented underclassmen is a freshman boarding student — whose name has been withheld from the media by her parents — who already has been graded as a three-star prospect (translation: NCAA Division I material) by TennisRecruiting.net.

"Mademoiselle X," a USTA National Level 3 tournament player, is 12-0 this season, winning every match in straight sets, with a 133-8 record in games. (Catalina's Robinson-Bours won six of those games.)

"She's very well-trained, and she's quite good. We're very happy that she decided to come to Stevenson," said Wendy Grover, who has coached the Pirates for 21 seasons.

Adena Frankin, another 14-year-old ninth grader, arrived and has gone 10-3 at the No. 2 singles position.

Tennis in the blood

"She comes from a big tennis family. She's been playing all her life, she's very willing to listen, and she's a little fighter. I love her for that," Grover said.

Senior Karen Baker is 11-2 at No. 3 singles after playing doubles during her first three seasons at Stevenson. She was 12-0 last year, partnering mostly with then-senior Natalie Royal.

The third freshman on the singles ladder, boarding student Lao Yoon, is 11-3 in the No. 4 position.

"Her mom is a big, big tennis personality in South Korea, all of her kids play, and Lao has beautiful strokes," the coach said.

Senior Sloane Escher is 11-2 with four different partners at No. 1 doubles, the latest of whom is freshman Vivianna Beck, who is 6-2 with Escher. Beck also has played four singles matches this season.

"Sloane is kind of a backboard-type player — an anchor — and Vivianna is extremely aggressive and comes to the net, so they're a great combination," Grover said.

At No. 2 doubles, senior Lila Doust is 15-0 with five partners — 5-0 with left-handed sophomore Jessica Chuang and 8-0 with Belle Wang, a junior.

The No. 3 team, junior Sophie Petrocelli and freshman Eva Ariko, is 10-2 together.

Stevenson's 15-player roster also includes junior Kai Close-Grover (Wendy's granddaughter), who is 4-0 with three partners.

Seniors Caroline Taylor and Teagan Nguyen (2-0 together), and Vivian Wang, a freshman, round out the varsity team.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Sophomore Lauren Klingel, at No. 2 singles, is one of nine Padres who returned from Carmel's 2025 division co-champions.

Carmel enters the week with a 3-4 Gabilan Division record (all losses to Catalina and Stevenson), 7-6 overall, and a busy schedule, hosting Salinas at 3:30 p.m. Monday, traveling to Hollister on Tuesday, then finishing at home against Pacific Grove at 3 p.m. Thursday. A sweep presumably would make the Padres a contender for a CCS at-large berth.

Carmel's top player, senior Ruby Iranmanesh, is 0-5 at No. 1 singles after missing most of her fourth varsity season with an injury. She was 16-4 at No. 2 singles last year, 11-4 at No. 3 singles in 2024 and played doubles as a freshman.

"She's had to deal with the injury and some stiff com-

See **TENNIS** *next page*

CALENDAR

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. 20 – Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging) demonstration at 12:30 p.m. at Pebble Beach Community Services District, 3101 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953. Guest fee $5. Gate fee waived by mention of "Ikebana at PBCSD" at the gate.

Oct. 21 – Carmel Public Library Foundation presents the Henry Meade Williams Local History Lecture Series, "How Immigrants Made the Monterey Peninsula," with **Dr. Carol Lynn McKibben**, author and Professor Emeritus, Stanford University, 7 p.m., Carpenter Hall, Sunset Center, Carmel. Register on our website: carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org. Questions: (831) 624-2811

Oct. 23 – A "Climate Action Day" event, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at **Point Lobos State Natural Reserve**. For more information, please email pointlobos@ports-ca.us or call (831) 884-2957.

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. 24 – Carmel Valley Lodge's October Harvest Gathering, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 8 Ford Road in Carmel Valley Village. AFRP, local artists, food trucks, street parking only, free admission. (831) 659-2261

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

Sundays – Jazz brunch with the Andrea Carter Trio, 11 a.m. to 2 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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TENNIS

From previous page

petition at No. 1, but she's a solid all-around player," coach Leslie Tracy said of Iranmanesh, who stepped to the top of the ladder when junior teammate Gaby Samchenko, the projected No. 1, was injured. "She uses a good mix of spins and pace, along with excellent topspin that forces her opponents to hit out of their strike zone."

Sophomores Lauren Klingel (7-6) and Sophia Wetzel (7-4) occupy the No. 2 and No. 3 spots on the Padres' ladder, with senior Meya Lin (8-5) at No. 4.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Sophomore Avani Singh, who played varsity water polo for Santa Catalina last fall, is 7-0 at No. 2 singles for the tennis team this year.

"Lauren has improved a great deal from last year, when she was in my doubles lineup," Tracy said. "She likes to slice short and force her opponents to move in close so she can rip a passing shot by them."

Wetzel, the coach said, is a dogged competitor, is very consistent and makes very few unforced errors, wearing down her opponents.

Lin hits her forehand and backhand with equal skill and benefits this season from a vastly improved net game.

Strength at doubles

The Padres' No. 1 doubles team, junior Bridget Trambley and senior Naomi Foudy, is 2-1 together after pairing up late in the season. Foudy previously compiled a 6-2 record with Havana Razi-Symes as her partner, and Trambley was 5-4 as a singles player.

At No. 2 are senior Anna Rasmussen (an All-PCAL wide receiver in flag football the previous two years) and junior Grace Xu, who are 6-2 together.

"They're both extremely athletic and can run down almost any ball," Tracy said. "They also communicate very well."

Razi-Symes, a senior, teams with sophomore Siena Ketcham at No. 3 doubles, where they've gone 1-2 together after pairing with other teammates.

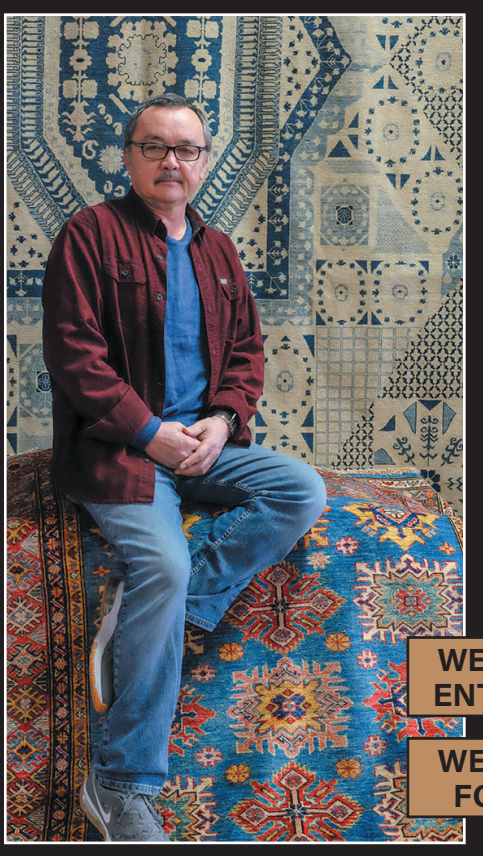
Razi-Symes was 8-4 with three partners (6-2 with Foudy), and Ketcham had a 5-6 record with four teammates.

Iranmanesh, Lin, Samchenko, Razi-Symes, Trambley, Xu, Wetzel, Klingel, Foudy and Ketcham were part of the 2025 Carmel team that went 17-4 overall and 11-1 in the Gabilan Division.

The CCS team tournament will be played Nov. 10-14, with the singles championships Nov. 16-17.

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

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OPINIONS

From page 29A

based on a property's assessed value for property-tax purposes — not its current market value. For example:

■ A $500,000 assessed value would mean approximately $180 per year.

■ A $1 million assessed value would mean approximately $360 per year.

■ A $3 million assessed value would mean approximately $1,080 per year.

That may sound relatively modest when viewed as a yearly expense. But property owners should also consider that this is a long-term obligation. The proposed $250 million in bonds would be repaid over many years, with the tax expected to continue while the bonds remain outstanding. For homeowners whose properties have high assessed values, the additional tax can therefore become a significant long-term expense.

By now, The Pine Cone has published several items regarding Measure I on the Nov. 3 ballot, including my July 10 letter to the editor requesting that CUSD examine other viable revenue sources before taxing homeowners in the district; a July 17 article stating that CUSD's cost per student in 2026 reaches approximately $43,000, compared with the national average of $17,000, and a Sept. 18 article reporting that CUSD salaries and benefits comprise about 83% of its $86.2 million budget.

Before voting, I encourage every Carmel Unified property owner to examine their property-tax bill, find the assessed value and calculate what approximately $36 per $100,000 would mean for them.

This is not an argument for or against improving our schools. It is simply a request that voters understand the actual financial commitment they are being asked to approve. Every property owner subject to this tax deserves to know the cost before casting a ballot. Please do the math for your own property before you vote.

Victoria Torcolini,
Carmel

Support for Hans Buder

Dear Editor,

I strongly support Hans Buder to be Carmel's next mayor. Here's a quick story that illustrates his commitment, responsiveness and wisdom.

PG&E contacted the city about a grant available for the installation of additional electric vehicle charging infrastructure. City staff responded quickly, and together they developed a plan to place a large transformer in the forested area adjacent to the Vista Lobos public parking lot. The project would include substantial tree removal and additional EV chargers, including chargers for city vehicles.

Unfortunately, they did not notify neighbors, including us. When we learned about the project from PG&E, we requested a meeting with city staff and copied Hans, who joined our meeting with them in the parking lot.

It quickly became clear that the project had been rushed and was ill-conceived for several reasons. Hans supported us in contacting the acting city manager to share our concerns and ideas. We all support expanded EV infrastructure — just infrastructure that is carefully planned. City staff is now revisiting the plan, and the acting city manager has promised public hearings.

This is just one example of why we need Hans as our mayor.

David Payne *Carmel*

Dramov for Council

Dear Editor,

I am writing in support of Alissandra Dramov's candidacy for a second term on the Carmel City Council. Alissandra

See **LTEs** *page 38A*



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Gentrain Society Lecture
at Monterey Peninsula College

Old Age is Not for Sissies



This is a staged reading about old age. It features poetry, elegies and short monologues of famous and not so famous people telling just what it is like to be old. Selections are from Lewis Carroll, William Shakespeare, Dorothy Parker, Robinson Jeffers and even Bette Davis. Sometimes old age is happy and lyrical, sometimes not. But this show, read by three versatile actors and narrated by playwright **Carol Marquart**, will seem like fun! Carol Marquart, playwright, has written and produced staged readings of famous and infamous persons of the twentieth century. These readings have taken place all over the Monterey Peninsula. The subject of her plays have included Carol Steinbeck, Mark Twain, Frank Lloyd Wright, Julia Child, Bette Davis, William Randolph Hearst and even Rasputin!

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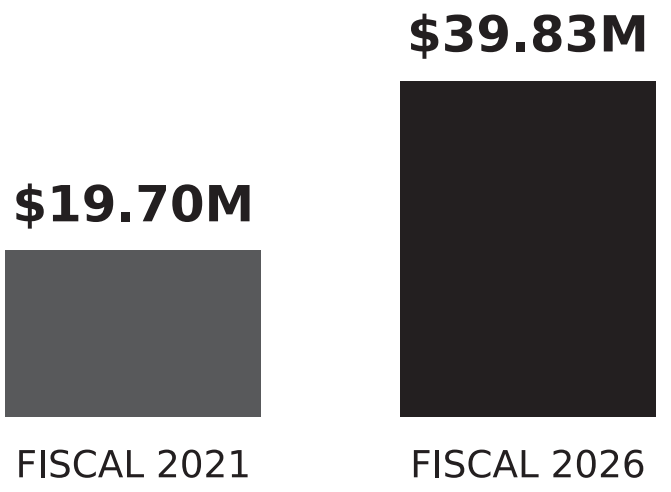
Protecting the interests of taxpayers on the Monterey Peninsula.

Carmel has a spending problem, not a revenue problem.

Before raising taxes the City needs to get spending under control.

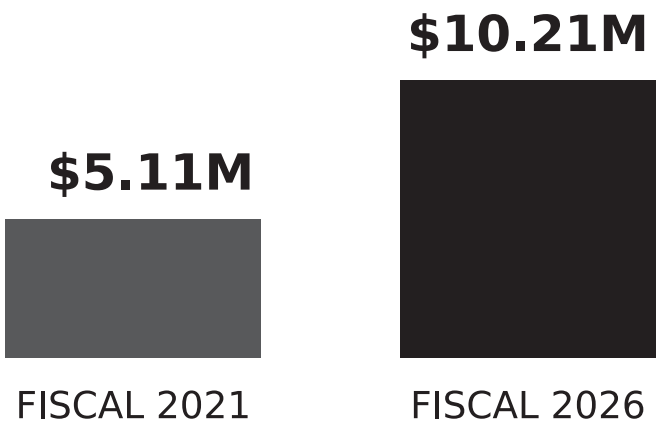
City spending budget increase over past 5 years:

102%

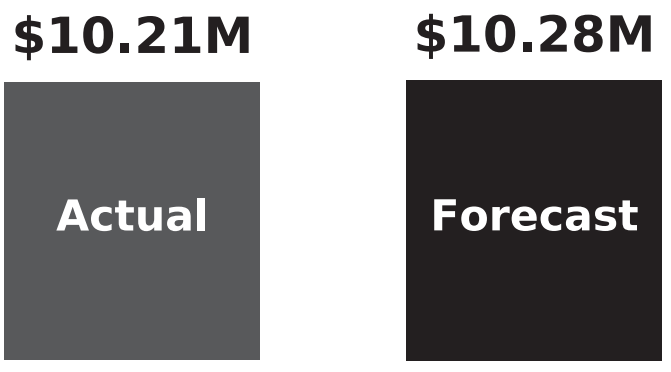


Hotel tax growth over past 5 years:

100%



Hotel tax payments are already 5 years ahead of City's Fiscal 2031 forecast.



Sources: City FY 2020/21 Adopted Budget, p. 23; FY 2025/26 budget adoption, Resolution 2025-052; City FY 2025/26 year-end TOT report; June 2, 2026 budget presentation, p. 22.
FY 2020/21 to FY 2025/26: budget $19,695,977 to $39,829,800 (+102.2%); TOT $5,106,437 to $10,208,153 (+99.9%; 14.9% annual compound growth). Forecast: $10.21M / $10.28M = 99.3%.

THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR A TAX INCREASE

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LTEs

From page 36A

emerged as a leader during the local fight against Verizon's plan to place a cell tower next to the La Playa Hotel four years ago, and her involvement in that issue led to her decision to run for city council.

Over the past four years, I've watched her grow into an important part of one of the hardest-working and most effective councils I've seen in more than four decades in Carmel. She is intelligent, thoughtful and always prepared. Her deep understanding of Carmel's history and character is a tremendous advantage as she addresses the complex issues we now face. She has demonstrated that she can work collaboratively with her colleagues to resolve differences and move forward in the best interests of this remarkable village.

I urge you to join me in voting for Alissandra Dramov for city council in the coming election.

Chris Campbell, *Carmel*

Maintaining Carmel

Dear Editor,

Carmel's infrastructure is visibly deteriorating — our roads, sidewalks, lighting and public spaces show years of deferred maintenance that the city can no longer ignore. At the same time, hotel rates in Carmel have risen about 74% over the past decade, with the average daily rate increasing from $230 in 2016 to $400 in 2026. Peak-season prices now often exceed $600-$900 per night.

This sustained growth in demand and pricing clearly contradicts the claim that a modest 2% TOT adjustment, capped at $18, would discourage investment or reduce overnight visitation. Visitors have already absorbed far larger price increases without a corresponding decline in tourism, and regional trends in Monterey and Big Sur suggest that the market is not sensitive to small tax changes.

The argument that hotels have "already contributed more" simply because their total tax payments increased alongside rising room rates overlooks a key point: Those higher payments reflect the hotels' own pricing decisions, not a greater share of responsibility for maintaining the city that supports their businesses.

A strong hospitality sector depends on a well-maintained Carmel. This TOT adjustment is a practical reinvestment that would fund overdue repairs, address COVID-19-era budget gaps and strengthen the infrastructure that protects the community's quality of life and the long-term property values of hotels and homes.

Thomas Brezoczky, *Carmel*

Highway 68 apartment proposal

Dear Editor:

The rendering of the proposed apartment complex for Highway 68 looks like a stack of old newspapers or a minimum-security prison for the criminally insane. It's sad that the environment can be destroyed and a developer can get wealthier in the name of housing and social justice.

How about turning that acreage into a protected park? Let Monterey County buy the land for a park. Where is the Sierra Club to protest the destruction of 455 trees?

You can forget about getting to Laguna Seca or the Monterey Jazz Festival during those events, let alone reaching the airport on time. It's another poorly thought-out idea from a developer trying to take advantage of a poorly conceived law, with the same provenance as the bullet train to nowhere, a project on which California has spent billions to no avail except to fill the graft-lined pockets of some bureaucrats and their cronies.

The infrastructure is not there to support this massive housing project. It needs to be in an urban area near transportation, shopping and roads capable of accommodating it, not in an area already subject to traffic jams. Build the roads, then perhaps locate it in the former Fort Ord area or Marina, which is ripe for a project like that — not on Laureles Grade, right in the middle of Highway 68, where it would damage a pristine rural area.

It's reminiscent of the institutional architecture the Soviet Union under Lenin and Stalin might have built to house the workers of the dictatorship of the proletariat. That developer wants to pollute Los Gatos and Woodside with the same style of monstrosity. I imagine the Joan Baezes of Woodside will blanch, and rightly so, at the prospect of having their walled, cloistered estates overlooked by members of the hoi polloi gawking from the 17th floor of subsidized housing.

Jack Knutson, *Pebble Beach*

Good Job, Marina

Dear Editor,

Recent Pine Cone Police Log entries from the Marina Police Department have been carefully written. They have been informative, recounting how criminal suspects were pursued and captured and what charges they faced.

This is a refreshing and reasonably detailed reporting style that I encourage other local police and sheriff's departments to follow.

Such detail does not detract from our reputation for public safety. Rather, it informs and reassures us.

Well done, Marina.

Gerald Brown, *Pebble Beach*



Photographers explore webs, painter finds inspiration in night sky

LOOKING AT life through the shared motifs of spiders and spiderwebs, photographers Lucien Liu and Rachel Phillips present an exhibit, "Natural Order," which opens Saturday at 4 p.m. with a free public reception at the Center for Photographic Art.

According to Phillips, the display takes a close look at "the cycles of natural growth pushing through the cracks of so-called civilized life."

"Webs offer up complex metaphors," Phillips explained. "While arrestingly beautiful, their evolutionary purpose is nevertheless entrapment. The show maps this tension through our natural and unnatural Northern California coastal environs."

The exhibit continues through Nov. 29. The gallery is in Sunset Center at 908 San Carlos St.

■ Creativity and the cosmos

Painter William Eatmon casts an eye toward the cosmos in his new show, "Space Exploration," which is on display at Venture Gallery in Monterey through the end of the month. The show is inspired by the mysteries of space.

"Somewhere beyond what we can see lies an infinite landscape of possibility," said Eatmon, who lives in Pebble Beach. "Moving between abstraction and photorealism, the paintings explore different ways of imagining what may lie beyond the familiar. Some reveal themselves through recognizable forms, while others emerge through color, movement, and intuition. Together, they invite us to pause at the edge of the known and wonder what other worlds, dimensions and possibilities might exist just beyond our perception."

The gallery is located at 260 Alvarado St.

■ Finding their voices

A pop-up show that opens Saturday at Carmel Modern showcases the work of Hijos del Sol Arts Productions, a group that mentors young artists in East Salinas. The exhibit runs through Oct. 31.

"Hijos del Sol provides young people with a place to explore their creativity, develop their artistic and life skills, and find their own voices through the arts," said the gallery, which is on Sixth Avenue between Dolores and Lincoln streets. "Under the guidance of José Ortiz and other mentors, young artists are given an opportunity to learn, create and grow in an environment that values their cultural identities and experiences."

■ Remembering the departed

The fine art of funeral keepsakes is the subject of an unusual exhibit on display at the Casa Gutierrez Community Art Gallery in Monterey.

The show features "posthumous portraits, hair wreaths and hair jewelry that all tell the unique story of the people they belonged to."

"Many of these objects have never been exhibited and have come out of storage for this new exhibit," according to the gallery. "Exhibited together, they weave a tale of family, love, loss and societal views on death from the late colonial period through the Victorian era."

The gallery, which is open Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., is located at 590 Calle Principal.

■ Painting a new park

Members of the Monterey Bay Plein Air Painters Association present a display of art that celebrates the natural wonders of Fort Ord Dunes State Park at Seaside City Hall's Walter Avery Gallery. The show continues through Nov. 5.

The paintings were created during outings conducted by the group over a two-year span. "We can't wait to share this collection of artwork that tells the story of dune restoration and volunteer events," the group said.

City Hall is located at 440 Harcourt Ave.

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS



Carmel Modern Gallery hosts a pop-up show highlighting the work of Hijos del Sol, a group that mentors young artists.

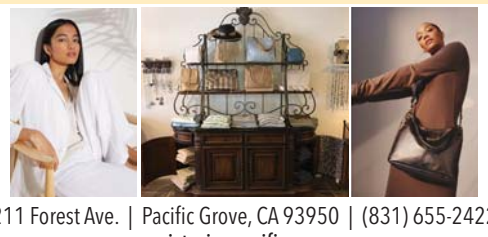


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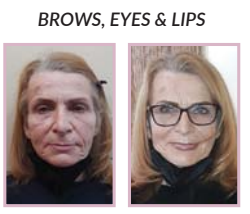
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Symphony starts season at Sunset, bluegrass superstar plays Golden State

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

KICKING OFF its 2026-27 season alongside violinist **Alexi Kenney**, the Monterey Symphony performs Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. at Sunset Center. Kenney will join the symphony for Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto No. 1*.

"We begin our subscription season by featuring one of the most exciting young soloists I've encountered in my career," symphony music director **Jayce Ogren** said. "His virtuosity and soulfulness are sure to shine."

The program also includes Franz Berwald's overture to *Estrella de Soria*, Aaron Copland's Pulitzer Prize-winning "Appalachian Spring" suite and Samuel Barber's "Second Essay for Orchestra." "It will be an evening of wonderful tunes, wide-ranging colors and all the delights everyone has come to expect from the symphony," Ogren added.

Ogren and Kenney will present a post-concert talk Saturday in the lobby, while the symphony's principal pianist, **Oliver Moore**, will play in the lobby before Sunday's concert. There will also be free pre-concert talks before each performance.

Tickets start at $50 for general admission and are $12 for students, teachers, first responders, and retired and active-duty military personnel.

Sunset Center is located at 908 San Carlos St. Call (831) 646-8511 or visit montereysymphony.org.



Featuring violinist Alexi Kenney as a soloist, the Monterey Symphony kicks off its 2026-27 season with concerts Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon at Sunset Center.



A new duo, Deep Cuts, takes the stage Saturday, 5 p.m., at Folktale Winery in Carmel Valley.

■ Going solo

Six-time Grammy Award-winning singer and multi-instrumentalist **Sarah Jarosz** takes the stage Thursday at 7 p.m. at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

Widely regarded as one of bluegrass music's leading talents, Jarosz is also a member of the supergroup I'm With Her, which took home two Grammys this year — one for Best Contemporary Folk Album for "Wild and Clear and Blue" and the other for Best American Roots Song for "Ancient Light."

Jarosz visited Sunset Center in June when I'm With Her performed there. The trio also features Aoife O'Donovan and Sara Watkins.

Tickets start at $42. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

Also at Golden State this week are singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist **Ingrid Michaelson**, who performs Saturday at 7 p.m. (tickets start at $49), and singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist **Steven Curtis Chapman**, who performs Tuesday at 6 p.m. (tickets start at $30).

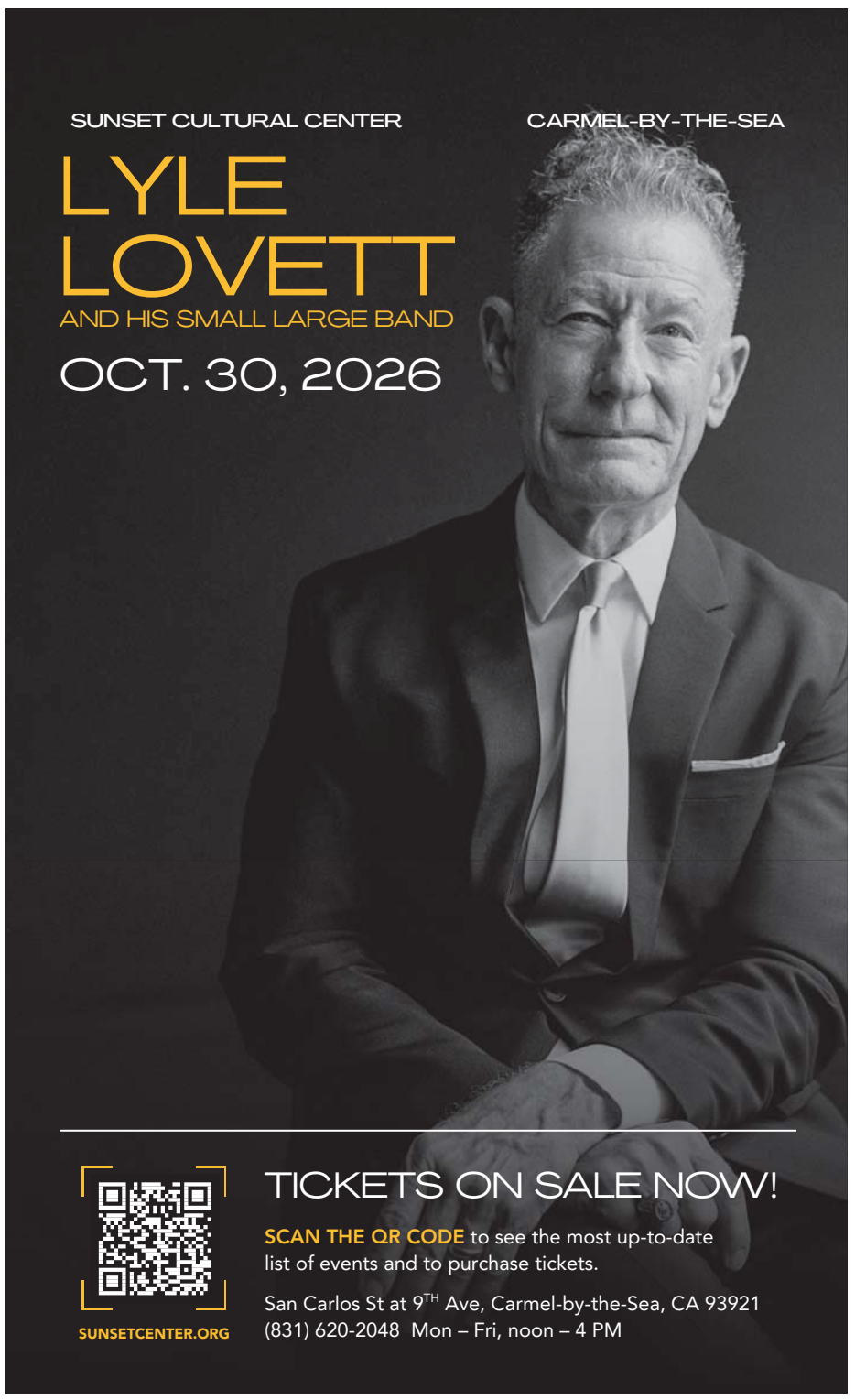
■ Music by heart

Calling itself "the region's largest community choir," **Wholehearted Chorus** presents three concerts this week — Saturday at 3 p.m. at Hidden Valley Music Seminars in Carmel Valley (104 W. Carmel Valley Road), Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Pacific Grove Performing Arts Center (835 Forest Ave.) and Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Sunset Center (908 San Carlos St.).

The choir got its start in Big Sur 12 years ago and now has two chapters and more than 200 singers. All the music is memorized.

"We learn the old way, by heart," said **Lisa Littlebird**, who founded the group. "Together we do what none of us could

See **MUSIC** *page 44A*





A birthday bash, a French culinary lesson, and spirited fun

OCTOBER IS the unofficial beginning of the "Diet? Who are you trying to kid?" season. In this week's column, there are serious wines to contemplate, French crepes to sample, Halloween cocktails to investigate and enough pumpkin-flavored treats to stretch clear to Thanksgiving.

