



The Carmel Pine Cone

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October 30 - November 5, 2020

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What time is it when sewage fills your cottage?

By KELLY NIX

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE caused sewage to back up into an iconic Carmel-by-the-Sea cottage, forcing the home to be designated a biohazard and uninhabitable for nearly four years, a complaint against a



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

This quaint cottage, built by M.J. Murphy in the 1920s, was essentially destroyed by a sewage spill in 2016. (Construction debris is shown right.)

wastewater agency alleges.

Carmel Area Wastewater District crews on Oct. 26, 2016, were doing routine maintenance on one of the agency's pipelines when "sewage was forced under high pressure to spread throughout" the property of the home known as the Pied Piper on Lincoln Street near Eighth Avenue, according to a lawsuit filed by Lauren Cesare, the trustee of the Ruth G. Watson Trust, which owns the M.J. Murphy cottage.

"This caused the property to be completely uninhabitable and the contamination was deemed a Level III Biohazard," requiring a certificate of "air quality clearance" for anyone to enter the property, according to the complaint filed for Cesare by San Jose attorneys Ronald Cook and Charles Hellstrom.

The wastewater district, "by acting or failing to act, created a condition that was harmful to health, was indecent or offensive to the senses, and was an obstruction to the free use of the property, so as to interfere with plaintiff's comfortable enjoyment of life or property," the suit says.

The complaint, filed in Monterey County

See **COTTAGE** page 17A

Supervisor, health officer urge everyone to get tested

By KELLY NIX

MONTEREY COUNTY'S health officer this week encouraged everyone on the Monterey Peninsula and other areas in the county to be tested for coronavirus — even people who haven't been exposed and don't have any symptoms.

At the board of supervisors meeting Tuesday, 5th District supervisor Mary Adams noted that if more people who are tested for the virus get a result of "negative," it will help the county's metrics and make it possible to advance to the more favorable reopening tiers set by the state.

Considering that, Adams asked health officer Dr. Ed Moreno if state rules permit anyone to get tested — even if they don't have any symptoms and haven't been in contact with someone who does.

"Yes, I'm comfortable with saying that," Moreno responded, adding that state officials are "looking at" the fact that Monterey County isn't maximizing capacity at its coronavirus testing sites, which he said run about around 85 to 100 percent of capacity.

"In order to maximize capacity and show the state that there is still a need here, I encourage people — even if you

See **VIRUS** page 19A

Plans uncertain for reopening city halls

By MARY SCHLEY

WHILE THE state department of public health offers extensive guidelines for safely operating in three dozen different business sectors, from agriculture and auto dealerships, to schools and shopping center, local governments are considered "essential services," which means the state says very little about how and when they should reopen their offices and city halls, many of which have been closed to the public since mid-March.

The two candidates for mayor in Carmel's Nov. 3 election — incumbent Dave Potter and challenger Judy Refuerzo — said during a recent voter forum that they want city hall reopened as soon as possible, mostly so property owners who want to build can meet directly with a planner.

Even though shutdown rules don't address municipal governments, the state has rules for "office workspaces," and in counties in the most restrictive (purple) tier — such as Monterey County — people are supposed to work from

home. Many city employees who would normally be in their offices in city hall helping constituents find answers to questions, file building applications or pay fees and taxes are doing their jobs from somewhere else, and all public meetings are run remotely through online platforms. In March, Gov. Gavin Newsom suspended certain provisions of the Brown Act to allow meetings to be held electronically, as long as members of the public have a way to participate.

'When it's safe'

City administrator Chip Rerig said how and when city hall will reopen is unknown.

"The reopening plans are dependent on my ability to ensure the safety of my employees and the public," he said.

Assistant city administrator Maxine Gullo "is working with our insurance carrier on safety protocols and practices."

See **UNCERTAIN** page 21A

Restaurant, bagel shop cited for mask violations

By MARY SCHLEY

THE OWNERS of Plaza Linda restaurant in Carmel Valley, the manager of the Bagel Bakery at the mouth of the valley, and people at several other businesses received citations this month for failing to wear masks, Monterey County Environmental Health director John Ramirez said at a media briefing Wednesday. The tickets, which start at \$100 and climb for repeat offenses, came after a month-long effort to ensure nearly 2,000 businesses in the unincorporated areas of the county were complying with the state's mandatory mask order.

Covering up at work

Health officers spent the month of September doing outreach and education to enforce the requirement that operators, employees and others wear face coverings while in public, including at work, under most circumstances.

"There were 1,416 sites that were compliant on our very first visit," Ramirez said. And "195 sites required two

See **VIOLATIONS** page 18A

TWO RESCUED AFTER HEART ATTACKS ON GOLF COURSE

By MARY SCHLEY

A GOLFER who suffered a heart attack on the 14th Hole at the Pebble Beach Golf Links two weeks ago and another who went into cardiac arrest while playing on the 16th Hole at Poppy Hills three days later both survived their ordeals, thanks to people quickly stepping up to perform CPR until rescuers arrived, according to Cal Fire PIO Jonathan Pangburn.

In the first incident, at around 5:45 p.m. Oct. 16, a man was playing golf at the Pebble Beach Golf Links with his son to celebrate his 21st birthday when the man collapsed on the 16th Tee. Even though he had no history of heart trouble, according to Pangburn, he suffered cardiac arrest.

The people with him jumped into action, dialing 911 and starting CPR. When Cal Fire's engines from the Pebble Beach station and Carmel Fire Ambulance arrived at around the same time, a Pebble Beach Security officer, Hillary Drinovsky, was doing CPR on the man, who was unconscious and not breathing.

Pulse returns

The ambulance crew, firefighter paramedic John Moulton and EMT Tyler Young, took over as soon as they got there. "We started doing CPR and ended up defibrillating him three times on scene," Moulton said.

Once they got his pulse back, they rushed him to Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, "where he

started breathing on his own," and moving, Moulton said — both good signs he would pull through. After CHOMP emergency staff got him stabilized, they sent him in for emergency heart surgery.

The patient walked out of the hospital a few days later.

Every time someone fully recovers after a "field save," Moulton observed, it's a special victory for everyone.

Second case

Shortly before 8:30 a.m. Oct. 19, a call came in "for a person in cardiac arrest on the 16th Tee" at Poppy Hills, according to Pangburn, and again, bystanders dialed 911 and started CPR, which they continued until the Cal Fire engines and an ambulance arrived.

He, too, was unconscious and not breathing, and "fire department paramedics and EMTs took immediate action," opening his airway, continuing CPR, administering an IV and drugs, and undertaking other advanced life support interventions, all of which resulted in the patient regaining a pulse.

See **RESCUES** page 20A

Too unsightly for Big Sur?



PHOTO/COURTESY MAGNUS TOREN

While this might look like an ordinary guardrail — or even a prettier one than you would normally see on a California highway — to some people in Big Sur, it's an eyesore. See page 11A.

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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Can Rover come over?

SOME SENIOR citizens say he looks like Skippy, better known as Asta, the feisty wire-hair fox terrier in the 1934 detective comedy, "The Thin Man," starring William Powell and Myrna Loy. Others think he looks like a Steiff toy – one with a wind-up key.

His family knows him as Rover, their 6-year-old wire-hair fox terrier, but they agree he gets pretty wound up when he goes to the beach.

"His tail wags so fast, you think he's going to lift off the ground," his person said.

Rover is a doppelganger for the fox terrier his person had as a child, also named Rover, but this one is sometimes more of a "fox terrorizer."

"Anyone who knows fox terriers will tell you they're bright and full of energy and are absolutely adorable," his person said. "Rover is very lovable and affectionate. Yet, when he goes to the beach, he jets down the sand to play with other dogs, and another side of him comes out."



When playtime gets rough, it's no longer playtime.

More often, instead of risking a romp on the beach, Rover's family, who live just south of Ocean, will walk with him, on a leash, to Carmel Point and back. They usually head down Dolores Street to Mission Ranch and out to the point, and then wander along Scenic Road and back up Eighth, toward home.

"Rover loves his walks, and everyone and everything he sees along the way," his person said. "Walk' is not a word we say out loud unless we're ready to go."

Rover also can be content to hang out at home, but sometimes he visits his neighbors' deck, where he seems quite happy, particularly when he gets lots of attention. With his bright eyes and expressive little face, it's pretty much guaranteed.

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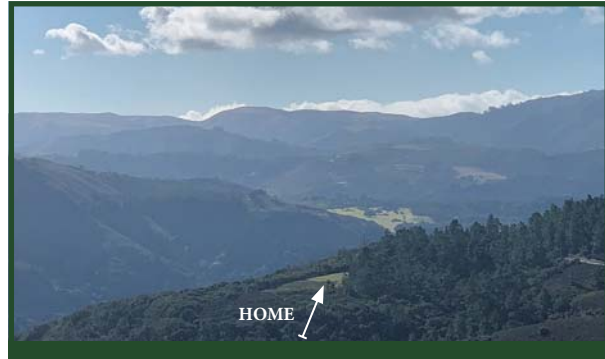
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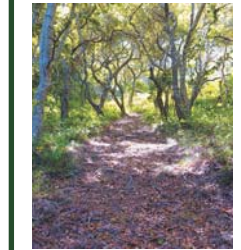
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2020 Golden Pine Cones announced in this issue

With winter coming, mud becomes the bigger threat as fire fades

By CHRIS COUNTS

NO RAIN is in the forecast anytime soon, but fire officials are busy getting ready for the day when it arrives. Because so much of Big Sur's steep terrain has been stripped of erosion-controlling vegetation by the Dolan Fire, mudslides are likely.

"We are winding down the suppression effort on the fire, but we still have a lot of work ahead of us protecting roads and trails," top local U.S. Forest Service official Tim Short said Wednesday. "We're trying

our best to button things up. We're on Day 72 — it's been a long haul."

In areas impacted by the Dolan Fire, crews are taking measures to reduce the risk of slides. Along Nacimiento-Ferguson Road this week, they cleared culverts, protecting them by driving metal posts into the ground around them, and wrapping the posts with fencing. Along the North Coast Ridge Road, they did grading and compacting, and installed water bars to reduce the threat of erosion.

Along both roads, crews are doing tree work to minimize hazards so vehicles can safely use them again. "Trees are still coming down, so we're making sure trees and limbs are secure," fire official Mark Alvarado reported.

The fire started Aug. 18 near Esalen. Ivan Geronimo Gomez of Fresno is suspected of starting it, and he remains jailed for felony arson, with his bail set at \$2 million. He had a pre-trial hearing this week, and is due back in court Dec. 16.

The Dolan Fire burned nearly 125,000 acres and destroyed 14 homes. As of Thursday, there were still 164 firefighters on scene.

More than a week after the Coleman Fire erupted a short distance away from the eastern perimeter of the Dolan Fire — and quickly spread north and south — firefighters have slowed its advance, and say they are confident it isn't posing any risk to homes or businesses. It has so far burned 574 acres, and its containment stands at 93 percent.

As of Thursday, there were 96 firefighters on scene, along with three fire engines and two hand crews.

See MUD page 20A



PHOTO/MICHAEL TROUTMAN, DMT IMAGING

Vast hillsides have been stripped bare of erosion-controlling vegetation by recent fires, creating a big risk of mudslides.

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Pacific Grove City Council

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If elected, my priorities will include:

- A Covid-19 recovery plan that directs City Hall to place the safety and well-being of residents as first priority
- Preserving and protecting Pacific Grove's unique residential character and natural environment
- Pursuing opportunities for much needed affordable housing for our families and our seniors
- Developing a master plan for healthy business districts
- Putting in place policies and programs that ensure fiscal transparency and public access



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Police, Fire & Sheriff's Log

Was it a zither? A sousaphone?

HERE'S A look at some of the significant calls logged by the Carmel-by-the-Sea Police Department and the Monterey County Sheriff's Office last week. This week's log was compiled by Mary Schley.

disturbance at a hotel on Bay View Avenue. One guest, a 45-year-old female, was arrested for public intoxication.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Person found an unattended ring lying near a parking stall near Forest Lodge. The finder wishes to claim the property if the owner does not come forward.

Pacific Grove: Ammo was brought in for destruction. Items placed in storage.

Pacific Grove: A 71-year-old male was arrested on Forest Avenue at 2130 hours for disorderly conduct.

Carmel area: A 40-year-old male was contacted inside his vehicle on Aguajito Road and was found in possession of controlled substances among other drug paraphernalia.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of a lost hearing aid.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Wallet found in the Highlands. Courtesy report taken. A phone number was found, and a message was left.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle towed for being in the fire lane at Del Mar.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: An officer witnessed a non-injury traffic accident (vehicle backed into a parked vehicle) at Mission and Seventh. The driver began to drive off and was contacted during a traffic stop. Driver subsequently left a note on the parked vehicle, and it is unknown if damaged was caused.

Pacific Grove: Unknown subject entered a home on Sinex and left without incident.

Pacific Grove: Subject entered a city facility on Sunset with his vehicle when the city gate was open. Subject was advised to walk up to the main office in the future and not just drive in. Provided trespass admonishment if he fails to check in at the office.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle was towed from Fountain due to expired registration.

Pacific Grove: A 28-year-old male on Moreland was issued a citation for driving on a suspended license.

See POLICE LOG page 16RE
in the Real Estate Section

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle towed from San Carlos and Ocean at 0146 hours.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Burglary and grand theft of jewelry at Mission and Seventh.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Wallet was found on the beach. Contact made with the owner, who will pick it up from the station.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Bracelet found in a planter box at Ocean and San Carlos.

Pacific Grove: Subject on Prescott reported a family disturbance at 0119 hours.

Carmel area: Deputies responded to a



The gavel falls

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

Sept. 11 — Selina Singh, 57, and Kabir Singh, 30, pled guilty to conspiracy to commit insurance fraud and related felonies. The pleas were entered on Sept. 10 in Contra Costa County Superior Court before Judge Laurel Brady. Both defendants return to court on Nov. 19, for sentencing and face a maximum prison sentence of 11 years, six months.

Although the criminal charges were filed by the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office, the Monterey County District Attorney's Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit began and assisted with the investigation. In April 2016, the defendant owned two military subcontractor companies — Bara Infoware Inc. and Federal Solutions Group Inc. The companies did business out of San Ramon. Each of those companies had construction contracts involving facilities at Fort Hunter Liggett in Monterey County. In April 2016, one of the defendants' employees working at Fort Hunter Liggett suffered a severe crushing injury, ultimately losing his thumb. The employee was rushed to Natividad Medical Center.

While at the hospital, the defendants contacted the employee and instructed him to tell accident investigators that the injury did not happen at work. When investigators became involved, they interviewed Kabir Singh who admitted that the defendants did not have workers' compensation insurance. In the en-

suing investigation, investigators learned that the defendants, over a seven-year period, had routinely lied to their insurance carriers and the State of California about the true amount of their payroll. Those misrepresentations enabled the defendants to save over \$2 million in insurance premiums, which constituted fraud on the insurer.

Under California criminal law, all employers are required to secure workers' compensation insurance for their employees.

Sept. 14 — A \$1.43 million settlement against Kelly-Moore Paint Company has been entered by the Alameda County Superior Court, resolving allegations that the company violated state hazardous waste laws by routinely and illegally disposing of paint, colorants, electronic devices, aerosol products and other hazardous wastes into company waste bins destined for municipal landfills that are not authorized to accept hazardous waste. This action also resolves allegations that Kelly-Moore failed to shred customer records containing confidential information before disposal.

The investigation of Kelly-Moore was initiated by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and was prosecuted by the District Attorneys of Alameda, Contra Costa, Monterey, Placer, San Francisco, San

See GAVEL page 27A

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Cachagua man accused of selling 'large quantities' of meth, heroin

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

POLICE ARRESTED a 29-year-old Monterey man in Cachagua Saturday following a month-long investigation into reports that "large quantities of methamphetamine were being transported and sold on the Monterey Peninsula," Monterey Acting Assistant Police Chief Mike Bruno said this week.

With the help of Monterey County Sheriff's deputies and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, officers tracked down their suspect, Kristopher Crow,

and served a search warrant at a Cachagua Road address, where Bruno said they found "4 pounds of crystal methamphetamine, heroin, powdered fentanyl, drug paraphernalia, evidence of identity theft, and \$30,000 in cash."

Officers arrested Crow without incident and booked him into Monterey County Jail on several felony drug charges, including possession of a controlled substance for transport and sale, felony identity theft, and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. He remained in jail this week on \$350,000 bail.

Teenager found, but details of her disappearance are kept secret

By KELLY NIX

A 16-YEAR-OLD girl who went missing Sunday in Pacific Grove was found late Monday afternoon, but numerous details surrounding the girl's disappearance remain a mystery.

On Sunday, Pacific Grove Police Department posted on social media that a Hispanic, 5-foot-tall girl identified only as Angelina went missing at about noon that day near the intersection of Fountain Drive and Ocean View Boulevard. Police also released her ethnicity, age, hair and eye color, weight and the clothing she was wearing.

What happened?

Police did not say if they suspected the teenager was abducted, ran away, or could have been on a long walk, for instance. Fortunately, late Monday afternoon, the police announced the girl had been found. The police thanked the community and its volunteers and the Monterey County Sher-

iff's Office for "making contact with her."

However, where the girl had been while she was gone, where she was located and other details, including her last name, led The Pine Cone and many social media users to ask the police department questions.

"Where was she? What happened to her while she was missing? Was she abducted? Did she escape? Did the police find her? What was this about? Will someone please fill in the blanks, as we were all worried sick for her safety and want to help if we can know how," Pat Cutler posted.

Police administrative services manager Jocelyn Francis cleared up a few of the missing links Tuesday, but some of the details remain outstanding.

"She is local to P.G., and it was confirmed she ran away," Francis told The Pine Cone. "She is a relatively recent resident. Because she is a juvenile she was considered at-risk."

See MISSING page 20A

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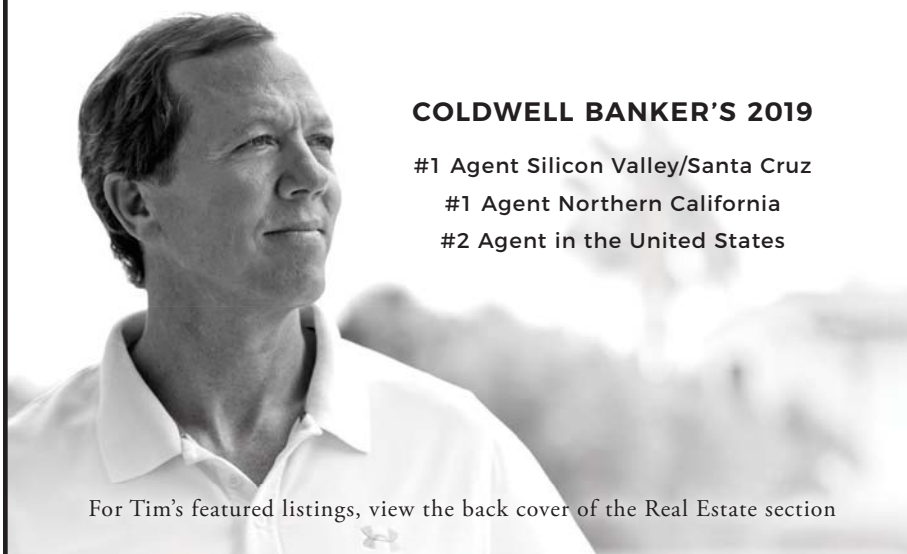
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RE-ELECT BOBBY RICHARDS FOR CARMEL CITY COUNCIL



Carmel Voters

As we head to the polls in 5 days to determine the composition of our next Council, I want to thank each and every one of you who has shared your concerns and views of Carmel-by-the-Sea both for the present and immediate future. Where we stand now and what still needs fixing are challenging enough but then add the threat of forest fires and changing dynamics brought about as a result of the virus! Your willingness to spend time with me outlining your candid concerns for the City are very helpful. Clearly these new life threatening issues and urgency for their solution have arisen due to the impact on our village and its way of life. Council will need to place a high priority on planning for their impact and finding new and timely solutions. I look forward to continuing to work on plans for meeting these new and continuing challenges.

Gratefully,
Bobby Richards
Mayor Pro Tempore

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The California Community Colleges gave her a home. For nearly 25 years she moved through the ranks from Teacher, to Director, Dean, Vice President and President. She felt the culmination of her career was becoming President at Chabot College in the East Bay, a very diverse and vibrant community.

So, why run for Trustee now?

She says: "I hold the necessary degrees for this position; I have the requisite amount of experience. I have love in my heart for this country which has given me more than I could ever give back. There is more work to be done and I have the energy, the smarts and the soul to continue the work. Look at me. Count me in."

More information at
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PAID BY CAMPAIGN TO ELECT CELIA BARBERENA

Kids on campus at CUSD schools

By MARY SCHLEY

EVERY CAMPUS in the Carmel Unified School District already has students in class there, interim superintendent Trisha Dellis told The Pine Cone this week, as parents returned forms due Oct. 30 indicating whether they would prefer in-room teaching or to keep their children at home and continue distance learning.

The small groups — 14 students and one or two teachers — are called "cohorts," and they include children with special needs, those who can't access the internet at home, English language learners, kids who are failing classes or otherwise "really struggling" with distance learning, and the children of faculty and staff who are working, for a total of 170. Seventy-seven preschoolers are also attending school in small groups together.

"We have cohorts on campus, which is not typical throughout Monterey County," Dellis said. "We have them at all schools — every campus has groups of these students — and they're coming on and staying within their groups."

The small groups make it much easier to trace contacts if anyone tests positive for Covid-19 and to prevent its spreading.

Free for workers' kids

Many of the students are still using Zoom for much of their learning, according to Dellis, but being on campus makes it more effective and provides access to teachers. Students with special needs are usually on individual education programs that require a different sort of attention from their educators.

The children of teachers, staff members, bus drivers, custodians and all other district employees who need to come in to work are in cohorts, too. "We're providing that for free," Dellis added.

Teachers and staff are constantly working to identify students who are having a

hard time learning from home and are trying to help them adapt or bring them on campus.

At last week's board of education meeting, Carmel High School principal Jonathan Lyons reported 50 students are either failing one class or are at risk of failing multiple classes.

Even still, Dellis warned, being at school isn't what it used to be.

"The kids think they're coming back into a regular situation, and they're greeted with someone who takes their temperature and is wearing a mask and a face shield and gloves," she said. "And then they're sitting in a classroom far from everybody else."

CHS kids will soon be back on campus for fitness training.

"Next week we are starting the athletic conditioning cohorts at the high school, so we will have students on campus in smaller groups and they'll be working out and conditioning," she said. They'll be arriving in small groups at staggered times to ensure they don't interact any more than necessary, and Dellis said the training will not be sport specific.

"I want people to be assured that we are doing everything we can," she said. "We are really running through all these different options and make any of them happen that we can. We want kids on campus."

After holding town hall meetings online for parents and students Oct. 22, the district sent forms to all parents asking them to commit to either in-room teaching or continuing with distance learning. Those forms are due Friday and will dictate the district's next steps, which include using a waiver from the county and state to reopen classrooms to kids up through fifth grade or waiting for the county to get to the less restrictive red tier, when a waiver is no longer needed.

A dozen private schools, charter schools and public schools, all small, have received waivers.

Vote YES on V: Keep Quality Education and Career Training at Monterey Peninsula College Affordable

Measure V ensures Monterey Peninsula College can continue to provide local students with high-quality, affordable education and career training right here in our community.

As the cost of attending the University of California system, Cal State system and other universities has become so expensive, more students rely on MPC to complete their first two years of college affordably. YES on V makes the critical repairs and upgrades MPC needs to prepare students for success at 4-year universities, and provide our community's essential workers with the skills they need to compete for good jobs.



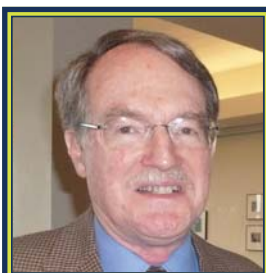
"I know Measure V is the right choice for our college, community and local economy. Many of our local businesses rely on workers trained and educated at Monterey Peninsula College and Measure V makes essential upgrades to college facilities so students continue to have access to quality, affordable education and career training locally. Independent citizens' oversight and annual audits will ensure all funds are spent as promised, making me confident in my support of Measure V for MPC."

—JOHN MAHONEY, Founder, Mahoney & Associates Commercial Real Estate



"I've given careful consideration to the timing of Measure V. During an economic downturn and tight job market, laid-off workers depend on affordable career training to develop new skills, and local students need affordable access to quality higher education now more than ever. Measure V upgrades and expands career training classrooms, labs and technology at Monterey Peninsula College to provide skills students need to be prepared for success. Please vote YES on V for MPC."

—SHARON LARSON, Retired Educational Publishing Director & MPC Alumna

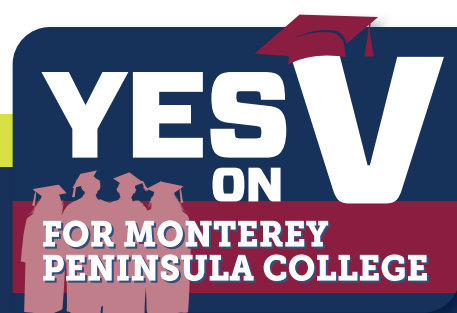


"I'm supporting Measure V because it is a fiscally responsible plan to upgrade Monterey Peninsula College so it can continue to serve our community and students now and in the years ahead. Also, this is an ideal time to finance a bond underwriting as interest rates are historically low and every dollar of Measure V stays local to make the critical improvements that MPC needs. Join me in voting 'YES.'"

—BILL DOOLITTLE, Retired Investment Advisor

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- Planning athletic conditioning at CHS beginning in November 2020
- Collaborating with forensic scientists to develop a plan for safe, on-campus instruction and activities

The Path Ahead

Responding to the input from our stakeholders and submitting an Elementary Waiver application to the county to open elementary grades (TK-5) for in-person instruction

Planning and preparing for when the health situation in Monterey County allows for a return to campuses

Offering in-person and distance learning options to all families



Visit www.CUSD.org
for detailed information on our plans to welcome students back to in-person instruction.



Fee waiver for PacRep, hotel taxes, and \$21K for dunes on council agenda

■ No election night festivities

By MARY SCHLEY

AT ITS meeting next week, the city council is set to get feedback on increasing a hotel fee that pays for marketing, and to vote on accepting a \$21,250 “donation” to the North Dunes habitat restoration project from a resident who received permission to cut down eucalyptus trees. Council members will also consider waiving \$13,000 in fees for the remodel of the Golden Bough theater, according to the agenda released this week.

But, thanks to the coronavirus pandemic, there will be no gathering in city hall that night to hear the results of the election of the mayor and two council members and eat cake, as has happened there for decades.

“We are continuing to work on the plan to recognize council member Jan Reimers and celebrate and swear in the successful candidates,” city clerk Britt Avrit said. “It will be difficult to plan any type of gathering that takes place in public, due to state and county restrictions.”

PacRep, hotel fees

Listed as part of the council’s consent calendar of items set for approval without discussion is a resolution to waive part of the planning and building fees for the second phase of a remodel of the historic Golden Bough theater on Monte Verde. In 2011, the council waived \$15,000 in fees for the first phase of the remodel.

Fees for the second phase, which will address public areas inside and around the theater and is expected to cost \$3 million, are estimated at \$46,669, including state fees,

nearly \$27,000 for the building permit and about \$17,500 for plan checks. Pacific Repertory Theatre executive director Stephen Moorer requested the council waive all the city fees, but Avrit, who wrote the report, recommended waiving \$13,000, because an outside contractor will probably handle plan checks on the complex project, and the city will “continue to provide services throughout the actual remodel of the facility.”

Council members will also hear public comment on a proposal to extend the Carmel Hospitality Improvement District, which imposes a 1 percent fee on room stays that’s used to fund marketing efforts handled by the city’s tourism group, Visit Carmel. The new agreement increases the fee to 2 percent, with provisions that it can go up to 3 percent, and would run 10 years.

It’s expected to bring in around \$800,000 annually, with the city keeping 1 percent for collecting the money and forwarding it to Visit Carmel. Operators of vacation rentals would not be required to participate. The council will hear testimony at the Nov. 3 meeting and vote on adopting the new plan Dec. 8.

City manager’s contract


Changes to city administrator Chip Rerig’s contract are also on the agenda. His job performance has been the subject of multiple closed sessions, and amendments proposed for adoption include a two-year extension through March 1, 2025, the use of a city car, and an additional 40 hours of paid leave that must be used by Dec. 31, 2021, on top of the 80 hours he gets each year. Earlier this year, Rerig agreed to take a 10 percent pay cut to help ease the huge impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the city’s budget.

And council members will be asked to allocate \$21,250 from San Antonio Avenue resident Laura Overett to the North Dunes habitat restoration project, which was defunded due to budget cuts.

Overett received permission from the city to remove 27 huge eucalyptus trees on her property last year and the OK this year to cut down another 17. In exchange, she paid an \$8,500 “in-lieu fee” for planting replacement trees elsewhere and donated \$12,750, with the wish that all the money will be used in the North Dunes area.


For a complete agenda, as well as information on how to watch or participate, go to ci.carmel.ca.us. The meeting is set to start at 4:30 p.m.

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City candidates pick up donations

By MARY SCHLEY

A REPUBLICAN political action committee that focuses on business, a group of female Democrats, advocates of a government takeover of Cal Am, a public employees union and a local committee that seeks “to protect and defend the economy of Monterey County and the Monterey Peninsula” donated to the campaigns of a few candidates in the city’s Nov. 3 election, according to finance statements filed at city hall last week.

The Lincoln Club of Northern California PAC, which is based in Sacramento, donated \$1,000 each to city council incumbent Bobby Richards and to council candidate Graeme Robertson. The Republican-leaning Lincoln Club — unrelated to the anti-Trump group called the Lincoln Project — “recruits, mentors and supports local, state and federal candidates that strengthen fiscal and personal responsibility and free enterprise.”

More groups

Another group, called the Monterey Bay Action Committee, which appears to have no direct web presence but has a post office box on Via Nona Marie, contributed \$250 apiece to Richards and Robertson, and \$500 to incumbent Mayor Dave Potter. According to a 2018 tax document, the committee’s purpose is “to educate residents of Monterey County, and specifically residents of the Monterey Peninsula, with respect to local issues affecting the welfare of the residents and their community and the local business community, to support passage of legislation aimed at improving the local county and Peninsula economies, and to protect and defend the economy of Monterey County and the Monterey Peninsula.”

In 2018, leaders of the group included Gary Cursio, assistant director of the Monterey Peninsula Airport District, John

Narigi (now manager of Laguna Seca), architect Henry Ruhnke and contractor Paul Bruno, among others, according to tax records.

The Democratic Women of Monterey County donated \$500 to council candidate Karen Ferlito and \$500 to mayoral challenger Judy Refuerzo.

Public Water Now, the group advocating for a government takeover of Cal Am Water, also donated \$200 to Refuerzo’s campaign.

According to her financial statement, Refuerzo raised \$1,925 between Sept. 20 and Oct. 17, for a year-to-date total of \$3,702, and her campaign’s \$1,181 in expenses included newspaper ads and web design.

Mayor’s supporters

Potter, meanwhile, led the six candidates in fundraising, bringing in \$10,659 in donations between Sept. 20 and Oct. 17 for a total of \$29,545 so far this year, and he spent \$9,552.

Among his contributors were Bob Jenkins (\$1,000) and Howard Leach, who gave \$500, bringing his total donations up to \$1,000 so far. The owners of the Carmel Country Inn on Carpenter gave four donations of \$99 apiece this year, for a total of \$396, and Joanne Albert of Monterey donated \$150, as did Barbara Livingston.

Former Mayor Sue McCloud, former Carmel Foundation head Jill Sheffield and the Coniglio Family Trust each gave Potter \$500, and Robb Talbott and Sharon Farr both contributed \$250. PR company owner David Armanasco, former Mayor Ken White and attorney Christine Kemp donated \$100 apiece.

Pebble Beach film production company Honest Engine Films Inc., owned by Joanne Storkan, donated \$500, as did La Tierra Inc, the real estate brokerage owned

See DONATIONS page 20A

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Volunteers time tide, use gross product to clear graffiti from beach cave

By CHRIS COUNTS

A CAVE at the south end of Garrapata Beach in Big Sur that's been hit hard by vandals with graffiti in recent years now has none— thanks to a team of local volunteers.

During a recent effort that spanned four days, Austin Keegan, David Thiermann and Eric Zorc used a pressure washer and buckets of fresh water, along with some stuff with a really nasty-sounding name, to remove the graffiti from inside the cave, which is only accessible to the public during low tide.

"We were in there four times," Keegan told The Pine Cone. "We had to work around high tide. We didn't want to get trapped in there."

Keegan said he paid about \$200 for a small portable pressure washer with a rechargeable battery, and another \$100 for a gallon of what's called Elephant Snot, a substance which is designed to remove tagging from porous surfaces, like the walls of the cave.

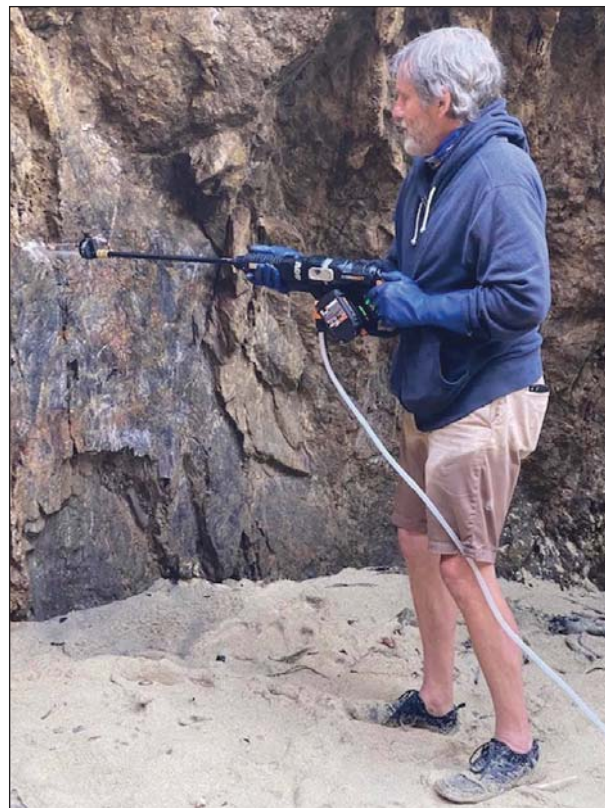
"It's biodegradable," Keegan said of the product. "You put it on the rock, and pressure wash over it. It really does the trick — I thought it would take weeks because so much graffiti was in there."

The pressure washer has a battery that's good for about 35 minutes of use, Keegan said. It also requires water, so the volunteers simply used sea water at first. But when salt jammed the device, they switched to fresh water from nearby Garrapata Creek.

'Let's get this done'

Keegan said the effort to clean up the graffiti near Garrapata Beach began in September when local photographer Kara Weston alerted him to the severity of the problem. The two cleaned tagging from some rocks but were unable to get inside of the cave due to the tide. Later, Keegan decided to try again. "I just said, 'Let's get this done,'" he recalled.

See **GRAFFITI** page 20A



PHOTO/COURTESY AUSTIN KEEGAN

Volunteer Austin Keegan uses a pressure washer to remove graffiti from a cave along the beach at Garrapata State Park.



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Look of new guardrails fails to impress, highway advisory group forms

By CHRIS COUNTS

TO MAKE travel through Big Sur safer, Caltrans is using smooth concrete “transition blocks” to replace metal guardrails along several sections of Highway 1. But some say the modern look of the blocks, which reduce the likelihood of a head-on collision with an existing guardrail, is clashing with the scenic route’s historic rock work — and violates a master plan for the Big Sur section of it.

“It’s utility vs. art, and I hope we can have both,” resident Magnus Toren told The Pine Cone.

Toren called the look of the guardrail improvements “jarring,” and wondered if there are ways to create something more complementary to the rock guard rails, which he described as “beautiful.” “Is this the best they can do to preserve the aesthetics of this iconic stretch of highway?” he asked.

Toren noted that the Big Sur Coast Highway Management Plan considers the

original masonry an important historical resource. “The existing masonry features, although not considered safety devices, are important reminders of the original construction of the Carmel to San Simeon Highway Historic District and are important contributors to the historic and visual character of the corridor,” the plan reads.

Two sites await work

While most of the work has been done, Caltrans spokesman Kevin Drabinski said concrete transition blocks are set to be installed at two other sites.

“These will be just north of Torre Canyon and just south of Grimes Canyon,” he said. “As winter is around the corner, these will happen sometime in the next six months, probably in spring of next year.”

In response, Toren urged Caltrans “to take aesthetics into account” when doing that work.

According to John Olejnik, a senior transportation planner for Caltrans, the project to install the concrete transition

blocks went through a rigorous planning process that included a review by the Big Sur Land Use Advisory Committee and a presentation at the quarterly Big Sur Multi-Agency Council meeting. “It’s a safety feature that meets our current standards,” Olejnik said.

Drabinski, meanwhile, noted that “no historic masonry has been replaced or removed.”

The plan notes that there are more than 300 “individual rock masonry features” along the highway between Carmel and San Simeon.

While Community Association of Big Sur President Butch Kronlund said he agrees with Toren that the use of concrete transition blocks to complement the masonry wasn’t a good idea, he agreed with

Caltrans that it went through the proper approvals.

“They’ve successfully gone through the process,” he said. “We just missed it.”

But Kronlund said the recent formation of the Big Sur Byways Organization to advise state officials on Highway 1 projects in Big Sur will make it much easier for locals to keep track of projects like the one that used the concrete transition blocks. Martha Diehl has taken the helm as chair of the group, with Kronlund serving as vice chair.

If the byways group had existed earlier, Kronlund suggested, Caltrans would have been required to share details about the concrete transition block project with it. “When this was being pushed through, we would have been one of the steps,” he added.



