

The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 110 No. 22

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May 31-June 6, 2024

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Tourist horde, traffic jams return to Bixby Bridge

By CHRIS COUNTS

JUST NINE days after Highway 1 reopened and tourism returned to Big Sur, a traffic quagmire developed at Bixby Bridge last weekend. Marcus Foster of the group Keep Big Sur Wild was onsite Sunday to chronicle the traffic chaos and spark a conversation about what can be done to fix it.

Foster's video, which was posted online by Big Sur Kate, shows lines of vehicles backed up along Highway 1 in both directions while they wait to cross the bridge. To

the south, a steady stream of cars can be seen snaking its way up Hurricane Point.

The video shows cars parking along the Old Coast Road, where they routinely block access. According to Foster, the dirt road "turns into a parking lot where nobody parks parallel, creating a very narrow single-lane road where people cannot get in and out," including residents along the unpaved route.

"If there was some sort of emergency like a fire or a resident who needed an ambulance, this would only cause a delay," he warned. "This has become a public safety issue."

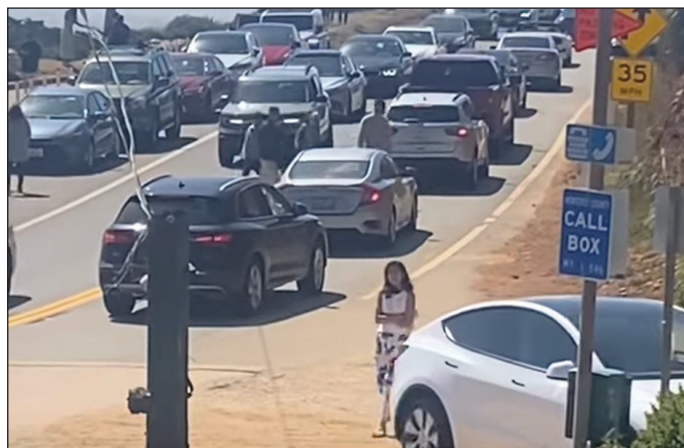
Selfie icon

While Bixby Bridge has long been famous for its beautiful design and memorable views, the bridge has somehow become an international tourist mecca.

"It is sometimes hard to believe that the most popular destination in Big Sur has become a man-made concrete bridge," Foster continued. "This, unfortunately, is the new reality because people want to take pictures and selfies — it has caused major congestion and traffic backups."

As many have previously done, Foster brought up the idea that Highway 1 has a limited carrying capacity. But others have long contended that setting a limit on how many people can visit Big Sur is impossible, either politically or practically, or both.

See JAMS page 224



SCREENSHOT FROM MARCUS FOSTER VIDEO

Hardly a week after Highway 1 reopened at Rocky Creek, crowds again have descended on Bixby Bridge and the adjacent Coast Ridge Road.

Roeck announces new version of film festival

By CHRIS COUNTS

SEVEN YEARS after the founders of the Carmel film festival called it quits, a pair of local producers are bringing back the event, and the new version of the Carmel International Film Festival is set for Oct. 2-6.

Offering a sample of what is coming to town, three film-related events are scheduled for this weekend, including two film screenings in Pacific Grove and a reception in Carmel.

Ended in 2018

Founded in 2008 by Tom Burns and Erin Clark, the Carmel Film Festival screened dozens of full-length and short films each year and drew as many as 20,000 people to the Monterey Peninsula, including actors Kate Bosworth, Ed Asner, James Franco, Emmy Rossum and Matthew Modine, not to mention composer (and Carmel Highlands resident) Alan Silvestri. But in early 2018, Burns and Clark announced the festival was ending.

A film producer and director who has lived in Carmel for much of his life, Lawrence Roeck told The Pine Cone that during the pandemic he and actress and producer Annette Anderson began discussing the idea of reviving the festival. They agreed its absence had left a void.

'Creativity and connectivity'

"There was a gap when the film festival left," Roeck suggested. "People love to visit Carmel — it's an incredible place for the world of film to be celebrated."

Also inspiring the revival were conversations on a Facebook page that Roeck and Anderson started. Titled "The Crowd," the page is dedicated to "creativity and connectivity in film, literature and the arts."

Some had urged Roeck and Andersen to restart the event, and "when we didn't see anybody step forward, we decided we had the resources and the connections to do it," he explained.

See FILMS page 124

'What am I waiting for?'

■ Carmel man recounts trip to space

By MARY SCHLEY

WHEN YOU'RE in space, the sun is really, really bright, and the rocket ride getting there is remarkably smooth. Those were a couple of the surprises Carmel resident Ken Hess experienced when he became one of six paying passengers aboard a private company's suborbital rocket May 19.

"It was like being in a glass elevator," he said of his trip on New Shepard, a rocket program developed by Jeff Bezos' space exploration venture, Blue Origin. "Just a really, really fast glass elevator that takes you up more than 60 miles at a speed of over 2,000 mph."

A mishap

A child during the Cold War-era space race and the son of an engineer, Hess had long dreamed of such an experience. He was in second or third grade when the

late astronaut Alan Shepard became the first American to travel into space in 1961 and was captivated by the first lunar landing eight years later.

"My dad was an engineer, I was an engineer, and I was super into it," said Hess, who lives at Torres and 11th with wife Connie. "Eleven years ago, when my dad passed away, there were opportunities emerging for people to get

Dale Byrne says he'll run for mayor

By MARY SCHLEY

THE FOUNDER of a nonprofit that has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of volunteer labor, organization and materials to accomplish a wide range of public improvement projects in town over the past four years, Dale Byrne announced this week he will challenge incumbent Dave Potter in the race for mayor in November.

"I care deeply about this place and have the creativity, knowledge, ability, energy and commitment to provide transparent, visionary leadership that will engage and serve the residents, business owners and visitors of Carmel," said Byrne, who is stepping down from the board of his nonprofit, Carmel Cares, and plans, if he wins, to dedicate himself to the mayorship full time.

"I have really strong skills in working with other people, empowering them and finding their skills — a one-plus-one-equals-three kind of thing," he said. "That works with me as mayor finding those people the city can leverage, but also there are skills in our existing and future council members that can be leveraged."

Byrne, 69, said he would encourage the council to be more active and dedicate more time and energy to the role. "I think they can be more powerful," he said. "I think they can do more."

Because of a dog, of course

Byrne and his wife, Margaret, began visiting Carmel more than 20 years ago after they became the owners of a miniature red poodle and searched for dog-friendly destinations they could visit from their home in Redondo Beach.

"Margaret found Carmel was the most dog-friendly town, so we started making regular trips," he said. After staying in hotels and vacation rentals for several years, the couple bought a cottage 11 years ago. They moved here full-time in 2017 and now live on San Antonio Avenue in a house he built. In addition to running Carmel Cares, Byrne has constructed five homes in town over the past decade.

Born in the San Gabriel Valley, Byrne earned a Bachelor



Dale Byrne

See BYRNE page 224



(Above) A still from a video by Ken Hess shows an expansive view of Texas, Colorado and New Mexico, where White Sands National Park is seen at the lower left. (Right) Blue Origin staffer Laura Niles celebrates as Hess steps from the capsule.



PHOTOS/(LEFT) KEN HESS, (ABOVE) BLUE ORIGIN

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2A

The Carmel Pine Cone

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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Darling dachsie

Zoe has lived her life like a Hallmark story, where the main character experiences trauma, spiraling her life into a moment without hope. But love prevails, and her becomes practically perfect. Living with the niece of her forever family's friends, the little dappled Dachshund needed a "rehome rescue" when the niece moved to a place that didn't accept pets.

Her future family wasn't looking for another dog, but they were familiar with dachshunds, having had Noel, a Christmas gift, who'd lived almost to 18, followed by Chloe who, they imagined, might be the perfect companion to Zoe. Besides, their names rhymed, and how cute is that?

The only one possibly more in love with Zoe than her person, was Chloe, who died a year ago, just shy of 15.

"Every time we lose a dog, I tell myself I can't get another because I can't go through that heartbreak again," her person said. "But then, I do."

Zoe, now nearly 13, comes into town from her Carmel Valley home with her person, bound for a daily constitutional by Carmel Beach. They tend to stay on the strand along Scenic Road, as the path is much easier for Zoe's little legs to maneuver than all that sand.

"We also like to get out on the Ribera trail, overlook-

ing the ocean," her person said. "It's so scenic, such a nice place to walk, and we always come across friendly people and pups."

Zoe's person and his previous dachshunds were members of the Carmel Dachshund Club, which met once a year for a "wiener roast" on Carmel Beach.

"We even had the Oscar Mayer Weinermobile show up a few times," said Zoe's person. "I'd supply hot dogs and buns, and we'd have a reunion."

Once the founder moved away, and the cofounder became elderly, the event fizzled like seafoam sinking into the sand.

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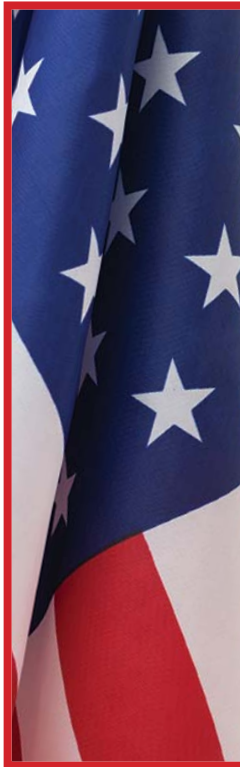
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4A The Carmel Pine Cone May 31, 2024



Police & Sheriff's Log

Mutual pushing, no prosecution

HERE'S A look at some of the significant calls logged by the Carmel-by-the-Sea Police Department and the Monterey County Sheriff's Office last week. This week's log was compiled by Mary Schley.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Firearms surrendered by owner at Mission and Third for destruction.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fraud reported on Mission north of Second.

Pacific Grove: Report of a verbal domestic on Congress Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Suspicious circumstances on Marino Pines Road.

Pacific Grove: Adult Proective Services reports for information only per mandated reporting guidelines on Miles Avenue and on Central Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Report of a dead body found on Monterey Avenue.

Carmel Valley: APS report of financial abuse on El Caminito.

Carmel Valley: Report of financial abuse on El Potrero Road.

Carmel area: Report of financial abuse on Mesa Drive.

Pacific Grove: Vehicles on Lighthouse, 17 Mile Drive and Jewell Avenue were marked for 72-hour parking.

Carmel area: Deputies responded to a report of fraud involving an 80-year-old female on Van Ess Way.

Carmel Valley: Disturbance reported on East Carmel Valley Road.

THURSDAY, MAY 16

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Apple watch found at Del Mar and Ocean.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A driver struck a concrete pillar and a brick wall in the area of San Carlos Street and Seventh Avenue. The 67-year-old male Castro Lane resident was contacted and arrested for DUI after failing a field sobriety test. The driver, who has one prior DUI conviction, was lodged at Monterey County Jail and his vehicle was impounded.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found cell phone on Dolores north of Seventh. The owner of the phone came to the station to pick it up.

See **POLICE LOG** page 13RE in the Real Estate Section



The gavel falls

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

May 16 — Juan Nunez, 48, of Salinas, was sentenced for a conviction of murder by the Hon. Judge Rafael Vasquez to 18 years, 4 months to life in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

On Aug. 8, 2002, Loretta Paluszynski was found deceased in her home. Paluszynski had multiple stab wounds, including a deep laceration across her throat, and a bloody knife was found near her body. The Salinas Police Department found Paluszynski after she never picked up her son from childcare and was reported missing. Neighbors said that they heard fighting and arguing in the early morning hours between the victim and Nunez, whose family informed the police that Nunez

showed up at their home in Salinas covered in blood and told them, "I did it, I did it." The defendant fled shortly thereafter to Mexico. In 2021, he was finally extradited from Mexico.

The case was investigated by Sergeant Ruben Sanchez of the Salinas Police Department, district attorney investigator Pablo Andrade, and with the valuable assistance of many current and retired Salinas Police Department officers, and the California Department of Justice Bureau of Forensic Services Crime Laboratories in Watsonville, Richmond and Fresno. The victim's family was supported by D.A. victim assistance advocate Estella Sanchez.



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DUI not a factor in fatal Hwy. 1 crash

By MARY SCHLEY

THE 17-YEAR-OLD Seaside driver who caused a series of crashes — one fatal — after he ran into a power pole on Highway 1 south of Carpenter Street the morning of Mother’s Day was not under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time, California Highway Patrol public information officer Saul Perez said Friday.

Juan Muñoz was heading northbound on the highway in his Ford F150 pickup truck shortly before 6 a.m. May 12 when, for still undisclosed reasons, he swerved across the southbound lanes and crashed into a power pole on the west side of the road. The pole fell across the highway, bringing wires down with it, and shortly after, several southbound drivers, including 44-year-old Seaside resident Ricardo De Orta-Garcia, ran into the debris. De Orta-Garcia, who was riding a Honda motorcycle, was thrown from the sportbike and died at the scene. The highway was shut down for nearly four hours while the crash was investigated, and residents and

businesses south of the site were without power for several hours. PG&E crews kept one lane in each direction closed to facilitate repairs well into the afternoon.

Cooperative

Muñoz suffered a contusion to his head and was subsequently released to his parent. Perez said he has been cooperative during the investigation, which is ongoing. Each of the other collisions with the pole is being treated as a separate incident, so Perez said he expects it will be a while before the entire investigation is complete. He said damage to the other cars was minor to moderate and that the motorists suffered either no injuries or minor ones, but would not disclose further details.

While Perez revealed that drugs and alcohol were not a factor in Muñoz’ crash, he said a conclusion on what, exactly, caused the teen driver to lose control of the truck, cross into the oncoming traffic lanes and hit the pole — and whether he will be cited for the incident — will not be revealed until the report is finalized.

Man in road asked cars to hit him

By KELLY NIX

NOT EVERYONE’S Memorial Day weekend was relaxing. On Saturday, a man yelling obscenities and asking to be killed suddenly plopped himself down in the middle of a main street in Pacific Grove as cars drove toward him — presumably so he would be struck by a vehicle.

On May 25 at about 4:10 p.m., the man, who was on foot and appeared to be arguing with another man, screamed “f...k you” and “kill me” repeatedly before lying down in a lane on Pine Avenue as vehicles approached, according to a Pine Cone employee who witnessed the incident.

Fortunately, drivers traveling westbound on Pine spotted the unidentified man

— who was well dressed, clean cut and in his late 20s or early 30s — and turned onto side streets to avoid him. Nobody was injured.

Following the bizarre episode and subsequent calls to police, the two men continued walking in the middle of Cedar Street. Pacific Grove Police officers caught up with them on Cedar south of Sinex Avenue and interviewed them.

Apparently, the man’s behavior didn’t rise to the level of an arrestable offense and officers released him.

“This incident was a mental health issue with no alcohol or drugs involved,” acting Pacific Grove Police Chief Brian Anderson said. “However, the individuals involved did not qualify for a mental health hold.”

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\$1,000 reward leads to return of stolen bronze

By MARY SCHLEY

A DODGY roadside meeting with a man calling himself “John Wayne” Wednesday morning led to the recovery of the beloved bronze sculpture formerly owned by late actress Doris Day that was stolen from the home of former Carmel Chamber of Commerce CEO Lance Wills two weeks ago.

In last week’s Pine Cone, Wills talked about the importance of the piece and offered a \$1,000 reward, no questions asked, for its return after it disappeared from the home he is remodeling on Alta Avenue in Carmel. The 32-inch-tall Mother and Child piece by artist Miki Benoff was displayed in Day’s Carmel Valley home for years, and Wills purchased it during the April 2020 auction of the icon’s estate.

“It’s called Mother and Child, but it represents more than that — it embodies the love and responsibility a parent has to care for their child,” Wills said in last week’s story.

On Monday, Wills — who lives in Sydney, Australia, with partner Greg and their daughter, Sophie — received three emails from Wayne asking to talk about the statue.

“At 2:10 p.m., I received a voicemail from an unknown caller: ‘Mr. Lance. I have come across your statue. You

mentioned there’s a reward. I know you guys wanted to get it back. I’m in town, I don’t know your address. So, if you could please email me. I have sent you a couple emails. Appreciate it. Thank you,’” Wills recounted.

“I have no idea how this person got my phone number, but it wasn’t important,” he added.

Exchange arranged

Wills provided the address of his Carmel home and thanked him “for ‘finding’ the bust and his willingness to work with us to get it back.”

In another email to Wills, the mystery man commented, “Just so you know, the guy that took it got his ass handed to him for taking it,” but did not elaborate.

Since he wasn’t in town, Wills explained to Wayne that he would have to arrange for someone to receive the statue and hand over the money. He asked friend and architect Eric Wynkoop if he would be open to orchestrating the exchange. Wynkoop agreed and said he’d be available Wednesday morning.

After that, the email exchanges with Wayne stopped.

“I sent several emails that day letting the man know how to contact Eric and when he would be available, but I got no

response,” Wills said. “This was going to go one of two ways: He decided to stop communicating and the sculpture would be lost forever, or he was going to just turn up at the house in the morning unannounced in case we were planning to notify the police.”

