2026 GOLDEN PINE CONES

You picked them! Now, read all about the winners ... inside!

The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 112 No. 44 https://carmelpinecone.com Oct. 30-Nov. 5, 2026

TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

Jerome's survives, but office complex destroyed

■ Carmel Valley fire devastating to many

By CHRIS COUNTS

WITH FLAMES and smoke billowing skyward behind it early Wednesday morning, Jerome's Carmel Valley Market appeared doomed. But thanks to light winds and a quick response by firefighters, the market escaped the blaze with almost no damage, while a two-story office complex behind it burned to the ground. At least four art studios and galleries next to Jerome's were also badly damaged, along with some offices, a tattoo parlor and a home. The fire erupted around 3 a.m.

"Looks like very black smoke coming out of the roof right about where Jerome's would be," one resident reported on Facebook shortly after the fire erupted. "This is just awful."

A woman who lives nearby described what she saw.

"I walked up Paso Hondo to Murphy's side gate," she said. "The fire hasn't spread widely to Murphy's, but the apartment complex by the Rombi Wines tasting room looks completely gone. There are quite a few people waiting it out on Center Street."

Other firsthand accounts indicated that at least five fire

See **FIRE** *page 30A*





PHOTOS/(LEFT) MIKE BUFFO, HOUSE OF 8 MEDIA, (ABOVE) DOUG STEAKLEY

A two-story office building in Carmel Valley Village (left) was destroyed in Wednesday's fire, while Jerome's Market (center right of photo) was left relatively unscathed. Rescue workers (above) survey the destruction.

Down to the wire for TOT increase

By MARY SCHLEY

THE FIGHT over a ballot measure that would increase the transient occupancy tax rate by 2 percentage points to 12% is drawing to a close, and proponents and opponents are doing their best to convince voters to take their sides. In the runup to Nov. 3, they've been peppering the city and surrounding areas with signs, writing passionate letters to the editor and sharing their positions with anyone who will listen.

Not surprisingly, the hotel industry and some other business owners have come out strongly against it — and raised more than $30,000 to bolster their campaign — while the full Carmel City Council and a highly active group of residents are stridently arguing in favor of the TOT increase, Measure M, as well as its sister ballot measure, N, which seeks to raise the local sales tax by .375%.

Big money

Combined, the city estimates they'll generate an additional $3.8 million for the general fund, and every council member voted to put them on the ballot.

The group that supports the taxes, Citizens for Carmel's Future, has raised more than $12,000 to fund its pro-M and pro-N campaigns, mostly from city residents, compared with the hotels that dominate the opposition's donations, according to forms filed with the California Fair Political

See **ELECTION** *page 24A*

Medi-Cal keeps the hits coming

■ Unnecessary surgeries, fraudulent prescriptions, hospice care for the healthy

PROSECUTORS ANNOUNCED yet more charges this week against alleged scammers accused of operating large health care fraud schemes in California and costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Among those charged are two Southern California medical professionals who allegedly defrauded Medicare of $135 million through medically unnecessary arterial

Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

procedures at two Los Angeles-based clinics. Another group of alleged fraudsters is charged with deceptively billing the government $138 million in three hospice schemes. Included in that group is a Los Angeles man who federal prosecutors say ran more than a dozen hospice facilities that collected $107 million in claims despite non-death discharge rates above 75% — and exceeding 90% at some sites. Such rates set off alarm bells, as hospice is designed for people on their deathbeds.

Swindlers on the loose

News from the Department of Justice that swindlers may have cheated state and federal governments out of money intended for those who truly need it has lost some of its shock value. Similar headlines about California-based cases have appeared throughout the year as federal officials crack down on healthcare fraud schemes. Some in our deep-blue state may even brush off the revelations as another way for the Trump administration to point fingers at California. But this month, the admonishments are also coming straight from Sacramento.

In a letter dated Oct. 15, California State Auditor Grant Parks warned the governor and legislative leaders that

See **FRAUD** *page 29A*

County rejects federal claim of 310 illegal voters

By KELLY NIX

MONTEREY COUNTY officials this week rejected a federal demand to help identify 310 people the government described as "likely aliens" on local voter rolls, calling the action an "assault on the integrity" of the county's elections. Officials also maintain there is no evidence that the people identified are unlawfully registered. However, in California, it's also true that nothing is done to verify the citizenship of voters.

'Hand over records'

On Oct. 23, two federal agents delivered a letter from U.S. Attorney Craig Missakian to Monterey County Registrar of Voters Gina Martinez. The letter said 310 people are unlawfully registered in the county and asked officials to segregate any ballots from those individuals until their citizenship could be verified.

"Within 48 hours, we ask that you commit to working with the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security to identify who on the accompanying list is a citizen and who is not," the three-page letter said.

Figures disputed

Missakian also asked Martinez to provide all records concerning the people on the list, including Social Security numbers, driver's licenses, voter registration applications and documents submitted or obtained during registration or licensing.

"This process will protect American citizens' votes while preventing noncitizens from participating in the federal election in violation of federal law," the letter said.

The DOJ also asked the county not to process any returned ballots from people on the list until their citizenship status could be determined.

On Tuesday, Monterey County officials rejected the

See **VOTERS** *page 28A*

ICE chastises sheriff's office for thwarting arrests

By KELLY NIX

U.S. IMMIGRATION officials this week condemned the Monterey County Sheriff's Office for "harboring" two people sought by federal agents who were released from the county jail in Salinas. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement accused local officials of "siding with criminals" after a Monterey County supervisor personally intervened as federal police waited to apprehend the men.

Early Tuesday evening, several agents in green tactical vests marked "Police ICE" waited outside the jail, hoping to detain two men the agency said have prior arrests for DUI, drug offenses and providing false identification to authorities.The federal agents were unable to arrest the men.

After learning Tuesday that ICE planned to detain them upon their release, the sheriff's office placed the jail on lockdown from 5 to 8 p.m. The lockdown halted inmate releases, new bookings and visits.

Cmdr. Andy Rosas said the lockdown was intended to

See **ICE** *page 25A*



SCREENSHOT FROM KSBW ACTION NEWS 8

On Tuesday, supervisor Wendy Askew (right) told an ICE officer outside the county jail that no inmates would be released who are "at risk" of being detained by the feds.

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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Love at first sight

For 10 years, life as she knew it meant coming home at the end of the day to her partner, their dog and their house in Monterey. Then, like in an alternate-reality movie, she woke up one morning in a cottage in Carmel, alone and without a dog.

"I could handle everything about the changes in my life except the absence of a dog," she said. "So I checked the Monterey SPCA county website to see if there might be one who needed to go for a walk. Not a Rottweiler, German shepherd or Doberman, but something I could handle."

There, staring back at her from the screen, was "Teddy Bear," a sturdy little French bulldog clearly mixed with something — perhaps some pug, maybe some Boston terrier? Add in a bit of English bulldog, and this was Teddy Bear.

She had just separated from a Boston terrier.

"The SPCA said they'd put him on hold, so I could come walk him," she said. "I arrived with my mom, saw that big, soft face and eyes that could broker world peace, and said, 'Yeah, we're not leaving without you.'"

Someone said he was so ugly, he was cute. It's all a matter of perspective, his person said.

The only problem was that she'd moved with her elderly mother into a two-bedroom apartment behind



Bruno's Market, which didn't allow dogs. So she called her therapist and said that, as a caregiver for a person with Alzheimer's, she needed a letter confirming Teddy Bear as an emotional support dog.

"Two hours later, Teddy Bear was in my car," she said, "heading home. I need him, and he gets that."

Teddy, now 2, has become a fan of the water. Although he's been to Carmel Beach, he and his person are partial to the paths at Asilomar.

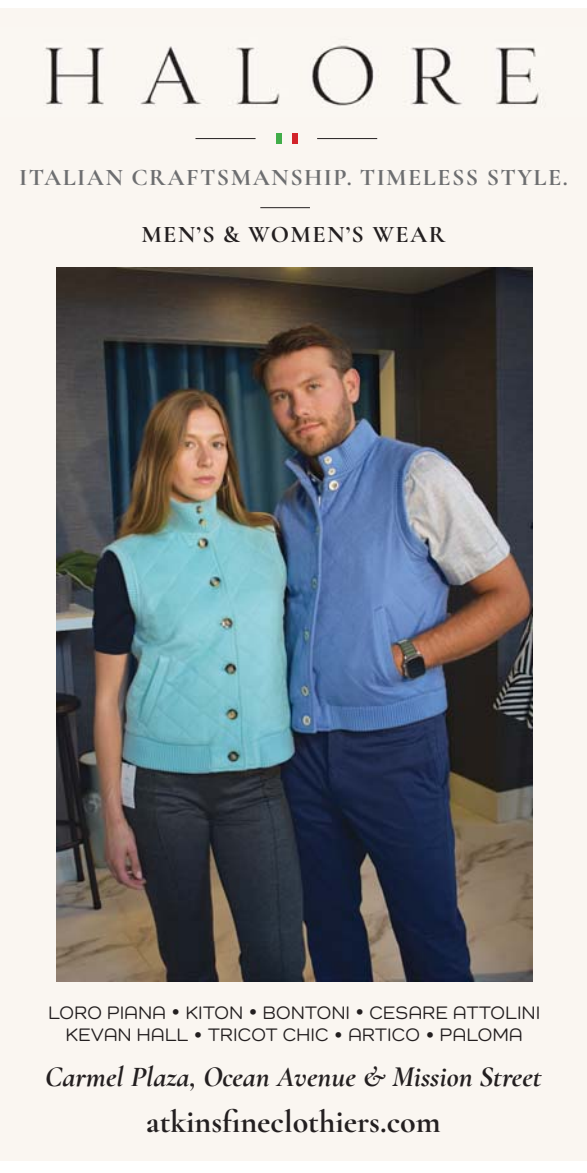
















Desal to cost as much as $825 million, utility says

By KELLY NIX

California American Water now estimates its proposed desalination plant will cost about $825 million, but the utility says a "low-cost financing framework" would reduce the long-term impact on Peninsula water bills by nearly $600 million.

The company, which announced the estimate in an Oct. 23 press release, has long argued that its desalination plant is the only drought-proof water-supply option for the Monterey Peninsula. The new estimate is more than double the $329 million figure Cal Am provided as recently as 2019.

The privately owned utility attributed the increase to a lengthy approval and permitting process, legal expenses and the resulting construction delays.

"These delays have exposed the project to labor and construction material cost escalations, as well as significant legal expense, resulting in a total construction estimate of $825 million," Cal Am said. "We understand that this estimate may be concerning, and we want customers to know that affordability is central to our approach."

Cal Am submitted an application to the California Public Utilities Commission, which approved the project in 2018, to update the cost estimate. The filing also proposes a financing plan and a method for addressing project costs in customer rates.

Cal Am estimates that the lower-cost financing measures in its application would reduce the impact on customers by $588 million.

The utility said it would seek low-interest state loans, a Department of Water Resources grant and more than $500 million in secured bonds, which carry lower interest rates. The company also proposed additional savings for low-income customers.

"We recognize that any increase in a water bill can be difficult, especially for households already managing tight budgets," the company said. "To provide additional support, California American Water has requested an increase in our customer assistance discount to 50% for essential water use in 2027."

Monthly rate increases for low-income customers would also be capped at $10.

The desalination plant is one of three components of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. The other two are aquifer storage and recovery and Pure Water Monterey, a wastewater-recycling project.

'Water deficit'

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District contends that the expanded Pure Water Monterey project, which supplies more than 60% of the Peninsula's drinking water, is sufficient to meet the region's long-term needs.

Cal Am counters that California Public Utilities Commission-approved environmental planning documents and supply-and-demand estimates show the Peninsula will face a water deficit by 2050, and that desalination is the best way to address the region's long-standing water-supply problems.

"Our analysis indicates that if a drought hits, the Peninsula could experience a supply shortage within three years," Cal Am said in the press release.

LandWatch Monterey County criticized Cal Am's revised estimate. "In 2018, the commission approved a 6.4 million-gallon-a-day plant for $239 million. Cal Am now wants $825 million for 4.8 million gallons a day — four and a half times the per-gallon price ratepayers were promised," LandWatch Director Michael DeLapa said.

CUSD GOVERNING BOARD | TRUSTEE AREA 2

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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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Police & Sheriff's Log

The doorknob was on the floor

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.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Monterey: A 57-year-old man was arrested at Washington and East Franklin streets for driving on a suspended license.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Suspicious circumstances at Monte Verde Street and Ocean Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Report of a civil issue near the 2700 block of Ransford Avenue. The reporting party wanted officers to document the incident. Information only.

Monterey: A 21-year-old woman was arrested on Del Monte Avenue for probation violation and driving on a suspended license.

Monterey: A 26-year-old man was arrested at Camino El Estero and Anthony Street for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood-alcohol level of 0.08% or greater, and driving while his license was suspended or revoked for DUI.

Monterey: Passing a completed check or other instrument with intent to defraud reported at Fisherman's Wharf.

Monterey: Shoplifting reported on Fremont Street.

Monterey: Camp abatement on Figueroa Street.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

Monterey: Overdose reported on Del Monte Avenue.

Monterey: Offensive words in a public place reported on Fremont Street.

See **POLICE LOG** *page 51A*



The gavel falls

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

Sept. 25 — Judge Jennifer O'Keefe sentenced Monterey resident Tessa Knight, 26, to six years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation after Knight admitted to one count of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated. The charge constitutes one strike under California's three-strikes law.

Shortly before midnight Oct. 8, 2023, California Highway Patrol officers were dispatched to a reported head-on collision between a Mazda SUV and a Subaru sedan on Highway 1 near the State Route 183 exit in Castroville. Highway 1 has one lane in each direction at that location. Officers found the vehicles disabled on the northbound and southbound shoulders, both with significant front-end damage. Both drivers were trapped inside their vehicles.

CHP identified the Subaru's driver as Keenan Jackson. Jackson was unresponsive and died despite paramedics' efforts. Paramedics were treating the Mazda's driver, identified as Knight, when Officer Peter Todd noticed signs of alcohol intoxication. Before Knight was transported to the hospital, Todd conducted a brief DUI investigation and determined that she was under the influence of alcohol.

A subsequent forensic analysis of Knight's blood by the California Department of Justice found that her blood-alcohol concentration was approximately 0.19%, more than twice the legal limit. A motorist who witnessed the crash told officers that Knight had sped around her and into the oncoming lane

See **GAVEL** *page 50A*



Some exclusions apply. See a sales associate for more details. Financing available upon approval.

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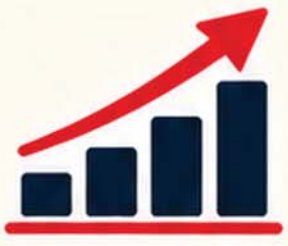
VOTE NO ON MISGUIDED MEASURE M



It's a tax we don't need and a risk we can't afford.

1 PROVE IT'S NEEDED FIRST

Hold off on any hotel tax increase until the City proves that additional taxes are even needed – hotel taxes are increasing far more than the estimates the City based Misguided Measure M on.



2 GO AFTER NON-PAYERS

Go after other groups who, unlike hotels, haven't been paying their fair share, like short term rentals and on-line booking agencies, where estimated unpaid taxes total hundreds of thousands of dollars per year!



3 REQUIRE REAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Tie any new hotel tax increase in the future to a legally binding requirement to spend only on deferred capital maintenance. Don't accept unenforceable political promises, demand real life proof that the City will put its money where its mouth is!



4 MAKE IT TEMPORARY NOT PERMANENT

Rather than put a permanent, "forever" tax on the ballot, limit the term of any tax to the period the City claims to need additional "make-up" payments – like 10 years in this case!



At the end of the day, after you have taken a critical look at the pros and cons, ask yourself one final question before you vote:

WHAT WOULD CLINT DO?

Paid for by Citizens Against Carmel Hotel Tax Increase Committee - FPPC#1494630

Vote Yes! on Measure N

Carmel City Council's statement as published in the County of Monterey Voter Guide for the November 3, 2026 General Election:

Measure N presents Carmel voters with an important choice:

keep local sales tax revenue in Carmel or risk having Monterey County or another regional agency claim it instead.

The total sales tax in Carmel-by-the-Sea is 9.25%, but only a fraction comes to the city. State law has long capped the locally controlled portion of the sales tax rate, but Carmel now has an opportunity to increase its 1.50% local share by 0.375%, to 1.875%. Because this recently identified 0.375% is also available to other government entities, Measure N presents a "use it or lose it" opportunity. If Carmel does not act first, Monterey County or another regional agency could permanently divert these locally generated tax dollars away from Carmel.

In a tourist destination like ours, a substantial portion of sales tax is paid by visitors shopping and dining locally. Approving Measure N would ask them to contribute a little more to help improve our village. It would add just 19 cents to a $50 restaurant bill while generating approximately $1.9 million in annual revenue for the city. Most food purchased in grocery stores is tax-exempt.

Approving Measure N would help fund long-overdue investments in critical infrastructure. Our infrastructure is old, deteriorating, and in need of immediate repair. The City Council estimates the cost to address this deferred maintenance in streets, sidewalks, facilities, stormwater management, beach hardening, and erosion control at over $100 million. Addressing this challenge is urgent.

Before asking voters for this additional revenue, the City Council made difficult choices to limit operational spending, reallocating millions of dollars toward rehabilitating our aging infrastructure. But those efforts alone are not enough. **We simply need more revenue to address these critical infrastructure needs and other city needs.**

Keep these local dollars in Carmel. VOTE Yes! on N

Endorsed by all members of Carmel's City Council acting as individuals:

Dale Byrne, Mayor
Hans Buder, Councilmember
Allissandra Dramov, Councilmember
Jeff Baron, Councilmember
Bob Delves, Councilmember

supportcarmelsfuture.org Paid for by Citizens for Carmel's Future · FPPC #1493807

CHOMP nurses rally over staffing and 'workplace violence'

By KELLY NIX

REGISTERED NURSES at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula gathered outside the hospital Monday to call for action regarding "staffing shortages, patient safety and workplace violence."

"Short staffing throughout the hospital can be very hard on patients, and they can become agitated and act out," said Oscar Sandoval, a nurse in CHOMP's emergency department. "When things escalate, it's nurses who get kicked, hit or spit on."

The rally was organized by National Nurses United and the California Nurses Association, which represents more than 750 registered nurses at the hospital.

Nurses union spokeswoman Rachel Berger told The Pine Cone that employees are seeking stronger protections for nurses in contract negotiations.

"CHOMP is like every other hospital in that workplace violence is commonplace," Berger said. "It can take the form of verbal aggression, pinching, shoving, hitting or much more."

The unions are seeking additional weapons-detection systems at hospital entrances, hands-on de-escalation training and a committee to identify vulnerabilities at the facility.

"One thing is that the reporting of violence has not been consistent at CHOMP, and you can't come up with adequate responses if you don't understand the scope of the problem," Berger said.

Mindy Maschmeyer, director of marketing and communications for Montage Health, CHOMP's parent company, said the hospital takes employee safety seriously.

'Care deeply'

"For many years, we have maintained a comprehensive workplace violence prevention program that includes training, technology, security measures, reporting and response processes, and ongoing review of incidents and trends," Maschmeyer told The Pine Cone. "We continually evaluate and strengthen these efforts because we

See **NURSES** *page 20A*

PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE IN GREENFIELD

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE MONTEREY County Public Defender's Office is opening an office in Greenfield.

The office, located in the Greenfield City Council chambers at 599 El Camino Real, marks an important step toward "expanding access to justice and strengthening services for South Monterey County residents," the public defender's office said.

As staffing and operational details are finalized, the office anticipates offering on-site services one day per week, with additional availability by appointment.

The public defender's office provides free legal representation to eligible individuals in criminal matters and certain limited civil proceedings.

"Recognizing that South County residents often face limited access to legal and supportive services, the office is committed to helping bridge this gap by establishing a greater presence in the community," the office said.



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Paid for by: ALISSANDRA DRAMOV FOR CARMEL CITY COUNCIL 2026
P.O. BOX 6046 CARMEL, CA 93921 F.P.P.C. ID # 1496265

Dear fellow Carmelites,

As the election campaign draws to a close I would like to thank you for the courtesy and warmth you have shared with me.

I have had the opportunity to meet with many of you as I campaigned outside the post office, at the beach, while walking through town, before and after various city meetings and events and at coffee chats with neighbors.

Although I have lived in Carmel-by-the-Sea most of my life, these were places where I saw familiar faces, met new voters, re-connected with those I hadn't seen in a while and even made new friends.

I have often said that what I liked and learned about working in television news is that it's a team effort. Each person plays a role for the news broadcast to come together as a whole.

Working on Carmel-by-the-Sea's City Council is a similar effort—it's not about any one of us—it's what we bring together to get to a majority vote and ideally to get to an unanimous vote.

Serving on our city council is a team effort, too. I am very proud of the work we've done these past two years, and it's all five of us together who have been a remarkable team.

We have made thoughtful, responsible, reasonable and respectful decisions. We have worked hard to tackle long overdue issues including our budget and our city's deferred maintenance and to find practical solutions.

I bring a straightforward, common sense viewpoint and approach.

Above all I have and will always strive to continue to make decisions for what's in Carmel's best interest.

Carmel-by-the-Sea has been my home for most of my life. It is an honor to serve our community and I would like to continue to serve as there is much more work ahead to be done.

Thank you for your support and I ask for your vote on November 3rd!

Sincerely,

Allissandra



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Mayor (1992-2000)



Sue McCloud
Mayor (2000-2012)



Dave Potter
Mayor (2018-2024)

"Having served as mayors of Carmel-by-the-Sea, we know what it takes to do the job well. Hans Buder works hard, listens to residents, and brings people together. *He's the clear choice, and he'll make an outstanding mayor.*"

Join your neighbors in supporting Hans for Mayor

Former U.S. Representative
Sam Farr

Former Monterey County Supervisor
Mary Adams

Former Carmel Mayors
Sue McCloud
Dave Potter
Ken White

Former Carmel City Council Members
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Michelle Sours
John Stelnicki
Susie Stelnicki
Maria Sutherland
Mark Tanous
Megan Terry
Randy Tunnell
Tim Twomey
Ty Visconti
Chris Wagner
Diana Wahler
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Sherry Williams
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Paid for by Hans Buder for Carmel Mayor 2026. FPPC #1490162

Feds investigate MoCo school district

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE NORTH Monterey County Unified School District is one of three California school districts the U.S. Department of Education is investigating for allegedly coercing students to reveal intimate details about themselves and their families without parental consent or knowledge.

"The investigations will determine whether the districts violated the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, which requires schools to notify parents and obtain their written consent before surveying students on topics that would reveal protected information," the federal agency announced.

The questionnaires, which the agency described as "invasive," probed students for details about "their sexual orientations, gender identities, mental and physical health conditions, family economic status, race and more." Students were also asked to assess their "privilege status."

Federal official Frank Miller said education leaders in California "must stop undermining parental rights."

"Schools in California seem to be collecting a myriad of protected and private information on students without involving parents, raising serious concerns that they deliberately keep parents in the dark about the most sensitive information pertaining to their children," said Miller, director of the Student Privacy Policy Office. "Students should not be pressured into identifying intimate details about themselves and their families without parental awareness and consent."

Ethnic studies

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the three school districts require students to participate in activities designed to assess their "power and privilege" and "map their identities" as part of required ethnic studies curricula.

The department also alleges that the districts "were not responsive to requests to review the ethnic studies curriculum or

See **PRIVACY** *page 28A*

Spa worker accused of sexual assault

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A MASSEUSE at a Monterey spa was arrested Sunday afternoon for sexually assaulting a customer, according to MPD Lt. Ethan Andrews, and police are looking for other potential victims.

On Oct. 25 at 12:34 p.m., officers responded to GG's Spa and Salon on Calle Principal after a woman there called Monterey P.D. and said she'd been raped. "The victim reported that during a massage, an employee sexually assaulted her, and she immediately confronted him and called the police," Andrews said.

The worker, identified as 46-year-old Shengfeng Wang of Monterey, left before officers arrived, but they found him about an hour later in the 200 block of Dela Vina Avenue and arrested him without incident, according to Andrews.

He was booked into Monterey County Jail on a felony charge for forcible penetration with a foreign object on a victim who was unaware due to misrepresentation. He remained in custody this week on $100,000 bail.

Andrews said the case remains under investigation and asked anyone who might have relevant information to contact him at (831) 646-3822 or leave an anonymous tip at (831) 646-3840.

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★ Elect ★
Dan Miller
for
School Board

★ ELECTION ALERT ★

As everyone has now received their sample ballots and questions are coming in to me I thought I should address some of them for all of you. First of all a little background. I am running for the office of trustee for district one in the Pacific Grove Unified School District. I have lived in Pacific Grove my entire life. I attended Forest Grove School, Pacific Grove Junior High (now the Middle School) and Graduated from Pacific Grove High School. Two of my children currently attend Pacific Grove Schools. My mother worked for Pacific Grove Schools, as an elementary school secretary, for over 35 years so my knowledge and experience is wide ranging.

The issues facing the district are many. I'll address five of the most important:

1) District elections: **You can now only vote for one of the five representatives to the board. Two districts have people running unopposed. You deserve to be able to vote for all five representatives and district elections need to be reversed.**

2) Bonds and financing: **The district is now over $100 million dollars in debt! When you vote for a bond of fifty million dollars another fifty million will go to interest. We need to pay as we go not waste half the money generated on nothing.**

3) School Resource Officer: **Having someone on campus, with a gun, isn't a bad thing unless its not a police officer. The current board was misguided in getting rid of the school resource officer, a trained police person, who carries a gun.**

4) Teaching trades and skills: **The High School used to have an auto shop and wood shop. We used to have a program that allowed students to do hands on learning and to build a house from the ground up. These programs need to return.**

5) Judicious Expenditures: **There were 1,450 students at the high school when I attended. Now there are 550. Taxes and revenue for the schools go up every year. But we have built more and more buildings to serve less and less students and have gone farther and farther in debt. This needs to stop now!**

Historical knowledge is important. It gives context to many decisions and it is currently lacking on the school board. In talking to one of my opponents about the advent of district elections he asked "when did they happen." The answer? Four years ago. I bring historical knowledge and insight that I believe is a valuable asset. I will never accept any compensation to serve as your representative on the school board.

If you have any questions please email me at danmiller39@comcast.net.

Paid for by Dan Miller For School Board

Burned landmark sold

By CHRIS COUNTS

A SMALL parcel of land that was once home to one of Carmel Valley's most historic buildings has been sold to a neighbor, Trafton Chandler. According to Angolee Bode of Compass Real Estate, it sold for its asking price of $125,000. The site is at Carmel Valley and Robinson Canyon roads, next to the Farm Center.

"This property stands as a landmark of local heritage," Bode said. "For over a century, it was the site of the historic Carmelo Athletic and Social Club. Originally built in 1895, the club served as a cherished gathering space and the beating heart of the community for generations before it was tragically lost to a fire in February 2025. While the original structure is gone, the spirit of the land remains."

Chandler told The Pine Cone that it's too early to say exactly what he will do with the property, which measures just 0.3 acres, but suggested any development would be minimal.

'Open to ideas'

"For now, it's going to sit there," he said. "I'm not going to disturb it with winter coming. I don't know what I could get through the county. I'm going to have to get creative or not do much at all — I'm open to ideas."

The longtime local resident, who lives nearby, said he is sentimental about the property.

"I grew up with that building," he recalled. "I wish I could replace what was there."

Chandler noted that his late father played a key role in the development of nearby Carmel Valley Ranch. "I would want to do something with the property that he would be proud of," he added.

See **LANDMARK** *page 20A*

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Supes hear horror stories about roosters, pass tougher rules

By CHRIS COUNTS

AFTER LISTENING to residents share reports of sleepless nights living next to rooster operations in unincorporated areas, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday to approve tougher rules for people who raise the birds. Roosters crow loudly at all hours and are often raised for illegal cockfighting.

"I haven't been able to get a good night's sleep for a year," testified a woman who identified herself only as "G.G." "The toll on our mental health has gone far beyond frustration. We can't comfortably open our windows and enjoy our backyards. The unbearable odor only adds to our distress."

Cindy Slade of Aromas told supervisors that she has a neighbor with 30 cages of roosters. A second neighbor has also added roosters, and now, she said, the birds "compete against each other" in crowing contests.

"The noise spreads all over the neighborhood," Slade

See **ROOSTERS** *page 20A*

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A nearly 40-year industry veteran and NAR Hall of Fame inductee, Jeff's is known for building agent-first cultures rooted in mentorship and **g**rowth.
Our local team is thrilled to have his leadership.

Welcome to Carmel, Jeff!



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- Monterey Bay Action Committee
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- Monterey County Democrats
- PG Progressives
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CynthiaGarfieldDistrict1.net

Garfield for Council 2026 FPPC#1492380

‘Harmony Habitat’ the next pickleball?

By MARY SCHLEY

A SIGN that the Great Pickleball Feuds of 2025 left the Carmel Forest and Beach Commission feeling a little snakebit: The prospect of installing a few artsy metal musical instruments for kids to play with in Forest Hill Park is causing more than a bit of angst. Commissioners are set to vote on a project proposed by a group of young businesspeople, “Harmony Habitat — An Outdoor Music Garden for Carmel,” next month, and proponents are trying to rally support.

The project is spearheaded by Leadership Carmel, the annual chamber of commerce program that seeks to develop and inspire “community-minded business and civic leaders through service and professional growth” by having them develop, collaborate on and implement a “legacy project.” The 2024 class overhauled a seating area on the Scenic Road pathway to better accommodate people with disabilities, for example.

Common interest

The 2026 class members said their concept grew from common interests in youth, music and the outdoors. Harmony Habitat would be a way of getting kids outdoors and upholding “the cultural and creative heartbeat of our village,” they said in materials presented to the forest and beach commission in May. The group committed to raising $30,000 to purchase and install a “botanical garden ensemble” of seven “beautiful, weather-resistant, sculptural instruments designed for collaborative, all-ages play.” Their designs include metal flowers, mushrooms, trees, butterflies and the like.