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Next phase of fire cleanup set to start Dec. 1

By MARY SCHLEY

TEAMS OF U.S. EPA workers have finished picking up most of the household hazardous waste from the more than 120 properties burned in the recent fires in Salinas and Carmel Valley and are now working down the coast on more than a dozen buildings damaged or destroyed by fire there, according to Kelsey Scanlon with Monterey County's office of emergency services.

"They are almost done," she said during a media briefing Wednesday. "They have wrapped up the Carmel and River fires and are wrapping up the Dolan Fire."

Planning for Phase 2, which will be handled by state and federal agencies unless people opt out and hire their own contractors, is now underway. While the first stage focused on getting rid of old paint, propane tanks, pesticides, herbicides, batteries and other hazardous and potentially dangerous materials, the second will include getting rid of asbestos, ash and debris down to the foundation — essentially, scraping the lot clean — and removing cars, dangerous trees, chimneys and foundations. It does not include pools, though. Crews will also implement erosion control measures as needed.

Scanlon noted that a handful of properties that weren't accessible during Phase 1 will be cleaned during the second phase.

Tax dollars or your own?

The government-sponsored cleanup will be handled by the California Office of Emergency Services and the state recycling agency under the guidance of FEMA, and will be funded by taxpayers. People whose insurance includes

fire debris removal will have to fork over any compensation received for that work to the county, though. To participate, fire victims need to submit their right-of-entry forms to the county by Dec. 15, and when the process is finished, they'll receive certificates verifying their properties are "clean" and ready for the next stage of rebuilding.

Property owners who want to hire private contractors and oversee cleanup efforts themselves must submit opt-out waivers, as well as wildfire rebuild applications and plans, for approval by the county. Work can't begin until the county signs off on the plan, which has to detail the condition of the property and how various types of waste will be cleaned up and disposed of.

"I really want to stress this point: If you are a property owner wanting to do this, just submitting your documents does not mean you can go ahead and start," Scanlon said. "I highly recommend that all property owners review all their options and the requirements, because it is quite extensive and can be costly."

Going private can also lead to delays, because no building can be done until officials verify the work was done properly and fully documented. The decision as to whether a cleanup meets the standards is at the sole discretion of Monterey County Environmental Health.

"They should not go into that lightly," Scanlon said. "You will not be issued building permits if we cannot see where your debris has gone."

Scanlon said Phase 2 cleanup should begin Dec. 1 and advised anyone in need of more information, along with the proper documents to download and submit, should go to the county website at co.monterey.ca.us and click on the yellow banner at the top.

County to offer \$\$\$ to help small businesses

By MARY SCHLEY

A COUNTY agency that supports job creation among local businesses will distribute \$468,000 to small companies impacted by the coronavirus shutdown, with individual grants of up to \$10,000 apiece, executive director Chris Donnelly said during a county media briefing Oct. 14. Help from what is called the Monterey County Workforce Development Board will first be available to employers with up to 50 workers in the unincorporated areas of the county but will then be extended to those in local cities if any cash is left.

The board of supervisors decided the tax dollars should go to businesses that haven't already received government assistance.

Business owners can apply for financial help online starting Nov. 2, and applications will be accepted for two weeks. They must be able to show the pandemic has directly negatively affected their finances.

Payment is based on actual expenses, so applicants who are approved have to submit receipts to get the cash, but it's retroactive to the day the shutdown in Monterey County began, March 18.

Eligible costs include payroll, rent and lease payments, and equipment and supplies purchased to help mitigate the spread of coronavirus and safely reopen or continue operating. The deadline for submitting receipts is Dec. 14.

For information about the grants, which are funded through the Monterey County Cares program, go to www.montereycountywdb.org/monterey-county-cares.



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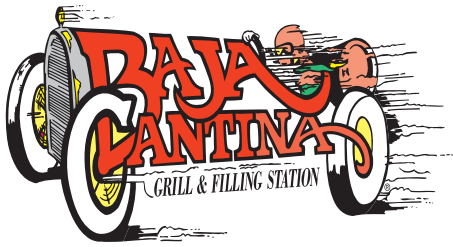


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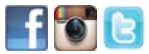


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Natalie Mae Munson

1924 - 2020

Natalie Mae Rakowicz came into this world December 6th 1924 in Emeryville, California. She had the immediate benefit of adoring parents and a close family. Growing up in nearby Berkeley and Oakland during The Great Depression, she knew the simple joys and the privations of that era. Rooted in her faith, Natalie was able to love and respect everyone she encountered and reflected this in her kind and receptive demeanor.

She found love at a young age as a junior at Oakland High School when she met the man of her life, and future husband, Bryan Elden Bradford. They married in September of 1944 when Bryan was a young Navy pilot, and as many young war couples did, stepped unblinkingly into their future, traveling across the country and back as Bryan's duty station changed.

Children came after the war: Penny in 1945, Bryan Ernest in 1948, Nicki in 1949 and Lauri Mae "The Baby" in 1955. Following Bryan's orders to transfer to the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, the family established in 1960 what would become their long term home in nearby San Benancio Canyon.

Always a loving and committed mother, Natalie still found time to keep a beautiful home and involve herself heavily in the Country Gardeners Club and other social groups. She was a Navy wife until Bryan's retirement in 1970: finally, they could breathe a sigh of relief knowing no changes in duty station lay in their future.

Bryan passed away in 1982 and, after some years on her own, Natalie married the next love of her life, Edward Munson, in 1987. They enjoyed great happiness until Edward's passing in 2004. As a resident of Carmel Valley Manor, she enjoyed her final years being very active in that community, and with much of her extended family living close enough for reunions, holiday parties and frequent visits.

She was always a woman of God, dedicated in personal prayer and in the affairs of her church. She had a passion for flowers and a soft spot for small dogs, so her home was one of fragrant floral color and interesting companionship. Natalie left this world on the morning of May 15th 2020, having had family in constant attendance. She was preceded in passing by her daughters Penny and Lauri. She is survived by her son Bryan Ernest, her daughter Nicki, seven grand children, ten great-grand children and many loving members of her extended family. We miss her dearly.



Woman leaves library largest gift ever

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A LOCAL philanthropist who died nearly a year ago donated a Carmel home and a bequest to the Carmel Public Library Foundation, according to executive director Alex Fallon, who described it as the "largest gift to date." Marjorie Perrine's home on the west side of Junipero south of Seventh sold Oct. 16 for \$1,827,654, according to Fallon, and the bequest totaled \$187,000, bringing her total gift to more than \$2 million.

Perrine earned an engineering degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute around 1950. She was the only woman in her graduating class, and among the first women to graduate from the institute, according to Fallon. Perrine worked as an executive with AT&T and enjoyed the pension she had earned.

She "was passionate about supporting public-benefit charities," Fallon said, including the Carmel Public Library Foundation, which honored her and her generous support during Philanthropy Day five years ago.

"We are so grateful to Ms. Perrine for having the foresight and generous heart to entrust us with this extraordinary gift that will be part of her legacy and will support the library she cared so deeply about," she said.

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Presentations Monday on major downtown projects

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE FUTURE of the pit at Dolores and Fifth and plans for a mixed-use building on Dolores south of Seventh will be the subjects of presentations by Chris Mitchell, a representative of owner Patrice Pastor's real estate company and his Esperanza Carmel LLC, Nov 2. The

properties are two of 10 Pastor has purchased in the city in the past few years for a total of more than \$67 million.

Mitchell will first talk about the Dolores and Fifth project, which is now being called the Ulrika Plaza Project, at 10 a.m., and will have architect Henry Ruhnke on hand to answer questions, as well.

At 11:30 a.m., Mitchell will discuss the other project, now being called the J.B. Pastor Building after Pastor's family business in Monaco, and will have architect Jun Sillano with him.

Each presentation will take an hour and will include time for "Q&A and feedback."

They will be held in the tent at 7th & Dolores Steakhouse, and since the meetings are happening in person, social distancing, masks and other protocols will be required. Attendance requires an RSVP to contact@esperanzacarmel.com, though the reply does not guarantee space, which will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Supe alerts residents to utility bill phone scam

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

PHONE LINES have long been used to scam people out of money, and 5th District Supervisor Mary Adams is urging residents to be wary of one of the new ruses that's going around.

"People are being cold-called by scammers with spoofed telephone numbers and greeted by a recording saying, 'This is an apology from your electric company,'" Adams said. "The call then offers a rebate due to overcharging, and if the intended victim stays on, a live caller joins and attempts to solicit bank information."

There is no such program being offered by any major utility in California, she added. The CPUC advises that Californians immediately hang up on any such calls received.

Park adds 80 acres in deal that's been in the works for 17 years

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THANKS TO the completion of a deal that began in 2003, Garland Ranch Regional Park in Carmel Valley is a little bit bigger this week.

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District acquired two contiguous 40-acre parcels along the western edge of Garland Park in a transaction that closed Oct. 22. The seller was Robert Sherar and the sale price was \$1.2 million.

"We started discussions back in 2003," the park district's finance manager, Kelly McCullough, told The Pine Cone. "In January 2008, we entered into a lease with an option to purchase." Now, according to McCullough, the land is "all paid off."

The new acquisition contains several of the park's plant communities, along with great views, but it lacks trails, McCullough said.

Park district board member Kelly Sorenson it's possible trails will be built, but it won't be his decision. "We'll go out and ask for input, and build what the public wants," he said.

Ultimately, the property is able to do something few other parcels could do — make the park bigger.

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Ballots will be accepted at the book drop 24 hours-a-day up to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 3, 2020.

Call the City Clerk (831) 620-2016 or the Library (831) 624-4629 with questions. For additional information on the November 3, 2020 Election, please visit the Monterey County Elections website: www.montereycountyelections.us

Homecrafters' will be virtual, too

By MARY SCHLEY

IN NORMAL times, it would have been the 49th annual Homecrafters' Marketplace. But in pandemic times, the craft fair organized by the city each November is not going to happen in any kind of a normal way. On Tuesday morning, the community activities commission discussed how to connect people with the artisans and craftspeople they have grown to know and love over their years of visiting the sale at Sunset Center.

Community activities director Ashlee Wright suggested compiling a list of vendors and their contact information and posting it online through the chamber of commerce, the Visit Carmel tourism group and the city's own site for a week.

"We've received a number of inquiries about Homecrafters' vendors," from people who want to buy from them but can't, since the craft fair won't be happening, she said. "People are missing Homecrafters'."

The city doesn't typically directly market businesses, Wright noted, but "this would be a special thing that we're doing."

"I want to be sensitive to the fact we would be putting our Homecrafters' vendors on the website because we cannot have our regular market, but at the same time, I want to be sensitive to our local retail shops to encourage people to shop local here in town," she said.

And the vendors at the fair are usually very small, not big retailers. "These are

people who craft at home," she said. "And a lot of our vendors don't come from that far away."

Commissioner Donna Jett questioned spending tax dollars to promote businesses outside the city through any sort of advertising and suggested handing out the list at the farmers market.

"People who would come town for the Homecrafters' Marketplace would never look at our website," she said.

Missing normalcy

Chair Judy Refuerzo suggested having a QR code to direct people to a list posted online instead of handing out a printed one.

Wright said she would probably run an ad to direct people to the chamber and Visit Carmel websites to look for local stores and the vendor list.

"It would just be reminding people that we know you're missing the normalcy, but take a stroll down Ocean Avenue — start your Christmas shopping there — and then get in touch with the Homecrafters' vendors," she said.

As they did with Halloween and the city's birthday, community activities commissioners are developing creative ways to celebrate upcoming holidays, since the traditional ways aren't happening this year. Next on the list is how to replace the annual tree and menorah lighting, which typically includes several hours of skits, youth dance troupes, school choirs, visits with Santa and the like.

Why tempt fate? Get a free flu shot

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE VISITING Nurse Association, Carmel Valley Rotary and Hidden Valley Music are teaming up to help fight the devil you know — the annual flu.

On Thursday, Nov. 5, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the music venue's location at 104 W. Carmel Valley Road, kids and adults ages 2 and older will be able to get a flu vaccine at no charge.

A valid state driver's license or ID is required, and those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Although Covid-19 has been on the front page, the National Institutes of Health at the Centers for Disease Control

estimates that about 38 million people will get the flu this fall and winter, with approximately 400,000 hospitalizations and 22,000 deaths.

While the CDC said it believes that Covid-induced social distancing, mask-wearing and handwashing will likely slow the spread of influenza as well, everyone is still encouraged to get the vaccine.

"Getting the flu vaccine can help keep the burden of influenza off the healthcare system at a time when those resources are also needed for patients with Covid-19," said Jane Russo, the VNA's chief strategic officer.

For more information, visit ccvna.com or call (831) 648-3777.

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COTTAGE

From page 1A

Superior Court, contends that “the contamination was continuous,” and that Carmel-by-the-Sea didn’t issue a certificate of occupancy for the cottage until June 25 — almost four years after the spill had occurred.

The complaint says the claim was handled by CAWD’s insurance company, which hired a third party to have the property cleaned up.

However, there was a dispute over the insurance work and she received “another notice of intent to lien and several past due notices” from the remediation business. Cesare was later told the insurance claim had been closed.

“Plaintiff, and all trust beneficiaries, were shocked, as they had never received notice of the claim being closed,” nor had the company indicated that beneficiaries should stop working with contractors “toward final construction and restoration” of the property, the lawsuit says.

CAWD general manager Barbara Buikema told The Pine Cone this week that the

sewage spill was likely the result of grease blockage in the pipes upstream from the Pied Piper House, and that crews had been cleaning the lines before the accident occurred.

A sewer district report on the foul incident notes that the spill entered the home from a bathroom shower drain and that “water affected the bathroom, all neighboring bedrooms, living room, dining room and kitchen. Water also entered the heating system.”

Unfortunate mistake

The report notes that the spill occurred at around 11:30 a.m. and that CAWD was notified the next day at about 1:50 p.m. Wastewater crews responded quickly, getting to the house five minutes later.

Several other properties were also damaged by the spill.

Cesare alleges negligence and nuisance on the part of CAWD.

CAWD’s “conduct in acting or failing to act, thereby causing the flood of sewage that erupted from the sewer line, was unintentional, but negligent and/or reckless,” according to the complaint, which seeks an unspecified amount in monetary damages exceeding \$25,000.

An open letter from Conway of Asia:

I am sure many of you will recognize the name of Bamyan. This is the village in Central Afghanistan with the largest Buddhas in the world, carved into the cliffs overlooking the city over 2000 years ago. Sadly, they were destroyed by the Taliban and the world wept. The useless destruction of these iconic statues robbed humanity of one of the most stunning world’s heritage sites.

Bamyan was a peaceful village on the Silk Route that has existed in the middle of the Hindu Kush since the 5th century. The streets were lined with mulberry trees. The fruit from these trees kept the villagers alive during the harsh winters and provided the silkworm cocoons from which were made the world renown silk fabrics for which Bamyan was famous. These exquisite treasures were sought after by kings and royalty. Buddhism came to this rich valley a thousand years before Islam. The caves where the pious meditated were lined with breathtaking frescoes. There were two Buddhas. The tallest was over 600 feet. Like giant sentinels they kept guard over the serene valley below.

I discovered Bamyan in the 60s. After 20 hours of bone shaking toil, fording perilous swollen streams the weary traveler was rewarded with breathtaking views that literally sucked the air out of one’s chest. Surrounded by perennial snow capped peaks an ancient village frozen in time lay before us. The 10th century citadel rose ghostlike to the sky, the rampart walls totally encircled the ancient city. Ghengis Khan and his army destroyed the city in the 13th century and killed every living thing in the valley. He sheared off the faces of the Buddhas so those that came after him would not forget.

For 200 years Bamyan remained uninhabited. Centuries past and eerily the walls began to crumble and Bamyan was renamed “Share-ghoulgola,” the city of screams. The animist religion was replaced by Islam, and the Mongolian features of the inhabitants were the last vestiges of Ghengis Khan’s army. Only a handful of Westerners had discovered this tiny hamlet long forgotten in the Hindu Kush. Bamyan was now a peaceful hamlet with no vehicles or electricity; just the sound of songbirds and children’s laughter. The people were welcoming, industrious and happy, but dirt poor.

Everyone knew everyone in the village. The year was 1971. As a Peace Corps volunteer I set up my classroom in the mud teahouses that lined the river. Life here was idyllic beyond description. We feasted on roasted kebabs and sweet melons. Occasionally we caught fresh trout from the terrace of the teahouse. I can still taste the juice of the sweet melons running through my beard. Occasionally, a caravan of nomads and a 100 camels would wind its way up to the valley for higher pasture. Endless scenes would take your breath away! Life was so rich; the villagers shared their stories with me and I shared my stories with them.

There were many nights I would take my students up a 1000 step staircase that was literally hewn out of rock. We spiraled straight up in the darkness. In our candlelight we could see the bats hanging from the cave ceilings. They swarmed out of the caves at night to hunt, and returned before light. At daybreak, the swallows emerged towards the light as the bats returned to the darkness. This was the rhythm of life here. When we finally reached the top of the Buddhas, we would throw down our sleeping bags and lose ourselves in the majesty of the starry nights. The stars pierced the night sky. Huddled together against the bitter cold, we would build a fire on top the giant Buddha’s head. Sometimes my students numbered 30 or more. We placed rocks around the precipitous edge so that in our sleep we wouldn’t roll off to a sure death 600 feet below.

I was an amateur astrologer with a secret weapon: my amazing telescope. After several months my students could pick out almost every constellation in the sky. There were peals of amazement as they peered for the first time through my “magic glass”. It’s something I will never forget. They discovered another world beyond their little valley, and now they were so connected to the stars as firmly as they were to the soil that fed them.

Their questions to me were pure and ethereal: “Oh teacher, over which mountain pass did you come to reach us? And, in how many days walking from your country? What did you do wrong in your country that they sent you here? What are the people like in “Ahmrka?” I responded that America was a great country made up of black, red, yellow, and white people. One wide-eyed student asked, “Tell us about the white people...can you see through them?” I told them I was one of the white people: that was the best joke of all.

However, I made a tremendous mistake. I told them that if they looked carefully through the magic glass they could see the footsteps of the first man that walked on the moon. They were enthralled by my ‘fairytales’ and shared them with the whole village. The next morning, I was awakened abruptly by the only two policemen in the village. Gently handcuffed, I was escorted to the governor’s palace. I was accused of apostasy by the village mullahs. ‘How dare you fill these children’s heads with these tales. The moon is a heavenly orb. And it would be a sacrilege to think it would be soiled and desecrated with the footprints of an infidel!’ I was charged and lead to the mud walled prison to ponder my predicament. Graciously, the warden offered me tea before he showed me my confinement. Ten days later, the American Embassy managed to bargain for my freedom, on the condition that I give up this heresy and speak no more of this nonsense.

Thirty years later, I returned to Bamyan. The Buddhas were destroyed, but I heard in the teahouses that there was once a teacher who had come to this very village and taught about a world beyond. A grey bearded man told me as a child he once peered through a magic glass to marvel at the moon up close. There before me was one of my students. Our grizzled visages prevented us from recognizing from one another. The Afghan life that we lived prematurely aged us both. He told me one day the teacher disappeared and never returned, I wonder what happen to him...

These were the saddest days of Afghan history, caught in the grips of 30 years of war. The Soviets were defeated, but now the brutal Taliban ruled with the iron fists of fundamentalists. There used to be songbirds outside of every teahouse and children’s laughter prevailed. It was hard for me to hold back my tears. Yes, I turned my back on what was the Buddhas, remembering instead, the sweet innocence of youth that I had shared with these wonderful people.

Oh, a story I forgot to tell you! With the greatest luck and joy, I managed to adopt a young Afghan boy from Bamyan. I raised him along with my two sons. All four of us graduated from Carmel High. We remain, to this day, as close as any family could be blessed. As another day unfurls in ‘the bazaar,’ I will open a new container and, as space provides, pull out yet more treasures. I’m looking forward to your visit.

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Dear Larry

BY LARRY MESLER

DEAR LARRY: I was given a 12 place setting of Wallace sterling flatware and was told it is very collectible. I am wondering whether to keep it or sell it? - Joan in Monterey

Dear Joan: *The value in Wallace sterling will be in the silver weight and not necessarily in the collectible category. Silver is over \$22 an ounce at the moment, but realize that silver buyers will want to buy below the daily silver price.*

DEAR LARRY: Do you require all cash when someone buys real estate at auction and how do you handle the closing? - David in Pebble Beach

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MARTHA “MARTY” BARTON HARTMAN

After a long, fulfilling, happy life, Martha “Marty” Barton Hartman, age 92, passed away on October 9, 2020 at her home in Big Sur where she had lived for sixty-five years. Marty was the posthumous child of Benjamin Cousin Barton and was raised by her mother Myrtle Winn Barton and grandparents in Council Bluffs, Iowa. After graduating from high school, Marty worked as a telephone switchboard operator to put herself through college. She attended the University of Omaha where she played oboe in the school orchestra, and later transferred to Iowa State University and earned a bachelor’s degree in home economics with an emphasis in household equipment. Marty’s college days were truly idyllic and she spoke of them fondly. It was at Iowa State that her Alpha Gamma Delta sorority sister and best friend Maya nicknamed her “Marty,” a name she went by for the rest of her life. Maya also introduced Marty to Ted Hartman, a Theta Chi forestry major attending school on the G. I. bill, who would become Marty’s future husband and great love of her life. As newly-weds fresh out of college, Ted and Marty moved to Washington State where Ted was employed in research and development in the lumber industry and Marty worked at the employment office.

In 1955, the couple partnered with Ted’s parents and bought rustic Ripplewood Resort in Big Sur, a move that fulfilled their needs for better income, interesting and stimulating challenges, and a vital thriving community in which to raise their expanding family. Marty was the resort’s meticulous bookkeeper but also cooked, cleaned, sold groceries, and scooped ice cream as needed. She saw her main role in life, however, as a wife and mother and provided a loving nurturing home for her family. She was a prolific seamstress and was comfortable working with any fabric or pattern. Her pantry shelves were lined with homemade jams and jellies and fruit she had canned herself. She maintained a vegetable garden and every year would grow enough tomatoes to can, dry, give away, and keep the deer happy.

Marty loved meeting people from all walks of life and forged many lasting friendships. Despite her conservative Midwestern upbringing, Marty demonstrated complete openness toward the eclectic mix of artists and Bohemians, homesteaders and pioneers, government workers, literati, and eccentrics her new community comprised. Her friendly unassuming attitude toward others made her a welcome presence anywhere she went. Growing up, her three daughters cannot recall a single instance of her denigrating or speaking ill of another person, political figures aside.

In 1965, Ted and Marty leased the resort for others to operate and set about building their own home. Ted became a carpenter and eventually Marty went to work for the Big Sur Post Office, a job she loved and held for twenty-three years. She was a dedicated member and supporter of local nonprofit organizations including the Big Sur Grange, the Big Sur Historical Society, the Big Sur Health Center and the Big Sur Fire Brigade. In the 1960s she performed a variety of roles in the legendary Big Sur Grange Potluck Revues and was cast against type as the villain’s drunken sidekick in the Big Sur Fire Brigade fundraiser melodrama “Fire! Fire!” When post-fire debris flows destroyed the location of the Monterey County Free Library Big Sur Branch in 1972, Marty provided the library a permanent home at Ripplewood Resort. In her retirement, she dedicated many hours volunteering there, and for multiple years coordinated the annual Friends of the Big Sur Library Book Sale.

Once the kids were grown and graduated from college, Marty and her beloved Ted had time for new adventures. In their fifties, they learned to snow ski and went on numerous ski vacations with dear friends and family, staying active on the slopes all the way into their seventies. They traveled around the USA in their camper and traveled abroad. When out in nature, Marty, an avid birdwatcher, was rarely without her binoculars and a bird book.

Marty Hartman is survived by her three daughters: Maya Rizzo (Gene), Leigh Toldi (Francis), Carol Shadwell (Carl), her granddaughter Alicia Toldi, step-grandson John Little Wolf, and nine nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her older brother Horace Barton in 2010 and her husband Theodore Augustin Hartman in 2018.

A celebration of Marty’s life will be held when the times allow it. The family suggests any memorial donations be made to nonprofit organizations that serve the Big Sur community.

Condolences may be written to the family at
www.bermudezfamilyfunerals.com



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VIOLATIONS

From page 1A

visits before we had compliance on face coverings," while 209 required three visits, 18 required four, and 39 required five before they finally got the message.

"It took awhile, but some of them came into compliance," he said, while nearly two dozen more were put on a "watch list," requiring inspectors to repeatedly return to check.

No more Mr. Nice Guy

"In October, our team began issuing citations when efforts at compliance were not successful," Ramirez continued. They wrote a total of 11 tickets.

At Plaza Linda Mexican restaurant in Carmel Valley Village, owner Jessie Bonilla was cited for not wearing a mask on Oct. 2, and owner Velis Bonilla was ticketed for the same offense three days later.

At the Bagel Bakery on Carmel Rancho Oct. 17 and again Oct. 19, manager Vutha Sok was written tickets for not wearing a face covering.

Other businesses where owners, managers or employees were cited for not wearing masks include a barber shop called Head Honchoz in Prunedale, Farm Fresh Produce in Moss Landing, Aloha Coffee on Del Monte in Monterey, Panaderia Y Paleterra Michoacan in the Pajaro/Watsonville area, and The Gym 24/7, which received three citations, in Salinas.

"Citations are \$100, \$200 and then \$500," Ramirez said. "So for anybody getting issued three citations, it's basically \$800."

Food-related businesses that received tickets are being sent notices that they must immediately comply with the rules requiring masks or be shut down.

"The notice of violation will require immediate compliance, or they face immediate suspension of their food permit and will not be allowed to sell," he said. "It's the last and final warning."

Anyone who decides to fight it can request a hearing in front of an administrative law judge, but the judge could force the business owner not just to pay the fines and penalties, but to cover the costs of all the inspections, according to Ramirez. Only the county board of supervisors could overturn the administrative law judge's ruling.

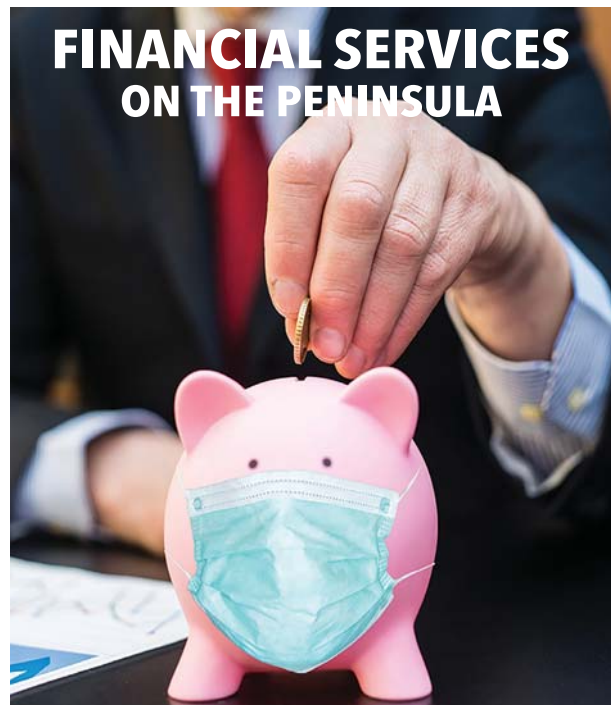
Threat of punishment

The process is a little different for non-food facilities, which are told to pay the fines and penalties and comply, or they can request a hearing before an administrative law judge. Only a Superior Court judge could overturn the law judge's decision.

Eleven citations might not seem like much, but they mean "we have ensured that 1,850 business operations are compliant, which is what we were striving for," Ramirez explained. "The low number of citations is a measure of that success."

Ramirez is hoping for even more compliance as time goes on and people hear about the penalties for not following the mask order.

"As soon as word gets out that there are penalties and consequences for not complying, we're going to get compliance," he said.



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VIRUS

From page 1A

don't have symptoms — to go get tested," he said. "Please make good use of the Seaside High School location."

The announcement was a surprise, considering that since the beginning of the epidemic, federal and state health officials have discouraged people from getting tested unless they had a specific reason. And even as of this week, the state health department's website does not encourage testing for those who don't fall into certain categories, including healthcare and essential workers, residents in group homes, and those at risk of being infected.

However, the county's webpage says, "The general public is now invited to register for an appointment. You do not need to be experiencing symptoms to be tested."

Free Covid-19 testing is available at Seaside High School, 220 Noche Buena St., Tuesday through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Won't ask to reopen

While there's no indication Monterey County will be able to advance to the next reopening tier anytime soon, its government would benefit economically if cities in the Monterey Peninsula were able to open up, since that's where much of the county's tax revenue comes from. There are few cases on the Peninsula compared to Salinas and South Monterey County.

On Wednesday, The Pine Cone asked Moreno if he or other officials had considered asking state officials to allow the Peninsula — and other areas with low infection rates — to move into the less restrictive tiers, so restaurants can offer indoor dining, movie theaters can reopen, etc.

Moreno said he's not considering that, and that Monterey County will continue to follow the state's tiered system.

"As a county, we need to work together to reduce transmissions and get our case rates down and positivity rates down so we can move into less restrictive Tier 2," Moreno said.

However, county administrative officer Charles McKee added that while driving the rates down everywhere in Monterey County is the primary focus, "it doesn't mean we are not looking at ways to see if there is some flexibility at the state level." He didn't specify what those options could be.

Of the 78 new coronavirus cases announced Thursday by county health, 34 are in Soledad, which suggests a hot spot in one or both of the state prisons. However, cases in the county's two prisons don't count against Monterey County's tier status. The county reported three more deaths from the virus this week.

Boots-on-the-ground campaign

Meanwhile, officials this week announced they will soon launch a boots-on-the-ground outreach campaign, mostly in Salinas and South Monterey County which have been hardest hit by the virus, to educate residents about virus prevention measures and offer economic and legal resources.

Officials Krista Hanni and Rosemary Soto said that health workers are developing an outreach plan which will employ "culturally relevant messages" to reach at least 200 people per week.

"We probably aren't reaching all groups, and this would be a way to start to identify how we can get more down into the weeds in particular communities ... and work with organizations that have that trusted awareness in the community," Hanni said.

Health workers will team with community groups, including farmworkers' advocacy organizations, to educate the hardest hit residents — most of whom are Hispanic or Latino — about legal and economic assistance aids, and other resources, including hotlines and social media applications. Officials may go to food drives and places where influenza vaccinations are being administered to also get their message across.

"We are hoping within two to three weeks we have those community workers out there getting more information to the community," she explained.

Hanni said that the workers will go door to door to

some areas of the Monterey Peninsula, too.

"The plan is to have outreach on the Monterey Peninsula, as there are some census tracts there on the list of the lowest quartile of Healthy Places Index census tracts," she explained, referring to data that indicate higher infection rates in some zip codes in the county.

The outreach program will cost about \$75,000, to be paid with state and federal tax revenue, and go on until spring 2021. It calls for two health workers, but Hanni said that could change as the program evolves.

Several community organizations, such as Clinica de Salud, "have also been doing more boots-on-the-ground outreach, and we're hoping to support expansion of that work," she said.

Napa, Sonoma and Fresno counties have outreach programs, and Monterey County could draw from those but would also "work with community partners to make those messages more Monterey County specific."

Supervisor Jane Parker liked the outreach program but recommended that officials "set up some measure of effectiveness" of the program.

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GRAFFITI

From page 10A

What motivates Keegan to take on the seemingly never-ending task of removing graffiti from the busy state beach, where some visitors seem forever compelled to deface nature?

“People protect what they love,” he added. “I have a relationship with this place,

and it makes me feel so good to help.”

Keegan leads a loose-knit group of volunteers who call themselves Friends of Garrapata, aka F.O.G.

State law forbids the destruction, disturbance, mutilation or removal of “earth, sand, gravel, oil, minerals, rocks, paleontological features, or features of a cave.” The base fine is \$50 if cited as an infraction or \$100 if cited as a misdemeanor. With surcharges added by the courts, the penalty could be as much as \$280.

MISSING

From page 5A

The police department made the announcement about the missing girl only on Facebook and did not tell the news media or make any other public announcement, so reporters and residents would have had to visit the site or hear about the incident via the grapevine.

Hurts local news

“We think relying on Facebook is a terrible way of issuing such an important announcement,” said Pine Cone publisher Paul Miller.

“Not only does it mean that very few people will know about it and be able to help locate the girl, Facebook is a faceless and destructive international information conglomerate whose strategy for future growth includes putting local news outlets such as The Pine Cone out of business. Please don’t help them,” Miller added.

MUD

From page 3A

The fire started Oct. 18 around noon about halfway between Lucia and King City. Firefighters working on the Dolan Fire rushed to the scene and kept it from moving north or south. From the start, their hope has been to allow it to move to the west, where it would eventually meet areas burned over by the Dolan Fire, and run out of fuel. As of late this week, crews were watching hot spots and beefing up the containment lines.

The weather is expected to stay calm and mild, with light winds and relatively low humidity. There’s no wet weather expected any time soon.

While neither fire appears to pose additional threats to homes or businesses, smoke will likely continue for some time. “There will be smoke popping up for the next couple months until we get rain,” Alvarado added.

DONATIONS

From page 9A

by Lisa Guthrie. He also received \$100 from the United Public Employees Union.

Potter’s campaign also received \$1,511 in donations of \$99 or less, which don’t have to be itemized.

Potter, meanwhile, donated \$300 to the Monterey County Democratic Central Committee and paid for mailing, PR, consulting and newspaper ads.

Council candidates

Ferlito brought in \$2,661 for the period and \$11,035 year to date and paid out \$6,747. Her contributors included her employers for more than 12 years, the owners of the Carmel Bay Co., who donated \$500, and retired architect and former planning commissioner Don Goodhue, who gave \$100. Ferlito’s campaign also received \$961 in un-itemized contributions.

She paid a Monterey County Democratic group for a campaign flyer, and other campaign expenses included postage, newspaper ads, graphic design and cam-

paigned literature and signs.

Council candidate Mo Massoudi raised \$272 during the period and \$391 so far this year, including \$200 from forest and beach commissioner Darlene Mosley. He spent \$1,890 on design, ads and consulting.

Richards raised \$3,644, putting his year-to-date total at \$8,181, and spent \$2,999, with \$2,590 remaining in unpaid bills.

His donors included his brother, Richard Richards (\$300), Denny and Jeanne LeVett (\$250), former councilman Mike Brown (\$150), Ken and Jean White (\$100), and Betty-Lou Kullas (\$500). Un-itemized contributions totaled \$644.

He paid bills for pins, newspaper ads and consulting.

Robertson raised \$4,494 and loaned himself another \$5,450, bringing the total he has personally spent on his campaign to \$8,259. He paid bills totaling \$9,918.

Among his donors were Jill and Neil Sheffield, who gave \$1,000, and Nancy and Bill Doolittle, who donated \$250. The San Carlos Agency, led by Jack Britton, gave \$500, and his campaign took in \$694 in un-itemized donations.

Expenses included consulting and graphic design.

RESCUES

From page 1A

At the hospital, the man was in ICU but was on the road to recovery as of Friday, according to Pangburn. “He is sitting up in a chair and answering most questions appropriately,” he said.

Pangburn credited both saves to bystander CPR and quick intervention by the pros once they were on scene. He encour-

aged everyone to get trained in CPR and learn how to use automated external defibrillators, which are now found in most public places.

“More than 350,000 cardiac arrests occur outside of the hospital each year,” he said, but CPR, especially if administered immediately, can greatly improve a person’s chance of survival.

Without it, the chances are much slimmer. “About 90 percent of people who experience an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest die,” he said.

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UNCERTAIN

From page 1A

Since the state shut everything down, most city hall employees have been working remotely and are meeting with people in the field, such as during plan checks at building sites, as necessary, according to Rerig.

And while a city hall employee said last month he was “unable to accommodate property file research requests,” or let members of the public into city hall due to the pandemic but was “keeping a list of requests to be fulfilled once we are able to return to the office and perform this work,” Rerig said city hall staff members are working to ensure people get the records they want.

“We’re doing our best under the fog of Covid,” he said. The city has been meeting its obligations under the California Public Records Act, “and we’ll continue to do that.”

“We’re looking for mechanisms to scan documents and in a rare case have people come in and sit with an employee,” to review documents, Rerig said. “I have to protect my employees, but if the file is many inches thick, we can sit with someone in the chamber and then have the files sanitized or not touched for three or four days, and then we wipe down the area, obviously.”

Other cities

Ben Harvey, city manager for Pacific Grove, said city hall remains closed to the public and that P.G.’s designated Covid-19 protocol compliance officer, Amy Colony, has developed plans for how to reopen city offices safely when the time comes.

Employees are handling most requests electronically and are still conducting inspections in the field, but, according to a document outlining the city’s procedures during the pandemic, “Because non-essential personnel must shelter in place, the city will be unable to timely respond to requests for public records or meet other deadlines, including those under the Permit Streamlining Act. The city considers any such deadlines to be tolled during the period in which employees are required to shelter in place.”

But when the county finally moves to the next reopening tier, some of those workers will return to city hall, according to Harvey.

“As there is no official guidance as to when to reopen a city hall, we have made the determination in P.G. to ‘peg’ the reopening of our city hall to when indoor dining (at any capacity) is allowed again,” Harvey said last week. “I do not have an anticipated date.”

The red tier allows indoor dining at a maximum capacity of 25 percent or 100 people, whichever is fewer. To get there, the county has to report no more than four to seven new cases per 100,000 people and a positivity rate between 5 and 8 percent, both based on seven-day averages, for at least two weeks.

At Monterey City Hall, many offices, including city manager Hans Uslar’s, the city attorney’s, and those for

building, planning and engineering, are open by appointment, while everyone else is working remotely.

“We’ll continue doing that until we are sure the county actually has turned the corner,” he said.

