

Scenic Road house with a story sells for \$18.3M

■ \$5.75M in 2012, \$11.6M in 2014

By MARY SCHLEY

A HOME that was built more than two decades ago amid heated arguments over historic preservation in Carmel sold Nov. 25 for \$18,330,000 — slightly higher than its asking price — after less than a month on the market.



PHOTO/CARMEL REALTY

This Scenic Road home changed hands for the third time Nov. 25 for more than three times its original price 12 years ago.

According to Monterey County records, Carl and Judith Moore sold their 2,894-square-foot, three-bed, three-and-a-half-bath house, which is situated on a 9,700-square-foot lot fronting on Scenic and on San Antonio south of 11th, to Petaluma-based Britannia California Inc.

Built in 2001, the contemporary-style residence was designed by architect Gene Takigawa for Ron and Alexis Donati, who had purchased the property in 1997 and applied soon after to demolish the old house, which had been constructed by prolific Carmel builder M.J. Murphy decades earlier, and build a new one.

Roller coaster

Their efforts were not without controversy. After being told the house was not historic and receiving approval from the city’s planning commission, the Donatis’ project survived appeals to the city council filed by neighbors who objected to it. The couple also had to get a sign-off on its environmental review from the California Coastal Commission, as required at the time since the city did not yet have its state-approved Local Coastal Program.

On top of all that, it was the subject of a lawsuit filed in 1998 by preservation activists who argued Carmel officials had allowed a “non-stop demolition parade” of allegedly historic homes. But since

See **HOUSE** page 254

PLAN TO SPEND MILLIONS TO ‘TRUMP-PROOF’ STATE

By CAITLIN CONRAD

CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS returned to Sacramento this week for a special session to cement the Golden State as the leader of the resistance against President-elect Donald Trump. The effort will cost taxpayers, though.

“If LGBTQ people come under attack, if hardworking

Lawsuit accuses public defender of racism

By KELLY NIX

A SURPRISING new lawsuit claims that the public defender of Monterey County discriminated against a Black employee, made offensive race-based comments to workers, and has created a toxic work environment where Black people are passed up for promotions and paid less than others.

But Public Defender Susan Chapman told a Pine Cone reporter Wednesday that she went into law based on her belief “in equal justice for all, regardless of race, religion, social status, or economic means,” and that her office has become a more diverse workplace during her eight-year tenure.

Longtime county employee Latasha Ellis-Bowers, a Black woman and finance manager in the public defender’s

See **RACISM** page 204

New park takes shape



PHOTO/TATUM’S GARDEN FOUNDATION

In recent weeks, more than 600 volunteers brought to life the new Tatum’s Treehouse accessible playground in Carmel Valley Village. The playground is set to open Dec. 14. See page 30A

Sewer district proposes ‘Bridge to Everywhere’

■ Crossing Carmel River and making multiple connections

By MARY SCHLEY

A LONG-TERM lease of the city’s underused Rio Park and reconstruction of a nearly century-old utility bridge are critical elements in an ambitious plan by the Carmel Area Wastewater District to link several trail networks on the Monterey Peninsula, former Carmel Mayor Ken White and other advocates told the city council Tuesday night.

White, a member of the CAWD board, said the “Bridge to Everywhere” project would allow walkers and cyclists to explore trails in the city, at the mouth of the valley and down the coast on both sides of Highway 1.

“This is all one plan that we’d like to get you interested in supporting,” he said.

Laura Bowling, a member of the Bridge to Everywhere advisory committee who also has a seat on the Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve board, extolled the “strong connection between walking and well-being,” and said the ability to connect trails in and around Carmel-by-the-Sea with those on California State Parks land and in the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District’s territory would “literally improve our health.”

‘Unbelievable beauty’

And, she said, it can be done without purchasing any property, since the areas are already in public ownership.

“It will significantly enhance access to the unbelievable beauty we have in the Carmel area,” she said.

The plan identifies 10 “connections,” including Mission Trail park, Larson Field and the sewer district’s accessway and easement along the east edge of the baseball field, the 6.24-acre Rio Park property that the city uses as a makeshift corporation yard for woodchips and storage, the CAWD suspension bridge built in the 1930s that’s due for an overhaul, and an abandoned access road that was formerly used by the wastewater district and is mostly on state parks land.

“The access road was abandoned in the 1990s but is still intact and could be converted to a walking and biking trail,” another committee member explained. “It extends all the way to Highway 1,” with most of it on parkland near the Carmel River Lagoon and the beach that is not publicly accessible.

Other connections include the Scenic Road pathway

See **BRIDGE** page 30A

Montage names CEO to succeed Packer

By KELLY NIX

THE DIRECTOR of a Virginia hospital will become the new president and CEO of Montage Health — the parent company of Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula — when Dr. Steven Packer retires from the role in spring, officials announced this week.

The board of trustees for Montage Health has tapped Michael P. McDermott, 59, to lead Montage, which made the announcement Monday. Packer announced in June that would retire from the position after 25 years of working at the hospital.

M.D. and MBA

“We are thrilled to welcome Dr. McDermott as our new leader and look forward to the expertise and vision he will bring to our organization in the coming year,” hospital spokeswoman Monica Sciuto told The Pine Cone Tuesday.

McDermott, who is a diagnostic and interventional radiologist, has been CEO of nonprofit Mary Washington Healthcare in Fredericksburg, Va., since 2015. Montage said McDermott brings a “wealth of experience” and a “distinguished career,” to the job.

Packer said being able to serve the community has been

the “honor” of his lifetime, and he expressed confidence in his successor.

“As I continue to lead Montage Health through this transition, I am confident in the talented team we have in place and excited to see Dr. McDermott continue advancing our mission of delivering extraordinary care and inspiring the pursuit of optimal health,” Packer said.

McDermott, who graduated from the University of Cincinnati medical school, was trained in diagnostic radiology and interventional radiology at the University of Maryland and has an MBA from the University of Virginia, said he’s “grateful to build upon” Packer’s legacy and join Montage Health, a healthcare system he said he’s



Michael McDermott

See **CEO** page 254

Monterey releases rental database

By MARY SCHLEY

ANYONE WHO wants to know how much Monterey landlords are charging for rent, where their units are and whether they’re occupied can now obtain that information with a few mouse clicks. The City of Monterey’s compulsory rental registry went online in early January, and officials announced Monday that much of its information is now available to the public.

Housing manager Anastacia Wyatt said the public database “offers an additional layer of transparency in the city’s rental housing market” and said the data “will also provide insights for better-informed policy decisions supporting Monterey renters.” She made no mention of what it might or might not do for property owners.

Learn how much your landlord gets from other tenants

Info required

According to the rental-registry law adopted by the Monterey City Council last year, landlords must share contact details for themselves and property managers, their rentals’ street addresses or APNs, dates of construction, how many units there are, and the number of bedrooms, bathrooms and square footage each rental contains. Occupancy status and reasons for vacancy must be given, along with the amount and date of monthly rent and whether the total includes utilities or fees. HOA dues and other assessments must be listed, and landlords have to disclose whether their tenants receive housing vouchers or other subsidies. Changes in ownership or management, rents and occupancy must be reported within 30 days.

Those who own fewer than four rentals are don’t have to register or pay the \$50-per-unit annual fee, but they must file for exemptions. Owners of subsidized units, ADUs, mobile homes and owner-occupied homes containing rooms for rent

must register those units but don’t have to pay the annual fees. According to Wyatt, more than 1,700 residential rental units have qualified for an exemption.

What your neighbors know

Property owners initially had until March 1 to comply. In May, city officials said they would shift from outreach to enforcement. On Monday, Wyatt reported the program has reached nearly 73 percent compliance based on an estimated total of 8,134 rentals, including exemptions.



The database “allows users to access data to ensure stability and fairness within the rental market on an annual basis,” according to Wyatt, and includes information for 859 properties, many with multiple units. Accessed through an interactive map with search filters, the information for each property includes the address, year built, number of bedrooms and bathrooms, occupancy status, rent and any applicable exemptions.

For instance, the tenant in unit B at 284 Lighthouse Ave. can discover that, while unit A is the same size at 1,250 square feet, the tenant there has two bedrooms and one bathroom, instead of one of each, while paying \$200 per month less in rent, at \$1,375. Meanwhile, the resident (or residents) at 22 Via del Rey pays \$4,400 in rent for a 3,518-square-foot home with three bedrooms and three-and-a-half bathrooms.

While the database does not include names, property managers, other identification or contact information for owners or tenants, each listing includes an APN, which through Monterey County property records can reveal who owns it.

The database and tutorials on how to use it are available at monterey.gov/rental-inventory. Wyatt said she plans to give a report to the city council Jan. 21.

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Police & Sheriff's Log

It's too early for reindeer damage

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, NOVEMBER 20

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Traffic stop at Carpenter and Fifth at 0754 hours resulted in the warrant arrest of a 23-year-old male. He was cited and released from the scene for a \$3,500 warrant.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Suspicious circumstances at Santa Rita and Second regarding a car alarm.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle towed from the public roadway on 19th Street for expired registration over six months.

Pacific Grove: At about 1330 hours, a male reported his adult son as missing.

Pacific Grove: Dog at large on 14th Street. Returned to owner with a verbal warning.

Pacific Grove: Report of possession of obscene material — child pornography.

Pacific Grove: Criminal threats on Forest Avenue.

Carmel area: Identity theft on Rio Road.

Carmel Valley: Grade school student reported vague home living conditions to her teacher.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Magazines thrown in the trash at Ocean and Dolores.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle on Piedmont was marked for 72-hour parking.

Pacific Grove: Theft of two bicycles on Lighthouse.

Carmel Valley: Alleged neglect involving a resident on El Cuenco.

Carmel area: Alleged neglect at the Crossroads.

Carmel Valley: Referral from Adult Protective Services regarding a Carmel Valley Road resident.

Carmel Valley: Citizen on Center Street was contacted and placed on a mental health hold.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury collision on Carmelo Street.

Carmel area: A female with an aggressive dog was given a trespassing warning not to return to a grocery store at the Crossroads, based on her behavior and the dog's behavior.

Carmel area: Deputies responded to a suspicious circumstance on Rio Road.

Carmel Valley: Law enforcement responded to a report of a possible deceased person at a De Amaral Road residence.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Pacific Grove: A 29-year-old male was arrested at Forest and Sinex for a warrant for failing to appear in court on a misdemeanor.

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



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The gavel falls

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

Oct. 23 — Erik Bjorn Olson, 42, pleaded guilty to murdering his uncle, Greg Leonard Kolbo, 68, of Seaside. Olson pleaded guilty to second degree murder, and he will be sentenced on Jan. 28, 2025. He is facing a term of 15 years-to-life in prison. This conviction is a violent and serious strike within the meaning of California's three strikes law. Judge Rafael Vazquez presided over the entry of plea, and he will be the sentencing judge.

In early 2019, Kolbo, an Air National Guard Veteran, invited his nephew, Olson, an unemployed Army veteran, to live with him in his duplex housing unit on old Fort Ord. At that time, Kolbo was very active in his community, serving diligently on the Monterey County Grand Jury. Friends and family closest to Kolbo said that he offered for Olson to live with him to help Olson get his life in or-

der and to help Olson find a more permanent living arrangement, eventually.

At approximately 3 p.m. on March 7, 2019, neighbors saw black smoke billowing out of Kolbo's home and immediately called 911. Olson was seen fleeing the scene of the fire, leaving behind a suitcase.

The Presidio of Monterey Fire Department arrived at the scene and quickly put out the fire. During their efforts fighting the flames, they discovered human remains, later identified through fingerprints to be Kolbo's. He was found wrapped in a blanket, partially burned, and reeking of gasoline. A subsequent autopsy would attribute his cause of death to blunt force trauma to his head and neck with no signs of smoke inhalation in his

See **GAVEL** page 31A



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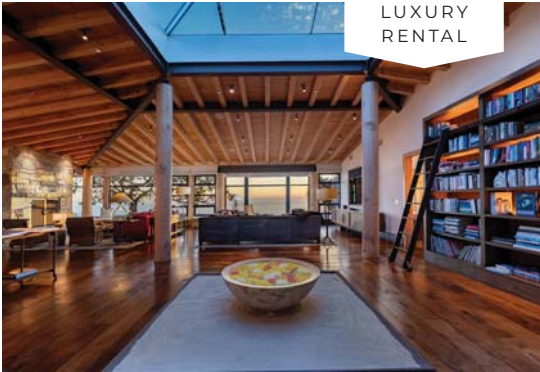
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Canadians plead ‘not guilty’ to murder

By KELLY NIX

THE TWO Canadians accused of trying to murder two people in Salinas pleaded not guilty to charges this week, while more details about the grisly attack, the victims and the serious injuries they received have surfaced.

Monterey County prosecutors and sheriff’s officials say that on Nov. 24 at about 10 p.m., Devin Wolfgang Vanderhoef conspired with friend Darius Avery Whyte to murder Christian Alexis Small, a barista in Carmel Valley, and her boyfriend, Andrew Campos, at a home on the 300 block of Bollenbacher Drive in Salinas. Both men, who are 25 years old, are also charged with burglary.

Only Vanderhoef, however, is alleged to have carried out the violent attack. He posed as a delivery person before stabbing the couple with a knife, prosecutors said.

“Vanderhoef personally inflicted great bodily injury upon Andrew Campos and Christian Small,” according to a criminal complaint filed by the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office.

Punctured lung

In a social media post last weekend by Campos’ sister asking for donations, she said her brother suffered critical injuries.

“He was stabbed four times, one causing his lung to be punctured,” Evelynnn Haley wrote. “His girlfriend was punctured in her leg, suffered slashes and punches to

her face and was strangled. If it wasn’t for their strong bond, they might not have survived this.”

Vanderhoef and Small, she said, had a friendship that had developed through online gaming and lasted five years. Haley and some other family members had even met the Canadian.

“Never in a million years did we think something like this would happen, especially not someone we had known for such a long time and considered a friend at one point,” Haley wrote in the gofundme page she established.

Handcuffs, duct tape

Meanwhile, the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office said that Vanderhoef and Whyte flew from Canada to Monterey, where they purchased gloves, handcuffs, knives, and duct tape before Vanderhoef tried murdering the couple.

Prosecutors charged the men with first-degree burglary, alleging they entered “an inhabited dwelling house” occupied by Campos and Small “with the intent to commit larceny and a felony.” Vanderhoef faces additional criminal enhancements of great bodily injury and using a deadly weapon.

In a booking photo released this week by the sheriff’s office, Vanderhoef has numerous facial injuries, some of which were caused by Small, who fought back during the attack.

Because the couple’s injuries will keep them from working for a while, Haley is asking for people to donate to Campos and Small for their medical bills and other expenses. Only about 10 percent of the gofundme goal has been met. Go to [shorturl.at/597Oh](https://turl.at/597Oh) to donate.



Devin Wolfgang Vanderhoef

Montecito man demands \$10K

■ Claims age discrimination after job application ignored

By MARY SCHLEY

A MONTECITO resident who says he applied for a dispatching job at Carmel P.D. last year but didn’t get it has filed suit in small claims court against Carmel Police Chief Paul Tomasi for age discrimination and is demanding \$10,000 for compensation of “lost income.”

Represented by a large Los Angeles law firm, Bernard Sepulvado on Oct. 24 sent a letter to Tomasi complaining that his job application had fallen through the cracks.

“Bernard Sepulvado advises that his application for this position was received, and he was contacted at least twice. Although Mr. Sepulvado informs us that he immediately returned the calls to advise he was highly interested in the position, his calls were ignored,” the letter signed by attorney Bridget Esquibias reads.

‘Adverse treatment’

She goes on to say that Sepulvado told the law firm he had three-and-a-half years’ experience as a dispatcher in Monterey County and then worked for the San Diego Police Department for six years in parking enforcement and dispatching. He also told the lawyer he is a certified California Peace Officer Standards and Training communications graduate, was honored by the mayor of San Diego “for his ideas that facilitated a more efficient police environment,” and received accolades from the assistant chief for his work on emergency

communications systems.

“We are informed that Mr. Sepulvado inquired about the application process and was advised in writing that his application was somehow ignored in a problematic transition within the Carmel human resources and Carmel Police Department,” the letter says. “Mr. Sepulvado believes this adverse treatment of him, and the City of Carmel’s refusal to consider his application, is due to ongoing illegal discrimination. In an effort to amicably resolve this matter, Mr. Sepulvado is hereby demanding the sum of \$10,000 to be paid within 14 days from the date of this letter.”

Unable to locate

Five days later, Sepulvado filed a complaint in small claims court — where neither side can have legal representation — against Tomasi. His claim, also for \$10,000, alleges age discrimination and “lost income,” but does not list his age or why he believes he is a victim.

Sepulvado declared on the form that he was not suing a public entity but lists Tomasi’s address as “4th/Junipero,” where the police station is located.

He also successfully applied to have his court fees waived, thereby having taxpayers foot the bill, and on Nov. 22, a process server with the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office’s civil division filed an affidavit that service of the claim on Tomasi had been unsuccessful, since “4th/Junipero” “is not the correct address” for the police chief.

Searches for evidence of Sepulvado’s service in law enforcement in California were unsuccessful.

A trial date has been set in small claims court in Marina for Dec. 19.

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Bill to speed up ballot counting

By KELLY NIX

A NORTHERN California Assemblyman — who three years ago authored a bill that required the state to accept ballots postmarked up to a week after an election — has proposed state legislation to speed up the process of counting votes.

Meanwhile, the Monterey County elections department Tuesday released the final certified results of the Nov. 5 election — four weeks after Election Day.

And in other regions of the state, delayed vote tallying left some races undecided until the last minute. It wasn't until Tuesday that Democrat Adam Gray was determined to be the winner in California's 13th Congressional District, which stretches from Stockton to Fresno.

Assemblyman Marc Berman, a Democrat from Menlo Park, launched a bill Tuesday that he said aims to help counties count ballots quicker.

