

Motorcyclist dies after teen driver knocks down pole

■ Rider and four other vehicles hit debris

By MARY SCHLEY

A 44-YEAR-OLD Seaside motorcyclist died Sunday morning after hitting a power pole and wires that fell across Highway 1 just south of Carpenter Street after a



PHOTO/FACEBOOK

Highway 1 south of Carpenter Street was shut down for nearly four hours Sunday morning after a motorcyclist died in a crash caused by a teenage driver who hit a power pole with his truck, the CHP said.

teenage driver crashed into the pole with his truck, according to California Highway Patrol officer Saul Perez.

The motorcyclist, identified by the Monterey County Sheriff's Office as Ricardo De Orta-Garcia, worked at Carmel Valley Ranch, according to a longtime friend.

The freak accident occurred shortly before 6 a.m. May 12, when a 17-year-old male, whose name was not released by the CHP, driving a black Ford pickup truck northbound on Highway 1, "crossed the southbound lanes and crashed into a utility pole on the west side of the roadway," Perez said. "The impact caused the pole and wires to fall across the lanes."

Under investigation

It's still unknown why the young motorist, who lives in Seaside, crossed the double-yellow line onto the wrong side of the highway and hit the power pole.

Unable to avoid the fallen pole and wires, four drivers heading southbound on Highway 1 crashed into them moments later, including De Orta-Garcia, who was riding a red and black Honda motorcycle, according to the CHP.

CHP radio calls indicated the crash was reported at 5:52 a.m., and five minutes later, someone called in to report the motorcyclist and his bike down in the roadway. Carmel Police officers arrived at the scene just

See CRASH page 14A

1,000 new homes must be affordable, locals say

■ Massive changes coming to C.V.?

By CHRIS COUNTS

AS MONTEREY County struggles to meet a state mandate to create more housing, it has identified sites for about 2,500 housing units in Carmel Valley.

But county planning commissioner Kate Daniels told The Pine Cone that the county's numbers rely on bad advice from a consultant and include many inappropriate sites — although she said there are good locations available for up to 1,000 units, mostly at the mouth of the valley and at mid-valley.

"We have the opportunity to craft our housing element in a way that may actually lead to the development of the housing we need in Carmel Valley, such as affordable-by-design units for moderate income and workforce housing," she said. "Instead, Harris and Associates produced a document that will lead to second homes and

investment opportunities because no one will be able to afford these homes."

Perhaps more importantly, Daniels said the county is using a faulty formula that creates high-end housing to subsidize low-end housing. The planning commissioner, who represents Carmel Valley and lives there, said adding an inclusionary housing requirement to projects that include luxury homes has ultimately produced very few affordable units.

'The only example'

So what's the best model for creating affordable housing? "If Monterey County is looking for evidence for what's worked in the past, Pacific Meadows is your example — not the Santa Lucia Preserve or Tehama," Daniels said. "Pacific Meadows is the only example of a substantial affordable housing project built in Carmel Valley during my lifetime — it was done on land that was donated and developed by a nonprofit."

Daniels said she's encouraged by the support she sees in Carmel Valley for projects that would offer truly affordable housing.

See HOUSING page 13A

World admires Seaside man's rebellion in paint

By CHRIS COUNTS

ANYBODY CAN get a little irritated when the government nitpicks their compliance with one of the 10,000 laws we're all supposed to follow. But Seaside resident Etienne Constable came up with a mischievous way to comply with an edict that he hide a boat parked next to his house: He installed a solid gate to block the view of the boat from the street and then had his neighbor, artist Hanif Wondir, paint a realistic image of the boat on it.

Constable told The Pine Cone that he spent a few weeks after being told he had to conceal the boat, "pondering what the appropriate response would be."

First, he paved a driveway beneath the boat and installed the gate. Next, he reached out to Wondir.

"I knew this was right up his alley," Constable said. "I said to him, 'Hey, I got this letter from the city, and I have this idea.' His face lit up and he said he'd like to help."

Almost looks real

It took Wondir about a week to complete the photo-realistic work, which covers the 12-foot-wide gate and creates the illusion that you're looking at the boat.

"A painting of a boat in a driveway next to a house on a fence in front of a boat in a driveway next to a house," is how Wondir described his work.

"I'm not a rule breaker, but I like to make a political statement as necessary, as well as a humorous statement

Delves is first challenger to seek council seat

■ Potter, Richards will run again

By MARY SCHLEY

CARMEL PLANNING Commissioner Bob Delves said he'd like to see more fiscal discipline, transparency, community engagement and local control in city hall, and he believes he's the one who can deliver.

A former mayor and town council member in a Colorado resort village, Delves announced this week he will run for election to the city council in November, while incumbent Mayor Dave Potter told those attending a Carmel Chamber of Commerce event Friday that he plans to run again, and councilman Bobby Richards said the same this week.

"A month ago, I wasn't going to do this, and I just decided in the last couple of weeks that I think there's a need, I think I've got the skills, and I think I can help," Delves said Wednesday.

Delves, who had been visiting Carmel with his wife for decades, purchased a home on Camino Real near Fourth and moved here full time in 2019.

"We'd been coming to Carmel for 30 years on and off, but really what led to us moving here permanently was a dog," he said. Specifically, it was a very energetic vizsla puppy that needed a lot of outdoor exercise — not easy in the Colorado mountains in the wintertime — so the couple and their dog decided to spend three months in Carmel. A year-and-a-half later, they permanently left the snow and high elevations of Mountain Village, the base village for Telluride ski resort, behind.

Experience

Born and raised in Chicago, Delves lived in Milwaukee, Los Angeles and again in Chicago before relocating to Colorado in 2004. There, he honed his public leadership skills as a member of the Mountain Village town council for eight years, six of them as mayor, and said he led

See CANDIDATES page 12A



Bob Delves

Colorful broadcaster memorialized outside his favorite market



PHOTO/COURTESY STEVEN WHYTE

John Madden may have been a famous NFL coach and sports broadcaster, but locally he was loved for his kindness and generosity — and a new statue proves it. See page 23A.



PHOTO/HANIF WONDIR VIA INSTAGRAM

Etienne Constable of Seaside came up with an ingenious way to comply with a city mandate — and his story went viral.



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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Buddha of the beach

Presley is the reason his people decided to retire to Carmel. They are in the prime of life but, at 18 — that's 126 in human years — the little terrier-Dachshund-Chihuahua mix is not.

Fortunately, he doesn't realize it.

"We lived in Carmel for a few months in 2016-2017," his person said. "At that point, Presley was running up and down Carmel Beach, and we thought, "What a great place for him to live when he's older."

Which is now. So, last August, Presley's people moved here from Lake Tahoe, settling at the north end of town. A very senior dog, he moves quite slowly these days, but he has a nifty little stroller, his person said, so he often can be seen riding around the sidewalks of Carmel, along the path flanking Scenic Road, and even



down that stretch of wet sand along the shoreline.

"As soon as we get to the beach with Presley in his stroller, dogs descend on him, so curious," his person said. "I think they know how frickin' old he is and respect him. He sits there like a little Buddha while the other dogs, I believe, think, 'Wow. Congratulations, Buddy. Hang in there.'"

Presley's people were living in San Francisco when they stopped by a rescue organization whose staff had a routine of visiting a "kill shelter" every Friday and scooping up as many pups as they could from death row. Apparently, Presley's time was going to be up with in the next 24 hours.

"It's hard to tell with a rescue," his person said, "but we think he was about a year old. We walked into the shelter, saw his long body and cute little ears, and scooped him up and brought him home. We're his people, his family, and he is the most grateful, loving dog."

Peninsula

BUSINESSES

MAY 24, 2024

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We will answer that question in our May 24 edition —

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Council considers another record budget

By MARY SCHLEY

TWO YEARS ago, Carmel’s proposed budget exceeded \$30 million for the first time. Last week, the city council got its first look at a plan that calls for spending nearly \$43.9 million during the 2024-2025 fiscal year, with more than a quarter of it earmarked for capital projects and deferred maintenance.

A special meeting on the draft budget — which councilwoman Alissandra Dramov described as “absolutely untenable” and “fiscally irresponsible” — is set for next week.

Presented by assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson at the May 7 council meeting, the plan predicts spending \$43,850,044 while generating \$31,431,249 in revenues, so unspent funds from prior years totaling \$12,418,795 will be used to make up the difference.

With the council’s previous direction “to maintain core services and invest heavily in deferred infrastructure maintenance, natural resource management, community character and of course the police building project,” city administrator Chip Rerig said in his budget message, “we are fortunate to have an available fund balance, accumulated through the prudent budgeting in past years, to close the gap in revenue that we are forecasting.”

Sales taxes top source

On the income side, the budget expects transient occupancy taxes to remain generally flat at just over \$7.5 million, while property taxes should generate a little more than \$8.6 million for the general fund. The biggest driver of income in 2024-2025 will be sales taxes, expected to bring in \$9,783,874. Various other smaller revenue streams are estimated to total just over

\$2.9 million, and charges for services like tree removal permits and business license applications and will amount to just under \$2.6 million.

The plan anticipates \$28,249,593 in operating expenses — including \$18.4 million on salaries and benefits — \$519,100 on debt, about \$2.4 million on pension liability, \$127,000 on workers compensation and \$12,579,000 on capital improvements, including the police station project, street repaving, replacement of the roof at city hall, and numerous other items.

New hires

Swanson said the city plans to hire a half-dozen people, including an additional planner to help implement the city’s recently adopted housing plan, a project manager to oversee the extensive list of capital projects, another maintenance worker, an assistant forester, and more staff so the library can be open on weekends. Some existing positions will be reduced or eliminated — among them a couple that have gone unfilled and should have been taken off the list a year ago — so the net increase will be just over the equivalent of one full-time job, according to Swanson.

In an unusual twist, the public works department’s budget will exceed that of the police department’s, with public work expected to cost \$6,538,001 — representing 15 percent of total spending — and police estimated at \$5,377,455. Citywide non-departmental costs, which include insurance, utilities, pension liability and healthcare for retirees, are estimated to come in just under \$4.1 million, followed by the fire department at a little over \$3.4 million, administration at roughly \$3.4

A \$43.9M budget just two after years it reached \$30M

See **BUDGET** page 16A

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Police & Sheriff's Log

Investment turned out to be fake

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.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Male called in stating he and his girlfriend were having a disagreement and he did not want it to escalate. Officer arrived on scene on Junipero and spoke to both parties. No physical violence was reported by either party. Both parties stated they would sleep in the same residence but in different areas and were counseled without further incident.

Carmel Valley: Deputies responded for an at risk-person on Valley Greens Circle.

MONDAY, APRIL 29

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found Google phone at Ocean and San Carlos was turned in.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found ring at Scentic and Eighth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Crisis mobile contacted dispatch for a welfare check on a pos-

sible 5150 subject. The subject was contacted and escorted by ambulance to the hospital on a voluntary 5150 hold. The subject has a prior for the same encounter last week.

Pacific Grove: Violation of a restraining order on Coral Street.

Pacific Grove: Ammunition was surrendered by a Chestnut Street resident for destruction.

Pacific Grove: Referral received from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Ongoing investigation. Occurred outside jurisdiction.

Pacific Grove: Vehicles on Lighthouse, on Fourth and on Jewell were marked for 72-hour parking.

Pacific Grove: Report of vandalism to vending machines on Lighthouse Avenue. Possible suspect information.

Carmel area: Law enforcement received suspicious information via multiple anonymous letters.

Pacific Grove: Adult Protective Services report for information per mandated reporting guidelines.

See **POLICE LOG** page 11RE in the Real Estate Section



The gavel falls

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

April 15 — Gonzales resident Jose Jesse Marquez, age 31, was found guilty of the following charges: felony animal abuse with an allegation that the crime involved a deadly or dangerous weapon (four counts), felony resisting a police officer, and felony burglary.

The Hon. Jennifer O'Keefe further found true enhancements for a prior strike conviction and numerous factors in aggravation. These convictions constitute four strike offenses under California's three strikes law, which directs that the defendant will face life behind bars if he commits another strike. The defendant faces approximately 20 years and four months in prison when he is sentenced on June 4.

At approximately 2:29 a.m. on Feb. 18, 2023, the defendant rode his bicycle to Gonzales High School and entered the property to take a tool. He approached the barn area and stabbed multiple animals belonging to students. Two lambs died, one lamb survived

and one pig survived. He held down each animal, which had been raised since birth by children at Gonzales High, and repeatedly stabbed them eight to 10 times in the head and neck with such force their skulls were broken in multiple places.

When contacted by law enforcement, the defendant refused to comply with officers' orders and threatened to commit violence towards an officer at booking.

This case was prosecuted by the Monterey County District Attorney's prosecution unit for crimes against animals. If you suspect animal abuse or neglect in your neighborhood, please contact the district attorney's office at (831) 755-5070 or your local police department.

This case was investigated by officer Miguel Perez, Cpl. Nathan Cordoba and Sgt. Herbert Bowen. District attorney investigator Rebecca Ayala conducted the critical follow-up investigation.

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Grand jury: Pot biz on life support

■ Tiny fraction of taxes went to youth programs

By KELLY NIX

MONTEREY COUNTY’S once-prosperous cannabis industry is in crisis. Dozens of businesses have closed and defaulted on more than \$6 million in taxes, annual tax revenue has plummeted nearly 90 percent, and the money isn’t going where it’s supposed to go, according to a report released by the grand jury.

The Monterey County Civil Grand Jury report, released last week, also found that of the tens of millions of dollars in county cannabis tax revenue since 2016 — the year recreational pot became legal for adults — a mere \$93,000 has gone to youth drug prevention and education.

“The cannabis industry now faces numerous challenges threatening its survival,” the grand jury said. “More than 50 cannabis businesses have closed or filed for bankruptcy, defaulting on more than \$6 million in unpaid taxes.”

Annual tax revenue from the cannabis program plummeted from \$20 million three years ago to about \$3 million, the report goes on to say.

“County documents indicate annual tax collections peaked in fiscal year 2020-2021 between \$18.2 million and \$20.1 million,” the report indicated. “Lower tax rates and less cultivated canopy footage” — in other words, smaller crops — “have resulted in a more than an 89 percent reduction in tax collection.”

Chapter 11

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors, in collaboration with several county growers, originally intended the county to be “a model for a well-administered cannabis industry in California.”

But overproduction, high initial tax rates, a rise in the illegal marijuana

business, and licensing and regulation challenges have significantly lowered prices, and stricter regulations have forced multiple businesses to close and file for bankruptcy, the jury said.

“Market and environmental challenges now place the cannabis industry in a financial crisis,” the report said.

For instance, revenue from the county’s cannabis tax fund intended for community services declined from a high of \$23 million to a mere \$100,000 this fiscal year.

While the county paid a consultant, Citygate Associates, to review the program and identify inefficiencies, recommended actions taken by the supervisors “have not produced the desired organizational and structural results needed to stabilize the industry in Monterey County,” the report said.