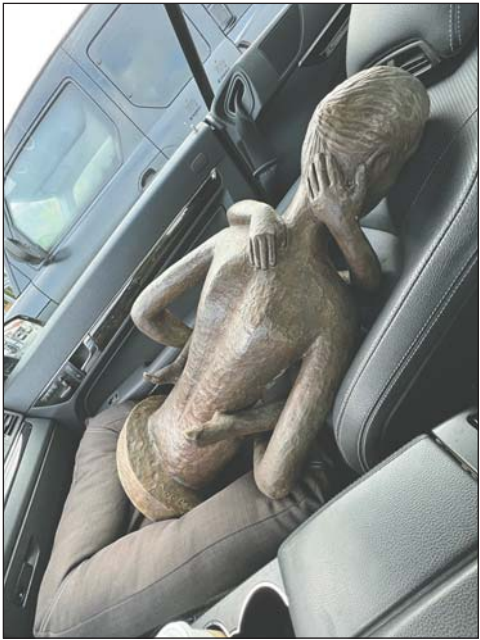
Wynkoop said he arranged for the exchange to take place at the job site at the home where the piece had been stolen “so I could be surrounded by tradesmen of substantial strength to bear witness to the hand-off.”

“I had no idea what I was getting into,” he said.

While Wynkoop was on Highway 68 heading toward Carmel, the mystery man called and said he wanted to meet on the side of the highway, instead. “This gave me pause, as I was not sure if I would meet these people and get murdered, or worse,” he said, so he suggested the Starbucks parking lot at Canyon del Rey and Highway 68.

“Right before we were to meet, a policeman pulled up next to me,” he recounted. “I was concerned the perp would think it was a setup and we would lose the one opportunity to get the previous artwork back.”

But fortunately, the officer left before the man arrived with the sculpture. Wayne



PHOTO/COURTESY LANCE WILLS

Safely in the passenger seat of Eric Wynkoop’s car after he handed over a \$1,000 reward for its return, this stolen bronze will be back in its Carmel home.

pulled into the lot shortly after and called Wynkoop, who was parked next to him, and the exchange took place without incident.

“I was super happy to get the item back

See **REWARD** page 20A

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- Pub Crawl-by-the-Sea , May 31–June 8
- The Freshman* Movie at Outdoor Forest Theater, June 1
- Kitchen Brigade* Movie at Sunset Center , June 5
- Culinary Showdown at Carmel Farmer’s Market, June 6

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City thinking about crosswalk parking rule

By MARY SCHLEY

WHILE OTHER jurisdictions are busy implementing a new state law restricting parking near crosswalks, Carmel officials are taking a more measured approach to dealing with the “Daylighting Bill” that took effect Jan. 1.

The law, authored by San Jose Democrat Alex Lee and signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in October 2023, aims to increase the visibility of pedestrians by outlawing parking within 20 feet of the approach side — typically the passenger’s side of a vehicle — not only of marked crosswalks, but every place streets that have sidewalks meet at right angles. The distance drops to 15 feet for crossings that have curb extensions, more commonly referred to as bump-outs.

The law only applies to streets that have sidewalks, so most of the residential area of Carmel is exempt, other than areas near Sunset Center, La Playa Hotel and other notable spots.

It also provides several exceptions, which Police Chief Paul Tomasi outlined at a Wednesday meeting of the traffic safety committee staffed by him, assistant city administrator/planning director Brandon Swanson and Rob Culver, public works superintendent.

Not forgotten

“We haven’t forgotten about it — it’s something we’ve been talking about,” Tomasi said. The cities of Pacific Grove and Monterey are already taking steps to comply with the new law, which becomes enforceable Jan. 1, 2025, but Carmel officials are analyzing how best to meet its standards while giving up the fewest parking spaces.

“The aim is to prevent parking or

stopping of vehicles within 20 feet of marked crosswalks, improving visibility and safety for drivers and pedestrians,” Tomasi said.

The city’s desire to minimize the impact on parking as much as possible will not be done at the expense of safety, he and Swanson insisted.

“Our goal is to utilize those tools that were given to us by the state, doing as much reconfiguring as possible with the bigger goal of losing as few parking spaces as we can while meeting the law, but also with the intent of making downtown safe,” Swanson said.

“We’re not ignoring pedestrian safety — that’s a priority of this law,” Tomasi agreed. “I think we can do it in a way where we maximize pedestrian safety while minimizing the number of spaces we need to lose.”

Exceptions

The law allows some exceptions. A local jurisdiction can use a different distance if it’s established by an ordinance that “includes a finding that the different distance is justified by established safety standards,” Tomasi said. But no one has defined what those safety standards are, so that option is pretty much a nonstarter.

“Nobody knows what that safety standard is, so we’re not looking at that,” he said, adding that for as busy as it is, Carmel has relatively few vehicle-vs.-pedestrian incidents.

Other options include designating spaces close to crosswalks as commercial loading zones, which are typically limited to 20 minutes of parking, and using the spaces for parking bicycles and motorized scooters. Both require ordinances identifying the specific spaces where those rules

See **CROSSWALKS** page 21A



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Filmmaker explores ‘voluntourism’

By CHRIS COUNTS

HELPING TO find homes for orphans in distant lands seems like the most worthy of causes, but it has a dark side, filmmaker Barak Laub told The Pine Cone.

The son of entrepreneur Paul Laub, who once ran for Carmel mayor, Laub has co-directed and co-produced a documentary film, “Volunteers Needed,” about how many unsuspecting people pay thousands of dollars to volunteer overseas for groups that claim to operate orphanages but in reality are running human trafficking operations. The film will be screened June 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Lighthouse Cinema in Pacific Grove.

Laub, who lives in Carmel Valley, urged the Carmel City Council to take a stand against those who profit off the orphan volunteer industry, which it did when a proclamation was issued Nov. 7. “As far as I’m aware Carmel is now the first city in the US

to make such a proclamation,” Laub said.

According to the proclamation, there are as many as 8 million children residing in orphanages, residential care facilities and children’s homes worldwide — and as many as 80 percent of those kids “are not orphans and could reunite with their families.” They’ve been caught up in what’s known as the “voluntourism industry,” which is unregulated and rakes in billions of dollars a year from unsuspecting people intent on doing good.

Legislation next?

To make the film, Laub teamed up with co-director and co-producer Raymond Steege. He also gave much credit to editor David Polsdorfer.

Laub told the newspaper he hopes the film will shine a spotlight on the voluntourism industry and lead to legislation that

See VOLUNTEER page 13A

Hopes of rescuing injured sea lion

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

RESCUERS ARE on the search for a distressed sea lion that was spotted in Monterey this week with a large rubber band-type object around her neck.

Pacific Grove resident John Casaus was at the Monterey Coast Guard pier on Tuesday afternoon and saw the animal. He posted a photo of the sea lion on social media, hoping to get in contact with an agency that could rescue it.

“My wife and I are currently at the Coast Guard pier and there is a female sea lion who appears to be in distress,” Casaus said, noting a pink band wrapped around her neck. “A pup seems to be in distress as well.”

Casaus and others, including Monterey resident Susanne Burns, made calls to agencies to help the animal, though it’s not clear which one is helping with rescuing it.

Burns said Wednesday that an organization is trying to help.



“They know about the sea lion and have been tracking it,” she explained. “They said they are doing their best to get to her.”

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South County murders done for benefit of criminal gang, charges say

DNA on vape pen implicates

By KELLY NIX

MONTEREY COUNTY prosecutors have charged two gang members with six murders, including a quadruple homicide in King City in which a birthday girl was slain at her own party, and the shooting a month earlier of an autistic man as he tried to make his way to the Salinas River, according to a chilling account of the crimes spelled out in court documents.

Prosecutors allege that Jonathan Leal Cervantes, 18, Pedro Nava, 32, a juvenile identified as Angel E., and others carried out a series of felonies that began in early February and culminated with a mass shooting at a birthday party in King City in early March.

Prosecutors say Nava ordered the murders but wasn't present when they were carried out. Nava and Cervantes "are members of Tiny Locos, a Greenfield-based gang that is an offshoot of the Norteño gang," the DA's office said.

"The People allege they committed six murders, seven attempted murders, and other offenses for the benefit of their gang," according to documents filed by

Monterey County District Attorney Jeanine Pacioni and deputy district attorneys Kellin Dunne and James Laughlin. "These offenses occurred in two shootings — one outside Greenfield on Feb. 4, and the other in King City on March 3."

Besides the six premeditated murders, Cervantes and Nava are charged with a litany of other crimes, including seven counts of attempted murder, robbery and enhancements of use of a firearm, street gang murder, conspiracy, and street terrorism, which itself can land someone a life sentence. They are being held without bail.

Any criminal charges against Prunedale resident Angel E. would be kept confidential since he's a minor.

Birthday murders

On Feb. 24, a week after prosecutors say Angel E. burglarized a car in Pacific Grove and stole a credit card he used to purchase an Apple gift card, Nava instructed him to find a vehicle. The underling returned to P.G. and stole a Kia Rio that would be used in a quadruple homicide just days later.

On March 3, Alicia Aparicio was celebrating her 33rd birthday with friends and family at a home on Second Street in King City. Dozens of partygoers mingled in the

front yard as children played and bounced on a trampoline in the backyard.

Unbeknownst to the celebrants, Cervantes, Angel E. and a third unidentified gunman arrived in King City at about 5 p.m. and drove past the party in the stolen Kia the first time.

"They viewed no celebration, only targets," according to a May 10 motion filed by prosecutors, which noted that the killers passed by the house several more times.

As the birthday celebration was wrapping up about an hour later, the three pulled up to the house and got out of the car with guns blazing.

"Surveillance footage captured the carnage they inflicted," the DA's office said. "The three gunmen fanned out so their gunfire bracketed dozens of partygoers in the front yard. And they targeted everyone as they fired dozens of rounds in less than 30 seconds."

Aparicio was slain at her party. They also murdered Mario Guzman Mendoza, Francisco Aldape Perez, and Olivio Perez Pina. Seven other people were injured, some critically, in the attack, as Cervantes, Angel E. and the third gunman fled to Greenfield.

"Over the next 24 hours, Nava celebrated this shooting in messages with Angel E. Two days later, deputies located the Kia abandoned just outside Greenfield."

DNA evidence

A month before the homicides, Cervantes, Angel E. and two other gang members drove a different stolen vehicle to King City and confronted a man walking on the sidewalk, brandished a firearm and "challenged his gang membership" before fleeing north on Highway 101.

Five hours later, the same pair and two more Norteños went to Big 5 in Salinas, wielded firearms and threatened workers while robbing the store for ammunition. Investigators got a major clue in the case when a vape pen one of the assailants

accidentally dropped during the robbery tested positive for Cervantes' DNA. But before they could make any arrests, the gang's crimes escalated.

"The day after the Big 5 robbery, Nava instructed Angel E. and Cervantes to murder," prosecutors said.

Senseless

While the killers' plot was allegedly unfolding, cousins Salvador Andres Garcia and Jack Canchola — who had no affiliation with gangs — were at a large church event in Soledad on Feb. 3. When Canchola, who was autistic, became anxious around the crowd, the cousins decided to drive to a spot just outside Greenfield where he enjoyed watching the northerly flow of the Salinas River.

The men broadcast the outing on Instagram live and joked around while listening to music. That's when Cervantes and Angel E. caught up with them and "issued unmistakable gang threats," prosecutors contend.

Canchola ended the Instagram feed and called 911, but it wouldn't save them. A California Highway Patrol officer who responded to the emergency call discovered his crashed truck in a vineyard off Thorne Road. "The crash scene revealed an atrocity," the DA's office said. "Dozens of shots inflicted fatal wounds that ended Jack and Andres' lives."

Near the truck was the killers' abandoned vehicle. After Nava picked up Cervantes and Angel E. from crime scene and fled, investigators found items they left behind that tested positive for their DNA.

Angel E. purchased the Apple gift card on Target's website. Unfortunately for him, he used an email address tied to a social media account, which investigators searched after obtaining a warrant and found his address in Prunedale.

Cervantes and Nava pleaded not guilty in a Salinas courtroom and are in custody at Monterey County Jail.

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Also, invest with a purpose. Follow a long-term investment strategy that reflects your goals, risk tolerance, asset

accumulation needs, liquidity and time horizon.

One more idea: Invest strategically by matching some investments with specific goals. For example, your IRA and 401(k) are designed for retirement, but if you want to help send your kids to college, you might consider a tax-advantaged 529 plan. For a short-term goal, such as a wedding or a long vacation, consider an investment that offers significant preservation of principal.

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HOURS OF HARD WORK LATER, LIGHTS SHINE ON WWI MEMORIAL ARCH

By MARY SCHLEY

FOR THE first time since its restoration was completed four years ago, passersby can enjoy the sight of the century-plus-old World War I Memorial Arch at San Carlos and Ocean fully lit at night, thanks to hours of labor put in by planning commission chair and general contractor Michael LePage.

A longtime steward of the arch and a key figure in the years-long effort to return it to its former glory, LePage spent eight hours on a day in late April installing the necessary electrical equipment, as well as an irrigation system, while another dedicated volunteer, Cindy Lloyd, tore out the roots of dead rosemary bushes.

The arch was lit for the first time last Wednesday night, according to Lloyd, who handles all of the landscaping around it and began replacing plants there this week.

“Michael deserves a medal for the unstinting work he has done to restore the arch, and now it is visible at night,” she observed.

Designed by architect Charles Sumner Greene, the arch was built in the median at San Carlos and Ocean by local stonemasons and originally dedicated on Nov. 11, 1921, as The Soldiers Memorial Fountain to honor those who served during World War I.

Efforts continue

During the decades that followed, more than three dozen of its stones had deteriorated due to weather and wear, while dirt had built up around the steps at its base and a couple of volunteer oak trees crowded it. A small group calling itself the Friends of the Memorial Arch set out to raise \$20,000 to repair it and received approval of its restoration plans from the city in 2018.

Those efforts continued sporadically until the coronavirus pandemic forced almost everything to shut down,

including construction. But stonemason Brian McEl-downey — whose grandfather built the arch — finished replacing the stones after the county health officer released restrictions on such work in May 2020.

For the final step of the project, McEldowney and LePage worked together to clear out the soil from around the base of the arch, and Lloyd took on the ongoing work of planting flowers and other greenery around it and ensuring the landscaping is watered — a task she has handled without the benefit of an irrigation system.

“I buy all the materials for the planting areas: soil, fertilizer and plants, plus an expandable hose,” she said last week, while LePage has paid for everything he’s provided, including the electrical and irrigation materials.

See ARCH page 13A

It’s always time to prepare

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

WITH THE state’s recent history and the city’s expansive urban forest, the risk of wildfire in Carmel-by-the-Sea is high. Homeowners are having their insurance policies canceled or significantly increased in price, and many are afraid of the devastation that could quickly result from a fire here. But a special event at Sunset Center June 1 seeks to allay a lot of those fears and answer many questions — principally, how to survive and to protect your property, too.

At Carmel Prepares, set for 10 a.m. to noon June 1 in Carpenter Hall at Sunset Center, representatives from Carmel Fire Department will explain the community wildfire prevention plan that’s been developed over the past couple of years, and officials from Cal Fire, Carmel Police Department, the volunteer-based community emergency response team and other regional partners will be on hand to provide information and answer questions.

Refreshments and a raffle will be offered, too.

Carpenter Hall is located on the back side of Sunset Center at Mission and Ninth.



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FILMS

From page 1A

Like the festival that Burns and Clark put on, Roeck wants the new one to celebrate the art of movie-making, but also creativity in general — and the local art scene in particular. He suggested the latter possesses a deep reservoir of untapped talent, which the festival can help spotlight.

“I’m a big fan of the artistic history here,” he said. “We want to put on an incredibly dynamic and entertaining festival that honors the local history. Movie production requires painters, writers and musicians — we don’t want to leave any artists out. We’re committed to honoring local artists.”

Roeck sees the potential of the filmmaking industry to boost the local economy.

“We want to work with the local community to create incentives to get producers to come to the Monterey Peninsula and film their movies,” he said. “With a couple of tweaks, this place could light up with productions.”

‘Low-key’ footprint

Compared to other local industries like tourism, the film industry would be “low-key,” and leave behind “a small and efficient” footprint, he said.

Roeck said some of the inspiration behind staging the festival came from what Burns and Clark accomplished with theirs. He also noted that there have been other similar events presented in town, including the first one in 1929, which came just four years after the first silent film was screened.

Ultimately, Roeck he’s hopeful it will be a worthy successor to the one that Burns and Clark presented for nearly a decade.

“They did an incredible job and set the bar high,” he added. “We’re honored to create another film festival.”

Roeck and Anderson are putting on a series of events to preview the festival, and three are scheduled Saturday. At 2 p.m., photographer Randy Tunnell presents a talk at Lighthouse Cinema in Pacific Grove about his book, “Carmel and Big Sur Art-



PHOTO/COURTESY LAWRENCE ROECK

Lawrence Roeck with camera operator Carey Toner on the set of Roeck’s 2015 film, “Diablo,” starring Scott Eastwood.

ists — Bohemian Legacy,” which came out last month. The book includes portraits of 100 contemporary Carmel and Big Sur artists.

At 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Lighthouse Cinema, the film, “Heart Strings” will be screened. The movie tells the story of two aspiring singers who pretend they are married so they can enter a songwriter contest for couples with a \$1 million prize.

Tickets are \$35 and good for both events. The theater is located at 525 Lighthouse Ave.

At 7 p.m. Saturday, Hidden Hills Brewing and Blending in The Barnyard shopping center hosts a reception, which includes a Q&A with Steven Gaydos, who wrote the script to “Heart Strings.” There will also be live music from Cameron Stoddard and the Salty Sea Dogs.

For more details, visit ciffest.com.

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VOLUNTEER

From page 9A

protects children.