"Counties must do everything they can to count votes both quickly and accurately, and we need to make sure they have adequate resources and guidance to do that," Berman said.

The assemblyman's unfinished bill is scant on details, and simply states that "it is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that assists counties in the prompt tallying and release of election results."

However, Berman said he plans on speaking to county elections officials and voter groups to "evaluate what is working and what we can do better to maintain our nation-leading voting rights while speeding up the count." The bill will be updated following talks with those stakeholders.

'Very few bottlenecks'

While Monterey County registrar of voters, Gina Martinez told The Pine Cone that her office has "very few bottlenecks" in elections operations, including tallying ballots, she said there is room for technological upgrades.

"One item that we are working to address is the use of electronic poll books instead of paper rosters," she said.

An electronic poll book is essentially a smart tablet, versus a paper voter roster, that contains a list of registered voters with names and addresses, party preferences and other information, including whether someone has been issued a mail ballot and if they've turned it in.

Good turnout

The information in the tablet would be available at every polling station where the technology is used and would offer several benefits, such as preventing someone from going to another polling station and voting twice, allowing polling workers to quickly search voters' names and other information, and allowing continual processing of mail ballots before an election, which would speed up counting.

The certified results of last month's election show there were 148,916 votes cast in Monterey County, with a turnout of 69.3 percent based on 214,883 registered voters, Martinez said.

Though the November election marked the second-highest number of votes cast in a Monterey County presidential election — which included more than 50,000 votes submitted on and after polling day — she said "we were still on pace to complete our canvass prior to the Thanksgiving break."

Berman was the state politician behind the 2021 bill that continued the Covid rule that every registered voter in California receive a mail ballot and extended the ballot acceptance period from three to seven days, both of which have contributed to the time it takes county elections departments to count votes.

Florida and some other states don't accept ballots after Election Day.

Despite the state's lag in counting ballots, Berman said California "has one of the most accessible, secure, and transparent voting systems in the country."

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Rerig gets raise, contract extension

By MARY SCHLEY

FOLLOWING A 4 percent cost-of-living increase he received alongside other management-level employees in August, city administrator Chip Rerig on Tuesday was given a 4 percent merit raise by the Carmel City Council, putting his base pay above a quarter-million dollars.

The seventh amendment to his contract, which was first signed in February 2016 with an annual salary of \$190,000, also extends his employment to March 1, 2029. Retroactive to Oct. 1, the raise approved Dec. 4 increases his salary of \$241,087 by \$9,643 to \$250,730.

‘Stick it out’

Council members took turns praising Rerig for his work leading the city.

“You do a good job of managing being bossed around by the council,” councilman Jeff Baron said after observing that much of the city administrator’s hard work goes unseen by the public.

Participating in his last meeting as a councilman, Bobby Richards praised Rerig for overseeing budgets that have received clean audits for the past half-dozen years.

“When Chip came on, we had audits

with a lot of errors, and for the past six or seven years now, we’ve had zero errors,” he said.

Councilwoman Karen Ferlito, who is also leaving, observed that Rerig hadn’t received a merit increase since 2022, when his contract was last amended, and that he has carried the city through several difficult periods, including the Covid pandemic.

“Chip did not get a raise last year, so this raise is well deserved,” she said.

Ferlito also commented on the challenges of keeping departments running when key staff leave. “It has not been easy, and in these last couple of years, we’ve lost several employees that we are working on replacing,” she said. “I think you do your best to get the best out of our employees and our staff, and you spend time with them and I think that’s really admirable.”

Mayor Dave Potter, taking part in his final meeting, as well, told Rerig he is grateful for all of his hard work.

“Keep it up. Don’t give up. Stick it out,” the outgoing mayor advised him.

And councilwoman Alissandra Dramov said she appreciates the fact that Rerig is “on duty basically 24/7.”

“I know it can often be a thankless job,” she said.

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ABC shuts down Britannia Arms, pub for sale

■ Loulou’s call it quits

By MARY SCHLEY

AN ALVARADO Street pub is for sale even as its permit to serve alcohol is suspended, and a popular little spot on Wharf 2 is closed after the owners, because of “a lot of different things,” decided not to sign a new lease with the City of Monterey.

Britannia Arms, the downtown Monterey bar owned by Paul Whitecross and several partners, was recently shut down by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for “operating a disorderly house.”

“Pursuant to the stipulation and waiver that the licensee signed, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control imposed a 45-day suspension on Britannia Arms of Monterey, followed by an indefinite suspension, with the revocation stayed 180 days to provide the licensee an opportunity to transfer the license,” public information officer

Devin Blankenship explained. “The charges revolved around operating a disorderly house which created a law enforcement problem.”

‘Just don’t’

Monterey officials did not respond to requests for comments or provide evidence that “The Brit,” as it has been called for years, generated a disproportionate number of police calls. But online customer reviews have been blisteringly bad as of late, complaining of poor service and discrimination.

“Terrible. Save your money! Drinks are terrible and the hospitality is even worse,” Blair D. of Ponchatoula, La., wrote Nov. 1. “I would encourage everyone to stay away from this place — just don’t.”

“A local spit on me here and ‘security’ suggested I leave. I couldn’t believe it,” Monterey resident Annie B.

See PUB page 31A



PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

The Britannia Arms pub on Alvarado Street has been a busy night spot for decades, but the state shut it down for being “a disorderly house.” It’s for sale for nearly \$1 million.

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Special session also targets gas prices

By CAITLIN CONRAD

CALIFORNIA REPUBLICANS are hoping to prevent gasoline price hikes in 2025 with new legislation introduced this week.

State Senate Minority Leader Brian W. Jones introduced Senate Bill 2 on Monday during a special session called by the governor. The session was called in an effort to get the ball rolling on “Trump-Proofing” California, but Republicans used the early start to target rising costs at the pump, as well as the state’s climate agenda.

SB 2 would repeal recent changes to the state’s low-carbon fuel standard that could result in gasoline price spikes as high as 65 cents per gallon next year.

“Our No. 1 priority is protecting Californians at the pump. SB 2 will immediately repeal the Newsom administration’s 65-cent gas price hike and put an end to their most recent price-gouging scheme,” said Jones.

Price predictions

On Nov. 8, the California Air Resources Board voted to increase the state’s low-carbon fuel standard. The move will require refiners to produce a new special gasoline blend.

The Air Resources Board originally said the move would raise gas prices by 47 cents in 2025, but experts with the University of Pennsylvania’s Kleinman Center for Energy Policy estimate the increase will be closer to 65 cents a gallon.

If that estimate bears out, the board’s decision will push retail prices over the \$5 mark across the state next year. On Wednesday the average price of gasoline in California was \$4.39 a gallon, just about the highest in the nation, one-upped only

by Hawaii at \$4.56 a gallon.

Under the amendment to the low-carbon fuel standard, the hikes won’t stop in 2025. The recent air resources board decision will continue increasing the low-carbon fuel standard through 2035, at which time the Kleinman Center predicts the regulations could result in retail prices rising by as much as \$1.50.

The air resources board is made up of political appointees picked by Gov. Gavin Newsom. The goal of the board is to improve California’s air quality and help it meet its climate goals. One of the biggest targets is converting all new vehicle sales in the state to electric vehicles by 2035 in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The vote to increase the stringency of the low-carbon fuel standard is in line with those goals.

How the standard works

Explaining how the low-carbon fuel standard reduces greenhouse gases is complicated because it’s not just the special gasoline blend that impacts what’s in the air. The standard also functions as a credit program, taxing fossil-fuel producers and paying renewable energy companies.

Electric utilities, biofuel producers, hydrogen suppliers and electric vehicle charging companies all receive low-carbon fuel credits from the state each year. Those clean energy companies then sell the credits to oil refiners. The refiners are essentially required to buy the credits under state law to offset their carbon footprints and remain in compliance.

The state’s goal is to push people towards renewables and boost the clean energy market. According to the air resources board, dollars from the credit

See GAS page 30A



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TRIBUTE TO ADAMS

By CHRIS COUNTS

FIFTH DISTRICT Supervisor Mary Adams was honored Tuesday morning at her final meeting of the board where she has served since 2017. Heaping encomiums on the outgoing supervisor were her fellow board members, the county sheriff, a member of the State Assembly, and Congressman Jimmy Panetta, who called into the meeting to pay tribute to Adams, who will be replaced by Kate Daniels in January.

Panetta praised Adams for helping to lead the district through "fires, floods and a global pandemic."

"We get to pay tribute to someone who has done so much for the County of Monterey and especially in the district where I live," Panetta said. "Mary is not only a great friend, but she's become a real partner. You listened, you learned and you leaned in to getting stuff done, implementing the solutions that were necessary to ensure Monterey County continues to be the best place in the world to live."

The congressman singled out Adams' efforts in Big Sur, where he often worked with her to help solve big challenges such as "road repairs, parking at Bixby Bridge, clearing a logjam, putting up a weather transmitter and getting broadband down there."

"Mary has definitely left a legacy for all of us to live up to," he added.

Putting community first

Also paying tribute to Adams was Assemblymember Dawn Addis, who gave her a ceremonial resolution from the California State Legislature.

"As a champion of women in leadership, Mary Adams has set a powerful example of encouraging growth and empowering others," Addis said. "Mary has put her community first, approaching decisions with residents of Monterey County at heart."

Monterey County Sheriff Tina Nieto presented Adams with an award and called her a "great partner" of the sheriff's office. "Mary is a big part of why I sit before you as sheriff," she said. "We're going to miss you."

First District Supervisor Luis Alejo praised Adams work. The two often sparred over issues.

See ADAMS page 18A

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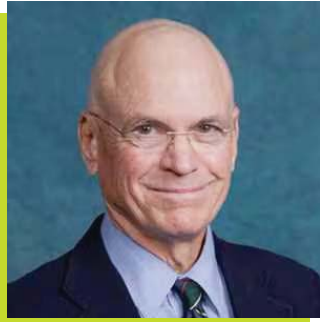
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PROOF

From page 1A

introduced a second funding bill that is under consideration.

His bill includes the \$25 million for the Department of Justice, as well as an additional \$10 million for California counties and cities to pay their attorneys to fight potential policy initiatives by the Trump administration.

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors considered forming the Immigrants Rights Ad Hoc Committee this week — its own effort to “Trump proof” at the local level.

The goal of the committee would be to protect the county’s immigrant community against any “unconstitutional and draconian federal actions.”

Supervisors Luis Alejo and Christopher Lopez submitted the agenda item.

According to county staff, 29 percent of Monterey County residents are foreign-born. The ad hoc committee would bring together representatives from agriculture, hospitality and law enforcement to coordinate the protection of immigrant communities. Specifics on how that would be done have yet to be outlined.

‘Trump proofing’ 1.0

Back at the state level, attorneys with the California Department of Justice are no strangers to legal battles with Trump. During his first term, the Golden State sued his administration 122 times and, according to the governor’s office, spent \$42 million dollars on the litigation.

California saw varying degrees of success in the courtroom but enjoyed some financial benefits as a result of the legal battles. In 2017 the Trump administration withheld law enforcement grants based on California’s failure to meet immigration enforcement requirements. Then-Attorney General Javier Becerra sued, and two years later, the federal government awarded California \$57 million in public safety funds from federal taxpayers.

Unsurprisingly, the target of any future litigation, the president-elect, didn’t have anything nice to say about the idea of “Trump Proofing” California. After the announcement of the special session in November, Trump posted on social media platform X that Newsom was trying to kill California.

“For the first time ever more people are leaving than are coming in. He is using the term ‘Trump proof’ as a way of stopping all of the GREAT things that can be done to MAKE CALIFORNIA GREAT AGAIN.”

During his speech at the special session on Monday, Assembly Speaker Rivas addressed what he views as the

failure of state government to address cost-of-living issues in California.

“Our constituents, they don’t feel that the State of California is working for them,” said Rivas, adding that a priority of the 2025 legislative session needs to be affordability.

“Californians are deeply anxious, they are anxious about our state’s cost of living, they’re anxious about the challenges of doing business here,” said Rivas.

Rivas may have put a spotlight on the problem but did not provide details on the solutions legislators might pursue in the New Year.

Democratic supermajority

Prior to the start of the special session, the state Assembly and the senate swore in dozens of new lawmakers. Democrats maintain total control in Sacramento, holding onto 31 out of 40 seats in the Senate and 60 out of the 80 seats in the Assembly.

Republicans had their best showing in recent years, even if they are still outnumbered 2-to-1. Democrats

ADAMS

From page 14A

“Every time I saw Mary in action, she was rolling up her sleeves and addressing the needs of her constituents,” Alejo said. “She was always there when her community had a crisis — her eight years of exemplary service on this board are to be applauded.”

Second District Supervisor Chris Lopez noted that Adams has had her “finger on the pulse” of the 5th District “ in a way nobody else could have. “Thank you for who you are and what you’ve given to Monterey County,” Lopez said.

Fourth District Supervisor Wendy Root Askew credited Adams with paving a path for her as a woman in leadership in the county — and she observed that the supervisor has walked that path with “grace and kindness.”

Third District Supervisor Glenn Church praised Adams’ “human touch.” “Mary is somebody who really cares about people and doing the right thing,” Church said.

Adams told The Pine Cone this week that she’s proud of what she accomplished during her tenure as supervisor, which began when she defeated incumbent Dave Potter at the ballot box.

Some of the highlights include leading the effort to craft a set of ordinances to regulate the short-term-rental

reelected all their incumbents in the Assembly but lost two open seats previously held by Democrats. Several Republican-held districts were targeted for flips, but none went blue.

The Monterey Peninsula reelected its incumbent Democrats to represent the Central Coast, Sen. John Laird and Assemblymember Dawn Addis. Following the special session, Addis released a statement expressing support.

“This moment required bold action, collaboration and a tireless commitment to the values that define California. Most importantly, I plan to tackle the issues that affect our Central Coast — affordability, climate change and greater transparency for consumers.

Going into 2025, California must actively confront these challenges to build a more just and thriving future for our communities,” wrote Addis.

The special session was adjourned until Jan. 6, but lawmakers anticipate Gabriel and Wiener’s legislation providing the additional funding for litigation will be signed into law before Inauguration Day on Jan. 20.

industry, lowering taxes for cannabis growers, allowing outdoor cannabis grows in Big Sur and making admission to county parks free — as well as bringing “transparency, openness and inclusion” to the county and the board of supervisors.

District in ‘good hands’

She leaves office with a greater appreciation for the those who make the gears of government work efficiently behind the scenes.

“The people who work for the county are dedicated, hardworking and smart, and they focus on what needs to be done,” she explained. “Our job is to ensure they have the tools they need to implement our vision.”

Adams said the 5th District is in “good hands” with her successor, Daniels, who previously worked as her campaign manager and chief of staff before becoming a county planning commissioner. “I am absolutely confident she’s ready to step up,” she said.

When she leaves office in January, Adams is looking forward to many things, including traveling, visiting her mountain getaway, spending time with her partner and catching up on reading.

“I haven’t read a novel in six years,” she confessed.

While Adams, 78, plans to eventually return to public service, she’s not rushing into anything. “I’ve made a promise to myself to try and take a year to not commit to anything, and see what it’s like to not work,” she added.

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Council to consider four-way stops

Dusting off old traffic study

By MARY SCHLEY

TWO DECADES ago, a consultant’s citywide analysis suggested downtown could be made far safer for drivers and pedestrians by converting every intersection to a four-way stop, but the Carmel City Council at the time opted to change just three. At a traffic safety committee meeting last Wednesday, Police Chief Paul Tomasi said the council could be asked to consider the idea again.

The comment was raised after outgoing city councilwoman Karen Ferlito asked the committee, which includes Tomasi, assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson and public works director Bob Harary, to consider adding stop signs at the intersections of Dolores and Sixth and San Carlos and Fifth.

The reasons, she argued, are the number of northbound-southbound drivers who use Dolores going to and from the post office, where they must pick up their mail, and the seemingly increasing instances of wrong-way traffic on Fifth in front of the post office.

“I have several times been almost hit there because drivers often don’t realize Dolores Street doesn’t have stop signs,” she said. “I have had several near misses.”

In one, she said, a large pickup truck pulled out in front of her, and when she told the driver he had a stop sign, he shot back that she did, too. When Ferlito pointed out that wasn’t the case, she said, the driver flipped her off.

As for the intersection of Fifth and San Carlos, she argued, “It definitely has become more common for people to go the wrong way,” and suggested adding stop signs could fix that.

Down this road before

Tomasi pointed out at the Nov. 27 meeting that the city in the past has considered similar requests at those intersections and opted not to change them.

“The first question we get asked by council when we ask for stop signs is, ‘What’s the accident data?’ and if there haven’t been any collisions in the last five years, historically that’s been the deciding factor for previous councils,” he explained.

See **STOPS** page 23A



Numerous signs at the intersection of Fifth and San Carlos confuse drivers, assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson says. Some of them might be removed as a result.

PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

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RACISM

From page 1A

office, alleges in a Nov. 22 civil complaint that the environment at work started becoming stressful after a November 2023 dispute with Chapman regarding taking leave from her job. Monterey County is the only defendant named in the suit.

When Ellis-Bowers, who said she's the only Black employee in the office, returned to work in mid-December 2023, she claims Chapman subjected her to "continuous retaliation," which included stripping her authority as finance manager, removing her supervisor duties, and making all the budgetary decisions for the department.

Bullying allegations

The worker, who said she's been an exemplary employee, claims that her race played a part in how she and others were treated in the public defender's office. As early as January 2023 — 20 years after she started working for the county — Ellis-Bowers claims she started noticing that "non-Black individuals received special treatment, especially by Chapman," including promotional opportunities.

When an opportunity for a promotion arose for Ellis-Bowers, she alleges Chapman denied her the position, which she suggests was because of her race, according to the lawsuit filed in Monterey County Superior Court. She's represented by the San Diego-based Pride Law Firm.

Frustrated, the finance manager says she complained to upper management at the county and its civil rights office, but that the "retaliatory conduct continued, and even intensified."