While face-to-face interactions are generally avoided, business “continues almost as usual,” he said. Uslar said he believes holding public meetings via electronic platforms has actually increased the number of people participating — unlike in Carmel, where far more people spoke at city council and planning commission meetings when they could attend in person than do now that they are forced to dial in.

“We have more public participation during council meetings now — it’s way more convenient for people to sit at home, to log in and dial in and talk on various topics,” he said. “It’s more convenient than going down to city hall and waiting for the item to pop up.”

Uslar also said fulfilling records requests hasn’t been a challenge, since practically everything on file at city hall is already digital or can easily be made so. “I remember the

old days when we put the files together and they could sit and look at the files, and then we’d make copies of whatever they wanted,” he said. “Most of the time, we receive an electronic request and will scan and send everything.”

Making sure city hall is accessible has been a top priority since the beginning, according to Uslar.

“In the first week of Covid-19, we set three objectives. Objective 2 was that we will remain fully functional,” he said. The others were to ensure public safety remains staffed and to develop a plan to help businesses impacted by the shutdown and people who have lost their jobs. A few months later, “transparency” was added as a goal.

Everyone’s safety

Uslar said he will reopen city hall when it makes sense and he can ensure everyone’s safety, including workers who are vulnerable.

“It has to be scaled to the overall health situations and requirements of individual employees,” he said. “We have guidance on how to deal with it.”

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Editorial

The enthusiastic voter

THREE YEARS ago, when the city council decided to move the municipal elections from April to November, it was an idea we had long supported, but not for the reason the council gave, which was to save money. We thought moving the election would increase turnout, especially among the non-activist types who may be less passionate about voting but are also less extreme in their views about political issues. In our view, that means higher voter turnouts will produce better government.

There can be no simpler way to increase turnout in city elections than to make them coincide with national ones — whether in presidential election years, or mid-terms.

Turns out we were both right — but our argument was stupendously right. Who could possibly resist participating in the election coming up Nov. 3?

First, there's the insane national political scene. Here in California, which over the last 30 years has been turned into a statewide safe district for Democrats, the results are obvious: California's voting for Biden. Nevertheless, millions of people who live in the state are dying to take their first crack at voting for or against Trump since he took up residence in the White House. Whether you love him or hate him, the man has stirred up national political passions like nobody we can remember — and nobody can wait to express their opinion about what he's been up to.

Our local congressional race isn't exactly a cliffhanger. Jimmy Panetta is sure to be reelected again, and probably for as many terms as he wants. And we aren't electing a governor or a senator this time around.

But then there are the statewide ballot measures, including a slew of measures that are practically radioactive — such as making racial discrimination legal, increasing property taxes on businesses, imposing statewide rent control, doing away with cash bail and forcing freelance drivers to become employees. Millions of Californians are looking forward to having the chance to vote on those — in many cases, to stop them.

Here in Carmel, Dave Potter seems certain to be reelected mayor, though we aren't making any predictions about who will win the races for city council. The municipal election is devoid of hot controversies, which is a sign that the current council has been doing a good job.

The Carmel school board race drew an unprecedented number of candidates, which reflects the stakes in deciding when and how schools will reopen. Even that usually ho-hum race will probably draw lots of voters to the polls.

But still, it's Trump vs. Biden that's getting out the vote. According to the U.S. Elections Project, more than 80 million Americans have already voted, with California (8.5 million votes so far), Texas (8.5 million) and Florida (7.4 million) leading the way. Practically everyone is predicting a record turnout, and it's not hard to see why.

Which brings us back to our original argument for moving Carmel's elections to November. The higher the turnout, the better, and this year, it's going to be a humdinger.

BEST of BATES



"I never knew I had so many friends 'til I moved to Carmel."

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, although we may be able to publish your letter anonymously upon request. We reserve the right to determine which letters are suitable for publication and to edit for length and clarity. Please submit letters to mail@carmelpinecone.com

Carmel's 'silver lining'

Dear Editor,

While the pandemic has been devastating to many business owners and communities, there have been a few silver linings. We recently entered Carmel for dinner hoping to find a place open with safe outdoor dining. We were completely unprepared for and captivated by the proliferation of charming outdoor dining opportunities that now line various streets of Carmel.

We were looking for a place that was open late after traveling two-and-a-half hours from our home in Fresno. It was approaching 9 p.m., and the village's main and side streets bustled with lively outdoor cafes brimming with people. Moreover, they all beckoned one to enjoy a meal in a safe way, with safely distanced tables, masked service staff, and well-positioned heat lamps.

Suddenly, the sleepy-village nighttime ambiance of Carmel has a vibrancy like

never before! The various "parklets" that define these new outdoor dining spaces, each unique and inviting, have transformed the streets of Carmel into a vibrant locale bustling with life, as opposed to a village with a handful of commercial streets lined with parked cars as far as the eye can see. Restaurants that we didn't even know existed now define themselves in creative ways, and we have been moved to try places that we were unaware of, and to go to others that we had avoided because of crowding and interior noise that made enjoyment of a meal with friends less than pleasant. And, suddenly, popular places that often have a line of people waiting for a table, now have expanded seating so that one can get a seat after a short wait, if any wait at all.

It is as if we have let Sleeping Beauty awaken! By facilitating outdoor dining, the city fathers have compassionately given Carmel restaurant owners a new lease on life during the pandemic, but this gift to Carmel visitors should continue well after the pandemic is over. At last, we have a seaside village reminiscent of those in Europe, where patrons enjoy al fresco dining at all hours of the day and night.

Congratulations, Carmel. You have only become more dear!

Jolene Telles, Fresno

Reopen by zip code

Dear Editor,

I have had the opportunity on an almost daily basis to see in The Pine Cone the coronavirus infection rates for the Monterey County. Accompanying those county-wide reports, there is also a breakdown

See LETTERS page 26A

- Publisher Paul Miller (paul@carmelpinecone.com)
- Production/Sales Manager ... Jackie Miller (jackie@carmelpinecone.com)
- Office Manager Irma Garcia (274-8645)
- Reporters Mary Schley (274-8660), Chris Counts (274-8665)
- Kelly Nix (274-8664)
- Features Editor Elaine Hesser (274-8661)
- Advertising Sales Real Estate, Big Sur - Jung Yi (274-8646)
- Carmel-by-the-Sea, Carmel Valley, Carmel & Pebble Beach
- Meena Lewellen (274-8655)
- Monterey, Pacific Grove, Seaside, Sand City Jessica Caird (274-8590)
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- Legal Notices Irma Garcia (274-8645)
- Ad Design Sharron Smith (274-2767), Vanessa Jimenez (274-8652)
- Ad Design & Obituaries Anne Papineau (274-8654)
- Office Assistant Megan Richards (274-8593)
- Circulation Manager Scott MacDonald (261-6110)
- For complete contact info: www.carmelpinecone.com/info.htm



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Telephone: (831) 274-8593 or see directory at left

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A time when Carmelites were even more brilliant than they are now

THE EARLIEST report I can find of journalist Grant Wallace being in the Monterey Peninsula is a full-page feature in the San Francisco Call of Jan. 17, 1909.

Titled, “The Literary Craftsmen of Carmel” — and carrying the promising sub-head, “A visit to the men and women who are piecing together songs, sonnets and best sellers on a strip of sandy beach between the pining pines and the tinkling ocean” — the article mentions the many successful writers already making their home here in the early part of the 20th century. Poet George Sterling is the highlight, while Wallace is

pictured with Alice MacGowen and her sister Grace, who were successful novelists in the South before making their way west. Western writer Mary Austin and journalist James Hopper are also highlighted in the text, which even refers to Wallace’s “ex-

History Beat

By NEAL HOTELLING

perimental ranch” somewhere in the area. The article concludes that these writers “are making Carmel what really seems to be a very vital little center for a heap of things worthwhile” — a belief upheld by history.

Regarding Wallace, we have learned via a family memoir that he “had a redwood shack under cypresses by the shiny white beach. In a nearby hut, Sinclair Lewis invented plots for Jack London’s stories and pestered Grant for instruction on writing them himself.”

This comes to us from the recently published, “The Big Work” compiled and published by Wallace’s great-grandson, Matt Berger. The book paints an interesting story of the family and is richly illustrated with the artistic heritage of Wallace and his two children largely raised here.

Eleven schools

While not as famous today as some of his friends, when he first arrived in Carmel, Wallace was iconic as a news writer and war correspondent. His 1904 coverage from the Asian front of the Russo-Japanese war for the San Francisco Bulletin led to his being awarded a medal and proclamation by the Emperor of Japan. After that, he became one of the top editorialists of the day.

Wallace’s daughter, Moira, covered in last week’s column, became a noted artist, while Kevin, like his father, became a successful newspaper, magazine and editorial writer, initially with the San Francisco Chronicle, beginning in 1937 while still a student at UC Berkeley, and culminating with 17 years at the New Yorker magazine. We learn from Kevin’s memoir, that the family was not a permanent fixture in Carmel but returned regularly.

“We left so often that Moira and I each changed school 11 times in the seven years we spent in the eight primary grades,” Kevin Wallace wrote.

We also learn the family’s colorful history, beginning with his grandparents.

In his father’s shoes

The sixth of nine children, Grant Wallace was born in 1868 and raised in northwest Missouri. He likely got his drive and adventurous spirit from

See **HISTORY** page 25A

Artist sets ambitious goal for her 100th birthday

WITH HER 98th birthday less than three months away, Tomiye Tanaka concedes that she doesn’t paint quite as late into the night as she did just a few years ago.

“I don’t go until midnight anymore,” said the watercolorist. “I used to sit there very late with my paints and my coffee, and I always knew it was time for bed when I started dipping my paintbrush into my coffee cup.”

But her art career is hardly winding down. Tanaka’s vibrantly colorful seascape was awarded first prize and Best of Show last month at the Monterey County Fair — the first major art awards she’s ever won — inspiring her toward a lofty new goal: “I’m planning to become a great artist by

my frustrations,” she said.

Fun fact about her success at this year’s Monterey County Fair: Tanaka has only been painting landscapes and seascapes for about a year, since she started taking classes at her church — and most recently on Zoom — from Carmel Art Association artist Robert McIntyre.

“I was always painting flowers before, but since Mr. McIntyre paints seascapes and landscapes, I started doing that. I discovered that I really enjoy it,” she said. “I had only painted a few before the fair, and when my daughter JoAnn told me I won first place and Best of Show, I almost fainted. It was such a surprise.”

Painting flowers came easily to Tanaka, who spent 35 years in the nursery business at Tanaka Garden Center, the company she started in 1962 with her husband, Tom, who passed away in 1992.

“We originally were located on Fremont Street at

Canyon Del Rey, where the Safeway is located now. Then we bought the corner of Canyon Del Rey and Highway 68, next to Tarp’s, which was a swamp at the time,” she said of the spot now occupied by Stone Creek Village Shopping Center. “My husband filled it with 5 feet of soil and turned it into a beautiful piece of property. We were there 15 years.”

Five years after her husband died, she retired, visited seven countries, and began sketching people’s faces during her travels. When she returned, she took art classes at The Carmel Foundation and began painting.

“Painting flowers came easily to me because I had studied them for so long at the nursery,” she said. “I really admired the way all the plants came in, how flowers grew so perfectly from a seed or a little root.”

Pearl Harbor

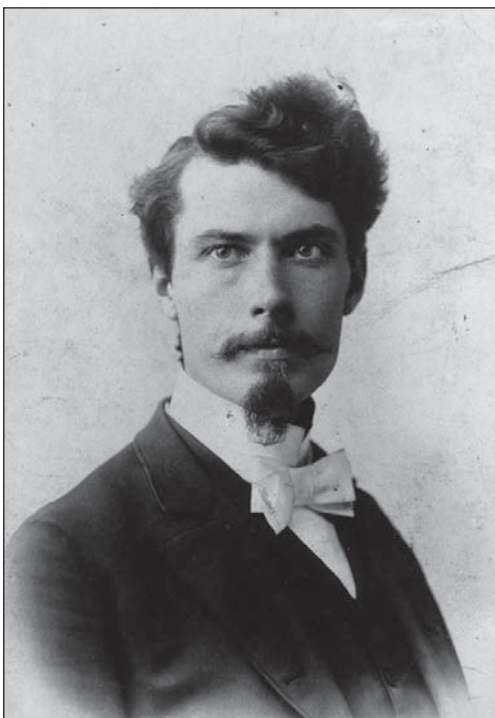
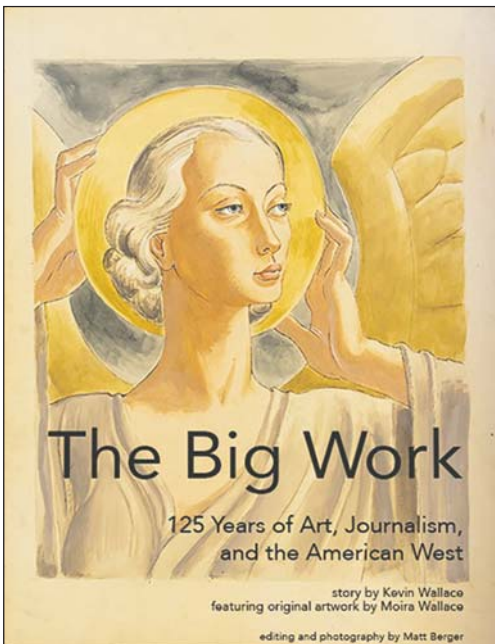
Tanaka grew up in Reedley in the San Joaquin Valley, where her father was a vegetable and grape farmer before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor to draw the U.S. into World War II on Dec. 7, 1941, a Sunday.

“I remember that we all gathered in a little auditorium and listened to the news on a radio they set up on the stage,” she recounted. “Everybody was so shocked.”

Not long afterward, the Tanakas and other Japanese families were herded onto a train to Phoenix, then taken to an internment camp in Poston, Ariz., where they were impounded with 18,000 others. She was 17.

“It was very desolate, as far as you could see,” she remembered. “Every time a wind

See **ARTIST** page 25A



PHOTOS/COURTESY MATT BERGER, “THE BIG WORK”

The dashing young Grant Wallace circa 1890 (above) during his first sojourn to New York. The adventurous artist and writer would become one of the early founders of Carmel’s colony of likeminded individuals. His story is told in “The Big Work” (top), a new book detailing the art and lives of some of the town’s early Bohemians.

Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

the time I turn 100,” she declared with a twinkle, “...with God’s help, of course.”

Drumming out frustration

Don’t bet against her. Tanaka hikes for an hour almost every morning, “all the way up the hill, and back down again,” through her Seaside neighborhood. She spends another hour each day practicing the ukulele she plays (in less restrictive times) at local retirement homes and senior centers with about 15 fellow parishioners from El Estero Presbyterian Church. And she relentlessly pounds her djembe drum — a goblet-shaped instrument with origins in Mali. “I just bang away and take out all of



PHOTO/JAVIER CHAGOYA

Tomiye Tanaka, 97, holds the watercolor seascape that won first prize and ‘Best of Show’ at this year’s Monterey County Fair.

Don’t miss “Scenic Views” by Jerry Gervase — every week in the Real Estate Section.



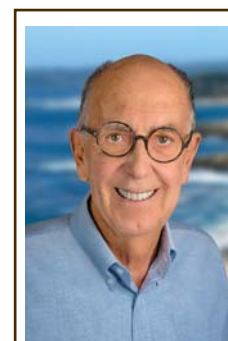
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The last graduation was a strange one, but the career was wonderful

THIS YEAR'S high school graduations were more than a bit strange. Matt Bell, then principal of P.G. High, led the first ceremony to be held at Laguna Seca raceway, and he wasn't at all sure how it was going to turn out.

The week before the event, he told The

Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

Pine Cone he was "a stress ball." Once the ceremony started, though, the magnitude of the moment hit him. "I just realized this was my last graduation," he said. "This is the only career I've ever known. The emotional piece of this is hard, but I'm going out in a nice way."

Staying put?

The P.G. resident retired this year after a combined 37 years as a teacher and administrator, all in Pacific Grove schools. "I'm a company guy, I don't like to move around a lot," he said — and he was only joking a little.

Bell grew up in Walnut Creek and Oak-

land. He decided to study economics at UC Santa Barbara because his father was a senior vice president for Kaiser Permanente and Bell said he thought, "I'll major in some kind of business." That was the extent of his plan.

When Bell was a senior, a friend mentioned his own plans to stay on for a fifth year and get a teaching credential. It sounded like a pretty good idea, so Bell did the same and, in 1983, found himself leafing through binders of

job postings in the UCSB employment office. He has never enjoyed moving around, so he began his search in Santa Barbara but could only find a math and chemistry position at a private school in town.

"I knew chemistry, but not well enough to teach it," he explained. He expanded his search to other nearby communities, then found a flier for a math job in Pacific Grove. He passed his first interview and then waited by the phone at home in Santa Barbara.

For the second interview, he said, "They offered to meet me halfway, at the Madonna Inn." That quirky slice of Americana on the south end of San Luis Obispo is known

for over-the-top themed guest rooms — you know, in case you want to sleep in a cave — and gaudy eateries catering to tourists with deep pockets.

Panicked about the bill

Bell didn't know that the interviewers would pick up the check, so he panicked when he realized he'd shown up with just \$5. "I thought, 'I can't order anything,'" and as the other men got full meals, the starving college student ate his serving of toast. "I was sweating bullets, wondering if I had enough for a tip."

"And then at the end they said, 'We've got this.'" To this day, Bell said, "If I'm out with anyone on my staff, I'm paying for it — and I tell them ahead of time."

Bell does that a lot — he talks about the job in the present tense, even as he contemplates his future. You get the sense that all this history just happened yesterday, it's so present in so much detail for him.

He taught high school math from 1983 to 1990. Oldest son Chris was born in 1989

(followed by son Tim and daughter Kendra), so he decided to get a master's degree and an administrative credential to better support his wife, Linda — "my backbone, encourager and anchor in the storms" — and their growing family.

In December 1990, Bell said that the assistant principal at the high school retired "very suddenly and unexpectedly" to run an ice cream shop in the American Tin Cannery. Bell became the interim assistant principal, and then applied for and was hired for the position. It wasn't a dream job, at least not for him.

After about three-and-a-half years, Bell said he was convinced that "it wasn't a landing place, but a stepping stone." He was a disciplinarian — something he didn't relish — trying to nab kids sneaking a smoke and the like.

"Someone wrote graffiti that said, 'F**k you, Mr. Bell,'" he recalled, adding, "At least they called me 'mister.'" He became

See LIVES next page

Matt Bell with his wife, Linda. Behind them, a view of the beautiful Monterey Peninsula, which he served as a teacher and school administrator for 37 years.



PHOTO/COURTESY MATT BELL

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HISTORY

From page 23A

his father, Tom, who began life in the mountains of New Hampshire and made his way west to Wisconsin where he married in 1850. The Gold Rush drove him farther west and he spent more than five years in the gold fields of California. His wife and infant son made the arduous journey via Nicaragua (before the Panama Canal) to join him near Grass Valley. Their next two children were born in California before they returned east and settled in Missouri.

Principal, model, exorcist

When the Civil War exploded, Tom became a second lieutenant in the local Union militia, until his men elected him judge for the territory. His children were all well educated. Grant Wallace began working as a printer's devil for the Hopkins Journal at age 13, and according to the memoir, on a bet with his brother, successfully wrote and published four of the trashy "dime novels" that were popular in the 1880s.

While still a teenager, Wallace headed to New York City to see the big world. He funded his travels in part by creating crime illustrations for the New York Evening Sun. At 19, he was hired as a principal at a business school in Delaware and taught mathematics.

At 21, Wallace was back in New York, where the tall good-looking young man posed for Dan Beard's illustrations in the first edition of Mark Twain's "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court," published in 1889. Twain reportedly visited the studio and "shared enthusiasms" with Wallace on "Tom Edison's plans to harness telepathy via phrenophone."

Wallace, we learn, had an obsession with the occult that would manifest itself more fully later. In Greenwich Village, he visited many of the popular mediums of the day, exposing many as frauds while experimenting with séances, Ouija boards and telekinesis. He returned to Missouri and learned his brother, Charles, was ready to have their mother committed to an asylum. Wallace looked her over and proceeded to exorcise from her what he said was "a guilt-racked earthbound monk left over from the Spanish Inquisition." Their mother was fine thereafter.

Train wreck, mafia murder

On a visit to his sister, Olive, he showed her classmate, Helen Vail, a ring he had brought from New York for Olive. Vail tried it on, swooned into his arms and said, "I will." They married on Jan. 1, 1891, and were soon living in Minneapolis, where Wallace worked as an illustrator for the Pioneer Press. Their son, Grant Jr., was born in 1893.

Wallace's young family, as well as his mother and two spinster sisters, moved to California after his father died in 1895. They settled at Fair Oaks, near Sacramento, where the budding horticulturist established an experimental orchard. For income, he ferried down the delta and worked as an illustrator and political cartoonist for the San Francisco Examiner.

With the encouragement of Ambrose Bierce, he sought a writer's role at the San Francisco Chronicle.

In December 1901, just a month after being made a reporter, Wallace stunned his editor with his drive and powerful writing. The day after the fatal crash of two Southern Pacific trains near Upland, then a Monterey County rail stop between San Lucas and San Ardo, Wallace wrote the personal story and confession of engineer John W. Coffey.

Wallace's style also caught the attention of Fremont Older, managing editor at the rival San Francisco Bulletin. Older hired him away, and the decision bore fruit when Wallace captured the dramatic 1902 story of an Italian immigrant in the city who was killed by the Sicilian mafia. The victim had stolen a painting by Titian in Italy, and the mafia tracked him to San Francisco. Wallace's 1904 dispatches from the war in Asia cemented his place as one of the great reporters of the day.

In 1905, Wallace interviewed Tom Lawson, a multimillionaire stock market tycoon intent on restoring the integrity of Wall Street and breaking up the empire of John D. Rockefeller. Lawson was so impressed that he hired Wal-

lace "to travel into every state, gather materials on the lives and hidden activities of all the U.S. senators, and prepare a series of articles for Everybody's magazine." Wallace's reports were so strong that the magazine's lawyers said they were "too libelous to print."

Lassoing lions

Wallace and Helen divorced in early 1906 and he sought new adventures. Time Magazine sent him to cover an insurrection in Cuba. In early 1907, Wallace traveled to the Southwest, at the invitation of Buffalo Jones to lasso mountain lions. Jones was immortalized by Zane Grey in "The Last Plainsman." Wallace then returned to California, planning to settle near his mother in Sacramento, but soon the famous writer joined old colleagues in the new development here — a story we will pickup on next week.

Neal Hotelling has been researching and writing about Monterey County history for more than three decades. His email is nbhotelling@msn.com.

ARTIST

From page 23A

storm would come up, the sand would blow right into our barracks and swirl around. It was an awful place."

After a year, restrictions were eased, permitting anyone who found an outside job to leave.

"I was really fortunate to find a job as a domestic, working for Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Duke. He was vice president of the Minnesota Mining Co. in St. Paul, so I moved there," she said.

"That's where I met Tom, who was teaching Japanese to American soldiers at the University of Minnesota," Tanaka said. "Mr. Duke gave me away at our wedding, because my father was still in Poston, at the relocation center."

Plants for professors

Tom and Tomiye Tanaka moved from St. Paul to the Monterey Peninsula in the mid-1950s, and in 1962 they rented land from the Berry Brothers Feed Farm and opened their garden center.

"The nursery was very successful from the very beginning," she said. "The Naval Postgraduate School brought in a lot of professors from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, and many of them bought homes in the new Del Rey Oaks subdivision. A lot of them bought their landscaping supplies from us."

The progress she's made painting with McIntyre in her church classes and the beauty of her surroundings have changed the direction of her artwork.

"After finishing that seascape, I think I'll paint a lot more," she said. "Monterey has some of the most beautiful scenery in the world, and I want to paint a lot more of it."

"My son Darrell told me he knows a lot of people who want to buy that painting, and I'm very flattered — it's a very humbling feeling," Tanaka said. "But I told him not to sell it yet."

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

LIVES

From previous page

principal of Robert Down in 1994, and said the move to elementary school, where parents were much more involved and spent plenty of time on campus watching out for their little ones, was a culture shock.

Fortunately, he said, "I had a terrific staff, who had lots and lots of grace for my missteps." He stayed at the elementary school for 11 years, then worked at the middle school. In 2008, when the high school principal decided to retire, Bell took that job. He apologized to the Class of 2012 at graduation "for the emotional trauma," since, he said, at least half the class had been with him since elementary school.

He said he's come to realize that "high school students are no different from kindergartners" or adults, for that matter. "They like pats on the back, they like to be called by name and they want me to be interested in what they're doing," he said, the main difference being that high school students are better at hiding their feelings.

Above all, Bell sees himself as an encourager, someone who told his staff not to fear change, to try new things. He's generous with compliments and said he shared his most recent achievement — the Association of California School Administrators' 2020 Principal of the Year award — with "everyone on the team" at P.G. High and in the district.

"I was totally humbled and completely stunned" by the award, he said, adding, "My adrenaline went 'whoosh!'" Since he had already decided to retire, it was great to leave on such a high note.

"It was time to step out," he said, noting that some aspects of the job had become just too stressful. He's allowed himself six months to "go running, bicycling and play golf," but after that, he's contemplating some part-time jobs, consulting gigs and volunteer positions with local nonprofits.

"There's still plenty of gas in the tank," Bell said.



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LETTERS

From page 22A

of infections provided by postal zip codes from throughout the county. It is my understanding that movement from one level of shutdown tier to another for the entire county is determined by the county-wide numbers.

It seems striking to me that the positive movement of the entire county from one level to another is being held up due to a number of infection clusters in Salinas and the Salinas Valley. There have been few infections in areas of the county that are near or on Monterey Bay and the ocean. Many jobs in the hospitality industry as well as the restaurant/entertainment businesses in Monterey, Pacific Grove, Big Sur, Carmel, etc., are being affected by the county-wide infection numbers while there are very few

infections in those communities.

It seems to me that a better way of determining moving from one level of infection to another would be to determine movement by zip codes rather than by looking at county-wide numbers. I know that I, as a resident of Salinas, and many others from the valley would be delighted to travel to the Peninsula towns for a great meal or visit the many entertainment sites that seem to abound or would abound given the opportunity.

The system currently in place simply doesn't appear to be fair to anyone at this stage of the pandemic.

**Patrick Dunne,
Salinas**

Reimers' vital role

Dear Editor,

Tuesday is an important day not only because it is election day, but it is the last day of Jan Reimers' tenure on Carmel's

city council.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Jan for the last two years. It quickly became apparent she was the driving force behind the formation of the North Dunes Restoration Project. She has worked diligently for years to ensure the native habitat returns to our storied beach, and the north dunes in particular. Because of her efforts, the black legless lizard will have a safe "forever home." And many native plant species are returning after years of devastation from non-native tree and plant debris.

It was Jan's passion and persistence that moved this project through the middle of its fifth year ... and still counting. I look forward to seeing the North Dunes transformations yet to come. Jan, thank you for your devoted service to the City of Carmel, thank you for your wisdom and advice with respect to my own projects, and thank you for your friendship. I hope your next chapter brings you happiness.

"The road keeps going, I'll meet you around the next corner"

Laura Overett, Carmel

Reform resident parking

Dear Editor,

What is the point of paying for a resident parking permit when it does practically nothing to tangibly help residents? The \$20 price tag is enticing compared to larger and more densely populated cities, but our resident permit only extends parking on Carmel's city streets from two to three hours. How helpful! Locals would happily pay a higher fee for unlimited resident parking, which we inherently deserve.

With the coronavirus pandemic still in full effect, many of us are working from home, educating our children, and are simply too busy to move from one parking spot to the next every few hours. Many of us just turn our wheels or wipe off the parking enforcement chalk and continue on with our day. While we all now know how to get around parking tickets, our parking system for taxpaying locals is inefficient — at best.

Remember: Our taxes fund the \$75,000

salaries of our parking enforcement officers. Remember: We vote for council members to protect our way of life, not those of San Francisco Bay area day-trippers and tourists. Finally remember this: Carmel was designed to be "primarily, essentially, and predominantly a residential city." Has our city council forgotten this?

Phone our city council members to make your voices heard on this issue.

**Anonymous,
Carmel**

'Fresh voice'

Dear Editor,

As someone who has known and worked for several decades with Graeme Robertson, a city council candidate in Carmel-by-the-Sea, I feel that I am qualified to speak about his great leadership skills, his high level of integrity and fairness and his long experience in our village.

Graeme appreciates what makes Carmel special and unique. From the time he moved here before turning 6, through his years of growing up here when his parents owned two shops on Ocean Avenue, through his attendance at local schools, and during his professional career, he has always had the best interests of the town.

He supports our deep environmental heritage and character. Three of his key backers are present or prior members of the Carmel Residents Association, including a past president.

Graeme also knows that we must get our local economy back into operation, but only when it is fully safe after we have put the deadly virus behind us. That is why he also has key backing from members of our diverse business community.

Graeme's long list of endorsements includes former mayors Sue McCloud, Charlotte Townsend and Ken White, several former council members, and dozens more people.

Graeme would be a fine addition to the city council, able to help us through

Continues next page



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From previous page

the challenging times ahead and someone who would be a fresh voice with the knowledge gained during nearly a lifetime in Carmel-by-the-Sea.

I hope that you will join me in voting for Graeme Robertson for city council.

Denny LeVett, Carmel

‘Clear choice’ for mayor

Dear Editor,

The current mayoral election in Carmel presents voters with a very clear choice about the civic governance of our city. The candidacy of Judy Refuerzo provides our electorate an opportunity to establish a new style of leadership, one that demonstrates transparency, availability, and a measured approach to issues that come to the mayor’s office and before the city council.

Judy’s work, civic, and life experience has prepared her to receive and handle complex matters by listening and engaging parties of interest to achieve positive outcomes, especially when those competing interests may have broad implications. Judy has the willingness to be actively, creatively, and visibly involved in the pursuit of good answers for our community, answers that represent balanced results for both our residential concerns and business requirements.

Judy is a collaborator and an engaged citizen, focusing on both current and long-standing topics for Carmel’s viability. A vote for Judy Refuerzo for mayor will be a vote for openness and engagement, a vote for change in these changing and challenging times. As residents, we will reap the benefit of that vote.

LaNette Zimmerman, Carmel

‘Invaluable asset’

Dear Editor,

Anne-Marie Rosen is the one school board candidate who garners my vote. She understands the strengths and weaknesses of our district, which currently educates 2,337 students, with an all-inclusive staff of 400 and an annual budget of \$60 million.

We property owners are currently paying for two CUSD school bonds — year 2011 for \$20 million and 2016 for \$21.5 million, as noted on our property tax statements — and will continue to for two to three more decades. CUSD wants a third bond which is incredibly pompous. Anne-Marie Rosen will not give her stamp of approval on a third bond without a compelling need.

One example of flagrant misuse of bond funds is the performing arts center at Carmel High School. The end expense was approximately \$16 million (\$10 million reported from bond funds) and it has a seating capacity of 370. We have 862 students at CHS and have had well over 600 since the PAC was conceptualized. We as a school had to rotate in twice in order to watch something the first few years. The past several years we have to rotate in three times if the entire student body is to experience a performance of some type. The frequency the student body uses it may be counted on one hand. While it looks very impressive and extraordinary lit up at night, it sits idle 98 percent of the time.

She is the only candidate who has a platform and who has also knocked on over 1,500 doors, “masked up” to speak with her future constituents. The business-as-usual needs an overhaul at CUSD, with the past two superintendents relieved of their duties requiring huge payouts, a principal at the high school “moved” to special projects at the district office, and two interim superintendents incredibly sweet, who let the staff and parents make all the calls. The funds coming in are not an endless supply, and the majority comes from taxpayers who own property within the assessment boundaries. Anne-Marie will be an invaluable asset to the CUSD board at every level.

Michele Pollock, Carmel

‘Strong leadership’

Dear Editor,

There is but one clear choice for airport board, and that is Mary Ann Leffel. Her lengthy history in leadership posi-

tions is too extensive to go into, as are her accolades from her business and community peers, and strong leadership is needed for the economic vitality of our Peninsula. The airport is an integral part of our successful economy and Mary Ann has navigated the challenges before us with FAA requirements past and present and will do so into the future. She is a collaborator who will work with our community to bring a happy and successful resolution to upcoming challenges.

Join me in voting for Mary Ann Leffel.

Karen Calley, Monterey

‘Diligently and tirelessly’

Dear Editor,

I have worked with Graeme Robertson at the Carmel Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea and at the Carmel Foundation, and have found him to be compassionate, articulate and open-minded. Graeme does not have a personal agenda and will work diligently and tirelessly for the residents and businesses of Carmel.

Please join me in voting for Graeme Robertson for City Council.

Jill Sheffield, Carmel

‘Voice that is honest’

Dear Editor,

Why is there such a heavy investment in Steve McShane’s campaign for District 4 Supervisor to replace Jane Parker? It is over \$850,000 and counting. What is all that money supposed to buy?

It’s not district representation. McShane’s base is Salinas and the valley, but most of the population is on the coast.

It’s not ideology. McShane was a Tea Party Republican a few years ago. He switched to “decline to state,” then switched again about a year ago to Democrat.

It’s not issue-based. McShane has promised many things to many people.

It’s not business, not family, nor has he moved into Marina or Seaside.

McShane is ambitious and an opportunist. So why the

heavy investment?

It’s for control. Financial interests always want influence, but the heavy investment in McShane is for more than influence. It’s for control. Investors want to guarantee that Salinas Valley interests can dominate county government. It’s not enough to prevail 3-2 on most matters. Occasionally one will switch. But 4-1 is a guarantee for control.

If you want representation, or integrity, or a voice that is honest, relevant, transparent, informed and credible, vote Wendy Root Askew for supervisor.

George Riley, Monterey

Today’s Democrats

Dear Editor,

Today’s Democratic Party has totally abandoned its heritage as a defender of a free and unfettered populace. The party of Truman and Kennedy, both staunch anti-communists, has given way to the yelping imps, emboldened by Barack Obama’s socialistic administration, that would shackle us with staggering debt, oppressive taxation, and emasculated law enforcement. The Democrats would further deny our right to self-protection and dangerously diminish our national defense in extremely hostile times.

This might well be an appropriate time to heed the words of Congressman David Crockett of Tennessee in 1835, “The Stars and Stripes must never give way to the shreds and patches of party.”

The current ongoing election boils down to a clear decision of choosing to remain a free people or to foolishly foist socialism on ourselves and criminally on our children. Refute the “patches and shreds” of the Democrat Party and retain the whole fabric of this magnificent country.

Richard S. Hellam, Seaside



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GAVEL

From page 4A

Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma and Yolo Counties.

When Kelly-Moore officials were notified by the prosecutors of the unlawful disposals of hazardous waste, they immediately agreed to cooperate and promptly implemented measures to properly manage hazardous waste at its California facilities.

The settlement requires a payment of \$1.43 million, which consists of civil penalties, supplemental environmental projects, and reimbursement of investigative and enforcement costs. In addition, the settlement includes provisions requiring Kelly-Moore to employ a California-based compliance employee to oversee Kelly-Moore’s hazardous waste compliance program and to undergo a trash receptacle audit to ensure hazardous wastes and confidential consumer information is properly disposed of at all stores. The company must also comply with injunctive requirements pertaining to environmental and confidential consumer information protection laws.



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The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

Student-athletes caught in a high-stakes game of beat the clock

TO PLAY, or not to play? That is the question. And what an unfair question it is, in the age of the coronavirus, when the best available information is confusing, sometimes conflicting, perpetually evolving and based largely on incomplete data.

reports that the pandemic is accelerating.

What to do? What a tough question.

“I’m optimistic that we’ll get to play at least one sport this school year,” said Carmel High junior Elle Bohlman, who plays basketball, lacrosse, and is a kicker on the varsity football team. “It’s been hard for me to not be able to play sports. But I also feel that it would be easy to spread the virus through sports, when athletes are on top of each other, touching and breathing on each other.”

Bohlman’s statement says a lot. It’s difficult to justify risking her health, but the window to play high school sports is open for just four years, and then it closes forever. We’re only young once.

“I’m feeling quite nervous about competing in sports again — how packed a cross-country race is, how close you get to someone when you’re playing soccer, and how big a track competition can be,” said Santa Catalina runner

Ana Leissner, a boarding student from Hong Kong. “But I do think Santa Catalina and other schools in the area will take good care of us, and run these competitions with safety in mind. I’m confident that we’ll be well taken care of if the pandemic is still going on.”

Difficult task

That level of confidence — kids putting their faith in adults — should be heartwarming and bone-chilling in equal parts to parents, school administrators, coaches, teachers, pastors, scientists and medical professionals whose task is to prove worthy of that trust.

“As you can probably infer from the national conversation, I don’t think anybody really has an answer for how to do that,” conceded one local administrator, who remains

See **SPORTS** next page

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

As today’s high school student-athletes confront the possibility that they’ll be offered a chance to return to competitive sports in the middle of a pandemic, the ugly truth is this: Nobody — not even the world’s best epidemiologists and virologists — can recommend procedures that will guarantee their safety. At best, they can offer well intentioned plans, based on incomplete studies of a virus that has affected more than 9 million Americans.

Only young once

The California Interscholastic Federation has penciled in Dec. 14 as the date when high schools will be permitted to begin practicing “Season One” sports — football, cross-country, field hockey, volleyball and water polo. Competition theoretically would begin in early January, but since the state hasn’t yet OK’d team sports to be played, schools are devising back-up plans for many scenarios.

That mid-December practice date remains on the calendar for now, but all eyes are fixed on daily



Catalina’s Ana Leissner (left), a CCS track and field qualifier, feels nervous about competing in cross-country during the coronavirus epidemic, while Carmel’s Grant Gallaway, a lacrosse specialist, says lower numbers of infections in the Monterey Peninsula make him optimistic.



