

The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 108 No. 48

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December 2-8, 2022

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Cal Am has work to do before desal a reality

By KELLY NIX

CALIFORNIA AMERICAN Water has gotten over one of the biggest hurdles facing its long-sought desalination plant — approval of the project by the state’s powerful coastal commission — but the challenges it faces mean it could be a long time before ground is broken on the project.

On Nov. 17, coastal commissioners at a meeting in Salinas supported a recommendation from its staff that Cal Am’s desal plant be approved, voting 8-2 to issue a coastal development permit for the utility’s feedwater slant wells in the Marina dunes and the company’s desal plant near the landfill.

The project, which would offer the Monterey Peninsula a drought-free water supply, garnered ardent support and fierce opposition at the hearing. Gov. Gavin Newsom lauded the project’s approval by the coastal commission.

Many permits

But there are a lot of steps and actions Cal Am and other agencies must take before it can start construction, explained coastal commission staffer Tom Luster, who recommended to commissioners ahead of the Salinas meeting that the desal plant be approved with myriad conditions.

Those steps include, according to Luster, additional approvals from the State Water Resources Control Board, the State Lands Commission, local sewer district Monterey One Water and the California Public Utilities Commission. The CPUC in September 2018 OK’d a larger Cal Am

See **DESAL** page 14A

School board unanimously embraces CHS lights

By MARY SCHLEY

AT A meeting that drew dozens of students Tuesday night, the Carmel Unified School District board unanimously voted to approve new stadium lights and other improvements at Carmel High School, and to certify the 2,019-page EIR for the project.

Before the vote, superintendent Ted Knight gave an impassioned speech supporting the kids and condemning neighbors for disinformation campaigns and personal attacks.

More than two dozen people, many of them teenagers,



CARMEL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

A simulation of the proposed lighting at the Carmel High football stadium shows how 70-foot light towers will be tall enough to cast their light downward instead of into the surrounding neighborhood.

spoke at the Nov. 29 hearing in the Carmel Middle School gym.

Some residents who have long opposed the plan to install four light poles between 70 and 80 feet tall to illuminate the athletic field again complained that the project would ruin their neighborhood.

While the EIR says no trees will be removed, frequent critic John Dillard said, “You acknowledge you’re going to cut down all the cypress trees along Highway 1 in front of the school and you’re going to change the dark sky character of the neighboring community, to which you just say, ‘Too bad.’”

A longtime resident identifying herself only as Noelle accused the district of using the students as “pawns” in its efforts to get the project approved. “This is an exploitation of business. It has nothing to do with the school, and it has nothing to do with the poor kids. It destroys the neighborhoods,” she said. “There’s going to be light pollution. There’s going to be noise pollution. And 80-foot lights are ridiculous. You guys are motivated by money, bottom line.”

‘I love it’

But several parents and students argued in favor of the lights and the rest of the improvements, which include a new storage shed with a viewing platform on top next to the bleachers, new parking lots east of the pool and on the south side where the tennis courts are, new pathways and driveways, and replacement pool lights. A few neighbors supported the proposal, as well.

“I live six houses from the football field, and I love it,” said a resident who didn’t provide his name. “I’m selfish, because I want the lights — I want to go up there and watch all the sports.”

He accused opponents of trotting out environmental issues when they really just don’t like how the changes will affect them, and asked, “When you move next to a school, what do you think is going to happen?”

CHS senior Eva West has participated in the sports medicine program at the school for three years and said the lights are necessary to keep student athletes healthy.

See **STADIUM** page 23A

WARY OF SURGE, CHOMP REOPENS TRIAGE TENT

By CHRIS COUNTS

WITH CASES of Covid and other respiratory viruses on the rise, Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula is taking the precautionary measure of setting up a triage tent near the entrance to the emergency room.

The tent will make it easier to isolate those who are afflicted and reduce the spread of viruses.

“We’re seeing a lot more respiratory cases in the hospital,” CHOMP spokeswoman Monica Sciuto told The Pine Cone. “It’s a combination of Covid, the flu and other illnesses like pneumonia. So we’re taking a proactive approach to make sure we’re ready for increases in our emergency room visits.”

On the rise

Dr. Martha Blum of CHOMP observed that influenza and a highly contagious virus, RSV, that hits children especially hard, are on the rise after two years of “very minimal” activity.

“We are seeing a return of significant levels of influenza

combined with an early surge of RSV, all while still seeing the anticipated increase in Covid-19 cases following the Thanksgiving holiday,” Blum reported. “The hospital is seeing cases of severe influenza requiring hospitalization, particularly in the elderly, and continues to care for young children and infants suffering from severe RSV.”

As of Thursday, Blum reported that the hospital is looking after 12 Covid patients in isolation and 10

See **TRIAGE** page 21A

P.G. proposes cameras to read license plates

Same as Carmel’s crime-fighting tool

By KELLY NIX

IN WHAT Pacific Grove Police Department maintains would be a valuable law enforcement tool, it has proposed installing cameras to photograph the license plates of vehicles entering and departing the city — technology Carmel-by-the-Sea implemented in 2017 and which has helped solve numerous crimes in that city, including the rape and beating of an elderly woman.

At a traffic safety commission meeting Nov. 22, P.G. Police Chief Cathy Madalone and a representative from Flock Safety — the company offering the “automated license plate readers” — said cameras positioned along the city’s borders would capture “computer readable images” of license plates and vehicles, allowing officers to compare plate numbers against those of stolen cars or vehicles belonging to individuals wanted for crimes.

“This is a great investigative tool that will be used by our team members to assist our officers in keeping our community safe and reducing crime and the fear of crime,” Madalone said.

Highly successful

Similar traffic cameras have been used by the Carmel Police Department to solve numerous crimes. In April, officers identified and arrested a 35-year-old transient who used an ax to break into Carmel Cutlery after reviewing the cameras, which captured an image of the man’s Mercedes and its license plate number.

In May 2020, the cameras helped officers quickly identify Isaac Garcia, then 20 years old, who raped an elderly woman on 13th near Scenic. Garcia pleaded guilty in April

2021 to forcible rape, and admitted causing significant injuries and using a firearm. He is serving a 25-years-to-life prison sentence.

Flock Safety spokesman Hector Soliman-Valdez said the plate recognition system would provide Pacific Grove police officers with real-time alerts of stolen vehicles entering the city and said it’s also an investigative tool.

See **CAMERAS** page 20A

On-board Tesla video shows driver speeding wrong way on Scenic

By MARY SCHLEY

VIDEO OBTAINED by Carmel police of the spectacular rollover Tesla crash on Scenic Road two weeks ago shows that the driver, identified as Mike Whorton of Phoenix, Ariz., was speeding the wrong way on Scenic Road and blew through two intersections before careening over a curb into the sand dunes and hitting a tree about 150 feet off the roadway, Sgt. Michael Bruno said this week.

“The camera on the Tesla showed him driving north on Scenic the wrong way. He was traveling at over 50 mph and drove straight into the sand after crossing Ocean Avenue,” he said. “If anyone was in his way, they would have been seriously hurt, if not killed. We’re so lucky that no

See **TESLA** page 21A



PHOTO/COURTESY CHOMP

An increase in Covid and flu cases has led Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula to set up a triage tent to help isolate patients who are contagious.



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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Not Happening

Bridget Bardot knows her name but has no idea she was named after French screen siren Brigitte Bardot, albeit with a shift in spelling. She also knows her sister's name, Coco Chanel, but has no idea she was named for the legendary fashion designer. And wouldn't care.

Clearly, the four-legged stars know each other, running toward one another when reunited as if to say, "Where have you been?"

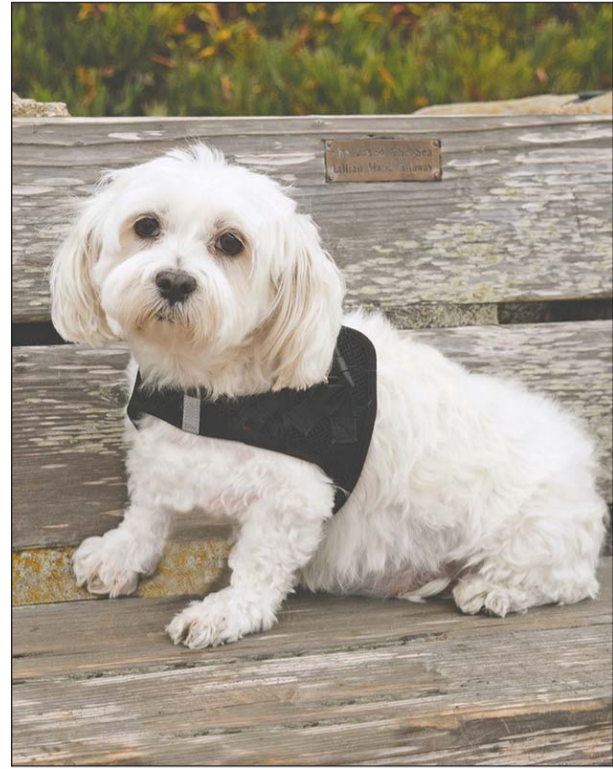
Bridget Bardot and her sister were living in a condo in San Francisco among eight other dogs, most of them Maltese. When their people could no longer care for them, the pups were brought to Carmel Valley to be dispersed among loving locals.

Bridget Bardot's person, who had recently lost her own Maltese, saw the story of the orphaned dogs on Facebook and went out to the valley to meet them.

As soon as she held Bridget Bardot, she knew she'd found her "Baby B."

"Whenever I ask Bridget if she wants to visit Coco, her ears perk up and she gets excited," her person said. "We got them together every weekend before Covid and look forward to doing so again."

Bridget is always eager to go for a walk around her Pacific Meadows home. Her excitement as she runs up



to people with her tail wagging, as if to say, "Hi, how are you?" has earned her the title of Mayor of the Neighborhood. As much as she loves her home turf, her aversion to the beach is palpable.

"She doesn't even want to look at the beach," her person said. "As soon as we get there, she looks at me as if to say, 'Why are we here?' If I try to take her on a leash down to the sand, she drops down onto her belly and goes flat, refusing to budge. It's not happening."

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COUNTY FINALIZES ELECTION RESULTS

■ New council Dec. 13

By MARY SCHLEY

THE MONTEREY County elections department released the final results of the Nov. 8 election this week, with just under half of registered voters countywide — 103,147 — casting ballots. For the City of Carmel, Carmel Unified School District and the Monterey County Sheriff’s race, the tallies reaffirmed the initial results.

In the council race, incumbent Jeff Baron netted 998 votes, followed by newcomer Alissandra Dramov’s 800. Gallery owner Ashley Stoddard received 708, while Parker Logan got 513. Incumbent Mayor Dave Potter ran unopposed and got 1,422 votes.

The 1-square-mile city had 2,548 registered voters as of Oct. 24, according to the county registrar’s office, including 1,238 Democrats and 651 Republicans, and 1,956 people participated in the election.

The Carmel City Council is set to adopt a resolution certifying the election results

at a special meeting Dec. 13 at 4:30 p.m., when outgoing councilwoman Carrie Theis will be honored for her years on the council and Potter, Baron and Dramov will take the oath of office and be sworn in.

Two-thirds for Nieto

A total of 95,663 people participated in the election for sheriff, with nearly two-thirds of them (62,848) selecting Marina Police Chief Tina Nieto over MCSO Capt. Joe Moses, who received 32,815 votes.

And in the race for Carmel Unified School District, which has 17,279 registered voters, incumbents Tess Arthur and Sara Hinds won handily, receiving 7,314 votes and 6,457 votes, respectively. Challenger Drew Lander got 2,429 votes, and 1,999 people voted for Lawrence Samuels. Total voter turnout in the district was just under 73 percent.

According to elections data, 209,045 people are registered to vote countywide, including 109,843 Democrats, 41,118 Republicans, and 44,481 voters who have no political party affiliation.

WOMAN’S CLUB DISTRIBUTES GRANTS

By ELAINE HESSER

ON MONDAY, Dec. 5 at 2 p.m., the Carmel Woman’s Club will make the holidays happier for 12 local nonprofit groups when it distributes its annual grants. This year’s recipients include the Blind & Visually Impaired Center in Pacific Grove, the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts, The Carmel Foundation, Carmel Valley Angel Project and Carmel Youth Center.

Also included are, CASA of Monterey County, Gathering for Women, Kernes Adaptive Aquatics, Monterey Sober Living

for Women, Pacific Repertory Theater, The Salvation Army and Girls, Inc.

Each group will receive approximately \$500 to continue its good works.

The event — at the Woman’s Club at Ninth and San Carlos — is open to the public, with an admission fee of \$10 for non-members. Also on the agenda is a presentation by the florist design firm Twig and Petal, titled “Holiday Decor For Home And Table,” followed by a coffee/tea reception.

For more information, call (831)624-2688 or (831)594-6200.

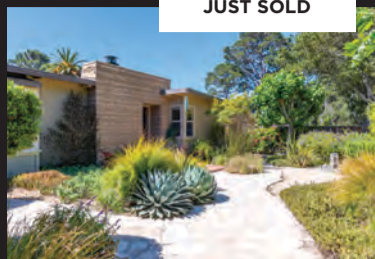
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RYAN MELCHER

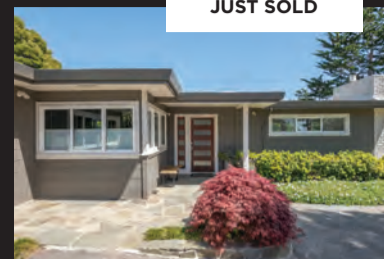
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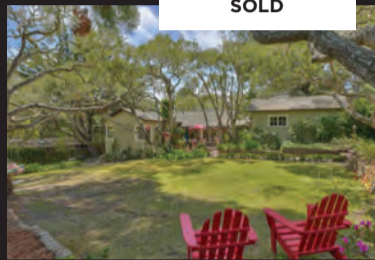
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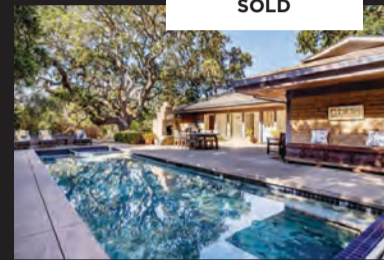
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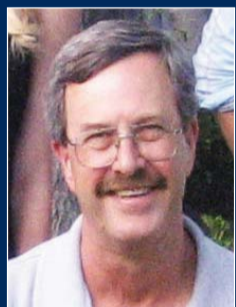


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Police & Sheriff's Log

A burglar made a safe getaway

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.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Pacific Grove: Ammunition turned in by a Grove Acre resident for destruction.

Pacific Grove: A found ring on Ocean View Boulevard was turned in for destruction.

Pacific Grove: At approximately 2050 hours, PGPD responded to a verbal domestic dispute on Grove Acre. The involved parties agreed to separate for the night. No criminal activity was reported.

Carmel area: Sycamore Place resident requested assistance with a juvenile issue.

Carmel Valley: Deputies dispatched to a vandalism of a vehicle on Dorris Drive. A hole had been drilled on the gas tank to steal the gas. No suspect information.

Pebble Beach: A juvenile Pine Meadows Way resident was reported as a runaway but was located a distance away and returned to her parents.

Pebble Beach: Deputies responded to a juvenile on probation threatening her parents over alcohol at a Pine Meadows Way residence. Juvenile resisted and obstructed deputies. The 16-year-old female was in possession of alcohol and marijuana, and taken to juvenile hall.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A cell phone was lost somewhere in Carmel.

Big Sur: Victim alleged she was raped at a party on Highway 1.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Resident on Santa Rita south of Second reported a phone scam resulting in the loss of \$31,500.

See **POLICE LOG** page 8RE
in the Real Estate Section



The gavel falls

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

Oct. 28 — The California Board of Parole granted David Leonardo parole after he served less than 11 years in custody. Leonardo was serving a 15 year to life sentence for a murder he committed in 2014. This was the inmate's first parole hearing.

On Dec. 3, 2011, at 1:17 p.m., Monterey County deputies and firefighters responded to a call of a non-responsive child. Leonardo was upstairs yelling for the deputies to come upstairs. As deputies entered the upstairs bedroom, they saw Leonardo holding a 2-year-old girl, Priscilla Rose Hernandez, who was not wearing a shirt and had several visible bruises on her body including her lower abdomen. Her eyes were open. Her body was pale and motionless. She was unconscious. Her extremities were cool to the touch. She had an open airway. Leonardo was

talking rapidly and was visibly upset. It was then learned that Leonardo was Priscilla's mother's boyfriend who watched the children.

An autopsy was conducted. Priscilla had suffered blunt force trauma to her abdomen that caused tears in the lining of her abdomen and in her colon which resulted in internal bleeding, causing her death within minutes. Injuries to her mouth indicated she had been smothered sometime within 24 hours prior to her death. There were numerous bruises on her chest, abdomen, head, legs, and arms. Severe bruising was observed to her right arm, which appeared to be grab marks.

Once the autopsy was complete, Leonardo was re-interviewed and after much prod-

See **GAVEL** page 30A

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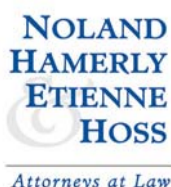
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Drunk driver to spend 20 years in prison for young woman's death

By KELLY NIX

A GREENFIELD man convicted of murder in the 2021 drunk, wrong-way driving death of a former Carmel Valley woman, was sentenced to 20 years in prison Wednesday.

On Feb. 2, 2021, Baltazar Donato, 28, was driving a Lincoln MKS northbound in the southbound lane on Highway 101 near San Ardo in Monterey County when he struck a Mazda sedan driven by Sabrina Lecce, 23. Lecce died at the scene and her boyfriend, Grisey Gutierrez, was injured. A jury in October convicted Donato of second-degree murder and several other charges.

In a Salinas courtroom Wednesday morning, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Pamela Butler sentenced Donato to 15 years to life in state prison for second-degree murder and another five years for enhancements.

Heartbreaking

At the hearing, members of Lecce's family described her as a religious and loving young woman full of life. They also told Butler how her death had profoundly changed their lives.

Lecce's mother, Michelle Gurley, of Paso Robles, said her daughter, a daycare teacher, loved kids and animals.

"She gave the warmest hugs and her smile would lift everyone's spirits," Gurley said. "Her laugh was contagious."

Gurley said the death of her daughter, the oldest of five children, had deeply impacted her other children, including two who were supposed to get their driver's licenses but are now scared to drive.