Insignificant funding

A “community needs” survey commissioned by the supervisors concluded that 29 percent of the tax funds should go toward youth drug education and prevention. The statewide proposition to legalize marijuana use for adults also found that priority funding should go toward that effort.

However, the jury found that a minuscule amount of such taxes has funded drug prevention.

“Of the \$70 million allocated by the board of supervisors, only a little more than one-tenth of 1 percent, or \$93,000, could be identified for youth drug prevention and education,” according to the jury.


County supervisors establish tax rates for commercial cannabis businesses in the unincorporated areas. Even though the grand jury said that the tax rates here are comparable to those in nearby counties, it found that the supervisors did not fully account for the impact of the “high” rates on businesses.

“Many businesses collapsed and

See CANNABIS page 22A

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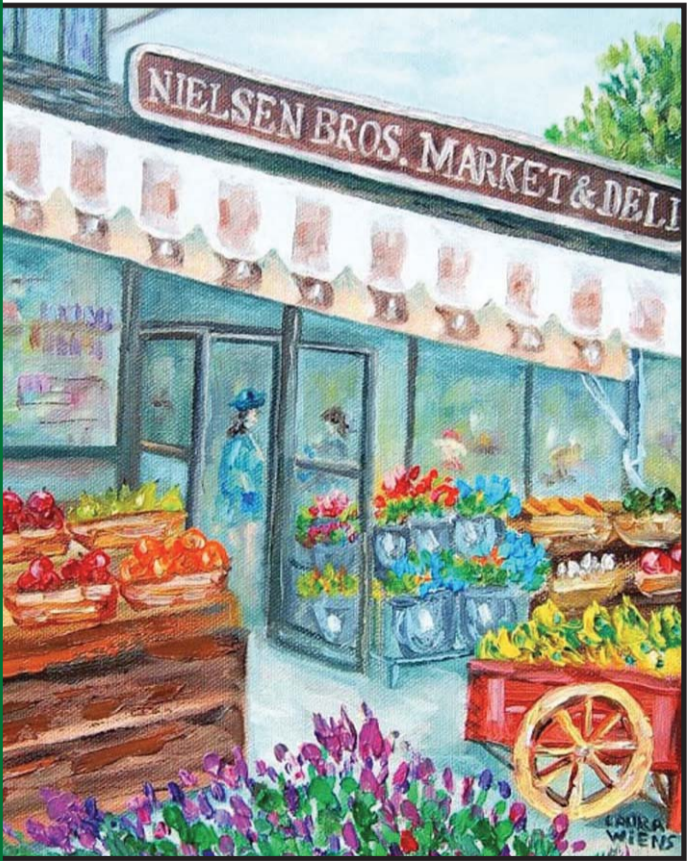
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Highway 1 set to reopen Friday

By CHRIS COUNTS

GIVING THE hospitality industry and the traveling public something to celebrate, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Tuesday that pending an "act of God" or "high winds," Highway 1 at Rocky Creek in Big Sur will reopen to everybody Friday morning.

A landslide closed the road March 30, and since then only residents and employees of Big Sur businesses have had intermittent access to the remaining lane.

But the road will reopen to the public Friday, with only short delays because a signal will regulate one-way traffic at the site.

"This portion of Highway 1 will reopen with the use of a 24/7 signalized traffic control," Caltrans reported. "This temporary signal will provide unrestricted public access with one-way alternating traffic in both the northbound and southbound directions."

The opening is coming ahead of schedule — Caltrans had previously reported that section of Highway 1 would be open by Memorial Day.

Working 'day and night'

Newsom made a brief announcement about the highway during a press conference where he addressed the state's mental health system. "The good news is that this Friday at 6:30 a.m., the highway will be reopened," the governor declared.

Newsom's office also released a statement on the reopening at Rocky Creek, where a slide March 30 took out a 6-foot

chunk of the southbound lane, along with a portion of an unreinforced masonry retaining wall. The road has been open only to hour-long convoys twice each day ever since — weather permitting.

"Crews have been working day and



PHOTO/CALTRANS

Gov. Gavin Newsom, who announced that Highway 1 will reopen Friday, surveys the work near Rocky Creek in Big Sur.

night to quickly repair the damage to Highway 1 caused by recent storms, which has disrupted the lives of individuals living in and around Big Sur, limiting access to the area and hampering tourism," the governor said. "Thanks to the diligent efforts, traffic will resume eight days ahead of schedule, bringing relief and a sense of normalcy back to one of California's most iconic coastal communities."

Also praising the successful effort to reopen the highway at Rocky Creek was State Sen. John Laird, who called the road "a vital lifeline" for the region.

See **HIGHWAY** page 22A

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Supes OK demo of ‘historic’ P.B. home

By CHRIS COUNTS

REJECTING AN appeal of an earlier decision by the county’s zoning administrator, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 Tuesday to approve tearing down a Spanish Colonial-style house built in 1928 and replacing it with a contemporary-style home.

John Hodge and his family want to demolish the 6,256-square-foot home at 3406 17 Mile Drive, along with a two-car garage and a 1,476-square-foot detached accessory dwelling unit, and replace it with an 8,467-square-foot house, plus a swimming pool. The county’s zoning administrator OK’d Hodge’s plans in January. But a neighbor, the Thomas family, objected to the approval and appealed the decision to the board of supervisors. Represented by attorney Jennifer Rosenthal, the family contended the site is in “a highly sensitive archaeological location” and includes sensitive plant communities.

Famed architect designed it

According to the appeal, the approval “ignores the fact that the current home is a Spanish Colonial Revival home Wallace Neff was known for designing.” Neff, who built homes for celebrities, was a noted architect credited with developing the “California” style of home design. The appellants also contend the design of the new home clashes with those of its neighbors and the pool would be installed too close to Pebble Beach Golf Links.

“Swimming pools this close in proximity to one of the most prestigious golf courses in the world are detrimental to not only the safety of those swimming, but the comfort and general welfare of those traveling the course,” the appellants say. “It should be noted that it is not the custom,



The county board of supervisors this week approved the teardown of this Spanish Colonial-style home in Pebble Beach.

pattern and practice for parcels located on the Pebble Beach Golf Links to have swimming pools on the golf course greens, and in using Google Earth, not one other swimming pool is shown on the course.”

But at Tuesday’s hearing, Hodge and his attorney, Aengus Jeffers, pushed back against the Thomas’ contentions. Jeffers said there’s much to like about the project.

“It replaces 1.5 acres of Kikuyu grass with oak woodland,” he said. “It reduces water demand and screens the house. It replaces fencing to improve public views of the ocean. It reduces hardscape by 57 percent.”

Jeffers insisted there are no “archaeological concerns” on the property or within 750 feet of it. “We carefully looked at every

See **HISTORIC** page 23A

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Judge rejects bid to end landlines

By KELLY NIX

IN A move that will please people who prefer using their old hard-wired telephones, a judge has rejected AT&T’s request to withdraw its obligation to provide landline phone service to homes in many parts of the state, including in the Monterey Peninsula. The decision will be final if it’s approved by the California Public Utilities Commission in June.

In March 2023, AT&T argued that landline phones are outdated and it should be freed from a regulatory obligation to continue offering the service, allowing the company to concentrate on developing technologically superior telephone and internet services. It asked that the state’s PUC allow it to discontinue landline service in many parts of the state, including in Carmel, Carmel Valley, Pebble Beach, Big Sur and Pacific Grove.

AT&T’s request, though, prompted more than 5,000 complaints to the PUC, including dozens from Monterey County residents. Landline customers argued that they rely on telephones in areas where cell service is poor and use them for medical alert devices, and that they offer voice communication when cell service is down, including during emergencies.

AT&T said in its application that its customers have numerous voice service alternatives, including from Verizon, T-Mobile and Comcast, all wireless as well as voice-over-internet services such as Vonage and Google voice.

Alternatives scrutinized

However, on May 10, a judge with the PUC issued a proposal rejecting AT&T’s request to remove itself as a so-called “carrier of last resort,” which refers to at least one telephone company in a specified area which is legally required to provide access to telephone service to anyone in the service territory who requests it. AT&T is the default carrier.

In his 24-page decision, administrative law judge Thomas J. Glegola said that no other company volunteered to replace AT&T — which is required to continue providing landline service until its application is approved or a new carrier has been selected.

“The commission’s rules require the presence of another carrier, either one already in place or one willing to replace AT&T, for the commission to relieve AT&T of its duties,” Glegola said.

Glegola also said that the alternative companies AT&T cited in its application don’t meet the definition of a carrier of last resort.

“The voice alternatives AT&T claims can replace” its landline service “are not required to offer voice service to everyone who requests it,” he said. “Further, these companies may not even be able to meet that requirement.”

The judge’s ruling has no legal effect until PUC commissioners vote on his decision, which may be heard as early as June 20, the agency said.

Filing restrictions

Glegola questioned AT&T’s decision to file the request.

“It’s not clear why AT&T filed this application, under existing rules, and then attempted to convince the commission that it should ignore its rules, based on flawed and erroneous assertions regarding the law and regulatory policy that slowed down the adjudication of this proceeding,” he said.

AT&T also argues that its responsibility to offer landline service “unfairly discriminates” against the company and puts AT&T at a competitive disadvantage compared to other companies that don’t carry the landline burden.

The judge pushed back on AT&T’s contention that if it did not have to offer copper-based landline services, it would ensure

See LANDLINE page 17A



Peninsula
BUSINESSES
MAY 24, 2024

Besides its history, culture, scenery and great weather, one of the things that makes the Monterey Peninsula so wonderful is its outstanding business community. But who are the hard-working people behind all those amazing shops, restaurants and service providers? We will answer that question in our May 24 edition —

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King City murder suspects arrested

By KELLY NIX

THE MONTEREY County Sheriff’s Office announced last week that three people have been arrested in connection with a quadruple homicide in South Monterey County in early March.

On March 3, someone driving a Kia Rio stolen from Pacific Grove pulled up to a house on the 200 block of North Second Street in King City and fired numerous shots that struck 11 people. Alicia Ramirez Aparicio, who was celebrating her 33rd birthday, Mario Guzman Mendoza, 42, Francisco Aldape Perez, 32, and Olivo Perez Pina, 32, all suffered fatal gunshot wounds.

‘Countless hours’

Last week, Sheriff Tina Nieto said three Greenfield residents, Jonathan Leal Cervantes, 18, Pedro Manuel Nava, 32, and an unnamed juvenile, were arrested and each charged with four counts of murder, criminal conspiracy to commit murder, seven counts of attempted murder, and weapons and gang enhancement charges related to the mass shooting. No motive has been cited for the crimes.

They also face two counts of murder related to a double homicide on Feb. 4 in which cousins Andres Garcia and Jack Canchola were killed by gunfire, and charges related to an armed robbery in Salinas.

Nieto praised the police and sheriff’s officials who “worked countless hours” to track down the suspects and arrest them.

“It is our hope that this announcement can help restore a sense of security to the communities of King City and South Monterey County,” she said. “We continue to extend our thoughts and prayers to the victims who were injured during the King City mass shooting. We pray for your full recovery and that peace can be restored to you and your families.”

On the day of the quadruple homicide, police found three people already dead from gunshot wounds, while a fourth person died at a hospital.

The sheriff’s office said that three suspects exited the Kia, entered the front yard of the home and opened fire on the partygoers before fleeing the scene.

Authorities later recovered the stolen Kia from on property in an unincorporated area of South Monterey County.

P.G. High kids get top honors at NPS

By KELLY NIX

STUDENTS FROM Pacific Grove High School took home the grand prize in a science competition sponsored by the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation.

The PGHS students, who were among 38 teens representing nine teams from Monterey, P.G. and Salinas schools, were participants in the 2024 Naval Postgraduate School Rapid Innovation Design Challenge, which focused on the use of “autonomous platforms” to monitor water quality, oceans and the environment.

This year’s challenge, which ran from

Feb. 1 to April 16, was developed in collaboration with industry and technology experts and featured autonomous technology and its use in creating a platform for taking ocean and atmospheric measurement during storm events and another platform for monitoring coastal water quality.

Repeat winners

The Pacific Grove High students’ entry was called the StormChaser Sentry, which tackled the challenge of atmospheric and ocean measurement in extreme weather.

See **HONORS** page 22A

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Migrant students get \$\$\$ for college

By KELLY NIX

REP. JIMMY Panetta has secured nearly a half-million dollars to benefit migrant students studying at Cal State Monterey Bay.

Panetta announced that \$474,999 would support farmworkers and their families to “achieve success in their first year of higher education and beyond.” The taxpayer funds came from the U.S. Department of Education’s College Assistance Migrant Program.

Panetta said that universities and colleges use the money for outreach to students who are “migratory or seasonal farmworkers as well as their immediate family members,” and for counseling, tutoring, workshops, financial aid stipends, health services and housing assistance.

College students from migrant and farmworker backgrounds can face “unique challenges to academic success,” according to Panetta.

“This federal investment in CSUMB’s amazing work will help provide the additional support and services needed to

ensure these students are able to thrive in their studies,” the Democratic congressman from Carmel Valley said. “Our migrant farmworker community is deeply enmeshed in California’s 19th Congressional District and I’m proud to work alongside CSUMB to open up opportunities and pathways to achievement for these families.”

‘Steadfast’

Ben Corpus, Cal State Monterey Bay’s vice president for enrollment management and student affairs, said the grant would enable the university to continue to support and “empower” migrant farmworker students.

“CSUMB is steadfast in its commitment to being a beacon of hope and a catalyst for transformation in the lives of our students,” Corpus said in a statement. “We are proud to continue building on a decade of success with the CAMP grant, exceeding national objectives and demonstrating the profound impact of thoughtful, strategic support tailored to the unique needs of our students.”

CAL AM NAMES NEW TOP EXECUTIVE

By KELLY NIX

THE MONTEREY Peninsula’s water utility has hired a new director of operations to replace the former director, who resigned earlier this year, the company announced this week.

On Tuesday, California American Water said Spencer Vartanian is the operations director for the private company’s Central Coast division. Vartanian, who fills shoes left by Chris Cook, who was in the role from 2018 before his February resignation, is responsible for overseeing all aspects of Cal Am’s operations on the Monterey Peninsula.

Vartanian, Cal Am said, has more than a

decade of experience in environmental and water management.

He most recently served as the senior chemistry and environmental manager at Vistra Energy, where he oversaw a broad range of water programs, including permitting for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

Vartanian said he was excited to join Cal Am in delivering “sustainable water solutions to the Monterey Peninsula. I look forward to working with the talented team in Monterey to help ensure the continued success of our operations and commitment to the community, particularly the implementation of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project.”



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Boutique hotel company buys Svendsgaard’s Inn for \$16.6M

By MARY SCHLEY

A QUIET “off-market” all-cash deal closed this week, when Svendsgaard’s Inn at San Carlos and Fourth sold to a Los Angeles-based boutique hotel company for \$16,650,000, according to Monterey County property records.