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SPORTS

From previous page

optimistic. “I think there are some things we can do that have generally been accepted as best practices to try to limit exposure, but that question — ‘How do we keep kids safe?’ — implies something that nobody can guarantee right now, including most of the scientists who are talking about this.”

Varying levels of regulation begin at the national and state levels. For example, 34 states are already playing high school football, while the remaining 16, including California, hope to start playing in January or this spring. Data from states that already have OK’d athletics in the time of Covid could help guide those who have kept kids on the sidelines for now.

Decisions in California could differ from county to county, league by league, and ultimately school by school. Standard procedures are expected to be recommended, but mandates figure to be more difficult.

Testing student-athletes for the virus before practices, games and bus rides sounds great, but the cost is likely to be prohibitive for many (probably most) schools, without state or federal aid.

So many athletes

In a state where more than 800,000 kids play high school sports, the availability of testing kits also promises to be a hurdle.

How to keep athletes from transmitting the virus during huddles, football pile-ups, body-on-body competition, in locker rooms, on bus rides, and after they return home to their families? Those problems are being studied, and although solutions are elusive, optimism remains alive.

“I think the ability to play football and not spread Covid is very much in reach,” said Stevenson senior Tyler Olson, a running back. “Our area has done a good job containing it, and I believe scheduling games within our area could work perfect-

ly. A league schedule between Stevenson, Seaside, Monterey, Carmel, Pacific Grove, and Marina would be a great solution.”

All eyes remain on California’s “Blueprint for a Safer Economy” tier system — a color code that indicates how widespread the virus is in each of the state’s 58 counties.

Monterey County isn’t doing all that well with virus containment. The county currently has “widespread” status, requiring maximum restrictions, meaning pandemic conditions must improve within the next six weeks for practices and competitions to be greenlighted. At the same time, Olson is correct that Monterey Peninsula residents have a much lower infection rate than people in the Salinas Valley.

“Our community has been responsible with social distancing, mask-wearing, signage all over town, closing beaches for busy weekends, etc. As a result, our numbers are extremely low,” said Carmel senior Grant Gallaway, who hopes to earn a college lacrosse scholarship.

“I also have seen the phased return-to-play protocols that the colleges have followed with success. As athletes, we want to get back on the field and stay there, so we will do whatever we need to do,” he added.

Some schools, school boards or individual students could decide to opt out, regardless of what the tier system says. Other decisions could be made on a sport-by-sport basis.

“I think it depends on the sport — for example, basketball is different from golf,” said Sarah Sheetz, who plays lacrosse, soccer and tennis for Santa Catalina. “As long as procedures are in place before games — temperatures taken, limited and dispersed audiences, etc. — I would feel comfortable resuming competition.”

Catalina classmate Alex Nickel, a boarding student from Arizona, said she’s been playing golf continuously since the pandemic began. “I have never once felt unsafe on the course, and I do not plan to feel unsafe in practice or competition at Santa Catalina,” she said.

Add peer pressure to the stew. If most of their classmates opt to march fearlessly into battle, how difficult might it be for an athlete to opt out? Or a coach? Or a referee?

‘Pretty confident’

“I think I’ll be a little worried about our safety, but, for the most part, I’ll be pretty confident,” said Carmel linebacker Amir Brown, who might have a football schol-

arship in his future — unless he doesn’t get to play high school football again. “I’m staying positive, and I have faith.”

“I’m going to miss it so much if I don’t get to race in high school again. I still have goals I want to achieve in high school,” said Stevenson senior Anna Watson, a standout middle-distance runner in both cross-country and track. “I really don’t know what to expect, but I’m trying to be optimistic.”

Will the pandemic subside in time? State, county, school officials, parents, and the athletes face one of the toughest decisions of their lives, and know they can’t afford to get this one wrong.

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



PHOTO/COURTESY ANNA WATSON

Stevenson track standout Anna Watson runs in solitude near the Salinas River Wildlife Refuge.



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‘Live from the Lot’ series continues with Halloween-themed drive-in show

SUNSET CENTER’S series of shutdown-compliant concerts, “Live from the Lot,” continues Saturday with a Halloween-themed showcase of three local live acts. Presented by First Night Monterey, the lineup includes **Fields of Eden**, **Heartstrings** and **Dirty Cello**. It will also serve as a going-away party for singer-songwriter and music

wanted a real professional video to put in our program this year,” Martin told The Pine Cone.

■ Going-away party for Kiki

Led by Wow, who is moving back East in the next couple weeks, Fields of Eden plays three decades of classic rock. Martin said she will miss Wow — and for more than just her music. She paid her the ultimate compliment. “Kiki’s a giver,” she said. “She gives back to community in so many ways.”

Heartstrings, whose members include hammered dulcimer player **Paulette Lynch** — who founded First Night Monterey and long led the Arts Council for Monterey County — plays a mix of acoustic music from many places.

“It’s a group of string players who play instrumental music that comes from all over the world, with lots of traditional Irish and Scottish tunes, and music from Appala-

See MUSIC page 39A

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

promoter **Kiki Wow**, who co-founded Fields of Eden.

“I’ve been trying to find a place where we could do a live concert before Kiki leaves,” explained executive director Ellen Martin of First Night Monterey, which is moving its annual end-of-the-year street party online in response to the pandemic. “I was really excited when Sunset Center agreed to approve the concert. We’re going to tape it and play it as part of our New Year’s Eve celebration — I

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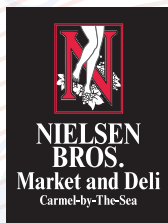
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Food & Wine
Galleries and Art

This Week

Live Music,
Clubs and Events

In new show at Venture Gallery, imitation is more than just flattery

UNLIKE MANY artists, **William Eatmon** isn't the least bit shy about how his creative path has been shaped by some of the greatest painters who ever lived. In

A retired aerospace engineer who lives in Pebble Beach and once owned a gallery in Carmel, Eatmon will be in the gallery Sunday to greet visitors when the show opens. The exhibit will be on display through the end of the month. The gallery is located at 260 Alvarado St., next to Portola Hotel and Spa. For more details, call (831) 372-6279.

In "Meditations on Water," watercolorist **Anne Downs** and printmaker **Kathryn Greenwald** explore the many qualities — reflective, life-giving, symbolic, and form-shifting — of one of life's most vital components.

enticing muse. "I'm intrigued by this invisible substance that makes it possible for us to see the clouds and mist it forms, the waves it produces, the land it carves out, and the

Downs said water makes a particularly

See ART page 37A

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

a show opening Sunday at Venture Gallery in Monterey, he takes it a step further by showing how the lines can blur between master and student.

"Tribute to Masters" includes 21 original pieces by Eatmon, each employing the style of the artist he pays tribute to. The artists include Rembrandt, Pablo Picasso, Gustav Klimt, Henri Matisse, Georgia O'Keefe and many others.

"I have a list of about 200 painters I like, and I picked 21 for this show," the artist told The Pine Cone.

In some cases, Eatmon highlights a small portion of a masterwork. In other cases, he simply lets his imagination run wild. The artist said the paintings, which measure 11 inches by 14 inches, offer a "representation" of a great artist's work "at an affordable price."

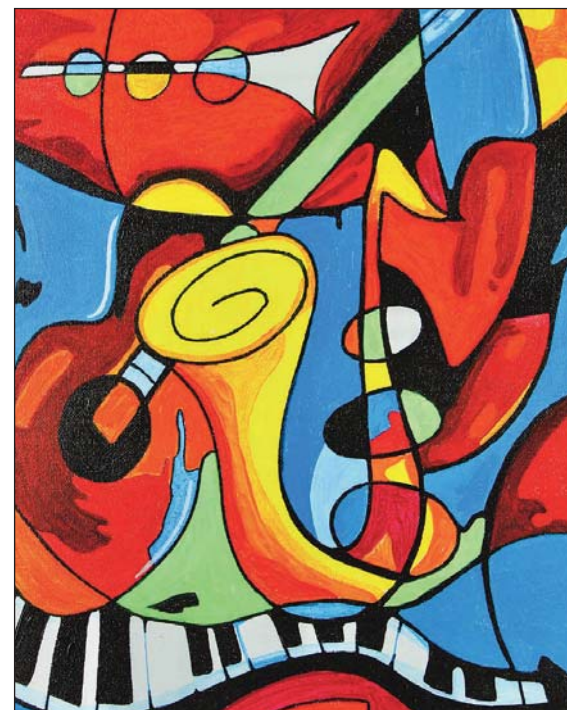
"The paintings are pretty accurate in terms of form and color," he explained. "I do change them a little bit, but they give you the essence of a painter."

Three years ago, Eatmon exhibited a series of paintings inspired by Klimt's work at the downtown Monterey gallery.

Color and water inspire

With everybody cooped up because of the coronavirus, those with an artistic flair have been busy in their studios creating their latest masterpieces. That's good news for the Carmel Art Association, which unveils three exhibits Thursday.

Painter **Melissa Lofton** looks for color in everyday life in her show, "Living Color." "This search leads her in some familiar and at times, surprising directions," the CAA's **Sally Aberg** previewed.



"Table for Two, Deetjen's, Big Sur" by painter Melissa Lofton (left) is included in one of three shows opening Thursday the Carmel Art Association. In one of his new pieces, painter William Eatmon explores Pablo Picasso's work (above). His latest show at Venture Gallery opens Sunday.

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FOOD & WINE

Halloween à la pandemic, a wine dinner, and planning for the holidays

BIG PARTIES, costume contests in bars and trick-or-treat events — many of the activities that make celebrating Halloween so fun — are off-limits this year, due to the scariest thing ever, a pandemic. Five months ago, people joked that they might dress up as coronavirus for Halloween, but now that it's late October and the virus is still making headlines, the idea is less amusing.

Nonetheless, there are still ways to have some fun.

At the Monterey Fairgrounds, the ongoing drive-in film festival features not-so-scary movies over the weekend, with plenty of snacks and beverages available, too. The lineup includes the animated "Addams Family" Oct. 30, and "Coco" and "Nightmare Before Christmas" Oct. 31., and booths at the back of the arena offer all sorts of savory and sweet snacks, from corn dogs and giant pretzels, to ice cream cones and funnel cake.

Among the adult beverages are margaritas, canned cocktails, beer and wine. See montereycountyfair.com for tickets and information.

Disney Halloween dinner

Paper Wing Theater doesn't want to let the best costume holiday of the year pass without an appropriately themed dinner, so it's presenting Disney Halloween Dinners on the patio alongside the Rec Trail at 3 and 6 p.m. on the big day.

Different characters will appear at each session — Belle and Beast, Snow White and Tinkerbell at the earlier one, and Jack Skellington and Sally at the later — to serve the dishes featured on the "delicious spooky menu." Kids will get goody bags

from them, too.

Dinner cost \$22 to \$28 per person, tickets must be purchased in advance, and guests are asked to wear their masks when they're not eating. Coming in costume is highly encouraged, of course.

Soup to Nuts

By MARY SCHLEY

Go to paperwing.com and click on "Tickets: Themed Dinners" at the top. The theater is located in Cannery Row, just where Prescott Avenue crosses the rec trail.

Museum tricks and treats

MY Museum is offering "Unbelievably Fun Craft & Treat Buckets" to be picked up from 9 a.m. to noon on Halloween, sweetening the holiday for the kiddos.

"We wish we could celebrate together, but since we can't, we want to set you up for an unbelievably fun Halloween," organizers said. Each \$30 bucket — reserved in advance through Eventbrite.com — includes two science experiments, three tricks, two treats and a craft kit.

All proceeds benefit the youth museum, which is located at 425 Washington St. in Monterey.

Halloween pop-up

Colleen Logan of Savor the Local will hold another pop-up produce market at the Crossroads shopping center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Halloween, and the shopper

Continues next page



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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

who shows up in the best costume will win a free box of fruits and veggies. Logan works with small organic farms, bakers, dairy producers and other purveyors, all within a 40-mile radius of Carmel, to bring their products to restaurants and the general public.

Along with freshly harvested fruits, vegetables and herbs, Logan often has dried herbs, honey, bread, granola, milk, yogurt, cheese, eggs and other high-quality items available. See savorthelocal.com to get an idea of what she carries.

Wine dinner Nov. 2

Grasing's hosts its next wine dinner, which this time will also help fund fire recovery efforts in the Santa Lucia Highlands, Nov. 2, featuring Clarice Wine Company.

Reservations for groups of up to four people are available between 5:30 and 8 p.m. Diners will have the chance to enjoy the four-course dinner and wine pairings at their own pace, with wine director Eric Ewers and a representative from Clarice stopping by each table to visit and share information about whatever wine is in their glasses.

The new format is far safer than the traditional wine

dinners that had large groups dining together, and it provides "the opportunity to ask all those questions you may have not wanted to ask in a bigger setting," he explained.

Dinner will begin with a welcome taste of 2017 Flaunt Brut sparkling wine from the Russian River Valley, followed by a first course of scallops and lemon risotto with fresh ricotta paired with 2018 pinot noir from the Santa Lucia Highlands.

Next, oven-roasted lamb loin with braised endive and chanterelle mushrooms will be paired with 2018 pinot noir from Rosella's Vineyard, followed by grilled filet with pasta and triple cream Mornay, served with 2018 pinot noir from Garys' Vineyard.

Finally, savory Point Reyes bleu cheese semifreddo will be served with a petite salad, grilled pecan bread, and 2019 Beau Marchais pinot noir from the Soberanes Vineyard.

Dinner costs \$125 per person, including tax and service, and includes 3-ounce pours of the featured wines, which can subsequently be ordered by the glass if desired.

Grasing's is located at Sixth and Mission. To reserve a spot, go to form.jotform.com/202966652975167.

McIntyre's parklet

McIntyre Vineyards in the Cross-

Continues next page



The pastry chef at the Inn at Spanish Bay has already started working on her next gingerbread display, which will be unveiled in early December. The rooftop deck and other outdoor areas at Grasing's will host guests during an upcoming wine dinner.



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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

roads shopping center is now hosting guests in its outdoor tasting area, by reservation only, Thursday through Sunday between noon and 5 p.m. Sign up through mcintyrevineyards.com, where information on each wine and other critical details can be found, as well.

Founder Steve McIntyre also gave a report on the state of the vines in his estate vineyard, given the smoke that poured over them from the River Fire and others in the state. "Like a lot of things that happened to any number of us in 2020, this harvest provided plenty of anxiety and uncertainty," he said. "Thanks to the several fires in our region and the associated smoke, we chose not to make any significant amount of pinot noir from our Santa Lucia Highlands McIntyre Estate Vineyard."

Instead, he purchased pinot noir grapes from a vineyard in the Santa Rita Hills area closer to Santa Barbara and said the fruit "shows good promise" for a delicious finished product. Chardonnay lovers will be happy to hear those grapes "fared much better under the circumstances and seem to be almost resistant to smoke absorption."

■ Fall sweet at Parker-Lusseau

Anne Parker and Yan Lusseau at Parker-Lusseau Pastries in Monterey have brought back their seasonal pumpkin-apple-cinnamon cake — an apple tarte Normande topped with pumpkin crème brûlée and cinnamon mousse. "Basically, it's a fusion of apple pie and pumpkin pie, making it the most refreshing pumpkin dessert you'll ever taste," they say.

Since 1995, the two pastry chefs have been creating and sharing some of the best croissants, tarts, cakes, breads and other beautiful baked goods in town. Right now, their Munras location is closed, but the bakery and small café at 539 Hartnell St. near the Monterey post office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information, go to parkerlusseau.com.

■ Mission Ranch T-Day

Looking forward and anticipating high demand without much supply, former Carmel Mayor Clint Eastwood's Mission Ranch on Dolores Street near the Car-

mel Mission is offering reservations for Thanksgiving, Nov. 26, between 1 and 7:30 p.m. The three-course prix fixe menu will only be available for outdoor dining, with groups limited to up to eight people, and costs \$63 per adult and \$20 per kid, not in-

cluding tax and tip.

The menu includes first-course choices of roasted Autumn squash soup or mixed greens with roasted pear and bacon vinaigrette.

See **FOOD** next page

Beautiful, fresh raspberries are just one of the things Colleen Logan offers through her Savor the Local produce distribution business, and she'll hold a pop-up market at the Crossroads on Halloween from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Best costume wins a box of fruits and vegetables.



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FOOD

From previous page

grette, entrée selections of roasted turkey, Salmon Wellington or roasted leg of lamb, and pumpkin pie, pear galette or pecan tart for dessert.

Reservations are required by calling (831) 625-9040.

In addition, Mission Ranch's banquet department will offer takeout turkey dinners for six to eight people on Nov. 26, with orders and payments taken over the phone at (831) 624-6436 starting this week.

The to-go dinner features roasted whole turkey, homemade dressing, mashed potatoes, yams, fall vegetables, gravy, cranberry sauce, rolls and pumpkin pie for \$240 plus tax.

■ Something to anticipate

Gingerbread houses and Christmastime might seem a long way off, but why not have something to look forward to? At the Inn at Spanish Bay, pastry chef Anastasia Simpson is already laying out plans for the expansive gingerbread display she'll set up in the lobby on Dec. 1.

This year's house will be built vertically, rather than sprawling across a table, with "an intricate, tiered-cake-style display." Every one of its five levels will include several small gingerbread houses, each designed and decorated to be distinctive. Simpson and her team will spend nearly a month constructing the gingerbread masterpiece to get it ready for its debut.

Simpson also offered some advice for those who'd like to try to create their own gingerbread houses (or other structures)

at home. After noting that "patience is key," she said, people can cut holes in the cardboard bases and insert lights to illuminate their houses from inside, thinly slice Snickers bars with a very sharp knife and lay the pieces like bricks for walls and chimneys, use different colored almonds for a "dynamic roof," and get Nerds rope candy in Christmas colors to give the impression of strings of holiday lights or to make into wreaths.

■ Lions BBQ a success

The September tri-tip barbecue fundraiser hosted by several local Lions Clubs raised \$10,295 for the Community Fund for Carmel Valley to help with fire relief, according to Pam Klaumann.

Clubs that helped include Mission Trail, Carmel Host, Seaside, Marina, Salinas, Monterey Old Capitol and Freedom, and Community Fund advisory board President Alan Crockett accepted the check

from the clubs on Sunday.

■ BBQ for a good cause

Monterey County-based Key for a Cure Foundation is joining with Chasing Dreams and Finding Cures to host a tri-tip barbecue takeout fundraiser in King City to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital, which helps fight and treat children's cancers. The primary focus of the Key for a Cure Foundation, which was founded in 2015, is to advocate and raise funds for research seeking to identify less toxic treatments and find cures for pediatric cancers.

The dinners of tri-tip, beans and salad will be available for \$65 for four people and \$35 for two, and will be prepared by caterer Cinni O'Conner. Orders must be placed by Oct. 30 and picked up curbside from 4 to 6 p.m. Nov. 7 at the Salinas Valley Fairgrounds, 625 Division St. in King City. To order, go to chasingbarreldreams_tritipdinner.eventbrite.com.



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CALENDAR

PGAC NEW EXHIBITS OPENING—FREE—November 6, Pacific Grove Art Center, noon-5pm. Portals: A Retrospective - Jennifer Colby; Artistry in Fibre - Linda Waddle, Carole Rossi, Lin Schiffner; Markers, Moments and Memories - Quoc Tran; Gathering - Barbara Furbush, Melissa Pickford, Noro Partido, Pamela Takigawa; Big Sur Charter School. 831-375-2208. pgartcenter.org. Donations appreciated.

Wednesday, November 18th - Aspire Health Plan Presents: POLST Form, a Virtual Community Connections Class. 10:00am - 11:00am. Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) forms are medical orders that communicate the kind of treatment you want during an unexpected emergency and your goals of treatment with care providers and medical professionals. This event is free and open to the public. We ask you to register so we can know how many people to expect. RSVP to (877) 663-7651, or www.aspirehealthplan.org/connections2020. Call or register to receive the participation details for this FREE online event.

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ART

From page 32A

amniotic fluid that gives us life," the painter said. "With this new series, I've given up some of my control and allowed my medium of watercolor to inform my painting.



In a show this weekend at Venture Gallery in Monterey, William Eatmon pays tribute to his favorite painters. In this piece, he explores the colors and shapes that distinguished Georgia O'Keefe's work.

This resulted in a dialog between me and the wet paper, with colors and forms emerging in ways I had not imagined."

The shows will be on display through Jan. 5. The gallery is located on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth. To arrange a private tour Thursday through Monday for no more than two people, call Aberg at (831) 250-3347. Masks must be worn. For more details, visit carmelart.org.

artists who work inside their homes or backyard studios, the Monterey County Studio Tour has been postponed to May 2021.

But that isn't stopping the artists from creating, and early this month, the studio tour unveiled a website at mcarttour.org to help them connect with customers.

So far, 27 of the studio tour's 96 artists have signed on, including Maria Poroy, Mark Farina, Kimm Barnes, Paola Berthoin, Sibyl Johnson and Edi Matsumoto. "It's a way for artists to display their work during Covid," said Shirmaine Jones of Arts Habitat, a Seaside-based nonprofit that puts on the studio tour each year.

Tour delayed, online gallery opens

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PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20201861
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **MONTEREY CAR CONDOS, 398 Shasta Street, #B, Sand City, CA 93955.**
Mailing address: P.O. Box 743, Seaside, CA 93955.
County of Principal Place of Business: Monterey County.
Name of Corporation of as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: A. STROUSE & SON GLASS INC., 398 Shasta Street, #B, Sand City, CA 93955.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 12, 2020.
S/Cecilia Canisso-Strouse, Secretary
Date: Oct. 12, 2020

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). [B&P Code 17913]. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 12, 2020.

NOTICE In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law. [See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code].
Publication dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2020. [PC1029]

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20201625
Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **PERFECT UNION, 840 Broadway Ave. B-4, Seaside, California 93955.**
County of Principal Place of Business: Monterey County.
Name of Corporation of as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: PHSL LLC., 1610 Arden Way, Suite 101, Sacramento, California 95815.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: California
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on September 1, 2020.
S/David M. Spradlin, CEO
Date: Sept. 9, 2020

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). [B&P Code 17913]. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 23, 2020.

NOTICE In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law. [See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code].
Publication dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2020. [PC1031]

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20201941
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **VINO GAVE, 905 Kimball Ave., Seaside, CA 93955.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Registered Owner(s): JOSIAS JARED HERNANDEZ, 905 Kimball Ave., Seaside, CA 93955.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Josias Hernandez
Oct. 23, 2020

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 23, 2020.

NOTICE In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law. [See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code].
Publication dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2020. [PC1031]

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Oct. 23, 2020

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This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 23, 2020.

NOTICE In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law. [See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code].
Publication dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2020. [PC1031]

LEGALS DEADLINE: Tuesday 4:30 pm

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will conduct a public hearing in the City Hall Council Chambers, located on the east side of Monte Verde between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible. Immediately prior to the public hearing, the Commission will visit some or all of the project sites as part of a Tour of Inspection. Interested members of the public are invited to attend.

Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 has allowed local legislative bodies to hold public meetings via teleconference and to make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the local legislative body. Also, see the Order by the Monterey County Public Health Officer issued March 17, 2020. The health and well-being of our residents is the top priority for the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea. To that end, this meeting will be held via teleconference and web-streamed on the City's website ONLY.

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

The staff report and relevant documents will be available at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting on the City's website at <http://www.ci.carmel.ca.us>. The Planning Commission meeting will be televised live on the City's website and archived there after the meeting. For more information regarding Planning Commission meetings, please contact the Community Planning & Building Department at (831) 620-2010.

UP 20-260 (Gypsy Moon Café)
John Gehrmann, General Manager
Mission Street, 2 SW of 5th Avenue
Block: 57; Lot: 2
APN: 010-132-002
Consideration of a Use Permit (UP 20-260, Gypsy Moon Café) for the establishment of a new full-line restaurant in an existing building located on Mission Street, 2 SW of 5th Avenue in the Service Commercial (SC) Zoning District.

DR 20-128 (Carmel Mission)
Brett Brenkowitz, Architect
3080 Rio Road
Block: US; Lot: 38
APN: 009-531-003
Consideration of a Design Review (DR 20-128, Carmel Mission) for modifications to the Carmel Mission Basilica Forecourt and Sir Harry Downie Museum located at 3080 Rio Road in the Single Family (R-1) Zoning District.

DR 20-266 (Seventh & Dolores)
Gregory Ahn, CEO
SEC 7th & Dolores
Block: 91; Lots: 6 & 8
APN: 010-145-020
Consideration of a Design Review (DR 20-266, Seventh & Dolores) for a temporary structure and propane storage in the parking lot of the Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse located on the NEC of 7th Avenue and Dolores Street in the Service Commercial (SC) Zoning District.

UP 20-314 (Dametra Café)
Lizette Fiallo, Property Owner
SEC Ocean & Lincoln
Block: 75; Lot: 8
APN: 010-147-013
Consideration of a Use Permit amendment (UP 20-314, Dametra Café) to extend the hours of operation to 11 pm for a full-line restaurant located on the southeast corner of Ocean Ave and Lincoln Street in the Central Commercial (CC) Zoning District.

DS 19-128 (Mei)
Connie Mei, Property Owner
Santa Rita 2 SW of 5th Ave
Block: 61; Lot: 5
APN: 010-038-002
Consideration of a site plan modifications to Design Study (DS 19-128, Mei) resulting from the removal of significant trees on a vacant lot located on Santa Rita 2 southwest of 5th Avenue in the Single Family (R-1) Zoning District.

DS 20-319 (Leatherberry)
Craig Holdren, Architect
26162 Ladera Drive
Block: MA; Lots: 2 & 4
APN: 009-331-019
Consideration of a Design Study (DS 20-319, Leatherberry) for the construction of a new 5'-6" tall, western red cedar driveway gate, and 3'-5"x6" stucco columns at the front of the property located in the shared driveway easement on a flagpole lot located at 26162 Ladera Drive in the Single Family Residential, 20,000 sq minimum lot size (R-1-C-20) Park Overlay (P), and Archeological Significance Overlay (AS) Zoning Districts.

DS 20-259 (Jackson)
Janet Heredia/Scudder Roofing, Contractor
Dolores, 3 NE of 11th
Block: 116; Lot: 6
APN: 010-155-012
Consideration of a Track 1 Referral for the installation of a new copper roof on an existing residence located on Dolores Street, 3 NE of 11th Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) Zoning District.

DS 20-125 (Russey-Hazdovac)
Adam Jeselnick, Architect
SWC 5th and Lincoln
Block: 54; Lot: 1
APN: 010-212-022
Consideration of a Concept Design Study (DS 20-125, Russey-Hazdovac) and associated Coastal Development Permit for the construction of a new 2-story residence on a vacant lot located at the southwest corner of 5th and Lincoln in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) Zoning District.

UP 20-278 (The Nut Hut)
Blaine Helton, Business Owner
W/S Mission bwn Ocean & 7th
Block: 77; Lot: 21
APN: 010-141-003
Consideration of a Use Permit (UP 20-278, The Nut Hut) for the establishment of a new Specialty Food Store located on the west side of Mission between Ocean and 7th in the Central Commercial (CC) Zoning District.

City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Marnie R. Waffle, AICP, Acting Community Planning & Building Director
Publication dates: Oct. 30, 2020. (PC1032)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20201914
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **MackVision Photography, 353 Elwood St., Salinas, CA 93906,** County of Monterey
Registered Owner(s): MackVision Photography LLC, 353 El-

wood St., Salinas, CA 93906; CA This business is conducted by a limited liability company. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 02/12/2011.

S/ Scott Serrano, Managing Member
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 10/21/2020.
10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20/20
CNS-3407355#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2020. (PC1033)

CARMEL HIGHLANDS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AMENDING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-21

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 12:30 p.m. the Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District, Board of Directors will meet at the District's fire station located at 73 Fern Canyon Road, Carmel to consider adoption of an amended final budget for fiscal year 2020-21 that ends on June 30, 2021.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the final budget was adopted September 16, 2020 and is available for inspection at the District's fire station located at 73 Fern Canyon Road, Carmel between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any District resident may appear and be heard regarding the increase, decrease, or omission of any item on the budget or for the inclusion of any additional items.

DATED: October 28, 2020
Theresa Volland
Secretary of the Board

Publication date: Oct. 30, 2020 (PC1034)

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Service Directory continues on next page

MUSIC

From page 31A

chia, and old time American music,” said another member, bassist **Rick Chelew**. “We also do some Middle Eastern songs and some contemporary folk tunes.”

Fronted by cellist **Rebecca Roudman**, **Dirty Cel-**

lo serves up an original mix “soulful blues, originals, swingin’ gypsy jazz, wild Euro-gypsy dance music and good old rock ‘n’ roll.”

■ Dress up yourself and your car

Besides music, there is a costume contest for people, and another for their rides. “Dress up yourself and your car,” Martin suggests.

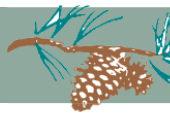
Shows start at 3 and 7 p.m. The cost is \$75 per car. The show is limited to 40 vehicles. Masks must be worn outside vehicles.

The lot opens an hour before each show, and each car gets two parking spaces, which makes it possible to watch with beach chairs and blankets outside your vehicle. Occupancy is limited to four people per car.

For tickets or more information, visit firstnightmonte-rey.org.



Cellist Saul Richmond-Rakerd (left) played a recital last Friday from a second floor balcony downtown. The next performance in the Monterey Symphony’s Balcony Sessions is set for Nov. 26. Heartstrings (center) and Dirty Cello (right) share the stage Saturday at Sunset Center, which hosts a drive-in Halloween-themed concert.



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Continues from previous page

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Police Log: Pacific Grove, March 1

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SECTION RE ■ October 30-November 5, 2020

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate



■ This week's cover property, located in Carmel Valley, is presented by Lisa Guthrie of La Tierra Home & Ranch (See Page 2RE)



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About the Cover

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate

October 30-November 5, 2020



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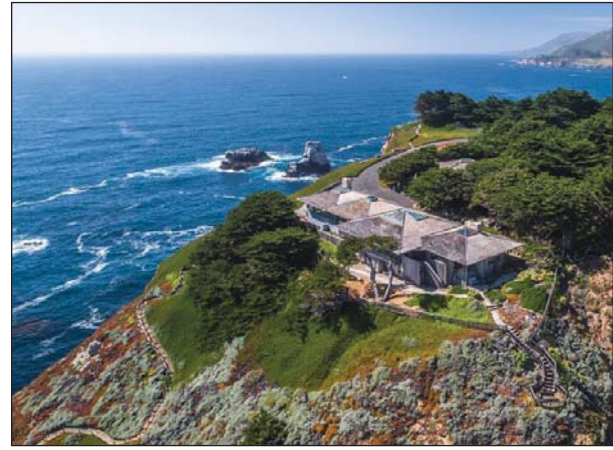


Real Estate Sales October 19 - 24

Escrows closed: 67
Total value: \$113,553,500

Big Sur

39140 Highway 1 — \$13,400,000
Bixby Ocean House LLC to Bixby Rock LLC
APN: 418-121-048



39140 Highway 1, Big Sur — \$13,400,000

Carmel

2935 Alta Avenue — \$880,000
Carol Verity to Katrina Arimstead
APN: 009-102-018

578 Viejo Road — \$1,375,000
Debra Duonaguidi and Matthews Trust to Leslie Flores
APN: 103-031-003

San Carlos, NW corner of 10th — \$1,900,000
Maureen and Norman Chodosh to Paul Robichaud
APN: 010-156-017

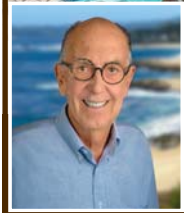
26339 Camino Real — \$2,750,000
Sound Equity High Income Debt Fund LLC to Lewis and

Regina Greenblatt
APN: 009-502-007

Lincoln Street, 6 SE of 13th — \$3,300,000
John Freitas to Craig and Diana McCallister
APN: 010-172-023

See HOMES page 4RE

Trail's Edge ■ Fabulous Horse Property in Carmel Valley
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Press releases about newsworthy events should go to the following Pine Cone reporters:

Mary Schley: Carmel-by-the-Sea, food & wine, police, fire, criminal courts and schools
mary@carmelpinecone.com

Chris Counts: Carmel Valley, Big Sur, Arts & Entertainment and scholastic sports
chris@carmelpinecone.com

Kelly Nix: Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Monterey, Seaside, state government, civil courts and water
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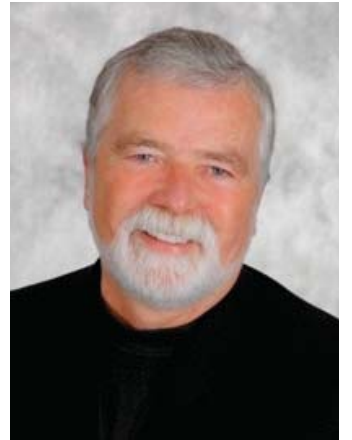
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2 beds, 2.5 baths ■ \$2,950,000 ■ www.550Agujito.com



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3 beds, 2+ baths ■ \$2,150,000 ■ www.7026ValleyKnoll.com



2 beds, 2 baths ■ \$1,999,000 ■ www.CreeksideInBigSur.com



HOMES

From page 2RE

Carmel (con't.)

2325 Stewart Way — \$4,200,000

Julia, Linton and Polly Bartlett, Amanda Mook and Polly Harvey to Fireball Holdings LLC
APN: 009-432-024

26255 Ocean View Avenue — \$4,650,000

James and Joni Reinhart to Jaaj LLC
APN: 009-431-013

26249 Ocean View Avenue — \$5,100,000

LSCS LLC to James Heerwagen and Hilary Schneider
APN: 009-431-014

Carmel Highlands

30590 Aurora del Mar — \$6,850,000

Carmel Holdings LLC to Sea La Vie Carmel LLC
APN: 243-331-004

Carmel Valley

Hacienda Carmel — \$529,000

Raymond Velati to Hacienda 65 LLC
APN: 015-331-001

22 Potrero Trail — \$700,000

Don Wilcoxon and Karen O'Callaghan to Gregory and Diane Evans
APN: 239-111-007

Carmel Valley Road — \$1,200,000

Robert Sherar to Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District
APN: 416-511-012

4145 Segunda Drive — \$1,600,000

Robert and Veronia Valenti to Timothy Rosenberg
APN: 015-052-023

308 W. Carmel Valley Road — \$1,695,000



26249 Ocean View Avenue, Carmel — \$5,100,000

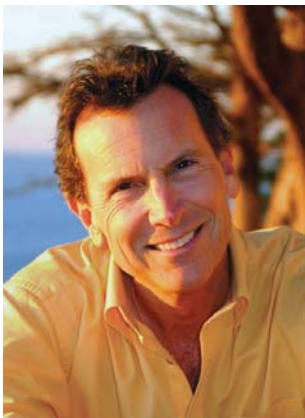
Tracy and Robert Winkleblack to Joshua and Adriana Withers
APN: 189-151-002

See ESCROWS page 8RE

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4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$1,765,000 ■ www.27LaRancheria.com

Recalling that frightening Halloween when my baby was having a baby

IT'S DIFFICULT to get into the spirit of Halloween this year. For most of 2020, we've been wearing masks to protect us from the virus, and we've been scarfing down sweets to escape the stuck-at-home blues.

Which reminds me that there were no bags of bite size candy bars available back in the days when I was ringing doorbells. People gave you an apple or a nickel, sometimes even a dime. My mother would take candy corn and M&Ms, carefully wrap them in cellophane, then tie each bundle with a ribbon. Our house was a favorite stop in the neighborhood.

As kids, we didn't have Halloween costumes. We would hold cork over one of the burners on the gas stove, then blacken our faces with the charred cork. In essence, we dressed as hobos looking for handouts. And do you remember when toilet paper was so plentiful that pranksters would TP the tree in front a house on Halloween?

I've never done it, so I have no idea how many rolls it takes. But there were moments early in 2020 when people would have literally climbed trees to pick up a pass of twoply.

Adult libations

When I lived in the East Bay, my neighbors decorated the outside of their homes for Halloween as elaborately as they did at Christmas. One family with a corner house

turned their front yard into a virtual cemetery with fake tombstones and spectral types emanating from graves. I think they owned a Casket and Robbins franchise.

I was in charge of distribution of freebies when my

Scenic Views

By JERRY GERVASE

own kids roamed the neighborhood looking for handouts. I gave out a generous supply of provisions guaranteed to provide one of neighbors, who was a dentist, with a steady flow of patients. I also served special nippy-weather libations to the accompanying parents.

I am ambivalent towards Halloween. There are elements about it that I like, but others that I dislike. It is a great time for kids to dress up as their favorite characters from literature, movies or television.

And because they receive goodies for simply showing up, it's also their first lesson in the operation of socialism. To bring the lesson to life, maybe the homeowners dispensing Halloween candy should dress up like Bernie Sanders. Now that's scary.

Speaking of scary, that's the element of Halloween that I have trouble with. Boo! There, I've scared the pants off you, you little demon, fiend, imp, devil. Many Halloween costumes portray those darker components of our nature. The Good Book advises that we wrestle "not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Call me extreme, but I don't think we should celebrate anything that taps into that dark side.

Making a bold entrance

Halloween has an entirely different meaning for me, one that goes back 13 years to when my baby was having a baby. I don't know if fathers are more protective of their daughters than they are of their sons. Perhaps there is some primal instinct telling men that their "hearth-keeper" children need more protection than their "spear-chucking" children.

In October 2007, my getaway bag had been packed and ready to go since the previous February when my youngest daughter, Jenny, who lives in Los Angeles, informed me she was pregnant.