By February 2024, Ellis-Bowers says she felt "completely isolated and disrespected," adding that her "stress, anxiety and unease at work" were so bad she considered taking more leave.

She alleges that in July, Chapman denied her request to attend a meeting remotely because she wasn't feeling well, which led her to feel that "management

didn't care about her well-being and that Chapman in particular was bullying her."

While Chapman did not address the allegations, she told The Pine Cone this week that she's proud that during her tenure, the public defender's office set the standard for defending the vulnerable, including being among the first law firms in the state to use the Racial Justice Act, which makes it possible for minority defendants to receive lighter sentences, something she said helps eliminate racial bias from the legal system.

"I have dedicated my 37-year legal career, including my eight years as Monterey County's public defender, to defending and protecting our county's most disadvantaged and underserved residents," said Chapman, who added that she's equally proud that the office has become a safer, healthier and more diverse workplace.

Unequal pay alleged

Ellis-Bowers alleges that in August, the county civil rights office's third-party investigation found, among other things, that Chapman "had made race-based comments to Ms. Ellis-Bowers and other employees of color," which supported a finding that the public defender "had violated the county's non-discrimination policies."

However, the employee's lawsuit did not provide any examples of the alleged comments, and an employee with the county's civil rights office told The Pine Cone that complaints are kept confidential.

Ellis-Bowers said that Monterey County "subjected her to unlawful discrimination because she's a Black woman," that "discrimination and unequal pay are treated as the norm," and that the county has not done anything meaningful to address the problems and continues to discriminate, particularly against older Black women.

She claims loss of wages and emotional distress and is seeking an unspecified amount in damages.

County counsel Susan Blitch said the county has not received the complaint.

Chapman's predecessor, Jim Egar, resigned in June 2016 amid tensions with employees.



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Surfer, firefighter loses life in accident

■ Pickup overturned while he was working on it

By CHRIS COUNTS

A GIFTED surfer with a talent for making his own boards and one-time volunteer captain for Mid-Coast Fire, Brent Bispo died as a result of an accident Monday just before 8 a.m. He was 60.

According to the California Highway Patrol, Bispo was working on his Ford F-350 pickup truck when it rolled over him and dragged him off a cliff. The CHP said the truck was parked on an incline when the rollover happened.

“The pickup was equipped with a manual transmission and unexpectedly began to roll down the slope,” the report indicated. “As it gained momentum, the victim became entangled with the vehicle. The pickup overturned into a creek — with the victim caught in its motion — and came to rest on its roof. The victim sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced deceased on scene.”

Bispo, who grew up in Pacific Grove, loved surfing and made his own surfboards under the brand, Bispo Surfboards. He was described as a man of many talents and an incredible storyteller with a sharp sense of humor. He leaves behind his wife, Judy, along with three brothers — Ron, Randall and Keith — and a sister, Nadine.

‘One of the great ones’

As a surfer, Bispo found success in local and national contests. He was awarded All-Around-Waterman multiple times at the Carmel Surfabout.

Dozens of Bispo’s friends paid tribute to him with posts on Facebook, including one who said he had a “soul connection with the ocean and our community,” and another who shared that “we lost one of the great ones today.”

Marcus Foster of Big Sur told The Pine Cone that Bispo was one of the best surfers he’s ever known.

“It’s a big loss in our community,” Foster said. “He was an amazing person and an incredible waterman. He loved big waves, and he was fearless in the water — he was such a badass.”

Also paying tribute to Bispo was his friend, Richard Mole. “You could always count on him,” Mole said. “If you were ever in a raft drifting in the middle of the ocean, or in a wildfire or cast into the wilderness with nothing but a pocketknife, he was the person you would want to be with. He loved his community, his family and above all,

his beautiful wife Judy. He was the definition of integrity in a man.”

Besides being a captain for Mid-Coast Fire until he retired six years ago, Bispo was one of three locals who founded a water rescue program to come to aid of people who get caught in the surf along the north Big Sur coast.

Mid Coast Fire Chief Cheryl Goetz told The Pine Cone that Bispo was fighting a fire outside the area in 2017 when he came to aid of the driver of a water tender that had rolled in steep terrain and saved his life. She called him “a natural leader” and “a teacher to many.”

“He’s a true hero,” Goetz said. “Brent was such a solid heart of our fire brigade until he retired in 2018. He will be dearly missed by his firefighting family, the surf community and so many more. My heart is broken right now.”

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Handcar company claims retaliation

■ Lawsuit says they were evicted because of criticism

By KELLY NIX

A BUSINESS that offered scenic tours of the Monterey Peninsula’s historic railroad line has filed a lawsuit in federal court against the City of Marina and the local transportation agency after it was forced to close.

Marina-based Handcar Tours, which offered customers a guided 6-mile handcar tour on railroad tracks adjacent to the ocean and Highway 1, was informed in late September that the Transportation Agency for Monterey County and Marina, which had been leasing the land to the family-owned venture, would not be renewing the contract, shutting the business down weeks later.

But the owners’ recently filed lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California alleges that the reason the lease was not extended is that they publicly opposed the Transportation Agency for Monterey County’s \$92 million two-lane bus SURF Project, which would require the removal of a portion of the train tracks and put an end to their business there.

‘Retaliation’

Handcar Tours “alleges that the TAMC’s and the City of Marina’s adverse actions were motivated in substantial part by their desire to retaliate against plaintiff for plaintiffs having engaged in conduct and speech protected by the First Amendment,” according to the lawsuit, filed by father and son Todd and Mason Clark.

The 18-page complaint also points to a comment made in June by transportation agency executive director Todd Muck, who was asked by Marina Mayor Bruce Delgado if the agency would support extending the business lease.

“I’ve seen that the handcar folks have actively opposed and tried to delay the

public benefit project,” Muck said at the Marina City Council meeting. “So, my recommendation to the board would be to not extend their contract.”

“The First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution protect private plaintiffs from government retaliation in response to the exercise of their First Amendment rights,” according to the lawsuit by the Museum of Handcar Technology, another name for the business.

‘Closed meeting’

The Clarks maintain that the transportation agency was upset with them for publicly exposing that the SURF project “intended to use funds earmarked by the State of California for the improvement of rail” to “remove and replace rail with another modality of transportation,” which forced the agency to return millions of dollars in “illegally used funds.”

“This drew the ire of plaintiff’s lessors, the transportation agency and the City of Marina, who in turn expressly refused to extend plaintiff’s sublease because of plaintiff’s opposition to the SURF Project,” the complaint says.


The transportation agency purchased the Monterey Branch Line railroad from Union Pacific in 2003.

Furthermore, the Clarks say that their constitutional rights were infringed upon when the agency and Marina “decided, in a closed-door board meeting” to not “extend the lease or sublease” or allow the owners of the handcar business to benefit from the two-year renewal option contained in the lease and sublease.

The U.S. Constitution, they argue, “prohibits the termination or prevention of automatic renewal of an at-will government contract in retaliation for the exercise of the First Amendment right to speech.”

While it may be possible for the Clarks to relocate their business north of the

See **HANDCAR** page 25A




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Mildred Miller
1929 - 2024

Mildred Miller, also known as Mickie, died Dec. 3, 2024. She was born in Salt Lake City, Utah on Nov. 6, 1929, to Collins and Grace Jones who arrived in Pacific Grove in 1928. Except for being out-of-state for her birth, she lived in Pacific Grove. She was a graduate of Pacific Grove High School class of 1947, and married Richard “Dick” R. Miller in Carmel on Feb. 19, 1948. Together they raised four wonderful children, Rick (Kelly), Scott and Dan Miller and Erin (Rusty) Cox. She is also survived by 12 unbelievable grandchildren, Jesse and Kyle (Milene) Miller, Demara (Kris) Hale, Joshua (Rebecca), Benjamin (Genelle), and Jacob Miller, Emily (Jason) Ray; Ethan (Brianna) and Garrett Cox and Carson, Grace and Abilene Miller. In addition, she has 14 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. She is survived by a brother, R. Paul Jones of the Monterey Peninsula. Her oldest brother, R. Merrill Jones, died in 2014.

Before her retirement in 1992 she worked for the Pacific Grove School District for 32 years, 27 of them as secretary of Lighthouse and Forest Grove Schools. She always said the pay wasn’t great, but she loved working with the children and the adults at the school, so that made up for it. Her beloved husband, Dick, passed away May 11, 2001. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Monterey Ward. Her pet projects were family history, knitting Christmas stockings and taking care of her grandchildren, which she did into her late 80s.

Graveside services will begin at 11 a.m. Dec. 12 at El Carmelo Cemetery, where she will be laid to rest next to her husband and close to her parents.

Donations in Mickie’s memory can be made to the Monterey County SPCA or a charity of your choice.

STOPS

From page 19A

“Historically, the council has not been in favor of adding stop signs.”

Data show no crashes at Sixth and Dolores in the past five years and two at Fifth and San Carlos, where the steep hill has been part of the reason past councils have not wanted to add a stop sign, according to Tomasi.

Steeped in the sense of deja vu when it came to Ferlito’s requests, Tomasi said he dug back through the city’s files and came up with the Higgins & Associates traffic study that was released in March 2004.

The analysis found that 450 accidents occurred within the 1-square-mile city between Jan. 1, 1998, and July 27, 2003. Of those, 153 involved parked cars, 98 resulted in injuries, pedestrians were hit in 26, and bicyclists were struck in seven. Among the possible solutions for reducing driver confusion and increasing safety, the consultant said, was installing four-way stops at every crossing in the commercial district between Junipero and Monte Verde from Fifth to Eighth.

The fire department objected to installing stops on Sixth at Mission and San Carlos because they could create traffic in front of the station, and the incline on Fifth at San Carlos was cited for the objection there. Ultimately, the council opted in July 2005 to create four-way stops at Mission and Fifth, Dolores and Seventh and San Carlos and Seventh in what was then dubbed “Phase 1.” No additional phases were ever developed.

Stops = yield signs

That should change, argued Ferlito, whose term on the city council ends this month. “It’s pretty rampant in town that people are running stop signs,” she said, and drivers are often confused.

“Just because we haven’t done it and just because we haven’t had any accidents aren’t reasons to not enhance safety,” she said.

The committee decided to review the Higgins study and the council’s 2005 decisions at its next meeting and then consider bringing the topic to the newest iteration of the council to see if objections to the blanket installation of four-way stops still exist.

Regarding San Carlos and Fifth, Swanson suggested the numerous signs at the intersection are part of the problem.

“This intersection is over-signed. You have an arrow that points to the right, an arrow that points to the left, two arrows that point other directions and an arrow on the other side, so you’ve got arrows pointing all over the dang place,” he said. “It’s kind of a mess.”

HEAD AND NECK PAIN

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from Dr. Steven MacDonald, D.C.

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When making split-second decisions based on all that input, motorists often make the wrong ones, according to Swanson.

The committee decided to review the ubiquitous signage, paint the curb on the south side of Fifth west of San Carlos red as part of implementing the AB 413 Daylighting Law, and use white paint on the street to create the impression of a bump-out to narrow the road at the top of



the hill.

Harary, Tomasi and Swanson also decided to recommend that the city council authorize a stop sign for westbound traffic. If council members agree, only eastbound traffic will have the right of way.

Further, the committee agreed to review the changes in six months or a year to assess whether they have helped mitigate the problems there.

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WENDY ANN O'KEEFE



Wendy Ann O'Keefe, a beloved mother, wife, and friend, passed away on March 5, 2024, at the age of 81.

Wendy was born in Puerto Rico on Oct. 12, 1942, where her family lived temporarily before moving to Duncannon, PA. Her formative years were spent there, and she later graduated from Shippensburg State College. In the early 1960s, she followed her parents to Carmel Valley, where she met her husband of 50 years, the late Patrick O'Keefe. They were married in her parents' backyard.

Settling down in the Monterey Peninsula, she was an elementary school teacher at Carmel Mission, La Mesa, Highland and Crumpton. She had many fond memories of her students and colleagues.

Wendy loved to travel, and family vacations were very special. Among her most cherished trips were those she took throughout Europe when she was young. Her faith was also important to her. She loved her church communities in Monterey and Carmel, treasuring the relationships she forged throughout the years.

Among Wendy's most defining qualities were her gentleness and kindness. She was light-hearted and loved to laugh. Anyone who knew her adored her company.

She leaves behind her sons, Jon and Paul, who love and miss her immensely.

A memorial service will begin at 11 a.m. Dec. 13 at First Presbyterian Church of Monterey. Donations in her name can be made to the church or the SPCA of Monterey County.



PAUL T. REAVIS

Paul T. Reavis, longtime resident of the Carmel Highlands, has flown west on Nov. 20, 2024, at age 95. He is survived by his wife, Suzette Sayles.

Paul was born to Jewell and Kate Reavis in Warner, OK. Served in the U.S. Air Force and flew for Trans World Airlines for more than 30 years. He also served as an ALPA representative and was a long-time member of Monterey Peninsula Country Club.

No services. Memorial donations may be made to Hospice.

To place an obituary for your loved one, contact anne@carmelpinecone.com or (831) 274-8654

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Joan Bronner Del Gaudio

Feb. 21, 1938 – Oct. 3, 2024

Beloved wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, cousin and friend, Joan B. Del Gaudio, 86, passed from this world into the next on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024, in Carmel, CA.



Born on Feb. 21, 1938, in Brooklyn, NY, Joan was the younger of two daughters to Arthur and Emma Bronner. At age 10, Arthur passed suddenly and the family moved to West Willington, CT., to live with Emma's relatives on their farm. There, Joan developed her strong work ethic — chopping wood, picking cucumbers, and walking long distances to school.

She was determined to pursue education to create opportunities for herself (and later her family). The first female in her family to receive a college degree at Teachers College of Connecticut, Joan then obtained her M.Ed. in education/counseling from Boston University in 1960.

While at Teachers College she met the love of her life, Tony. On July 1, 1961, they married at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church on the University of Connecticut campus.

The couple moved out West, eventually settling in the San Francisco Bay Area. They moved from San Mateo to Atherton and finally to Los Altos, CA, where they made their home for 47 years while raising their two daughters.

During those years, Joan pursued her career in higher education in the San Mateo Community College system, spending most of that time at Cañada College in Redwood City as a business instructor, counselor and administrator. While there, she particularly enjoyed working with international students and women returning to the workforce. She was an exceptional educator and earned awards as a counselor and accolades from generations of students.

Joan was an amazing cook, hosting scrumptious dinners for family and friends. She maintained a stunning garden on their Los Altos property. She and Tony delighted in the theater, and were a standout pair on any dance floor! Over time, they welcomed two sons-in-law, and then five grandchildren. Joan was a devoted (and indulgent!) grandmother who stocked her freezer with Häagen-Dazs bars, would sneak treats to her grandkids, or make banana splits for their breakfasts. She loved attending their important events, whether school graduations, soccer games, or weddings. The couple traveled often to visit their family and friends on the East Coast as well as their younger daughter, who later relocated to New York

Joan leaves behind her two daughters, Caroline (Dale) DePalatis of Monterey, CA, and Christine (Matt) Clayton of Sleepy Hollow, NY; five treasured grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews and friends. She is predeceased by her husband of 59 years, Anthony (Tony) Del Gaudio; her sister, Carol; her mother, Emma; and her father ,Arthur.

Family and friends will gather at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Los Altos to celebrate a funeral Mass at 10 a.m. on Friday, Jan.10, 2025. A Gratitude & Remembrance ceremony will take place at Living Hope Church in Monterey at 10 a.m. on Feb. 21, 2025.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to a scholarship fund for first-generation college students and those returning to the workforce established in her name would honor her memory.

The Joan B. Del Gaudio Trailblazer Scholarship
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REMEMBERING FRANK HERNANDEZ

APRIL 2, 1935 – NOV. 21, 2024

It is with great sadness the Hernandez family announces the passing of Frank Hernandez. After a long and brave battle with Parkinson's, PTSD and Alzheimer's, the doors of heaven were opened for Frank to step into eternity with Jesus on Nov. 21st.

Frank entered the Army at Fort Ord at a young age and loved serving his country. He met Irma, the love of his life, in Germany and although he did not speak German and she didn't speak English, somehow the magic of love at first sight helped them communicate. Frank served with honor in Korea and Vietnam, but not without the impact his Vietnam tour had on him for many decades. Frank retired from the Army after 20 years. He was later hired at McCormick/Schilling and retired after 24 years.

Frank was a wonderful, caring and generous husband, father and grandfather. He was also a great golfer and water skier; in fact, there isn't a sport he was not good at.

Frank is survived by his wife, Irma; children, Marita and Michael; grandchildren, Sarah and Christopher; sons-in-law, Bryan and Henry and six wonderful great-grandchildren. Each one of them had a special place in Frank's generous heart! He will be greatly missed — beyond words!

The family thanks the kind and caring staff at Windsor the Ridge Rehabilitation Center for their tireless and incredible care and support!

Funeral services will begin at 10 a.m. Dec. 10th at San Carlos Cathedral Monterey, followed by full military honors at California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery at 2 p.m., 2900 Parker Flats Cut Off Road, Fort Ord.

HANDCAR

From page 22A

proposed bus project, Todd Clark has said the move would be very expensive. The family, he said, spent about \$150,000 on permits and railroad track upgrades to allow Handcar Tours to happen.

California Coastal Commission staff in July recommended denial of the SURF Project, but after meeting with state Sen. John Laird, it reversed course and recommended conditional approval, as long as either Monterey County or the transportation agency reimbursed the state for the costs to remove the track and replace it with a busway.

“Monterey-Salinas Transit District thereafter lost \$35 million from a federal bus grant due to this condition, as it prevented such an agency from adhering to a Sept. 15, 2024, deadline to have the SURF Project shovel ready,” the lawsuit, filed by Sacramento law firm Downey Brand LLP, says. “The SURF Project is now effectively stalled.”