The unusually long list of sellers included the nonprofit Friends of Carmel Unified Schools, Lars and Claire Svendsgaard, and Shane Semin.

“We are thrilled to enter the Carmel market, as it has been a longtime goal of

ours as one of the top lodging markets in the United States and one of our loyal guests’ favorite destinations,” Britten Shuford, co-founder and managing partner of PRG Hospitality Group, said in a statement this week. “We were able to source the investment on an off-market basis through our strong relationship network. Our ability to close all-cash and execute quickly is an advantage in the current market environment.”

He told The Pine Cone he and PRG co-founder and managing partner David Dittmer learned the owners were open to a deal through “a strong broker relationship,” though he didn’t say who handled the transaction.

Designed by the former Carmel firm of Elston & Cranston Architects and built on a 29,000-square-foot corner property for Lars Svendsgaard in 1959, the hotel contains 35 rooms on two floors, as well as a pool. The motel has been managed by Inns by the Sea for decades, but when the lease expires at the end of the year, PRG Hospitality Group will take over,

according to Shuford.

“PRG manages all nine of the boutique hotels in its portfolio,” he said Wednesday. “In our words, we ‘self-manage’ our hotels.”

Redesign planned

Established by Shuford and Dittmer in 2013, PRG is “known for its award-winning portfolio of bespoke, lifestyle-driven independent properties throughout California,” including The Prospect Hollywood in Los Angeles, Casa Laguna Hotel and Spa in Laguna Beach, Sparrows Lodge and Holiday House (both in Palm Springs), Cambria Beach Lodge in Cambria and Sands Hotel & Spa in Indian Wells, among

others. The group is also working on a hotel project in Paso Robles.

They said their company focuses on “finding and restoring highly curated hotels in prime destinations” in the state, “with an eye for unique, inspired design, comfortable amenities and a highly personalized approach to luxury service for today’s generation.”

Shuford said PRG plans to redesign and renovate Svendsgaard’s Inn, which hasn’t seen significant changes since its construction, beginning early next year. The update should turn the pet-friendly hotel into “a four-star luxury boutique destination.”

See INN page 17A



Svendsgaard’s Inn, built in 1959, has had a swimming pool since its inception. The inn was sold this week to a boutique hotel group.

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CANDIDATES

From page 1A

a council that “insisted on rigorous financial planning and reporting,” and “reduced spending, improved efficiency, and enhanced accountability and transparency.” The position also provided a lot of experience in planning and land-use issues, he said.

He made his career in tech, real estate development and investing, working for Accenture, which creates software for utility companies, from 1979 to 2004, including eight years as managing partner. From 2015 to 2018, he was chief operating officer of a large residential development in Durango, Colo., and from 2017 onward, he has been a startup investor, advisor and board member of various rural-based fledgling companies.

“My life experiences have prepared me to sit on boards of all various shapes and sizes,” he said.

A year after moving here full time, Delves was appointed to the planning commission, where learning about his relatively new home “was like drinking from a fire hose.” He said he’s learned a lot not just about local development, preservation and land-use issues, but the overall community, as well.

“It’s a very intelligent community. People have lots of opinions, but they’re usually pretty well researched and informed,” he said. “You have to respect the public process, so you hope people show up who can give you the historical perspective.”

Delves said he decided to run for council, where members Bobby Richards and Karen Ferlito’s seats are up for election along with Mayor Dave Potter’s, because “the people of Carmel deserve a better government than they are currently getting.”

“We need a city council that provides serious oversight of our staff and represents the interests of the residents who elected them,” he said. “I think we can do better, and I believe I have the leadership skills, experience and the time to help shape better outcomes.”

Money and control

He said he’d like to focus on fiscal prudence in city hall. “The single most important function of elected officials is to not just approve an annual budget, but to own it — to understand it front to back and top to bottom by having challenged staff throughout the annual budgeting process,” he said. “We need a city council with the financial acumen to deliver fiscal discipline.”

Delves also argued for more transparency, not just with public meetings, but by engaging in “relentless and thorough communication” with the public. “Good leaders are always prepared to share the whole story and provide in-depth rationale for their decisions,” he said.

When it comes to listening to constituents and taking

their views into account, he said his four years on the planning commission “have demonstrated to the community that I am an active and thorough listener who takes the time to understand all perspectives on an issue before making a decision.”

And the issue of local control — a hot topic given the recent process of approving the housing element and meeting other state mandates — requires “elected officials who push back,” Delves said. “The best government is local government, and we need to protect it.”

‘Not a hobby’

Finally, Delves said he would be fully committed to his council role. “It is not a hobby, nor a part-time undertaking,” he said. “It cannot be done well from somewhere else.” He promised to avoid business deals that would create conflicts of interest, require a lot of travel, or “distract me from the people’s business.”

Potter, who kicked off his campaign at the Cypress Inn Tuesday, told The Pine Cone he will seek a fourth two-year term because “it’s important that I continue to give the council the kind of cooperative governing that we’ve had in the past.”

Since his election in 2018, Potter has made uniting the community a goal, “and I think I’ve done a good job of that,” he said. “We’ve had more civil discussion going on in the community. We may have our passions and disagree, but we do so in a professional way.”

Potter, who has lived in Carmel since 2006 and owns a construction company in Monterey, served on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors for two decades, held seats on the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District board and the California Coastal Commission for many of those years, and served on the Monterey City Council before that. He moved to the Peninsula more than four decades ago and is married to Janine Chicourrat, managing director of the Portola Hotel. They live around the corner from city hall.

He said a “good cross-section of the community” attended his kick-off, where he talked candidly about his recent health issues, including the spinal stenosis for which he recently had surgery and the hiatal hernia that has affected his diction some.

But he’d rather focus on the major issues ahead, including following through on the police station overhaul, whatever that looks like, and further exploring creative ways to accommodate affordable housing in the city, as required by the state. “The police station is a really big challenge — there’s a lot of concern about that,” he said. “And there’s a group that’s formed now around the housing element to

‘The best government is local government’

create more community input. It’s good to get discussion outside the council chambers and in the community itself.”

Potter also mentioned a record-setting budget proposed for the coming fiscal year (see story page 3A) and said addressing infrastructure deficiencies that have worsened over the past decades is imperative. “We can’t keep putting off deferred maintenance,” he said. “It’s too bad the prices are coming in so high, but that’s the nature of the industry. I know that, being in it myself.”

Potter said he makes a point of participating in community discussions to hear constituents’ concerns, whether among chamber members and the business community, or at Carmel Residents Association gatherings.

He’s also optimistic about the local economy. “Carmel Plaza and the Crossroads shopping center are leased up, which means there’s a positive attitude in the private sector, particularly as it relates to Carmel,” he said.

‘Best for Carmel’

Richards said he’s running again for the sake of continuity. A longtime local who worked with hotelier and developer Denny LeVett for two decades before retiring from that job and subsequently becoming a full-time driving instructor, Richards served on the boards of the chamber of commerce and the hospitality improvement district, and was a member of the community activities commission when voters first elected him to the council in 2016.

“The decision to serve and seek re-election was not made without inner dialogue,” he said Wednesday. “I have been fortunate and have received encouragement from friends, neighbors, staff and family to continue my role as a member of the Carmel-by-the-Sea City Council.”

Richards said he initially struggled with the decision, but it became easier after three former colleagues — all of whom regularly faced off with him when they were members of the council — “encouraged me to stay with it.”

The deal was sealed when he was sitting on one of the Lloyd benches at Scenic and Santa Lucia and told himself, “‘Make your decision like all the other decisions you have made concerning the city: What is best for Carmel-by-the-Sea?’ At that point, the decision was clear.”

Richards said his 20-plus years serving the community in various capacities helped him learn and mature as a leader. “I have grown in every role and continue to remain passionate about serving this village I am fortunate enough to call home,” he said.

He has learned to be undaunted by tough or controversial issues. When deciding on such matters in the past, he said, “All were met with the same approach: Listen to staff, hear and pay attention to the constituents, discuss with fellow council members, and vote for what is best for the city.”

“I am very proud of my time serving this village,” he said. “I would like to continue to fight for what is best for Carmel-by-the-Sea.”

The filing period for the Nov. 5 election opens in July.

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HOUSING

From page 1A

“Folks are willing to accept a large number of new units that would be affordable to working-class residents,” she said. “I think we are at a point where the majority of people are serious about doing what’s right to solve our housing crisis and produce the type of housing we need. The good news is that there are some great sites that have been identified.”

Wednesday’s workshop

The topic was discussed at length at Wednesday’s county planning commission meeting, which hosted a public workshop on the effort to update the housing element in the general plan to meet state requirements to accommodate more housing.

Some speakers at the workshop echoed concerns expressed by Daniels, while others complained the county hasn’t done enough to publicize its effort to identify sites for new housing. Several residents said they were surprised to find their own properties identified on the inventory of possible locations. Some, though, were supportive of the county’s effort, including Kevin Dayton of the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce.

“We have a state mandate, and whether people like it or not, we have to provide housing for the people who are going to be here,” Dayton said. “I encourage you to move fast and do this.”

Group pushes back

But the Carmel Valley Association contends that the proposed changes “would seriously undermine” protections against over-development in the Carmel Valley Master Plan.

One of the CVA’s chief complaints with the update is that it doesn’t encourage the type of development that is needed most by existing residents.

“The Carmel Valley Master Plan area needs more affordable housing units sited in multi-use up-zoned and multi-family up-zoned Affordable Housing Overlay areas, not more single-family homes beyond those already sited on entitled individual lots in the plan,” president Pris Walton wrote in a letter to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors.

“There is no need to provide sites for additional

market-rate housing. The need is for affordable housing in the Affordable Housing Overlay District areas at the mouth of Carmel Valley and at Mid-Valley.”

The group insists the county is placing too much future development in Carmel Valley. The county wants to add about 2,500 residences to the area.

“The current draft site inventory concentrates 75 percent of AMBAG-allotted 3,326 units for the entire unincorporated Monterey County in the Carmel Valley Master Plan area,” Walton said. “At the most, the Carmel Valley Master Plan should add no more than 1,000 units, which is 40 percent of the total.”

Walton said there are big impediments to putting so much housing in Carmel Valley, “where wildfire risks, a water shortage, and two-lane road ingress and egress are real constraints on development, but there appears to be little consideration of those factors.”

As for traffic, Walton accused the county of not planning for the impact new housing would have on existing neighborhoods, and she noted that the Carmel Valley Road Advisory Committee wasn’t consulted by county officials before they released the inventory showing where the housing would go.

■ Water is also a constraint

Walton said water is also a constraint limiting new development in Carmel Valley. “Most currently entitled lots of record — mostly for individual single-family homes — have not been built because of the moratorium on any new meters due to lack of water,” she said.

Too much of the new development has been placed in areas prone to flooding, Walton argued.

“Forward-looking planning should avoid planning housing in the flood plains,” she said. “Continuing this practice comes at a potentially high cost in the future.”

Walton also contends the county isn’t taking into account how much development is already in the pipeline in Carmel Valley.

Lastly, Walton suggested there needs to be more public input into determining what type of housing best suits Carmel Valley and where it should go.

“Public input is not reflected in policy-making decisions,” she added. “Housing and Community Development is part of a public institution funded by taxpayers — it must be more responsive and inclusive of community input in the planning process.”

The planning commission will revisit the topic June 5.



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SPEAKERS: DEMOCRACY IS NOT BROKEN

By MARY SCHLEY

‘IT’S ALWAYS good to be here on the Central Coast rather than in Washington,” U.S. Rep. Jimmy Panetta said at the Carmel Chamber of Commerce’s annual membership luncheon at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach Friday. “Because the last thing we want to talk about is what’s happening in Congress.”

Of course, that topic was also irresistible, with Panetta — who spoke on a panel alongside Mayor Dave Potter and city administrator Chip Rerig — likening it to his years at Carmel Middle School, with “members of Congress who pull fire alarms, members of Congress who bully each other, and members of Congress who grope their dates.”

Panetta lamented the fact that TV coverage has focused so much on the

lack of productivity in the House and the Senate, which have been distracted by two impeachments, two government shut-downs, a pandemic, inflation and numerous changes in the speaker post.

“If that’s all that you see, then we lose,” he said. “Despite the dysfunction you see

See **CHAMBER** page 21A



PHOTO/MICHAEL TROUTMAN/DMT IMAGING

Carmel Mayor Dave Potter and Congressman Jimmy Panetta talked politics during the chamber’s annual luncheon.

Bridge tournament next weekend

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

BRIDGE, ANYONE? The nonprofit Monterey Bridge Educational Foundation will sponsor a sectional bridge tournament Saturday and Sunday, May 25-26, at the Monterey Bridge Club, 201 Calle del Oaks in Del Rey Oaks. Games both days are open to all levels of players. Pairs play Saturday at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., and teams join the fun Sunday at 10 a.m. and in the afternoon.

It’s \$15 per game, and lunch is available for purchase. Early registration is highly recommended, and plenty of parking is available.

Contact the Bridge Club at (831) 747-1650 or register online at bridgewebs.com/montereyunit530/.

Proceeds from this event will help support the Monterey Bridge Club’s expanding education programs and encourage the playing of duplicate bridge among residents.

DP

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Good News!

No More Renovation Worries! Several of my neighbors in Carmel-by-the-Sea have complained that they are struggling financially because they have a valuable home, but not the money to maintain it or prepare it for a sale. Some would like to make the transition to a smaller home or condo so that they can use their equity for expenses or vacations, but they worry that they won't be able to sell their home without the necessary renovations first.

Thankfully, I know contractors who will finance the necessary renovations with payment upon the sale of the home. I also currently have several buyers who would be very interested in doing renovation projects on all different kinds of architectural styles. Contact me so I can help relieve your strife and create a more peaceful life.

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VISITORS

From previous page

occupancy taxes, compared with \$661,030 during the same period last year — a 28.6 percent increase.

The TOT rate is 10 percent, so hotels during those two months brought in just over \$8.5 million in business.

“At this time, the city has received \$5.5 million in hostelry receipts through February, realizing 75 percent of the budget,” she said. “Receipts to date are \$300,000 more than this time last fiscal year.”

The 2023-2024 budget anticipates bringing in \$6,801,007 in hotel taxes — the equivalent to inns and hotels selling \$68,010,070 worth of rooms — putting it at the lowest of the “Big Three” tax revenue streams, behind an estimated \$8,493,132 in property taxes and \$9,605,953 in sales taxes. Of the past four fiscal years, TOT receipts were highest during the post-pandemic “revenge travel” trend in 2021-2022, when guests paid \$8,267,749 into the city’s coffers and generated nearly \$82.7 million in business for the city’s hoteliers.

Sales taxes up a little

According to a consultant, HdL Companies, which reports on sales tax receipts in the city, October through December 2023, saw an increase of 5.5 percent in sales tax receipts compared with the same months in 2022, for a total of \$918,252. Most of the growth occurred at restaurants and in clothing stores.

“As patrons enjoy eating out at casual and fine dining establishments, these businesses continue to benefit from solid gross receipts,” the analyst wrote.