I knew I would have to go there for the delivery. She

See GERVASE page 14RE

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www.MontereyPeninsulaLifestyleHomes.com

3424 7th Ave, Carmel-By-The-Sea | \$4,295,000
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Rare Casanova Opportunity Lot 2 | \$4,695,000
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335 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley | \$2,695,000
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ESCROWS

From page 4RE

Highway 68

Monterey Salinas Highway — \$288,000

Parks Foundation of Monterey County to Pasadera Golf & Country Club LLC
APN: 173-061-003

2969 Highway 68 unit B18 — \$289,500

Monterey Motorsport Park LLC to Jonathan Meeske
APN: 259-022-029

2969 Highway 68 unit C5 — \$337,000

Monterey Motorsport Park LLC to Christopher Luffman
APN: 259-022-038

2969 Highway 68 unit C3 — \$664,000

Monterey Motorsport Park LLC to A. Strouse & Son LLC
APN: 259-022-036

26485 Tierra Vista Lane — \$1,100,000

Malia and Robert Winningham to Benjamin and Tarin Christensen
APN: 416-445-014

25540 Meadowview Circle — \$1,275,000

Grant and Carrie Miles to Thomas Mustoe and Elizabeth Monroe
APN: 161-554-027

410 Paseo Hermoso — \$1,300,000

Gregory and Shirley Gorman to Brian and Christine Mulholland
APN: 161-091-011

155 San Benancio Road — \$1,300,000

James and Diana Adams to Armando and Blanca Olivarez
APN: 416-251-029

26535 Covey Lane — \$1,360,000

Lawrence and Lindsay Henrard to James and Wendy Ledner
APN: 416-447-002

411 Mirador Court — \$1,650,000

Paul Bruno to Oleksii and Hanna Klymenko
APN: 173-073-020

284 Corral de Tierra Road — \$1,750,000

John and Pamela Wilkinson to Jennifer and Gregory Wolf
APN: 416-351-004

409 Mirador Court — \$1,900,000

Albert Spector and Tatjana Soli to Stanley and Patrisa Stahl
APN: 173-073-021

Marina

3095 Marina Drive unit 24 — \$382,000

Julia Martin to Nolan Millaire
APN: 033-152-024

3013 Independence Street — \$545,000

Ann Ezzo to Lynn Lewis
APN: 032-383-039

See CLOSINGS page 10RE

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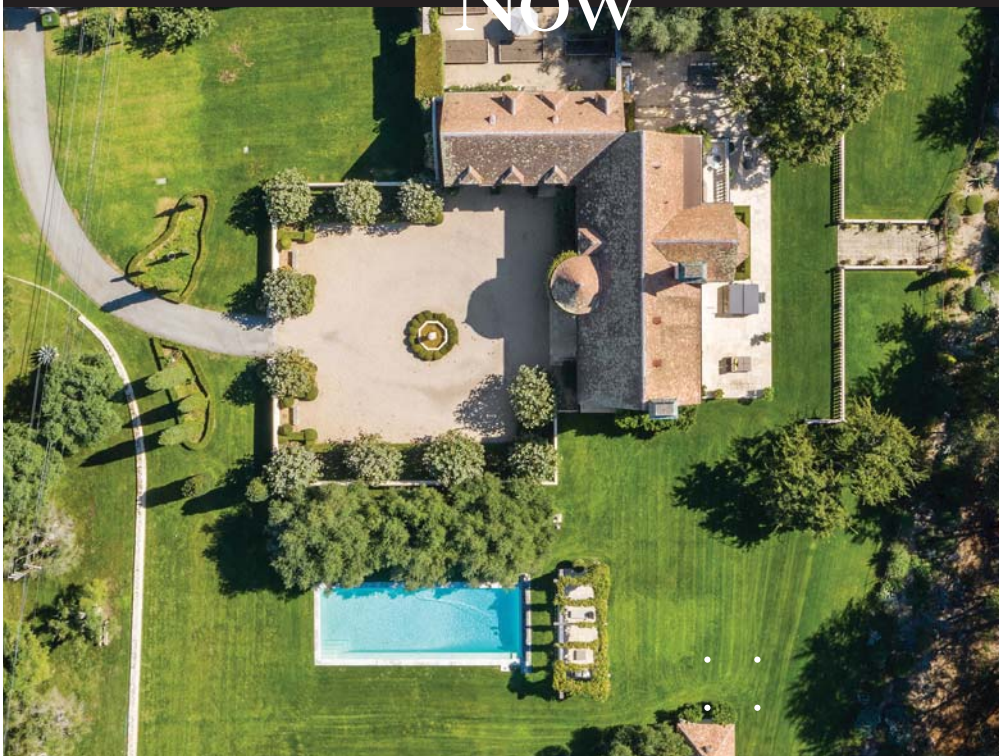
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Carmel Valley



Pebble Beach

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1164 Arroyo Drive
3 Bed 4.5 Bath 3,264 Sq Ft
\$3,775,000 | 1164arroyo.com



Carmel Valley

175 Chaparral Road
5 Bed 2.5 Bath 3,475 Sq Ft
\$1,695,000 | 175Chaparral.com



Aptos

7311 Viewpoint Road
3 Bed 3.5 Bath 3,100 Sq Ft
\$3,875,000 | 7311Viewpoint.com



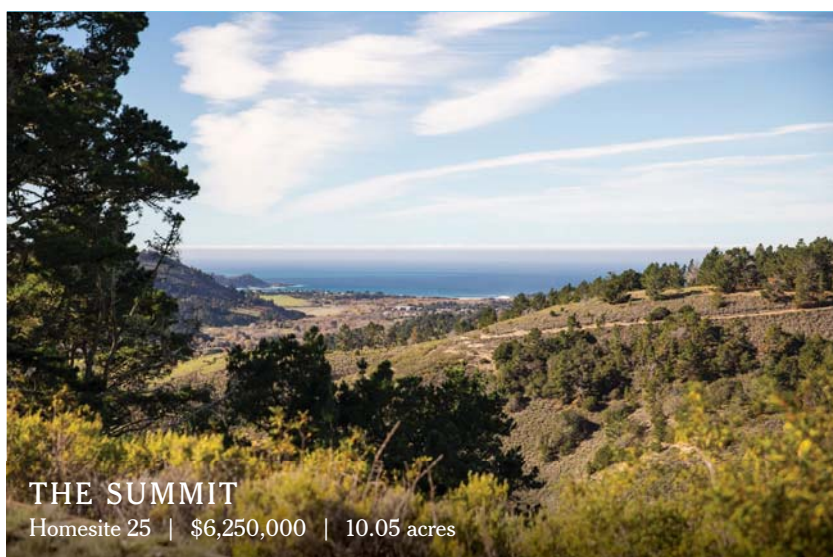
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CLOSINGS

From page 8RE

Marina (con't.)

268 Cosky Drive — \$650,000
Andrew Konkle to Phil Hastey
APN: 032-011-015

Denali Drive — \$847,000
WC Marina LLC to Paul Kilkenny
APN: 031-276-050

Bluffs Drive — \$883,000
WC Marina LLC to David Dumas
APN: 031-276-028

14705 Kit Carson Drive — \$895,000

Tonni Wechter to Enrique Villareal
APN: 031-166-019

Denali Drive — \$917,000
WC Marina LLC to Thuy Le
APN: 031-276-045

3343 Paul Davis Drive — \$1,580,000
Fran Atkins to Peter Scudder
APN: 033-281-025

Monterey

3015 Golden Oaks Lane — \$340,000
Ashley Ost to Geoffrey Hunziker
APN: 001-944-005

820 Casanova Avenue unit 88 — \$350,000
Frank Verga to Giuseppina to Bileti
APN: 013-254-031

205 Edinburgh Avenue — \$350,000
Anthony Campo to Dwight Beach
APN: 013-241-033

3309 Golden Oaks Lane — \$430,000
David Fetterman to Pamela Gaul
APN: 001-944-031

Devisadero Street — \$725,000
Sharon Lea to Anne Muraski
APN: 001-214-015

1 Surf Way unit 136 — \$825,000
Lucia Munoz to Harpal Singh
APN: 011-442-047

639 Pine Street — \$945,000
Dean Wixom to NWBR
APN: 001-116-027

824 Archer Street — \$950,000
Barbara Manabe to Jose Fuentes Construction
APN: 001-088-015

92 El Camino — \$1,010,000
Mike and Janice Bates to Michael and Jennifer Veitengruber
APN: 001-471-005

See SALES page 12RE

**Recently Reduced-
Charming Carmel Cottage.**



Disclaimer: This image has been virtually staged.



Disclaimer: This image has been virtually staged.

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SALES

From page 10RE

Monterey (con't.)

741 Toyon Drive — \$1,030,000

Estate of Fukue Collins to James Melling and Lauren Ball
APN: 014-015-006

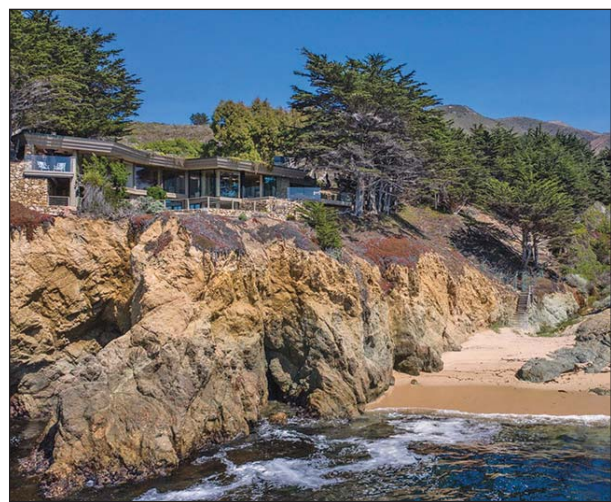
828 Laine Street — \$1,900,000

Patricia Cooney to David Mai
APN: 001-077-014

Pacific Grove

1031 Benito Avenue — \$275,000

Barbara Tisdale to Lewis Lightman
APN: 007-593-007



30590 Aurora del Mar, Carmel Highlands — \$6,850,000

405 Cedar Street — \$870,000

Christopher Rima and Cavali Trust to Paul and Jean Gualtieri
APN: 006-452-008

506 Cedar Street — \$895,000

Milas and Zee Smith to Peter and Richelle Marks
APN: 006-458-003

27 Country Club Gate — \$909,000

Jonathan Domagala to David and Catherine Pandori
APN: 007-671-013

227 18th Street — \$980,000

Stephen and Debra Cameron to Oswaldo and Marcy Deperio
APN: 006-293-017

603 Junipero Avenue — \$981,000

Rebecca Barrymore to Allen and Cynthia Purdy
APN: 006-542-002

203 Cedar Street — \$1,475,000

Charles and Erlinda Hiscock to Joshua and Mia Chaidez
APN: 006-312-001

626 Hillcrest Avenue — \$1,600,000

Brian and Rochelle Heywood to Edward and Marie Hunter
APN: 006-652-013

See TRANSACTIONS page 14RE

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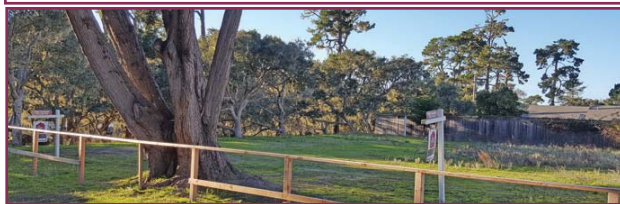
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| 3025 Andecite Drive, Marina | \$1,098,000 | 782 Cypress St, Monterey | \$1,000,000 |
| 923 Alameda, Monterey | \$985,000 | 3006 Ransford Cir, PG | \$965,000 |
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| 729 Hillcrest Ave, PG | \$840,000 | 412 Park St, Pacific Grove | \$822,645 |
| 25435 Telarana Way Carmel | \$795,000 | 511 17th St, Pacific Grove | \$716,000 |
| 700 Timber Tr Pacific Grove | \$660,000 | 1064 Paloma Rd, DRO | \$649,000 |
| 312 1st St, Pacific Grove | \$625,000 | 1034 Lorenzo Ct, Seaside | \$619,000 |
| 718 Palm Ave, Seaside | \$610,000 | 1688 San Lucas Ct, Seaside | \$520,000 |
| 1281 Hilby Ave, Seaside | \$515,000 | | |



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831.920.7103 MOBILE

alan@latierrarealty.com

DRE#02029344

LISA GUTHRIE

MANAGING BROKER, MBA

831.238.5725 MOBILE

lisa@latierrarealty.com

DRE#01250803



TRANSACTIONS

From page 12RE

Pacific Grove (con't.)

542 Lighthouse Avenue unit 504 — \$3,300,000
 Monterey Capital Pacific Grove Founder LLC to Sara Green
 APN: 006-179-043

Pebble Beach

2973 Sloat Road — \$1,210,000
 Susan Azevedo and Wildenradt Trust to Karl Skiden and Jenny Olsson
 APN: 007-222-014

2931 Sloat Road — \$1,235,000
 George and Melinda Barker to Jeff and Sara Tamayo
 APN: 007-221-001

2869 Lasauen Road — \$1,535,000
 Gregory Benallack, Shannon Purcell and Nua Trust to James and Sandee Russell
 APN: 007-182-003

3085 Valdez Road — \$1,820,000
 James and Wendy Revell to David and Dara Schmidt
 APN: 007-292-013

1098 Spyglass Woods Drive — \$1,830,000
 Janet and Steven Heger, Suzy Stevens and Sailer Trust to Carl, Dawn and Nicole Bennett
 APN: 008-562-018

3137 Bird Rock Road — \$2,875,000
 Brid Rock Enterprises to Charles and Karen Matthews
 APN: 007-401-008

2972 Cormorant Road — \$3,010,000
 Gary DeFilippo to Stephen and Linda McDannold
 APN: 007-261-004

955 Coral Drive — \$3,850,000
 Louis and Jane Amendola to Brian and Alison Tobey
 APN: 007-254-004

Seaside

1073 Waring Street — \$599,000
 Ryon Joshi Investments LLC to Patricia Martinez
 APN: 012-431-028

1323 Darwin Street — \$631,000
 Raymondo Saro to David Christopher
 APN: 012-291-025

8 Seminole Court — \$777,000
 U4RIC Investments LLC to Melissa Sadowsky
 APN: 012-108-017

4 Geary Plaza — \$4,000,000
 AUG LLC to Costco Wholesale Corporation
 APN: 011-523-018



10 ESPLANADE ST

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\$2,250,000

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Tim Allen
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GERVASE

From page 6RE

was having the first grandchild in our family in 10 years — the first grandchild born since my wife died four years earlier.

When Jenny announced her pregnancy, the whole family was excited. The ultrasound image that confirmed she was carrying a girl was further cause for celebration. Jenny is my baby and I knew I had to be there for her, for me, and for her mom.

So, off I went to L.A. arriving the evening before the scheduled delivery. We had dinner together, reminiscing about old times, with neither of us quite able to believe she was going to be a mother.

Since grandfathers are about as useful at the birth of a baby as a fork in a soup-eating contest, I was relegated to the maternity waiting room.

It was the first time in 30 years I had been to one, and I was as nervous as I had been the previous time.

Helena Renee Braga entered our world at 1:11 p.m., Oct. 31, 2007; almost four years to the day that her grandmother departed it. Closure? Perhaps, because once again, the family circle was unbroken.

Jenny was beaming. Helena was remarkably serene and took the whole event in stride.

I cried like a baby.
 Contact Jerry at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.

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POLICE LOG

From page 4A

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

Carmel Valley: Mail theft on Carmel Valley Road.

Carmel area: Visitor reported his vehicle on Highway 1 was vandalized while he was visiting Point Lobos.

Carmel Valley: Male on Old Ranch Road reported battery by a female.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A missing person was located at Ocean and Scenic at 0214 hours. A welfare check on the missing person was conducted, and he was determined to be

OK.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Dog was taken out of an unattended hot car on Seventh Avenue for safekeeping.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Full utility trailer was observed parked in the city easement on Lobos north of Second for an extended period of time. Not registered locally, checked status with nearby homeowner. Not abandoned/dumped; on loan to them for cleaning and hauling. Currently full because of recent medical issues — actively being used. No violations; forwarded to code enforcement for information.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of battery with minor injuries. A 64-year-old male was arrested on Mission south of Ocean.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost cell phone that contained wallet-type items.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Wallet left at the market at San Carlos and Seventh. Owner's

mother was contacted.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fall on city property on Fifth east of Dolores.

Pacific Grove: Driver collided with street signs and went down an embankment on Congress. Minor injuries.

Pacific Grove: Juvenile reported missing was located on Piedmont.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of female yelling and screaming on the beach at 0503 hours. It was determined the female was fending off a racoon from attacking her dog. No injuries were reported to the dog.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Bicycle vs. fence collision at San Antonio and Ocean. Bicyclist refused medical attention.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of assault with a deadly weapon, not a firearm, on Del Monte Boulevard. Adult female reported she had stabbed her ex-boyfriend in self-defense the night before.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Theft reported from an unlocked vehicle at Ocean and Del Mar.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A citizen turned in currency found on Sixth east of Mission.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle towed from San Carlos and Seventh for expired registration.

Pacific Grove: Attempted fraud reported on Olmstead.

Pacific Grove: A wallet was found on Sinex Avenue and given to an officer at Safeway on Forest Avenue. Owner could not be

contacted. Update: Owner responded to voicemail and picked up the property.

Pacific Grove: A bicycle was recovered on Lighthouse and held for safekeeping.

Pebble Beach: Male on Pine Meadows Way was transported to CHOMP on a 72-hour hold.

Big Sur: Driver contacted on Highway 1 in Gorda and placed on a 72-hour hold.

Carmel area: Fraud reported on Lower Trail.

Carmel Valley: Ford Road resident reported a burglary, and the suspect, a 56-year-old male, was later contacted and arrested.

Carmel Valley: A female on Robinson Canyon Road was placed on a 5150 W&I hold [danger to self or others].

Carmel Valley: Subject reported hearing someone on their property on Panetta Road.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Subject reported losing a debit card in the commercial area.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 41-year-old male car washer from Salinas was arrested at Ocean and Hatton at 2130 hours for violating DUI probation. He was transported to county jail on charges of false vehicle registration, driving without a license, violation of probation, DUI while on probation and lack of insurance.

Pacific Grove: Sexual assault on a minor reported on Piedmont.

Pacific Grove: Non-injury accident on Laurel.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20201723
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
1. ABOVE THE WAVE LIFE COACHING
2. ABOVE THE WAVE
19180 Locarno Way, Salinas, CA 93906.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Registered Owner(s):
REGINA ELIZABETH WILLIAMS, 19180 Locarno Way, Salinas, CA 93906.
This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Regina Elizabeth Williams
Sept. 29, 2020

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). **I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).**

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 29, 2020.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Publication dates: Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2020. (PC1005)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20201670
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:

1. CARMEL COMPUTERS
2. CARMEL VALLEY COMPUTERS
17561 Cachagua Rd., Carmel Valley, CA 93924.

Mailing address: 137 E Carmel Valley Rd., Unit 3, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.

Registered Owner(s):
MICHAEL JOHN WECKER, 17561 Cachagua Rd., Carmel Valley, CA 93924.

This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on April 1, 1999.
S/Michael John Wecker
Sept. 18, 2020

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). **I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).**

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 18, 2020.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Publication dates: Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2020. (PC1008)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20201691
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:

Solar Growth Labs, 217 Dunecrest Ave., Apt. 7, Monterey, CA 93940,
County of Monterey

Registered Owner(s):
LEADBOTZ, LLC, 217 Dunecrest Ave., Apt. 7, Monterey, CA 93940

This business is conducted by a limited liability company

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A
S/John Paul Montgomery, Managing Member

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 09/26/2020

10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30/20

CNS-3399741#

CARMEL PINE CONE

Publication dates: Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2020. (PC1009)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20201746
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:

Alpha Max Protection, 14620 Tumble Weed Lane, Royal Oaks CA 95076,

County of Monterey
Registered Owner(s):
Alpha Max Protection Inc., 14620 Tumble Weed Lane, Royal Oaks, CA 95076

This business is conducted by a Corporation

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A

S/Anthony Cotti, President

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 09/30/2020

10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6/20

CNS-340180#

CARMEL PINE CONE

Publication dates: Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 2020. (PC1011)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20201753
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **COMPASS COUNSELING, Lincoln 2 NW of 7th St., Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921.**

Mailing address: P.O. Box 2426, Suite 100 Carmel, CA 93921.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.

Registered Owner(s):
AMY SAUM SOMERS, 38060 Palo Colorado Rd., Carmel, CA 93923.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

S/Amy Saum Somers
Sept. 30, 2020

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). **I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).**

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 30, 2020.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Publication dates: Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 2020. (PC1013)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20201726
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:

Not For The Masses, 1979 Luxton St., Seaside, CA 93955, County of Monterey

Registered Owner(s):
Jonathan P. Benavente, 4402 West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90019

This business is conducted by an individual

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on Not Applicable

S/ Jonathan P. Benavente

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on September 29, 2020

10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6/20

CNS-3401638#

CARMEL PINE CONE

Publication dates: Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 2020. (PC1014)

APN: 417-112-005-000 TS No: CA08000287-20-1 TO No: 200222929-CA-VOI **NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE** (The above statement is made pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(1). The Summary will be provided to Trustor(s) and/or vested owner(s) only, pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(2).) **YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED MAY 9, 2007. 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 PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.** On December 10, 2020 at 10:00 AM, outside the main entrance of the Monterey County Administration building located at 168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901, MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sole contained in that certain Deed of Trust recorded on May 21, 2007 as Instrument No. 2007040574, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Monterey County, California, executed by SALLY ANN GUIMBARDA AS TRUSTEE OF THE CHARLES AND SALLY GUIMBARDA LIVING TRUST, DATED MARCH 8, 2007, as Trustor(s), in favor of FINANCIAL FREEDOM SENIOR FUNDING CORPORATION, A SUBSIDIARY OF INDYMAC BANK, F.S.B. as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 32 ASOLEADO PLACE, CARMEL VALLEY, CA 93924 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 made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$2,099,357.13 (Estimated). However, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a 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 California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. 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. 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 In Source Logic at 702-659-7766 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Web site address listed below for information regarding the sale of this property, using the number assigned to this case, CA08000287-20-1. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close 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. Date: 10/09/2020 MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps TS No: CA08000287-20-1 17100 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 Phone: 949-252-8300 TDD: 866-660-4288 Malaysia Ramirez, Authorized Signatory, SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT www.insourcelogic.com FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: In Source Logic AT 702-659-7766 Trustee Corps may be acting as a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained may be used for that purpose. Order Number 72891, Pub Dates: 10/16/2020, 10/23/2020, 10/30/2020, CARMEL PINE CONE

Publication dates: Oct. 16, 23, 30, 2020. (PC1012)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20201767
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:

Team Mora, 288 Pearl 2nd Floor, Monterey, CA 93940, County of Monterey

Registered Owner(s):
American Pacific Mortgage Corporation, 3000 Lava Ridge Ct., #200, Roseville, CA 95661; CA

This business is conducted by a Corporation.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.

S/William Lowman, CEO

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 10/02/2020

10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6/20

CNS-3406800#

CARMEL PINE CONE

Publication dates: Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 2020. (PC1015)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20201761
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:

TAYLORED TECHNOLOGY, 14401 Roland Canyon Rd., Salinas, CA 93908, County of Monterey

Registered Owner(s):
TAYLOR MARCUS BROACH, 14401 Roland Canyon Rd., Salinas, CA 93908.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on April 1, 2020.

S/Taylor Broach
Oct. 2, 2020

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). **I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).**

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 14, 2020.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Publication dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2020. (PC1018)

ated total unpaid balance at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is \$43,390.28. THE PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO THE 90-DAY POST-SALE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION AS SET FORTH IN CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE SECTION 5715(B). Association heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default. The undersigned caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recording. 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 Association, 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 (844) 477-7869, or visit this Internet Web site WWW.STOX-POSTING.COM for information, using the file number assigned to this case: 18-10433. 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. DATE: October 14, 2020 ALLIED TRUSTEE SERVICES, Trustee TANYA HALL, Authorized Signatory
Publication dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 2020. (PC1017)

1. SALINAS, CA 93901
This business is conducted by an Individual

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 09/29/2020

S/ ROSINA JARAMILLO
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 10/06/2020

10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13/20

CNS-3408864#

CARMEL PINE CONE

Publication dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2020. (PC1021)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF DONALD L. LUCAS

Case Number 20PR000395

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DONALD L. LUCAS.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by SALLY S. LUCAS in the Superior Court of California, County of MONTEREY.

The Petition for Probate requests that SALLY S. LUCAS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.)

The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:

Date: Jan. 13, 2021
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Address: 13

Dept.: Superior Court of California, County of Monterey, 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) **four months** from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:
Gary S. Vandeweghe, Esq.
96 No. Third Street, Suite 500
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 293-0463

This statement was filed by Superior Court of California, County of Monterey on Oct. 14, 2020.

Publication dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 2020. (PC1022)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20201866
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **EL TROPICO, 711 Cannery Row Suite F, Monterey, California 93940.**

Mailing address: 17 Hawthorne St., Monterey, California 93940.

County of Principal Place of Business: Monterey County.

Name of Corporation or as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: CRUZ SOTO & ASSOCIATES LLC, 17 Hawthorne St., Monterey, California 93940.

State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A

S/Robert Lopez

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on October 6, 2020

10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13/20

CNS-3404381#

CARMEL PINE CONE

Publication dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2020. (PC1019)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20201793
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:

Robert Lopez Catering, 192 Paddon Pl., Marina, CA 93933, County of Monterey

Registered Owner(s):
Robert Lopez, 192 Paddon Pl., Marina, CA 93933

This business is conducted by a limited liability company

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A

S/Robert Lopez

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on October 6, 2020

10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13/20

CNS-3404381#

CARMEL PINE CONE

Publication dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2020. (PC1019)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20201837
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:

Kay Jewelers #2211, 536 Northridge Mall, Space E04, Salinas, CA 93906, County of Monterey

Registered Owner(s):
Sterling Jewelers, Inc., 375 Ghent Road, Akron, OH 44333

This business is conducted by a corporation

Registrant commenced

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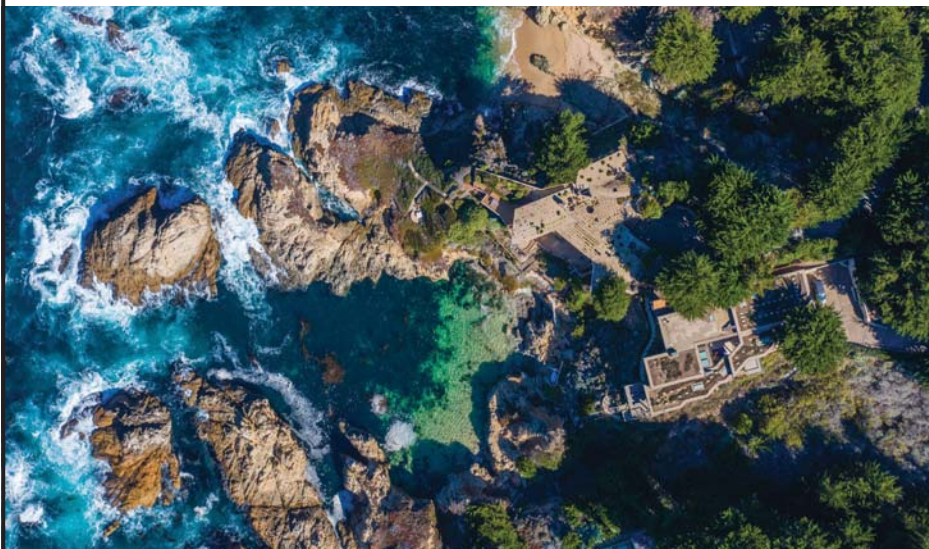
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PROPERTIES**

The Golden Pine Cones

October 30, 2020

Despite the headwinds, local businesses are still the best

THE VOTING for this year's awards didn't include a category for the most disruptive occurrences, although it would surely have been a neck-in-neck race between the coronavirus and wildfires. But despite the capricious mayhem inflicted by current events (and governments scurrying to deal with them), the 2,500 responses to this year's survey found plenty to love about local businesses.

You still have your pick of the best food, cooked up by the best chefs around, even if you must dine al fresco or take your food home (where you can chow down in your jammies, by the way). If you've been looking for great outdoor spots to socialize and share some takeout, they're here for you.

The area's favorite doctors, lawyers, landscapers and painters of art and houses are on the list, along with cutters of hair and repairers of shoes. If your cat voted for her favorite veterinarian, her choice is also here (and you really need to change your computer's password). So, before some sidelined local, applause-starved musicians play us off for too lengthy an intro, let's get to the winners.

Please note: With the vagaries of the epidemic and the shutdown, opening and closing times are being updated faster than a politician's Twitter feed, so it's best if you call ahead to make sure your favorites are ready for your visit.

FOOD and WINE AWARDS

■ Best Neighborhood Market

■ Best Butcher

Bruno's Market & Delicatessen — NE Junipero and Sixth — 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily — (831) 624-3821, brunos-market.com

With all the items you might hope to find at a local market — a freshly baked loaf of bread, a head of lettuce grown a short distance away, the best hot sauce or some gourmet

ice cream — Fermin and Ryan Sanchez' Bruno's Market is everything a (literally) corner store should be. Whether you want locally farmed eggs for breakfast or are short on cleaning supplies, it's the ideal spot to stop, considering its convenient downtown location and easy parking. Also voted Best Butcher, Bruno's Market's meat counter carries top-grade beef, choice cuts of pork and other prime meats, and will custom cut anything when needed. The back counter can be counted on to be busy with customers ordering their generously sized sandwiches and salads for lunch on the go or a picnic in the park, too. Carmelites, as well as the city's many visitors, always appreciate being able to find exactly what they need at Bruno's.

■ Best Fruits and Vegetables

Farmers Markets — oldmonterey.org - montereybayfarmers.org - everyonesharvest.org - westcoastfarmersmarkets.org - ci.carmel.ca.us/farmers-market

Why even bother going the grocery store for produce in an area that boasts a farmers market almost every day of the week? Pine Cone readers know the best fruits and vegetables (and lots of other great food and ingredients) are found at their local farmers markets — and there are plenty. The largest market takes over Alvarado Street in downtown Monterey on Tuesdays from 4 to 8 p.m. (4 to 7 p.m. in winter), while Del Monte Center now hosts the popular Friday market that had been held at Monterey Peninsula College for decades (hours vary, due to the coronavirus pandemic that required this popular market to relocate). Pacific Grove presents a modest Monday afternoon market on Central Avenue from 4 to 7 p.m. Seasonal markets take place at The Barnyard at the mouth of the valley on Tuesday mornings and at Del Monte Center in Monterey on Sunday mornings from May through September. Other markets are held on Thursdays at Sixth and Mission in downtown Carmel from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and at

Mid Valley Center (relocated from Carmel Valley Village) on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Broadway Avenue in Seaside hosts a market in the 600 block on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., while a Sunday market is held at 215 Reservation Road in Marina from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

■ Best Seafood Market

Sea Harvest Fish Market & Restaurant — 100A The Crossroads, and 598 Foam St., Monterey — open daily in Carmel and Monterey — (831) 626-3626 and (831) 646-0547, seaharvestfishmarketandrestaurant.com and seaharvestmonterey.com

A stone's throw from the Pacific, Sea Harvest market started nearly 40 years ago and added restaurants soon after. The markets in Monterey and at the Crossroads boast the best in fresh seafood every day, from locally famous Dungeness crab and sand dabs, to halibut, sushi-grade tuna, locally caught squid, and a wide range of other sustainably caught bounty from the sea. Sea Harvest's knowledgeable staff will help you select the best and freshest choices — and offer cooking tips, too. The market cafes are offering takeout and outdoor dining, as well, in case you can't wait to get home to tuck into your deliciously fresh fish.

■ Best Bakery

Pavel's Backerei — 219 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove — 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday — (831) 643-2636

For more than two decades, Pavel's Backerei has turned out amazing (and generously sized) tender-crisp croissants oozing with chocolate, crisp cookies, floury French bread

Continues next page



THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTES!

BEST MONTEREY COUNTY MERLOT

BY CARMEL PINE CONE READERS

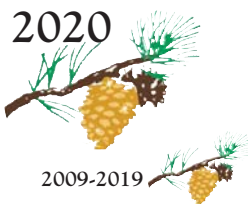
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From previous page

and multigrain loaves, and countless other savory and sweet baked delights, thanks to the hard work of owners Paul and Johanna Wainscoat. Seasonal goodies are also offered. Most mornings, a line forms out the door as fans wait for the chance to pick up their freshly baked treats for the day, and when the couple take their well-earned breaks and close up shop, the protestations can be heard far and wide.

■ **Best Catering Company**

Jeffrey's — 112 Mid Valley Center, Carmel Valley — (831) 624-2029, jeffreysgrillandcatering.com

There isn't much catering going on these days, with events, parties, weddings and practically everything else that involves more than a dozen or so people on hold. But whether planning a large party or a small one, those who want to put the very important responsibility of providing beautiful food in the hands of a professional often turn to Jeffrey's. A Mid Valley presence for nearly a quarter-century, Jeffrey's operates a popular restaurant, sells highly addictive spiced nuts, and is extremely capable of meeting every catering need, from smaller and budget minded, to large and extravagant, with plenty of emphasis on fresh, local ingredients and just the right dishes for the occasion.

■ **Best Wine Store**

The Cheese Shop — Carmel Plaza — 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily — (831) 625-2272, thecheeseshopin.com

Yes, The Cheese Shop is absolutely amazing for cheese, with dozens and dozens — hundreds, even — of different cheeses in every taste, texture, flavor and origin imaginable. But it's also the go-to place for wine, and longtime owner Kent Torrey knows his stuff. He keeps his store stocked with many hard-to-find bottles, as well as affordable but high-quality options, and knows about every producer represented. Need advice? He's the one to talk to, and he makes sure everyone who works at The Cheese Shop is extremely knowledgeable, as well. Fledgling sommeliers have flourished in his employ, and his customers benefit from that knowledge and the well curated selection, too.

■ **Best Tasting Room**

■ **My Favorite Monterey County Wine**

Twisted Roots Vineyard — 12 Del Fino Place, Carmel Valley — Thursday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. — (831) 594-8282, twistedrootsvineyard.com

Not only are the wines delicious, they're accessible (as in, they don't cost triple digits), and while the Twisted Roots tasting room in Carmel Valley Village is beautiful, its staff makes visiting there even more enjoyable. While indoor tasting isn't allowed right now, Twisted Roots has a beautiful outdoor patio with fountains, plants and flowers that's perfect for relaxing alone or with a couple of friends, or booking for a larger group (as the rules allow). Founded by third-generation wine growers based in Lodi, Twisted Roots was incorporated nearly a decade ago, and is now owned by charming and affable couple Josh and Julie Ruiz and their friends. Twisted Roots produces chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon, petite sirah, zinfandel from the family's century-old vines, sparkling rosé and dry apple cider, and since the winery won My Favorite Monterey County Wine this year, all must be sampled to see which one is best.

■ **Best Monterey County Chardonnay**

■ **Best Monterey County Sauvignon Blanc**

Bernardus — 5 W. Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (currently closed due to coronavirus) — (831) 298-8021, bernardus.com

The late Bernardus Pon, who launched his namesake winery in Cachagua in 1989 with the goal of creating a red wine that would rival the best of Bordeaux, would be gratified to know his winemaking team's chardonnays and sauvignon blancs win the hearts of Pine Cone readers again and again — especially since the sauvignon blanc, which is made with fruit from the highly regarded Griva Vineyard in Arroyo Seco, was one of his favorites. Vineyard manager Matt Shea cultivates Bordeaux and Burgundy grapes at the winery's estate vineyards in Cachagua and Carmel Valley, and winemaker Dean DeKorth and his team work hard to produce the wines that keep fans coming back. Long-running relationships with grape growers throughout Monterey County ensure Bernardus always gets the best fruit for its impressive wines. And with a handful of different vineyard-designated chardonnays, as well as its Monterey County chardonnay sourcing grapes from several different vineyards, it's no wonder Bernardus took that category, too.

■ **Best Monterey County Rosé**

Dawn's Dream Winery — NW San Carlos and Seventh

Continues on page 4 GPC

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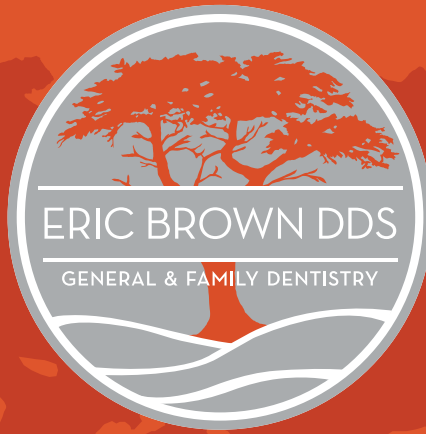
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From page 2 GPC

— 1 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday through Friday, and until 7:30 p.m. on Saturday — (831) 659-2649, dawnsdreamwinery.com

Over the years, consumers have caught on to the refreshing versatility of the dry, fruity pink wines that were once considered appropriate only in spring and summer, but are now ubiquitous year round. In Monterey County, more than a dozen wineries produce rosés, and once again, Dawn's Dream has emerged as the favorite among Pine Cone readers. Owned by Dawn Galante, the winery produces a dry rosé of Pinot Noir that offers bright citrus notes and juicy hints of fresh berries — and goes with just about everything. Adding to the draw of Dawn's Dream, the winery is socially conscious, as Galante founded it with a mission of supporting charities benefiting women and children.

■ Best Monterey County Pinot Noir

Boekenoogen — 24 W. Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily — (831) 659-4215, boekenoogen-wines.com

The competition for Best Monterey County Pinot Noir is stiff, considering more pinot noir is grown here than practically anywhere, with the area's long, cool growing season reminiscent of the grape's roots in the Burgundy region. This year, the award goes to Boekenoogen, which produces well balanced, intense, silky pinot noir from its vineyards in the Santa Lucia Highlands. Its 2017 3 Clone and 2018 estate pinot are currently available.