"They are going through anxiety, depression and fear," Gurley said. "They lost their oldest sister, who was their friend, someone they could talk to and was like a

second mother."

Gurley's second-oldest child, Patrick, "would always go to Sabrina for advice," she added. "Now he feels alone."

Lecce's father, Paul Lecce of Carmel Valley, also noted his daughter's love of animals and her "uncanny attraction and appreciation" for them, and he recalled the time when, as a 5-year-old girl, she confidently wrangled a chicken at her cousin's house in hopes of taking it home as a pet.

"She grabbed it by the neck and picked it up with absolutely no fear," Lecce recalled. "And the chicken was calm as can be."

Lecce, who showed the court a photo collage of Sabrina, said the last time he saw his daughter was in the county morgue. He summarized some of the events he'll never get to experience with her.

"A father-daughter relationship is really special, and I got robbed of that," he said. "I want to walk her down the aisle. I want to see her children. I want my father-daughter dance."

Butler — who has presided over many hearings in which people have lost loved ones — was moved by the impact statements.

"It's a blessing for each of you to have had Sabrina in your lives," she said.

Apology offered

Donato, whose blood alcohol level was more than twice the legal limit, was defiant moments after the crash when a CHP officer told him he'd killed Lecce. At his sentencing, though, a shackled Donato — who mostly avoided making eye contact with members of Lecce's family — offered a brief apology.

"I'm very sorry for the loss," said Donato, who is married with children. "I

See DRUNK page 31A

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Historic races, P.B. Concours get global automotive accolades

By MARY SCHLEY

TWO MAJOR automotive events took top honors last month at the annual Historic Motoring Awards in London, reaffirming the Monterey Peninsula's top position in the collector-car world. The Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance won Concours of the Year for the third time since the awards debuted a dozen years ago, while the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion took Motorsports Event of the Year for the first time.

Created by Octane magazine, the awards recognize top achievers in 21 categories in the automotive world, from Apprentice of the Year and the most highly regarded professional and amateur photographers to Car of the Year, Restorer of the Year, Museum/Collection of the Year, and several others.

Historical accuracy

As director of heritage events and public relations at WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca, Barry Toepke is the key organizer of the August historic races and made the trip to London shortly before Thanksgiving after learning this year's event was in the running. The Grand Prix Historique de Monaco was one of the contenders, along with the Vintage Sports Car Club's Herefordshire Trial in England and three others. Toepke said the black-tie gala at the Londoner Hotel featured the who's who of the collector car world.

"We knew we were going to get the award when the announcer started making comments about 'historical accuracy'" and other principles the long-running historic races at Laguna Seca hold dear, he said.

This year's races marked the kickoff celebration of the centennial of the 24 Hours of Le Mans race in France rather than focusing on a specific manufacturer.

"We took a gamble on something the event has never done before: honoring another race," he said. The races also got accolades for the organizers' decision to shift them from Thursday through Sunday to Wednesday through Saturday, ending the conflict with the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, which is held on the third Sunday in August, and freeing up the track for a more community-oriented day with a hillclimb and other new activities.

With a curated show of an unprecedented 51 previous Le Mans winners and other off-track activities and displays, as well as races that featured the historic Le Mans-style start of drivers running to their stationary cars and jumping in, this year's reunion charmed the judges.

"They were very impressed," he said.

Former longtime hotel executive John Narigi, whose company was hired by Monterey County to manage the track and surrounding recreation area, observed that Laguna "is coming back alive" with such global recognition and \$15 million in renovations that are already underway, principally a new start-finish bridge and repaving of the track.

"I don't think it's been alive for quite a few years," he said. "It has so much potential, and it had this cloud over it."

The key to longevity at Laguna Seca, he added, is getting current and future generations interested in racing.

Concours' third crown

Sandra Button, chairman of the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance and also a nominee — along with her husband, Martin — for Classic Car Ambassador of the Year at the London event, said she and Toepke "were chuckling that it was sort of a Pebble Beach-Monterey sweep" this

See ACCOLADES page 31A

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Verizon, city appellate cases sidelined

Wireless ordinances in the works

By MARY SCHLEY

DUELING APPEALS in the city's legal battles with Verizon over its attempts to install a cell tower near La Playa hotel have been put on hold, according to a Nov. 21 order from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

After a U.S. District Court judge ruled against Verizon in favor of the city in June, the telecom giant said it would appeal the decision to a higher court. And after the same judge in late August denied the city's bid to recover \$77,583 in legal fees from Verizon, the city filed a notice of appeal with the Ninth Circuit as well.

All sides were sent to mediation, after which the court ordered opening briefs by the end of this month and answering briefs by the end of next month.

But all of that has been set aside for

now, to give all sides more time to work things out.

"This case shall be held in abeyance. The clerk is directed to temporarily close this court's docket for administrative purposes until June 1, 2023," the order signed by court mediator Steven Saltiel states. "This administrative closure is not a decision on the merits and no mandate will issue in connection with this order. At any time, any party may request that this appeal be reopened by contacting the circuit mediator."

Attorneys on both sides are required to email updates to Saltiel on or before May 25, 2023.

Working on laws

During the break, city officials are working to update and adopt new telecommunications ordinances that comply with state and federal laws, and planning

See **APPEALS** page 18A

City tree lighting back in full effect

Plaza has open house

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE CITY'S traditional tree lighting returns in force Dec. 2, with a visit from Santa Claus and an impressive lineup of performances in and around Devendorf Park for the first time since the pandemic. Last year saw a modified celebration, with snow trucked into the park for kids to play in, and dignitaries lighting the tree, but no singing groups or dance troupes.

This year's festivities will begin around 3 p.m., with the arrival of Santa and the Del Monte Brass band from the Monterey Naval Postgraduate School. The menorah will be lit at 4, with the main holiday program, led by emcee/realtor Ben Beesley,

kicking off at 4:30.

The program is set to include performances from the Dance Center, Carmel River School, Carmel High School chamber singers, CHS cheerleaders, Jacob Chase, Laurel Bowen, new city code enforcement officer Aaron Campbell and singer Debbie Davis. Mayor Dave Potter and the rest of the council, with help from Santa, will light the tree at 5:30.

Following the tree lighting, Carmel Plaza, across the street from the park, will host its annual holiday open house from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., with live music and other entertainment, "delectable treats" and drinks, and more visiting with Santa and other activities for kids. Stores will stay open later and offer special promotions, too.

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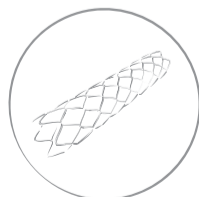
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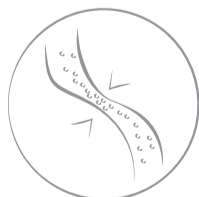
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Planning commission not keen on returning to city hall — but it will

By MARY SCHLEY

WHEN THEY hold their regular meeting next Wednesday, planning commissioners will be in city hall instead of online — even though they didn't really want to give up appearing via Zoom.

"The council is strongly encouraging but stopped short of ordering us to go back in person," planning director Brandon Swanson told the commission last month.

Two commissioners, Robert Delves and Erin Allen, have never participated in a meeting in city hall, since they were appointed after the pandemic started. At their Nov. 9 meeting, which ran more than five hours, they said they prefer the virtual format.

"I never did this when we didn't do it on Zoom, so it's hard to compare, but having done many, many, many years of public meetings, I find this approach way more efficient and I kind of hate to give it up," Delves said. "It's a forced innovation that works."

Commissioner Christopher Bolton said he would refuse

to endanger his family by meeting in person if there's any risk of getting Covid.

Might quit

"I have the additional issue of having an immune-compromised wife," he said. "The day that the numbers start going up is the day I quit if I have to, because I will not be going back into in-person meetings," regardless of whether masks are required or not. The city council adopted an ordinance saying masks are not required if infection rates are low but will be if they are moderate or high, based on Centers for Disease Control metrics.

"I'm not going to endanger my family. It's absurd to suggest that I would, for a volunteer position," Bolton continued. "You're getting enough out of me already — you're not going to kill my family. So you can say that to the city council if you want to be really strong. But I think that's unnecessary, and I'm being flip."

He relented a bit in the end, however, saying. "We can go back. I just don't like it."

Chair Michael LePage said he also prefers the convenience and flexibility of meeting by Zoom, but he admitted some members of the public don't like it.

"I think we have to go back in person," he said.

"I have a large screen in front of me and the ability to look at floor plans, project plans, and pull up old minutes to see what happened in the past," added commissioner Stephanie Locke. "I can't do that sitting in the chambers, and I think that has made my contributions better."

She said she is also concerned about a resurgence in Covid. "I prefer to be in the safety of my own home, but if I have to be in chambers, I will be there," she said.

Taking what he could from commissioners' feedback Swanson said he detected "hesitant support" for returning to in-person meetings in city council chambers, which will happen Dec. 14. Members of the public can go, too, or watch online via Zoom or YouTube, as has been the case with the city council, forest and beach commission and others who have returned to in-person sessions. The community activities commission is still meeting virtually.

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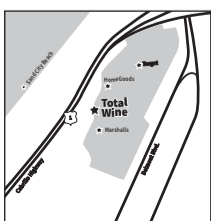
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Soledad wants big subdivision, but LandWatch says homes too expensive

By CHRIS COUNTS

TRYING TO put a dent in California's massive housing shortfall, the city of Soledad is planning to annex 654 acres on its northern edge where builder Nader Agha wants to put 2,400 homes and 100,000 square feet of commercial/retail space. The annexation is so large it would increase the city's acreage by about 50 percent.

A local land preservation group, LandWatch Monterey County, claims that most of the houses that are a part of what's being called the Miramonte project will be too expensive for people who already live in Soledad, a town of 24,000 residents in the Salinas Valley. Much of the land that would become homes is prime farmland.

The Local Agency Formation Commission weighs in on the annexation request Dec. 5 in Salinas.

The hearing starts at 4 p.m. in the Monterey County Government Center's Board of Supervisors Chambers at 168 W. Alisal St. It will also be livestreamed on YouTube (you search the website for LAFCO of Monterey County's channel).

Smaller project desired

Before approving Soledad's request to annex the land, LAFCO executive officer Kate McKenna told The Pine Cone, the commission must extend the city's sphere of influence over it. McKenna's office is recommending that LAFCO approve this. But they oppose the annexation until Agha revises his plan.

They want to see the buildable area reduced by 50 percent. "A reduced annexation is warranted based on projected future growth and housing demand, as well as a lack of definitive information about Soledad's infrastructure and services," McKenna wrote.

In the same report, McKenna noted

that her staff recognizes "the urgent need for housing, particularly affordable housing, in the Soledad community." She also suggested Agha's proposal contains only "limited information" on how it would "provide adequate affordable housing."

More details needed

McKenna also said she would like to see a plan that shows where a police/fire station and schools would go, as well as substantial multi-family and affordable housing units.

The recommendation also calls for more to be done to mitigate the loss of farmland, which comprises 75 percent of the property that would be developed.

"Project proponents should seek to identify appropriate conservation easement opportunities on nearby farmlands — or pay an in-lieu fee payment to a qualified conservation entity," according to McKenna's report.

McKenna's office wants to see a proposed agricultural buffer and hillside easement recorded, and an agricultural buffer expanded from 160 feet to 200 feet.

It's also recommended that the hearing on the annexation be continued to Jan. 23, 2023, to allow for revisions to the proposal.

Most would cost \$600,000 +

LandWatch is urging people to speak out against the plan.

"At stake is the future of the city," wrote LandWatch deputy director Gabriel Sanders this week in a letter to supporters. "Only 30 percent of the plan's homes could be affordable given its current housing distribution, while 70 percent of them would cost at least \$600,000 — a price affordable only to people who would make Soledad a bedroom community."

See **HOUSING** page 25A



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P.G. OKs CANNABIS SHOP: WHERE WILL IT GO, AND WHO WILL RUN IT?

By CHRIS COUNTS

MORE THAN 70 percent of Pacific Grove’s voters approved Measure M last month, giving their approval for a marijuana retail store to set up shop in the town. The measure’s success prompts two questions: where would it be located, and who would run it?

The measure authorizes the city to allow retail sales of medical or recreational cannabis, but sales would be limited to a single location within the city — and the shop must be located at least 1,000 feet from existing day care centers, youth centers, pre-schools and schools.

Pacific Grove City Councilmember Chaps Poduri, who has taken the lead on the issue, told The Pine Cone that there are only three commercial areas in town that might be able to accommodate the shop: along Lighthouse Avenue just west of

David Avenue, in the Russell Service Center, and “on the top of the hill” near Trader Joe’s.

‘Track record’

As for who might operate the shop, Poduri said the city hasn’t made any commitment to a particular business proposal. He said the intent is to make the selection process “a community exercise” that’s as transparent as possible, and that the city is seeking an applicant with a “track record.”

Poduri estimated the selection process will take about a year to complete.

Besides delving into those details, the city councilmember noted that the marijuana shop measure that voters approved is non-binding, so the city is under no obligation to OK a particular proposal.

“We want to make sure we are working towards what the community wants,” he added.

Santa is on his way: volunteers needed for parade and the party that follows

A TRADITION in Carmel Valley that dates back more than six decades, Santa’s Fly-In returns Dec. 10, and if you’d like to be in the parade, you’ll need to sign up by Dec. 7.

The parade — which runs from the former Carmel Valley Airfield through Carmel Valley Village, to Carmel Valley Community Park — is being co-organized by the local Rotary and Kiwanis clubs.

To register as a parade participant, send an email to: daniellecarlson.01@gmail.com

The clubs are also seeking volunteers

to assist with traffic control. The volunteers must be 18, no longer in high school, and have patience dealing with annoyed drivers.

If interested, contact daniellecarlson.01@gmail.com.

The post-parade party in Carmel Valley Community Park is being organized by the Carmel Valley Youth Center, which is seeking volunteers over 18 to help with tickets for an array of family-friendly activities, such as a bounce house. If interested, visit cvcyc.org and click on a link to sign up to volunteer.

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DESAL

From page 1A

desal proposal, but there have been changes to the proposal since then, including a smaller design of the plant in what Cal Am calls a “phased approach,” and the estimated cost.

“The next step for the coastal commission staff is to compile the conditions of the staff report and addendum from the November hearing — including any changes commissioners made during their deliberations and vote — and then send Cal Am a notice of intent to issue a coastal development permit,” Luster explained, adding that the company wouldn’t get the permit until it got all of the other agencies’ approvals.

Cal Am spokesman Josh Stratton told The Pine Cone that the company is working on addressing some conditions that were modified at the Salinas hearing, while also “moving forward on some of the ministerial permitting necessary for construction.”

While Monterey Peninsula Water Management District general manager Dave Stoldt said he’s disappointed by the decision to OK the desal plant, which he said would cost \$426 million and is not necessary, he also pointed to the conditions Cal Am must meet before the project moves forward.

With “20 stringent conditions for Cal Am to meet to acquire their permit, including getting approval from the City of Marina, we don’t expect any construction activity for some time to come,” he said, adding that he figures it could take Cal Am more than two years to get all the approvals needed for the plant.

Lawsuits?

And then there is the potential for court challenges. It’s expected that a public agency or one of the activist groups opposed to the project will file suit to try

and stop the desal plant from being built. However, the water district may not be one of them.

“We haven’t discussed” the idea of filing a lawsuit yet, Stoldt told The Pine Cone Monday. “I can’t think of any harm to the water district that the approval causes.”

The litany of conditions the coastal panel placed on Cal Am include a \$3 million mitigation fee (tacked on moments before commissioners voted on the project); a full-time staffer to offer “oversight of permit conditions on behalf of Marina” for 10 years; and the restoration of more than 60 acres of open space at Cal Am’s expense.

Mike DeLapa, director of LandWatch Monterey County, which is also opposed to the Cal Am plant and has called it “costly and unnecessary,” wouldn’t say whether the nonprofit is considering taking legal action over approval of the desal plant.

“We don’t disclose legal strategy,” DeLapa said.

Monterey One Water, which operates a wastewater reclamation project near Marina that the water district believes would provide plenty of water for the next few decades, also doesn’t seem to be eager to go to court.

“To my knowledge the Monterey One Water board of directors is not considering filing suit over the coastal commission’s approval of Cal Am’s desal plant,” spokesman Mike McCullough told The Pine Cone.

‘Approved overwhelmingly’

Utility Marina Coast Water District general manager Remleh Scherzinger also weighed in on the possibility of legal action.

“We are considering all of our options at the moment, and will be working with our partner cities and agencies to do what’s best for our community,” Scherzinger told

See WATER next page

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WATER

From previous page

The Pine Cone.

The City of Marina and the Marina Coast board of directors maintain that Cal Am's desal plant would harm the aquifers that supply the city its water, though the coastal staff found the opposite.

The Pine Cone asked Cal Am about the prospect of the company facing litigation.

"The coastal commissioners voted overwhelmingly to support our project," Stratton said, "and the coastal commission staff — who are among the most knowledgeable and thorough environmental stewards in the state — supported our project as well. We were approved with fair and reasonable conditions."

Not saying

Public Water Now, an activist group opposed to the desal plant which

successfully got passed a ballot measure for a government takeover of Cal Am if financially feasible, was mum on the topic. Manager Melodie Chrislock did not return a message asking if the group was considering legal action in light of the approval of the desal plant.

Marina Mayor Bruce Delgado, who vehemently opposed Cal Am's proposal, telling The Pine Cone before the November meeting that there was nothing the company could offer to make the plant appealing, also did not answer whether the city was considering filing a lawsuit over the approval of the plant.

The proposed desal project is part of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project, a multipronged effort that includes recycled water facilities and aquifer storage components.

It's not clear when the CPUC and other agencies will take up Cal Am's desal plant, but the CPUC is still in the process of figuring out the Monterey Peninsula's need for water and where it should come from.



PINE CONE FILE

This aerial photo depicts the Pure Water Monterey treatment facility, which turns wastewater into drinking water. Cal Am's desal treatment plant would be built in the same area near Marina.

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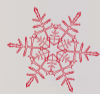
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CPD architect, Carmel Cares, Design Traditions 1.5 committee on agenda

By MARY SCHLEY

A NEW architect for the long awaited and much discussed remodel of the Carmel Police Department and a committee's desire to expand its role in directing the city's future are on the agenda for the city council's Dec. 6 meeting, along with accepting extensive donations of equipment and work hours from a local nonprofit and deciding what defines "historic" when it comes to architecture in town.