In the city, casual dining was up 13.3 percent in sales tax receipts over last year, bringing in \$211,798 in tax dollars during the late fall and early winter, followed by an 11.1 percent rise in “family apparel” purchases that generated \$100,443 in sales taxes. Women’s apparel increased 6.8 percent, jewelry stores were up 2.6 percent, and fine dining saw a 2.2 percent increase.

On the negative side, the biggest decrease was in home furnishings, down 24.2 percent from the previous year,

followed by tasting rooms, which saw a 15 percent drop, and hotels and motels, where sales tax receipts came in 12 percent lower last fall and winter than in the same period the year before. Art/gift/novelty stores were down 6.9 percent, and specialty stores saw a 2.5 percent drop.

“Consumers are becoming more cautious and frugal,” the analyst wrote. “Furthermore, the business-industry group saw negative earnings from wineries during this period.”

Monterey County, meanwhile, was down in seven of those sectors and only up in three, with overall sales tax receipts down 2.7 percent compared to the fourth quarter

in 2022, and statewide, eight out of the 10 sectors saw negative numbers.

According to HdL, the Top 25 producers of sales tax revenues in the city from October through December 2023 were, in alphabetical order, Alvarado Street Brewery & Bistro, Anthropologie, Anton & Michel, Arhaus Furniture, Augustina’s, Caffe Napoli, Carmel Classics, Chez Noir, The Club, Coach, Dametra, Flaherty’s, Fourtane Estate Jewelers, Girl Boy Girl, Grasing’s Coastal Cuisine, Il Fornai, Khaki’s, La Bicyclette, La Playa Hotel, L’Auberge Carmel, Lloyd’s Shoes, The Pocket, Porta Bella, Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse, and Tiffany & Co.

Leslie Denise Voss

We are terribly saddened to announce that Leslie Voss, 77, and a resident of Carmel Valley, went to be with the Lord on February 17, 2024.

Leslie was born to Edna and Horton Voss on December 19, 1946, in San Bernadino, CA. Before moving to Carmel Valley in the ’80s, she was a licensed pilot, a court reporter and a management consultant in the dental field.

Leslie became a Realtor in 1987 where she was associated with Carmel Valley Realty. In 2003 she joined the office of Edwards and Associates as a playground designer. Leslie was extremely good at design and loved doing it.

Her love and appreciation for Carmel Valley was apparent in her enthusiastic involvement and volunteering spirit. She served on the boards of the Carmel Red Cross, Carmel Valley Community Center, Carmel Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Monterey County. For more than 25 years Leslie served as a member and past president of the Carmel Valley Village improvement Committee devoted to the preservation of the charming rural quality of the Valley. She was awarded The Good Egg in 1996 for her untiring work. Leslie also loved singing which led to her joining a choir that performed during the 2012 Olympics in London.

Leslie had a deep faith in God and attended several churches in the Monterey area over the years, the most recent being Lighthouse Baptist. She was also a member of many Bible study groups in Carmel Valley. Her many dear friends and her special pup, Gipper, will miss her wonderful wit and laugh along with her giving heart.

Leslie is survived by her brother, Stephen Voss; nephew, Jeffrey Voss; and nieces, Juliette James, Tamara Voss, Serenity Voss and Amarantha Voss. She is predeceased by her parents and her sister, Nora Lee Voss.

A memorial service will be held at a future date for friends and family.



LANDLINE

From page 8A

that its customers “have access to the most advanced reliable technology available.”

“The commission does not have rules preventing AT&T from retiring copper facilities,” Glegola said. “Furthermore, the commission does not have rules preventing AT&T from investing in fiber or other facilities and technologies to improve its network.”

He dismissed AT&T’s application with prejudice, which means the company would not be able file a similar application for at least one year.

INN

From page 11A

“We are excited to create something very special in Carmel while respecting the character of the property and the town,” Dittmer said in PRG’s announcement of the purchase. “As with all our assets, this is a special property with charming character in an exceptionally strong lodging market that has the potential to leave an indelible mark on both guests and the local community.”

The Hofsas House hotel next door, owned by former city councilwoman Carrie Theis and her family for more than 75 years, is slated for demolition and rebuilding, pending an activist’s appeal of the plans approved by the planning commission last month.

Panetta announces nominations of students

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

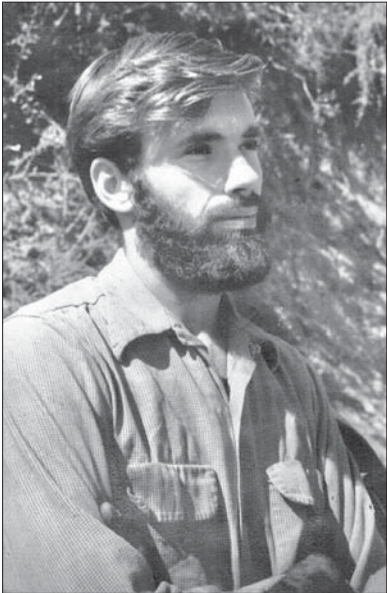
REP. JIMMY Panetta this week announced his 2024 nominations of local high school students to U.S. military academies.

The nine students will attend the academies in the fall as they take their first steps toward becoming officers in the U.S. military, Panetta said.

“It is an honor to nominate these nine outstanding young people from across California’s 19th Congressional District to our nation’s service academies,” Panetta said. These students appreciate the history of our nation and understand that in order for our democracy to succeed it takes people willing to serve.”

This year’s student nominees will attend the U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Military Academy West Point, U.S. Air Force Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

For questions on the application process, students are encouraged to contact Panetta’s office at (831) 424-2229.



HAL NEWELL

Hal Stephen Newell passed peacefully onto his next great adventure surrounded by loving family, at the age of 85 in Pacific Grove on Feb. 22, 2024. He was preceded in death by his sister, Gretchen, and his mother and father. Hal touched the hearts of so many, in ways that are difficult to articulate. Those who loved him will carry his gracious spirit and memory.

Hal was born at midnight between Nov. 1 and 2 of 1938 to parents Gordon and Emilia Newell. Given the option, his mother decided his birthday would be Nov. 2, “the beginning of a new day.” He grew up in the rural mountains of Malibu and Big Sur, tending to animals, creating art and learning to build at a young age. As a young man, Hal joined the Army and became a big machine mechanic. He often spoke of his memories in Alaska and other places he spent time during his three years of service. Free as a bird after the Army, Hal lived every moment as if it were his last, traveling, hitchhiking and riding freight trains that carried him across the U.S. He was proud of his adventures and recounted them often.

Hal worked a variety of jobs — driving the ambulance for the Big Sur coast, working as a mechanic at the Big Sur Garage, driving a semi-truck hauling produce to and from Mexico, building swimming pools, and even working with domesticated wild animals for Africa USA. During nine months of the 1986 Great Peace March, Hal drove a supply truck at the same pace as the marchers as they crossed the country.

Hal enjoyed Bluegrass music. For 45 years, he kept many entertained, plucking on what he called “a wonderful, lively instrument” — his five-string banjo. Hal displayed talents as both an artist and innovative builder in the remote desert hamlet of Darwin, CA. There, he built his underground home, known for its unique beauty and comforts. Throughout his life, Hal quietly dedicated untold time assisting his dad, sculptor Gordon Newell — moving and carving stone, helping to bring his father’s vision to reality. Eventually, Hal built the monumental Stone Circle next to his Darwin house — a memorial to Gordon, whom he dearly loved and admired. Although built to commemorate his father, the Stone Circle now stands as a lasting memorial to Hal.

In Hal’s last decades, he split his time between Big Sur and Darwin, where he enjoyed his family and dear friends. Hal passionately embraced his life and loved the people in it. Everything about him was boundless: his friendship, his humor, his shenanigans, his intelligence, his generosity, his charisma, and — most of all — his love.

Hal is survived by his four children, Laura (Mike) Wentzell, Jeannie (Bill) Ford, Abraham (Leslie) Newell, and Hannah (Hank St. Germain) Newell; eight grandchildren, Robert Inman, Chad Knutsen, Emily and Joseph Mann, Isabella and Cyrus Newell, Haven and Harlan St. Germain; and great-granddaughter, Addison Inman.

Please note: Hal’s Celebration of Life and interment remains scheduled as originally planned in Darwin, at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at the Stone Circle.

Potluck reception follows at Darwin Station.

ALL family and friends are welcome.



Editorial

The truth (at last) about inclusionary housing

REMEMBER THE innocent days of four or five years ago, when candidates for political office in Monterey County commonly attacked their opponents for being too “pro-development”?

The accusation was considered so damning, anybody who was credibly accused of it, and plenty of people who were just remotely associated with the idea, saw their odds of being elected reduced to practically nothing. For 30 years in this state, and especially in the wealthy areas, most voters chose candidates they believed would protect the environment above all else — and anybody who wasn’t “green” enough never stood a chance. Throughout that time, you’d never hear a candidate say, “Let’s start cutting down trees to build more housing,” or anything like it, because even the most basic human needs were sacrificed on the altar of environmental purity.

Sure, everybody paid lip service to things like affordable housing. But the “solutions” they proposed were so obviously doomed to fail, it’s hard to believe they were ever taken seriously. Exhibit No. 1 was the idea of “inclusionary housing,” something that was talked about endlessly and made a part of every city’s general plan, but which never produced more than a smidgen of working-class housing, for the simple reason that if you don’t allow any new market-rate housing, as has been the case here on the Monterey Peninsula since at least 1995, there’s nothing to be included in.

Meanwhile, the price of what used to be an affordable house in places like Carmel and Pacific Grove multiplied several times over, with the result that only the rich can afford to buy a home here. And as the middle class fled to Salinas and the Salinas Valley, all the politicians and community leaders talked about how much they regretted the trend, even as they defended and promoted policies guaranteed to make sure it continued.

But now, some of the very same people who would have fainted at the idea of building large numbers of new homes and apartments in the Monterey Peninsula are falling all over each other to praise the state’s new housing mandates, which they see not as damaging to the environment and ruining the historic character of local communities, but as “an opportunity” to “do the right thing.”

While the rush to be in favor of all that new housing is as much a phenomenon in mass psychology as it is an example of careful consideration and open debate, there is one thing to celebrate amid the confusion: Finally, people are telling the truth about inclusionary housing, with planning commissioner and would-be county supervisor Kate Daniels saying this week that it’s a concept based on a faulty formula and admitting it has produced very few units. Instead, she referred to “good sites” in the valley for hundreds of units that would be “affordable by design” — in other words, housing that is affordable to build and, therefore, will be affordable to sell. That’s always been the real answer, and if there’s the political will to let it happen, it will.

BEST of BATES



“My box number is 5025. Could you tell me where I live?”

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

‘Don’t sacrifice Carmel’ Dear Editor,

The city council inexplicably agreed to 349 new affordable housing units. You’ll have to ask them why they accepted so many, but I don’t recall any formal city council decision to do so. They also offered up all the public parking lots to the state for housing without taking “formal action at a regular public meeting declaring land to be surplus and not necessary for a local agency’s use” pursuant to the Surplus Land Act. So they assumed, without substantiation or a formal public finding, that the parking lots are “surplus” public land, which is a violation of the SLA. Then, to add insult to injury, they violated the California Environmental Quality Act by not assessing the foreseeable adverse effects of eliminating all the parking lots, and not assessing the cumulative impacts of developing multiple housing sites in a small compact area of 1 square mile, including on the parking lots

and all the numerous private property sites they identified.

Of course, it was insane to accept the 349 units and sacrifice the parking lots in the first place. But now it seems almost everyone in town is working feverishly to save the parking lots and help the city find alternative sites in every nook and cranny in little Carmel. So why would anyone want to help the city sacrifice the rest of the town? The answer is probably because they think the “builder’s remedy” is valid, and the state will take over Carmel if they dare to miss the numbers.

But those are both scare tactics because neither the city backed by builders nor the State of California can force anyone to build anything on private property, and all Carmel legally has to offer are private property housing sites the city already identified. Furthermore, the state didn’t direct the city or anyone else to violate the SLA and CEQA in order to remove the parking lots. The city did that on its own.

The state understands private property right protections and therefore knows the limitations of cramming housing into Carmel without property owner agreement. Densification isn’t good for anyone in our unique little town, even if you want to feel good sacrificing Carmel to save the planet.

Chuck Najarian, Carmel

Mute button Dear Editor,

I agree with everything Michael LePage said in his letter to the editor last week. Especially the part about the importance of

See **LETTERS** page 22A

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FORTY YEARS LATER, HE SAYS THAT HE NEVER MEANT TO PRACTICE LAW

WHEN BRIAN Call was growing up in Carmel, he and his sister often walked from their home at Fourth and Hatton up to what’s now the High Meadow neighborhood. But back then, said the 68-year-old lawyer, it was just fields covered in purple springtime flowers, with views to Carmel Bay and Point Lobos.

He said it never crossed his mind that he might one day live there, but that’s where he and his family have been since 1995. His paternal grandparents came to Carmel

Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

in 1916, the year his father was born. Call attended Junipero Serra School, All Saints Day School and Carmel Middle School. He graduated from Robert Louis Stevenson School in 1974.

At RLS, Call played soccer and decided he wanted to be an attorney — but not to practice law. His father had been a business partner of Tom Reiser, now the owner of Inns by the Sea. Reiser had gone to law school and used his legal training to inform his entrepreneurial career, which was just the sort of thing the young high school student wanted to pursue.

Not practical

After graduating from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Call earned his Juris Doctor at Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles. He took the state bar exam in summer 1981, and, while waiting for the results, got married. In November, he learned (much to his and wife Galen’s relief) that he had passed on his first attempt.

Although Call’s plan had been to go into the real estate business, at the time, “interest rates were through the roof,” he said, so that wasn’t realistic. He was hired by the firm of Walker, McClure, Bohnen and Brehmer, where he learned to practice real estate law directly from senior partner George Walker, who, coincidentally, was chair of the board at RLS the year Call graduated and remembered him. “He signed my diploma in 1974,” Call said.

Restoration

A few years later, after the Walker firm ceased to exist, Call ended up a solo practitioner. In 2011, he went to work at Fenton & Keller, where he is a real estate attorney and partner.

Over the four decades he’s been practicing, Call has been part of many complex real estate cases,

including representing the sellers when Denny LeVett and Doris Day became sole owners of the Cypress Inn. But although he’s proud of his career as an attorney, he’s also found great satisfaction in his work with nonprofit organizations.

When he was growing up, his mother spent time at the Carmel Mission with Harry Downie as he labored to restore the aging and once-neglected edifice. Call said she enjoyed carpentry, woodworking and gardening. She also enjoyed working with mosaics and stained glass, and her son grew up caring about the church as much as she did. Call sang tenor in the choir for 20 years, and later became part of the earthquake retrofit project as a member of the Carmel Mission Foundation board. “It was a labor of love,” he recalled.

