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# The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 107 No. 44

www.carmelpinecone.com

October 29-November 4, 2021

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## Gunmen remain at large in brazen bank robbery

By MARY SCHLEY

THREE PEOPLE robbed the Chase Bank branch on Carmel Rancho Boulevard at gunpoint Monday morning, injuring two employees in the process and firing one round from an undisclosed type of weapon, the Federal Bureau of Investigations said. No one was shot, but the robbers — who wore masks and were dressed in all black — escaped with an unknown amount of cash.

The attack occurred around 9:15 a.m. Oct. 25, with Monterey County Sheriff's deputies and Carmel police,



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

The Chase Bank branch on Carmel Rancho was cordoned off and closed Monday after three armed robbers stole an undisclosed amount of cash, injuring two people and firing one of the guns, but not hitting anyone. Monterey County Sheriff's deputies were on scene first and are investigating alongside the FBI.

who heard about it through radio traffic, rushing to the scene.

The criminals were already gone, having fled in a red Toyota 4Runner that was found abandoned but still running on Rio Road, according to a dispatcher.

Carmel police officer Joe Martis "responded and rendered first aid to the teller who was pistol whipped and to the manager, who I believe had a shoulder injury," Sgt. Jeff Watkins said. Radio traffic at the time indicated

See **ROBBERY** page 16A

## Teacher uses N word in class, told not to repeat it

■ Was reading from MLK's 'Letter from Birmingham Jail'

By KELLY NIX

A PACIFIC Grove High School teacher who uttered a forbidden word more than a year ago while quoting a letter written by Martin Luther King Jr. almost 50 years ago has agreed not to use the word again after a video of the lesson surfaced on social media.

On Oct. 22, the Pacific Grove Unified School District sent a message to parents informing them of the October 2020 incident in which the teacher — while reading aloud King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" during a distance-learning English class for 10th- and 11th-graders — used the word because the great civil rights leader used it to illustrate the abuse Blacks in the South commonly suffered.

King, whose soaring rhetoric and masterful use of English made him one of the most admired Americans of the 20th century, used the forbidden word twice in the August 1963 letter, which he authored while confined in an Alabama jail after protesting racial segregation.

But saying the word out loud, even while quoting King, was inappropriate, the P.G. school district said.

"This was a mistake, one that the teacher readily admits, and one that was made without malice," the email message to parents said.

### No harm intended

PGUSD Superintendent Ralph Porras said that the district informed parents about the incident after an "extensively edited" clip of the incident started circulating on social media websites. The teacher, he reiterated, did not mean to offend anyone by using the word.

"Anyone who knows the teacher knows she is probably one of the staunchest allies of equity in the district," Porras told The Pine Cone.

Nevertheless, a student in the class expressed concern about the word and the teacher immediately acknowledged the "pain she'd caused" and apologized, the district said.

"Everyone involved recognized the seriousness of the situation and, regardless of context, the pain that the use of the N word can cause."

The district said it's learned a "great deal" from the incident and has asked teachers to refrain from using lan-

See **WORD** page 17A

## Students rally as neighbors fight CHS lights

By MARY SCHLEY

CARMEL HIGH students exercised their democratic rights, some probably for the first time, when they testified during a Carmel Unified School District board meeting Wednesday night in favor of the district's plans to install lights on the Carmel High football field.

One of them, James Moreau, also started an online petition supporting the lights that's gathered more than 1,200 signatures.

Their outpouring was prompted by efforts by nearby residents to stop the project, which calls for installing four poles between 70 and 80 feet tall capped with LED lights around the athletic field. A state law that takes effect next fall will mandate later start times for middle schools and high schools, and the lights would allow students to practice afterschool sports even when it's dark. They would also enable CHS to host Friday night football games, as is customary in high school, rather than the Saturday games

it has held for years.

"Carmel High is full of students who are spirited and enthusiastic about improving our school and allowing students more access to different experiences on campus," reads Moreau's petition at change.org. "Having stadium lights would benefit our student athletes for later practices and the opportunity to practice on our home field."

And night games would be good for the school and the community, according to the petition, "because the turnout for late games is much larger and a bigger bonding experience for the district."

### Problems galore

But larger and louder crowds are exactly what some nearby residents don't want, and several have declared the environmental impact report the district conducted for the project inadequate, particularly when it comes to analyz-

See **LIGHTS** page 14A

## Chamber of Commerce: Complaints about skincare stores outpace all others

■ Permit for another shop in process

By MARY SCHLEY

AS THE planning commission gets ready to hold a hearing on a new skincare store to replace the existing one on Ocean east of Dolores, Carmel Chamber of Commerce CEO Jenny MacMurdo said her organization has been fielding numerous complaints from customers who say they've been duped by such businesses.

Practically since the first skincare shop opened on Ocean Avenue more than six years ago, people have complained about salespeople hawking samples from the sidewalks and doorways, using high-pressure sales tactics, overcharging and refusing to make refunds, or sending them home with the wrong products or completely empty bottles, boxes or vials.

Many customers are too embarrassed to report what amounts to theft, in some cases, and many have said the experience soured them on Carmel so much that they may never return, MacMurdo told The Pine Cone this week.

"As soon as we started seeing people visiting again,

they just ramped right back up, and during the summer season, it was pretty bad — like one or two a week," she said. "For every person who writes a complaint, there are 20 behind them who are too afraid or embarrassed to say anything. We always encourage them to call the police department and file a report."

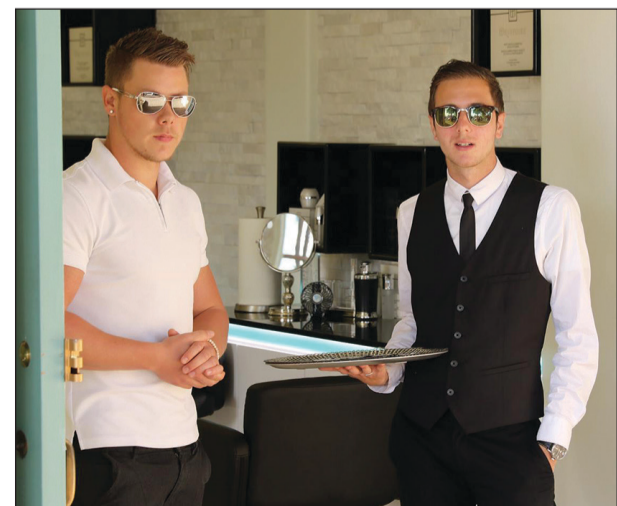
### 'Not coming back'

The nature of the complaints is always the same, with customers claiming they were overcharged or sent home with the wrong product, or no product at all, according to MacMurdo. The stores generally refuse to refund the money, forcing customers to turn to their credit card companies for help.

The chamber logs the complaints in detail, asking for photos of receipts and the products, and written accounts when possible, and notifies the city administrator's office and the police department, which has been referring victims to the Monterey County District Attorney's Office.

Sandra Book, director of tourism for the chamber, said

See **SKINCARE** page 17A



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

The chamber of commerce and the city say they receive more complaints about the sales tactics at downtown skincare stores than they do about any other type of business.



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# Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

## Parks & recreation

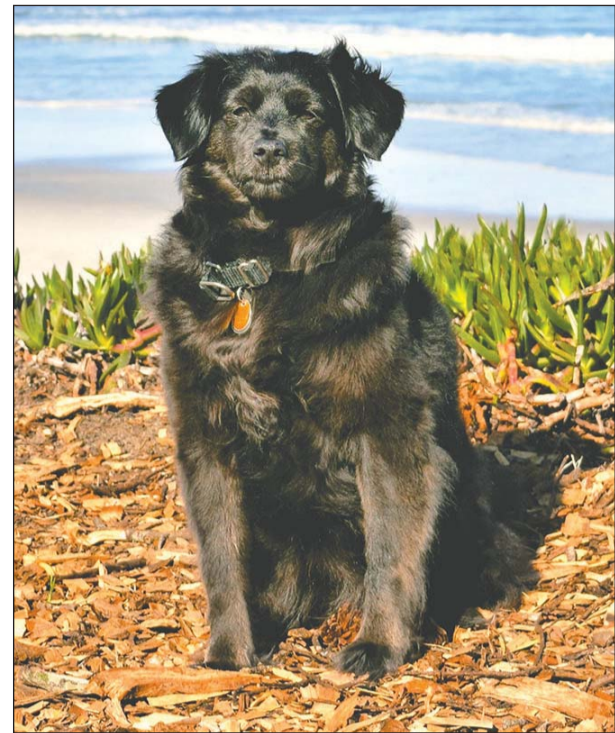
NIGHT AFTER night, they heard him crying, a tiny plea in the dark. Unsure quite where or why, they worried about the welfare of the little animal they couldn't get to. Later, they discovered the homeless pup had been taken to The SPCA for Monterey County. They'd gone there, just in case, but he was too young to adopt.

So, they waited for the little puppy to mature. Two weeks later, they got to bring him home, where they had a hard time setting him down, leaving him alone and going to sleep without him.

As soon as they could, the couple did a DNA test on the little dog, which turned out to be a long-haired Chihuahua-poodle mix. Surprised and a little unsure of the results, they tried a different test. It confirmed the original results. He really is a "Chi-poo."

Parker, now 9, spends a few days a week at a local doggy daycare. His people decided he should spend time socializing with the other canines on the block.

"He's such a good-natured little guy," his person said. "He's so sweet and loving. Whenever I feel frustrated, I pick him up, he tucks in and we walk



around until I feel calm. He has that effect on people."

His person works for the parks department. They live in Pacific Grove, and their little chi-poo loves to play in one of the nearby parks, so they had no choice but to name him Parker. He also likes the beach — possibly even more than the park — particularly Carmel Beach, where he can romp around off leash.

"Parker doesn't like the water, but he goes absolutely nuts in the sand, running around, digging like a prairie dog," his person said. "Then he takes off down the shore, but he always comes back when called. Beach day always means bath day."

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# Carpenter Street hotel plan calls for making guest units look like houses

■ Architect hosts meetings to get feedback

By MARY SCHLEY

THE OWNER of the aging Carmel Resort Inn wants to tear it down and build an upscale boutique hotel that looks like housing rather than lodging along Carpenter Street between First and Second — so it will blend better with the neighborhood — and develop and sell eight single-family homes on the side of the block-wide property that runs along Guadalupe Street, according to architect Eric Miller.

The last time anyone saw plans for the proposed Carmel Resort Inn redo was at the forest and beach commission, which in February approved the removal of two dozen trees but required the planting of nearly 60 new ones. Those plans have been significantly redrawn, though, and Miller presented them at a community meeting Oct. 7 to seek feedback from neighbors. He said he'll hold another with a broader audience in a conference room at Sunset Center after

Thanksgiving.

"We really wanted to know what the neighbors felt," he said. "The meeting was really for them."

He estimated that around 60 people packed the small conference room at La Playa and said he received "some excellent input that was very helpful" and answered a lot of questions about capacity, parking, traffic and water.

### 'Fleabag hotel'

The Carmel Resort Inn has 31 guest units in around 20 cabins, but "the new project is going to have 25 guest rooms and one manager's room, and all but one of the units are going to be two bedrooms," Miller said. "Our whole concept is to make luxury suites. We decided consciously not to make it feel like one commercial or institutional project. Right now, the property is a fleabag hotel."

Miller said the idea is to draw families, as opposed to individual travelers coming in separate cars and occupying individual rooms, so the overall impact should be less than what it is now.

"There are not many places you can stay in suites in Carmel," Miller said. "There's just not enough of that here. It also brings in a higher level of tourist."

To make the hotel blend with the area, Miller designed the suites to look like residences. "It will look like a row of houses on Carpenter, even though it's not," he said.

The hotel won't offer any food, but each unit will have its own kitchen. The

See RESORT page 18A



A rendering by Eric Miller Architects shows the units planned for the new Carmel Resort Inn that will look more like houses than hotel rooms.



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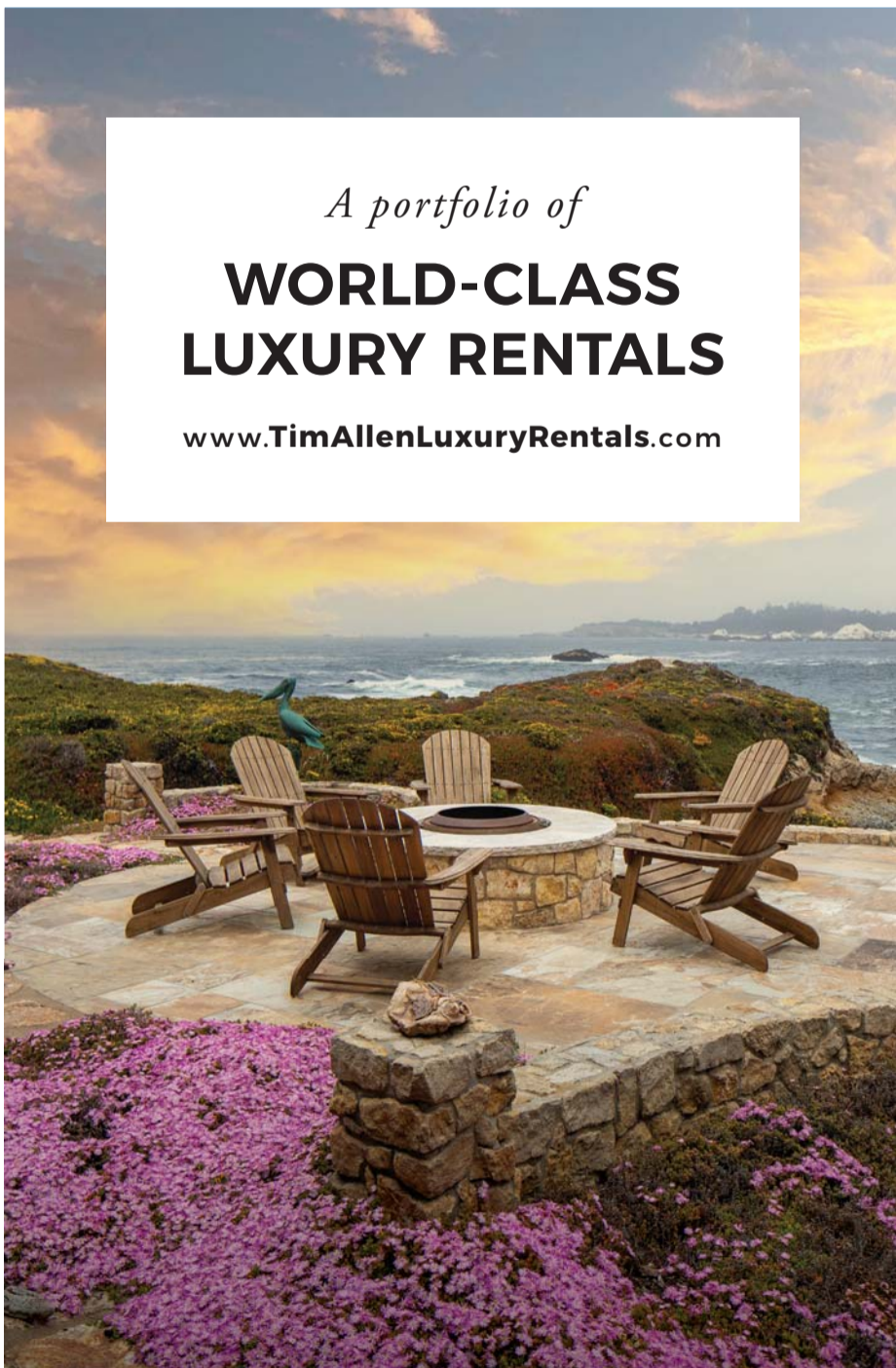
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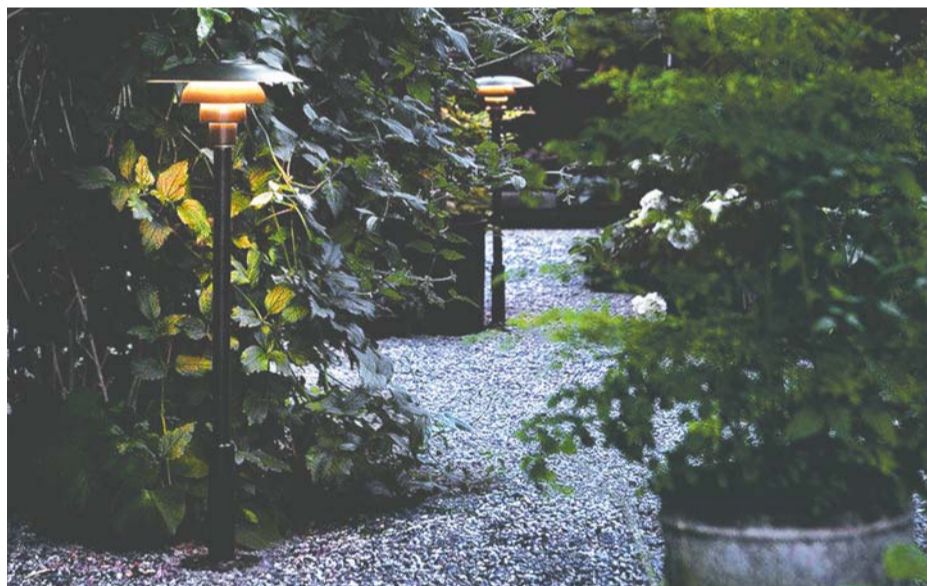
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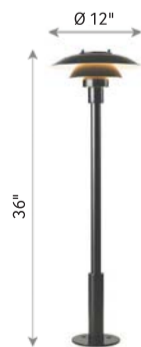
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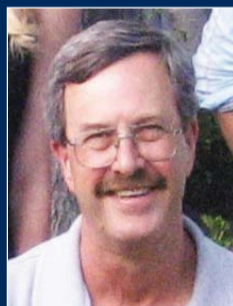


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## Police & Sheriff's Log

### Quick, follow those soap bubbles

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.

