

The Carmel Pine Cone

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Water district takes Cal Am to court to force takeover

By KELLY NIX

HAVING MONTHS ago decided to proceed with its takeover of California American Water, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District this week put the process of eminent domain in motion by filing a lawsuit to force Cal Am to sell.

On Monday, the water district filed the 11-page eminent domain complaint, which follows a 6-0 vote by the agency's board of directors in October to adopt a resolution of necessity authorizing the acquisition of the system operated by Cal Am, a private company.

In 2018, voters passed Measure J, which called for acquisition if it was "feasible," which the district said it is.

Backers of the takeover have long promised that it will make water less expensive and operation of the system more efficient. Cal Am, though, says the effort will fail in court and could cost customers tens of millions of dollars in rate hikes to cover the legal fees.

"MPWMD's purpose for acquiring the subject property interests is to convert Cal Am's privately owned and operated water distribution system into a publicly owned water distribution system, and thereafter to operate that system," according to the lawsuit, which was filed in Monterey County Superior Court.

First, is the takeover effort valid, and second, what is Cal Am worth?

Far apart on price

Cal Am has valued its Monterey system at more than \$1 billion, while a consultant hired by the water district said it's worth \$449 million. The district made an offer in April but Cal Am rejected it.

The lawsuit, signed by water management district attorney Douglas Dennington, asks the court to allow Cal Am's system to be taken over, and that "just compensation" for the company's assets to be determined.

It also asks for litigation expenses and other costs.

Cal Am responded to news of the filing with the

See TAKEOVER page 18A

Hofsas House not historic, board says

Consultant's report riddled with errors

By MARY SCHLEY

IT TOOK the historic resources board just a few minutes Monday night to determine the Hofsas House — which is slated for demolition to make way for a new



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

The pink-hued, Bavarian-themed Hofsas House hotel on San Carlos Street isn't of historic importance, a city board said Monday.

Overhauled AT&T Pro-Am has smaller field, no celebrities, \$20M purse

Big changes in professional golf, and in a cherished local tradition

By MARY SCHLEY

THE AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am as everyone knows it is no more. No more celebrity antics and huge fields. No more charity shootouts and sky boxes. The newly designated PGA Tour Signature Event — one of eight such limited-field, elite tournaments on the tour's extensive schedule — will instead feature 80 top pros and 80 amateurs, an astounding \$20 million purse, competition on two courses instead of three, and no cut before the final round.

"Most everything changed, other than the location and the time," Steve John, CEO of the Monterey Peninsula

Foundation, said Wednesday. "It is a big change for us to move away from 156 pros paired with 156 amateurs for almost 80 years."

The new PGA Tour Signature Events, last year referred to as "distinguished events," boast higher purses and more FedEx Cup points than the other events on the calendar and were created to compete with Saudi Arabia's LIV tour, which has attracted many former PGA Tour pros with high winnings. (The PGA Tour and LIV have been in negotiations to merge, but those talks are set to expire at the end of the year.)

"The tour obviously reacted to LIV by raising purses," John said. "LIV caused the tour to change their model. They want to reward the best players in the world, and

See AT&T page 20A



They won't be seen much around the Monterey Peninsula during the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am anymore, but fan favorites in recent years have included (from left) Josh Duhamel, Ray Romano, Kevin Costner and, of course, Bill Murray.

CHOMP CANCELS \$40 MILLION IN PATIENT BILLS

By KELLY NIX

IF YOU received medical care from Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula during the Covid-19 pandemic and haven't paid off your bill, you'll probably be very pleased with the hospital's Christmas gift.

Community Hospital announced late last week that it has forgiven 100 percent of all outstanding patient-responsible medical care debt incurred during 2020, 2021 and 2022 — the first three years of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The amount the hospital has forgiven amounts to more than \$40 million and affects about 29,000 patients.

The good news

"We understand that medical debt has placed a significant burden on households locally and all across America, and that the Covid-19 pandemic has had devastating impacts on individuals, families and businesses in Monterey County," said Dr. Steven Packer, president and CEO of Montage Health, the hospital's parent company.

On Dec. 15, Community Hospital sent letters to the 29,000 patients notifying them of the good news, spokeswoman Erika Yanez explained.

"The memo is just starting to hit mailboxes and we've already received a number of phone calls from patients expressing their gratitude," Yanez told The Pine Cone Monday.

The debt forgiveness covers out-of-pocket costs for all types of medical care, not just Covid-related care, and will be especially helpful for patients who aren't covered by insurance.

"We routinely hear from patients regarding difficulty" paying their bills, said Matthew Morgan, vice president and chief financial officer of Montage Health.

David Price, a 65-year-old graphic designer, said he received a devastating lung cancer diagnosis in October 2020 from his pulmonologist.

"I had to go into surgery in December of that year, and that meant a two-week recovery in the hospital," Price, who doesn't smoke, told The Pine Cone. "I went through chemotherapy and radiation, and then I got a brain tumor. The bills kind of racked up."

While Price had good insurance, he initially had about

'We understand that medical debt has had a devastating impact'

Dates from 1960s

The hotel property, which is between Third and Fourth and fronts on San Carlos and Dolores, contains two parcels totaling 36,200 square feet and was converted from houses and apartments to the 38-room, Bavarian-themed, pink-hued hotel between 1957 and 1968. Donna and Fred Hofsas started the hotel together, but they

See HOFASAS page 22A

See BILLS page 24A

Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

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Bono at the beach

Kodi was a beautiful, 100-pound Akita, devoted to his family but not so social with other dogs. Which meant he rarely spent time on Carmel Beach. But his person did, and she often admired a prevalence of Australian shepherds happily running around in the sand.

"Looking at the Aussies, I thought, 'This is a beautiful dog.' I love his personality, and he seems so energetic but also humble and kind," his person said. "Once Kodi turned 12, we knew the blow was coming, and we knew the next dog we got would be one that could run on the beach and be friendly with children and adults, and all breeds of dog."

They got exactly what they wanted in Bono, she said. And then some.

Bono is a blue-eyed mini Australian Shepherd, born at Rocky Top Kennels, a breeder not far from Paso Robles. Now nearly 3 years old, the Aussie, named after the lead singer of the Irish band U2, has lived all his life at the mouth of the Valley. He spends his mornings herding other dogs across Carmel Beach, and his evenings walking the Mission Trail.

Bono's exercise routine is essential for the energetic dog, who often spends his days hanging out with his person at the Ocean Avenue real estate office where



she works. There, he makes friends with two-legged folks and sometimes the four-legged friends they bring along with them.

"We tend to name our animals after musicians we admire," Bono's person said. "We have a cat named Marley, and another named Rio, after a Duran Duran song. Our neighbor's dog is Bowie, and we considered Ringo or Lenny, but we landed on Bono."

The beachgoers who meet Bono invariably say, "Bono, as in ... ?" Yes, but he's definitely the only Bono on the beach.

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There's 'light at the end of the tunnel' for Scenic Road

By CHRIS COUNTS

ACCORDING TO Lorin Letendre, a resident who has long been involved in the effort to prevent Scenic Road from being undermined by the Carmel River or the Pacific Ocean, the environmental impact report for a project that would protect the road is expected to be released sometime in February.

Besides evaluating what's being called the Scenic Road Protection Structure, the EIR will study the impacts of what's called the Eco-system Protective Barrier, which would protect homes located along the north edge of Carmel Lagoon from flooding.

If the two projects sound familiar, it's because they are. In 2016, the county released an EIR for both that took five years to complete. Unfortunately, the document didn't get very far in the approval process.

"The EIR was dead on arrival," recalled Letendre, who lives at Carmel Point and is president of the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy. "It was lambasted by all the different permitting agencies and nonprofits."

sewer line that runs beneath it.

According to Letendre, the new EIR evaluates a plan that involves creating a "soil nail wall" — consisting of steel rods penetrating the bluff along with a protective coating — that would run 800 to 1,000 feet along the outside edge of the road near



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Scenic Road needed extensive repairs after it was damaged by heavy surf earlier this year.

EIR nearly done

Now, seven years later, a new EIR is nearly ready for review, which is good news for residents who have sounded the alarm since the 1990s over the risks the road faces from either floodwaters or high tides and large waves — or all of the above.

The road was threatened in 2010 and 2012 when the river migrated dangerously close to it, and earlier this year, heavy surf and wave action undermined the sandy bluffs that support the road and damaged a

Carmel Point. Letendre noted that the previous EIR evaluated a wall made of rip-rap, which was widely opposed. The soil wall would be similar to what was done to protect the section of Scenic Road that collapsed in early 2023.

See SCENIC page 31A

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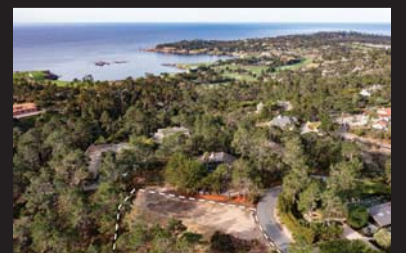
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Police & Sheriff's Log

Spouses' quarrel wasn't pleasant

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, DECEMBER 4

Pacific Grove: Vehicles on Crocker and on Sinex marked for 72-hour parking.

Pacific Grove: A 41-year-old male was arrested on Eardley for a probation violation, obstruction and public intoxication. He had an outstanding warrant and was booked into Monterey County Jail on \$11,000 bail.

Pacific Grove: Truck and attached fifth-wheel on Sunset were marked for 72-hour parking.

Pacific Grove: Report of burglary on Asilomar.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Car key found at Ocean and Mission and shipped back to its rightful owner.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of two loose dogs in the city and county area on Dolores. Dog owner was following dogs in an attempt

to capture them.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report taken for a lost wallet.

Pacific Grove: A theft of a bicycle occurred on Lighthouse.

Pacific Grove: Abandoned vehicles on Forest Hill Boulevard and at Briggs and Jewell.

Carmel area: Fraud documented on Via Nona Marie.

Pebble Beach: An attempted murder was reported on 17 Mile Drive. No merit to the call.

Pebble Beach: Adult Protective Services report of psychological abuse on Bristol Lane.

Carmel area: APS report of financial abuse on Highway 1.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle towed for blocking a driveway at San Carlos and Sixth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Towed vehicle from Lincoln and Ocean.

See **POLICE LOG** page 14RE
in the Real Estate Section

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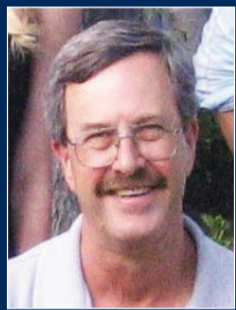
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Kitties of the Week

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The gavel falls

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

Nov. 14 — Jaime Tirso Ayala Jr., 47 and a resident of Salinas, was convicted by a jury of the crime of annoying or molesting a child under 18 years while having a prior sex crime conviction. Judge Stephanie Hulsey presided over this trial. The defendant was also convicted of having two prior strike convictions. Additionally, Hulsey found the following factors in aggravation to be true: he abused a position of trust, he suffered prior prison terms, and he was on parole at the time the offense was committed.

After his release on parole, the defendant began living in a room at the Family Christian Center church in the city of Salinas. It was through this church that the defendant met Jane Doe, age 14, who was a member of the congregation. He began complimenting her appearance and asking for her phone number. Then he began following her around the church and touching her without her consent. When Doe began to dread going to church and dealing with the defendant's unwanted behavior, she disclosed his conduct to her friends, who then told their parents.

The defendant is a registered sex offender for a 1995 conviction for lewd act on a child

under 14, which is also a "strike" under California's three strikes law. Because of this prior conviction, as well as another prior strike conviction, the defendant faces a potential sentence of 25 years to life in prison.

This case was investigated by Salinas Police Department Officers David Pritt and Jared Dominici along with district attorney investigator Pablo Andrade. Doe and her family were supported by district attorney victim advocate Ana Galvez.

Nov. 17 — A Monterey County jury has found Josias Alexis Angel Abarca, age 26, of Oxnard, guilty of murder in the first degree for the killing of Nelson Sanchez in Salinas on July 19, 2021. The jury also found true the special circumstance of lying in wait, and a gun use enhancement. Judge Pamela Butler will sentence the defendant on Dec. 15. The defendant faces a sentence of life without the possibility of parole.

The victim in this case left his home to go to work early in the morning. The defendant, who had been waiting outside the victim's home with a gun, charged from out of the

See **GAVEL** page 31A

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Dear friends,

So many individuals, families, and businesses in our community continue to struggle with economic challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, we recognize the burden that medical debt has placed on households all across America, including in our own community. As such, we are pleased to announce that Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula is working to ease this burden by **forgiving 100 percent of all outstanding patient-responsible medical debt for care received during the first three years of the COVID-19 pandemic — 2020, 2021, and 2022.**

This **forgiveness impacts 29,000 patient accounts** and will provide relief to patients and their families from all across Monterey County. The greatest number of patients impacted by pandemic-related medical debt are vital members of our local workforce — hospitality, agriculture, retail workers, teachers, and small business owners — along with many retired individuals living on a fixed income. For many families across our country, and in our community, encountering \$1,000 in unanticipated medical bills poses a genuine financial hardship. That is why everyone on the Community Hospital team is truly grateful to be able to provide this impactful, one-time relief for the timeframe noted above.

Since 1934, Community Hospital has had the privilege of caring for Monterey County residents from birth and beyond. This unprecedented debt forgiveness is just another way in which the caregivers here at Community Hospital are committed to supporting the health and well-being of you — our friends, family, neighbors, and community. Community Hospital, along with the other members of the Montage Health family — MoGo Urgent Care, Montage Medical Group, and Aspire Health — are honored to be your trusted healthcare partners.

We sincerely hope this debt relief provides our neighbors with peace of mind and brings an extra helping of joy to you and your families this holiday season. It is our gift, from the Community Hospital family, to yours.

We wish you a very happy holiday, and health and success in the year ahead. Community members are welcome to contact our Patient Business Services department at (831) 625-4922 or patientbillinginquiry@chomp.org with any questions.

Yours in good health,

Steven Packer, MD
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No charges — or information — in ‘attempted murder’ case

By KELLY NIX

TWO SEASIDE women who were arrested in connection with what Pacific Grove Police said was an attempted murder at a city park in late November won't be charged with any crimes, a Monterey County prosecutor told The Pine Cone this week.

At about 11:20 p.m. on Nov. 30, police went to the Lovers Point Park area to respond to a report of “several masked individuals and one person with a gun.” While the apparent victim was gone from the scene, officers were able to get information about the suspects' vehicles and the direction in which they left the area. That led to the Dec. 3 arrest of Ashley Aragon, 18, and Jennifer Javier-Ramirez, 20, in “connection” with the crime.

Both women were charged with felony conspiracy to commit a crime, but not the more serious crime of attempted homicide. However, Monterey County Chief Assistant District Attorney Berkley Brannon said Aragon and Javier-Ramirez won't face charges.

“We reviewed the filing submissions on both individuals and did not file a case because of lack of proof beyond a reasonable doubt,” Brannon explained.

Even more secretive

Pacific Grove Police have not publicly addressed the decision by prosecutors not to charge the two women. But the police department has not said it's looking for anybody else in the case.

The PGPD, which has been even more secretive than usual, has also refused to tell the public what happened during the incident, why they believe it amounted to attempted murder and how the women were involved.

Asked for more information about the case Wednesday, Cmdr. Brian Anderson said his department is still looking into the case and that it would not provide any other information.

“We believe Aragon and Javier-Ramirez were co-conspirators in the alleged crime,” Anderson said, without providing more than the most basic information about what the crime involved.

Big Sur deputy loses housing

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE SEVERE housing crunch in Big Sur has taken a toll on many of its long-time residents, including Monterey County Sheriff's Office deputy Jesse Villaseñor, who had to leave his position as the community's resident deputy because he couldn't find a place to live down the coast. He had been living in housing owned by California State Parks.

The sheriff's office this week told The Pine Cone that Villaseñor is now working out of the sheriff's King City office.

“We lost our housing for Jesse,” undersheriff Keith Boyd reported. “We were getting leased housing from California State Parks.”

But State Parks needed to take back the housing to accommodate its growing staff. “They served us notice that we had to vacate the property we were renting,” Boyd said.

For now, the sheriff's office won't have a resident deputy living along the county's southern coastline.

See **DEPUTY** page 21A

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RHODE ISLAND COUNCILWOMAN SUES OVER POINT LOBOS INJURIES

By KELLY NIX

A RHODE Island politician who said she was critically injured earlier this year after being struck and dragged underneath an electric vehicle driven by a Point Lobos employee has filed a lawsuit against the driver, the park and the state agency that owns it.



PHOTO/PROVIDENCE CITY COUNCIL

Helen Anthony has filed a lawsuit against Point Lobos for an accident that occurred last summer.

In a Dec. 14 lawsuit filed in Monterey County Superior Court, Helen Dooley Anthony, 63, who serves on the Providence City Council, said she paid the entry fee to get into Point Lobos at about 8:15 a.m. Less than an hour later, though, she said an electric car driven by Point Lobos worker Jack Duncan Arnold, then 82 years old, hit her while she was in a crosswalk "on the entry road" into the reserve.

In an October article in The Providence Journal about Anthony returning to work, the newspaper quotes her describing the catastrophic damage from the accident, which she said occurred June 10.

22 ribs broken

"I sustained numerous injuries, including breaking 22 ribs and fracturing a vertebra in my spine, bones in my face, and my jaw in several places," according to the paper, which indicated she was treated at Natividad Medical Center in Salinas. "I was in intensive care for 18 days and remained in California for weeks to undergo surgery and rehabilitation."

The civil complaint depicts a terrifying account of the mishap and claims there is proof that Arnold, not Anthony, was at fault.

"Based on review of the video recording of the incident" captured by Point Lobos surveillance cameras, "it is not only clear that Mrs. Anthony had the right of way, but

See ACCIDENT page 28A

Group partners with state parks to offer camping for disadvantaged kids

By CHRIS COUNTS

SEEKING A place for kids from low-income communities and their families to camp in Big Sur, the Ventana Wildlife Society is working with California State Parks to create a separate campground for them at Andrew Molera State Park.

The site would be leased by the wildlife society, which is best known for reintro-

duced in 2025, and welcome its first campers the same year.

It would be located where Molera Trail Rides once based its operations just south of the entrance to the park. The grassy site is relatively level and is surrounded by oaks and sycamores. The park's existing campground is located about a half-mile away.

The new campground's infrastructure would include a covered dining area, kitchen, amphitheater, accessible parking, tent sites, fire rings, chemical toilets, benches, lockers, fire rings, parking and an ADA-compliant pathway.

More \$\$ needed

To pay for the its permitting requirements, environmental studies, architectural design and public outreach, the project received a \$300,000 taxpayers grant from the California State Coastal Conservancy. An additional

\$30,000 was raised by Coastal Roots Hospitality through a fundraising dinner last year. More will need to be raised to complete the project.