Fortunately, autumn's usual sunny weather seems to be holding, so you can walk off any minor indulgences. The warm weather also opens a window of opportunity for trick-or-treating the easy way down on Fisherman's Wharf, where grownups can reward themselves with a cocktail while the kids sort their loot. And no, the sea lions don't want candy corn, either.





All the ghosties and witches spread around Fisherman's Wharf don't seem to intimidate visitors a bit — they're awfully friendly, after all. For Halloween, you can bring the kids for a bit of trick-or-treating and a costume contest with prizes. There will be plenty of spots for good photos, too.

■ Ten years of Cultura

A decade after turning their soft opening into a fundraiser for victims of the Soberanes Fire, Sarah Kabat-Marcy, Michael Marcy, executive chef Michelle Estigoy and the other moving forces behind Cultura Comida & Bebida in downtown Carmel are celebrating their milestone anniversary with a big bash Oct. 30.

"What began as an idea — a little wild, deeply personal, and rooted in our love for Oaxaca, its food, mezcal, people, traditions and extraordinary sense of place — became something far bigger than we could have imagined," Marcy said recently on social media. "For 10 years, Cultura has lived down this little passageway in Carmel. We've cooked thousands of meals, opened countless bottles, poured an immeasurable amount of mezcal, thrown parties, weathered storms, survived a pandemic, celebrated milestones, made mistakes, grown up, changed and kept going."

The party honoring that journey gives 50 guests the opportunity to enjoy a special tasting menu and will begin with a welcome cocktail at 5:30 p.m., followed by seating at 6:15.

Starters of chips, guacamole, salsas, toasted peanuts and chapulines — a traditional Mexican snack of grasshoppers — will be followed by courses of melty queso fundido with chorizo and flaming mezcal, oysters with a tangy hibiscus sauce, halibut ceviche, charred calabacitas (literally, "little squash") with cauliflower purée, cured and smoked salmon, Cultura's famous mole with pork belly, and Japanese wagyu filet mignon.

The evening will be accented with Día de los Muertos decor and other special surprises, and "a uniquely curated beverage menu" will include "library mezcals and clever new cocktails never offered on our beverage menu prior."

Tickets are $155 plus tax and 20% service charge. For questions, call (831) 250-7005 or email mmarcy33@gmail.com. To reserve a spot, go to culturacarmel.com, select reservations, and choose Oct. 30 at 5:30 p.m. The restaurant is located in Su Vecino Court at 575 Dolores St.

Soup to Nuts

■ Eight wines, one winemaker

Mark your calendars now — Kirk Venge will visit Vin By the Sea in Carmel Thursday, Oct. 22.

A third-generation winemaker who grew up in Rutherford, Venge will personally pour eight selections from Venge Vineyards and Croix Estate, including Napa Valley cabernet sauvignon, Sonoma pinot noir, old-vine zinfandel and Ritchie Vineyard chardonnay. A surprise library wine will round out the lineup.

Venge Vineyards, based in Calistoga, carries on a Napa family winemaking tradition dating to the 1970s, with an emphasis on cabernet sauvignon and other feisty reds. Venge's second venture, Croix Estate in Sonoma County's Russian River Valley, specializes in small-production, single-vineyard pinot noir and chardonnay.

The UC Davis grad who earned his degree in viticulture and enology didn't have to look far for role models. Venge's father, Nils, made history when he became the first American winemaker to receive a perfect 100-point score from influential critic Robert Parker.

His son will share stories from the vineyards and discuss the people, places and vintages behind the wines, which will be accompanied by savory canapés prepared by chef Paul Corsentino.

The tasting runs from 5 to 7 p.m. at Vin By the Sea in Su Vecino Court at 575 Dolores St., and there will be special pricing on all wines the night of the event. Tickets are $125 per person and are available on Tock at tinyurl.com/48bhsvmx.

■ Wicked good baking

At Café Carmel near Devendorf Park, the bakery case is decorated for Halloween

See **WICKED** *next page*

Autumn BBQ & Football

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THANKSGIVING

GRAND BUFFET

Nov 26 | 11:00am – 7:00pm

A grand Thanksgiving Buffet at Bernardus Lodge & Spa, composed by ***Executive Chef Gus Trejo***. Artisanal cheeses and hand crafted cured meats, autumn harvest salads and Mariquita Farms squash bisque, oysters, sushi, poke, ceviche, and prawns, Brandt family fillet of beef, estate honey brined turkey, lobster thermidor, brioche stuffing and the season's sides, with pies, gelato, and harvest fruits to finish. Seatings from 11 AM to 7 PM.

$165 per guest, $75 for guests 12 and under, children 4 and under join with our compliments.

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FOOD & WINE

WICKED

From previous page

with ghost, jack-o'-lantern, and eyeball cookies as well as those perennial favorites, Cake Rats and Witches' Fingers. Folks looking for something a little less alarming can opt for pumpkin cheesecake, pumpkin bread or a pumpkin spice latte.

The treats are available throughout October, and the bakery recommends ordering ahead for parties and other gatherings.

Through Nov. 3, Café Carmel will donate 10% of sales of its Halloween and Día de los Muertos cookies, up to $500, to the nonprofit Youth Art Collective.

Café Carmel is at 465 Ocean Ave. Call (831) 624-3870, or visit cafecarmel.com.

■ Pinky promise of help

The Fish Hopper on Cannery Row is thinking pink for breast cancer awareness this month, donating half the proceeds from sales of special menu items to the Breast Cancer Assistance Group of Monterey County, which helps local patients with everyday expenses during treatment.

The fundraiser began three years ago when Nicholas "Tank" Shake, suggested to his father, Sabu J.R. Shake, that the restaurant could help people like Amelia, Nicholas' sister who had faced breast cancer.

This year's expanded menu opens with appetizers like a grilled salmon salad and a pink shrimp cocktail with lemon aioli. If you're coming for lunch, there's crab-crusted salmon with angel hair pasta, and sesame-crusted salmon with crispy coconut prawns is available for dinner.

Those who want to drink pink can choose from a watermelon refresher, blood orange margarita, raspberry lemon drop and other specialty beverages, available in boozy and nonalcoholic versions.

If you'd rather have your favorite regular menu items, you can still trigger a $1 donation by wearing pink to the restaurant and posting a photo with #FishHopperTurnsPink.

The Fish Hopper is at 700 Cannery Row in Monterey. Visit fishhopper.com.



Jack-o'-lanterns, ghosts and the ever-popular cake rats are all on offer at Café Carmel, along with an assortment of other autumnal treats and desserts — and pumpkin spice lattes.

■ A taste of Brittany

Whether your French culinary vocabulary includes whipping up boeuf bourguignon from scratch, or starts and ends with tossing off a Julia Child-style "bon appétit," Crepes of Brittany is offering a free lesson — with samples.

Owners Daniel Peron and Thierry Crocquet will host "A Culinary Evening in Brittany" Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the restaurant at 211 Alvarado St. in Monterey, near the Custom House Plaza.

The pair will discuss the history of crepe-making and the culinary traditions of Brittany, the coastal region of northwestern France where crepes have been enjoyed for centuries. A live demonstration will be followed by a complimentary tasting flight of sweet and savory crepes, and guests will have a chance to ask questions.

Peron, a native of Brittany, and Crocquet, from neighboring Normandy, opened their first Monterey creperie in 2010. The restaurant has since grown considerably, but their commitment to traditional French cooking remains strong.

Reserve a spot by contacting crepesofbrittany@gmail.com. For more information, call (831) 649-1930 or visit crepesofbrittany.com.

■ Holy bubbling Alka-Seltzer!

Peter B's Brewpub at the Portola Hotel in Monterey is planning a Halloween weekend with a menu that sounds as though it was assembled in a mad scientist's kitchen.

See **BUBBLING** *next page*



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BUBBLING

From previous page

The annual Franks n Steins celebration Oct. 30 and 31 starts at 4 p.m. and includes live music by Ryan Sesma both evenings from 7 to 10 p.m., not to mention over-the-top food and drink specials.

The $14 Midnight Blood Moon Hot Dog comes wrapped in bacon and tucked into a toasted bun with roasted poblano peppers, pinto beans, tomatoes, onions, habanero ketchup and chipotle cream. Also priced at $14, the Monster Mash Chili Burger piles house-made chili, pepper jack cheese, bacon, jalapeños and crispy onions onto a beef patty. (That one might also need an Altoids chaser.)

Specialty drinks include $8 pints of Spooky Brew and $10 cocktails with names like Mar-Ghoul-Rita, Black Widow and Monster Mash.

Happy hour specials will be offered from 4 to 6 p.m. and again from 9 to 10 p.m. both evenings. Portola Hotel is at the foot of Alvarado Street.

■ Try the crabby neighbor's place

Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf is offering a family-friendly alternative to knocking on strangers' doors in search of free candy.

The eighth annual Halloween on the Wharf celebration runs 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, with trick-or-treating at participating businesses, costumed characters, photo opportunities and spooky music.

A costume contest begins at 5 p.m. at the far end of the wharf near Rockfish Harbor Grill, with radio personality David Marzetti serving as master of ceremonies. Categories include children, teens and young adults, adults, and groups, with cash prizes ranging from $25 to $150.

Admission is free, but contestants must be present to collect their prizes. Visit montereywharf.com for details.

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



From left: Sarah Kabat-Marcy, executive chef Michelle Estigoy and Michael Marcy of Cultura Comida & Bebida in Carmel are celebrating the restaurant's 10th anniversary with a special party Oct. 30.

PHOTO/CARLOS RENE CASTRO FOR CALMATTERS

For the love of versatile lavender

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE CO-FOUNDER of Lavender Creek Company, Ryan Hopkins, will discuss how lavender is grown, harvested, distilled and enjoyed Oct. 14, at 2:30 p.m., when he presents "A Local Lavender Experience" in Diment Hall at The Carmel Foundation.

Hopkins "will take guests on a sensory journey into the world of local lavender" as he talks about the versatile plant's varieties and the use of Lavender Creek products in homes, hospitals, schools and other settings.

"Through stories, demonstrations and conversation, attendees will discover practical ways to use lavender in cooking, relaxation, gardening and around the home, while gaining a new appreciation for this locally grown plant," organizers say.

The event is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served. The foundation is located at 824 Lincoln St. For more information, and to learn about the foundation's services and offerings to members age 55 and older, visit carmelfoundation.org or call (831) 624-1588.

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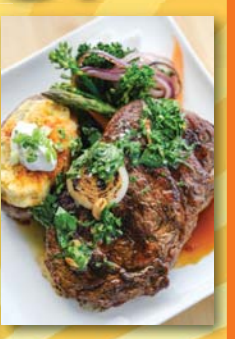
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MUSIC

From page 40A

do alone, and we consistently surprise and delight ourselves with how great we sound."

For tickets, visit wholeheartedchorus.org/tickets.

■ Season launch party

To mark the start of its 60th season — which is set to begin Nov. 7 — **Chamber Music Monterey Bay** presents a Season Launch Party Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Carmel Woman's Club.

The festivities include a wine reception at 5 p.m., a talk by astrophysicist Gary Lopez at 5:30 p.m. (Lopez is the season's featured artist), and hors d'oeuvres and live guitar music at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are $60. The club is located at 907 San Carlos St. For more details, visit chambermusicmontereybay.org.

Live music, Oct. 16-22

■ Big Sur

Big Sur River Inn — Andrea's Fault (jazz and pop, Sunday at noon). 46800 Highway 1.

Fernwood Resort — Bar Fight ("cosmic country," Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

■ 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.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m.), singer **Dino Vera** (jazz, R&B and dance, Saturday and Thursday at 6 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.

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 a.m.), **The David Morwood Trio** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 684 Lincoln St.

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.

Links Club — Slim Checkers (rock, Saturday at 7:30 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, 526 Ocean Avenue.

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

■ Carmel Valley

Baja Cantina — The Joint Chiefs (funk, R&B and acid jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 7166 Carmel Valley Road.

Bernardus Lodge — Andrea's Fault (jazz and pop, Saturday at noon), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at noon). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

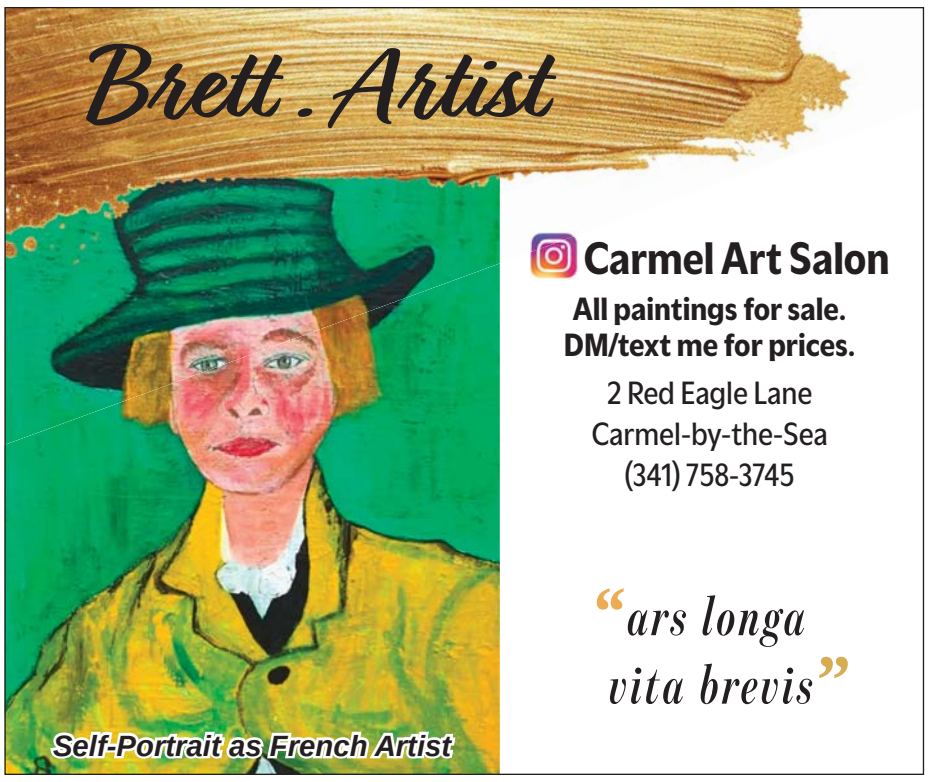
Folktale Winery — Singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Friday at 5 p.m.), **Deep Cuts** (folk and rock, Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer **Janice Perl** (jazz, Sunday at 4 p.m.), **The Landing Trio** (Americana, Monday

Continues next page



Singer and multi-instrumentalist Steven Curtis Chapman plays Tuesday, 6 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.