Big Sur passion

Another labor of love grew out of tragedy. The Big Sur Fund is a special-purpose fund of the Community Foundation for Monterey County that Call and his family founded in memory of one of his and Galen’s sons, Weston, who died unexpectedly in 2018 at the age of 32. Weston loved Big Sur and was known for his Sycamore Canyon Shuttle, which was an attempt to alleviate traffic on the well-traveled beach road.

The fund reflects Weston’s passion for the community — it supports Big Sur-based nonprofits, including the Big Sur Health Center, the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade, the Park School, Big Sur Grange, and the Arts Council for Monterey

See LIVES page 21A



PHOTO/ELAINE HESSER

Monterey attorney Brian Call has deep Carmel roots — his grandparents settled here in 1916, the year the city was incorporated.

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

Pacific Grove had bohemians, too

THE QUIRKY, cloistered, largely ignored area of the Monterey Peninsula where Amanda Chaffin grew up was home to the kind of characters John Steinbeck might have imagined, for a novel he never wrote.

“Mid Century Art: Del Monte Park, a biography of place,” is Chaffin’s masterfully woven, 96-page billet-doux to a fantastical upbringing in what she described “an unincorporated, undeveloped, under-

was a musicologist and jazz aficionado, philosopher, politico and professional tailor with a shop behind Mission Cleaners in Carmel. Nikki Chaffin, her mother, was a poet, woodworker and mosaic artist who crafted the colorful floors and patios at their home. A piece she made is part of the patio at Amanda’s Salinas home. She briefly was tutored in photography by her friend, Edward Weston, and made her living as a seamstress.

“Both of my parents were bibliophiles. Their attitude about advanced education was, ‘You don’t have to go to college to do that. You can read a book about anything you want and learn to do it.’ They weren’t overly impressed by people of ... a certain class,” recalled Chaffin, who figures she read more classics during her childhood than most of her teachers did in their lifetimes.

Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

populated, unpatrolled, unregulated neighborhood on the wrong side of the Pebble Beach fence.”

Her Pacific Grove neighbors were every bit as colorful as Mack and the boys, the fictional derelicts Steinbeck created for “Cannery Row.”

Chaffin grew up among 100 acres of indigenous Monterey pine, oak, and cypress trees, where, in the 1940s and ’50s, plots of land priced from \$150 to \$200 were grabbed up by an eclectic counter-culture: artists, writers, performers, philosophers and other free-spirited bohemians.

Quirky, peculiar

The author, now 75, couldn’t help but evolve into an artistic bohemian, herself — she writes poetry, makes collages, bookmarks, postcards, calendars and “spirit boxes,” and dabbled in flamenco dancing as a young adult — thanks to a whimsical tribe of eccentrics who were like an extended family.

The inhabitants of Del Monte Park were unconventional people who would become appreciated for their art and individualism — either in their lifetimes or later — living on their own terms in quirky, peculiar homes they built themselves.

Jay Chaffin, Amanda’s father, was a painter, sculptor, collagist and woodworker who never used a power tool. He

‘Traveling rummage sale’

Their next-door neighbor, Joan Savo, became a well-known Monterey Peninsula abstract-expressionist. Her husband, George, was also a painter and taught history and international studies for 25 years at Pacific Grove High School.

The Chaffins met the Savos while camping in Garrapata, became friends, bought side-by-side lots and helped each other build their homes, splitting the cost of the lumber.

Amanda Chaffin befriended the Savos’ daughter, Buff, and together, as children, they created “a traveling rummage sale,” serpentine through the woods pulling a red wagon, knocking on doors, peddling things they had found, things the church had discarded, things donated to them by neighbors.

Janet and Victor DiGesú, both painters, met as students at the Jepson School of Art and lived in a trailer in Del Monte Park while another artist, Al Need, helped them build their house. The couple disappeared to Europe in 1952, returning in 1956 with a passion for flamenco. She danced, he played the guitar, and the neighborhood heard “the rhythmic footwork and castanets emanating from their home,” wrote Chaffin, who took flamenco lessons from Janet as a young adult.

Bronze pelican

Paul McReynolds, an engineer, was a sculptor whose body of work included “Seated Pelican,” which he carved from a single piece of redwood bridge timber and donated in 1963 to the City of Monterey. Six decades later, the piece, now bronzed, overlooks the harbor in Custom House Plaza at Fisherman’s Wharf.

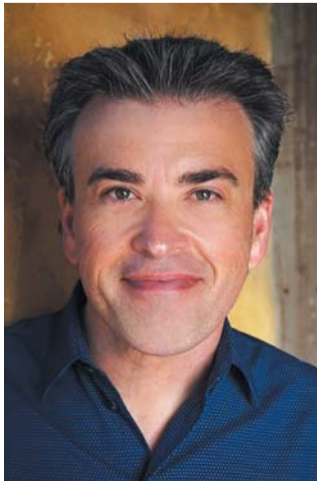
Bill and Amy Nelson bought a triangular lot in Del Monte Park, drew up plans for a home inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright, and made a model from the drawing. Bill bought 1-by-12-inch redwood planks, which he assembled with river rocks to build a space-age-looking



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

Mixed-media artist Amanda Chaffin authored a memoir of Del Monte Park, an eclectic colony of artists in unincorporated Monterey County where she grew up.

See ARTIST page 28A



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Amid ruins of war, retired pastor finds hope and heroes in Ukraine

By DENNIS TAYLOR

DURING HIS 10-day visit to the war-torn nation of Ukraine, the Rev. Greg Ogden observed that its proud citizens are entrenched, hunkered down and endeavoring to live as normally as they can, even as sirens and internet alerts warn that Russian missiles are streaking across their skies.

The 77-year-old Carmel Presbyterian church elder and retired pastor described Ukrainians as “resolute and resilient, but wary of the future.” There are 400,000 Russian troops amassed in the eastern part of their country, threatening the democracy they’ve enjoyed since Aug. 24, 1991, when Ukraine declared independence from Russia.

‘In for the long haul’

“Those who have stayed have pretty much settled in. They’re in it for the long haul,” said Ogden, executive director of Global Discipleship Initiative, a ministry he co-founded.

Ogden and his partner in the initiative, James Johnson, a small-town Minnesota Lutheran pastor, were in Ukraine



PHOTOS/COURTESY GREG OGDEN

After the Russians bombed an apartment complex in Kharkiv (above), Ukrainians left the ruins in place as a reminder, but built a gleaming new version directly behind the old facade. Tanya, (right, in pink jacket) is an angel of mercy who brings food and supplies to neighbors in a war zone. Early in the war, she hosted 60 Ukrainian soldiers in her small cabin for six weeks.



from April 14-23 on a mission to teach Christianity, recruit and train disciples, and offer comfort and support to people whose lives have dramatically changed since Feb. 25, 2022, when the Russian invasion began.

“What I heard multiple times from the people there was, ‘We’ve lived under the Russians. We know what that life is like, and we will never do it again,’” Ogden reported. “So I think they’ve got their jaws set to oppose.

“And I believe the will to win — that determination to outlast the enemy — can be decisive in some circumstances,” he said.

By the end of 2023, the Russians had launched more than 11,000 missile and drone strikes — 97 percent at non-military targets, according to a Ukrainian estimate, including residential areas, schools and crowded city centers.

‘They quickly rebuild’

“But they quickly rebuild things,” Ogden observed. “We saw the burned-out façade of one apartment complex that the Russians had attacked. Ukrainians intentionally left it standing as a reminder of what the Russians had done to them,” he said. “Right behind it, we saw this beautiful, new apartment complex, blocks long, and it was like, ‘Oh, my gosh ... how did you guys do that so fast?’ It’s a symbol, I think, of their resilience.”

Ogden and Johnson stayed near the capital city of Kyiv with the family of Igor Federovych (Global Discipleship Initiative’s national director in Ukraine), devoting much of their time to teaching, training and disciple-making. However, they made one five-hour road trip to Kharkiv, 30 miles from the Russian border.

“I was aware when we left that morning of how much

bombardment Kharkiv was enduring. I knew they heard multiple sirens a day, and I was apprehensive,” said Ogden, who noted that the population of Ukraine’s second-largest city has dropped from 2.1 million to 1.3 million since the war began.

As they approached the city and road traffic dramatically thinned, the minister turned to Federovych.

“Nobody’s going this way,” Ogden said. “What does that mean?”

“It’s a sign that this is a dangerous place to be,” responded Federovych, who frequently delivers relief supplies to Kharkiv and other war zones.

The other side of war, said Ogden, is that it produces heroic figures.

“We met one woman (Tanya, age 70), her daughter, and her granddaughter, who carry out their own relief efforts, providing food and resources for about 250 people who live near their log cabin,” he said. “From the back of our van, we all passed out packages of canned meat, oatmeal, flour, buckwheat and cooking oil.”

Ogden and Johnson learned that Tanya had welcomed 60 Ukrainian soldiers into her home early in the war, feeding them daily for six weeks.

Soldiers and 1,000 tanks

The Americans also met a woman named Alla, and her 7-year-old son, who awoke on the day of the invasion to find their small village surrounded by Russian soldiers and 1,000 tanks.

Three weeks later, a complete stranger boldly snuck into town bearing bread for the villagers.

“Since that woman somehow had gotten in, Alla realized there must be a way out,” Ogden said. “So, she and her son left with only the shirts on their backs and found their way to Kyiv.”

Alerts that Russian missiles are incoming are delivered via a social media messaging app called Telegram, which tracks the direction of the attacks.

“We were told we had a fairly quiet week,” Ogden said of his visit. But sirens wailed on their first night at Federovych’s home, forcing everyone to take shelter in a windowless room, where they sat on mattresses until they received an “all clear” message from Telegram.

Also early in their stay, Ogden and Johnson were at a meeting that was interrupted when a pastor announced, “My son’s city, two hours from us, has just been attacked.

See UKRAINE page 23A




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LIVES

From page 19A

County, which aids such programs as the Social-Emotional Learning Through Arts at Captain Cooper School in Big Sur. Call is the chair of the fund’s advisory council.

For more than a decade, he also served as general counsel to Stevenson School, advising the board on matters involving disciplinary actions with students and their parents, developing facilities, finances, construction and more.

And although he and Galen love to travel — they recently returned from their first trip to South America, where they visited Peru — Call said he isn’t planning to retire just yet.

He enjoys serving his clients and genuinely cares about them. He said that the ability to ensure continuity of service,

which is something a sole practitioner can’t guarantee, was a major factor in his joining Fenton & Keller.

Call said he’s proud of the work he’s done there, essentially rebuilding the real estate and business transactions department when he joined the firm, as well as expanding its estate planning and administration department.

From roots to soul

These days, his nonprofit involvement includes serving as president of the Monterey County Bar Foundation, working with the Mock Trial program sponsored by the Lyceum of Monterey County, Legal Services for Seniors, and helping with the annual Stand Down program for the Veterans Transition Center.

St. Teresa of Avila said, “All things must come to the soul from its roots, from where it is planted.” Call’s life appears to be solid evidence she was right.

Potter also mentioned the chamber collaborating with the Carmel Residents Association, which in the past was at odds with the business group.

“One of the things I’m proud of is this is a community that doesn’t always get along, but we disagree with dignity and respect,” Potter said.

“Good governing is good politics,” Panetta agreed. “You’ve got to be able to work with anybody.”

Rerig applauded the city’s active volunteer groups.

“We’ve got a deep bench of public servants in this community,” agreed Panetta, who lives in Carmel Valley with wife Carrie Panetta, a Monterey County Superior Court judge. “It’s about showing up. We have a sense of knowing what it takes to be a public servant. It’s about being accessible, being present and getting stuff done at the local level.”

He also pleaded with people to vote in local, state and national elections. “It really is about all of you and whether or not people vote — I cannot stress that enough.”

CHAMBER

From page 15A

on TV, we’ve got a job to do.”

Panetta highlighted a bipartisan bill that would double the capital gains tax exemption for home sellers and said he’s working on legislation to encourage more workforce housing. He also supports a middle-income tax credit and resurrecting the tax credit for first-time home buyers.

“Those are the big issues that we’re working on right now,” he said.

Local politics

Potter observed that politics are less brutal at city hall. “We have a council that works together well,” he said, highlighting the adoption of the housing element — a major document detailing how the city will accommodate 349 new housing units through 2030 — last month.


“We’re one of only three cities in the county that got it done,” he said.




Hilary

December 25, 1941 — May 24, 2006

“She had a smile that could light up a ballpark.”




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Meet Our Providers

Jack Cossman, MD

Jack Cossman, MD is a board-certified dermatologist and fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology. Before going to GSD, Dr. Cossman practiced general, surgical, and cosmetic dermatology on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. In addition, he taught weekly at the NYU dermatology resident clinic at Bellevue Hospital, where he managed complex medical cases. He now looks forward to bringing his expertise to a new community and welcomes patients of all ages and all skin conditions. In particular, Dr. Cossman enjoys treating acne and acne scarring, hair loss, psoriasis, skin cancer, as well as facial aesthetics.



David M. Pilkington, MD

Dr. Pilkington earned his Medical Degree from the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine. He completed his residency in Dermatology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation before moving to Merced where he began practicing medicine in 1995. Dr. Pilkington earned his board certification in Dermatology from the American Board of Dermatology in 1995 and has successfully maintained his certification, with recertification in 2005 and 2015. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology, a member of the California Medical Association, and a member and past president of the Merced-Mariposa County Medical Society.



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LETTERS

From page 18A

freedom of speech.

I wish the City of Carmel agreed too, but it has chosen to put untrained subjective city staff in charge of pressing a mute button when it deems someone has committed a Brown Act violation during public comment at meetings. I complained to the city about this, and it responded by discontinuing the verbal announcement at meetings regarding the mute warning. However, it failed to discontinue it in the written meeting notices. Therefore, the City of Carmel is not upholding the First Amendment freedom of speech.

Pacific Grove had implemented the same mute policy for a few months but stopped. Now it's time Carmel stopped so freedom of speech can be restored.

Brian Wilke, Carmel

HIGHWAY

From page 6A

“We are deeply grateful to have Highway 1 open and functional an entire week ahead of schedule,” Laird said.

While the highway reopens Friday morning, work continues at Rocky Creek on the \$25 million effort to stabilize the outside edge of the southbound lane and ultimately build a viaduct to support Highway 1 at the site.

“Now that Caltrans has stabilized the southbound lane and preserved the northbound lane, the site will continue to be monitored and visually inspected,” the state roads agency said. “A project to construct a permanent repair to the highway at this location is currently in the design phase, with an estimated completion date of spring 2025.”

While Highway 1 is open from the Monterey Peninsula south to restaurants and shops in Big Sur Valley, three other slides prevent motorists from driving any farther south than Esalen Institute, which is located about 3 miles north of another major rockslide. Kevin Drabinski of Caltrans reported this week that the slide at

HONORS

From page 9A

P.G. High teacher Sally Richmond’s team took a platform that was designed for wave monitoring and augmented it with sensors for determining location, wind speed, air temperature and humidity, barometric pressure, and wave period and height, NPS explained.