Kasavan Architects was in charge of the design work on the renovation of the police station but dropped the project, according to public works director Bob Harary, though he didn't say why. As a result, he's recommending hiring the Monterey firm of Wald, Ruhnke & Dost to take

over, first by doing a comprehensive analysis of the site and the latest plans for \$89,115.

"Because of the significant unknowns regarding full scope, ongoing supply chain shortages and materials cost inflation, it is important to step back at this point and do a complete analysis of the required scope and cost estimate of the project," Harary says in his report to the council.

The city council has budgeted \$3.3 million for the renovation.

"Wald, Ruhnke & Dost will salvage as much of the earlier design as possible and will amend it to meet new codes," he says, and Kasavan will hand over the files "to transfer the project as seamlessly as possible." The analysis should take two months to complete.

The committee helping to direct the overhaul of the

residential and commercial design guidelines wants to expand its reach into other peripherally related subjects, like the state's mandate that the city accommodate 349 more housing units, according to planning director Brandon Swanson. Expanding its scope would delay the planned approval of the revised guidelines and zoning code until at least the middle of next year, if not longer, and could complicate matters with consultant Noré Winter, who has said he won't be available after mid-2023.

"The council is being asked to consider requests from the steering committee regarding potential expansions to the scope of the Design Traditions 1.5 project," Swanson says in his report. "Some of these expansions would impact the project's schedule and the duration of support from the city's consultant."

Donations and historic buildings

The council is also set to approve a resolution accepting the donations of equipment and volunteer hours from Carmel Cares since June 2021. "The expenses for services and materials include actual expenditures and associated volunteer hours," Harary says in the report. They total \$150,316, plus 7,808 volunteer hours.

A vote is also planned on the updated "historic context statement" used to define which buildings might be considered historic.

Two items on the council's agenda will have to be put off until a future meeting: a proposed ordinance to stop fractional ownership deals like Pacaso's and a Mills Act contract for L'Auberge Carmel.

For more information, including a complete packet and how to attend the meeting in person or online, go to ci.carmel.ca.us. It's set to start at 4:30 p.m.

APPEALS

From page 9A


director Brandon Swanson said Thursday the planning commission is tentatively scheduled to hold a workshop on the first draft of the new law next February.

Heeding the demands of the Stop Cell Towers in Carmel group that successfully fought Verizon's application for a tower on Carmelo and Eighth, Swanson and the city's telecom lawyer, Gail Karish, are in contact with Andrew Campanelli, the anti-cell-tower group's attorney. Campanelli drafted an ordinance the group would like to see adopted.

But Swanson said the city also wants to hear from residents and others who are interested in sharing their opinions on the topic.

"We have other stakeholders who have different views about cell phone towers in the village," than just the anti-tower group, he said. "We're taking all those views into account as we work with our counsel and meet with Andrew Campanelli. We're not just listening to one voice — we're taking all that feedback."

The planning commission will likely take up the matter Feb. 8, 2023, Swanson said.



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NPS professor brought showmanship, humor, to third-place finish

By ELAINE HESSER

HE HAS heart. He has a wonderful sense of humor. And Sam Buttrey had a darn good run. The Naval Postgraduate School instructor, who won the first Professors Tournament — with a \$100,000 prize — on the popular trivia game show, “Jeopardy!” earlier this year, returned to the Alex Trebec Stage at Sony Picture Studios in Culver City for the show’s Tournament of Champions earlier this month and placed third, winning \$50,000.

“In this very narrow niche, I was a big deal,” he said modestly, although he added that on a recent wine-tasting visit in Carmel, he was stopped seven times by people who recognized him from the tournament, some of whom asked for photos with him.

Starting with the quarterfinals on Nov. 2, a field of 21 returning “super champions” was whittled down to three who competed for \$100,000, including Buttrey, a graduate of Princeton and UC Berkeley who’s been teaching at NPS for more than 25 years.

Formidable competition

He got off to an impressive start, advancing to the semifinals, where he defeated Matt Amodio, whose 38 regular-season wins had netted him \$1.5 million.

In the finals, Buttrey faced formidable competition in

Amy Schneider, whose 40-game run was second only to former-contestant-turned-host Ken Jennings (74 wins) in the game’s history, racking up more than \$1.3 million. She also ended the regular-season winning streak of the third finalist, Andrew He, who was back with a vengeance.

Only Buttrey entered the tournament undefeated, having been “retired” after the \$100,000 professors tournament last December.

Steve Martin double?

In the finals, which began Nov. 14, Schneider and He each ran up two victories, while, for the first time, Buttrey seemed to struggle with to ring in first.

During Game 5, which aired Friday, Nov. 18, Buttrey won, making an exciting comeback to uproarious cheers from the studio audience and extending the tournament to the following Monday, when Schneider snared her third victory and took the title.

He’s definitely got game, but his sense of humor and animated expression won over a lot of fans.

When Jennings made a reference to Buttrey’s resemblance to comedian Steve Martin — something that came up during the professors tournament — Buttrey looked directly into the camera and pronounced Martin “the handsomest man in the world.”

Perhaps the funniest moment of the finals involved a

clue from Recent Pop Culture, a category Buttrey said he found worrisome. Deadpan, Jennings read what sounded like gibberish: “This ‘feline’ not only got ‘Freaky Deaky’

See **JEOPARDY** page 25A



PHOTO/COURTESY SONY PICTURE STUDIOS

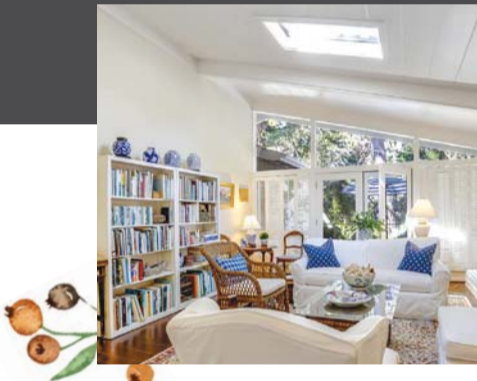
“Jeopardy!” host Ken Jennings (left) is shown with NPS professor Sam Buttrey, who placed third in a field of 21 “super champions” in the game show’s most recent tournament.



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CAMERAS

From page 1A

Officers would get the notifications on their vehicle or desktop computers and could crosscheck the information with a California stolen vehicle database.

"If someone is a victim of a crime, they may have a vehicle description that they can provide to your police department and then officers can run those filters through our database to find a first lead," Soliman-Valdez said, adding that the system also acts as a crime deterrent.

Madalone said a spate of crimes in Pacific Grove might have been prevented or solved had the cameras been in place.

"We got hit on a lot of catalytic converter thefts," she told commissioners. "On one particular incident, there was a report of gold Honda but nothing else. If we would have had the cameras, and were able to enter a gold Honda and it passed one of the Flock cameras, it would have given us investigative leads so we had a plate and could do further investigation."

Privacy questioned

Several traffic commissioners liked the idea of the license plate cameras, although commissioner Jung Hwa Kim questioned the accuracy of the technology, and she had concerns about data privacy and transparency issues related to the system.

"I'm not convinced we need this technology right now," Kim said.

She also pointed to the American Civil Liberties Union's opposition to license plate recognition systems. The organization, which advocates for civil liberties but in recent years has also aligned itself with far-left political causes, reviewed public records on the technology from 600

law enforcement agencies, which it said painted "a startling picture of a technology deployed with too few rules that is becoming a tool for mass routine location tracking and surveillance."

Flock Safety maintains that footage captured by its license plate recognition system "is automatically deleted at the 30-day mark." The company also said that the cameras would only take photos of the rears of vehicles.

"What is important to note is that there are no people, no facial recognition [technology] or no traffic enforcement" capabilities, Soliman-Valdez said.

Encrypted

The footage would be stored on Amazon's cloud servers, which the Flock spokesman said offer "one of the highest levels of encryption available in the private sector."

Madalone's written report to the traffic commission did not specify how much the system might cost Pacific Grove taxpayers. It's also not clear how many cameras — which are solar powered — would be installed and where they would be located. Pacific Grove only has a few major routes into and out of the city, such as Lighthouse Avenue and Highway 68, but has numerous less-traveled routes.

The police department said it would conduct a "transparent" public outreach process to promote the camera system, including a "social media campaign" and a town hall meeting this month. PGPD is also planning on making a presentation to the city council.

The Campbell Police Department earlier this year said Flock Safety was charging that city \$2,500 per camera per year, with a one-time \$250 installation fee. Campbell said it was going to install 17 cameras.

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TESLA

From page 1A

one was hurt.”

When called to the crash scene in the sand dunes near the volleyball courts shortly after 8 p.m., firefighters and an ambulance crew found the crushed, upside-down Tesla Model S Plaid — one of the fastest cars the company makes — empty and with no one around. The following morning, police officers investigated the wreckage, which public works removed with a forklift. Whorton, 38, had left his wallet, laptop and passport in the car, police said at the time.

He turned himself in at the police station the night of Nov. 17, according to Bruno. Whorton “said he was mad after the crash and walked to a rented home on Santa Rita.” The Tesla was new.

Tesla cameras record constantly when the car is operating and in motion. Officer Tim Ament obtained a warrant signed by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Andrew Liu to retrieve the car’s camera



PHOTO/BOBBY RICHARDS

When firefighters got to this overturned Tesla the night of Nov. 16, the driver was gone. Police and public works cleaned it up the next day.

footage and data. They were stored on a thumb drive the officer retrieved from the glove compartment after getting the court’s OK, according to Cmdr. Jeff Watkins.

“He was more than likely drunk, but he denied it and we won’t be able to prove it,” Bruno added. “The case was forwarded to the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office for hit-and-run and reckless driving.”

A couple of days after the crash, city administrator Chip Rerig thanked police and public works for cleaning up the mess and said, “We’ll certainly try to ensure that any damage to the North Dunes is paid for by not us.”

TRIAGE

From page 1A

influenza patients in isolation, along with two patients with RSV — one adult and one child.

Sciuto said the triage tent will be ready to take patients Monday. It’s heated, and it has an ultraviolet light filtration system

that kills airborne germs. It has room for at least 12 patients. She said the tent will “assist our staff in assessing people with respiratory symptoms, including those associated with Covid-19, RSV, colds, and the flu, in an area that’s separate from our other patients, if needed.”

CHOMP last erected a triage tent in March 2020 when the first wave of Covid hit. The tent was taken down a year later after case numbers decreased.



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Their churches may not look alike, but the love is all the same

By ELAINE HESSER

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” — John Wesley

IF YOU ask husband-and-wife pastors Steve and Karla Lundin what’s distinctive about Methodism, they’ll tell you it has to do with “social holiness and personal holiness.” In the tradition of John Wesley, the denomination’s founder and an early anti-slavery activist, Methodism urges Christians to cultivate rich inner spiritual lives, but also to make a material difference in the world. The pastors often collaborate to help their congregations pursue those goals, and it’s obvious they love their work — and each other. Their conversations are warm, mutually supportive and frequently punctuated by laughter.

Steve, with 40 years of experience in the pulpit, is pastor of First United Methodist Church of Salinas — First Church, for short. Karla, who grew up in a spiritual tradition that did not allow women to lead, found her calling later in life as a certified lay minister and completed her Master of Divinity with Steve’s support and encouragement. In addition to several years in youth ministry, she’s been a pastor for eight years, the last two (give or take) at the Church of the Wayfarer.

Called to Salinas

The couple — who have been married for about 20 years — said they were excited by the prospect of “doing ministry together” when they moved to Salinas eight years ago, not to mention thrilled to be working so much closer to each other. Before coming to this area, Steve was a



pastor in Humboldt County, while Karla was working at a church in Sacramento, six hours south.

“My own congregation voted for me to leave,” Steve recalled — and not because they disliked him. “They saw the fatigue. It was too much,” for him and Karla to live so far apart. The district superintendent offered Steve a job at a church in Salinas, while Karla would shepherd a congregation in Hollister.

It wasn’t what either had expected. “We had in our mind that he was coming to Sacramento. I loved my ministry there,” said Karla. Steve said he had thought, “I’m 60 years old. Maybe I could coast into retirement,” a memory that prompts hearty laughter from both.

First Church hasn’t been a “coasting” sort of gig. Its



PHOTO/TOP RIGHT, KERRY BELSER
TOP LEFT & ABOVE, ELAINE HESSER

The Church of the Wayfarer (top right) and Salinas’ First United Methodist Church (left) are pastored by Karla and Steve Lundin (above), respectively. The pastors, who have been married for about 20 years, work together — as do their congregations.

previous pastor, Jim Luther, had just initiated a brand-new homeless outreach, creating what has come to be called the neighborhood service center. Steve recalled that at first, it felt “a little chaotic.” “There were lots of people congregating around the church. It looked overwhelming.”

But, once he spoke with some of the members, the homeless people and the regular, or “core” volunteers, he said, “We hit it off. I thought, ‘This is going to be fun.’”

Friendly faces

Before the pandemic, First Church’s outreach included feeding more than 100 people twice a day, six days a week, with volunteers from CSUMB and other churches helping with food prep and service. Now there are about 50 “guests” a day, and meals are heated up at nearby Lincoln Avenue Presbyterian Church, since the Methodists’ kitchen and restrooms are being renovated.

In addition to food, the neighborhood service center provides people in need with clean clothing, restrooms, some hygiene necessities, a warm and dry place to spend inclement days, and the use of a library and art room. Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas, a nonprofit health-care group, sets up a mobile clinic once a week. Friendly volunteers — many of whom have been in the same situations — offer listening ears and support.

When the pandemic struck, the Lundins began holding joint Zoom Bible studies, with members of their congregations getting acquainted with each other through the little boxes on their screens each Sunday afternoon. Meanwhile, Steve and several other volunteers were outdoors in First Church’s courtyard almost daily, masked and helping to feed those in need.

See PASTORS page 43A

CHARLOTTE F. TOWNSEND

1925-2022

Storyteller. Joke teller. Hostess. Porsche racer. Sailor. Explorer. Skier. Gardener. Lifetime Learner. Harrison Memorial Library Board member. Carmel Area Wastewater District Board member. Mayor of her beloved City of Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Charlotte Fulton Townsend was all of the above. The Townsend family came to Carmel in the early



1930s when Carmel was a young city, incorporated less than nine years before Charlotte’s birth in Tacoma, Washington, on February 21, 1925. The family found an abundance of friends and opportunities for civic engagement in their new hometown — community theater, politics, equestrian, tennis, the Girl Scouts.

Charlotte died on the night of October 31 at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. She was predeceased by her parents, Frank and Ruth, and her sister, Donna. She is survived by nephew Christopher Zuber, her caregiver Alejandra Sanchez, and decades of now-mourning friends. She had attended the Douglas School in Pebble Beach, Stanford University, Universities of Zurich and Heidelberg as well as the Sorbonne.

Her parents involvement in early Carmel-by-the-Sea cultural and civic activities became a lifetime compass for Charlotte, a city she called home for most of the nine decades of her life. She had the distinction of being the only staff member reporting for the rivals Carmel Pine Cone and the Carmel Cymbal. She rendered service on the Harrison Memorial Library Board of

Trustees and as an elected director of the Carmel Area Wastewater District, a position her father had previously held. She was the Carmel Residents Association “Citizen of the Year” in 2019. She served as mayor of her beloved Carmel-by-the-Sea from 1982-86.

Forty years after her mayoral election, few remember the projects and programs she and her council initiated but the results of those actions still mingle amongst us. The first major renovation and expansion of City Hall since its municipal acquisition from the All Saints parish in 1947 commenced in 1984. The winter storms of 1982-83 damaged the embankments of Carmel Beach and undermined a portion of Scenic Road. Charlotte appointed the Beach Task Force to develop a plan for the fortification of the bluffs and roadway. From the task force blossomed the concept for the Scenic Road pathway, a project she enthusiastically endorsed.

One day as mayor she was telling a story about the long forgotten downtown pet parade. Charlotte had the thought to start a new parade for the children of the village and to acknowledge the incorporation of Carmel-by-the-Sea as a city on October 31, 1916. The annual Halloween parade began in 1984 and continues. It is probably more than coincidence that with her long love affair with the village, and her enthusiasm for celebrating Halloween, that she should die on that day.

Piccadilly Park, the first public open space in Carmel’s downtown since the creation of Devendorf Park in 1932, developed during her tenure. The City’s first General Plan that was compliant with the State Planning Act was adopted during her time as mayor. The wood direction signs around the village were crafted and installed during her term.

A strong-willed woman, she was opinionated as well as adventuresome, frequently telling stories of her Porsche racing in Europe and sailing a leaking boat to Hawaii. At 90 years, she took a freighter to the South Pacific. She loved France and went frequently to her Chateau de la France outside of Chablis.

Her friends were her family. She held frequent gatherings at her home where a meal always began with a toast to all gathered and ended with a comment of how fortunate she was to live in Carmel-by-the-Sea. During the meal, she would tell off-color jokes as well as opine on current events. She never appeared at any social event of a friend empty-handed, usually bringing a bouquet from her garden.

She loved her garden and its flowers; she loved her hometown. As she settled into the Mayor’s chair at the beginning of each city council meeting over which she presided, she would position a small vase holding a few garden cuttings at her place on the dais and was heard to say “a touch of Old Carmel.”

Donations in her memory may be made to donor’s favorite charity.

THIS IS DORITO

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STADIUM

From page 1A

“We’re having to cut our practices short, and that’s actually putting the athletes at risk during the games,” she said. “When we have less hours of the day to practice, then we see more injuries in the games.”

West also said Friday night games generate more participation and spirit, as she’s seen at other schools. “I see all of this love and passion,” she said. “I really want that for the Carmel community, and I want to see that for the other students.”

After some 75 minutes of public comments, school officials described the project’s components, and the environmental consultant and an attorney summarized the EIR — which numbered 2,019 pages, including 435 comment letters and more than two dozen oral comments given at a September meeting — and the impacts it identified. While a dozen are considered “less than significant” and another seven would be significant but can be mitigated to make them less so, and the project would have the “significant and unavoidable impact” of nighttime lighting, glare and skyglow.

Some of that can be addressed by limiting the field’s use after dark, restricting use of the stadium and pool by non-school groups, consulting with a specialist to reduce other lighting on campus and obtaining “dark sky certification” for the new lights.