The handcar business is seeking a judge to keep the transportation agency and Marina from refusing to permit the two-year renewals of the lease in retaliation for its owners exercising their First Amendment rights, an order prohibiting the agency from using state Proposition 116 money for the project, and others for damages, including general and punitive damages, which can be awarded in cases involving malice or fraud.

Transportation agency representative Theresa Wright said the agency has not yet been served with the complaint. The City of Marina did not respond Thursday to a request for comment.

HOUSE

From page 1A

the city had deemed the Donatis’ house not historic, they demolished it in 1999, and two years later, a judge threw out the case against the city because the preservation group failed to produce any evidence Carmel had illegally permitted historic buildings to be torn down. The Donatis held onto their hard-won home until July 2012, when they sold it for \$5,750,000, according to the county recorder’s office. A little over two years later, in fall 2014, it was sold again to the Moore family for \$11,630,000.

‘A legacy’

In the late-October listing by Jim Somerville of Carmel Realty, the house, called “Spyglass,” is described as “a legacy to anyone that is fortunate enough to own it,” and “truly a world-class property that offers the very best of living in coveted Carmel-by-the-Sea.”

The sellers had upgraded the flooring, appliances, all bathrooms, kitchen, generator and exterior walkways, according to Somerville, before listing the property, which has “a fully secured perimeter with pedestrian gates off both streets,” for \$18.2 million.

Escrow closed Nov. 25 on the \$18,330,000 sale to Britannia California Inc., which was formed Nov. 12 by CEO and CFO Thomas Müller and secretary Richard Snyder, according to documents filed with the Secretary of State. With an address at 764 Chapman Lane in Petaluma, their company focuses on “real estate investment and holding.” Kristen Kitaji of Ikonik Realty handled the deal.

CEO

From page 1A

long admired.

“On a personal note, my wife, Chrissy, and I have visited Monterey many times and are excited to be closer to our sons, who also reside in the state,” McDermott added.

Bill Warner, chair of Montage Health’s board of trustees, said “Dr. Packer’s visionary leadership has created a solid foundation, and we are confident that Dr. McDermott will continue to build on that success as we strive to improve the health and well-being of our community.”

Officials say the hospital thrived under Packer’s leadership and point to his accomplishments, which include expanding Community Hospital to double the number of patient rooms, the development of Ohana — a groundbreaking youth mental health campus that opened late last year — the launch of Montage Medical Group, a 100-plus primary and specialty care provider group and Aspire Health Plan, Monterey County’s first Medicare, Advantage program.

According to 2022 tax forms, McDermott was paid about \$1.8 million in salary at the Virginia hospital, while Packer earned about \$2.6 million in salary and other compensation, including incentives and retirement benefits, that same year.

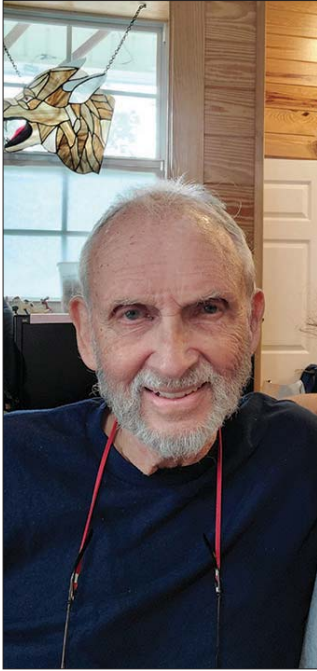
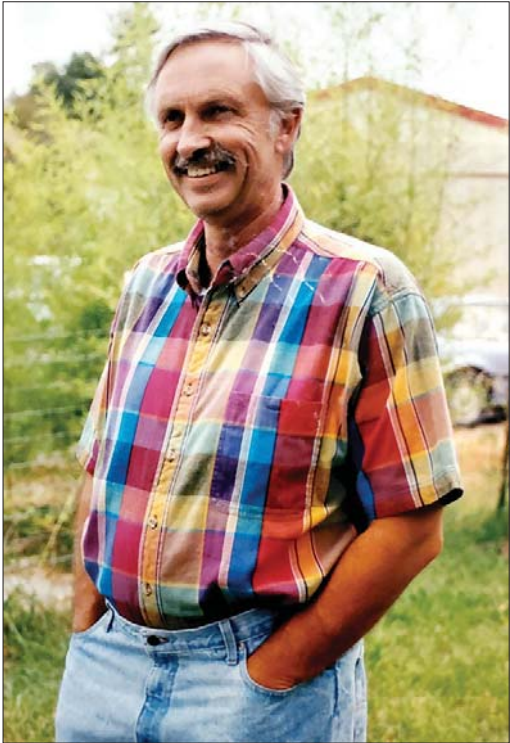
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JAY ALEXANDER SMITH

Jay Alexander Smith passed away on Sept. 24th, 2024, at Heritage Manor Nursing Home in Mandeville, Louisiana. He was 87.

Born in Stockton, California, he was the only son of Oleen Bryson and Merle Smith. He grew up with his baby sister, Susan. The family moved to Millbrae, California, in 1948. In 1951, Jay’s first job was at the San Francisco Airport. He graduated from Capuchino High School in San Bruno, CA in 1955, five years after it opened. He worked briefly at the South San Francisco Stockyards with his father before enlisting in the U.S. Air Force, where he served from 1955 to 1960 as an in-flight refueling boom operator. His service took him from Texas to Thule, Greenland, and may places in between.

After Jay completed his Air Force service, he returned home and discovered the ocean (surfing, diving, fishing, boating) and spent as much time as possible in Monterey. Introduced by mutual friends, he found his wife Cathryn “Dinny” Craviotto in Carmel. His daughter was born just after the family moved to Carmel Valley. The family lived in several houses before Jay built the house of his dreams in Cachagua. He worked briefly as an electrical technician, but his true love was construction. He started as a laborer, owned his own company in Carmel Valley, and ultimately retired as an estimator for Nyleve Bridge Corporation in Pennsylvania.



In his retirement he moved to Florida to enjoy the warm temperatures and seaside living. He took his boat out often and enjoyed fishing in the Sarasota Bay. As his health declined, he moved in with his daughter in Lacombe, Louisiana, at her house on the bayou. He fished the bayou and Lake Pontchartrain as often as he was able to in the final years of his life. He went fishing the week before he went into hospice.

Jay was predeceased by his sister, Susan Smith; and his parents, Merle and Oleen Bryson. He is survived by his daughter, Louise, of Lacombe, Louisiana; and his nephew, Dylan (Kristen) of San Diego, California. His family wishes to thank his amazing caregiver, Lisa, and the staff at Heritage Manor who made his last days as peaceful as possible.

Jay’s ashes were mixed with concrete and placed in the Neptune Society Memorial Reef off Key Biscayne, Florida, with a memorial plaque, where he will be forever united with the sea that gave him such joy in life.

There will be a Celebration of Life at the Carmel Valley Community Center, 25 Ford Road, Carmel Valley, California at 1 p.m. on Dec. 7, 2024.

ROBIN JEFFREY COYNE

April 10, 1959 – Oct. 28, 2024

Robin Coyne, age 65, passed away surrounded by his loving family. He is survived by his beloved wife, Mary, with whom he shared more than 30 years of marriage, exemplifying true love; his daughter, Erica Daniels, who brought him immense pride; his son-in-law, Vince Daniels, whom he thought of more as a son than a son-in-law; his cherished grandson, Garren Daniels, and granddaughter, Kayla Daniels.



Robin was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence Wilson Coyne and Elizabeth Pitman; brother Lloyd Douglas “Doug” Coyne and sister, Sandra Kay Coyne. And several beloved family pit bulls – gentle giants each and every one.

Those left to cherish his memory are brothers Larry Coyne, Eric Coyne and wife Johanna. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Many friends.

Robin leaves behind a legacy of dedication, kindness and innovation that touched countless lives. A beloved robotics and auto shop teacher at Monterey High School for more than 20 years, Robin was instrumental in establishing the robotics department for Monterey High School, home of the “Robodores” and Team4255.com, growing it into a nationally recognized program. Under his guidance, the program qualified for many regional and national-level robotics competitions – and was even invited to compete in a world championship level robotics competition scheduled to be held in China until COVID shut down the world for awhile. Unfortunately, due to COVID, the team was unable to travel to China to compete.

Robin worked for many years restoring high-end classic automobiles – including a 1932 Chrysler CH convertible sedan that won a class award at the Pebble Beach Concours, a prize-winning Mercedes Gullwing, and other outstanding classics and muscle cars. This love of automobiles eventually led him to apply himself to sharing his appreciation for repairing and restoring cars by teaching auto shop at Monterey High School – where he himself was a proud member of the Class of 1977. Go Toreadors! Go Robodores!

Robin was well known for motivating his students by hosting many an impromptu lunchtime barbecue between classes. It is said that no broken music stand on campus was ever safe from being manhandled by exuberant youth who needed some welding practice. Allegedly at least one janitor had their car worked over, a broken tennis ball machine or two were tweaked, and at least one high school science teacher watched his dilapidated mid-’50s Jeep become rejuvenated over a couple of semesters. Carburetor rebuilding competitions eventually gave way to diagnosing multi-port fuel injection systems. Then as technology advanced, dealing with automotive electronics led to robotics competitions, STEM classes and the study of coding languages. If your son or daughter has taken to gutting your household electronics for parts, well, don’t blame the Monterey High School. Must have been that lunchtime grill master’s fault.

Robin touched countless lives on the Monterey Peninsula, particularly among the youth, by offering alternative pathways to success beyond traditional academics. His commitment to education and belief in every student’s potential inspired generations.

The community is invited to join in celebrating Robin’s incredible life and contributions. A Celebration of Life will be held at Monterey High School at 2 p.m. on Dec. 28. All who were touched by Robin’s kindness and dedication are welcome to attend and honor his enduring legacy.

Robin will be deeply missed but fondly remembered for the countless ways he enriched the lives of his students, family and friends.

Editorial

We told you it was a bad idea

DONALD TRUMP secured the presidency on Nov. 5 by carrying 31 states, versus 19 (plus the District of Columbia) for Kamala Harris, giving Trump a 312-to-226 margin in the Electoral College.

But if you’ve followed the debate over eliminating the Electoral College, you know that 17 states have approved something called the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which would automatically award their Electoral College votes to whichever candidate carries the popular vote. According to the latest results from Nov. 5, the winner of the popular vote this time was also Trump, who earned 77,169,819 votes, compared to 74,752,973 for Harris.

And here’s the wrinkle: All 17 states that have certified the popular vote compact were carried by Harris, which means that if the compact were in effect, all of them would have automatically switched their votes to Trump, giving him a smashing 520-to-18 Electoral College victory.

The fact that only blue states have OK’d the popular vote compact is no coincidence. It was Democrats who were aggrieved in 2000 when George W. Bush beat Al Gore in the Electoral College but not in the popular vote, and again in 2016, when Trump repeated the feat. It’s understandable that, after suffering the sting of what they considered unjust defeats, Democrats would seek a way to alter the electoral process to make it easier for them to win.

Amending the Constitution to provide for direct election of the president would be the most straightforward way to do it, but that’s a non-starter, because

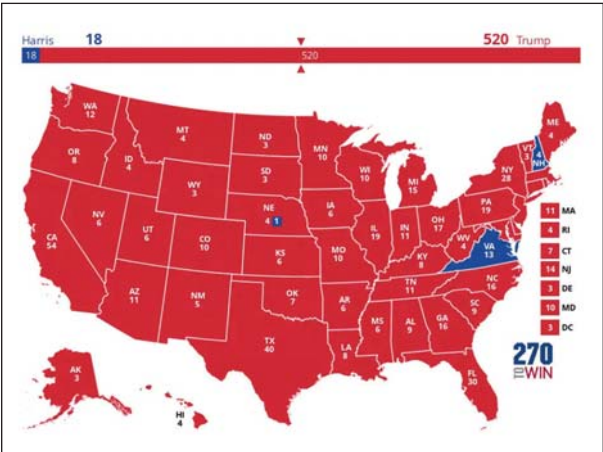
constitutional amendments require approval from three-fourths of the states, and there just aren’t enough states that would benefit from eliminating the Electoral College.

Hence the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which is designed to be easier to implement, and will go into

effect, according to its text, as soon as states with a majority of Electoral College votes approve it. But if only blue states are signing up, is that what they really have in mind? Will there ever be a scenario in which a Democrat carries the popular vote but fails to win one or more of the blue states that approve the popular vote compact? That is certainly possible, but it seems very unlikely.

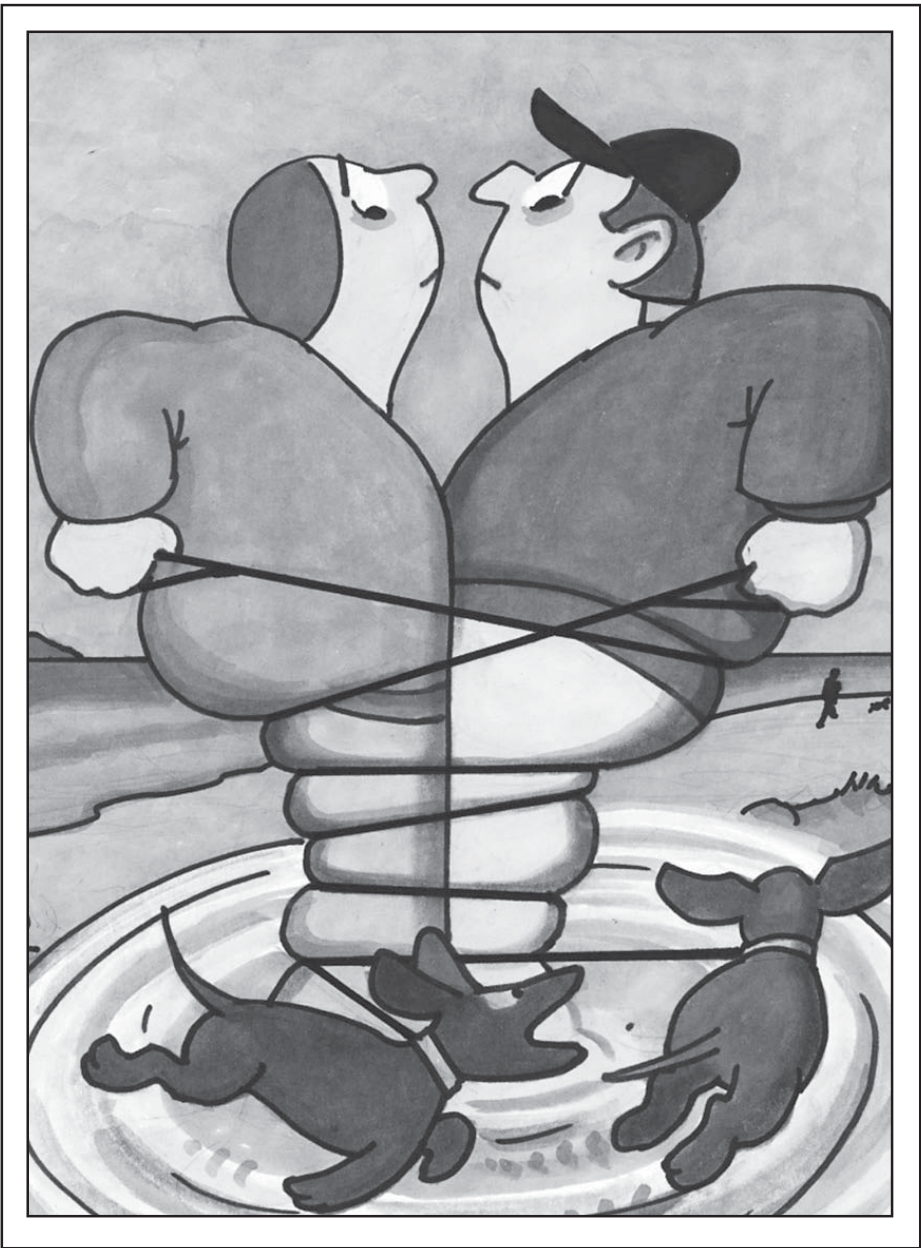
Much more probable is a repeat of the situation we have this year, with a Republican carrying the popular vote but failing to win some of the nation’s solidly blue states. Imagine the outrage if the Electoral College votes from California, New York, Massachusetts, Illinois and Minnesota in the Nov. 5 election were awarded to Trump, even though Harris carried all of those states by substantial margins. You’d be able to hear the yelling on Mars. But that’s exactly what would have happened if the popular vote compact were in effect.

Obviously, that’s the opposite of what the people who put forth the initiative had in mind, and we’re sure many of them are having second thoughts. Among the many dramatic changes the Nov. 5 election will bring to this country, one of them seems to be the end of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.



A map of this year’s Electoral College votes — 520 for Donald Trump and 18 for Kamala Harris — if the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact were already in effect.

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

Affordability of STRs

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to Lowell Strauss’s defense of short-term rentals in your Nov. 30 article, “Short-term rental group sues supervisors and county over new ordinances.” Mr. Strauss claims STRs are an affordable option for families who cannot afford hotels and criticizes the county’s ordinances as harmful to the economy. However, his own property in Big Sur paints a different picture.

Mr. Strauss’s Airbnb listing charges \$2,200 per night, with a five-night stay costing over \$11,000, excluding fees. This is far from affordable for middle-income families. The listing also advertises “privacy, breathtaking views, and the comforts of a luxury hotel,” making it clear that this property caters to wealthy travelers, not those seeking economical options. His defense of STRs as a solution for affordability contradicts the reality of his

business practices.

The unregulated proliferation of luxury STRs like Mr. Strauss’s contributes to rising rents, displaces local workers, and erodes neighborhood character. These issues are exactly what Monterey County’s new ordinances aim to address. Critics may argue these regulations harm the economy, but unchecked STRs have long prioritized profit over community well-being.

Monterey County followed a fair and transparent process to develop these ordinances, balancing economic opportunities with the need to protect housing and neighborhood stability. The county considered extensive public input and commissioned a thorough environmental impact report, ensuring the policies reflect the needs of residents.