The group subsequently temporarily installed one instrument, a flower, in the park to measure sound levels, and they visited a similar setup at a Monterey school, as did members of the forest and beach commission.

At the August meeting, four Leadership Carmel members took turns speaking during a nearly hour-long conversation with commissioners as they tried to assuage fears regarding potential noise impacts and attempted to convince them that Forest Hill Park — not private property or somewhere outside the city — is the best place for their project.

Among their offers were spacing the instruments out rather than having them clustered together and using coatings and other measures to deaden the sound a bit. They also said they plan to establish a fund to cover ongoing maintenance costs.

“It was a little bit concerning to have them all right next to each other,” commission chair Tamara Michie told the women at the Aug. 20 meeting after playing the

See **HARMONY** *page 24A*



PHOTO/LEADERSHIP CARMEL

This metal flower and others like it are meant to inspire artistic musical play in children.



Vote for ASSEMBLYMEMBER

DAWN ADDIS

“It’s my honor to represent the entire Monterey County Coast in the State Assembly. ***I hope to earn your vote and continue serving these special communities.”***

—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

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- Monterey County Hospitality Association
- Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association
- Monterey Commercial Property Owners Association
- Monterey Firefighters Local #3707

SIDEWALK REPAIR SUPPORT

The City Council voted 5-0 to direct staff to create a program assisting property owners with sidewalk repairs.

Under Measure S guidelines, the City will repair minor residential sidewalk damage and share the cost of major and severe residential sidewalk repairs through a new program.

Paid for by the Committee for Yes on Measure S FPPC# 1495795

Traffic solution planned for Marina

By LILY PATTERSON

ROUNDABOUTS REDUCE traffic congestion and the number and severity of car crashes, so despite a lukewarm public response to the proposed loop at Del Monte Boulevard and Reservation Road, the Marina City Council approved the project, estimated to cost $4.5 million, as the first major step toward the city's long-discussed downtown revitalization plan.

To help develop that plan — a 20-year vision for "a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly urban core with mixed-use buildings, retail and office space and new housing" along the Del Monte and Reservation corridors — the city conducted community outreach consisting of an online survey and a public workshop. Between March and June, 231 responses were received online, where opinions were split on roundabouts as a solution to improve traffic flow, pedestrian and bicycle safety in the area, with most concerned about the potential for driver confusion. The majority of the 52 residents who attended the in-person session were opposed to the traffic circle in favor of improving the current signalized intersection, according to the city's report.

Council banks on fewer crashes, less congestion

Fewer collisions

But traffic safety data trumped public opinion when, in June, the council directed city staff to begin designing a roundabout. On Oct. 6, City Engineer Scott Shepard appeared before the council to present the final layout.

To make the case for it, Marina Police Chief Randy Hopkins shared data about a similar roundabout at Beach Road and Del Monte Boulevard.

Since its completion in 2017, "the kind of collision has changed. Before the roundabout, the crashes were right-angle, two-vehicle crashes caused by stop sign violations. Some of those resulted in injuries, including a pedestrian and a bicyclist," Hopkins informed the council.

"In the last three years, there were no right-angle crashes, no injuries, and no fatalities. Nearly all were single-vehicle crashes into fixed objects, and most of those involved impaired drivers at night," the police chief said.

Millions in accidents

At the Del Monte Boulevard and Reservation Road intersection, 11 crashes have occurred since 2023. Half of those accidents were the result of stoplight violations or unsafe turning, according to police data, with two significant collisions resulting in multiple persons injured.

The cost of those accidents is considerable, according to the Federal Highway Administration, which estimates that incidents at the Del Monte/Reservation junction have had an economic impact of $6.7 million over a recent 10-year period.

Based on another study that identified the spot as a "high collision intersection," the Transportation Agency for Monterey County awarded Marina $1.7 million for the project in 2023. The agency recently approved a one-year extension on the funds for the delayed infrastructure, which will include a second phase of landscaping and other "significant improvements" to the medians along Del Monte Boulevard, according to the city.

The city initially budgeted capital funds of $1,857,500 for the project, which is expected to cost $4.5 million. During the public comment period, mayoral candidate Ana Luz Acevedo-Cabrera wondered what

See **ROUNDABOUT** *page 23A*

"Instead of raising the hotel tax rate, our City Council established the Carmel Hospitality Improvement District in 2012, and the financial results for the City have been exceptional!

Hotel tax payments to the City have grown from $4M to $10M per year since then – an increase of over $6M!

Working in partnership with our hotels to revive Carmel's then-stagnant hospitality community is one of the proudest achievements in my two terms as Mayor."

Jason Burnett, Former Mayor, Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Why does the current City Council keep ignoring the City's own prominent role in creating the CHID and denying the tremendous financial benefits reaped by the City from the 2% assessment?

Paid for by the Carmel Innkeepers Association.

Who I Am

A LIFELONG COMMITMENT
TO OUR COMMUNITY

Carmel City Councilmember
2016 – 2024.

Mayor Pro Tem
2018 – 2024.

ACC Commissioner
2014 – 2016.

Carmel Chamber of Commerce Board Member
2012 – 2016.

Carmel Residents Association Board Member
2024 – 2026.

My Plan for Carmel

PRESERVE. PLAN. PREPARE. TOGETHER.

Bring People Together
Work with residents, businesses, community organizations, and neighboring cities to get things done.

Explore Revenue Solutions
Be creative and pursue state, federal, and private funding. Find solutions, not just taxation.

Keep Our Community Safe
Support our police, fire, VIPS, CERT, and the resources they need.

Protect Our Beaches and Shoreline
Pursue grants and partnerships for beach preservation, shoreline protection, and coastal improvements.

Support Local Businesses
Show up, welcome new businesses, and make City Hall a responsive partner.

Over the past few months, I've shared who I am, why I'm running, what I hope to accomplish, and how I will serve.

Now I'd like to take a moment to say thank you.

Let's Go Carmel!



To the residents of Carmel
for the opportunity to serve this special community.

To our Carmel city staff, police, and fire
for their dedication and hard work.

To our dedicated VIPS and CERT volunteers
for helping keep our community safe.

To the countless community volunteers
who give their time and talents to care for our village—from our beaches and forests to our gardens, streets, and so many other important projects.

To the generous supporters
who have helped me throughout my campaign.

Bobby Richards

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA CITY COUNCIL

EXPERIENCED
INDEPENDENT
COMMUNITY DRIVEN

PAID FOR BY BOBBY RICHARDS FOR CITY COUNCIL

Council to consider AI policy, fire defense plan and police station architect

By MARY SCHLEY

WILDFIRE PROTECTION, artificial intelligence and new sidewalks for the Pine Inn are on the Carmel City Council's agendas for Nov. 2-3. After Monday's meeting, city hall will welcome residents, candidates and others for its traditional Election Day party at 7:30 p.m.

Monday's meeting will begin at 3 p.m. with approval of the consent calendar, which includes routine items such as monthly reports, minutes, the check register and free-use days at Sunset Center for the Carmel Unified School District. It also includes a lease for the Carmel Youth Center for library use during the Harrison Memorial Library remodel. A previous contract with the Church of the Wayfarer fell through because of the extent of the required tenant improvements.

Councilmembers will then consider the Pine Inn's proposal to replace the sidewalks surrounding its block-size hotel and retail complex, bounded by Ocean, Monte Verde, Sixth and Lincoln avenues, with pavers. Owner Richard Gunner has committed to paying the full cost, and recently appointed planning director Andrew Myrick is recommending approval, as did the planning commission.

The council will also weigh in on the 42-page fire defense plan drafted by the city's wildfire prevention committee, followed by a draft policy governing city employees' use of AI.

After the open meeting, the council will meet in closed session for labor negotiations.

The next day's meeting, scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m., will open with two presentations and a resolution honoring artist Jo Mora.

There is one item on that day's consent agenda: the second reading and adoption of an ordinance amending the Carmel Municipal Code to implement programs in the housing element, "to remove constraints to the development of housing and comply with state housing law."

Police station

An update on the nearly decade-long effort to upgrade the Junipero Avenue police station will follow. The project has since expanded to include adjacent public works facilities. The report will include upcoming contract negotiations with another architectural firm.

Previous architects hired to work on the project include Kasavan, as well as Wald, Ruhnke & Dost and Indigo, which brought on local firm Studio Schicketanz as a subconsultant. For the latest effort, a committee of Councilmembers Jeff Baron and Alissandra Dramov and city staff reviewed proposals from eight firms, further vetted four finalists and is recommending 19six Architects, which has 10 offices throughout California.

Next, councilmembers will vote on a resolution adopting a compensation and benefits plan for at-will employees. They initially approved the plan in September, then delayed final approval at this month's meeting after raising additional questions.

They will wrap up with a closed-session conference

See **AGENDA** *page 29A*



VICKI NOHRDEN
MONTEREY CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 2
Fiscal Responsibility
Public Safety ★ Economic Vitality

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Nov. 3

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Lou Panetta – Past Pres. – Civil Grand Jurors' Assoc.
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Carol Chorbajian – Measure S oversight
Joe and Richard Storeli
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Angelo Shake
Carina Powers

"I endorse Vicki Nohrden for the City Council. She thinks and acts for the community and for all neighborhoods. Monterey needs Vicki's wisdom, experience, and leadership. Join me in supporting Vicki for Monterey - District 2 City Council!" – Ed Smith, Monterey City Council

- **Monterey deserves experienced leadership that listens to residents and puts our community's needs first.**
- **I have ideas for actions to improve economic vitality.**
- **I believe in accountable government, safeguarding Monterey's history, and quality of life.**

Vicki MONTEREY CITY COUNCIL vicki4monterey.org

VOTE VICKI NOHRDEN
DISTRICT 2 ▪ NOVEMBER 3, 2026
vicki4monterey.org

Paid for by the committee to Elect Vicki Nohrden FPPC #1492098



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Carmel update of 1769 British political cartoon condemning over-taxation of the American colonies.

Paid for by Citizens Against Carmel Hotel Tax Increase Committee - FPPC#1494630

State Parks supervisor saves woman

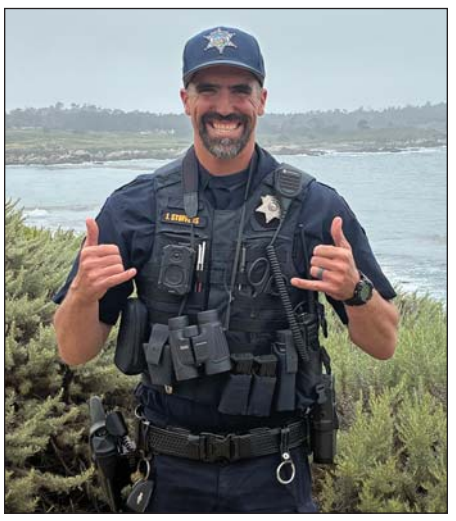
By MARY SCHLEY

AN OFF-DUTY California State Parks supervisor making a late-night trip home from training in Southern California rescued an unconscious woman from a burning car on Highway 1 near Carpenter Street shortly after midnight Oct. 9. Had Joe Stoffers not happened upon the Jeep, the 73-year-old Carmel-by-the-Sea resident might have burned to death inside.

"It was about 12:15 a.m., and I was on my way home from our advanced officer training in the Riverside area," recalled Stoffers, who lives in State Parks housing near Monastery Beach. "I was off duty but in my work truck with 'out of service' posted on the side."

As he approached the top of Carmel Hill, he saw "a vehicle that was sideways in the slow lane, and the engine compartment was fully in flames."

"I didn't really understand what I was seeing," he said. Stoffers immediately pulled over and radioed dispatch. When he didn't get a response right away, he knew he couldn't linger and had to see if anyone was in the SUV.



PHOTO/COURTESY JOE STOFFERS

State Parks officer Joe Stoffers stopped to pull an unconscious woman from a burning car.

Fully engulfed

He ran over, ripped open a back door and found it empty. When he got to the front, though, he saw an unconscious woman in the driver's seat. "I opened the door and unbuckled her and pulled her out of the car and down the highway away from the fire," he said. Stoffers ran back to his truck, successfully called in the emergency and grabbed the medical gear he always carries as a State Parks officer.

By that time, "most of the cabin was fully engulfed," he said. "I went back and pulled her a little farther away from the car," since it could explode.

Around that time, a doctor who was leaving a shift at Community Hospital "pulled over and helped me carry her down the highway farther away," Stoffers said, and together, they provided aid, including using oxygen to assist her breathing, until ambulance and fire crews arrived and took over.

"I know she survived to the hospital, but I don't know what happened after that," he said. "She was not in good shape."

California Highway Patrol public information officer Ryan Moore said the woman had been driving southbound when, for unknown reasons, she lost control of the Jeep, which hit a mile marker and then a tree before bursting into flames. She was taken to the trauma center at Natividad Medical Center, but Moore said he has not received any updates on her condition.

Stoffers, a 2003 Carmel High School graduate, has been working with State Parks since 2004.

"I started lifeguarding right out of high school and fell in love with it," he said. The job had him in the Sonoma and Mendocino areas for 15 years, but he moved back to the Peninsula about a year and a half ago. He also supervises the Monterey Junior Lifeguard program.

TA

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KEVIN HANLEY FOR COUNCIL



Passive vs. Pro-Active, Nonpartisan Leadership for Pacific Grove

	Cynthia Garfield	Kevin Hanley
Council Pay	▪ Voted to give herself and council colleagues a **130% pay increase** without a vote of the people. 1,800 PG voters signed a petition to stop the large pay increase. ▪ Voted to spend $141,000 of taxpayer funds to a political firm to craft tax raising campaigns that could help fund higher council pay. ▪ Then voted again to further pursue the pay increase wasting $63,000 of our taxpayer dollars for a **135% pay increase** by putting the failed Measure C on a special election in June, hoping for a low voter turnout.	▪ **Opposed the pay increase.** ▪ **Led the effort to oppose Measure C, co-authoring the opposition statement in the ballot materials to the 135% pay increase, which was decisively defeated by PG voters.** ▪ **Helped collect signatures for a Charter Amendment for the November 2028 ballot that would require any increase in council compensation be approved by PG voters in a general election.**
Unbalanced Budget	▪ Voted to adopt an unbalanced two-year budget that dipped into dwindling reserves. ▪ **No plan** for balancing the budget.	▪ **Proposed annual Budgets; workshops to identify possible savings & a Performance-Based Budget measuring service levels, a bottom-line that empowers the elected officials & public.**
Eroding Beach Path on Ocean View Blvd	▪ **No plan.**	▪ **Urged the council to end their multi-year neglect of the eroding beach path and work with the Coastal Commission, state legislators and others to fund and construct permanent structures to ensure our treasured beach path is preserved for future generations.**
George Washington Park Fire Risk	▪ Supported a partial effort to remove some dead trees and dry grasses that lasted only 30 days and did not solve the problem.	▪ **Proposed for the last 5 years that the council adopt a comprehensive plan for all 17 acres to eliminate the catastrophic fire risk.**
Road and Sidewalk Repair	▪ **No plan.**	▪ **Proposed that the Pavement Management Plan come before the council at least once a year to empower council members and citizens about how far behind the city is in road repairs and what's needed to catch up.** ▪ **Proposed creating a Pedestrian Master Plan led by volunteers to document "trip and fall" hazards & where sidewalks should be built.**
Speeding Drivers	▪ **No plan.**	▪ **Stop reckless drivers! Work with the police department to stop speeding/reckless drivers who are endangering PG residents.**

LET'S FIX IT PG! www.Kevin-Hanley.org

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

P.G. council greenlights forest management, fire prevention plan

By LILY PATTERSON

PACIFIC GROVE'S first significant wildfire prevention effort in a decade — a monthlong sprint to remove dead trees and overgrown vegetation from the city's largest park — wrapped up on Sept. 30. City staff and council members say they're pleased with the progress, which chipped away at a visible backlog of maintenance in the heavily wooded, 20-acre property surrounded by residential neighborhoods. According to urban forester John Kenney, special attention was paid to the border along Melrose Street and 17 Mile Drive where homes directly abut George Washington Park.

"We removed dead and downed materials, ladder fuels ands invasive plant species to create defensible space around the park. We also cleared and widened some of the footpaths for public access and removed some of the invasive plants and poison oak near the trails," Kenney informed the city council at its Oct. 21 meeting.

The city hadn't attempted any significant fire prevention work since the peak drought years of 2014-2016, when Cal Fire offered grants and dedicated crews to cities throughout the state. Since then — with exceptions for emergency tree removals — only the playground, baseball field and picnic areas at the southern end of the park have been maintained on a predictable schedule. The neglect has been attributed to "conflicting stakeholder opinions on environmental management strategies," according to the report presented to council members by Kenney and environmental program manager George Fuerst.

Seasonal work scheduled for September, March

A master plan for the century-old park was adopted by the city council in October 1999, and an attempt to amend it for better forest management was undertaken by a consultant in 2021. That plan was ultimately rejected by city officials and members of the public, who demanded a 12-month biological survey of the area.

More work to be done

In August, council members were presented with an annual forest management plan co-written by Kenney and Fuerst which incorporated the 2024 biological survey with input from the beautification and natural resources committee. Though the plan was in draft form, the council gave its immediate blessing for public works to begin clearing hazardous fuel buildup near homes and establishing 100-foot buffer zones.

"There's a 30-day window where we can do tree work before the monarchs hopefully show up, and we can do general work without the need for a bird survey. It's really the most efficient time to do this work," Fuerst said of the strict September timeframe.

State and federal law limits activity that might disturb wild bird nesting during the statutory season, which extends Feb. 1 through Aug. 31 in California. Meanwhile, P.G. Municipal Code prohibits pruning or removing trees while migrating monarchs may be present — historically October through March, though Fuerst noted that the butterflies haven't clustered in the park for more than 20 years.

The next phase of maintenance won't take place until March, he informed the council, when grasses will be mowed around the perimeter of the park.

While residents commended the establishment of a seasonal maintenance schedule for the park — which the council codified with a 7-0 vote last Wednesday — concerns were raised that the city isn't dedicating sufficient resources to fire prevention, based on last month's effort.

"I walked the park and was disappointed in many areas with the amount of fuel that was left. There are many areas in which the grasses are taller than me and go into the trees, which raises a potential crown fire situation. If we have 40 mph winds and an ignition, we have a problem," Kevin Hanley, who is running for city council, said.

"I have to agree that there is a tremendous amount of ladder fuel and fuel sitting on the ground. They got down to my area with maybe three days left in the month, and there was one guy out there clearing with a weed-whacker. If you're going to have to use a weed-whacker, get five or six people out there," resident Mike Gibbs said.

Home-hardening

Speaking with The Pine Cone on Tuesday, Kenney said that his department had applied for assistance from the Cal Fire Gabilan division and the Green Cadre, Monterey County's youth conservation workforce, but failed to recruit the additional support, since those crews are in exceptionally high demand at this point in the year. He said the majority of the work was performed by the city's contractor, Tope's Tree Service, which deployed three- to four-person crews over a total of 15 days at a cost of $38,120, according to public records.

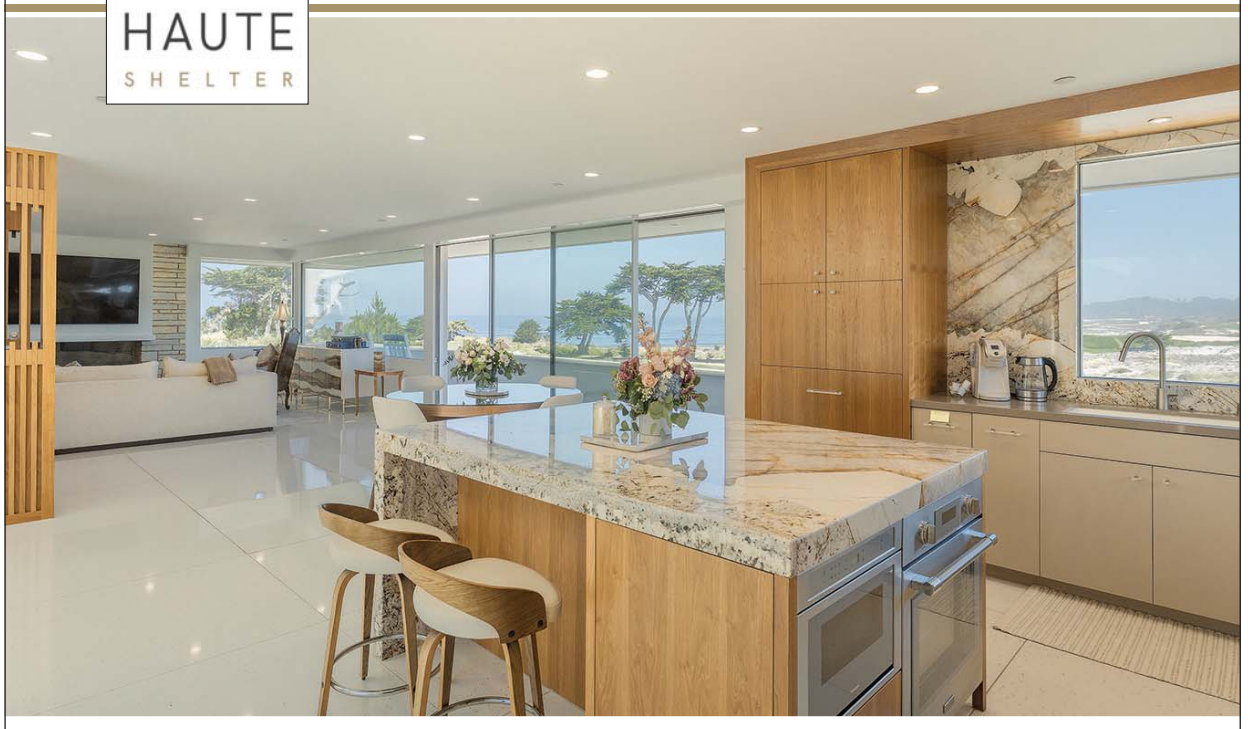
In the last several years, the Monterey Fire Department, which staffs P.G.'s station, has ramped up inspections and engagement with residents to assist with home-hardening. Such measures are useless, however, without the city's cooperation to maintain the overgrown park, which was identified in the 2024 Community Wildfire Protection Plan as a considerable risk to nearby properties. (The last significant home fire in Pacific Grove occurred in 2023, destroying the historic LaPorte Mansion just north of George Washington Park, though the suspected cause was internal.)

To increase the scope of future work, Fuerst noted that

See **PREVENTION** *page 23A*

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SPECIAL REPORT | SOUTHWEST CARMEL

DATA THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

WHAT LOCATION *Really* COSTS

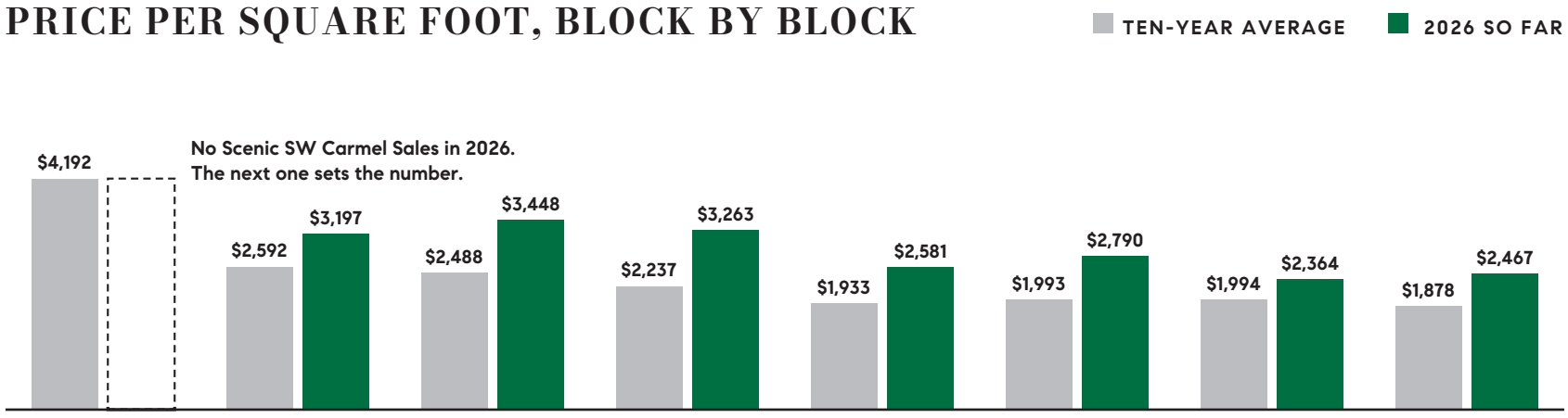
TEN YEARS OF SOUTHWEST CARMEL SALES, BLOCK BY BLOCK FROM THE BEACH



Carmel Beach and the blocks behind it, Southwest Carmel

Homes get pricier closer to the beach. We sorted 338 closed sales on eight streets, from the sand to downtown, and measured each block against the neighborhood benchmark. The gap is real, and it is widening.

PRICE PER SQUARE FOOT, BLOCK BY BLOCK



A DIFFERENT TIER

Scenic averages $4,192 per sq ft, nearly double the $2,290 area average. On Scenic, different rules and values apply.

THE VALUE LINE

Camino Real, three blocks out, sits just $53 per sq ft under the benchmark. One block farther, Monte Verde drops $357.

A WIDENING GAP

Scenic's premium grew from $1,746 to $2,383 per sq ft (2017–19 to 2023–25). Dolores's difference deepened from $156 to $723.

RIGHT NOW, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

$4,818,500
median sale price

$2,821
per sq ft, 23% above the ten-year average

~29
sales a year lately, down from 35

WHAT THIS DATA CANNOT SEE

This data does not capture renovation or finish level. Southwest Carmel homes keep getting more updated, and turnkey homes increasingly command a real premium, which may inflate some of what looks like a pure location effect. Price per square foot also leaves out ocean views (always a premium), single-level homes (uncommon here and always desirable) and garages (none, carport, one-car or two-car).



Mark Peterson and Dana Bambace

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Source: MLSListings closed sales, 338 sales on eight Southwest Carmel streets, January 1, 2017 through September 30, 2026. Premium and discount figures are each block's ten-year average price per square foot compared with the Southwest Carmel benchmark. 2026 figures are closed sales through September 30 and will move as more sales close. Scenic had no 2026 sales.

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COMPASS

Covid-era law allowing drinks to go persists

By MARY SCHLEY

A STATE law allowing restaurants to sell takeaway cocktails and other alcoholic beverages was supposed to expire at the end of the year but has been extended to Dec. 31, 2029, reflecting an ongoing desire to keep drinking flexible and allow businesses to capture a little more income.

Assemblymember Chris Rogers of Santa Rosa authored the bill, with Sen. Scott Wiener of San Francisco as its principal coauthor. Sponsored by the California Restaurant Association and supported by the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, the bill extending the original 2021 law was signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Sept. 30 and took effect immediately.

Rogers argued for urgency to avoid a lapse when the prior law expires on New Year's Eve. Proponents said it would help struggling restaurants, protect those that have incorporated takeaway wine, cocktails and spirits into their operations, and accommodate customers who have grown accustomed to taking drinks home. Opponents, including Republican Assemblymember Diane Dixon of Newport Beach, worried it could lead to more drinking in public and DUIs. Ultimately, no one voted against it.

Rogers' legislation doesn't, however, allow a bartender to pour a margarita into a plastic cup and hand it over. The law authorizes certain restaurants, as well as wineries, breweries and distilleries that have on-site restaurants, to sell manufacturer-sealed distilled spirits to go. These are commonly called ready-to-drink beverages, or RTDs. Eligible businesses may also offer individual servings of wine and cocktails or other distilled spirits — but not beer — to go, in containers sealed "in a manner designed to prevent consumption without the seal being broken." The buyer must order a bona fide meal, too.

More rules

In addition, the customer must present ID and order and pick up the drink in person. Wine can be sold only in single-serve containers that hold between 187 mL and 355 mL. Mixed drinks and cocktails cannot contain more than 4.5 ounces of distilled spirits each, and customers are limited to two non-manufacturer-sealed drinks per meal.

The container must be clearly and conspicuously labeled or otherwise identified as containing alcohol, and sellers must notify the ABC of their plans to sell to-go drinks and post "a specific warning sign" on the premises, online or "wherever necessary" to ensure customers understand that such beverages are restricted by open-container laws.

The required notice reads, "Alcoholic beverages that are packaged by this establishment are open containers and shall not be transported in a motor vehicle except in the vehicle's trunk or, if there is no trunk, the containers shall be kept in some other area of the vehicle that is not normally occupied by the driver or passengers. This does not include a utility compartment or glove compartment. Additionally, these beverages shall not be consumed in public or in any other area where open containers are prohibited by law."

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LANDMARK

From page 10A

Before it burned down, the building hosted "town-hall-style meetings, holiday celebrations, birthday parties, dances and Grange meetings," according to Carmel Valley historian Elizabeth Barratt. A photo from the early 1900s shows it surrounded by agricultural fields and trees.

A busy place during its heyday in the early 20th century, the building was known by several names, including the Carmelo Athletic and Social Club Building, The Barn and the Grange Hall.

The cause of the fire was never determined, and the building's remnants were removed in July 2025. Some beams that didn't burn and an old bench were given to the Carmel Valley Association to be repurposed.

Just as the fire erupted, a debate was underway on Facebook about the building's future. Many commenters wondered whether arson was to blame, and several suggested a homeless person had been living there.

ROOSTERS

From page 10A

said. "It's not fair to residents where large numbers of roosters are being kept. I feel very sorry for people who made investments, but they're imposing on their neighbors in ways that are very hard to tolerate."

Some people who raise roosters spoke out against the new rules.

A man who raises roosters and identified himself only as Martin said he "strongly" opposes the new ordinance.

"We've spent a lot of money getting our yards up to par," he said. "If you want peace and quiet, Salinas is big enough. You can move to the city."

Another man who raises roosters and didn't give his name said the county's rules have cost him tens of thousands of dollars.

"We've been complying," he insisted. "What happens to all that investment we made? Who compensates us?"