“The Crusier Grand Championship, emblematic of the competition’s top honor, and the \$2,000 grand prize” were presented to the Pacific Grove students for their understanding of “the design challenge’s iterative process, identify an area to

MPC classrooms

Dear Editor,

In 2020, voters passed the Measure V bond measure (\$230 million) to fund Monterey Peninsula College to repair classrooms. Are students now enjoying the updated facilities? Apparently not! The current schedule for summer shows nearly all classes online. This is in contrast to the class schedule pamphlet that pictures smiling students enjoying campus life in person.

Students during the fall semester won’t fare much better. For example, most of the Spanish, economics and women/gender studies classes will be online.

According to new research, the Covid lockdowns, including school shutdowns, profoundly damaged the mental outlook and cognitive development of youth. Things seem to be improving somewhat for K-12 students now that the lockdown is over. At MPC, “shelter in place” is continuing to a significant degree.

Dolan Point is expected to be cleared by the end of this month. Farther south, Highway 1 at Paul’s Slide is anticipated to be open sometime this summer, and the Regent Slide, which is located just south of the Dolan Slide, will likely be cleared by the fall.

\$102,000 raised for workers

Meanwhile, in Big Sur Valley businesses are moving quickly to prepare for more visitors.

“Right now, local leaders, property managers and operators are scurrying as you might expect to get schedules filled out and people called back in,” Rick Aldinger of the Big Sur Chamber of Commerce reported. “It’s really good that we’re going to have a weekend or two to do a dry run and get everybody back into a routine and a rhythm before hitting the big holiday weekend. It’s not like turning a light switch back on. It’s going to be a process, but we’ve made an important first step.”

Aldinger noted that many Big Sur workers are still struggling due to the loss of work, but a recent fundraiser at La Playa was a big help. He noted that \$102,000 was raised, and he thanked organizer David Fink and participating chefs for making the event possible.

be improved in data collection and create a solid prototype for how to implement their solution with an autonomous platform,” NPS said.

“This is our third year competing — we’ve had a great time each year, and we’ve managed to win an award each time,” Richmond said. “We look forward to doing it again next year.”

The Pacific Grove students also took home honors in one of three runner-up categories.

NPS Foundation Vice President Todd Lyons said the school challenge is an opportunity to share NPS’ “unique expertise” in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics with the local community.

Youth in our society are increasingly experiencing a mental health crisis, often attributed to overuse of isolating technology. According to researchers, the 18-to-25 age cohort is especially hard hit. MPC students deserve better. So do taxpayers.

Thomas F. Lee, Monterey

Too few sardines

Dear Editor,

The picture of thin or emaciated pelicans was sad to see in last week’s Pine Cone. I was not aware that the birds eat 25 to 50 pounds of fish per day.

The pelican’s major source of food is schooling Pacific sardines. Also dependent on sardines for food are humpback whales, dolphins, sea lions and other marine animals. The National Marine Fisheries Service is tasked with management of healthy sardine populations based on sound science thus preventing overfishing. Due to the agency’s repeated failures to properly manage the sardine population in the mid 2010s, more than 9,000 starving California sea lion pups and yearlings washed up on beaches and brown pelicans experienced unprecedented reproductive failures due to lack of adequate food.

A court just found the federal government’s plan to rebuild sardine populations off the U.S. West Coast failed to meet its legal obligation and was deemed unlawful. Oceana, represented by Earthjustice, prevailed in the lawsuit to protect our marine life. The fisheries service must develop a new rebuilding plan and prevent overfishing to ensure healthy and sustainable ocean animals. It’s deplorable that their failure has continued for over 10 years!

Nancy Parsons, Pacific Grove

CANNABIS

From page 5A

defaulted on millions in tax payments,” the report said.

The supervisors introduced several ordinances to lower tax rates for growers by 75 percent, but county cannabis businesses continue to close and default on their tax obligations.

Funding problem

The financial situation is so dire that the grand jury said the county could have a problem paying for administration and other expenses related to its cannabis program.

“Alarminglly, projected cannabis tax revenue for the current year may not fully fund the county’s cannabis-related operational expenses for fiscal year 2024-2025.”

About 99 percent of cannabis tax funds are generated from indoor and nursery cultivation and dispensaries. The remaining 1 percent comes from manufacturing, distribution and lab processing fees.

While the county auditor controller’s office, the treasurer tax collector, and county administrative office report

Post office success stories

Dear Editor,

While things did not go well for one of your readers who was trying to retrieve her package, that has not been my experience. I have always been impressed with the patience and professionalism of the staff at the Carmel post office. From answering questions from foreign visitors, to gentle reminders to buy stamps before the rates go up, they offer great service even when the power goes out or when someone drives in the front door.

Now they have lost the view of the outside and sunlight while waiting for repairs. But still, they respond to the ring of the bell with a smile.

As usual, there is another side to the story.

Nancy Collins, Carmel

Worth looking into?

Dear Editor,

Kitchen fires causing significant and devastating damage: iconic locations and beloved restaurants! The Cottage, Big Sur Bakery, and the (relatively new) Carmel Burger Bar at the Plaza.

What is happening? Old facilities? Maintenance issues? Cooking oil? Carelessness? Electrical/gas issues? Lackadaisical health department policies or oversight issues? Suspicious motivations linking them all ... shall we write a mystery thriller with a conspiratorial theme?

All of which makes me think: It looks like The Cottage is closed for good (our favorite for breakfast for many, many years). We are sad for Kathy and her staff, Juan, et al. Any chance to know what happened that she did not rebuild? Would community assistance be welcome?

Karen Helton, Carmel

on cannabis revenue, the grand jury said the departments are “inconsistent in how they report, making information tracking difficult.”

Recommendations

The grand jury concluded that lower tax rates and a reduction in the number of employees that work in the county cannabis program “are expected to provide a stabilizing effect on the cannabis tax fund and operators.” If supervisors eventually approve cannabis lounges — where people would be permitted to use cannabis — “revenues could potentially increase,” the jury said.

The 2020 cannabis program was supposed to be updated every two years, but it wasn’t revised until January, and an internal audit of the program was started but never completed, the jury found.

The grand jury recommended more prosecutions of unlicensed growers and those that underreport revenue “to the maximum extent of the law,” a reduction in program expenses, and to complete an audit of the program by Jan. 31, 2025. It also said that the director of public health should ask county supervisors to prioritize funding for youth drug education and prevention programs.

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Section 2

Padres glimpse baseball glory through crowded, competitive field

A YOUTHFUL Carmel High squad stormed to the school’s first Central Coast Section baseball championship in 16 years in spring 2023, then made it to the semifinal

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

round of the NorCal tournament.

With most of those key players back, the 2024 Padres have made a convincing case that they’re better in almost every way. In fact, they’re almost certainly one of the best Carmel teams in the storied history of one of California’s most decorated high school baseball programs.

And now, like it or not, they’ll get the chance to confirm that distinction.

The lion’s den

For whatever reason, the Padres (a Division 3 playoff team since 2001) were thrown into the lion’s den at Monday’s CCS seeding meeting — bumped up two divisions to the Division 1 bracket.

With a 22-5 record, they are seeded No. 6 in an eight-team tournament that includes No. 1 Valley Christian (26-4), No. 2 Junipero Serra (22-6), No. 3 Los Gatos (23-4), No. 4 Burlingame (18-5), No. 5 Archbishop Mitty (16-12-1), No. 7 St. Ignatius (18-9), and No. 8 St. Francis (13-12-1).

The proving ground for the Pacific Coast Athletic League’s Gabilan Division champions begins Saturday with an 11 a.m. road game at Los Gatos, which won the De Anza League crown.

If any of this news is good news, it’s this: By winning the top tournament in the CCS, this 2024 CHS bunch has an opportunity to place itself in a conversation (similar, though not quite equal) with the 1979 team, widely

regarded as Carmel’s best ever.

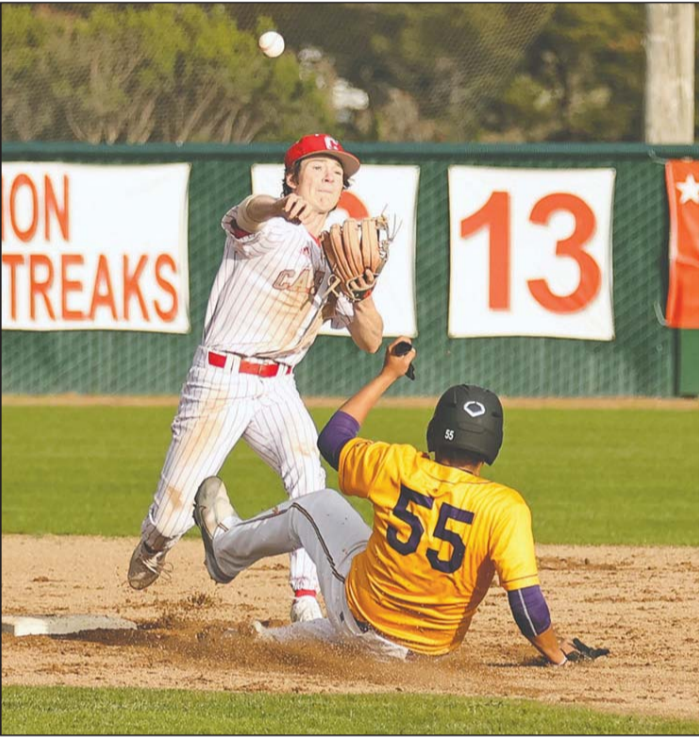
That year’s squad — you can read their story in the Sept. 28, 2018, Pine Cone — won CCS when there were no divisions. Schools from South San Francisco to King City competed for the one and only trophy in baseball until 1985, when division play was created.

Carmel won the Division 2 trophy in 1996 with a 29-2 record, and won CCS Division 3 trophies in 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007 and last year.

Age-old wisdom — indisputable — is that “games are not won on paper,” which means the Padres have the same shot at glory as any of their seven opponents, all of which select their rosters from much larger enrollments.

No doubt that a tougher-than-usual road is ahead for Carmel (842 students), but the Padres also have plenty of reason to keep the faith.

Continues next page



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

Senior Justin LeMaster (left) played second base, shortstop, and batted a team-best .471 as Carmel’s leadoff hitter. Matt Maxon, a sophomore, (right) led the team’s pitchers in innings, strikeouts, and was the second-leading hitter with a .397 average.

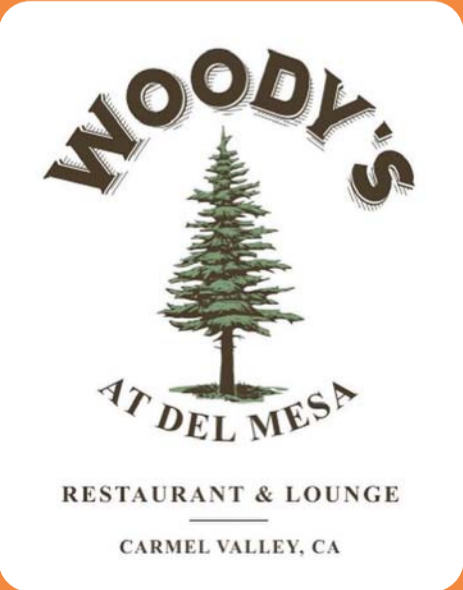
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From previous page

Nearly every mathematical indicator screams that last year's CCS title team simply doesn't stack up with the current bunch, who are statistically superior in almost every category.

The cumulative impact shows up in a comparison of win-loss records when post-season began: This year's team arrives at CCS at 22-5 overall, which included a 19-2 mark in the Gabilan Division, the PCAL's best. The Padres were 15-12 when the regular season concluded, then won scintillating games over Christopher (3-2), St. Francis SCP (3-1), and Branham (4-2) to capture the CCS trophy. Carmel beat Pioneer (3-1) in the NorCal quarter-finals, and lost to Oakmont (6-1) in the semis.

Bigger numbers in 2024

This year's Padres have compiled a team batting average of .318 (compared to .269 in 2023), an on-base percentage of .421 (compared to .379), and a slugging percentage of .448 (.367). Carmel has scored 182 runs in 27 games (6.7 per game), compared to 144 in 32 games in 2023 (4.5).

The current pitching staff — five deep — ranks among the best in school history, with a microscopic team earned-run average of 2.13 (2.89 in 2023), limiting opponents to a .207 batting average (.240 last year), and a .306 on-base percentage (.335).

The 2024 Padres have stolen 46 bases in 27 games; the 2023 team stole 42 in 32 games.

A statistical edge for the 2023 bunch goes to the defense, which compiled a .939 fielding average, compared to .918 this

season.

None of the above should be surprising, considering that seven position players and all five pitchers from the 2023 NorCal team returned this season, bigger, stronger, faster, more experienced, and battle-tested.

The only significant 2023 players who were seniors were slugger Ethan Jackson, an all-county catcher who led the team with five homers and 29 RBI, and Tyler Imamura, a utility player with a good



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

J.J. Sanchez, Carmel's No. 1 pitcher, also batted .397 and drove in 31 runs this season as a first baseman.

glove.

This year's CCS/NorCal playoff veterans include middle infielder Justin LeMaster (.471 batting average, 32 runs, 41 hits, 11 doubles, 12 stolen bases — all team bests), first baseman J.J. Sanchez (.397, 31 hits, seven doubles, 19 RBI), sophomore center fielder Matt Maxon (.393, 33 hits, 10 doubles, four home runs, 22 RBI, 23 runs, 12 stolen bases), right fielder Bo Iandoli (.325, 26 hits, five doubles, four home runs, 19 RBI), middle infielder Ty Arnold

See SPORTS page 32A



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ART

From page 23A

“meant to be shared.”

“We are grateful to live in a community that recognizes this symbiotic relationship,” Rothwell added. “That’s the spirit we celebrate every year with the Carmel Art Festival.

For more details, visit carmelartfestivalcalifornia.com.

■ ‘Illustrating Nature’

Showcasing both the artistic talent of students and the biological diversity of Monterey County, “Illustrating Nature” opens Friday at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History. A public reception starts at 6 p.m.

The art was created by students studying scientific illustration at Cal State University Monterey Bay.

“This exhibit celebrates the intersection of science and art through the eyes of trained professionals,” the museum’s Chris Green said. “Come see the natural world through their eyes and marvel at their detail and beauty.”

The exhibit will be on display through June 16. The museum is located at 165 Forest Ave.

■ Chalk the Block in P.G.

A year after the event made its debut, Chalk the Block returns to Pacific Grove Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — offering artists an opportunity to turn the sidewalks of the town into art displays. There will be prizes and live music.

“Whether you’re a professional artist or just want to join in on the fun, anyone can sign up to participate,” organizers announced. “Artists will be provided non-toxic, eco-friendly chalk to use, but you can also bring your own.”

The event is presented by the Pacific Grove Downtown Improvement District. To sign up, visit business.pacificgrove.org.