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

**Pacific Grove:** Subject admonished for trespassing at a residence on Jewell.

**Pacific Grove:** Hit-and-run on Grove Acre.

**Carmel area:** Male on Ocean Avenue reported a false crime.

**Carmel Valley:** Vehicle towed from East Carmel Valley Road for a traffic violation.

**Carmel area:** Deputies conducted a traffic stop on Rio Road and found a controlled substance.

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Vehicle towed from Lincoln and Seventh for blocking a driveway.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Person found an unattended ring in the roadway at Dolores and Third. The ring was placed into safekeeping pending contact with the owner. Finder would like to claim after 90 days.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Two female family members were causing a disturbance at a hotel in the Carmel at Junipero and Third at 2027 hours. The hotel staff asked if the females would vacate the property, which they agreed to.

**Pacific Grove:** Subjects on Laurel and Lighthouse were placed on 5150 holds [danger to self or others].

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Individual transported to CHOMP for medical treatment.

**Pacific Grove:** Camping trailer stolen from Asilomar.

**Pacific Grove:** Suspicious circumstances on 13th Street.

**Carmel area:** A suspicious female went into a bank on Carmel Rancho Lane and asked for a cash advance. The bank manager reported that the same female went into a different branch and used a fraudulent credit card to collect several thousand dollars.

**Carmel area:** Verbal domestic dispute on High Meadows Drive.

**Pacific Grove:** Stolen bicycle reported on Ocean View Boulevard.

See **POLICE LOG** page 10RE  
in the Real Estate Section



## The gavel falls

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

**Aug. 23** — Daniel Macias Victoria pled no contest to attempted murder of a police officer for his role in a December 2019 officer-involved shooting, and assault with a semiautomatic firearm for an incident that occurred days earlier. Victoria also admitted an enhancement for personal use and intentional discharge of a firearm.

On December 8, 2019, Victoria had a dispute with victim John Doe near Market Way and California Street in Salinas during which Victoria drew a gun and shot at Doe but missed. Doe fought back before Victoria shot again striking Doe's bicep with a bullet. Victoria fled the scene, and Doe was treated at the hospital for his wound.

On December 11, 2019, after identifying Victoria as a suspect in the California Street shooting, Salinas Police Officer Evan Adams attempted to pull over Victoria for a traffic violation that evolved into a lengthy pursuit through the City of Salinas and continued into unincorporated Monterey County on Alisal Road. Officer Daniel Garcia took the lead in the pursuit before Victoria reached out his window with a gun and shot twice in the direction of Officer Garcia but missed. The pursuit terminated in a field just outside Gon-

zales when Victoria's truck and the officers' patrol vehicles became disabled in the mud. In a subsequent standoff with police, during which officers surrounded Victoria's truck from approximately 100 yards away, Victoria fired another round in the officers' direction but missed. At that point, officers returned fire and subsequently arrested Victoria.

The Honorable Mark E. Hood will sentence Victoria to 25 years in state prison. These convictions constitute two "strikes" under California's three strikes law, and his plea to attempted murder qualifies as a "super strike" conviction that could result in a life sentence for any future felony conviction.

**Aug. 25** — Zion Dejon Hill pled guilty to residential burglary and assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury. He also admitted a prior strike conviction for a robbery he pled guilty to in 2019.

On January 11, the defendant entered the victim's home through her window and stole her life savings. A witness who knew the defendant saw him leave out the front door. The same witness reported that the defendant posted social media videos of himself waving

See **GAVEL** page 16A

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## Dear Larry

BY LARRY MESLER

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# Defense to seek new trial in shooting

By MARY SCHLEY

**JOSEPH SAMPOGNARO, Jr.**, the man convicted by a jury in April of shooting his father to death in a barn off of Laureles Grade last September and leading deputies on a dangerous chase that ended when he crashed on Highway 1 near Point Lobos, will seek a new trial, according to court records.

His attorney, Tara Higgins, plans to make a motion for a new trial at a Nov. 2 hearing in front of Monterey County Superior Court Judge Mark Hood based on the fact that one of the jurors regularly fell asleep while witnesses and experts were testifying.

In July, Higgins petitioned the court

to obtain jurors' contact information — which is usually kept sealed in such cases — and received it in September.

The demand for a new trial will be based on testimony that at least one juror fell asleep during the trial, according to court documents. Higgins hired investigator Virginia Hennessey to gather details on the allegations which she provided in an Aug. 26 declaration.

### 'Worked nights'

On July 8, Hennessey interviewed former public defender Rachel Miller, who represented Sampognaro throughout his trial. "Miller said there was an issue with

See TRIAL page 17A

# MAJOR STORM TRIGGERS ROCK SLIDE ON HIGHWAY 1, COULD TAKE WEEK TO CLEAR

By CHRIS COUNTS

**SUNDAY'S BIG** storm caused a landslide that left a large pile of rocks, dirt and debris on Highway 1 near the San Luis Obispo County line and "early assessments indicate that the highway may be closed for up to a week," Caltrans reported.

The closure is a quarter-mile north of the Monterey County line.

"This rockfall has resulted in a full closure of Highway 1 at Ragged Point," the state roads agency announced. "Maintenance and geotechnical teams are on site and continue their assessments of the area."

It's likely there's work that needs to be done beyond simply clearing material from the pavement.

"In addition to rockfall on the road, there is concern about unsupported rock on the slopes immediately above," the report continued. "It is expected that the work area for machinery and equipment to

address these conditions will need to cover the entire roadway."

To clear and repair the road, Caltrans signed an emergency contract with Papiich Construction of Arroyo Grande for \$500,000.

"Crews and equipment have already been mobilized, and work will occur seven days a week during daylight hours as long as site conditions are safe for crews," Caltrans added.

### 11.7 inches of rain

Sunday's storm hit hard along the Big Sur coast, where 11.7 inches were recorded at Mining Ridge, the National Weather Service reported. There's more wet weather on the way, but nothing like last week's.

"We are looking at the next system coming through Nov. 1-2, but it will be nowhere near what we saw during the recent atmospheric river event," forecaster Brooke Bingaman reported.

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# Supe says STR woes have gotten worse, calls for crackdown in 5th District

By CHRIS COUNTS

AS MONTEREY County moves forward at a glacial pace to craft an ordinance to regulate short-term rentals, supervisors are moving quickly to create a pilot enforcement program — but only for the 5th District, which includes unincorporated parts of the Carmel area, Carmel Highlands, Carmel Valley and Big Sur. Fifth District Supervisor Mary Adams said it's necessary because there's been a big uptick in complaints against the industry recently.

"It has gotten so much worse in the past eight months," Adams said told her colleagues Oct. 5. "It's untenable."

Supervisors instructed county staff to develop the plan in time for a tentative Dec. 7 hearing.

"I'm hoping we can have this implemented by Jan. 1, 2022," Adams said before making a motion to move the plan forward. She said it will bring relief to residents who have "been living with and dealing with this for the past seven years."

Adams said a third-party administrator should be hired to run the program, and taxes from the owners of short-term rentals operators should pay for it.

### Just 20 have permits

So how bad is the short-term rental situation in the district, where according to Dick Matthews of the Monterey County Vacation Rental Alliance, 82 percent of the county's STRs are? At the hearing, Eric Lundquist, the county's director of housing and community development, reported that

as of August, 20 operators of short-term rentals in Monterey County had permits, there were 126 open code compliance cases against illegal rentals, 644 properties were advertising vacation stays, and 400 were paying hotel taxes.

Pris Walton of the Carmel Valley Association said she and her group do not want to ban short-term rentals in Carmel Valley, but they do want to put limitations on them. In a recent letter to supervisors, the CVA urged the county to count short-term rentals against the cap on visitor-serving units in the valley, encourage operators to have hosts on site, limit the number of operators in rural zoning areas to no more than 2 percent of the homes, and use all hotel taxes for enforcement.

Matthews, though, insisted the com-

plaints against vacation rentals are "grossly exaggerated" — and suggested the proposed program would be a de facto ban.

Matthews observed that at one point in 2018, for instance, the county had 93 open cases, and all but 17 had nothing to do with the renter being a nuisance or the unit having code issues.

Matthews said many of those who have made complaints don't live anywhere near the sites in question. He said a "vigilante" turned in 33 STR operators, and not a single case of nuisance was found. He also noted that a Carmel Valley wedding planner turned in a Pebble Beach wedding planner "simply because he wanted to eliminate the competition."

See RENTAL page 15A



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# CARMEL BACH FESTIVAL

# Committee criticized for racial makeup

By KELLY NIX

A PLAN by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to consider appointing local business leaders to a county economic committee hit a snag Tuesday when several supervisors said there were not enough people of color considered for the panel.

During the supervisors' discussion about nominations for the county's Economic Opportunity Committee, which is being revived, several members, including 5th District Supervisor Mary Adams, were concerned that the candidate pool was not representative of the county's population, which is mostly Hispanic.

"It was so upsetting to me that two women of color were left off this list," Adams said about people she nominated to the economic committee. "It makes us look so lame that we are not able to pull together a committee that reflects the look of our entire county."

The two candidates Adams mentioned were not intentionally left off the list, she told The Pine Cone Thursday morning, but rather were omitted as a result of a technical glitch. She called the process to seat the new committee "irritating" and "very disappointing," and said it had "not been executed well."

The Economic Opportunity Committee is composed of 12 members, including 10 people and two supervisors — Adams and District 2 Supervisor John Phillips. On

See COMMITTEE page 15A

# Supes back \$30M in housing bonds

By CHRIS COUNTS

IN AN effort to create more affordable housing in a county where very little exists, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 Tuesday to request that up to \$30 million in bonds be issued to finance the construction of a 66-unit affordable living complex at 21131 Ord Ave. and 21231 Ord Ave. in Marina. The land was once part of Fort Ord's East Garrison.

### Late leader praised

The homes would be built by the non-profit Community Housing Improvement Systems and Planning Association of Salinas. When supervisor Luis Alejo made the motion to approve the bond measure, he praised the group's late leader, Alfred Diaz-Infante, who he suggested would have spoken out in favor of this project. But Diaz-Infante died last summer. "He was one of our greatest champions for affordable housing," Alejo said.

Supervisor Wendy Root Askew also praised the plan, which is in her district.

"This is exactly the type of project we want to see happening," Askew said. "It's been a long time coming."

The housing would be built on a 3.8-acre parcel where streets, sidewalks, a storm drain system and utilities have already been put in. Six buildings would be constructed, including three with three stories and three with two stories. There would be 65 one-, two- and three-room units for low-income tenants, along with a manager's unit.

While there has long been talk locally about creating affordable housing, very little has actually been accomplished, some say because California environmental laws make building anything more expensive and time consuming.

But during the past few years, a flurry of bills has been passed by the California Legislature to make building affordable housing easier and less costly.

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## York School starts tracking the sun

By ELAINE HESSER

YORK SCHOOL, on its sunny hilltop near Ryan Ranch, loves solar power. School spokesperson Felicia Pflieger said recently that about half the school's electricity is generated by different types of solar panels scattered around the campus. Like most such installations, they're fixed in one position, which limits their effectiveness as the angle of the sun changes daily and seasonally.

However, solar panels can be mounted on devices called solar trackers, which move to follow the sun. The technology has existed for some time but has been used primarily on large-scale installations. Until recently, they weren't something you'd see at private homes, even though tracker manufacturers say they boost energy production by 40 percent.

York is celebrating the arrival of its first solar tracker photovoltaic power system (science-speak for converting sunlight to electricity) mounted with 16 solar panels, with a dedication ceremony Friday. And it's all thanks to a personal connection that stretches clear to New England.

### Fog vs. sun

Pacific Grove resident James Newman's three adult children, Nick, Ellie and Katie, are York grads. And Newman has seen the sun from a perspective most folks only dream of — outer space. The astronaut and Naval Postgraduate School space systems department chair said he's long been interested in solar power, so in addition to his full-time government job, he works as an unpaid technical consultant for Solaflect, a private company based in Vermont.

Newman met Solaflect owner Bill Bender when they were freshmen at Dartmouth College. Bender founded his company in 2007 to manufacture and install backyard-sized solar trackers that allow home and business owners to benefit from improved efficiency.

Newman was curious about how effective trackers would be here. Would coastal fog offset the benefits of moving the panels? Also, he explained, “I was curious as to the effects of being so close to the ocean and what that would mean for corrosion control requirements for the solar tracker materials.”



PHOTO/COURTESY YORK SCHOOL

A new solar tracker system at York School will follow the sun throughout the day.

Then, he said, “I finally realized that I could accomplish this most easily by donating one to York.” Along with his friend and fellow York parent Herb Aarons, he worked with Solaflect to secure the technology.

In addition to improving energy efficiency, according to Pflieger, the school believes the tracker will be used by students “in science, technology, engineering and math courses to better understand the advantages of clean energy. The possibilities

See SOLAR page 16A

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# P.G. Monarchs thrive despite storm

## Optimism about numbers

By KELLY NIX

IT'S EARLY in Pacific Grove's monarch butterfly season, but there are indications that it could be a good one for the iconic butterflies, which for more than a century have spent time in the coastal city during the winter. The winged marvels even survived the powerful storm that struck the Peninsula over the weekend.

Typically, thousands of monarchs have arrived in Pacific Grove in October and stayed for the winter before departing in February and March. But in 2020, no monarchs were seen in the city, and a mere 2,000 butterflies were spotted from Mendocino County to the Mexican border, compared to the tens of thousands that are usually recorded, according to the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History.

Local butterfly enthusiasts are encouraged, however, after museum volunteers on Oct. 15 counted 1,316 monarchs at the Pacific Grove Monarch Sanctuary — where the insects usually congregate. Pacific Grove resident and monarch tracker Bob Pacelli said last week that the number grew to 2,000.

"It's a delight to see monarchs arriving and to have the opportunity to tell their amazing and inspiring story through our museum exhibit, education, and interpretive programs," said museum board chair Tama Olver.

### Survived storm

During the storm Sunday night that some experts said was the most powerful to ever hit the West Coast, and brought heavy wind to Pacific Grove, the monarchs had a protection plan in place.

About half of the insects moved to a eucalyptus tree Pacelli planted, while the other half huddled on cypress and pine trees behind a nearby inn, he said. Monarchs and other butterflies are known to safely seek

shelter in rough weather, including hurricanes.

The P.G. museum, which usually conducts weekly monarch counts from November through February, started the counting early this year. As part of the program, adults, college students and middle- and high-school kids count the number of butterflies they can find in the sanctuary, one of nine monarch sites in Monterey County.

Monarchs hang in dense clusters in the sanctuary, clinging to branches of various types of trees, including cypress and pine trees. The trees provide weather protection, and on warm days, the insects fly and drink nectar from nearby flowering plants.

### No chill

Pacific Grove, like other overwintering sites, is a good spot for the delicate insects, since the weather isn't cold enough to kill them. The butterflies' flight muscles don't function well unless it is 55 degrees Fahrenheit or warmer.

"Around February, the monarchs will start to leave the monarch grove, find a mate and then fly farther north to lay their eggs on milkweed," the museum explained.

Pacelli — who since 2010 has planted dozens of oak and blue gum eucalyptus trees in the monarch sanctuary to help draw more butterflies — said the insects are so far taking to his trees this year.

"About 75 percent of the monarchs are on my trees," Pacelli told The Pine Cone Monday.

Pacelli began the tree-planting effort after the city in the fall of 2009 heavily trimmed the sanctuary's eucalyptus trees. Pacelli and others blamed the trimming for fewer than 800 monarchs clustering there that year. For comparison, nearly 18,000 monarchs were counted in the sanctuary in 2008.

The monarch count in 2010 was 7,000 after Pacelli moved 43 trees to the sanctuary, and many people credited the high population that year to his efforts.



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# County child program agency has one of state's biggest payrolls

By KELLY NIX

A MONTEREY County agency that offers child care, health services and a variety of programs for kids up to 5 years old and their families had a bigger payroll in 2020 than all but four similar agencies in other parts of the state — including those in much larger counties — according to data released this week by the state controller.

On Tuesday, Controller Betty Yee outlined compensation for more than three-dozen First 5 commissions, including First 5 Monterey County. The county agency, funded by taxpayers, had a payroll of \$1,239,775, with another \$367,128 in retirement and health insurance costs last year, the data show.

The agency's payroll ranks it fifth on the list of highest First 5 payrolls, just after Sacramento (\$1,339,618), San Bernardino (\$1,613,181), Riverside and Los Angeles (\$14,017,607) counties, the state said.

First 5 Monterey County's highest paid employee was executive director Francine Rodd, who earned about \$213,000 in salary and benefits in 2020. The agency's director of programs earned \$175,323 in salary and benefits, while its controller was paid \$175,238. Nine of the agency's dozen full-time employees earned more than \$100,000, according to the state data.

Asked why First 5 Monterey County's payroll is bigger than counterpart agencies in much larger counties, such as Ventura, San Diego, San Mateo, San Joaquin and Fresno counties, Rodd said that First 5 commissions are structured differently to best meet the needs of their respective communities.

"The First 5 county commissions are each structured to respond to local community contexts," Rodd said. "Some First 5s contract out key roles and functions, and others provide support through in-house staffing."

First 5 Monterey County had a dozen full-time workers in 2020, according to the state.