No more than five

The new rules limit the number of roosters that may be kept on non-agriculturally zoned properties: five on properties greater than 5 acres, two on properties between 2 and 5 acres, and one on properties less than 2 acres.

The rules passed in 2015 require a property owner to get a permit to keep five or more roosters on a single property if the land isn't zoned for agriculture. The new rules don't apply to agriculturally zoned land. On nonagricultural land, they cap the number of roosters at five per property, with a few exceptions.

The rules also shift rooster enforcement from animal control to zoning.

The county planning commission voted unanimously Sept. 30 to recommend that the supervisors approve the new rooster rules.

NURSES

From page 6A

know the risks facing healthcare workers are real and evolving. We care deeply about the people who care for our community, and we remain committed to listening to our staff, learning from their experiences and investing in measures that help keep our employees, patients and visitors safe."

Nurses at the Monterey hospital voted in January to unionize. Monday's rally came as employees and the hospital negotiate their first union contract.

"Nursing is the most trusted profession, and nurses take care of patients 24/7 at CHOMP. We are there when things go wrong," said Kristine Olalia, a registered nurse in the orthopedic unit. "We should be taken seriously when we raise safety concerns."

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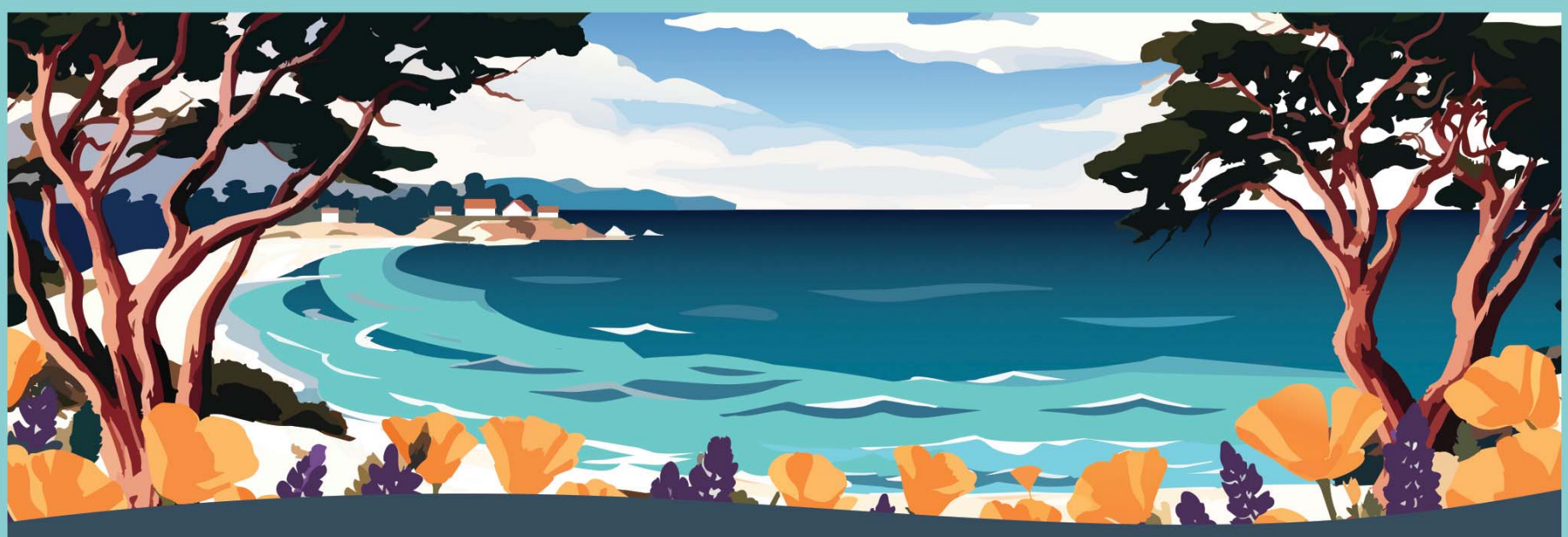
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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File No. 20261873
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).

VOTE YES ON MEASURES M & N



Repairing our streets, sidewalks, infrastructure, trees and beach can no longer be ignored

Our City Council enacted policy that now requires general fund revenues be used for capital maintenance needs. Measures M and N are necessary to support the City's 10-year Catch Up Plan

Vote Yes! and Yes! on both Measures M & N

Why Yes! on Measure M

+2% TOT paid for by hotel guests

- Carmel's hotel room rates have risen over $200/night across the past 10 years
- Carmel's hotel occupancy has remained steady at 70% as room rates have nearly doubled
- Adding $5 to a $250 hotel bill will not cause visitors to go someplace else

A little bit more from visitors. $2M more for Carmel.

Why Yes! on Measure N

+0.375% sales tax paid mostly by visitors

- Adds just 19 cents to a $50 restaurant bill
- If Carmel doesn't act now to keep these sales tax dollars in Carmel, Monterey County or a regional agency will be able to claim them

Keep $2M local sales tax dollars in Carmel.

Who is supporting Measures M and N?

Dale Byrne, Mayor
Jeff Baron, Councilmember
Bob Delves, Councilmember

Hans Buder, Councilmember and Mayoral Candidate
Allisandra Dramov, Councilmember and Incumbent Candidate
Stefan Karapetkov, Planning Commissioner and Councilmember Candidate

Andi Carr
Noel Carr
Chris Campbell
Bud Smith
Hiroomi Tada
Kim Tada
Bill Karges
Patty Ross
Nicki Sturdivant
Don Sturdivant
Donna Jett
Jenny Delves
Barbara Stout
Ellen Thomas
Paul Falworth
Harry Ross
Dylan Witt
Margaret Byrne
Nancy Collins
Erin Allen
Jim Beck
Larry Mariani
Rina Mariani
Nicholas Earl
Linda Floyd
Jerry Floyd
Laura Bowling
Linda Yellich
Michael LePage
Scott Lonergan
Kelly Brezoczky
Thomas Brezoczky
Sharon Meresman
Stan Meresman
Christy Hollenbeck
Doug Hollenbeck
Cindy Lloyd
Ian Martin
Rob Lechner
Barri Belnap
Tamara Michie
Andrew Michie
Michael Ramon
Victoria Beach
Vinz Koller
Megan Buder
Deborah Burlingham
David Burlingham
Lance Wills
Maria Rengifo-Ruess
Pete Yengst
Neal Rutta
Cary Ostrie
Jayme Case
Jeffrey Case
Shirley Faxton
Ruth Hansen
Mary Condry
Tasha Witt

Carmel residents have donated $10,000 to support these Measures.

Who is not supporting Measure M?

15 Carmel hotels have donated $25,000 to confuse the facts. Don't believe them.

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Seaside gets funding to repair bridge

By CHRIS COUNTS

CLOSED FOR three years, the San Pablo pedestrian bridge in Seaside is a step closer to reopening after the city secured the remaining funding for its rehabilitation, Sen. John Laird announced this week.

Laird said his office secured $550,000 in state funding for the project, which previously received $850,000 in federal funding.

The bridge crosses busy San Pablo Avenue and connects parkland on both sides of the road, providing a safer route for residents. Built in 1960, it was closed in 2023 because of "erosion and structural deterioration."

"For three years, Seaside families and students have been without a bridge they relied on to get around their neighborhood," Laird said. "Mayor Ian Oglesby and Seaside city officials brought this issue to my attention during a visit more than a year ago, and I'm pleased we were able to secure the final funding needed to move the project forward."

Laird said the project is about "more than replacing a bridge."

"It's about giving families a safer route to school, reconnecting neighborhood parks, and making sure residents of all ages and abilities can enjoy these public spaces for generations to come," he said.

'A real gap'

Laird met with Oglesby at the site Wednesday. The mayor said the bridge's closure in 2023 "left a real gap in our community."

"We've been working to bring this connection back, and securing the remaining funding is a major step toward making that happen," Oglesby said.

The project is in the design phase, with the final design expected to be completed by the end of 2027. Construction is scheduled to start in July 2028.

The bridge will be accessible to people with disabilities, and the city also plans to make adjacent trails more accessible.

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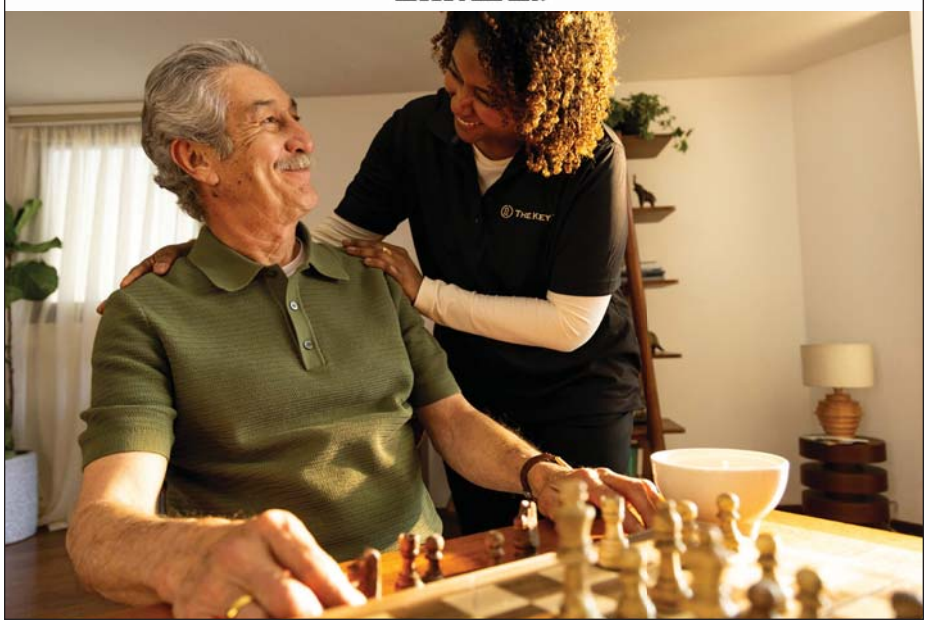
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ROUNDABOUT

From page 14A

could be done with the grant funds alone.

"Could there be crosswalk improvements or protected bike lanes? If we're going to have to pull funds out of other parts of the budget, my question would be if this is such an urgent project in comparison to, let's say, police and fire. What can we do with the amount from TAMC?" Cabrera asked.

She suggested minor improvements to crosswalks and bike lanes, but Shepard countered that "once we start touching the signalized intersection, we kind of have to do the whole thing."

Saving in the long run

Another commenter expressed support for the roundabout design, describing the intersection as "very dangerous" and referring to the Federal Highway Administration's data on accident costs and the city's potential liability for pedestrian injuries.

Mayor Bruce Delgado also emphasized that "millions of dollars are spent on a decade basis related to accidents at Reservation Road."

"You don't save money in the long run with signalized intersections," he said.

Shepard said the city is looking for alternatives to general fund dollars for the project, including developer impact fees. In 2017, the $2.2 million Del Monte/Beach roundabout was funded more than half by federal grants. The remainder was covered by impact fees, which are one-time charges that local governments may leverage on new or proposed developments to pay for public infrastructure.

According to the resolution presented to council members, which only requested their approval to call for bids on the Del Monte/Reservation project, "Staff will return with a recommendation for additional funding allocation."

"The design of the roundabout will include new pedestrian crossings and rapid flashing beacons," according to the plan. The anticipated speed limit is 15 mph, and additional signage and striping will be implemented to encourage safe driver decision-making.

PREVENTION

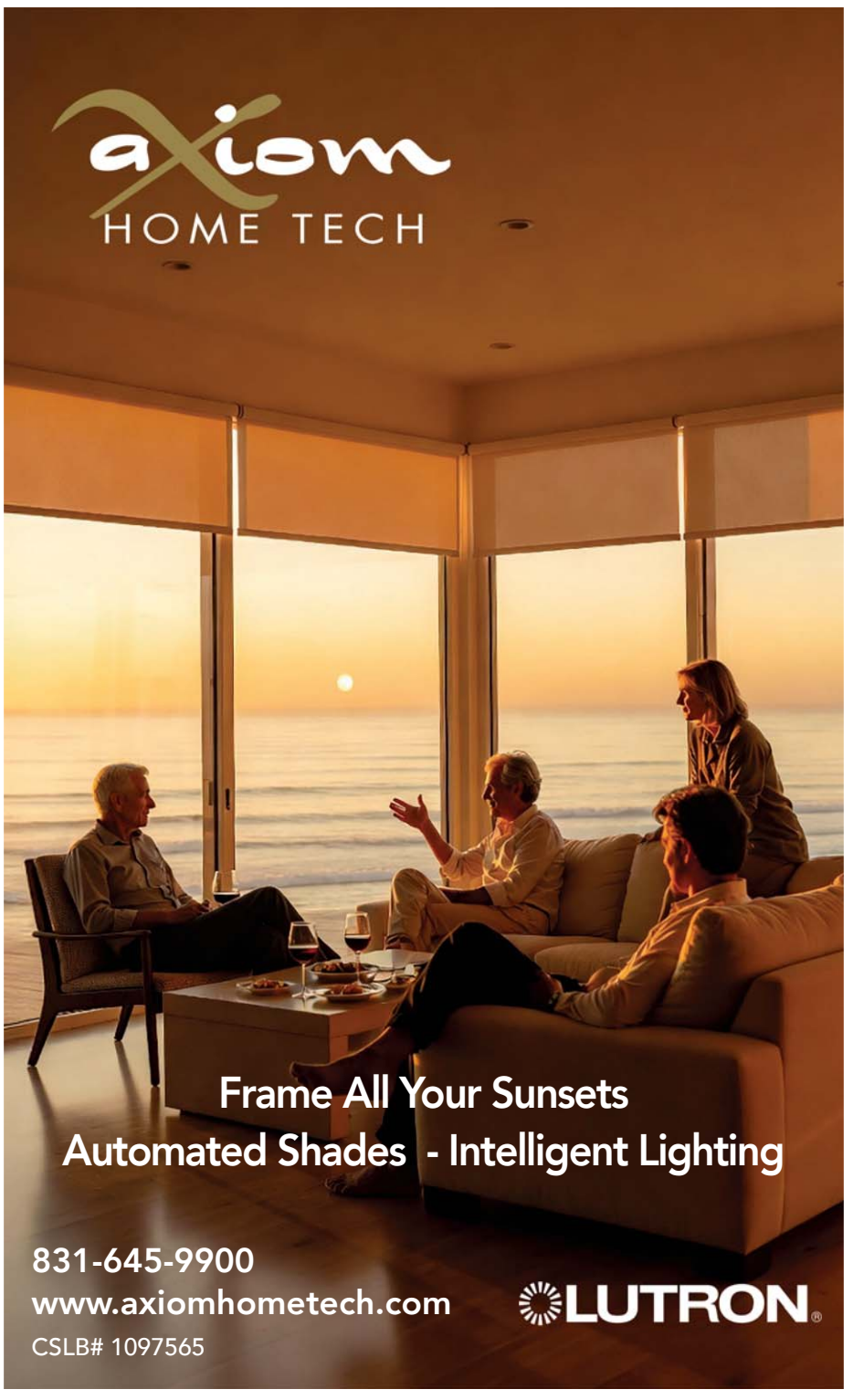
From page 18A

spring and fall maintenance work could overlap with the statutory nesting season, but at the additional cost of hiring an environmental consultant to conduct a bird survey. "And it's possible to do non-tree work during the monarch overwintering season," he said, adding that public works will carry on light maintenance and native species planting in the coming months, and emergency tree removals may be authorized by the city forester or public works department.

In addition to the carefully scheduled work windows, the plan proscribes the use of herbicides, heavy machinery or live tree removal. Council member Lori McDonnell, who serves as liaison to the beautification and natural resources committee, commended Fuerst and Kenney for "the great balance" they'd achieved between habitat protection and fire risk management.

"There will always be a risk of fire in every park. The real goal here is to have a healthy forest. It's important for our residents and for visitors who may use it. It's a valued asset in the community," McDonnell said.

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



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Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

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ELECTION

From page 1A

Commission. No one has registered opposition to the sales tax increase.

The principal arguments by those in favor of the tax increases point to the city's mounting deferred maintenance — estimated at $100 million — and the lack of funds to address it, considering much of the budget goes to operating costs dominated by payroll and benefits. Measure M opponents insist the tax will be bad for business, and therefore bad for the city's general fund, too.

Kelly Brezoczky, one of the founding members of the citizens group, Support Carmel's Future, and a member of the forest and beach commission, said she is confident voters will approve both measures. While the council and other proponents have focused on how the increased revenues will benefit the city's aging infrastructure, neither measure is specific in how the funds will be used. The council was deliberate in wording each measure broadly so as to avoid the need for a two-thirds majority approval from voters.

"I believe we have very engaged residents who care deeply about the deferred maintenance in our city and that both of these measures will pass," Brezoczky said. She cited a survey she conducted at the post office in late May that found that 18 of the 25 Carmel residents who responded — or 72% — support both tax increases, with stronger negative sentiment for the sales tax. As of last week, Carmel had 2,346 registered voters.

"So, to me, the better question is: How do we ensure that the money raised from measures M and N will be used appropriately to support the 10-year catch-up plan and the long overdue deferred maintenance our city requires?" she continued. "This is a really important question and one that I believe our city council has proactively been addressing" via its financial stewardship group, its limiting of operations spending to a percentage of general fund revenues, and other efforts toward transparency.

Opponents question

Some business owners are skeptical, however, and suggest the city should do a better job budgeting the funds it receives, a large chunk of which comes from visitors.

"This money goes into the general fund, although it is being pitched for capital improvements. There are no strings on the money," said Hog's Breath Inn restaurant owner Lee Morcus. "The city should focus on stimulating hotel reinvestment to improve and elevate the product, rates, off-season occupancies — this will increase revenue without tax rate increases."

Inns by the Sea general manager Mark Watson said the city loses nothing if Measure M fails, since TOT already supports a significant part of the budget, but if it passes, "Carmel risks interrupting the strong economic momentum that has been generating substantial increases in city revenue." An analysis by the Carmel Innkeepers Association estimates "approximately 5,000 fewer occupied room nights annually and roughly $3.6 million in lost hotel and local business revenue," he said.

Guests spending less would also disincentivize investment in properties that, if upgraded, could charge higher room rates, and therefore generate more TOT.

Pam Sheppard, owner of the Horizon Inn and the Ocean View Inn, said TOT has continued to exceed budget estimates because hotels assess a 2% fee on visitors to use for their marketing.

And if the predicted room-night losses don't materialize and the TOT increase brings in the expected $1.9 million described in the ballot language and the proponents' arguments, Sheppard and some of her colleagues, including leading opponent hotelier Mark Stilwell, join Morcus in their skepticism that the city will really use it for capital projects.

"It is highly unlikely that they will allocate all of the 'new' funds collected to deferred maintenance as the proponents believe," she said. "Their track record for keeping their word is dismal, and worse, this council has little to no experience in managing city budgets, so giving them more money to waste is not what my hard work should fund."

Brezoczky said the council's decision to make its financial stewardship committee permanent should allay some of those concerns. "This legislated action to ensure ongoing transparency and accountability provides all of us residents an ongoing opportunity to ensure the continued care for our streets, sidewalks, trees and beach remains a present and high priority," she said.

HARMONY

From page 12A

school's instruments. "That could potentially be a lot of noise if they're all in one area, because, you know, you can make a little orchestra out of the different instruments."

The sounds aren't always nice, either.

"You can get pretty loud on those," added commissioner Harry Ross. "You can make a lot of noise with that thing."

"If I lived above that, it would probably annoy the heck out of me," he continued. "But I love this idea. So I do want to work with you to try and find the right place in the city, if possible, to do it, because I think it is a cool thing."

"I was also struck by how easy it was for me to get a bad noise out of it," commissioner Neal Rutta chimed in.

But he liked the idea of testing one of the instruments in the park, trying out some sound-dampening measures and seeing what Forest Hill Park neighbors think about it.

'Make this work'

"We're all trying to find ways to make this work, because of course, why wouldn't we want to make this work? It's such a beautiful thing to have for the kids," chair Tamara Michie said. "After what we went through a year or so ago at the tennis courts, we're probably all a little gun-shy about noise and neighbors and just trying to make sure that we're doing our due diligence."

She suggested getting notices to the neighbors so they can participate in public hearings about Harmony Habitat if they want to.

The park seems like the best place for their project, according to commissioner Sarah Berling, especially since it wouldn't be nearly as annoying as pickleball play.

"We don't want another pickleball thing where we hear about that all the time, and a little bit of noise here and there isn't bad," she said. "I mean, pickleball goes on for hours."

Some speakers expressed concerns about people banging on the instruments at night, and commissioner Kelly Brezoczky reminded the group the city does not have the resources to take measures like locking them up after dark.

"I know we probably sound like we're just all a bunch of downers here, but I think all of you know what we've been through at the tennis courts," Michie said. "So, we're just a little trepidatious."

'A jam session'

During public comment, resident Chris Campbell said she admires the group's enthusiasm, "but for me, from the beginning, this has been ill-advised."

"This hearing was sort of hauntingly familiar, because I attended all of the hearings on pickleball, and it was the same kind of struggle," she said.

Even if it's harmonious, she argued, noise "has a corrosive effect on human happiness."

"I think it will be a temptation at night for people to have a little jam session, even if there are only three of them," she added.

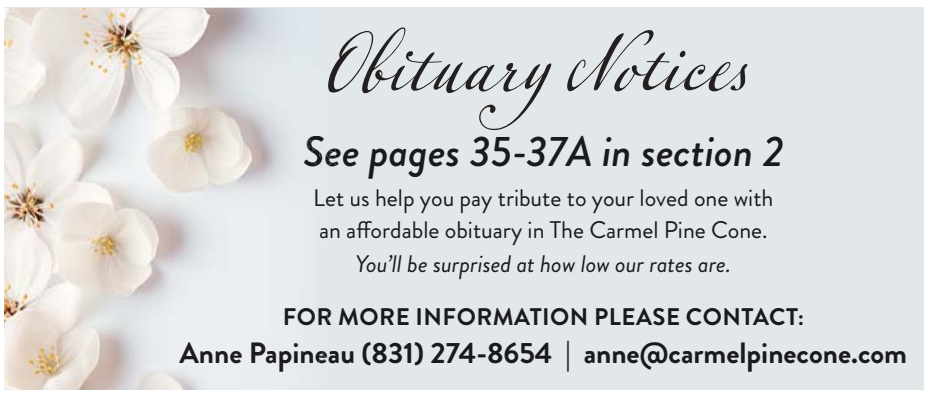
Another speaker identified as Barry said he couldn't disagree with Campbell more. "It's the only children's park you have," he said. "The noise level can be mitigated."

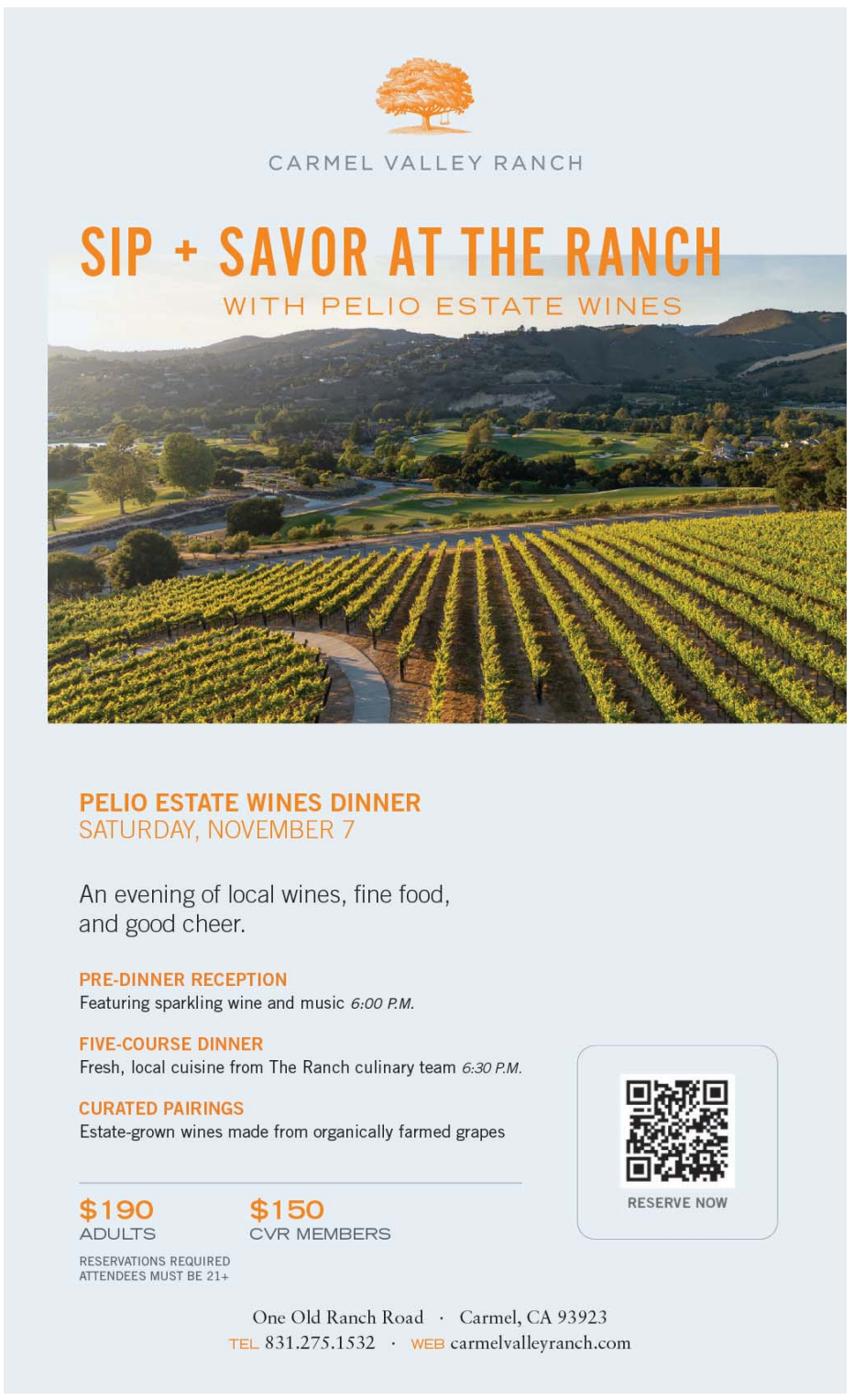
Commissioners suggested the group buy a couple more of the instruments and temporarily install them in the park so neighbors can get an idea of how they'll sound.

Last week, class representative Michelle Amirkhanian told The Pine Cone the three sculptures would be in place soon.

"We are scheduled for Nov. 12 at 2:30 p.m. for the next forest and beach commission meeting," she said. "Public works and Leadership Carmel are sending out notices by Nov. 5 to the neighboring community regarding their reflections on the pilot program."

Amirkhanian and her classmates are urging people to attend the Nov. 12 meeting to show their support. The session will be held online and at city hall at 662 Monte Verde St.







ICE

From page 1A

protect incarcerated people, law enforcement officers and community members gathered outside. Sheriff Tina Nieto similarly said her office was working with county leaders "to ensure the safety of everyone" at and around the facility.

In a statement posted on social media Wednesday night, however, ICE accused the sheriff's office of "harboring criminal aliens" from federal agents before releasing them into the community. The agency suggested the lockdown was intended to prevent ICE from detaining the men.

"This is where we are: Criminals are being protected in sanctuary cities and states, and a law enforcement facility is siding with criminals instead of cooperating with federal law enforcement," ICE said.

Monterey County follows state laws that limit local cooperation with federal immigration authorities while allowing certain forms of cooperation in specified cases, including some involving people convicted of serious or violent felonies.

'Not coming out'

Video by KSBW-TV showed an ICE officer speaking Tuesday outside the jail with Monterey County District 4 Supervisor Wendy Root Askew. They discussed whether the jail would release the inmates while ICE agents were present.

"I'll tell you they're probably not coming out," Askew said. "I've spoken to the sheriff."

After Askew said the jail would not release anyone "at risk" that day, the officer suggested that continuing to hold people who were otherwise eligible for release violated their Fourth Amendment rights.

"They will not be released in a location where ICE is present," Askew replied.

A small group of onlookers and protesters gathered outside the jail while ICE agents were there. One woman angrily confronted an agent, who appeared to gesture for her to move out of the way.

Despite the lockdown, the sheriff's office said no one scheduled for release was affected and that all releases occurred under normal protocols and schedules.

Sheriff's officials said federal authorities had not notified the office about the operation in advance. They also noted that federal law enforcement agencies are not required to provide notice when conducting independent enforcement operations within the county.

Askew worried about what she called 'at-risk' inmates

Seaside arrests

Meanwhile, the Seaside Police Department said targeted immigration enforcement took place in the city Monday and that ICE made several arrests.

"While we do not have access to the specific details of these investigations, our understanding is that the operations involved individuals suspected of federal criminal violations," police said.

The department said it would continue sharing information about ICE activity when doing so would not compromise anyone's safety or privacy, or the integrity of an ongoing investigation. It encouraged residents with questions or concerns to contact the department.

"We recognize that this is a sensitive issue that affects members of our community in different ways. Our commitment remains the same: to serve our entire community with professionalism, respect and transparency," Seaside police said.

This week's enforcement in Monterey County may be part of "Operation Safe California," a 45-day ICE immigration mission launched in early October that targets undocumented immigrants across the state. The operation reportedly began in San Diego and expanded to the Central Coast and Central Valley.



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Editorial

Keep the cameras. Set the rules.

LAST WEEK, we wrote about the Monterey County Board of Supervisors' decision to remove 63 Flock cameras, despite compelling testimony from District Attorney Jeannine Pacioni about how evidence from the county's license plate cameras helped investigators pursue murderers, armed robbers and a father who kidnapped his 4-year-old child. Our point was not that the cameras should be free of oversight. It was that removing them takes a useful tool away from investigators — leaving future victims to be preyed upon by people who would be in prison if the cameras were still there.

This week, a City Journal article by Charles Fain Lehman provides a national perspective that makes the concern harder to dismiss. Lehman looks beyond solved crimes to a more urgent question: What happens when a child is missing and police need to find a car right now?