‘Personal attacks’

To make those measures legally binding, the board was asked to approve a mitigation monitoring and reporting program, and members also had to adopt findings of overriding considerations explaining how the project’s benefits outweigh its negative environmental impacts.

Before their vote, Knight spent nearly 15 minutes recapping the stadium lights battle, speaking strongly in support of the board, staff, students and others who participated in the process fairly, and separating fact from fiction.

“The majority of our community have provided helpful suggestions that have been incorporated into the EIR as mitigation factors. However, during this time, there has been a small but vocal group of homeowners who have attempted to derail this project and demonize those involved,” he said. “I have heard exaggerations, misrepresentations and flat-out lies. I have listened to and read personal attacks on our board, our staff, students and myself.”

He praised consultant EMC Planning for its thorough and professional environmental review process, thanked

the law firm hired to help address threats of litigation by opponents, and applauded the board members for their “strength, dedication and resolve.”

“They’ve been unfairly targeted by a small number of community members who have chosen to attack them for standing their ground and not caving to the minority of loud voices,” he said. “I am proud to be their superintendent.”

Finally, he complimented the students who rallied around the issue and “have once again proved why we should elevate their voice and empower them to seek change.”

“Our students have eloquently described why and how this project will benefit Carmel and its youth for years to come,” he said. “They have advocated appropriately, respectfully, and modeled excellent behavior, often in the face of adults acting the opposite.”

Fact or fiction

Knight also sought to dispel some myths. The work is estimated to cost \$3.3 million — not “\$400 million,” he said — and no trees are set to be cut down.

“Some have stated we will be demolishing the beloved tennis courts that students play games on,” he continued. “The truth is, the current tennis courts at the high school are not in the required condition for competition, and students have to play off site.”

Contrary to what’s been said, there are no deed restrictions on school property prohibiting stadium lights, and nighttime football games won’t, in fact, “lead to shootings, criminal behavior and nefarious activities from our students.”

He bristled at the suggestion that those who oppose the lights are having their civil rights violated.

“The truth is, comparing stadium lights being installed next to your house with people being marginalized and disenfranchised is both ludicrous and offensive,” he said.

After recapping its benefits and the planned mitigations, Knight said, “I believe this project is the best and only course of action.”

Board members asked a few clarifying questions, and Associated Student Body representative Jack Norman said he hadn’t spoken with a single student who opposes the plan.

Board member Anne Marie Rosen discussed the importance of sports in the physical and social development of high school students. “Let’s remember why we are here,” she said. “It’s for the students who are our future.”

As a devoted environmentalist for decades, board member Seaberry Nachbar said she asked herself whether approving the project would be compromising her own values. “The conclusion I keep circling back to is, ‘No, it



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

The Carmel High football team may soon be able to practice and play games at night, after Tuesday’s school board vote to install lights at the school’s stadium.

will not,” she said. “I do not believe the impacts to natural resources are significant enough to challenge my values or harm the environment.”

President Sara Hinds, who was reelected along with Tess Arthur Nov. 8, said she was proud to be part of the board. “We as a district are stronger and tougher when we come together and work together,” she said.

Hinds said she hoped everyone felt they had been heard and acknowledged change can be difficult to accept.

“Tonight, I hope we have come to a place where we can all move forward together in support of the next generation of students,” she said. “We have the opportunity now to do what is in their best interest. I know that is my ultimate goal, and that is what is in my heart.”

PUBLIC NOTICES

LIEN SALE AUCTION ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is hereby given that Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act, (B&P Code 21700 et. Seq.), the undersigned will sell at public auction; personal property including but not limited to furniture, clothing, tools, and /or other misc. items.

Auction to be held at **1pm on December 16, 2022** at:
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The property is stored at: **Leonard’s Lockers Self Storage,
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NAME OF TENANTS

Adriana Sanchez	Marisa Lopez
Samantha May	Cynthia Ann Savala
Elizabeth Lee Ann Dedmon	Shaun Romo

Publication date: Dec. 2, 2022 (PC1215)



MARC EDWARD ROMANO

August 5, 1965 – November 17, 2022

Ann Artz, M & C. 2018

Marc Edward Romano was born in Geneva, Switzerland and lived over the years throughout Europe, Australia, and the United States. Fluent in several languages, he graduated from Yale in 1986 with honors in comparative literature. Himself a published author and periodicals contributor, Marc also translated French and Russian writings. He lived the later part of his life in Carmel, close to family, where he loved to play tennis (wherever and whenever a match was on offer!), walk the beach with his dog friend Chloe, and charismatically run a small, celebrated apiary with a tour program. Marc loved to cook. Following a long period of illness, his body succumbed to metastatic cancer in November. Marc had a tremendous heart, and will be missed dearly by his family, friends, a crowd of tennis buddies, and millions of bees.

Rescue founder is finalist for CNN 'Hero' award

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE CO-FOUNDER and executive director of Peace of Mind Dog Rescue in Pacific Grove, Carie Broecker, has been named to CNN's list of the Top 10 heroes for 2022.

By making the Top 10 list, Broecker is eligible to win the cable news network's "Hero of the Year," and the public can vote for her in a poll that ends Dec. 6. The top vote getter's charity or cause will receive a \$100,000 award.

To vote (cnn.com/specials/cnn-heroes), first you have

to log in either with Facebook or an email address, and then you can vote up to 10 times per day for your favorite hero. The winner will be honored Dec. 11, when Anderson Cooper and actress Kelly Ripa co-host a live tribute show.

Other honors

In 2010, Broecker won the American Red Cross Animal Rescue Hero Award for her role in starting Peace of Mind Dog Rescue.

"When aging dog owners struggle to care for their pets, Broecker steps in, providing volunteer services that allow them to stay together or finding these beloved family members new forever homes," according to CNN.

Broecker encouraged everybody to vote and reminded them that the award will directly help people and their pets.

Co-founded in 2009 by Broecker and Monica Rua, Peace of Mind Dog Rescue is supported by a network of more than 1,000 volunteers. They have an office at 615 Forest Ave. in Pacific Grove.

Jane Smiley to sign books in Carmel Valley

By ELAINE HESSER

PULITZER PRIZE-winning author Jane Smiley will sign copies of her new book, "A Dangerous Business," on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at Olivia & Daisy bookstore in Carmel Valley starting at noon.

Smiley, who lives in Carmel Valley, is the author of more than 30 books, including novels, short story collections and nonfiction, as well as books for young adults. She earned her bachelor's degree at Vassar, and her master's and doctorate at the University of Iowa.

She won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1992, for her novel, "A Thousand Acres," based on William Shakespeare's "King Lear," and was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 1994. She also received a 1985 O. Henry award for her short story, "Lily."

Olivia & Daisy is located at 13766 Center St. in Carmel Valley.



MARK BRYAN PETERSEN

July 3, 1961—November 17, 2022

With tremendous sadness we announce the passing of Mark Bryan Petersen of Sparks, Nevada. Mark was born in Monterey, CA to Bruce and Teresa Petersen, and graduated from Monterey High School in 1980. As a teenager, he worked for his family's business, the Monterey Garage, driving tow-truck and working at the fuel station.

Mark decided to change course and move to Phoenix, Arizona in his mid-20s to study electronics at DeVry Institute of Technology, earning his associate's degree. After graduating, a job with Bentley Enterprises would move him to Nevada where he pursued a 30-year career in the technology field, also working for General Electric, City of Carson City, Lyon County, Hamilton Company and most recently, RIX Industries.

Living in Minden/Gardnerville, Carson City and finally in Sparks, he married his soulmate and love of his life, Jane Ivey Petersen in 2011. They enjoyed spending time with family and traveling with friends, including trips to the wine country, Virgin Islands, Alaska and Hawaii. They also shared a deep devotion for their two rescue Papillons, Sophia and Lily.

Mark was a people person and a "master" at telling jokes evoking his infectious laughter. Mark was a person of integrity and great love of country. He was a dedicated friend who could be counted on whenever he was needed.

Mark was preceded in death by his father, Bruce and father-in-law Jerry Ivey. He is survived by his loving wife, Jane; his mother Teresa; sister Sandra Bruno; nephews Bart Nicholas and Peter; aunts Hannalore Petersen and Elena Young and cousin Darrion (Lidia) Young and other cousins. He is also remembered by his mother-in-law Laura Ivey, sister-in-law Laurie (George) Smith, brother-in-law Clark (Michelle) Peri, nephews Josh, Ryan and Adam. Mark will be forever deeply loved and missed.

A service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, December 3rd, at Mountain View Mortuary, 425 Stoker Avenue, Reno NV 89503.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to The Nevada Humane Society, 2825 Longley Lane, Suite B, Reno NV 89502, is appreciated.

A Celebration of Mark's Life will take place in Monterey at a future date.

IN MEMORY OF GENE BLATTMAN

Known by many, beloved by all, and surrounded by family, Homer Eugene (Gene) Blattman journeyed to his spiritual home on November 14, 2022.

A resident of Carmel Valley Manor for many years, he began life in St Louis, MO, on February 21, 1936. Born to proud parents, Homer and Reva Blattman, the family later moved from Kansas City to Walla Walla, WA as Gene finished high school — a move that he credits with changing his life as an only child. There he flourished and graduated from Whitman College in 1958, armed with a B.A. in psychology and a penchant to explore the world. Little did anyone know the extraordinary life he would lead — and the incredible human being he would become. Gene's is a story woven from many richly colored strands, from career to family to faith.

He enjoyed a phenomenal, and personally satisfying, business career spanning 41 years which began at age 16 sweeping the floors at the Birdseye frozen food plant in Walla Walla and culminated with him retiring as president and CEO of McCormick — a Fortune 500 entity and the world's largest spice and flavoring company. Irrespective of title held, Gene's guiding business principles were simple: treat others with respect, value each individual's contribution to the whole, and always be ethical. His workforce held him in high esteem and profitable products flowed as a result. He succeeded where others didn't because he genuinely valued people, plain and simple. It was a natural offshoot of the tremendous value he placed on family and faith.

A person could live a thousand lifetimes and never meet a person with Gene's quality of character and love of family, and that's not hyperbole. As an exemplary patriarch, he genuinely enjoyed his family's company. Over the years, he would organize and host many get-together opportunities that brought extended family together from all over the country. Whether it was snow play/skiing at Bear Valley, beach get-aways in Bandon, reunions in Hawaii, Mexico and Colorado, or the not-to-be-missed fishing trips along the Oregon Coast, Gene could be found reveling in the center of multiple family's enjoyment. He even involved various family members in his personal passions of travel, bird watching, Civil War history, wine tasting and 49er fandom.

When he was a young, mid-twenties father of five children, he worked long hours to provide for his family's wellbeing. But even then, each child knew that he/she was loved beyond measure. As the family grew, adding numbers and years to the mix, Gene finely honed his effortless ability to forgive, never judged or held grudges, supported those who struggled with kindness, and gave wise counsel to those in need. And to top it off, he had an infectious sense of humor. The man could laugh until he ended up bent over at the waist, shaking with silent mirth, then would look at you and start laughing all over again. He healed on so many levels.

But the two, list-topping words to describe him, from all people fortunate enough to have known him, are "generous" and "loving." Both stem from his acceptance of God's love, and his epiphanous Christian conversion at age 33. As his faith grew over the decades, it became a certitude — the ultimate guide for all his interactions.

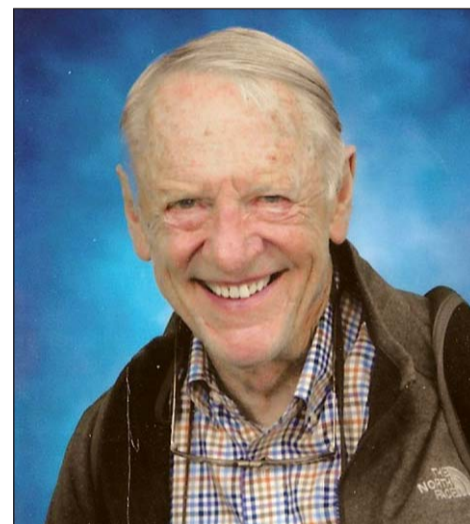
Gene personified Christian values, and the call to serve, through humble works and a generous heart. He was the real deal, not merely titled. While still working with a demanding corporate schedule, he consistently dedicated time to help others in need: from donating time and funds to various church projects, to sponsoring third-world children through charity organizations, to — most impressively — offering hope, companionship, guidance and Christian love to a convict through Prison Ministries — his devoted visits spanning many, many years. He faithfully, and quietly, served even when it was least convenient.

Once retired, Gene became active in Carmel Presbyterian Church affairs and it was during that time that he embarked on his first, of three, faith-mission trips to Cuba. So strong was his desire to spread the "good news," he was not much phased by the restrictive political climate of the time and was willing to risk his freedom, so that others might find theirs. His was not a pushy evangelism, but rather, spoken softly, humbly from the heart, as his entire persona radiated God's love for all to witness. His whole approach to faith sharing was a character demonstration, words were secondary and sometimes not needed at all.

More recently, his faith family was rooted in Calvary Chapel Monterey, regularly attending there until health, along with COVID restrictions, limited his participation. But even then, he worshiped remotely from home and found weekly fellowship with a smaller, affiliated life-group of dedicated Christian friends. In what time Gene had left before his passing, an almost unceasing communion with his Father filled him with soothing peace.

Though Gene gratefully acknowledged many blessings throughout his time here, one thing is certain. Whether he was a husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, co-worker, Manor resident, church-family companion, or simply friend, it is we who are blessed as a result of his beautifully lived life. Thank you for the blueprint through which we will continue to build our own. And even though his absence has left a hole in many hearts, his solution to fill it would be simple — let go, let God and let love.

Gene is survived by his wife, Carol, along with her two sons, Phil and Don Hodgson and their families; cousins Barbara Ring and Connie Bosley; first wife Susan Pepe; and six children along with their spouses; Bob and Trish Blattman of Jacksonville, FL; Kirk and Laura Blattman of Atascadero, CA; Keith and Mala Blattman of Austin, TX; Lori and Audi Robison of Keizer, OR; Beth and Tom Wilmer of Morro Bay, CA; and Vikki and Kermit Carter of Elk, CA. Ten grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren also survive him. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Kevin Blattman; and wife Ginie Blattman.



JEOPARDY

From page 19A

Deaky' with Tyga, she also told us to 'Get into it (Yuh),' so we did (Yuh)."

Immediately, Buttrey rang in and responded, "Who is Doja Cat?" with an expansive gesture and tone that said, "Obviously!" He said he inferred the correct response from the "feline" reference, but he clearly enjoyed looking like a rap expert.

Put to good use

Buttrey and his wife used his winnings to start a scholarship fund at CSUMB. He said that once again, they successfully withheld the results of the competition from their 25-year-old son, who lives in Oregon. Contestants are sworn to secrecy regarding the outcomes of their games, which are taped months in advance.

Preparation included drilling with flashcards — "but how do you even know what to study?" he asked. There is no study guide and the categories for each game are randomly assigned in advance, with no knowledge of who

the contestants will be. Buttrey also said he worked on his physical conditioning to make sure he had the stamina for long days in which as many as seven games were recorded.

As if it weren't obvious from his on-screen ebullience, he said he had a great time and enjoyed every minute. He

had nothing but kind words for the other competitors and said that the money, while nice, wasn't his main motivation. "You play because you like to play 'Jeopardy!' and you want to win. I played and beat Amy and Matt," and it was a lot of fun to watch, too.

HOUSING

From page 12A

In August, LandWatch attorney John Farrow sent a letter to LAFCO outlining the slow-growth group's stance on the subdivision. Farrow said its lack of affordable housing "is inconsistent with the Soledad General Plan, its housing element, and state law." He noted that the first four phases of the project would focus exclusively on building the most expensive homes.

Farrow also said the proposal doesn't meet requirements that affordable housing be spread through the city.

"It fails to integrate affordable housing units in each neighborhood," he wrote. "It fails to provide for a minimum of 30 percent rental units in each neighborhood."

The attorney said the city also needs to do more to show it's prepared to provide services to the new homes.

In response to concerns that the project doesn't have enough affordable housing, the builder's son, Laith Agha, told the newspaper that when the units are completed, about one-third of them will be affordable based on county standards.

He also noted that even the \$600,000 homes will be affordable compared what similar homes sell for on the Monterey Peninsula. He called the development "an essential and badly needed opportunity for entry-level home buyers.

"There is a well-documented housing crisis in the state, and this project is part of the county's solution to it," Agha said. "It's a much more affordable housing opportunity than anything else in Monterey County — I would think that would be applauded."

Under the weather?

No time to go to the doctor?



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Editorial

Beatdowns

EVEN THE most veteran observer of local land use issues had to be surprised two weeks ago when the California Coastal Commission approved the Cal Am desal plant on an 8-2 vote.

For years, it's been opponents of the desal plant who've made the most noise and gotten all the attention — and seemed to be on the road to victory.

The leading adversary, of course, has been the City of Marina, which has fought tooth and nail for at least a decade to keep the desal plant from getting past the starting gate by energetically deploying everybody from legal and technical experts to starry-eyed Girl Scouts to make arguments ranging from groundwater depletion to “environmental injustice.”

Both arguments were pure fantasy, of course. Studies show that the desal plant will have no effect on Salinas Valley aquifers and may even benefit them. And Marina is not a downtrodden, minority city burdened with nuisance facilities for the benefit of the haughty Monterey Peninsula. It's a booming place where youthful techies of all races from Silicon Valley are lining up to buy multimillion-dollar homes. Even if the desal plant is built at its full 6.8 million-gallon-per-day capacity, none of them will ever know it's there.

Meanwhile, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District endorsed Marina's arguments and added a fairy tale of their own: They said the water wasn't needed — which could only be true if you assume that just a handful of Peninsula residents will make additions to their homes or build on existing lots when water becomes available, and that Sacramento isn't even a bit serious about all the housing mandates it's put on the books in the last two years.

Despite the flimsiness of their positions, Marina and the water district had to believe they would prevail at the coastal commission — a place where, as long as you called yourself an environmentalist, you usually haven't needed to be right to win. This is California, after all, and almost from the day the commission was founded, it has been the go-to place for extremists to get their way, regardless of logic, evidence or public sentiment — a place where a single activist had a far better chance of succeeding than 10,000 people who disagreed with him.