■ The fine art of fishing

An exhibit offering “an exploration into the unique historical and ecological evolution” of Monterey Bay, “A Silver Tide” opens this week at the Monterey Museum of Art.

Featuring paintings by Armin Hansen, James Fitzgerald, Paul Whitman, “and others from the museum’s permanent collection,” the show “seamlessly explores the convergence of Monterey’s fishing trade and its vibrant artistic community.”

The display continues through July 21. The museum is located at 559 Pacific St. montereyart.org

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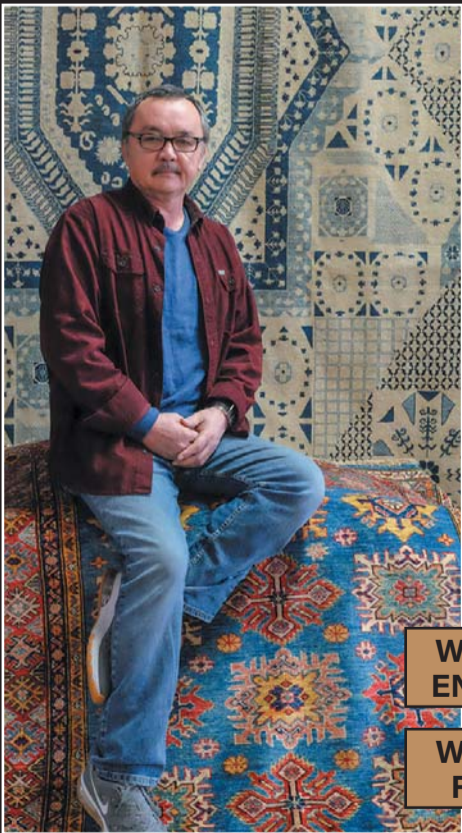


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CALENDAR

The Scleroderma Foundation of California announces a Monterey Bay Support Group to help those with scleroderma, also known as systemic sclerosis, a rare autoimmune disease. Group will offer virtual meetings, with the goal of meeting monthly in person. To learn more, email leaders Annette Rahn and Cheri O'Neil at mbsclero@gmail.com.

May 17 – 17th annual Women's Fund Luncheon is presented by the Community Foundation for Monterey County. Morgane McNally, resident director of Merrill Wealth Management, The BMRB Group, will discuss "The Power and Progress of Women." Registration/networking begin 11 a.m.; program begins noon at the Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel and Spa. Tickets are \$75 per person; sponsor a table of 10 for \$1,000. For info call (831) 375-9712 or visit events@cfmco.org

May 17 – The John Madden Memorial Statue will be unveiled 3:30 p.m. at Bruno's Market, Junipero and Sixth, Carmel-by-theSea. Statue presented by Carmel Cares, The Madden Family, Bruno's Market, The Carmel Art Festival and Steven Whyte Studios.

May 17-19 – 31st Anual Carmel Art Festival & Plein Air Competition. Opening reception 5:30 to 9 p.m. May 17 in Devendorf Park, downtown Carmel; Live entertainment featuring Carlos Reyes; food and wine from award-winning restaurants and tasting rooms from 6 to 9 p.m. Admittance is free with purchase of a painting; \$40 donation for public at the door. Details: carmelartfestivalcalifornia.com

May 18 – New Music @ The PG Art Center Compositions by local composers,

Carleton Macy and Kenny Hill, will be featured in a pre-dinner concert at 5:30 p.m. at the Pacific Grove Art Center. The hour-long concert will feature Guitars, clarinet, flutes and a bassoon. Suggested donation: \$10. Macy@macalester.edu

May 20 – "The Western Flyer Returns" – Sherry Flumerfelt, executive director of the Western Flyer Foundation, will provide a fascinating PowerPoint presentation that weaves together interesting Monterey history, marine ecology, literature, art, and much more. 2 p.m. Carmel Woman's Club, San Carlos and Ninth, Carmel. Open to the public, \$10 guests/members free

May 24 – Local author and playwright Carol Marquart presents: Chinatown Before & After 1906 Earthquake. A Staged Reading. 5:30 p.m. at Pacific Grove Public Library. www.pacificgrovelibrary.org

May 25 – "Avert Joint Replacement with Regenerative Medicine" – Learn about PRP and Regenerative Cell Therapies for knees, shoulders, hips and spine. A FREE talk by Tom Yarema, M.D., 12:30-1:30 p.m., Monterey City Library, 625 Pacific St. Dr. Yarema is a locally practicing MD and volunteer educator for the Foundation For Wellness Professionals. For more information, please contact Kristin Hurley (831) 621-2394.

June 2 – Organist Margaret Martin Kvamme will perform nine works for pipe organ by women composers at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 2 to 4 p.m. Patrons are invited to a pre-performance reception at the church at 3 p.m. \$25 at the door, students and under 18 free. 28005 Robinson Canyon Road, Carmel Valley. stdcv.org.

ARTIST

From page 19A

dwelling that still stands on Benito Street. At 30, he became a ceramic artist, creating Japanese-influenced pots, plates, cups and vessels from clay he dug himself.

Hazel Dreis was "like the mother superior, open to visits anytime, day or night. You could ask her anything," according to Del Monte Park centenarian Dorothy Albee, a source for Chaffin's book. Dreis was a world-famous bookbinder who hung out with Gertrude Stein and Max Ernst in Paris, collaborated with Ansel Adams, and published a limited edition of Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass." She was also an artist who worked with leather, paper, print and ideas. And she reputedly was a very tough woman who once ran county surveyors off her property with a shotgun.

"Del Monte Park had a lot of really strong women — not Betty Crocker-types at all," Chaffin recalled. "They weren't trying to fit into anybody's mold. They worked on being who they were and exploring what they wanted to do."

'Spirit boxes'

Her childhood admiration for those independent women had an impact, believes Chaffin, who forged her own path through life.

"I didn't finish my sophomore year of high school — I dropped out, then lied, lied, lied years later to get into college," said the author, who was a 38-year-old single mom when she studied at Monterey Peninsula College, Hartnell, and Cabrillo, then talked her way into San Jose State University without a GED, graduating magna cum laude.

She earned a teaching degree from CSU Monterey Bay and taught elementary school (all subjects) and middle school English and reading.

"I also went to Mexico, taught myself the language and wound up with a bilingual teaching credential," said Chaffin, who visited inspirational places where she left pieces of her own art — "spirit boxes," decorated with collages and a poem and filled with seeds.

"I left one at (Mexican painter) Frida Kahlo's house, in the garden, because the good thing about my spirit boxes is they become compost. If a mouse finds them, he'll eat the seeds I put inside. If a person finds them, they might read the poem I wrote, or appreciate the collage I made," she said.

"I left another one at the top of the Pyramid of the Sun, when I was there for the winter solstice."

Poetry happens

Chaffin raised two kids — her son, Nathan Bradley, 58, is a local plumbing contractor, and her daughter, Jennifer Lassiter, 50, earned a master's degree and works in social services. Chaffin is also a four-time grandma.

"Mid Century Art: Del Monte Park" is her second self-published book. She previously published a collection of her own poetry, some of which she included in "Mid Century Art."

"I've been writing poetry since I was 12, and it's always been something that just kind of happens to me, rather than something I plan," she said. "Sometimes I have to pull over when I'm driving, because something's happening in my brain and I need to write it down."

Her personal memoir of one of the Peninsula's most unusual neighborhoods, adorned with numerous historical photographs of the people who lived there, is available for \$25. For additional information, or to obtain a copy, email Chaffin at funnybutgrandma@gmail.com.

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

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Symphony wraps up season at Sunset, West End Celebration previews lineup

OFFERING A sneak preview of the musical lineup at this summer's West End Celebration in Sand City, Music

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

in the Forest will be presented at Carmel's Forest Theater Sunday at 2 p.m., showcasing **The Transducers**, **Sensory Tribe**, **River Voices**, and an acoustic duo, **Dan Frechette** and **Laurel Thomsen**.



Singer and guitarist Charles Wesley Godwin takes the stage Saturday, 8 p.m., at the Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

According to the founder of the popular annual street fair, **Steve Vagnini**, Sunday's show features a stellar lineup of talent.

"This extraordinary concert series debut will serve as a preview of the forthcoming 2024 West End Celebration, with the full festival lineup to be unveiled during Sunday's event," Vagnini said.

Tickets are \$23 for general admission and \$18 for those under 18. The theater is located at Santa Rita and Mountain View. Call (831) 622-0100.

■ One-course meal

Monterey Symphony wraps up its 2023-24 season Saturday, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. at Sunset Center with performances of composer Gustav Mahler's breathtaking Symphony No. 5.

"Sometimes a one-course meal is the most satisfying," music director **Jayce Ogren** said. "To close our season, we celebrate by performing Mahler's massive and overwhelming Symphony No. 5. Its famous fourth movement, the *Adagietto*, is the heart and soul of a piece in which Mahler overcomes all obstacles to communicate its message that life is about love, and love conquers all."

A Q&A and reception with Ogren and symphony CEO Nicola Reilly will follow in the lobby.

Tickets start at \$44, with discounts for students, teachers and active-duty military. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 646-8511 or visit montereysymphony.org.

■ Free on Fridays

Also at Sunset, singer and guitarist **Katherine Lavin**



An acoustic duo, Dan Frechette and Laurel Thomsen, join three other musical acts Sunday afternoon at Forest Theater. The concert previews this summer's West End Celebration.

plays Friday at 6 p.m. The show is the second installment in the theater's annual Terrace Hour series of free outside concerts, which continues through June 21.

Although she is just 16, the Pacific Grove teenager has already written more than 60 original songs. "She has an incredible gift for songwriting, creating intricate melodies, writing lyrics, and singing harmonies," Sunset Center said.

■ Rising country star

A singer and guitarist with a bright future in country music, **Charles Wesley Godwin** takes the stage Saturday,

See **MUSIC** page 33A

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VIN brings the oysters, Boekenooogen and Il Vecchio change hands

A SERENDIPITOUS situation has brought two local wine families together. Late last year, brother and sister Garrett and Holly Boekenooogen of Boekenooogen Family Winery quietly began looking for a buyer for their vineyards while at almost the same time, the McIntyre family began looking for new vineyard holdings as well as a new

turned into action, and the Boekenooogens chose to sell their holdings to the McIntyre family.

According to a post by the Boekenooogens on McIntyre’s website, “For our valued club members and community, you will continue to experience top-rated artisan wines from both the McIntyre and Boekenooogen families with our friendly and familiar tasting associates. Within a world where smaller businesses are fading, we are blessed to have cultivated a deep-rooted passion for life to share through our wine.”

The McIntyre Vineyards Tasting Studio at the Carmel Crossroads location will eventually close, but is open Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

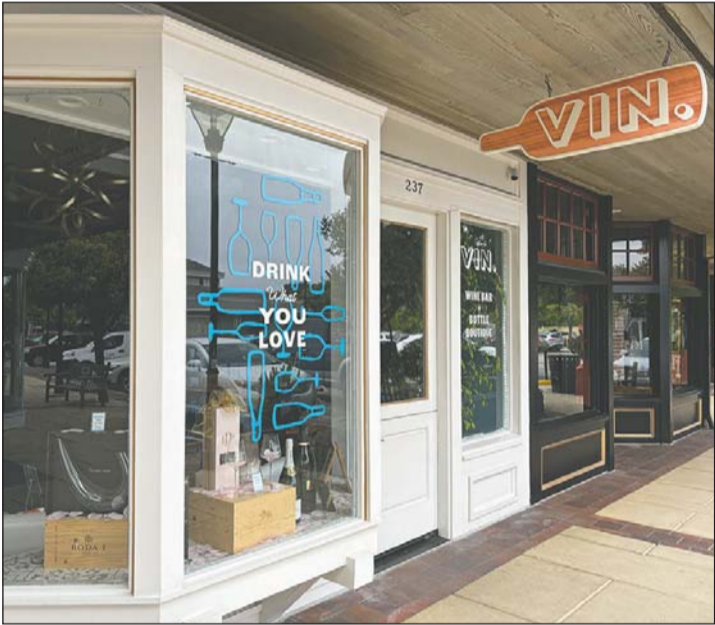
There will be a grand opening of the combined tasting room May 25 and 26 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 24 W. Carmel Valley Road in Carmel Valley Village.



Alila Ventana Big Sur (formerly the Ventana Inn) has reopened after a brief closure due to the slip-out on Highway 1. Encompassing “160 magnificent acres of natural splendor on the rugged Pacific coast,” the facility offers guest accommodations, as well as dining at its Sur House restaurant.

Soup to Nuts

tasting room option in Carmel Valley. Kristen McIntyre called Holly, inquiring if she knew of any space available in the valley for a tasting room option, and that got the ball rolling. The families began to talk and realized that they had many commonalities, including their values, focus on family, and consideration of the land they work. Talks



VIN Wine Bar + Bottle Boutique in the Crossroads is having an oyster pop-up on Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m., featuring shellfish from Oystertown, a mobile shucking operation. The event celebrates the classic pairing of oysters and bubbly.

■ Ventana welcomes guests back

If you needed a reason to venture down to Big Sur, the management at Alila Ventana Big Sur (formerly the Ventana Inn) wanted us to tell you that the inn and Sur House restaurant are open for business. “The property is thankful to the Caltrans crew who worked hard to reopen the roads as swiftly as possible and every local business, community member, and resident of Big Sur who banded together during the road closure,” said spokesperson Mary Burkhardt.

■ Sold — to the original chef

Carl Alasko, who created Il Vecchio at 110 Central Ave. in Pacific Grove and has been running it for 13 years, announced that he’s selling

the Italian eatery to Stefen Shatto, who was the first chef at the operation when it opened.

Alasko said he traveled to Italy in the 1960s by himself, at the age of 17, and fell in love with the food. He lived there for 15 years as “an artist and an entrepreneur” before returning to the United States and becoming a licensed therapist — a career path he followed for 25 years.

He longed for Italian cuisine, but felt that all the food he found around here was “approximate,” not quite the stuff of his recollections. His friends loved when he cooked the food he remembered and urged him to open a restaurant. He found an empty space in P.G., where he said, “Everything was cheap. It had water and so I just threw all of my savings into it — redid the electric, plumbing — and had to build a whole new kitchen.”

When it was finished, he advertised for a chef, and

See **FOOD** next page



A TOAST TO THE COAST

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FOOD & WINE

FOOD

From previous page

“a tall, handsome 21-year-old” — Shatto — walked in. Alasko sent him to Rome for training and he came back and helped get the restaurant off the ground.

Although Alasko kept up his practice while he ran Il Vecchio for a few months, it soon became clear that wasn’t going to work, so he left his psychology career to become a full-time restaurateur. Shatto left after a while, as chefs are wont to do, but, Alasko said, “Three or four months ago, he showed up with his mom, who’s a real estate broker, and they were talking about the restaurant.