He opens with the case of "Allie," a 12-year-old from South Carolina who believed she was meeting a teenage boy she had spoken with online. Instead, she got into a car with a 31-year-old man who drove her across three states to Arkansas. Investigators found an image of Allie entering a black Chevrolet Malibu, but they did not have its license plate number. They searched Flock's database using the car's appearance, found images showing its route and alerted authorities in Arkansas. Police arrested the man and his wife and recovered Allie. According to a sworn statement quoted by Lehman, she was shaking and asking for her mother when officers found her.

That "no license plate" detail in the story matters. A Flock camera is not useful only for scanning license plates. It can also help identify a vehicle by its make, model, color and other visible features. In Allie's case, that turned a partial description into a route investigators could follow.

Lehman recounts another case in Moody, Ala. Police say a woman who had been grooming a 13-year-old girl online picked her up along with her 9-year-old brother at a gas station. After a 911 call, officers obtained surveillance footage and used Flock cameras to track the car. They stopped it on a nearby highway and recovered both children, even before an Amber Alert could be issued. The speed was the point: If the car had crossed more jurisdictions, the search could have become much harder.

In Richmond, Va., a mother's car was stolen with her two young sons inside — one a month old, the other a 3-year-old with autism. A Flock camera detected the vehicle, and police recovered the boys within 45 minutes.

Lehman cites other recoveries in Indiana, Georgia, California and West Virginia, but he does not claim to know how many children the cameras have helped rescue in total. He reports that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates Flock readers have assisted in the safe return of more than 1,000 missing persons since the organization began working with the company in 2024.

The connection to Monterey County is direct. Pacioni described a local case in which an estranged father kidnapped his 4-year-old child. License plate reader technology helped Monterey police locate the child in three hours and 10 minutes. Her other examples showed how vehicle evidence helped investigators identify suspects in shootings, robberies and a fatal ax attack. Lehman's article adds the part that can get lost when we talk only about prosecutions. Sometimes the cameras help police reach someone before the worst happens.

None of this makes the privacy objections imaginary. Cameras can record the movements of people who have done nothing wrong. Access can be abused, and information can be shared too broadly. Lehman acknowledges those concerns, and so did our editorial. Both essays call for strict limits on who can search the surveillance camera data, why they may search it, how long it is kept and when it can be shared. Searches should be logged and audited, with penalties for misuse. Supervisors should demand those protections and enforce them.

Many jurisdictions already impose constraints of exactly this kind — retention limits, purpose restrictions, audit requirements and limits on data sharing. The choice facing Monterey County is not between unregulated surveillance and a total ban. It is between keeping a tool that has repeatedly helped recover children and solve serious crimes, under enforceable rules, or discarding it.

They should also reckon with the cost of removing the cameras. Lehman reports that vandals disabled three Flock cameras near Allie's hometown before her abduction. Local law enforcement officials believed one of those cameras could have helped find her sooner. That doesn't prove how the case would have turned out but it illustrates the choice officials are making. When a camera is gone, its data can't be misused, but it also can't find a fleeing suspect.

Any politician who votes to get rid of license plate surveillance cameras instead of limiting what can be done with them needs to have his head examined — with a Flock camera. Besides catching criminals, maybe they're good at spotting stupidity.

BEST of BATES



Letters to the Editor

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

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

The value of overnight visitors

Dear Editor,

As someone who runs two hotels in Carmel-by-the-Sea, I'm asked a lot whether we have too many visitors. My honest answer is that we don't have a volume problem so much as a management problem. That's why I am urging voters to vote no on Measure M.

The overnight guest is the most valuable and lowest-impact visitor Carmel has. They park once. They have dinner in our restaurants, browse the galleries in the morning, take a long walk on the beach and shop in our stores over two or three days. They also fund about $10 million a year in city services through the hotel tax they already pay. The visitor who strains our streets and parking is the day-tripper who drives in, circles for a space and leaves by sunset.

Measure M raises the cost of being the first kind of visitor and does nothing about the second. Carmel guests already pay 10% in city tax plus a 2% hospitality assessment. Measure M takes that total to 14%. That could nudge some travelers to stay in neighboring towns and come into Carmel for the day, which is exactly the visitor pattern residents tell us they're tired of.

It also comes at a hard moment for small, older properties. Every dollar of margin we lose is a dollar we don't put into renovations, wages or the guest experience that keeps Carmel special.

Measure M is also a general tax with no sunset and no connection to the problems it's being sold to address. If congestion and parking are the concern, let's continue to build a real destination management plan: encourage midweek and shoulder-season stays, reward overnight visits over day trips and invest in parking and infrastructure. The hospitality community wants to be part of the solution.

Carmel's economy, from the restaurants and boutiques to the people who work in them, rises and falls with the overnight guest. Let's manage our visitors wisely, not tax the best ones away. Please vote no on Measure M.

Susan Dampier, *Carmel*

Tourists 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.

See **LETTERS** *page 28A*

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Former Marine follows life's lead

Great Lives

By SALLY BAHO

'THE MARINE Corps was my best education," said Kent Seavey, respected local historian and retired sergeant major of the 23rd Marine Regiment. The Marine Corps taught him that when it's bad, you adjust — and to play by the rules, which he always does, even when it costs him. Seavey has lived a life filled with chance encounters that led to doing everything he can to preserve the rich history of the Monterey Peninsula.

"I see myself as a principled working stiff," he said. He's being modest — you can rarely get more than a page or two into the history of a local house or architect's work without encountering a reference to one of his detailed, thoroughly researched write-ups.

Seavey was born in Riverside in 1940 and raised by a single mother on his grandfather's 40-acre walnut and alfalfa farm. "I don't think I wore shoes until I went to school," he recalled. He attended local public schools and graduated from high school in 1957. Then he went to the post office to enlist. The draft was still in effect, and he and his buddy figured they'd just get their service out of the way. "I went with the 1st Marine Division, but an opportunity came up to join the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion," he said. That meant he could learn to jump out of perfectly good aircraft and make an extra $30 a month on top of his $100-a-month salary. He served in Asia.

'Thought I'd be an officer'

"Well, hell, I like the Marine Corps, so I thought I'd be an officer. But you needed a degree, so when I came back, I started at Riverside Community College," he said. After a heated encounter over benefits at a government office in that city, Seavey went to cool down at the museum across the street. "There was a nice collection of Native American baskets," he said. As fate would have it, the man running the place — a retired Army colonel — was looking for an assistant. So, just like that, Seavey was an assistant museum director.

He transferred to San Francisco State and finished his degree, all the while maintaining his reserve status in the Marine Corps. By the time he graduated, the Vietnam War was in full swing. So once again he went to the post office to sign up, this time hoping to become an infantry officer. Instead, a captain counseled him by telling him he was nuts and tearing up his papers. However, Seavey remained in the reserves until retiring in 1988.

Move a library

Not long after his encounter with the recruiter, Seavey saw an ad the California Historical Society had placed for someone to move a 25,000-book library. Interested and curious, Seavey applied — and by the end of the interview, he had been named assistant curator.

His museum career continued, and while working as the registrar at the de

See **LIVES** *page 36A*



PHOTO/COURTESY KENT SEAVEY

Kent Seavey's career has led him from the U.S. military bases of Asia to the front lines of historic preservation in Monterey County.

YACsters art exhibition asks, 'Who are we and who will we be?

Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

THE UPCOMING multi-artist exhibition at the Pacific Grove Art Center will include a group show by three alumni of Monterey's Youth Arts Collective, the centerpiece of which is a strange, colorful, interactive, four-sided structure — 6 feet high, 2 feet wide — with a different "being" on each side.

Using acrylic on wood, each of the artists — Raven Cook, Luke Metcalfe and Iphigenia "Iphie" Wilder — independently painted one side, and all three collaborated on the fourth.

With tutelage from master woodworker Dirk Selvig, the three artists handcrafted the project, creating their "being" in three separate plywood cubes — the head, torso and legs — stacked to form a full body. Each cube can be rotated 360 degrees, making the exhibit interactive by allowing viewers to mix and match the body parts to create 64 different "beings."

Inside the body, the artists hung chimes that tinkle whenever a cube is rotated.

Their show, titled "Fragmented Being," will also include multiple original paintings and other creations by the three former YACsters in the art center's Annand Gallery.

A year in the making

The monthlong exhibition opens Nov. 6 with an artists' reception from 6 to 8 p.m. featuring musical guest Glenn Leon-Guerrero. The exhibition also includes paintings by Edi Matsumoto ("Otter Therapy") in the Dyke Gallery, mixed media by Bernadette Renois ("Starting Line") in the Boyer Gallery and work by a group of Santa Cruz oil painters ("Inspiration to the Expanded View") in the Gill Gallery.

YAC, a nonprofit, after-school art studio and mentorship program, was founded in 2000 by artists Marcia Perry and Meg Biddle as "a safe, creative space for YACsters and staff of all backgrounds, races, religions, disabilities, sexual orientations, and genders," according to its mission statement.

Cook, Metcalfe and Wilder are among more than 1,000 artists ages 13 to 22 who learned art, job and life skills, gained confidence and, in many cases, found like-minded friends through an organization with a simple motto: "Do art. Be kind."

The body of work to be displayed in their "Fragmented Being" show — a year in the making — was inspired by a collaborative theme.

"This group show reflects how memories distort who we are. Who have we been? Who are we now? Who will we be?" the artists wrote. "Our connections to surrounding environments feed the echoes of past selves and amass into nostalgia."

The narrative continues, "Picking apart memories that haunt the mind with saudade, illusions and fondness, we relinquish perceived control. In an attempt to collect fragments, we present the state of being."

Metcalfe and Cook became friends through YAC and became a couple four years ago despite being very different personalities and artistic creatures, each quirky, eccentric and idiosyncratic in their own way.

'Holding toes'

One of Cook's favorite paintings — an acrylic that elicited emotional responses from friends and strangers alike — is titled "Holding Toes." It's a rendering of two bare feet (hers and Metcalfe's), pressed sole to sole, their toes tangled in a warm embrace.

"That painting made one woman cry really hard," Cook remembered. "She said, 'This seems like the purest form of love I've ever seen.' I felt very grateful that one of my paintings could evoke an emotion like that."

Cook credits her father, Matthew Cook, and his deep passion for screaming rock music for her exotic first name.

"My dad's a metalhead," she said, feeling no real need to explain further. "My brothers are Stone Crow and Motley Wolf — metalhead names, I guess."

Cook, 25, is soft-spoken, articulate, sensitive and deep-thinking. At 21, she joined the YAC team as an employee, working as a studio assistant — still her full-time job — but her long-term aspiration is to become (drumroll) a tattoo artist.

She test-drove that dream at age 13, breaking out the needles and ink to create a

See **ARTIST** *page 38A*



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

Youth Arts Collective alumni (from left) Raven Cook, Luke Metcalfe, and Iphigenia Wilder will show their interactive, 6-foot-tall "fragmented being" and other art at a Pacific Grove Art Center exhibition that opens Nov. 6.

From the mayor's desk —

What are we protecting?

By DALE BYRNE

SADE'S HAS been part of Carmel for generations. It lost its lease, and our three-bar limit and location-specific approvals make reopening elsewhere difficult. Rules intended to protect Carmel now stand in the way of a familiar gathering place finding a new home.

Last year, I introduced WAYMISH: "Why Are You Making It So Hard?" I encouraged City Hall to shift from "No, because …" to "Yes, if …" Sade's shows why that question matters. But helpful service can accomplish only so much when the rules themselves may need attention.

Darker picture

Paul McAllister's widely circulated YouTube video, "Why Nobody Lives in America's Most Beautiful Town," prompted me to connect several problems I have encountered as mayor. While it paints a darker picture than the Carmel I know, it

See **MAYOR** *page 31A*



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VOTERS

From page 1A

DOJ's demands.

"The registrar of voters is legally prohibited from taking these actions and is therefore unable to comply with DOJ's requests," County Counsel Susan Blitch wrote to the department. "The letter does not provide specific, actionable information regarding the source or accuracy of the allegations that each of the 310 reported county residents is a 'likely' noncitizen."

County leaders called the federal investigation a "direct, reckless assault on the integrity of our local elections and a transparent attempt to undermine the incredible work of our dedicated elections department."

The county also disputed the DOJ's data. Officials said 168 of the 310 people are not currently registered to vote in Monterey County and 142 are active voters registered in accordance with state and federal law. Among those 142, 17 are first-time voters already undergoing the federally required identity-validation process before their ballots can be counted.

Blitch said the DOJ's demands amounted to an effort to "unlawfully intimidate" election officials and California voters.

"The county reserves its rights to pursue all legal remedies against the DOJ for its unlawful intimidation of election officials and California voters, and as needed to protect lawful voters from disenfranchisement," Blitch said.

'Ironclad'

Martinez described the county's election process as "ironclad" and said her office operates with the highest standards of "accuracy, transparency and fidelity to the law."

"To that end, we will continue to operate following federal and state laws in the administration of this election," she said. "We are fully focused on conducting a free, fair and secure election, and we will protect every single legal vote in Monterey County."

Two days before the DOJ contacted the county, The Pine Cone asked Martinez whether noncitizens might be on the county's voter rolls and whether any had voted.

"We currently have no record suggesting that any registered voter in Monterey County has registered or participated in an election unlawfully," she responded.

She added that applicants must sign voter registration forms and their eligibility to vote under penalty of perjury, though California does not routinely verify voters' citizenship against citizenship or immigration records.

Martinez said her office follows state law as well as federal requirements, including the National Voter Registration Act and the Help America Vote Act, and regularly works to keep voter records current, accurate and secure.

"This includes confirming and updating residences, maintaining personal identifying information, and adding or removing records," she said. Those are identity checks, not citizenship checks.

Federal pressure

The DOJ sent letters on Oct. 23 to 57 of California's 58 counties. Los Angeles County had received a similar demand the previous week.

Missakian's letter said the list of 310 people was developed "through a multilayered, multiagency investigative methodology at DHS that relied upon internal immigration records, data matching, supervisory verification procedures" and other methods.

He warned that election officials could face significant legal consequences for facilitating or ignoring federal crimes.

"I write to make unmistakably clear the legal implications of continuing to send vote-by-mail ballots to those people on the list or tabulating ballots cast by them until citizenship can be verified," Missakian wrote.

On Oct. 19, the DOJ announced criminal complaints against 28 lawful permanent residents, or green card holders, in California. The department alleged that they had illegally registered to vote and that most had cast ballots in federal elections. Eleven were arrested that day. The defendants are nationals of Belize, Canada, Honduras, India, Mexico, Pakistan and other countries.

The DOJ said all 28 defendants appeared on its statewide list of more than 20,000 people it said are unlawfully registered to vote in California. The state has disputed the accuracy of that list.

PRIVACY

From page 9A

that they only allowed parents to review parts of it."

The North Monterey County Unified School District didn't respond to a request for comment from The Pine Cone this week, but in other media reports, the district said it conducted an internal investigation and found no evidence to support the federal agency's claims.

The other two districts under the federal microscope are the Palo Alto Unified School District and the San Francisco Unified School District. Similar investigations have recently targeted school districts in Minnesota, Michigan and Maryland.

What qualifies as protected information? According to the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, passed in 1974 and expanded since, the following categories of information are protected: political affiliations or beliefs, mental or psychological problems, sex behavior or attitudes, illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior, critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships, legally recognized privileged relationships, religious practices, affiliations or beliefs, and income details.

LETTERS

From page 26A

Times have changed since then, including the cost of maintaining a small town visited by many 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 a conservative estimate, 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*

Visitors have choices

Dear Editor,

Much of the argument over Measure M centers on a simple premise: The increase is modest, and visitors will pay it. But that overlooks the economic realities facing Carmel's hotels.

Operating costs have risen dramatically since the pandemic. Hotels need people to operate, yet attracting and retaining employees has become increasingly difficult. Housing within a reasonable commuting distance is expensive, as is the commute itself. Employees can work in neighboring communities for comparable wages without Carmel's parking restrictions and long, congested commutes.

There is another reality we rarely discuss. Many reservations are made through online travel agencies that take substantial commissions from the room rate. The rate a guest sees is not what the hotel ultimately receives.

It is easy to look at Carmel's hotel rates

See **OPINIONS** *page 40A*

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FRAUD

From page 1A

California's Department of Health Care Services, the agency responsible for administering Medi-Cal, is at "substantial risk" of making more fraudulent payments this fiscal year.

According to the report, the state is currently paying 28,000 providers whose risk scores place them in the top 10% under health care services' own risk-assessment tools. Among the red flags for these providers are unreasonably high numbers of claims and serving a very large number of Medi-Cal patients. The agency has investigated only 2,000 of those providers, while the remaining 26,000 are still billing the state and accounted for $12 billion in Medi-Cal spending last year.

Parks made clear that while the report was not a full audit, one of health care services may be on the way when his office has the resources to conduct one.

"Health care services' insufficient oversight of payments to Medi-Cal providers allows for a high likelihood of fraud, waste or abuse that poses a serious detriment to the state," the auditor's report says. It continues: "It is a justification for the state auditor to commit resources for future, in-depth audits of Medi-Cal's payment practices for providers."

Even without an in-depth audit, the report sheds light on how long Medi-Cal fraud has been a problem — and, perhaps more interestingly, on why it has grown under Gov. Gavin Newsom's tenure.

Long history of fraud

Health care services has been in hot water with the auditor since 2007, when it was first designated a high-risk agency. The list indicates that a department is vulnerable to waste, fraud or abuse. Health care services has never made it off the list, in large part because the department has repeatedly failed to act when there are indications or accusations of fraud.

For example, in 2023, a managed care plan reported a Medi-Cal provider to the agency for suspected fraud. The department closed the referral without taking action, and the provider went on to bill the state an additional $5.5 million before health care services referred the company to the Department of Justice for possible fraud in 2026. The incident is not isolated; it is just one example involving a large sum that Medi-Cal paid.

It also has a long track record of being fleeced by providers its own system has deemed ineligible. Case in point: In fiscal year 2024-25, two Medi-Cal providers billed the state $1.6 million in claims even though both had been banned from the program in 2022. How long has this been going on? At least since 2012, when, under President Barack Obama, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services found in an integrity review that California was not doing enough to stop payments to ineligible providers. Twice, the federal agency asked for updates on a corrective action plan, but California ignored the requests and federal Medicaid dollars kept flowing.

The fraud has only gotten bigger during Newsom's tenure, and according to the state auditor, that is mostly a result of the governor's mass Medi-Cal expansions over the past seven years.

Big and getting bigger

Over the last decade, California's Medi-Cal budget has more than doubled, while the state's population has declined 0.2% over the same period. More money for fewer people? Not exactly.

Newsom and state legislators, with the approval of President Joe Biden, eliminated asset tests for Medi-Cal recipients in 2022, allowing far more people to enroll in the program. Thanks in part to the expansions, the program now serves 14 million Californians, or nearly one-third of the state's population.

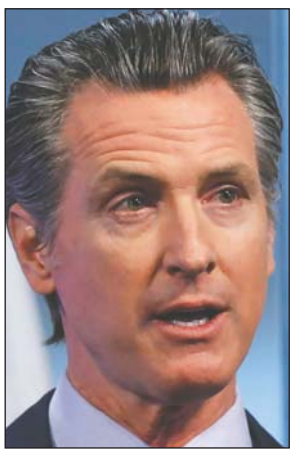
During the same period, health care services also loosened some rules for some benefits, such as by suspending prior authorization requirements for select health care services and medications. The move opened the door to schemes such as a $270 million Medi-Cal scam involving fraudulent prescriptions, which led to federal charges in 2025.

Under Newsom, what's covered by Medi-Cal has also expanded, as has spending on already problematic programs. In 2022, the governor launched CalAIM, short for California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal. The program has added all kinds of services, approving the use of Medi-Cal dollars for everything from security deposits on a lease to first and last months' rent, basic home furnishings and upscale meal services.

The expansions were designed with compassion in mind, but they've also given grifters more avenues to defraud the government.

One glaring example is the 170% increase in In-Home Supportive Services spending since Newsom took office. The program, funded with health care dollars, pays providers who cook, clean and shop for older adults and people with disabilities. In about 70% of cases, those receiving the paychecks are family members. It's a program that practically screams to be scammed, expressly prohibiting unannounced visits by state employees to check whether everything is on the up and up.

Even if random checks on Medi-Cal-funded programs were allowed, there may not be enough staff to investigate what has become so large. One of the state auditor's main reasons for keeping health care services on the high-risk list is its lack of investigative staff.



Gavin Newsom

According to the auditor's report, while Medi-Cal spending has ballooned 117% over the last 10 years, the number of health care services investigative staff per billion dollars spent has dropped 57%. The department currently has just 0.73 people to investigate every billion dollars in Medi-Cal payments, compared with 1.69 investigators in 2016. It's no wonder the department is at "substantial" risk of making inappropriate payments over the next year and has "failed" to follow up on cases where all fingers point to fraud.

Californians will likely never know just how much they're spending each year on fraudsters, but the state attorney general's office estimates that the amount stolen from taxpayers through Medi-Cal fraud could reach billions of dollars annually. The Department of Justice may make California look bad when it goes after large health care fraud schemes in the state, but California has earned its reputation for fraud all on its own.

AGENDA

From page 16A

with labor negotiators regarding the city administrator's contract.

After Monday's meeting, city hall, at 662 Monte Verde St., will host its traditional Election Day celebration in the council chambers from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. All are welcome.

For more information about both meetings, including full agendas and instructions for participating in person or online, visit ci.carmel.ca.us and click on the "Meetings" tab.

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RITA PATEL

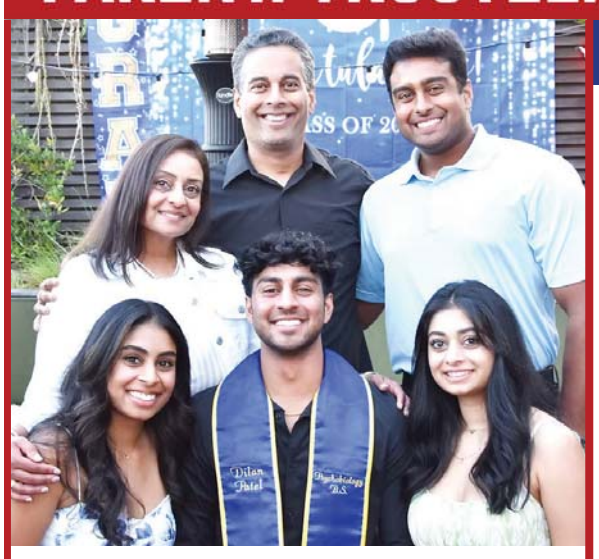
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FIRE

From page 1A

engines and two ladder trucks quickly arrived at the scene. A spot fire was reportedly burning nearby at Avant Garden, along with some wood at M.J. Murphy's. Reports indicated that nobody was injured. "Fire crew personnel and other emergency workers responded and are holding it down well," one man commented.

A few hours later, Jerome's made a grim announcement.

"It is with great sadness that we report an ongoing fire at the Center Street Marketplace," the market reported on Facebook. "Many thanks to our heroic firefighters and first responders who are actively fighting a fire that started sometime last night. Our hearts are with our neighbors whose businesses have been devastated by this fire."

Yet somehow, the market escaped with only minor smoke damage.

Pet clinic aids families

Someone was living in the office building when the fire started, according to reports, as was another person in a house damaged by the fire. Carmel Valley Veterinary Hospital announced Wednesday afternoon that it was collecting essential items for two families.

"This morning, two local families were tragically displaced by a devastating fire, losing everything they own," the pet hospital said. "We will be grateful for all donations, including clothing, toiletries, household essentials, gift cards and money. Let's come together to support our neighbors during this heartbreaking time and remind these families that they are not alone."

As of Wednesday afternoon, Carmel Valley Road was closed between Village Drive and Paso Hondo because of firefighting operations.

In a television interview, Justin Lindquist of the Monterey County Regional Fire District described the office building that burned as "old" and lacking sprinklers.

At least four art studios and galleries were damaged in the blaze. The owner of one of them, glass artist Nick Leonoff, said his space would be closed "until further notice."

"Thank you to all the first responders who showed up this morning to help our Center Street community," the artist said. "Thank you for all who have reached out to offer support."

Leonoff shared dramatic video footage online of firefighters firing a water cannon into Alan Masaoka's studio at 4:18 a.m. "At this moment I realized our whole building was in jeopardy, and we started to save the artwork in my gallery four doors down," he recalled.

Three fundraisers on GoFundMe have been started to help fire victims. One, titled "Help Stained Glass Artist Alan Masaoka After Studio Loss," had raised more than $13,000 in less than 24 hours.

"Our wonderful stained glass artist and friend has suffered the shocking total loss of his studio," said Diane Dreissen, who started the fundraiser. "Everything, including work in progress, was lost."

Another campaign is raising funds for Carmel Valley Ink Body Arts, which was destroyed by the fire. "They lost everything they worked so hard for," wrote Gisella Albarran, who organized the fundraiser.

Seeking a new space

Stephen Gillilan, whose studio offered massage therapy, craniosacral therapy and herbal remedies, also launched a fundraiser.

"My work studio was gutted by the fire," Gillilan said. "I am struggling with the loss of the beautiful, healing space I created for my clients."

Another artist who had a studio in the building is now seeking a new space. "The building is still standing, but so much damage was done to my studio and the surrounding offices and studios that we will have to relocate," Nina Temple said.

While some business owners face a very challenging road ahead, others said they were grateful that the fire left their galleries or studios untouched and expressed empathy for their neighbors.

"We are very fortunate to have survived the Carmel Valley Village Fire on Center Street," Rombi Wines said. "Our hearts and prayers go out to our great friends and neighbors who are navigating through losses during this difficult time. We wish to thank the courageous firefighters who heroically worked to fight this fire."

Chance of surviving

The Carmel Valley Association expressed its gratitude to firefighters Thursday for their efforts and urged people to support those who lost their businesses.

"We are deeply grateful that no lives were lost, and appreciative of the vigorous firefighting response that confined the damage," the group said in its weekly newsletter. "At the same time, we mourn terrible losses to Center Street businesses, a treasured mix of local services, gift and specialty shops, and craft workshops. This devastating blow has hit at the worst possible time, right before the peak commerce season that runs from Halloween through New Year's Day. The path to recovery is unclear in these early days, but we know that these businesses will need our full-throttle support if they are to have a chance at surviving."



PHOTO/CAL FIRE

A ladder truck gives firefighters the high ground in a battle against an early morning fire Wednesday in Carmel Valley Village.

Jerome's reopened Thursday morning.

"It is with the deepest gratitude that we reopen the market this morning in service to our community," the grocery store announced. "Miraculously, the market was spared thanks to the heroic efforts of our first responders. We are deeply saddened by the tragedy of yesterday's fire, and our hearts go out to our friends and neighbors who have lost their offices, businesses and homes. We hope to join our neighbors in their efforts to rebuild what was lost in this devastating fire."

Scott Anderson of Monterey County Regional Fire told The Pine Cone that the cause of the fire is under investigation.

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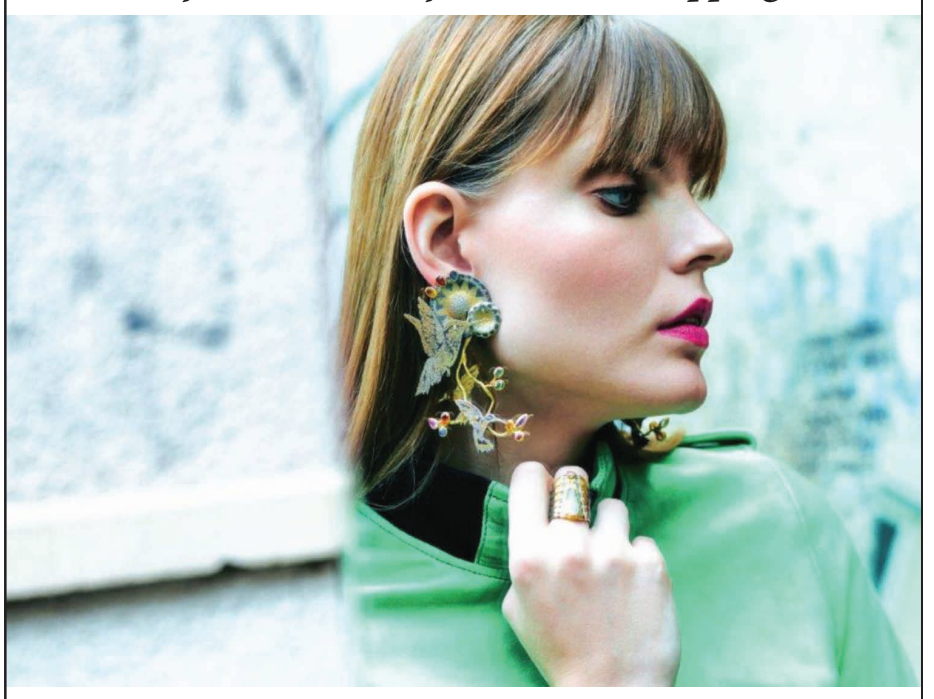
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MAYOR

From page 27A

does raise a question: Have our accumulated protections made it harder to sustain the community we want?

■ When protections become obstacles

Each rule was adopted to protect something we value. Together, they can turn a reasonable proposal into an exhausting undertaking. A shop selling its own branded nuts and retail goods encounters our limits on food stores and restaurants. A coffee business using bottled water remains caught in a water dispute. Others face sprinkler and ADA restroom upgrades triggered by a change of use.

Requirements come from Carmel, the state and other agencies. Fire safety, accessibility and water conservation matter. But meeting those requirements can involve complicated projects, mounting bills and uncertain completion dates.

The city council and commissions also spend substantial time navigating these requirements, leaving less time to plan Carmel's future. In the end, these obstacles affect residents and influence what services are available and who can build a life here.

■ Residential for whom?

The statement behind the city council dais describes Carmel as primarily a residential community. Do our decisions support that goal? We want artists, teachers, first responders and working families here, yet suitable housing is beyond their reach. Are our housing rules creating practical opportunities to build homes they can afford?