Even during the meeting on the desal plant, comments from the coastal commission's executive director and several of the commissioners themselves gave the impression they agreed with everything Marina said, making it seem that the desal plant was headed for defeat. But it turned out the opposite was true. The “pro” commissioners knew they had the votes for a decisive victory, so they were just keeping mum. So decisive was the vote, it's possible to actually start believing the desal plant will become reality within a few years.

But the coastal commission's vote wasn't the only beatdown administered to local activists in November. Like their anti-desal brethren, the neighborhood activists against the lights at the Carmel High football stadium have been deafening in their vehemence that the project be stopped — giving many people the impression it would be. But in the end, the lights were also approved on an overwhelming (and in this case, unanimous) vote.

We're very happy with both results — in the case of desal, because it's badly needed, and in the case of the CHS lights, because they're harmless and the school says they're a good idea.

We also apologize for giving way too much ink to the opponents of both projects who, in the end, didn't have an argument to stand on.

BEST of BATES



“If Bill Gates is so rich, why is he drawing cartoons?”

Letters to the Editor

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

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

Let the students outside

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the latest update on the high school stadium lighting kerfuffle in the continuing effort to bring Carmel High School into the 20th (not 21st) century.

It's disappointing that the DIMBY (Dark In My Back Yard) contingent is unwilling to compromise in any way and instead has taken a “let's come together and agree with us” approach, calling the lighting proposal “madness.”

After forcing students into masks for many months, the least the community could do is let them get outdoors and enjoy the fresh air.

Matt Chroust, Pacific Grove

Visitors speak out

Dear Editor,

We would like to respond to the letter to the editor last week suggesting tourists

be blocked from entering Carmel. We have been spending winters in Carmel for the past 15 years and we may very well be the people the writer wishes to keep out.

Yes, we flush the toilets when we are here, cook our food and wash our dishes, take out our trash and recycling and drink the water.

We aren't big consumers of your gasoline because we enjoy walking through the streets of your charming community and along the paths by the sea. We don't believe we have committed crimes while here for the 15 winters, except perhaps by having more than a 40-watt bulb outside of our house so that we can find our way home in the dark.

We attend public meetings in Carmel, have spoken out in favor of preserving the beautiful historic architecture of the community, attended parades and public celebrations and applauded the talented young high school students at school plays and concerts. We have also been made to feel very welcome here.

Last year, a longtime Carmel resident stopped his car to welcome us back for the winter, and in another year, a neighbor came out of her home to welcome us on our first day back and tell us she looked forward to seeing us walk into town with our dog. Perhaps the reason so many people come to Carmel is precisely because it is such a welcoming place and, as long as it remains as such, people will continue to come. We know that we will.

Louise and Tom Yots, Buffalo, N.Y.

See LETTERS page 28A

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The growing kingdom of Dennis

AS DISCUSSED in last week's column, Henry "Hank" Ketcham, a successful cartoonist, moved from Connecticut to the Monterey Peninsula with his wife, Alice, and 3-year-old son, Dennis, in 1949. The next year, at the home they built in Carmel Woods, Dennis inspired what became one of the most successful cartoon franchises in history — "Dennis the Menace." First

in a future column, but that request led to Ketcham's immersion in the project. With his successful cartoon bringing his personal childlike nature to the forefront, another typical playground didn't sound appealing. For the Jan. 20, 1957, This Week magazine, a Sunday insert in papers across the country, Ketcham wrote, "I asked if I could design a special playground. The Jaycees not only agreed, they left before I had time to change my mind." Committed to the project, Ketcham dutifully appeared for four days at the end of August 1953, signing copies of his latest book for his admiring fans attending the fair.

Just prior to the county fair, organizers of the Salinas Rodeo called on Ketcham to judge the floats in their big Colmo del Rodeo parade.

Choosing a queen

Ketcham was on a roll, but he wasn't the only cartoonist in town. In an era when beauty pageants were popular, fair director Don Stupendo invited local cartoonists to judge the finals of the Queen of the Fair contest. Ketcham was joined by cartoonists Eldon Dedini, Gus Arriola and Jimmy Hatlo to select the 1953 queen. Rounding out the panel of judges was Monterey Mayor Dan Searle.

Ketcham's ability to popularize local cartooning also led to a November 1953 exhibition at the Kurland gallery in Pacific Grove. Displayed for purchase were original pen-and-ink drawings by Ketcham, Hatlo and Dedini, as well as art by political cartoonist Vaughn Shoemaker and cartoonist Bill O'Malley. The latter was popular for his "Two Little Nuns" book, and in conjunction with the show, released his book of golf humor, "Golf Fore Fun."

Capping off a great year, Ketcham, a decent golfer who played on his high school golf team, received an invitation for the January 1954 Bing Crosby National Pro-Am. In gratitude, Ketcham illustrated the cover and included illustrations with

See **HISTORY** next page

History Beat

By NEAL HOTELLING

appearing in 16 newspapers in March 1951, by the end of the year it was in the top 100 papers in America. In 1952, the Ketchams returned to the East so Hank could work with publishers on a book of Dennis cartoons. Henry Holt and Co. released the hardback book, "Dennis the Menace," in August 1952. It sold for \$1 and did so well, they immediately commissioned a second.

After surviving the winter of 1952-53, the Ketchams decided to return to Carmel, staying in the East only long enough to attend the awards dinner of the American Newspaper Publishers association in New York. At the April 1953 event, Ketcham received the Billy DeBeck Memorial Award for outstanding cartoonist of 1952. Prize in hand, Ketcham arrived back in Carmel in May 1953, just before his publisher released a second book, "More Dennis the Menace."

Not a typical playground

While the Ketchams were away, the City of Monterey decided to convert an old rubbish dump at El Estero into a playground. The Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) took on the fundraising for the equipment. On Sept. 19, 1952, the Jaycees brought in the Ernie Fields Orchestra for a fundraising dance at the fairgrounds. The next summer, when Ketcham returned, the organization asked him to do a book signing at the Monterey County Fair as another fundraiser for the project.

We will detail creation of the playground

Hank Ketcham, back row, just to the right of the coach, is pictured here with his golf team at Seattle's Queen Anne High School.



PHOTO/QUEEN ANNE HIGH SCHOOL 1936 YEARBOOK

Works that invite comment, thought and participation

FROM HER home on a hill in New Monterey, Barbara Furbush watches the clouds perform over Monterey Bay — "the protean dance of sky and water," she wrote in her artist statement — morphing moment to moment in the wind, the fog and rays of sunlight, striking poses for the artwork she creates for Venture Gallery.

"The look of the bay is always changing and it's just fascinating to me," said

of the human condition, with ongoing research she conducts through "participatory art," which invites the beholder to engage and contribute to her concepts.

Body imprints

Of the nearly 100 shows where she has exhibited her work since 1977, her favorite might be a 2016 show, entitled "Mythic Women," at Hartnell College.

Furbush applied layers of black ink to acrylic plexiglass, covered the ink with human-sized sheets of paper, then invited 32 women to pose and press themselves against the

paper to create a body imprint.

"What woman is mythic to you?" she asked. "It could be somebody in your culture, somebody in your family, someone from literature, or maybe an historical figure. And what kind of pose would represent them?"

That printing process — which, Furbush said, harkens back to cave paintings — along with her concept, resulted in an exhibit filled with artistic silhouettes representing Tinkerbell, primatologist Jane Goodall, author Gertrude Bell, 16th-century pirate Grace O'Malley, Athena, the Greek goddess of war, Wild West sharpshooter Annie Oakley, mothers, surrogate mothers and nurturers, among others.

"Creating those body prints was cathartic and empowering for many of those women," she said.

'Why kill?'

Another of her most memorable participatory installations, "Why Kill?" was exhibited in 2003 at a gallery in Toledo, Ohio, exploring the mystery of what might cause one person to slay another.

Furbush hung pencils from a target-shaped piece — which included a Mylar mirror, "because I always feel like we need to confront ourselves," she said — and invited viewers to finish incomplete sentences such as, "I would kill because..." "I would

See **ARTIST** page 29A

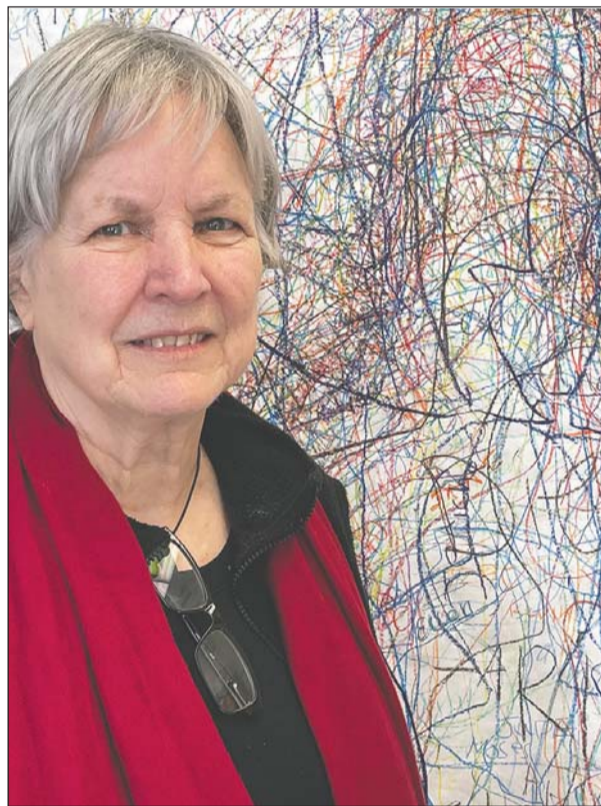
Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Furbush, who specializes in lithographs, monotypes, carborundum mezzotint, drypoint, and other techniques of printmaking — the practice of transforming ink from a matrix onto material (typically paper) to create multiple impressions of the same image.

"The first time somebody asked me to describe my work, I just said, 'Clouds.' Then I realized that doesn't sound very interesting," she said with a laugh. "Really, my art is atmospheres."

But Furbush is also a keen observer



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

Barbara Furbush stands in front of 'Community,' one of several 'participatory art' projects for people who visit her studio in Monterey's Mariposa Hall.

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

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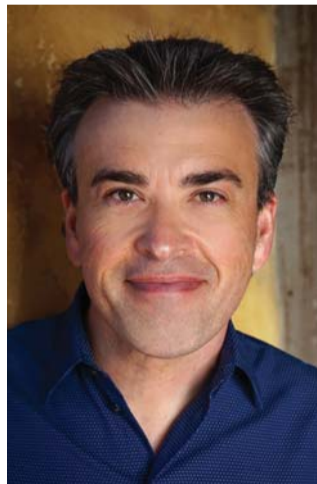


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HISTORY

From previous page

Dennis for the pages.

For the tournament, Ketcham was paired with Modesto pro Morgan Fottrell, a Thursday qualifier who did not have a good week. In 1954, the field of 120 teams was split, with half playing Cypress Point and the other half on Monterey Peninsula's Dunes course on Friday; the next day they switched. Only those making the cut played the third and final round at Pebble Beach on Sunday. Fottrell opened with a 41-43 — 84, Ketcham was able to help the team by 16 strokes for a team 68. But they were well back in the field, seven strokes behind the leaders.

Keeping Alice busy

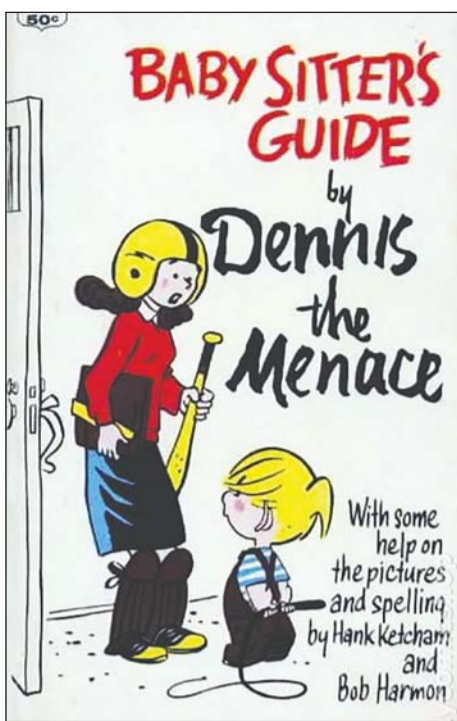
On Saturday, Fottrell managed a 79. Ketcham helped the team to a 65. Fottrell's score missed the professional cut, but the team's 68-65 — 133 put them tied for 13th and playing on Sunday at Pebble Beach. Their final round of 167 left them tied for 13th, 7 strokes behind a four-way tie at 193, but the warm glow of making the cut in his first try made up for the cold and wet playing conditions. Ketcham would receive many more of the coveted Crosby invitations in the years to come.

Still, it was Dennis — the cartoon, more than the son — that kept Ketcham busy. Alice provided most of the parenting for their little boy, who, at age 7 in the spring

of 1954, was attending Robert Louis Stevenson School in Pebble Beach.

To keep up with the demands of the daily cartoon, Ketcham continued to rely on artist Al Wiseman and writer Fred Toole. The demand increased with the addition of comic books. Artists Bob Paplow and Lee Holley were added to the creative team. At times, Ketcham pulled in other local artists to assist.

Another key writer was Bob Harmon, who received direct credit on the third "Dennis" book published by Holt in 1954, "Baby Sitter's Guide by Dennis the Menace: With some help on the pictures and spelling by Hank Ketcham and Bob Harmon." Harmon was confined to a wheelchair with muscular dystrophy. In his autobiography, Ketcham wrote, "I have a feeling that this tragic disability made him more sensitive to a child's world and the sheer physical challenges faced every day by little citizens." Ketcham credited Harmon with "breathing fresh humor, warmth and uniqueness into the feature during the early days." Harmon worked remotely in an era dependent on mail for sharing materials.



PHOTOS/MYCOMICSHOP.COM AND NEAL HOTELLING COLLECTION

The third "Dennis the Menace" book, (left) published in 1954, was written in Dennis' voice and included cover credit for Bob Harmon, who provided "fresh warmth and humor" to the cartoons from his unique perspective of being wheelchair bound by muscular dystrophy. Hank Ketcham designed an ominous cover (above) for the superstition-laden 13th Crosby Pro-Am cover in 1954. It was not unlucky for Ketcham, who made the cut in his first appearance in the tournament. He did, however, end up tied for 13th in the Pro-Am.

Producing a myriad of fresh cartoons for a variety of media was not Ketcham's only challenge. The first Dennis the Menace doll appeared in time for Christmas 1953, and other toys and even a clothing line were developed over the first few years. Dennis had become an industry and, by 1955, Ketcham felt the need for more space for his home, his business and his writing team. He found an ideal setting in Carmel Valley. Rancho El Robledo was a 61-acre ranch carved out of the hill country

of the ancient Rancho Los Tularcitos, just east of Carmel Valley Village.

Ketcham shares some fond memories of his years on the ranch in his autobiography, "The Merchant of Dennis the Menace." There is also some errant information. Part of the ranch is now on the county's historic register, and not because of Ketcham. In next week's column, I'll share some of what I learned about the ranch from my research and a couple of the current residents.

LETTERS

From page 26A

'Facts on desal project'

Dear Editor,

Please add a few missing facts to your Nov. 25 article on the desal plant approval. The \$3 million mitigation fee levied by the coastal commission on Cal Am to pay Marina is chump change in today's world. It would pay for about 2.5 miles of paving a road, maybe.

It was embarrassing to see Chair Brownsey haggle with Cal Am's lawyer to get this amount after Cal Am proposed a mere \$1 million, ignoring elected officials of Marina in the room. Please ask Marina residents how they felt being called 'cute' and having a nice community while they witnessed the loss of their beach access and return of the Cemex sand mine site for restoration.

They planned a wild beach habitat we could all enjoy, and to protect snowy plover breeding grounds, but not now. Is that worth \$3 million? The staff position in Marina is only for 10 years, while the shoreline wells are estimated to be under water and useless after 20-25 years, after which Cal Am has no legal right to move them inland. Pure Water Monterey Expansion would provide water for 30 years.

Those decisions were hard to take for several Marina residents, who tell me they felt treated as uninformed small children, talked about, disrespected and disregarded. Please recall that coastal commission staff previously rejected this project twice due to the burden on Marina, the coast and ratepayers.

By the way, most of those 63 acres of restoration will benefit Seaside and Monterey. And the cost for ratepayers? No mention was made that Cal Am itself says rates go up 50 percent when built; but the CPUC Public Advocate Office says 65-70

percent. Be aware those additional costs will be on top of 2026 rates, due for at least four more increases before desal.

If you use what the CPUC says is common usage of about 5,500 gallons a month, you could pay about \$300. Ratepayers will be charged over \$7,000 an acre-foot while subsidizing Castroville, which will pay \$110 an acre-foot.

This brings me to my last point. Families and seniors living marginally on lower incomes will pay very high proportional costs for water, driving them further down the economic scale. Cal Am's proposed help for low-income ratepayers still requires less than 200 percent of federal poverty, or \$40,236 a year for two people, pretty unlivable here.

I just thought you should have at least a few more facts before embracing this decision as the best solution to our water supply.

Susan Schiavone, Seaside

existential threat from a present warming trend; in fact, deaths from hurricanes and flooding have been declining steadily for the last century, while global temperatures have risen by 0.6 degrees Celsius. Thus, wouldn't we be more compassionate not to fret about the slight current temperature rise, and reduce the number of freezing deaths by allowing Earth's temperature to rise by half a degree?

Dr. C. Michael Hogan, Monterey

Evacuation with zero delay

Dear Editor,

I wish to commend and thank Carmel fire and police for their speedy evacuation of my neighborhood on Nov. 15 due to a gas line break that occurred during sewer line work. While the ordeal was unnerving, everyone got out safely, thanks to our first responders.

Many of us have evacuation plans that assume 20 to 30 minutes of advance notice. A gas line break affords zero delay. Please consider having a basic "away bag" at the ready, including shoes, cash, phone charger, and medication. A leash and kibble, too. Finally, get to know your neighbors and have their contact information in your phone.

Adrienne Tandon, Carmel

'Best ever'

Dear Editor,

Bravo to new music director Jayce

See MORE LETTERS page 31A

Compassion for the people freezing

Dear Editor,

More than 4 million people die each year from freezing to death. A much smaller number die from overheating. Science history is very clear that humankind's most healthful, food-abundant and disease-free eras were times where temperature was 1 degree or more Celsius warmer (e.g. the Roman and Medieval Warm Periods) than today. There is no

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GAVEL

From page 4A

ding about the injuries and timeline, he told investigators he got mad and hit Priscilla in the tummy. Priscilla had been throwing a tantrum about her mother leaving. The inmate had given her a time out. She had pooped and peed her pants to get back at him. He hit her in the tummy. She didn't speak after that.