Ventana Wildlife Society executive director Kelly Sorenson told The Pine

See CAMPING page 31A



PHOTO/VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY

The Ventana Wildlife Society and others are working to create a campground for underserved children at Andrew Molera State Park.

ducing the California Condor to Big Sur.

The new campground would be called "S'More," which, besides being the name of a campfire treat, stands for "Space for Meaningful Outdoor Recreation and Education."

If all goes according to plan, the construction of the campground would be

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Chamber head leaves after less than year

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER JUST seven months on the job, Lance Wills is leaving the Carmel Chamber of Commerce, forcing the nonprofit to seek another leader. Wills announced this week he's moving to Sydney, Australia, to become chief technology officer of a large e-commerce company.

"I will be working on the next stage of their growth, re-platforming their technology infrastructure and growing their direct-to-consumer business," he told The Pine Cone Wednesday. "Being in Sydney puts us in a position to spend more time with my family in New Zealand."

But Wills said he and his family "still consider Carmel home" and plan to return frequently.

"So expect to see us around town from time to time," he said.

Following the tenure of longtime CEO Monta Potter and then Jenny MacMurdo — who left her post as executive director in spring 2022 to run the Pacific Grove Chamber — the business organization had a few temporary leaders and for a while had none at all, with board chair Sygale Lomas taking charge.

Taking new job

Last February, the board of directors appointed Wills, a business executive with more than 30 years of experience in the United States and globally, as its interim head, and at the May city council meeting, Lomas announced he would stay.

The new job in Australia taps into Wills' previous work. He was chief digital information officer for West Marine, where he led their digital transformation and navigated the business through the disruptions

of Covid, and prior to that, he served in "transformational executive leadership roles" for Macy's, American Eagle Outfitters and Toys-R-Us. He also spent 10 years with Thomson Reuters in London and in the San Francisco Bay area to improve the distribution of information to customers.

When he was announced as the interim chamber head in February, officials described him as having "a strong focus and understanding of the relationship between businesses and their customers," and said his "leadership, experience and energy will be an asset to the chamber."

But this week, Wills said it was "with a heavy heart" that he was announcing his decision to leave the chamber for Sydney.

He also said he is leaving the business organization "in good hands" with Kimberlie Guerrieri and Rose Welch running the office, and Lomas again working hard for the chamber.

"I also want to thank the 2024 board chair Clarissa Rowe for stepping into these big heels and leading the board into the next year," Wills said, before thanking the outgoing members of the board for their effort and incoming members for their prowess.

"The search for your new executive director is already underway," he said in his announcement. "If you are aware of someone that you believe should be considered, please email their resume to sygale@davidlyng.com."

Meanwhile, he told The Pine Cone, "The chamber remains in good hands and ready for growth in 2024, backed by an amazing board of directors with diverse local business backgrounds."



Lance Wills

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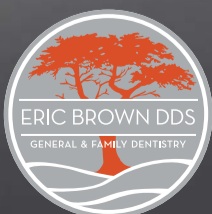
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Former CSUMB worker alleges gender bias by a vice president

By KELLY NIX

A FORMER administrator at Cal State Monterey Bay has filed a lawsuit against the state university system alleging a male superior subjected her to harassment and discrimination because of her gender and that she was fired for complaining about it.

Leslie Williams — who was hired by CSUMB as the associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students in April 2018 before being fired in May for “insubordination” — claims in a Dec. 18 civil complaint that during the first four years of her employment she received “excellent evaluations” and no disciplinary action.

But the work dynamic changed in spring 2021 when CSUMB hired John Fraire as the new interim vice

president for student affairs. Fraire, who became her boss, repeatedly demonstrated contempt for women, she alleges.

“For example, John Fraire would reject suggestions made by women, cut female speakers short during meetings and disregard any opinions of female employees,” according to Williams. “In marked contrast, during meetings men were given longer periods to speak, were not interrupted, and had their ideas adopted.”

Williams also said that Fraire — who is not named as a defendant in her lawsuit — told her that she “did not understand diversity, and that she had never been discriminated against, despite her status as an openly gay woman.” Fraire, a Hispanic man, also suggested numerous times that Williams, a White woman, needed “diversity training.”

By 2022, Williams said the “discrimination and

harassment” grew more severe, and that Fraire demeaned her and undermined her relationship with other faculty and staff members and excluded her from meetings related to programs she was overseeing, “rendering it difficult for her to perform her duties.”

The treatment was so distressing that Williams said she “began to develop psychiatric symptoms.”

When she complained to CSUMB’s human resources department three times in 2022 that she was being harassed and discriminated against based on her gender, she said she received little help. In February of this year, Williams filed a claim and was told to leave work.

In May, a week after filing a federal gender

See GENDER page 14A

PGPD chief works from home after work injury

By KELLY NIX

PACIFIC GROVE’S police chief is still working from home months after she was injured on the job, she confirmed this week.

During an Oct. 24 email exchange, PGPD Chief Cathy Madalone told a Pine Cone reporter about her work status, saying she suffered a “work-related injury” but that she was working remotely temporarily.

Earlier this month, Madalone again said she was working from home. And this week, in response to questions about the date she began working remotely, the nature of her injury and when she expected to return to work, she said the answers would reveal “confidential medical and personnel information.”

She did, however, offer a general update on her employment arrangement.

“The city has provided an accommodation to allow me to work remotely based on physician recommendations and city policy, as an alternative to a full leave of absence,” she explained. “I have been available to my team, city staff and community members throughout my recovery and am working with my doctors to progress in my goal of getting back to work at the department.”

Reassurance

The police chief also said that while she would not usually respond to the types of personal questions The Pine Cone posed, she opted to “share some limited personal details to reassure the public that our police services and my dedication to the department and community have not and will not change during my recovery.”

The 54-year-old Madalone, who lives in Monterey, was hired in April 2019 after being the police chief of the Bergenfield Police Department in New Jersey.

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Campground, cabin improvements raise concerns that the place will be too nice

By CHRIS COUNTS

TWO YEARS after Big Sur Campgrounds and Cabins was sold for \$28 million to EOS Investors, its new owner wants to make a lot of improvements. But some residents contend the project is moving forward with little public scrutiny — just this week, the initial 30-day public comment period for the project’s environmental study expired.

“We have been kept in the dark,” said Carol Shadwell, who lives nearby and owns Ripplewood Resort. “How is the Big Sur community to respond to major changes in the area if the government has not broadly disseminated information about it?”

Shadwell wants to see the initial public review period extended “by at least two months.” She also wants to the county to

gatehouse, an 800-square-foot retail store, a 3,000-square-foot general store, a 2,500-square-foot education and history center, a 3,000-square-foot lodge and a 705-square-foot guest services building.

Situated on 11.62 acres, the campground currently offers 82 campsites, 4 mobile homes, 17 “park model” homes and 3 ‘A’ frame cabins.

Locals speak out

But some residents are concerned that at least a portion of the campsites will be converted to glamping units, like yurts, tiny homes or vintage travel trailers.

The concern over glamping units stems from the ongoing debate over updating the Big Sur Land Use Plan. In it, the county has suggested that 187 visitor-serving units can still be created in Big Sur, while some locals contend the cap on such units has already been exceeded — in part because the county isn’t counting glamping units as visitor-serving units, but as campsites, which don’t have a cap. The locals insist that glamping units should be treated like hotel rooms because they feature luxury accommodations and often rent for just as much money.

Residents have also raised concerns about how the upgrades at the campground could lead to an increase in special events, which are also a hot topic down the coast, in part due to the noise they generate from music.

A representative of the campground, Big Sur attorney Mike Linder, insisted it has no plans to turn any of its campsites into glamping units. Linder said the project is needed due to the condition of the site’s aging septic system, which is located on a bank of the Big Sur River.

“The septic system is from the 1950s

and is in bad shape,” he explained. “It’s just a matter of time before we have a real problem.”

To fix the septic system, the entire layout of the campground needs to be reconfigured. “To make room for the leach field, we have to rearrange everything,” Linder explained.

Linder said that once the campground’s owners realized the scope of the septic work, they chose to update everything at the same time. “They decided, ‘We might as well rebuild all the buildings to modern standards,’” he said.

The project also includes rehabilitating riparian vegetation.

It’s too early to say when the work will get started, or be completed, due to uncertainties in the planning process, he added.

Linder said the number of campsites

won’t change once the project is completed. He also insisted that “no private events with live music will be done without a special events permit.”

Opened in 1953

Big Sur Campground and Cabins was opened in 1953 by Don McQueen and the late Walter Trotter. McQueen bought out Trotter’s interest sometime in the 1970s. It was sold two years ago for \$28 million. The seller was identified as Big Sur Campgrounds Inc., and its chief executive officer was listed as Jonathan McQueen.

Based in New York City, EOS Investors describes itself as “a next-generation real estate investment platform based on a belief that kind and curious people with deep sector expertise will generate enduring outperformance.”



PHOTO/BIG SUR CAMPGROUND AND CABINS

A major makeover at Big Sur Campgrounds and Cabins was triggered by a need to upgrade its aging septic system.

postpone a Jan. 10 planning commission hearing on the upgrades.

Located at 47000 Highway 1 just a short distance south of Big Sur River Inn, the project includes replacing a septic system, relocating campsites, demolishing about 12,840 square-feet of existing common spaces, and constructing a 200-square-foot

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OPPONENTS OF LIGHTS AT MONTEREY STADIUM GET BIG COURT SETBACK

By KELLY NIX

A SHOWDOWN over a proposal to install stadium lights and make other sports-related improvements at Monterey High School resulted in a partial victory for the school district when a judge removed it as a defendant in a lawsuit filed by a group to halt the project. But the legal battle isn't over just yet.

The Monterey Peninsula Unified School District has proposed making numerous improvements to the Dan Albert Stadium and other athletic facilities, including the installation of four new lights, renovations to make the stadium compliant with disability access laws, new visitor bleachers, a 1,920-square-foot strength and conditioning center, a new public address system, and the conversion of a dirt lot used for overflow parking into a softball field.

"The project would construct necessary improvements to the Dan Albert Stadium at Monterey High School and additional athletic facilities on campus," according to the school district.

Improper approval?

But in June 2022, a group called Taxpayers for MPUSD Accountability, represented by attorney Molly Erickson, filed a lawsuit alleging that the school district and superintendent PK Diffenbaugh altered public records related to the proposal, and that the school district and state architect improperly approved the stadium project.

On Dec. 7, however, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Thomas W. Wills ruled in favor of the school district and Diffenbaugh.

"The court's ruling in this matter results in the complete removal of MPUSD and Superintendent Diffenbaugh as defendants from further litigation," the district

See **LIGHTS** page 25A

Lifelong friends take helm at River Inn

BY CHRIS COUNTS

THE OWNER of Big Sur River Inn since 1988, Alan Perlmutter is handing off the reigns of the business to his son, Ben Perlmutter. And that's not all — longtime general manager Rick Aldinger is retiring at the end of the month, and he'll be replaced with one of Ben's oldest friends and a fellow Carmel High School graduate, Colin Twohig.

The younger Perlmutter, 33, told The Pine Cone that the inn and restaurant have been a big part of his life for as far back as he can remember.

"I helped to seat people in the restaurant when I was five," he recalled. "I served tables during the summer after my sophomore year in college. I had a lot of fun growing up there."

As the youngest of five children, Perlmutter never expected that the responsibility of running the inn would fall to him. Plus, he had other plans — after graduating from Carmel High in 2008, he attended Cornell University, from which he graduated in 2012 with a degree in computer science.

"I wanted to pursue something that I wanted to pursue," he said. "I wanted to have my own thing."

Taking a different path

After college, Perlmutter went to work selling software for MongoDB Inc. He excelled at the position, becoming the company's top salesperson, and managing a team of employees, while learning valuable lessons in business.

When Perlmutter was 25, his dad approached him about taking over the family business, but he wasn't ready

See **INN** page 25A

GENDER

From page 12A

discrimination complaint against Fraire, Williams was fired for insubordination. Two months after that, she made a formal complaint to the Cal State University Office of the Chancellor but claims it hasn't investigated.

Williams also alleges retaliation for engaging in "protected activity" and wrongful termination. She's seeking an unspecified amount in monetary damages exceeding \$25,000. Cal State Monterey Bay is also not a defendant.

CSUMB credits Fraire, who describes himself as a "Chicano, educator, playwright, historian and political activist," as "helping several major public universities increase and diversify their enrollments."

CSUMB spokesman Mark Muckenfuss said the school "is committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all employees and students, and takes all complaints of harassment and discrimination seriously.



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Mayor extends time to apply for seats on city panels, DEI board

By KELLY NIX

THE MAYOR of Pacific Grove said the city is extending the deadline for residents to apply for seats on its boards, commissions and committees.

In the first week of December, Pacific Grove announced it was seeking people to serve on the planning commission, the diversity, equity and inclusion group, an administrative hearing panel and other boards and commissions. Terms for many current members end Jan. 31, 2024.

While the deadline to apply had been set for Dec. 21, it has been extended one week, Mayor Bill Peake told The Pine Cone Monday.

“We have received a relatively small number of applications at this point in time,” Peake said. “With a looming deadline, it has been decided to extend the deadline to Dec. 28.”

‘Open invitation’

Applications for the positions are on the city’s website and Peake said he will review them before announcing his appointments at the Jan. 17 city council meeting.

“The city is sending out an open invitation to community members to become a part of the Pacific Grove team,” the city said in the original press announcement.

In addition to the traffic commission, diversity, equity and inclusion task force and administrative hearing panel, the planning commission and library board each

have one opening and the historic resources committee has four positions available.

Regarding the DEI task force, one position has been unfilled for months while two other spots will become open when terms for chair Kim Bui and vice chair Nadja Mark expire in January.

The task force has had an especially difficult time retaining members. In January, two new people were appointed to serve until 2025, but they were both gone by August.

That same month, the city council approved the appointment of Coral Barrett for a seat, but Barrett ended up quitting shortly after being appointed.

Attendance among members has been spotty. The task force, which meets just once a month, was forced to cancel its November meeting for lack of a quorum. On Dec. 9 — a day after Mark requested to participate in the Dec. 11 meeting remotely because she said she was acting in a play in San Francisco — the group canceled that meeting for the same reason. The next one is scheduled for Jan. 8, 2024.

The “open” seats Peake announced for the city’s boards and commissions include both vacancies and terms set to expire. Members who want to continue serving must reapply before their terms end. Terms vary from two years to four years.

Questions about serving on the various city panels may be sent to cityclerk@cityofpacificgrove.org or bpeake@cityofpacificgrove.org.

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If you would like to learn more about the MGA Scholarship Fund, recipients, scholarship opportunities or how to contribute, please contact Nic Canning: nic@canningproperties.com | 831.241.4458



TAKEOVER

From page 1A

company's director of external affairs Evan Jacobs warning that the move would not save water customers any money, and instead would cost them.
 "We will defend against the district's actions because it is not in the best interest of our customers," Jacobs said.

"We believe the district does not have the legal authority nor the expertise to reliably run such a complex water system, and this effort will cost residents millions of dollars."
 The water district's lawsuit outlines some of the findings that needed to be met in order to proceed with the acquisition, including that it is "compatible with the greatest public good and least private injury" and that the water district's use of the system is a "more necessary public use than the retention" of the property by Cal Am.
 "The board of directors made 83 separate specific

findings, supported by evidence," to justify "adopting the resolution of necessity," the suit says.
 If the district prevails in the first phase of the lawsuit and the court finds that it has a right to acquire Cal Am's system, a second trial and phase would focus on the value of Cal Am's system.
 The civil complaint says that "studies have found that under Cal Am's operation, the Monterey Peninsula's water

Continues next page



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 INDEPENDENT & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
DECEMBER 24
 Regular 11 a.m. Sunday service canceled
 Our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service begins 7 p.m.
 LOVE, PEACE & HOPE
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 Music by Emmy Award-winning Jon Close
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 (831) 624-8595/ccmp.org

You're Invited

CHRISTMAS EVE
 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.
 Karen Neal, Mezzo Soprano
 Brian Neal, Trumpet
 Cathryn Wilkinson, Organ and Piano
CHRISTMAS DAY
 Christmas Communion
 9:45 a.m.
 Lisa Parente, Soprano
 Cathryn Wilkinson, Organ and Piano
 3152 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach
 831-624-1374 • churchintheforest.org

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 JOIN US FOR A CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICE
 Dec. 24, 2023
 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday
 1 Skyline Forest Drive
 9 a.m., noon, 1p.m. (Tongan)
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 Seaside, CA
 THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
 MONTEREY STAKE
 LightTheWorld.org

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Christmas Eve
 December 24
 11am Worship with Children's Musical
 7pm Worship with Chancel Choir
 10pm Contemplative Worship Service
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 DEC. 25 • 10 AM, CHRISTMAS DAY MORNING PRAYER SERVICE

St. Angela Merici Catholic Church
Sunday, December 24
 The Fourth Sunday of Advent
 5 p.m. Mass (Saturday)
 9 a.m. Sunday only
Christmas Eve Masses
 4 p.m. — Mass with Children's Nativity
 8 p.m. — Mass at Night
Monday, December 25
 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.:
 Mass on Christmas Day
Sunday, December 31
 Feast of the Holy Family
 Masses at 5 p.m. (Saturday)
 8 a.m., 10 a.m. & Noon (Sunday)
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve
AT SHORELINE
 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, and 1:00 PM
 Worship Center • Courtyard • Online
 Children's Programming Nursery-5th grade All Services
 Spanish Translation at the 11:00 AM Service
 SHORELINE CHURCH
 2500 Garden Road, Monterey | www.shoreline.church

From previous page

service has become the most expensive water service in the entire United States.” The group that got Measure J to pass hammered home the idea of “affordable water” to voters, suggesting that their monthly bills would be less expensive under government operation of the Monterey water system.

But the water district has shied away from saying that government operation and ownership would amount to significant lower monthly water bills. And water district general manager Dave Stoldt told The Pine Cone earlier this year that water rates under his agency’s operation “should” decrease “for a bit, or at least hold flat, and then not grow as quickly as when under Cal Am.”

Because Cal Am has repeatedly declined to sell its system to the water district, it also would not help the agency in identifying its assets, facilities, easements and other property interests Cal Am owns and operates within the

district’s boundaries to prepare for the eminent domain lawsuit.

“Cal Am refused to cooperate, requiring MPWMD to identify such interests through a comprehensive title search, public records, filings by Cal Am with the California Public Utilities Commission and physical observations,” the complaint says.

‘Not qualified’

Cal Am has said that if the water district loses its eminent domain battle in court, that its customers would be the biggest losers since they would have to absorb legal fees and other costs. It points to eminent domain effort failures in Claremont and Apple Valley as cautionary tales. The water companies in both cities were represented by the same firm Cal Am hired to represent the company against the water district.

In the past five years, Cal Am said the district has spent more than \$3 million in legal and consulting fees in pursuit of eminent domain. Cal Am also touts its experience in

operating the water system and said the water district has no experience operating a water system.