“My current goals are to do more showings of my documentary and get additional cities in Monterey County and statewide to pass similar resolutions,” he explained. “If this were to happen, we could see a significant reduction to domestically-funded child trafficking worldwide.”

Are you paying for it?

Despite the downside of voluntourism, Laub said there are many legitimate volunteer efforts offered aboard. “Volunteering is generally good,” he added. “Not all voluntourism is bad. But the first question you have to ask is, ‘Are you paying for it? Is this something you are a professional at?’ If you are not qualified to do something in this country, you’re probably not qualified to do it in another country.”

The June 7 screening is free, and will be followed by a

Q&A with the Laub and Steege. To RSVP, visit volunteersneededthefilm.com. Lighthouse Cinema is located at 525 Lighthouse Ave.

ARCH

From page 11A

and the metal bollards installed a while ago to prevent cars from running into the piece — which actually happened in 1977.

“When irrigation is installed, my stint gardening in the planting pockets will become a whole lot easier,” said Lloyd, who is in her early 80s. “My daughter, Anna Williams, has learned how to water the plants and help with deadheading.”

“It takes a village,” she continued. Photographer Ian Martin, gallery owner Richard Kreitman, resident Mike Brown, and Gerry Paratore from American Legion Post 512 “have all contributed to the beautiful arch with its new bell that we honor today.”



RICARDO DE ORTA

Ricardo De Orta Garcia, 44, went to be with God on May 12th, 2024, and leaves behind a legacy of dedication and love. Ricardo, affectionately known as “Kiko” was born on October 2, 1979 in the small town of Tlalcosahua, Jalisco, Mexico to Miguel and Consuelo De Orta. Two years after his birth, his parents, in search of better opportunities, decided to make the journey to The United States, and settled in Seaside, California.

Kiko is survived by his parents, younger siblings, Cristina and Miguel De Orta, sister-in-law Matilde, nieces and nephews – Diego, Emily, Nicolas, Isaías, Olivia, and great niece – Camila, or the 12 fantasticos as they commonly referred themselves as. He is predeceased by his paternal grandmother, Luz Olague, and maternal grandfather Antonio Garcia.

Kiko came from a large extended family of Tios and Tias, primos and primas, and many friends that became family members. He had a special way to connect with each one of them, and always made it his priority to keep in contact with those close to him. Kiko worked in hospitality for 23 years as a room service server. He is remembered by both his colleagues and guest for his unwavering kindness and impeccable service. His presence brought warmth to everyone he met; he transformed everyday interactions into cherished moments.

Outside of his professional life, Kiko embraced many passions. He had a love for riding motorcycles, the thrill of the open road called to him. He attended dance socials, where his vibrant energy

lit up the dance floor. His collection of comic books revealed his inner child and love for storytelling, his favorite superheroes being Superman, Batman, and Deadpool. Kiko was a dedicated soccer enthusiast, both on and off the field. His favorite teams Las Chivas Rayadas de Guadalajara and Manchester United. Disneyland was his happiest place on earth, a testament to his lighthearted spirit. Additionally, Kiko enjoyed anime, finding inspiration and enjoyment in series such Dragon Ball Z and Cowboy Bebop, among many others. Kiko’s family and friends will celebrate his life and cherish the memories of a man whose heart was as vast as his capacity to give. His legacy will live on the hearts who knew and loved him.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TO LEVY AND COLLECT ANNUAL CARMEL VALLEY
RECREATION AND PARK MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENTS DIS-
TRICT ASSESSMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on June 12, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, the Board of Directors of the Carmel Valley Recreation & Park District will hold a Public Hearing to consider levying and ordering the collection of the assessments for the Carmel Valley Recreation and Park Maintenance Assessment District for Fiscal Year 2024-25. The Board will accept public comments and questions, and consider ordering the maintenance of improvements, confirming diagrams and assessments and the levying and collection of assessments.

This hearing will be held at 29 Ford Road, Carmel Valley, California, 93924.

A Resolution of Intention to Levy and Collect Assessments for the above referenced Park Maintenance Assessment District was approved by the Board of Directors of the Carmel Valley Recreation & Park District on May 8, 2024 by Resolution No. 2024-02. The fiscal year 2024-25 assessments shall be levied and increased by 3.67% over that which was levied in the prior fiscal year.

Information regarding the Final Engineer’s Report for the Park Maintenance Assessment District may be obtained from the Carmel Valley Recreation and Park District by calling (831) 659-7275. It can also be read on the website cvrpd.specialdistrict.org.

Any interested person may file a written protest with the Board of Directors prior to the conclusion of the Public Hearing, or having previously filed a protest may file a written withdrawal of that protest. A written protest shall state all grounds of objection, and a protest by a property owner shall contain a description sufficient to identify the property owned by such property owner. At the Public Hearing all interested persons shall be afforded the opportunity to hear and be heard. The address to file a written protest is P.O. Box 334, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.

Publication Dates: May 31, 2024 (PC 555)



CARL VICTOR NOTO, D.D.S.

Dr. Carl Victor Noto joined the angels on May 1, 2024, surrounded by his family and held in their love.

Carl was born on August 14, 1948, in Chandler, Arizona to Joseph and Pauline Noto. He was the second of four children and was their eldest son. When he was 4 years old, the family moved to the Monterey Peninsula where he lived most of his life. Carl attended Junipero Serra School at Carmel Mission, Carmel High School, and Monterey Peninsula College, before attending the University of California, Davis and subsequently earning his Doctor of Dental Surgery at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska in 1974.

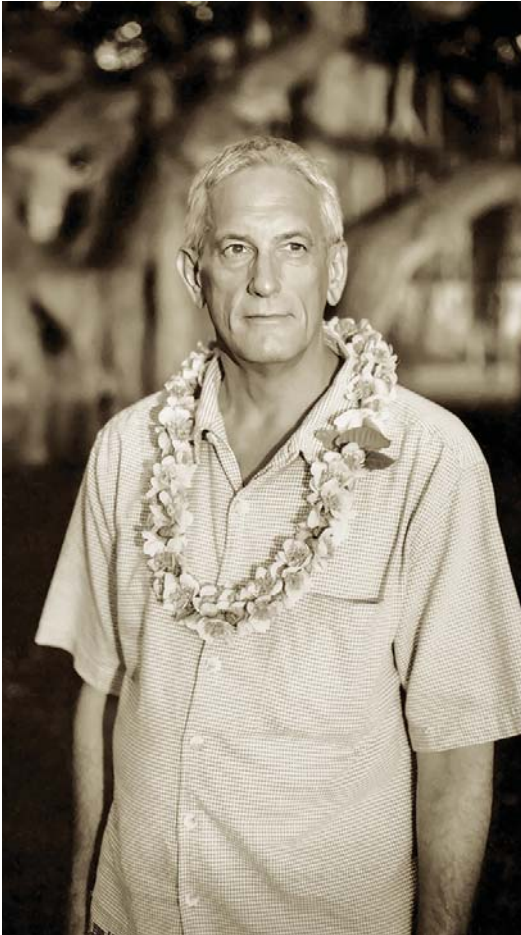
After receiving the “D.D.S.” after his name, Carl returned to the Monterey Peninsula and joined his father’s dental practice until his Dad retired and his brother Tom joined the practice. Carl served our community as a dentist for nearly 50 years. As many of his patients can attest, Carl was a comedian and a storyteller, often making patients laugh around the dental instruments in their mouths. Carl was an avid outdoorsman, a musician, and a giver of many gifts — floss, toothbrushes, his favorite pocket knives and woven shemaghs (scarves).

Carl was predeceased by his parents; his sister, Felicia Colton; and his mother-in-law, Bruna Odello. Carl leaves behind his wife of 47 years, Pamela Noto; his siblings, Joanne Noto and Tom Noto; his sister-in-law, Carla Odello; his nieces, Courtney (Carlos) Colimodio, Ariana and Rachel Wylie and Nicole Colton; grandnephews, Zane Fuqua and David Colimodio, and his many patients who were like family.

The vigil service will take place 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at Mission Mortuary, 450 Camino El Estero, Monterey. The funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday, June 14, 2024, at Carmel Mission Basilica, 3080 Rio Road, Carmel.

In lieu of flowers contributions in Carl’s memory can be given to the charity of your choice.

DAVID MARC ZIEL



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of David Marc Ziel on March 22, 2024, in Monterey, California. David was born on Aug. 18, 1953, in Monterey. He had deep familial roots in Monterey and an even deeper love for the city he called home.

David had an illustrious career in the title and escrow industry. He began his career nearly 50 years ago as a courier. In 1980 he was hired by Old Republic Title Company, holding various positions until retiring in December of 2023 as V.P. of Escrow Operations Manager for Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. David was considered one of the most knowledgeable escrow professionals in the industry.

David enjoyed cooking and baking. He was well known for his pecan pie and his lemon bars. If you were the lucky recipient of either of these, rest assured you were very special to him. He also loved to garden and would often pickle or preserve his harvest of fruits and vegetables. Much like his father and brothers, he was a die-hard San Francisco Giants fan. Above all else, he was a beloved father, husband, brother, uncle and friend who will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his husband, Guido Aguon; his daughter, Whitney (Ryan Tiernan); brothers, Brian (Sharon) and Rick (Lucy); sister, Sharon and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ted and Patricia Ziel of Monterey, California.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Aug. 25, 2024. If you are interested in attending please send your contact information to dziel.col@gmail.com and we will send you an email with the celebration details.



COLONEL LESTER WILLIAM ZIELINSKI USAF (RET.) 1928-2024

Colonel (Ret.) Lester William Zielinski, long-time resident of Pebble Beach, was born in Buffalo, New York. He passed peacefully surrounded by loving family to his final breath. He was a kind, loving, generous and thoughtful man, known as Les, Z, Dad, Pops, Grandpa, Mister Z and Colonel Z. He was the fourth of eight children born to John (Jan) S. Zielinski and Elizabeth (Elzbieta) Zielinski (née Migdal). He is survived only by his youngest brother, Robert (Bobby). When he was 3, while holding hands with his sister Irene, a biplane flew overhead and he pointed up to the sky and said, “I want to do that.” He loved to fly and fly he did. He proudly served in the USAF with distinction for almost 27 years, including 189 combat missions in Korea and Vietnam, until he retired in 1977 as a Colonel. Following retirement in Omaha, Nebraska he moved to Pebble Beach, California where he became a real estate broker working for an additional 30 years before officially retiring with Alain Pinel. He graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, earning a double bachelor’s degree in political science and history. He was captivated by politics and stayed on top of current events. He was an avid reader and had a profoundly remarkable memory down to the smallest of details even in his 95th year.

He was a gifted long-distance runner and ran several marathons in the Buffalo area as a top contender and even won one outright. One of his many proud running moments was being able to run in a mile race against the then world record holder, Gunder Hagg. Les said he was only 17 and in high school and Gunder beat him by a good stretch, but he must have had enough potential to be in the race in the first place. Being the son of immigrants during the Great Depression, he was poor. His father died young and all five of the boys had to pitch in and support the family. This taught him to save and to be resourceful. His love of reading led him to get a job at the library. His love of airplanes found him spending time at the local airfield, earning money, catching free rides with pilots. He learned to fly when he was 16 and bought his first airplane at 18, a used Piper J3 Cub. It was this experience that allowed him to join the Air Force and become a pilot. It was his leadership, mental acuity and calm under pressure that allowed him to become an officer before he had finished college.

Following the Korean War Les was ferrying new airplanes from the Boeing airplane plant in Wichita, Kansas to Air Force bases in the U.S. mainland. It was there that he met the love of his life, Patricia Fairchild. It was love at first sight. He was a confident, fast-moving pilot who knew what he wanted. She was a beautiful blonde Kansas girl who liked what she saw as well. They dated for three weeks and were married in six. That was 69 quick years ago. Les is survived by his wife, Patricia, sons, Lt. Col. (ret.) Lester II, partner Lilliana, and her children, Lisa, Indra, Ellie and Alexander; son, Mark and wife Lori, and their sons, Alexander (Rebecka), Austin, Andrew, son Brad, daughter from another father Laura Clark-Saunders(Michael), and daughter Deborah Jo Hoeckleburg. Les was preceded in death by his father, John Zielinski; mother, Elizabeth, brother, John, sister, Irene; brother, Richard; sister, Dorothy; brother, Thaddeus (Ted); sister, Maxine; granddaughter, Kim Schmidt; niece, Sandra Smith; niece, Bonnie and nephew, Rickie.

In recent years a concerted effort to find out whom Les's grandfather was in Poland was funded and conducted by several cousins, Les's sons, and himself. Although the person has yet to be confirmed it was through this search that a new nephew came to be known, Keith Barrett. In October of 2022 it was confirmed that Keith was Les's nephew. He was born in Wimborne, UK in 1945 and he was looking for who his father was. His father, it was confirmed, was Les's oldest brother John (Johnny) who was later wounded in the war and couldn't have children as a result. It was before he was wounded that he did conceive and yet he died not ever knowing he had a son. Les was elated and a visit quickly ensued all the way from the UK. Les was the closest person to his brother Johnny, and they traveled here in December of the same year. It was a magical occasion, covered by BBC television, and celebrated by the larger Zielinski family. We gained a whole new family in Keith, wife Pauline; daughter, Louise LePage (Todd), her son, Lucien; son, Michael Barrett (Michelle), his son Joel. Les has undoubtedly told his brother Johnny about his son and new family and the heavenly celebration continues.

Les was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, son. He was loved by all who knew him. He was patient, loving, and never embarrassed anyone. He was wise and insightful. He was confident and sure, a true leader. He always filled one with hope for being all you can be, and assured you that you could, if you worked smart and hard enough. He was driven and focused but one of the most notable traits was his keen sense of humor and his loud and raucous laugh. We always sought ways to get him laughing as it was contagious to all. He laughed often, smiled frequently, and had a sunny disposition. Ironical, as he suffered greatly from the many years of injury, ailments, accidents and battle damage. You would almost never know it except for the “frequent flyer” status he had with doctors and hospitals of late. He has outlived most of his friends and family. He was a true hero in actions and results, and he was a hero to us, his family. He was a God-fearing man, and we are confident in his joyful destination in heaven. We here on earth are sad as we miss him deeply and an unfillable void has opened in our hearts. He faced the news of his imminent passing with the same stoic bravery that served him well in combat ... no emotion, no fear. Now it is his turn to look up, see clear skies, and indeed, it is a great day to fly! We love and miss you Pop!

Special thanks to the great care from the VA and especially from “Mighty Moe”!
Funeral date and plans are yet to be confirmed. Please contact friends
or family members for details.

In lieu of flowers donations are requested to the Wounded Warrior Foundation.

JACK ANDREW ANDERSON

July 4, 1928 - May 24, 2024

Jack Andrew Anderson passed away on May 24, 2024, just six weeks shy of his 96th birthday on July 4th, surrounded by the love of his family. Jack was born in Cheshire, England and was an only child. Jack cherished his family, and he loved music and the outdoors, including playing golf and tennis and dancing to familiar tunes.



Jack was trained by the Association of British Architects and became a custom home builder after moving to the United States. Jack was adventurous and had a never-ending zest for life! His sense of humor was unparalleled, and he often shared it with a twinkle in his eye. He immigrated to Toronto, Canada in 1955, where he met the love of his life, Sylvia, who predeceased him in 1993. They moved to Vancouver, Canada and then immigrated to the United States in 1960 and settled into life in Lafayette, California for many years.

In 1984, Jack and his loving wife fulfilled one of their dreams by relocating to their beloved Carmel. They shared precious times together in Carmel, as well as countless beautiful memories with their family. Jack is survived by his three children, Susanne (Steve), Judith (Curtis) and their children, Kendra and Alexis; Mark (Gayle) and their children, Jack, Kelly and Jeff. Jack’s journey was a life well lived. He will be missed immensely and forever remembered in our hearts.



Rest in peace, dear one, as you rejoin your love, Sylvia.
There will be a private family memorial.



Obituary Notices

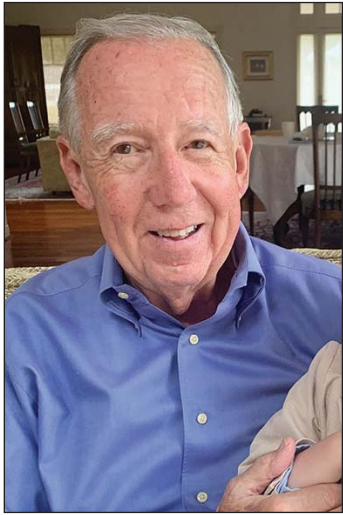
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For more information please contact:
Anne Papineau (831) 274-8654 | anne@carmelpinecone.com

FRANCIS DONALD RYAN

Francis Donald Ryan, a long-time resident of Pebble Beach, passed away on Thursday, May 23rd. Born on February 4, 1941, in Trenton, NJ, Don was the middle of three brothers, born to James and Dorothy Ryan. As a young boy, Don enjoyed team sports, playing both baseball and basketball, but it was in the classroom where he excelled. Valedictorian of Trenton Catholic High School in 1959, he went on to study electrical engineering at Villanova University, graduating in 1963.



After a brief tenure in electrical engineering, Don decided to redirect his career toward sales. He spent the remainder of his career in various leadership roles at Union Carbide, eventually becoming corporate vice president and finally, chief executive officer of Polimeri Europa prompting a move to Milan, Italy.

While in Italy, Don and Peggy embraced the local culture, enjoyed fine dining and supported local artisans by purchasing wonderful furniture pieces that adorn their Pebble Beach home.