Mr. Strauss’s comments attempt to shift the narrative, but the reality is clear: luxury STRs harm communities and drive housing inequities. Monterey County’s decision to regulate STRs is not only necessary but long overdue.

I commend the county for standing up for its residents and urge others to look beyond rhetoric to support these important protections.

Trey Kropp, Big Sur

Mail thefts

Dear Editor,

My neighbors and I have been dealing with a very frustrating situation with the post office for almost three months. About two years ago, we installed three clusters

See LETTERS page 28A

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There’s more to ginger than cookies and Canada Dry

MR. KNOBS, The Ginger People’s ruggedly handsome yet goofy mascot, is a busy fellow. He and his “alter egos” — like Snack Master Knobs and Yoga Knobs — adorn dozens of products meant for noshing, drinking and cooking.

Knobs also watches over the company’s Marina headquarters, where founders Bruce and Abbie Leeson have worked since 2007. They came to the Monterey Peninsula in 1996, shortly before establishing their ginger brand. Forbes magazine recently reported the firm has an annual revenue of \$40 million from sales in 23,000 retail outlets across 30 countries, making it a truly international venture — just like its owners.

The Leesons grew up more than 7,000

she said.

The nut business brought Bruce and Abbie together in San Francisco, and they’ve been married for 38 years. Abbie’s childhood helped lay the foundation for the move to the Peninsula and the home in Carmel Woods where the couple raised their two sons, both Carmel High School grads.

“We both always loved it here,” she said, and then reminisced about her childhood vacations. “We came in the 1960s — Mom and Dad and my two sisters and me.”

Scary roots

The Ginger People’s story has also been decades in the making. For the first 10 years Bruce was in business for himself, crystallized (candied) ginger, prized for snacking and baking, was just one of many Australian products he sold. By the 1990s, though, it was clear to him that ginger had more potential.

Home cooks have long used the ground form for baking, but the Leesons pointed out that the dried spice loses its flavor and potency rapidly. They’re not alone. Many Christmas recipes now recommend including grated fresh or crystallized ginger, or both, in cookies and miniature housing materials.

At first, Bruce said, fresh ginger was mainly sold in natural food stores, but in

miles apart. Bruce is Australian and went to high school in Sydney, “150 yards from the beach,” where he developed a love for the warm water and surfing. His mother was a hairdresser and his father, a plumber.

“My generation in Australia was given a lot of opportunities,” he recalled. He “said yes” to them and ended up selling his country’s products to businesses in the United States. Naturally curious and motivated to succeed, he paid close attention to the people running the firms he worked for and learned from them.

Macadamias

By the early 1980s, he was consulting for two companies and had begun to branch off on his own, becoming part owner of a business that sold macadamia nuts, which are native to Australia, and ginger. He said the latter “has a much longer history in Australia (than here in the States). It’s pretty high-end with growing and processing.”

Abbie, meanwhile, spent her childhood in Northern California and went to CSU Chico, where she earned her degree in communications with an emphasis on journalism. “I always wanted to write,” she said, not knowing back then that she’d one day be doing marketing for her own company.

Her dad was employed by the DMV as a driver’s license examiner. She said that he administered her friends’ tests and was “pretty tough.” Her mom worked in real estate and “instilled a love of farming in the family,” taking them to pick oranges and strawberries. Abbie also had a summer job packing pears. When she was offered the choice of an internship with either Aerojet, a rocket and missile company, or Blue Diamond Almonds, “There was no question — it was an obvious decision,”



Bruce and Abbie Leeson — shown with mascot Mr. Knobs — are the founders of The Ginger People, located in Marina.

mainstream American groceries, it was a novelty that some people apparently found frightening. “We would do store demos and women were shielding their children” from the odd-looking root, the couple recalled with a laugh.

The company’s first product was Gin-Gins, chewy candies that the Leesons say can also help relieve nausea, a claim supported by numerous scientific studies. They noted that Gin-Gins are the No. 1 selling ginger candy in the country.

Other goodies include hard candies, gummies, and ginger juices that can be used in smoothies and cocktails, as well as spreads, minced and pickled ginger, sauces and a marinade.

See LIVES page 30A

Original works were painted over

AS A young girl, her first canvas was the wall between the front door and living room of her family’s modest Hong Kong home. Her first patrons were an older brother and sister who spent their own money on her art supplies. Her first “critic” was a loving father who encouraged her to pursue her talent.

Born fifth of six siblings into a Chinese family, Celine Picus learned early that art was meant to be appreciated.

“As a little girl, if I felt antsy or inspired, I just drew on that wall,” remembered Picus, a Carmel-by-the-Sea resident since

As a young adult, Picus dreamed of studying overseas and saved the money she earned from art-related jobs — interior design, graphic arts, and a boutique printing company she cofounded.

At 25, she paid her own expenses for a trip to England to study advertising and marketing — an education that led to a career in art and design in Hong Kong, including employment with several prominent advertising agencies.

In 1991, she was living on one of Hong Kong’s outlying islands when she met a very outgoing American on a ferry ride to the mainland.

David Picus, a regional sales director for a software company, had been assigned by his employer to Hong Kong, where he was residing in a different village on

Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

2014. “Most parents might say, ‘Maybe you should draw on paper instead,’ but my dad always said, ‘Oh, this is nice; keep going, there is wall space.’”

Chinese people traditionally give their houses fresh coats of paint for Chinese New Year, which provided young Celine with a few good months of exhibition time on the family wall before the new paint gave her a fresh canvas.

“I was the only one in our family pursuing art as a life goal, but they always supported my dream,” she said. “They let me explore, which I think was a bit unusual for parents back then.”

Teachers nudged her toward art competitions, most memorably a contest in which she won \$50 in Hong Kong money — about \$7 American at the time — a validating moment for the young artist.

“I went to a really chic bookstore and spent the money on an art book,” she reminisced. “I still have that book today.”

Inspired by the lifestyle

As a 14- and 15-year-old, she was tutored at the home of a local watercolor artist whose lifestyle inspired her.

“Hong Kong is known for its hustle and bustle, but he was very calm and laid-back,” Picus reflected.

“I remember thinking, ‘Wow, people can live like that?’ He was so relaxed!”

“I think that’s when I became convinced that I’d like to live as an artist, and also when I began to understand that art could be a form of therapy.”

the same island.

“David and I rode the same boat to work, on the same schedule, and started talking,” she said. “We became friends and dated for three years before he proposed.”

During that time, she worked for an international fashion house, overseeing a design team of 16 members creating window displays, brochures and fashion prints.

The family grows

The couple married in Hong Kong in May 1995, then moved to Singapore. After their two sons were born, Picus decided to focus full time on motherhood.

As the boys grew older, she returned to painting with renewed passion — and validation.

Her work sold well at shows in Singapore and Melbourne, Australia. She also enjoyed teaching art to children and adults with disabilities for many years.

Miles, the elder son, aspired to pursue college in the United States, which aligned with the family’s desire to retire on California’s central coast.

“David found Carmel and said, ‘Wow, this place is nice!’” Picus remembered. “I got here a month later, saw all the green and the water and the cliffs, and said, ‘Yes, this is it!’”

Miles earned his bachelor’s degree from UCLA and a master’s from Stanford. He works for Providence Health & Services in Los Angeles as a certified

See ARTIST page 47A




Celine Picus paints in multiple styles, but currently enjoys creating bright, uplifting, colorful abstract acrylics. Picus grew up in Hong Kong and raised two sons before returning to her passion since childhood, painting.

PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

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



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LETTERS

From page 26A

of metal locked mailboxes on our street just off of Carmel Valley Road because of repeated thefts of mail. We thought we wouldn't have to deal with theft again.

However, on Sept. 19, thieves broke into the locked boxes, replicated the master key used by our postman for all 23 mailboxes and stole several pieces of mail.

We contacted the sheriff, Carmel Rancho post office, and the postmaster in San Jose and were told that they would be replacing the locks and providing us new keys. In the meantime our mail has been held at the Carmel Rancho Post office for pickup.

We have been waiting almost three months for the repair, and last we heard, the locks came in, but they forgot to send the keys. In addition, several times a week our mail or packages are missing or incorrectly sorted and not there when we go to pick them up. With the holidays and packages arriving daily, it has become a more frequent occurrence and very frustrating situation.

My neighbors and I are curious if this is typical post office service or just our bad luck?

Sharon Larson, Carmel Valley

'Happy to be here'
Dear Editor,

I've heard some negative comments from visitors about Carmel, and it initially put me on the defensive. More usefully, I thought about it, and I share my 41-year experience

with our town: We bought the Second Murphy house on Dolores in 1983, and we became weekenders, living 63 miles away. Carmel was sublimely quaint and calm, a place of natural beauty, mild weather, and houses within the range of middle-class people. The town was always busier on weekends and in the summer tourist season. The city government was a typical small-town cat fight over trivia but managed to get a few important things done, so it was a lovely place to be when we could be here.

We moved here full time in August 2020. So, we have lived here a bit more than four years, and we've seen a lot of different shades of Carmel. On holiday weekends, and June to August, it is a very lively town. The best restaurants are often nearly impossible to book ("We could seat you before 5 or after 9 ..."). But we have a learning curve and have adapted, and have no issue finding great places to eat, we know when to head to Costco or Home Depot, and when to avoid Ocean Avenue shops. Even on the most crowded days, we truly enjoy our walks to the post office and on the beach. The sunsets entertain us for free, some evenings spectacularly. The live theater at the historic Forest Theater and the gorgeously refreshed Golden Bough (just saw "Jersey Boys" there) provide real professional theater.

I have started paying attention to the city council. I enjoy attending the meetings and getting to know the mayor, the council and some of the commissioners. I have gotten a feel for how things work, and why they often don't. It has given me a greater appreciation for my hometown and how different it is from the suburbs I've spent my life in. And I salute the generous men and women who do the work of governing this town. We had the very

shocking and sad suicide-by-cop just a month ago, and we have the occasional smash-and-grab in high-end retailers, but crime is very rare. Even the crazy crowds on the Friday and Saturday nights of Car Week have been well managed and controlled by our excellent police department.

The very best thing about living here, better than the ocean, beach, shops, art, weather, is the people you encounter. Whether residents, weekenders, tourists, or day trippers, we are all in a good mood because we are happy to be here. It is a privilege to be here, and we are grateful for it.

Joe DiNucci, Carmel


Astronaut talk Dec. 16

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

DR. JAMES Newman, a NASA astronaut, will share stories and contemplate the future of space travel and colonization during a Dec. 16 talk at Wave Street Studios organized by the nonprofit California Arts and Sciences Institute. Afterward, Dr. Michael Hogan, who led the design of the NASA Apollo heat shield, will lead a Q&A session.

Newman served as part of a team responsible for crew ingress/strap-in prior to launch and crew egress after landing, worked on the Space Shuttle's on-board laptop computers, and was involved in developing computers for the Shuttle and the Space Station.

A veteran of four space flights in the 1990s and early this century, Newman spent more than 43 days in space, including six spacewalks that totaled 43 hours 13 minutes. Tickets are \$100 per person and may be obtained through casicalifornia.org. The is at 774 Wave St.



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LIVES

From page 27A

The Leeson's figure they're contributing to the incomes of about 500 farmers and factory workers in Fiji, China, Indonesia and Peru. Each country produces ginger with a slightly different flavor profile and moisture content.

In Fiji, they said, children must be sponsored to go to high school, and the company has done that for all those whose parents work in factories where they do business, a number they believe runs into the hundreds. The Ginger People directly employs about 40 people, including a few remote workers and some in a Gilroy warehouse.

Abbie and Bruce explained that a lot of the co-op farmers who grow the crop



PHOTO/COURTESY THE GINGER PEOPLE

Abbie Leeson, her son Evan (white shirt) and husband, Bruce (right, with beard), visiting a Fiji ginger farm.

— which requires high humidity, heat and well-aerated soil — work plots that are between 1 and 5 acres. They manually plant little pieces of ginger with buds on them. The new plants take about nine months to reach maturity, though some roots are harvested as early as five months,

when they're still "very tender and fiber-free." It grows quite densely and depletes the soil so much that the same plot can't be replanted with ginger for three years — it has to lie fallow or be used for a different crop. Some products are processed in factories near the farms, while others are made in the United States.

This year, Abbie was honored by Forbes magazine as one of its "50 over 50" — female entrepreneurs in its Lifestyle category, who, according to ForbesWomen editor Maggie McGrath, are "proving that success and innovation have no age limit."

"I'm honored to have been part of the group," said Abbie. "We're generally not publicity seekers."

Travel, creativity

While she enjoys the creative marketing aspects of the work — along with traveling abroad to meet farmers and factory workers — Bruce, who also likes travel, said he takes pleasure in the idea that there are no limits to what the business can do. Finding the company's products on the shelves of Trader Joe's, where they've been for 20 years, Whole Foods, Safeway and Walmart is gratifying to him.

The company continues to grow and expand its lines. Most recently, it's been adding products featuring turmeric, a root related to ginger. Home cooks may know it as a yellow powder with a warm, sometimes bitter flavor, but its fresh form, which ranges from bright orange to yellow, tastes more like its better known cousin.

Who knows? Maybe Mr. Knobs, who's been repping the turmeric, too, will get an orange co-worker to ease the burden. They could go out for drinks after work — but no ginger cocktails. That'd be weird.

BRIDGE

From page 1A

and route around Carmel Point, Hatton Canyon park on the east side of Highway 1, Palo Corona Regional Park, and the land slated for the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement flood-control project in the lower Carmel River watershed. The Carmel River FREE plan includes a causeway underneath Highway 1 that pedestrians and cyclists could use.

"Our committee has reached out to over 30 different groups," Bowling said. "We have the support of regional parks, state parks, Mission Fields neighborhood groups, Carmel River School groups — all have been in listening sessions for people to understand and give us their thoughts and ideas." She also said the group is working on ways to connect with Monterey Beach and Point Lobos.

'Christmas gift'

While CAWD could use its easement to build the Rio Park section of the trail, Bowling said, the district would prefer to lease the whole city-owned property and provide public access to it.

"We submitted a lease for Rio Park using the Forest Theater lease as a model,"

she said, referring to the city's long-term management agreement with Pacific Repertory Theatre to operate the venue.

"It's one of the easiest and first opportunities that we could move on in terms of bringing this to life for the community," she said.

Former U.S. Rep. Sam Farr, who is also on the advisory committee, urged the council to get on board.

"We're offering you a Christmas gift — the opportunity to lease this for a long time with no cost to the city other than cleaning it up," he said. "Carmel is a walking experience, and here you can expand this walking experience exponentially. We'll take care of it, and it won't cost you a thing."

Resident Ian Martin predicted the Bridge to Everywhere project "would be a fantastic opportunity for residents" and would "draw a whole different class of visitors to the area."

The only critic to comment was resident Andi Carr, who said the city has higher priorities, including figuring out what to do about the aging police station and affordable housing.

The council was not asked to take any action on the proposal, but the majority expressed enthusiasm for it.

"I'm very excited about this project," said outgoing Mayor Dave Potter, adding that it would be a "good lift," for the new mayor and council members to take on.

GAS

From page 12A

program helped cut greenhouse gas emissions in the state in 2022 by 20 percent from 2000 levels.

The air resources November vote requires a 30 percent reduction in the low-carbon fuel standard by 2030. Starting next year, refiners will have to further reduce the "carbon intensity" of doing business, a move that will boost credit prices for renewable companies.

Little chance

The Kleinman Center argues the cost of those credits is passed on to drivers at the pump, but the air resources board maintains there is no relationship between credit prices and gas prices. The board in recent months has also reported there is no accurate way to predict retail gasoline price changes, this after its initial prediction of 47 cent increase sparked outrage.

The entire Senate Republican Caucus

has signed on as co-authors of SB 2.

"This bill is an important way for us to cut costs and make life more affordable for everyone in California," said Sen. Suzette Martinez Valladares, a Santa Rita Republican.

The chances of SB 2 gaining traction are slim. Republicans are outnumbered 2-to-1 in the state Senate, and it will take a major move of support from Democrats to get the bill passed. That said, Senate Democrats acknowledged the need to bring down the cost of living in the Golden State during Monday's special session, making affordability a cornerstone of their agenda for the New Year.

"This Senate must double down on our efforts to make life more affordable and livable," said Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire, a Sonoma County Democrat.

During his speech at the special session, McGuire listed lowering energy costs as one way to make California more affordable. If it passes — SB 2 will void amendments to the low-carbon fuel standard immediately as an urgency statute.

Accessible playground takes shape

By CHRIS COUNTS

DRONE PHOTOGRAPHS show the dramatic progress volunteers have made in recent weeks building the Tatum's Treehouse playground in Carmel Valley Village. Modeled after Tatum's Garden in Salinas, the playground has been designed to be accessible to children with a wide range of disabilities.

The push to build the fully accessible playground began Nov. 11, with more than 600 volunteers offering both their sweat and their construction skills. The playground is scheduled to open Dec. 14 — just before the Santa's Fly-In at 10:30 a.m.

\$\$ still needed

Located in Carmel Valley Community Park next to the youth center, the playground will feature a rubberized playing surface designed to minimize injuries, but firm enough to run a wheelchair over. There will also be a two-story Swiss Family Robinson-themed "tree house" located in the heart of the park — with wheelchair

ramps leading to the second floor — and a merry-go-round that can accommodate wheelchairs. The project is expected to cost about \$800,000. There's still about \$100,000 that needs to be raised, but an anonymous donor has agreed to match donations up to \$50,000. Email tatumstreehouse@gmail.com to contribute.

Both Tatum's Treehouse and Tatum's Garden are named for a local youngster, Tatum Bakker, who uses a wheelchair. Her mother, Amanda Bakker, spearheaded efforts to build both parks.

The effort to build the new park marks a collaboration between the Carmel Valley Community Youth Center and the Tatum's Garden Foundation.

Bakker — who noted that volunteers came from as far away as Salinas, Marina, Cachagua and beyond — called the effort to build the playground "a beautiful representation of what communities can do together." "We look forward to bringing accessible play to families throughout Monterey County," she told The Pine Cone.