“We believe the district is not qualified nor legally allowed to run Cal Am’s Monterey Peninsula water system, which is one of the most complex systems in the state, with multiple water sources and a complicated distribution and storage system,” Jacobs explained.

The water district said it would retain some Cal Am employees who are knowledgeable of the system.

The utility has said it would continue to contest the district’s legal authority to seize its system, and it referenced the Monterey County’s Local Area Formation Commission decision in 2021 to reject the district’s effort to become a water service provider.

However, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Thomas Wills in October set aside the LAFCO decision, and the water district contends that it doesn’t need the agency’s approval to be a retail water provider anyway.

The first court date for the water district’s eminent domain lawsuit is set for April 23.



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Christmas WORSHIP 2023



Join St. Dunstan's for the Holidays

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve
 9 a.m. Advent Service
 4 p.m. Family Service
 7 p.m. Choral Eucharist

Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve
 9 a.m. Lessons and Carols

28005 Robinson Canyon Road
 Carmel Valley
 stdcv.org
 (831) 624-6646

2023 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24
 Christmas Eve Mass
 4 p.m & 9 p.m.

Community Christmas Carols
 8:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25
 CHRISTMAS DAY
 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mass

*Please check the Calendar
 on our website
 for more information.*

www.carmelmission.org



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December 24th at 7 p.m.
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Christmas at The Wayfarer



Christmas Eve Traditional
 Sunday, December 24th at 10 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight
 Sunday, December 24th at 7 p.m.

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 The Rev. Karla J. Lundin, Pastor



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DECEMBER 24

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Morning**

Prayer service 9:30 a.m.
 Traditional - 4 p.m.

Christmas Day - 10 a.m.

Communion Service —
 Every Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Meeting at:
Peninsula Baptist Church
 1116 Funston Avenue | Pacific Grove, CA 93950
 831-521-4267 | stanselmsanglican.org

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CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

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SCAN CODE FOR TICKETS



AT&T

From page 1A

they want them to play together.”

So it stands to reason the tournament at world-famous Pebble Beach should be in the lineup, according to John. The Monterey Peninsula Foundation organizes the pro-am, next set for Jan. 31-Feb. 4, 2024, and distributes the funds it raises — \$18 million during the last one — to charities and schools in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties.

“The tournament deserves to be a Signature Event, and as the most charitable organization on the PGA Tour, we feel we deserve to be Signature Event,” John said.

The PGA Tour instigated the change, according to John, and as the title sponsor, AT&T had to agree. The telephone, wireless and internet company is also bearing the cost of huge jump in prize money — from \$9 million this year to \$20 million in 2024, including \$3.6 million for the winner.

“That’s a testament to their commitment to our tournament and to golf,” he said. “It’s a really strong statement of how committed AT&T really is.”



PHOTO/JULIAN P. GRAHAM, PEBBLE BEACH CO. LAGORIO ARCHIVE

Talk about celebrities! In 1951 at the Pro-Am, tournament founder Bing Crosby hams it up by taking a picture of Bob Hope.

While organizers in the past had to recruit pros to play in the AT&T, not so anymore, according to John. “FedEx Cup points are as important as dollars, so they and the prize money are a great incentive to play,” he said. “And why wouldn’t you want to play Pebble Beach and Spyglass? It’s very attractive to players.”

The field will include the top 50 players in the PGA Tour’s 2023 FedEx Cup, along with 26 others who have met certain scoring criteria. The Monterey Peninsula Foundation can offer exemptions to four golfers who don’t otherwise qualify. A dozen of the competitors have never played at Pebble Beach before.

“We are getting exemption requests every day. Some who never played in the AT&T are begging to play,” he said. “So it’s fun, but it’s challenging for us, too, to choose who gets the four golden tickets.”

Tom Brady

The 80 amateurs invited to compete all agreed to pay far higher entry fees to help the foundation meet or exceed its fundraising goals, according to John. Tom Brady and a few other professional athletes will be among them, but no movie stars.

“We were able to keep the amateur tradition alive, which is very important to us,” John said. “The players playing in 2024 are true givers to the foundation.”

And he acknowledged the celebrities and others who have enjoyed competing in the AT&T were disappointed to learn they won’t be invited anymore, but they also understood.

The amateurs will compete alongside the pros on Thursday and Friday at Spyglass Hill and the Pebble Beach Golf Links, with a champion crowned Friday night. Saturday and Sunday will feature the

See **PRO-AM** next page

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Aquarium Store**

PRO-AM

From previous page

entire pro field at P.B., “which will be very, very exciting for true golf fans.”

“That has never really happened here before,” he said. “This year’s draw is the pros — that’s what’s driving ticket sales,” which are \$200,000 ahead of last year’s.

Of course, ticketing is entirely different, too. Sold through atpbgolf.com and managed by Ticketmaster, tickets for general admission are \$75 Wednesday and \$100 per day Thursday and Friday, while admission to Clint’s Saloon, a hospitality area on the 15th Hole, is \$375 per day. Tickets for Saturday and Sunday are \$125 each for general admission and \$425 for Clint’s Saloon.

“We’re more fan friendly than ever,” John added, with more grandstands around the 18th Green and along the course, no skyboxes, and fewer exclusive hospitality areas. With larger concessions areas and other offerings, “there’s more for the general-admission ticket holder than ever before.”

John said the changes go a long way toward the shared goal of making the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am the best event on the PGA Tour.

“I think we’ve done a lot of things really

well, but we always want to improve,” he said. “The quality of golf will be at an all-time high for us.”

And, at the end of the day, he’s confident it will continue raising millions of dollars for charity.

“That’s what allows me to sleep at night very comfortably,” he said.

DEPUTY

From page 6A

“Deputies from out of our station in Monterey will be covering Big Sur,” the undersheriff explained.

Meanwhile, “the county is working to identify housing for the resident deputy,” Boyd said. “We are committed to restoring a Big Sur deputy, but it has to be financially feasible. Also, we’re going to have to have a staff member who is willing to take that on.”

Villasenor’s presence in Big Sur was appreciated by many local residents. Not only was he often close by when a crime was committed or help was needed, but he even played in the local softball league.

Just last year, Villasenor was named the sheriff’s office’s enforcement operations Deputy of the Year. He’s been with the agency for 23 years.



Christmas Eve open for Lunch 11:30-4:30

Prix fixe menu Dinner 4:30-9:30

CHRISTMAS EVE PRIX FIXE MENU \$60 (featured items)

Certified Angus Beef Prime Rib

Whipped yukon gold mashed potatoes, creamed spinach, sour cream horseradish, classic au jus

Maple Leaf duck Breast

Roasted parsnip puree, garlic french beans, huckleberry apple cider gastrique

Land and Sea \$15 supplement

Prime grade petit filet mignon, six oz butter poached Australian Lobster tail, two oyster rockefeller, potato fondant, heirloom carrots, drawn tarragon, butter, port wine demi-glace

New Years Eve open for Lunch 11:30-4:30 Dinner 4:30-10

Special Ala carte Dinner Menu 4:30-10

NEW YEAR'S EVE MENU 2024 ALA CARTE MENU (featured items)

Chilean Sea Bass \$45

Glass noodle, shitake mushroom, basil leek, seafood dashi broth

Fire Grilled Certified Angus Beef Ribeye \$48

Horse radish whipped potato, Crispy fried brussel sprout, port wine demi glaze

Australian Rack of Lamb \$39

Yukon Gold & black truffle potato gratin, wiley farms spinach, brandy pepper cornsauce

DINNER RESERVATIONS FOR

CHRISTMAS EVE - NEW YEARS EVE - NEW YEARS DAY
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CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

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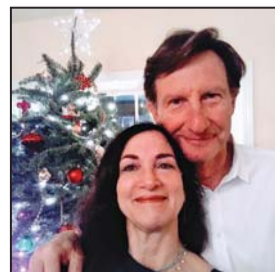
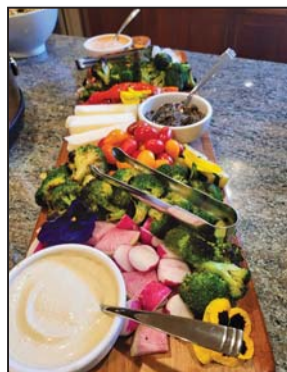
• Chocolate Raspberry-Genoise soaked with Raspberry liquor with chocolate mouse

• Vanilla-Almond Roulade filled with bavarian cream covered with Vanilla Butter Cream

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PUBLIC NOTICE



Notice of Availability of DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT and ANNOUNCEMENT of a VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

(Study Results Available)

Limekiln Creek Bridge Replacement Project

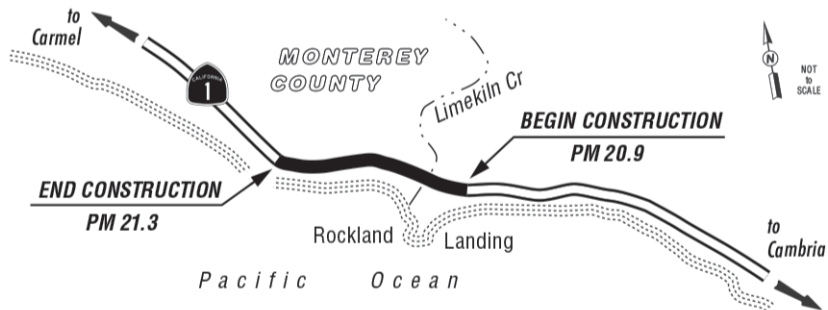
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Comments will be accepted from December 22 to February 5, 2024.

If there are no major comments, Caltrans will proceed with the project’s design.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024
Time: 5:30pm to 7:00pm
Where: The virtual public hearing can be accessed online at: →



WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to replace the Limekiln Creek Bridge in Limekiln State Park, near the community of Lucia, located on State Route 1 in Monterey County. Build alternatives under consideration include two two-span replacement bridges west of the existing bridge.

WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

Caltrans has studied the effects this project may have on the environment. Our studies show the project will significantly affect the quality of the environment. The report that explains why is called an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment. This notice is to inform you of the completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment and of its availability for you to read and comment on. A virtual public hearing will be held to give you an opportunity to talk about certain design features of the project with Caltrans’ staff before the final design is selected.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

The Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment and other project information are available for review and copying at:

- Caltrans District Office, 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401, on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Online at the Caltrans District 5 website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-5/district-5-current-projects/05-1f510>

WHERE YOU COME IN?

Have the potential impacts been addressed? Do you have information that should be included? Your comments will be part of the public record. If you wish to make a comment, you may submit your written comments by U.S. mail or email no later than February 5, 2024, to Caltrans, Attention: Matt Fowler, Department of Transportation, 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401, or by email to matt.c.fowler@dot.ca.gov

CONTACT

For more information about this project or the meeting, please contact Matt Fowler, Senior Environmental Planner, at 805-779-0793 or by email at matt.c.fowler@dot.ca.gov. For all other state highway matters in the area, please contact the District 5 Public Information Office at info-d5@dot.ca.gov or by phone at 805-549-3138.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, individuals who require accommodation (American Sign Language Interpreter, accessible seating, documents in alternative formats, etc.) are requested to contact the Caltrans District 5 Public Information Office at info-d5@dot.ca.gov or by phone at 805-549-3138. Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service line at 1-800-735-2929, Voice Line at 1-800-735-2922, or contact the California Relay Service Teletype Voice Line by dialing 711.

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MC GIVES!

HOFASAS

From page 1A

divorced in 1960, and he reportedly detested the business.

A mid-century-modern home was also built on the property for Donna Hofsas, Theis' grandmother, in 1960 and is occupied by Theis and her husband.

Knowing the hotel's aging buildings don't meet ADA requirements and are too deficient on several other levels to be remodeled, but still wanting to continue in the hotel business for decades to come, Theis asked architect Eric Miller to design a new hotel. Before that project can proceed, she needed the city to acknowledge the hotel's buildings are not historically significant and can be demolished — a decision that might not have come about had Clovis' original report been accepted as accurate.

Lots of mistakes

Theis and her consultants from EMC Planning, along with historians Anthony Kirk, Robert Chattel, Laura Jones and Barbara Lamprecht, and attorney Brian Turlington, pointed out "numerous false and misleading statements" in Clovis' initial evaluation.

Among them were crediting some of the hotel's artwork to acclaimed muralist Maxine Albro that wasn't hers and stating that the buildings' pink color and Bavarian style "all suggest that Frederick's heritage influenced the building's design," when he in fact never mentioned such a heritage and had nothing of Bavarian or German origin in his possessions when he died.

She also claimed its style was "a

continuum of Carmel's famed storybook-style buildings, first introduced by Hugh Comstock," though there is no connection between the two, according to the other historians.

Clovis concluded minimal work has been done on the property since the north wing was completed in 1968, but it has in



RENDERING/HOFASAS HOUSE

The modernized and "much less massive" Hofsas House will be called the Carmel Legacy Hotel, its owner says.

fact "had multiple additions, demolitions and many alterations by multiple contributors," according to Theis, city records and other historians.

Further, she said Seavey studied the hotel in 2001 and "found the property significant for its architecture and for continuing the legacy of Carmel's storybook architecture," but a review of city records and other information revealed "no evidence" of an historic evaluation by Seavey or anyone else, according to the documents provided by Theis and her team.

In a November letter to the city, Seavey said he had reviewed the four other historians' peer reviews and agreed with their conclusions the hotel is not historic. "This is possibly one of the most comprehensive studies I have seen in my 50-plus years of

See **HOTEL** next page

RANGE ROVER

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HOTEL

From previous page

historic preservation work in Monterey County," he wrote.

'Continuance is bogus'

Turlington also provided sworn depositions by Theis and Stephanie Kirz, who was Fred Hofsas' stepdaughter and the executrix of his estate, disputing Clovis' conclusions.

And he said that when asked if any HRB members had commented on her proposal, Theis "stated that not only did Karyl Hall speak out against the project at a public community meeting, but that Ms. Hall and Neal Kruse of Carmel Preservation Association met privately with her after that community meeting to express their displeasure with the proposed redevelopment.

"In that meeting, Ms. Hall informed Ms. Theis that she would use the purported historicity of the hotel to impede Ms. Theis' family's plan to continue the legacy of their hotel for the next 75 years," he wrote.

Hall was absent from Monday's meeting, but Kruse attended. He disliked that the planning commission provided informal feedback to Theis and her team last week before the HRB could weigh in on the historicity of the hotel, and he requested the board delay a decision so others have more time to gather information.

"I had no problem getting through the 228 pages in that packet," countered former city councilwoman Carolyn Hardy. "Asking for a continuance is bogus."

She urged the board to declare the hotel

ineligible for historic designation, as did former HRB member Julie Wendt, who first served more than 20 years ago when a flurry of such listings occurred. "This was all very subjective thinking and pretty frightening," she said of that era.

"Please do not give historic preservation a bad name by reverting back to the embarrassing days of, 'It's cute, so therefore, it's historic,'" she said.

Board member Esther Goodhue said she was torn. "I can understand the viewpoint of the people who want to preserve what is there," she said. "In many ways, you could say it's typically Carmel."

"I agree that it's cute and it's old, but that doesn't fit the criteria for being historic, so I would agree that it's not historic," board member Kathy Pomeroy said.

"I never thought it was significant to begin with," commented member Erik Dyar. "But certainly with all the additions and how they come together, it's a mish-mash of stuff."

Vote was unanimous

The board unanimously voted to find the hotel ineligible for listing.

Members on Monday also unanimously voted to add the Donna Hofsas House, which will be preserved and renovated when the new hotel is built, to the city's historic inventory.

Designed in the "Regional Expressionist" style by architect Cleveland Dayton, the house is known for being the city's only example of a hyperbolic paraboloid roof, commonly referred to as a gull-wing. No one argued that it should not be considered historic, and the house was the subject of very little discussion before the board voted to designate it as such.

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*Quigley DeLay-Magnuson
Jan 23, 2007 - Nov 14, 2023*

When you pass beyond this [furry] form, no doubt you will become an angel and soar through the heavens!

Excerpt: A Garden Beyond Paradise - Rumi



*Bixby DeLay-Magnuson
Jan 23, 2007 - Jun 6, 2023*

Handsome, dapper, adorable: they will always make us smile. From giggling grandmas to 5-year-olds screaming "mommy look!" the boys brought joy to everyone. Luckiest of all are Sandra and Carl who had the great fortune to love them from 9-weeks-old to nearly 17 years. Forever in our hearts, we love our wiggle-butts so much!!

Give them a wave as they work rescuing and saving neglected and sick animals on the SPCA rescue van. To honor their memory, we will TRIPLE MATCH your gift to the SPCA through December 31, 2023, up to \$15,000 in matching funds. Go to: www.spcamc.org and mention Quigley and Bixby in your donation.



BILLS

From page 1A

\$20,000 he was responsible for paying out of pocket. He was on a payment plan with the hospital and owed a remainder of about \$4,000 when he found out the good news.

“To have CHOMP just suddenly erase my debt was such a godsend,” he said. “It was fantastic news.”

Price’s brain tumor was treated with radiation and the cancer in his lungs is in remission.

Clinics, too

Outstanding medical bills have also been erased for patients who used Montage clinics, such as the one in the Crossroads shopping center in Carmel, and Morgan said they’re in the process of doing the same thing for those who used its MoGo Urgent Care facilities.

“That will be completed by year-end,” he explained. “Those were much smaller in terms of both quantities and

dollar amounts.”

However, if you’ve already paid your medical bill for care received during those three years, you won’t be getting a refund check from Community Hospital.

“We are not issuing any refunds for payments received prior to the Dec. 8 letter,” Morgan said. “All payments are for services rendered and we reinvest all income received into the health of people in Monterey County.”

This is the first time the hospital, which started caring for patients in 1934, has offered massive debt forgiveness for its patients.

“We sincerely hope this debt relief provides community members with peace of mind and brings an extra helping of joy to you and your families this holiday season,” Morgan said.



Steven Packer

John William Clayton

December 31, 1946 – November 13, 2023

Family and friends lost a very special person when John Clayton peacefully passed away at home on November 13th. John was passionate about his family, his friends, the outdoors and riding his motorcycle most of all. He was an avid sailor, camper, backpacker, skier and tennis player. In addition, he took great pleasure in riding with his buddies on motorcycle adventures throughout California and the southwest.

John was born in Oakland, California, to William and Mildred Clayton. He grew up to graduate from Miramonte High School in Orinda, California and Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, with a degree in marketing and advertising.

John married the love of his life, Judi Hopkinson, on December 6th, 1969. They met while attending classes at NAU. They were blessed with a daughter, Kristin; son-in-law, Chris; and granddaughter, Scarlett. John and Judi had nearly 54 years together to enjoy family, life, work and fun. During their life together they collected friends from where ever they lived in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Fresno region, and Elk Grove in California before heading out for Highland Village, Texas while John continued his career with the JCPenney Company.

John and Judi achieved their life-long desire to retire in Carmel, California in 1998 where they enjoyed the mild weather, ocean breezes and playing a lot of tennis together. She will miss him very much.