In 1967, while working in Chicago, Don met his wife of 55 years, Margaret “Peggy” Ryan. After brief stints in Laguna Beach, CA, and Farmington Hills, MI, the couple settled in Ridgefield, CT, where they lived for more than 20 years and raised their three children.

Upon retirement from Union Carbide, Don fulfilled his lifelong dream of living in Pebble Beach, a place he had admired since his first business trip. Golf, a lifelong passion, saw him playing many tournaments at the Ridgewood Country Club in Connecticut and numerous rounds at the Monterey Peninsula Country Club, which he joined in 1998 and where he served as a board member and finance committee chairman.

Don’s greatest love was his family, for whom he provided a wonderful life and in whom he took immense pride and joy. He is survived by his wife, Peggy; their three children, Brent, Christy and Kim; as well as six grandchildren, including the youngest, Alexander, 3, who brought him much joy in his final years.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on June 7, 2024,
at Carmel Mission Basilica, 3080 Rio Road, Carmel-by-the-Sea.
In lieu of flowers, contributions in Don’s memory
can be made to the charity of your choice.

Beloved local singer and pianist dies at 85, just weeks after last show

By CHRIS COUNTS

A GIFTED singer and pianist who performed just weeks ago at the Monterey Plaza Hotel — and opened the Dream Theater in 1975 — John Harris passed away May 8 at Community Hospital in Monterey. He was 85.

As a musician, Harris was a familiar face and voice at local venues. The clubhouse at Tehama, the Golden State Theatre and the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts are just a few places where he performed.

According to Kelly Productions, which represented him, Harris was helped as a young performer by a legendary singer.

“Real-life mentor Nat King Cole inspired John to realize his musical goals,” the agency’s website says. “Every performance night, for three years, he served as Cole’s off-stage support and confidant.”

Harris said Cole had quite an impact on him.

“Night after night, I watched Cole thrill sold-out audiences all over the world,” the musician said. “His humble stage persona, deep commitment to his music and exacting piano work, with its intricate simplicities, inspired me.”

Kelly Productions noted that two other Hollywood luminaries — Johnny Mathis and Ann-Margret — “recognized



PHOTO/FACEBOOK

Singer and pianist John Harris, who died May 8, was the founder of the Dream Theater in Monterey.

Harris’ unique talent as a collaborator and included him as a vocalist in solos and duets for live stage performances, television and recordings,” the company posted online. “He also served as rehearsal pianist and arranger for their choral groups.”

As a musician, Harris was particularly influenced by Cole and two other jazz artists, Errol Garner and André Previn. While he loved jazz, he also enjoyed playing classic rock and contemporary pop. “His upbeat and inspired performances consistently charmed audiences everywhere,” Kelly Productions said.

The musician is survived by a brother, Bill Harris.

Founded two theaters

Harris moved to the Monterey Peninsula in 1969. Besides being a musician, he was an entrepreneur and a filmmaker. He co-founded two once-popular venues, the 812 Cinema on Cannery Row, and the Dream Theater in New Monterey.

“He wanted to create experiences that people hadn’t had before,” recalled Arden Eaton, who works for Kelly Productions. “At the 812 Theater, you laid down on pillows. At the Dream Theater, you had rocking couches.”

Eaton remembers Harris as “vibrant and so full of life.”

“He had a smile for everyone,” she said. “He always had a kind word.”

A celebration of Harris’ life is set for June 29. Eaton started a GoFundMe campaign to help settle the late musician’s affairs. “There are many expenses to cover, and any donation you can make will make a difference,” Eaton added.

To make a donation, visit [GoFundMe.com](https://www.gofundme.com) and search for “John Harris’ Final Farewell.”



Ken Van Hagen
Celebration of Life

Please join us 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 2nd at the Carmel Valley Community Center to celebrate Ken’s remarkable life in Carmel Valley.

June 2nd would have been Ken’s 92nd birthday – **Ken loved his birthday parties.**

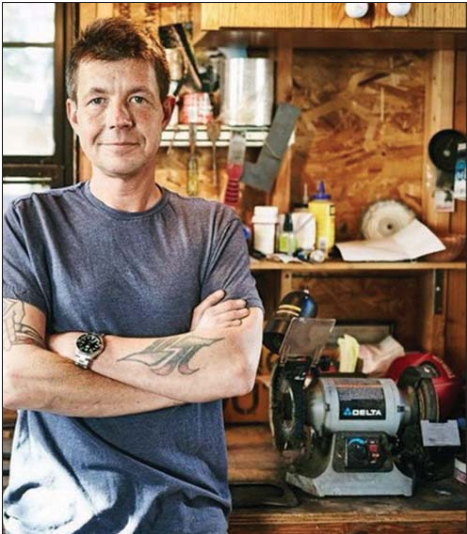
In loving memory of RC BANJANIN

Beloved husband, son, brother, uncle, and friend

Richard Charles (RC) Banjanin passed away peacefully on April 21st, at the age of 54.

RC was born to his loving parents, Lee and Nancy Banjanin, in Washington, D.C. Four years later, his brother Reed was born, whom RC adored. RC spent his youth in Maryland and Virginia, and enjoyed spending summers in Alabama with his grandparents. An excellent student, RC had a gift for mathematics, and a natural talent for solving complicated equations. It was this talent that would win him a new car in the future. As a teen, his love of outdoor projects led him to achieve the distinguished rank of Eagle Scout. A love for buildings propelled RC to pursue architecture at Virginia Tech, where he received a scholarship.

RC had an intense passion for woodworking, design and especially for restoring old homes. After settling in Monterey Bay as an adult, he earned his general contracting license and started his own business. He enjoyed many wonderful projects, including building furniture, the restoration of historic homes and making custom cabinets. One of many highlights of his work included the restoration of Casitas de Lemos, also known as the Gingerbread house, in Pebble Beach. RC also received accolades from the City of Pacific Grove, the Palo Alto Center for the Arts and the Del Monte Forest Conservatory. He considered many of those he worked for, and alongside with, to be his friends.



RC loved helping people. He was someone you could call with a problem, at any hour, and he would show up with his tools, and fix it. A man of many talents, RC had a passion for learning new things. He enjoyed traveling and going to any and all museums that he could find. He loved trying to play golf, both on the Monterey Peninsula, and on visits to Florida. By his 30s, RC had visited all 50 states in the country. An avid lover of music of all genres, RC loved photographing live performances and attending concerts. There was always a project going on at home, in the backyard, or in his shed. Throughout his life, he loved working on cars, was a lover of trains and collected timepieces. RC loved most sports, and was a lifelong Pittsburgh Steelers fan, (even having a subtle ode to the team, on his wedding cake, with the blessing of his cool wife). He followed the VT Hokies, and San Francisco Giants as well. Most friends and family could attest that the life stories, and adventures he told, were legendary and always entertaining. He valued deeply his relationships with family and dear friends. In the last 20 years, RC had the pleasure of being an uncle. He loved his nieces and nephews, and enjoyed taking them places, and spending time with them.

RC did not let challenges stop him from working, and enjoying life. Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in his early 40s, RC faced it with tremendous courage. He became an ambassador for the National MS Society and shared his story to comfort those newly diagnosed with the disease. In his spare time, he often built ramps, or installed handrails, for anyone in need.

In 2004, RC met his wife, Tara, in Carmel. It was love at first date, and they were married within a year. Each of their individual families welcomed the other as their own, and they enjoyed 20 years of incredible love together.

RC is survived by his wife, Tara; mother, Nancy; brother, Reed (Somer); uncle, David; mother-in-law, Maureen (Gary); father-in-law, Larry (Dana); sister-in-law, Jen (Juan); nieces, Jenna, and Julia; and nephews, Gabriel, and Joseph. He was preceded in death, by his father, Charles Lee.

Our hearts are broken, but we are sustained by the love we had for him, and the love that he gave us. Love is eternal.

Tara wishes to thank Dr. Halamanderis, Dr.Bahari, and the entire ICU staff at Natividad Medical Center for their exceptional care. Also, to friends, neighbors and even strangers, thank you for your kindness and generosity during this difficult time.

A memorial service will begin at 2 p.m on Saturday, June 8th, at St. John’s Chapel in Monterey.
A reception will immediately follow at Tarcy’s restaurant.

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Help us say YES to animals like Stuart! Your donation to AFRP provides medical care, compassion, and second chances. Give today for a brighter tomorrow!



Swimmer bound for Olympic trials, high school stars excel in college

CONNOR RODGERS, a former Monterey Swim Club standout who never swam for the Padres during his four-year stint at Carmel High (Class of '21), has qualified for the U.S. Olympic Trials.

Rodgers earned spot in the 200-meter individual medley with a career-best time of 2 minutes, 2.74 seconds in a meet at Georgia Tech University.

Rodgers, 22, became a first-team Atlantic 10 Conference swimmer at George Washington University, where he holds Atlantic 10 Conference records in the 200-yard butterfly (1:44.47) and the 400 individual medley (3:46.25).

He recently completed his junior year at GWU, where he is a business analytics major.

His clocking beat the Olympic trials qualifying standard, which is 2:03.49. The trials are scheduled June 15-23 in Indianapolis for the 2024 Summer Olympics, which begin July 26 in Paris.

■ Alumni watch

Trosky makes mark at Oregon State: Carmel High alumnus Jabin Trosky (Class of '21) has started 27 of 35 games this season for the Oregon State Beavers, who are ranked sixth in the nation in NCAA Division I baseball with a 41-13 overall record.

Trosky, a redshirt sophomore, began the week as the team's seventh-leading hitter with a .292 batting average,

and a .372 on-base percentage.

Defensively, Trosky has committed just three errors in 85 total chances at second base, third base, and shortstop, a .966 fielding percentage.

He was a first-team all-league and all-county shortstop at Carmel.

Main named All-WCC: Tomi Main, a 2021 Stevenson graduate, had a 10-6 record as the No. 2 singles player on the tennis team at University of Pacific. The junior also earned a sport on this year's All-West Coast Conference

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

team as a doubles player, collaborating with partner Klara Kosan to compile a 13-9 record.

Kosmont sizzles at Yale: Former Santa Catalina speedster Juliette Kosmont ('23) competed in the 60- and 100-meter dashes and was part of 4x100 relay team this season as a freshman at Yale University.

Kosmont, a two-time Central Coast Section champion in high school, recorded season-best times of 7.55 seconds in the 60, and 11.80 in the 100. Yale had a best of 46.37 in the 4x100.

Cosand a cog at UC Davis: Rhea Cosand, a 2022 Stevenson graduate, was the third-leading scorer for the UC Davis women's lacrosse team this year, contributing 26 goals on 63 shots during 17 games — all starts. Cosand, a midfielder, assisted on six other goals, picked up 10 ground balls, was credited with 14 draw controls, and caused three turnovers for the Aggies, who were 9-6 this season.

Tuck is All-America equestrian: Carmel High product Sara Tuck (Class of '19) was named first-team All-America as a flat rider in her senior year of eligibility at Fresno State University, where she set a career school record for Most Outstanding Player honors in that event. She also was named to the All-Big 12 team.

Tuck became the first Fresno State equestrian athlete to earn first-team All-America recognition since Sierra Swaffer did it in 2015-16. Swaffer currently coaches jumpers at the university.

Toole starts at Villanova: Former Stevenson standout Trent Toole started all 31 of his games this season as a freshman at Villanova University in Philadelphia, batting .240 with 10 RBI, and a .370 on-base percentage.

As a second baseman, Toole committed six errors in 142 chances — a .958 fielding percentage — and turned 12 double plays for the Wildcats, who finished the season with an 18-33 overall record.

See **SPORTS** next page



Carmel High alum Connor Rodgers (left) , a junior at George Washington University, has qualified for the U.S. Olympic Swimming Trials in the 200 medley relay. Tomi Main (center) garnered All-West Coast Conference honors in tennis this year, compiling winning records in doubles and singles at the University of Pacific. Carmel High graduate Jabin Trosky (right) has started at three infield positions this spring for the Oregon State Beavers, currently ranked No. 6 among NCAA Division I baseball teams.

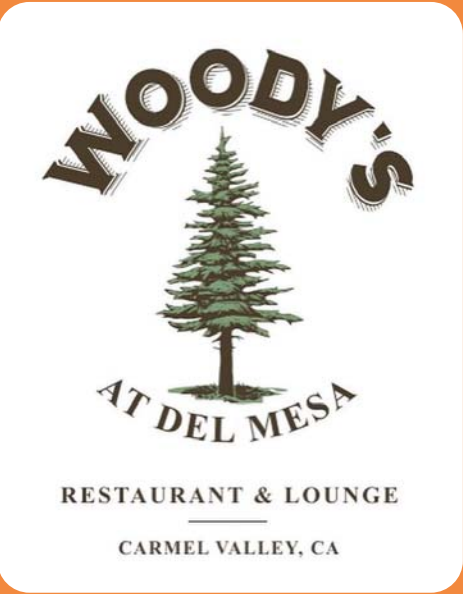
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SPORTS

From previous page

A native of Manasquan, N.J., Toole earned all-county recognition in football, basketball and baseball as a boarding student at Stevenson (’23).

Postseason honors

Baseball
Gabilan Division: Most Valuable Player — J.J. Sanchez, pitcher/first base, and Matt Maxon, pitcher/outfield, Carmel. **First team** — J.J. Sanchez, pitcher/first base, Matt Maxon, pitcher/outfield, Justin LeMaster, infield, and Zander Lunt, pitcher/infield, Carmel. **Second team** — Bo Iandoli, outfield, and Bixby Moranda, infield, Carmel. **Sportsmanship** — Ben Tucker, Carmel.
Mission Division: First team — Amani Wilson, first base/pitcher, Reggie Bell, infield/outfield/pitcher, and Phinn Thomas, utility/pitcher, Stevenson. **Second team** — Sean Ishii, infield/pitcher, Stevenson. **Sportsmanship** — Andrew Airada, Stevenson.

Softball
Gabilan Division: First team — Sabrina Hardin, infield, Stevenson. **Second team** — Claren Wong, pitcher, Stevenson. **Sportsmanship** — Claren Wong, Stevenson.
Mission Division: Offensive Player of the Year — Nicole Tapson, outfield, Carmel. **First team** — Nicole Tapson, outfield, Allie Hacker, pitcher, Ava Mangiapane, infield, and Lily Grundy, infield, Carmel. **Second team** — Hope Yoshiyama, utility, Santa Catalina; Ky Dahle, infield, Angelina George, outfield, and Chloe LeMaster, catcher, Carmel. **Sportsmanship** — Layla Borman, Santa Catalina, Lily Grundy, Carmel.

Boys lacrosse
Gabilan Division: Player of the Year — Will Bufkin, attack, Stevenson. **Offensive Player of the Year** — Justin Diniz, attack, Stevenson. **First team** — Will Bufkin, attack, Justin Diniz, attack, Keegan Charupoom, midfield, Tate Escher, midfield, and Laird Welch, defense, Stevenson. **Second team** – Brody Biggs, midfield, Derek Diniz, midfield, and Gavin McKhann, goalie, Stevenson. **Sports-**



PHOTO/YALE UNIVERSITY

Juliette Kosmont, a two-time CCS champion during her time at Santa Catalina, ran impressive times as a freshman sprinter this spring at Yale University.

manship — Will Gutierrez, defense, Stevenson.
Mission Division: Player of the Year — Jacoby Scattini, Carmel. **Offensive Player of the Year** — Noah Scattini, attack, Carmel. **First team** — Jacoby Scattini, attack, Noah Scattini, attack, Engeda Galaktos, attack, and Body Stoddard, midfield, Carmel. **Second team** — Talinn Loberg, defense, Ray McNeil, defense, Garrett Sanborn, defense, and Kanan Seeklander, goalie, Carmel. **Sportsmanship** — Merrick DeJonghe, midfield, Carmel.

Girls lacrosse
Gabilan Division: Player of the Year — Macey Torres, midfield, Stevenson. **First team** – Macey Torres, midfield, Brogan Dolata, attack, Sydney Holland, midfield, Grace Ishii, midfield, Georgia Bonifas, defense, and Molly McAfee, attack, Stevenson; Kate Graham, midfield, and Anna Rasmussen, attack, Carmel; Allie Fieber, midfield, Santa Catalina. **Second team** — Naiya Patel, attack, and Sarah Vanoli, defense, Stevenson; Anya Melton, attack, Claire Bonyage, defense, and Lola Voss, midfield, Carmel; Sawyer Vogel, defense, and Sophie Fiebert, attack, Santa Catalina. **Sportsmanship** — Maxime Vandendriessche, midfield, Stevenson; Anya Melton, attack, Carmel; Cora Derbin, defense, Santa Catalina.

Boys volleyball
Gabilan Division: Most Valuable Player — Sebastian Daste, setter/outside hitter, Carmel. **Defensive Player of the Year** — Nico Vitiello, libero, Carmel. **First team** — Sebastian Daste, setter/outside hitter, and Nico Vitiello, libero, Carmel.

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

Worship

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Editorial

Buckle up

IT’S NO secret that California’s energy prices are going up and up — and that’s especially true for the lucky people who pay the PG&E bills at their homes or businesses. Here at The Pine Cone, for example, our average bill for electricity and natural gas has zoomed from \$380 a month in 2021 to \$518 a month last year.