### 60-hour week

Rodd said the compensation for First 5 Monterey County's employees is "well within other salaries" for "similar work" in the county. First 5's finance and personnel committee oversees a compensation study about every five years, and the agency's full commission — which includes District 3 Monterey County Supervisor Chris Lopez — OKs pay increases.

Rodd said the salaries are designed so First 5 Monterey County can be competitive and attract and retain staff while also being a "good steward of the funds."

"As local businesses are unfortunately acutely aware, staff turnover is costly in terms of training, efficiency and effectiveness," she said. "At First 5 Monterey County, half of the employees have been with the agency for nine years or more, saving money and maximizing skills."

Rodd, who has been in Monterey County since she was a young child, has led the agency since 2004.

"I absolutely adore the work I do," she said. "It challenges me every day, which is why a 60-hour work week is pretty typical. At one point, I chose to delay the salary [increases] indicated in the salary survey and phased it in over several years."

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# Verizon hearing postponed until December 7

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

VERIZON WIRELESS' attempt to convince the city council to OK the installation of a cell tower and equipment on Carmelo south of Eighth will wait until December, planning director Brandon Swanson announced Friday.

The company claims the new tower, which would be mounted on a power pole in the area, is necessary for cell coverage and must be approved under state and federal laws, but opponents have said allowing it will open the door for other companies to do the same and would violate city codes and ordinances.

The hearing was originally scheduled for the council's Nov. 2 meeting. Swanson said it was delayed "to give the community a little more time to digest" the company's proposal and its implications, and is now set to take place Dec. 7.



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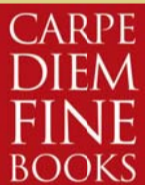
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# CITY'S 'BEAUTIFICATION WEEK' GIVES DOWNTOWN A MAJOR SPRUCE-UP

By MARY SCHLEY

EVEN THE top executives in city hall donned safety vests and put in a bit of sweat equity downtown for the inaugural Beautification Week, which planning director Brandon Swanson said he wants to make a regular occurrence.

Organized by the planning and public works department in collaboration with Carmel Cares and other volunteer groups, the weeklong effort has focused on downtown, defined as the area bounded by Monte Verde and Junipero between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

ment in collaboration with Carmel Cares and other volunteer groups, the weeklong effort has focused on downtown, defined as the area bounded by Monte Verde and Junipero between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

"This was supposed to be Monday through Sunday, but Monday was mostly spent doing storm cleanup," Swanson said. Then they got into the tasks at hand, from scrubbing public trash cans and pulling weeds, to scraping stickers off the backs of stop signs and cleaning up graffiti.

"We have had our sidewalk washer out there and have been fixing some of the pavers up and down Ocean that have raised up over time," he continued.

### Parklet rents

Using money from the restaurants paying \$842 per parking space per month for their parklets — which amounts to more than \$80,000 so far — the city also bought a couple of new benches for the commercial district and will replace missing and dilapidated street signs.

Swanson, public works director Bob Harary, assistant city forester Mike Tope and resident Cindy Lloyd, who has been tending the plants in the World War I Memorial Arch planter, walked the medians to see what plants need to be removed and where the irrigation system should be repaired. (Lloyd has been carrying buckets of water to the area where she's been working.)

"We'll repair the irrigation so it works in all five medians, pull out dead and dying plants, and replace them," Swanson said, adding that he and Cleve Waters, also with public works, walked along the medians after dark, as well, to make sure all the lights work and are pointing in the right direction.

Parklet rental income will cover the costs of the new plants and irrigation system, as well as the overtime worked by city staff during the beautification effort.

Other chores included replacing lids on the remaining



PHOTO/BRANDON SWANSON

City administrator Chip Rerig and assistant city administrator Maxine Gullo join in the efforts to make downtown prettier by picking up trash during Beautification Week.

squirrel cans, pulling weeds, pruning branches, and cleaning or replacing the cigarette butt receptacles.

### Businesses in on it

"We also reached out to Jenny MacMurdo with the chamber of commerce, and she sent out a blast to the business owners asking them to come outside and wipe down their storefronts and do some sweeping," and otherwise clean up the outside of their shops, he said. "I saw a handful of them out there."

Swanson said this week's cleanup campaign was "a soft launch" of what will become a regular program that relies on participation by many city departments, volunteer groups and property owners.

"Ideally, this would be something we'd do on a regular basis," he said, whether every three, four or six months. "Hopefully it will grow and get some traction."

It would also focus on different areas of the city, not just downtown.

But Swanson emphasized that Beautification Weeks will complement everything public works crews do on a daily basis, not supplant it.

This week's work was well received, according to Swanson.

"People are really appreciative of it," he said. "I think it's good public relations, and it's getting work done, too."

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# Residents don't have to wear face masks indoors — at least for now

By KELLY NIX

MONTEREY COUNTY residents won't be required to wear masks indoors — at least this week — as the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention continues to rate the county “moderate” for new cases of Covid-19. The county has been in the moderate category for three weeks except for a single day last week of being in the “substantial” tier.

While coronavirus cases have steadily declined since late August, the CDC on Oct. 21 suddenly bumped Monterey County into the “substantial” Covid-19 transmission rate because of a slight increase in cases. A mask mandate OK'd by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors states that “face covering requirements would be triggered seven days after the county’s community transmission rate transitions to substantial or high from moderate or low.” The mask rule would apply to residents 2 years and older.

## Benefits of vaccine

On Oct. 22, the CDC put the county back into the moderate tier, where it has remained ever since. On Thursday afternoon, the CDC said Monterey County’s transmission

rate was 48.84 per 100,000 residents during the week — a number that kept it in the moderate range.

According to the Monterey County Health Department, the case rate is 34.3 per 100,000 residents — substantially lower than the CDC figure. The county also says the test positivity figure, at 2.0 percent, and hospitalizations, at only 10, are decreasing. About 83 percent of county residents 12 and older have gotten at least one dose of the vaccine.

Asked how long Monterey County would likely hover in the low 80th percentile for vaccine coverage, county health officer Dr. Ed Moreno told The Pine Cone, “All I can say is we continue to make progress every week on vaccinating individuals. I think there are still individuals who are hesitant to get the vaccine.”

Moreno speculated that the holdouts will eventually get the shot after they “see the benefits of the vaccine.”

With the holidays and harsher weather approaching, people will likely spending more time indoors, which could lead to an uptick in the number of Covid-19 cases. However, last year, the coronavirus vaccine had not yet been released to the public, which makes it unlikely this

winter’s surge, if it occurs, will be anything like the mega-surge that began in December 2020.

“We do know that last year around this time we started seeing people getting out of their households and mixing with other households,” Moreno said. “But we also had fewer people vaccinated than we do now.”

## Vax deadline looms

The deadline for Monterey County government’s roughly 5,500 employees to show proof they’ve been vaccinated is Sunday, Oct. 31. County supervisors OK'd the vaccine mandate in July.

County spokeswoman Maia Carroll said the vaccination number was slightly better than the 89 percent one week ago.

“The vaccination rate is 90 percent for county employees, with 265 approved exemptions,” Carroll told The Pine Cone Wednesday. “The rate did increase over last week.”

If the vaccination rate stays at 90 percent by the county deadline, it could mean that more than a couple of hundred county government employees without religious or medical exemptions will have not been vaccinated. The county won't reveal in detail how it intends to enforce the mandate and fill job positions made vacant by employees who quit or are fired over the vaccine requirement.

# Youth center hosts Halloween party, so does Links Club

By MARY SCHLEY

IN ADDITION to the City of Carmel’s parade and cupcakes in the park on Halloween, and downtown merchants welcoming trick-or-treaters, a few other celebratory options have arisen for fans of the spookiest holiday of the year.

The Carmel Youth Center on Fourth between Torres and Junipero next to the police station will hold a Halloween party from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 29. Kids are encouraged to come in costume, and pizza and snacks will be provided. It’s free for members and \$18 for people who drop in at the last minute.

The youth center, which was the first of some 200 founded by Bing Crosby and is the only one still in existence, is also inviting people to join it in the city’s parade on Oct. 31. To participate, be at the youth center at 3 p.m. to walk in the procession, which is set to begin on Mountain View above Junipero at 4.

Register for both events at [carmelyouth.org](http://carmelyouth.org). For more about the parade and city activities, see [ci.carmel.ca.us](http://ci.carmel.ca.us).

Helping Paws Foundation, which supports all Monterey County veterinary practices to provide financial assistance to clients with pets in need of critical short-term treatment or longer-term care for chronic illness. Max’s Helping Paws has granted more than \$500,000 to help hundreds of local pets.

From noon to 3:30 p.m. on Halloween, the store will donate 10 percent of all sales proceeds to the nonprofit. For more information about the store, call (831) 625-1585 or go to [diggidydog.com](http://diggidydog.com). To learn more about the foundation, go to [maxshelpingpaws.org](http://maxshelpingpaws.org).

## Links Club

Links Club, located in Carmel Plaza, is offering Birdies & Boos Saturday and Sunday nights, Oct. 30-31, from 7 to 11 p.m. for “adults looking for a fun place to show off their costumes and hang out in a safe environment.” Links Club has several golf simulator bays, as well as big-screen TVs, drinks and food.

Links Club will also take part in the city’s festivities with a Birthday Boo Bash for families from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Halloween following the parade down Ocean Avenue. Prizes will be given for the Best Family Costumes, Spookiest Costume and Cutest Costume, among others. The party is free and will include games and food specials, as well as treats for trick-or-treaters.

For information and reservations, go to [linksclubgolf.com](http://linksclubgolf.com) or call (831) 625-7816.

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# LIGHTS

From page 1A

ing impacts on parking, traffic, light and noise in their neighborhoods surrounding the 80-year-old campus.

Resident Fran Dillard has led the charge against the lights, and at the Oct. 27 meeting, she reminded board members that they “are elected officials of the broader community.”

“We are going to hold you guys accountable to do your job,” she said. “Right now, it feels like you’ve rubber stamped the approval of a pretty weak and reckless” environmental impact report on the lighting project that’s also legally vulnerable.

Dillard also took on the board of education as a whole. “You have proven by your track record that you are a dysfunctional board that continues to flounder, with no record of success,” she said.

Residents and business owners are concerned about the impacts of the lights and nighttime activities on parking in the neighborhoods, which is a safety issue, according to Dillard. She also accused the parents, students and others who support the lights of ageism.

“Perhaps we do seem like silly, old, disconnected people,” she said. “I believe the sentiment in your online petition was, ‘F old people.’ Instead of trying to drown out our voices, can you guys meet us halfway for a productive discussion? These are really serious issues.”

Her husband, John Dillard, said the residents could “hold this up for a few years in court,” and that he hopes the students will learn a lesson about “social responsibility” by considering the future impacts of installing the lights and drawing hundreds more people to the area at night.

Student athlete and CHS senior Addie Crabbe, who is also ASB vice president, spoke on behalf of the “Let There be Lights

Campaign” and observed that school spirit has been lackluster at CHS, especially compared to other local schools that host Friday night games.

“I’ve gone to other ‘Friday Night Light’ games at neighboring schools, and it’s sad to say the amount of connectivity and school spirit in their student sections would be a foreign experience to most of the students here,” she said.

### ‘With a vengeance’

Other students, mostly those involved in school government and athletics, made similar comments and pleaded for support for the proposal, as did several school staffers, coaches and parents.

Coaches in particular noted that without the lights, CHS athletic teams that play in the winter will have far less time to practice than their opponents, and that they need adequate time to warm up and cool down in order to train safely.

Longtime Carmel High English teacher Hans Schmidt said that if he were in charge, and if he were to be voted off the school board for making a decision that benefited the culture of the school and its students, “I would do it every time, and I

would do it with a vengeance.”

Principal Jonathan Lyons praised the students for speaking out and participating in the process.

Dozens of people spoke for and against the lights over the course of nearly an hour-and-a-half, even though the lights weren’t on the board’s agenda.

After public comment closed, superintendent Ted Knight complimented everyone for avoiding personal attacks and for respecting each other.

“I really want to acknowledge the students that we saw tonight,” he said. “For all of us who are educators, this is why we come to work — this is what we want to see.”

He also provided an update on the draft EIR and the process, noting that comments and concerns will be addressed in the final EIR, which is set to be released in December.

“The draft EIR is not supposed to be perfect, I don’t believe, or it wouldn’t be a draft,” he said.

“By the end of this meeting, most people wanted some type of a collaborative solution, and I think we’re moving toward that,” he added.

## Fighter jets and cherry cars at Salinas Airshow

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE CALIFORNIA International Airshow will be staged at Salinas Airport Oct. 30-31, featuring the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds jet demonstration team and two F-35 fighter jets — a rare sight even on the airshow circuit — along with a number of other acts.

And this year, Cherrys Jubilee will show off historic cars along the flight line, too.

The addition will give aficionados the “unique opportunity for participants to showcase and ‘cruise’ their classic cars, trucks and motorcycles on the airport’s flight line in front of thousands of airshow

spectators,” according to organizers.

Several aerobatic performers and a sky diver are on the schedule, and on the ground, a dragster, monster trucks and a jet truck will add to the action — and noise. Static displays of private and military aircraft, activities, and vendors selling food, drink, souvenirs and memorabilia round out the entertainment.

In the past four decades, the airshow has raised more than \$8 million for local charities, and tickets run from \$20 to \$55.

A Friday night party is planned, too, for \$150 per person, with food, drink, a mini airshow, fireworks, music and dancing.

For more information and tickets, go to salinasairshow.com.

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# COMMITTEE

From page 7A

Tuesday, there should have been 10 candidates for the board to consider but there were only eight were on the agenda. The board voted to pass through two of them.

“I look forward to having a more robust discussion” when the full list of candidates appears before the supervisors, Adams said.

Because she wants the process done “correctly rather than quickly,” Adams said it could take more than a week for the item to return to the board for consideration.

### ‘More diversity needed’

Apart from the two nominees of color who were unintentionally left off the list, Fourth District Supervisor Wendy Root Askew said she was concerned about the general “lack of racial, gender and generational diversity,” of the candidates — most of whom are White — and said she wanted a “diverse and forward-thinking” list of candidates when the board revisits the topic.

First District Supervisor Luis Alejo agreed with Askew, and he called for a “diverse pool of candidates” to reflect the “different constituencies in our county.”

“Although the people on this list are good nominees, I

think we can just do better” with more diverse representation, Alejo said.

Former Pebble Beach Company CEO Bill Perocchi has been nominated to represent finance on the committee. Other candidates for the panel include Monterey County Farm Bureau executive director Norm Groot, construction business owner Don Chapin and Portola Hotel & Spa general manager Janine Chicourrat.

The purpose of the committee, according to the county, is to advise the board of supervisors “on appropriate

economic development policies, programs and activities to ensure a countywide perspective in support of a diversified economy, higher paying jobs and an expanded revenue base for local government services, while preserving and protecting the county’s agricultural, tourism and education economic base in collaboration with cities.”

Candidates for the positions must reside in, own a business located in, or be employed in Monterey County. Applicants are asked to answer numerous questions, including disclosing their ethnicity and gender.

# SOLAR

From page 8A

are numerous and will give our students another distinctive learning opportunity.”

Two York seniors — Juliet Oliver and Alan Yang — have already jumped at the opportunity to do some research. In their project overview, Oliver and Yang wrote that they plan to compare how well the different panels around the campus work, including those mounted on the tracker, and accurately assess their efficiency and effectiveness.


Pflegler said she believes that many students and faculty will find inspiration and opportunities for research in the newly installed technology.

# RENTAL


From page 6A

The leader of the local short term rental group said only about 20 short term rental operators in inland areas have gone to the trouble of getting a permit because the process is “so onerous, so costly, so uncertain and so lengthy.”

Matthews also said that while the county once insisted it would only target “nuisance” operators while it works through the lengthy processing of developing an ordinance, the county’s enforcement effort contradicts that.



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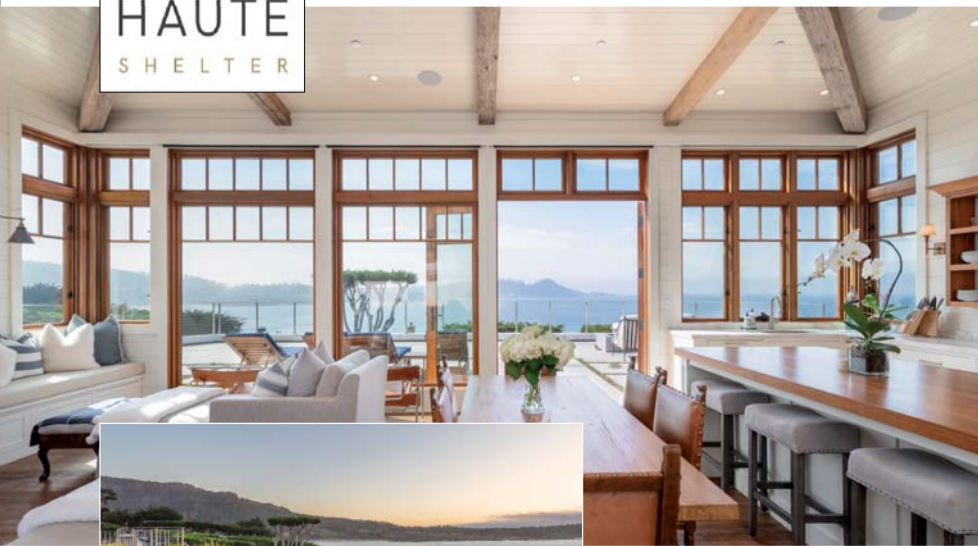


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# LETTERS

From page 20A

tion is not Jewish at all.