■ Best Monterey County Merlot

Scheid Vineyards — SE San Carlos and Seventh — noon to 7 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, noon to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday — (831) 626-WINE (9463), scheidvineyards.com

Having grown grapes locally for nearly five decades, Scheid has a significant legacy here — and a lot of superlative wines to the family's name. This year, Pine Cone readers selected its merlot as their favorite. The estate wine is accessibly priced and is aromatic of berries and vanilla — from the barrels it's aged in — and smooth on the finish, with dark berry and cherry notes. Its acidity is mild, giving it enough structure to stand up to food and to be interesting without being aggressive. Find it at Scheid's tasting rooms in Carmel and at the winery in Greenfield, as well as online.

■ Best Monterey County Cabernet Sauvignon

Galante Vineyards — Dolores between Ocean and Seventh — 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday through Friday, and until 7 p.m. on Saturday — (831) 624-3800, galantevineyards.com

Galante Vineyards consistently produces the best local cabernet sauvignon, earning Pine Cone readers' votes year after year. While he and wife Dawn sold their vineyards and winery to a young couple this year, Jack Galante continues to focus on producing the finest possible wines from the Cachagua vineyard and letting the fruit express itself in the wines — efforts that have been rewarded with praise. He's been growing cabernet sauvignon since 1983, and his wines unfailingly win favor for their balance, body and fruit. Fans can also explore Galante's deep library, with several vintages of both varietals from different estate vineyards going back many years.

■ Best Place for a Beer

Alvarado Street Brewery — Carmel Plaza, Junipero and Ocean and 426 Alvarado St., Monterey — open daily, check location for hours — (831) 293-8621 and (831) 655-BEER, asbcarmel.com and alvaradostreetbrewery.com

The father-and-son duo that brought immensely successful Alvarado Street Brewery to the Monterey Peninsula now operates Alvarado Street Brewery & Bistro in Carmel Plaza, as well, and both locations are ideal places to enjoy a beer (or several), along with some snacks. The Monterey beer garden and the patio in the plaza both offer great spaces for dining and drinking outdoors. With Alvarado Street's stellar lineup of locally made beers, from perennial favorites Mai Tai IPA and Monterey Beer, to seasonal, sour and other more creative offerings — paired with delicious high-level pub food — it's really no surprise the brewery won this year's award as the Best Place for a Beer.

■ Best Cocktails**■ Best Restaurant in Carmel**

Grasing's Coastal Cuisine — NE corner Mission and Sixth — lunch and dinner daily, with brunch on weekends — (831) 624-6562, grasing.com

With bartender Ira Comello at the helm, and other talented staff stepping in when he's not there, Grasing's can always

be counted on for top-shelf cocktails. Grasing's restaurant has long been a favorite of locals not just for the great food offered by owner Kurt Grasing and his team, but for the sophisticated bar. Comello's house-made spiced bourbon is the foundation for Grasing's Spiced Manhattan and The "New" Fashioned, in which it's accompanied by just a touch of Fever Tree ginger ale. While the cocktail menu is not extensive, it certainly offers something for everyone, from fans of fruity and tropical concoctions and those craving dessert-style drinks, to those in search of a clean, dry, simple cocktail expertly mixed with high-quality ingredients or a spirit-forward creation. Meanwhile, the kitchen consistently turns out delicious dishes beautifully presented, from Grasing's signature four-onion tart, to steaks, entrée salads, paella and other popular dishes. Even during the pandemic, with dining limited to outdoors and takeout, the quality and menus have not suffered — and few restaurants in town offer more options for al fresco dining, with its back patio, parklet and rooftop deck. All of this explains why Pine Cone readers chose Grasing's as Best Restaurant in Carmel again this year.

■ Best Happy Hour

Vesuvio — Sixth between Junipero and Mission — nightly from 4 p.m. — (831) 625-1766, chefpepe.com/restaurants

A lively rooftop deck and plenty of outdoor seating elsewhere make Rich Pepe's Vesuvio a fun spot for dinner, but the Happy Hour is so popular, readers chose it as their favorite this year. While the pandemic has forced restaurant operators to alter their menus and hours, Vesuvio devotedly continues to offer Happy Hour daily from 4 to 6 p.m., with plenty of drink and food specials on offer. The place is popular, so reservations are recommended.

■ Best French Restaurant

Bistro Moulin — 867 Wave St., Monterey — dinner nightly from 4 to 8 p.m. — (831) 333-1200, bistromoulin.com

Owned by longtime chef Didier Dutertre and wife Colleen — who runs the front of the house and has extensive wine knowledge — Bistro Moulin can always be relied on for spectacular escargot (Pernod and hazelnuts are key ingredients) and cloud-like spinach gnocchi in bechamel, as well as delicately prepared fresh fish and a handful of beautiful traditional dishes. Open for dining on its "petite patio," as well

Continues next page

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

as for takeout, Bistro Moulin is Pine Cone readers' top choice for French cuisine — a very competitive sector here — on the Monterey Peninsula.

Best Chinese Restaurant

Tommy's Wok — *Mission between Ocean and Seventh – Tuesday through Sunday, call for hours – (831) 624-8518, tommyswokcarmel.com*

Tiny Tommy's Wok is the only place to find Chinese food in Carmel-by-the-Sea, but its reputation for delicious, fresh food draws people from all over the Peninsula, making it a regular winner in its category. The dishes paraded out of its diminutive kitchen are bright, fresh, aromatic and satisfying in the ways that only really good Chinese food can be, and it's a perennial favorite among Pine Cone readers, having taken the crown each year since the Golden Pine Cones started in 2008. Tommy's Wok serves up a menu of Szechuan, Hunan

and Mandarin specialties, and during the pandemic, is one of the top spots for takeout.

Best Indian Restaurant

Aabha — *The Barnyard Shopping Village – lunch and dinner daily – (831) 250-5940 and (831) 641-7924, aabhaindian.com*

Executive chef and proprietor Bhupender Singh's food is as warm as he is. Everyone who comes to the hospitable and spacious restaurant in the Barnyard shopping center at the mouth of Carmel Valley feels welcome, and Singh's delicious Indian food — some spicy, but always just right — never disappoints. Currently offering takeout at lunch and dinner menu due to the pandemic, the menu includes a wide range of dishes, including many vegetarian and vegan options. Singh's passion for cooking came from observing his mother and helping her in the kitchen when he was a child, and he says he's "passionate about creating authentic Indian food and bringing Indian delicacies to the table."

Best Italian Restaurant

La Balena — *Junipero Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues – dinner Wednesday through Sunday – (831) 250-6295, labalenacarmel.com*

Delicious antipasti (including the always popular pan-fried cauliflower with currants and pine nuts, and another featuring grilled octopus), freshly made pastas with rich sauces and decadent main courses — the fried chicken is a must, at least once — are staples at La Balena, as is the diverse wine list, heavily weighted with Italian wines. Owned by Emanuele and Anna Bartolini, La Balena has been popular with Pine Cone readers for years for its reliable and stellar Italian fare, and visitors devotedly return every time they're in town. The Bartolinis work hard to ensure their restaurant continues to flourish and are offering outdoor dining as well as takeout.

Best Japanese/Sushi Restaurant

Crystal Fish — *514 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey – dinner nightly, takeout only, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. – (831) 649-3474, crystalfishmonterey.com*

Chef-owner Tamotsu Suzuki opened Crystal Fish in 2005, and since then, he's had a talented team serving the freshest sushi and sashimi to many regulars, as well as visitors fortunate enough to discover his restaurant in New Monterey. The sushi is worth waiting for, as Suzuki, a Tokyo native, was trained as a chef in Japan and ensures all of his sushi chefs are well schooled in the same traditions. Specials often feature live scallop and other delicacies not found at many Japanese restaurants, and the fish is always fresh, sourced from local fishermen and markets. For those who don't care for sushi, the menu has plenty of interesting fusion dishes and vegetarian options, too, and takeout is always an option.

Best Mediterranean Restaurant

Dametra Cafe — *Ocean and Lincoln, Carmel – 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday – (831) 622-7766, dametracafe.com*

For years, people have flocked to Dametra not just for the food, but for the lively atmosphere and the impromptu musical performances that can often be heard a block or two away. These days, Dametra is limited to outdoor dining and takeaway, but the fun can still be found there. Friends Faisal Nimri and Bashar Sneh were brought together by their love of music — both play the traditional Middle Eastern stringed instrument, the oud — and their desire to create restaurants that feel like home to all who walk through the door, strangers and friends alike. Hence, their Dametra Café, which offers Greek, Italian, Spanish, Moroccan, Turkish, French, Israeli and Lebanese dishes — always has a line of eager diners waiting for their seats at the table. Nimri, from Jordan, and Sneh, from Syria, continue to build their following by displaying their inimitable hospitality.

Best Wine List

Best Restaurant for Seafood

Best Restaurant for a Special Occasion

Most Romantic Restaurant

Best Restaurant in Monterey

The Sardine Factory — *701 Wave St., Monterey – lunch (takeout only) 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily, dinner 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. – (831) 373-3775, sardinefactory.com*

There was no category for prettiest dining tent, but if there were, the prize would likely have gone to the one the Sardine Factory set up at its location above Cannery Row — complete with chandelier. The pandemic may have diners temporarily locked out of the conservatory and the wine cellar, but dang it, it's still romantic. Once disregarded as being on "the wrong side of the tracks," as founders Ted Balestreri and Bert Cutino are fond of recounting, the landmark restaurant boasts a tome of a wine list, terrific abalone bisque and a classic menu that harkens back to days of tuxedo-clad waiters and well-heeled patrons. Julia Child and Prince Albert II of Monaco are among the famous guests who have passed through its doors, and Dave Garver (Clint Eastwood) memorably parked his Jag at the foot of the place's awning-covered staircase while having his first meeting with Evelyn Draper (Jessica Walter) in "Play Misty for Me." But you're there to eat, not gawk, right? Lobster ravioli, surf-and-turf and melt-in-your-mouth sand dabs bring a luxurious taste of the sea, and if you let the staff know it's a special occasion, they'll pull out all the stops. After all, they've been doing this for more than 50 years, for some pretty momentous events. Thanks to the Covid pandemic, there's a wine sale on from among the cellar's 2,000 labels and 20,000 bottles, and you can order three-course meals to go for \$39 a person including starter, entrée and dessert.

Best Thai Restaurant

Pacific Thai — *663 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove – takeout only, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, noon to 8:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday –*

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2008



2009



2010



2012



2013



2014



2015



2016



2017



2018



2019



GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

(831) 646-8424, pacifichaipg.com

The food at this place is so satisfying, with just the right amount of spice. It comes piping hot from the kitchen, redolent of garlic and curry. The rice is always just right — not too sticky, but holding together well enough so you can dunk a forkful into steaming green curry broth without it dissolving into a soupy mess. The pasta in the pad Thai and drunken noodles is toothsome and comforting, never squishy or overcooked. Start with the Thai lettuce wraps or Asian spring rolls, share an order of chicken satay and then dig into the entrees. A bottle of ice cold beer or a hot cup of ginger tea rounds out a lunch or dinner that's priced right and will probably provide enough food for two meals — who doesn't like leftovers?

Best Mexican Restaurant

Baja Cantina — 7166 Carmel Valley Road — 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday — (831) 625-2252, carmelcantina.com

If you're like some folks, you're forever having to back-track after zipping past the little shopping center with this funky, racing-themed spot set back from the road. But it's worth the extra mile or two. Meals here begin with thick, nicely seasoned tortilla chips and salsa. From there, you have a dizzying array of choices (moreso if you've already knocked back a margarita or the good kind of Corona). Build a classic combo from enchiladas, soft or crispy tacos and other Mexican classics, or opt for one of the lunch/dinner selections. Theresa's tamales with a choice of pork, chicken or vegetable filling are handmade daily, or you can get a three-egg plate of huevos rancheros while enjoying a bloody Mary. If you leave hungry, it's nobody's fault but your own.

Best Restaurant for Steak

Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse — right where it says it is — Social hour 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday through Monday; dinner 5 to 10 p.m. Thursday through Monday; lunch 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; takeout and butcher shop 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday through Monday — (831) 293-7600, 7Dsteakhouse.com

Winner of the Golden Pine Cone for Best New Restaurant in 2017, 7D has become a locals' favorite, offering new and intriguing cuisine (charred octopus with pickled chilies and toasted coconut; quail yakitori) without sacrificing the classics. You can still have a traditional meal of prime sirloin or a 32-day dry-aged Kansas City steak with a choice of sauces. Can't decide? You can opt for a "flight" of five toppings from the restaurant's list (bordelaise, anchovy butter, brandy peppercorn, creamed horseradish, barrel-aged ponzu, béarnaise, aioli rogue blue cheese, burgundy truffle butter) to avoid picking just one. Vegetarians will be hard-pressed to feel neglected with a plate of black trumpet mushroom risotto made with forbidden black rice, and seafood lovers can revel in salmon with warm cannellini beans and heirloom artichokes. Finish up with a Valrhona bittersweet chocolate tart and a glass of port, and then maybe walk some of it off with a stroll around town.

Best Restaurant for Vegetarians

The Haute Enchilada — 7902 Moss Landing Road, Moss Landing — brunch, lunch and dinner noon to 5 p.m. Wed. through Sunday — (831) 633-5843, hauteenchilada.com

While nearly every restaurant in the state has some sort of vegetarian offering (there's probably a state law requiring it), those who eschew meat often complain that they're relegated to unimaginative plates of pasta, and salads that are merely a bit of bagged lettuce dumped on a plate with some lonely cherry tomatoes. Not so at the Haute Enchilada, the quirky, artsy restaurant that sprung up years ago among the antique shops of Moss Landing. Owner Kim Solano has created a menu heavy on flavor and the promise of doing well by doing good. "Winning this award validates my commitment to sustainability!" she said. The restaurant's Chile Relleno Trotsky is a roasted pasilla pepper stuffed with zucchini, tomato, onion and Oaxacan cheese, and blanketed in rich, house-made mole poblano sauce. There's a veggie version of the hearty burrito bowl and for the adventurous, huitlacoche (black corn truffle) enchiladas with citrus cilantro cream sauce and squash blossom enchiladas. Wash it all down with a Pisco sour or a Mexican Menjul, which combines bourbon, port, mint, Coca-Cola and fresh lime. If they have the sticky toffee pudding, save room — it's best eaten warm.

Best BBQ

The Crossroads Barbeque — 241 Crossroads Blvd., Carmel — 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. (or when sold out) daily, delivery available — (831) 250-7616, thecrossroadsbbq.com

The Ingram family had already brought their love of smoked meats to Salinas, Santa Cruz County and Santa Clara County when they set up shop in the Crossroads in 2018. With traditional St. Louis-style pork ribs, smoked brisket and

Continues next page

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

smoked chicken — to name a few — your inner carnivore can revel in the savory treats here with abandon. Traditional sides — chunky potato salad, sweet-and-tangy baked beans and creamy cole slaw — stand up well to the main event, while slabs of Texas toast with garlicky butter are handy for sopping up sauces. The meat falls off the bone and the long, smoky cooking turns something as lean as chicken into a decidedly decadent dish. The ever-evolving craft beer menu is interesting without being unwieldy, with offerings like Barebottle Coconut Donut stout from San Francisco, a red ale from Altamont Beer Works in Livermore, and North Coast Brewing Company's Blue Star wheat ale. Ask about dessert — the berry cobbler and bread pudding are from old family recipes and well worth the additional calories.

Best Ice Cream

Revival Ice Cream — 463 Alvarado St., Monterey

— Noon to 9 p.m. daily, open until 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday — (831) 747-2113, revivalicecream.com

Let's cut to the chase. You're here for the ice cream. You know, "I scream, you scream," happy childhood memories — all that sort of stuff. You want to taste the honey in the Bees' Knees, rejoice in the creamy-crispy play of texture in the Honey Granola Crunch and let frozen dark chocolate bliss melt in your mouth. Heck, you might even get over your hatred of eucalyptus trees (or celebrate your love for them) with eucalyptus mint chip. But what if you're vegan? Don't you deserve delicious frozen treats, too? "Yes!" shout the super-scoopers at Revival, as they hand you some salted caramel or chocolate hazelnut sorbet. And if you also happen to be into saving the planet, and agree with the owners that what people eat "matters to our minds, bodies, hearts and our planet," you'll be cheered by the shop's dedication to using local and sustainable ingredients and its many efforts to give back to the community. Among others, Revival donates to Community Partnership for Youth, MEarth, MY Museum, Hospice Giving and Community Human Services.

Best Sandwich or Burger

RG Burgers — 201 Crossroads Shopping Village — 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily — (831) 626-8054, rgburgers.com

This "real good" place to eat has been turning out all sorts of hamburgers for 30 years. And not just burgers — chili cheese fries, tater tots, onion rings and fried zucchini sticks are there for starters, and you can wet your whistle with around 20 kinds of milkshakes from vanilla to chocolate peanut butter. You can also enjoy a refreshing glass of pink lemonade or a 50/50 float with orange soda and vanilla ice cream. For a great bite between two buns, you can have the classic burger with lettuce, tomato, onion and pickles or graduate to a hickory burger with barbecue sauce, cheddar cheese and bacon. Those who enjoy a touch of heat can sink their teeth into a sriracha burger, and to really pile on the comfort, try the cheesy mac version with homemade mac-and-cheese up top. Burgers can also be made with ground turkey or chicken breast or a veggie falafel patty. There are more than a dozen other sandwich selections and salads (if you must), as well as chili and a selection of hot dogs. Beer and wine by the glass or bottle are available.

Best Breakfast

Best Coffee

Best Chef — Amalia Scatena

Stationæry — San Carlos between Fifth & Sixth, Carmel — Brunch 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, dinner 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, reservations strongly encouraged — (831) 250-7183, thestationaery.com

While seating at this popular newish spot is at a premium, takeout (and delivery within a 5-mile radius) is available. Kickstart your day with brunch selections that will keep you going well into the early afternoon, like a potato pancake with Monterey Bay salmon; a chive scramble accompanied by bacon, a biscuit, jam and avocado; or blueberry pancakes. If you're in the mood for something lunchier, shrimp and grits blurs the line between meals, while black cod ceviche or a chopped salad with a Mediterranean flair that includes salami, manchego cheese, olives and pistachios are firmly in the lunch camp. Dinner selections include a beef tenderloin with chanterelle mushrooms and Fogline Farm's chicken. Round out the meal with a plate of fruit and some Schoch Family cheese, or chocolate chip cookies and milk. Chef Amalia Scatena has been there since 2018 and has obviously developed quite a following hereabouts. A graduate of the Culinary Institute in Florence, Italy, Scatena was acknowledged in 2017 by Food & Wine magazine as one of the top five Charleston, S.C., "rising star chefs to watch." And since good chefs are usually also fanatical about their coffee, you can bet the brew here is top-notch.

Best Coffeehouse

Carmel Valley Coffee Roasting Co. — Ocean Avenue between Lincoln and Monte Verde, 3720 The Barnyard, and 256 Crossroads Blvd., The Crossroads — carmelcoffee.roasters.com for hours and phone numbers

If your day starts with "lifting fog and breaking waves," Carmel Valley Coffee Roasting Co. feels you — the phrase is part of their motto, and of course Foglifter is the company's flagship house French blend. They've been roasting their own flavorful beans since 1994 — and those are certified organic beans, roasted in accordance with the California Certified Organic Farmers' and USDA's standards right in Carmel Valley, just like the name says. The 1940s Farina Italian coffee roasting machine has a name — Vincenzo — and is sometimes referred to as "Big Vinney," according to the company's website. The shops are still welcoming and efficient, with the same friendly, knowledgeable baristas preparing your morning eye-opener. It's just that if you want to linger over a cup, you'll have to do it outside. The same food selections — including delicious sweet treats — still await customers, and you can still take a pound of old favorites or newer special blends (Vincenzo Italian roast; Shelter with Taste Viennese) back to your brewing contraption of choice at home.

Best Family Restaurant

Best Desserts

Rosine's Restaurant — 434 Alvarado St., Monterey — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday — (831) 375-1400, rosinesmonterey.com

The Culcasi family's labor of love turns 40 this year, with second and third-generation members leading the way to the future. The dessert cases are happily and heavily laden with family recipes for the mile-high layer cakes, cookies and specialty brownies made fresh daily. They're an unflinching reminder that no matter how much you love the homemade minestrone and lasagna (featured on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives") or generous Cobb salad, you need to save room for carrot cake, cookie-dough cheesecake or chocolate peanut butter pie. Kids and parents alike will enjoy the casual atmosphere, and the large menu offers more than enough choices to satisfy the pickiest eaters at breakfast,

Continues on page 10 GPC



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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From page 8 GPC

lunch or dinner. No wonder everyone looks so patient while waiting for one of the outdoor tables.

■ **Best Pizza**

Gianni's — 725 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey — Takeout and delivery only, 5 to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 3 to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 3 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday — (831) 649-1500, or for delivery call (831) 373-3333, giannispiz-zamonterey.com

The Costa family has been running this popular spot to split a pie, have some lasagna, or chow down on an Italian sub for more than 45 years, and they're not about to let something like a pandemic stop them. Heck, they've soldiered through life's ills from the Loma Prieta Earthquake to the recession of 2008, keeping fans well-fed and comforted through it all. Their extensive menu is available for takeout. You can start

with an order of eight hot wings with a side of ranch for less than \$8.50, and the values keep coming with mini 8-inch pizzas priced around \$10 for basics. The big 18-inch pies, loaded with toppings, can run upwards of \$30, but they're crowd pleasers. Salads, calzones, pastas and crunchy, creamy chocolate cannolis can be added to the feast as well.

■ **Best Deli**

5th Avenue Deli — Fifth Avenue between San Carlos and Dolores — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday — (831) 625-2688, 5thavedeli.com

If you're looking for a great source for the fixings of a solo picnic or a socially distanced, government-sanctioned outdoor gathering, look no further. Pine Cone readers' compasses point to this shop, owned by Elpidia and Carlos Herrera. It's been around for nearly 30 years. "We cater for bus tours, open houses, gallery exhibition, and any of your special occasions," boasts the deli's website. Whether you want a single

sandwich of teriyaki salmon, homespun BBQ meatloaf or a Reuben with hot pastrami, sauerkraut and Thousand Island dressing — or pot roast, samosas or tamales for your insulated bubble of a crowd — give them a call. The menu crosses cultures, borders and probably daily calorie limits, but you (and your friends or office mates) deserve a break by now, don't you?

■ **Best Brunch**

■ **Best Piano Bar**

Mission Ranch — 26270 Dolores St., Carmel — 7 to 10 a.m. and 5 to 8:45 p.m. daily, lunch 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sunday brunch 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. — (831) 624-6436, missionranchcarmel.com

While there are no bad tables at Mission Ranch, which doesn't take reservations and is nearly always busy, the outdoor deck is the only spot available to diners these days. Not that anyone's complaining about sweeping views of pastures with contentedly grazing sheep, as well as the moody blue-green lagoon and brilliant white sand. Enjoy a not-too-spicy bloody Mary while you wait for your crab-cake eggs Benedict, or ranch omelet with sausage, bell peppers, onion and cheese. Mimosas and Ramos fizzes are on the beverage menu, and there are plenty of starters like almond-coated baked goat cheese with sun-dried tomatoes, watercress and flatbread crackers. Not up for breakfast? Make a meal of salmon seasoned with coriander or a prime rib sandwich. Former Carmel Mayor Clint Eastwood owns the place and occasionally stops by. While the piano bar stands temporarily silent, when live music can be done safely again, performers like singer and pianist Maddaline Edstrom, pianist Gennady Loktionov and others will resume playing seven nights each week in the restaurant at the ranch, along with brunch Sunday. And, considering Mission Ranch's proximity to the beach and scenic Carmel, a postprandial walk is always an option, if not a recommendation, especially after a hearty mid-morning feast.

■ **Best Outdoor Dining**

■ **Best Place to Take Clients**

Tarpy's Roadhouse — 2999 Monterey Salinas Hwy, Monterey — 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, Sunday brunch — (831) 647-1444, tarpys.com

Tarpy's and its sister restaurants, Rio Grill and Montrio, all made this year's Golden Pine Cones in different categories. In the case of the familiar roadhouse, we're sure location is no small part of its win as Best Place to Take Clients. It's next door to the airport and easily reached from Salinas or anywhere on the Peninsula, near the southeast end of Highway 218, aka Canyon del Rey Boulevard. But getting there is only part of the equation. The understated-but-friendly service is another reason for the place's popularity. Servers are warm and knowledgeable, but they don't hover about or rush guests, so there's plenty of time to close a business deal. Tarpy's has always had extensive and pleasant outdoor seating so that you can enjoy views of the pond and trees — along with the occa-

Continues next page

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

sional thrill of an airplane directly overhead — with your meal. The food includes twists on all-American favorites like deviled eggs fancied up with truffle aioli or an American Kobe burger with brie, bacon, lobster, truffle aioli and fries. Your vegan and gluten-free guests will find delicious choices, too. Portions are generous, and if you prefer to dine chez vous, three-course family-style dinners starting at \$35 per person are available for order and pick-up. Hide the boxes and tell them you made the meatloaf and bruschetta yourself. We won't tell.

■ Best New Restaurant

The Pocket — *Lincoln between Fifth and Sixth Avenue – 5 to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday – (831) 626-8000, thepocketcarmel.com*

Business partners Kent Ipsen and chef Federico Rusciano opened their eatery in the former location of Christopher's restaurant before things shut down, but not by much. Rusciano, also a certified sommelier, comes to the business with eight years' experience as general manager of Peppoli at Pebble Beach. He's created a menu that mixes old favorites (eggs Benedict for brunch, day-boat scallops at dinner) with interesting items like an Asian bowl with rice, vegetables, eggs and meat or shrimp add-ins, and a salad of slightly bitter radicchio with green apples, toasted almonds, gorgonzola cheese and bacon. There's a full bar and a nice wine list.

■ Best Bartender

Anthony Vitacca/Montrio — *414 Calle Principal, Monterey – 4 to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 4 to 10:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, takeout 5 to 9 p.m. nightly – (831) 648-8880, montrio.com*

Anthony Vitacca has a cult following whose devotion knows no end — or at least, they know how to vote for their favorite bartender. When a restaurant like Montrio (with a wine list that runs past 14 pages plus ciders and craft beers) offers a cocktail, you know it's going to be good, and Vitacca doesn't disappoint. Offerings on the frequently changing cocktail menu have memorable names like Grunge n'Ganja (Plantation Stiggins' pineapple rum, yellow Chartreuse, passion-fruit, bee pollen and lime) or Luck be a Lady (Tito's vodka, Fruitlab jasmine tea liqueur, cherry bark-vanilla bitters, honey, mint and lemon). You can apparently even save Private Ryan with a blend of brown butter-infused bourbon, walnut liqueur, chicory pecan bitters and house-smoked ice. Yes, smoked ice. The readers nailed it — this guy's good.

■ Best Restaurant Service

Rio Grill — *101 Crossroads Blvd. – 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily – (831) 625-5436, riogrill.com*

Good service is tough to define. The effort leaves you asking questions like, "How much attention is enough? Do I need to know that tonight's seafood special was once a halibut named Dave?" Nevertheless, sophisticated Pine Cone readers know good service when they see it — and this year, they're seeing it at the Rio Grill. Waiting tables has never been easy, but 2020 leveled up the difficulty faster than a Peloton instructor on espresso. That hasn't stopped the friendly crew at this Crossroads fixture from continuing to deliver the restaurant's bold cuisine and tasty cocktails with a side of good cheer. Of course, an order of steak empanadas followed by a healthy slice of pumpkin cheesecake will lift the spirits, too. And to top it all off, everything will be delivered with a smile that goes all the way up to your server's eyes, where you can see it.

Continues page 14 GPC



Thank You For Voting

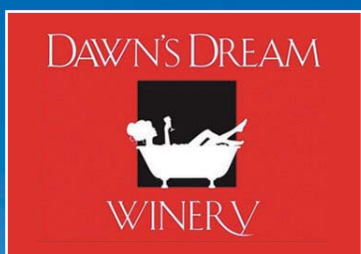
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From page 11 GPC

Best Restaurant in Big Sur

Nepenthe — 48510 Highway 1 (29 miles south of Carmel) — 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 5 to 10 p.m. daily — (831) 667-2345, nepenthe.com

Sixty-one years. That's how long this "little slice of paradise," this "mecca of poets, artists, travelers and vagabonds" has been serving up good food, according to its website. The name — Nepenthe — comes from Homer's "Odyssey," in which it's mentioned as a magical drug that takes away sorrow. Certainly the picturesque coastal views from more than 800 feet above sea level work just as well as an ancient Greek fantasy medicine. In case it's not enough — or you're more hungry than sorrowful — the menu with beloved local classics like the Ambrosiaburger could help, perhaps with a wee nip from the wine list or full bar. Other tempting options include the 10-ounce New York steak with fries, a roasted half-chicken dinner, and a veggie burger on a nine-grain wheat roll. If you're more of a morning person, Café Kevah — one level down from Nepenthe — opens at 9 a.m. and offers a nice selection of breakfasts and coffee. Once you've had a bite to eat, stop into the Phoenix Shop (open at 10:30 a.m. daily) to browse the works of local artists and craftsmen.

Best Restaurant in Carmel Valley

Café Rustica — 10 Del Fino Place, Carmel Valley — 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday; 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday — (831) 659-4444, caferusticavillage.com

Outdoor dining is nothing new at Cafe Rustica. They've been serving up home-style European specialties — like Hungarian paprika beef goulash — al fresco for years.

Other wood oven specialties include baked rigatoni with beef Bolognese sauce, mushrooms and parmesan cheese; and butternut squash ravioli with Parmesan bread crumbs, fresh sage and beurre blanc. Try one of the unusual thin-crust pizzas, like the Flammequeche, with diced prosciutto, onions, fresh thyme and crème fraiche. Come back to North America with Jose's Pizza Verde, which includes tomatillo sauce, chicken, corn, feta cheese, Monterey jack cheese, parmesan, cherry tomatoes and cilantro. Sandwich offerings like egg salad with an optional side of smoked salmon and a grilled cheese on brioche can satisfy a growling tummy, or choose from hearty suppers of pork loin or lamb filets. The patio is warm and convivial, or you can get the food to go.

Best Restaurant in Pebble Beach

Roy's — 2700 17 Mile Drive (at the Inn at Spanish Bay) — 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily — (800) 877-0597, pebblebeach.com

International celebrity chef Roy Yamaguchi designed the eclectic menu at this spot with delightful views of golf and sea from the patio, and in-house executive chef Pablo Mellin supervises a kitchen that prepares everything elegantly and expertly. You could start your day with a classic breakfast of bacon and eggs or indulge in buttermilk pancakes or waffles. By lunchtime, however, the menu starts to venture abroad with sushi — a yellowtail firecracker roll that hits a few hot notes with jalapeno and habanero peppers in the mix — and other Asian-influenced dishes like ginger-sake-marinated crispy calamari. Don't worry, there's still a club sandwich and a half-pound burger for those whose palates are more attuned to straight-up American food. Dinner starters like coconut shrimp and slow-roasted pork belly lead the way as sunset — and the inevitable Spanish Bay bag-

Continues page 16 GPC



Thank You!

We're delighted that Carmel Pine Cone readers have recognized The Sardine Factory with Golden Pine Cone awards for the Best Restaurant in Monterey, Best Restaurant for Seafood, Best Wine List, Most Romantic Restaurant and Best Restaurant for a Special Occasion.

This is all possible because we have the most caring and wonderful guests! We appreciate you all so much and thank you for your continued support.



2020

Best Restaurant in Monterey
Best Restaurant for Seafood
Best Wine List
Most Romantic Restaurant
Best Restaurant for a Special Occasion



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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From page 14GPC

piper — come into view. Japanese, Thai and Chinese flavors mingle on the plate and the palate in a peanut-crusted filet mignon or blackened ahi, while Hawaiian-style combo plates bring an island flavor to traditional surf-and-turf.

Best Restaurant in Pacific Grove

Passionfish — 701 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove — 5 to 9 p.m. daily — (831) 655-3311, passionfish.net

Passionfish is well known for its focus on sustainable seafood and accessible, affordable wines, thanks to the longtime

efforts of founders Ted and Cindy Walter. The Walters strive to obtain fish, meats and produce from sustainable, local sources whenever possible, and love opportunities to educate people about environmental choices in eating and drinking. But don't be fooled. The food here is as sophisticated as it is sustainable. Start with a sea scallop served with caper-raisin-walnut relish and an artichoke risotto cake, or the black bean and goat cheese fritters and salsa fresca. Beet-and-gorgonzola salads are becoming passé — unless of course they're dressed with curry and studded with medjool dates. The flavors continue in a duck confit with honey reduction or a rockfish dressed up with jicama-mint salad and flavorful Vietnamese nuoc cham sauce. "We believe in the simple power of food, wine and company coming together at the table," the Walters say.

Best Restaurant in Seaside

Gusto — 1901 Fremont Blvd., Seaside — 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, 4:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday, 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday — (831) 899-5825, gusto1901.com

Gusto dishes up everything you could want in an Italian eatery. Don't let the address give you pause — the restaurant is cozy and welcoming and parking is refreshingly abundant. The restaurant boasts that its wood-fired oven "heats to roughly 800 degrees," giving its pizzas delicious crusts that can't be produced any other way. You can go simple, with housemade tomato sauce and buffalo mozzarella, or opt for fancier stuff, like layers of sausage, pepperoni and pancetta (the Carnivora), shrimp in garlic cream sauce (the Gamberette) or meatballs in garlic sauce (Polpetta di Vodka), and there are more than 20 combinations of pastas and sauces. Thinking about leaving without dessert? Unh-uh. As Clemenza told Rocco in "The Godfather," take the cannoli.

RECREATION and THE ARTS

Best Local Artist

Will Bullas — Carmel Art Association Gallery, Dolores between Fifth and Sixth, and the Carmel Valley Art Association, 2 Chambers Lane — willbullas.com

Continues next page

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

As an artist living in a place where creative types are revered, Will Bullas again wins one of the most cherished of Pine Cones. Bullas finds humor in just about everything, and his art is a perfect antidote for anybody who's taking things too seriously. Using an assortment of puns and one-liners to complement his art, he creates a world where pigs wear togas, dogs sip wine and gorillas look cool in sunglasses. He's a former president of the Carmel Art Association.

Best Photography Gallery

Weston Gallery — Sixth between Dolores and Lincoln, Carmel — 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday — (831) 624-4453 - westongallery.com

A next generation carries on the family legacy at the downtown gallery. It's doubtful any family has made such an impact on fine art photography as the Westons since patriarch Edward Weston established himself as one of the medium's great visionaries. His sons, Cole and Brett Weston, followed in his footsteps, and today, his granddaughter, Cara Weston, does the same. The gallery also showcases 20th century masters of the medium, like Ansel Adams, Wynn Bullock and Imogene Cunningham.

Best Sculpture Gallery

Bennett Sculpture Carmel — San Carlos and Sixth, Carmel — (831) 626-3054, bennetsculpturecarmel.com

Like the Westons, the Bennetts have made creativity a family business. Late sibling sculptors Bob and Tom Bennett got things started, and today, the gallery is owned and operated by the mother-daughter team of Debi Bennett and painter and jeweler Ashley Bennett-Stoddard. The gallery showcases the sculptures of Tom's daughter, Terrie Bennett, and carries the work of three other family members, sculptors Kim Bennett, Keith Shannon and MK Shannon.

Best Art Gallery

Carmel Art Association — Dolores between Fifth and Sixth, Carmel - open by appointment — (831) 624-6176, carmelart.org

In a town that's famous for its art, the Carmel Art Association has no peer in the contest for the town's creative heartbeat. One of the country's oldest nonprofit galleries — it was founded in 1927 — it represents more than 100 of the region's finest painters, printmakers and sculptors. Besides presenting monthly shows, the gallery normally hosts a busy slate of events that includes meet-the-artist receptions, films, lectures and concerts. For now, you can either visit by making an appointment or check out the artists' works on the gallery website.

Best Performing Arts Group or Company

Pacific Repertory Theatre — Monte Verde between Eighth and Ninth — (831) 622-0100, pacrep.org

The Monterey Peninsula's premier theater group, PacRep stages its many productions at three distinctive local sites — the Golden Bough Playhouse, the Forest Theater and the Circle Theatre. Founded in 1982 by Stephen Mooror, who continues to be its creative director, the theater pays tribute annually to the genius of William Shakespeare, and ends each year with a celebration of classic rock 'n' roll. Its 2020 productions of "The Addams Family Musical" and "Shrek, the Musical," have been postponed to 2021, but will surely be worth the wait. With its School of Dramatic Arts, PacRep will continue to offer a wealth of stage opportunities for youngsters.

Best Concert Venue

Sunset Center — San Carlos between Eighth and 10th — (831) 620-2048, sunsetcenter.org

Owned by the city and operated by a nonprofit, Sunset Center attracts world class talent to its main stage. Once the historic Sunset School, it has been transformed into a state-of-the-art facility. While its concerts are on hold for now, it has hosted shows by an impressive array of performers in recent years, including Neil Sedaka, Dwight Youkam, Sergio Mendez, The Chieftains, Darlene Love, Emmylou Harris and Burt Bacharach. It also provides a home for the Marjorie Evans Gallery, Yoga Shala by the Sea, the Arts Council for Monterey County, and the Center for Photographic Art.

Best Local Music Group (classical)

Monterey Symphony — (831) 646-8511, montereysymphony.org

The only professional orchestra based on the Monterey Peninsula, the Monterey Symphony has cleverly responded to the pandemic by staging a concert series from the safety of a balcony that's attached to its Hampton Court office at San Car-

Continues next page

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coastal roots
HOSPITALITY

From previous page

los and Seventh. Also, finding another way to fuel creativity when it can't present concerts, the symphony chose John Wineglass to be its first-ever composer-in-residence. During the best of times, the symphony brings world class classical music to Sunset Center.