Unfortunately, big increases like that, along with significant other price hikes for consumers, show no sign of slowing down, and not just because renewable energy is turning out to be more expensive than what it replaces. For one thing, California’s restrictions on fossil fuels are just starting to get serious, with Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Legislature aiming for “economy-wide carbon neutrality” by 2045. Accomplishing that is going to take a lot more than just halting the sale of new gasoline-powered cars, as the state plans to do by 2035.

According to reporter Jennifer Hernandez, “By 2045, more than 11 million gas water heaters, 90 percent of the state’s existing residential stock, must be scrapped and replaced with heat-pump technology. Another 11 million existing gas and electric resistance systems, favored by the vast majority of California households, must be eliminated to install heat-pump space heaters. And more than 7 million natural gas and propane stoves, used in 70 percent of all residential kitchens, must be removed to make way for government-approved ‘green’ cookstoves.”

Meanwhile, as we have noted before, eliminating fossil fuels and shifting the whole economy to electricity is going to require a lot more juice than we generate now — but until AI came along, we didn’t realize how colossal the amount would be. As The New Yorker put it in March, all the data servers and microchips fueling the current boom in data processing will require an “obscene” amount of electricity.

“Last year, energy-related global CO₂ emissions rose to more than 37 billion metric tons,” The New Yorker said. “The increase comes at a time when the whole world is supposedly striving to reach net-zero emissions, and it indicates that global efforts are, to put it mildly, falling short.”

Among the key drivers of the boom in electricity consumption are sites like ChatGPT, which “is estimated to be responding to something like 200 million requests per day and consuming more than half a million kilowatt-hours of electricity,” the magazine said, adding that, for comparison’s sake, the average U.S. household consumes 29 kilowatt-hours a day.

Author Mark Mills says flatly that the “energy transition” everyone is waiting for “won’t happen” because of three factors.

“First, there’s the electric car, which, if there were one in every garage, would roughly double residential electricity demands,” Mills says. “Next, there’s the idea of repatriating manufacturing, especially for semiconductors.”

And now we have virtual reality and artificial intelligence, which both rely on power-hungry chips.

“Every AI chip uses roughly as much electricity each year as do three electric vehicles,” Mills says. “And while the demand for electric cars is limited, the appetite for AI chips is explosive and essentially unlimited.”

And those big data centers you keep reading about? Just one can use more power than a steel mill, he said, because “just 10 square feet of a data center today has more computing horsepower than all the world’s computers circa 1980.” And there are thousands of such data centers around the world — with many more on the way.

So buckle up, folks, and get ready to pay ever-higher bills, because unless someone comes up with a game-changing and inexpensive way to produce huge amounts of electricity, we are stuck burning fossils fuels, and short of going back to the Stone Age, there is nothing anybody can do about it.

BEST of BATES



Letters to the Editor

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

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

Parents should wake up

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank staff reporter, Kelly Nix, for his courageous article in the May 24 Pine Cone on the required PGUSD sex ed program. At last, the woke tide is turning, and people like Nix are making it happen. I viewed a portion of this curriculum designed by Planned Parenthood and the message is clear. In my own words, this is the message I got:

“Don’t trust your parents. Sex is OK when you are 12. Most kids are sexually active by the time they get to high school anyway. Don’t you want to fit in with your peers? Planned Parenthood is your friend. Just make sure you use a condom and you give your consent. Also, if you want to reassign your gender, just ask Planned Parenthood. We can help, and we won’t tell your parents.”

As I said, this is my own interpretation after reviewing a complete outline of the

program given to me by a parent. Yes, it is true that parents can “opt out.” But that’s not very “inclusive” (to use a favorite progressive term). How about requiring parents to review the PGUSD Sex Ed curriculum first before “opting in.” As it is, most parents have no idea what is being taught to their children in school. I’m not talking about “woke” here. I am asking parents to “wake up.”

Carol Marquart, Pacific Grove

‘Distrusting and questioning’ Dear Editor,

The article about the Pacific Grove sex education curriculum in last week’s Pine Cone illustrates why parents are increasingly distrusting and questioning of the schools.

Many parents strive to protect their kids from damaging and age-inappropriate content, but then schools sabotage those efforts by introducing sexually explicit and graphic content in the sexual education curriculum.

It is very telling that the curriculum vendor does not want parents and community members to view the material, although it is taught to all the kids. And the school’s explanation that the inappropriate links are justified because they are being blocked by the online firewall is asinine; it makes no sense to have curriculum for students that the students are not supposed to access.

Although Carmel Unified schools use a different curriculum that is not as inappropriate as the Planned Parenthood curriculum used by P.G., there are many of

See **LETTERS** page 20A

■ **Publisher** Paul Miller (paul@carmelpinecone.com)
■ **Production/Sales Manager** Jackie Miller (jackie@carmelpinecone.com)
■ **Office Manager** Irma Garcia (274-8645)
■ **Reporters** Mary Schley (274-8660), Chris Counts (274-8665)
..... Kelly Nix (274-8664)
■ **Features Editor** Elaine Hesser (274-8661)
■ **Editorial Assistant** Emilie Ruiz (emilie@carmelpinecone.com)
■ **Advertising Sales** **Real Estate, Big Sur** - Jung Yi (274-8646)
Carmel-by-the-Sea, Carmel Valley, Carmel & Pebble Beach
..... Meena Lewellen (274-8655)
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■ **Ad Design & Obituaries** Anne Papineau (274-8654)
■ **Office Assistant** Eunice Romero (274-8593)
■ **Circulation Manager** Scott MacDonald (261-6110)
■ For complete contact info: <https://carmelpinecone.com/contact.html>

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U.S. Mail: P.O. Box G-1, Carmel CA 93921

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Pacific Grove CA 93950

Telephone: (831) 274-8593

Email: mail@carmelpinecone.com
or firstname@carmelpinecone.com

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Boy Scouts, some art galleries, and umbrellas that made it rain

ASHLEY TEDESCO and her husband, chef Sal Tedesco, have built a pretty good life for themselves and their sons. Ashley is one of two daughters raised by a single mom, and Sal, who came to the United States when he was 6, is the hard-working son of a Sicilian fisherman. Both have been dedicated to a great American enterprise — making sure both of their children have more and better opportunities than they did.

You can often find Ashley at Paluca Trattoria on Monterey’s Old Fisherman’s Wharf, which she and her husband bought as newlyweds in 2000. Back then, it was the Captain’s Gig, a longtime fish-and-chips spot.

Now, if that were Tedesco’s only career, it would be admirable, but not too different from many other stories. But since then, “restaurant owner” is just one of the hats she’s worn. In fact, she could open her own millinery.

Tedesco has gravitated toward the visual arts throughout her life. She said she always wanted to be an interior designer and shortly after she moved here in 1994, she began working in a gallery on Sixth Avenue. When she was hired by Media Arts Group, a San Jose-based chain of galleries, she became a regional sales director and then director of gallery development and training.

During the same period, she completed her associate’s degree in business administration at Monterey Peninsula College.



Ashley Tedesco

other parents to help out with activities and ensured a steady flow of communication with moms and dads about what their kids were doing.

This continued for more than 10 years, for what she described as one of the largest Cub Scout packs — and later, Boy Scout troops — anywhere. “There were 70 boys and their siblings and parents. We’d do weekend trips out of state. It was one of the best things I ever did,” Tedesco said. “It opened up a whole world for me,” and gave her a love of hiking.

Coffee talk

Amid this flurry of activity, the economic downturn of 2008 threatened the survival of the Captain’s Gig. “We knew we had to reinvent ourselves or go out of business,” she said. She and Sal rechristened it Paluca Trattoria, combining their sons’ names, and revamped the menu with Sicilian dishes and local seafood items.

They redecorated and installed outdoor umbrellas with the logo of Italian coffee-maker Lavazza. Who cares about branded umbrellas? You might be surprised.

In 2015, the late director Jean-Marc Vallée of the award-winning HBO series, “Big Little Lies,” was filming nearby. His search for a good cup of coffee led him to the umbrellas, and he walked into Paluca. Tedesco said her husband is quite gregarious, and the men had what turned out to be “the best coffee talk ever,” leading unexpectedly to national exposure for the trattoria.

“They did a lot of filming in our restaurant. It was off-season and they came in midweek,” said Tedesco. The production company “completely reimaged” the interior, including the size of the space and the lighting fixtures — “all digitally reworked” — but that hasn’t bothered fans one bit.

“People started coming in droves, asking ‘Is this the place?’” she said. But the couple had anticipated this development. “We shut down for a month, painted and freshened up,” Tedesco said. “We bought a bigger coffee machine and table-side tablets for ordering.”

The show was renewed for a second season, and a third season was recently announced.

Someone else’s kids

That same year, Tedesco became a court-appointed special advocate, or CASA, a volunteer who assists children in the foster care system. She’s also been a coach and mentor for youth mountain

See LIVES page 22A

Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

she opened her own firm, Flourish Business Consulting. It came about naturally, she said. “We had a small business and started another one, and people asked for tips and information” for their own enterprises.

It was also in 2007 that she got involved with the Boy Scouts, where Paolo — who eventually became an Eagle Scout — was a member. She worked as a committee chair, fundraising chair, and scout/parent unit coordinator, meaning she assigned

If you want to see the movie, she’s already working on the screenplay

THE JOURNEY of Ami Sioux — a screenplay begging to be written — began with a childhood in a radical religious cult, produced a runaway teen who overcame homelessness to earn a degree from the San Francisco Art Institute, and culminated with a fast-paced adventure in the international fashion industry.

Today, the 51-year-old Monterey Peninsula resident looks back with a certain measure of wonder upon her 25 years as a fashion photographer in New York, Berlin, Paris, London, Tokyo and Los Angeles.

Peaceful Palo Colorado

For the past four years, Sioux has enjoyed a quiet wilderness hideaway in Palo Colorado Canyon, where she lives with longtime partner Dai Sakai, an equally worldly clothing designer, art director and consultant.

Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

“I’m still doing a lot of jobs in L.A., and I’ve also been going to London and Paris for work, so I’m staying very busy, but this is my new base,” said Sioux, who moved here with Sakai from Los Angeles during the Covid lockdown. “We just felt ready to get out of the city and wanted a place where we could be outside, go to the beach and breathe.”

The wild child who escaped her parents’ cult at 17 now has more than 20 magazine cover photos on her curriculum vita, and her images have appeared in French Vogue, Vogue UK, Vogue Japan, iD, Ginza, Rika, Nylon, The New York Times T Magazine, and many other publications.

Celebrity clientele

She’s worked with multiple celebrities — notably actresses Eva Longoria and Aja Naomi King, and rock icon Marianne Faithfull — and well-known models.

She has collaborated on books with director/screenwriter Gia Coppola, artist/actress Langley Fox Hemingway and French model/music producer Caroline De Maigret.

She’s done advertising photography for L’Oreal Paris, Timberland, Hermès Paris, Nike, Adidas and others, and she adores the career she chose so long ago.

“I love to ‘dance’ with a model, because they already kind of know their dance. They generally know how they want to present themselves,” she said.

“In a sense, our job as photographers is to get people to relax, and it’s a subtle thing — a touch of flirtation, a touch of courage, a touch of ‘Amazing! Perfect! OK, let’s do this together!’ It’s a lot of fun to play.”

A stewardess and a playboy

Born in Stockton, Sioux’s mother was

a 1970s-era TWA stewardess “who went religious,” and her birth father was “a playboy who went his own way,” to become a nightclub owner in Venice Beach.

“When I was a young kid, my mother married my stepfather and moved us to Montana. He was a preacher, and my upbringing that was all about proselytizing, selling books, telling people they should believe what you believe. In that life, you learn a lot about coercion,” she said.

“That religion strictly forbade education, so I was basically homeschooled until the seventh grade. We were forbidden to play any sports. And listening to rock-and-roll music also was forbidden.”

But at age 11, Ami discovered a Missoula-based radio station that became her link to the unimaginable.

“That’s when I discovered the Velvet Underground and so many other great groups,” she said. “I think rock music actually was the catalyst that eventually got me away from that religious background.”

Sioux was destined to become a singer-songwriter as an adult, performing onstage in the United States and Paris. In 2015, she released her first album, “Stand Your Ground,” featuring 11 of her own compositions: amisioux.bandcamp.com/album/stand-your-ground.

Weston’s ‘Pepper’

At 12, after the family moved to the California town of Nevada City, she recalls being visually stimulated by two impactful road trips.

“We came to Carmel, and I remember



PHOTO/OLGA NAZAROVA

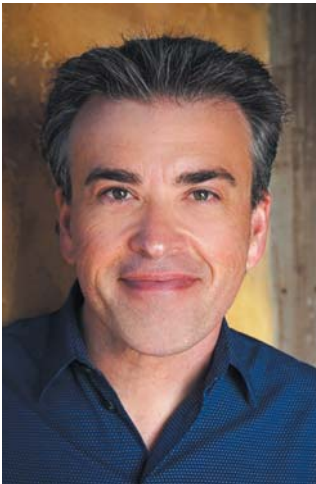
Palo Colorado resident Ami Sioux fled a religious cult at 17, lived homeless as a runaway, graduated from the prestigious San Francisco Art Institute, then made a career as an international fashion photographer in Paris, Berlin, London, Tokyo, New York, and Los Angeles.

going into the Weston Gallery, where I picked up a postcard of Edward Weston’s “Pepper No. 30”. I also got to see Ansel Adams’ gallery in Yosemite,” she said.

“As a kid in California, I had Weston’s postcard on my wall for years, and Ansel’s calendar, and I started dreaming of becoming a photographer, myself.”

In 1988, the family moved to Roseville,

See ARTIST page 23A




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SPACE

From page 1A

But he kept tabs on the industry, and when Bezos got his Blue Origin program approved, Hess was ready.

“They did one test flight, and I contacted them at that time and negotiated a spot that summer when they made their first launch,” he said. “I expected to go up two years ago, but they had a mishap on a payload flight containing scientific experiments — the capsule was OK, but the booster was destroyed.”

That incident led to a lot of re-engineering, and Hess finally got his seat alongside five other fortunate souls, including former Air Force Capt. Ed Dwight, who was selected by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 to be the nation’s first Black astronaut but never had the opportunity to make it to space.

Hess and his wife arrived at Blue Origin’s Astronaut Village near Van Horn, Texas, three days before the launch and met his fellow travelers and their guests. In addition to Dwight, whose seat was sponsored by a nonprofit, paying passengers included venture capitalist Mason Angel, Sylvain Chiron, a lifelong aviator and skier who founded one of the largest craft breweries in France, retired CPA and world traveler Carol Schaller, and Gopi Thotakura, who learned how to fly before he could drive, made it his

REWARD

From page 6A

for the owners and have it safe until the project is completed,” he said.

Wills said he “woke to the news from Eric and his heroic steps to ensure the safe return of the Mother and Child bronze.”

Keeping their pledge of no questions asked, Wynkoop and Wills did not involve the police or make any effort to identify the man. “I made a commitment to the reward no questions asked since police said they couldn’t do anything,” he explained.

Wills said he and his family are “more than ecstatic to have this piece of Carmel history back and looking forward to giving it pride of place in our home in Carmel as we had planned since acquiring the piece in 2020.”

“I want to thank Eric for his part in the recovery of the bronze, and of course thank you to The Pine Cone for being our voice to the community,” he said early Thursday. “I truly believe that without The Pine Cone, this story would have had a very different ending.”

vocation and also cofounded a global center for holistic wellness and applied health.

Hess’ resume includes his founding and developing a company called Banner Blue Software that created the software for Family Tree Maker and is the backbone of Ancestry.com.

“We all got along extremely well, even though we have very eclectic backgrounds,” Hess said. “They told us we were the most cohesive group so far.”

Astronaut Village

The Astronaut Village contains Airstream trailers for the guests, a large ranch house converted to a cafeteria and meeting space, another house that serves as a cafeteria and bar, and several other buildings. “The Astronaut Village was described to me as glamping, and I think that’s fair,” he said. “Bezos has very fond memories of traveling with his family in Airstream as a youth.”

A group of more than 200 people worked on the launch, and most of them live in Van Horn, about 20 minutes away, while the training center and area including rocket storage and mission control is about 5 minutes away, according to Hess. After a couple of days of training, socializing and other activities, they were ready for the mission, formally titled NS-25, set for liftoff at Launch Site One the morning of May 19.

“I knew I could handle all of the forces,” Hess said, particularly because as an aviation and space buff, he’s taken a few zero-gravity flights and spent two days learning to deal with G-forces at the National Aerospace Training and Research Center, the only FAA-approved provider of orbital and suborbital spaceflight training.

“But you look at a rocket, and it looks like a fire-breathing dragon,” he said. “The ascent phase was smoother than I expected. You could feel every course correction, the engine throttles for different reasons, and you can feel all that, but it was remarkably smooth.”

During the “glass elevator” stage of the trip, “you can peek out the window and just see the earth disappearing behind you,” he said. There’s a jolt when the capsule releases from the rocket, and once they get past the

LETTERS

From page 18A

the same problems including links/references that lead to sexually explicit material, opportunities for live chat and difficulties/barriers for parents in accessing the content to review.

And even when parents during the school registration process select the opt out option for their student not to participate in this sexual education, there have been many times that schools still have the student attend or provide them with the material.

It is disturbing that taxpayers’ money is being used for the sexualization of kids in the public school system.

Anonymous, CUSD parent

Stand up for trees

Dear Editor,

It was so heartening to see so many residents last Wednesday standing up for our historic Carmel forest against a new plan that looks like our city wants to give up on it.

My family has been in Carmel since the 1920s, and even in my lifetime, I have seen Carmel’s forest dwindle.