From previous page

at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Trianna Feruza** (Tuesday at 4 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Wednesday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **RJ DeMarco** (Thursday at 4 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

Trailside Cafe — Singer and guitarist **Steve Moseley** and friends celebrate Libra birthdays (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

■ Monterey

Albatross Ridge — Singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Friday at 6 p.m.), **The Landing Trio** (Americana, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

Hyatt Regency Monterey — Singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (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.

Midici The Neapolitan Pizza Company — Guitarist **Bob Basa** and multi-instrumentalist **Paul Contos** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), saxophonist **Ben Herod** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa — Pianist **Michael Culver** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Martan Mann** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Daniel Cortes** (Monday at 6 p.m.), multi-instrumentalist **Gary Regina** (jazz, Tuesday at 6 p.m.), mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Wednesday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Sabelle** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

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

Puma Road Winery — Singer and guitarist **Sylvain Poirier** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Nick DiSalvo** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

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 New Wave Band (rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **Late at Last** (rock from the 1990s and 2000s, 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 — The Heartquakers (rock and Americana, Saturday at 2 p.m.), **The Carey On Band** (rock, Sunday at 2 p.m.). 1120 Lighthouse Ave.

PG's Meetinghouse — Safina & DeCarlo (rock, Friday at 7 p.m.), bassist **Dennis Murphy** and guitarist **Paul Magpusao** (jazz, Saturday at 11 a.m.), **Sean & the Skinwalkers** (Saturday at 7 p.m.), singer and pianist **Kevin McCullough** (Sunday at 11 a.m.), **Open Mic** (Monday at 6 p.m., with sign-ups starting 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.), **Scola** (pop, Sunday at 6 p.m.), **The Janglers** (Americana, 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.), **The Al James Duo** (R&B and rock, Saturday at 2 p.m.). 2700 17 Mile Drive.

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — Singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Sabelle** (Saturday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (Thursday at 5 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge, 1700 17 Mile Drive.



Singer and guitarist Ingrid Michaelson performs Saturday, 7 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

■ 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**.

FALL FEST

Wednesday, October 21 from 5:30-7PM
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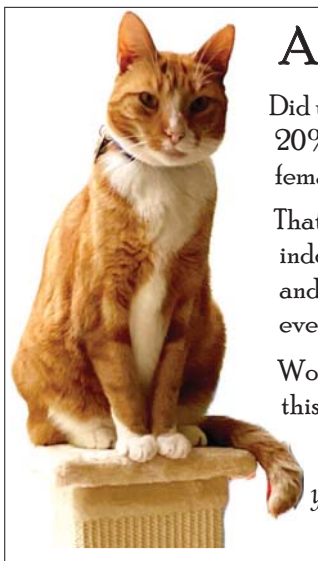
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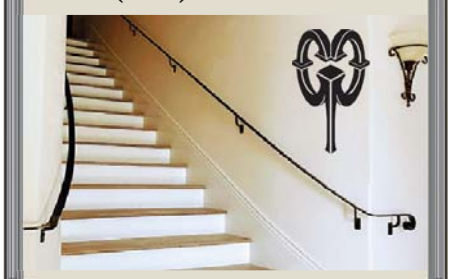
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Continues on next page



Tor House Fall Festival returns

By CHRIS COUNTS

CELEBRATING ONE of America's great poets and one of the Monterey Peninsula's most distinctive homes, the Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation presents its annual Fall Festival Friday through Sunday. Tor House is located at 26304 Ocean View Ave.



PHOTO/ROBINSON JEFFERS TOR HOUSE FOUNDATION

Built by poet Robinson Jeffers, Tor House presents its annual Fall Festival this weekend.

The theme of this year's gathering is "Shine, Perishing Republic" — the title of a 1925 poem by Jeffers that suggests the decline of America's power and prosperity is inevitable.

The festival kicks off Friday at 5 p.m. when Tor House hosts a Sunset Celebration. The event features piano and Irish harp music performed by Melinda Coffey Armstead and Pauline Troia, poetry readings by Taelen Thomas and Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts, and wine and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are $35.

A busy slate of speakers is featured Saturday at Tor House, including UC Berkeley literature professor Jesse Nathan ("Poetry in Difficult Times," 9:25 a.m.), retired Monterey Peninsula College instructor Richard Kezirian ("The 'We' in Weimar," 10 a.m.), author André Naffis-Sahely ("'All the Blood Lakes': The Anti-Imperialist We Forgot," 10:45 a.m.), UC Davis English professor Katie Peterson ("Timemaxxing Robinson Jeffers," 11:20 a.m.), Tor House trustee Aaron Yoshinobu ("Sunday's Poetry Walk at Point Lobos: What You Need to Know," 1 p.m.), Cal State Fullerton philosophy professor Matthew Calarco ("Inhumanism as a Way of Life," 1:15 p.m.), historian Laura diZerega ("The Reluctant Modernist," 1:50 p.m.) and Tor House Foundation trustee Susan Shillinglaw ("Turbulent Carmel, 1920s and 1930s," 2:40 p.m.).

New choral work

On Saturday evening, the festival moves to the Monterey Conference Center (1 Portola Plaza), which will host a reception and banquet at 5 p.m. The festivities include the performance of a new choral work by composer Christopher Anderson-Bazzoli inspired by Jeffers' "Carmel Point." Tickets are $95.

On Sunday morning, the festival offers a Poetry Walk at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve (62 Highway 1). Participants will meet at the Whalers Cabin Museum. The hike "will explore coastal geology, ecology and history as interwoven in Jeffers' writing" and give everyone a chance to read verses by Jeffers. Tickets are $50.

Considered one of the most important voices in early 20th-century poetry, Jeffers built his landmark home near Carmel Point. One hundred years after the poet completed it in 1924, it was designated a National Historic Landmark.

For more details about the festival, visit torhouse.org.

Sunset talk on Peninsula's immigrants

THE CARMEL Public Library Foundation will host author and Stanford professor emeritus Carol Lynn McKibben presenting, "How Immigrants Made the Monterey Peninsula," Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. in Carpenter Hall at Sunset Center. The program is part of a local history series called "What Moves Us: Elements That Shape Human Experience."

"The Monterey Peninsula is the product of generations of newcomers who brought their labor, traditions, ideas and aspirations to this remarkable place," the library foundation said. "This engaging program explores how successive waves of immigrants shaped the Peninsula's economy, neighborhoods, culture and identity."

The event is free, with a suggested $10 donation. To register, visit carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org.

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate

Open Houses on page 10RE







■ This week's cover, located in Pebble Beach, is presented by Canning Properties Group of Sotheby's International Realty. (See Page 2 RE)

Canning Properties Group

Sotheby's International Realty

About the Cover

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate

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Real Estate Sales Oct. 11 - 17

Escrows closed: 32
Total value: $84,153,500

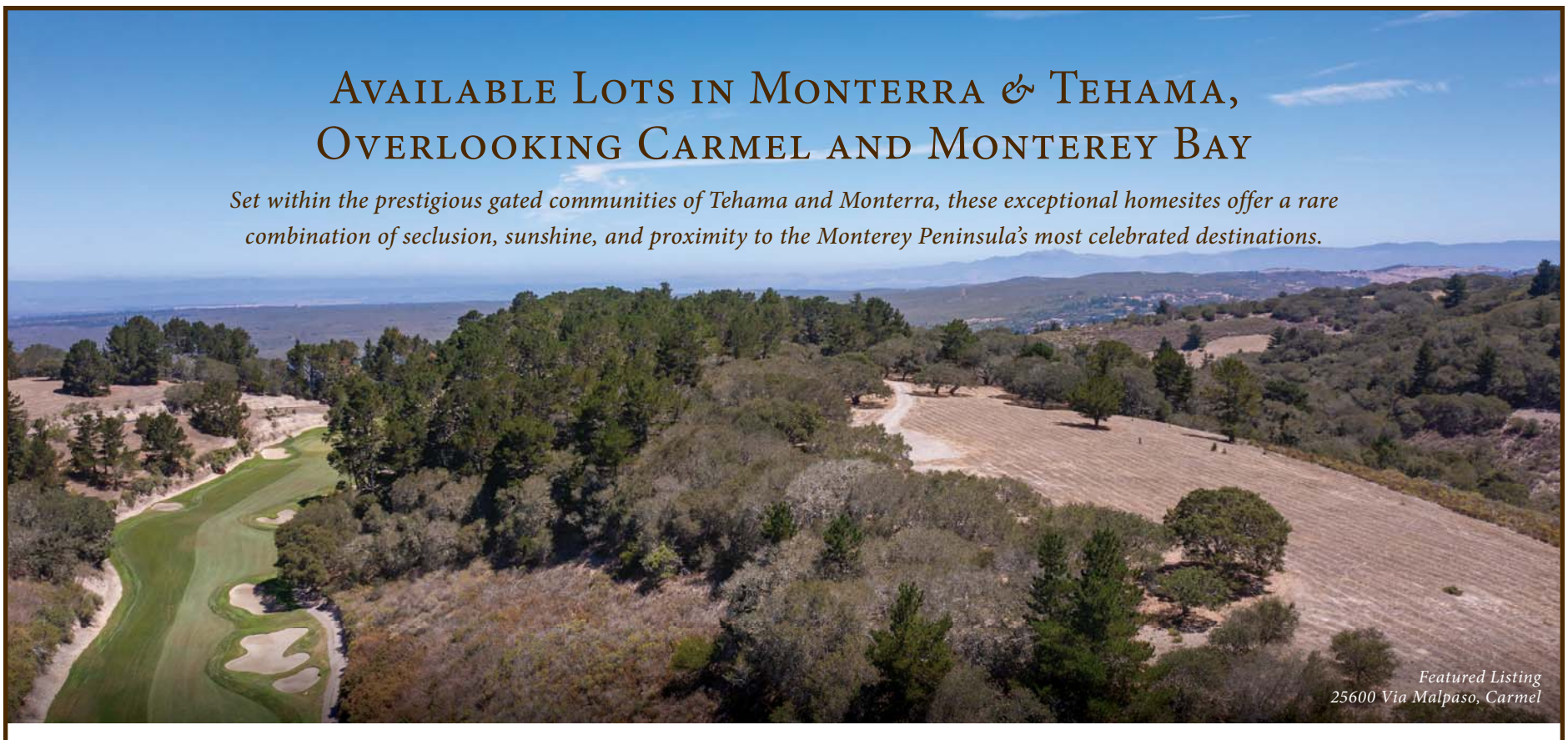
Carmel

87 Santa Rita Street — $1,025,000
Henry Van Brocklin and Diane Olson to Carmel Cottages LLC
APN: 009-147-012

26140 Mesa Drive — $3,200,000
Courtney and Grant Nixon to Julie Moore
APN: 009-292-017

See **HOME SALES** *page 4RE*





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Board of Regents — Who's Who in Luxury Real Estate

HOME SALES

From page 2RE

Carmel (cont'd)

442 Fifth Avenue — $3,500,000
New Summit Corporation to Sancarlos LLC
APN: 010-135-001

992 Monte Verde Street — $5,300,000
Matthew Crugnale and Elisabeth Blaettermann to KMF Family Investments LP
APN: 010-181-011

676 Carmelo Street — $10,995,000
James and Amy Steele to Stephen and Ann Cortese
APN: 010-266-010

Carmel Valley

11565 McCarthy Road — $944,000



1158 Chaparral Road, Pebble Beach — $5,300,000

Richard Heimann to David Reynolds
APN: 416-092-016

201 Hacienda Carmel — $975,000
Michael Lee to Forest Miller and Robin Ferguson
APN: 015-346-008

8375 Monterra Views — $1,000,000
City of Salinas Deferred Compensation Plan to Honbo and Yizheng Zhou
APN: 259-211-012

17 Aliso Road — $1,100,000
Barbara Cady to Peter Dew
APN: 189-071-007

37 Poppy Road — $1,550,000
Erica Henson and Estate of Alexander Henson to Christopher and Ashlee Locke
APN: 187-503-014

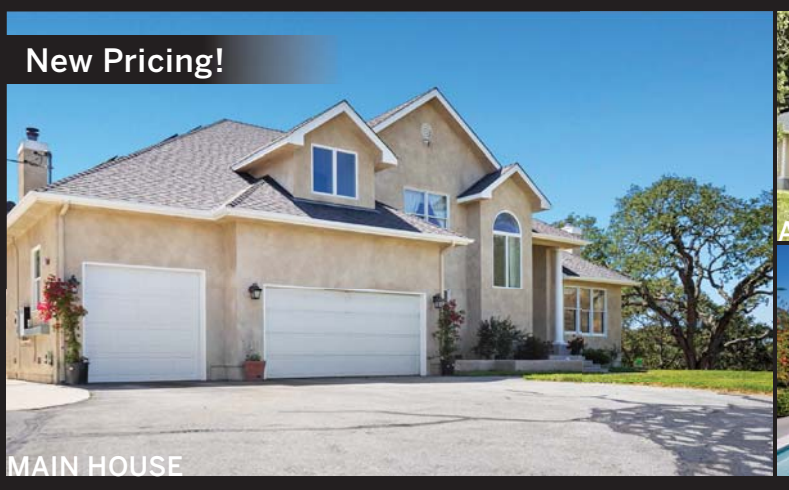
36 Miramonte Road — $2,450,000
Mark and Sherry Deffley and Kara Foster to Grace Griffin
APN: 187-041-036