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PUB

From page 10A

wrote Nov. 13. “Do not recommend if you’re from out of town. Gross all around.”

The bar has been listed for sale with Carmel Business Sales agent Julie Nix Quevedo. Initially offered for \$1,195,000, this week the asking price was reduced to \$995,000. This does not include the land or the building.

“Britannia Arms is a beloved British-style pub and restaurant and is situated in the heart of Monterey, a vibrant city known for its tourism, natural beauty, and bustling social scene,” the ad reads. “Just minutes from Cannery Row, Fisherman’s Wharf and the world-famous Monterey Bay Aquarium, this prime location ensures a steady flow of locals and tourists alike.”

It goes on to describe the business as “a cherished gathering spot for patrons seeking a lively atmosphere, excellent food and traditional pub charm” for decades and says it “has become a cornerstone of the Monterey nightlife.”

The Brit has a kitchen and a full liquor license, which is valuable, and the business broker identifies its annual “cashflow” at \$400,000.

GAVEL

From page 4A

lungs — indicating that he died before the fire.

During the criminal investigation and manhunt that ensued, numerous agencies — state, local, and federal — cooperated to locate Olson within 48 hours. He was hiding in a tent in a secluded area of San Jose.

Olson would later admit to the murder. The suitcase that he left behind at the crime scene contained a conspicuous blood-stained hammer — later determined to be the murder weapon.

This case was investigated by the Army Criminal Investigations Division, the Presidio of Monterey Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office, the California Department of Justice, and the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office. Kolbo’s surviving relatives were assisted throughout the investigation and criminal processes by the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office victim assistance advocate Kristin Peterson. The lead detective for this case was district attorney investigator John Magana.

Meanwhile, another popular Monterey dining spot, Loulou’s Griddle in the Middle, abruptly closed last month.

“Loulou’s Griddle has been a valued tenant of the City of Monterey at Municipal Wharf 2 since 2004,” city officials said in a Nov. 25 statement. “Monterey City Council and staff recognize that Loulou’s is a well-loved, popular restaurant among locals and tourists. The sudden closure of the restaurant came as a surprise to city staff as well as to the public.”

‘Punch in the gut’

With the restaurant’s lease set to expire, officials reached out to the owner in May to begin discussing new lease terms, but in late October, the city was notified the proprietor was not interested, according to the release.

“Consequently, the City of Monterey and Loulou’s never entered into negotiations to discuss potential lease

terms,” spokesperson Laurie Huelga explained, and the city’s leasing and property manager, Janna Aldrete, was advised in October that the restaurant would close. Aldrete is now searching for a new tenant for the diminutive space.

A week ago, the restaurant posted on social media about the decision to close.

“It comes with great sadness and heartbreak to tell you all that Loulou’s will be closing, effective immediately. We can’t explain just how crushed we are,” the post says. “A lot of different things are at play, but to make a long and complicated story short and simple, lease negotiations were upon us and moving forward with a new lease just wasn’t going to be feasible for us.”

The decision was “like a punch in the gut for our team,” the post continues. “We are so sorry that we haven’t gotten this news out to you all sooner, but frankly, we’ve all been mourning this loss, and it has been so much tougher than we could have ever imagined.”



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The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

Padres football team is on a mission in brand-new territory

THE UNBEATEN Carmel Padres — freshly minted Central Coast Section football champions — will explore a new frontier Friday night when they play North Coast Section kingpin Acalanes for Northern California’s Class 5-AA crown at Monterey Peninsula College.

The winner of the 7:30 p.m. showdown will play either

Carmel reached the NorCal playoff via last week’s 62-35 spanking of Aptos (28-0 in the second half) in the CCS Division 3 title game in Salinas — the Padres’ first section championship in 15 years.

Carmel quarterback Hudson Rutherford, who passed for more than 1,700 yards during the regular season, has averaged more than 300 per game in the playoffs, with 13 TD passes in the past three weeks.

Rutherford burned Soquel for four TDs — two to Sim-eon Brown, once each to Matt Maxon and Brooklyn Ashe, who made a career-best nine receptions for 148 yards.

Carmel will rely heavily on defense that features five All-Mission Division South players: defensive backs Ash-ton Rees, Ty Arnold, and Brown, division MVP Jackson Lloyd (first team at both offensive and defensive tackle), and Maxon at linebacker.

Lloyd, Brown, Arnold, Rutherford and Rees, the divi-

sion’s Offensive Player of the Year, were first-team picks on offense, while Ashe was second-team all-division.

■ Girls basketball

Carmel plots to ascend: While excavating the ruins of last year’s 1-22 girls basketball season, the newest head coach at Carmel High made some encouraging finds: opti-mism ... enthusiasm ... anticipation ... ambition ... great expectations

Alan Shipnuck — the sixth head coach in the past eight seasons at CHS — brings his own unbridled enthusiasm, confidence and a carefully crafted blueprint to rebuild a program that is eager to forget about the worst season in school history. The 2023-24 team ended the season with a

See **SPORTS** next page

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Silverado or El Capitan next Friday in Fullerton for Cali-fornia’s 5-AA state championship.

No team in school history has journeyed as far into the postseason playoffs as the 2024 Padres, who bring a 13-0 record, also the best in school history, into the NorCal title game.

The Dons, based in Lafayette, arrive with a 10-3 overall record and an offense that is statistically similar to Carmel’s high-scoring attack.

Passing game

Like the Padres, Acalanes features a lethal aerial assault, built around quar-terback Tyler Winkles (2,465 yards pass-ing, 32 touchdowns) and lightning-bug receiver Niko White (972 yards, 23 TDs), balanced by running back Josh Elerts (813 yards rushing).

Winkles threw for more than 300 yards in three of his first four games this year and completed 58 percent of his passes for the season.

But Acalanes’ 34.2-point scoring aver-age is dwarfed by the Padres’ 45.7 num-ber, which includes a 158 points (52.7 per game) in three postseason games.



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

Ava Mangiapane’s speed and quickness (left) make her a scoring threat as Carmel’s senior shooting guard. (Above) Savannah Radow-itz, who plays both center and forward, led the 2023-24 Padres in scoring and rebounding as a junior.



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SPORTS

From previous page

20-game skid.

Shipnuck also brings familiarity, having served as Carmel’s successful JV coach from 2020-2023 and doubling as a varsity assistant two years ago under head coach Tom Dooner.

Multisport athletes

He also has a roster loaded with multisport athletes who can’t wait to win.

“I believe we’re going to compete, and I think we’re going to surprise a lot of people. The energy in our gym is fantastic, and I can predict with great confidence that we’re going to win more than one game this year,” said Shipnuck, who, in 1990-91, started on a 24-3 Salinas High team that won the Monterey Bay League crown under legendary coach Joe Chappell.

Leadership will come from six seniors — all battle-tested in at least two sports at CHS — beginning with Chloe LeMaster, a heady and aggressive point guard who will run the offense and key the defense for the Padres.

“Chloe is a soft-spoken girl with a nurturing personality — she wants to be a nurse — but put her on the basketball court

and she’s a warrior,” the coach said of LeMaster, the only Padre who played in all 23 games last season. “She fights hard, she competes, and we’re really going to lean on her hard this season.”

‘A Jedi mind thing’

Shipnuck sees a strong connection between LeMaster and her best friend, Ava Mangiapane, a shooting guard with exceptional speed and quickness who plays hard at both ends of the court.

“Chloe and Ava are like Frick and Frack and almost have a Jedi mind thing going on — they can communicate without any words,” he said. “Ava is always going to be one of the best athletes in the gym, no matter who we’re playing.”

Starting forward Tessa Stalcup, technically a junior, is playing her final year of high school sports because of an accelerated academic program.

“We count her as a senior, because this is her last year,” Shipnuck said. “Her dad, Abe, is head coach of our JV program, and Tessa is the classic coach’s kid. She has a very high basketball IQ, she’s crafty on offense, and she plays with a bit of an edge.”

Forward Avery Palshaw, whose mom, Kathy, is a varsity assistant coach, is an athletic, long-armed, 5-foot-10 jumper — a strong inside player who also can gun



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

The Carmel Padres, 13-0, host Acalanes Friday at MPC for the NorCal football championship — a first in CHS history. The winner plays Dec. 13 for the state title.

from the 3-point line.

“She’ll be a really important piece of our offense, and she’s also a total goofball at practice. She makes everybody laugh and keeps the team loose,” Shipnuck said.

Leader in points, rebounds

Savannah Radowitz, a 5-10 forward/center, led the team in scoring (7.2 points per game) and rebounding (7.0) and was second in steals (1.6) a year ago.

The other senior, Bella Tanguay, brings mobility to the center position and is expected to present matchup problems for less agile opponents.

“Some of the girls we’ll play against are like redwood trees, and we don’t have that kind of mass,” the coach said. “But our bigs are very athletic, and we’ll try to use that to our advantage.”

Another center, 5-10 Rainn Nachbar, is the team’s most physical rebounder and screen-setter, Shipnuck said.

Credence Stiebel, a junior, missed most of the 2023 season due to hip surgery, but is expected to be a strong contributor this year.

“She’s a baller — she just knows how to

play the game, and she plays it with some swagger and attitude, which is something we need,” Shipnuck said of Stiebel, who is a good outside shooter.

Five players from an exceptional sophomore class also made the starting team, with several other varsity-capable players on this year’s JV squad.

A long-term vision

Creating a tradition-rich program at Carmel High is the larger vision for Shipnuck, who is conspiring with Carmel Middle School basketball coaches Kevin Price and Jim Tarantino to teach the same offensive and defensive skills and schemes.

“We’re trying to build the varsity program holistically,” he said. “They’ll be running the exact same stuff that we’re running, so those girls are going to learn our offensive and defensive principles before they get to high school.

Also on the drawing board, he said, are summer-league basketball and camps for Carmel players.

See **MORE SPORTS** page 51A

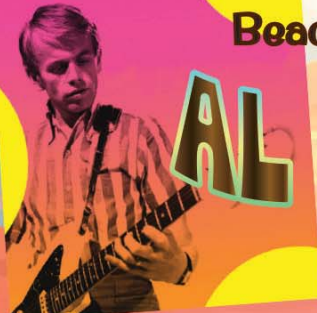


Senior point guard Chloe LeMaster is the playmaker and also an aggressive defender for the Padres.

PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

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'U.S. Foreign Policy in Transition: Persistent Problems & Pop-Up Challenges'



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Foreign policy was not a major focus of the 2024 presidential campaign but developments beyond our borders do not take time out while the new American administration appoints officials and establishes priorities. Dozens of transition papers were prepared by the Biden administration and incoming officials will receive help from the professional bureaucracy, but coping with legacy problems, unanticipated developments, and efforts by other countries to shape administration policy will pose daunting challenges for the new foreign policy team. Tom Fingar, who held senior national security positions during four presidential transitions, will describe the process and illustrate the kinds of problems the new administration will face.

Tom Fingar is Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Center Fellow at Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. His previous positions include Deputy Director of National Intelligence, Chair of the National Intelligence Council, Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Analysis. Dr. Fingar is a graduate of Cornell University (A.B. in government and history) and Stanford University (M.A. and Ph.D. both in political science).

A limited number of seats for auditors will be available. Please notify the WACMB office no later than Tuesday, Dec. 10 at www.wacmb.org or call 831-643-1855. Auditors will be allowed entry at 12:40 p.m.

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Interfaith group announces record-breaking grant year

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A NONPROFIT committed to reducing homelessness in Monterey County through community and faith-based initiatives last week announced its Joining Hands Benefit Shop raised a record amount of funds to distribute as grants.

Through its store located on Carmel Rancho Lane, Interfaith Outreach of Carmel has raised and authorized an unprecedented \$210,000 in grants ranging from \$7,000 to \$50,000 this year for local organizations dedicated to providing emergency, permanent, temporary, re-entry and transitional housing to people experiencing homelessness, according to executive director Maryann Spadoni. To date, IOC has donated more than \$1 million to orga-

nizations and programs.

Among the recipients are Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey, Community Human Services, the Housing Resource Center of Monterey County, Community Homeless Solutions, I-Help, The Salvation Army, Dorothy's Place, Sun Street Centers, The Carmel Foundation and Monterey Sober Living for Women.

Homelessness by half

Along with IOC, many of the recipients are part of the Coalition of Homeless Service Providers, sharing the goal of reducing homelessness in Monterey and San Benito counties by half in the next five years.

For more information about IOC or to learn how to contribute, visit joininghands-benefitshops.org.

The Carmel Pine Cone

Press Release guidelines

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

Mary Schley: Carmel-by-the-Sea, food & wine, police, fire, criminal courts and schools
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100 pieces under \$1,000: Carmel Art Association launches holiday sale

OFFERING AN impressive array of holiday gift-giving ideas for those with modest budgets, the Carmel Art Association welcomes a show this week that features 100 pieces that range from paintings and sculptures, to mixed media and textile art — and all priced at less than \$1,000.

“This thoughtfully curated collection

The gallery is on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth.

■ Photographer wins new prize

Speaking of \$1,000, the Center for Photographic Art awarded Allison Plass with its first Salon Jane Award for Women in Photography, along with a \$1,000 cash prize.

The show’s juror, book and exhibit designer Elizabeth Avedon, gave Plass the award for her series of images, “Boys in the

Garden.”

“I’ve been drawn to Allison Plass’ photographs,” Avedon said. “The subjects in her pictures are very personal, exploring the beauty and fragility of intimate connections within the family. They give off both

strength and vulnerability and an underlying sensuality at times. I find her work is always uniquely her own.”

Also on display at the gallery is its annual International Juried Exhibition, which continues through Dec. 29, and there’s a talk by photographer Birgit Maddox Saturday at 2 p.m. Maddox will also sign copies of her new book of images, “Epoch Ephemeral.” The event is free.

The gallery is located in Sunset Center at San Carlos and Ninth. photography.org

■ First Fridays in P.G.

Many of the town’s shops and galleries will be open late Dec. 7 as Pacific Grove celebrates its last ‘First Friday’ of the year. Highlights include the Pacific Grove Art Center (658 Lighthouse Ave.), where five shows are on display for one last weekend, and Artisana Gallery (612 Lighthouse Ave.), which also features a bounty of local art in many mediums and hosts its annual Holiday Open House.

Art Roundup

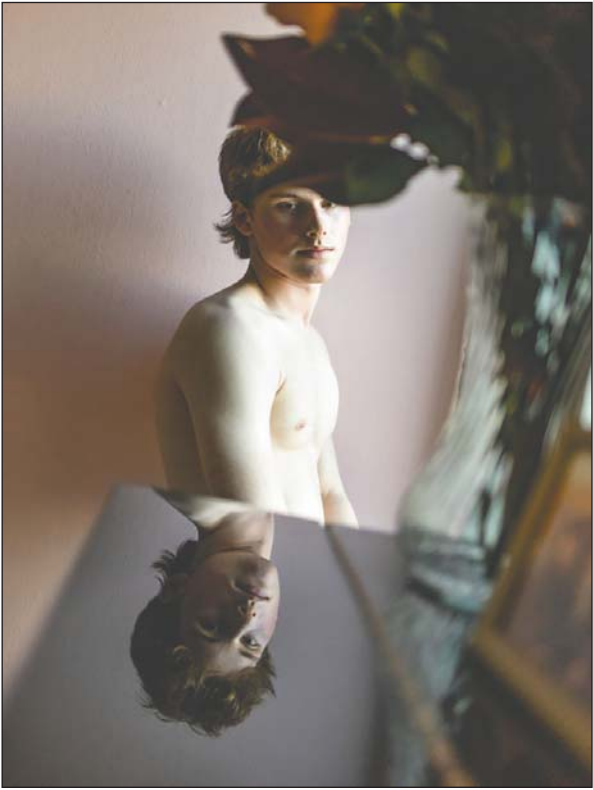
By CHRIS COUNTS

invites you to find the perfect gift for your loved ones or a special piece for your own collection,” the art association announced. “Designed with the spirit of the season in mind, this ever-evolving exhibition ensures that every visit offers something new, as sold artworks are replaced with fresh creations.”

Extraordinary

Many members of the art group are participating in the display, including Johnny Apodaca, Peggy Jelmini, Alicia Meheen, Richard Tette, Fred Carvell, Lili-Anne Price, Maria Boisvert, Melissa Lofton and others. The pieces come in all sizes, and some are listed as low as \$300, with several priced at just under \$200. “Whether you’re a first-time buyer starting your art journey or a seasoned collector seeking a unique treasure, there’s something extraordinary waiting to be discovered,” the group added. “From small to large artworks, find your perfect match and share the gift of creativity this year.”

Titled “The Art of Giving: 100 under \$1,000,” the show will be on display through Jan. 6.



A series of images, including this one, earned Allison Plass the first-ever Salon Jane Award for Women in Photography.

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PacRep offers solution to navigating fog

By CHRIS COUNTS

BRINGING BACK the story of everybody’s favorite misfit, PacRep’s “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, The Musical” plays at Forest Theater Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 22.

Directed by John Newkirk and Christopher Sullinger, with choreography by Palmer Davis and musical direction by Janice Perl, the musical is based on the hit 1964 animated television special, “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.”

The family-friendly musical tells the “heartwarming journey” of “a misfit reindeer with a luminous red nose,” according to PacRep. “This timeless tale unfolds as

Rudolph embarks on an epic adventure, befriendiing iconic characters such as Hermey the Elf, Yukon Cornelius and the unforgettable abominable beast, Bumble,” the theater company said. “Audiences will also meet Rudolph’s father, Donner, Santa & Mrs. Claus and the rest of the enchanting North Pole crew.”

Lindstrom plays Rudolph

The cast features Anders Lindstrom as Rudolph, along with Jess Radley, Brady Hollis, Cody Moore, Naomi Gluck, Michael Romero, Seaneen Sullinger and Sofia Ortiz. Together, they will sing enduring holiday classics penned by Johnny Marks like “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree,” “Silver and Gold” and, of course, the title song.