What I’m seeing is that especially in the last decade, we have started to see our trees like they are just “trees in a town” instead of looking at the whole picture, which is that we are a town in a forest. Looking at our trees from the perspective that they are part of a forest and not just individual trees requires a completely different way of care, management and planting choices.

We can’t just put any tree in the ground to fill a space. We need to choose trees that support the ecosystem of our forest. So when we, as the public, were asked on Wednesday to review and make choices for our approved

Kármán line — the internationally recognized boundary of space 100 km above ground — passengers are treated to views of Earth, the darkness of space and the sun.

“I wanted to see the earth from space, and it was every bit as beautiful as I’d hoped,” he said. The whole trip lasted just 11 minutes, but the capsule rotated 360 degrees every two minutes during ascent and while in space, allowing everyone multiple vantage points.

“When you’re up in space, it’s all black, and the sun is there in its naked brilliance — it’s this brilliant, overwhelming light,” he said.

Each astronaut was allowed to take a few items weighing no more than 3 pounds total and kept in a sealed pouch. Not surprisingly, the list of banned items is long. Hess took a copy of his family tree, several family photos, a drawing of a rocket he designed as a child, and a few other tokens, including gifts for his wife, daughter and grandkids.

“The entire space vehicle is reusable. The booster rocket relights the engine as it nears the ground and softly lands on a landing pad 2 miles north of the launch tower,” he explained. “The crew capsule with astronauts inside lands by parachute, typically 2 or 3 miles north from the launch tower, depending on the wind.”

When the capsule landed, before they were reunited with their family members, the astronauts were greeted by “Crew Member 7,” Laura Stiles, who led their training and stayed with the group in the Astronaut Village. “She was fabulous,” he said. “She’s the last one to see you before you go up and the first one to greet you when you land.”

On the flight, Hess became the 652nd person to cross the Kármán line. “In the 63 years since the first person went to space, that works out to an average of just over 10 new individuals per year,” he said. “The flight is short, although I’ve relived it about 100 times. I’m still operating on adrenaline.”

And for anyone who’s curious about how much such an adventure costs, Hess said it’s a secret.

“We’re not allowed to say how much it cost,” he explained. Virgin Galactic lists a price — \$450,000, according to the New York Times — but Blue Origin does not. “They keep it confidential.”

tree list and make choices as to how many trees should be planted, I am the first to say that I have zero experience knowing what trees work symbiotically with our Monterey pines and coast live oaks to help our forest thrive. I was so glad to hear many of us say that.

The forest in Carmel is part of our town’s history — as important as the Mission, Comstock architecture and the Tor House. Would we let those integral parts of Carmel history fall apart in front of us? Even if there were people in town who said they were a nuisance? We would not. And we should not let our forest go this way.

I hope the city of Carmel can listen to the public and bring in a forest ecologist specializing in old-growth forests, to help us design a plan to nurture what makes Carmel the “village in the forest by the sea,” not just a “village with trees by the sea.”

Kristi Reimers, Carmel

Spending too much,

Dear Editor,

A few weeks ago, you ran an article regarding the significantly large number of employees working for the city of Carmel-by-the-Sea and how many of them were earning over \$100,000. Since then, a new \$44 million budget was proposed, adding an additional six more positions.

Many citizens are very concerned with this outrageous proposal and have made many suggestions which seem to fall on deaf ears. We provided information regarding our town compared to other local towns. We have specifically asked for an accounting of the total number of employees plus how many employees are working in each department along with their salaries. So far, we haven’t been able to get anyone to provide this information for us.

We need transparency from our mayor, city council, and city administrator to bring trust back to the representation of Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Andi and Noel Carr, Carmel



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CROSSWALKS

From page 8A

apply.

The police department, planning and public works are “looking at ways to limit the loss of parking spaces,” the police chief said.

“One way is better management of existing spaces,” he continued, including the 137 30-minute spaces downtown. That number grew from 80 when the city temporarily implemented a paid-parking program several years ago

SEX ED

From page 3A

school district’s firewalls,” he told the board last week. “Why? Because this exploitation content was already here. It was already part of the curriculum.”

Peggy Gibbs, his wife, said she believes it is possible children taking the course could still access some of the graphic content since most kids are adept at navigating the internet and computers.

Planned Parenthood did not respond to questions from The Pine Cone this week, but complaints from citizens have had some effect. Planned Parenthood assured PGUSD it would delete a page from the curriculum that some said seemed to promote sex and contained a hashtag that, when searched online, recommended pornographic websites. Gibbs found it when he reviewed the course.

Other parents who reviewed the middle school and high school sex ed course told a Pine Cone reporter last week that they felt some of the content was gratuitous and unnecessary.

Conspiracy afoot?

The issue has been a hot-button topic in P.G. One online discussion last weekend devolved into name calling of those who questioned the material. It also led to some interesting theories.

Laura Abihider — an elected member of the county Democratic Party’s Central Committee who used a disparaging word to refer to Mike Gibbs in the online thread — suggested that he and another woman who criticized the course could be pawns in an elaborate plot to transform Monterey County’s political landscape.

They “may, in fact, be just puppets in a bigger playbook that is being orchestrated by wealthy conservatives to gain control of this region — financially and politically,” Abihider claimed.

Monterey County for decades has been a Democratic Party stronghold.

and wanted to accommodate locals doing routine business, but after the parking meters were removed, the 30-minute spaces remained.

“We have too many of them,” Tomasi said.

No decisions were made at the May 29 meeting, but Tomasi said he and other officials will develop a plan to present to the city council draft whatever ordinances are necessary and get them adopted.

He said they would make whatever changes the council

wants and begin enforcing the new rules next January.

Carmel Residents Association board member Nancy Twomey asked Tomasi if he’s estimated how many spots will be lost in the process.

“Yes, but I’m not ready to share what that is,” he said, explaining that the council and the planning department have to provide input on his plan and refine it before any numbers are provided.

He did not say when that will occur.

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BYRNE

From page 1A

of Science and an MBA from USC and then pursued his “life-long passion for property investment and improvement” by buying a house and immediately renovating it. He worked in sales and sales management for startups and larger companies in what has become commonly known as cloud computing and then became a consultant using early financial modeling software to create business plans.

Byrne went on to successfully develop several software companies — the largest of which grew to have offices in a dozen countries — and sold the last one in 2009 before retiring to Reno, Nev., with his wife. They traveled the world before relocating to Carmel. (Byrne said he has 6 million miles on airlines.)

Now his retirement has “transformed into a second career of public service,” first with the Carmel Residents Association and then with the founding of Carmel Cares, which has grown its ranks to more than 150 volunteers and

hundreds of donors supporting numerous initiatives.

Working closely with the public works department, the nonprofit has contributed more than \$500,000 in services, materials and equipment and more than 20,000 volunteer hours to the City of Carmel, according to Byrne. The group’s handiwork can be found throughout the city, from the Scenic Road pathway, which was in shambles and plagued by foxtails and overgrown plants when volunteers began cleaning it up, to the Ocean Avenue medians relandscaped this week.

True understanding

“When we started Carmel Cares, the physical and landscaping infrastructure in the village was severely lacking,” due to more than two decades of neglect, he said. “In some cases, plans for improvements had been approved, funded and then canceled. Consultants have been paid large fees to do studies with no practical results while our public buildings crumbled, weeds overtook our public spaces, maintaining beach infrastructure was ignored, and some buildings stood vacant for 20 or more years because decisions were put off.”

He has also worked with realtor Tim Allen’s Carmel Gives Fund to distribute nearly \$2 million in grants to local businesses, nonprofits and community projects.

All of that experience “has allowed me to develop relationships and really understand what’s happening in town at many levels,” he said.

Byrne said some residents have worried that focusing on the mayor’s race will interfere with his good works in town. He said his and Allen’s decision to leave the Carmel Cares board will provide the space for “nine talented and motivated Carmelites to build a next generation organization that is more sustainable, better funded and has a larger purpose than we have been able to achieve historically.”

Promises

He plans to stay on as its full-time volunteer executive director until he’s elected mayor and will thereafter “continue to be a significant volunteer helping Carmel Cares achieve its mission.”

And while he’s never served in an elected or appointed position on a government board or city council, Byrne said he’s had more experience with city hall than most people.

“No one has ever invested more time and accomplished so much in such a short timeframe and worked so closely with city leadership to help this town on significant safety, infrastructure and beautification projects,” he said. “I have already demonstrated and documented that I have the ability and desire to do a great job as a full-time mayor.”

He also said that “countless residents have asked me to run for the last several years,” and now, it’s time.

If elected, Byrne said he would “lead with openness and integrity, making sure all decisions and policies are clear and accountable,” promote community engagement and partnerships, and “act decisively and effectively.”

He said he would take hard and thorough looks at the city’s revenues and spending.

“It is becoming apparent that we can’t tax our way out of some of the issues facing all cities, like pension liabilities and the deferred maintenance of our infrastructure,” he said. “It is time that we extensively study the financial underpinnings of the town, develop a detailed and realistic forecast of where this is really going over the next 20 years, come up with a plan that is sustainable, make hard decisions, and then execute them.”

“From improving public safety, preserving and providing access to our public spaces and natural resources, to boosting local businesses and ensuring our financial health, I will bring full-time energy and dedication to every issue,” he said.

LIVES

From page 19A

biking organizations. And she completed her bachelor’s degree in organizational leadership in 2017.

Her nest isn’t empty — her younger son is at Palma High in Salinas — but the itch to do more remains. The family moved from River Road to Seaside, a process they began during the pandemic. They had wanted to go more toward Carmel, but the lack of available real estate and challenges of securing a mortgage as a restaurateur interfered.

When they moved, in-home salespeople showed up to consult with them about various elements of the house, and Tedesco thought what they did “looked like fun,” so she got a job with Andersen Windows and Doors doing the same thing.

Among other things, she’s learned that she loves working with people face to face. “That’s a real joy for me,” she said. And, where she once saw a flaw — a seeming inability to be satisfied with the status quo — she now sees an asset.

“Everything is for the benefit of my family, for my children,” Tedesco said. “We want to give them a leg up my husband and I didn’t have and help our extended family and community. If I feel like I have gifts and talents to share, that’s a call to action to me to keep going. To whom much is given, from them much is expected.” But she’s probably going to need a bigger hat rack.

JAMS

From page 1A

But a plan for managing Highway 1 suggests that the solution relies in part on “controlling the intensity of use.”

“Twenty years ago in 2004, Caltrans put out a Coast Highway Management Plan,” he said.

“Recognizing Highway 1’s capacity, the plan calls for creative solutions to sustain the conditions that make traveling the highway a pleasure.”

Three more to go

Now that motorists can drive between Carmel and Big Sur Valley with only a short delay for roadwork at Rocky Creek, Caltrans has revised its estimates for when Highway 1 will reopen at three other sites where slides are blocking the scenic route to Cambria.



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HEALTH | NUTRITION | WISDOM | FAMILY | LIFE

HEALTHY

Lifestyles

The problems of aging are universal — and extremely personal

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

AGING IS natural. It’s inevitable. Yet we consider it wrong, a failing — which, in a sense, it is — and fight it with everything we’ve got. There is no such thing as “aging cream,” only “anti-aging cream,” said John O’Brien, owner and CEO of Central Coast Senior Services in Del Rey Oaks.

“We can calculate the odds of getting or not getting most serious diseases in our society, but all of us are going to get old,” he said. “All of us are going to be ‘them.’” And everyone who is old was, at one time, young, he added. “But, for some reason, we apply a separation — us versus them — to what is inevitable if we live long enough.”

O’Brien watched his grandmother, who was in a residential facility, spend a lot of money to be treated for dementia by being medicated to the point where she couldn’t get out of bed. He thought there had to be a better way, which got him started on his own path of developing better, more dignified care to people dying of old age.

Safely and with dignity

Having earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychobiology and a second one in psychology, he went to work in behavioral health with people who were seriously mentally ill, focusing on schizophrenia and major mood disorders. In 1997, he established Central Coast Senior Services to provide the caregiving support that he believed would allow elders to live in their own homes as they aged, safely and with dignity.

“As people go down the road of aging which, for many, includes Alzheimer’s disease and dementia, they may start having trouble with their personal care, recreation, nutri-



SERVICES *con’t. page 31A* Central Coast Senior Services was established as a way to help older people live in their own homes with dignity.

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

New Montage partnership will save trips — and lives

By LISA LAPIN

MINUTES COUNT for people who experience a stroke. Immediate medical treatment is vital, and in certain situations, timely emergency care can be the difference between life and death. But until recently, not every type of stroke requiring prompt surgery could be addressed within Monterey County, and some patients needed to be transferred to the San Francisco Bay area.

The capacity for neurosurgery, including highly skilled brain surgeons coupled with upgraded surgical facilities, is about to triple in Monterey County under a new collaboration between the University of California San Francisco and Montage Health.

In March, local surgeon Dr. Dragan Dimitrov became part of the UCSF neurosurgery team based in Monterey and is available to do a broader spectrum of brain surgeries. And by the end of the summer, UCSF will have added three more neurosurgeons to the new team that will live and work on the Monterey Peninsula.

“From a neurosurgery perspective, we are going to have the same capabilities that San Francisco does, but it will be right here,” said Steven Cabrales, chief medical officer for Montage Health. “With some strokes, there is a time window. It can take too long to transfer to the San Francisco area. Offering the same services here, we will get better outcomes that could be life-saving for some people.”

The UCSF-Montage partnership is designed to give Monterey Peninsula residents access to procedures and expertise not previously available locally, including more complex brain and spine surgeries, such as surgically removing clots in the brain that can block blood flow, causing an ischemic stroke, as well as treatments for

tangled arteries and veins that can cause bleeding in the brain — a hemorrhagic stroke.

The neurosurgery partnership builds on an existing relationship between Montage and UCSF for neonatology. Four neonatologists rotate through the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula’s neonatal intensive care unit to care for newborns. Since 2015, the physicians have been both part of the UCSF faculty and members of the Montage medical staff who live and work on the Monterey Peninsula.

“It’s a fruitful relationship that has been around for a while,” Cabrales said. “The neurosurgery structure will be very similar to neonatology, where they will perform procedures here at CHOMP, but they will be members of the UCSF faculty and we will have benefit of the depth of UCSF’s expertise.”

Hybrid suites

The collaboration also involves two hybrid operating rooms that were recently completed at CHOMP, providing state-of-the-art space for heart, vascular and neurosurgical care. The hybrid suites combine the advanced imaging technology used in minimally invasive procedures with the features of a more traditional surgical suite. So, one space can be used for traditional “open” surgeries, with larger incisions to access surgical sites, and transcatheter procedures, which are done through small incisions and guided by the imaging systems.

“We already have the facilities we need for the advanced neurosurgery procedures,” said Cabrales, who is a general surgeon. “You need specialized X-ray equipment, and we built up our hybrid labs and catheter surgical facility. So now we can do X-ray-guided fluoroscopy procedures.”



Many patients who once needed to be transported to the San Francisco Bay area for neurosurgery can get treatment here, instead, thanks to a partnership between Montage Health and UCSF.

The new “in-OR” imaging system uses a robotic arm that can move around the procedure table to capture images from just about any angle, in 2D and 3D. One of the hybrid ORs has a “biplane” X-ray system that lets doctors see what they’re doing from two angles, necessary for cer-

tain interventions. “We are already a stroke center, but this will expand our capabilities. If you have a stroke and a large clot is the cause, we will be able to remove that clot and eliminate

PARTNERS *con’t. page 35A*



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HEALTHYLIFESTYLES

Getting into ‘The Zone’ has taken on a whole new meaning

By ELAINE HESSER

TWO WORDS — “Blue Zones” — have popped up on menus at Earthbound Farm Stand in Carmel Valley, Mezzaluna in Pacific Grove, the Fountain Court at Community Hospital, Peter B’s Brewpub in the Portola Hotel, Schooner’s at the Monterey Plaza Hotel, and many others, as well as in the news.

But what does it mean to be Blue Zones-certified? Is it a gimmick, or does it have real value? First, it helps to know that restaurants are only part of a larger picture.

About a year ago, Netflix debuted a four-part series called “Live to 100: Secrets of the Blue Zones.” The term was coined by National Geographic explorer and reporter Dan Buettner in 2004 while he was on a journey to regions of the world where high percentages of centenarians enjoyed a good quality of life.

The five areas he visited — Loma Linda, California, Ikaria, Greece, Sardinia, Italy, Nicoya, Costa Rica and Okinawa, Japan — had nine “lifestyle habits” in common. The Blue Zones projects aims to replicate these in other communities, extending both length and quality of life.

The so-called “Power 9,” summarized here from bluezones.com, are:

- **Move naturally** — Since many Blue Zones residents don’t have “mechanical conveniences,” they get exercise through walking, gardening and other everyday activities.
- **Purpose** — The project contends that having a sense of purpose can add as much as seven years to someone’s life.
- **Downshift** — Making time each day to pause, rest, pray or socialize to provide an outlet for stress.
- **The 80 percent rule** — People who stop eating when their stomachs are 80 percent full find it easier to maintain a healthy

weight.

- **“Plant Slant”** — Beans are “the cornerstone of most centenarian diets,” said the study, while meat is eaten an average of only four or five times monthly.
- **Wine at 5** — Researchers on this project recommend drinking one or two glasses of wines per day with friends and/or food. (It’s worth noting that this notion has detractors within the larger medical community, some of whom advocate consuming lesser amounts, or believe that no amount of alcohol is safe.)
- **Belong** — Of the 263 centenarians researchers interviewed, all but five belonged to a faith-based community and, on average, attended services four times a month. The specific belief system didn’t appear to be relevant.
- **Loved ones first** — “Successful centenarians put their families first,” taking care of elders, investing time in children, and committing to a life partner.
- **Right Tribe** — Finding or creating social circles with longtime friends who support healthy behaviors.