See **ESCROWS** *page 14RE*

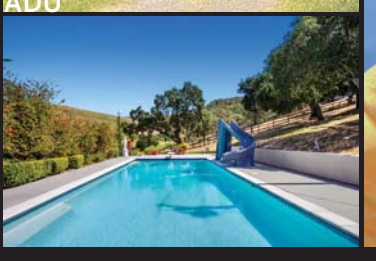
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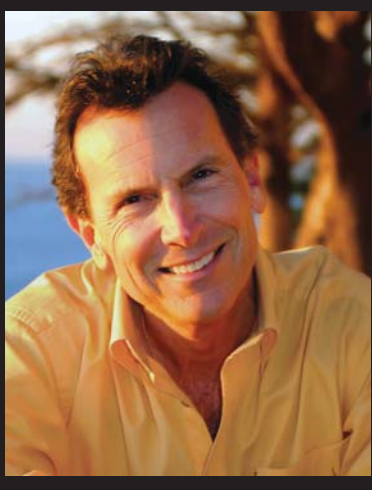
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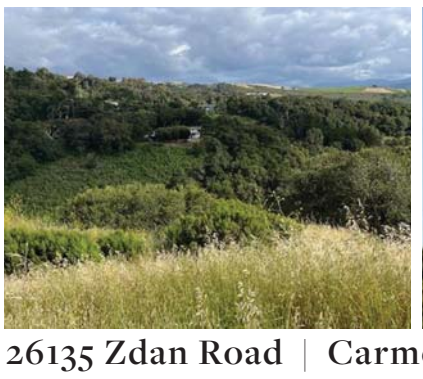
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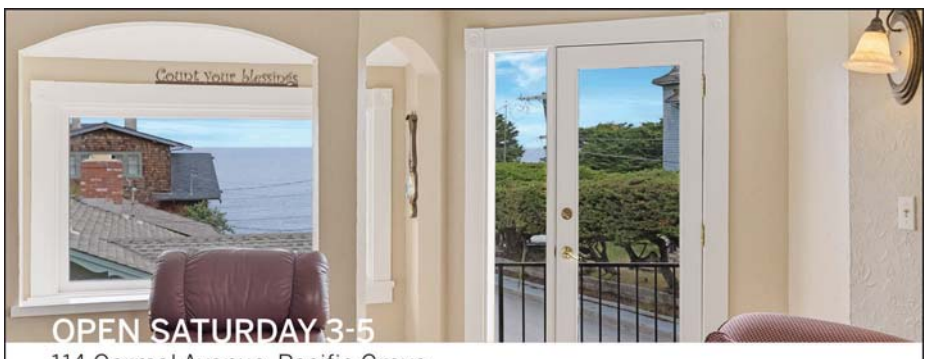


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Board of Regents
Who's Who in Luxury Real Estate

Diplomas should come with plungers and cast-iron skillets

Scenic Views

By JERRY GERVASE

YOU'VE UNDOUBTEDLY heard the punchline to the old joke about how to get to Carnegie Hall: practice, practice, practice. It's the same with parallel parking. Some drivers in downtown Carmel spend more time parallel parking than they do hunting for a space.

I passed the parallel parking portion of my driver's test because a kindly DMV examiner had me back into a space large enough to dock the Queen Mary. I still look for spaces I can coast into, even if it means walking farther to where I'm going.

Peanut butter, tires

Sometimes we designate certain skills as gender-specific. I've always thought of sewing on a button as one of them, as if some women are issued the knowledge at birth. That was my excuse for years, and it was a lousy one. Sewing on a button is a skill everyone should learn. When I lived alone for 10 years in an apartment in Monterey, I possessed a complete sewing kit with a variety of needles, threads and buttons left to me by my dearly departed wife. She also taught me how to use the kit's contents with the skill of a surgeon, though my patients were mostly Oxford cloth shirts and my bedside manner was mostly swearing.

The same assumption runs the other way. Plenty of men are expected to arrive in this world fluent in carburetors, spark plugs and tuneups. Not me. My mechanical skills are limited to opening the hood and confirming there's an engine in there. This followed my discovery that "Open Sesame" works only in "Arabian Nights" because some diabolical automotive engineer decided to put the thingy that pops the hood somewhere just out of reach, near the brake pedal.

Neither skill belongs to one gender. Checking the oil, tire pressure and fluid levels and changing a flat are things everyone ought to learn.

Then there's the plunger. Nobody wants to touch it because it has boldly gone where no man has gone before, and I don't mean outer space on the starship Enterprise. Unclogging a drain or toilet is nobody's idea of a good time, but it beats forking over a small fortune to a plumber for a 10-minute fix.

I've tinkered in the kitchen since mastering the PB&J sandwich as a child. My culinary skills matured during that 10-year stint in Monterey. I've also perfected barbecuing and cook outdoors two or three times a week. Everyone should have a handful of dishes they can cook without a recipe: eggs, rice, pasta, ground beef and grilled cheese. And every high school graduate should get a 10-inch cast-iron skillet along with a diploma. It is the Swiss Army knife of pans. Nothing in the kitchen has served me better.

Cursive writing is another charming skill that's been fading for years, and I'd love to see it return. It's important for thank-you notes and condolence cards. Also, we should be comfortable making an off-the-cuff introduction and a decent toast, especially at our children's weddings. A toast isn't a speech. It's a very short story with a point, and the point is the couple, not you. Nobody came to hear about your journey as a parent, no matter how moving you find it. Offer one sincere observation about why these two belong together, raise your glass before anyone's soup gets cold and sit down. And if your voice cracks, let it. A catch in your throat at your child's wedding isn't a bug in the delivery. It is the delivery.

Unglamorous

Listening without immediately offering "fixes" has gone the way of cursive, and admittedly, it's a difficult skill to learn. Most people want a witness, not a consultant. A problem, when handed to us, feels like a package we're obliged to sign for, so we start offering solutions they've probably already thought of at 3 a.m. Try just listening. Nod. Make a sympathetic noise, the kind a good dog makes. Hold back the urge to explain how the problem could have been prevented unless they ask for your opinion. And think twice before saying, "The same thing happened to me." What they hear is that their problem is ordinary, and to them, it isn't. Everyone's problems are unique, so honor that.

Not one of these skills is glamorous, and that's exactly the point. Nobody hands you a diploma in toilet plunging or listening without fixing. We're taught calculus and the causes of the Peloponnesian War, then released into a world where a stuck drain, a missing button and a heartbroken friend arrive on the same Tuesday. The skills that matter most are quiet ones, learned late, usually by doing them badly. So practice, practice, practice. Keep a cast-iron skillet, a sewing kit and a few good words for the people you love. You'll rarely be applauded for any of it. But you'll be the one everyone looks to when something breaks, spills or simply hurts.

Contact Jerry at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.

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



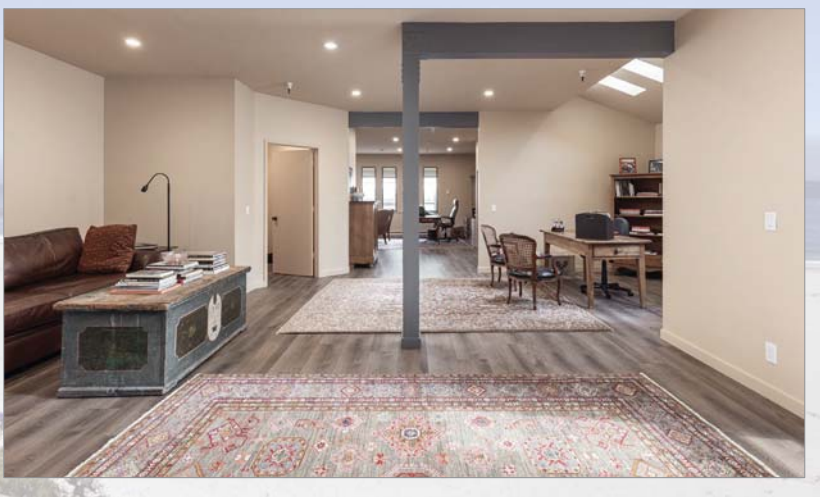
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POLICE LOG

From page 4A

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Pacific Grove: Report of a stolen cell phone on Gibson Avenue.

Monterey: Non-injury accident at El Dorado and Cass streets at 0830 hours.

Monterey: A 65-year-old man was arrested on Madison Street on a misdemeanor bench warrant for failure to appear and a warrant from another jurisdiction.

Monterey: A 37-year-old man was arrested on Lighthouse Avenue for possession of a narcotic controlled substance and unlawful paraphernalia.

Monterey: Theft of $950 or more from an elder or dependent adult and theft by use of access card information reported on San Bernabe Drive.

Monterey: Petty theft reported at Sloat Avenue and Del Monte Avenue.

Monterey: A 68-year-old woman was arrested on Monroe Street for inflicting corporal injury on a spouse, cohabitant or dating partner. The incident report also lists violation of a domestic violence protective order with a prior violation.

Monterey: A 24-year-old man was arrested on Washington Street on a warrant from another jurisdiction.

Monterey: Domestic incident reported on Sloat Avenue.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle towed from Junipero and Sixth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fall on city property at Junipero and Seventh.

Pacific Grove: Report of a missing person.

Pacific Grove: Report of possible elder abuse on Kenet Place. Information only.

Monterey: A 28-year-old man was arrested at Del Monte Avenue and Casa Verde Way for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a blood-alcohol level of 0.08% or greater.

Monterey: Civil matter on Casanova.

Monterey: A 20-year-old man was arrested at Abrego Street and Munras Avenue for disobeying directions at a traffic light.

Monterey: Domestic incident on Forest Ridge Road.

Monterey: Animal call on Soledad Drive.

Monterey: Subject on Munras placed on a 72-hour mental health evaluation hold.

See **LOG** *page 13RE*

CV VIEWS. GUEST HOUSE. 4-CAR GARAGE.
OPEN SATURDAY 12-2 PM



15286 Via La Gitana, Carmel Valley
4 BD | 4 BA | 3,026± Sq.Ft. | 2.68± AC
Offered at $2,275,000
15286ViaLaGitana.com

PEACEFUL. PRIVATE. CONVENIENT.
OPEN SATURDAY 1-3 PM



129 Littlefield Road, Monterey
4 BD | 3 BA | 2,338± Sq.Ft. | 11,873± Sq.Ft. lot
Offered at $1,675,000
129littlefieldroad.com



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831.601.4934
DRE: 01233599

ROBIN ANDERSON
831.601.6271
DRE: 01518311

SARAH MYERS
831.238.7559
DRE: 02033114

TRAPIN ANDERSON & MYERS TEAM

Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

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#1 SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY SALES ASSOCIATE IN MONTEREY COUNTY FOR CLOSED UNITS IN 2025

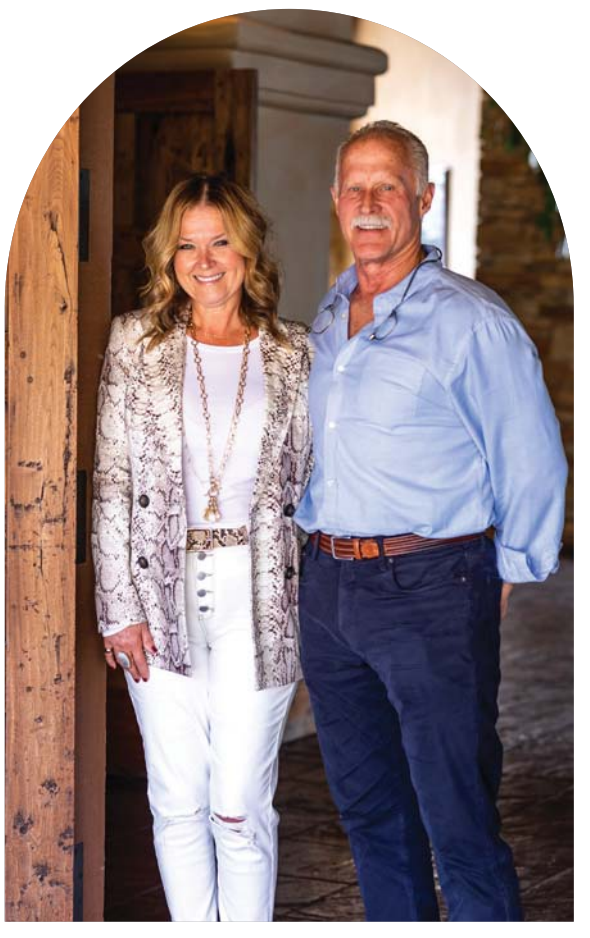
Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY



OPEN SATURDAY 12-2
MONTEREY | 500 BELAVIDA ROAD
500BELAVIDAROAD.COM
OFFERED AT $3,895,000



CALL FOR APPOINTMENT
CARMEL | 9903 CLUB PLACE
9903CLUBPLACE.COM
OFFERED AT $1,525,000



STEINY FAMILY PROPERTIES
Doug 831.236.7363
doug@dougsteiny.com
Lisa 831.277.2070
lisa@dougsteiny.com
dougsteiny.com
DRE: 00681652 & 02009666



OPEN SATURDAY 1-3
CARMEL VALLEY | 297 EL CAMINITO RD
297ELCAMINITOROAD.COM
OFFERED AT $2,195,000



JUST LISTED | OPEN SATURDAY 12-2
CARMEL VALLEY | 38652 TASSAJARA ROAD
38652TASSAJARAROAD.COM
OFFERED AT $1,450,000



Unique homes, uniquely for you



3540 Oak Place, Carmel

4 BD | 3 BA | 2,526± SQ. FT. | 10,400± SQ. FT. LOT
$2,895,000
3540oakplace.com
Rhonda Mohr 831.293.4935
License# 02120365



917 Fountain Avenue, Pacific Grove

3 BD | 3.5 BA | 2,282± SQ. FT. | 5,715± SQ. FT. LOT
$1,850,000
fountainave917.com
J.R. Rouse Properties Group 831.218.5738
License# 01299649



537 Larkin Street, Monterey

2 BD | 2 BA | 1,125± SQ. FT. | 3,330± SQ. FT. LOT
$1,233,000
537larkinst.com
J.R. Rouse Properties Group 831.218.5738
License# 01299649



7710 Fallen Leaf Lane, Salinas

3 BD | 2 BA | 1569± SQ. FT. | 1± ACRE LOT
$1,150,000
7710fallenleaflane.com
Teresa Giammanco 831.915.0265
License# 00996292



226 Walnut Street, Pacific Grove

2 BD | 2 BA | 868± SQ. FT. | 1,800± SQ. FT. LOT
$1,100,000
226walnutst.com
J.R. Rouse Properties Group 831.218.5738
License# 01299649