John’s surviving family includes his wife, Judi; daughter, Kristin; her husband, Chris; and granddaughter, Scarlett of Pacific Grove, California; his sister, Ann Murtha of Boulder, Colorado as well as many loved and cherished nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held after the first of the year. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to American Cancer Society Colon Cancer Research by calling 800-227-2345 and selecting option #2. They will help you get your donation directed in John’s name for Colon Cancer Research.

“Death takes the body. Our minds hold the memories. Our hearts keep the love.”



IN LOVING MEMORY OF KELLY LOUISE MAYONE

January 23, 1990 ❖ August 24, 2023

Kelly was born and lived in Monterey, California and is survived by her parents, Stephen Mayone of Carmel Valley and Therese Mayone of Monterey; and sisters, Lucy and Colleen of Monterey and Mary of San Diego.



Kelly compressed a lifetime into her 33 years with us. Kelly blessed all she met with her smile, brightness, laughter, compassion and intuition. Kelly was brilliant in conversation and an avid reader and accomplished writer. Both proud of her three younger sisters and inspired by them, Kelly led them to perform in school plays and later for many seasons with Pacific Repertory Theater in Carmel. Kelly was first off the high dive and first off the rocks at Kipu Falls in Kauai. Fierce with sports, yet gifted with the physical limitations of cerebral palsy, family and friends encouraged Kelly to hiking, bicycling, soccer, tennis and swimming. Kelly’s opponents were fortunate for her limitations.

In childhood, Kelly helped raise her three sisters, despite her physical challenges. By age 10, Kelly began her battle with epilepsy, yet her priorities were her sisters, friends, activities and sports, and later travel and romance. By her own resolve, epilepsy would not rule Kelly’s life.

Those close to Kelly shared her unending battle and experienced her heroic resilience, determination, recovery and gaining wisdom. Superhero Kelly took epilepsy head-on, always recovering to smile and resume her plan to beat it for good. Ending late 2022, Kelly went seizure-free for 13 months, and attributed this to her doctors at UCSF Epilepsy. In that reprieve, Kelly saw that her seizures also affected those around her. It was also during that time that two earthly angels, Drew and Micki, prepared Kelly for her mission beyond here.

In our living, laughing and loving with Kelly, none of us realized how bright her light would shine in her passing. We will cherish our fortunate moments with her uplifting soul. In her youth, Kelly was resilient to injections and always optimistic and cheerful for therapy or surgery at Stanford. Later, Kelly supervised her medications and prescribed her own surgeries at UCSF. Finally, exhausted from the consequence of many seizures, many medications and many surgeries, Kelly let go of this life.

Kelly is indebted to all who assisted her through her events: her parents and sisters, classmates, co-workers at the Sports Center, EMTs and firefighters that all-too-often rushed Kelly to CHOMP, the staffs at CHOMP, Stanford and UCSF, and Doctors Penn, Huntley, Centurion, Black and Rao. Kelly asked for little and only wanted the normal lifestyle her sisters and friends lived, beyond the “ghastly shadow” of epilepsy, yet she accepted the burden and did not seek pity. Kelly’s journey demanded courage and perseverance, and between challenges she strived to fit in as much fun as she could. Kelly lived every minute of her life.

Kelly was a member and contributor to the Epilepsy Foundation. Through heartfelt postings and emails, Kelly touched others in the epilepsy community around the planet. In lieu of flowers, Kelly would want any donations to go to the Epilepsy Foundation.



Eleanor Joanne Avila

Eleanor Joanne Avila died on Friday, Dec. 1, 2023. She was born on October 23, 1931, in Seattle, WA where she attended Roosevelt High School. She then moved to California to attend Stanford University (class of 1952) and eventually worked for the Monterey Peninsula School District as both a teacher and a librarian. Throughout her life in Monterey County, she used her love of music and piano to accompany the Monterey Peninsula Choral Society, the Monterey Symphony Chorus, the Carmel Bach Festival and the Monterey Chapter of the San Jose Symphonic Choir. During the 1980s, Eleanor decided to study organ with Ken Ahrens and this led to playing the organ in services within Carmel, Pacific Grove, Monterey and Salinas, CA.

She and her husband of more than three decades, Richard Avila (dec. 1995), raised their two sons, Dave and Joel, in Carmel Valley. She is survived by her sons, Dave (Kristine) Avila, Joel (Veronica) Avila; and her young adult grandchildren, Paulo, Analía, Alyssa and Cassidy. Her grandchildren were special to her and the families visited her often from their homes in the Bay Area.

Eleanor would like to be remembered as a supporter of beautiful rural Carmel Valley, as a lover of children, books, libraries, music and family. Her family will always remember her as a thoughtful and generous person, an avid walker, hiker, traveler, art enthusiast, and as someone who immensely enjoyed her life in Carmel Valley and who treasured her sons and grandchildren.

A memorial service will begin at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, at St. Philip’s Lutheran Church, 8065 Carmel Valley Road, 93923 with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the St. Dunstan’s Organ Maintenance Fund at 28005 Robinson Canyon Road, Carmel, CA 93923

“The Pine Cone. Not the only great paper. Not the only free paper. But the only great free paper.”

— unsolicited reader comment

INN

From page 14A

for the move at the time.

"I was young and single and living in San Francisco," he explained. "I didn't want to leave that life."

But when he was 30, Perlmutter met his fiancée, Laurel Flagg, who also has deep roots in Monterey County. The couple not

only became engaged — the wedding is set for next month — but they decided to move to Carmel Woods.

Feeling "a sense of satisfaction" with his accomplishments selling software, Perlmutter decided he was ready to take over as managing partner of the inn. Plus, he felt his dad had earned the opportunity to step back from the day-to-day operations of the business he had run since 1988.

"It's time for my dad to stop working at 91," he said. "He's still invested heavily

in the business, and he deserves to retire."

At the inn, Perlmutter will team up again with Twohig, who's been working there for five years. Most recently, he was the inn's operation manager, and apprenticed under Aldinger as general manager.

Met at the pool

Perlmutter and Twohig became lifelong friends after meeting at the inn's pool when they were just five. They attended Carmel Middle School and Carmel High School together and competed on the same swimming and water polo teams. After college, the pair roomed together in Oakland.

Twohig attended UC Santa Barbara, where he studied geography and environmental studies. He later was employed as a green building consultant before moving to Big Sur and working in the hospitality industry.

While becoming managing partner of

the inn represents a big leap in his life, Perlmutter said he's not planning any big changes for the business, but he is hoping to make a variety of small changes — and listen to any ideas his staff have for improving operations.

Perlmutter and Twohig are also taking over at a time when the River Inn is making preparations to celebrate its 90th birthday. In the works are a "plethora of activities," including "local community dinners at old time prices, movie nights on the lawn, a special live jazz series," and much more.

The inn was opened in 1934 by Ellen Brown, who was the granddaughter of Big Sur homesteaders Michael and Barbara Pfeiffer. Brown's famous homemade apple pies gave the business its first name, the Apple Pie Inn.

It became the Big Sur River Inn nine years later.

LIGHTS

From page 14A

said this week.

With regard to a portion of the activist group's lawsuit against the state architect division, though, Wills determined that a "narrow issued existed" as to requirements for an emergency access road, and he gave it 30 days to amend its lawsuit.

Diffenbaugh commented on Wills' decision and the ongoing legal effort to stop the improvements at P.G. High.

"While we are pleased with the court's latest ruling in our favor, MPUSD remains frustrated that this worthwhile project continues to be challenged," he said, "and that public funds must be expended to defeat these repeated — and in this case, meritless — lawsuits."

Wills noted in his decision that the lawsuit is "one of three which have been filed in connection with an effort to block the construction of the Monterey High School stadium improvement project." Erickson

filed the other complaints, which also alleged violations of CEQA, too.

District trustees OK'd the plan in July 2021.

Seventy-foot-tall lights at Monterey High's stadium would allow football games to be played there instead of Monterey Peninsula College's field, which is lighted.

Why the poles are tall

As with a similar project that was just completed at Carmel High School, the plans for Monterey High School call for downward-facing fixtures to illuminate the stadium field during athletic competitions, practices and other events. Fixtures which face downward from a great height do a better job of restricting the light to the field, instead of emitting it to the sky and the surrounding neighborhood.

A second set of lower-output LED lights would be installed to illuminate airborne objects, such as footballs during punts and kickoffs, and soccer balls. Others would be installed to brighten the pathways along the bleachers and other areas.

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HENRY BARDSLEY III

Henry Bardsley III died peacefully on December 10, 2023, at the age of 84. Hank is now with the Lord. His primary goal in life was to *know* the Lord and to make Him known to others.

Hank was born on February 20, 1939, in Abington, PA and lived his childhood years in Pennsylvania outside Philadelphia.

Hank attended his first year of college at Drexel University and then transferred to the University of Michigan where he graduated with an electrical engineering degree.

After college Hank went to work for IBM in Poughkeepsie, NY, designing computers and managing computer design departments. He transferred to IBM in Menlo Park, CA and resided in Saratoga, CA. He retired from IBM after 32 years and worked in other technical companies in the San Jose area.

He met his wife Carolyn at IBM in Poughkeepsie. Hank considered his wife to be the most perfect and wonderful gift that the Lord had ever given to him, and the sunshine that brightened his heart every day.

Carolyn and Hank vacationed in Carmel for many years, and it was their dream to eventually move there. With a miracle from the Lord, Hank and Carolyn moved from their Saratoga home to Carmel, CA in 2000.

In Carmel, Hank published books for Carolyn and himself. These books focused on having a love-based relationship with their heavenly Father and Christ who resided in their hearts.

Those who know Hank rejoice in knowing he is at home with our Lord.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; and three brothers, John, Tom and Richard Bardsley; and a sister, Ann Richardson. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.



Sidolitta Grimmer Mateo-Mast

June 14, 1960 – December 1, 2023

On December 1, 2023, my wife and best friend went home to be with the Lord. She is survived by her husband, Steve Mast; her children, Josh and Victoria Severson; her brother, Rodrigo Mateo; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and our fur baby, Bella. She is predeceased by her parents, Rodrigo Mateo and Gertrude Grimmer.



Sidi was born in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and grew up in a military family, living in Germany and various places around the country before settling down in Marina at the age of 10. She graduated from Seaside High School in 1978 as class president and later married, having two children, which were her pride and joy. She later moved to Boston to pursue her bachelor of science degree at Johnson & Wales University, graduating magna cum laude in 2004. Sidi was a highly respected sales consultant in the hazardous waste industry known for her expertise in chemical waste disposal.

She returned to Monterey in 2015 where she met Steve at a car show in Pacific Grove and they married in 2018. She loved helping others and was always willing to go the extra mile whatever the cause. Kindness was the cornerstone of her life. She was a student of all things spiritual and a certified Reiki Master. As a member of Gold Coast Rods and the Monterey Peninsula Corvette Club, she loved the gatherings and the camaraderie of all the members but especially loved driving down the coast to Big Sur. She maintained close friendships all over the world through Facebook, loved to bake, garden, and add to her shoe collection.

Her four-year battle with cancer was fought with remarkable bravery, courage and dignity. Even during her toughest times, she always had a kind word for her caregivers even though the treatments were sometimes unbearable. I was so very blessed to share my life with such an amazing person and was so immensely proud of her! She never wanted to burden anyone with her illness, so most people were unaware of her lengthy struggle with cancer. There will be a celebration of life for her in February with details to follow on Facebook.

Sidi's favorite charities were the SPCA, Carmel Foundation and Meals on Wheels, requesting anyone wishing to donate on her behalf to consider these organizations. She was my "Sidi Girl," and I can boldly say the world is a better place because of the amazing life she lived and the countless lives she touched with her beautiful soul and kind heart.

Until we meet again my love!

Editorial

There go the neighborhoods

LAST WEEK we looked back at one of the significant cases the City of Carmel has had at the highest levels of the California courts. Parr v. Municipal Court, we noted, was a dispute over a 1968 city ordinance that made it illegal “on any public property, for any person to climb any tree, or walk, stand or sit upon monuments, vases, fountains, railings, fences or planted areas, or to sit on any sidewalks or steps, or to lie or sit on any lawns.”

The ordinance had to be rejected, the California Supreme Court said in 1971, because even though it applied to everyone, it was directed at hippies.

“We cannot be oblivious to the transparent, indeed the avowed, purpose and the inevitable effect of the ordinance in question: to discriminate against an ill-defined social caste whose members are deemed pariahs by the city fathers,” the high court said.

This sort of logic — that a law is invalid if it prohibits behavior mostly done by members of a protected group — was something you didn’t hear much before the 1960s. Before that, if something was bad for society, it could be banned no matter who was involved. Today, on the other hand, almost everything is judged by the skin color, cultural background or other social attribute of the people who do it. So you might say the judges in Parr v. Municipal Court really knew what they were up to.

One of the other Carmel cases that’s made it far up the judicial ladder has had the opposite experience when it comes to the evolution of legal thinking and traditions. Ewing v. City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, decided by an appeals court in 1991, was about preserving single-family neighborhoods — a concept that 30 years ago was considered sacred, but which our legislature and governor have recently decided is no longer acceptable.

Beginning in the early 1980s, Carmel passed a series of ordinances trying to keep short-term rentals out of the city’s R-1 districts, but it was the 1989 version that spawned a lengthy court fight. Seeking to implement its revised 1988 general plan, which called for policies to “restrict commercial short-term rental of single-family residences in the R-1 district,” the city council unanimously prohibited anyone from accepting any form of remuneration for the “occupancy, possession or tenancy” of any R-1 property for “less than 30 consecutive calendar days.”

Council members were adamant that the prohibition was needed. In fact, short-term rentals in the single-family zones had become so common, mayor Charlotte Townsend said at the time, some people felt like they were living on “motel row.”

“If we can’t protect the city from transient rentals, I don’t think we’ll just have pockets of commercialism,” councilman Robert Stephenson agreed. “It will take over the whole town.”

“Cars will litter the streets, and it just takes away the essence of the neighborhoods,” said another member of the council, Dave Maradei, according to a Feb. 1985 article in The Pine Cone.

When the city’s short-term rental ordinance reached the court of appeals, it seemed that Carmel was a place the justices had visited — and valued.

“Blessed with unparalleled geography, climate, beauty, and charm, Carmel naturally attracts numerous short-term visitors,” the court said. And even if those visitors didn’t cause all the problems the city predicted they would, it was still firmly within the city’s power to zone them out of existence. To explain this, the court used language that sounds positively quaint today:

“We think it may be safely and sensibly said that justification for residential zoning may, in the last analysis, be rested upon the protection of the civic and social values of the American home. The establishment of such districts is for the general welfare because it tends to promote and perpetuate the American home. It is axiomatic that the welfare, and indeed the very existence of a nation depends upon the character and caliber of its citizenry. The character and quality of manhood and womanhood are in a large measure the result of home environment. The home and its intrinsic influences are the very foundation of good citizenship, and any factor contributing to the establishment of homes and the fostering of home life doubtless tends to the enhancement not only of community life but of the life of the nation as a whole.”

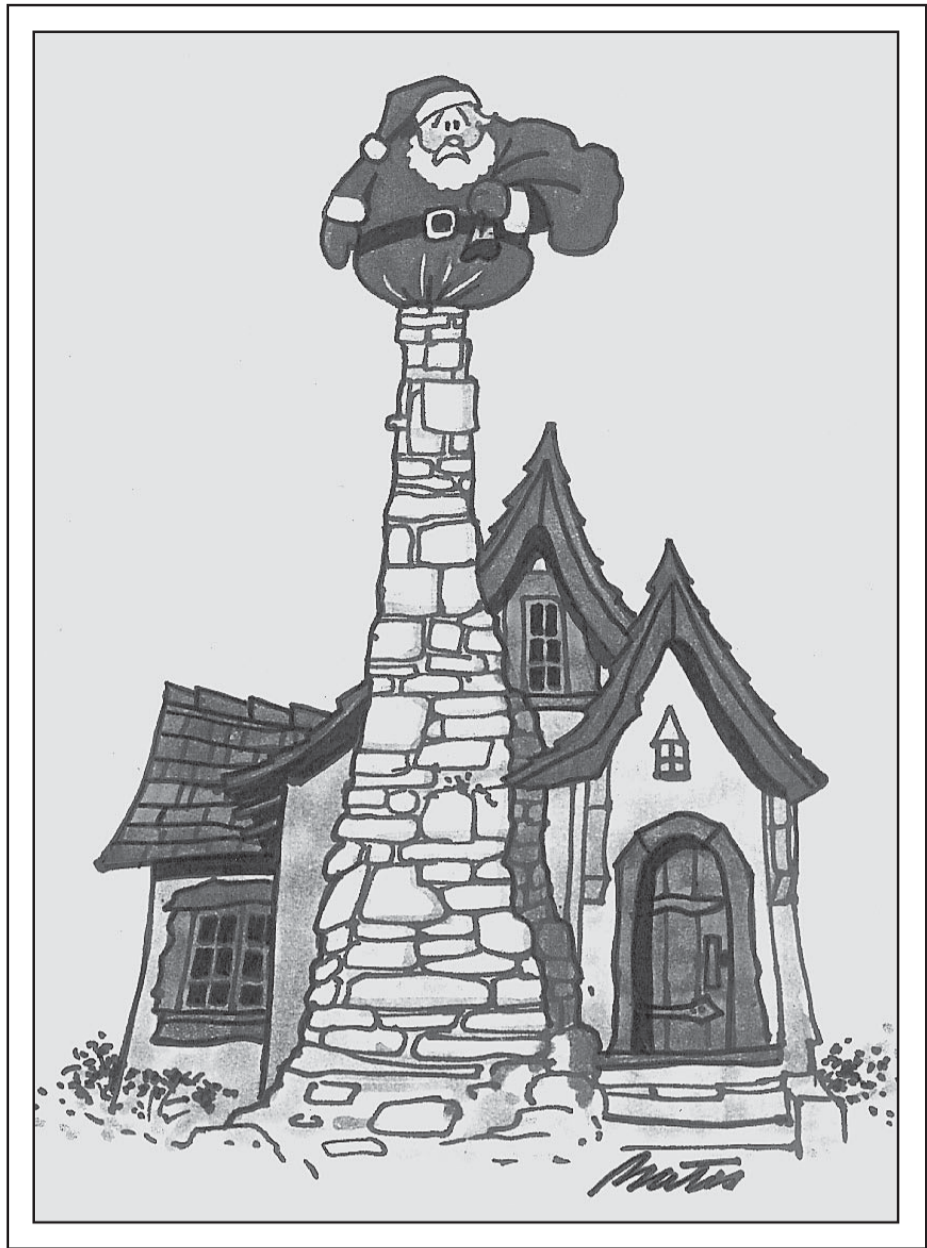
Contrast that with the thinking coming out of Sacramento these days, when the state’s housing shortage has been used to justify opening up hundreds of thousands of single-family lots in some of the state’s most treasure communities to apartment buildings and condos — something celebrated by the nation’s left-wing media.