Make it easy

Tiffany DiTullio, chief administrative officer at Salinas Valley Health, has also been executive director of Blue Zones Monterey County since its inception in 2018. She explained that the project certifies entire communities that meet specific and measurable goals to facilitate healthier lifestyles for their citizens.

According to the Blue Zones website, “Rather than relying on individual behavior change, the program focuses on making the healthy choice the easy choice. Instead of nagging people to exercise, we

BLUE *cont. on page 30A*



Tiffany DiTullio (top) is executive director of Blue Zones Monterey County. The initiative focuses on making it easy for people to make healthier choices in their everyday lives.

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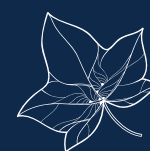
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FETTUCCINE AL FUNGHI

Courtesy chef Soerke Peters, Mezzaluna Pasteria and Mozzarella Bar

SOMETIMES, THE simplest methods are the best, and chef Soerke Peters of Mezzaluna Pasteria & Mozzarella Bar in Pacific Grove has harnessed one of the easiest with his fettuccine-mushroom dish. Even if you have ordinary button mushrooms, this will be a delicious and earthy plate of food, but if your grocer has some other varieties, it will make the dish more interesting. The Friday farmers market at Del Monte Center has at least two vendors (New Natives, Sumano Mushrooms) who usually have three or four kinds of edible fungi on offer, so you can experiment with some of those. Depending on how big your garlic cloves are, you might want to adjust the number called for in the recipe — six can be a lot! Note that Peters has you slice them — mincing, grating, crushing or putting them through a press will definitely

make the flavor too strong, and the smaller pieces burn quickly. The recipe allows you to choose your favorite pasta shape, and you can find any number of primers and suggestions online for matching shapes to sauces (that’s really a thing). In general, you want the two components to balance, so a hearty sauce goes with a hearty noodle, like fettuccine, pappardelle or fusilli, while fresh tomatoes and delicate basil belong on something more like angel hair. If you have time, visit the link at the end of this month’s recipe — it goes to a colorful and easy-to-read online cookbook designed as part of Monterey County’s efforts to become certified as a “Blue Zones community,” with enhanced opportunities for residents to get healthy and stay that way.

INGREDIENTS
Serves 4
3 cups mixed mushrooms
6 cloves garlic, sliced
2 ounces dry white wine
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil (as a finishing oil)
2 tablespoons Italian parsley, chopped
3 tablespoons pecorino Romano cheese, grated
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
1 pound whole wheat fettuccine (or your favorite pasta shape)

Make sure the mushrooms are clean. If they have dirt on them, use a brush and a damp towel to clean them. Next, slice the mushrooms. Heat a saucepan over medium heat. Add the olive oil and sliced garlic. Don’t let the garlic brown too much before adding the mushrooms. Sauté a few minutes until they

have a shine. Add the white wine, salt and pepper, reduce the heat and simmer until it looks almost dry. Turn off the heat and wait for your pasta to be ready. In a separate pot, cook your favorite shape of whole wheat pasta in salted water until al dente. Dry pasta usually takes 10-12 minutes, while fresh pasta needs just two or three minutes. Make sure to save some pasta water when you drain it. Add the cooked pasta to the saucepan with the mushrooms and gently toss to combine. Add the Pecorino Romano cheese and parsley. If the sauce looks too dry, just add a little of the pasta water to get it to the desired consistency. Taste and adjust the seasoning if needed. Plate the pasta and drizzle with extra-virgin olive oil. This recipe comes from the Blue Zones Inspired — Monterey County Cookbook, available as a free download at bit.ly/4b-KQee1. For more about Blue Zones, see p. 36A.



Chef Bio



Chef Soerke Peters


CHEF SOERKE Peters of Mezzaluna Pasteria has been cooking since he was a youngster in Germany. He and his grandmother walked around town to gather ingredients for meals, getting produce and milk directly from nearby farmers. He served a three-year apprenticeship in a local restaurant, took some cooking classes and worked his way to Munich. He later came to the United States and became a corporate chef in New York City, then relocated to Los Angeles. At Mezzaluna Pasteria in Pacific Grove, he and partner Amy Stouffer offer patrons fresh pasta, housemade mozzarella and gelato, along with an impressive international selection of wines by the glass. As he has throughout his career, Peters continues to shop for the freshest local ingredients at farmers markets, to make simple, fresh food the star of all his plates.

BLUE *cont. from page 28A*


make walking easier and more desirable than driving. By making wholesome foods more accessible and less expensive than junk foods, people begin to eat healthier naturally. DiTullio explained that once people decide they want their community to be certified, the work involves assessing infrastructure (bike paths, walkability), the desire of residents to see change, and participation by schools and large employers. The standards provide a great deal of flexibility — there’s no policy that says, for

example, “all Blue Zones schools have to have fitness classes at recess.” Salinas started the certification process in June 2019. Thousands of residents agreed to engage in at least one Blue Zones activity, like gardening, walking or becoming part of a faith-based organization. More than half of the public schools and top employers also agreed to participate, along with five grocery stores and more than 20 restaurants. A walking path was built around the city’s regional soccer complex so specta-

NATURAL *cont. on page 32A*



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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

SERVICES from page 25A

tion, transport and social relationships, often resulting in the need for a caregiver," he said. "What is happening to the individual is also happening to the family, and they need someone who can guide them."

'Tour guide'

Professional caregivers are skilled in supporting daily life, but they typically are not experts in the field of aging and progressive dementia, which can cause a lot of stress on the caregiver, said O'Brien. Case managers are better able to lend a hand with what people are going through and connect them with helpful organizations, like the Alzheimer's Association.

The outreach hand is what Central Coast Senior Services provides.

"We offer in-home care, where we come in and help with the activities of daily living — bathing, grooming, dressing, medication, food, socialization," said Aimee Cuda, chief admissions officer for Central Coast Senior Services. She added that although the group doesn't specifically focus on what's called "memory care," it does have some clients who have dementia.

"One way to look at dementia care," O'Brien said, "is that everyone talks about 'navigating' in our industry, navigating illness, infirmity, dementia. Unfortunately, this implies the need to help seniors get from here to there. But, you see, the path is not a straight line. It's a jumble of needs and expectations, and care managers can help."

Consider it this way, he said: A person dealing with dementia is like someone sent off to a foreign country alone, where they don't speak the language, the road signs are different, and they have no idea how to find their way. That traveler doesn't need a

GPS, but a tour guide to help with this very foreign world and make them feel safe.

"Experienced 'tour guides' have an awareness of the lay of the land, the culture, the language and what actually works," O'Brien said. "This offers a better, safer, more compassionate outcome for all."

Central Coast Senior Services provides an interdisciplinary approach, which includes medical, psychosocial, nutritional and environmental care, the latter focusing on a safe home environment.

Evening triggers

"Sundowner's Syndrome" is common among seniors. As daylight fades and evening sets in, some people become

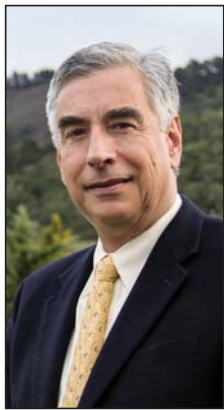
increasingly confused. Yet, if we are aware of this, O'Brien said, we can teach family members to avoid evening triggers. Higher demands on the individual during the evening, such as showering, can ignite frustration, causing them to act out.

"Remember, with Sundowner's Syndrome, the individual is suddenly in a foreign place," he said. "We have to go where they are. They're not coming back to our place. Family members often fight to keep loved ones in their lives as they knew and understood them, yet they're already gone."

O'Brien remembered a client whose dementia was paired with severe paranoia, particularly in the evening. She would not take medication, struggled with her family, constantly called 911, and was in and out of the emergency room.

"We helped walk this person and her family through a conservatorship process, helped with her medication and created a safe home for her," O'Brien said. But then,

HOME con't. page 32A



John O'Brien

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HOME *from page 31A*

“Instead of meeting her where she was and keeping her in the place she knew, her home, her family moved her into assisted living.”

Two months later, the woman died.

“I don’t think she received poor care,” O’Brien said. “It was that she had left her home, the place where she knew herself, where she felt safe, and instead, went into a completely different world. It was too foreign, causing psychic pain. To be paranoid 24/7 is pain.”

Seeking solutions

Everyone seeks practical solutions to those who need help as they age, he said, yet those solutions aren’t always right for the patient. Each person has a unique way of walking through advanced aging. No one is left untouched. Even under the best circumstances, it can be difficult.

“Our approach is to offer person-centered care,” he said. “We once called it patient-centered because it was all hospi-

tal-based. Then we shifted to client-centered care. But, in remembering we are all people somewhere on this journey, we see it as person-centered care.”

Cuda and O’Brien work in the care community in other capacities, she as vice-chair for the Area Agency on Aging Council, as chair for ITN Monterey County (a transportation service for seniors) and with the Walk to End Alzheimer’s. O’Brien sits on the Montage Health Board of Trustees and on the Meals on Wheels Monterey Peninsula Board of Directors, and serves as chair of the board of directors for Aspire Health Plan and Legal Services for Seniors.

For more information, visit centralcoastseniorservices.com or call (831) 649-3363.



Aimee Cuda

NATURAL *cont. from page 30A*

tors can stroll as they watch. Other factors included details as minor as whether there were benches with shade, or whether parks had public restrooms and were accessible for everyone. The list goes on and on, looking at almost every conceivable measure of the “Power 9” factors.

Taylor Farms and Montage Health saw what was happening in Salinas and wanted to see the Blue Zones certification extended to the entire county, including Peninsula cities and as far south as Gonzales and King City. That project is underway with financial support from those two organizations and Salinas Valley Health.

In March, All Saints Day School announced it had been certified as a Blue

Zones-approved school, joining Santa Catalina, Bay View Academy in Monterey, and dozens more countywide.

Check-ins

Efforts at ASDS included incorporating “movement breaks” throughout the day, limiting unhealthy birthday celebrations, banning sugar-sweetened drinks on campus and several other initiatives. Said head of school and former professional athlete Scott Fujita, “This partnership aligns perfectly with our mission to empower individuals to lead fulfilling lives, and we are eager to embark on this journey towards a healthier future, both inside and outside the classroom.”

WALKING *cont. on page 34A*

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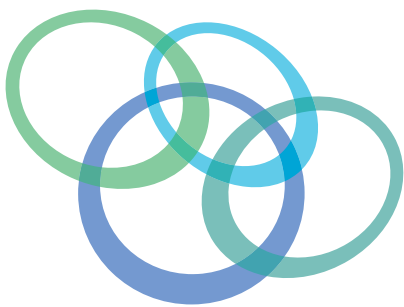
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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

WALKING *cont. from page 32A*

Whether it's a school, restaurant or employment site, their participation must be supported in writing. DiTullio said that representatives of the Blue Zones Project

might ask to see written policies that support a group's goals or evidence that those goals are being met.

The work to get the entire county cer-

LONGEVITY *cont. on page 36A*



One recent Blue Zones — Monterey County effort (top) was a winter wellness event in Marina. A walk for seniors in Salinas (above) was also popular.



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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

PARTNERS from page 26A

the cause of the stroke,” Cabrales said. “We don’t do that now. Right now, we use medication to dissolve the clot. But the highest standard for large clots is removing them. It requires sending a catheter into the brain, and no one on the Central Coast does that now. We are hoping to offer that procedure later this summer.”



Steven Cabrales

In addition, Cabrales said that blood vessel abnormalities, such as a slow leaks caused by thinning blood vessels, will be able to be addressed. The new hybrid ORs have the imaging capability surgeons need to place coils into the blood vessels to shore up the weakness, or to clip and repair weak areas, to prevent hemorrhagic strokes.

Recruiting

The expansion made possible by the UCSF partnership will also benefit patients of the Montage Health Comprehensive Cancer Center. Cabrales said that today, 70 percent of open intercranial surgeries

among Monterey County patients are done in the San Francisco area. There will now be an expanded capacity to treat brain tumors at CHOMP, adding a neurological service to an already large local cancer center.

Cabrales hopes that the new equipment, which is unusual for community hospitals, will be a recruiting enticement for the new brain surgeons, as well as other surgeons, such as those who specialize in cardiac care.

UCSF is in the process of recruiting the neurosurgical faculty members who will be based at CHOMP. Cabrales expects the new physicians to be in place by the end of the summer. “We are doing well with our recruitments,” he said. “Medical professionals, like so many of us, find the Monterey Peninsula a very attractive place to live and work.”

The neurology partnership was made possible thanks to a significant philanthropic investment to the Montage Health Foundation from Peninsula residents Joan and David O’Reilly.

“We knew there was a need for this program in our community, so we wanted to help make it possible,” the O’Reillys said in a statement. “We are already patients at UCSF and knew that the connection to Montage Health would be a great partnership.”



Two hybrid operating rooms are up and running at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, providing new state-of-the-art space for heart, vascular, and other care

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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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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

LONGEVITY from page 34A

tified, which is ongoing, is funded by Montage, Taylor Farms and Salinas Valley Health.

At a restaurant, participation might include providing salt shakers only when people ask for them, and not automatically refilling sodas. In addition, their menus should offer at least one healthy dish with a reasonable portion size. But, DiTullio said, that doesn't mean chefs have to start from scratch.

In working with a restaurant, a local project representative will go over its existing menu and brainstorm ways to combine ingredients that are already in use to create a Blue Zones-type offering.

"We don't want them to have to add a single item to their grocery list," explained

DiTullio. Compliance on all fronts — a community's walkability, food availability and so on — is monitored through monthly communication and quarterly check-ins. It's meant to be a collegial process.

"The thing I love most is that there's zero desire among groups to take credit for things," DiTullio said. "We elevate each other and share resources," so a policy that helps employers in one workplace to reduce employee sick time will be shared with other businesses, for example.

Overall, it's a widespread effort that encourages community members' participation — a little, or a lot.

To learn more, get involved or take the "Real Age" test to find out how lifestyle choices are affecting your lifespan, visit montereycounty.bluezonesproject.com.



Healthy cooking demonstrations (top), like this one in Salinas, and wellness events (above) are part of the Blue Zones strategy of making resources for good health available and easily accessible.



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This Week

Live Music,
Clubs and Events

Jazz saxman visits Golden State, live music returns to riverside restaurant

A GIFTED jazz bandleader and saxophonist, **Kamasi Washington** takes the stage Thursday, 8 p.m., at the

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

Golden State Theatre in Monterey.
A founding member of the jazz-fusion collective, West



Saxophonist and Grammy Award nominee Kamasi Washington plays jazz Thursday, 8 p.m., at the Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

Coast Get Down, Washington was nominated for a Prime-time Emmy Award in 2020 and a Grammy Award in 2021 for his work on the soundtrack to a documentary film about Michelle Obama, “Becoming.”

Washington has recorded five studio albums as a solo artist, including “Fearless Movement,” which came out earlier this month. He described the LP as “a celebration of music, dance and the ever-changing maze of the mind that makes us who we are.”

Tickets start at \$40. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. For tickets, call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

Next up at Golden State is a June 26 show by singer and multi-instrumentalist **Todd Rundgren**, followed by a June 27 concert by folk artist **Samuel Ervin Beam**, who performs under the name **Iron & Wine**.

Jammin’ in Seaside

While thousands of music lovers celebrated the joys of reggae at the annual Cali Roots music festival at the Monterey Fairgrounds Sunday, some of the Monterey Peninsula’s best jazz musicians were cooking in the atrium at Embassy Suites in Seaside.

Backing up the monthly jam session was **The Andy Weis Trio**, which featured **Gary Meek** on keyboards and **Joe Dolister** on bass.

One of the jam’s hosts, singer **Lee Durley**, shared a report with The Pine Cone.

“Joining the session were the multi-talented **Howe Cochran**, who sang and played guitar, and **Dwight Smith**, who blew us away,” Durley said. “The fabulous **David Kempton** sat in on keys. Young saxophonists **Alex Lee** and **Marina Panzetta**, who are both students of **Gary Meek**, wowed everyone with some dynamic horn play. Flutist extraordinaire **Kenny Stahl** thrilled the fans, **Rick Ciardella** always does an excellent job on drums and **John McCleary** added very tasty percussion. **Rev. Willie**



Singer and guitarist Dan Cioper performs Friday, 5 p.m., at Albacross Ridge Winery in Monterey.

Graham shared a gospel solo and it was a very special day of music.”

The next jam at the hotel, which is located at 1441 Canyon Del Rey Blvd., is set for June 30.

Sunday music in Big Sur

Just in time for the reopening of Highway 1 between Carmel and Big Sur, live music is back on Sunday afternoons at the Big Sur River Inn.

Last Sunday, percussionist **James Henry** kicked off

See MUSIC page 41A

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QUAIL LODGE & Golf Course in Carmel Valley has a new look, a new chef and a new name — The Quail. The refresh and rebranding were celebrated at a reception earlier this month that included small bites created by recently appointed executive chef Goran Basarov that hinted at what the new full menu at the lodge’s restaurant, The Covey Grill, will offer.