Parking affects residents, workers and visitors alike. When adequate parking is unavailable, residents struggle to shop, workers struggle to reach their jobs and visitors circle our streets. Residential neighborhoods absorb the overflow. Simply calling ourselves a residential community doesn't substitute for addressing how Carmel functions today.

■ Choosing what to protect

Carmel needs rules. Our architecture, forest and village character deserve protection. But circumstances change. Early Carmel leader Perry Newberry opposed paving our roads; few would want that policy today.

We also found that home addresses benefit public safety and help us respond to changing circumstances.

The city council and our commissions should review local rules affecting business openings, housing, visitors and parking, listening to applicants, residents and staff as time spent in hearings mounts. What does each rule protect? Is it working? Could its purpose be achieved more simply? How does it interact with other requirements?

Our dedicated staff deserve clear, workable rules and support to administer them. The review should identify practical changes, assign responsibility and set a timetable so these questions lead to action.

The goal is a village where a beloved bar can find a new home, a new business has a clear path to opening, a teacher can live near her school, and residents can park and shop in their own town.

WAYMISH? With fresh leadership in place and a new city administrator expected in the coming months, let's choose what to protect and make it easier to build a life here.

I would not trade places with any other city. Carmel has a wonderful future ahead, and I hope you'll help our city government shape it.

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

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



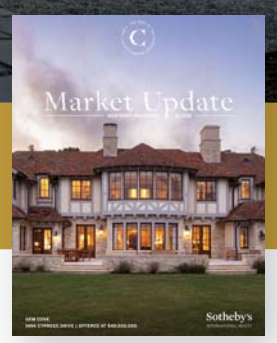








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3Q2026 MARKET UPDATE

Carmel Highlands | Nic Canning | 831.241.4458

Carmel Highlands recorded 4 sales totaling $27.9M in the third quarter, matching last quarter's transaction count while more than doubling its $12M sales volume. Two distinctive properties drove that increase: a modern oceanfront home on Yankee Point Drive closed at $9.9M, and a rare, expansive compound on Fern Canyon Road sold for $11.5M. Together, they accounted for nearly 77% of the quarter's dollars invested, each attracting a buyer seeking a very specific Highlands offering.

Both transactions involved meaningful negotiation, but their discounts appear more reflective of the individual properties and circumstances than a broader shift in values. Average days on market for sold properties increased to 182 from 50 last quarter, heavily influenced by Fern Canyon's extended marketing period. Elsewhere, we represented the Sellers on a turn-key San Remo Rd property that found a buyer in just 12 days, illustrating that appropriately positioned homes can still move quickly.



Fires just south of the Highlands appeared to interrupt deal flow during the quarter, as access challenges and buyer concerns added friction to an already selective market. Inventory remained steady at 11 active listings, though specialized offerings continue to require careful pricing and the right buyer.

Two properties offered below $2.6M remain under contract, with closings anticipated early on in the 4th quarter. Looking ahead, limited oceanfront inventory continues to constrain activity, leaving buyers seeking the Highlands' most coveted coastal settings with few options.

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

Playoffs to showcase top local athletes in many sports — especially golf

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

CENTRAL COAST Section playoffs in three girls sports begin over the next four days, while teams in five other fall sports move into postseason action over the next two weekends.

Seedings and first-round pairings were announced Thursday for the girls volleyball tournament, along with tee times for girls golf.

First-round volleyball games are scheduled for Saturday. Carmel, a Gabilan Division team, and Stevenson, the Mission Division champion, are likely qualifiers for the CCS Division 4 bracket.



Sophomore Melinda Ma (left) and junior Allison Chan are returning starters for the defending champion Pirates as they prepare for this week's CCS tournament.

Stevenson's talent-rich girls golf team is a favorite to repeat as CCS champion Tuesday at Laguna Seca Golf Ranch. The Pirates won last year's tournament by 15 strokes. Santa Catalina, which has one of the best teams in school history, also figures to contend against the section's top schools. The tournament qualifies three full teams for the NorCal Championships.

The Pirates sent a message to some of California's best teams in September, finishing second among 26 teams at the Helen Lengfeld Memorial in San Jose and third in the 12-team Crazy Horse Classic in Salinas. On Oct. 8, they defeated CCS and NorCal rival Valley Christian by 10 strokes at Spyglass Hill, Stevenson's home course.

Talent-rich team

Head coach Chris Mills will have a challenging task choosing a six-player CCS team from a roster that includes 2025 postseason veterans Lucinda Wu, Allison Chan and Melinda Ma, as well as Leah Homsy, Charise Thain, Katherine Chen and Emma Mao. All contributed significantly to the team's tournament results.

Wu, a senior, Chan, a junior, and Ma, a sophomore, helped the 2025 Pirates finish third at the state tournament, where Wu placed fifth individually.

On Monday, Stevenson overpowered the rest of the league at Laguna Seca Golf Ranch, the site of the CCS tournament, winning the PCAL postseason tournament by 45 strokes over second-place Santa Catalina.

Wu was the medalist, shooting 1 under par.



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

Lucinda Wu, a senior this year, helped Stevenson to a third-place finish at the 2025 girls state golf championships.

■ Volleyball playoffs for Carmel, Stevenson

Pacific Grove (24-4 overall) was 13-0 in Gabilan Division matches, with one match remaining, after Monday's victory over Carmel.

Led by setter Aspen Ashe, libero Hallie Crabbe, outside hitter Julie Watkins and 6-foot-1 middle blocker Maddie Willoughby, Carmel (20-8 overall) took a 10-3 league record into Wednesday's regular-season finale at Palma. The result was unavailable at press time.

Under first-year head coach David Crabbe, the Padres also compiled a 10-5 record against nonleague opponents. They defeated Willow Glen (22-8), Santa Cruz (20-8), King City (17-6), Sobrato (15-7), Leland (14-8), Soquel (17-12) and Stevenson (12-5).

Stevenson (13-4 overall) took a 13-0 division record into Wednesday's Mission Division finale against Soledad. The Pirates began the season winless against five nondivision opponents, all from the Gabilan Division. Those early-season losses came against Palma, Santa Catalina, Carmel and Gabilan champion Pacific Grove.

Since then, the Pirates have thrived, led by front-row power from Sienna Fozzati and Olive Furmenak, who have nearly 250 combined kills. setting from Brennecke Daley and Crete Rosenau, who have more than 370 combined assists, net defense from Clare Brandler and Caroline Bufkin, who have more than 30 combined blocks, back-row play from Gaby Tight, Ashley

Continues next page

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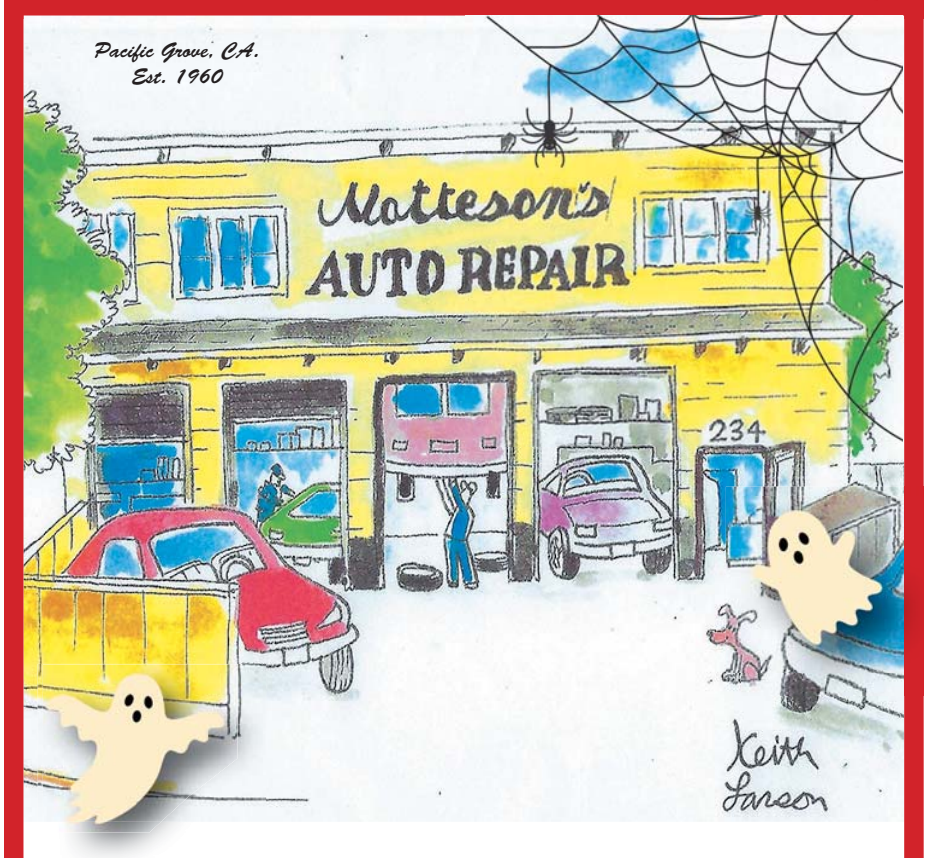
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From previous page

Dalhamer and Daley, who have more than 400 combined digs, and serving from Tight and Daley, who have more than 75 combined aces.

■ Water polo

Brackets will be announced Monday. The CCS tournament begins Nov. 7 for both boys and girls.

In the girls division, Stevenson (15-9 overall) won the PCAL title with a 6-0 record, ahead of Monterey (5-1) and Santa Catalina (4-2). All three teams could earn playoff berths.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

A talented, CCS-bound Carmel volleyball team includes (from left) Julie Watkins, Aspen Ashe, Hannah Drew and Hallie Crabbe.

The Pirates have won three CCS Division 2 championships in the past four years, including the 2025 title.

Santa Catalina (9-10 overall) qualified for CCS in each of the past two seasons.

Stevenson's statistical leaders include Lyla Honegger (78 goals), Charlotte Morrow (61) and Kate Solomon (44). Colette Duarte (26 steals), Anna Bates (19) and Morrow (18) lead in steals. Goalkeepers Adi Smith (78 saves) and Makayla Schnitzer (57) lead in saves.

Santa Catalina's Taylor Connolly led the Cougars with a league-high 84 goals and 60 steals. Violet Bradley had a PCAL-high 51 assists, three more than Connolly. Emerson Adamski's 214 saves led all PCAL goalkeepers.

Stevenson and Carmel's boys teams are seeking deep playoff runs after strong seasons atop the PCAL. The Pirates (7-0) finished ahead of Carmel (6-1), thanks to a 10-7 victory on Oct. 1 in their only head-to-head meeting this season.

Freshman Brooks Honegger (84 goals and 46 steals), Reed Czerny (43 assists) and goalkeeper Ze' Franz (180 saves) led the Pirates to an 18-5 overall record.

Carmel (16-7) has been paced offensively by Callan Tescher (93 goals, 40 assists and 28 steals) and Sam Balas (85 goals and 23 steals), along with goalkeeper August Hohman (133 saves).

■ Field hockey

Brackets will be announced Monday, but Carmel's hopes for a postseason berth might hinge on Wednesday's regular-season finale against first-place Stevenson. Carmel likely needed a victory over the unbeaten-in-league Pirates, who beat the Padres 9-0 in September.

The Padres entered the week tied for second with Hollister, both at 7-2-1. Hollister held the tiebreaker after a 4-0 victory over Carmel on Sept. 3. The teams tied 1-1 in their second meeting. The CCS field hockey tournament begins Nov. 7.

■ Other sports

■ Football brackets will be released Nov. 8. The playoffs begin Nov. 13-14 at home sites.

■ Team tennis brackets will be released

Continues next page



From previous page

Nov. 7. The tournament begins Nov. 10 at home sites. ■ The CCS cross country championships are scheduled for Nov. 14 at Crystal Springs Cross Country Course in Belmont.

■ PCAL cross country

Carmel senior Jasper Bolante enters Saturday's PCAL cross country championships at Toro Park with the fastest qualifying time in the Gabilan Division over 3 miles: 14 minutes, 44.6 seconds. He figures to be pushed by Hollister senior Luis Perez Prieto (14:45.4), Monte Vista Christian sophomore Owen Beckman (14:57.6) and teammate Henry Bartle, a Carmel freshman (15:11.4). Another Hollister senior, Michael Briano (15:15.0), also could contend.

Bolante will be the defending champion after winning last year's Mission Division race in 15:57.0. Beckman placed sixth in the 2025 Gabilan race in 16:02.

Carmel junior Jasmin Jin placed fifth in the Mission Division girls race last fall in 20:06.5. She ranks fifth again this season, with a season-best time of 20:09.6.

Stevenson junior Landyn Martis (21:07.8) finished eighth, and senior Julianna Cullers (21:52.5) finished 11th.

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



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Stevenson won the Mission Division crown with help from Stella Ellmore (left), Gaby Tight (center), and Caroline Bufkin.

BARBARA JEAN RISING HART

Barbara Jean Rising Hart passed away peacefully in her sleep at 9:15 p.m. on July 9, 2026, at age 90. She was surrounded by her immediate family at her home in Roseville, where they lovingly kept vigil and held her hand as she took her last breath.





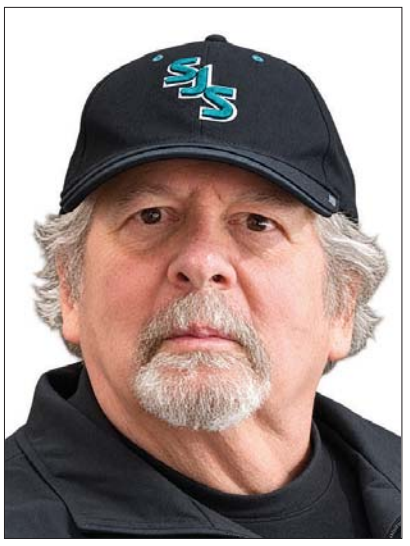
She is survived by her husband, Ren Hart; son, Lee Hart; daughter, Laura Forlini, and her husband, Todd Forlini; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. All attended Barbara and Ren's 70th wedding anniversary celebration on June 6, just one month before her death.

Barbara lived a full, rich life. She supported her husband during his military service through two wars and moved her family from base to base with strength and determination. She enjoyed many wonderful family vacations, participated with her family in successful real estate ventures and lived life exactly as she wished.

Barbara met Ren when their mothers brought them together in San Francisco. It was love at first sight for the tall, handsome soldier and the petite feminine beauty. Their love grew through a shared passion for sports, including golf, tennis, water skiing, snow skiing and sailing. Barbara also enjoyed quiet moments spent reading, gardening, playing the piano, painting and appreciating the serenity of nature in and around her home.

Ren and Barbara lived for years in San Francisco, where she was an active member of the garden club, book club and Daughters of the American Revolution. While living in Pebble Beach, Barbara enjoyed playing tennis at the Spanish Bay Club, golfing at courses around Monterey Bay, attending gala events with the Colonial Dames Society and entertaining friends at their home near Bird Rock Beach.

Barbara was a staunch advocate for every member of her family. Her strong and loving presence will be greatly missed by all whose lives she touched.



TIMOTHY JOSEPH GORDON

July 30, 1948 – Sept. 27, 2026

Tim was born in Sacramento, California, to Basil and Eloise Gordon. He spent his youth in California and attended the University of Arizona, where he majored in English.

As a young man, Tim enjoyed the outdoors, rock climbing, equestrian jumping and traveling. His many interests included literature, sports, carpentry, building and design, and automobiles. He also had a special fondness for his four-legged friends.

Tim made his home in Carmel, where he spent most of his life establishing himself as a general building and design contractor of the highest integrity. His passing has left a void in the building and design community.

He is survived by his two nieces, Christine and Noelle, and leaves behind many clients and friends, as well as his beloved feline companions, Lula, Lily and Hello Kitty.

Memorial donations in Tim's honor may be made to an animal charity of your choice.



THOMAS 'LITTLE BEAR' NASON

Thomas "Little Bear" Nason passed away peacefully at his home in Carmel Valley on Aug. 1, 2026, at age 66.

Tom was born in Carmel on May 29, 1960, to Fred and Ann Nason of Carmel Valley. He was the youngest son of four children, with siblings Gail, Fred Jr. and Marion.

Tom married his longtime love, Cara Yuma, on Oct. 22, 1983. They had two children, Bryce and Laurel.

Tom is survived by his wife, Cara; his son, Bryce; his daughter-in-law, Giovanna; his granddaughters, Quincy and Hazel; his grandson, Waylon; his daughters, Laurel and Jill; his sisters; and many nieces and nephews.

Tom dedicated his life to his family, friends, heritage and the land. He became tribal chairman and president of the Esselen Tribe in 1993. Through his efforts and guidance, he helped countless people on trail rides, during forest fires and on spiritual journeys. He worked toward a better future for everyone he knew.

One of Tom's greatest accomplishments as tribal chairman was helping return ancestral land to the Esselen Tribe. Through his efforts, an entire people gained a voice and a place to call their own.

Please join us for a celebration of Thomas Little Bear Nason's life from 1 to 5 p.m. on Nov. 8, 2026, at the Trail and Saddle Club, 85 E. Garzas Road, Carmel Valley. The gathering will include speakers and acknowledgments, with light refreshments and snacks provided.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County.



Bettina Elaine Hotelling

Dec. 10, 1933 – Aug. 22, 2026

A CELEBRATION OF HER LIFE
Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026, at 2 p.m.
Monterey First Presbyterian Church
501 Eldorado St., Monterey, California

Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall.

To publish a legal notice in The Carmel Pine Cone contact
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(Se habla Español)

LIVES

From page 27A

Young Museum in San Francisco, he became acquainted with Tony and Suzie White (née Crocker). "They wanted me to come work for them. I thought that was an interesting idea," he said. The Whites, avid art collectors, had bought a former bank on Dolores Street — now known as the China Art Building — and asked Seavey to curate an exhibition of California art with an emphasis on local painters for a planned Carmel Museum of Art.

The couple agreed to fund it for the first year but intended to transfer it to the city, which, as it turned out, did not share their vision. Seavey recalled then-council member Gunnar Norberg insisting, "Carmel has enough art." Without the city's backing, the collection was donated to a museum in Oakland, and the building was sold.

Seavey went back to the San Francisco Bay area and worked as curator for the San Mateo Arts Council until he decided he wanted a better education. "So I went to Stanford and studied art and architecture at the graduate level," he said. Degree in hand, he moved to Carmel and branched out on his own as a historic preservation consultant.

He said one of his happiest experiences was working for the county. Elmarie Dyke, known as "Mrs. Pacific Grove," approached him about becoming the county historical coordinator in the parks department. "I was able to bring my existing skill set into that game," he said. He said he stayed for about seven or eight years but left after a conflict over his duties. "There was a difference between private interest and public good," he said. And, as the Marine Corps taught him, he always protects the public good.

Hathaway collection

Seavey has been an independent historic preservationist ever since. He has worked on countless projects to protect the historic character of the Monterey Peninsula. He sits on the board of Deetjen's Big Sur Inn and was instrumental in getting it listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

He was also brought in as a witness for Clint Eastwood when he bought and restored Mission Ranch, and he was called in to advise the Naval Postgraduate School when it built its museum in the historic Hotel Del Monte.

It was Seavey working closely with a couple others to rescue the estate of Pat Hathaway — the well-known local photographer whose impressive collection of his own and others' work numbered more than half a million historic pictures — after Hathaway died unexpectedly, leaving

Continues next page





SHARRY SCHMIDT LAUTER

March 18, 1951 ❖ Oct. 1, 2026

Sharry Schmidt Lauter was tragically taken from us on Oct. 1, 2026. She was born March 18, 1951, to Daniel and Loretta Schmidt of Turlock, California. The second of three children, she grew up with her brothers, Michael and Thomas. She graduated from Turlock High School and earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of San Francisco in 1974, which she later put to use in her teaching career. More importantly, while living in San Francisco, Sharry met her future husband and life partner, Vince Lauter, whom she married in 1973.

Sharry was a bright light in the world, with a radiant smile — an unforgettable figure who forged lifelong bonds and exuded her trademark warmth, optimism and compassion wherever life took her. She was her family's rock, raising three sons as Vince's career with the Department of Defense moved the family around the world before they settled in Monterey in 1993. A devout Catholic, she had uncompromising integrity and brought joy to those fortunate enough to have her in their lives. Sharry was also known for hosting large family gatherings and for her exceptional cooking. More than anything, she deeply loved and cared for her family, who returned that love and care. She cherished every moment she spent with her seven grandchildren.

Sharry was preceded in death by her parents, Daniel and Loretta Schmidt. She is survived by her husband, Vince; sons, Vincent III (Morgan), Michael (Jody) and Daniel (Katherine); seven grandchildren, Penelope, Olivia, Millie, Valentina, Wesley, Donovan and Rocco; and brothers, Thomas (Clara) and Michael (Dana).

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 9, 2026, at Carmel Mission Basilica. Interment will follow at 1 p.m. at San Carlos Cemetery in Monterey.

JAMES NORMAN PRESS

Feb. 2, 1949 – Oct. 15, 2026

James Norman Press, a loving husband, brother, stepfather, grandfather and accomplished athlete, died Oct. 15, 2026, leaving a legacy of determination, passion and deep love for his family.

Born in Chicago on Feb. 2, 1949, Jim lived a vibrant, full life, balancing a successful career with extraordinary athletic achievements.

Education and Career

Jim earned a Bachelor of Science in marketing from Indiana University in 1971, followed by a Master of Public Administration in 1974.

His sharp mind and dedication led to a successful career in finance and accounting, where his expertise and integrity were widely respected.

A Lifelong Athlete

An exceptionally gifted and passionate runner, Jim achieved athletic success over many decades. In 1966, he won the Illinois state cross-country championship.

He carried that competitive spirit to Indiana University, where he ran on two Big Ten championship teams. He continued competing into adulthood, eventually becoming a U.S. masters cross-country champion.

His discipline and determination also led him to complete the grueling Ironman triathlon in Hawaii.

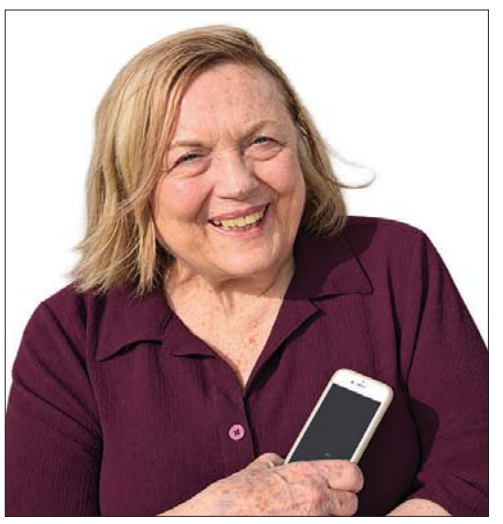
Later in life, Jim traded running trails for fairways. He became an avid golfer, and few accomplishments made him prouder than his five holes-in-one.

Family and Legacy

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Norman Ipsen Press and Eleanor Whalen Press, and his sister, Nancy Lee Murphy.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Carol Lingler Press; his brother, Jeffrey Whalen Press; his stepdaughters, Lisa Coppedge and Michelle Storm; and his four treasured grandchildren, Shelby Storm, Nicholas Storm, Chase Coppedge and Will Coppedge.

Jim's drive, warmth and enduring spirit will live on in the hearts of his family, friends and the many people whose lives he touched.



MARY MARGARET 'PEGGY' FEICHT

Mary Margaret "Peggy" Feicht, born Aug. 22, 1942, passed away Oct. 14, 2026. She was a beloved daughter, sister, aunt and friend. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Marie Feicht, and her sister, Kathleen Feicht. Peggy is survived by her sister, Pamela (Ira) Scheer; nieces, Laura (Jon) Dimitrijevic and Jessica Scheer (Jason Beauregard); and great-nephews, Oliver and Everett Dimitrijevic.

Born in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, Peggy spent her first 15 years in nearby Reynoldsville. When the opportunity for a better life beckoned, her parents moved the family to Ottawa, Ohio, so they could afford to provide their children with a college education.

Peggy graduated from Ottawa Public High School in 1960 and earned a bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University. She began her career in the laboratory at St. Rita's Hospital in Lima, Ohio, before moving to Carmel, California, in 1970. She lived there for 40 years, working as a laboratory scientist at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital until her retirement in 2010. Shortly afterward, she moved to Toledo, Ohio, to be closer to family. Because she loved her work, she returned to the laboratory and continued working as long as her health permitted.

Following her retirement, she found great joy in traveling with family, visiting Europe and the Caribbean multiple times. Peggy loved Persian cats, eclectic fabrics and iridescent decor. Sober for 35 years, she found meaning in connecting with others on the path to sobriety.

A gathering in Peggy's memory will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24, at Westerwood, 5800 Forest Hills Blvd., Columbus, Ohio. Burial will be at noon Friday, Nov. 27, at Harman Cemetery in Gilboa, Ohio, next to her parents and sister.

In lieu of flowers, friends are welcome to honor Peggy's love of cats by contributing to their local humane society.

From previous page

neither a will nor family. Seavey, who successfully petitioned the court to administer the estate, turned the collection over to the Monterey County Historical Society, which named him Preservationist of the Year for his work.

Seavey has dedicated his professional life to the documentation and historic preservation of resources and landmarks on the Monterey Peninsula and the surrounding area. He has been recognized with a long list of honors such as the President's Award for Advocacy or Outreach from the California Preservation Foundation given earlier this year, and he is an honorary member of the American Institute of Architects, among numerous others.

As for his personal life, he said, "I got lucky and married a beautiful woman who was an artist," Seavey said of his late wife, Marie. "I have three daughters and three granddaughters. I'll never escape the civilizing influence of women," he said.

He and Marie passed on to their daughters the philosophy he lives by, borrowed from the 1958 play, "Auntie Mame." "Life is a banquet, and most poor suckers are starving to death." Seavey, for his part, enjoys the banquet — and making sure it's around for everyone to enjoy for years to come.

SYBIL-FRANCES KIMBRIG LEVIN

Sybil-Frances Kimbrig Levin passed away peacefully in her sleep on Friday, Oct. 23, 2026, surrounded by family and friends, both in person and virtually. Though her passing at 98½ was not unexpected, her indefatigable nature always made it seem that she might somehow beat the odds.



Sybil-Frances lived an awe-inspiring life, epitomizing what scientists call a "super-ager." Educated in a one-room schoolhouse, she graduated from high school at 16 and went on to attend Cornell University and Pratt Institute, ultimately earning a master's degree in nutrition from New York University. Her uncle ran for vice president of the United States, and her parents were community leaders. Education, intellectual curiosity and public service became enduring hallmarks of her family across generations.

After holding various positions with New York City and New York state, she married Dr. Norman Balfour Levin. Norman's varied and fascinating career, usually centered in Washington, D.C., took the family around the world for decades before they settled in Carmel for his work at the Defense Language Institute. A longtime Carmel resident, Sybil-Frances was well known and dearly loved by many throughout the Monterey Peninsula.

Her extraordinary life brought her into contact with Ruth Bader Ginsburg, John F. Kennedy, Henrietta Szold, Dr. Ruth Westheimer, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Ted and Joan Kennedy, President Habib Bourguiba, artist Arthur Dove and countless ambassadors and other distinguished figures. She danced with presidents and hosted dozens of government officials, yet her interests and friendships extended far beyond politics and diplomacy.

Sybil-Frances became an only child at 9 when her baby sister was tragically struck and killed by a truck. She later became a younger sibling when her parents took in a slightly older refugee from Vienna during World War II. She loved her cousins fiercely and treasured family throughout her life.

She possessed a remarkable gravitational pull: People from all walks of life confided their secrets and personal troubles to her. She listened, cared and encouraged, bringing intelligence, warmth and genuine curiosity to every encounter.

Her adventures and accomplishments were equally remarkable. She pumped gasoline, led Girl Scout and Brownie troops, hitchhiked with a prime minister's niece, built a soda shop business, traveled the world and lived in numerous countries. She planned school lunch programs in New York state, served as a museum docent on both coasts and could run circles around most people when discussing political affairs and investments. She also gave generously to dozens of charitable organizations.

On the Monterey Peninsula, Sybil-Frances was a founding member of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, worked tirelessly on the board of Hidden Valley Music Center and served as a docent at the Monterey Museum of Art. Her commitment to education, culture, the arts and community enriched the lives of many.

Above all, Sybil-Frances was an exemplary grandmother, deeply loved by all her grandchildren. Her intellect, adventurous spirit, generosity and genuine interest in others touched generations of family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances.

She is survived by her daughter, Gnarity Kimbrig Burke; son-in-law, Colman Joseph Burke; grandson, Austin Jacob Burke; granddaughter, Jasper Elizabeth Burke, and Jasper's spouse, Elisa Parskey McEntee Burke; many beloved extended family members; and a multitude of friends, both recent and longstanding.

Sybil-Frances cared for and encouraged countless people throughout her extraordinary life. Her wisdom, generosity, indomitable spirit and loving presence will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites those wishing to honor Sybil-Frances' memory to make a donation to Hidden Valley Music Seminars in Carmel Valley.

PAT MIDDLEBROOK MARTIN

May 31, 1942 • Nov. 1, 2025



Pat, my beloved friend,

I am comforted to know that you are with the Lord Jesus!

I miss you so much, but we will see each other again someday and continue our wonderful walks together on the trails in heaven!

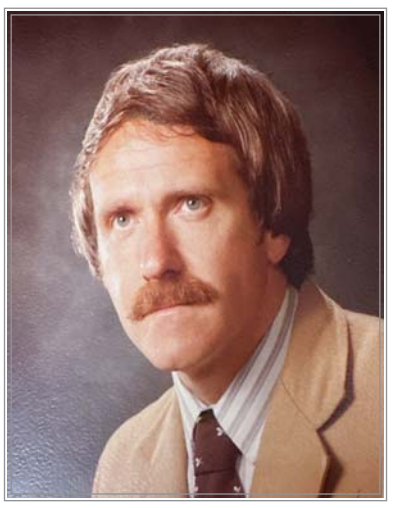
Love,
Helene

To place an obituary for your loved one, contact anne@carmelpinecone.com or (831) 274-8654

DR. GEORGE HAMILTON PENN II

April 25, 1939 ❖ Aug. 1, 2026

Dr. George Hamilton Penn II of Monterey, a beloved pediatrician and devoted father, died Aug. 1, 2026, at age 87. He leaves behind a legacy of caring for others and a family that will forever cherish his memory.