Best Local Music Group (rock, jazz and pop)

The Money Band — moneyband.org

Live music is hold for now due to the pandemic, but when it returns to Monterey County, the Money Band will likely be headlining the local party celebrating it. Led by charismatic singer Zoe Alexander, the band plays pop and rock hits from the past seven decades — with an emphasis on getting the action going on the dance floor. With a repertoire that includes music by Elvis Presley, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Oasis and Sublime and many others, there's something on the set list for everybody.

Best Place to Take Visitors

Point Lobos State Reserve — [Highway 1 south of Carmel](http://Highway1southofCarmel-pointlobos.org) — pointlobos.org

Called the “greatest meeting of land and water in the world” by painter Francis McCormas, Point Lobos State Reserve is a magnet not only for painters and photographers, but for just about anyone who loves the outdoors. Famous for its rugged coastline, wind-swept cypress groves and ancient forest of Monterey pines, it's remarkably accessible, and even has trails than can accommodate wheelchairs. It's also home to one of the richest marine environments anywhere — every weekend, scores of scuba divers explore the mysterious world beneath the waves.

Best Family Activity

Monterey Bay Aquarium — 886 Cannery Row, Monterey — temporarily closed — (831) 648-4800, montereybayaquarium.org

More than two million people each year visit the world-famous aquarium, and it's certain that many of them will be ready to buy tickets when the coronavirus shutdown is lifted. The facility has already been gearing up for socially distanced visitors with a reservation system, new traffic patterns and lots of sanitizing stations. Locals are particularly looking forward to seeing the soothing jellyfish tanks, the hypnotic Outer Bay exhibit and the playful otters cavorting in their home. With 34 major galleries and nearly 200 exhibits — which offer a fascinating glimpse into the wonders that lie beneath the waves of Monterey Bay — the aquarium is arguably the region's most popular single attraction.

Best Local Festival

Monterey Jazz Festival — monterey-jazzfestival.org

Originally set for Sept. 25-27 of this year, but postponed due to the pandemic, the festival would have featured a star-studded lineup that including Herbie Hancock, Pat Metheny, George Benson, and Buddy Guy. One of the world's premier jazz festivals, it has drawn world-class talent to the Monterey Fairgrounds since 1958. When it returns, the three-day festival will showcase more than 500 musicians on eight stages.

Best Church-Sponsored Event

Carmel Mission Fiesta — at the Carmel Mission — carmelmission.org

Continues next page

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

For more than a half-century, Carmel Mission — one of the most historic places in California — has opened its doors for a daylong party and fundraiser for the Mission's Junipero Serra school. This year, the twin specters of Covid-19 and the closing of the school shut down the event, which normally includes live music, crafters and artisans, and family activities. Pine Cone readers can't be blamed for their affection for the party in the beautiful courtyard. Maybe Saint Serra can lend a hand in its resurrection.

- Best Place to Watch the Sunset
- Best Place to Walk Your Dog
- Best Beach

Carmel Beach — Ocean Avenue and Scenic Road, Carmel — free parking along Scenic is permitted from 6 a.m. to midnight — ci.carmel.ca.us

Is Carmel Beach heaven? With ample white sand, easy access and no leash law, it's certainly paradise for pooches of every shape and size, who can be seen daily splashing in the waves, socializing with other dogs or engaging in the time-tested thrill of chasing seagulls. For two-legged visitors, it's just about the best place anywhere for a sunset stroll as the cool fog rolls in and dulls the echo of the churning surf. And like the best things in life, it's free.

- Best Hiking Trail

Inspiration Point Trail, Palo Corona Regional Park — 4860 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley — dawn to dusk daily — mprpd.org

An eminently walkable 2-mile trail (one-way) that leads from the park's Carmel Valley Road headquarters to a great overlook, the Inspiration Point Trail offers a world-class picnic spot. It also winds its way through groves of majestic oaks before rewarded hikers with views that offer a birds-eye look at Carmel, Point Lobos and Carmel Valley. At a time when more people are getting outside and hitting the trails than ever before, this one is getting lots of activity.

- My Favorite Park

Garland Ranch Regional Park — 700 W. Carmel

Valley Road, Carmel Valley – dawn to dusk daily – mprpd.org

The crown jewel of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, 4,400-acre Garland Park has trails for every level of fitness, from easy and shady strolls along Carmel River and Garzas Creek, to steep switchbacks that lead to sweeping views of the valley. Dogs are welcome and enjoy splashing

around in the Carmel River, while mountain bikers and horse-back riders have places to enjoy themselves, as well. In the spring and early summer, the upper meadows offer spectacular wildflower blooms, with golden poppies and blue lupines splashing color across the landscape.

Continues next page



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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

Best Fitness/Health Center

Carmel Valley Athletic Club — 27300 Rancho San Carlos Road, Carmel Valley — open to members only during the pandemic; please call for appointments — (831) 624-2737, cvaonline.com

A frequent Golden Pine Cone winner, the Carmel Valley Athletic Club has been around for more than 50 years, so it obviously has a good handle on how to run a fitness center and help people get in shape. During the pandemic shutdown, workouts have moved outdoors and the heated 25-yard lap and recreation pool and tennis courts are open. In normal times, CVAC has state-of-the-art fitness equipment for those who want to pump iron, and it offers a variety of group ex-

ercise classes and social events, such as drop-in tennis and poker nights. CVAC also has offered child care for ages 6 weeks to 12 years old. New member perks include a 30-minute private tennis assessment, three Pilates sessions, and three personal training sessions.

Best Martial Arts Studio

American Karate — 182 Country Club Gate, Pacific Grove — Call for class schedule — (831) 372-5425, american-karatemonterey.com

Operated by Matt Durney, American Karate has offered karate and kickboxing training for a long time, and the business is once again a winner of the Golden Pine Cone for Best Martial Arts Studio. Although it's been affected by the pandemic just like other fitness studios, American Karate offers

outdoor classes at 4 p.m. and 5 p.m., depending on age and skill level, outside its Country Club Gate location in Pacific Grove. There is no contact and students and instructors distance themselves. The reviews for American Karate say it all, including this one posted on social media earlier this year: "My daughter just started at American Karate recently, and absolutely loves it. It's definitely helping her develop discipline, create small goals for herself and work toward them diligently. It also gives her a great outlet for her boundless energy and athleticism! Mr. Durney and Ms. Bell are fantastic teachers, and they were specifically recommended to us by someone who knows my daughter well. I'm so grateful we've found this place!"

Best Yoga Studio

Seaside Yoga Sanctuary — Ocean Avenue and Mission Street, Carmel — Please check website for pandemic-related schedule adjustments, 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, and 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday — (831) 899-9642, seasideyogasanctuary.com

Seaside Yoga Sanctuary's philosophy, "yoga is for everyone," embraces inclusivity. And the business at Ocean and Mission makes a point of advertising that it offers yoga for people of all ages and physical abilities. "Our yoga classes are diverse in styles and levels of yoga, and are for the seasoned practitioner and those new to yoga," according to Seaside Yoga Sanctuary. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the sanctuary's brick-and-mortar location is temporarily closed. However, it's still offering outdoor yoga and streaming classes through Zoom. Seaside Yoga Sanctuary's website has details.

Best Golf Course

Pebble Beach Golf Links — 1700 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach — Hours vary by season — (831) 574-5609, pebblebeach.com

If only these greens could talk. Rated the No. 1 public golf course in the country, Pebble Beach Golf Links has hosted dozens of legendary golf tournaments since it opened in 1919, including the U.S. Open in 2019 and the annual AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, which draws some of the finest golfers in the world, along with seasoned celebrity amateurs. Future championships scheduled for the iconic course, according to

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

Golf Digest, include a first U.S. Women's Open in 2023 and a seventh U.S. Open in 2027.

Best Museum

Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History
— 165 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove — currently closed due to Covid-19; normally Thursday through Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. — (831) 648-5716, pgmuseum.org

Very early on in the Covid-19 pandemic, the venerable history museum just steps from Lighthouse Avenue figured out how to give virtual lectures to engage kids and their parents, providing welcome distractions on weekend afternoons. One particularly popular program, "Bug out with Bree" has had local entomologist Breanna Machuca taking grownups and kids on virtual field trips to learn about dragonflies, beetles and spiders. Visit the museum's website to see what she's up to these days, and what other opportunities still exist for learning from your local natural history museum.

Best Inn/B&B

The Hideaway — Junipero Street & Eighth Avenue, Carmel — Call to book — (831) 625-5222, hideawaycarmel.com

The Hideaway, with its 24 rooms and suites, some with sitting areas and gas fireplaces, are designed to be "true havens," according to the inn — this year's winner of the Golden Pine Cone for the Best Inn/B&B. The Hideaway is dog friendly, and has dedicated rooms for humans who are accompanied by canines. It offers pups their own "comfy bed," doggie treats, food and water bowls and disposable clean-up bags. The inn is in a prime spot for shopping and dining, just a short stroll away. But if you'd rather not walk, The Hideaway also offers use of its bikes. The inn is ADA compliant, and the lobby, breakfast area and the courtyard are ADA accessible. It wants all its guests to be comfortable, and offers 250 thread-count linens and down comforters and pillows. "We craft an indulgent, yet unfussy, experience," the inn says.

Best Hotel

Hofsas House — San Carlos, between Third and Fourth — (831) 624-2745, hofsashouse.com

Continues next page



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**Patio
Dining!**

GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

In 1947, Fred and Donna Hofsas purchased four contiguous cottages in town, with plans to move into one and rent out the others as an inn. Ten years later, business warranted the addition of a four-story, 25-room hotel, strategically built into the hill to create what appeared to be a two-story residence along the main road. They called the hotel Hofsas House and gave it some fittingly Bavarian styling in architecture and appointment. In 1957, the couple commissioned established artist and friend Maxine Albro to step outside her modernist sensibility to paint a Bavarian-themed welcome mural plus window treatments, along with three framed paintings still exhibited in the hotel lobby. "My grandmother, Donna Hofsas, and I were very close," said Carrie Theis, who manages the spot nowadays. "I knew someday I would be here, that I

would continue her legacy of service and hospitality."

- Most Dog-Friendly Hotel
- Most Dog-Friendly Restaurant
- Best Place to Relax and Listen to Music

Cypress Inn/Terry's Restaurant & Lounge — Lincoln & Eighth — Reservations only, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and 5 to 9:30 p.m. daily, afternoon tea Saturday, noon to 3 p.m., brunch served 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday — (831) 624-3871, cypress-inn.com; (831) 620-7454, carmelterrys.com

The hotel is elegant, rising up near the center of town with a white, big-city façade. All that's missing is a doorman. Inside, the elegance continues, with a grand piano by the hearth

in the living room, glass doors opening to garden seating, and lunch, dinner, cocktails or afternoon tea from Terry's Restaurant & Lounge. But what pleases many people most is the canine hospitality, ensured by one of the proprietors, the late Doris Day. Even after the 2019 passing of the legendary singer, actress and dog devotee, guests can rest assured their canine companions will still have a place to sleep and room at the table. Thank goodness they don't seem to mind eating outside! While humans choose from sand dabs, chicken piccata or short ribs, their besties can dine from a special tea tray of delectable doggie treats. When live music is allowed again, the inn will give you a great place to while away some time watching pups and people while you listen. And at the end of the day, rooms are appointed with canines in mind, including special blankets, a place to rinse pets after a romp on the beach, doggie-doo pickup bags, and a list of local pet sitters for those who want to venture out to places that persist in being for people only.

RETAIL

- Best Florist

Swenson & Silacci Flowers — 432 Alvarado St., Monterey — phone orders taken 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon. through Fri. — (831) 375-2725, swensonandsilacciflowers.com

Sending flowers is a wonderful way to connect with loved ones and let them know they're not alone, particularly during tension-fraught times, and Swenson & Silacci's makes it simple to arrange and send sweet bouquets without ever leaving the house. Swenson's Flowers was founded in 1945 by Walter and Bessie Swenson. In 1958, Edward Silacci joined the business as a delivery person, but became a partner in 1966, inspiring the name change to Swenson & Silacci Flowers. After graduating with honors from the MBA program at Santa Clara University in 1993, Mark Silacci joined his father in the business. Today, as president of the company, he knows business, knows flowers, knows customer services. And, it shows.

- Best Furniture Shop

Mum's Place — 246 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove — 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday — (831) 372-6250, mumsfurniture.com

In just one of many stories that illustrate why Mum's is a perennial readers' favorite, one customer enjoyed the furnishings she found at a luxury resort, sourced similar products through Mum's Place, and duplicated the same sense of elegance and leisure in her home. This purveyor of furniture has always been a place where patrons wander among fine home furnishings as if visiting a beautifully appointed private home. The showroom is filled with a wide range of furniture styles, plus accessories and objets d'art, staged in vignettes to help shoppers feel at home. Wandering in and among the classic, traditional, transitional, country French, and contemporary collections at Mum's Place, clients can customize their choices with more than 80 furniture lines and some 5,000 fabrics. Since 1986, Mum's has been dedicated to bringing in a diversity of designs to satisfy a wide variety of needs, tastes and budgets.

- Best Golf Shop

Pebble Beach Pro Shop — 1700 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach — 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily — (831) 622-8723, pebblebeach.com

The purpose of the Pebble Beach Pro Shop is to provide quality products and services guests aren't likely to find elsewhere. In addition to the breathtaking beauty of the coastal greens and craggy coastline that attract guests into the resort, the pro shop is another element of a guest's Pebble Beach golf experience. Since merchandise represents that experience, saying, "It's Pebble Beach, and I was there," staff endeavors to provide the best products and the highest quality. For folks who have never held a golf club, or avid golfers who want to add to their collection, the Pebble Beach Pro Shop balances the new and exciting with proven core brands.

- Best Hardware Store

Carmel Ace Hardware, Carmel Valley Ace Hardware, Pacific Grove Ace Hardware, Forest Hill Ace Hardware — 290 Crossroads Blvd., 401 Mid Valley Center, 229 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove 1136 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove — hours vary by location — (831) 293-8050, (831) 250-5666, (831) 372-3284, (831) 646-9144, acehardware.com

Although Ace Hardware store is a member of the largest retailer-owned hardware cooperative in the business, individual stores give customers a sense of shopping "small-town local," where everybody knows your name, with the benefit of big business. In an era when it's hard to find specialized service or someone to work the register, a company that says, "Ace is the place with the helpful hardware folks" invites confidence. When customers ask for help, employees are trained

Continues next page

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(831) 648-3130 | cityofpg.org/living/recreation/plan-your-event

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Scott Fujita
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2019 & 2020

Forbes Keaton
Best Teacher
2020

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**Friday
November 13
11am**

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

to say, "Helping you is the most important thing we have to do today." It's that kind of service that causes a community to give them a Golden Pine Cone award.

Best Housewares Store

Prim's Carmel — 546 Carmel Rancho Blvd. — 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday — (831) 620-1251, primscarmel.com

It's been eight years since the family-owned hardware and housewares store created a fresh venue in a landmark location. By now, the company has built its own reputation for service, and the community has responded to it. Their investment includes expansive hardware, housewares, and paint sections, as well as specialty patio, home furniture, bedding, and gift departments. What likely earned the Golden Pine Cone is the customer service. More important than their motto — "We stand out from the competition because we deliver the products you can't get anywhere else. We not only offer the best products but the best value for you." — is that they mean it.

Best Craft-Knitting-Quilting Shop

Monarch Knitting — 529 Central Ave., Suite 4, Pacific Grove — 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mon. through Sat., noon to 4 p.m. Sun. — (831) 647-9276, monarchknitting.com

This shop welcomes you into a fresh, well lighted atmosphere with cubbies of colorful skeins of yarn, among a community of friendly craftspeople. Its name is a nod to the butterfly sanctuary for which the town is known, but this place has knit together another kind of sanctuary. So much more than a yarn store, it's a place where you can take lessons, participate in projects, buy beautiful

yarn, belong. At Monarch Knitting, someone will show you what you need and how to work with it, helping you feel at home.

Best Pet Store

The Raw Connection — 26200 Carmel Rancho Blvd. — 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday — (831) 626-7555, therawconnection.com

After reading veterinarian Ian Billinghurst's book, "Give Your Dog a Bone," Sarah Adams switched her Irish wolfhounds from kibble to a raw food diet. Within weeks, she said, her 7-year-old had lost weight, its once-dull coat had a glossy shine, and the happier pooch was back on the beach, running with the energy of a 2-year-old. In 2006, Adams opened The Raw Connection with what she considers the "largest display of raw food in the country." The store also sells healthy, treats, handmade toys, and an array of safety collars, harnesses and leashes. This, said Adams, is how to pamper a pet.

Best Garden Shop

Griggs Nursery — 9220 Carmel Valley Road — 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun. — (831) 626-0680, griggsnursery.com

If there are blessings in this pandemic, one of them must be that people are getting back to their roots. Digging their hands into the soil has had a centering, nurturing effect as citizens cultivate their gardens. Folks have been flocking to Griggs Nursery to buy houseplants and succulents, seasonal annuals, and perennials, trees and shrubs to upgrade the places where they are now spending our days. For nearly 20 years, Griggs Nursery has been thriving in its Carmel Valley location, helping to improve the local landscape one plant at a time. "We know what works here, so we can grow the variety and quality we want for our customers," the Griggs family said.

Best Camping/Skiing/Surfing Store

REI — 145 Gen. Stilwell Drive, Marina — 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. — (831) 883-8048, rei.com

The antidote to sheltering in place is getting outside where, at a social distance from everyone else, we can breathe deeply, stretch our limbs, and take in the beauty of this environment. A company whose widely recognized initials stand for Recreational Equipment, Inc., REI is dedicated to inspiring, educating and outfitting people for a lifestyle of outdoor adventure and stewardship. Founded in Seattle in 1938, the retail chain carries apparel, footwear and gear for a wide

range of activities, with salespeople who know how to help you select and use them. Whether you're a novice or expert outdoor enthusiast, the membership-optional store at The Dunes retail center can help you cover a lot of ground.

Best Place to Buy Athletic Wear

The Treadmill — 111 Crossroads Blvd. — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily — (831) 624-4112, thetreadmill.com

It all started in 1983, with a vision to develop a store that would anchor the running community like a starting line. Founders

Continues page 25A



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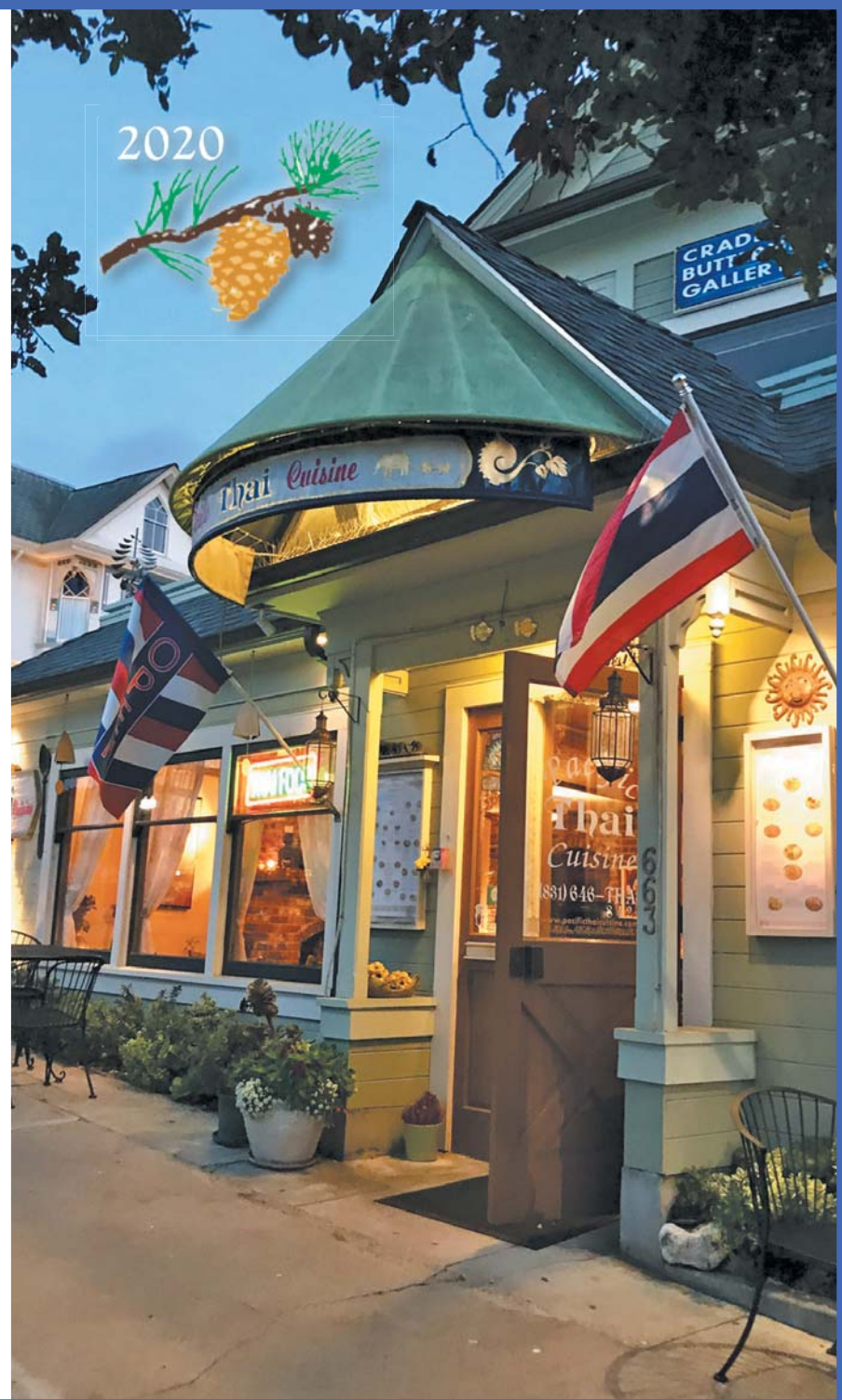
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The Golden Pine Cones

October 30, 2020

From page 23A

named it The Treadmill, but featured a wider array of fitness products, both high-tech and low-maintenance, and imagined it would become a hub for both weekenders and warriors. Nearly 10 years ago, Janice and Chris Cleary, and Cathy and Mike Hirst bought The Treadmill and set their sights on selling athletic and athleisure wear. They also offer a range of accessories to help you get moving. Seeing the store as a reflection of this community where they live, they endeavor to provide what folks need to be active or adventurous on the Peninsula.

■ Best Pharmacy

Carmel Drug Store — Ocean between Dolores and San Carlos — pharmacy 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday; store 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily — (831) 624-3819, carmeldrugstore.com

Carmel's classic drug store and family pharmacy has been independently owned and serving the community since 1910. Known for offering quality products and service, this drug store might just be the most convenient stop in town. Located in the heart of Carmel, its narrow storefront is chock-full of everything folks might need or maybe forgot on their way into town. The back of the shop looks like the old-fashioned pharmacy it is, yet it provides state-of-the-art products — including, most recently, veterinary medicines for your pets. The front of the store offers greeting cards and postcards, magazines, and books by local authors. It has hair accessories and hygiene products, perfume and makeup, candy and scented candles. The only thing missing is a soda fountain.

■ Best Children's Clothing Store/Boutique

Heaven Children's Wear — Lincoln between Ocean

and Seventh — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday — (831) 624-6550, heavenincarmel.com

Ash and Monique Vasanji, who hosted a grand opening of "Heaven" in 2001, are anticipating the 20th anniversary of their European-style children's boutique, designed for the customer who has exquisite taste and wants quality and style. "Throughout the years," said Monique, "our family has remained committed to bringing in really special clothing, shoes, and gifts for the children of our community and beyond. We are so grateful for the support and recognition." Located on Lincoln in the site of the legendary "Village Straw Shop," now just a memory, "Heaven" beckons customers through double doors into a gracious, well-lit salon appointed with very special, very select children's apparel. It's as if you've wandered into the custom wardrobe of a privileged child. Perhaps yours.

■ Best Men's Clothing Store

Khakis of Carmel — Carmel Plaza on Ocean — 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday — (831) 625-8106, khakisofcarmel.com

This shop's success seems to be rooted in providing the ultimate in customer service. Khakis of Carmel is the award-winning pursuit and passion of Jim and Connie Ockert, whose combined creative and entrepreneurial talents have created a haberdashery that's stood the test of time and taste. The store is a respected purveyor of contemporary European and American menswear that sells clothing up-close and personal. The essence of Khakis lies in trying, to see if it becomes you before it becomes yours; touching — some of the world's finest fabrics; tailoring — including custom fits and made-to-measure apparel; and tradition.

■ Best Men's Shoe Store

Hedi's Shoes — Ocean & Mission (additional locations

in the Barnyard, on Alvarado in Monterey and in Del Monte Center) — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. — (831) 624-5580, hedi.com

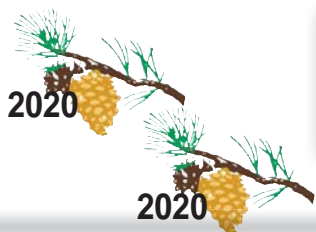
When Haydar Movahedi opened his first Carmel shoe store nearly 30 years ago, "European comfort shoes" were experiencing an emerging market. Through his carefully chosen offerings, "Hedi" has cobbled together comfort, quality, convenience and cool, matched by customer service from experienced staff who understand fit, form and function. Featured among various brands offering dressy, casual or rough-wear shoes, are Ecco, Cole-Haan, Clarks, New Balance, Pikolinos and Mephisto, plus a complement of clothing and accessories. Comfort truly can look and feel good.

- Best Women's Clothing Boutique
- Best Women's Accessories
- Best Place to Buy Designer Clothes
- Best Place for Brides to Shop

Foxy Couture — San Carlos & Seventh — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Sunday and Monday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, closed Tuesday and Wednesday — (831) 625-9995, foxycouturecarmel.com

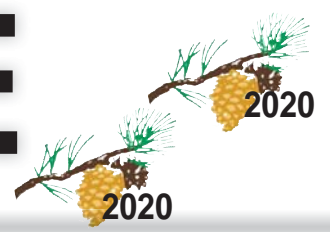
Since 1991, Susan Gavin has recycled vintage and contemporary clothing into a business which, nearly 10 years ago, became Foxy Couture, a sustainable, luxury, designer, vintage and consignment store. "We are sustainable because everything in our store is pre-owned," she said. "We recycle and repurpose older products from design houses that typically don't change that much. These luxury fabrics and designs have been gently worn or not at all." In addition to fashionistas seeking sustainable and affordable old/new looks, the shop has been attracting brides in search of unique versions of "something old," either for themselves or their wedding parties. Gavin takes pride in the special things she sleuths out

Continues next page



FOXY COUTURE

SUSTAINABLE LUXURY



Best Women's Accessories
Best Women's Clothing Boutique

Best Place for Brides to Shop
Best Place to Buy Designer Clothes

Thank you!

Dear Readers & Friends,

Thank you for voting for Foxy Couture!

We are so humbled by your positive experiences in our shop, and thank you for your continued support, especially during this uniquely challenging year.

With Gratitude,

The Foxy Couture Team



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info@foxycouturecarmel.com | 831.625.9995
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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

all over the world. “We are honored to receive these awards from The Carmel Pine Cone, the cornerstone — along with the Carmel Library — of our community,” she said.

Best Women’s Shoe Store

Lloyd’s Shoes — Ocean & Dolores — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily — (831) 625-1382 — lloydshoes.com

Tess Calhoun set the tone for her workday at Lloyd’s Shoes by pulling on her brand-new rainbow prism booties by Ron White. These waterproof boots, crafted in Italy, look like a rainbow, she said, and are so comfortable that they can be worn all day — even all weekend. With a focus on high style, comfort, function and quality, the award-winning women’s shoe

store aims to offer something for every shopper. The fitness shoe of the season is by Swiss brand “On Running,” based on the “radical idea of soft landings followed by explosive takeoffs.” Or a nice walk around town. Lloyd’s sold 22 pairs on a single Saturday. “People are starting to shelter out of place, and need a great, lightweight shoe to take them there,” said Calhoun, who has been acknowledging the store’s 40th anniversary with subtle, shut-down-compliant celebrations.

Best Leather Goods Store

Augustina’s — Ocean Avenue between Mission and San Carlos — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday — (831) 624-2403 — augustinaleathers.com

Established in 1987, this family-owned, family-run business endeavors to create a

Carmel experience clients and guests will remember and return to. The store is named for a beloved tiny terrier, which makes sense since few canines are more couture than those of Carmel. Augustina’s is an exclusive leather goods boutique, known for representing the largest selection of Remy leathers in California. “We also offer Augustina’s custom leathers, crafted in the United States, for men and women,” said owner Tracy Delaney Odle, “in any size, any color. We specialize in jackets, vests, coats, pants and skirts, as well as beautiful handmade leather belts in exotic skins — gator, lizard, ostrich and hornback.”

Best Vintage Clothing Store

SPCA Benefit Shop — 26364 Carmel Rancho Lane — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, noon — 4 p.m. Sunday — (831) 624-4211, spcamc.org

Imagine finding a pair of barely worn boots, a gently worn jacket, and just-your-size jeans for less than the cost of a tank of gas, and knowing your purchase prices will support the compassionate treatment of animals through rescue, rehabilitation, protection and education from the SPCA for Monterey County. One of the best things about shopping there — besides helping animals — is finding vintage treasures among the quality clothing and jewelry donated for sale. Recalling the hundreds of animals the agency placed during the pandemic and rescued during the wildfires, it seems the SPCA Benefit Shop has won a Golden Pine Cone for service to community and for cool clothes.

Best Jewelry Store

Fourtané Jewelers — Ocean & Lincoln — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Sunday — (831) 624-4684, fourtane.com

Every piece has a story, and anyone who wears this estate jewelry will write the next chapter. Sandy and John Bonifas, who pur-

chased Fourtané Jewelers in the 1980s, have maintained the intimate, friendly and personalized atmosphere customers have appreciated since its inception in 1950. It’s one of the country’s leading providers of estate jewelry and watches, but more important than the pieces themselves, said John, “are our dedicated, long-term employees and the relationships we build with our customers from all over the world. Especially in what has become such an impersonal business environment.” People buy these pieces not because they need them, he said, but because of the moments and memories they create.

Best Shopping Center

The Crossroads Carmel — 243 Crossroads Blvd. — (831) 625-4106 — the-crossroadscarmel.com

The Crossroads Carmel was developed in phases in the 1970s, with the boulevard of specialty shops to follow during the 1980s. “With confidence, I can say we are the best destination for all of the finest locally owned and operated boutiques, services and restaurants,” said General Manager Cynthia Buhl, who has worked with this company for 17 years. “We are a lifestyle center that focuses on local retailers and supporting our local community.” Of the 55 businesses in the center, Safeway and CVS are the only ones that aren’t locally owned and/or operated. The Crossroads Carmel houses new tenants and those who have been there since the beginning, among them Spencer’s Stationery and the animal hospital. “Our community is so loyal and supportive,” said Buhl, “particularly during this pandemic and the wildfires. It’s who these retailers are.”

Best Antique Shop

Cannery Row Antique Mall — 471 Wave St., Monterey — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Continues next page



The strength to endure.

Monterey Private Wealth would like to acknowledge the extraordinary year we have all endured and to express gratitude to those who have worked so hard to keep our community healthy and safe as well as those who recognized us with this 9th Golden Pine Cone.

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday – (831) 655-0264, canneryrowantiquemall.com

One of the few remaining authentic and unchanged Cannery Row structures from the Steinbeck era, the Carmel Canning Company warehouse No. 2 has housed the award-winning Cannery Row Antique Mall for nearly 20 years. Home to the largest antiques and collectibles mall around, this historic building houses more than 100 antique dealers in a setting that pairs the bones of the old structure with rare vintage finds. It's a great place to get lost in the past for a while, revisiting furnishings and accessories you might remember from your youth.

■ Best Bookstore

River House Books — 208 Crossroads Blvd. – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday – (831) 626-2665, riverhousebookscarmel.com

Even in the Electronic Age, we can still wander the shelves and browse a book, rubbing the smooth paper between our fingers as we turn the pages, smelling the ink and feeling a volume's heft. There's something encouraging about holding a brand-new book and anticipating what the writer has presented inside. Anyone who reads likely voted for River House Books, with its carefully curated offering of classic and contemporary works. Choose from a wide selection in the humanities and sciences, bestselling fiction and nonfiction, children's favorites, young adult literature, travel, foreign and domestic magazines and newspapers, plus art, architecture, cooking, gardening and books by local authors.

■ Best Car Dealer

Victory Toyota — 5 Heitzinger Plaza, Seaside – 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through

Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday – (831) 393-3020, victorytoyota.com

If you've lived on the Monterey Peninsula for any time at all, you've undoubtedly seen license plate frames with the Victory Toyota logo on them. They're ubiquitous. Voted the Best Car Dealer this year by Pine Cone readers, Victory Toyota is clear that it wants to retain the people who buy cars from them. And it's likely the business will do that, given that Toyota owners are a loyal bunch. "The goal at Victory Toyota is to keep a customer for life," the business says on its website. "We do that by providing a comfortable, pleasant shopping experience with no hassle. Once you drive away in your Toyota, you can come back anytime for the best in service."

■ Best Gas Station

Lemos 76 — 544 Carmel Rancho Blvd. – 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday – (831) 624-2925, lemos76.com

Need the oil changed on your Mercedes, a new air filter for your Lexus or a smog check for your vintage Jaguar? Look no farther than Lemos 76, the gas station at the mouth of Carmel Valley that's served Carmel-area residents for six decades. Lemos 76 does what few gas stations do these days — it offers full service gas service, if needed. Late-night fill-up? There's a 24-hour pay-at-the-pump option. Its technicians can also replace batteries, install new shocks/struts, flush radiators and a perform host of other services. But wait, there's more. Lemos 76 has a well stocked snack shop serving sandwiches from Bruno's and donuts from Red's in Seaside. Yum.

■ Best Car Wash

El Estero Car Wash — 590 Fremont St., Monterey – Winter hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily - (831) 373-180, elesterocarwash.com

Continues next page



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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

Again the winner of the Golden Pine Cone for the Best Carwash, El Estero Car Wash for 27 years has served automobile owners on the Monterey Peninsula and elsewhere. The business offers full-service car washes from its least expensive bronze package, which is a basic wash, to its platinum service, which includes a wash and add-ons such as clear-coat conditioners, tire dressing and fragrance. A headlight renewal service offers to make your scratched-up beacons shine clear and bright once more. Everything, El Estero proclaims, begins and ends with the customer. "Our friendly, experienced staff is totally focused on customer satisfaction. The owners and management actively participate in operations and are readily available to assist you."

Best Gift Shop

Carmel Bay Company — *Lincoln at Ocean Ave - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily - (831) 624-3868, carmelbaycompany.com*

Founded in 1972 by Barney and Patty Scollan, Carmel Bay Company has an eclectic collection of home furnishings, furniture, clothing, accessories and art — in price ranges suitable for almost any budget. You can find gifts to delight the fussiest home cook or the most relentless workaholic, or pick up a set of grammatically correct dishes for the English language maven in your life. More than just a gift shop, Carmel Bay Company's furniture is handcrafted from recycled materials, including industrial flooring and reclaimed hand-forged metal. "Each piece is a one-of-a-kind work of functional art crafted by a small team of local artisans," the store says on its website. The furniture collection includes sideboards, tables, wine cabinets, and mirrors all fashioned from reclaimed woods and distressed copper, zinc and steel. The store also sells works by well-known local artists, including Erin Lee Gafill, Miguel Dominguez, Peggy Olsen and Will Bullas.

Best Candy Shop

Lula's Chocolates — *115 Mission Street, Carmel - (831) 624-5852; 244 Crossroads Blvd., Carmel Crossroads - (831) 626-3327. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday; Carmel location, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Crossroads location - lulas.com*

Lula's Chocolates owner Scott Lund moved to Carmel in 2004 to open Lula's after he provided chocolates for several opening and closing ceremony events during the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. The chocolates, as Lund tells the story, were a huge hit, and many people encouraged him to sell the confections. After realizing he could actually make a living creating chocolates and other candy, he moved his family to Carmel, which has year-round "chocolate weather." The name of the business, though, was dedicated to his grandmother, who taught him the demanding and exacting art of candy making.

Best Carpet and Flooring Store

Bereman Carpets — *1070 Del Monte Ave., Monterey - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday - (831) 373-7759, beremancarpets.com*

You need look no further than the online reviews to find out about the customer service that Bereman Carpets provides its clients. "What a pleasure it is to work with professionals who respond quickly, do the work in a timely manner, and follow-up if anything is needed," according to Amber Russell. "I'm a local realtor and need carpet or flooring installed often. I am also asked for flooring referrals from clients. Bereman is always at the top of my list!" The Monterey shop, a frequent Golden Pine Cone winner, offers hard-

Continues next page



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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

wood, tile and stone, carpet and other flooring for homes and businesses.

Best New Business

Chef's Stash — Order online — Food pickup location on Mission Street between 5th and 6th — thechefstash.com

The Chef's Stash is the winner of the new Golden Pine Cone category, Best New Business. Every week, Pescadero owner Gabe Georis and chef Brandon Miller prepare and sell vegetarian, pescatarian and "Original All Things Stash" boxes containing fruits and vegetables, fish and meats, eggs, milk, fresh pasta and legumes, and gourmet goods like olive oil, honey, jam, pickles, cheese and specialty sauces. Georis also includes foods from local producers, such as PigWizard for sausages and the Cheese Shop in Carmel Plaza for assorted cheeses. The boxes cost \$125 to \$285 and are designed to feed two or four people for a week. Miller is also working on offering items such as pickles and canned tomatoes, and he and Georis are exploring more options, including preparing meals that can be reheated at home. Order on the Chef's Stash website by 5 p.m. Tuesdays and pick up goods from 3 to 7 p.m. Fridays at Mission Street between Fifth Sixth 6th.