The mockery displayed by the cartoon is offensive. The Pine Cone owes its readers an apology.

**Irwin Speizer, Susan Spiegel, Carmel**

*Editor's note: The Pine Cone's "Police Log" cartoons are based on actual emergency calls which our artist then humorously illustrates with Hollywood themes. The drawing of ultra-Orthodox Jews used last week to depict the Israeli hikers was inspired by several sources, including the Netflix series, "Unorthodox" and the 1971 Hollywood film, "Fiddler on the Roof." It was intended to be affectionate, and we apologize for any offense.*

## Names on ad?

Dear Editor,

A full-page advertisement (Friday Night Lights) written from the shadows of anonymity by "concerned Carmel residents," closes with a request for transparency from school board members and school leaders. What's good for the goose is good for the gander. If you can't put your names on it, don't print it.

**Mark O'Shea, Carmel Highlands**

## 'People live here'

Dear Editor,

In 1967, my sister was sent home from Carmel High

School for wearing culottes which went to the top of her knees. At times I don't think we have made much progress since then.

As a 1975 graduate, former cheerleader and mascot at Carmel High, I have to respond to the full-page ad regarding the lights at the football field.

First off, I would love to know how many full-time residents even live on Highway 1 or the adjacent road which these lights would impact.

The school is situated on a major highway! It is the highway that people travel to get to Big Sur and travel to Southern California or drive up to San Francisco! Do you see and hear the traffic on any given weekend? It is backed up all the way to Monterey. You live by a high school. There are certain aspects of noise and traffic when one lives next to a school.

There is this constant theme in Carmel to keep it "quaint and charming," which it has somewhat maintained throughout the years, but then again has lost part of its soul of what it once was. Those of us attending our 46th reunion just last weekend reminisced about when Kip's Market was on Ocean, the hardware store with the scale outside to weigh yourself for a penny, the sandal shop, The Creamery, Dick Bruin, Raggets, McCloud's, Sprouse-Reitz, and the list goes on and on. What replaced them? Art galleries for the most part.

What seems to be forgotten is that Carmel is a town. Not just a tourist destination but a town with families that share a community with everyone who lives here. At times, I believe this is forgotten, and the lights are just one more opportunity for the area to lose a sense of community.

**Susan Elwood, Monterey**

## Flooding due diligence

Dear Editor,

People buy or build a house in a floodplain near not only a lagoon but a river and the ocean, yet the county (a.k.a. the taxpayer) is responsible for flood damage? How is that possible? Sounds to me like someone didn't do their due diligence. Just saying.

**James Nazzium, Carmel Valley**

## 'Honored'

Dear Editor,

You printed a wonderful front-page article last week about the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony honoring Chinese American Veterans of World War II. What a set of coincidences! I just happened to sit next to Don Woo and I was presented my late father, Philip Tong Woo's, medal, and Don followed for his late father, Philip Wing Woo. Our fathers have the same name, both served in the Army Air Corps, and we both live in Carmel by-the-Sea. Like Don, I am also a Vietnam Vet, serving as a medic for 14 months in 1968 and 1969.

My late father Philip passed in 2002. He grew up in Denver and, prior to the war, was an Army munitions inspector. He served as sergeant, Technical Air Intelligence, in New Guinea and the Philippines from 1943 to 1945. His unit was detached and operated independently with photo IDs and special orders to acquire and analyze Japanese aircraft using his Kanji language and engineering skills. He served with mixed services members, including the U.S. Navy, RAF, Aussie and Kiwis. After the war, he was a civil engineer for Caltrans and the San Francisco Port Authority.

I am blessed to have my father, Philip Tong Woo, so honored for his service. I am also blessed to live in Carmel since 1991.

**William Willard Woo, Carmel**

# ROBBERY

From page 1A

a man had injured his arm when he fell while running away.

Sheriff's deputies immediately put out the call for neighboring law enforcement agencies to station cars at major highway intersections and off-ramps in hopes of catching the robbers, though officers didn't know what to look for, since they had apparently switched vehicles.

### Help wanted

The FBI and the sheriff's office are conducting a joint investigation, but the sheriff's office referred all questions to the feds, who confirmed the basic details of the robbery and reiterated that those responsible are still at large, armed and dangerous.

"At approximately 9:20 a.m., three armed subjects entered the bank. All three subjects were masked and wore dark clothing, dark hooded sweatshirts, and gloves," the FBI said in a statement. The three got away with "an undisclosed amount of money" from the bank. Investigators did not say whether they believe the robbers were male or female.

"One gunshot was fired by a subject within the bank, but no injuries were sustained as a result of that gunshot," the statement continued. "Two victims sustained injuries at the scene and were later treated and released from a local hospital."

The federal agency sent special agents and an evidence response team to interview witnesses and gather information and other clues that might lead them to those responsible, but the FBI did not reveal any leads or release any surveillance images.

After Martis returned from the bank, he and Cpl. Rachelle Lightfoot "contacted all of our banks to be on alert and to contact us immediately should they see or hear anything suspicious in nature," Watkins said.

The FBI and the sheriff's office are asking anyone with information or who might have seen anything to contact them at tips.fbi.gov, (415) 553-7400 or montereysheriff.org, and noted that "all tips can remain anonymous."

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## SKINCARE

From page 1A

the organization has received 40 complaints since April 2016, with the most recent one made earlier this month. Nine of them “said they would never come back to Carmel” due to the experience, she said.

“The most frequent complaint is that the behavior of the salespeople is aggressive, intimidating and unethical, and they were conned into believing they were purchasing a product that would work as well as or better than plastic surgery,” she said. “Often, once home, they discover that the product they purchased was nothing like the product that was used on them in the store,” with a different color, odor or results, and “in some cases, they received an empty box with no product at all.”

## WORD

From page 1A

guage in the classroom that could be considered discriminatory or harmful to any group of people, even if the language originates from a source which is beyond reproach.

“We understand that words have power, and it is our intention and our responsibility to ensure that all of our students and their families feel safe and comfortable in our classrooms and schools,” according to the district, which went on to say that it takes seriously its responsibility to “make certain our school culture is one where students can thrive.”

Porras said “Letter from Birmingham Jail” and other reading material with potentially offensive language would still be available at the high school for students to read themselves.

### Equity Plan

In the same note to parents, PGUSD said it would roll out a new “equity plan” for the district. While the document is still being drafted, Porras said it would offer, among other things, more guidance for teachers with regard to racial and gender issues.

For instance, “Pacific Grove has a pretty long history of Chinese-American people, and it would be relevant to talk more about that in our instruction to students,” Porras explained. “We want to work more on how we train our teachers on addressing issues of racism and color and gender and equity.”

The plan has been in the works for several years and was not prompted by the P.G. High teacher’s use of the forbidden word or any other incident.

The district is partnering with the Monterey County Office of Education’s equity division, which is working with a “state and national group” on the equity plan, Porras said.

The document will be unveiled at the Nov. 18 school board meeting, and Porras said the district welcomes input from students and parents.

## TRIAL

From page 5A

one of the jurors sleeping,” Hennessey said, and the attorney identified him as a man who lives in North Monterey County and was seated in the jury box. (Due to Covid, jurors were also spread throughout the gallery in the courtroom.)

“Miller said the juror worked nights and arrived late for court that day,” Hennessey said in the declaration. “Shortly after the session began, the juror fell asleep.”

Miller told the investigator she pointed out the napping man to Hood, “who had admonished prospective jurors that sleeping during the trial was unacceptable,” and the judge “called the juror into his chambers and again stressed that he had to be attentive in court.”

### Stand in a corner

On July 19, she interviewed bailiff Donovan Gonzales, who also told her “there was a male juror in the jury box who was falling asleep,” and that Hood spoke to the man on the record but outside the presence of the rest of the jury.

Further, Hennessey said Gonzales told her about another instance in the second week of the trial in which a female juror seated in the gallery fell asleep, and the bailiff “quietly approached the woman and suggested if she needed to fight off her drowsiness, she could stand in one of the rear corners.”

Two of Sampognaro’s aunts who said they attended each day of the trial also told Hennessey they saw a male juror “who frequently slept during testimony.”

Sampognaro, who is accused of shooting his father to death following a fight over a car, remains in Monterey County Jail without bail.

Receipts are stamped with “all sales final,” which leaves them little recourse. “Once you walk out their door with product in your hand, it is your word against theirs,” Book said.

She quoted several of the complaints, including one from a woman who spent nearly \$1,800 and later realized she’d been scammed, and another who was charged \$324 for a product that was supposed to cost \$299 — and then discovered the vial was empty. She told the chamber she had been planning a wedding here, but “now I feel so grossed out and bothered, I am not sure I wish to ever return.”

According to the city’s code enforcement officer, Bo Grunde, since January, a half-dozen people have lodged official complaints reporting solicitation of sales outside the business and use of high-pressure sales tactics.

In September, a customer told police that after visiting one of the stores on Ocean east of Monte Verde, she discovered the syringe of eye cream she’d bought was empty, but she was unable to get through via telephone.

The officer “made contact with the business, and they said they would follow up with the customer and send her a new one.”

### City response

In response to the complaints and concerns, the city has tightened some of its rules for skincare stores — including requiring a higher level of review by the planning commission before a new one can open, since previously, they obtained business licenses without any public hearings — and has cracked down on employees soliciting on the sidewalk. But no one can enforce the rules all the time, MacMurdo noted.

The chamber has tried to address the problem from a different angle by forming a Carmel-by-the-Sea Commercial Property Owners Group. “We wanted to get to the property owners to tell them about these bad business practices,” she said, and to encourage them to better screen their tenants.

“They don’t have the integrity that we expect from our

retailers here,” she said of the skincare businesses. “We are trying to get to the people who are leasing to these companies, because they clearly are not going to much effort to scrutinize them.”

Many commercial property owners aren’t local and have no real connection to town, and since these tenants pay their rent, their landlords remain unconcerned about their day-to-day practices, according to MacMurdo.

The owner of the building on Ocean east of Dolores that has been occupied by a succession of skincare stores, Jason Spaits, lives in Rocklin, for instance. It’s there that Ezra Chen is seeking permission from the city to open Carmel Boutique, according to documents filed in April and July. But it appears only the name and operator are changing, since the store layout Chen submitted is exactly the same document that was provided with the first application for a store there in 2015. Chen formerly had Royal Bee, which also carried skincare products and gave out samples at the door — drawing rebuke from city officials — on Dolores Street, but it closed during the pandemic.

According to Chen’s July 22 email to city planner Evan Kort, Carmel Boutique will focus on “the retail sale and display of skin and beauty products, including but not limited to the ‘Selected skin care cosmetics’ skin care and beauty products, spa products, fragrances, cosmetics and other related accessories and such other skin and beauty products as sold from time to time from tenant’s catalogs, website or tenant’s other retail locations, and for no other use or purpose whatsoever. Tenant shall be permitted to perform facials on its customers and to hand out samples of its products.”

In the handwritten application Chen submitted in April, under “business description,” he wrote, “skin care product, soaps, bath bomb.”

Chen’s application was initially scheduled to be considered by the planning commission at its October meeting but is now set for a hearing Nov. 10.

MacMurdo said the chamber’s interest is in ensuring commercial tenants will “be an asset to the village and not take away from the character.”

## Francis Gillmore Blinks

(1931 - 2021)

Francis Blinks passed peacefully from this earth on October 14, 2021, surrounded by her loving sons and family. If you knew her, you’re going to miss her.

Francis was born in Fort Sill, Oklahoma on Flag Day, June 14, 1931, to William and Marion Gillmore. William was a star athlete for the West Point football and boxing teams (USMA 1925), and Marion was a spirited outdoors woman from Kansas. As an Army daughter, Francie traveled the world with her parents and sister Betty. She was always deservedly proud of being an Army daughter, an Army wife, and an Army mother. There was a heartbeat of service to country, family and friends that permeates her life and her stories.

Francie graduated from Carmel High School (1948), and the University of Oregon, Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa (1953), where she became a lifelong member of the Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority. Following college graduation she married the charming Michael J. Lally, Jr. As a young Army Lieutenant, Mike and Francie began their Army life together in Fort Benning, Georgia and were blessed with sons Michael, William, and Robert. The Lally family lived on various Army posts in the United States and did overseas tours in Germany, Korea and Panama.

Francie became a widow in 1987 and returned to Carmel. She worked as a bank teller for Wells Fargo. During that time she met and married her next love in life, MG Autrey Maroun (USMA 1935). Autrey was well loved by the family. In 1994, he and Francie traveled to France as the guests of honor for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the liberation of Thionville where in 1944 Autrey led his troops through the streets as they liberated the town from German occupation. They had 19 years of happiness together at their home in Pebble Beach. Some years after Autrey’s passing it was karma that she reunited with and married her Carmel High School classmate, Dr. John Blinks. John was a world-renowned oceanographer with a warm and loving family who became part of our own.

Francie was quite a woman in her own right. She was well loved and respected for her warm personality, infectious smile, kindness, and leadership within the community. She was an accomplished pianist with a beautiful voice, and her playing and singing were the highlight of many a party. Most requested was her performance of “God Bless America.” She was a member of the Sunset School orchestra, served several years on the Monterey Peninsula Symphony Guild, and was a volunteer and board member of the Carmel Bach Festival. In her younger years, Francie was active with the American Red Cross. During her years in Washington D.C. she served as the President of the Army Officer’s Wives Club of the Greater Washington Area, and was a dedicated member of the Arlington Ladies at Ft. Myer, VA. She also served as an Army Community Service representative in many of the locations she lived as an Army wife. Her other volunteer associations included The Colonial Dames where she served as historian for many years, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and PEO. She was an active member of The Church in the Forest, and served on the board for six years. Those of you who know Francie, also know she was an avid golfer who just a few weeks ago made four birdies in a single round at the Monterey Peninsula Country Club Shore Course. She enjoyed many happy times at MPCC and her friendships with both members and staff were a valued treasure. Francie was Captain of the Women’s Golf Association in 1995. Additionally, she served with honor as the President of the Senior Women’s Golf Association for nine years.

Francie was a thoughtful, generous, and wise matriarch embodying the three “E’s” of Energy, Enthusiasm, and Empathy. She encouraged us to consider life as a school where there is always something to learn. She always looked forward to walks along the beach, playing the piano with friends and get-togethers with her book club.

To her daughters-in-law, she was always Mom. To her sons, she was always the light in their eyes. To her grandchildren she was their loving Gommy. We will remember her as someone who loved to sing, laugh and play. We hope you will too.

Francie is survived by her three sons and spouses, Mike (Jennifer), Bill (Kathleen), and Bob (Katie) and her grandchildren, Stephanie, Rachel, Tracey, BJ (Jaclyn), Elizabeth (James) and Bobby, as well as great-grandchildren, Merrick and Jerome.

A memorial service and celebration of her life will be held at Church in the Forest at 1 p.m. on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. At a future date she will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Francie’s family would like to thank all her good friends who made her life full and happy. In lieu of flowers, donations in Francie’s honor may be made to The Carmel Bach Festival, Inc. at P.O. Box 575, Carmel, CA. 93921. Please visit [www.ThePaulMortuary.com](http://www.ThePaulMortuary.com) to sign Francie’s guestbook and leave messages for her family. Cards may be mailed to the care of Bill Lally, P.O. Box 476, Pebble Beach, CA 93953.



## RESORT

From page 3A

earlier plans included a spa and other amenities, but those were eliminated, and all parking will be above ground.

“The original plan had a basement with a spa and a pool and all that. We gave that up because of water and trees,” he said. “There’s no underground parking, and it’s not that big a project.”

Unlike with the hotel proposal, people at the meeting didn’t bring up many questions or concerns about the homes that will be built on the eight lots on Guadalupe, according to Miller. “The houses aren’t that much of an issue, because they are single-family residences and go through planning separately,” he said. “Ninety percent of the questions were about the hotel.”

### Make it better

The architect said he’s grateful for the feedback he’s gotten so far and is working to incorporate suggestions and address the issues. He said he has a list of everyone who attended the meeting at La Playa and will invite them, as well as the public at large, to the post-Thanksgiving session at Sunset Center.

“I’m going to reveal the solutions that do make a lot of sense and make the project better,” he said. “We always incorporate those. And the ones we really can’t change, we try to address those.”

Former planning commissioner Ian Martin attended the meeting and said he felt Miller “listened and made a sincere effort to solicit feedback from the community.”

Martin also said he thinks there shouldn’t even be a hotel on the property and would rather see all 16 lots used for housing. He praised Miller’s contemporary designs interspersed with more traditional concepts.

“The overall effect is varied and eclectic — just what we should have,” he said. “The variety he’s proposing allayed my fears that this was going to feel like a tract house development with economy of scale being the driving design motivation.”

### ‘Ditch the hotel’

But the hotel rooms might be a deal breaker, he said. “I do not predict a smooth ride for its approval process.”

Many at the meeting seemed skeptical of the hotel project, according to Martin, who questioned whether the property owner should be allowed to demolish the old cabins while retaining the right to build new hotel units there. The zoning for the property is single-family residential, with the hotel use grandfathered in.

“The developers will have a much smoother ride if they ditch the hotel and do all residential instead,” he said. “I don’t see anyone turning out to support the hotel notion — even with significant revisions.”

Martin speculated that pushback could mean the little cabins there now will be around a while, “and to many people in this community, that’s a great outcome.”

## GAVEL

From page 4A

around a large number of \$100 bills.

On Jan. 29, the defendant participated in an armed robbery during which he and a group of other co-participants approached the victim as he walked home and demanded his valuables. While another co-participant brandished a firearm at the victim, the defendant took the victim’s cell phone.