“With the stress of the recall election firmly behind him, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill that effectively abolishes single-family home zoning in the country’s largest state,” noted slate.com in Sept. 2021. The outlet went on to call single-family zoning “exclusionary” and “racist.”

That same sort of thinking was on the minds of the legislators who voted for the no-more-single-family-zoning law, and the governor when he signed it.

Not only are Carmel’s single-family neighborhoods on the way out, so is the thinking that justified them in the first place.

BEST of BATES



Letters to the Editor

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

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

Why not enthusiastically support?

Dear Editor,

What is behind the continuing denial of Mills Act tax relief for the Frank Lloyd Wright Home in Carmel? There is no architectural treasure more worthy of the Mills Act than that home.

The Mills Act does not place a means test, nor a local ownership requirement, on applicants. Doing so for one applicant and not all is clearly discriminatory and not in keeping with the current act. If council wishes to change the Mills Act for one, it must change it for all.

What would be the means test the city council would accept, and how would it be measured? Is it rational to assume that anyone without significant wealth could purchase an architecturally significant home in Carmel and promise to invest in it? Wouldn’t having significant means be the way to ensure that the required

maintenance would occur?

Sadly, it appears that some council members are continuing a pattern of singling out one individual for separate unwritten rules on every project. This is a person who has the opportunity to assist Carmel in a much needed renaissance. Instead, the council is putting as many obstacles in the way as possible. What is the reason for this antipathy? Why not enthusiastically support a love of Carmel and a desire to bring exciting new development here?

Kathy Bang, Carmel

Importance of the forest

Dear Editor,

Carmel-by-the-Sea, founded in 1902 as a “village in a pine forest,” has been my home since the early 1960s. I’ve worked with Monterey Pine Forest Watch for more than 30 years to advocate for and educate people about the remarkable native forest ecosystem in which we all live. The Peninsula’s Monterey pine forest is the beautiful green backdrop of our day to day lives, and the source of the countless biological and life-enhancing services that support us. These services are rendered so freely that they are very often taken entirely for granted.

Monterey pine, the “noble pine,” has been evolving in California for more than 15 million years, finding a footing in coastal and near coastal areas. These trees have responded to climate changes of the past, expanding and contracting their range through geologic time, now being one of the rarest forest ecosystems on Earth,

See LETTERS page 29A

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The key to survival turned out to be 'making things work'

IN 1956, before taking off in a dense fog from Frankfurt, Germany, bound for America with her infant child and her U.S. airman husband, Denise Georis Dekens was given a bottle of holy water by her aunt as a "good blessing" for the flight. On the final approach to New York City, the captain announced they were having engine problems. "Looking out over the wing I saw one of them shooting flames," she said, "I grabbed my carry-on, took out the holy water, and I drank it — and we made it."

Dekens — a pivotal force behind the success of a number of Carmel's and the Monterey Peninsula's most acclaimed restaurants — was born in 1935 in a small village in eastern Belgium near the German border. Hitler's troops overran the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France and Belgium in May 1940.

After that, she said, everything changed

to death. I want to give them my pillow. She said, 'Go ahead,' and he put his pillow under the dying young soldiers. My brother was only 12, but he was not a boy. He was a man, and a survivor. He helped us all. I get very emotional when I talk about those times. They formed who I am."

Dekens saw the first American tanks roll into the village. "Without American assistance we wouldn't have survived," she said. "They were kind to us, gave us food, played with us, and looked after us until the war's end in May of 1945." In the years following World War II, she met her husband, who was stationed in Belgium, and accompanied him back to the United States.

A beach and a pier

Three days after that 1956 flight to New York, the Dekens family traveled by train to Phoenix, where they were picked up by her in-laws and driven to their home in Blythe. Dekens' brothers, sister and parents followed a month-and-a-half later and set about opening a German restaurant.

The Dekens leased and operated a motel for two years. She took care of 23 rooms, making beds and working until her legs were sore. "My husband worked with his father in his machine shop. We were going to make things work — and we did."

During a trip up the California coast, Gilbert discovered San Clemente. "There was the beach, a pier, and a good climate. There's room to make a living," he reported. "We can open a restaurant on the beach. Our English may not be perfect, but we know how to work."

"We were always trying to help each other and to better ourselves, so we all moved to San Clemente," said Dekens.

See LIVES page 30A

Great Lives

By CARLIN JARDINE

in the village. The food, the currency and schools changed from French to German, the pictures of the king and queen were replaced with ones of Hitler. Schoolchildren knitted sweaters for German soldiers. Living conditions worsened dramatically when the Luftwaffe bombings began. "But we children thought as long as we had our mothers, everything would be all right," said Dekens.

Dying soldiers

On Dec. 16, 1944, in a last-gasp effort to halt the Allied advance into Germany, Hitler launched the final major offensive of the war. The Battle of the Bulge raged for six weeks in the very area where the Georis family lived. They and 30-plus friends and neighbors moved into the basement of their grandparents' bombed-out home with no food, water or electricity, "We crawled out the basement windows and made snowballs. That was our drinking water," she added.

In a lull in the fighting, German soldiers could be heard rummaging through what remained of the house above. Two were later discovered dead on the steps leading to the basement. Days later, as the battle continued, Dekens' older brother, Gilbert, found two grievously wounded American soldiers on the same steps. "He came down into the basement and said, Mom, they're bleeding



PHOTO/CARLIN JARDINE

Denise Georis Dekens' childhood in Belgium was marked by war, but her life in California has been a story of hard work and success.

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

A KEEN EYE, A STEADY HAND, CREATIVITY AND PLENTY OF RIBBONS

FOR JIM Lambert, fine-art photography, like life, is fleeting — all about recognizing the moment in front of him, appreciating it and capturing it before it goes away.

As he approaches his 80th birthday, he rarely stops moving for more than a few minutes — partly to fend off the effects of sciatica, which he's battled since age 10, when he galloped at top speed into a moving car — but also because he's perpetually wonderstruck by the world around him.

"I was walking my dog (Revy, a black-and-white Pomeranian) the other day — without my camera — and saw the sun hitting the trees along the trail," he remembered. "The sun had turned a Eucalyptus tree cherry-red, a full moon had come up, and I saw a classic photo."

"But I knew it would all be gone in just a few minutes, so I didn't run back to the house for my camera."

He returned the next evening — same

As his neighbors were tearing down old, weather-beaten trellises, Lambert built another one, pristine white, in front of his home at the top of Military Avenue, where he has a nice view of the bay.

He also fished (a lifelong passion), often from locations he's found over the past 40 years after descending the steep, rocky mountainsides of Big Sur.

"It really is 'no man's land,'" he said. "I fell down through the rocks a couple of times — broke my wrist once — so I haven't fished there in a couple of years," he lamented.

Walls of ribbons

But photography has been an obsession for Lambert, who displays dozens of award ribbons, large and small, in a den at his home.

"I'm not sure I know anybody who has as many ribbons as me," chuckled the photographer, whose blue ribbons include multiple first-place honors — and several Best of Show awards — from the Monterey County Fair, the California State Fair, street festivals and gallery exhibitions.

"I never really thought I was very good until a guy saw my work at a street show several years ago," Lambert recalled. "He said, 'I've worked at magazines in New York for 25 years, and I've never seen photos as unusual as yours. Your stuff is really creative.'"

Lambert once found a small possum in his back yard and photographed him at night, illuminated with a black light, creating a spectacular backdrop of the stars behind him. The image won Best of Show from the Padre Trails Camera Club, where he was a member for many years.

Lambert's photos nowadays are digital, edited using Photoshop software.

A merging of passions

He has merged his two greatest passions — photography and fishing — on several occasions, often to make environmental statements.

"Heads & Tails" depicts a circle of seven wild salmon Lambert pulled out of Monterey Bay from a depth of 150 feet.

"See how sharp their tails are? That's how you can tell they're wild, rather than being raised in hatcheries," he said. "In a tank — confined space — salmon will cannibalize each other, so their tails don't have the sharp edges."

That photo, and several others, are "protest pictures," he said, made to call attention to what Lambert considers environmental malpractice.

Another "protest photo" shows a steelhead trout in a bed of almonds, a statement lamenting the destruction of steelhead habitats in California.

"Every almond nut that's grown here in California, like the Stockton area, takes a gallon of water," he said. "They

See ARTIST next page

Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

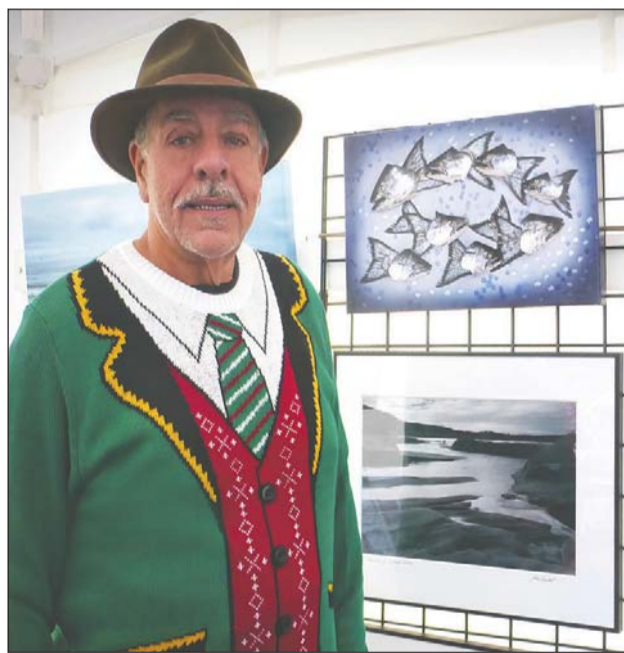
location, same hour — with his camera and tripod, but the moon didn't show. Opportunity lost.

Lambert, a Seaside resident since 1976, doesn't miss much.

"Look at that bird — I've never seen a bird like that around here!" he chirped, as his well-trained eye darts around an ornate backyard that he's lovingly rebuilt since age 68, when he retired, worried about what the heck he'd do with his free time. He spent more than 40 years as a machinist, the last 30 working for the federal government.

What he did, of course, was keep moving. He constructed professional-looking gardens where he grows veggies (broccoli, zucchini, potatoes) and flowers. He built pretty birdbaths where his winged visitors play.

"Look at that one — wow!" he exclaimed, pointing at a tiny creature washing its bright yellow feathers. "They're migrating right now, so I get to see a lot of new ones."



PHOTO/JANET BEATY

Jim Lambert, a prolific, award-winning fine-art photographer, has been a Seaside fixture since 1976.



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ARTIST

From previous page

export millions of pounds of almonds overseas, so you can imagine how many millions of gallons of water they take out of these rivers. The rivers are drying up, and the fish are dying.”

Lambert grew up in Chicago near the banks of Lake Michigan. His father, a sign painter by profession, was an artist educated at the Chicago Institute of Art, and his grandfather was a lithographer, specializing in fine-art etchings.

Their influence instilled an early appreciation for individual style in Lambert, who gravitated toward art books in city libraries.

He was 10 when his mother left home, leaving Lambert in the care of his three older sisters. When he was 13, his father died after a two-year battle with a staph infection in his bladder.

“From then on, I was pretty much on my own,” Lambert said.

He joined the workforce at age 12, delivering the Chicago American newspaper seven days a week on his bicycle — 100 papers a day, rain or shine — and collecting the money door-to-door at the end of every month.

From ages 14 to 19, he worked at a supply house.

Summoned by Uncle Sam

In 1964, with the Vietnam War accelerating, he got his draft notice.

“By then, I was working as a machinist at a huge shop where we were building parts for America’s war machine,” recalled Lambert, whose mother contacted his

boss wondering about a possible deferment for her son.

“I finally went to the office and asked the woman there about the deferment,” he remembered. “She went through a huge stack of papers, found mine, and said, ‘Here you go — you got a deferment.’”

“I was supposed to show up for induction at 8 the next morning,” he said. “If I hadn’t stopped into the office that day, I would’ve been gone.”

His 10-hour days at the machine shop were incompatible with his first artistic efforts as a painter, although he still has a couple of those pieces in his garage.

So, he switched to photography, a hobby that accelerated in the mid-1970s, when he moved to the Monterey Peninsula.

Fort Ord and NPS

Lambert’s career as a machinist continued here and included a stint at Fort Ord, where he created molds for replicas of bombs, grenades, rifles, knives and bayonets, all used for training.

He later worked as a machinist and welder at the Naval Postgraduate School, initially in the aerospace and oceanographic departments, making equipment used for research.

As a photographer, Lambert has exhibited his art at Seaside’s Oldemeyer Center and the Avery Gallery at Seaside City Hall, the Pacific Grove Art Center and P.G.’s Museum of Natural History, the West End Festival in Sand City, the Center for Photographic Art and the Sunset Center in Carmel, Monterey’s Art on the Wharf show, the Salinas Health Department Center and several other venues.

In 2022, Lambert became a member of the Monterey Peninsula Art Foundation, which displays images of his work and additional information at mpaf.org/jim-lambert.

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

ACCIDENT

From page 8A

that Mr. Arnold failed to stop or control the vehicle before striking, running over and dragging Mrs. Anthony underneath the vehicle for some distance.”

According to the video footage and a CHP traffic report, Anthony was walking northbound when she entered the crosswalk. She was nearly halfway across when Arnold, driving a GEM electric car, turned west from an adjoining roadway onto the park road that bisected the pedestrian walkway.

Arnold did not come to a stop and he “accelerated out of his turn directly toward” Anthony, the lawsuit says.

“Because Arnold was driving an electric vehicle, it made no sound as it sped toward” the woman, according to the suit, which names Arnold, the Point Lobos Foundation and the California Department of Parks and Recreation as defendants.

‘Panicked and pressed the accelerator’

The Point Lobos worker told CHP officers at the scene that he’d seen Anthony “near” the crosswalk as he drove westbound, but that he “panicked and accidentally pressed the accelerator pedal instead of the brake but could not stop” the car before crashing into her.

“After the collision, Arnold dragged Mrs. Anthony some distance before pulling off to the side of the road, into the grass,” the suit, filed for Anthony and her husband Douglas Anthony by Sacramento attorney Roger Dreyer, says.

She alleges negligence and loss of consortium and is seeking an unspecified amount in monetary damages exceeding \$25,000. Anthony said she also suffered economic damages and noneconomic damages, including physical and mental suffering, anxiety, emotional distress and loss of enjoyment of life.

The Point Lobos Foundation declined to comment on the lawsuit.

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LETTERS

From page 26A

found only in three stands on the coast of California and on two small islands off Baja.

Of the three coastal stands, ours is the largest and most diverse in associated species, a number of which are found nowhere else on Earth. It is also the most ancient, being the mother forest of the other two. Our present unique forest ecosystem has evolved over the past couple hundred thousand years on a series of ancient marine terraces, each exhibiting special plant associations. In Carmel those terraces are overlaid with sand dunes of varying ages, and our remaining old veteran pines no doubt have genetic traits forged in this particular environment.

While considered rare and endangered in its homeland, Monterey pine is the most widely planted conifer in the world, with a multi-billion dollar timber industry based upon it. The genetic information found particularly in our forest and that of Año Nuevo is of great value to this industry. So we have to be careful to steward this rare ecosystem wisely, for many reasons.

Carmel's literary, artistic founders were unique in their attitude toward our portion of this forest ecosystem. They chose to respect and celebrate it and its beauty, and to fit into it, rather than to cut it down to make way for themselves. It is the only city on the Monterey Peninsula that made that choice, and we all have benefited from their choice to this day.

So my concern is that we keep all of this in mind,

especially as we update Carmel's Forest Management Plan, and utilize science and respect for our historic relationship to these wonderful trees and remember that we will always be, in actual fact, a "village in a Monterey pine forest".

Joyce Stevens,
Carmel

Concerns about flooding in the village

Dear Editor,

I wish to express my gratitude for all the hard work you and your staff put in to giving us all a superb local newspaper. It is clear that your excellent advertisers allow us the complimentary issues. Please encourage all to keep up the superb publication.

I just finished reading your article on the opening of the mouth of the Carmel River. That will go a long way to preventing the flooding of Carmel Meadows. Yet no effort has been made to prevent flooding upriver in those areas that have history of flooding, such as several properties on El Potrero and Paso Hondo in the village. Absolutely no efforts to mediate the river flow and width that causes flooding are allowed. Dredging and channeling would help prevent our local disasters. The repairs on two of my friend's homes have yet to be completed and one may get back in her home soon after the damage repairs of last year's flooding. You can only imagine the anxiety as they see the approaching rains. I hope some wise engineering advice to all the powers that be will help prevent more local disasters.

Patrick Dowd, Carmel Valley

CUSD mismanagement

Dear Editor,

In November, KSBW had a three-part series on the growing problems of the CUSD board of education. Every taxpayer and parent in the district should watch it. Go to KSBW.com and search for Carmel Unified.

The CUSD board needs to immediately become transparent about all the money they have paid out to lawyers and investigators, all the lawsuits they are facing, and an explanation for all the payments they've made to get people to go away.

The CUSD board needs to start doing business in public. They routinely have as many items under closed session as they do action items in open session.

The current board has no business appointing the next superintendent, considering all the lawsuits, payoffs to former employees, payments to lawyers and investigators, and their lack of transparency. The board's grade for the job they are doing is F.

It is quite evident that some current CUSD board members no longer have the trust of the community to continue in their position as a trustee. These board members should resign now and save a further waste of time and money to mount a recall effort against them.

This would be in everyone's best interest, especially for the students of the district who should be the number one priority. Stop wasting money on covering up the board's mistakes. That money should be going to the benefit of students in the district. The board's financial mismanagement is atrocious.

Joseph Hertlein, Carmel Valley

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LIVES

From page 27A

To that end, her mother put an ad in the Los Angeles Times on her behalf that read, “Young Belgian woman seeking management position — motel or apartments.” Dekens received an offer to manage six apartments owned by Bing Crosby, and moved in with her husband and daughter.

“No pay, but free living for the three of us. I got to meet Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and many other celebrities,” she recalled.

The restaurant on the beach — a hamburger stand — became a reality and a financial success, “even though our most expensive item was a 35-cent cheeseburger,” she said. Over the next several years, the Dekens bought, operated and sold a series of small restaurants on and around the beach and pier in San Clemente. Each was a successful step up from the previous one. Her marriage eventually ended, but her friendship with her former husband never did.

Dekens attended a party at Gilbert’s home and met Michel, a master chef visiting from their hometown in Belgium. A meeting seemed destined, given their history, the direction of their lives and their attraction to each other. It was the beginning of a lifelong romance.

‘Just shook hands’

They both worked for a Greek restaurateur who offered to sell them his restaurant. He allowed them to pay him monthly, whatever they could afford. “We didn’t sign any papers, we just shook hands — can you imagine?” she said. Michel took over the kitchen. Soon there were lines of people waiting to get in. Learning of their success, brother Walter invited them to Carmel to check out jobs and the prospects for a new restaurant.