SERVICES and HEALTH CARE

- Best Place to Work
- Best Real Estate Company

Carmel Realty — Dolores, south of Seventh — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday — (831) 622-1000, carmelrealty-company.com

Founded more than 100 years ago — before the incorporation of the city — Carmel Realty Company specializes in luxury real estate, from oceanfront homes to estates with sweeping views of the Pebble Beach Golf Links. Carmel Realty has been operated by the Mitchell family for four generations. Bill Mitchell, his wife, Vicki, and daughter, Shelly Mitchell Lynch, all work for the business, as do dozens of others, who voted Carmel Realty the Best Place to Work. Carmel Realty's recent sales include a \$7.75 million, 7800-square-foot estate in Pebble Beach overlooking the Pacific Ocean, and a \$5.8 million, 2,550-square-foot home on Carmel Point.

Best Place to Volunteer

SPCA for Monterey County — 1002 Monterey Salinas Hwy. — Adoptions by appointment only — (831) 373-2631, spcamc.org

The SPCA for Monterey County has been serving pets and their owners in Monterey County since 1905. The SPCA usually has dozens of adorable kitties and dogs to choose at its adoption center across from Laguna Seca on Highway 68, but right now you have to make an appointment to find your new best friend. The nonprofit's services are very broad, and SPCA staff and volunteers also perform animal rescues and rehabilitate injured wildlife at its Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, the only one of its kind in the county. Not affiliated with any other organization, including the ASPCA, the completely independent SPCA for Monterey County depends on donations to keep it going. "Everything we do is only made possible by donors like you," the nonprofit tells its supporters.

Best Place to Get Married

Carmel Mission — 3080 Rio Road — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, 12:30 to 4 p.m. Sunday for the Mission Store and to visit the grounds, and 8:30 and 11 a.m. for Sunday Mass in the central courtyard — (831) 624-1271, carmelmission.org

The most recognizable church on the Monterey Peninsula, and one of the most visited pilgrimage sites in the United States, the Carmel Mission is also a very desirable place to tie the knot. Saint Junipero Serra arrived here in June 1770 and founded the Mission San Carlos Borromeo a year later. The Mission Basilica seats around 450 guests, while its Blessed Sacrament Chapel has about 70 seats (call for current Covid rules and restrictions). Rehearsals and weddings are hectic, and the Mission has a wedding day coordinator to help. "The church seeks to help you prepare yourselves for the great day of your wedding as well as helping you with spiritual, psychological and practical things that will make your wedding day a Sacrament that will last a lifetime," its website says.

Best Place to Get Married (non-church)

Lovers Point Park — 631 Ocean View Blvd., Pacific Grove — (831) 648-3134 (Recreation administrative office), cityofpacificgrove.org/visiting/weddings

With sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean, commanding cypress trees, lush green grass and one of the quaintest beach-

es in all of California, Lovers Point Park is an obvious choice for couples to get married. Drawing countless tourists and locals each year, Lovers Point Park remains one of the Monterey Peninsula's most visited spots. Unlike getting married in a church, it's not uncommon to hear a barking seal or crowing

seabird as the bride and groom recite their vows at Lovers Point Park. It's all part of the atmosphere.

Continues next page

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2020



GOLDEN PINE CONES

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Best Retirement Community

Del Mesa Carmel — 500 Del Mesa, Carmel — Office hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Sunday — (831) 624-1853, delmesacarmel.org

Located just a mile east of Carmel-by-the-Sea, Del Mesa Carmel is an independent living community for those 55 and older, with 289 condominium units “clustered in a parklike setting of specimen trees, shrubs, and perennial gardens,” its website says. Offering stunning views of the Carmel Valley, the Santa Lucia mountains, and Point Lobos, Del Mesa also has onsite dining, a fitness center with indoor swimming pool and spa, exercise classes, workshop for arts and crafts, garden plots and a lawn bowling club. Del Mesa also offers a variety of resident committees and clubs host educational speakers, first-rate movies, art exhibits and films, as well as casual gatherings and community-wide parties. While some activities have been temporarily curtailed by coronavirus worries, the residents and management maintain a strong sense of community through virtual or socially distanced time together.

Best Electrician

Cate Electric Co. — Dolores and Seventh — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (831) 624-5361, cateelectric.com

Michael Cate and Janine Cate Boone steer Cate Electric Co., which has been in business for an astonishing 60 years. Pine Cone readers have consistently voted Cate Electric for the category of Best Electrician, and there is a reason for that: Excellent customer service. “Cate’s crew of certified electricians specializes in everything from service calls, to home remodels, to landscape lighting, both residential and commercial,” the Carmel business says. With this year’s win, Cate has won Golden Pine Cones a dozen times.

Best Plumber

A&R Plumbing, Inc. — 1720 Contra Costa St., Sand City — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. through Fri., 24-hour emergency service — (831) 394-7221, aandrplumbinginc.com

A full-service plumbing company, A&R Plumbing has been in business since 1974, when friends Greg Aeschliman and Kelly Roper started the business. Since then, the business has grown to a team of about 20 employees, which can accommodate almost any plumbing needs. Though Greg and Kelly have retired, the A&R’s team of technicians, management and office staff still provide the “work ethic, attention to quality and superior customer service.” A secret until now, Pine Cone employees have been known to call A&R for plumbing services.

Best Architect

Adam Jeselnick — Junipero & Fourth, Suite 3 — (831) 620-5164, adamjeselnick.com

The uniquely creative contemporary designs seen in Adam Jeselnick’s architecture have been inspired by his world travels, as well as his studies of classical architecture and traditional urbanism as a student at the University of Notre Dame. Jeselnick gained experience with Pearlman Architects in Scottsdale, Ariz., contributing to projects including public works, community master plans, recreation centers, multi-family residences, and custom homes. He served for several years as senior project manager for Troon Golf, representing the interests of private clubs and golf resorts around the world. In the past year, his portfolio expanded to include the mixed-use development on Lincoln Street, now home to luxury apartments, Talbott’s wine tasting room, and The Pocket restaurant, along with a modern estate in Pebble Beach, and contemporary homes around town. His firm opened in 2013 with a focus on residential design, local and small business growth, sustainability and adaptive reuse.

Continues next page



Bennett Sculpture Carmel

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From The Bennett Family

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

Best General Contractor

Douglas Campbell Construction – Carmel Valley – (831) 747-1839

This winner has his hands so full, he couldn't even get time to call us back — but congratulations are still in order, so way to go!

Best Painting Company

Jon Stuefloten Restoration Painting — 148 W. Carmel Valley Road – (831) 320-3252, jonstueflotenrestorationpainting.com

A Carmel High product (Class of '58), Jon Stuefloten opened his restoration painting company more than 27 years ago to serve Carmel, Carmel Valley and Monterey, expertly revitalizing historic properties and beautifying homes and commercial buildings to increase value and protect them from the elements. Stuefloten's crown-jewel projects include restorations of Crespi Hall at Carmel Mission, Point Sur Lighthouse and Point Pinos Lighthouse, to name a few. Services include interior and exterior painting, restoration painting, and historical painting.

Best Landscape Company

INCA Landscape Management — 2210 Del Monte Ave., Monterey – (831) 649-1096, incalandscape.com

This family-owned and operated company has been serving the Monterey Peninsula since 1981, providing unique types of landscape services using premium materials and outstanding craftsmanship. Inca takes pride in designing the right environment to satisfy the personality of the client, with services ranging from landscape design and installation, yard maintenance and cleanup, tree trimming, pruning, installing and upgrading irrigation systems, installing walkways and driveways, and installing and maintaining lawns.

Best Real Estate Lender

Blue Adobe Mortgage — 26625 Carmel Center Place, Carmel – (831) 626-2112, blueadobemortgage.com

Continues next page



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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

Blue Adobe Mortgage repeats as Golden Pine Cone winner in this category by combining the personal attention of a local office with the power of a national mortgage lender,

offering outstanding customer service from a team of professionals highly trained to offer individual solutions to unique financial circumstances. Blue Adobe was founded in 2002 and became a division of Summit Funding Inc. in 2011, offering some of the best loan programs around.

Best Title Company

Chicago Title — 26609 Carmel Center Pl. — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. through Fri. — (831) 625-5676, chicagotitlerene.com

Chicago Title, another repeat winner, has served Carmel, Monterey, Salinas and cities nationwide, building a reputation for integrity, strength, service and expertise. With more than 170 years of underwriting experience, Chicago Title's centralized team of industry experts provides commercial and industrial developers, builders, lenders, attorneys and other real estate professionals with reliable, integrated services nationwide. "Chicago Title can assist you with every phase of your transaction and development," said Rene Ayers, vice president of sales and marketing for Monterey County. "Dedication to serving the needs and alleviating the concerns of our customers has made us the nation's foremost name in title insurance."

Best Personal Bank

Chase Bank — San Carlos and Sixth, Carmel Rancho, Country Club Gate Center, Pacific Grove; 27845 Berwick Drive, Carmel Valley — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday — chase.com

Chase Bank proudly serves nearly half of America's households with a broad range of financial services, including personal banking, credit cards, mortgages, auto financing, investment advice, small business loans, and payment processing. With a history dating back more than 200 years, J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. is one of the oldest and most respected financial institutions in the United States, with 4,900 branches — including two convenient locations in Carmel and one in Carmel Valley.

Best Business Bank

Monterey County Bank — Four locations, including 3785 Via Nona Marie — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday — (831) 625-4300, montereycountybank.com

The oldest locally owned and locally managed bank in Monterey County opened its doors more than 43 years ago to

Continues next page



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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

begin serving the community in all aspects of business banking. Monterey County Bank is proud to be the No. 1 Small Business Administration lender in the county, and offers competitive commercial lending products, outstanding merchant credit card services, and exceptional customer service and personal attention to clients. Its company motto is, "At Monterey County Bank, we believe in personal banking relations. We don't open accounts, we start relationships."

■ Best Investment House/Advisor

Monterey Private Wealth Management — 2340 Garden Road, Suite 202, Monterey — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday — (831) 372-3426, montereyprivatewealth.com

This multi-time winner of the Golden Pine Cone specializes in helping its clients invest wisely to preserve and grow wealth, plan a financial roadmap for the future, and create business retirement plans to ensure peace of mind and financial security. Monterey Private Wealth Management's six-step planning process highlights the issues most important to the client, with no hidden fees, ensuring optimum value for your money. This firm understands that you'd prefer to spend your time focused on your family, your business and your life, and uses its vast expertise to help you accomplish that.

■ Best Accountant

Finn & Cohen, CPAs — 425 Pacific St., Suite 302, Monterey — (831) 375-5166, fc-cpa.com

A longtime favorite of Peninsula locals for tax management and accounting expertise, Finn & Cohen also offers more in-depth services such as financial statements and financial planning. The mission statement of this respected company is to help clients maintain financial viability in the present, while taking a proactive approach to achieve future goals, utilizing open communication to reach an understanding of the client's needs, thorough research, and sound analysis.

■ Best Veterinarian

Monterey Animal Hospital — 725 Foam St., Monterey — 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday — (831) 373-0711, montereyanimalhospital.com

A fixture on the Monterey Peninsula since 1966, Monterey Animal Hospital offers comprehensive veterinary services and boarding in an atmosphere where all clients — two- and four-legged — are treated with genuine compassion. Ben Wilson, the owner, joined the team in 1999, two years after completing his degree in veterinary medicine at UC Davis, one of the premier veterinary universities in America. He is one of four doctors on a staff that also includes two registered veterinary technicians and seven veterinary assistants. Since 2018, the hospital also has been partners with Max's Helping Paws Foundation, a nonprofit with a mission to reduce euthanasia, surrender and suffering of severely ill pets by providing responsible Monterey County pet owners facing financial hardship assistance with necessary medical care and access to additional resources for their besties.

■ Best Pet Boarding

Casa de Amigos Animal Hotel — 715 Foam St., Monterey — 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily — (831) 373-0482, casadeamigosanimalhotel.com

Located right next door to Monterey Animal Hospital, Casa de Amigos Animal Hotel has provided safe and loving lodging for dogs and cats of the Monterey Peninsula since 1970. The lodging is owned and overseen by Ben Wilson (owner and lead veterinarian at Monterey Animal Hospital), providing overnight boarding, doggy daycare, and full-service grooming with a large staff of kennel attendants and receptionists. Casa de Amigos has undergone extensive updates in recent years, with the addition of many services, extended hours, and increased staff — all without losing sight of its original mission to make each animal's stay as fun and comfortable as possible.

■ Best Pet Care

Suds n Scissors — 223 Crossroads Blvd. — Contact for hours — (831) 624-4697, sudsandscissorsinc.com

Carmel's most elegant grooming retreat for four-legged locals and visitors has been a community fixture for more than 65 years, and today is under the direction of owner Todd Harris, whose experience includes ownership of Country Club Kennels, Santa Cruz Animal Care, and Tatoha Trainers. Harris also has been a professional dog show handler since age 16, and a member of the Del Monte Kennel Club for 30 years. Among diverse services offered are various shampoos, nail buffing, flea baths, teeth brushing, and mobile grooming. Book an appointment in advance, and check with the spa for business hours during the pandemic.

■ Best Car Repair

Tom's Monterey Auto Repair — 870 Abrego St.,

Monterey — 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday — (831) 372-5854, tomsauto.biz.

Outstanding customer service and honest, quality auto care at competitive prices have made Tom's Monterey Auto Repair has become a go-to shop for locals. Services are com-

prehensive, including quick lubes (with 14 items inspected) to full lube, oil and filter services (more than 100 items inspected, with tire rotation and brake inspection), full brake

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

repairs, full suspension and steering repair (including four-wheel alignment), standard and automatic transmission servicing, air conditioning and heater problems, cooling system analysis and repairs, smog inspection with problem analysis, and analysis on difficult operational concerns, including electrical, fuel injection, ignition, and noises.

■ Best Auto Body Repair

Gene's Import Auto Body — 531 Shasta St., Sand City — 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday — 831-899-0343, genesimportautobody.com

The Peninsula's most trusted auto body shop since 1979, this family-owned business prides itself on outstanding customer service, quality repairs, and reasonable prices. More than 85 percent of Gene's business comes through word of mouth from loyal custom-

ers. Gene's strives to service each vehicle in a timely manner, always adhering to factory standards, never sacrificing quality for a quick repair. The company has a reputation for maintaining a well-trained, professional staff in a clean, organized work environment, always using factory-certified equipment and technology, with continuing education and training. Gene's is highly experienced in Mercedes-Benz, Tesla, BMW, Porsche, Lexus, Bentley, Ferrari and Audi.

■ Best Dry Cleaner

Carmel Cleaners — Junipero and Third — 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday — (831) 624-3616

"Good clothes deserve good care" is the longtime mantra of Deok Chong, owner of multi-time Golden Pine Cone winner Carmel Cleaners, a favorite of locals thanks to courteous, efficient, and high-quality service that includes skilled alterations and garment repairs. Specialties include the preservation

of wedding gowns, prom dresses and other treasured garments.

■ Best Travel Agent

Pacific Grove Travel — 593 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday — (831) 373-0631 or (800) 648-1808, pgtravel.com

During the 41 years this iconic Peninsula business has been around, it's overcome a lot of obstacles. Nobody wanted to fly after 9/11. The recession of 2008 set a lot of travel plans back, too. And for a while, it looked as if the internet might make the whole idea of travel agents into a curiosity from days past. But it hasn't happened yet and it won't anytime soon — not if founder and owner Joe Shamas and expert travel advisors Laura Lockett and Mary Potter have anything to say about it. They plan to be around when you're ready for your next big trip, building on a legacy of providing clients with service and expertise to ensure the most positive travel experience possible. P.G. Travel is a full-service agency that handles vacations, tours and luxury excursions. A knowledgeable and experienced staff is familiar with current travel rules and regulations to help clients plan vacations others can only imagine — so drop by, say hi, and start dreaming again. Tomorrow will be here sooner than you think.

■ Best Hair Salon

La Coiffure Carmel — Ocean and Monte Verde — 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; Monday and weekend appointments available — (831) 624-9187, lacoiffurecarmel.com

Owner Jim Nault brings extensive training from Vidal Sassoon in London to create fabulous hairstyles for clients of all ages, male and female. La Coiffure is a top choice for Carmel locals, as well as guests at hotels and resorts, thanks to customer service that promises, "You'll never feel like just another client." Products are thoughtfully chosen, and stylists use Rene Furterer of Paris, an organic line of hair care products that can treat many hair problems. Services include manicures, European pedicures, and makeup.

■ Best Skin Care

Cinq Mondes Spa Carmel — 118 Crossroads Blvd. — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday — (831) 625-4410, cinq-mondesspacarmel.com

The flagship Cinq Mondes Spa in the United States offers a modern design and restful atmosphere that invites its clients to relax and recharge with complete peace of

Continues next page

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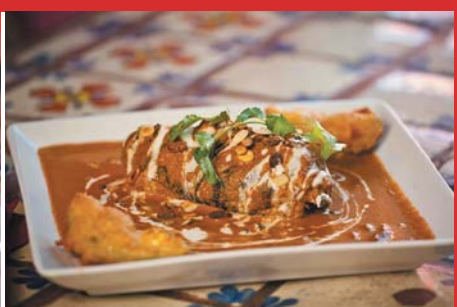
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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

mind about the authenticity and quality of the treatments they will receive. For now, that bliss is but a fond memory, but spa management says they'll be ready to welcome everyone back as soon it's deemed safe. The super-clean 3,600-square-foot spa's menu includes unique treatments, like a Turkish hammam steam bath and a Japanese bath with rose petals. Every Cinq Mondes beauty ritual — facials, massages and body treatments — embodies the expertise of creator Monsieur Poiroux.

Best Nail Salon

Magic Nails — 930 Del Monte Center, Monterey — 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday — (831) 372-6467

This is the second year that Magic Nails at the Del Monte Shopping Center has walked off with a Golden Pine Cone. They have been serving the community for more than 20 years under the same ownership. They offer pedicures, manicures, and waxing with spectacular customer service. They are very thankful for their loyal clientele.

Best Spa

Spa at Pebble Beach — 1518 Cypress Drive, Pebble Beach — (831) 649-7615, pebblebeach.com/the-spa-at-pebble-beach.

A winner yet again, the Spa at Pebble Beach is rated five stars by Forbes' Travel Guide and is a multi-year Golden Pine Cone winner. Locals are waiting for it to reopen, so they can get back to the spa's 15 massage rooms, five facial rooms, a full-service salon, a flotation wrap suite, an outdoor pool, a conservatory and a sanctuary with a warming fire pit. Whether you're enjoying a signature treatment, a day package, or just a facial, you are bound to leave feeling more balanced and refreshed. Golfers and brides-to-be alike have found their bliss here. Quite simply, The Spa at Pebble Beach is the place to go.

Best Dentist

Eric Brown — 108 Mid Valley Center, Carmel Valley, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, and 2 Via Joaquin, Monterey, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday — (831) 574-8252, (831) 375-2322, ericbrowndds.com

A multi-year winner of the Golden Pine Cone, Dr. Brown, originally from Southern California, has been practicing in the area since 2011. His practice deals with a broad range of dental services including all the basics — exams, x-rays, cleanings and fillings — and more complicated issues like TMJ, dentures and gum disease. If going to the dentist makes you white-knuckled and weak-kneed, Brown's office provides many options for sedation dentistry, so you don't have to be afraid to just stride right in and take care of business.

Best Dermatologist

James and Joseph Rheim, Rheim Dermatology Cosmetic Laser Center — 757 Pacific St. Suite A-1, Monterey — Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. — (831) 373-4404, rheimderm.com

Rheim Dermatology Cosmetic Laser Center has been around in one form or another for decades. It started with James, who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of skin cancer. Joseph, his son, joined him in 2004 after finishing medical school at Tulane in New Orleans, La. — just like his dad. According to the practice's website, "Dr. Joe" has "garnered extensive experience in cosmetic treatments." Whether it's a medical issue like skin cancer or psoriasis or simply the desire to put your best face forward, they have you covered.

Best Ophthalmologist

Leland Rosenblum, Monterey Bay Eye Center — 21 Upper Ragsdale Drive, Suite 200, Monterey — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday — (831) 375-2020, montereybayeyecenter.com

A 12-time winner of the Golden Pine Cone, Dr. Rosenblum has been in private practice at Monterey Bay Eye Center since 1994. He has clinical interests in cataract surgery, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy treatment, along with a variety of other procedures. Rosenblum is a third-generation physician, and was the first ophthalmologist in Monterey County to implant the ReSTOR intraocular lens. He's a diplomate of the American Board of Ophthalmology, a fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and serves on the board of directors for the California Academy of Ophthalmology.

Best Orthopedist

Chris Meckel, Monterey Spine & Joint — 12 Upper Ragsdale Drive, Suite A Monterey — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday — (831) 648-7200, msjhealth.com

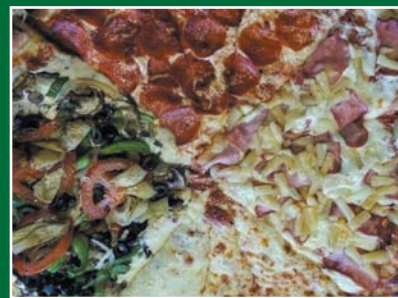
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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

Dr. Meckel is the co-founder of Monterey Spine and Joint and a hip and knee replacement specialist. He grew up here and graduated from Carmel High in 1984. Meckel's expertise

in arthroscopic surgery (the ones with the tiny incisions) and minimally invasive, computer assisted knee replacements are just some of the things our readers found to like about the good doctor. He said he is very happy to be back and to help care for those in the community in which he was raised.

■ Best Pediatrician

Jill Airola, Monterey Peninsula Pediatric Medical Group, Inc. — 2 Upper Ragsdale Drive, Ste. B210, Monterey — (831) 333-0999, mppmg.com

Dr. Airola grew up in Oklahoma and completed her undergraduate studies at Rice University in Texas, going on to the University of Texas for medical school. After working as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Texas Children's Hospital in Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Airola opened a private practice in Salinas from 2001 to 2005 before moving to Monterey Peninsula Pediatric Group, where she's been ever since. For reasons that are unclear, the practice's website says her nicknames include "Dr. Fruit Roll-up," so by all means, ask her about that when you see her. When not caring for children and their families, she enjoys knitting, hiking and hitting the beach with her dog, Jake.

■ Best Primary Care Physician

Gregory Tapson — 26607 Carmel Center Place, Suite 104 — 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday — (831) 624-3077

A longtime Carmel physician, Dr. Tapson's online reviews make clear the reasons readers awarded him a Golden Pine Cone. With adjectives like "amazing" and "compassionate," he's built a solid reputation as someone who cares for his patients as human beings. One satisfied patient wrote, "The most impressive part of the visit is that he took the time to get to know me and my health, something a lot of physicians don't do anymore. Really great office, I look forward to future visits."

■ Best Plastic Surgeon

Douglas Sunde — 856 Munras Ave., Monterey — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday - (831) 372-0200, drsunde.com

Dr. Sunde is the readers' choice for The Golden Pine Cone once again, thanks to a passion for his profession and a zeal for maintaining up-to-date techniques. He specializes in plastic surgery and provides individualized, state-of-the-art cosmetic and reconstructive treatments. A native of suburban Chicago, Sunde was an Eagle Scout, a National Merit Schol-

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GOLDEN PINE CONES

From previous page

ar, and valedictorian of his high school class before pursuing higher education at Stanford, where he graduated with distinction, and UC San Francisco Medical School, where he was part of the medical honor society for leadership and academic excellence in medical scholarship. He has been practicing in Monterey since 1994.

■ Best Physical Therapist

Balance Physical Therapy — 2260 N. Fremont St., Monterey — Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday — (831) 372-4782, balancept.com

Balance Physical Therapy & Human Performance Center in Monterey (and Salinas) was founded in 2002 by John Farahmand, who still serves at the practice's CEO. Farahmand, like the therapists he hires, holds a doctorate in physical therapy. The office reflects his personal warmth and caring attitude toward his patients, as well as empathy he gained through his own experience with a back injury when he was in college. According to the group's website, "John promises that you will not find a more patient-focused, result-oriented group of rehabilitation professionals anywhere, and he looks forward to seeing you in the clinic!"

■ Best Chiropractor

Aaron Gaily, The Back and Neck Pain Center of Monterey — 1299 Pacific St., Monterey — 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday — (831) 657-0191, chiropractormontereyca.com

Born on the Monterey Peninsula and raised in Carmel Valley, Dr. Gaily was a 1995 graduate of Carmel High, where he was a bit of a sports star. He launched his chiropractic

practice in Monterey in 2003, the same year he became head coach of Carmel High's water polo team, a post he held through the 2016 season. "Being a chiropractor is one of the most rewarding things," he said. "We get to watch people reduce or eliminate their pain, and get back to healthy living, day in and day out. It's a lot of fun coming to work every day and watching people's lives change."

■ Best Divorce Lawyer

Sarah Cavassa — 50 Ragsdale Drive, Suite 201, Monterey — (831) 655-6868, cavassaoconnell.com

Sarah Cavassa is a Family Law specialist certified by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. She represents clients in a wide array of family law issues, including divorce, custody and support. She's a graduate of the University of Washington and Monterey College of Law — where she also teaches — and has been practicing since 2008. She lectures in community property and helps out with the Heisler Moot Court program. When not working, Cavassa enjoys spending time with her family, running and being outdoors.

■ Best Estate Planning Attorney

Kyle Krasa — 704-D Forest Ave., Pacific Grove — (831) 920-0205, krasalaw.com

Talk about local roots! Kyle Krasa's website writeup is a mini-lesson in local history. His grandfather, Karel A. Krasa, taught Czech at the Defense Language Institute while his grandmother, Zdena, worked at a Monterey cannery. His mother, Joan, taught at Bay View Elementary in Monterey, and his father, Peter, was an elementary school administrator and principal. Wife Amanda is a Water Quality Specialist with the Monterey

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From previous page

County Health Department. As a student at UC Davis School of Law, Krasa already had his heart set on a career in estate planning. Outside the office, his contributions to the community have included service to Meals on Wheels, the Rotary

Club of Pacific Grove and the P.G. Chamber, to name a few.

■ Best Lawyer if You Need to Sue Somebody

Andy Swartz — 550 Hartnell, Suite A-1, Monterey –

(831) 373-3235 or (800) 624-9911, ssklaw.com

If there's a wrong that needs to be righted legally, then the man to call is Andrew Swartz, a repeat winner of the Golden Pine Cone. He has practiced law in Monterey since 1973, specializing in a broad spectrum of civil litigation for plaintiffs and defendants, ranging from personal injury to defamation, and has won multiple high-profile cases. Swartz holds degrees from the University of Pittsburgh, and the University of Santa Clara School of Law (magna cum laude) where he was on the staff of the law review. He said, "Much thanks to my two partners as well as the other members of our local bar association who make the practice of law enjoyable for me."

■ Best Defense Attorney

Larry Biegel — 2801 Monterey Salinas Hwy, Suite A – (831) 373-3700, biegellaw.com

Larry has been in Monterey County since 1975. He started as a public defender and later moved into private practice. He likes to be a problem solver. He and his team tell their clients that they "want to be their last attorney, not their next attorney." Larry grew up in Los Angeles and is a "double Bruin," having attended UCLA for both undergraduate and his law degrees. He is married to one of his law partners, Christina Biegel, whose expertise is dealing with the psychological fallout that clients experience — a definite plus in difficult situations.

■ Best Public Relations Company

Chatterbox PR, Marci Bracco — (831) 747-7455, chatterboxpublicrelations.com

Marci Bracco, owner of Chatterbox PR, is a tireless advocate for her clients. Her relentlessly energetic days start long before the sun comes up, as she and some of her staff head out for an early morning constitutional near her home office in Salinas. Handsome Hugo, an advocate for restaurants and chefs, sometimes strolls beside charismatic Koko, the poster child for Goodwill Industries around here. People sometimes underestimate them since they're French bulldogs, but they and the rest of their four- and two-legged pack are at the heart of Chatterbox's operations. Besides turning out volumes of pithy press releases and taking and making endless phone

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"We oughta be in Pictures...."

The nonprofit Monterey County Film Commission works to boost the local economy through the film industry.

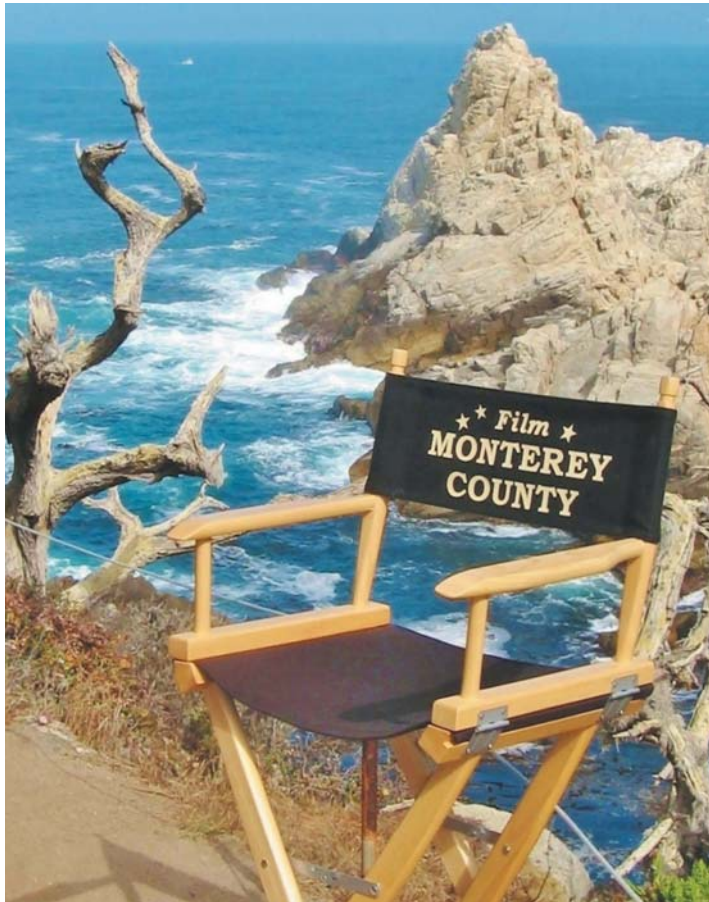
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GOLDEN PINE CONES

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calls while providing support for businesses from coast to coast, Bracco and her team give away significant amounts of time and energy in support of local nonprofits. "It's fun," she said. "I couldn't work a job doing the same thing from 8 to 5 every day. I meet so many cool people and love finding different ways to help them promote their dreams."

■ **Best Insurance Agent**

Matt Little Jr., Carmel Insurance — *San Carlos between Seventh and Eighth – 8:30-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday – (831) 624-1234*

Another repeat winner, Matt Little's family legacy dates back three generations in Carmel. Robert Little opened Carmel Insurance Agency, Inc. in 1948, when he began delivering quality solutions in the areas of commercial, personal, health and life insurance. Today, Matt Little Jr. works alongside his sister, Amy, serving markets in the Western United States. Many clients count their time working with the firm not in years, but in decades, and that kind of knowledge is tough to beat.

■ **Best Shoe Repair**

Federico's Drive-In Shoe Service — *542 Abrego St., Monterey – 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday – (831) 649-3322, federicoshoes.com*

Since 1939, Federico's Drive-In Shoe Service in Old Monterey has brought old-world craftsmanship and the art of shoe repair to the Monterey Peninsula, instilling new life into all kinds of footwear with repairs, polishes, shining, dyeing and more. They also repair luggage, handbags, furniture, and more...custom work is also available. This outstanding, family-run operation takes great pride in its quality work and customer service, earning and maintaining the affection of a community that has made Federico's a multi-time winner of the Golden Pine Cone.

■ **Best School**

Stevenson School — *Lower and Middle Divisions, 24800 Dolores St., Carmel – (831) 574-4600 and Upper Division, 3152 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach, (831) 625-8300*

– *stevensonsschool.org*

According to the school's mission, "Stevenson is a day and boarding community in which students learn to students learn to read, write, observe, calculate, research, analyze, innovate, speak, listen, imagine, laugh, collaborate, and dare and, in the process, prepare for the challenges they will encounter in college and the world." That's a lot to say and a lot to do, but if you flip through the online alumni magazines, you'll see plenty of evidence that it's been "mission accomplished" for many of the school's graduates.

■ **Best Teacher**

Forbes Keaton, All Saints Day School – *8060 Carmel Valley Road – 831-624-9171, asds.org*

Ms. Keaton is the associate head of All Saints Day School and a middle school teacher in the subjects of world history, art history, and Latin. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley and is respected and admired by the community and students.

■ **Best Principal**

Scott Fujita, All Saints Day School — *8060 Carmel Valley Rd. – (831) 624-9171, asds.org*

Fujita has been involved with ASDS for 8 years, first as a parent, then as board member and now as head of school. He established the school's first cross-country team, as well as the track and field team, and re-established the flag football team (not surprising considering Scott is a former NFL linebacker). He was a producer and the director of development on the feature-length, award-winning documentary, "Gleason," about a friend and former teammate living with ALS. The film premiered at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival and appeared in theaters across the country that summer. Scott "wants the school community to feel part of something bigger that matters," and clearly he is succeeding because he's loved by you all!

■ **My Favorite Nonprofit**

Max's Helping Paws — *26388 Carmel Rancho Lane, Suite D – (831)704-6473, maxshelpingpaws.org*

Max's Helping Paws Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization founded by people who believe that veterinary expenses

shouldn't be a reason to give a beloved pet away or end an animal's life. The group's goal is to reduce economic euthanasia, surrender, and suffering of severely ill or injured pets by providing pet owners assistance with the costs of urgent medical care. It's been providing financial relief to pet owners in need since 2016, and have recently added Chestnut's Crisis Fund to help families who suffered financial losses because of Covid or wildfires. They also offer a downloadable PDF (available on the website), "The Ultimate Cat and Dog Resource Guide for Monterey County" to help locals and visitors navigate all the pet-friendly places and services in Monterey County.



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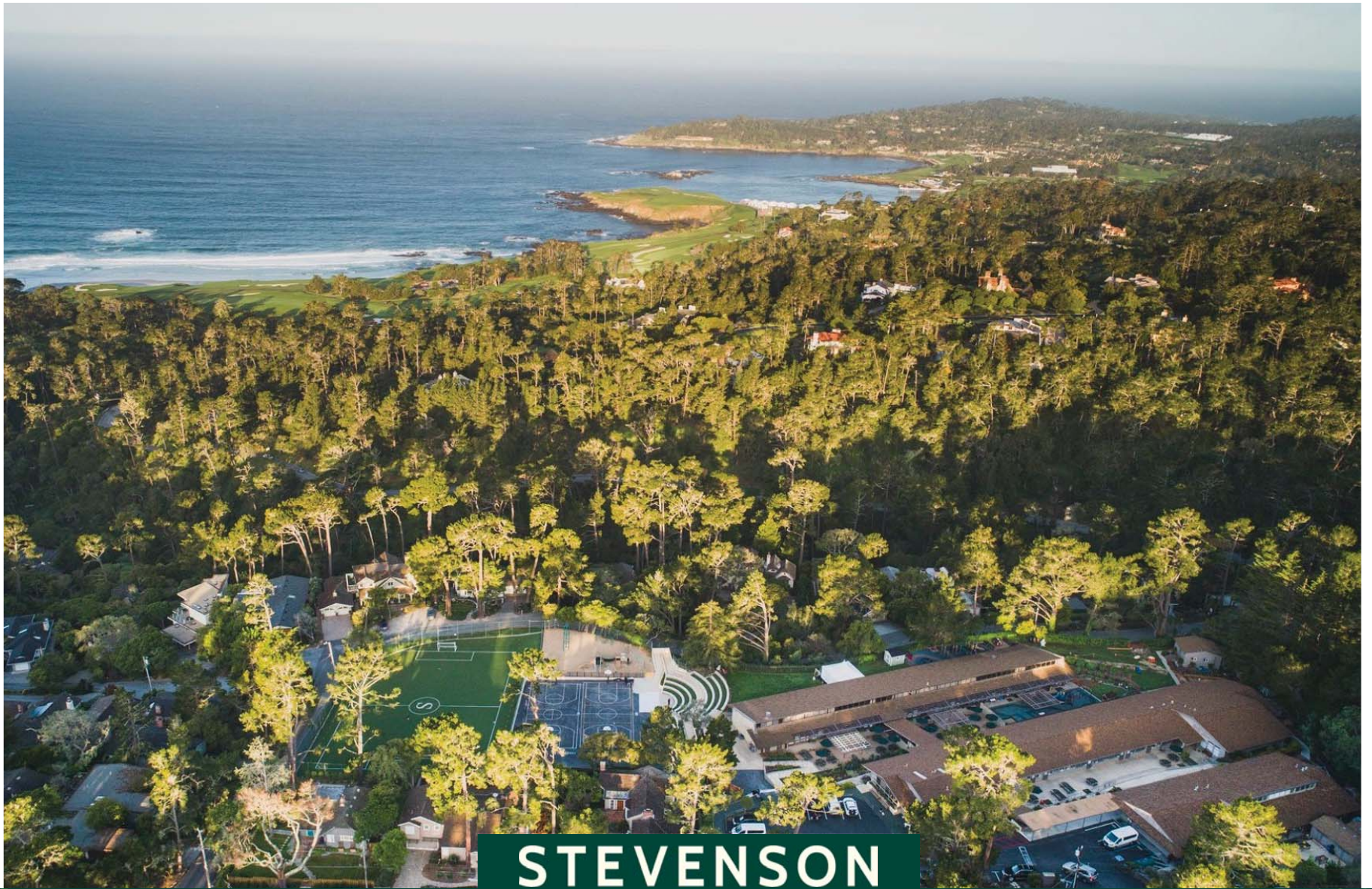
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