According to PacRep, “Rudolph” offers “unforgettable characters, along with “message of inclusivity.” “It transcends generations and continues to inspire all to be kind, accepting and compassionate,” the theater group added.

Tickets are \$28 for adults and seniors, \$18 for students and \$11 for kids 12 and under.

All shows start at 3 p.m. The theater is located at Santa Rita and Mountain View. Those attending the show are urged to park along Mountain View Avenue or Junipero Street and dress warmly. There will be a passenger drop-off area in the theater’s main parking lot so people don’t have to carry food, drinks, picnic supplies, blankets or cushions very far.

For more details, call (831) 622-0100 or visit pacrep.org.



Sofia Ortiz (left) and Anders Lindstrom (right) star in PacRep’s “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, The Musical.”

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Classical ensemble breathes new life into forgotten holiday masterpiece

CELEBRATING A “gem” of a composition written to honor one of the three wise men who visited Christ on the night of his birth, The Sand Box in Sand City pres-

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

ents a concert, “A Christmas Cantata — The Ballad of The Brown King,” Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m.

The musicians include singers **Leberta Loral**, **Jeanine Anderson**, **Jody Lee** and **Reg Huston**, keyboardist **Tammy Hall**, violinist **Brendon Elliott** and cellist **Michelle Djokic**.



A master at playing the ukulele, Jake Shimabukuro takes the stage Tuesday, 8 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

Composed by Margaret Bonds in 1954 — with text by writer and former Carmel resident Langston Hughes — “The Ballad of The Brown King” pays tribute to the African king Balthazar, said to be one of the Magi. It was dedicated to civil rights leader Martin Luther King when it was performed during a holiday television special in 1960.

“It’s so joyful and uplifting,” Djokic said of the piece. “Margaret openly said she considered it as propaganda for Black people. It was met with great success, but then got buried similar to so many works by other Black female composers.”

Besides the piece by Bonds, the program includes the world premiere of Walker Jackson’s “Any Human to Another,” and Kevin Puts’ “Home.”

Tickets are \$40 for general admission and \$25 for students and active military. The Sand Box is located at 440 Ortiz Ave. sandboxsandcity.com



Singer and guitarist Father John Misty performs a benefit concert Saturday, 7 p.m., at Sunset Center to raise funds for the Big Sur Park School.

■ Choral group offers ‘Winter Wish’

A choral group that got its start as the Monterey Peninsula College Community Chorus more than six decades ago, **Monterey Peninsula Voices** presents its Winter Concert Saturday and Sunday — both at 3 p.m. — at Santa Catalina School in Monterey. The program is entitled “A Winter Wish.”

The 85-member choir, which will be led by **Sean Boulware**, “embraces the beauty of the season with stunning pieces by composers Michael John Trotta, Mark Leavitt and Andy

Beck, and a new major work, “Illuminare,” by Elaine Hagenberg, accompanied by a 17-piece chamber orchestra,” according to the group.

Tickets are \$30 for general admission, \$25 for seniors, active military and students, and \$20 for children 12 and under. The school is located at 1500 Mark Thomas Drive. mpvoices.org

■ Grammy nominee plays benefit

Singer and guitarist and Grammy nominee **Father John Misty** plays a benefit concert Saturday, 7 p.m., at

See MUSIC page 45A

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FOOD & WINE

Spirits, feasting and old favorites

HAUL THAT holly. Trim that tree. Kindle those candles. It's enough to make anyone hungry. Also, it's not your imagination: Thanksgiving 2024 fell on the last possible date, cramming what's often a month or more's worth of preparations for Christmas into just 27 days that are flying by like those pages of a calendar in the movies.

There's still enough time to shop, though, and you have to eat, so lots of places are lining up to wine, dine and tempt all comers with seasonal gifts and splurges.

Among the spots planning special holiday evenings is Stonepine Estate in Carmel

Valley. The historic 407-acre property is a luxury venue suitable for weddings, corporate conferences and other events.

Built in 1929 by Helen Crocker Russell (daughter of banking mogul William

Soup to Nuts

Crocker of San Francisco) and her husband, Henry Potter Russell, it was called the Double H Ranch. The Hentschels — Gordon and Noel — purchased it in 1983. They renamed it in honor of the stone pines that grow on the estate, which includes a large Italian villa, numerous gathering spaces and three standalone residences.

Come early

Stonepine is hosting a special Christmas dinner Dec. 21, catered by chef Hollie Jackson of H Jackson Events in Monterey and accompanied by live music. The menu includes passed hors d'oeuvres with wild mushroom toasts, sweet-potato-and-goat-cheese croquettes, and crab in puff pastry. Dinner starts with butternut squash soup and Ad Astra bread, followed by a choice of 12-hour short ribs, herb-crusted halibut, or winter mushroom pappardelle. Dessert is a cinnamon-and-apple trifle.

Guests may arrive as early as 4:30 p.m. and stroll the pastoral grounds. Cocktails will be served by Honey & Rose mobile bartenders beginning

See **FOOD** next page



Lalla Grill's Ray Weaver (left) is congratulated by Links Club managing partner April Montgomery after winning the restaurant's Battle of the Bartenders on Nov. 18. Weaver took home a \$2,000 grand prize.

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with Figs, Hazelnuts & Bakers Bacon
(GF, CONTAINS NUTS)

SCALLOPED POTATOES

with Pumpkin & White Cheddar
(CONTAINS DAIRY, GF)

CARROTS & WINTER SQUASH

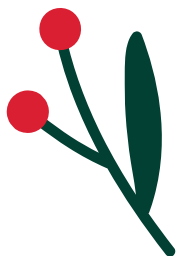
with Honey, Chile & Ginger (GF)

BRAISED BEEF

with Rosemary, Orange & Red Wine topped
with Pickled Fennel (GF, DF)

POTATO ROLLS

with Maple-Chile Butter (CONTAINS GLUTEN, DAIRY)



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FOOD

From previous page

at 5, and dinner will start at 6:15. Cost is \$195 per person plus tax and tip, and you can make reservations by emailing reservations@stonepineestate.com or calling (831) 659-2245.

■ Weaver wins battle

Radiance Weaver, the Monterey mixologist everyone knows as Ray, won the Links Club's Battle of the Bartenders Nov. 18, besting other regional finalists Amy Felsing of Sade's, representing Carmel-by-the-Sea, and Daniel Garrett from Baja Cantina, the winner of the "Carmel Valley and Beyond" round. Weaver, who works at Lalla Grill in Del Monte Center, was crowned Grand Champion and took home a \$2,000 prize.

"Each bartender brought their unique flair and expertise, with all three having previously competed in regional and divisional contests to earn their place in this final showdown," Links Club managing partner April Montgomery said.

The last round was a collaboration with St. George's spirits and local farmers markets, and contestants were "challenged to craft a distinctive cocktail inspired by the essence of Monterey."

In the competition, which was judged by professionals as well as the audience, Weaver emerged as the favorite.

■ Shopping that's just too, too good

On Saturday, the Club at Pasadera off Highway 68 will be the scene of an eclectic winter artisan market, a spot to shop, eat

See **MARKET** next page



Stonepine Estate in Carmel Valley will be the scene of a sophisticated Christmas feast on Dec. 21. The event venue's owners hope that locals will come out to dine and get reacquainted with the 407-acre property, which is marketed as an excellent spot for corporate getaways, large family celebrations and, of course, weddings.



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Monterey High School Vocal Arts ensemble in the hotel lobby

Dec 12 | 5PM to 6PM
Monterey High School Instrumental Group "Tons of Jazz" in the hotel lobby

Dec 13 | 5PM to 5:30PM
San Carlos School Children's Choir in the hotel lobby

Dec 20 | 5PM to 8PM
Evergreen Duo with Lisa Marie Bohn and Scott Slaughter at Jacks Monterey

Dec 21 | 5PM to 8PM
Evergreen Duo with Lisa Marie Bohn and Scott Slaughter at Jacks Monterey

Dec 24 | 5PM to 8PM
Peninsula Harmony Company Trio Carolers KP at Jacks Monterey

SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN

Dec 8 | 8:30AM to 11:30AM
Breakfast with Santa at Jacks Monterey

THE MEAN GREEN ONE IS BACK!

Dec 21 & 24 | 6PM to 8PM
Meet & greet at your leisure at Jacks Monterey
Reservations recommended

CHRISTMAS EVE

Dec 24 | 4PM to 10PM
Cioppino Dinner Special at Jacks Monterey
Reservations recommended

CHRISTMAS DAY

Dec 25 | 2PM to 7PM
Christmas Dinner Buffet | De Anza Ballroom
Full menu available online
Reservations required



MARKET

From previous page

and sip on cocoa or wine against a winter wonderland backdrop while benefiting the Monterey Peninsula Ballet Theatre. Pasadera will provide “a variety of delicious foods for sale, from hearty dishes, to sweet treats,” along with complimentary hot cider and a hot cocoa bar. Twisted Roots will offer wines by the glass, as well as large-format holiday bottles, Platter Perfection is highlighting its charcuterie cones, What’s Popp’n Popcorn will have snacks to eat while you shop or to give as gifts, and Bean Brigade is planning espresso drinks, affogatos (sweet frozen treats topped with espresso), and coffee gift sets.

Artisanal jewelry, clothing and other items will

be on sale, too. From 4 to 5 p.m., take pictures with the Sugar Plum Fairy and Clara from “The Nutcracker” ballet. Tickets are available through eventbrite.com and are \$25 for adults, \$10 for kids younger than 12 and free for those under 5.

■ Breakfast with Santa

This Sunday from 8:30 to 11 a.m., bring the kids to Jacks Monterey at the Portola Hotel for pancakes. Order yourself a plate of eggs Benedict, huevos rancheros, or another breakfast favorite and, what the heck, have a mimosa. While you're there, the little ones can whisper their Christmas lists into Santa's ear and take photos together. The Portola team will also host complimentary cookie decorating in the hotel lobby while supplies last.

See SANTA next page



If you want to check Christmas dinner off your to-do list, Elroy's Fine Foods in Monterey is taking orders for a braised beef dinner with an assortment of side dishes, available for pickup Dec. 23 or 24.



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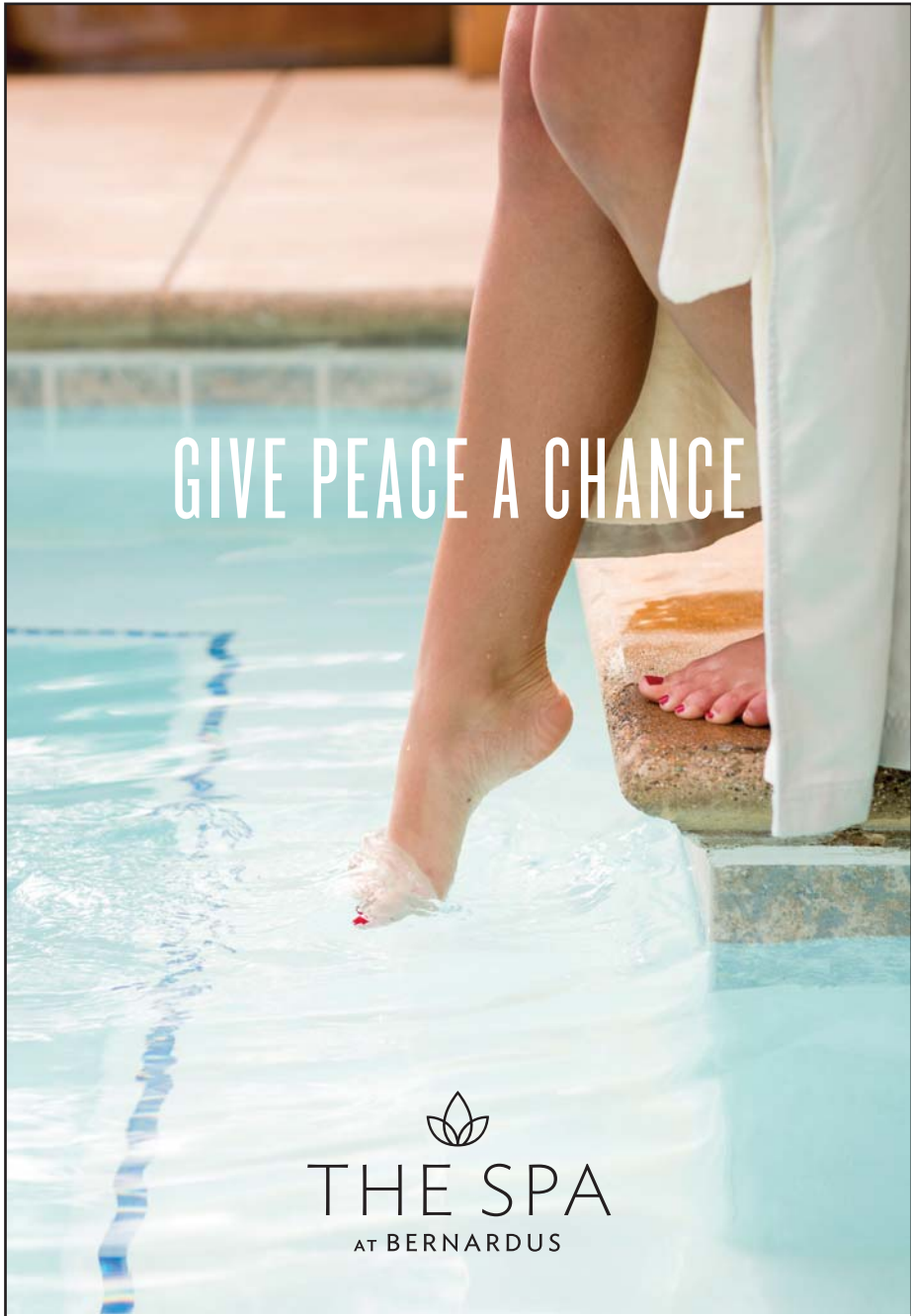
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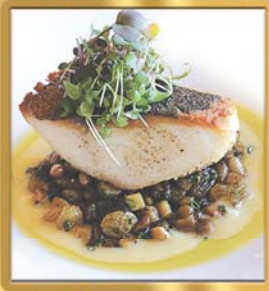


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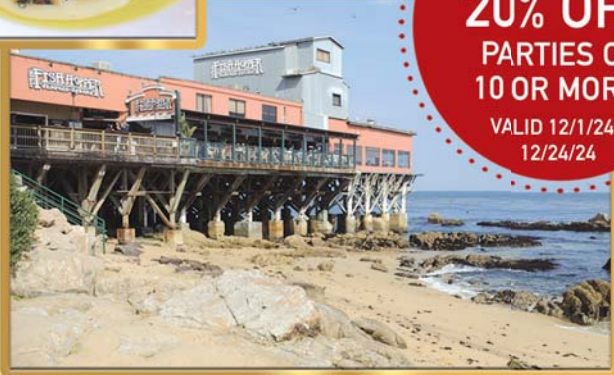


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FOOD & WINE

SANTA

From previous page

Reservations for breakfast are highly recommended and can be made by calling (831) 649-7830 or emailing jacks@portolahotel.com.

Krug by candlelight

The spaces in the dining room might be filled, but the wine cellar at Aubergine could be the best spot to enjoy a dinner featuring the champagnes of Krug Dec. 18. Each year, the house selects one food item to pair with its sparklers at various

events, and its 2024 choice will be front and center. “Many fine Krug vintages will be featured alongside a pitch-perfect menu paying homage to Krug’s single ingredient, the flower,” the hosts said. Adding to the ambiance, the evening affair will be illuminated solely by candlelight.

Executive chef and Krug brand ambassador Justin Cogley, lead sommelier John Haffey and the rest of the Aubergine team are planning the evening’s celebration of the Krug house, which was founded in 1843 “and has always been synonymous with the highest quality, consistency, and most delicious wines.”

Guests who choose the cellar option will join other enthusiasts there at a communal table. The cost is \$595 per person

plus tax and a 20 percent service fee, as well as a \$5 order fee, and reservations may be made through Tock via aubergine-carmel.com. Dinner will start at 6 p.m. The restaurant is located in L’Auberge Carmel at Monte Verde and Seventh.

Finding Sanctuary

On the west side of Highway 1 in Marina, The Sanctuary Beach Resort might be one of the best-kept secrets on the Peninsula — although its restaurant, Salt Wood Kitchen & Oysterette, is pretty popular. If you’d like to check the place out, it’s hosting holiday artisan fairs this weekend and next. Each Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the resort is debuting a shopping experience with what it’s describing as “curated selection

of local artisans and vendors showcasing handcrafted goods and artisanal creations that make the perfect, one-of-a-kind home-made holiday gifts.” Mulled wine, hot cocoa and snacks from the restaurant will be available for purchase, and there will be face-painting and the opportunity to make seaside-inspired ornaments. The event is free, although RSVPs are appreciated. Phone (855) 693-6583. The address is 3295 Dunes Drive, which is off the Reservation Road exit from the freeway.

It’s not too early ...

If Thanksgiving tasted vaguely of regret at not having made reservations sooner, you might already be stalking local restaura-

See WINE next page



If you like Krug’s champagnes, you’ll want to check out Aubergine’s wine dinner scheduled for Dec. 18. Wine cellar guests will dine by candlelight at a communal table and celebrate the special theme ingredient, flowers.

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WINE

From previous page

rants’ websites for this month’s offerings.

Bernardus Lodge at 415 W. Carmel Valley Road is already set to put your mind at ease about Christmas dinner. Reservations are available for a four-course tasting menu with that will start with roasted chestnut soup and include seared Maine diver scallops, prime beef filet and warm sticky toffee pudding. Tables are available Dec. 24 and 25 from 5 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$165 per person plus tax and a 20 percent gratuity, and reservations can be made at exploretock.com. While you’re there, take a peek at the

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six-course New Year’s Eve extravaganza, too.