At the parole hearing on Wednesday, the victim's parents and both grandmothers were present and pleaded with the parole board not to release Priscilla's murderer. Many letters of opposition were presented along with a multi-page petition with signatures of members of the public opposing the inmate's parole.

The parole board asserted that the inmate demonstrated true remorse and credibility, listed his accomplishments in prison and determined that he had adequate parole plans, and lauded his participation in many programs offered in prison.

The Monterey County District Attorney opposed release at the hearing, arguing that Leonardo lacked insight concerning his commission of murder and did not demonstrate true remorse. Instead, Leonardo's portrayal of events minimized his responsibility for taking the child's life. The Monterey County District Attorney's Office will request that Gov. Newsom reverse the board's decision to grant parole.

Nov. 3 — The Greenfield Police Department submitted a case to the district attorney's office requesting the filing of murder charges against Jaime Cerna. The D.A.'s gang prosecutor and Chief Assistant District Attorney

Berkley Brannon reviewed the case together. Clearly there was insufficient evidence to file charges. The incident was captured on video. Jaime Cerna was alone seated in the front passenger seat of a parked vehicle. An assailant armed with a knife got out of a vehicle parked immediately adjacent and parallel to the car Cerna sat in. The assailant rapidly moved around his vehicle, into the space between the two vehicles, and pulled Cerna's door open while brandishing the knife. The knife was recovered at the scene. Confronted with deadly force, Cerna fired shots, killing the assailant. Cerna was stabbed in the left leg and was treated at a hospital.

A person has a right to use deadly force in self-defense if that person has a reasonable belief they are in imminent danger of death or great bodily injury. Under the law, a person is not required to retreat but instead may stand his or her ground, even if options other than self-defense exist.

To file criminal charges, the district attorney requires proof beyond a reasonable doubt that a crime was committed. In a self-defense case, the district attorney must prove the person claiming self-defense did not have a reasonable belief they were in imminent danger of death or great bodily injury. This burden is insurmountable when an assailant approaches a passenger sitting alone in a car and forcibly opens the door while threatening the passenger with a knife.

The district attorney's office takes all cases, especially those alleging murder, very seriously. We filed 39 murder cases in 2021. However, it is unethical to prosecute people who may be innocent. An ethical prosecutor requires proof beyond a reasonable doubt before requiring that an accused undergo the ordeal of a trial.

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DRUNK

From page 6A

also lost people in my life. I'm very sorry for the pain and loss."

In court documents filed early this week, Donato's attorney, Mario Martinez, said his client was abused as a child and for years has had a substance abuse problem.

However, Donato — a laborer who is not a United States citizen — has had several prior run-ins with the law. He was convicted of drunk driving and hit-and-run in 2012, and in 2018 was convicted of drunk driving in Idaho. In 2019, the 5-foot, 2-inch, 180-pound Donato was also charged with spousal battery and cruelty to a 3-year-old boy.

Lecce's aunt, Holly Beguhl, questioned why Donato, given his criminal history, was allowed to stay in the United States when he was "here illegally."

"Why wasn't the defendant deported years ago?" she said.

Gurley said her family wants Donato to "stay in prison as long as possible so he can learn to be a better person."

"Everyone has problems in life and they don't need to drink and drive and kill a human being," Gurley said. "I can never have all my kids together again. We can't celebrate the holidays together. There will always be something missing. His decisions have changed our lives forever."

MORE LETTERS

From page 28A

Ogren and the entire Monterey Symphony orchestra. The first concert of the season last Saturday night was appropriately titled "Emergence." Coming out of Covid and emerging into a new brilliant repertoire of classical and modern symphonic masterpieces, the harmony and the energy of the music was inspiring. The orchestra played its best ever with heart and soul. We look forward to future concerts.

Reading the program notes, upcoming guest composers and soloists will continue to be the best. Thanks to all the symphony musicians, Timothy McAllister, soloist, Steven Mackey, composer, and conductor Jayce Ogren for an amazing performance.

Joseph Hertlein, Carmel Valley

ACCOLADES

From page 8A

year.

"It completely underscores how important our week is," she said. Pebble Beach won the inaugural Concours of the Year and claimed the title for the third time at the Nov. 16 gala.

"We were delighted to win the first time and once before this," Button said, while acknowledging that the world-class concours sometimes bows out of the competition to give other up-and-coming shows a chance.

Button also judges the awards in other classes for the

annual awards, including photography, and said she appreciates the breadth of the competition.

"What's cool about it is it's very much a broad spectrum of what loving old cars is all about," she said, including authors, photographers, media, innovators and lifetime achievers.

"It's just kind of a great way to highlight how interconnected and interdisciplinary they are. I would say that it brings people from around the world to London for this motoring award, and I knew 90 percent of the people in the room," she said.

"It's just a great moment to get together and support each other. I'm proud of Octane for putting it together, and when you look at the spectrum of the awards, they've done a great job of capturing the vocation."

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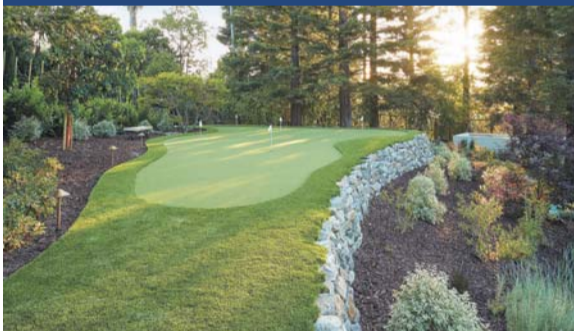
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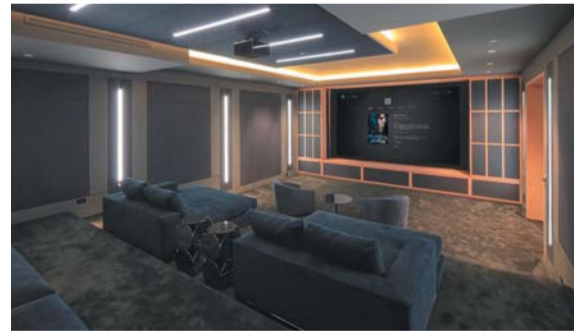
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Team Member Highlight

Ellen Armstrong | Technology/Transaction Coordinator & Agent
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As a former Division 1 golfer in college, Ellen has a passion for the game and enjoys playing the many courses on the Peninsula. She and her husband Troy also love to travel and play on world class golf courses. On weekends they can be found at Corral de Tierra competing against each other.

A Bakersfield native, Ellen earned her photojournalism degree from Cal State Northridge and obtained her real estate license in 2017. Ellen's appreciation for building design is inspired by her father, an architect, who took the family on architectural pilgrimages. For her, the wonderful homes and world-class golf courses make the Monterey Peninsula the perfect place to live and work. Since joining the Canning Team in 2015, Ellen has become proficient in multiple areas of the real estate business, including marketing, technology, closings and client services.

After several years helping the team grow in both print and digital media, Ellen now uses her extensive knowledge and technical expertise to guide buyers and sellers as a transaction coordinator for the No. 1 Sotheby's International Realty team in the country. In 2015, the Canning Team was also nominated as a top technological innovator by Inman News.



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The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

At the beginning of the basketball season, all things are possible

THE BEAUTY of a 0-0 record — the world's preseason welcome gift to every team in every sport — is that all things seem possible.

Cases in point are the very dissimilar situations of the Carmel Padres and Stevenson Pirates as they embark upon the boys basketball season this week from very different perspectives.

Stevenson enjoyed a season for the scrapbooks in 2021 — going 20-8 and culminating with a Central Coast Section championship opportunity (a loss to Woodside Priory School in the Division 5 finals), followed by a trip to the NorCal title game.

Nine seniors were on the Pirates' sea-

composed under pressure, how they make decisions," said Coach Justin Clymo, who also is Stevenson's athletic director.

Leadership will come from three senior veterans — all multi-sport athletes — who were contributors to last year's NorCal run.

'More evolved versions'

Trent Toole — bound for Villanova on a baseball scholarship — returns as a 6-2 point guard after leading the 2021 Pirates in points (15.5 per game), assists (3.5) and steals (2.9). Audon Forgas (11.0 points, 4.5 rebounds, 1.6 assists), 6-3, can handle the ball and shoot from the perimeter or bang under the basket. He could play college football and basketball next season.

"I don't think their roles are going to change much at all — I think they've just gotten stronger, better and become more evolved versions of themselves," the coach said of his two most experienced leaders.

Two other senior leaders, 5-9 guard Parker Lynch and 6-1 inside player Thomas Lansbury, returned bigger, stronger, and more court-savvy than a year ago, Clymo said.

Other seniors contributing to last year's NorCal run were 6-1 Malyk Williams and 6-foot Jerry Xiang, both perimeter players. Players who were added to the varsity roster for the playoff season were 6-2 senior Jeff Shan, 6-2 Nile Glover, a junior, and sophomore point guard Harry Marquess.

Varsity newcomer Sean Ishii is "a great energy guy who will play a role as a pri-



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

Three-sport star Trent Toole (right) led Stevenson's NorCal team with 15.5 points, 3.5 assists, and 2.9 steals a year ago, while team captain Jim Moreau (left), a 6-4 senior with mad leadership skills, got playoff experience as a freshman on Carmel's 2019-20 CCS title team.

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

son-ending roster, including All-Mission Division standouts Evan Johnson (now at BYU on a Division I football scholarship) and Darnell Adler (another football player now at Contra Costa College).

Stevenson's secret weapon is a school philosophy that encourages students to play a different sport each season, resulting in a basketball roster spangled with athletes who have CCS experience in football, lacrosse, water polo and baseball during the past year.

"I'm bullish on the multi-sport athlete approach and I expect to see an impact in the way those guys compete, how they stay

mary defensive disruptor for us," Clymo said.

Tilger Evans, a 6-4 junior, will be expected to provide some aggression under the basket. Justin Guo and Jackson Silver are sharpshooters from the perimeter, Owen Mink is a dependable ballhandler, and Kai Hu figures to contribute as a defender.

"We weren't able to play summer ball, because everybody was out of town, so, just like last year, I hadn't seen my guys for 18 months when they came to our first

practice," said Clymo, who had 25 freshmen among his 67 prospects this year. "As of Thanksgiving, I still hadn't had practiced with all 14 varsity players due to injuries, illnesses and playoffs in other sports.

"So December, for us, will basically be games masquerading as practices while we try to figure things out."

Carmel, which plays in the Pacific Coast Athletic League's big-school Gabi-

See SPORTS next page

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SPORTS

From previous page

grinder” kind of seasons — 0-7 in 2020, the pandemic-abbriviated year, and 6-18 last winter.

“We’ve got these rugged seniors who come through the other side of that meatgrinder tough and battle-tested. They know how to play physical and hard,” said Padres coach Kurt Grahl.

“Then, we’ve got these young guys who are learning what we do, how to play within a team framework, figuring out what they’re good at, and where they need to improve,” he said. “Those guys are going to grow by leaps and bounds as the season progresses.”

Varsity battle scars

Varsity battle scars are worn proudly by Jim Moreau, the team captain and the only player on the roster who was a part of Grahl’s 2019-20 team, which won the CCS Division 4 crown for the second year in a row, and played in the Division 3 NorCal championship game. The Padres’ 26-5 overall record that season set a school record for victories.

“More than anybody, Jim Moreau has matured into a tremendous leader — a guy who commands respect from the other players,” Grahl said of the 6-4 senior, who averaged nearly 8 rebounds per game in 2021.

“We did some running at practice today, and afterward

had some guys with their hands on their knees, or leaning against the wall,” he said. “Jim was the one saying, ‘Hey, stand up straight, get off the wall, you’re fine.’ Those are things I’d typically have to say, but it’s far more effective coming from a peer.”

Moreau’s fearlessness on the court is best illustrated by 15 charges taken during the 2021 season — the most of any CHS player since 2015, the year Grahl became head coach.

Another senior, 6-2 John Phillips-Sullivan, was Carmel’s second-leading scorer last winter (9.0 points per game), but is expected to have a major impact as a defender this year.

‘Tough, seasoned, gritty’

“He’s a tough, seasoned guy — very gritty — who understands our defense,” Grahl said. “He’s still a kid who can score, but some of that load will be taken off his shoulders this year because we’ll have some really talented sophomores who can score.”

One of those is returning starter Simeon Brown, a 6-1 guard who averaged 7.5 points as a freshman (third on the team), then showed up bigger, stronger, and more aggressive this year during Carmel’s summer season.

“I’ve probably seen more growth in Simeon than any other player. He learned this summer that he can be a guy who just takes over a game. We had numerous games this summer where he was the best player on the floor.”



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Stevenson’s Audon Forgas -- 11 points, 3.5 rebounds a year ago -- is good enough this year to draw a crowd.

Brown is adroit at slashing toward the basket, but also is showing that he can hit a 3-point shot.

The point guard, 6-2 Adam Carley, had a team-best 4.5 assists per game as a junior, but arrived this year with vastly enhanced leadership qualities, probably because he

See **MORE SPORTS** next page

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USGA announces holiday sale of tickets for 2023 U.S. Women's Open

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

FANS LOOKING forward to next year's 78th U.S. Women's Open — the first to be played at Pebble Beach Golf Links — can buy tickets just in time for holiday gift-giving. The tournament is set for July 5-9, 2023. In celebration of the season, those who purchase at

least two daily gallery tickets or one package (gallery pass, lodge premier pass or flex booking) will receive a red, white and blue beanie featuring the 2023 U.S. Women's Open logo. The offer is valid through Dec. 31, and orders must be placed by Nov. 30 to guarantee delivery by Dec. 23. Tickets start at \$30 and are available at uswomensopen.com.

Daily gallery tickets are valid any one day of championship week and include grandstand seating, complimentary parking, and shuttle service to and from the course. The flex booking option provides fans five daily gallery tickets that can be used any one day of the championship. The gallery pass includes a gallery ticket for each day of the tournament, general admission to the grounds, grandstand seating, and parking and shuttles.

Premier pass

The lodge premier pass "offers access to a premium experience to enjoy all the action, including access to The Lodge at Pebble Beach, an unobstructed view of the 18th Green and preferred restaurant reservations.

The weekly pass includes access to the grounds, VIP parking and exclusive restroom facilities, as well as upgraded food and beverage options available for purchase.

In addition to making its Pebble Beach debut, the 2023 U.S. Women's Open will mark the 14th USGA event held at Pebble Beach and the first of another 10 championships planned for the next 25 years. The course has played host to two U.S. Women's Amateurs, five U.S. Amateurs and six U.S. Opens, most recently the 2019 U.S. Open won by Gary Woodland.

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This Week

Live Music,
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CELTIC QUARTET CELEBRATES HOLIDAYS IN P.G., CHORAL GROUPS GET BUSY

SERVING UP Celtic and Nordic folk music with a holiday twist, **The New World String Project** plays two shows Saturday at St. Mary's By-the-Sea in Pacific Grove. The music starts at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The event is the church's 16th annual Winterdance celebration.

The New World String Project includes singer and guitarist **Stuart Mason**, multi-instrumentalist **Aryeh Frankfurter**, harpist **Lisa Lynne** and fiddler **John Weed**. Mason

Association.

Coordinated by members of His Grace Ministries, the caroling continues Dec. 11 and Dec. 18 at 5 p.m.

Also this weekend on the wharf, **The Peninsula Harmony Company** sings holiday music Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m., singer and guitarist **Katherine Lavin** plays pop and rock Saturday at noon and a local folk duo, **The Bard and the Bird**, performs Sunday at noon.

For more details, visit montereywharf.com.

The Peninsula Harmony Company also sings holiday music each Saturday at the Crossroads Shopping through Dec. 17. "You will find them strolling along Crossroads Boulevard and stopping in to shops along the way," the shopping center announced.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

and Weed are familiar to many locals as two-thirds of the folk trio, Molly's Revenge.

"Before the pandemic, the quartet honed their chops and found their voice as a band by touring up and down the West Coast, where audiences were enchanted by their rare instruments and masterful skills," **Jacqueline Pierce** of St. Mary's said. "The result is something new and uniquely their own — a sound rooted in the older traditions of Scandinavia, Appalachia, and the Celtic lands, yet shimmering with modern influences as well."

The church is located at 146 12th St. For ticket info, visit celticsociety.org.

Carolers meet on the wharf

Everybody young and old is invited to sing Christmas carols Sunday on Old Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey. The singing starts at 5 p.m., and coincides with the Monterey Yacht Club's annual "Brighten the Harbor" lighted boat parade. "Bundle up, bring friends and family and join us in celebrating the holiday season," suggested **Wendy Brickman**, executive director of Fisherman's Wharf

Bringing the light

An 80-member community choir, **Monterey Peninsula Voices** presents its annual holiday concert Saturday and Sunday at the First United Methodist Church in Pacific Grove. Saturday's concert starts at 7 p.m., while Sunday's matinee begins at 2 p.m.



Singer and guitarist Anna May (left) plays Sunday at Folk Tale Winery in Carmel Valley, while singer and guitarist Dave "Nomad" Miller performs Friday at O'Callaghan's Irish Pub in The Barnyard shopping center.



Besides singing an assortment of holiday favorites, the choir will perform a five-movement piece by contemporary composer Taylor Scott Davis, "Magnificat."

"In our current time, we need to bring light to each other more than ever," conductor Sean Boulware said. "Monterey Peninsula Voices will be singing holiday songs that will move you and lighten your mood."

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$25 for students and seniors, and \$20 for kids under 12. The church is located at 915 Sunset Drive.

See MUSIC page 44A

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FOOD & WINE

Local champagne house wins big, Power Plant turns 2, and an icon's birthday

CARACCIOLI CELLARS scooped up major honors at the Champagne & Sparkling Wine World Championships in London last month, when its 2016 Blanc de Blancs was named Best USA Sparkling Wine, Best Californian in the regional category and Best in Class California Blanc de Blancs Vintage. In addition, the winery's 2016 brut cuvée took Best in Class California Brut Vintage, and Best in

and then discuss them to select the winners. They first award silver and gold medals, with gold winners tasted again side by side to select the Best in Class for each origin and style. Best in Class winners subsequently compete for Regional Champions, followed by judging for National Champions, and all Best in Class winners are also eligible for six World Champions by Style. Finally, the National Champions compete for Supreme World Champion.