The Honorable Judge Carrie Panetta will sentence the defendant to 10 years in state prison. The defendant’s plea to residential burglary constitutes his second “strike” under California’s three strikes law.



### Robert Arthur Slaughter

9/13/1962 — 9/1/2021

Former Carmel resident, Robert (Bobby) Slaughter, 58, passed away unexpectedly in his sleep from cardiac arrest on Sept. 1, 2021, in Glassboro, New Jersey.

Bobby was born in Boston, MA to former Carmel resident Sandra Gunter (nee Shager) on September 13, 1962. Bobby, his mother and older sister, Roxanne, settled back in Carmel, CA with his adopted father, Robert Slaughter, when he was 4 years old. Bobby attended Carmel Woods School, Carmel Middle School, Carmel High School, and Carmel Valley High School.

Bobby was active in sports in his youth playing baseball in middle school and football in high school and junior college. He was a defensive linebacker on the Carmel High School Padres’ team. Bobby continued to play football at Hartnell Community College in Salinas. The highlight of his time playing football and one of his proudest achievements in the sport was being a part of the Hartnell football team that won the State Community College Football Championship in 1980.

Bobby loved to make people laugh (including himself) and had a fun-loving, good-hearted nature. Bobby made friends easily and maintained a number of his childhood friendships throughout his life. Due to Bobby’s gregarious nature, Bobby was someone who never met a stranger. He affectionately called old friends and new friends, “Pardner” or “Darlin.” Bobby could be a prankster with his friends and family, but somehow, he managed to make those that he pranked feel like they were in on the joke. Bobby appreciated the simple pleasures in life and proudly considered himself to be “easily amused”, whether that was playing his guitar barefoot outside, growing vegetables in his garden, or enjoying the company of friends and animals.

As an adult Bobby lived in California and Nevada, but spent most of his time living in the South, having been introduced to the region by his stepfather, Tom Gunter. Bobby learned construction skills from his father, Robert, and grandfather, Grant Shager. He used these skills working construction jobs throughout his life while living in California, Nevada, Tennessee and New Jersey.

Bobby’s love of music was a constant in his life, particularly country music. He had a passion for writing songs and playing guitar. Bobby found himself most at home in the state of Tennessee living in the country and in Nashville. He spent many years playing open mic venues around Nashville working on his songwriting and performing skills.

Bobby was a true animal lover of all types of animals, but particularly dogs. He had many dog companions over the years that enriched his life. During periods in his life when he didn’t own a dog, neighborhood dogs would find Bobby and they would become fast friends.

Bobby will be dearly missed by his mother, Sandra Gunter; his sisters: Roxanne, Crissy and Jenny Slaughter; his stepfather Tom Gunter; his aunt Sylvia Forbes; his stepmother Jennifer Slaughter; his stepsisters: Mary Hammock, Dawn Gunter M.D., Wynn Dickenson, and Courtney Walters; and the many friends (two-legged and four-legged) that he made throughout his life. He is predeceased by his beloved family members including his grandparents, Grant and Lanore Shager; and his father, Robert Slaughter.

Bobby always said that his happiest moments were spent with his family (including pets) and his friends, playing music for them and watching football. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Monterey County S.P.C.A (www.spcamc.org).

A memorial service for Bobby will take place in Carmel. Details are pending.

## LEILANI EVERITT GRINOLD

1941-2021

After recently celebrating her 80th birthday, Leilani died on October 12, 2021, after a courageous multi-year battle against cancer. To her family and friends, no one was a greater ally than Leilani Grinold. She never judged, or gave unsolicited advice. She was just there, in your corner, no matter what. She left behind an unfillable void.

Leilani was born in San Francisco on the 15th of August, 1941, to Dexter Everitt of North Carolina and Rosita Bondanza Everitt of El Salvador. Leilani was the second of five children. Her unusual name came from the 1937 hit song, “Sweet Leilani,” although an alternative backstory has it that her name was a tribute to her dad’s Hawaiian girl friend from his time in the Navy during the 1930s.

Leilani was raised on Prague Street in the Excelsior District of San Francisco where she attended Saint John’s Ursuline High School. She entered the University of California, Berkeley, in fall of 1959 as a member of the class of 1963. Things did not go exactly to plan. She took time off from school to marry Clinton Bidwell and have three children, Greg, Brett, and Hilary Bidwell. After spending time in New York and Los Angeles with her young children, Leilani returned to Cal and graduated with the class of 1968.

Her marriage to Mr. Bidwell ended in divorce and she settled down in Healdsburg, CA to raise Greg, Brett, and Hilary. While in Healdsburg she owned and operated a children’s toy store on Healdsburg Plaza. She also had a small vineyard and sold old vine zinfandel grapes to several of the local wine makers.

When Leilani’s nest was empty, she moved to the Bay Area and took a job in the personal trust department of Wells Fargo. At a UC Berkeley event in March 1983 she met Richard Grinold who was a professor at Cal at the time. Richard and Leilani married in June 1988. Leilani spent her time as a volunteer at the UC Berkeley Botanical Gardens and as a supervisor of a never ending series of house remodeling projects in Oakland, Piedmont, and eventually Pebble Beach. She would frequently take a deep dive into an eclectic series of topics: Cervantes, Native American history and culture, volcanoes, Freeborn John Lilburne the 17th century Leveler, the 14th century Black Death, the Roman Empire, and, most recently, the modern history of Israel.

She was physically active. She ran in the ‘70s and ‘80s and completed a half marathon in 1986. She was a member of the Oakland Barracuda Masters Swim Club from 1993 to 2005 and with various levels of enthusiasm braved the dark and cold to dive into the pool at 5:30 a.m.

Above all, Leilani loved children and that love was returned. She was happiest in their company and that happiness peaked on Christmas morning when she and the children open her masterfully curated presents.

Leilani is survived by her husband Richard; her four siblings, Albert, June, Linda and Dexter; her children, Greg, Brett and Hilary; her step-children, John and Kathleen Grinold; seven grandchildren and four step-grandchildren. On Christmas morning, they will gather together to remember her, while opening their more conventionally wrapped Christmas presents.

To sign Leilani’s guest book and leave messages for her family, please visit [www.thepaulmortuary.com](http://www.thepaulmortuary.com).



## Obituary Notices

Let us help you pay tribute to your loved one with an affordable obituary in The Carmel Pine Cone. For more information please contact: **Anne Papineau (831) 274-8654** [anne@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:anne@carmelpinecone.com)

## Miniatures return to museum — online and in-person

OFFERING EVEN amateur collectors a chance to win a piece of fine art, the Monterey Museum of Art this week unveiled its annual fundraising Miniatures show, which will be conducted this year in person and online. Due to Covid, last year's show was just done online.

"This is my eighth Miniatures exhibition with the museum, and while the exhibition changed over the years, a few things are always the same," the museum's Roxanne

donation to the museum, and let the museum know what piece or pieces you like. You can make as many donations as you choose. A drawing will be done at the close of the show to determine who wins each piece. Proceeds from the show will help pay for the museum's exhibits and programs.

The show continues through Dec. 19.

Also on display are shows by Japanese-American artists ("Shadows from the Past: Sansei Artists and the American Concentration Camps") and photographer Karen Halverson ("Trees, Chairs, and Power Lines").

The museum is located at 559 Pacific St. Visit [monte-reyart.org](http://monte-reyart.org).

## Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

O'Weger said. She looks forward to seeing "old friends during drop off and hearing the stories behind submissions, the pride of showing off the work of our talented community of members in the galleries, and the excitement from lucky winners who get to take home a new work of art."

O'Weger said the exhibit showcases the local art scene, and will likely encourage others to explore their own creative impulses. "It's not only a great opportunity to introduce visitors to the work of local artists, but I've seen it inspire people to start their own collection, jump back into making art, and join the museum."

To win something in the show, you need to make a

### ■ 'Creative Women II'

The spotlight falls on female artists this month at Gallery MAR Carmel, where "Creative Women II" opens Friday.

Owner Thomas Cushman came up with the idea for the show because he was meeting so many women who were asking him to exhibit their works.

"It seems like a niche that needed to be filled," Cushman told The Pine Cone.

Included in the show are pieces by Amie Aamodt, Eliza-

See **ART** page 23A



### Gertrude 'Trudie' Johnson McEwen

Gertrude Jean Ernestine Johnson McEwen passed away on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at her home at Carmel Valley Manor. She was one month shy of 97 years old.

Gertrude "Trudie" Johnson was born in Oak Park, Illinois, the second child of Ruth Sabin and Harvey Johnson. She had fond memories of summers on her family farm in Wyoming and with family in Wisconsin and Michigan. She attended Milwaukee-Downer College and graduated with a degree in Home Economics in 1946.

Following graduation, she asked for a one-way ticket to San Francisco where she joined the Macy's Department Store as an assistant buyer. It was there that she met a customer, William "Bill" Kirk McEwen, and love quickly blossomed. She and Bill were married July 1, 1947. Bill was the associate professor and principal research scientist at the Francis I. Proctor Foundation at U.C. San Francisco Medical Center. They raised four daughters at their home in Berkeley, CA. The premature birth and subsequent blindness of their second child kindled their passion in education and they worked to ensure that blind children were successfully integrated into the public school systems. Trudie was also very active in the PTA, Children's Hospital of the East Bay, and PEO.

In 1962, Bill took a sabbatical to teach in England. The family flew around the world and visited Asia and parts of Europe. The family spent five months in Oxford, England and the children went to Greycoats School. Trudie volunteered in the primary classroom.

Trudie received her teaching credentials in 1969 and her master's degree in 1977 in education with a specialty in reading. She worked for the Oakland Public Schools as an elementary teacher and then a reading resource specialist.

When Bill retired, they moved to Carmel in 1977 and she started the Sabin-McEwen school, a state certified non-profit for children with reading disabilities. She was active in the honorary teacher organization, Delta Kappa Gamma, where she held many positions. She ran the school for approximately ten years. Many children from the Monterey area benefited from Trudie's support and education.

Bill passed in 1984 and Trudie retired shortly thereafter. She spent her retirement years traveling, visiting friends, and having fun with her grandchildren. Her passion for education continued and she supported the educational efforts of the Monterey Bay Aquarium. She moved to Carmel Valley Manor in 2003. She enjoyed the activities and lifelong friendship she made there. Her kindness was her hallmark and the staff adored her.

She is survived by her four daughters, Sandy Savage (Jack), Jan Brown (Talmadge Wells), Ellen McEwen (Tom LeDuc), and Laura McEwen (Jim Falls); her three grandchildren, Eric Savage (Jenn Seibly), Brian Savage (Katie Kelley) and Jade Falls; her three great grandchildren, Colin Savage, Sylvia Savage, and Miranda Savage; her niece Margie Kerksieck and nephew Jim Johnson.

A private memorial will be held at a later date.

Remembrances can be posted at  
[www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/10413951](http://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/10413951)

Donations in her memory can be made to the educational efforts of the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

## DR. LAWRENCE 'LARRY' CHEWNING BLAIR (Col. US Army, Ret.) 1930-2021



Dr. Lawrence "Larry" Chewning Blair (Col. US Army, Ret.) devoted husband and loving father, grandfather, and great grandfather, passed away peacefully at his home in Monterey, CA surrounded by his children on September 8, 2021. He was 90 years old. Larry is survived by his five children: Three daughters,

Jennifer Blair Hagan (Douglas) of Encinitas, Melissa Blair Aliotti (John) of Sacramento, and Stephanie Blair Silacci (Dennis) of Morgan Hill; and two sons, Timothy Blair (Katherine) of Los Angeles and Jonathan Blair of Sacramento. He is also survived by six grandchildren, Andrew Cummins (Catherine) and Matthew Cummins (Alyssa), Madeline and Elise Aliotti, and Lauren and William Blair; and two great-grandchildren, Henry Cummins, and Carmela Cummins. He also leaves behind his beloved sister and only remaining sibling, Sue Blair Barta of Virginia.

Born September 25, 1930, in the small coal mining town of Gary, West Virginia, Larry was the fourth of five children, all of whom left Gary to pursue college and advanced degrees. Always an excellent student, Larry received his bachelor's degree from the University of West Virginia, to which he remained a loyal sports fan his entire life. Larry earned his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. He met his wife, Margaret "Gita" Helen Perry, while he was an intern at Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia where she was a patient. Having been drafted into the Army during the Doctors' Draft of the Korean War, Larry and Gita were stationed all over the world with assignments including Honolulu, Hawaii; Chitose, Japan; Boston, Massachusetts; Washington D.C. (twice); Frankfurt, Germany; and finally, Monterey, CA. Larry completed his surgical and thoracic surgical residencies in his two tours at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Dr. Blair also served in Vietnam where he commanded the Army Hospital in Saigon and several MUST hospitals in forward deployment. A decorated Army officer,

Dr. Blair received the Bronze Star and twice was awarded the Legion of Merit. Upon his return stateside, and after rising to the rank of Lt. Col., Dr. Blair was assigned as Deputy Commander of Silas B. Hays Army Hospital at Fort Ord in 1973. Two years later, he was promoted to full Colonel and assumed the role of Commander of the Hospital. Despite offers of further promotion, Larry declined advancing his career in order to keep the family on their beloved Monterey Peninsula. Dr. Blair continued in command at Hays for eight years before retiring from the Army in 1983. After his military service Larry served as a physician with the State of California for ten years.

Beyond his career, Larry was a devoted father and grandfather and despite endless days (and sometimes nights) in the operating room or tending to his other duties, he made it to most of his children's and grandchildren's athletic and artistic events. Larry, often referred to by the coaches as simply "Doc," could be found in any autumn of the late 1970s and early 1980s pacing the sidelines of Monterey High School football games, watching for the occasional dislocated shoulder or suspected concussion. Later in life, he would be found regularly in the stands to watch his grandsons play baseball. Whether it was a high school or college graduation, or other family celebration, Larry made sure to be present for all his grandchildren's important events. Known as "PopPop" to his grandchildren and great grandchildren, Larry was ever devoted, loving, and proud of his children and their families.

Larry and Gita enjoyed classical music and were faithful supporters of the Monterey Symphony, where Larry served on the Board of Directors. Dr. and Mrs. Blair were members of the First Presbyterian Church of Monterey for nearly 50 years, and both spent many of those years singing in the choir. Larry served on the Hospitality Committee for the California Rodeo and attended the Rodeo annually for many years. Larry and Gita were also members of the Monterey Peninsula Country Club, where they enjoyed entertaining family and friends. While many in the Blairs' wide circle of friends predeceased Larry and Gita, there are yet many who survive them. All these friends brought them much joy in fellowship as they entertained and learned from one another. Gita predeceased Larry by four years.

The Blair family wishes to express its deepest gratitude to Lata Fisi, for the exceptional care she provided both Dr. and Mrs. Blair over the last seven years. The loving commitment Lata and her family showed to Dr. and Mrs. Blair will always be remembered.

A memorial service is planned for 4 p.m. Friday, November 12, 2021, at the First Presbyterian Church, 501 El Dorado Street in Monterey. A reception will follow on church grounds in Fellowship Hall. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the First Presbyterian Church of Monterey or the Monterey Symphony in Larry's memory.

# Editorial

## The nuisance next door

IF YOU buy a house near the airport, is it kosher to start complaining about airplanes?

The answer is no, and not just because you knew about the airport when you bought your house, but because the nuisance value of the airport was already priced into your home when you paid for it.

Same thing with noise from Laguna Seca, golf balls from any of our local golf courses, crowds and noise at the Forest Theater, and the smell of fertilizer in the Salinas Valley. If you buy next to it, don't start bitching about it.

For a handful of homeowners, buying next to a nuisance and then getting the offending operation shut down can be a useful part of a house-flipping strategy. But most people who commit the buy-next-to-the-airport-and-then-start-complaining-about-the-airplanes sin are just doing what comes naturally to 21st century Americans and has become an honored part of the land-use process in California, i.e., complaining about your neighbors, even if they got there first. Making a profit isn't what these wronged parties have in mind. They just want what they want.

This is not to say that people who live near airports or landfills or gun clubs shouldn't be allowed to oppose major expansions of such operations. As air traffic grew at LAX, to cite the most noteworthy example, the noise got so bad the airport bought all the homes at the west end of the runways and tore them down. The homeowners were paid a fair price, which not only freed them from airplane noise, it made it possible for them to buy elsewhere.

If Laguna Seca tried to build another circuit, the people who live at Pasa-dera or Corral de Tierra would have legitimate reasons to try to stop such a large project in its tracks, but that does not apply not to modest changes or additions to existing operations.

Which brings us to Carmel High School and its quest to add lights to the football field. Is this a major expansion of the school's operation or a modest change to its current modus operandi? Clearly, it's the latter.

If you live near a school, you're going to be dealing with noise, traffic, lighting and even smells that are part and parcel of what a school does. Meanwhile, schools are not only important, they are absolutely vital to the functioning of our society, and we depend on them to be as active and successful as possible — including sports.

The people who live next to Carmel High School already got discounts on their houses because the school is there. It's fine for them to try to get the football field lighting project modified to minimize the disruption of their neighborhood. But they should not be allowed to stop it.

## BEST of BATES



"For the party, let's have live music and then invite the neighbors so they won't complain."

## Letters to the Editor

### Lagoon solution

Dear Editor,

There is another solution that seems not to have been discussed in the meeting about the lagoon flooding. There is an unnatural levee to the south of the river that could easily be broken in several places or taken down completely to allow water to run into what had been an estuary before it was artichoke fields.