The oldest of three children, George grew up in Washington, Pennsylvania, and attended East Washington High School, where he played the trumpet and tuba, served as president of his sophomore, junior and senior classes and graduated as valedictorian. At Washington & Jefferson College, he was inducted into both the chemistry and biology honor societies and was a proud member of Delta Tau Delta. He stayed in touch with several fraternity brothers until his death.

After graduating, George attended the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University, where he won the Waldo E. Nelson Prize for outstanding work in pediatrics and edited "The Skull," the medical school's yearbook. He later joined the Navy's submarine service and attained the rank of lieutenant commander while serving aboard the USS Woodrow Wilson. He began his career in pediatrics at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Long Beach and eventually established a medical practice in Monterey, joining Drs. Bates, Branson and Black. With the Pediatric Group of Monterey and, later, Stanford Children's Hospital, he devoted 45 years to caring for families on the Monterey Peninsula, often across multiple generations.

For George, being a pediatrician meant more than diagnosing illnesses and providing treatment; it meant putting children at ease, reassuring parents and supporting families during difficult times. The walls of his exam rooms were always covered with handwritten notes of gratitude from patients of all ages. He regularly made house calls and gave patients his home phone number, answering on days off and in the middle of the night (to his family's occasional chagrin). In addition to seeing patients at his office, George served as chairman of the Department of Medicine at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula and taught as a clinical assistant professor at Stanford University School of Medicine.

Above all his professional accomplishments, George prized his family and was a devoted father of five. His children have fond memories of his sense of humor, his homemade spaghetti sauce, Sierra Club camping trips, watching "Poirot" (David Suchet, always), extensive conversations about military history, and flying in the small plane he co-owned after earning his pilot's license. George always liked to go fast, whether in a plane, an MG Midget or a red Mustang.

George is survived by his children, Mary Kate Legaspi (Kenneth) of Fresno, Michael Penn (Elizabeth) of San Carlos and Amanda Penn of Monterey; grandchildren Joshua and Alex Legaspi of Fresno; sister Mary Penn of Washington, Pennsylvania, and her sons; brother-in-law Keith Burchell (Jenell) of Marina and his family; former wife Lisbeth Dermody of Carmel Valley and her family; and extended family members and dear friends who will continue to hold his memory close. He was preceded in death by his brother, James Penn, in 1976; sons Brian Penn in 2004 and Zachary Penn in 2015; and wife, Jan Penn, in 2025.

A memorial service celebrating George's life will begin at 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, 2026, at The Paul Mortuary in Pacific Grove. Please come and share your memories. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Montage Health, Stanford Children's Hospital, the Leiomyosarcoma Support & Direct Research Foundation or the Spinal Cord Injury Project.

ARTIST

From page 27A

flaming skull on her courageous and devoted father's chest.

"He's very skinny, and he was in a lot of pain," she reminisced. "The lighting was bad. It was the first tattoo I ever tried — I hadn't practiced at all. It was really, really bad. And I haven't seen it since."

When Cook paints, she watches old movies — always something she's seen many times before, so she can ignore it and focus. And she sometimes talks over her shoulder to Metcalfe, who intentionally has loud music blasting through his earbuds.

Don't bug him when he's painting.

"I feel insane when I'm not painting. I feel insane when I'm painting. And I can deal with it. Feeling crazy is part of the fun," said Metcalfe, who paints one tiny part of the painting at a time until he's satisfied. Five hours in one spot isn't unusual.

"I am the most tedious person in the world," he declares without apology. "I like to take the slowest route to wherever I need to be."

'I'm a growler — I growl at people. I don't want any input.'

Do not compliment a work in progress, Metcalfe advises.

"I'm a growler — I growl at people," he said. "I don't want any input." That warning is a surprising self-portrait from the 23-year-old Monterey High School product — a "good student" who occasionally got bad grades because "I didn't do homework."

"The growler" displays an outwardly calm demeanor, smiling easily. His bohemian spirit escapes through cheek and nose piercings, shoulder-blade-length hair and amber-tinted sunglasses he wears indoors.

But his artistic path was a rebellion.

"The family support was never really there. I'd get in trouble for doing a lot of art at home," recalled Metcalfe, who descends from "a long line of correctional officers, prison workers and military people."

'I'm a storyteller'

Wilder, who was homeschooled, earned her associate degree from Monterey Peninsula College at 17 while satisfying her high school requirements. Her next stop will be UC Santa Cruz, where she'll create her own major, likely an amalgamation of art and creative writing.

"I'm a storyteller," explained Wilder, whose dad (landscape architect Barkley David Smith) fell one credit short of a college art degree. Her mom, Mollie Mae, is an acupuncturist.

"I'd like to write and illustrate my own graphic novels, and I'd love to have pages of a published graphic novel all over the walls of a gallery someday," she dreamed.

She also aspires to create a comic strip and publish it online and to write and illustrate comic books.

But storytelling, her greatest creative outlet, has been a dominant aspiration for a significant amount of time.

"I wrote every single day during the pandemic, probably 60,000 words, when I was still in middle school," she said. "And then I joined YAC."

All three cite the group as a difference-maker during their formative years — culturally, intellectually and artistically.

For Cook, it was "an escape" during her first years in Monterey, where she moved to become a teenage caregiver for a grandfather with ALS.

For Wilder, YAC provided intense, invaluable mentorship that not only enhanced her creativity and artistic skills but also educated her on the business side of art.

For Metcalfe, it was an oasis teeming with other art makers, art lovers and art appreciators.

'That's all I needed to do'

"Art has always been, and will always be, a very important part of my life," he said. "When I'm not creating, I feel like I'm going to explode. Then I make some, and realize, 'Oh … that's all I needed to do.'"

The exhibition at Pacific Grove Art Center (568 Lighthouse Ave.) will run through Dec. 10. Visit pgartcenter.org for more information.

See examples of Wilder's work on her website at iphigeniawilder.com. Visit Instagram to see art by Metcalfe @midoriyasai101. Cook also shares her portfolio on Instagram @ravenn.c.

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

Gentrain Society Lecture
at Monterey Peninsula College

Discovering MARS



Co-sponsored by OLLI at CSUMB and the Gentrain Society at MPC. Along with the four other naked-eye-visible planets - Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn - Mars has been the source of fear and fascination for thousands of years. Due to its reddish appearance - the color of war and aggression - Mars was portrayed as the "warrior planet" by Roman and Greek astrologers. Recent exploration of the red planet by telescopes, orbiters, landers and rovers has revealed a fascinating history of a rich atmosphere, warm lakes, rivers and oceans, and possibly primitive life. Barriers to human colonization of Mars are many and formidable, but only time and technology will tell if, and when, we will be able to make Mars a second home for humanity. **Milos Radakovich** came to the U.S. from Yugoslavia at the age of 10. A graduate of San Francisco State, he moved to the local area in 1971 to further his studies in marine science at Moss Landing Marine Labs and the Biological Sonar Lab at SRI. He's been a science educator for more than 50 years, and also serves as an on-board naturalist for Celebrity Cruises.

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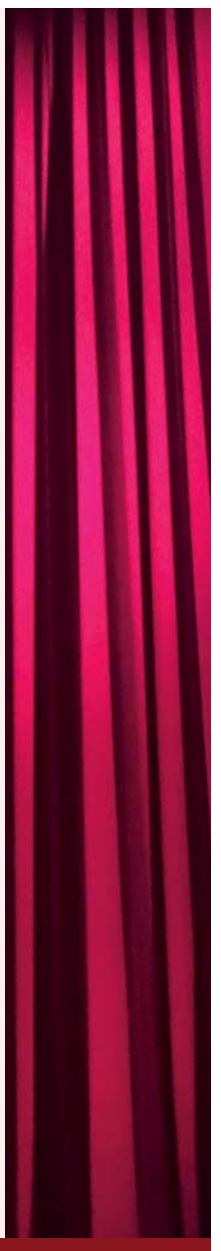
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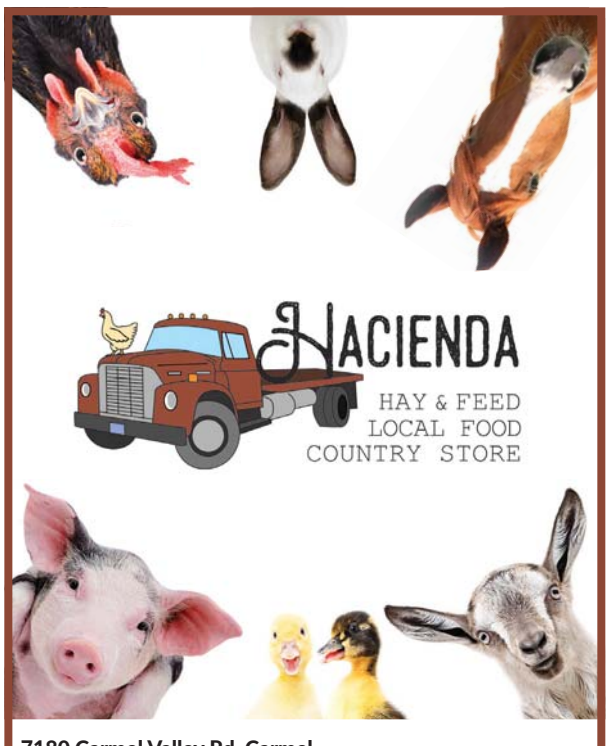


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OPINIONS

From page 28A

and assume the industry is a "golden goose." It is also easy to see small hotels that need renovation. But independent owners facing escalating labor, insurance and operating costs may have increasingly limited resources to reinvest in their properties.

Meanwhile, our competition is improving. Why wouldn't a visitor consider a beautiful new hotel in Pacific Grove, with a lower rate and easy parking, and simply drive into Carmel for the day?

We should not be smug about competition from neighboring communities. Visitors have choices. Employees have choices. And hotel owners have economic limits.

If we make operating conditions so onerous that local hotel owners decide they are better off selling, we risk replacing independently owned properties with corporate ownership that has less connection to this community. Ironically, in our determination to protect Carmel's character, we could help destroy the very thing we are trying to preserve.

The Measure M debate shouldn't simply be about whether tourists can afford a few more dollars. It should be about whether we are taking for granted the independent businesses that help define Carmel's character and assuming that visitors will always come, employees will always make the commute and local owners will always absorb one more cost.

Carmel hotels' competitive edge is not guaranteed, and policies have cumulative consequences.

Mary Crowe, *Carmel*

Hold leaders accountable

Dear Editor,

The articles, ads and letters in the last few issues of The Pine Cone advocating for and against the transient occupancy tax increase (Measure M) have been confusing, conflicting and confounding. But one thing to keep in mind about the debate: If the "facts" presented in the latest edition of The Pine Cone are accurate, then Carmel's budget has increased 64% over the past eight fiscal years (well above the rate of inflation), while hotel tax revenue has more than doubled over that same period. So the town has seen remarkably strong hotel tax receipts and increased its budget at a rate almost double the rate of core inflation over those eight years, yet it has dug itself into a budget mess that now requires — in the minds of the people at City Hall — more tax increases.

If my child repeatedly spent their allowance unwisely, then came to me asking for more and swearing up and down that this month would be different, my skepticism radar would be on high alert. When Carmel's governmental leaders ask for more money and swear it'll be used to fix failing infrastructure, my skepticism radar lights up. We have infrastructure challenges. No question. But is this the group that's really going to address them in a cost-effective, thoughtful, impactful manner? Based on recent history, my skepticism remains very high.

If Measure M passes, we need to hold our leaders accountable for transparency and meaningful results.

Chuck McKenzie, *Carmel*

A 'sensible investment'

Dear Editor,

As full-time Carmel-by-the-Sea residents, we urge our fellow residents to vote yes on Measures M and N. These measures will help maintain and improve our community while asking visitors — who make up a large share of our local economy — to contribute more toward the services and infrastructure they use.

Measure M would increase the transient occupancy tax, paid by overnight lodging guests, from 10% to 12%. That adds approximately $7 to a $350 hotel stay. Carmel's lodging tax has not increased in 20 years, and this modest adjustment would bring us in line with neighboring Monterey and Pacific Grove. Other communities popular with tourists, including Calistoga and St. Helena, charge even higher lodging tax rates.

Measure N would increase the local sales tax by 0.375 percentage points — only 19 cents on a $50 taxable purchase. It is a practical opportunity to keep more sales tax revenue in Carmel-by-the-Sea rather than allowing it to benefit another community in the county.

Together, Measures M and N are projected to generate approximately $4 million annually for Carmel-by-the-Sea. These funds can help address deferred maintenance and support improvements to our streets, sidewalks, storm drains, beaches, forests and other essential infrastructure.

Carmel-by-the-Sea is a community popular with tourists, and maintaining its beauty and infrastructure benefits everyone: residents, businesses, hotel owners and visitors. A well-maintained city protects our quality of life, strengthens our local economy and preserves the character that attracts people here.

Please join us in voting yes on Measures M and N — a sensible investment in Carmel-by-the-Sea, funded primarily by those who visit and enjoy our community.

Dylan and Tasha Witt, *Carmel*

Think of the sidewalks

Dear Editor,

Why would La Playa hotel donate $5,000 to Bobby Richards' campaign? Why have 15 hotels contributed $25,000 to convince Carmel residents not to vote for Measure M? This is more money than all three candidates running for the city council will spend on this election. The hotel owners, who don't even live in Carmel, pressured the city council for several months not to put Measure M on the ballot. Then they hired a PR firm to try to confuse Carmel residents about the facts.

Asserting that the city will lose money if Measure M passes is misguided and incorrect. The Carmel Innkeepers' own data shows that hotel occupancy has remained steady at around 70% for the past 10 years while hotel rates have nearly doubled. How can the hotel owners say that a $5 increase on a $250 hotel bill will cause visitors to stay elsewhere? The facts simply don't support it! Vote yes on Measure M. Our roads, sidewalks and city infrastructure deserve it.

Bill Karges, *Carmel*

Buder for mayor

Dear Editor,

We are pleased to write this letter in support of Hans Buder for mayor of Carmel. We are most grateful that such a talented individual is willing to devote so much time and energy to our city. He demonstrated leadership in resolving last year's electricity failure, leading the housing element workshop, examining our vulnerabilities in the event of a wildfire and focusing on our future financial health. Hans has demonstrated his commitment to Carmel. We will indeed be fortunate to have Hans as our next mayor.

Sharyn Siebert and Jeff Johnson, *Carmel*

Continues next page



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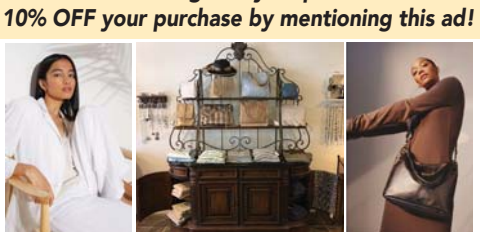


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From previous page

'Understands our community'

Dear Editor,

Hans Buder ticks all the boxes for a mayor who represents Carmel, leads meetings, understands our community and takes initiative in times of crisis and celebration. Hans deserves to be Carmel's next mayor! During a winter storm when Carmel lost power, Hans contacted PG&E, met with its representatives in the field and got answers on the spot. That's what a leader does. During his tenure on the city council, he demonstrated critical thinking and made transparent decisions that benefited Carmel. A vote for Hans Buder is a vote for Carmel's future.

Cindy Lloyd, *Carmel*

Protect Carmel with Dramov

Dear Editor,

Protecting Carmel-by-the-Sea matters. That is why we are happy to support Ali Dramov for city council. We believe effective council service calls for a consistent presence in Carmel and a firsthand understanding of daily life here, including the impact of tourism on our community. Over the past four years, we have appreciated her commitment to the position. We value the care she brings to her decisions. We want Carmel's distinctive character to endure, and we believe Ali's diligence and loyalty to the city are what we need.

Chris and Cari White, *Carmel*

Coletti for P.G. mayor

Dear Editor,

Pacific Grove voters have a real choice for their city's future in next week's election. I am supporting Luke Coletti for mayor based on his long history of achievements that have benefited the public. A pressing issue is a proposal to spend more than $10 million on a roundabout, a cost that does not include land acquisition. Coletti opposes that proposal because of inadequate funding and the existence of less intrusive alternatives to solve problems at that intersection. Those alternatives would be safer for the many schoolchildren and teenagers crossing there. The intersection is next to the high school, not far from the middle school or a nearby elementary school.

Smith supports the proposal, even though less than half the funds are available. We have seen what happens elsewhere when a town runs out of operating funds: efforts to raise taxes, elimination of city services, loss of essential employees and, in some cases, dissolution of the town itself.

Coletti spearheaded opposition to the unnecessary referendum to raise the mayor's and council members' pay in a special election this past June that cost taxpayers $63,000. The council not only refused to wait until November to avoid that expense but also hired a consultant to help pass the measure.

Also troubling about the opposition to Coletti is the involvement of a professional content creator, Quatrain, who posts on social media as just another resident without revealing her position with a marketing group. The CEO of that group describes the company's ability to combine strategy, storytelling and design for the full impact of online content. It's worrisome that our small-town election is being influenced by content creators whose agenda is not readily discernible.

Janet Gray, *Pacific Grove*

Patel for school board

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my support for Rita Patel to become a member of the Monterey County Board of Education. Here is why:

I have known Rita for many years as a friend and a trustee of CUSD. She cares about kids and wants every student to have a real chance to succeed. After 10 years on the board, Rita understands how a district really works, what helps students and what gets in the way. She will take that experience to the county and be a strong voice for our area.

Here are some key areas that our public schools and the governing MCBOE need to focus on. Rita will work to address them:

- Fair funding and less red tape. She will protect Proposition 98 school funding and cut down on state bureaucracy.
- Students who need extra support. Rita cares deeply about students in special education, alternative schools and those who don't always have support at home. She will continue to be an advocate for them.
- Better results for every student. Rita will keep working to close the achievement gap while also raising the number of students who are proficient in math, reading and writing.
- Career pathways. Rita can reimagine and expand career technical education so students have real options after high school.
- Ready for college. Rita will support students preparing for college and help them meet the rigors of university study.

As a pharmacy business owner for 20 years, she not only has a vision but can execute a plan to achieve results for students and families within the budget.

Please join me in voting for Rita Patel.

Emily Bauer, *Carmel Valley*

Surveillance cameras

Dear Editor,

Thank you for taking the time and using the ink to put before the community the Monterey County Board of Supervisors' recent wrongheaded decision on Flock cameras. Your Oct. 23 editorial was comprehensive and closed with the correct conclusion: "Control how the data is used, don't get rid of the cameras." Of course, this is right.

History is replete not only with misplaced Luddite concerns but also with mistaken fears of technology that directly put people's lives at risk. If only we could ask the French knights who faced Henry V's longbows at Agincourt. World War I pilots were denied parachutes because they were deemed unmanly. Data, too, is a defensive tool that, when marshaled correctly, has delivered unimaginable benefits. Without his famous map, London's Dr. John Snow, pushing against "systemic municipal opacity

Continues next page



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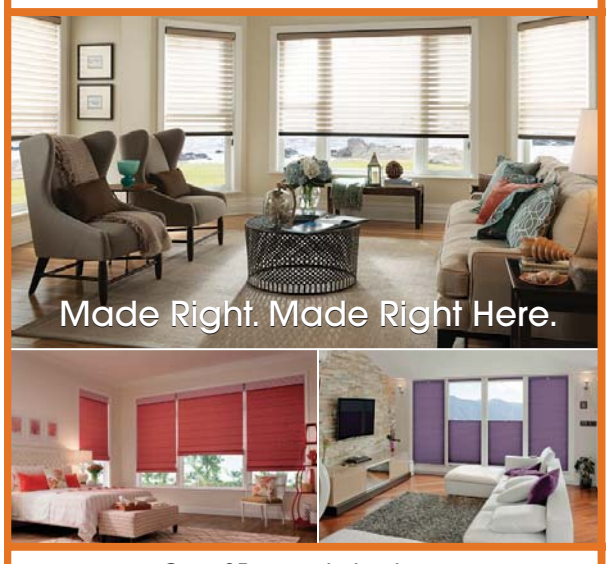
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From previous page

and severe logistical friction" in the 1850s, would have struggled to solve the mystery of waterborne cholera.

Data is our friend and a potent defensive weapon. The supervisors have thrown it away and are sleepwalking backward into history. They were told by the experts — our law enforcement personnel and the district attorney — how effective a tool this has been. Your editorial added evidentiary heft to these views. We expect our elected officials to pay attention to the opinions of the experts to make good decisions on behalf of us all. In this case, they appear to have been unable to see the bigger picture and instead have been swayed by the clamor of the uninformed.

The cellphones in our pockets track our every move and purchase with much greater precision through triangulation using cell towers. That data is hard to access. Surely it's possible to track the movement of our cars while adjusting the controls governing access to the data.

Peter Nielsen, *Pebble Beach*

School bond measure

Dear Editor,

In response to the Oct. 23 letter from the Yes on Measure I committee, I believe there is a more fundamental question taxpayers deserve to have answered: How did one of California's comparatively well-funded school districts, with declining enrollment and increasing revenue, arrive at nearly half a billion dollars in identified facilities needs?

There is also an important financial relationship worth disclosing. Campaign filings show that the Yes on Measure I committee has received thousands of dollars in contributions from architects, contractors, attorneys and other businesses, including firms that already receive substantial payments from CUSD. These companies may also be eligible to compete for work funded by a future bond. That does not establish wrongdoing, but taxpayers deserve to understand these relationships when evaluating the campaign's message.

Consider the numbers.

CUSD enrollment fell nearly 16% over the last six to seven years. During that period, annual general fund revenue increased from approximately $61.6 million to nearly $90 million.

Yet the district's facilities inventory identifies approximately $443 million in potential projects, including repairs, renovations and new construction.

Now CUSD is seeking authorization for another $250 million in bonds — little more than half of the identified needs — with estimated principal and interest payments totaling approximately $482 million.

How did we get here?

Roofs, heating systems and classrooms do not deteriorate overnight. These are predictable needs requiring preventive maintenance, responsible budgeting and long-term planning.

The Yes on Measure I letter emphasizes independent oversight and audits. Those safeguards are important, but they cannot substitute for sound financial decisions. Nor does Measure I guarantee that every project on the district's list will actually be completed.

I have been a CUSD parent since 2011. I deeply appreciate our dedicated teachers and staff, and I want every child to learn in safe, comfortable, well-maintained schools.

But supporting our schools should not mean accepting financial decisions without scrutiny, particularly when taxpayers are being asked to assume decades of additional debt.

Questioning how public money is managed is not a vote against our children or our teachers. Supporting our schools and demanding financial accountability are not opposing positions.

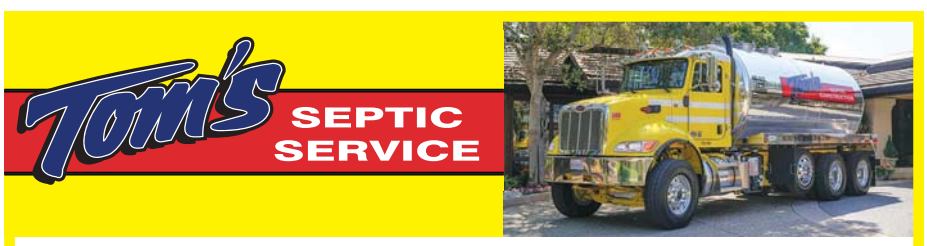
Evelyn Dincer, *Carmel*



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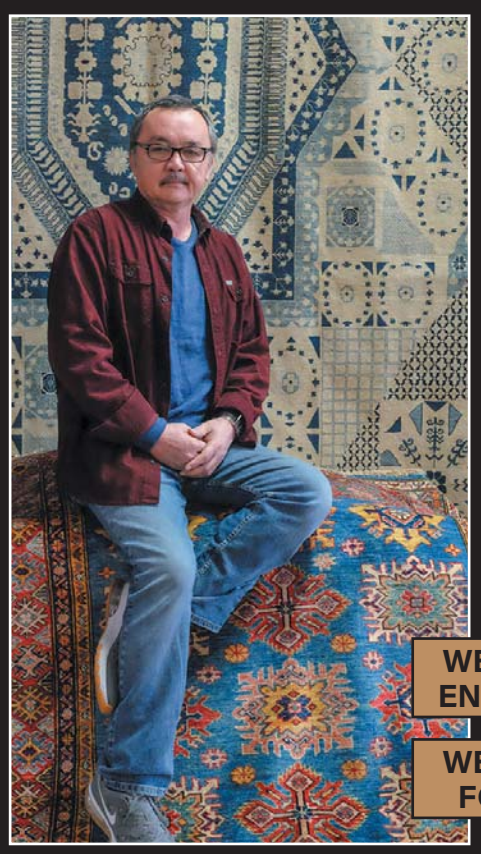
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This Week

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Lyle Lovett at Sunset, tie-dyed Celtic septet 'rocks' St. Mary's-by-the-Sea

A FOUR-TIME Grammy Award winner and his backing musicians, **Lyle Lovett and his Small Large Band** take the stage at 7 p.m. Friday at Sunset Center.

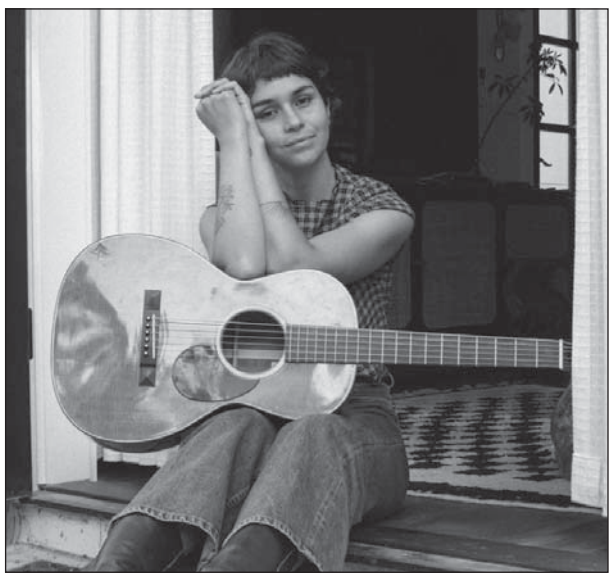
On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

After bursting onto the scene in 1986 with a critically acclaimed debut album and a string of Top 40 country singles, Lovett really hit his stride in the mid-1980s, earning his first Grammy in 1990 for Best Male Country Vocal Performance and releasing two albums that climbed into the top 10 of the country charts. He last played at Sunset two years ago.

"Along with his gift for storytelling, the Texas-based musician incorporates elements of country, swing, jazz, folk, gospel and blues in a manner that defies convention and breaks down barriers," Sunset Center said. "His works, rich and eclectic, are some of the most beloved of any artist on tour today."

Tickets start at $93. Sunset Center is located at 908 San Carlos St. Call (831) 620-2048 or visit sunsetcenter.org.



Singer and guitarist Victoria Lynn performs at Folktale Winery in Carmel Valley Thursday at 4 p.m.



Grammy Award-winning singer and guitarist Lyle Lovett and his Small Large Band take the stage at Sunset Center Friday at 7 p.m.

■ Country with a Cali vibe

A native of Yuba City who now lives in Nashville, country singer and guitarist **Tyler Rich** is on tour promoting a new album, and he visits Golden State Theatre in Monterey on Thursday at 7 p.m.

Like other West Coast country artists, Rich pushes the genre beyond its limits, infusing it with pop, rock and R&B. Five years after releasing his debut album, Rich came out with a follow-up album, "Hello California," last year.

Tickets are $40. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

Also at Golden State is a memorable 1980s act that can't use its actual name due to legal hassles. Known for its danceable mix of new wave, pop and rock, **Oingo Boingo Former Members** play Friday at 7 p.m.

Tickets start at $36.

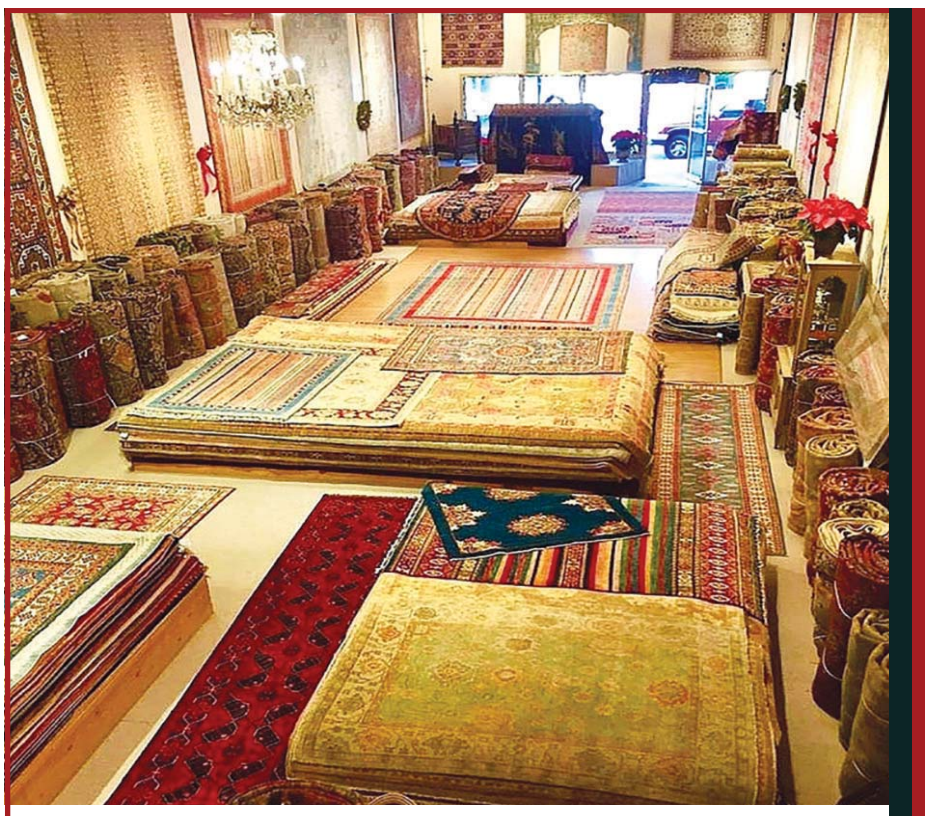
■ Waking the Dead in P.G.