300 Glenwood Circle #258, Monterey

1 BD | 1 BA | 687± SQ. FT.
$549,000
300glenwoodcircle258.com
Teresa Giammanco 831.915.0265
License# 00996292



Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



3369 Trevis Way, Carmel

4 BD | 4 BA | 3,158± SQ. FT. | 0.89± ACRE LOT
$4,495,000
3369trevisway.com
Jeannie Fromm 831.277.3371
License# 01348162

571 Monte Verde Street, Carmel

3 BD | 2 BA | 1,581± SQ. FT. | 3,920± SQ. FT. LOT
$4,250,000
571monteverdestreet.com
Ryan Melcher 831.521.5024
License# 01897036





500 Belavida Road, Monterey

4 BD | 3/2 BA | 6,143± SQ. FT. | 0.35± ACRE LOT
$3,895,000
500belavidaroad.com
Doug Steiny 831.236.7363
License# 00681652



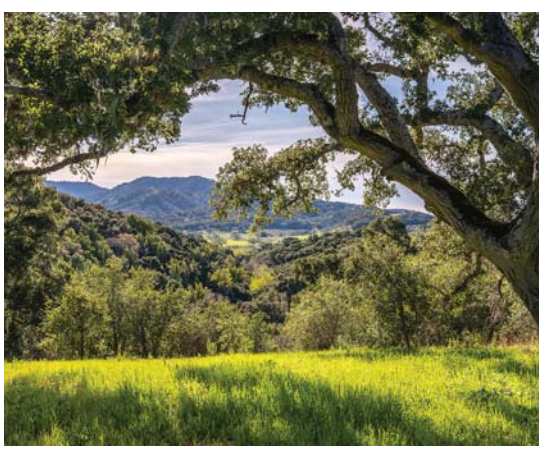
2976 Bird Rock Road, Pebble Beach

3 BD | 3 BA | 2,582± SQ. FT. | 9,000± SQ. FT. LOT
$3,698,500
sothebysrealty.com
Tenley Baxter 650.248.5030
License# 01755293

Dolores 2 SE of 12th Avenue, Carmel

2 BD | 2 BA | 1,034± SQ. FT. | 3,920± SQ. FT. LOT
$1,890,000
0dolores2SE12th.com
Kirk Probasco 831.238.1893
License# 01806198





7 Vasquez Trail (Lot 172), Carmel

29± ACRE LOT
$1,595,000
7vasqueztrail.com
Keck Properties Team 831.238.8730
License# 02168140



96 Corona Way, Carmel

1 BD | 1 BA | 813± SQ. FT. | 0.49± ACRE LOT
$1,500,000
96coronaway.com
Arleen Hardenstein 831.915.8989
License# 01710953

1205 Lincoln Avenue, Pacific Grove

2 BD | 2 BA | 1,191± SQ. FT. | 4,279± SQ. FT. LOT
$1,195,000
1205lincolnavenue.com
Piper Loomis 831.402.2884
License# 01867933





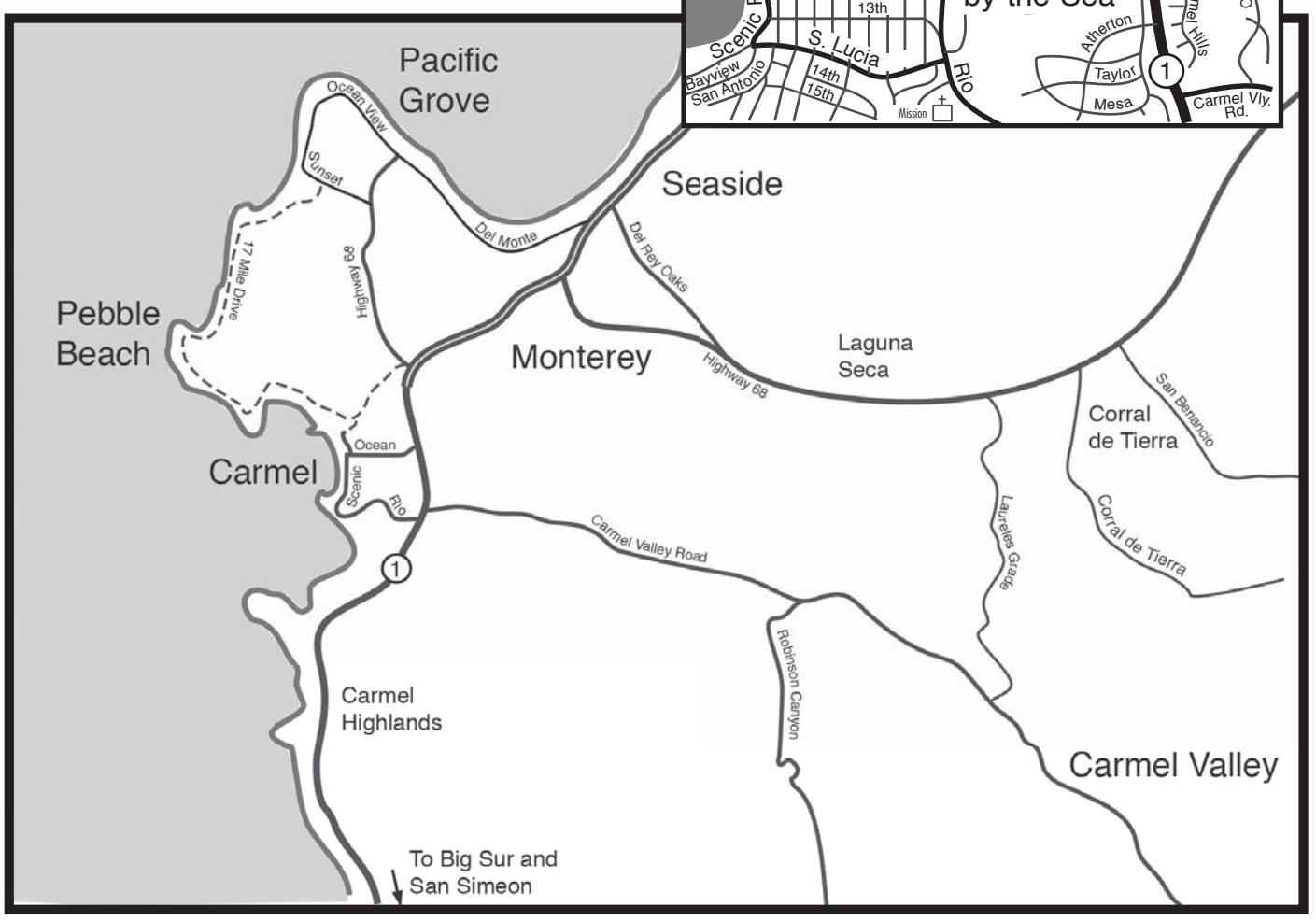
4 Goodrich Trail (Lot E13), Carmel

21.61± ACRE LOT
$1,195,000
4goodrichtrail.com
Keck Properties Team 831.238.8730
License# 02168140

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This Weekend's OPEN HOUSES

October 16 - 18



CARMEL

$899,000	**2bd 2ba**	**Su 12-2**
20 Del Mesa Carmel		Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE		293-3391
$935,000	**2bd 2ba**	**Sa 2-4**
62 Del Mesa Carmel		Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE		293-3391
$1,025,000	**2bd 2ba**	**Su 12-2**
154 Del Mesa Carmel		Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE		236-8571
$1,050,000	**2bd 2ba**	**Sa Su 12-2**
139 Del Mesa Carmel		Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE		293-3391 / 601-9038
$1,095,000	**3bd 3ba**	**Su 12-2**
83 High Meadow Ln		Carmel
Coldwell Banker Realty		915-0431
$1,150,000	**2bd 2.5ba**	**Sa 12-2**
3850 Rio Rd 47		Carmel
David Lyng Real Estate		915-8292
$1,175,000	**2bd 2ba**	**Sa Su 1-3**
137 Del Mesa Carmel		Carmel
Monterey Coast Realty		236-2940
$1,285,000	**3bd 2ba**	**Su 2-4**
37 Del Mesa Carmel		Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE		293-3391
$1,395,000	**2bd 2ba**	**Su 12-2**
159 Del Mesa Carmel		Carmel
Compass		915-6394
$1,849,000	**3bd 2.5ba**	**Sa Su 10-12**
25656 Tierra Grande Dr		Carmel
Coldwell Banker Realty		884-3919
$1,995,000	**3bd 3.5ba**	**Sa 12-2**
7 Mal Paso Rd		Carmel
Coldwell Banker Realty		356-8123
$2,895,000	**4bd 3ba**	**Sa 11-3**
3540 Oak Pl		Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE		200-5007 / 293-4935
$3,595,000	**2bd 2.5ba**	**Sa Su 1-4**
7086 Valley Greens Cir		Carmel
Coldwell Banker Realty		206-0129
$3,650,000	**4bd 2.5ba**	**Sa 11-3 Su 1-3**
24400 S. San Luis Ave.		Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE		402-5877 / 404-401-8647
$3,700,000	**3bd 2.5ba**	**Sa Su 1-4**
26305 Camino Real		Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE		333-6060
$3,995,000	**4bd 2.5ba**	**Sa 1-3**
23 Mentone Road		Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE		238-2101
$4,250,000	**3bd 2ba**	**Sa Su 1-3**
571 Monte Verde Street		Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE		521-5024 / 760-5126
$4,300,000	**3bd 3ba**	**Sa 1-3**
95 Yankee Point Dr		Carmel
Compass		262-7768
$4,475,000	**3bd 2ba**	**Su 1-3**
5th Avenue 2 NW of Lincoln		Carmel
Compass		224-6353
$5,600,000	**5bd 5ba**	**Sa Su 1-4**
26219 Atherton Place		Carmel
Carmel Realty		884-3868
$7,450,000	**3bd 3ba**	**Sa Su 12-2**
2385 Bay View Ave		Carmel
Coldwell Banker Realty		356-8123

CARMEL VALLEY

$1,298,000	**4bd 3ba**	**Sa 10-12:30**
18 Middle Canyon Way B		Carmel Valley
Sotheby's Int'l RE		277-9022
$1,450,000	**2bd 1ba**	**Sa 1:30-4**
145 E Carmel Valley Rd		Carmel Valley
Sotheby's Int'l RE		277-9022
$1,450,000	**7bd 2ba**	**Sa 12-2**
38652 Tassajara Road		Carmel Valley
Sotheby's Int'l RE		277-2070
$1,495,000	**4bd 3.5ba**	**Sa 12-2**
477 Laureles Grade		Carmel Valley
Sotheby's Int'l RE		277-9250
$1,995,000	**4bd 3ba**	**Sa 1-3**
297 El Caminito Road		Carmel Valley
Sotheby's Int'l RE		236-8571
$2,200,000	**4bd 4ba**	**Sa Su 11-1**
26245 Rinconada		Carmel Valley
Compass		236-5290
$2,275,000	**4bd 4ba**	**Sa 12-2**
15286 Via La Gitana		Carmel Valley
Sotheby's Int'l RE		601-4934
$2,650,000	**4bd 3ba**	**Su 11-1**
12724 Sundance Lane		Carmel Valley
Monterey Coast Realty		650-759-4193
$4,230,000	**5bd 5ba**	**Sa Su 2-4**
7 San Clemente		Carmel Valley
Compass		236-5290
$4,350,000	**4bd 3.5ba**	**Su 1-3**
25 Miramonte Rd		Carmel Valley
Coldwell Banker Realty		747-5688

CORRAL DE TIERRA

$2,495,000	**4bd 3ba**	**Su 1-3**
28951 Falcon Ridge		Corral de Tierra
Sotheby's Int'l RE		915-2800

DEL REY OAKS

$548,000	**1bd 1ba**	**Sa 12-2**
121 Quail Run Court		Del Rey Oaks
Sotheby's Int'l RE		917-1631
$1,079,500	**4bd 3ba**	**Sa 1-3 Su 2-4**
32 Carlton Drive		Del Rey Oaks
Sotheby's Int'l RE		915-1004



$499,000	**1bd 1ba**	**Sa 11-3**
522 Pheasant Ridge Road		Del Rey Oaks
Monterey Coast Realty		236-3255

HOLLISTER

$699,000	**3bd 2ba**	**Su 1-3**
1370 Matador Drive		Hollister
Sotheby's Int'l RE		915-7814
$1,100,000	**4bd 3ba**	**Sa 11-1**
140 Scarlett Way		Hollister
Monterey Coast Realty		650-759-4193

LA SELVA BEACH

$1,030,000	**2bd 2ba**	**Su 12-3**
101 Shell Dr 287		La Selva Beach
Sotheby's Int'l RE		227-9008

MARINA

$575,000	**2bd 2ba**	**Su 1-3**
3095 Marina Drive 49		Marina
Monterey Coast Realty		717-7959
$825,000	**3bd 2.5ba**	**Fr 5-7 Sa Su 1-3**
14347 Sherman Blvd		Marina
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams		837-5437
$1,675,000	**6bd 4ba**	**Fr 4-6 Sa 11-2 Su 1-3**
2991 Arido Way		Marina
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams		998-2154
$995,000	**4bd 3ba**	**Sa 1-3**
18587 McClellan Cir		Marina, East Garrison
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams		595-9242

MONTEREY

$549,000	**1bd 1ba**	**Sa 11-1**
300 Glenwood Circle, #258		Monterey
Sotheby's Int'l RE		915-0233
$849,000	**2bd 1ba**	**Sa Su 1-4**
642 Cypress Street		Monterey
Sotheby's Int'l RE		510-589-6892
$1,100,000	**3bd 2.5ba**	**Sa 1-3**
1360 Josselyn Canyon Road 43		Monterey
Monterey Coast Realty		717-7959
$1,174,900	**3bd 3ba**	**Sa Su 12-2**
1180 Salinas Highway		Monterey
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams		620-2243
$1,233,000	**2bd 2ba**	**Fr 12-3 Su 12-2**
537 Larkin Street		Monterey
Sotheby's Int'l RE		318-3808 / 915-6391
$1,488,888	**4bd 3.5ba**	**Fr Sa 11-2**
10148 Blue Larkspur Ln		Monterey
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams		595-9242
$1,495,000	**5bd 2.5ba**	**Sa 12:30-4 Su 12-3**
355 & 357 Monroe St		Monterey
Sotheby's Int'l RE		588-2154 / 238-4075
$1,675,000	**4bd 3ba**	**Sa 1-3**
129 Littlefield Road		Monterey
Sotheby's Int'l RE		238-7559
$2,495,000	**4bd 3.5ba**	**Sa 2:30-4:30**
26 Cramden Dr		Monterey
Coldwell Banker Realty		356-8123
$2,750,000	**5bd 3.5ba**	**Sa Su 11-2**
11530 Spur Road		Monterey
Carmel Realty		241-1434