Basarov, who came to the Carmel Valley resort from Michelin-starred Selby’s in Redwood City, and prior to that was the executive chef at the highly regarded Corde-Valle Golf Resort in San Martin, now oversees all culinary aspects at The Quail, including The Covey Grill, Edgar’s in the clubhouse, and banquets and catering.

Born and raised in Macedonia — one of the republics that broke off from the former Yugoslavia — Basarov discovered his passion for food as a child when he worked in the family’s 150-year-old bakery. After earning a degree in English language and literature, he came to the United States on work and travel visas and honed his skills working in various jobs in restaurants throughout the country.

International experience

He obtained certification in tourism and hotel management from Vatel Hospitality Management School in Los Angeles and worked for The PlumpJack Group, the hospitality company founded by Gov. Gavin Newsom and now run by his sister, Hilary Newsom, and Jeremy Scherer. He opened two of PlumpJack’s restaurants as senior sous chef before becoming executive chef at the Balboa Café in San Francisco, where he was a consultant.

Soup to Nuts

Judging by the elegant and delicious small bites served during his debut, the menu at the Covey Grill — which serves breakfast daily, has bar service from 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and offers dinner Wednesday through Saturday from 5 to 9 p.m. — will reflect his refined culinary flair and Mediterranean and Latin influences.

The lodge’s managing director, Kai Lermen, said Basarov embodies “creativity, leadership skills and culinary excellence,” and he expects him to inspire the resort culi-



Quail Lodge & Golf Course in Carmel Valley (above) has been rebranded as simply, “The Quail.” Its recently appointed executive chef, Goran Basarov (right), brings his Michelin-starred approach to cuisine to the kitchens of The Covey Grill and Edgar’s.



nary teams “with his wealth of experience and passion for presentation and exceptional guest service.”

In addition to introducing Basarov to locals, the May reception allowed guests to tour several renovated rooms and learn about the decision to rename the property, which started with the golf course in 1964 and saw the lodge open in 1967. According to management, the new name, The Quail, “unites the property’s two entities, The Quail Lodge and The Quail Golf Club, allowing for distinct and specialized services poised to elevate each experience while maintaining continuity in brand identity and engagement.” The rebrand includes a new logo and color scheme, as well.

The property underwent a major renovation in 2013 and has seen several updates since then. Last year, the restaurant was refreshed and reopened in the summer, and Basarov is expected to debut a menu that will keep with “his tradition of breaking the mold.”

■ New manager at Shearwater

Shearwater Tavern, the restaurant at Carmel Mission Inn, has appointed Jon Karlo Macias as its new general

manager. Macias brings more than 10 years of hospitality experience from several Monterey Peninsula restaurants and wineries. Most recently, he was in sales and marketing at Folktale Winery, where he managed e-commerce, wine clubs and tasting rooms. Macias also used his wine expertise (he’s a Level 2 sommelier) to revamp the culinary program at Il Fornaio’s Carmel location. At Shearwater Tavern, he’ll oversee operations, training, and menu development, applying his knowledge of local and regional wines to the bar program. To visit Shearwater Tavern, make reservations (recommended) by calling (831) 624-6640 or visiting opentable.com.

■ The Macallan at 7D

For Carmel Culinary Week, in which some 30 downtown restaurants are offering unique experiences, seminars and special menus May 31 through June 8, The Annex at Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse is pulling out all the stops to host a June 6 dinner that will cater to devoted fans of The Macallan, a whisky distillery founded in the Speyside

Continues next page

BRUNO'S MARKET & DELI

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- Nick L., San Francisco, CA

Superb local establishment, excellent made-to-order sandwiches. Wonderful owner, too. Bruno's is a must-stop when I visit Carmel.

- Evan K., San Francisco, CA

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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

region of Scotland 200 years ago. Held in the intimate Annex building behind the main restaurant on the southeast corner of Seventh and Dolores, the dinner will feature five courses designed to pair perfectly with The Macallan’s signature whiskies. The highly regarded distillery is famous for its small stills and for finishing all its whiskies in sherry-seasoned oak casks from Jerez de la Frontera in Spain.

‘Indelible mark’

According to the marketing folks at Folktale, which owns the restaurant and the Annex tasting room, the \$280-per-person dinner promises “an intimate evening that transcends the ordinary, a journey of culinary artistry and whisky mastery that will leave an indelible mark on your senses.”

“Each dram will transport you to a realm of unparalleled taste sensations,” they promise, with an impressive menu to match.

The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with a cocktail reception with scallop crudo paired with a Palomino Paloma, followed by sweet corn velouté served with Harmony Amber Meadow. Other courses include Dungeness crab cake with Double Cask 15-year, prime eye of ribeye with 18-year Sherry Oak, triple chocolate cake served with Rare Cask, and a chocolate bite served with a mini espresso cocktail made with Harmony Intense Arabica.

“But remember, what you’ve just read is merely a glimpse of the sensory symphony that awaits,” they continue. “This is more than just a meal; it’s an immersive experience that promises to ignite your passion for the finer things in life.”

Tickets can be purchased by going to 7dsteakhouse.com.

■ Blossoming fun

In 1946, Norma Jean Mortensen changed her name to Marilyn Monroe. A World War II pinup girl and budding actress, she came to Salinas in February 1948 for a jewelry store promotion. While she was in town, the Kiwanis club dubbed her the “Artichoke Queen.” The vegetable’s festival wasn’t launched until 1949, but one could infer that growers wanted to associate a pretty face with the tedious-to-prepare prickly vegetable.

The thistle fest at the Monterey County Fairgrounds will be held June 8 and 9, with the theme, “Where Fun Blossoms.”

Highlights include chef demos by Mike Fischetti of The Pocket, Sarah Cook of Café Carmel, Luis Osorio of Rio Grill,

Continues next page



In 1948, Marilyn Monroe came to Salinas for a retail promotion and became the first Artichoke Queen. On June 8 and 9, you can celebrate the thistle at the Monterey County Fairgrounds.

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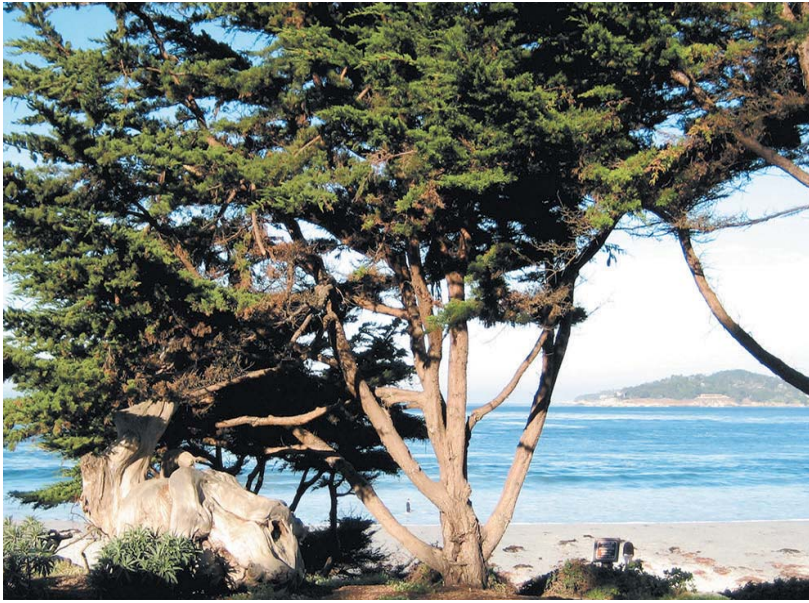
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From previous page

Kurt Boucher of Montrie, Jeffrey Walker of Tarp's, Brandon Miller from Paella LLC, Tony Bacon of Baker's Bacon, and David Pasculli of Sammich'd.

"Thistle be Funny," the Friday evening comedy show that kicks off the weekend, will return this year, and the new "Culinary Bazaar" is an assortment of pop-ups by chefs and caterers, among them Todd Fisher from Bear & Flag Roadside in Carmel Valley.

Pairing with artichokes

If you have difficulty picking wines to pair with artichokes, the event's "Vineyard Oasis" will have tastings of several California wines on both days.

One-day general admission starts at \$20. The comedy show requires separate tickets at \$35 each, and is limited to folks 18 and older. The Vineyard Oasis is only for those 21 and up, and requires an additional \$25 ticket. Packages are available; visit artichokefestival.org for more information and to order.

Order now for Father's Day

Just this once, Dad doesn't have to bring home the bacon. You can do it for him. Baker's Bacon is taking its "Millionaire's Bacon" — slow-cooked, candied slices with brown sugar, black pepper and chili flake — and dipping it in dark and white chocolate and espresso.

Wisely portioned into half slices "for the best bacon-to-chocolate ratio," said a

representative, they come 10 to a box for \$18. The decadent treat can't be shipped and is available only to locals.

You can order at bakersbacon.com until June 10 (unless they sell out sooner), and boxes will be ready for pick up at the company store at 445 Reservation Road, Suite G, in Marina, on Friday, June 14. Father's Day is June 16.

Rooting for abalone

Back when The Pine Cone first hit the streets, abalone was abundant and inexpensive. An entire song about the gastropod — with seemingly endless, improvised verses — was sung as cooks pounded out the meat to tenderize it. Early residents would either laugh or cry to learn that nowadays, it's locally farmed by Monterey Abalone Co. and can cost as much as a prime cut of beef.

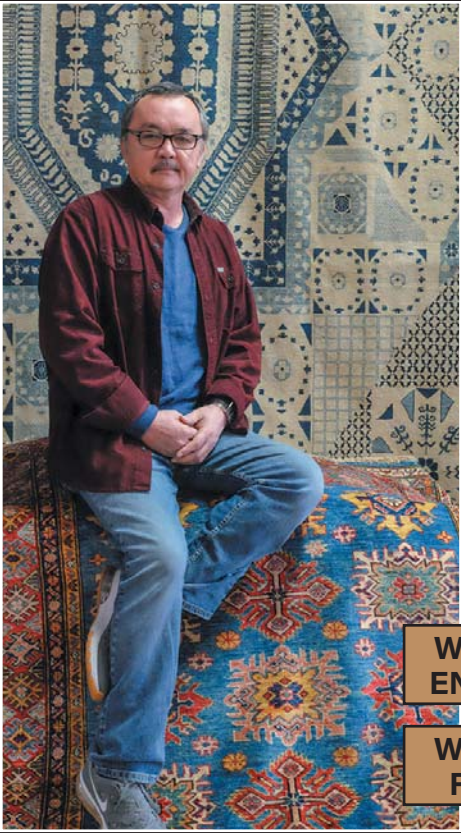
Coastal Roots Hospitality's restaurants — Rio Grill in the Crossroads shopping center and Montrie and Tarp's in Monterey — is hailing the longtime local dish-turned-delicacy by featuring it on all three menus. Rio Grill's version has "a tangy passion fruit vinaigrette, crispy frisée, angel hair pasta, and a roasted garlic-herb butter sauce," say those in the know. Tarp's is doing a quarter-pound pan-seared version served with black forbidden rice, while Montrie is putting it in mini tacos. Check out the individual restaurants' websites — riogrill.com, tarpys.com, montrie.com — to learn more.

Mary Schley and Elaine Hesser contributed to this week's column.



Local chef Tony Baker launched Baker's Bacon because he wanted the smoked meat he remembered from his youth. For Father's Day, he's offering slices of bacon that's been slow-cooked and candied with brown sugar, then dipped in chocolate and espresso.

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MUSIC

From page 37A

the annual music series, which brings throngs of locals and visitors to the riverside restaurant for the shows, which start around noon. Saxophonist **Roger Eddy** plays jazz this Sunday. Singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew**, meanwhile, performs on Saturday afternoons at the same site. The restaurant is located at 46800 Highway 1.

Live music May 31-June 6

Albatross Ridge Winery and Kitchen in Monterey — singer and guitarist **Dan Cioper** (Friday at 5 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

Baja Cantina restaurant in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Matt Masih** (funk and soul, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 7166 Carmel Valley Road.

Bernardus Lodge & Spa in Carmel Valley — pianist **Mathias Mann** (classical, Friday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Saturday at noon), pianist **Joe indence** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at noon). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Blue Fox Cellars in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Sunday at 2 p.m.). 25 Pilot Road.



Dub Souljah plays reggae and hip-hop Saturday at the Other Brother Beer Co. in Seaside. The music starts at 7 p.m., and there’s a \$5 cover.

Bon Ton LeRoy’s Lighthouse Smokehouse in Monterey — singer and guitarist **Frida Vossler** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Saturday and 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.

Cibo restaurant in Monterey — **The Dave Holodiloff Duo** (bluegrass and jazz, Sunday at 7 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and singer and pianist **Scotty Wright** (jazz, Tuesday at 7 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz and swing, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St.

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.

Fernwood Resort in Big Sur — singers and guitarists **Sophia Eliana** and **Pascale Cheron** (Friday at 8 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

Folktale Winery in Carmel Valley — **The Al James Duo** (“rootsy and soulful,” Friday at 4 p.m.), **Two Rivers** with singer **Richard Bryant** and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (pop and rock, Saturday at 2 p.m.), **The Monterey Jazz Festival Regional All-Stars** (Sunday at 11 a.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

Gusto Pasta and Pizza in Seaside — **Andrea’s Fault Duo** with singer **Andrea Carter** and guitarist **Darrin Michell** (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



Singers and guitarists Sophia Eliana (above) and Pascale Cheron take the stage Friday, 8 p.m., at Fernwood Resort in Big Sur.

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.),

See **LIVE** page 43A

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May 31 & June 1 – “Madregalia, the esteemed ensemble renowned for its dedication to Renaissance music, is delighted to announce its upcoming 20th anniversary concert series, **“Golden Hits of 1610.”** Performances are at 7:30 p.m. May 31st and 2:30 p.m. and June 1st at All Saints’ Episcopal Church, Carmel-by-the-Sea.

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.

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.

June 7 – Exclusive screening of the film “Volunteers Needed” at Lighthouse Cinemas. Join us for a special documentary screening sponsored by the Monterey Kiwanis. Learn about the multibillion dollar industry voluntourism, its link to child



trafficking and how you can help stop it. Q&A with the filmmakers after the showing. Admission is FREE, RSVPs encouraged. Doors open at 6 p.m. RSVP & learn more here: link tr.ee/volunteersneededthefilm

June 11 – Got home equity? Curious about reverse mortgages? A free seminar for homeowners age 55+ will be presented by HighTechLending, Inc., a local mortgage loan originator. Program is noon to 1 pm. in the Seideneck Room of The Carmel Foundation, SE corner, Eighth and Lincoln, Carmel. Sign up online at www.carmelfoundation.org or call (831) 624-1588.

Through June 8 – Shop The Carriage House Boutique for graduation, shower & wedding gifts! Beautiful tabletop and glassware, jewelry, bath goods, tasteful greeting cards and more, plus wines and gourmet gifts in our Cook’s Pantry. Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley. (831) 659-0400. Open 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat.

June 28 – Carmel Valley Lodge – A night of music and storytelling with Pamela & Bruce Forman’s “Cry Me A River” show channeling the music of **Julie London & Barney Kessel**. No host Bar, small bites included. \$49, reservations required. 6-9 p.m. Call 659-2261 to book your spot!



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LIVE

From page 41A

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 — singer and guitarist **Frida Vossler** (Friday at 4:30 p.m.), Open Mic (Friday at 7



Saxophonist Arman Sangalang (above) joins guitarist Adam Astrup and drummer Billy Jones Saturday, 6:30 p.m., at Juice ‘n’ Java in Pacific Grove.

p.m., sign up by 5:30 p.m.), **The Arman Sangalang Trio** with guitarist **Adam Astrup** and drummer **Billy Jones** (jazz, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), Astrup and singer **Miranda Perl** (jazz, Sunday at 11 a.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

La Playa Hotel — guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Thursday at 5 p.m.). Bud’s Bar, Camino Real and Eighth, Carmel.

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

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — **Andrea’s Fault Duo** (jazz and pop, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Pfeffer** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive.

Lucy’s on Lighthouse in Pacific Grove — **Blue Fire** (pop and rock, Saturday at 2 p.m.), **King Bee** (“seven decades of rock ‘n’ roll,” 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 — singer **Janice Perl** and guitarist **Bob Basa** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer **Lauri Hofer-Romero** and guitarist **Bruce Forman** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

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

Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa — multi-instrumentalist **Peter Cor** (jazz, Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 5 p.m.), pianist **Steve Mann**, jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Monday at 5 p.m.), multi-instrumentalist **Gary Regina** (jazz, Tuesday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch**

(Wednesday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Tamas Marius** (jazz, Thursday at 5 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

Other Brother Live in Seaside — **Dub Souljah** (reggae and hip-hop, Saturday at 7 p.m.). 877 Broadway.

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 **Kito Rayburn** (Friday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

Salty Seal Pub in Monterey — **Matt Masih & The Messengers** (funk and soul, Friday at 8 p.m.), **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Saturday at 8 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Matt Masih** (Sunday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (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 — **Night Shift** (r&b and pop, Friday at 9 p.m.), **B-Town** (r&b and soul, Saturday at 9 p.m.), **The Stingrays** (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.), **Mixtape** (pop and rock, Thursday at 8:30 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

Trailside Cafe in Carmel Valley — **Bubba Pickens** (bluegrass, Friday at 6 p.m.), saxophonist **Roger Eddy** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

Twisted Roots Vineyard tasting room in Carmel Valley — **Kip Allert** (Sunday at 1 p.m.). 12 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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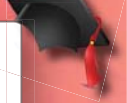
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