Soup to Nuts

By MARY SCHLEY

Class California Rosé Vintage went to its 2016 brut rosé. (Chandon California Reserve Pinot Noir Rosé won Best in Class California NV Rosé.)

The London event is considered "the most respected, comprehensive and rigorous international sparkling wine competition in the world," and its mission is to challenge producers to "raise the quality bar continually," and to "guide wine lovers toward the best champagnes and sparkling wines."

Judges Tom Stevenson — who founded the competition — Essi Avellan and George Markus blind taste all submissions, writing tasting notes and assigning scores,

'Total objectivity'

"If, after tasting and scoring blind, one of us draws attention to a wine that he or she believes the other two have not given sufficient credit, there are no egos that get in the way: We simply get down to re-examining that wine with total objectivity," Stevenson explained. "Sometimes we will change our minds on mature reflection, sometimes we won't, but we always re-approach such wines with a fresh, analytical mindset."

Nearly three dozen trophies were presented at a gathering of more than 150 winemakers, producers, industry experts and journalists from all over the world at the Champagne awards dinner in London's iconic Merchant Taylors' Hall. The crown of Supreme World Champion went to Dom Ruinart for the Dom Ruinart 2010 Blanc de Blancs.

Scott Caraccioli was among the dinner guests and



Judge George Markus (left) presents Scott Caraccioli with one of the major awards his winery's sparkling Blanc de Blancs captured in the Champagne & Sparkling Wine World Championships.

trophy winners at the elegant dinner in November. After returning home, he announced, "We couldn't be more proud of our wines at the CSWWC competition this year." To celebrate, Caraccioli assembled a package of the three award-winning wines that can be purchased for \$225. Buy online at shop.caracciolicellars.com/purchase, or, for much more fun, visit the tasting room on Dolores south of Ocean and do a tasting, too.

See FOOD next page

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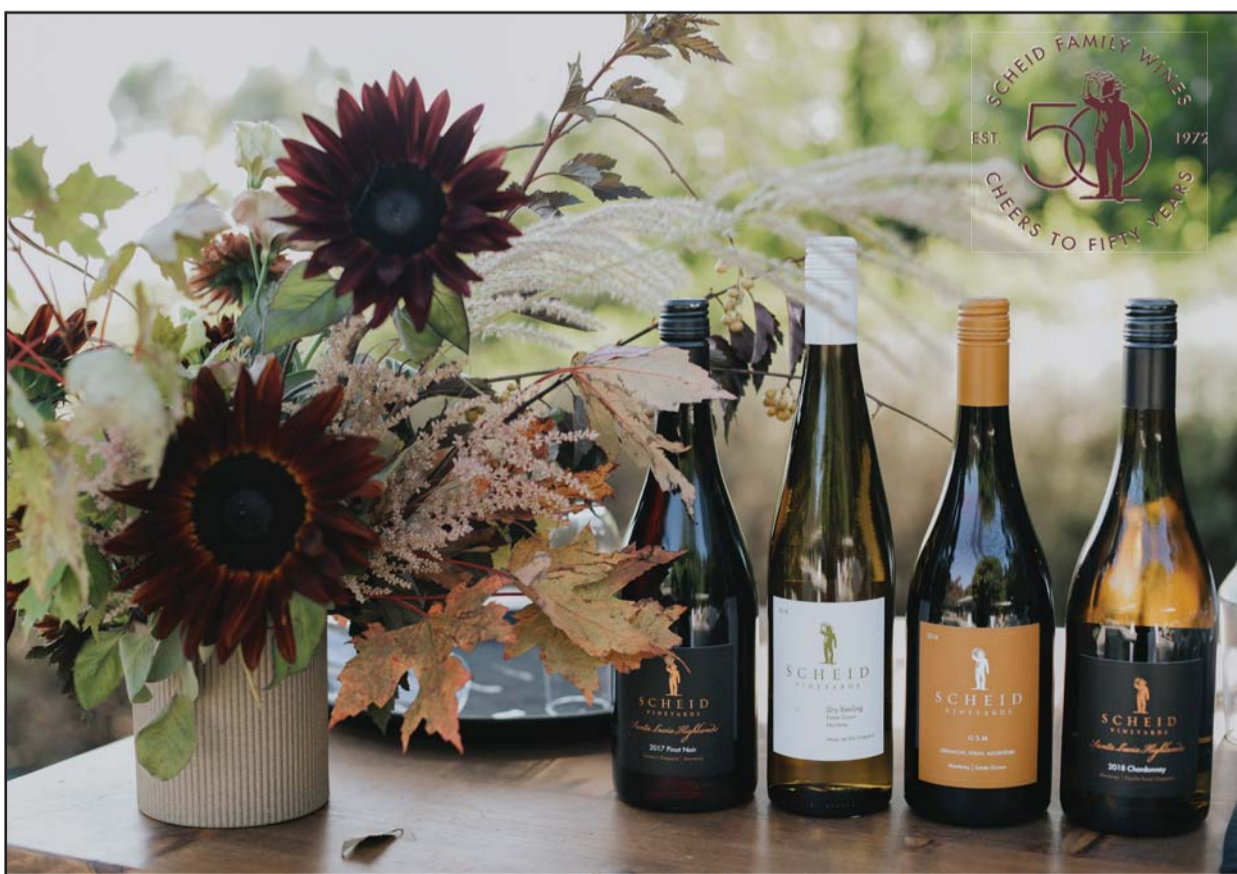
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Photo Credit: Jennysmithandco

FOOD & WINE

FOOD

From previous page

Al & Friends event

Al Siekert, who created Al & Friends to provide nutritious hot meals at Window on the Bay park in Monterey on Sunday mornings and holidays “to anyone who is hungry, no questions asked,” is holding his annual Holiday Giving Shoe Tree Party in Pacific Grove’s Chautauqua Hall at 16th and Central Dec. 2 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Every year, Siekert collects donations for the purpose of taking community members who can’t afford proper footwear to the store so they can be fitted with appropriate shoes. Not only do they end up with the right shoes to protect their feet, but they are given “an uplifting, dignified experience” in the process. The party will include music, snacks and “merry charity.”

Power Plant party

The Power Plant, the Moss Landing coffee shop and store opened by artists/designers Chuck Drake and Sally Russell during the pandemic, is celebrating its 2nd anniversary with an open house Sunday, Dec. 4, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Live jazz, wood-fired pizza and craft beer and wine will be available, and local vendors will be sharing their wares, including Ad Astra bread, Amor de Plantas, Love Cultivated, Soccoro, Blossoms, Sweet Prairie Haskap, Larry D. Wood, The Chowder Box, Ate 3 One, Quigon and Evelyn Brokaw.

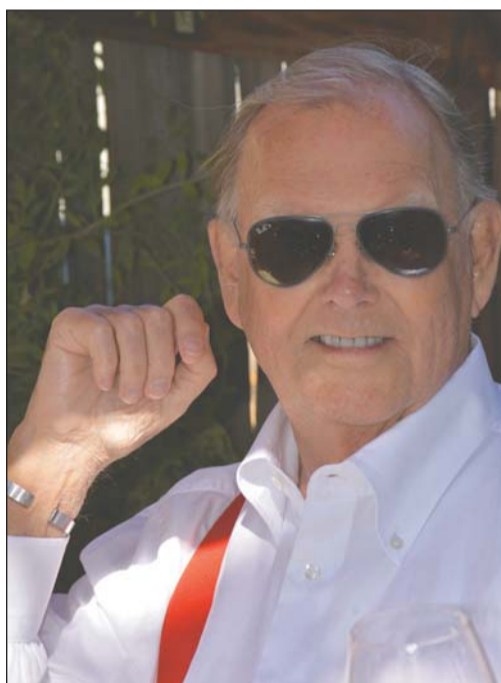
“We here at The Power Plant want to give all our customers a huge, warm, ‘Thank you,’ for supporting us through the pandemic,” the proprietors said. “Even though times were

tough on all of us, you chose and continue to choose The Power Plant coffee as your one-stop shop for all things eco-friendly and delicious. We couldn’t be any more grateful than to serve such a loyal and supportive community like the one we find ourselves in now.”

Drake and Russell have created “a breathtaking, artistic habitat of plants, conscientious food, curated gifts, awesome coffee and cool vibes,” with 25-foot ceilings with floor-to-ceiling glass, lots of plants, an abstract floral mural by Russell, and a range of interesting gifts and products.

Call (831) 318-0908 or visit thepowerplant.store for more information. It’s

See WINE next page



Bernardus “Ben” Pon died in September 2019 at the age of 82, but his memory lives on and will be celebrated at an annual birthday dinner in his honor Dec. 9 at Woody’s.



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FOOD & WINE

WINE

From previous page

located across from the old smoke stacks at 7990 Highway 1.

Happy birthday, Mr. Pon

The late Bernardus Pon — founder of Bernardus Winery and the lodge in Carmel Valley that also bears his name — will be celebrated at a birthday dinner thrown in his honor by Woody’s at the Airport owners/chefs Tim Wood and Chris Caul Dec. 9. He was “Mr. Pon” to many who worked for him and “Ben” to his numerous friends, and he always loved a good party, so it makes sense to continue feting him even though he is gone.

“We have done this the last few years,” Caul said. “It’s

part Bernardus Christmas party, part Ben’s birthday celebration.” And this year, some members of the public will get to go, too.

Wood and Caul will break out sparkling wines from their collection to kick off the celebration, which will also include magnums of the winery’s Provence rosé and Griva sauvignon blanc — Pon’s favorite. They’ll accompany Robbie’s oysters on the half shell with “Mr. Pon’s Mignonette al la Bernardus Lodge — Chef Tim’s secret recipe,” braised short rib bitterballen (Pon was Dutch) with sharp Dijon mustard, tuna poke spoons and steak tartare on brioche points.

Bernardus 2021 Monterey County chardonnay will be poured with Fisherman Joseph’s Monterey Bay halibut ceviche, and 2021 Santa Lucia Highlands pinot noir will accompany pinot-braised duck leg, seared breast and shaved winter truffle. The 2015 Marinus — Bernardus’ red blend made from grapes grown in the winery’s Marinus Vineyard in Cachagua — will be served with Prime

N.Y. Steak a la Woody, “cut way too thick,” grilled, oven butter-roasted and sliced over a baguette with roasted garlic, olive oil and chimichurri. Word is there may be some French fries as well.

Pon, who died in 2019, didn’t enjoy sweets much, so dessert will be wine and cheese, along with “stories and relaxation.”

The cost is \$128.82 per person. “The 82 cents is for the 82 years Ben graced the Earth,” Caul explained.

Dinner will begin with a reception at 6:30 p.m., and

Continues next page



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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

everyone will sit down around 7:15. Call (831) 373-1232 for reservations. Airport parking will be validated.

■ Hahn dinner at Quail Lodge

Hahn is bringing its Winemaker's Dinner back to Quail Lodge in Carmel Valley Saturday, Dec. 10, at 5 p.m., starting with a welcome reception of wine paired with hors d'oeuvres. A formal five-course dinner will follow, featuring favorite top-tier Hahn wines. During dinner, director of winemaking Paul Clifton will share "vineyard updates and vintage insights."

For tickets, call the wine club team at (831) 261-8022.

■ Aubergine Krug dinner

Olivier Krug will present special bottles of vintage Krug, rosé, magnums and double magnums during an exclusive dinner at Aubergine restaurant in L'Auberge Carmel at Monte Verde and Seventh Tuesday, Dec. 13.

Executive chef Justin Cogley and executive pastry chef Yulanda Santos haven't yet revealed the menu for the five-course prix fixe, but each course will be paired with a Krug champagne.

The evening will begin with a 6:30 p.m. reception, followed by dinner at 7, and costs \$595 per person, plus 20 percent service and tax.

Call (831) 624-8578 to reserve.

■ Blending workshop

The Wine Experience on Cannery Row will offer a blending workshop Dec. 6 from 7 to 9 p.m., presenting a fun learning opportunity for those curious about what makes various combinations of grape varietals taste good — or not so good.

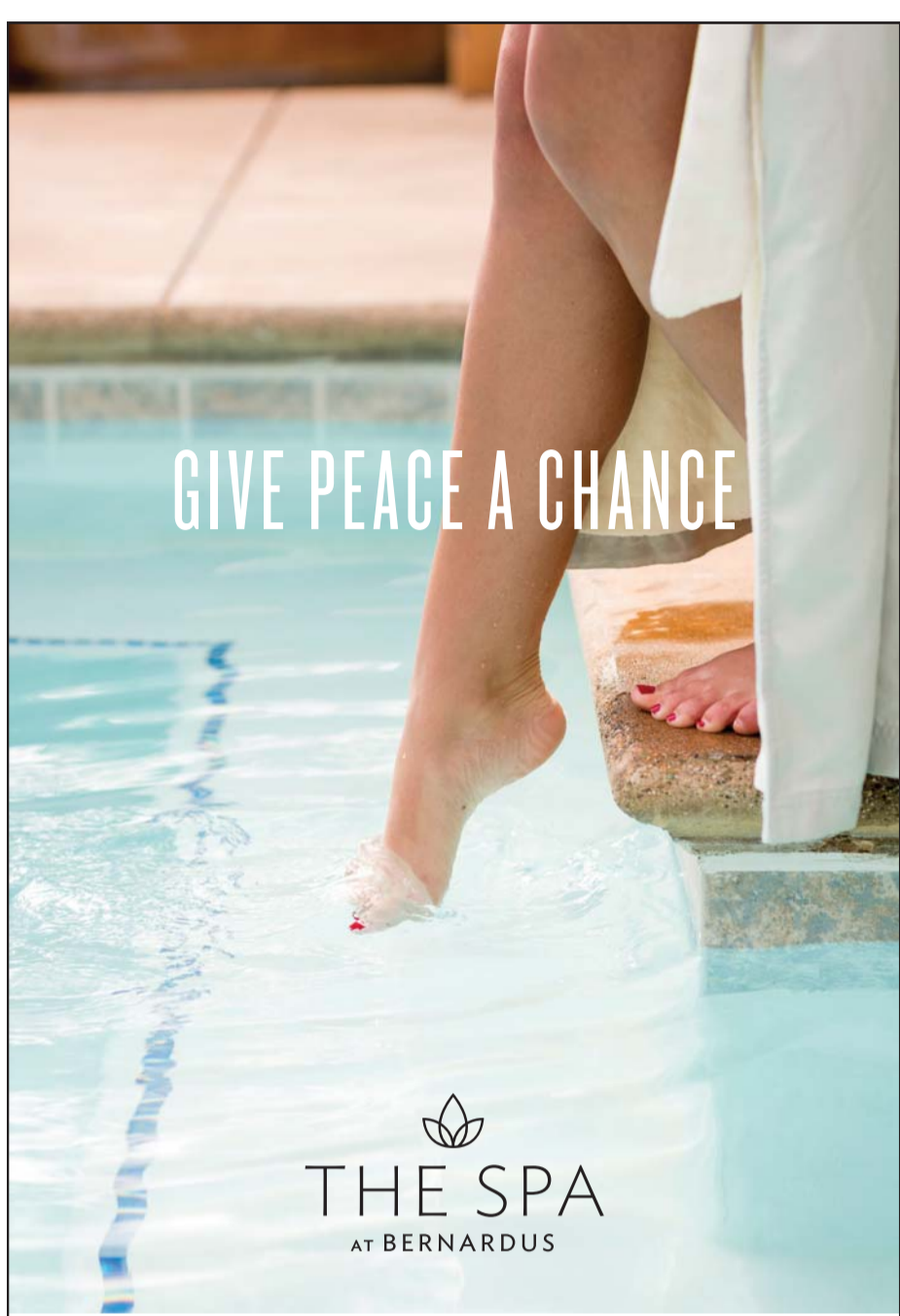
For \$42 each, including tax and tip, guests will be given four wines to taste, along with all the tools and instruction they need to start blending. After creating their own unique combinations — assuming they like them — participants have the option to purchase bottles of their blends that will be custom labeled.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. in the space at

See **FORAGERS** next page



Al & Friends feeds the hungry — no questions asked — on holidays and Sunday mornings at Window on the Bay. Founder Al Siekert will hold a fundraiser in P.G. Dec. 2.



CAUTION: Peace of mind may lead to feelings of well-being, rejuvenation, and relaxation. Side-effects include happiness, stress-relief, and joy. Ask your inner child about Bernardus Lodge & Spa or call 831-658-3400 or visit bernarduslodge.com.

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400 Cannery Row
Monterey, CA

FOOD & WINE

FORAGERS

From previous page

381 Cannery Row in Monterey. Order tickets at [eventbrite.com/manage/events/472013955447/tickets](https://www.eventbrite.com/manage/events/472013955447/tickets).

Foragers Fest stays virtual

The Big Sur Foragers Festival, which benefits the non-profit Big Sur Health Center, is forgoing in-person events in 2023 by partnering with a company called Acquire to provide “a virtual experience with participants receiving intriguing items shipped to prepare and enjoy at home.” Acquire was founded by sommelier Haley Moore, who

spent 15 years as a sommelier and wine director in San Francisco.

Chef Gavin Schmidt from The Morris in San Francisco will forage the critical ingredients and assemble kits that participants will use to prepare a multicourse meal in their own kitchens as he leads them online. He'll pair the dishes with wines from Champagne Laurent Perrier, Chappellet Winery and Flywheel Wines, and cheese and charcuterie boards provided by Acquire will give guests something to snack on while they cook.

Participants can choose from three packages: the entire experience, just the cheese and charcuterie board with champagne, or wine only, with all proceeds benefiting the health center.

The Wine Kit (\$90, plus \$7.11 fee; sales end Jan. 8) includes Laurent Perrier Brut Champagne (half bottle), a

bottle from Flywheel Wines and a bottle from Chappellet. Varietals and vintages have not been announced.

The Virtual Tasting Kit (\$150, plus \$23.78 fee; sales end Jan. 13, and kits will ship Jan. 18) includes Cowgirl Creamery Mt. Tam organic cheese, Q&A Co. seasonal jam, rustic crackers, Olympia Provisions salami and a half-bottle of Laurent Perrier Brut.