$3,850,000	**3bd 3+ba**	**Sa 11-2 Su 10-1**
706 Tesoro Road		Monterey
Carmel Realty		297-3890
$3,895,000	**4bd 3.5+ba**	**Sa 12-2**
500 Belavida Road		Monterey
Sotheby's Int'l RE		236-7363

MOSS LANDING

$2,250,000	**2bd 2ba**	**Sa 1-4**
274 Monterey Dunes Way		Moss Landing
David Lyng Real Estate		620-2271

PACIFIC GROVE

$999,000	**2bd 1ba**	**Sa 1-3**
306 9th Street		Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE		620-2936
$1,100,000	**2bd 2ba**	**Sa Su 12-2**
226 Walnut Street		Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE		402-2017
$1,195,000	**2bd 2ba**	**Sa Su 12:30-3**
1205 Lincoln Ave		Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE		402-2884
$1,300,000	**4bd 3ba**	**Su 12-2**
218 4th Street		Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE		236-4663
$1,319,000	**2bd 1ba**	**Sa 1-3 Su 1:30-3:30**
315 Cypress Avenue		Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE		601-9038 / 238-8116
$1,549,000	**2bd 2ba**	**Sa 1-3**
212 1st St		Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE		887-8022
$1,795,000	**2bd 1ba**	**Sa 1-3**
963 Crest Ave		Pacific Grove
Coldwell Banker Realty		717-7815
$1,850,000	**3bd 3.5ba**	**Sa 10-12:30 Su 1-3**
917 Fountain Avenue		Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE		318-3808
$2,195,000	**5bd 4ba**	**Sa 3-5**
114 Carmel Avenue		Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE		917-1631
$3,200,000	**4bd 3.5ba**	**Sa 1-3**
413 Walnut St		Pacific Grove
Coldwell Banker Realty		596-6118
$5,690,000	**4bd 3.5ba**	**Sa 1-3**
1273 Surf Way		Pacific Grove
Carmel Realty		277-5544
$6,695,000	**7bd 4ba**	**Sa 1-3**
888 Del Monte Blvd		Pacific Grove
Coldwell Banker Realty		277-3914

PASADERA

$2,795,000	**4bd 3.5ba**	**Su 12-2**
405 Estrella D'Oro		Pasadera
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams		241-1598

See **OPEN HOUSES** *next page*

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OPEN HOUSES

From page 10RE

PEBBLE BEACH

$849,000 2bd 2ba 17 Shepherd's Knoll Carmel Realty		**Su 12-2** Pebble Beach 320-6801
$7,920,000 4bd 3.5ba 3978 Ronda Road Compass		**Sa 2-4** Pebble Beach 236-5290
$8,275,000 3bd 2.5ba 1651 Crespi Lane Compass		**Su 2-4** Pebble Beach 236-5290
$8,995,000 5bd 5.5ba 3159 Stevenson Drive Carmel Realty		**Sa Su 1-3** Pebble Beach 521-4855
$9,995,000 5bd 6.5ba 21 Poppy Ln Coldwell Banker Realty		**Su 2:30-4:30** Pebble Beach 356-8123

PRUNEDALE

$1,150,000 3bd 2ba 7710 Fallen Leaf Lane Sotheby's Int'l RE		**Sa 12-3 Su 12-4** Prunedale 915-0265 / 236-5737

ROYAL OAKS

$919,000 2bd 1ba 501 #A Maher Road Sotheby's Int'l RE		**Sa 1-4** Royal Oaks 840-5582

SALINAS

$799,000 4bd 2ba 69 Geil St The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams		**Fr 1-5 Sa 10-2 Su 1-3** Salinas 867-1188
$1,150,000 4bd 3ba 14390 Mountain Quail Road Sotheby's Int'l RE		**Su 1-3** Salinas 277-8622

SEASIDE

$776,000 3bd 1.5ba 1233 Hilby Avenue Monterey Coast Realty		**Sa 1-3** Seaside 277-5256
$1,499,000 6bd 3ba 4120 Peninsula Point Dr Coldwell Banker Realty		**Sa Su 1-3** Seaside 884-3919

WATSONVILLE

$1,775,000 3bd 3ba 141 Cutter Drive Sotheby's Int'l RE		**Sa 12-2** Watsonville 682-0126

CARMEL VIEWS RENTAL



3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, 2265 Square Feet.

Hardwood floors, fireplace, exposed beams, cooktop island, double ovens. 2 car garage. $7,000 monthly rent.

CENTURY 21
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22305 Davenrich St, Salinas
Call for an appt to see this fabulous property!

Vista of the Pastures of Heaven!

Tucked well away from Highway 68, this Toro Park home enjoys a peaceful setting & spectacular, unobstructed views of the surrounding hills. This 4-bedroom, 2-bath home seamlessly connects with its outdoor surroundings. Owned solar adds a big benefit with reported electric bills of less than $30/month. New Price at $1,485,000





Peggy Jones
Broker/REALTOR
Cal DRE 01299648

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Are you feeling overwhelmed thinking about the huge effort it will take to prep your home for a sale?
Call us--local experts who can help you make your property sparkle and sell for top dollar.

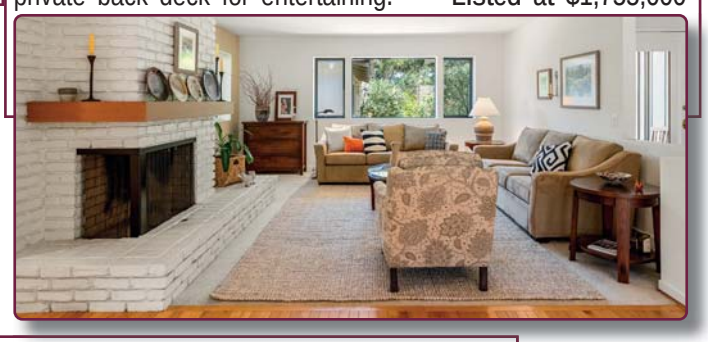
TRANQUIL PRIVACY!



113 Littlefield Rd, Monterey
Call for an appt to see this fabulous property!

Oasis in Aguajito Oaks

Thoughtfully designed 1,976 SF single-level, 3bed/2.5bath residence showcases a timeless blend of California-inspired architecture w/ clean lines, abundant natural light & materials. Comfortable living & entertaining spaces (including 2 fireplaces!) are adjacent to the light-filled kitchen. Outdoor living is equally compelling on this 11.000+ SF lot - a sunny patio garden w/ mature lemon & fig trees and a spacious private back deck for entertaining. Listed at $1,755,000



SOLD in 2025-26 (so far!)

859 Balboa Ave, PG	$3,255.000	432 River Rd, SAL	$2,650,000	129 15th St, PG	$2,240,000
890 Bayview Ave, PG	$2,850,000	9 Deer Stalker Path, MTY	$1,780,000	302 Park St, PG	$1,950,000
610 Forest Ave, PG	$1,548,000	955 Egan Ave, PG	$1,460,000	142 11th St, PG	$1,570,000
311 Cedar St, PG	$1,275,000	2757 Sea Glass Ave, MA	$1,189,000	1128 3rd St, MO	$1,214,100
361 Hannon Ave, MTY	$1,073,100	132 6th St, PG	$995,000	459 English Ave, MTY	$1,135,000
232 Congress Ave, PG	$1,027,500	1140 Kimberly Ct, SEA	$904,000	1109 Heather Ln, PG	$950,000
1556 Hilby St, SEA	$886,000	1232 Vallejo St, SEA	$897,500	401 Sequoia St, MTY	$829,000
17 Saucito Ave, DRO	$882,000	1713 Goodwin St, SEA	$765,000	13750 Center St, CV	$630,000
3210 Golden Oaks Ln, MTY	$499,000				

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File No. 20261797
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
BIJOU RENEE, 761 Palma Dr., Salinas, CA 93901.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
RENEE OLIVER.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 5, 2026.
S/Renée Oliver
Date signed: Sept. 9, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 15, 2026.
Publication Dates: Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 2026 (PC 931)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261753
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
Huckleberry House, 225 Forest Ave, Pacific Grove CA 93950, County of Monterey
Registered Owner(s):
House of VerMillions LLC, 227 19th Street, Pacific Grove, CA 93950 CALIFORNIA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 08/01/2026
S/ Emilie Minarcik, Managing Member
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 09/09/2026
9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16/26
CNS-4080669#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 2026. (PC 932)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261751
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
HEART CAREGIVER SERVICE MONTEREY, 680 E ROMIE LN, SUITE 207, SALINAS, CA 93901, County of MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
MONTEREY SENIORS CORPORATION, 509 E MAPLE ST, GLENDALE, CA 91205
This business is conducted by A CORPORATION
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A
S/ SANJAY SHARMA, PRESIDENT
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 09/09/2026
9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16/26
CNS-4080526#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 2026. (PC 933)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261750
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
Cedar and Sunset, 514 Cedar St. Pacific Grove, CA 93950, County of Monterey
Registered Owner(s):
Colton Neal, 514 Cedar St. Pacific Grove, CA 93950
This business is conducted by an individual
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/21/2025
S/ Colton Neal Bell
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 09/09/2026
9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16/26
CNS-4080562#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 2026. (PC 934)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261793
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
CENTRAL COAST CONCIERGE, 100 Via Milpitas, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
KRISTI CHOE.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Kristi Choe
Date signed: Sept. 10, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 15, 2026.
Publication Dates: Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 2026 (PC 936)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261817
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
COLLINS HOUSE CARE, 13710 Montebello, Space 102, Castroville, California 95012.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
WILLIAM JOSEPH COLLINS JR., 13710 Montebello, Space 102, Castroville, California 95012.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 18, 2026.
S/William Joseph Collins Jr.
Date signed: Sept. 18, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 19, 2026.
Publication Dates: Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 2026 (PC 937)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261774
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
DELVE, 3330 Del Monte Blvd., 116, Marina, CA 93933.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
ANNIKA WALTERS, 3330 Del Monte Blvd., 116, Marina, CA 93933.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Aug. 31, 2026.
S/Annika Walters
Date signed: Sept. 10, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 10, 2026.
Publication Dates: Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 2026 (PC 938)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261816
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
SKILLET CREEK WEAPONS SYSTEMS, 21 W. Alisal St. 108, Salinas, CA 93901.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
LOUIE JOHN PEREIRA.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 18, 2012
S/Louie John Pereira
Date signed: Sept. 18, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 19, 2026.
Publication Dates: Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 2026 (PC 939)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261824
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
THIRD COAST POTTERY, 1015 Benito Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
HANNAH LINDSEY BROPHY.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Hannah Brophy
Date signed: Sept. 22, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 22, 2026.
Publication Dates: Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 2026 (PC 940)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261654
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
DIAMOND'S BEAUTY SALON, 10639 Merritt St., Suite A, Castroville, CA 95012.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
MONICA G. ASCENCION, 11265 Seymour St., Unit 201, Castroville, CA 95012.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 20, 2015.
S/Monica Ascencion
Date signed: Aug. 20, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Aug. 20, 2026.
Publication Dates: Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 2026 (PC 941)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261862
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
LIFESPORT MEDICINE AND WELLNESS CENTER, 21 Upper Ragsdale Drive, Suite 180, Monterey, CA 93940.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
BARBARA J. MACFARLANE, 21 Upper Ragsdale Drive, Suite 180, Monterey, CA 93940.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 9, 2015.
S/Barbara J Macfarlane
Date signed: Sept. 28, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 28, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026 (PC 1003)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261759
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
LaMill, 19851 Pesante Rd, Salinas, CA 93907, County of Monterey
Registered Owner(s):
Plaira Technologies, Inc., 19851 Pesante Rd, Prunedale, CA 93907
This business is conducted by a corporation
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on Not applicable
S/ Vijo Cherian, President
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 09/09/2026
10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23/26
CNS-4082492#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026 (PC 1004)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261846
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
CEEDRA CAFE & BISTRO, Carmel Plaza, Mission St. SPC 122, Carmel By The Sea, CA 93921.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
BREW & BITES INC, 832 W. Franklin St., Apt. C, Monterey, CA 93940.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 1, 2024.
S/Mohamed Karaki, CEO
Date: Sept. 24, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 24, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026 (PC 1005)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261790
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
CARMEL Rancho Lane, Unit 31B, Carmel, CA 93923.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
STEVE N. LE, 3679 The Barnyard 31B, Carmel, CA 93922.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Steve N. Le
Date signed: Sept. 15, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 15, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026 (PC 1007)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261885
Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
I HEART YOU CANDLES AND GIFTS, 482 Alvarado St., Monterey, CA 93940.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
SHERRY MICHELE DEVINE, 315 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, CA 93940.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 29, 2026.
S/Sherry M. Devine
Date signed: Sept. 29, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 1, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026 (PC 1009)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261874
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
CARMEL SPEECH THERAPY, 140 W. Franklin St., Suite 203, Box 151, Monterey, CA 93940.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
EMPOWER SPEECH THERAPY MONTEREY, INC., 140 W. Franklin St., Suite 203, Box 151, Monterey, CA 93940.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 11, 2026.
S/Kayla Piorkowski, CEO
Date: Sept. 29, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 29, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026 (PC 1010)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261882
Filing type: NEW FILING – with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
TOES ON THE GO, 26615 CARMEL CENTER PLACE, SUITE 103, CARMEL, CA 93923
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
TOES ON THE GO INC., 225 CROSSROADS BLVD. #361, CARMEL, CA 93923
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 17, 2016.
S/Michele Kraft, President
Date: Oct. 1, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 1, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026 (PC 1011)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. 20261743
Filing type: ABANDONMENT
County of Filing: Monterey
Date of Original Filing: May 9, 2025
File No.: 20250886
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **EMPOWER SPEECH THERAPY MONTEREY, 140 W. Franklin St., Ste. 203. #151, Monterey, CA 93940.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
EMPOWER SPEECH THERAPY MONTEREY, INC., 140 W. Franklin St., Ste. 203, #151, Monterey, CA 93940.
This business is conducted by a corporation.
S/Kayla Piorkowski, CEO
Sept. 29, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 29, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026. (PC1012).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261914
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MIND AND MOVEMENT PHYSICAL THERAPY, 520 CARMEL AVE., PACIFIC GROVE, CA 93950**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
PRESTON KUNWAR, 520 CARMEL AVE., PACIFIC GROVE, CA 93950
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 6, 2026.
S/Preston Kunwar
Date signed: Oct. 6, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 6, 2026..
Publication Dates: Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026 (PC 1014)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261898
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
BRAVO WHISKEY AVIATION SERVICES, 106 NACIONAL AVE, SPRECKELS, CA 93962
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
ELIZABETH ANN WELLIVER, PO BOX 7463, SPRECKELS, CA 93962
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: Not Applicable.
S/Elizabeth Welliver
Date signed: Oct. 5, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 5, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026 (PC 1015)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261696
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
THE LIGHTING INSTITUTE OF MONTEREY, 5315 CARMEL VALLEY RD. #G218, CARMEL, CA 93923
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
MEREDITH NOLE, 5315 CARMEL VALLEY RD. #G218, CARMEL, CA 93923
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Aug. 26, 2026.
S/Meredith Nole
Date signed: Aug. 26, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Aug. 26, 2026..Publication Dates: Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026 (PC 1016)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261849
Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
WILLIAM A. KARGES FINE ART, 6th Ave. between San Carlos and Dolores, Carmel, CA 93921.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
WILLIAM A. KARGES FINE ART, P.O. Box D-1, Carmel, CA 93921.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 6, 1987.
S/William A. Karges, Jr., President
Date: Sept. 14, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 24, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 2026. (PC 1018)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261934
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
CASTROVILLE CAFE, 11276 Merritt St., Castroville, CA 95012.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
ARMANDO MIGUEL ANGEL VENEGAS CRUZ, 11276 Merritt St., Castroville, CA 95012.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 8, 2026.
S/Armando Cruz
Date signed: Oct. 8, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 8, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 16, 23, 30. Nov. 6, 2026 (PC 1019)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261912
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
THE FINAL TWIST, 1200 Del Monte Center, Suite A, Monterey, CA 93940.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
JACQUELINE McDONALD, 724 Archer St., Monterey, CA 93940.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Jacqueline McDonald
Date signed: Oct. 6, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 6, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 16, 23, 30. Nov. 6, 2026 (PC 1020)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261890
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
ARBOL DE VIDA SUPLEMENTOS PARA LA SALUD, 1663 Boston St., Salinas, CA 93906.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
VERONICA CASTILLO, 1663 Boston St., Salinas, CA 93906.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 2, 2026.
S/Veronica Castillo
Date signed: Oct. 2, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 2, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 16, 23, 30. Nov. 6, 2026 (PC 1021)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261936
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
MONTEREY ROBOTICS, 3078 Helena Way, Marina, CA 93933.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
MONTEREY ROBOTICS LLC, 3078 Helena Way, Marina, CA 93933.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Jon Anderson, Manager
Date signed: Oct. 8, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 8, 2026..
Publication Dates: Oct. 16, 23, 30. Nov. 6, 2026 (PC 1022)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261958
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
BRITEK PARTNERS, 310 Country Club Hts, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
JAMES W BRIER, PO Box 969, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
KIMBERLEY B BRIER, PO Box 969, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
This business is conducted by a general partnership.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 1, 2026.
S/James W Brier
Date signed: Oct. 13, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 13, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 2026 (PC 1025)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261966
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
OYSTER TRAVEL, 244 Hwy 1, Carmel By The Sea, CA 93923.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
MELANIE JEWEL HIBBS, 244 Hwy 1, Carmel By The Sea, CA 93923.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 14, 2026.
S/Melanie Hibbs
Date signed: Oct. 14, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 14, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 2026 (PC 1026)