I know that there is talk of creating a causeway under Highway 1, which is a good idea, but before that is done, an enormous amount of water could fill the former fields and turn them back into the original wetlands they once were, lessening the threat of the lagoon flooding and providing for the steelhead and large numbers of water birds and other animals. In addition, the lagoon needs to be dredged and some of the reeds removed to restore more open water. Compared to raising houses or creating a barrier, these actions would be hugely cost effective and would restore the natural environment. Take down the southern levee!

David Ligare, Carmel Valley

### Names on memorial plaque

Dear Editor,

I'm a retired U.S Army officer with over 22 years of service and the commander of Post 512 of the American Legion in Carm-

el. I support the placement of all the names on the plaque at the World War I Memorial Arch, as does the executive committee of the post.

I have been involved with the planning for the plaque and rededication of the memorial for months. The research I have seen leads me to believe that the community and the people who built the arch intended for the memorial to be a monument to Carmel's members of the armed forces and the Carmelites who served in support of the larger war efforts. I am proud that the founding veterans of Post 512 chose to be inclusive when honoring those who served and proud to continue that tradition.

Gerry Paratore, Carmel

### 'Age-old stereotypes'

Dear Editor,

We were aghast at the depiction in the Pine Cone of three Israelis who were lost and then found while hiking in Big Sur. The cartoon attempts to make humor of the incident by employing an inappropriate, age-old stereotype of Jews to caricature the hikers. That image is insensitive and smacks of antisemitism.

Apparently, the image of Israelis that came to mind at the Pine Cone was of bearded Jews in fur hats. In fact, the fur hat depicted in the cartoon is typically worn by the ultra-orthodox on special occasions. According to the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics, only 8 percent of the Israeli Jewish population identifies as ultra-orthodox, while 42 percent define themselves as secular. Almost a quarter of the total popula-

See LETTERS page 16A

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# The Carmel Pine Cone

www.carmelpinecone.com

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Vol. 107 No. 44 • October 29, 2021

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The Carmel Pine Cone was established in 1915 and is a legal newspaper for Carmel-by-the-Sea, Monterey County and the State of California, established by Superior Court Decree No. 35759, July 3, 1952

# A brilliant officer, a Pebble Beach home, and an unbelievable discovery

ON THE surface, U.S. Army Col. Warren J. Clear was just one more military officer to retire in Pebble Beach in the 1930s. A deeper examination reveals a remarkable man who uncovered an unbelievable piece of California history.

Clear was born in 1895 near Boston, graduated from a Catholic high school in Newton, Mass., and in January 1915, his first year at Boston College, won an oratory contest. His subject was "Internation-

husband had left her financially secure. She had been traveling around the world when she met Clear.

They sailed to San Francisco in December for Clear's next post at the Presidio, and while they lived there, they often visited Monterey and played in golf tournaments. In 1928, they built a house in Pebble Beach and joined the recently opened Monterey Peninsula Country Club. Clear won the 1929 New Year's Day tournament at Del Monte just weeks before he received orders to Washington, D.C. There, he worked with military intelligence in the chief of staff's office.

In the summer of 1931, Clear returned to San Francisco. In addition to duties as a public relations officer at the Presidio, he served as an instructor of high school ROTC programs in the Bay Area.

The Clears resumed visits to their home at Pebble Beach. While taking an evening walk along Fanshell Beach near Cypress Point in 1934, a glistening piece of purple glass caught Clear's eye. As he worked the glass loose from the sand, it emerged as an intact and very old bottle. He and his wife thought it was attractive and took it home to decorate a shelf.

Clear retired in 1935 and moved full time to the Peninsula. In addition to playing golf, he took an active role with county officials to help turn Camp Ord into Fort Ord. In March 1940, Clear made a liaison trip to Washington, D.C. on behalf of Monterey County. He came back with positive news and a new rank of major. The Army had more plans for Clear's services.

## Battle of Bataan

In August 1940, the Salinas Chamber of Commerce put Clear on its staff as assistant secretary in charge of military affairs. He served as liaison and lead the efforts to acquaint the community with the challenges and opportunities from the influx of military personnel who came to Fort Ord in September. The transition went well, and in April 1941, Clear was called to report directly to Secretary of War Henry Stimson in Washington.

As a new world war escalated, Congress called for an investigation of the War Department's readiness, and Clear was assigned to help eliminate redundancies noted in the resulting report. Clear stopped back on the Peninsula in August, supposedly en route to Honolulu for an inspection visit. Actually, Army intelligence was tapping Clear's experience in southeast Asia to inspect conditions in China, India, Burma, Indonesia and the Philippines.

See **HISTORY** page 23A

## History Beat

By NEAL HOTELLING

al Peace, the Ideal." Clear was an honors student and contributed as a writer and assistant editor of the school magazine. He was scheduled to be editor in chief for his senior year. That role was not to be.

### Japan and China

As World War I in Europe wore on, Clear spent the summer of 1917 at Harvard University's Reserve Officers Training Corps camp, living in infantry barracks in Cambridge. In the fall, he was commissioned as a first lieutenant and later given command of E Company of the 22nd Infantry, which remained stateside at various posts in New York and New Jersey.

After the war, the Army sent Clear to China. He was based in Peking from June 28, 1919, to June 5, 1921, and learned Mandarin while mapping the county's railway system. After returning to the United States, he spent two years in New York as a recruiter, and then was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo to study Japanese. After mastering the language, he made captain and on May 1, 1925, was appointed to serve six months with a Japanese infantry regiment. As his duties in Japan wound down, Clear married Mary McIntosh Davis of Ohio on Nov. 18, 1925. She had been widowed in 1919. Her insurance executive



A young 1st Lt. Warren J. Clear used this infantry photo for his 1923 passport prior to leaving for Japan.

# He photographs the interesting, the serendipitous and the colorful

GARY GEIGER was a wide-eyed young man when he began chasing rainbows, exploring exotic lands in wide-eyed pursuit of cultures, architecture and colors blended in imaginative (and often unimaginable) combinations.

"I call myself a colorist — I like design and I look for it with color," said the 75-year-old Carmel Valley resident, a fine

and learned more about black-and-white in 10 days than we had in two-and-a-half years at Brooks," he said. "We had such a great time that we decided to travel together the following year to the Southwest United States."

For the three friends, that trip was the beginning of 38 years of worldwide photography. It was followed up the next year with the first of several journeys to Mexico.

"My love for color and design is why I did so much traveling in Mexico," said Geiger, who had a house there for 12 years. "I just

couldn't wait to get out early in the morning, walk through the villages and shoot pictures for maybe two, two-and-a-half hours. I'd put in a lot of miles every day to find that one good image.

"People in Mexico are very happy, their food is hot and spicy, and everything is incredibly colorful," he said. "Color is everywhere, and in combinations that one would never think possible."

## Wedding, corporate photography

Those annual trips, usually a week to 10 days long, kept Geiger inspired for the rest of the year, he said, while he earned his living as a wedding photographer — typically 50 to 75 ceremonies annually, often referrals from the Highlands Inn — and as a corporate photographer, usually for the Pebble Beach Company.

"I wasn't interested in getting rich — I just wanted to earn enough to allow myself to live on the Monterey Peninsula," he said. "As it turned out, I was doing more than enough weddings to create a comfortable lifestyle here. Then, when the corporate work came along, things really kind of took off.

"I'd work two weeks straight, then maybe have two weeks off. It was never a full-time job."

Geiger's artistic eye is drawn to unusual dwellings and ornate, weathered buildings with decaying signage, or artistic carvings, sculptures or pottery, brilliantly bright clothing and jewelry, exotic plants and creative staircases.

He also likes faces that tell a story.

"I love taking pictures of people, especially people whose faces have a lot of character," he said. "I look for people who have lived a life and wear it on their faces."

Photographing people is easier in some countries than others.

"In any Arab country, they'll get up and walk inside as soon as they see you lift your camera. They do

## Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

art photographer whose website includes spectacular images from India, Asia, Cuba, Morocco and Mexico.

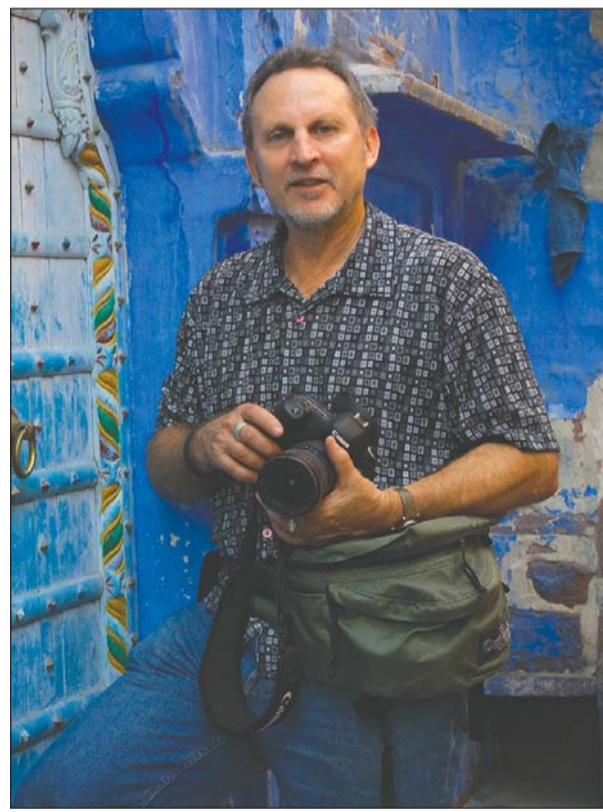
Over parts of five decades, he has wandered more than 30 countries, looking for ... well, actually, Geiger said he's learned to put his faith in serendipity.

### How the magic happens

"If you go out to look for something, you're never going to find it — that's been my experience," he said. "My approach now is to photograph whatever comes my way. That's usually how the magic happens."

The San Mateo native fell in love with photography as a student at UC Santa Barbara in the early 1970s — he earned degrees in kinesiology and history — then enrolled at Brooks Institute of Photography, where he befriended fellow students Kurt Andersen (Carmel High, 1965) and Jerry Hart, a Wisconsin native.

"In 1982, the three of us went to Virginia City, Nev., and took a workshop from a black-and-white master, Oliver Gagliani,

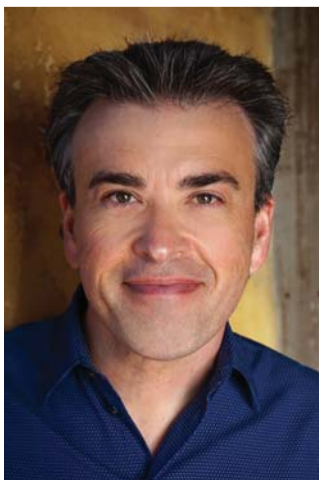


PHOTO/JERRY HART

Fine art photographer Gary Geiger, seen here in Jodhpur, India, in 2012, has wandered more than 30 countries searching for images.

See **ARTIST** page 23A

Don't miss "Scenic Views" by Jerry Gervase — every week in the Real Estate Section.



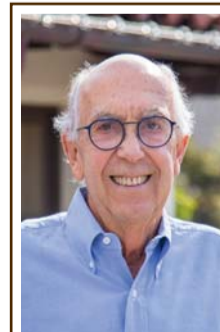
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# Order a pizza and don your Mets cap for a wild New York ride

AT 66, Tony Albano grins relentlessly, like a little boy with a thousand other little boys jumping up and down inside his body. He's a professional storyteller, with a gazillion true tales from his life and times, most of them humorous with a happy ending, which leads us, full circle, back to that grin.

Well, he made out with a nun — more than once — but we'll let him tell the rest of that tale in his autobiographical book, "Cherish — A Memoir: The Truth About Where I

ships between 1921 and 1961 — far more than anybody else.

But Brooklynites, at the time, remained fiercely bitter that their beloved Dodgers had abruptly left for Los Angeles before the '58 season, the same year the Giants jilted Upper Manhattan and moved to San Francisco. Their fans were equally angry.

Albano was 7 in 1962, when the New York Mets were born, fielding a ragtag roster of washed-up big leaguers and untested kids who played in the old Polo Grounds — the dilapidated ballpark that had been abandoned by the Giants.

The '62 Mets lost 120 games, more than any team in history, finishing 60 1/2 games behind first-place San Francisco in the standings, also an all-time futility record.

"I didn't care," Albano said. "I finally had a team to root for, and I loved them. I couldn't get enough of them."

"My gramps — my mom's father, who lived with us — loved the Dodgers when they were in Brooklyn, and I think he grew to love the Mets because I loved them."

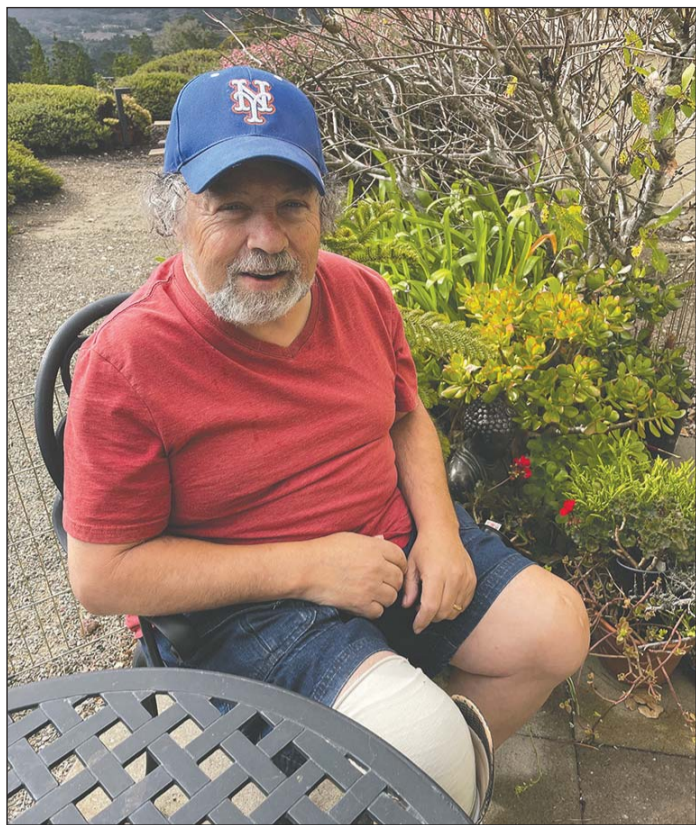
## Grandpa Juicy

That grandpa, known as Juicy, was Tony's constant companion, babysitter and childhood best buddy. He sat beside Tony when the Mets were on TV or radio. He took Tony along, sworn to secrecy, whenever he visited a "girlfriend," or drank at the neighborhood bar. He taught him how to drop water balloons off the fire escape onto people below.

Grandpa Mazine, on the other side of the family, lived with his large, notorious clan at 96 Snedeker Ave. in Brooklyn, with boarded-up buildings on the left, a sweater factory on the right and racing pigeons caged on the roof. The house was built free of charge by a guy who needed the Mazines to lie for him in court. That's how New York worked.

Starting in 1964, Tony's dad, Pete, began taking his 8-year-old son to Shea Stadium — the Mets' new home — where a family friend known as Uncle Enzo worked in the visitors' bullpen.

"We'd knock on the door and Uncle Enzo would let us in," Albano said. "He'd wave us toward another guy, who



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

Tony Albano's obsession with his beloved Mets faded after the '69 season. 'I felt like they weren't mine anymore — they belonged to the world,' he said.

would point us toward a third guy, who would lead us to our seats, right next to the Mets dugout. We never had to pay."

The Mets finished dead last in '64 for the third straight year, but 1.5 million people came through the turnstiles — an all-time big-league attendance record.

In 1966, '67 and '68, they finished either last, or second-to-last, in the 10-team National League, and on July 20, 1969, a local joke — "A man will walk on the moon before the Mets win a championship" — came true when astronaut Neil Armstrong took his "giant leap for mankind."

Meanwhile, the once-hapless Mets were inexplicably part of a frantic pennant race with the Cubs, Pirates and Cardinals. They were doing it with a kiddie-corps pitching staff led by Tom Seaver, age 24; Jerry Koosman, 26; Gary Gentry, 22; Jim McAndrew, 25; Nolan Ryan, 22, and the youngest starting lineup in baseball with an average age of 24.5.

Naysayers felt validated when the Mets stumbled in August, falling eight games behind the first-place Cubs, but on Aug. 16, young Tony — still a true believer — began to witness the impossible. Over the next seven weeks, New York sizzled and the Cubs fizzled.

## The impossible dream

"All I dreamed was for the Mets to hang in there until Sept. 8, when the Cubs were coming to Shea to play two games," said Albano, who on game day, at age 14, drew on his Mazine heritage and slipped a few extra bucks to the man in the ticket office to sell him primo seats in a jam-packed stadium.

The Mets won a 3-2 thriller, moving within two games of the fading Cubs. Albano and his date were among thousands still dancing in Shea Stadium's parking lot hours after the game.

The next night they beat Chicago again, and on Sept. 10, they swept a doubleheader from the Expos. The Cubs lost, and for the first time ever, the Mets were in first place.

From there, the Mets were unstoppable. They won the division by eight games, crushed Atlanta in the N.L. playoffs and stunned heavily-favored Baltimore in the World Series, 4 games to 1.

"My dad scored tickets for all three home games for the Series — somebody owed him a favor — but I refused to go," Albano said. "I didn't want to be distracted by people who didn't care as much as I did. I stayed home and watched the games on TV."

After the Mets became world champions, his obsession faded.

"At that point, I felt like they weren't mine anymore — they belonged to the world," he said. "My work was done."