Michel interviewed for the chef’s position at three of the area’s premier restaurants, including the Lodge at Pebble Beach,

and he received offers from all three. Instead, though, he, Dekens and brothers Walter and Gaston became partners in the purchase of a Dolores Street restaurant that became La Boheme.

She said that they opened with a three-course prix fixe menu for \$5.50. “We had French music, a European atmosphere people loved — there were lines down the block. We couldn’t accommodate everyone,” said Dekens. Five years later, they sold for five times their investment and bought a little house on Fifth Avenue from an elderly woman who had been Charlie Chaplin’s personal chef.

Became an institution

“Walter worked his magic and turned it into Casanova — the masterpiece it is today. Michel did the same with his kitchen and everything that came out of it. We all added our two cents, but they were the creative artists.” She added, “Gaston, who passed in February 2021, was the musician — a professor with the ideal personality for a restaurant. He was a diplomat.”

She continued, “My mother and daughter, Sonja, ran the bakery. Their pies became legendary.” Sonja’s sister, Gina, waited tables.

They operated both restaurants for a short while. “I was being like a taxi. I would put people standing in line at La Boheme in my car, drive them to Casanova and say, ‘This is our new place. You won’t have to wait and you’ll get the same service and the same food.’ Casanova became an institution,” Dekens said.

Keeping the same players in the same roles, they replicated their success at Casanova with their purchase of Fandango in Pacific Grove. “Overall, we became successful because we ran everything as a proper business,” said Dekens, who lives in Monterey. “We worked together, we loved our patrons — they knew us. Michel, who passed in 2006, always wanted to give them something extra — and we always did. I retired at 80. I know who I am, how lucky I’ve been and what a rich life I’ve lived.”

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SCENIC

From page 3A

Letendre said he's hopeful the new EIR for the Scenic Road Protection Structure will receive a warmer welcome than the earlier version — in large part because county officials worked closely with agencies and groups during the preparation for it — something that he said didn't happen with the previous EIR. He credited County Administrative Officer Sonia De La Rosa, Senator John Laird, Assemblyperson Dawn Addis and planning commissioner Kate Daniels with helping to bring together the various stakeholders.

"We're finally seeing some light at the end of the tunnel," Letendre said.

It's uncertain how the EIR will evaluate the Ecosystem Protective Barrier, which California State Parks has previously rejected.

Once the EIR is released, a 30-day public comment period will begin.

CAMPING

From page 8A

Cone that his group has long provided bilingual outdoor education opportunities for disadvantaged children, and the new campground will make it possible for them to enjoy overnights stays in the heart of Big Sur.

"We are now serving more than 2,000 youth per year," Sorenson reported. "We really want to create opportunities for people who wouldn't be able to afford overnight trips to the coast to experience nature in this way."

The group plans to transport campers to the site using its fleet of passenger vans.

"We realize that transportation is a very important barrier" that prevents many families from camping, Sorenson said.

The camping program would operate throughout the year — even during the winter. Sorenson said that's the only time when many farmworkers and their families can participate.

The wildlife society is seeking feedback from the public about the campground project, along with financial support for it. For more details, visit ventanaws.org/smorc.html.

GAVEL

From page 4A

dark and fired seven times striking the victim with six bullets. Salinas Police tied the defendant to the crime through his phone, and his DNA was found on shell casings at the scene.

This case was investigated by Salinas Police Sergeant Gabriela Contreras.

Nov. 20 — A jury convicted Juan Pablo Aragon-Herrera of committing lewd and lascivious acts upon a child under the age of 14, as well as assault with the intent to commit lewd and lascivious acts upon the same child, and child endangerment. These constitute the first criminal convictions for Juan Pablo Aragon Herrera, and three of the four charges are strikes pursuant to California's three strikes law. Judge Rafael

Vazquez presided over the one-week jury trial. Herrera faces a maximum sentence of 13 years in state prison. He will be sentenced on Jan. 18, 2024.

On July 2, 2023, Herrera was visiting the residence where Jane Doe and John Doe, both under 14, were hanging LED lights in a bedroom. Aragon-Herrera walked into the room and used a ruse to be able to remove Jane's pants and place her on a bed when he attempted to continue touching her. Doe was present and was able to get away and find help.

This case was investigated by sheriff's deputy Brian Baugh and detective Jesus Reyes, both of the Monterey County Sheriff's Department. District attorney investigators Alicia Cox and Pablo Andrade also assisted. The child victims and witness in this case were assisted by victim witness advocates Sonia Buenrostro, Estella Sanchez, and Alma Sanchez. They were also accompanied during testimony by Norma Jean, a victim's services dog with the district attorney's office.

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Section 2

With a new coach's guidance, CHS girls shoot for the stars

A 1-6 beginning to a basketball season is an education, not a disappointment, at Carmel High, where first-year head coach Robin Lewis (a 30-year coaching veteran) is molding a youthful team with an upbeat perspective.

"I don't call them losses, I call them lessons," said

the Pacific Coast Athletic League's Mission Division crown last fall — the first conference title by a PG girls team since 2013. He also served as the JV coach and varsity assistant for Pacific Grove's boys team for three previous seasons, and has coached AAU basketball for eight years with Seaside's Finest.

Suffice to say, program-building is a strong part of his skill set — a good thing, since Lewis has a freshman, six sophomores, six juniors, and only one senior on this year's varsity at Carmel.

Discipline, structure, freedom

"My style of coaching is very disciplined, very structured, but it's structure with freedom to play," he said. "We want our players to understand the nuances of basketball, and how to run a set offense, instead of just running up and down the court without a purpose."

"We have a lot of first- or second-year players, and most of them are still learning how to make good decisions on the floor," Lewis said. "We've got them watching video for the first time, seeing themselves in game situations. They're learning a lot from that, and we can see them making strides. This is a process."

The Padres have five players with formidable height, including their only senior, Lily Grundy, a 5-foot-11 inside player who was athletic and rugged enough to earn PCAL Goalie of the Year honors as a first-year field hockey player this fall.

"The goal for Lily this year is to learn more about rebounding so she can help us save possessions on our end of the floor," the coach said. "I'm also working with her on being efficient around the basket, and finishing (scoring after grabbing an offensive rebound)."

Savanna Radowicz, an energetic 5-9 junior, is a shooting wing who leads the Padres in scoring (4.9 per game), rebounding (5.9) and steals (1.9) through



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Energetic junior Avery Palshaw can run the offense as a point guard, score as a shooting guard, and also is one of Carmel High's best defenders.

the first seven games.

"She's a kid who loves basketball and plays extremely hard," Lewis said. "But a lot of times high school players tend to exert a lot of energy trying to get to the basket, and we're working with Savanna on ways to do that without a lot of effort."

Meager 24.9-point average

Avery Palshaw, a junior, can be a playmaker as Carmel's point guard, or score as the Padres' shooting guard. She also is one of the team's best defenders.

"She's very dynamic, and she has a great motor," said the coach. "I'm trying to get her to understand more about the speed of the game — when to go fast, and when to slow it down."

On a team that averaged just 24.9 points per game

See SPORTS next page

Lewis, who taught some good ones at Pacific Grove High, where he took the Breakers to the Central Coast Section playoffs in all of the seven years he spent there as head coach.

Lewis compiled a 78-56 record as PG's head coach, reached the CCS Division 4 semifinals twice, and won



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Junior wing Savanna Radowicz leads the Padres in scoring, rebounding, and steals through the first seven games.



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SPORTS

From previous page

through its first seven games, Radowicz (4.9 points), Palshaw (4.2), and Myah Koster (4.2) are the leading scorers.

The exceptionally athletic Koster earned first-team All-Gabilan honors in the fall as an outside hitter on a volleyball team that went 22-6, reached the CCS Division 4 finals, and won its first-round game at the NorCal Division 3 tournament.

At 5-11, she brings size to the wing position, and projects as a standout for the Padres as she adjusts to varsity competition.

"The speed and physicality of varsity basketball is very different from the game she played at the middle-school level, but you don't often see the kind of athleticism at such a young age in girls who are Myah's size," Lewis said of Koster, who currently is second on the team with a 4.7 rebounding average.

Another multi-sport athlete, junior Chloe LeMaster, is a starter or first substitute who can play either point guard or shooting guard.

"She's a very heady player, with a good basketball IQ," Lewis said. "She's learning more as a point guard about ways to

get our team into designed plays when we don't have a breakaway, but her instincts are good."

Tessa Stallcup, a tireless junior, ranks among the best defenders, and frequently is assigned to cover the opposing team's toughest guard. Stallcup and Grundy both are averaging 3.3 rebounds.

"Defense and hustle are the main reasons she's starting games for us — she plays hard through everything," Lewis said.

An awakening

Ava Mangiapane, a junior, is developing new tools on the offensive side of the floor, learning to drive to the basket.

"We don't have a lot of pure shooters on this squad, so we've been struggling to score, but Ava scored 11 points for us the other night by going hard to the basket, rather than trying to shoot jump shots," the coach said. "I think that might have been a bit of an awakening for her."

Junior Bella Tanguay, capable of contributing as a guard or an undersized wing, caught Lewis' eye a year ago when he was coaching against the Padres for Pacific Grove.

"We were playing Carmel on their floor,

See **MORE SPORTS** next page



Robin Lewis is a first-year coach at Carmel, but is a 30-year veteran who took PG to CCS seven times, and won a league crown last year.

PHOTO/KERRY BELSEER

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MORE SPORTS

From previous page

and I was impressed when I saw her step in and make a couple of shots from the outside in a close game," the coach recalled.

Lewis also sees good potential in sophomores Margarita Soffia and Rainn Nachbar, both 5-11, and guards Claire Bonyngne, Grace Zodiacal and Juliet Norman.

Camaraderie a key

"I'm big on building relationships on a team — what I'm teaching is bigger than basketball," he said. "I'm trying to get them to understand that the more connected they become, the more they'll trust each other, and which will help them achieve their goals both on and off the court."

A notable change, Lewis said, is that the previous coach, Tom Dooner, maintained a quiet demeanor on Carmel's sidelines, while Lewis is noticeably more vocal.

"Tom was very laid-back — you didn't hear his voice a lot in the game," he observed with a laugh. "My style tends to be a bit noisier — the girls, the parents ... everybody hears my voice out there."

Carmel's pre-conference schedule continues Friday, Dec. 22, with a 7 p.m. game at Salinas High, and a Dec. 30 road game against North Monterey County, which tips off at 3:30 p.m.

The Padres' Mission Division schedule begins with a Jan. 2 road trip to Monte Vista Christian. Their home opener in division play is 7 p.m. Jan. 12 against Soledad. Seaside, Greenfield, Stevenson, and Rancho San Juan are other teams in what should be a competitive Mission Division.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Lily Grundy, an All-Gabilan goalie in field hockey, could develop into a powerful player under the basket for the Padres.

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Isaiah 9:6

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4:00 & 7:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE**

CARMELPRES.ORG/CHRISTMAS

Church of the Wayfarer

10 a.m. Sunday Worship

Christmas Eve Traditional
10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight
7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24

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Anne@carmelpinecone.com
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Christmas Dinner

DECEMBER 24 & 25

Three-Course Prix Fixe Menu \$78** Per Person

Choice of the following selections:

FIRST COURSE

- Beets Salad
- Lobster Bisque

ENTRÉE

- Aged Prime Rib
- Sous Vide Duck Breast
- Chilean Seabass Plancha
- Chicken Breast
- Baked Gnocchi
- Roasted Butternut Squash

DESSERT

- Pumpkin Trifle
- Mississippi Mud Pie

Reservations are required.
quailodge.com/dining/coveygrill

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PHOTOGRAPHER RACHAEL SHORT OFFERS 'BEST OF' CALENDAR

JUST IN time for some last-minute holiday shopping ideas, fine art photographer Rachael Short of Exposed Gallery is offering her latest holiday calendar for \$35 — or two for \$60.

This year marks the 10th that Short has

Victor Klinger, who explores California landscapes, Birgit Maddox, who presents a display of self-portraits taken with a pin-hole camera, and Ryuijie Douglas, who shares a collection of images captured underwater in Mexico. All four shows went up earlier this month.

Besides the shows in her gallery, Short has an ongoing exhibit at Alta Bakery, which is located in the restored Cooper Molera complex of historical build-

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

produced her calendars, and this one is a greatest hits collection of images from her first nine calendars. Like all the photos displayed on the walls inside her gallery, those in the calendar were done in black and white. The subjects include landscapes, still lifes and figure studies, and each one was taken with an iPhone.

You can pick up your calendar at Gallery Exposed Saturday from noon to 4 p.m., or if you live locally, you can also ask for the calendar to be delivered.

"This is a 'best of' calendar," Short told The Pine Cone. "I took it to social media and asked people to vote on their favorite pictures."

On display

Located in Carmel Square on San Carlos between Ocean and Seventh, Gallery Exposed recently unveiled four new shows, including one by Short. The other shows feature photographers

ings at 502 Munras Ave. in Monterey. The photographer added new work to the display just a couple weeks ago.

Capturing images of "nature, people and places," Short explores, "the relation-

See ART page 43A



This seascape is included in photographer Rachael Short's latest holiday calendar, which is available at her downtown gallery Saturday.

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20232153
 Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
1. FLOWER FAIRY APOTHECARY
2. MOOMPA
 Guadalupe 2 SW of 2nd, Carmel By The Sea, CA 93921.
 Mailing address: 56B 5th Street, P.O. Box #2634, Carmel By The Sea, CA 93921.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: HATHOR LLC, Guadalupe 2 SW of 2nd, Carmel By The Sea, CA 93921.
 State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
 This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

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

6277).
 S/Rachael C. Williams, Manager
 Date: Nov. 27, 2023
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 29, 2023.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
 Publication Dates: Dec. 22, 29, 2023; Jan. 5, 12, 2024. (PC 1226)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20232212
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **LANGUAGE LEARNING AUDIO, 24537 Castro Ln., Carmel, CA 93923.**
 Registered Owner(s): FRANK CHARLES HANSEN, 24537 Cas-

tro Ln., Carmel, CA 93923.
 This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
 S/Frank C. Hansen
 Date signed: Dec. 7, 2023
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Dec. 11, 2023.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in

the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
 Publication Dates: Dec. 22, 29, 2023; Jan. 5, 12, 2024. (PC 1227)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20232253
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **DIAZ LANDSCAPING, 1020 Trinity Ave., Apt. E, Seaside, CA 93955.**
 Registered Owner(s): EMANUEL DIAZ LOPEZ, 1020 Trinity Ave., Apt. E, Seaside, CA 93955.
 This business is conducted by an individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
 S/Emanuel Diaz Lopez
 Date signed: Dec. 18, 2023
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Dec. 18, 2023.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name

Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
 Publication Dates: Dec. 22, 29, 2023; Jan. 5, 12, 2024 (PC 1228)

THE CARMEL PINE CONE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024

Legals must be submitted no later than 12:00NOON Friday, December 30 for the Jan. 5, 2024 publication



AUTO, HOME & GARDEN

The Auto, Home & Garden Section is Published Every Other Week

Meena (831) 274-8655 meena@carmelpinecone.com

HIGHLANDS CHIPPER BID 2024

The Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District and Cypress Fire Protection District offers a Residential Chipping Program. Our program involves the residents being able to cut and stack their materials adjacent to the roadway and have a contract vendor chip and remove this material from the site.

Carmel Highlands Protection Fire District and Cypress Fire Protection District is requesting **per day** bids for a chipper, box truck and 2-3 personnel to drive through our Fire District to chip and remove cut limbs and brush. The program consists of 4 seasonal two-week periods averaging 45 days per year, depending on the amount of material stacked each period. The work will be tentatively scheduled for 2 Weeks in February, July, October & December in the Carmel Highlands District and March, June, August, October & November in the Cypress Fire District. The work will be completed when all piles are removed. The bid should include the disposal of chips at a location pre-determined by the bidder. The removal of chips involves working on public roadways and proper safety equipment is required.

With your bid, please include Public Liability and Workers Compensation Insurance Certificates and License Certificate. Final date for bid submission is January 10, 2024.

SCOPE OF WORK

- 1) All cut limbs will be neatly stacked (no higher than 4 feet) along the roadside, in the direction of travel, no later than 8:00 am the first Monday of the scheduled period. No more than 6-inch diameter. No loose Vegetation, vines or genista will be accepted.
- 2) Contractor will chip & remove all previously piled vegetation placed along public rights of way throughout the Fire District for a period of 8 hours daily.

All bids should be returned no later than January 10, 2024 to:
 Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District
 2221 Garden Road
 Monterey, CA 93940

If you have any questions about our program or request for proposal, please contact Fire Captain Shayon Ascarie at 831-594-1427.

Publication date: Dec. 22, 2023 (PC1229)

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Big Sur Unified School District, Big Sur, CA, here after referred to as "OWNER", acting by and through its governing board and representatives, in accordance with **Public Contract Code 20118.2**, is requesting sealed bids, for the furnishing of technology equipment for Request for Proposal (RFP) **0126-24A4 Data Circuit for Big Sur Unified School District.**

All bids shall be submitted to the project website at [HTTPS://WWW.INFINITYCOMM.COM/PROJECTS/](https://www.infinitycomm.com/projects/) by **01/18/2024** up to, but no later than, 1:00 PM (PST). Proposals will not be received after the specified due date or time. Bids received in any other format or method will not be accepted.

Each bid must conform to the RFP and bid documents. Copies of the RFP and bid documents are available and must be obtained from the following websites:
<https://www.infinitycomm.com/projects/> & www.usac.org.

The services requested depend on partial funding from the School and Libraries Division's E-Rate Program. All contracts entered into as a result of this advertisement shall be contingent upon the approval of discounts from the Universal Services Administrative Company (USAC) and the OWNER's acceptance of the discounts. The Contractor shall be responsible to invoice and collect payment of the discounted contract amount from USAC unless otherwise specified or directed by the Owner. The undiscounted contract amount will be the maximum amount that the OWNER is liable. On the day of the bid the Contractor shall supply their Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) and must certify that their SPIN is "current", to have their proposal considered.

OWNER is requesting a **three (3) year contract with two one (1) year voluntary contract extension** starting on April 11, 2025.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any irregularities or informalities in any bids or in the bidding. All questions pertaining to this RFP must be submitted through the project website at <https://www.infinitycomm.com/projects/>. If you have any problems logging in or downloading the RFP, please contact our office immediately at P1 bids@infinitycomm.com.

Board of Education of the Big Sur Unified School District
 Project #s: 0126.24A.4

Publication date: Dec. 22, 2023 (PC1229)

PUBLIC NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 23CV003783 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, LISA MARIE EDWARDS, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: A Present name: LISA MARIE EDWARDS Proposed name: LISA MARIE ALQUIZZA-DACUMOS

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted.