“I said, ‘You know it’s for sale, right? You wanna buy a restaurant?’ It was serendipitous and totally ideal.” Alasko said he didn’t anticipate any major changes to the menu. “He’s going to make some changes to make it more efficient. He’s going to spend more time there,” he said, explaining that since the pandemic, Alasko has been at the restaurant less often. The restaurant is celebrating the change with a combination hello and goodbye party. On Saturday, June 1, starting at 6:30 p.m., Alasko said there would be “free drinks and free food and live music. It’s open to everybody. We’ll probably be pouring gallons of wine.”

■ Sourdough novices rejoice

Were you one of those people who took up sourdough bread-baking during the pandemic? Sourdough, of course, requires a “starter” — a mixture of flour and water that mingles with wild yeast in the air or is given a pinch of yeast to get it going, and then is used to make a loaf of bread, or even pancakes and waffles. Ideally, starter is never completely used up, but kept “alive” by regular “feeding” with flour.

Longtime bakers around the world claim their little yeast-beasts have long lineages — in San Francisco, for example, there are tales of contemporary starters that were birthed during the Gold Rush.

If you want some inside info, Happy Girl Kitchen in Pacific Grove, which bakes its sourdough bread in-house, is going to explain how the magic happens and how to do it yourself on May 30 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

For \$125 per person, the shop/cafe/kitchen staff will teach the technique and science behind producing great loaves.

Participants are asked to bring a container to take home some bread dough that will rise overnight and can be baked in the morning.

Instruction will also include using sourdough to bake pizza, cinnamon rolls, chocolate rolls and donut holes. “We will prepare food together and then sit down and have a full dinner and dessert,” organizers said. Register at happygirlkitchen.com.

■ Bubbles in the raw

VIN Wine Bar + Bottle Boutique at 237 Crossroads Blvd. is having an oyster pop-up on Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at 237 Crossroads Blvd. Buy the briny shelled delicacies provided by Oystertown, which will be doing the shucking, while the boutique pours Champagnes and other sparklers in what many consider to be a classic pairing. RSVP to info@vinbarcarmel.com.

■ Grand opening raises \$\$

According to owners Roxanne Langer and Tamara Carver, the opening weekend at their new wine-centric business, Lady Somm, was “not only a celebration of fine wines and company but also a moment of meaningful contribution. Thanks to the enthusiastic participation of our guests from March 21-24, we are proud to announce a donation of \$500 to Les Dames d’Escoffier Scholarship Fund.”

The business offers a combination of wine tasting and education, along with a variety of special events and travel opportunities, as the owners — sisters — invite guests on “a journey of discovery, education, and enjoyment.”

See WINE next page



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MONTEREY
RECREATION

SPORTS

From page 26A

(.309, 21 hits), and first baseman Jackson Lloyd (.421 on-base percentage).

Senior Bixby Moranda, a corner infielder who played sparingly last season, also has been a solid contributor (.303 in 52 plate appearances).

The pitching rotation is composed of Sanchez (last year’s Monterey County Player of the Year and co-MVP of the Gabilan Division), fellow senior Zander Lunt (all-county), and Maxon, the 10th grader.

Sanchez, a lefty, is 6-0 with a 1.68 ERA, 41 strikeouts and just eight walks in 41 1/3 innings. Lunt, 5-2, leads the team with a 1.59 ERA, and has struck out 56 in 48 1/3 innings. Maxon, an All-Mission Division football player, is 6-3 with 2.43 ERA, and has struck out 68 in 49 innings, both team highs.

A formidable bullpen includes 6-foot-6, 270-pound Lloyd, 3-0 and unscored upon in seven relief appearances, and Hudson Rutherford (Carmel’s all-division football quarterback), who is 2-1 with a 2.78 ERA.

Daunting CCS bracket

Carmel’s opponent coming up on Saturday, Los Gatos, has lost this year to St. Francis (8-3), Palo Alto (5-0), Homestead (7-6) and Wilcox (5-4). The Cats are 13-1 since April 3, the Wilcox loss.

The winner of that quarterfinal game will draw either Junipero Serra or St. Ignatius in Wednesday’s semis. Quarterfinal matchups on the other side of the bracket are Mitty at Burlingame, and St. Francis at Valley Christian.

All semis and Saturday’s title game will be played at Excite Ballpark in San Jose (game times TBA).

■ CCS track: Aldi a contender

Also scheduled Saturday are the CCS track and field finals at Garcia-Elder Sports Complex in Gilroy, where Carmel and Stevenson have multiple qualifiers. Field events begin 3:10 p.m., track at 4:45 p.m.

Carmel’s Mack Aldi is a title contender at Saturday’s events, which he enters with the section’s second-best time in the 800-meter run.

Aldi, a junior, has a season-best time of 1 minute, 54.16 seconds in that event, which he registered on April 20 at the CCS Elite 8 Invitational. Pioneer’s Carson Hedlund, also a junior, ran the fastest time in the section — 1:54.14

— at that same race.

Three Stevenson high jumpers are podium contenders, led by junior Kekoa Williams, who cleared 6-foot-4 on April 17 at a meet at Alisal High. Williams’ leap is tied for third-best in the section, with San Mateo’s Luka Sebisanoovic and Willow Glen’s Davian Kennedy, also juniors.

Williams’ teammates, Nile Glover, a senior, and Cooper Olin, a sophomore, have cleared 6-2 this season.

The favorites in the event are junior Alexander Dillon of Milpitas, who has cleared 6-7, and Branham senior Kazu Kimura, who leapt 6-6.

Ortega, Ong eye medals

The top local medal contenders in the girls meet are in the pole vault, where Carmel’s Bella Ortega has vaulted 11 feet (fourth-best in the CCS), and Stevenson’s Siobhan Ong has cleared 10-5 (ninth best). Both are juniors.

The favorites in the pole vault are Soquel’s Jonelle Scott (12-5), Sequoia’s Abby Goetz (12-1), and Branham’s Kendra Williams (11-6). All are seniors.

Another Stevenson junior, Anna Kosmont, is ranked seventh in the 100 with a time of 12.40 seconds.

■ CCS UPDATES

Boys golf: Stevenson junior Luke Brandler repeated as CCS golf champ on Tuesday at Laguna Seca Golf Ranch, carding an 8-under-par 62 for a 4-stroke win over Nueva’s James Lee, the runner-up.

The Pirates also ran away with the team title with 344 strokes, 23 better than Crystal Springs Uplands (367). Bel-larmine was third at 372.

Stevenson qualified its full team for the NorCal Championships (May 20, Berkeley Country Club in El Cerrito), powered by Steven Lai (69 for a 6th-place tie), Johsh Chadha (70 for a 9th-place tie), Calvin Etcheverry (71 for a 12th-place tie) and Adam Rohizam (72 for a 15th-place tie). Andrew Doll, the Pirates’ No. 6 player, carded a 74 to tie for 25th.

Boys tennis: Stevenson’s Cameron Page defeated Branham’s Danny Yavir 6-3, 6-1 in the opening round of the CCS singles tournament at Seascape Sports Club, earning a spot in the quarterfinals against third-seeded Anthony Lim of Crystal.

Pacific Grove’s Anthony Hurst lost his opening match, 6-3, 6-1, to Akbar Beg of Aragon.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Kekoa Williams, who has cleared 6-4, is one of three Stevenson high jumpers contending for a medal at Saturday’s CCS Track and Field Championships.

Softball: Carmel, the Mission Division runner-up, lost 4-0 to Everett Alvarez in its CCS play-in game on May 10 and failed to qualify for the main bracket.

Boys volleyball: Carmel, seeded No. 4 in Division 2, swept No. 5 Gunn in its quarterfinal game, but was eliminated in the semis by No. 1 Monte Vista (the eventual champion), 25-16, 25-21, 25-17.

Lacrosse: Stevenson’s boys, seeded No. 8, lost 12-6 to top-seeded Menlo-Atherton in the Division 1 tournament. Carmel, seeded No. 7 in Division 2, lost 14-8 to second-seeded Palo Alto in their opener.

Stevenson’s girls, No. 5 in Division 1, fell 17-2 to No. 4 St. Francis in their quarterfinal game.

WINE

From previous page

The local chapter of the Dames d’Escoffier is part of an international “philanthropic organization of women leaders in the food, beverage and hospitality industries.” Donations from Lady Somm’s grand opening will directly support scholarships for students in those fields.

Said Carver and Langer, “Our commitment to supporting and celebrating the next generation of industry professionals is ongoing. This donation is just the beginning of our efforts.”

■ Meanwhile in Monterey

Manasiri’s Crepes and Sandwiches at 321 Alvarado St. would like folks to drop by and try its newest menu item — the pistachio crepe. They describe it as “a beautifully rich pistachio butter crepe sprinkled with ground pistachios,” and it sells for \$12.99.

Not content with putting the popular nuts on the plate, the family-owned café’s staff is also serving pistachio lattes. Served hot or cold, they’re bound to wake up your taste buds.

Roxanne Langer and Elaine Hesser contributed to this week’s column.

Chinatown Before and After the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake

A Staged Reading by Carol Marquart

Friday, May 24th at 5:30 pm

Mark Baer as Arnold Genthe

Carol Marquart, Director

Fred Bologna, Technical Director

In this staged reading, Arnold Genthe, an immigrant to California from Germany, takes up a new hobby in 1900...photography. He wanders through the neighborhoods in San Francisco with his folding Kodak camera and stumbles upon a place called Tangrenbu, known by outsiders as the Chinese quarter. With the help of a Chinese interpreter and guide, Hong Yen, the story of the early Chinese in America begins to unfold. With Arnold Genthe, performed by actor/former Hollywood screenwriter, Mark Baer, we view these very rare and authentic photographs taken before, during and after the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake.



This performance is based on a book published by John Kuo Wei Tchen (copyright 1984) entitled GENTHE’S PHOTOGRAPHS OF SAN FRANCISCO’S OLD CHINATOWN.

Carol Marquart’s staged readings have appeared in many local venues around the Monterey Peninsula. She specializes in staged readings about famous and infamous persons in the 20th Century.



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Peninsula

BUSINESSES

MAY 24, 2024

Besides its history, culture, scenery and great weather, one of the things that makes the Monterey Peninsula so wonderful is its outstanding business community. But who are the hard-working people behind all those amazing shops, restaurants and service providers? We will answer that question in our May 24 edition.

Don't miss a chance to be apart of it!

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meena@carmelpinecone.com

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MUSIC

From page 29A

8 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

According to Grammy.com, Godwin’s “deep, piercing voice” and “intimate portraits of family life” have made him a recording artist to keep an eye on.

Tickets start at \$35. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado. St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

■ On sale Friday

Single-day tickets are now on sale for the 67th annual Monterey Jazz Festival, which is set for Sept. 27-29. The festival includes performances by **Mavis Staples**, **Stanley Clarke**, **Joshua Redman** and many others. “New artists and activities are being added regularly,” the festival added.

For tickets, visit montereyjazzfestival.org.

■ Live music May 17-23

Albatross Ridge Winery and Kitchen in Monterey — singer and guitarist **Lindsay Beery** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Saturday at 5 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

Barmel — singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). In Carmel Square on San Carlos just north of Seventh.

Bernardus Lodge & Spa in Carmel Valley — pianist **Mathias Morris** (classical, Friday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea’s Fault Duo** (jazz and pop, Saturday at noon), pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at noon). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Bon Ton LeRoy’s Lighthouse Smokehouse in Monterey — singer and guitarist **Frida Vossler** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Wednesday at 7 p.m.), Open Mic Night (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 794 Lighthouse Ave.

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



As part of a West End Celebration preview, River Voices play Sunday afternoon at Forest Theatre.

Cibo restaurant in Monterey — **The Dave Holodiloff Duo** (bluegrass and jazz, Sunday at 7 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and singer and pianist **Bill Spencer** (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 — **Brett T.** with **Mr. Lucky** (“hard rock classics,” Friday at 8 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Tony Miles** (reggae, Sunday at 4 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 6:30 p.m.), **The Andrea Carter Trio** (jazz and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.), guitarist **Richard Devinck** (classical, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, 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.

Folktales Winery in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Greg Brock** (Friday at 4 p.m.), **Magenta Spreen** (“dreamy soundscapes, vocal harmonies, storytelling, and mindful melodies,” Saturday at 2 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Val-

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Service Directory continues on next page


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LIVE

From page 33A

ley Road.

Gusto Pasta and Pizza in Seaside — singer **Janice Perl** and pianist **Gary Meek** (jazz, Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.). 1901 Fremont Blvd.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m. and Thursday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Tuesday at 6 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.

The Inn at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach — **The Andy Weis Band** (jazz, Friday, Saturday and Thursday 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.

Juice ‘n’ Java in Pacific Grove — Open Mic (Friday at 7 p.m., sign up by 5:30 p.m.), **The Dave Holodiloff Duo** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

La Playa Hotel — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Thursday at 5 p.m.). Bud’s Bar, Camino Real and Eighth, Carmel.

The Links Club — **SeaLvl** (r&b, Friday 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 **Kip Allert** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 10 a.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Saturday and Thursday at 6 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive.

Lucy’s on Lighthouse in Pacific Grove — **The Edge Band** (pop, rock and country, Sunday at 2 p.m.). 1120 Lighthouse Ave.

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

Midici Pizza in Monterey — Janice’s Jazz Jam with

singer and host **Janice Perl**, keyboardist **Bill Spencer**, bassist **Joe Dolister** and drummer **Andy Weis** (Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (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 — pianist **Peter Cor** (jazz, Friday and Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 5 p.m.), pianist **Martan Mann**, jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Tamas Marius** (jazz and blues, Monday at 5 p.m.), singer and pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz and pop, Tuesday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (pop, rock and country), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (Thursday at 5 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

Monterey United Methodist Church — **The Edgar Loudermilk Band** (Friday at 7 p.m.). 1 Soledad Drive, visit otteroprey.org.

Pearl Hour in Monterey — **The Zach Westfall Group** (jazz, Sunday at 8 p.m.), **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz, Wednesday at 8 p.m.). 214 Lighthouse Ave.

Puma Road at Portola Plaza in Monterey — singer and guitarist **Anthony Presti** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Gin Fragonard** (Saturday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** and bassist **Zach Westfall** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

Salty Seal Pub in Monterey — **The Rogue Roosters** (rock and blues, Friday at 8 p.m.), **The John Michael Band** (pop and rock, Saturday at 8 p.m.), **Rumba Madre** (Latin fusion, Sunday at 4 p.m.), **Snake Oil Road Show** (rock, Thursday at 7 p.m.). 653 Cannery Row.

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.

Sly McFly’s — **The Money Band** (pop and rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **The New Wave Band** (pop and rock, Sat-



The Transducers, featuring singer Taylor Safina, play rock and funk Sunday at Forest Theatre.

urday at 9 p.m.), **The Stingrays** (classic rock, Sunday at 8:30 p.m.), **The Pacific Jack Band** (classic rock, Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.), **5 Star** (rock and soul, Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.), **Blue Fire** (classic rock and modern funk, Thursday at 8:30 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

Trailside Cafe in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Dan Cioper** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Lindsay Beery** (Saturday 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.

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