Describing itself as the Bay Area's "Celtic All-Star Summer of Love party band," **Wake the Dead** plays at 3 p.m. Sunday at St. Mary's by-the-Sea in Pacific Grove.

"This hot septet combines Irish jigs and reels with the songs of the Grateful Dead and other '60s iconic bands, delivering them with unique power and joy," reads a description on its website. "Soaring vocal harmonies and daring instrumentals fuel Wake the Dead's singular groove engine, delighting Celtoids and Deadheads alike — their sound is unique, their energy extraordinary — a rare collision of worlds that leaves everybody dancing and grinning."

See **MUSIC** *page 48A*





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FOOD & WINE

Zombie otters, a wine dinner, and relentlessly approaching turkeys

AS PROMISED, this week's column contains plenty of info on the next great American eating holiday. Thanksgiving is a month away, and local restaurants are taking reservations for turkey dinners with all the trimmings — and, in some cases, lobster, oysters, wagyu beef and other luxe dishes.

Soup to Nuts

You'll find a preview of some holiday dining options, from lavish buffets to elegant multicourse dinners, with more to come next week. But first, Halloween is here, and there's an opportunity next week to spend a few days exploring the wines and flavors of Sicily without leaving downtown Carmel.

■ Halloween festivities in P.G.

Lucy's on Lighthouse will have live music from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday and welcomes trick-or-treaters and grown-ups to come by around 3 p.m. for a costume contest. Everybody's favorite stop for hot dogs at 1120 Lighthouse Ave. will also be serving "wickedly saucy dogs, devilishly delicious pumpkin desserts, and tater tots to DIE for!"

The Monarch Pub at 617 Lighthouse Ave. and Hops & Fog at 511 Lighthouse Ave. in Pacific Grove are stops on the annual Halloween Zombie Otter Pub Crawl. (Otter zombies are fatally cuddly, we suspect.) The Monarch's advertising a 6 p.m. start, with live acoustic music by Pattie Gilbert & The Wanderlust, while Hops & Fog will be ready for those fleeing undead aquatic furballs at 4:30 p.m., and its website at hopsandfog.beer says it will have more details soon.



The Portola Hotel's restaurants — Jacks Monterey and Peter B's — both have specials for Thanksgiving, and the hotel will also a host a grand buffet in its De Anza ballroom from 1 to 8 p.m.

■ Sicilian wine weekend

Stationaery restaurant is offering Sicilian Wine Weekend Nov. 5-8, with guests invited to "explore a special selection of Sicilian wines by the glass and chef Amalia's menu inspired by one of our favorite culinary traditions" during seatings from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday. The dinner will feature curated pours and stories with local sommelier Alyssa Twelker.

In addition, when it's raining, takeaway bottles on Stationaery's list of "low-intervention" wines are available at a generous discount.

"The silver lining of the season: On rainy days, enjoy 40% off bottles of wine to go from the shop and settle in at home with something good to pour, power or no power," say Anthony and Alissa Carnazzo, who own the restaurant. Chef Amalia Scatena helms the kitchen.

For more information and reservations, go to thestationaery.com or call (831) 250-7183. The restaurant is located at 558 San Carlos St.



Anthony and Alissa Carnazzo, owners of Stationaery restaurant on San Carlos Street, are hosting a Sicilian Wine Weekend starting Nov. 5 with a special pairing menu on Thursday evening.

■ Pacific panoramas and turkey

There's no need to choose between turkey and seafood at Pacific's Edge Restaurant at Hyatt Carmel Highlands, where the holiday buffet will feature both — with a side of spectacular views of the Big Sur coastline.

The holiday spread planned for Nov. 26 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. includes Diestel turkey, slow-roasted prime rib with hickory and brown sugar, brown sugar-glazed ham, Ora King salmon and locally made spinach and artichoke ravioli.

Seafood lovers can pile their plates with freshly shucked oysters, lobster tails, poached prawns, crab claws, smoked salmon and ponzu-glazed ahi tuna. There will also be salads, charcuterie and an assortment of pies, tarts, cookies, macarons and freshly baked pastries.

"Thanksgiving is the one day people really slow down, and there's no better place to do it than at a table looking

Continues next page

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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

out over the ocean," said Jeff Baker, director of food and beverage. "We built this year's buffet so everyone at the table finds their favorite, from Diestel turkey and prime rib to fresh oysters and lobster tails."

The buffet costs $145 for adults and $50 for children ages 5 to 12, plus tax and a 20% gratuity. Children 4 and younger eat free. Reservations are available through OpenTable. For more information, call (831) 622-5444.

■ Celebrating at Bernardus

There are still seats available for executive chef Gus Trejo's grand buffet at Lucia Restaurant & Bar at Bernardus Lodge in Carmel Valley, with a menu that stretches from traditional holiday favorites to an elaborate seafood selection. It has sold out early for the past few years, so get your table early if Bernardus is your first choice.

The feast begins with artisanal cheeses, handcrafted cured meats, autumn harvest salads and Mariquita Farm squash bisque. Seafood offerings include Morro Bay oysters, sushi, tuna poke, ceviche and prawns, along with lobster Thermidor.

That last dish — cooked lobster meat in a creamy sauce flavored with white wine, mustard and often cognac or brandy, topped with cheese, browned under a broiler and often served in the shell — had its heyday in the 1930s through the 1960s in the United States, so if it sounded familiar, your memory's spot-on. Ironically, the decadent crustacean is named for a French play about that country's 18th-century revolution.

For the more traditional holiday appetite, there will be estate honey-brined turkey, Brandt family filet of beef, brioche stuffing and seasonal side dishes. Pies, gelato and harvest fruits will provide a sweet conclusion.

Seatings are available from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Day. The buffet costs $165 for adults and $75 for children 12 and younger, with youngsters 4 and younger dining free.

Bernardus is at 415 W. Carmel Valley Road. Reservations are available through OpenTable, or call (831) 658-3595.



The Caledonian restaurant in P.G.'s Kimpton Mirador hotel is having a prix fixe Thanksgiving dinner with entrée options that include turkey, halibut with Dungeness crab, Kobe beef short rib, and roasted squash with farro.

■ Gathering in Pacific Grove

The Caledonian in P.G.'s Kimpton Mirador is taking a structured approach

Continues next page

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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

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From previous page

to Thanksgiving, offering a multicourse prix fixe dinner with some imaginative alternatives to a turkey-and-stuffing plate.

The meal begins with a smoked duck confit croquette amuse-bouche accompanied by spiced cranberry-kumquat gel, followed by a first course of roasted heirloom apple and parsnip bisque and a second of persimmon carpaccio with shaved fennel, champagne-citrus vinaigrette, whipped local goat cheese and pomegranate.

Choices aplenty

For the main event, diners can choose herb-roasted Diestel turkey with sausage and mushroom stuffing, braised Kobe beef short rib, pan-roasted Pacific halibut with Dungeness crab brown butter and Meyer lemon beurre blanc or roasted delicata squash with farro, wild mushrooms, Tuscan kale and sage brown butter.

Dessert choices include pumpkin pie with bourbon-maple caramel and vanilla bean whipped crème fraîche or a Valrhona chocolate pecan tart with caramel gelato, spiced pecan brittle and smoked sea salt.

The menu will be served from noon to 7 p.m. at $95 per adult. A children's menu, including a $40 turkey plate, will be available for diners 11 and younger. Reservations can be made through OpenTable.

■ A Spanish-inspired holiday

Estéban Restaurant at the Casa Munras Garden Hotel in Monterey is planning a three-course Thanksgiving dinner with a California-Spanish accent, along with the option of ordering à la carte from a special holiday menu.

Executive chef Steven Patlan's dinner begins with focaccia from Otto's bakery in Salinas, followed by a choice of fall harvest salad with shredded Brussels sprouts, kale, feta, granola and apple vinaigrette or roasted butternut squash and apple bisque with sage brown butter.

Diestel roasted turkey will be served with garlic mashed potatoes, green beans with bacon, chestnut and vegetable

See **DINNER** *next page*



Executive chef Gus Trejo will prepare a grand Thanksgiving buffet at Bernardus Lodge. Guests can enjoy turkey with all the trimmings alongside classic lobster Thermidor, and plenty of other festive dishes.

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DINNER

From previous page

stuffing, pan gravy and cranberry relish, priced at $79 for the three-course dinner.

For something different, guests can choose pan-seared black cod with gigante beans, roasted root vegetables and crispy delicata squash or a Snake River Farms wagyu Denver steak with brown-butter parsnip purée, grilled maitake mushroom and porcini demi-glace. Both alternatives are $84 for three courses.

Dessert is a choice of pumpkin or apple pie with spiced whipped cream.

Dinner will be served from 2 to 8 p.m. Estéban is at 700 Munras Ave., and parking is complimentary for restaurant guests. Reservations are highly recommended at estebanrestaurant.com or (831) 375-0176.

■ Grateful in Monterey

The Portola Hotel at the foot of Alvarado Street is having its annual holiday buffet in the De Anza Ballroom, with local favorite pianist David Conley providing live music while guests enjoy their dinners.

While you don't have to consume your feast in any particular order — really, you can start with pie if you like — appetizers include California cheeses and cured meats, seasonal vegetable displays, tortellini salad and roasted beets with feta and Marcona almonds. Peel-and-eat shrimp will also be available.

At the carving station, guests can choose Harris Ranch prime rib with horseradish cream or free-range Diestel turkey with cranberry sauce. There will also be a sustainably sourced fish entrée with herbes de Provence.

Sides include stuffing and gravy, whipped potatoes, candied yams, roasted acorn squash with pomegranate and pumpkin seeds, and green beans with balsamic glaze and toasted almonds.

Desserts range from pecan and pumpkin pies to French butter pear crisp, mini fruit tarts, holiday cookies and seasonal fruit.

The buffet will be served from 1 to 8 p.m. Prices are $89.95 for adults, $79.95 for seniors 65 and older and $39.95 for children ages 6 to 12. Kids 5 and younger eat free. Tax and a 20% gratuity will be added.

Reservations are required. Call (831) 649-7870 or email sgarcia@portolahotel.com.

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

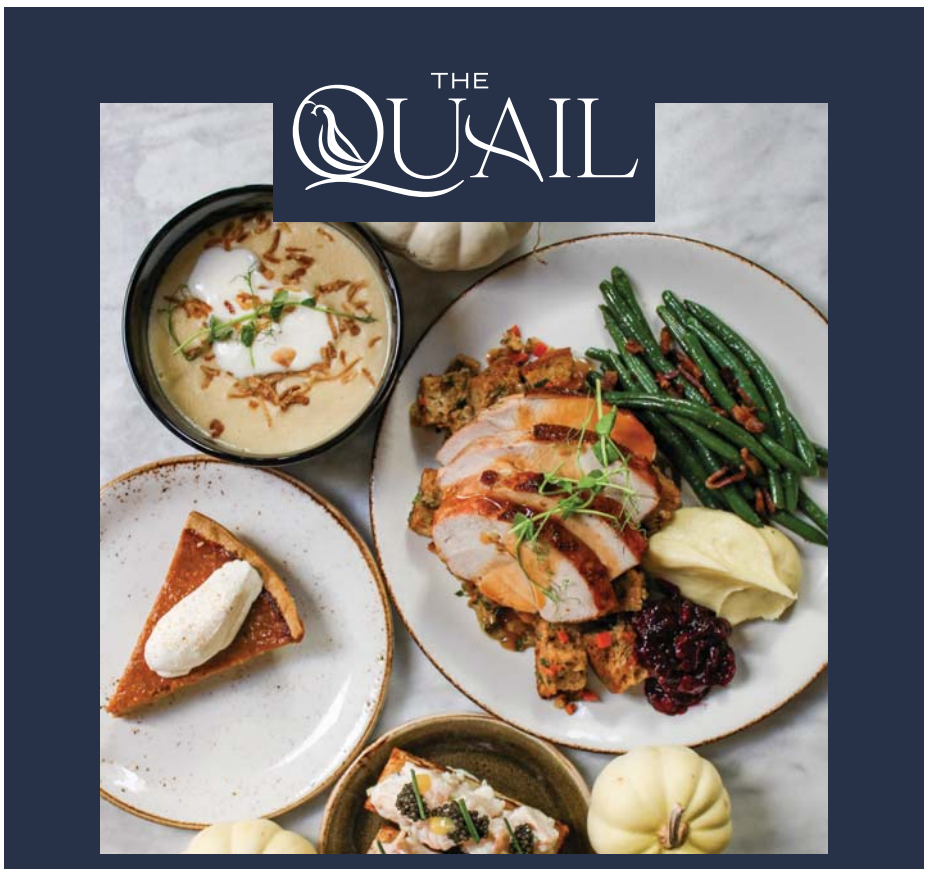
Library hosts talk on 'global change'

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

An associate professor of national security affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School will present a talk, "The Forces that Move Nations: Leadership, Conflict and Global Change," Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. in Carpenter Hall at Sunset Center. The Carmel Public Library Foundation is hosting the event with Dr. Anne Clunan as part of the Community Night with the Library Lecture Series.

"Behind every major turning point in history are decisions shaped by ideas, competing interests, human judgment and the realities of an ever-changing world," the foundation explained in announcing the lecture. "Drawing on history and international affairs, this program explores how governments navigate uncertainty, respond to conflict and pursue national priorities in moments of consequence."

The event is free and open to the public, with a suggested $10 donation, and registration is required at carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org. Sunset Center is located at 908 San Carlos St., and Carpenter Hall is accessible from the Mission Street side.



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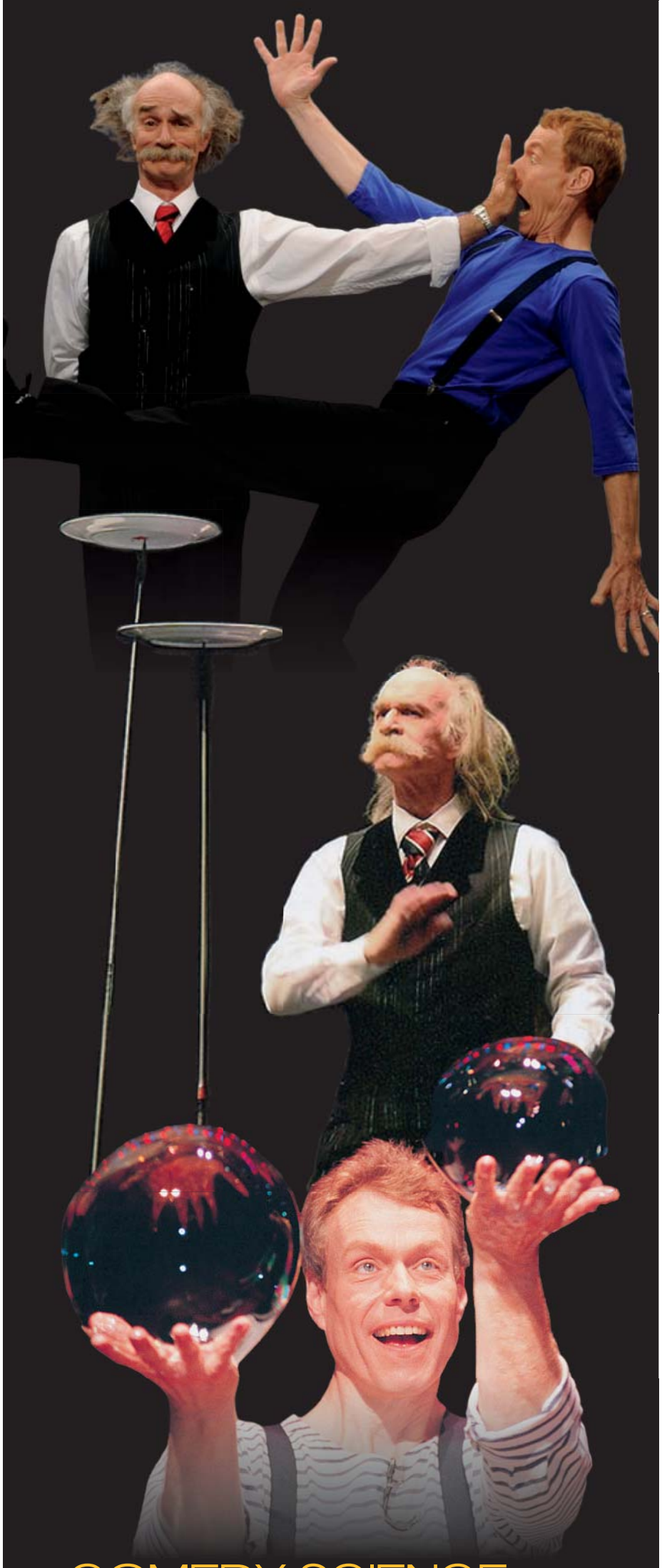
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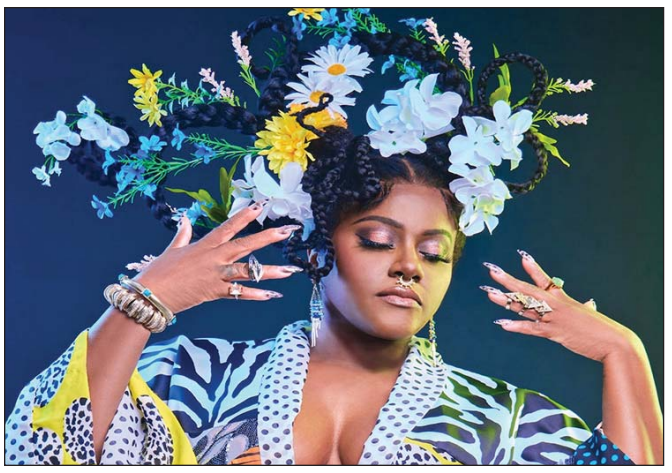
MUSIC

From page 43A

The church is located at 146 12th St. Tickets are $31 for general admission and $12 for kids. Visit celticsociety.org for more details.

■ Free early music concert

In town for two weeks to learn about medieval, Renaissance and baroque music, students from near and far present a free concert at 6 p.m. Friday at Hidden Valley Music Seminars in Carmel Valley. The concert will be offered again next Friday, Nov. 6. "We'll immerse ourselves in the music of Spain and England from the Middle Ages on, as well as music from the New World and the Netherlands," according to Hidden Valley, which is located at 104 W. Carmel Valley Road.



A reggae singer who has twice been nominated for Grammy Awards, Etana performs Friday, 8 p.m., at Deja Blue in Seaside.

Live music, Oct. 30-Nov. 5

■ Big Sur

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

Fernwood Resort — The Gnarlymen (surf rock, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

Nepenthe Restaurant — Scarlet plays at Nepenthe's annual Bal Masque Party (pop and rock, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 48510 Highway 1. Visit nepenthe.com for details.

■ Carmel

Barmel — singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Friday at 7 p.m.). In Carmel Square at 688 San Carlos St.

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 — singer and guitarist **AC Myles** (rock and blues, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **West Coast Cure** (pop and rock, Saturday at 7:30 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, 526 Ocean Ave.

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.



Singer and guitarist A.C. Myles plays rock and blues at the Links Club Friday at 7:30 p.m.

■ Carmel Valley

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 — Two Rivers (pop and rock, Friday at 5 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Sunday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Monday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Victoria Lynn** (Thursday at 4 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

■ Monterey

Albatross Ridge — singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Friday at 6 p.m.), **The Rayburn Brothers** (Americana, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

Hyatt Regency Monterey — singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist

See **TUNES** *next page*



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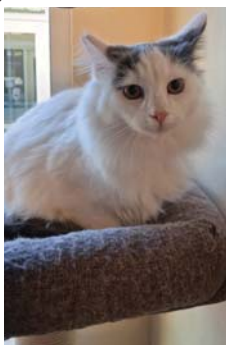
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Stuffing 2 years old

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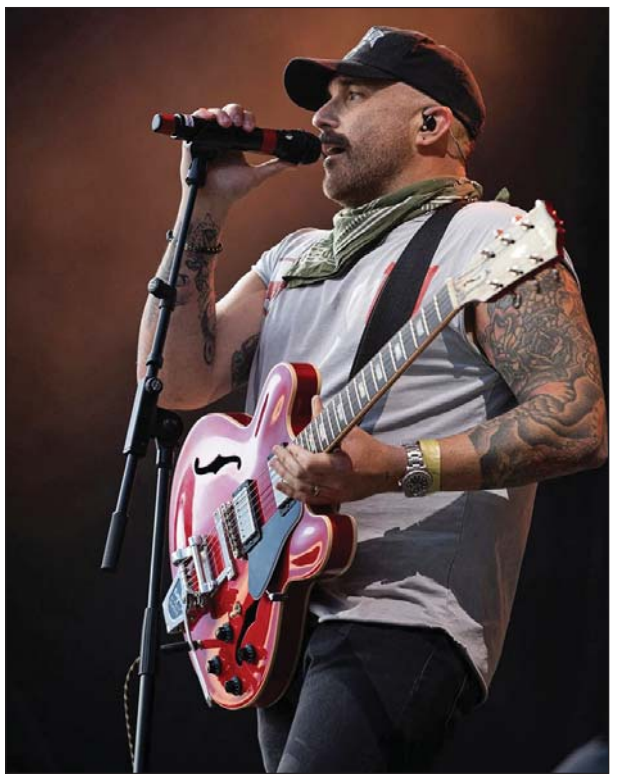
www.SPCAmc.org

TUNES

From previous page

Sabelle (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.), singer and guitarist **Dan Cortes** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 750 Cannery Row.



Singer and guitarist Tyler Rich plays country music Thursday, 7 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

Midici The Neapolitan Pizza Company — singer **Akina Miyata** and guitarist **Sam Nilsson** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** 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 **Joe Indence** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Monday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Tamas Marius** (jazz, Tuesday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Sabelle** (Wednesday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (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 **Blaise DiGirolamo** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **R.J. DeMarco** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

Sardine Factory — singer and guitarist **David Conley** (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 — Rosebud (classic rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **The Rockafellas** (pop and rock, Saturday at 9 p.m.), **The Pacific Jack Band** (classic rock, Monday at 8:30 p.m.), **The Corona Blues Band** (Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.), **5 Star** (rock and soul, Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.), **D.C. & the Jokers** (rock and blues, Thursday at 8:30 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

See **LIVE** *next page*

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CALENDAR

Oct. 31 – Don't miss the fun and free 8th Annual Halloween on the Wharf at Old Fisherman's Wharf from 4 to 7 p.m.! Enjoy trick-or-treating at more than 25 Wharf merchants, a costume contest with lots of cash prizes, a DJ spinning spooky music, fantastic photo opportunities with spectacular Halloween decorations and much more. www.montereywharf.com

Nov. 1 – Wake the Dead returns to Pacific Grove with a high-energy blend of **Irish jigs and reels, Grateful Dead favorites and '60s classics**. 3 p.m. Sunday at St. Mary's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church. Tickets at celticsociety.org or at the door.

Nov. 2 – Hospital Stay in Your Future? – Clay Angel, M.D., president of the **Greater Monterey Bay Medical Society**, will explain how to best navigate and advocate for yourself during a hospital stay. Event begins 2 p.m. at the Carmel Woman's Club, 907 San Carlos St., Carmel, 93921. Open to the public. $10 guests/members free. www.carmelwomansclubca.com

Nov. 5 – Carmel Public Library Foundation presents Community Night with the Library, "The Forces That Move Nations: Leadership, Conflict and Global Change," with **Dr. Anne Clunan**, associate professor or National Security Affairs, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), 7 p.m. in Carpenter Hall, Sunset Center, Carmel. Register on our website: carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org. Questions: (831) 624-2811

Nov. 6 – A "Fall Open House at MPAF Art Gallery" event, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 425 Cannery Row, Monterey, See original artwork, gifts, unique cards and jewelry. Meet local artists of the **Monterey Peninsula Art Forum**. Enter a free drawing for an original painting. No purchase necessary. Free admission. All are welcome! (831) 655-1267 • www.mpaf.org

Nov. 7 – Carmel Valley Lodge's Vintage in the Valley Expo 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 8 Ford Road, Carmel Valley Village. Fifteen local vintage vendors, good trucks. Street parking only, free admission (831) 659-2261

Nov. 7 – Poetry Reading – Joseph Stroud and **Tim Hunt** will read their poetry at **Tor House** in Carmel-by-the-Sea at 7 p.m. Reception to follow. Reservations required: $15; $10 students. Limited seating. Purchase tickets at torhouse.org.

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

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

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

Nov. 7 – Come to the **"Shower of Love" to benefit under-resourced infants born at local hospitals**. event set 10 a.m. to noon at the Carmel Mission's MacMahon Center, 3080 Rio Road, Carmel, hosted **by the Christ Child Society of Monterey Bay**. Learn more and RSVP online on the events page at www.christchildmontereybay.org.

Nov. 7 – The Steinbeck House Best Cellar Gift Shop & Bookstore is hosting its annual Holiday Open House from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Discover new holiday gifts and merchandise, enter for a chance to win a festive gift basket, and enjoy delicious baked goods! Join us for our **Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser** from 8 to 10 a.m. before the Holiday Open House! Tickets are required. $20 for adults and $10 for children 10 and under. 132 Central Ave., Salinas, CA 93901. https://steinbeckhouse.com

Nov. 14 & 15 – Mark Your Calendar … Baum & Blume's "Lighting of the Tannenbaum" & Holiday Open House! This year's theme: "A Peaceable Kingdom" where holiday shopping … goes WILD! Enjoy live music, tasty apps, wine tasting, local artisans and a "Poetry Pop-Up"! Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito, Carmel Valley. (831) 659-0400.

Nov. 14 – Monterey Elks Lodge Holiday Craft Fair, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 150 Mar Vista Drive in Monterey. Event features more than 30 artisan crafters, raffles, and food for purchase. Open to the public. Entry is free.

Nov. 15 – Songbridge Music Concert features local musicians in a benefit for **The Carmel Foundation**. Hosted by **Wendi Kirby Music**, the concert includes **Anne & Pete Sibley, Julie Capili, Stu Heydon** and more. Tickets available at Eventbrite.com. Stair access only.

Nov. 17 – The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB) presents a luncheon lecture at the Monterey Marriott. Our speaker will be **Gen. (ret.) John Abizaid** whose topic is **"Tectonic Change : America's Role in the New Middle Eastern Order."** Please find event registration and information at http://www.wacmb.org

To advertise, email anne@carmelpinecone.com
$0.50 per word ($35 min. charge)
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LIVE

From previous page

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 — Brew's Blues (rock and blues, Saturday at 2 p.m.). 1120 Lighthouse Ave.

PG's Meetinghouse — The Al James Band (R&B and rock, Friday at 7 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and keyboardist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Saturday at 11 a.m.), **The Landing Trio** (Americana, 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 — Sweet Thursday ("Disney Dixieland swing," Thursday at 6 p.m.). 215 Forest Ave.

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

■ Pebble Beach

The Inn at Spanish Bay — The Andy Weis Trio (jazz, Friday, Saturday and Thursday at 7 p.m.). 2700 17-Mile Drive.

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kip Allert** (Saturday at 5 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge, 1700 17 Mile Drive.

■ Sand City

Courtyard by Marriott — guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.). 800 Morgans Way.

■ Seaside

Deja Blue — singer **Etana** (reggae and soul, Friday at 8 p.m.). 500 Broadway.

To update these listings, email **chris@carmelpinecone.com**.

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GAVEL

From page 4A

to pass, leading to the head-on collision with Jackson's vehicle. The CHP Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team downloaded data from Knight's vehicle, which confirmed she was traveling 75 mph at the time of the crash. The speed limit at that location is 55 mph.

Sept. 25 — Reginald Leon Williams, 23, of Seaside pleaded no contest to one count of mayhem. Williams also admitted a firearm enhancement and a prior strike conviction for a shooting he committed in Seaside in March 2025.

On March 2, 2025, Williams learned of planned one-on-one fistfights among juveniles in Seaside. He told a 16-year-old fellow Crip that he would attend the event and back up the teenage fighters affiliated with Seaside's Crip gang. About 20 people attended the fights later that day at Beta Park in Seaside. After the one-on-one fights ended, a group fight began among the attendees.

Shortly after the group fight began, Williams arrived in a vehicle driven by his girlfriend. He got out and joined the fight. A few minutes later, Williams returned to the vehicle. An unknown person then cracked the rear window. Williams' girlfriend drove about 200 feet away from the fight, and Williams ordered her to stop. He got out and fired four shots at the people who remained at Beta Park.

One of the shots struck 17-year-old John Doe in the head. Doe, who had attended the fight, was 185 feet from where Williams opened fire. He was flown to Stanford, where he was hospitalized for more than a month and underwent multiple surgeries. The gunshot wound left him permanently blind in one eye.

After the shooting, Williams and his girlfriend rented a motel room in Monterey. Within 24 hours, officers identified Williams' vehicle on surveillance footage and used automated license plate reader cameras to track its route after the shooting. The car remained in the area of the hotel, and the camera captures helped officers determine Williams' location. Officers found the car at the motel, lawfully searched the room and recovered the firearm used in the Beta Park shooting.

Williams is scheduled to be sentenced to 20 years in prison. He has a prior juvenile strikes for attempted armed carjacking and prior felony convictions for attempted oral copulation of a minor and firearm possession. Seaside police Detective Hector Huizar and Monterey County District Attorney's Office investigator Daisy Gurley investigated the case.

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POLICE LOG

From page 4A

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Check fraud on Loma Alta. At least three checks were reportedly stolen, and fraudulent checks totaling approximately $19,000 to $24,000 were cashed.

Pacific Grove: Animal bite on Fountain Avenue reported by the Monterey County Health Department.

