

# The Carmel Pine Cone

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## Scaffolding in place for Mission roof re-do



Contractors erected scaffolding this week in preparation for removing roof tiles and drilling into the walls of the Carmel Mission Basilica to strengthen them in a \$5 million seismic upgrade project. The work is being funded by the Carmel Mission Foundation, which is still seeking donations for other improvements at the historic Mission that was completed in 1793.

PHOTO/PAUL MILLER

## State releases complete list of public pensions

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

IT'S NO secret that working for a public agency in California for a couple or few dozen years will land you a pretty darned good — if not extraordinary — monthly pension check. That's true for employees around the state and right here in Monterey County.

According to a database released by two state agencies after a public records act request from the San Jose Mercury News, many local retirees from the public sector are enjoying very luxurious retirements.

For instance, Joe Donofrio, former general manager of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District — which has about 14 employees — receives \$17,065.39 per month for his efforts at the park district and earlier government jobs.

Former Monterey County Sheriff Mike Kanalakos receives a stout \$20,787.84 in monthly pension benefits, while former Carmel Police Chief George Rawson takes home \$13,757.03. Former Carmel High School and Carmel Middle School principal Karl Pallastrini gets \$11,194.74 and former Monterey Peninsula Water Management District worker Rick Dickhaut is paid \$8,518.58 per month.

The Mercury News database contains the names and pension amounts for more than 700,000 state employees who receive benefits from CalPERS and CalSTRS, the California State Teachers' Retirement System.

CalPERS spokeswoman Amy Norris told The Pine Cone that last year, 536,234 former public employees received pension plans from that retirement system.

Here is a partial list of the pensions of local county, city and agency workers, according to the state's data:

### CITY OF CARMEL

Name	years service	initial monthly pension
Rawson, George E	34.59	\$13,757.03
Hill, Bill	33.00	\$8,541.63
Dambrosio, Gregory	35.52	\$8,209.04

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## Scenic Road becomes one-way Sept. 5

By MARY SCHLEY

SCENIC ROAD will become one-way around Carmel Point Wednesday, when crews from the Monterey County and the City of Carmel public works departments unveil new signs and the freshly painted roadway.

Only a small portion of the new one-way road is in the city, and Carmel planning and building services manager Sean Conroy said the city's workers are only installing one-way signs and painting arrows on the pavement at the intersection of Scenic and Santa Lucia and placing new signs at

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PHOTO/PAUL MILLER

Signs have gone up warning drivers that Scenic Road around Carmel Point will become one-way Wednesday.

## CHALLENGE TO USER FEE QUALIFIES FOR BALLOT

By KELLY NIX

THE USER fee imposed on property owners by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District in July could be killed after the county elections office determined this week that a taxpayers group gathered enough signatures to force a referendum on the fee.

On Thursday afternoon, Monterey County Registrar Linda Tulett told The Pine Cone that the Monterey County Taxpayers' Association gathered 4,136 valid petition signatures, more than enough to place a referendum on the ballot.

The district argues the fee is essential to build two new water supply projects it says are necessary to comply with a state order to stop pumping most of the water the Peninsula receives from the Carmel River.

But the taxpayers association has ardently opposed the fee, and the group's president, Ron Pasquinelli, said the water district now has two choices.

"They can cancel the tax, or they can put it to a vote," Pasquinelli said. "And that's what our whole idea was in the first place."

His group, along with the Monterey County Association of Realtors, fought to prevent the user fee from being implemented. After it was, they launched an effort to have it overturned.

A total of 4,810 petition signatures were filed, while 3,824 were needed to qualify for the referendum. The 674 that were

invalidated included signatures by people who are not registered to vote, live outside the water district or signed the petition twice, according to water district general manager Dave Stoldt.

Now that the petition has been declared successful, the

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## Outbreak of automobile accidents plagues town

By MARY SCHLEY

A RASH of car crashes — including three hit-and-run collisions — kept police and emergency responders scrambling during the past week, as an alleged drunken driver struck a parked car and fled, a teenager drove head-on into another car while on the wrong side of the road after running a stop sign, and a man on Junipero crashed into a tree after swerving to avoid a cat, according to Carmel Police Sgt. Paul Tomasi.

On Thursday, Aug. 23, a witness watched the driver of a

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## JOHN SAAR PROPERTIES ACQUIRED BY SOTHEBY'S

By PAUL MILLER

ONE OF the most familiar names in local real estate — John Saar — has joined forces with one of its biggest companies, Sotheby's. And so have more than 25 of his agents.

This week, the acquisition of John Saar Properties by Sotheby's International Realty was announced by Frank Symons, chief operating officer of Sotheby's Western Region.

"I am delighted to welcome such an accomplished group of professionals to our team," Symons said.

Janet Reilly, managing broker for Sotheby's Monterey Peninsula operation, was also effusive about the move.

"John is an icon," Reilly said. "He's a brilliant marketer, and we think he'll be a very good fit with our global brand."

Saar made a similar point in explaining why he decided it was time to make his independent real estate company part of a larger firm.

"Everything is getting so technical, it can be hard for a smaller company to keep up," Saar said. He called selling real estate an "art form" and praised Sotheby's for appreciating that while also managing to be on the forefront of the legal and marketing challenges of being competitive in a global industry.

"Everybody knows me, and a lot of people appreciate my local knowledge," Saar continued. "But, at the same time, some clients feel more comfortable with a company that has larger reach."

"John's clients will have the best of both worlds," Reilly said.

With the addition of Saar and his agents, Sotheby's Monterey Peninsula now has more than 110 agents — a development Saar said was unprecedented for the Monterey Peninsula real estate industry. "It's an amazing move, and there hasn't been anything like it," he said.

### A life selling

This week, Saar and his former employees, including managers Linda Guy and Kyle Morrison, were settling into their new desks at Sotheby's offices in downtown Carmel, Carmel Rancho and Carmel Valley, and getting oriented with their new corporate environment.

Meanwhile, Saar, 65, was reflecting a bit on his very successful life selling real estate.

He was born in Keokuk, Iowa, and hitchhiked to California soon after graduating from high school in 1965.

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