The Full Foragers Kit (\$500, plus \$32.07 fee; sales end on Jan. 10, will ship overnight on Jan. 18) includes all the food above, as well as all three wines and the items for Schmidt's menu of mushroom profiteroles, mushroom and yuba salad with kimchi black garlic vinaigrette, and kabocha winter squash tortellini with black trumpet mushrooms in mushroom Parmesan broth.

Order through Eventbrite, and for more information on the festival, visit bigsurforagersfestival.org.



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PASTORS

From page 22A

In addition to the Hollister congregation, Karla took on a second group of parishioners — a small Methodist fellowship in East Salinas, where she applied her admittedly limited knowledge of Spanish and worked with an interpreter. (That group has since merged with First Church and has a part-time pastor it shares with a group in Marina.) Then, she received the call to the Church of the Wayfarer.

It’s tempting to look at the two churches as a study in contrasts, and the Lundins sometimes talk about the cultural differences between them, and how odd it can feel to move between the two worlds. The Carmel edifice attracts brides from all over for destination weddings, and tourists who admire its stained-glass windows and peaceful gardens, paved with bricks emblazoned with donors’ names. Four resident artists work in its office spaces.

The Salinas church, with its tall white steeple a few blocks from the county courthouse, was built in 1870. It’s clean, thanks to dedicated volunteers, but the interior is well-worn. On any given day, someone’s belongings might be parked in a grocery cart, while the homeless gather on the steps or in the courtyard. Announcements at the beginning of Sunday services let visitors know that someone will guide them if they need to use the only functioning restrooms, which are past the remodeling construction zone and across the courtyard in the administration building.

Despite the aesthetic dissimilarities, Steve said, “One thing that’s not different is

that the people in both congregations have a certain DNA — it’s a longtime, soft-spoken Methodist spirit,” that leads to helping others. Karla agreed wholeheartedly, adding that, “Our doors to our sanctuary are open every day for people to come in and find solitude, peace, to pray, meditate and feel safe and warm.”

Providing shelter

The Church of the Wayfarer — the oldest Protestant church in Carmel — participates in the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program, in which houses of worship take turns providing people in need of shelter with a meal and a safe place to spend the night.

The members of the Wayfarer also support nonprofits that feed the hungry, and cooperate with other local congregations — including First Church — on programs like the social justice forum for sheriff candidates before the last election. Between them, the congregations host dozens of 12-step groups weekly, like Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.

A few weeks ago, Steve brought two of First Church’s core volunteers to the Wayfarer, where the young men spoke compellingly of their difficult pasts and the ways in which the Salinas group was helping them. “Our church loved them,” recalled Karla. But more than that, they wanted to help.

So, this Sunday, at 2 p.m., the Church of the Wayfarer is holding a holiday concert to benefit First United Methodist Church’s neighborhood service center in Salinas. Along with organ and trumpet music, there will be a Christmas carol singalong, and a \$20 donation is suggested to help everyone to continue doing all the good they can.



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SECTION RE ■ December 2-8, 2022

Open houses are back!

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate



■ This week's cover property, located in Carmel-by-the-Sea, is presented by Shelly Mitchell Lynch of Carmel Realty Company (See Page 2RE)

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About the Cover

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate

December 2-8, 2022



3 Bed, 2 Full & 1 Half Bath | 1,721 sq. ft
VistaDeLaPlaya.com | Carmel-by-the-Sea
\$6,400,000

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\$7,850,000



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LIC. #00804595

Real Estate Sales Nov. 20 - 26 (Thanksgiving week)

Escrows closed: 17
Total value: \$13,887,000

Carmel Valley

9500 Center Street unit 31 — \$630,000
Marianne Harless to Anthony and Sheryl Van Dyke
APN: 169-237-031

98 Rancho Road — \$950,000
Mark Barber to Matthew Hale
APN: 187-192-003

See HOME SALES page 4RE

CARMEL POINT PERFECTION



4 BEDS, 3 BATHS ■ 3,088 SQ. FT. ■ \$15,000,000
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www.ButterflyHouseCarmel.com



4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$15,000,000 ■ www.26387IsabellaAve.com



4 beds, 4 baths ■ \$3,850,000 ■ www.RobinsonCanyonCarmelTreasure.com



5 beds, 3 baths ■ \$1,995,000 ■ www.27645SchulteRoad.com



3 beds, 2 baths ■ \$1,650,000 ■ www.24801HandleyDr.com



2 beds, 2 baths ■ \$1,200,000 ■ www.223DelMesa.com



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HOME SALES

From page 2RE

Highway 68

379 San Benancio Road — \$500,000

Daniel Bamberger to Raul Marquez
APN: 416-641-011

22311 Montera Drive — \$1,025,000

Rene and Theresa Lacsina to Juliana Simmons and Landon Calhoun
APN: 161-342-001



735 Elm Avenue, Seaside — \$827,000



22311 Montera Drive, Highway 68 — \$1,025,000

Marina

3031 Kennedy Court — \$625,000

Frankie Helton to Olin Jordan
APN: 032-391-067

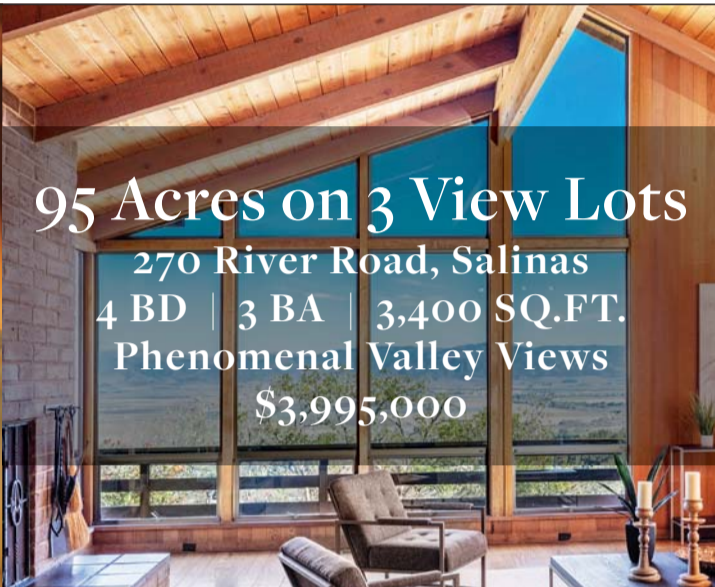
2809 Telegraph Blvd. — \$899,500

Shea Homes LP to Hitoshi Takakura
APN: 031-259-068

2811 Telegraph Blvd. — \$903,000

Shea Homes LP to Joseph King
APN: 031-259-067

See ESCROWS page 14RE



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4 beds, 4+ baths ■ \$12,950,000 ■ www.322517MileDrive.com



6 beds, 5.5 baths ■ \$7,000,000 ■ www.2817SeventeenMile.com



4 beds, 4 baths ■ \$5,995,000 ■ www.3199Cortez.com

MONTEREY PENINSULA LUXURY PROPERTIES



4 beds, 5 baths ■ \$5,250,000 ■ www.8320VistaMonterra.com



5 beds, 4.5 baths ■ \$3,995,000 ■ www.31660ViaLaEstrella.com



OPEN SAT 1-4PM
11538 Saddle Road

5 beds, 4.5 baths ■ \$2,750,000 ■ www.NeverEndingViews.com



OPEN SAT 12-3PM
407 7th Street

3 beds, 2.5 baths ■ \$1,585,000 ■ www.7thStreetPG.com



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From the doc around the block to the doc who's on the clock

TICK TOCK. You're on the clock. When did I start getting doctors appointments at 9:40 or 11:20? They used to be on the hour or the half hour.

Scheduling wasn't always so tight. When I was a kid, trips to the doctor were Norman Rockwell magazine covers. Dr. Milton Heyden's office was in his house. Sometimes it was in his car, because he made house calls. Mother never made an appointment to see him. He didn't have a receptionist to take calls and we didn't have a telephone. We just went to his office when none of my mother's home remedies was working.

Dr. Heyden's entire array of technical equipment consisted of a stethoscope, a tongue depressor, and a little hammer he hit my knee with. When my leg flew forward,

he said I kicked a field goal. Much of his exam was done by palpation. He was old school enough to know the sense of touch is just as important as sight during an examination. My mother answered whatever questions he asked. "Ahhhh" was my only contribution to the discussion.

Anesthesia for \$5

My parents had no health insurance. According to an online encyclopedia, in 1945 a family whose income was about \$2,300 a year spent roughly \$148 on medical care. Dr. Heyden charged \$2 for an office visit. There was no time clock. He used the gentle art of conversation to gather information on how our whole family was doing.

My younger brother was born in 1945.

Childbirth cost less than \$100.

I found a 1943 hospital bill online from McKeesport, Pa. The total cost for delivery was \$29.50 — \$488 in 2022 dollars, including \$5 for anesthesia.

Another, from Lutheran Hospital in Brooklyn, totaled \$78. One from Doctor's Hospital in New York City (1950) was for \$165 (\$2,048 in 2022 money).

Many of my doctor visits today are periodic check-ups where nothing much has changed since my last visit. They go like this: blood pressure, pulse, stethoscope on back (deep breaths), scope on front (breathe normally).

"Any complaints, Mr. Gervase?"

"Yes, the price of my favorite wine is up \$3 a bottle."

"I'll see you in three months."

My smartwatch could have provided most of that data, along with blood oxygen levels, an EKG and where to get a better price on the wine.

According to the National Library of Medicine, like it or not, the new normal of physical barriers between healthcare providers and their patients is making many traditional methods of human connection impossible.

One more time

At an annual check-up with a specialist, I donned my useless cloth mask before entering the building. In the reception area, I was confronted with a curved plexiglass wall larger than a Cinemascope movie screen. Move this formidable obstacle to our southern border and our illegal entry problems would be solved. I gave my name, date of birth, and time of my appointment. The masked receptionist said something I couldn't understand. I asked her to repeat her question. She did. I still couldn't understand her, although I had turned my hearing aids up to Defcon 2.

I asked her to write it down. A post-it note she held up to the plexiglass read: "Photo ID." I slipped her my driver's license. She said something unintelligible. I shrugged. She passed three forms through the slot. Another post-it note: "Sign at X." I did and returned the forms. Post-it note No.

Scenic Views

By JERRY GERVASE

3: "You're checked in."

It was slightly better with the doctor. I'm not sure whether his mask blocked viruses from entering his mouth. It sure blocked words from coming out of it. He examined me with a computer, which was linked to a health tracking system called "MyChart," showing him everything medical that had happened to me in a year. He said I had lost 11 pounds. I asked him how much that is in American money. He didn't laugh. Perhaps I should have written it on a post-it note.

Twenty minutes, 1,200 seconds. More time than that really wasn't necessary. My condition hadn't changed in a year. All I needed was a prescription renewed. And it was much better than two virtual appointments for which my insurance was billed in real, not virtual dollars.

Regardless, the system seems to work. If there is a fault in it, it is probably me, as the expectation of Dr. Heyden meets the reality of "noreply@mychart." Still, I miss saying, "Ahhh," and kicking field goals.

After my appointment, I drove to a nearby wine store. No masks. No barriers. No forms. I spent more than 1,200 seconds there. You decide which experience was better for my overall wellbeing? Hint: the wine was on sale.

Contact Jerry at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.

POLICE LOG

From page 4A

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Person misplaced their vehicle and later with assistance it was found at Junipero and Sixth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury accident on Monte Verde Street.

Pacific Grove: A 29-year-old male was arrested for felony assault with a deadly weapon, not a firearm, and booked into Monterey County Jail on \$95,000 bail.

Carmel area: Yankee Point Drive resident reported his firearm lost. It was determined the firearm was submitted for destruction by another police agency.

Carmel area: Report of alleged mental abuse at a residence on Carmel Knolls Drive.

Carmel area: A missing person from a residence on Hatton Road returned home.

Carmel area: A female was reported

missing but was eventually found near her home on Tolando Trail by deputies.

Carmel area: A verbal dispute between son and mother at a residence on Via Madalena was documented.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of an unwanted person at a business on Ocean east of San Carlos. Subject has recently been coming into the business and acting confrontational. Employee felt uncomfortable around the subject and wanted her warned about trespassing at the business. The subject left the area prior to CPD officers contacting her.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Solo vehicle hit-and-run collision on Scenic. Driver fled scene on foot. Driver later contacted. Case forwarded to district attorney's office.

Pacific Grove: Adult Protective Services report regarding seven patients at an adult care facility on David Avenue.

See CALLS page 8RE

Luxurious Views in Pebble Beach Sold

3204 Palmero Way, Pebble Beach
3204PalmeroWay.com | Listed at \$11,995,000

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NANCY SANDERS 831.596.5492

PEBBLE BEACH | OPEN SAT 1-3



42 Spanish Bay Circle

3 BD | 3 BA | 1 HBA | \$3,500,000

42SpanishBayCir.com

TRUSZKOWSKI FREEDMAN & ASSOC. 831.250.3560
DEAN PROVENCE 831.277.8622

CARMEL | OPEN FRI, SAT & SUN 1-4



Casanova 2 SW of 8th

2 BD | 2 BA | \$3,300,000

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JEANNIE FROMM 831.277.3371

MONTEREY



1207 Sylvan Road

4 BD | 3 BA | \$2,850,000

1207SylvanRoad.com

DEAN PROVENCE 831.277.8622

PACIFIC GROVE | OPEN SAT & SUN 11-2



704 Granite Street

4 BD | 3 BA | \$2,349,000

704GraniteSt.com

TEAM ROUSE 831.218.5738

CARMEL VALLEY



297 El Caminito Road

5 BD | 3 BA | \$1,995,000

297ElCaminito.com

STEINY FAMILY PROPERTIES 831.236.7363

CARMEL | OPEN SAT 12-2



110 Del Mesa Carmel

2 BD | 2 BA | \$1,088,000

sothebysrealty.com/id/CLY5RQ

CLAUDIA MCCOTTER 831.293.3391

CARMEL VALLEY



35000 Sky Ranch Road

10 ACRES | \$525,000

sothebysrealty.com/id/KMFMT4

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CARMEL VALLEY



350 Via Los Tulares

2.58 ACRES | \$495,000

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LAURA CIUCCI 831.236.8571

MONTEREY REGION BROKERAGES | CARMEL | CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA | CARMEL VALLEY | PACIFIC GROVE | CAPITOLA

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CALLS

From page 6RE

Pacific Grove: Central Avenue resident reported identity theft. No suspect information.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle towed due to blocking road construction on Sunset. Notices were posted in advance.

Pacific Grove: A wallet was found at a shop at Country Club Gate six months ago and was turned in to the police department Nov. 16.

Pacific Grove: A watch that was found at the cemetery was turned in to the police department.

Pacific Grove: Officers were dispatched after report of assault on Sinex. No prosecution desired.

Pacific Grove: Resident on Monterey Avenue reported being defrauded of money in her bank accounts via computer scam. No suspect information available.

Pebble Beach: Business on Ondulado Road reported a fraud involving a money wire transfer.

Carmel area: San Remo Road resident found mail inside her mailbox that didn't belong to her.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fall on city property at Lincoln and Seventh.

Pacific Grove: Officers were dispatched to an in-progress theft on Ocean View Boulevard. Suspects ran from police upon contact. Investigation is ongoing.

Pacific Grove: Dog bite at Congress and Junipero. Information only.

Pacific Grove: A vehicle repo on Buena Vista was received by the police department.

Carmel Valley: During a traffic stop on Laureles Grade, a 48-year-old male was found to be in possession of drug paraphernalia while he was on post-release community supervision.

Carmel area: A male forced entry into a business on Highway 1 and stole a safe.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Adult male was reported casing a consignment clothing store on San Carlos south of Fifth. He was observed by security trying to take pictures of the store

and valuables. The subject was later contacted during a traffic stop and identified.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Grand theft at Mission and Sixth.

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

Pacific Grove: Lock broken on a parking booth on Eardley.

Big Sur: An adult male on Highway 1 was placed on a W&I 5150 hold [danger to self or others].

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 24-year-old male driver from Salinas was arrested at Highway 1 and Carpenter at 0222 hours for DUI.

Pacific Grove: Officers investigated possible theft by use of access card information at an automated teller machine on Forest Avenue.

Pacific Grove: A fall on public property at Ocean View Boulevard and Grand Avenue occurred. The subject was transported to a local hospital.

See **SHERIFF** next page

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1121 Presidio Blvd, PG	\$1,050,000	313 14th St, PG	\$980,000
515 10th St, PG	\$979,000	519 7th St, PG	\$915,000
698 Dickman Ave, MON	\$913,500	219 Locust St, PG	\$795,000
1232 Vallejo St, SEA	\$839,000	3231 Vista Del Camino MA	\$760,000
1732 Luxton St, Seaside	\$672,000	747 Las Coches Ave, SAL	\$650,000
		Cnr Asilomar & Pico, PG	\$315,000

LOCAL, INDEPENDENT AND DELIVERS BIG RESULTS

SHERIFF

From previous page

Pacific Grove: Victim on 12th Street reported a brandishing of a firearm at a residence. It was determined the suspect cannot lawfully possess the firearm. Investigation is ongoing.

Pacific Grove: Officers were dispatched to a peace disturbance at George Washington Park. Reports of felony battery and damaging/destroying a wireless communication device.

Carmel area: A female was found deceased in her hotel room on Rio Road.

Carmel Valley: Tierra Grande Drive resident is receiving alarming messages from a male after being involved in a minor traffic collision.

Carmel Valley: Credit cards were taken from a vehicle on Rancho San Carlos Road, and transactions were attempted with the cards.

Carmel area: Deputies conducted a welfare check of an elderly female on Carmel Center Place who did not remember

where she lived. Deputies managed to locate where the elderly female lived and returned her to the care home.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Suspicious circumstances involving a male inside of a jewelry store at Ocean and Lincoln. Believed to be related to a previous instance of suspicious circumstances in a jewelry store. Investigated, information

forwarded.

Big Sur: Deputies responded to a possible rape on Highway 1. The 31-year-old female victim was unable to give a statement.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Transient subject came to CPD to register his Penal Code 290 [sex offender registration] status. It was later determined the subject was staying in unincorporated Carmel and was directed to the Monterey County Sheriff's Office for proper registration.



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The Carmel Pine Cone

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Press releases about newsworthy events should go to the following Pine Cone reporters:

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

Chris Counts: Carmel Valley, Big Sur, Arts & Entertainment and scholastic sports
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Kelly Nix: Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Monterey, Seaside, state government, civil courts and water
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