## Long Island to Monterey

Albano owned two Long Island delicatessens as a young adult. He met his future wife, Pat, in 1981, and they relocated in 1985 to the Monterey Peninsula, where he has worked in the restaurant industry as a waiter and host. He currently hosts two days every week at Il Fornaio in Carmel.

Albano, who never learned to type, has authored three books longhand or by dictation, sharing riveting stories of his horrific 2003 automobile accident, which led to the amputation of his right leg — and the three-legged dog, Brie, who restored his mental health — his serendipitous relationship with popular folksinger Melanie ("Beautiful

## Great Lives

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Came From and Who I Loved," a coming-of-age screenplay screaming to be written.

His grandfather, father and nine uncles were part of a Mafia-connected family that was either beloved or feared on the mean streets of Brooklyn, so young Tony learned to be street smart in gritty New York City before he entered high school.

His was a neighborhood where everybody owed somebody a favor, populated with characters named Johnny Numbers, Dunkie, Fat John, and Tony's own Uncle Polack, a Mazine family sibling. According to lore, all 10 Mazine brothers destroyed somebody's wedding after somebody punched Uncle Polack, who was drunk. As a child, young Tony witnessed a "West Side Story"-style knife fight between two shirtless street thugs. His dad once brought home a picnic table, labeled Property of New York City, that purportedly "fell off a truck." Tony's Uncle Sammy hijacked trucks for John Gotti, and Sammy's son married Gotti's daughter.

## A magical summer

Truth is, Tony Albano probably hit his peak in 1969, when he was just 14. Not that it's been all downhill from there — it's just that Albano can't imagine a greater thrill ride than the one he took that summer.

Much of his new book, "Cherish," is a baseball story, because during his youth, baseball was the lifeblood of New York City. Tony lived and breathed it.

Those who cheered for the Yankees, who played in the Bronx, were on top of the world, adoring a team that won 26 American League pennants and 19 world champion-



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# HISTORY

From page 21A

Clear was in Manila in January 1942 when the Battle of Bataan erupted. He volunteered to serve on Gen. Douglas MacArthur's staff and saw battle at Corregidor. After being ordered off the island in March, Clear was guided by a priest through enemy lines to the coast. A submarine took him to Australia, from which he returned to the United States. Clear spoke of the war and his experience in a national radio broadcast on NBC's "Army Hour" on April 11, 1942. In telling of sharing a foxhole with a sergeant during an assault, Clear gave the world a memorable line: "We prayed, and after the attack, the sergeant observed that there are no atheists in foxholes."

Clear was subsequently promoted to colonel, and in August 1942, he received

the Distinguished Service Medal with a presidential citation recognizing his "exceptionally meritorious service while on an intelligence mission." For the remainder of the war, Clear shared his Asian knowledge as an instructor at the General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

After the war, Clear returned to the Monterey Peninsula. He gave a patriotic talk at Sunset Center in November 1946 that reads like a present-day speech. "The propaganda of cynicism and ridicule directed against everything that has contributed to our national stability has permeated our schools and colleges and textbooks," Clear said. "The attack is well prepared and is being carried out with ferocity and determination. Lunatics say democracy never worked and never will. It has worked, but this is the time to convince our people that freedom and order are essential to democracy. It cannot survive without these two."

### Message in a bottle

Life eventually settled down for the retired officer. He resumed playing golf and was welcomed into membership at Cypress Point Club.

In 1949, while packing up to move to a new house near Jacks Peak, that old bottle he had put on a shelf caught his attention. The sand in it had dried out and come loose. He started shaking it out and discovered there was more than sand inside. He couldn't get the other materials to shake out. Not wanting to break the bottle, he took it Myron Oliver, who had an art shop and also refinished antiques.

Oliver had the tools and creativity to carefully extract what turned out to be a silver sixpence bearing the likeness of Queen Elizabeth I and a tightly wound lead scroll, which when carefully unfurled, revealed a date of May 1, 1579. The scroll turned out to be the land claim of Francis Drake declaring ownership of "this great land and the seas thereof" for Queen Elizabeth I.

More on this discovery next week.

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

# LIVES

From previous page

People," "Look What They've Done To My Song, Ma," "Lay Down," "Brand New Key"), those kisses he exchanged with a nun and many other tales.

Albano is well known locally for his storytelling appearances, sharing tales from his colorful life at libraries, book-

stores, restaurants, The Carmel Foundation and the Pacific Meadows retirement complex, where he resides.

His books — "Cherish," "Life is a Bumpy Road," and "A Leg to Stand On" — are available at River House Books in the Crossroads, Whittakers, Kris Kringle and Diggidy Dog. You can also find them at Book Works in Pacific Grove and Downtown Book & Sound in Salinas, as well as online, or contact him directly at [tonyalbano1969@gmail.com](mailto:tonyalbano1969@gmail.com).

# ARTIST

From page 21A

not want their pictures taken," Geiger said. "I totally respect that, and I'll ask permission first, unless I can shoot the photo candidly. I never wanted to look like an ugly American."

Geiger's images of the breathtaking landscapes and seascapes found so close to home have resulted in two hardcover books produced by Graphic Arts Publishing.

"Among the Cypress: The Monterey Peninsula," a collaboration with writer Douglas Long, was published in 1992 and features natural vistas of the Peninsula as well as photos of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Carmel, Cannery Row and some of the area's famous golf courses.

"Monterey Peninsula: A Cypress Shore" (2001), with writer Thom Akeman, captures the romance of the region's vibrant communities and woodland retreats at the edge of the ocean.

"Both books had a lifespan of close to 20 years," he said. "Pebble Beach, all by itself, sold almost 30,000 copies of 'Among the Cypress.'"

A bucket-list destination is Iceland, said Geiger, who is enamored with the scenery there, but he also aspires to shoot pictures of the vast, rolling wheat fields from

a 3,000-foot vantage point atop Steptoe Butte in Eastern Washington, as well as some of the tiny, dying towns in the area.

Closer to home, he wants to walk the streets of Carmel-by-the-Sea (something he's done once before) to capture images of... well, the streets will reveal that as he wanders.

### Constantly changing

"As a photographer, I couldn't have landed in a more-beautiful place," he observed. "I've been to Point Lobos more times than I can count, walked every trail, shot every angle. But the weather and lighting conditions on the Monterey Peninsula are unique and change so much that it's often like you're seeing things for the first time."

Geiger has two adult sons, Sean (headwaiter at L'Escargot in Carmel) and Brett (a cryptocurrency investor in Eugene, Ore.) by his first wife, Wendy, and a stepdaughter, Melissa, whose mom, Katia, married Geiger eight years ago.

Geiger's fine-art photographs can be seen at Gallery Sur (Sixth Avenue between Dolores and Lincoln streets) in Carmel. Images of his work and additional information can be found online at [garygeiger.com](http://garygeiger.com).

Dennis Taylor is a freelance writer in Monterey County. Contact him at [scribelaufate@gmail.com](mailto:scribelaufate@gmail.com).

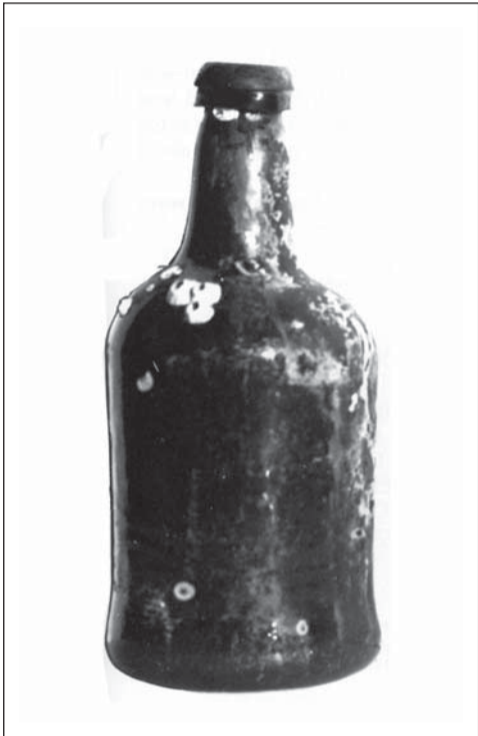


PHOTO FROM 'MORE THAN MEMORIES' (1985) BY RANDALL REINSTEDT  
A rare photo of the ancient bottle found in Pebble Beach in 1934 by (then) Capt. Warren J. Clear.

# ART

From page 19A

beth Barlow, Nicole Cromwell, Hannah Grotberg, Rose Hagan, Monica Johnson, Rebecca Koury, Osta Lange, Robin Sawyer and Kathryn Stotler. Grotberg, by the way, is just 14.

During the town's early years, a number of female artists lived here, including Anne Bremer, E. Charlton Fortune, Jane Gallatin Powers and Jeanne D'Orge, who founded the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts.

Cushman said he's hoping to continue that tradition.

"I really want this gallery to be part of the community and

Carmel's artistic legacy," he said. "The history of the artist colony and the creativity of so many of the current residents is a big part of what originally drew us here."

The gallery, which hosts a reception Friday from 5 to 8 p.m., is located on Dolores between Ocean and Seventh. For more details, call (831) 624-2000 or visit [gallery-marcarmel.com](http://gallery-marcarmel.com).



"Bonita Manana" by Osta Lange is included in a show, "Creative Women II," that opens Friday at Gallery MAR Carmel.

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# The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

## News of swift runners, hard drivers, great spikers and stalwart goalies

THE CARMEL Padres are a solid favorite to capture the overall girls team championship Saturday at the Pacific Coast Athletic League Cross-Country Championships at Toro Park, where the first starting gun will fire at 9:30 a.m.

Carmel's top three runners, sophomores Christiana Kvitak and Isabella Davi and freshman Ava Ghio, are at least dark-horse contenders, based on their season-best performances for the 3-mile distance.

Kvitak, at 20:03.5, ranks fifth in the PCAL, after Monte Vista Christian's Caelan Gilliam (19:23); Watsonville's Katelynn Ruiz (19:38); Gilroy's Karina Rodriguez (19:43) and St. Francis Central Coast Catholic's Monserrat Ramirez (20:00). Carmel's Davi is seventh (20:06.8), and Ghio is eighth quickest (20:10.8).

Ghio's season best makes her the ninth-fastest freshman in the entire CCS. Kvitak and Davi rank 10th and 12th among all CCS sophomores.

That kind of speed at the top of the lineup is remarkable, but where the Padres separate themselves from the rest of the pack is team depth. Two other runners, Marina Hobson (20:41.0) and Sophia Davi (20:48.9) have bettered the 21-minute mark this season, and two more, Sarah Eyjolfssdottir and Chiara Kvitak, have run under 22 minutes. No other team in the PCAL can match that.

Santa Catalina's girls, according to the simulation, are seventh-best in the PCAL, led by senior Catlin Kostka (21:54), freshman Heidi Green (22:26), and junior Audrey Morrison (22:49).

Stevenson will also be looking for a top-10 finish, paced by senior Gabby Torres (21:38) and freshman Amy Rong (22:26).

### ■ York's Julian paces the boys

Julian, the York senior from Boulder Creek, won all four of the races he started this season, all four in 2020, and six of the seven he ran as a sophomore in 2019, when he was the PCAL champion.

His record for the 3-mile distance — 15 min-



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Aiden Tarantino, Dylan Craig and Tyler Imamura give Coach Whit Rambach's Carmel Padres a shot at a top-three finish at Saturday's PCAL Cross-Country Championships.

utes, 18 seconds — leaves his league rivals in the rearview mirror, and also ranks No. 3 among all the runners in the Central Coast Section.

But 11 other runners have covered the distance in less than 17 minutes, which sets the stage for a sensational fight to the finish.

Best 2021 times among Julian's chasers belong to Gilroy's Nicholas Guzman (16:06) and Carmel's Aiden Tarantino (16:11.9), Palma's Moises Benito (16:35) and Monte Vista Christian's James Ponzio (16:35.2).

Another Carmel runner, Dylan Craig, is ninth on the list at 16:45.7, and Stevenson's best, John Puka, ranks 18th in the league at 17:20.

The PCAL's top three boys teams in a 29-team race figure to be Salinas, North Monterey County and Alisal, followed by Carmel (Tarantino, Craig, Tyler Imamura, Avi Desi, and Jack Seifert).

Continues next page

## Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

In a computerized race simulation compiled by athletic net, based on season-best times, Carmel girls come into the race as 14-point favorites over the PCAL's second-best team, San Benito, and 107 points better than the No. 3 team, Watsonville.

The individual competition promises to be a greyhound race to the tape.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Carmel, the pre-meet favorite to win the PCAL girls cross-country crown on Saturday, is deep in talent with (from the left) Christiana Kvitak, Marina Hobson, Ava Ghio, Isabella Davi and Sophia Davi.

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**From previous page**

This year's CCS meet is Nov. 13 at the Crystal Springs cross-country course in Belmont.

**■ Pirates win golf crown**

Stevenson won the PCAL golf championship Oct. 19 at Laguna Seca Golf Ranch, led by medalist Nikki Iniakov, whose 1-over-par 71 was two strokes better than runner-up Jara Gomez of York.

Five Stevenson golfers placed among the top eight: Sydney Craven (75) was fourth, Michelle Wang (76) was fifth, and Emma Chung and Katrina Wu (both 80) tied for eighth.

Grace Wang (78, sixth place) paced Santa Catalina, and Ellie Rydenheard (79, seventh) led Carmel.

Stevenson (382 total strokes) and Carmel (436) qual-

ified their full teams for the CCS tournament, scheduled Tuesday at Laguna Seca (9:30 a.m. starting time).

**■ Carmel, Catalina in VB playoffs**

Santa Catalina (12-3 overall, 10-2 in the Mission Division) finished second to Notre Dame (12-2, 12-0), and will be one of two local teams in the CCS girls volleyball tournament.

The other, Carmel (18-9, 8-6), earned an automatic berth as the third-place finisher (behind Salinas and San Benito) in the rugged Gabilan Division.

Stevenson also had a stellar year (13-5 overall, 10-2 in the Santa Lucia Division), but first-place Gonzales (14-3, 11-1) clinched the division's only postseason spot — a CCS play-in game against Alisal, the No. 4 team from the Gabilan.

Brackets for each division can be found online at [cifccs.org/playoffs/fall\\_playoff\\_brackets\\_-\\_info](http://cifccs.org/playoffs/fall_playoff_brackets_-_info). Quarter-

finals begin Saturday.

**■ Pirates win water polo titles**

Stevenson's boys and girls teams both won the Gabilan Division water polo championship outright to qualify automatically for CCS.

They'll learn which bracket they'll play in, where they're seeded, and who their opponent will be in the Nov. 6 quarterfinals after Sunday's seeding meeting.

Stevenson's girls took a 7-0 division record and a 19-4 overall mark into their regular-season finale against Salinas on Wednesday. The boys were 9-0 and 16-5 going into their last Gabilan match, also against Salinas on Wednesday.

Carmel's girls tied with Gilroy for second place in the Gabilan — each with a 5-3 record — then won a coin toss Tuesday to advance to a 3:30 p.m. play-in game today — Friday — against Mission Division champion San Benito in Hollister.

**■ No postseason football**

With two regular-season games remaining, it's certain that neither Carmel nor Stevenson will qualify for the CCS football playoffs this year.

After beating Pacific Grove in a non-league season opener, the Padres had their next two games canceled when 22 players tested positive for coronavirus, then never really recovered, going 1-4 in the Mission Division, 2-4 overall.

They'll finish with their final home game of the year Saturday against Soledad (2 p.m. kickoff), and a Nov. 6 road game against Monterey at Monterey Peninsula College (2:30 p.m.).

Stevenson started practices three weeks later than its competition, waiting for its boarding students to arrive on campus.

The Pirates opened the season with a 27-25 non-conference loss at Pacific Grove, then a 42-12 defeat in their Santa Lucia Division debut against St. Francis at home.

St. Francis (3-0 division, 5-3 overall) has clinched the Santa Lucia's only playoff slot with two remaining, including Saturday's 2 p.m. kickoff at Stevenson — a non-division game that will not impact the standings.

The Sharks finish next week with a division game at home against last-place Pajaro Valley.

An upset loss to the Grizzlies won't impact St. Francis' playoff spot, since the Sharks' division win over Stevenson early in the year is the tiebreaker if both teams finish 3-1 in the Santa Lucia.

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Food & Wine  
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# This Week

Live Music,  
Clubs and Events

## Award-winning county singer is back on the road, will visit Folktale Friday

A FAMILIAR voice on country music radio who overcame long odds before attaining stardom, singer **Sara Evans** plays Friday at the Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

Evans was singing in front of audiences by the time she was 4, but when she was 8 she was struck by a car and spent months in a wheelchair recovering. Undeterred, she bounced back and was working regularly as a singer by 16.

The singer burst onto the national scene in 1997 when a video from her debut album was picked by the Billboard Music Video Awards as best of the year by a new country artist. The singer has had five No. 1 country hits, including "Born to Fly," "A Real Fine Place" and "A Little Bit Stronger." In 2006, the Academy of Country Music Awards chose her as its Female Vocalist of the Year.

Evans' most recent record, "Copy That," her first with no original songs, opened at No. 1 on the iTunes country

charts last year.

After a lengthy hiatus, Evans is back on the road, and she's thrilled to reconnect with audiences.

### On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

"People are desperate to hear live music," Evans said in a recent interview. "If you can fill an airplane full of people, we can figure out a way to do concerts safely."

Showtime is 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$39. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070.

The theater is requiring a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours or proof of full vaccination. "Masks are op-

tional but strongly encouraged," the theater's Covid policy reads.

Next up on Golden State's music calendar is blues singer and guitarist **George Thorogood**, who visits Nov. 12.