NOTICE OF HEARING: DATE: Jan. 12, 2024 TIME: 8:30 a.m. DEPT: 15 The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: The Carmel Pine Cone.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232066

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: TACO BOUT ICE CREAM, 254 MODERN LN, MARINA, CA 93933, County of MONTEREY Registered Owner(s): WALKER PACIFIC INDUSTRIES LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, 254 MODERN LN, MARINA, CA 93933, CA This business is conducted by A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on NOT APPLICABLE S/ MATTHEW WALKER, MANAGING MEMBER This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 11/21/2023 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22/23 CNS-375410# CARMEL PINE CONE Publication Dates: Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2023. (PC 1203)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232080

Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: TREVINO'S AUTO BODY, 218 Boronda Rd. #A4, Salinas, CA 93907. Registered Owner(s): LUIS BERNARDO TREVINO ATLAGCO, 1017 Sieber Ave., Apt. 2, Salinas, CA 93905.

This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 15, 2023. BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 23CV003871

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, MONICA BERNAL, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: A Present name: DAMIEN DELUNA MANUIARRIZ Proposed name: DAMIEN DELUNA BERNAL THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

NOTICE OF HEARING: DATE: Jan. 26, 2024 TIME: 8:30 a.m. DEPT: 13 The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: The Carmel Pine Cone.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232119

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: 1263 Sombria Lane, 1263 Sombria Lane, Pebble Beach, CA 93953, County of Monterey Registered Owner(s): Edward W. Whittemore, 1732 Paseo del Mar, Palos Verdes Estate, CA 90274

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232119

This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on Not applicable S/ Edward W. Whittemore This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 11/21/2023 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/23 CNS-3759164# CARMEL PINE CONE Publication Dates: Dec. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2023. (PC 1209)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232161

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: KATIES AC SOLUTIONS, 1951 Elkhorn Rd., Castroville, CA 95012. County of Principal Place of Business: Monterey. Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: KATIE TERESI LLC, 1951 Elkhorn Rd., Castroville, CA 95012.

FORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

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

NOTICE- In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner.

NOTICE- In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232160

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MIRAMONTE FARMS, 1951 Elkhorn Rd., Castroville, CA 95012. County of Principal Place of Business: Monterey. Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: KATIE TERESI LLC, 1951 Elkhorn Rd., Castroville, CA 95012.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

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

NOTICE- In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner.

NOTICE- In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 23CV003854

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, JOSE GUADALUPE RODRIGUEZ, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: A Present name: JOSE GUADALUPE RODRIGUEZ Proposed name: JOSE GUADALUPE SAUCEDO THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: DATE: Jan. 19, 2024 TIME: 8:30 a.m. DEPT: 14

The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: The Carmel Pine Cone.

PUBLIC AUCTION 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 12:00 pm on December 29, 2023 at: www.selfstorageauction.com The property is stored at: Coastal Storage, 575 California Ave. Sand City, CA 93955

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232165

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: ANTHONY CELSO CONSULTING & LOGISTICS, 7912 WESTWOOD DR., APT. N 157 GILROY, CA 95020, County of MONTEREY Registered Owner(s): ANTHONY CELSO, 545 MERIDIAN AVE., STE. D 26906 SAN JOSE, CA 95126

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232186

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ALPHA & OMEGA DETAIL CLEANER, 301 9th St., Unit 219, Marina, CA 93933. Registered Owner(s): JOSE LUDVI GUZMAN, 301 9th St., Unit 219, Marina, CA 93933.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

NOTICE- In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner.

NOTICE- In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232017

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1. SIGNATURE CLEANING GROUP 2. SIGGP 4355 Peninsula Point Dr., Seaside, CA 93955. Registered Owner(s): CAMERON JOHN, 4355 Peninsula Point Dr., Seaside, CA 93955.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

NOTICE- In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232165

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: ANTHONY CELSO CONSULTING & LOGISTICS, 7912 WESTWOOD DR., APT. N 157 GILROY, CA 95020, County of MONTEREY Registered Owner(s): ANTHONY CELSO, 545 MERIDIAN AVE., STE. D 26906 SAN JOSE, CA 95126

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232163

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DALY'S INSTACLEAN, 1572 Noche Buena St. A, Seaside, CA 93955.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

NOTICE- In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner.

NOTICE- In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner.

Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232194

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: ACC CONSTRUCTION, 1444 FREMONT BLVD. SEASIDE, CA 93955, County of MONTEREY Registered Owner(s): ARTURO CARDENAS CO. INC., 1444 FREMONT BLVD. SEASIDE, CA 93955, CA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232165

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: ANTHONY CELSO CONSULTING & LOGISTICS, 7912 WESTWOOD DR., APT. N 157 GILROY, CA 95020, County of MONTEREY Registered Owner(s): ANTHONY CELSO, 545 MERIDIAN AVE., STE. D 26906 SAN JOSE, CA 95126

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 23CV003756

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, John Raymond Giordano III, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: A Present name: JOHN RAYMOND GIORDANO III Proposed name: JOHN RAYMOND GIORDANO

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted.

NOTICE OF HEARING: DATE: Jan. 19, 2024 TIME: 8:30 a.m. DEPT: 15

The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: The Carmel Pine Cone.

THE CARMEL PINE CONE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, DEC. 22 - AND- MONDAY, DEC. 25 Legals must be submitted no later than 3:00PM Thurs., December 20 for the Dec. 29th publication

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 1:00pm on December 29, 2023 at: www.selfstorageauction.com

APN: 012-335-014 TS No.: 23-05267CA TSG Order No.: 8781600 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED JUNE 26, 2008. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

T.S. No. 0125002218 Loan No. 10664 APN: 133-491-044-000 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 11/10/2016. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

Batch 31 Ref. No.: <SEE EXHIBIT "A"> Assessment No.: <SEE EXHIBIT "A"> NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER ASSESSMENT LIEN YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER ASSESSMENT LIEN. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

Food & Wine
Galleries and Art

This Week

Live Music,
Clubs and Events

Father of funk plays Golden State, Celtic Christmas back in P.G.

CONSIDERED BY many to be the father of funk — and a musical visionary who helped pave the way for hip-hop — singer and bandleader **George Clinton** plays an 8

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

p.m. show Friday at the Golden State Theatre in Monterey. Clinton will be joined by **P-Funk**, a musical collective that brings together the two groups Clinton is best



A cast of acoustic musicians, including John (left) and Tyler Weed, play Celtic music Friday (7 p.m.) and Saturday (3 p.m.) at St. Mary's By-The-Sea in Pacific Grove.

known for starting, Parliament and Funkadelic. In the mid-1970s, Clinton and his colorful cast of musicians recorded a bounty of booty-shaking nuggets that brought together rock, soul and psychedelia, including "Give Up the Funk (Tear the Roof off the Sucker)," "P. Funk (Wants to Get Funked Up)," and the sublime guitar instrumental, "Maggot Brain."

At Golden State Friday, Clinton and Co. will present their annual Atomic Funk Cosmic Holiday Jam. Opening the show will be Mestizo Beat, an "afro-Latin soul" ensemble from Los Angeles.

Tickets start at \$49. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheater.com.

St. Mary's welcomes Winterdance

St. Mary's By-The-Sea in Pacific Grove celebrates the holiday season with its 17th annual Winterdance Celtic Christmas musical extravaganza. Showtime is Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 3 p.m.

"This year the show will spotlight the mandolin and banjo skills of young prodigy **Tyler Weed**," **Jackie Pierce** of St. Mary's told The Pine Cone. "The band will include his father, **John Weed**, on fiddle, **Stuart Mason** on guitar and bouzouki, **Amelia Hogan** on vocals and bodhran, and **Marisa Gilman** once again soaring like an angel with her Irish dancing. This will be a fun and lively evening full of holiday music and youthful energy, led by two veteran members of the West Coast Celtic music scene."

Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$15 for children, with discounts available for members of the Celtic Society



Singer George Clinton and P-Funk take the stage Friday at Golden State Theatre in Monterey. Clinton pioneered funk music, which in turn, influenced hip-hop.

of Monterey Bay. The church is located at 146 12th St. For more details, visit celticsociety.org.

Live music Dec. 22-28

Barmel — singer and guitarist **Chris Jamez** (Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). In Carmel Square at San Carlos and Eighth.

Bernardus Lodge & Spa in Carmel Valley — pianist **Mathias Morris** (classical, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Saturday at noon), pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and

See MUSIC page 42A

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Pomegranate dressing with walnuts, beets and blue cheese

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Topped with Caesar Dressing and Parmesan Cheese

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SALMON WELLINGTON \$45

Basil-seafood mousse in a pastry crust, topped with orange-butter sauce

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6 pcs Housemade ravioli stuffed with butternut squash & mozzarella cheese, with tomato-butter sauce

DUCK OUR WAY \$45

Confit leg of duck & duck mousse ravioli with orange sauce and mashed potatoes

BRAISED SHORT RIBS \$45

Boneless short ribs and red wine sauce with mashed potatoes

RIB EYE STEAK \$59

12 oz. Black Angus topped with red-wine sauce, served with mashed potatoes

RACK OF LAMB \$59

Encrusted with dijon mustard/red wine sauce, served with mashed potatoes

No SPLIT DINNERS PLEASE

An 18% gratuity may be added for parties of 6 or more • Not responsible for lost or stolen articles • Sorry we do not accept checks

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FOOD & WINE

Ring in 2024, 30 years of Galante wines, new Rio Grill menu

CHRISTMAS AND New Year's — the holidays between which everyone tries to jam a huge pile of happiness, memories and photos on social media. If you haven't

celebration, which starts at 8 p.m. and features live music by the Dino Vera Band, a midnight balloon drop, a Champagne toast, party favors, and dessert miniatures for \$125 (plus tax), which also includes your first two drinks. Or, for \$195, enjoy a five-course dinner in the Pacific's Edge dining room — and the party, too.

Reserve at Eventbrite, or call (831) 620-1234 for more information.

Soup to Nuts

made your plans to greet 2024 in style, here are a few ideas.

On New Year's Eve, the Links Club in Carmel Plaza is offering an evening with a buffet that includes "over the top charcuterie," salad and fruit displays, street tacos, quesadillas, flatbreads and more, as well as dessert and, starting at midnight, "breakfast treat." Scarlet — a band that provides "high energy dance music" — will provide the tunes, and the \$149 admission includes the buffet, three drink tickets and Champagne toasts. That's plural — guests will celebrate 2024's arrival in Eastern, Central, Mountain and Pacific time zones. The party is scheduled for 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. and reservations are available on Eventbrite.

A few miles down Highway 1, the Hyatt Carmel Highlands offers two NYE options. You can opt to have dinner at home and attend the Inn's cel-



One of the most exciting offerings in downtown Carmel for New Year's Eve is at the Links Club in Carmel Plaza.

First Night

And of course, First Night Monterey will present its usual nine hours of music, activities and a parade as the city counts down to midnight. Restaurants will be open in downtown Monterey and on Fish-

See **FOOD** next page

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FOOD & WINE

FOOD

From previous page

erman's Wharf, so why not park the car and make an evening of it? Admission buttons start at \$29 for adults (before Dec. 28 online or Dec. 30 in stores) and are available at firstnightmonterey.org or any Monterey County Safeway, Andronico's Market in Monterey and Grove Market in P.G. You can also pick some up at the event at Portola Plaza or on Alvarado Street across from Ordway Pharmacy.

Wedded bliss abides

Speaking of the Highlands Inn, last month it was the site of a rare celebra-

tion. Since its opening on July 28, 1917, by J. Franklin Devendorf, the co-founder of Carmel-by-the-Sea, it has been greeting and caring for guests who have enjoyed its beautiful views and romantic sunsets. Fast-forward to Nov. 27, 1953, when Eureka couple Jim and Nancy Hayes married and honeymooned for a weekend at the Highlands Inn.

"My husband's parents treated us for our honeymoon. We had so much fun we stayed an extra night," Nancy said. The following year, they went back to celebrate their first anniversary and stayed in the same cottage, and they returned for their 25th anniversary. This year, they celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary — at the Highlands, of course.

"Everybody was so nice" Nancy said. They were sitting in their room, enjoying

a bottle of Champagne they had brought with them, when there was a knock on the door, "They had brought us a beautiful hors d'oeuvre platter and another bottle of Champagne," Nancy said with a laugh. How rare is a 70th anniversary? According to the U.S. Census Bureau, only 6 percent of married couples make it to their 50th wedding anniversary, while only one out of every 1,000 makes it to their 70th.

Sipping at Galante for 30 years

If you're looking for a place to take out-of-town guests this holiday season, why not try Carmel's original tasting room, Galante Vineyards? A winding path off Dolores between Ocean and Seventh Avenue leads to this hidden gem where a cowboy winemaker with a big personality pours his wines for visitors to enjoy.

The cowboy, Jack Galante, a descendant of one of Carmel's founders, grew up spending summers at his family's cattle ranch in Carmel Valley. In 1983, his parents decided to plant grapes on the 700-acre ranch, and when they retired in 1991, they handed Jack the reins. He promptly built a winery and Galante Vineyards was born. At roughly the same time, he opened the first wine tasting room in Carmel, and next year, the winery celebrates 30 years of pouring wine for visitors and locals in the heart of the village.

Authentic cowboy

The tasting room's motif is 100 percent authentic cowboy, as are the names of the wines and their corresponding labels. In fact, many are adorned with photographs of beautifully hand-tooled leather art created by a California saddle maker, so vivid that you might want to reach out and feel the label to convince yourself that it's just paper. Jack's large-format, 3-liter bottles (holds four regular bottles of wine) come

with real hand-tooled leather labels and with sterling silver conchos (decorative items often seen in belts and jewelry) — an enticing gift to place under a tree!

What about the wine?

Here are some suggestions and notes from sommelier Roxanne Langer.

2021 Legacy (\$85): A blend of merlot and cabernet sauvignon, the nose leads with red fruit and new French oak with the palate offering more red fruit, violets and spice.

2021 The Bold Ones (\$100): a blend of sangiovese and cabernet sauvignon, the nose begins big with herbs and spices as well as red cherries, and moves to deep red



Jack Galante's tasting room on Dolores Street is a hidden gem in downtown Carmel — and so is he.

fruits, earthiness and a floral essence.

2021 Blackjack Pasture cabernet sauvignon (\$80): Pretty black fruit and spice on the nose leading to soft black currant, blackberry, black cherry and dark plum flavors on the palate with fairly big tannins - this wine can age. And if you want to find out how well it ages, ask to taste their 1995 Blackjack which still has lively acidity, great color and lovely tertiary (aged) flavors of leather and fig.

Most California wineries don't have big wine libraries, especially ones that go back

See GRILL next page

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Experience holiday joy and wonder in Steinbeck Plaza, where families can share their wish lists and pose for free photos with Santa. Then, marvel at ornaments on the Cannery Row tree, take in the Monterey Bay views, and set off to do some holiday shopping on Cannery Row!

Weather Permitting.
Visit CanneryRow.com for information.

FOOD & WINE

GRILL

From previous page

to the 1990's. Galante is the perfect place to experience beautiful, older California wines. These wines are well worth a taste and a purchase as they are fairly priced and drinking well. Consider them a history lesson in a bottle!

■ Rio Grill gets cozy for winter

Chef Luis Osorio is out to impress Rio Grill diners (including hungry last-minute shoppers at the Crossroads) with a few seasonal menu additions. To start, indulge in the prawn crab cannelloni. It is as superb as it is simple — two soft pasta shells stuffed with prawn, ricotta, chives and lemon zest over a lobster cream sauce, topped with crème fraîche and Manchego cheese. "The texture is everything," said one diner, eyes closed over a bite of the delectable appetizer.

The crab salad is made from Dungeness crab with the chef's twist on a Louie dress-

ing, traditionally made with mayonnaise, chili sauce and minced green onions. Osorio's version is not overpowering or spicy, but provides more sophisticated, complex flavors. Mixed lettuce and tomatoes are topped with generous portions of crab, served alongside a hard-boiled egg, avocado, and a house-made bread-and-butter pickle.

There are several entrée additions for the winter season. If you're going for something lighter, the pan-seared Alaskan halibut served with succotash and a blood orange beurre blanc sauce is just the thing. Or try the diver scallops, pan-seared and served over a tricolor fettuccini, cherry tomatoes, and grilled onions in a Meunière sauce (brown butter and lemon).

But if you've been toting heavy bags full of gifts and walking briskly from shop to shop, you might be up for the 14-ounce almond wood-grilled ribeye served with mashed potatoes, sautéed broccolini and bell peppers. Perhaps the 8-ounce cut of New Zealand venison is more your thing. Osorio prepares each cut over an almond wood grill and coats the seared edges with

See WINE page 43A



Oak-grilled Venison served with fig demi glaze, roasted potatoes and cauliflower is one of the seasonal menu additions from Rio Grill chef Luis Osorio.

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MUSIC

From page 38A

guitarist **Dan Cortes** (Sunday at noon), singer and guitarist **Fred McCarty** (Sunday at 6 p.m.) singer and guitarist **Haley Jane** (Tuesday at 4 p.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

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

Bulldog Sports Pub in Monterey — **Tribe in the Sky** presents a weekly Community Jam (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.). 611 Lighthouse Ave.

The Center for Spiritual Awakening in Pacific Grove — mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** presents his 11th annual Enchanted Winter Solstice Concert, with violinist **Elijah McCullar** and pianist **Michael Martinez** (“from bluegrass, to Bach, to the Balkans, and back,” Friday at 6 p.m.). Tickets are \$25. The church is located at 522 Central Ave. For more details, visit daveholodiloff.com.

Cibo restaurant in Monterey — **The Dave Holodiloff Duo** (bluegrass and jazz,

Sunday at 7 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and singer and pianist **Scotty Wright** (jazz, Tuesday at 7 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz and swing, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St.

Cuz’s Sportsman’s Club in Seaside — **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Saturday at 8:30 p.m.). 594 Broadway.

Cypress Inn — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Friday at 7 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Loktionov** and singer **Debbie Davis** (cabaret, Saturday at 7 p.m.), **The Andrea Carter Trio** with guitarist **Darrin Michell** and multi-instrumentalist **Ben Herod** (pop, jazz and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.), guitarist **Richard Devinck** (classical, Sunday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea’s Fault Trio** (jazz and blues, Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh, Carmel.

Estéban Restaurant in Monterey — guitarist **Catherine Broz** (Spanish music, Friday and Saturday at 5:30 p.m.). 700 Munras Ave.

Fernwood Resort in Big Sur — **Miranda & The Beat** (rock and soul, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

Folktale Winery in Carmel Valley —



Singer and guitarist Cisco Jim performs Friday at Trailside Cafe in Carmel Valley Village. Showtime is 6 p.m.

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singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Friday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Daniel Cortes** (Saturday at 2 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Saturday at 8 p.m. and Thursday at 7 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.

Hyatt Regency Monterey — singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea’s Fault Duo** (jazz and blues, Saturday at 6 p.m.), flutist **Kenny Stahl** and guitarist **Bob Burnett** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.