Pacific Grove: Bicycle helmet found on Pine Avenue.

Monterey: A 28-year-old man was arrested at Del Monte Avenue and Figueroa Street for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a blood-alcohol level of 0.08% or greater.

Monterey: Suspicious circumstances at Del Monte Avenue and Casa Verde Way.

Monterey: Three vehicles were towed for having registrations expired more than six months: on Clay Street at 8:55 a.m., Casanova Avenue at 9:20 a.m. and Anthony Street at 11:20 a.m.

Monterey: A subject on Hellam Avenue was placed on a 72-hour mental health evaluation.

Monterey: Electronic distribution of harassing material reported at Del Monte Avenue and Casa Verde Way.

Monterey: Missing person reported on Fremont Street.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 78-year-old woman was arrested for DUI and hit-and-run at Carmelo and Eighth. Witnesses reported seeing a vehicle driving erratically at Santa Lucia and Monte Verde. The vehicle collided with five parked vehicles as it traveled north on Monte Verde. Officers located the vehicle on the north side of La Playa Hotel, where it had come to rest against another vehicle. The driver had open containers in the vehicle and was reportedly at approximately twice the legal blood-alcohol limit. She was arrested for DUI.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 52-year-old woman was arrested at Junipero and Eighth for public intoxication and a probation violation. A reporting party said an intoxicated subject was in public and expressed concern that she might drive. Officers located the subject, who was unable to care for her safety because of her level of intoxication. She also possessed alcohol, in violation of probation terms prohibiting possession or consumption. She was released to another agency.

Pacific Grove: Report of an animal scratch on Ocean View Boulevard. No medical assistance needed.

Pacific Grove: Officers responded to the 200 block of Grand Avenue for a burglary in progress. The suspect was found squatting in a vacant building without the owner's permission. A 43-year-old woman was cited and released for lodging without the owner's consent.

See **INCIDENTS** *page 10RE*

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OCTOBER 2026

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Dolores & 9th

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
Women's Business Council at Flaherty's
9:00am – 10:00am
5th btwn San Carlos & Dolores

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
Mixer at Carmel River Inn & Suites
5:00pm – 7:00pm
No parking at venue
Take Shuttles from The Barnyard

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2
Awards of Excellence
Diamonds are Forever
6:00pm – 9:00pm
Folktale Winery

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10
Women's Business Council at Shoshin
9:00am – 10:00am
Mission btwn 5th & 6th

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16
Annual Holiday Chamber Mixer
La Playa Hotel
5:00pm – 7:00pm
Camino Real & 8th Avenue

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CARMEL Chamber of Commerce



CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA CANDIDATE FORUM
Photo by Kimberlie Guerrieri



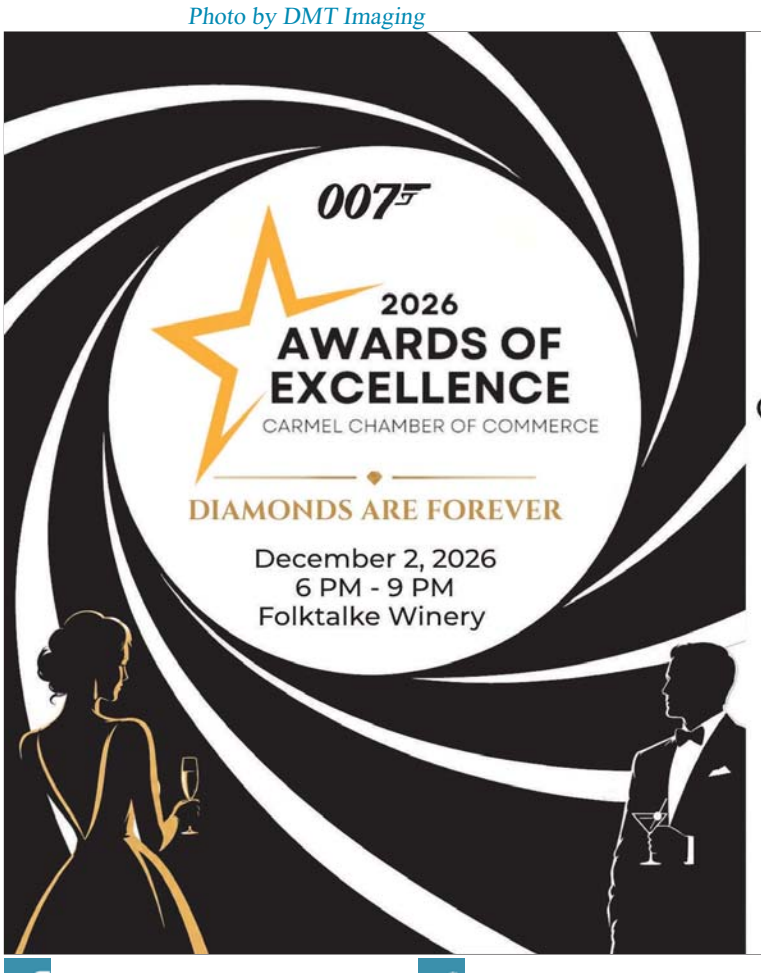
TASTE OF CARMEL FIESTA AT THE MISSION
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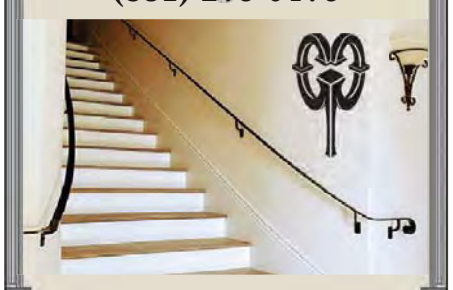
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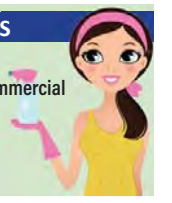
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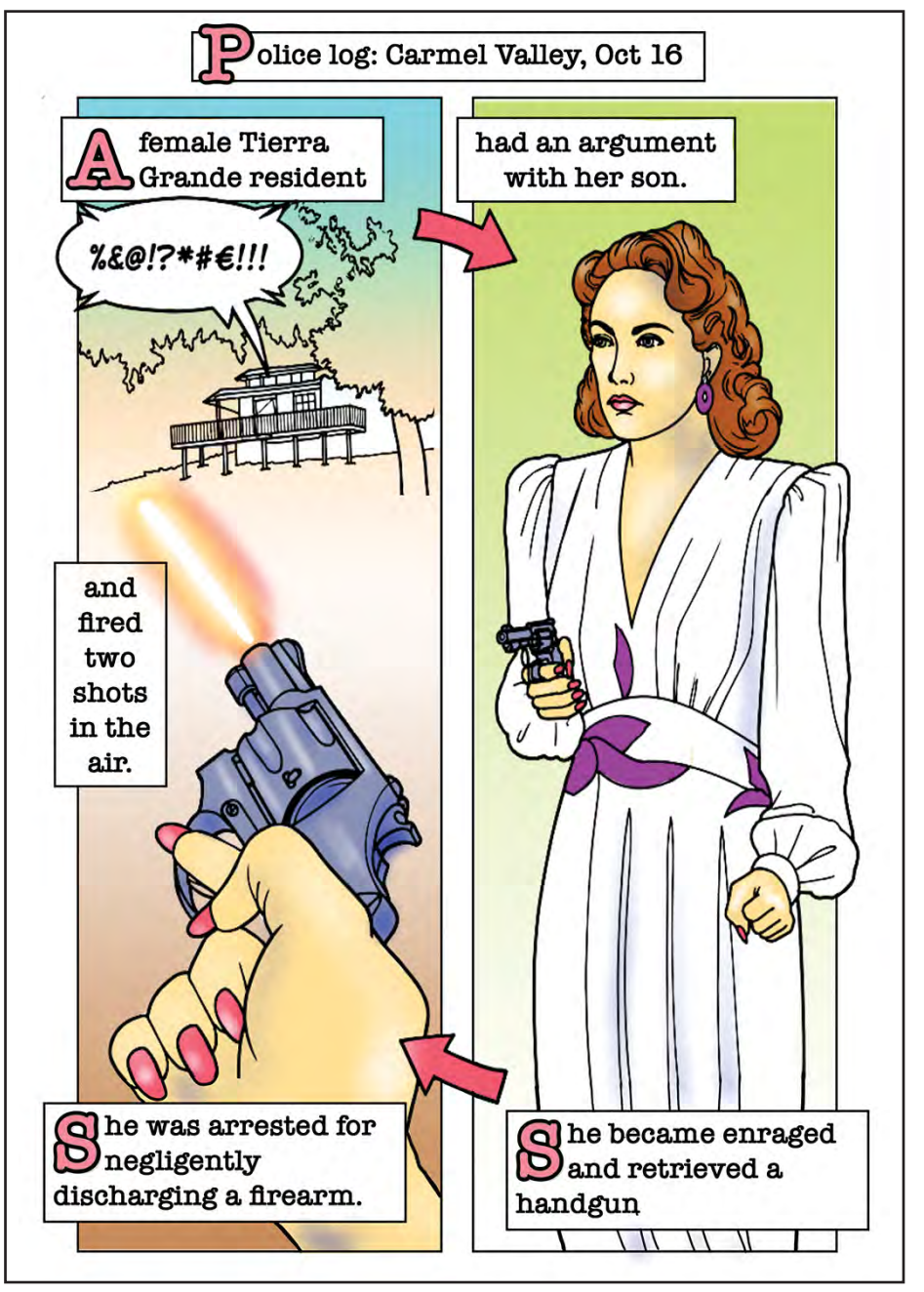


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Continues on next page



Church honors sculptor with plaque and ceremony Sunday

SEVEN DECADES after she created a striking relief depicting "Jesus and the Children" for the Church of the Wayfarer, the congregation will celebrate the installation of a plaque honoring Maria Petrie at 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

Born in Frankfurt, Germany, Petrie studied in Paris before finding success as an artist. Examples of her portrait sculptures can be found in London's National Portrait Gallery. She died in 1972.

In the late 1950s, Petrie was commissioned to make a relief sculpture for the church, whose congregation included her sister, Sophie Schuster of Carmel.

Nearly seven decades later, Petrie's great-nephew Johann Zimmern led the effort to honor the sculptor. His parents were married in the church.

"Despite Maria's distinguished artistic career, her contribution to the church has remained largely unacknowledged," Zimmern told The Pine Cone. "I recently commissioned the installation of a permanent artist acknowledgment beside her relief to ensure that her work and its history will be recognized and remembered by future generations."

Zimmern said the unveiling ceremony Sunday "offers a wonderful opportunity not only to recognize a significant work of art in one of Carmel's historic churches, but also to rediscover the story of a remarkable woman whose artistic legacy connects Frankfurt, Paris, London and Carmel-by-the-Sea."



The late sculptor Marie Petrie, who created this relief for the Church of the Wayfarer in the 1950s, will be honored with a plaque Sun-

Art Roundup

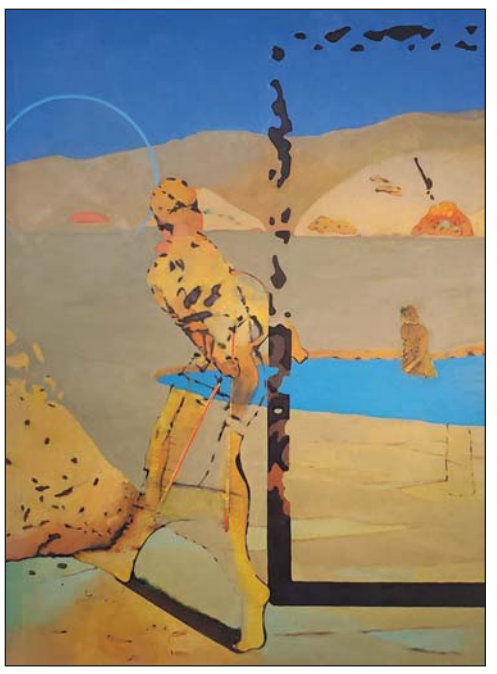
By CHRIS COUNTS

■ An evolving journey

Wave Street Studios in Monterey hosts a free public reception at 5 p.m. Friday for an exhibition of paintings, monotypes and dry pastel drawings by Monterey Peninsula artist Leonard Han.

Han created the art over the past five decades. Titled "An Ethos for the Living — What Remains, What Becomes," the show continues through Nov. 4.

"Bringing together a wide range of approaches, subjects and materials, the works reveal a rich and evolving artistic journey," according to the performing arts center, which is located at 774 Wave St. "Through expressive explorations of color, texture and space, each work carries its own presence, shaped by the physical act of making it and a contemplative view of the world. Together, they explore what we carry from the past, how it shapes the present, and what remains open to change and discovery."



Wave Street Studios in Monterey welcomes a display of art by Leonard Han Friday.

■ Free and welcoming

On the last day of a pop-up exhibit that showcases young artists mentored by a local group, Hijos del Sol Arts Productions, Carmel Modern hosts a free public reception and auction at 4 p.m. Saturday. "Join us for a special Día de los Muertos multi-sensory experience with art, wine, food and music," said the gallery, which is at 374 Sixth Ave.

The Salinas-based group "offers a free, welcoming art studio, supplies and mentorship for youth and families."

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Continues from previous page

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PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261790
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
CARMEL NAILS COUTURE, 26400 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)

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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. 20261926
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Huezo Ink Creations, 255 E Bolivar St. SPC 121, Salinas, CA 93906
County of Monterey
Registrant(s):
Pablo Adolfo Gonzalez, 255 E Bolivar St. SPC 121, 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 N/A.
S/ Pablo Adolfo Gonzalez
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on [FileDate].
10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13/26
CNS-4078997#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 1023)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261927
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
MB AUTO RENTALS AND SALES, 1206 La Salle Ave Spc 8A, Seaside, CA 93955
County of MONTEREY
Registrant(s):
MONTEREY BAY AUTO RENTALS LLC, 351 SAN FELIPE RD STE 101 #1005, HOLLISTER, CA 95023
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.
MONTEREY BAY AUTO RENTALS LLC
S/ Vidal Ballesteros, Managing Member
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 10/07/2026.
10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13/26
CNS-4081569#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 1024)

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)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261977
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
THE JOINT MARINA, 234 RESERVATION ROAD, MARINA, CA 93933
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
FLAVORS OF MARINA INC., 234 RESERVATION ROAD, MARINA, CA 93933
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by: a corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on: Aug. 1, 2026.
S/ Harkamalpreet Gill, Chief Executive Officer
Date signed: Oct. 14, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 14, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 23, 30. Nov. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 1027)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261973
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
SALTY SOUL SANCTUARY, 526 OCEAN AVE STE 304, 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.:
SALTY SOUL SANCTUARY LLC, 86 VIA VENTURA, MONTEREY, CA 93940
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by: a limited liability company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on: Not Applicable.
S/ Kyle Hoff, Managing Member
Date signed: Oct. 14, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 14, 2026.Publication Dates: Oct. 23, 30. Nov. 6, 13, 2026. (PC 1028)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261918
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
GROCERY OUTLET OF SALINAS, 1415 N Main Street, Salinas, CA 93906
County of MONTEREY
Registrant(s):
THE3BEEZ LLC, 1415 N Main Street, Salinas, CA 93906
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.
THE3BEEZ LLC
S/ TRENT BLANKENSHIP, MANAGING MEMBER,
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 10/06/2026.
10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13/26
CNS-4082710#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 1029)

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legals@carmelpinecone.com

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261901
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
FILIPINO INDIAN SUPERMARKET, 1914 FREMONT BLVD, SEASIDE, CA 93955
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
BIBS VENTURES LLC, 1914 FREMONT ST, SEASIDE, CA 93955
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 listed above on: 10/01/2026.
S/ Salvador Ornelas, Member
Date signed: Oct. 5, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 5, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 23, 30. Nov. 6, 13, 2026. (PC 1030)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261980
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
LOVE ONES HOME CARE, 510 Paradise Rd., Salinas, CA 93907.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
DIEGO RODRIGUEZ GONZALEZ, P.O. Box 584, Seaside, CA 93955.
JANNET JUVENTINA RODRIGUEZ
This business is conducted by a married couple.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Jannet Rodriguez
Date signed: Oct. 15, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 15, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 1031)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261894
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
SAVE DEL MESA CARMEL, 43 Del Mesa Carmel, Carmel, CA 93923.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
JAMES EDWARD ROBINSON.
CHARMIAN HILARY ROBINSON.
This business is conducted by a married couple.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 2, 2026.
S/James E. Robinson
Date signed: Oct. 2, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 2, 2026
Publication Dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 1032)

T.S. No.: 2026-01840 Decal No.: LAS3741 Property Address: 13424 Agua Caliente Space 213, Castroville, CA 95012 **NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE** YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A THE TERMS OF THE MOBILE HOME SECURITY AGREEMENT DATED 6/2/2022. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. THIS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 18037.5, the Uniform Commercial Code and 9610 of the Commercial Code please take notice that 21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, the secured creditor, will conduct a public sale of the following described mobile home: Registration Number(s) LAS3741, more fully described as Serial Number(s) CAHK012417109254 84A, CAHK012417109254 84B, and HUD/Insignia RAD650898, RAD650899 Manufacturer: 90004 HALLMARK SOUTHWEST CORP Model: 241710 Situs Address: 13424 Agua Caliente Space 213, Castroville, CA 95012 the property described above will be sold as is at public sale on 11/24/2026 at 10:00 AM at At the main entrance to the County Administration Building, 168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA. for the property located at 13424 Agua Caliente Space 213, Castroville, CA 95012 due to a default by Angelica Clemente Castelan and Joel Magana-Morales and Yoselin Magana Clemente on a promissory note and security agreement for the purchase of the above mentioned mobilehome. Except for the warranty that this sale is authorized by law, absolutely no warranties of the sale are given. Prospective purchasers who wish to keep the mobile home in place and reside in the mobile home, must apply for and be approved for occupancy and should be familiar with California Civil Code 798.74 which gives the Park Management certain rights of prior approval over its residents. Prospective Purchasers who desire to remove the mobile home from the Park may be required to sign a lot storage agreement until the home is removed which removal must comply with all state and local permitting requirements. Prospective purchasers must present a cashier's check for the full amount of the purchase immediately at the conclusion of the sale. This sale does not include any contents of the unit and the successful bidder is responsible for the lawful disposition of all remaining contents of the unit. The general public will have access to the Mobile home Park premises for the purposes related to this sale. As the date of this, the amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $146,374.33 Due to interest, advances for taxes and /or insurance, attorney's fees and costs, you may owe more on the date of payment. For more information, please call the undersigned. Secured Party/ Foreclosing Creditor 21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION at 800-955-0021 or Sokolof Remtulla at 888-522-6214. Please make cashier's check payable to Sokolof Remtulla Date: 10/19/26 21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION 620 MARKET ST KNOXVILLE, TN 37902 Sale Line: (916) 939-0772 Name: Cameron Tabler Title: Legal CoordinatorNPP0496409 To: CARMEL PINE CONE, PUB: 10/30/2026

Publication dates: Oct. 30, 2026 (PC1056)

T.S. No. 145511-CA APN: 169-361-008-000 **NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE** IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 1/4/2021. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER On 11/17/2026 at 10:00 AM, CLEAR RECON CORP, as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 1/7/2021 as Instrument No. 2021001163 of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Monterey County, State of CALIFORNIA executed by: LISA KAY FAULKNER WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, SAVINGS ASSOCIATION, OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE; MAIN ENTRANCE, MONTEREY COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 168 W. ALISAL STREET, SALINAS, CA 93901 all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 25390 TIERRA GRANDE DRIVE, CARMEL, CA 93923 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition, or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: $677,698.82 If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned or its predecessor caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (855) 313-3319 or visit this Internet website www.clearreconcorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 145511-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: Effective January 1, 2021, you may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (855) 313-3319, or visit this internet website www.clearreconcorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 145511-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. FOR SALES INFORMATION: (855) 313-3319 CLEAR RECON CORP 3333 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 225 San Diego, California 92108

Publication dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 2026 (PC1013)

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261828
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
EC LAWN AND GARDEN, 59 Martines Rd., Salinas, CA 93907.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
CYNTHIA DE LA ROSA ALDERETE, 59 Martines Rd., Salinas, CA 93907.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Not Applicable.
S/Cynthia Alderete
Date signed: Sept. 22, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 22, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 1033)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261965
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
ROADRAGE WORKS, 315 Vincent Pl., Salinas, CA 93907.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
RAYMOND CHARLES ASH, 315 Vincent Pl., Salinas, CA 93907.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 14, 2026.
S/Raymond Ash
Date signed: Oct. 14, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 14, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 1035)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261758
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
ESQUIVEL TAX CPA, 32 E. Alisal, Suite 206, Salinas, CA 93901.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
VICTOR ALFONSO ESQUIVEL
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 1, 2026.
S/Victor Esquivel
Date signed: Sept. 9, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 9, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 1038)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261968
Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
EL PRIMO WESTERN WEAR, 828 E. Alisal St., Salinas, CA 93905.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
EL PRIMO WESTERN WEAR INC., 489 Arcadia Way, Salinas, CA 93906.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 2001.
S/Margarita Servin, Secretary
Date: Oct. 13, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 14, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 1036)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20262001
Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
AURORA CLEANING SERVICES, 13900 Monte Del-Oro, Space 67, Castroville, CA 95012.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
FATIMA CASTILLA BENITEZ
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 13, 2024.
S/Fatima Castilla Benitez
Date signed: Oct. 19, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 19, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 1040)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261807
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
THE VALLEY LANDSCAPING LLC, 348 Brittlebush St., Soledad, CA 93960.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
THE VALLEY LANDSCAPING LLC, 348 Brittlebush St., Soledad, CA 93960.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Aug. 17, 2026.
S/Christian Guzman
Date: Sept. 17, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 17, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 1041)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20262009
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
F & V Locksmith, 333 5th St, Greenfield, CA 93927
County of MONTEREY
Registrant(s):
Florentino Velasco de Jesús, P.O. Box 1312, Greenfield, CA 93927
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/ Florentino Velasco de Jesús,
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 10/21/2026.
10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20/26
CNS-4089936#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2026 (PC 1043)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20262015
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
JHONATAN SP PAINTING, 1203 Grandhaven St., Salinas, CA 93905.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
JHONATAN SANTOS PEREZ, S.E. Beach St., PMB #119, Watsonville, CA 95076.
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/Jhonatan Santos Perez
Date signed: Oct. 21, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 21, 2026
Publication Dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2026 (PC 1044)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261987
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person is doing business as:
REVAMP CONSTRUCTION, 25680 Tierra Grande Drive, Carmel, CA 93923
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
Petr Kotala, 25680 Tierra Grande Drive, Carmel, CA 93923.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on Oct. 16, 2026.
S/ Petr Kotala
Date signed: Oct. 16, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 16, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2026 (PC 1045)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261990
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
LAREYNAS SUPERMARKET, 10750 Merritt St., Castroville, CA 95012.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
ABDASALAM ABDO SAEED, 1221 San Gabriel Ct., Watsonville, CA 95076.
RAMZEE ALGHAILI MURSHID, 15 Plum St., Watsonville, CA 95076.
This business is conducted by a general partnership.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 2, 2021.
S/Abdasalam Abdo Saeed
Date signed: Oct. 16, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 16, 2026
Publication Dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2026 (PC 1046)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. 20262025
Filing type: ABANDONMENT:
County of Filing: Monterey
Date of Original Filing: Feb. 11, 2025
File No.: 20250304
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
ALL SEASONS HEATING & COOLING, 1173 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
ZACHARY BRIAN HUMASON, P.O. Box 2127, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.
This business is conducted by an individual.
S/Zachary Brian Humason
Date: Oct. 22, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 22, 2026.
Publication dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2026. (PC1047)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20262027
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
ALL SEASONS HEATING & COOLING, 1173 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
JOEL G. MAGALLON, 1173 Forest 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. 22, 2026.
S/Joel Magallon
Date signed: Oct. 22, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 22, 2026
Publication Dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2026 (PC 1048)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20262023
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
TINTICOS, 5200 Coe Avenue, Apt. 1173, Seaside, CA 93955.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
ANDREA PEÑA PEREZ, 5200 Coe Avenue, Apt. 1173, Seaside, CA 93955.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 22, 2026.
S/Andrea Peña Perez
Date signed: Oct. 22, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 22, 2026
Publication Dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2026 (PC 1049)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261983
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
VALLEY DOGS, 924 Larkin St., Apt. 101, Salinas, CA 93907.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
ELIAZ CERNA-AGUILAR.
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/Eliaz Cerna-Aguilar
Date signed: Oct. 15, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 15, 2026
Publication Dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2026 (PC 1050)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261818
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
ANGELES Y QUERUBINES DAYCARE, 38 Las Lomas Dr. #C, Royal Oaks, CA 95076.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
ARACELI CARDOSO, 38 Las Lomas Dr. #C, Royal Oaks, CA 95076.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Not Applicable.
S/Araceli Cardoso
Date signed: Sept. 13, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 18, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2026 (PC 1051)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261969
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
Cowboy Latte, 24520 Outlook Dr, Unit 29, Carmel, CA 93923,
County of Monterey
Registered Owner(s):
GOOD CLEAN FUN ENTERTAINMENT LLC, 24520 OUTLOOK DR, UNIT 29, CARMEL, CA 93923; CALIFORNIA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on Not applicable
S/ John Strong, Managing Member
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 10/14/2026
10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20/26
CNS-4090633#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2026 (PC 1052)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261945
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
BEACH BUDDIES RC, 660 Pine Ave., Apt. 1, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
BEACH BUDDIES RC LLC.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Cameron Clarke, Managing Member
Date: Oct. 9, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 9, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2026 (PC 1053)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20262034
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person is doing business as:
1. BUYERS REAL ESTATE
2. BUYERS PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
3. BUYERS CONSTRUCTION
17040 Arriba Way, Salinas, CA 93907
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner:
JOEL MERLE DENNING, 17040 Arriba Way, Salinas, CA 93907-8811
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business names listed above: Not Applicable.
S/ Joel M. Denning
Date signed: Oct. 23, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 23, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2026 (PC 1055)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261960
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person is doing business as:
Mil Pétalos y Raíces, 526 #B Fremont St., Salinas, CA 93905
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner:
ISMAEL SOTO MORENO, 526 #B Fremont St., Salinas, CA 93905
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business names listed above: Oct. 13, 2026.
S/ Ismael Soto Moreno
Date signed: Oct. 13, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 13, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2026 (PC 1058)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20262053
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
BERNABE CARPET CLEANING, 500 Windsor St., King City, CA 93930.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
LEOCADIO BERNABE ROMERO.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 27, 2026.
S/Leocadio Bernabe Romero
Date signed: Oct. 27, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 27, 2026.
Publication Dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2026 (PC 1059)

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026



REPLACE THE BATTERIES IN YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ONSITE AUCTION:

In accordance with the provisions of the California Self-Storage Facility Act (Bus. & Prof. code §21700-21716), California Commercial Code Section 2328, Section 1812.600 – 1812.609 and Section 1988 of California Civil Code, 353 of the Penal Code, and being due an unpaid storage for which OFF-ABBOTT MINI-STORAGE, 246 Abbott Street, City of Salinas, County of Monterey, State of California, is entitled to a lien as herein after described. And due notice having been given to parties known to claim an interest therein and the time specified in such notice of payment having expired notice is hereby given that these goods will be auctioned by sealed envelope bids on Friday, November 13, 2026, at 11AM. Purchases must be paid for at the time of sale in cash only. All items sold as-is, and must be removed at the time of sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between the owner and obligated party. Unsold contents will be disposed of after Friday, November 20, 2026.

A-10	Sandra Martinez (Home goods)
A-26	Eric Boyens (Home goods)
A-27	Eric Boyens (Home goods)
E-11	Henry Hale (Home goods)
F-8	Luis Palacios (Home goods)

Publication date: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 2026 (PC1054)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that SP032 - Storage PRO of Carmel, LLC, phone (831) 250-6062, located at 9640 Carmel Valley Rd, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA, 93923 will hold a Public Sale, to satisfy the lien of the owner. This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Section 21700 et seq of the Business & Professions Code of the State of California. Units will be sold via online auction, at www.StorageTreasures.com. Auction will close on or after **Wednesday November 11, 2026 at 12:00 pm**. The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to household goods, furniture, tools, equipment, toys, boxes, clothes and misc items. Owner reserves the right to bid and the right to refuse bids. Cleanup deposit is required. Sale is subject to cancellation. The contents of the rental storage units belonging to the following persons will be sold:

7106 - Mary Hall

Publishing: October 30, 2026
The Carmel Pine Cone
Publication date: Oct. 30, 2026 (PC1034)

LEGALS DEADLINE: Tuesday 3:00 pm | legals@carmelpinecone.com

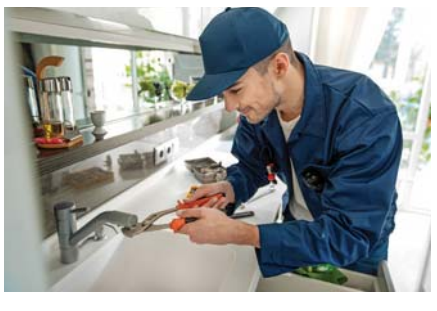
Get your business noticed in The Carmel Pine Cone SERVICE DIRECTORY

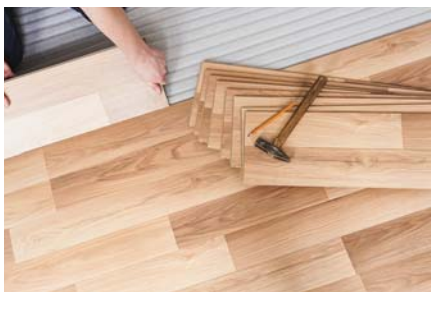
- CABINETRY
- INTERIOR DESIGN
- HOUSE CLEANING
- GARDEN • LANDSCAPE
- PAINTING
- CONSTRUCTION/REMODEL
- ROOFING
- TREE SERVICE
- CAREGIVER/HOME CARE
- MASONRY
- ELECTRICIAN
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