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE. YOU ARE IN DEFAULT OF YOUR OBLIGATION UNDER YOUR DEED OF TRUST. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Date of Sale: **10/26/2026** at **9:00 AM**. Place of Sale: **At the main entrance to the County Administration Building at 168 West Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901**. **NOTICE is hereby given** that First American Title Insurance Company, a Nebraska Corporation, 1 First American Way, Santa Ana, CA in care of: 400 S. Rampart Blvd, #290 Las Vegas, NV 89145 – Phone: **(702) 304-7509** as the duly appointed Trustee, Successor Trustee, or Substituted Trustee of Deed(s) of Trust executed by Trustor(s) and recorded among the Official Records of **Monterey County, Californi**a, and pursuant to that certain **Notice of Default ("NOD")** thereunder recorded, all as shown on **Schedule "1" which is attached hereto and a part hereof, will sell at public auction** for cash, lawful money of the United States of America, (a cashier's check payable to said Trustee drawn on a state or national bank, a state or federal credit union, or a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings bank as specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state) **all that right, title and interes**t conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State to wit: Those certain Timeshare Interval as shown on Exhibit "A-1", within the timeshare project **H.I. Resort, a Leasehold Condominium located at 120 Highlands Drive, Carmel, CA, 93923. The legal descriptions as set forth on the recorded Deed(s) of Trust shown on Schedule "1" are incorporated by this reference.** The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, as to title, possession or encumbrances to satisfy the unpaid balance due on the note or notes secured by said Deed(s) of Trust, as shown as Note Balance on Schedule "1", plus accrued interest thereon, the estimated costs, expenses and advances if any at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale, together with estimated expenses of the Trustee in the amount of $475.00. Accrued Interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. First American Title Insurance Company, a Nebraska Corporation. APN: **See Schedule "1"**. Batch ID: **Foreclosure DOT 168467-HVC84-DOT. Schedule "1":** Contract No., Loan No., Trustor, APN, DOT Dated, DOT Recording Date and Reference, NOD Recording Date and Reference, Note Balance; 0080006988, 0080006988, Peter Andrew Phelps and Carol Louise Masters, 241-351-004-000, 02/19/2016, 05/13/2016 Inst: 2016025904, 06/24/2026 2026021365, $1,298.95. **Exhibit "A-1":** Contract No., Undivided Interest, Unit No., Fixed Week No., Frequency; 0080006988, 1/51, 79, 33, annual.

Publication dates: Oct. 2, 9, 16, 2026 (PC1002)

To place an obituary for your loved one, contact
anne@carmelpinecone.com or (831) 274-8654

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LOG

From page 7RE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury accident on Mission Street.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury accident on Hatton Road.

Pacific Grove: Subject on Sinex was placed on a 72-hour mental health evaluation hold.

Pacific Grove: Animal bite report involving an incident on Grove Acre was received from the Monterey County Health Department.

Pacific Grove: Report of possible harassment on Bayview Avenue over a civil dispute. Information only.

Monterey: Animal call on Josselyn Canyon Road.

Monterey: Suspicious circumstances on Trapani Circle.

Monterey: A 68-year-old man was arrested on Lighthouse Avenue for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood-alcohol level of 0.08% or greater, and carrying a loaded handgun while not the registered owner.

Monterey: A 61-year-old man was arrested on David Avenue for disorderly conduct due to alcohol and a warrant from another jurisdiction.

Seaside: An officer recently contacted a 44-year-old male who was sleeping in a vehicle near the Broadway car wash. During the encounter, he was found in possession of a large quantity of methamphetamine and other drugs suspected to be intended for distribution. Officers also discovered numerous cases of cigarettes that may be connected to a burglary in the San Francisco Bay area. He was arrested and transported to the Monterey County Jail.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

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

Pacific Grove: An 18-year-old man was cited and released on Marino Pines Road for an outstanding misdemeanor warrant.

Pacific Grove: A 19-year-old man was cited and released on Arkwright Court for an outstanding misdemeanor warrant.

Pacific Grove: Collision involving a hit-and-run with property damage at Country Club Gate Center. An 86-year-old man was cited and released.

Pacific Grove: Reported theft from the 600 block of Sunset Drive that occurred Aug. 28.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle on Lobos Avenue was marked for 72-hour parking.

Pacific Grove: Report of a possible sexual battery on Ocean View Boulevard.

Pacific Grove: A 66-year-old woman was arrested on Forest Avenue for driving under the influence and delaying a peace officer. She was cited and released at a sobering center.

Monterey: A 24-year-old man was arrested at Cortes Street and Del Monte Avenue for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a blood-alcohol level of 0.08% or greater.

Monterey: A 34-year-old man was arrested at Artillery and Pacific streets for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a blood-alcohol level of 0.08% or greater.

Monterey: A 21-year-old woman was arrested at Del Monte and Sloat avenues for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a blood-alcohol level of 0.08% or greater.

Monterey: Petty theft reported on Cannery Row.

See **CALLS** *next page*

STACEY SCHERLING / COMPASS

JUST LISTED IN SKYLINE FOREST

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$1,450,000

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NOV 13, 2026



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Don't miss a chance to be a part of it

CONTACT YOUR REP TODAY!

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M|C

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COMPASS

ESCROWS

From page 4RE

Carmel Valley (cont'd)

4 E. Carmel Valley Road — $3,400,000
Great Valley Holdings LLC to Manly Stewart Finaldi & Thom
APN: 187-441-024

Gonzales

1620 River Road — $1,000,000
Gallo Vineyards Inc. to Sleepy Hollow Vineyard LLC
APN: 167-051-004

Highway 68

San Benancio Road — $700,000
Scott and Jennifer Beery to Caroline and Jacob Frese
APN: 416-271-024

186 San Benancio Road — $960,000
Jan and Melissa Smith to Jose Coronel and Daisy Regaldo
APN: 416-261-021

26264 Paseo del Sur — $4,310,000
Parker and Charlotte Deardorff to Kenneth and Mary Zagzebski
APN: 416-133-018

Marina

15515 Watkins Gate Road — $808,000
Larissa Bradford to Kwai Ling Huen
APN: 031-167-001

2992 Bonte Drive — $1,010,000
Robert and Mary Feist to Susan Sloane
APN: 031-278-023

253 Laguna Seca Lane — $1,182,500
Marina Station Phases I and 2 LLC to Christian Barron and Jordan Sharp
APN: 032-561-062

625 Santa Ynez Way — $4,659,500
MRP HTMB LLC, MRO California LLC and Millrose California Holdings LLC to The Sea Haven LLC
APN: 031-314-022

Continues next page



36 Miramonte Road, Carmel Valley — $2,450,000



992 Monte Verde Street, Carmel — $5,300,000

CALLS

From page 13RE

Monterey: A 33-year-old man was arrested on Del Monte for vandalism and exhibiting a deadly weapon other than a firearm. The incident report also lists destroying or concealing evidence and conspiracy to commit a crime.

Monterey: A 39-year-old woman was arrested on Del Monte Avenue for destroying or concealing evidence.

Monterey: A 19-year-old woman was arrested on Glenwood Circle for inflicting corporal injury on a spouse, cohabitant or dating partner.

Monterey: Fight/challenge to fight in a public place on Cannery Row.

Monterey: Vehicle towed on Wave Street.

Monterey: Vandalism reported at Pacific and Madison streets.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found wallet on Junipero Street.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury accident at Rio Road and Ladera Drive.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found earbuds at Del Mar and Ocean.

Pacific Grove: Suspicious circumstances near the 200 block of Lobos Avenue. Information only.

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

Pacific Grove: A 38-year-old woman was arrested after a physical domestic dispute on Third Street and booked into Monterey County Jail. The listed offense was inflicting corporal injury on a spouse, cohabitant or dating partner.

Monterey: A 57-year-old woman was arrested on Kolb Avenue for possession of unlawful paraphernalia, probation violation and an outstanding warrant from another jurisdiction.

Monterey: Vandalism reported on Cannery Row.

Monterey: Domestic incident reported on English Avenue.

Monterey: Disorderly conduct involving loitering on private property on Prescott Avenue.

Monterey: A 67-year-old woman was arrested on Pearl Street for unlawfully dumping waste matter on public or private property.

Monterey: A 24-year-old man was arrested at Pearl and Tyler streets for probation violation and disorderly conduct due to alcohol.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Suspicious circumstances at Lincoln and Seventh.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury accident at Dolores and Sixth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fall on city property at Dolores and Sixth.

Pacific Grove: A female on Maple Street was placed on a 72-hour mental health evaluation hold.

Pacific Grove: Items taken from an unlocked vehicle on Pacific Grove Lane.

Pacific Grove: Items taken from a locked vehicle on Forest Avenue. The offense was classified as second-degree burglary.

11530 Spur Road, Monterey

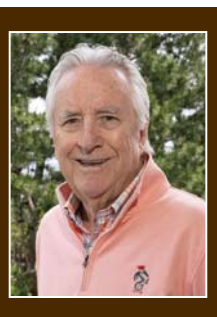
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From previous page

Monterey

399 Hoffman Avenue — $885,000
Jeff Hurd to Christopher Robinson and Deborah Gibbs
APN: 001-065-021

691 Fernwood Avenue — $1,300,000
Miles Wood to Dana Costa
APN: 014-031-011

41 Castro Road — $1,750,000
Mary Ann Apostrofe and Annette de Pasquale to Peter and Audrey Arancio
APN: 001-871-013

1 Walter Colton Drive — $2,500,000
Elena Rodriguez to Cynthia Osmon
APN: 001-791-034

Pacific Grove

1123 Seaview Avenue — $1,040,000
Dennis Chang to Mina Kinz and Mira Tagay
APN: 006-712-027



676 Carmelo Street, Carmel — $10,995,000

215 Lobos Avenue — $1,384,500
Lari and Claire Murray to Jessica Johnson
APN: 006-316-009

135 5th Street — $2,100,000
Brian van Buren and Suzanne Rutkowski to Steven and Lauren Hoffman
APN: 006-229-007

818 Sunset Drive — $3,300,000
Alexandra Velikoshapko to 818 Sunset Drive LLC
APN: 006-633-034

1205 Surf Avenue — $3,400,000
Darlene and Leo Capovilla to Timothy and Mary Wainwright
APN: 006-013-009

Pebble Beach

1088 Sawmill Gulch Road — $1,675,000
Michael Muis to MHT Holdings LLC
APN: 007-212-006

1158 Chaparral Road — $5,300,000
1158 Chaparral LLC to Evan and Beth Fishman
APN: 007-543-021

1006 Rodeo Road — $9,450,000
James, Blaire and Nye Gammon to Charles Nichols
APN: 007-312-004

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PACIFIC GROVE

www.**TimelessPG**.com

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www.**CarmelValleyOasis**.com

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MONTEREY

www.**MontereyVistas**.com

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