The Inn at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach — pianist **Bill Spencer**, bassist **Pete Lips** and drummer **Andy Weis** (jazz, Friday at 7 p.m.), pianist **Gary Meek**, bassist **Pete Lips** and drummer **Andy Weis** (jazz, Saturday at 7 p.m.), pianist **Bill Spencer**,

bassist **John Wiitala** and drummer **Andy Weis** (jazz, Sunday at 7 p.m.), pianist **Gary Meek**, bassist **Steve Uccello** and drummer **Andy Weis** (jazz, Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m.), pianist **Bill Spencer**, bassist **Steve Uccello** and drummer **Andy Weis** (jazz, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 2700 17 Mile Drive.

Intercontinental Hotel in Monterey — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Saturday at 9 a.m.), guitarist **Terrence Farrell** (Latin music, Sunday at 9 a.m.). 750 Cannery Row.

Julia’s Vegetarian Restaurant in Pacific Grove — singer and guitarist **Rags Rosenberg** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Smith** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave.

See LIVE next page

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LIVE

From previous page

La Playa Hotel — The David Morwood Band (jazz, Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m., Sunday at 4 p.m.). Bud's Bar, Camino Real and Eighth, Carmel.

The Links Club — Scarlet (rock, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.), Singer-Songwriter Showcase (Tuesday at 7 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — singer and guitarist **Dan Cortes** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kip Allert** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Thursday at 6 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive.

Massa Tasting Room in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Sunday at noon). 69 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Midici Pizza in Monterey — singer **Janice Perl** and keyboardist **Kevin McCullough** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

Mission Ranch — singer and pianist **Maddaline Edstrom** (jazz, Friday through Sunday at 5 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Loktionov** (jazz, Monday through Thursday at 5 p.m.). 26270 Dolores St., Carmel.

Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa — multi-instrumentalist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Friday and Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), **The Peninsula Harmony Carolers** (Monday at 2 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Frazier** (rock and blues, Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Dan Cortes** (Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kip Allert** (Thursday at 6:30 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

Pearl Hour in Monterey — **The Zach Westfall Group** (jazz, Sunday at 8 p.m.), **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz,



Mandolinist Dave Holodiloff (center) presents his 11th annual Enchanted Winter Solstice Concert Friday at the Center for Spiritual Awakening in Pacific Grove. He'll be joined by violinist Elijah McCullar (left) and pianist Michael Martinez (right).

Wednesday at 8 p.m.). 214 Lighthouse Ave.

Puma Road at Portola Plaza in Monterey — singer and guitarist **Alex Bezdjian** (Friday at 6 p.m.), **Magenta Spreen** with singer and guitarist **Talmon Owen** and singer **Kristen Gradwohl** ("dreamy soundscapes and vocal harmonies coupled with rich storytelling and mindful melodies," Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

The Sardine Factory in Monterey — singer and guitarist **David Conley** (pop and rock, Friday and Saturday, Tuesday through Thursday at 7:30 p.m.). 701 Wave St.

Salty Seal Pub in Monterey — mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (bluegrass and jazz, Friday at 9 p.m. and Thursday at 8 p.m.), **The John Michael Band** (pop and rock, Saturday at 8 p.m.). 653 Cannery Row.

Sly McFly's in Monterey — **Lost and Found** (rock and soul, Friday at 9 p.m.), **The Joint Chiefs** ("funk, acid jazz and classic r&b," Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

Trailside Cafe in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Cisco Jim** (country, Friday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

Wild Fish restaurant in Pacific Grove — **The Lighthouse Jazz Quartet** (Friday and Thursday at 6 p.m.). 545 Lighthouse Ave.

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

WINE

From page 41A

a fig sauce and serves it alongside roasted cauliflower and parmesan-dusted Yukon gold potatoes. "We are going for Central Coast flavors, farm-to-table, with a touch of European," explained Osorio, who also advised that the venison is best served medium rare. Rio Grill is located at 101 Crossroads Blvd. in Carmel and is open every day from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. for lunch and dinner. For more information visit riogrill.com.

■ An evening full of wine and fun facts

Sure, you know that Dr. Seuss' real name was Theodor Geisel. You know that Boris Karloff narrated "The Grinch." But did you know that "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" was sung by an uncredited Thurl Ravenscroft? Who's that? The voice of Tony the Tiger. If this sort of useless information gets your blood pumping, you might enjoy Trivia @ De Tierra on Friday, Dec. 29 from 6 to 7 p.m. in the winery's tasting room near Mission and Fifth. There's no fee to participate, but reservations at exploretock.com are highly recommended.

Sally Baho, Elaine Hesser and Roxanne Langer contributed to this week's column.

Be prepared for emergencies — register your phone number at www.alertmontereycounty.org

CALENDAR

Dec. 22-23 – Winterdance, a seasonal celebration of music, song and Irish dance features John Weed (fiddle, Molly's Revenge); Stuart Mason (guitar, bouzouki, Molly's Revenge); Tyler Weed (mandolin and banjo virtuoso), Amelia Hogan (Grammy nominee vocalist) and Lane Olson (Spanish Bay piper). Two spectacular shows at St. Mary's By-The-Sea, Pacific Grove, Friday, Dec. 23 at 7 p.m., Saturday matinee at 3 p.m. Tickets available at www.celticsociety.org

Through Dec. 23 – Don't miss the 7th Annual Christmas on the Wharf for four weekends. Enjoy spectacular decorations and a 19 foot Christmas tree, free Santa visits at his Santa House, talented choirs, singers and other live musicians, dancers, community caroling on Sunday evenings and more! More information and the entertainment schedule can be found on montereywharf.com

Through Dec. 24 – Baum & Blume ~ Your "One-Stop" Holiday Boutique! "Fun-tastic" stocking stuffers, holiday jewelry, accessories, décor, cards/wrap, great gifts for dads, kids, everyone! Handmade fruitcakes, jams & treats, too! Shop Mon.-Sat. 11:30-7. Open Xmas Eve till 5 p.m. Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito, Carmel Valley. (831) 659-0400.

Through Dec. 31 – Monterey County Gives! Boost your year-end donation through montereycountygives.com. Each gift to your choice of more than 200 participating nonprofits receives a partial match.

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ART

From page 36A

ship between light and shadow." For more about Short and her gallery, visit rachaelsshort.com.

■ 'Shining star' falls

An award-winning painter with strong local ties, Randall Sexton of Benicia died Dec. 10 at 65.

Not only is Sexton's work available at Nancy Dodds Gallery (on Seventh just west of San Carlos), but Sexton was a familiar face around town, where he led painting workshops for Carmel Visual Arts and competed in the Carmel Art Festival's plein air contest, winning five awards, including "Best Work on Canvas or Panel" in 2003 and "Best of Show" in 2004.

Dodds called Sexton a "shining star" and a "one-of-a-kind spirit."

"He was a fantastic artist and, over the years, became a genuinely beloved friend," she said. "I've been honored to be able to show his work over the years. Our hearts ache at the loss of him."

A GoFundMe campaign titled "Honor Randy Sexton and assist his wife Carol" has been launched, and so far, more than \$6,000 has been raised.

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SECTION RE ■ December 22-28, 2023

Open Houses on page 8RE

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate



■ This week's cover, located in Carmel, is presented by
Vilia Kakis Gilles of Sotheby's International Realty. (See Page 2 RE)

Sotheby's
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About the Cover

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate

December 22-28, 2023



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Real Estate Sales Dec. 10 - 16

Escrows closed: 23
Total value: \$51,961,000

Carmel

Scenic Road, NE corner of 10th Avenue — \$12,975,000
Beachside Carmel LLC to Lee and Shelbi Bennett
APN: 010-302-006

Carmel Valley

82 Del Mesa Carmel — \$622,000
Casey Steckel to Lane Loyko
APN: 015-444-004

258 Hacienda Carmel — \$829,000
Betty Weston Trust to Robert and Janet Andrews
APN: 015-355-017

15442 Via La Gitana — \$1,087,500



1324 Funston Avenue, Pacific Grove — \$1,242,500

Roger Doue to John Flaniken
APN: 197-174-003

477 Laureles Grade — \$1,200,000

See **HOME SALES** page 4RE

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HOME SALES

From page 2RE

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13 Sleepy Hollow Drive — \$3,250,000

Estate of Robert Nesmith to Diane and Gregory Scallon
APN: 197-191-013

Punta del Monte — \$5,250,000

Sang Lee to Rohnert Park RI LP
APN: 189-441-007

Marina

3072 Zanetta Drive — \$750,000



13 Sleepy Hollow Drive, Carmel Valley — \$3,250,000

David Chavoya to JS & MF Properties LLC
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13418 Warren Avenue — \$1,050,000

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See ESCROWS page 18RE



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Santa Claus takes time to answer the questions on everyone's mind

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famous than Taylor Swift just before he took off for a trip around the world.

JERRY GERVASE: Santa, can you tell me a few things about yourself that no one knows?

SANTA CLAUS: Well, first of all, I like "Miracle on 34th Street." The original, not any of the remakes. Edmund

Gwenn portrayed me perfectly. I would have picked him had I any say in the casting. Let's see. What else. Oh yes, I fired the elves years ago.

JG: You did? How come?

SC: They got too big for their britches. Several of them got roles in those Hobbit Movies. How you gonna keep them up at the Pole after they've seen LA? After that, I could only talk to them through their agents. Contracts, points, percentages — it was too much.

JG: Who replaced them?

SC: Grandparents. They love the work and like to feel

Happy holidays, from all of us to *all of you.*

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Scenic Views

By JERRY GERVASE

needed. They show up on time, and who understands kids better than they do?

JG: Do you really live at the North Pole?

SC: Part of the time. I spend much of my time in Carmel. Much better climate than the North Pole. And it's an animal-friendly city. I have no problems keeping my reindeer here.

JG: I've never seen them.

SC: Have you ever played the Hay golf course? They're all over the place. I do all my Christmas shopping here, too. Great variety of merchandise and so many unique stores.

Fast food in Carmel

JG: Do you get involved with local politics?

SC: In a way, since I give presents to politicians everywhere.

JG: What do you give them?

SC: Stick-on name tags that read "Hello, My Name Is ..." so we know who they are when they're not campaigning.

JG: Can you make any predictions on what might happen in Carmel next year?

SC: I think the Flanders Mansion issue will be resolved.

JG: How will that happen?

SC: I have inside information that the city is going to relax its restrictions on national franchises and a major fast food chain will open there.

See GERVASE page 14RE



*We wish you all a magical
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Here's to a peaceful and prosperous year ahead!

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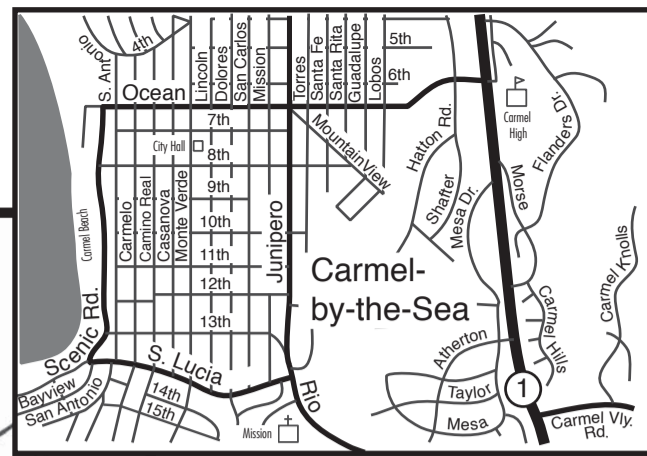
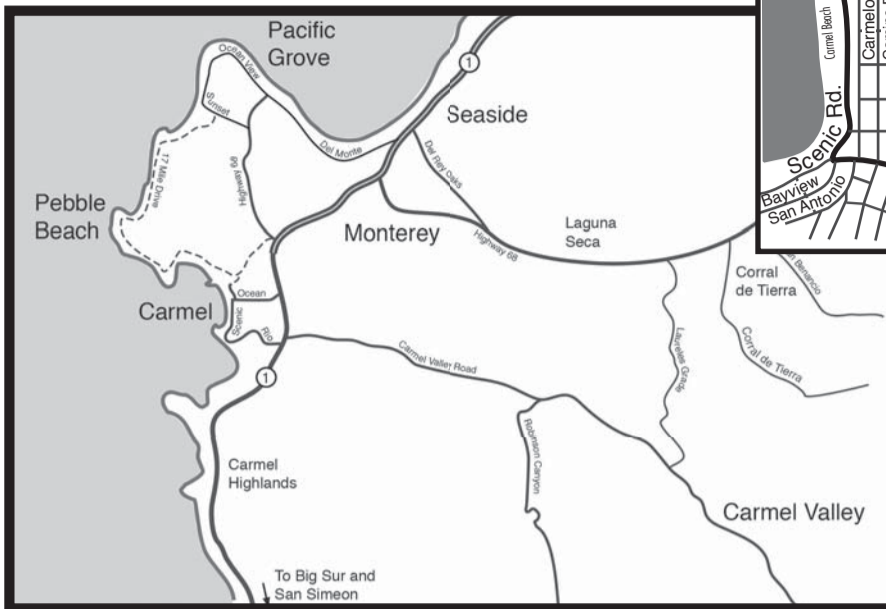
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Chris Counts: Carmel Valley, Big Sur, Arts & Entertainment and scholastic sports
chris@carmelpinecone.com

Kelly Nix: Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Monterey, Seaside, state government, civil courts and water
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-Kate Gladney & Kathleen Randazzo



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GERVASE

From page 6RE

JG: Which one?

SC: I'm not sure, unless McFlanders means anything.

JG: On another subject, there are many who think the Christmas hype begins way too early. How do you respond to that?

SC: Nonsense. It's never too early to start thinking about Christmas.

JG: I would expect you to say that. Christmas is your business. But some people go nuts in their quest for bargains before the wishbone on the Thanksgiving turkey is dry.

SC: What would you have me do? Roast those quest nuts on an open fire? Be realistic. People are in a better mood if they're into the spirit of Christmas. Everyone should be as cheery throughout the entire year.

JG: But don't you think people forget the true meaning of Christmas?

SC: It is a shame people don't carry the Christmas spirit inside them all the time. Buying presents for others is an altruistic act. It's not exactly, "Love One Another," but it's a start. Face it, Christmas is the best time of the year. Any pressure people feel is self-inflicted.

If they carried Christmas in their hearts throughout the

year, there would be no pressure. I say, let's hear "Silver Bells" in July. Bring out the poinsettias in August. Let's hear Bing Crosby crooning about children listening for sleigh bells in September.

The miracle

JG: Speaking of the true meaning of Christmas, a lot of people don't believe in the biblical account of the first Christmas.

SC: Well, in this country you can believe what you want, but I think not believing in that miraculous event is as silly as not believing in me.

JG: Why do you feel that way?

SC: Are you serious? Two thousand years later people are still talking about it. There's never been anything like it.

JG: You talk about it as if you were there.

SC: I was, my friend. I was. And let me tell you. As I looked into that baby's eyes, everything was different. Now, it's time for my walk on beautiful Carmel Beach. You get one more question.

JG: Is it true that, even with all the millions of people in the world, you remember every one?

SC: Have we met before?

JG: No.

SC: Well? Have I ever forgotten you?

JG: Merry Christmas!

Contact Jerry at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.

POLICE LOG

From page 4A

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Pacific Grove: Vehicle on Lighthouse Avenue marked as abandoned.

Big Sur: Online report of stolen property on Highway 1.

Carmel area: Burglary of a vehicle reported on Mission Fields Road.

Carmel Valley: Report of deceased person at a residence on Carmel Valley Road.

Pebble Beach: Deceased person on Congress Road.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

Carmel-by-the-Sea: No calls to report.

Pacific Grove: A 33-year-old male was arrested on Asilomar Avenue for DUI drugs.

Pacific Grove: Found property on Ocean View Boulevard was turned in to the police department. No owner information is known, and the item will be held for safekeeping.

Pacific Grove: Found scooter on Spruce Avenue was surrendered to the police department.

Pacific Grove: Theft of a rental car on Lighthouse Avenue.

Carmel area: A 19-year-old female on Valenzuela Road reported she was being harassed by her 19-year-old ex-boyfriend through phone calls.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Carmel-by-the-Sea: No calls to report.

Pacific Grove: Report of a dog bite with visible injury on Miles Avenue. Follow-up with dog owner to be conducted.

Pacific Grove: Verbal argument between boyfriend and girlfriend on Lighthouse Avenue. Informational report only.

Carmel area: A 49-year-old male was arrested on Agujito Road for obstruction of justice, possession of a controlled substance, concealment of a dagger, and trespassing.

Carmel area: Juvenile issue on Ocean Avenue. Report for informational purposes.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 35-year-old male Salinas resident was arrested at Ocean and Carpenter at 0154 hours for DUI. He was cited and released.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Traffic accident on Lincoln Street at 0222 hours. A 54-year-old male Castroville resident was arrested for DUI.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Female lost her wallet somewhere in the Carmel Plaza.

Pacific Grove: Report of a battery between coworkers on Lighthouse Avenue.

Carmel Valley: Fraud reported involving a 74-year-old male victim.

Carmel area: Death reported on Morse Drive.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Two purses stolen from a business at Ocean and Junipero.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fall on city property on Sixth Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Deceased body found at a residence on Walnut Street.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of a burglary at a construction site on Camino del Monte.

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Service Directory continues on page 18RE

Police Log: Carmel-by-the-Sea, Dec. 17
Report of an Xmas display stolen (pig dressed in a Santa Claus suit)


and reindeer displays vandalized on Dolores Street.

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1 Stratford Place, Monterey — \$1,500,000



1209 Benbow Place, Pebble Beach — \$3,450,000



40 Cuesta Vista Drive, Monterey — \$1,500,000

ESCROWS

From page 4RE

Monterey (con't)

1 Stratford Place — \$1,500,000

Eldred and Juanita Griffin to Alexa Fletcher and Kent Ferrin
APN: 014-111-016

Pacific Grove

1324 Funston Avenue — \$1,242,500

Jose Silva to 1324 Funston Avenue
APN: 007-564-053

529 Central Avenue — \$1,700,000

I&P Brothers LLC to Jayesh Desai
APN: 006-174-009

Pebble Beach

1209 Benbow Place — \$3,450,000

Haydee Vitacolonna to Clyde Hosein
APN: 008-571-009

Seaside

1543 Waring Street — \$530,000

Estate of Martha Coaston to DL Assets LLC
APN: 012-205-011

1844 Harding Street — \$614,000

Kenneth and Lori Jones to Anthony Pietragallo
APN: 012-843-007

1729 Lowell Street — \$640,000

Lucas Hebrst to Chris Marsiguerra
APN: 012-753-033

1752 Mendocino Street — \$725,000

Bengt and Kristine Andersson to Nicole Mountain
APN: 012-776-003

1623 Mescal Street — \$993,000

Alana Mook to Benjamin Korsmo and Danielle Slattery
APN: 012-663-006

Spreckels

Harkins Road — \$9,300,000

Kharkins LLC to Coastal Ag Capital LLC
APN: 177-141-074/076

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Continues from page 16RE

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\$625,000 • www.912HarcourtAveUnitA.com



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