### Acoustic duo plays in Sand Box

A finalist for the 2021 Bluegrass Music Association's Mandolin Player of the Year, **Tristan Scroggins** will be joined by violinist **Alisa Rose** Friday at the Sand Box in Sand City. The two perform under the banner of **Scroggins & Rose**.

Scroggins, who is based in Nashville, has a reputation for stretching the boundaries of his instrument.

"He frequently plays on the Grand Ole Opry," **Michelle**

See MUSIC page 30A



A duo that blurs the lines between musical genres, Scroggins and Rose (far left) takes the stage Friday at the Sand Box in Sand City. The Andrea's Fault Duo (near left) plays Saturday at Tarp's in Monterey, and top-selling country music singer Sara Evans (above) performs Friday at the Golden State Theatre.



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# FOOD & WINE

## Seltzer Co. to breathe new life into Latitudes, BSFW tickets still available

THE LONG-DORMANT restaurant space next to Lovers Point in Pacific Grove looks like it will finally get a tenant. A trio of friends who launched a business creating and selling hard seltzer (flavored but unsweetened sparkling water with an alcohol content similar to beer) during the pandemic are opening a restaurant in the Ocean View Boulevard building that was formerly home to Latitudes.

Veronica Camp, Charlie Lippert and Joe Ehlers met at a Turlock beer festival that Camp has organized for years, and they got along so well, they decided to collaborate on a new venture, she explained to The Pine Cone this week. They ultimately settled on creating a new line of hard seltzers after being inspired by some slushies she'd made for the three of them on a hot day.



Big Sur Food & Wine events are always fun – especially the lively Wine & Swine – and festive attire is encouraged. A brunch with bubbly and a painting lesson is part of this year's lineup, too.



### First of its kind

The friends started researching and tasting other hard seltzers on the market and worked to develop recipes of their own. California Seltzer Co. debuted with pineapple-lemon flavor.

to come up with the first seltzer-focused restaurant in California?" Camp continued. The idea has taken hold in North Carolina and Colorado, she said, but not yet here.

They scouted locations and discovered the empty space near Lovers Point that had been vacant for years. Camp had visited Pacific Grove before and attended the Feast of Lanterns many times, so she was familiar with the town and the building, which offers expansive

landlord and then getting all the necessary permits from the city and county, they broke ground, and construction is now well underway.

Locals and others they've encountered are practically as excited about the developments as they are, according to Lippert. "We tell them where we're opening a spot, and they lose their minds," he said. "We'll be breathing new life into that area."

Camp said anyone interested in working should contact her at (209) 614-8148 or [veronica@californiaseltzerco.com](mailto:veronica@californiaseltzerco.com).

"We do really want to express our gratitude for how kind everyone has been to us so far," she added. "It's been shocking."

### ■ BSFW events still available

More than half of the events set to be offered during the Big Sur Food & Wine Festival Nov. 4-6 are sold out, but fortunately for latecomers, a handful still have space, including a wine tasting, a fancy dinner, and BSFW's signature party, Wine & Swine.

On Friday, Nov. 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Big Sur Loft at Ventana Inn, a wine tasting will pay tribute to the late Jim Clendenen, the visionary winemaker behind Au Bon Climat. "Jim was a great friend of our festival and an even better mentor to countless wine novices that found a path to success through the doors and barrel rooms of his enviable winery," festival organizers said. "Jim inspired so many with his passion for food and wine,

*Continues next page*

## Soup to Nuts

By MARY SCHLEY

"As of right now, we have five," Camp said, including Berry Rush, blood orange, pink lemonade, and hibiscus lime.

The idea of building a restaurant and menu around their new beverages came next.

"Due to our success and brainstorming, we thought, 'Wouldn't it be awesome

views of the coastline and sea.

"Once we went to that location, it was hard to see ourselves anywhere else," she said.

Lippert agreed. "We went to a few other places in other cities, and we kept coming back to Pacific Grove," he said.

After a year of negotiating with their

### Help wanted

They hope to open the restaurant they're calling California Seltzer Co. @ Lovers Point by late January 2022 and plan to serve light breakfast items like quiche, pastries, fruit and avocado toast, and then offer wood-fired pizzas, salads, paninis, soups and other fare for lunch and dinner.

Their seltzers and non-alcoholic sparkling water are produced in Lodi and will be brought weekly to serve and sell here in P.G. Camp said they'll also feature select beers — including those brewed by Lippert and Ehlers at their Five Window Beer Co. in Lodi — and wines.

The restaurant will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week, and Lippert noted they'll be hiring for all positions.

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# FOOD & WINE

**From previous page**

and never hesitated a moment to say what he really meant.”

The panel’s featured winemakers were among his closest friends and collaborators, including his father, Bob Lindquist of Lindquist Family Wines, Frank Ostini from Hitching Post, Gavin Chanin of Chanin Wines, former wife Morgan Clendenen with Cold Heaven, and Paul Lato of Paul Lato Wines.

The panelists are selecting wines to share “that were either influenced by Jim personally or had a direct connection to him and Au Bon Climat winery,” and they’ll each choose one of their own and one from ABC’s portfolio to pour and discuss. Ventana Big Sur chef John Garcia will prepare small bites to share. Tickets are \$50 apiece.

**Brunch, bid, wine, dine**

The Bubbles & Brushes in the Redwoods brunch at Big Sur Lodge, with plenty of food, champagne and wine followed by a painting lesson from Palo Colorado artist Sofanya White, will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 6 and has tickets available for \$75 each.

The live auction, which will be held in an undisclosed location from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., overlaps brunch. Attending it is free, but bidding is not! Organizers expect to have 20 or 30 lots that will include intimate dinners, music tickets, travel experiences, wine, lodging and artwork. Proceeds benefit Big Sur charities via the Big Sur Food & Wine Foundation.

Post Ranch Inn is hosting a Rarities Dinner that evening from 5:30 to 9:30 with hors d’oeuvres on the deck at Sierra Mar restaurant followed by a five-course dinner prepared by executive chef Reylon Agustin. Each dish will be paired with rare wines from the library of DNS Wines founder Todd Mathis, who plans to bring “mature” bottles from Benoit Ente in Meursault, Patrick Piuze in Chablis, Perrot Minot in Chambertin, George Vernay in Cote Rotie and Domaine Economou in Greece. Dinner is \$425 per person and limited to 12 guests. Unlike the other BSFW events, reservations for the Rarities Dinner must be made through the inn’s restaurant at (831) 667-2800.

The fest’s marquee event, Wine & Swine, celebrates food, wine, music and fun as the weekend wraps up and organizers, participants, chefs, winemakers, sponsors, volunteers and guests gather to celebrate with great food and wine, and then dance long into the night. The festivities take place from 7 to 10 p.m. at Henry Miller Library. Tickets are \$135, and a mandatory shuttle from Carmel costs an additional \$35.

For details and tickets, go to [bigsurfoodandwine.org](http://bigsurfoodandwine.org).

**Who’s the best?**

The Golden Pine Cones are out, and as usual, the Best Restaurant in Carmel category had a lot of competition among voters.

Congratulations to all the restaurants that received votes this year: Grasing’s, La Balena, Seventh & Dolores, Akaoni, AW Shucks, Alvarado Street Bistro, Anton & Michel, Aubergine, Basil, Cantinetta Luca, Carmel Belle, Bistro Giovanni, Casanova, Cultura, Cypress Inn/Terry’s, Dametra, Dutch Door Donuts, Enzo, Flying Fish Grill, Forge in the Forest, Il Tegamino, Katy’s Place, L’Escargot,

La Bicyclette, Patisserie Boissiere, La Playa/Bud’s, Le Soufflé, Links Club, Little Napoli, Cantinetta Luca, Lugano Swiss Bistro, Mission Bistro, Mission Ranch, Cafe Napoli, Pangaea, Porta Bella, Rio Grill, Stationaery, Sur, The Pocket, Toro, Treehouse, Vesuvio and Yafa.

The Golden Pine Cones honor the best restaurants in numerous categories, including cuisine types, locations and occasions, like where to take clients, significant others or kids. Find all the winners and their descriptions in the special section in this week’s paper.

**More Halloween fun**

Wild Fish restaurant on Lighthouse in Pacific Grove is hosting a grown-up Halloween with food, cocktails and live music. The Lighthouse Jazz Quartet featuring Bob Phillips on keys, Stu Reynolds on sax, Zach Westfall on bass and Mike Shannon on drums, with special guest “Fast Eddie” Erickson on banjo, will play from 6:30 to 9 p.m. for a \$5 cover outdoors.

Guests will enjoy “wild and wicked cocktails” like the Coastie Ghostie, the Dark & Foggy and the Screamsicle and can order off of Wild Fish’s eclectic regular menu. Owners Liz and Kelvin Jacobs are encouraging people to come in costume. For more information or reservations, go to [wild-fish.com](http://wild-fish.com) or call (831) 373-8523.



The distinctive building in the bend of Ocean View Boulevard near Lovers Point has been vacant for years, but it’s slated to become a new restaurant run by the founders of the California Seltzer Co.

Next door in Monterey, Puma Road winery’s tasting room near the Portola Hotel at 281 Alvarado St. is hosting the (Return of) Monster Bash with spooky tunes by duo Magenta Spreen, a costume contest — and wine specials — Oct. 31 from 5 to 8 p.m.

See **FOOD** page 35A

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## CALENDAR

**Nov. 1 - Dazzling Pumpkins! It's time for the annual Carmel Woman's Club Succulent Pumpkin Sale and Crafts Fair,** Monday from noon to 3 p.m. Designer pumpkins beautifully decorated with living succulents will be on display and available for purchase along with an array of handcrafted boutique items. Event is free. Each uniquely designed, the long lasting pumpkins are suitable for holiday table decor and come in a variety of shapes and sizes. The Carmel Woman's Club is at Ninth and San Carlos in Carmel. Masks required for entrance.

**Nov. 1 - Carmel Orchid Society guest speaker Deric Wenzler discusses "Orchids in our Outdoor Landscape"** at 7 p.m. Presentation, orchid sales. Free, easy parking. Multipurpose room of the Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 4590 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel.

**Nov. 7 - The Monterey County Composer's Forum presents "Heroes for the Arts,"** featuring local performers Cindy Wu, and the Monterey String Quartet with David Dally and Liana Berube. Composers include Abbott, Ettinger, Gatica, Kaiser, Macy, Ovens, Price, Rentz, Roseman, Schmidt, Victorine, and Yramategui; at Hidden Valley Music Seminars, Carmel Valley Road at Ford Road in Carmel Valley. \$10. Vaccinated and masked, please.

**Nov. 9 - Carmel Residents' Association presents internationally known and award-winning local artist Will Bullas,** with his unique process, perspectives, images and humor. Join us at 5 p.m. in Sunset Center's Carpenter Hall. It's open to the public, enjoy a glass of wine, and chuckle too. For details visit [www.carmelresidents.org](http://www.carmelresidents.org).

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# MUSIC

From page 27A

**Djokic** of the Sand Box told The Pine Cone. "He's very creative."

Rose, who lives in San Francisco, is a classically trained violinist. She earned a Grammy Award nomination for her work with Quartet San Francisco.

"She's a versatile and talented composer who can improvise freely," Djokic said. "Bluegrass is in her DNA."

Djokic said the music the two play, which incorporates many genres, is pretty distinct. "So many elements come together to make something unusual and beautiful," she added.

The music starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35. The Sand Box is located at 440 Ortiz Ave., sandboxsandcity.com.

Next up at the Sand Box is **The San Francisco Yiddish Combo**, which plays Nov. 28.

## Live music Oct. 29-Nov. 4

**Barmel** — singer and guitarist **Rick**

**Chelew** (folk, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). San Carlos and Seventh, (831) 626-3400.

**Bernardus Lodge & Spa** in Carmel Valley — pianist **Tom Gastineau** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Fred McCarty** (Saturday at noon), pianist **Martan Mann** (jazz and classical, Saturday at 6 p.m.) and singer and guitarist **Casey Wickstrom** (Sunday at noon). In the Lucia Restaurant & Bar at 415 W. Carmel Valley Road, (831) 658-3400.

**Bon Ton LeRoy's Lighthouse Smokehouse** in Monterey — **Alligator** (zydeco, Saturday at 7 p.m.) and Open Mic Night (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 794 Lighthouse Ave., (831) 375-6958.

**Cypress Inn** — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Friday at 7 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Loktionov** and singer **Debbie Davis** (cabaret, Saturday at 7 p.m.), **The Andrea Carter Trio** (jazz and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.), guitarist **Richard Devinck** (classical, Sunday at 6 p.m.) and singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh, (831) 624-3871.

**Cibo** restaurant in Monterey — **The Dave Holodiloff Duo** (jazz and bluegrass, Sunday at 7 p.m.), singers **Lee Durley** and

**Scotty Wright** (jazz and r&b, Tuesday at 7 p.m.) and **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz and swing, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St., (831) 649-8151.

**Del Monte Center** in Monterey — **Carnaval!!** (Santana tribute, Friday at 6 p.m.). In the Garden Courtyard at 1410 Del Monte Center.

**Folktale Winery** in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Talmon Owens** (Friday at 3 p.m.), **Two Rivers** (pop and rock, Saturday at 3 p.m.) singer **Chelsea Riddle** and guitarist **Glenn Bell** (country, jazz and soul, Sunday at 11:30 a.m.) and singer and guitarist **Johan Sotelo** (Thursday at 3 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road, (831) 293-7500.

**Gusto Pizzeria** in Seaside — singer **Lauri Hofer-Romero** and guitarist **Bruce Forman** (jazz, Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.). 1901 Fremont Blvd., (831) 899-5825.

**Hidden Valley Music Seminars** in Carmel Valley — a trio of musicians, in town to teach a workshop, present a free concert (early music, Thursday at 7:30 p.m.). Carmel Valley and Ford roads, hiddenvalleymusicseminars.com

**Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel** — singer and guitarist **Fred McCarty** (Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road, (831) 372-1234.

**Hyatt Carmel Highlands** — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Saturday at 7 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive, (831) 620-1234.

**The Inn at Spanish Bay** in Pebble Beach — pianist **Gary Meek**, bassist **Steve Uccello** and drummer **Andy Weis** (jazz, Friday at 7 p.m.) and pianist **Bill Spencer**, bassist **Steve Uccello** and drummer **Andy Weis** (jazz, Friday at 7 p.m.). 2700 17 Mile Drive, (831) 647-7500.

**Juice and Java** in Pacific Grove — Open Mic Night (Friday at 6 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave., (831) 373-8652.

**Intercontinental Hotel** in Monterey — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock, folk and blues, Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m.) and guitarist **Robert McNamara** (classical, jazz and pop, Sunday at 6 p.m.). In the C Restaurant, 750 Cannery Row, (831) 375-4500.

**La Playa Hotel** — **The David Morwood Band** (jazz, Sunday at 4 p.m.). Camino Real, (800) 582-8900.

**The Lodge at Pebble Beach** — singer **Haley Jane** (rock, Friday at 6 p.m.) singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (Saturday at 6 p.m.) and guitarist **John Sherry** (rock, folk and blues, Sunday at 6 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive, (831) 624-3811.

**Lucy's On Lighthouse** in Pacific Grove — **The Brad Wilson Trio** (rock and blues, Sunday at 2 p.m.). 1120 Lighthouse Ave., (831) 920-2006.

**Massa Tasting Room** in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk,

See LIVE page 33A

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Location: SW Corner 5th Ave & San Carlos  
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★ **DIGITAL GIRAFFE**  
A working studio for digital painting, digital sculpture & 3D printed sculpture. We welcome art lovers, educators, & anyone interested in learning about the exciting world of digital imaging.  
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PO Box 4444, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921 (831) 624-3877

# CARMEL CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Creating *the* Links



**Distinguished Lords & Ladies of Carmel,**  
It is our honor to impart to you that the Awards of Excellence shall officially return to Quail Lodge this December 1st, 2021.

The incomparable businesses of Carmel are invited for a night of festivities in the form of a royal Regency-era ball as inspired by the Netflix series Bridgerton. Set in 1813, the Regency is perhaps the most extraordinary decade in all of British history. Noted for its elegance and achievements in the fine arts and architecture.

This era encompassed a time of great social, political and economic change. You may know the time period as being the setting of numerous novels by celebrated author Jane Austen.

This will be the pre-eminent event of the social season. An auction, symphony music, Regency-era dress and fine dining will be part of the festivities as we recognize the best amongst us.

The royal court has extended this invitation to you and looks forward to your attendance at this most excellent of occasions. These highly coveted tickets sell out every year; we expect this year to be no exception. Secure your place soon by purchasing tickets through the Chamber. [www.carmelchamber.org](http://www.carmelchamber.org)

Her Royal Majesty's Social Secretaries,  
(The Awards of Excellence Committee)

Special thanks to this year's event sponsors:  
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**RIBBON CUTTING @ SOCIAL HOUR & MONICA GRAHAM FINE ART**  
6th Ave btwn San Carlos & Dolores  
5:30 - 7:30pm

**THURSDAY, NOV 16th**  
**RIBBON CUTTING @ BIG LITTLE BOXES**  
Carmel Square, San Carlos btwn Ocean & 7th  
5:00 - 6:30pm

**WEDNESDAY, NOV 17th**  
**MIXER @ WEDDING PROSTUDIOS, LLC**  
The Barnyard Shopping Village  
\$10 Chamber Members/\$20 Community  
5:30 - 7:30pm

### SYNCHRONICITY HOLISTIC 2YR ANNIVERSARY



### MAX'S HELPING PAWS FOUNDATION 5YR ANNIVERSARY



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