Dining at home

Elroy’s Fine Foods, the locally owned grocery store at 15 Soledad Drive in Monterey, is offering a holiday braised beef feast to serve at home. It starts with a mixed endive salad with spiced walnuts, red-wine poached pear, Danish blue cheese and Dijon vinaigrette. Sides include roasted Brussels sprouts with figs, hazelnuts and bacon, scalloped potatoes with pumpkin and white cheddar cheese, and carrots and winter squash. With fees, it’s \$151.23 per two-person ticket, and you can to pick up dinner on Dec. 23 or by 3 p.m. on Dec. 24. Purchase at eventbrite.com.

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

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Office hours will resume December 26

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SUNDAYS • Dec 8, 15, 22 • 11AM to 6PM

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MUSIC

From page 39A

Sunset Center, benefiting the Big Sur Park School.

Misty was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2012 for Best Folk Album.

Emphasizing “curiosity, resilience and resourcefulness,” along with a deep connection to nature, the alternative pre-school was founded six years ago.

Tickets start at \$71. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. sunsetcenter.org

Live music Dec. 6-12

■ Big Sur

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

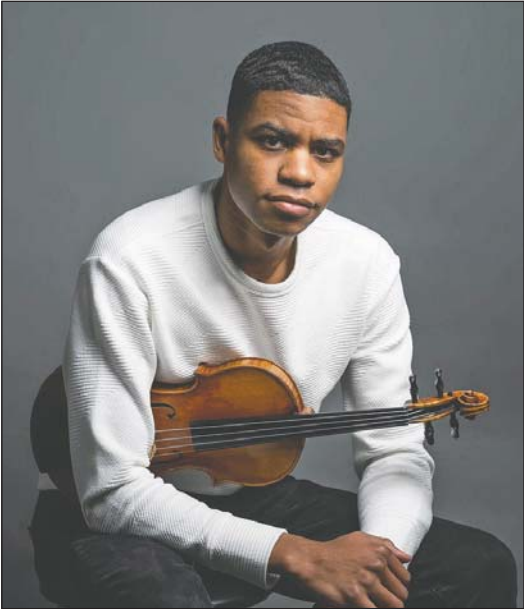
■ Carmel

Barmel — **Jazville** (jazz, Sunday at 7 p.m.). In Carmel Square on San Carlos north of Seventh.

The Carl Cherry Center for the Arts — **Along Came Betty** pays tribute to the late pianist and composer **Biff Smith** (jazz, Sunday at 2 p.m.). Tickets are \$35. The center is located at Fourth and Guadalupe.

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 pop, 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.

The Crossroads shopping center — **The Peninsula Carolers** (Christmas music, Saturday at noon). Highway 1 and



Violinist Brendon Elliott and others play Saturday and Sunday at the Sand Box in Sand City.

Rio Road.

De Tierra Vineyards tasting room — singer and guitarist **Alex Lucero** (Sunday at 3 p.m.). Mission and Fifth.


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

La Playa Hotel — guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Tuesday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom**


(rock and blues, Thursday at 5 p.m.). Camino Real and Eighth.

The Links Club — **Vinyl Revival** (pop and rock, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Dan Frechette** and singer and violinist **Laurel Thomsen** (“roots-folk,” Saturday at 7:30 p.m.), Songwriters Showcase (Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., sign-ups start at 6:30 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

See **LIVE** page 48A



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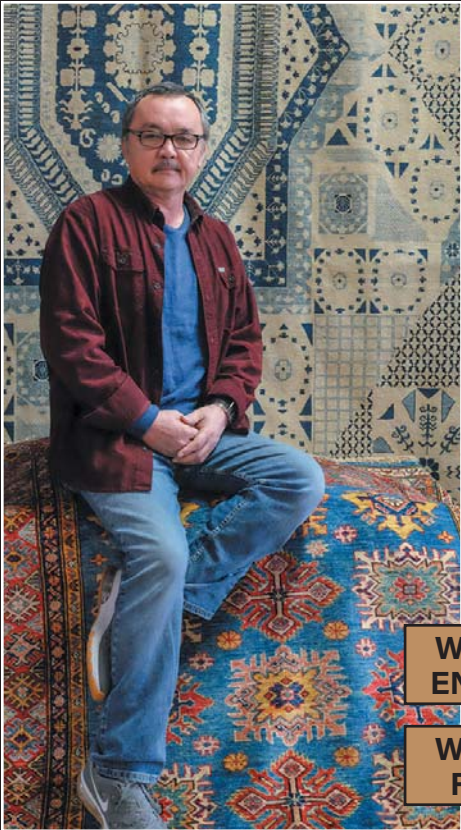
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Heritage society offers tour of inns Dec. 8

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE CARMEL Heritage Society, which seeks to preserve the history and stories of the 108-year-old city, is presenting its annual Inns of Distinction tour Sunday, Dec. 8, from 2 to 5 p.m. The self-guided tour will take partici-



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pants to several festively decorated hotels and inns, where participating wineries and restaurants will offer sips and small bites.

In the lineup this year is the recently renovated Carmel Beach Hotel, the Cypress Inn, the Horizon Inn, the newly opened Stillwell Hotel and the Tally Ho. Featured wineries set to pour include Dawn's Dream, Galante, Scheid, Silvestri and Windy Oaks, while participating restaurants include Flaherty's, Il Fornaio, Terry's Lounge, Village Corner and Woody's.

Tickets run \$34 for members, \$45 for nonmembers, and \$50 for everyone else the day of the tour. To order online, visit carmelheritage.org or call (831) 624-4447. The heritage society is located in the First Murphy House at Lincoln and Sixth.



PHOTOS/PINE CONE FILE

Two of Carmel's recently renovated inns, Carmel Beach Hotel (top) and Stillwell Hotel (above) are being showcased on the Inns of Distinction Tour

CALENDAR

Dec. 6-22 – Don't miss the free, fun 8th Annual Christmas on the Wharf for 3 weekends. Enjoy dazzling decorations and a 19-foot Christmas tree on display through the end of the year, free Santa visits at his Santa House, talented choirs, singers and other live musicians, dancers, a Salvation Army Toy Barrel plus a hot cocoa and cookies fundraiser for Salvation Army, and much more! Additional information and the entertainment schedule are on montereywharf.com

Dec. 7 – Join Venture Gallery's Annual December Group Show and Holiday Open House from 3 to 5 p.m. Enjoy refreshments, art and fun while entering to win a \$200 gift certificate! Venture Gallery (at Portola Hotel), 260 Alvarado St., Monterey. Don't miss it!

Dec. 7 – Holiday Kickoff with Live Music at Taste Morgan. Take a break from the holiday rush and relax with live music, delicious wines by the glass or bottle, and 50% off wine tastings and cheese plates! Located in the Crossroads Shopping Center. Time: 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Dec. 7-14 – Come help celebrate the season and Peninsula Potters complete remodel with our annual 20% off December sale! Our doors will be open for the first time in six months and we know you'll be impressed with our new look and of course, our ceramics! We can't wait to see you: 2078 Sunset Drive, Pacific Grove. Daily from noon to 4 p.m.

Dec. 13 – Parents Night Out – 6-9 p.m. at Carmel Youth Center, Fourth and Torres, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Festive holiday activities and dinner for ages 5-14. Cost is \$25 if you preregister online @ www.carmelyouth.org or \$30 (cash only) at the door. For more information email Info@carmelyouth.org

Dec. 14 – Los Laureles Lodge 24th Annual Christmas Gift Show. Talented crafters will showcase creativity and their handcrafted items of all types, including candles, knits, soaps, jewelry, baked goods and much more. Sale hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 313 W. Carmel Valley Road. Lunch served in the restaurant from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Details: (831) 659-2233.

Dec. 14 – HOW ORIGINAL Music Showcase! An exciting full day of all original music (2-10 p.m.), showcasing 10 talented



Monterey Bay area songwriters and bands. This year's event also features special guest **Eva Gardner**, bassist for P!NK, performing her original music. This event supports local performers and will also raise funds for The Carmel American Legion Post 512, benefiting veteran's programs. Purchase tickets at the The Carmel American Legion Post 512 (831) 624-9941; ALPOST512carmel.org

Dec. 14 – Meet Jack Wray at the 3:30 to 7 p.m. artist reception for **"Unseen Hearts" – A portrait series of wild animals built with hearts, emotion, spirit.** See the paintings, hear the stories behind them, and learn about native mythology. For more information, call or text (831) 383-9339

Dec. 14 – Carmel Valley Lodge presents "Merry Melodies," a variety show, 7 p.m. at the lodge at 8 Ford Road in Carmel Valley Village. Enjoy jazz guitar by **Bruce Forman** accompanied by **Gary Meek** on sax with the soulful vocals of **Laurie Hofer Romero, Pamela and Rebecca Sayre.** Bar opens 6 p.m. Tickets are %49. Call (831) 659-2261.

Dec. 15 – Carols in the Forest concert begins 3 p.m. at Church in the Forest, Stevenson Campus, 3152 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach. **Jubal Joslyn**, tenor, **Sophia Gonzalez**, mezzo, **Amalia Diaz**, violin, **Janneke Hoogland**, cello, **Cathryn Wilkinson**, piano. Tickets \$20 on Eventbrite or on site. Students free. Contact (831) 624-1374 or churchintheforest.org.


Dec. 15 – A Christmas Pudding: Stories, poetry and music to usher in the Christmas season. A respite from the hustle and bustle, 3 p.m. at Community Church of Monterey Peninsula, 4590 Carmel Valley Road. Cookies and cider to follow.

Dec. 17 – The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB) presents a lecture / luncheon at the Hilton Garden Inn in Monterey. Topic is **"U.S. Foreign Policy in Transition : Persistent Problems and Pop-Up Challenges,"** presented by **Dr. Thomas Fingar**, former deputy director of National Intelligence, currently Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Center Fellow at Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. (831) 643-1855; Email: info@wacmb.org

Through Dec. 24 – Shop for holiday gifts at Baum & Blume's Boutique! Handcrafted gifts, holiday decor, bath goods, leather bags & wallets, crystal jewelry and oh-so-soft sweaters! PLUS: Gifts for babies, birds, pets and YOU! Shop 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley (831) 659-0400.

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Published Dec. 13 and 20 in The Carmel Pine Cone

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AD SIZE

4.79 inches wide by 3

Single run	Double
run \$175/week	\$150/week

RESERVATION DEADLINE:
Dec. 13 issue: **Friday, Dec. 6**
Dec. 20 issue: **Friday, Dec. 13**

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A local institution since 1915 with 24,500 subscribers to our email edition and 18,500 copies in print

ARTIST

From page 27A

genetic counselor, specializing in cancer-risk assessments. Younger brother Josh is a recent graduate of UC Berkeley, where he majored in global studies. His passions include international affairs, human rights promotion, cooking, and sports.

David, now semi-retired, volunteers as a docent at Point Lobos and as usher at Sunset Center. The beauty of the coastal landscape and the charm of a friendly and artistic community inspire Celine Picus’ colorful paintings, abstract and non-abstract, using various techniques. She frequently approaches a blank canvas with a theme already in mind.

“Most of the time, I’ll have a title for the painting before I start. The art often takes on a life of its own, but I try to stay true to my original concept,” she said.

“I use a lot of color and try to convey an uplifting message, but I want my audience to interpret the painting in their own way,” she said.

“People have told me that my paintings are very calming, despite all the colors,” said Picus, whose home studio in the Carmel Hills is awash with natural sunlight.

The artist resists the temptation to limit herself to any

one style or technique, prioritizing artistic growth over traditional philosophies about marketability.

“The marketing part seems to suck the energy from my creativity. I often forget to use social media,” she said.

“I see other artists in our community as people I can mingle with and learn from, and they’ve been very supportive,” she said. “I feel blessed and at ease to be a part of this art community.”

Picus shows her art at 480 Lighthouse Gallery in Pacific

Grove. Other exhibitions include the 2024-25 art show at the Monterey County Health Department (1270 Natividad Road, Salinas) and a three-month exhibition at the Walter Lee Avery Gallery in Seaside’s City Hall (440 Harcourt Ave.). Images of her work can also be found on Facebook at “Celine’s Art,” and on Instagram at celine.painter.

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

Using color to ‘convey an uplifting message’

For perspective on the news, historic tidbits and behind-the-scenes tips from The Pine Cone newsroom, follow us on x.com @carmelpinecone

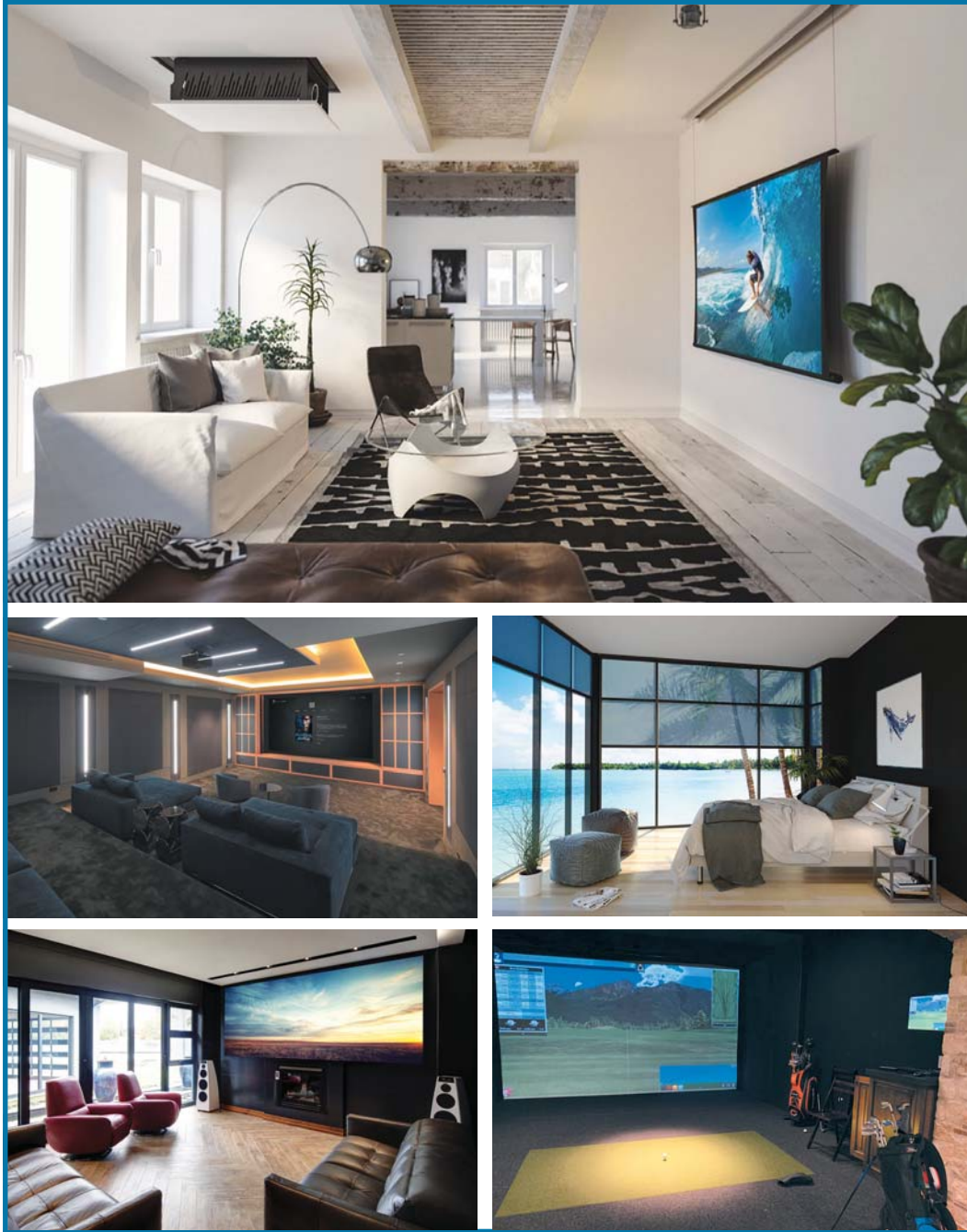


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rich vanilla bean ice cream, flamed warm black cherries,
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LIVE

From page 45A

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 Valley

Bernardus Lodge & Spa — pianist **Mathias Morris** (classical, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Sean Ryan** (Saturday at noon), singer and pianist **TJ Kuenster** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Folktales Winery — **Two Rivers** with singer **Richard Bryant** and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (pop and rock, Friday at 4 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Saturday at 2 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (Sunday at 11 a.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

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

■ Monterey

Albatross Ridge Winery and Kitchen — singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Martin Barnes** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

Bon Ton LeRoy's Lighthouse Smokehouse — Open Mic Night (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 794 Lighthouse Ave.

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

Cibo — **The Dave Holodiloff Duo** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Tuesday at 7 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz and swing, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St.

Estéban Restaurant — guitarist **Catherine Broz** (Spanish music, Friday and Thursday at 5 p.m.). 700 Munras Ave.

Golden State Theatre — ukulele master **Jake Shimabukuro** (Tuesday at 8 p.m.). Tickets start at \$30. 417 Alvarado St.

InterContinental Hotel — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Friday and

See **CONCERT** next page



Singer and guitarist Dan Frechette and singer and violinist Laurel Thomsen play Saturday, 7:30 p.m., at the Links Club in Carmel Plaza.

PHOTO/TOP DOG IMAGES

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CONCERT

From previous page

Saturday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Saturday at 9 a.m.), guitarist **Terrence Farrell** (Latin music, Sunday at 9 a.m.). 750 Cannery Row.

Midici Pizza — **The Brian Stock Quartet** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), **The Bobby Phillips Duo** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa — multi-instrumentalist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Peter Corr** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (Monday and Wednesday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

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

Salty Seal Pub — **Sweet Tooth** (classic rock, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.), **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Sunday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Dan Frechette** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 653 Cannery Row.

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

Sly McFly's — **Everyday People** (“classic Latin rock with an old-school twist,” Friday at 9 p.m.), **Lost & Found** (rock and r&b, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

■ **Pacific Grove**

Asilomar Hotel and Conference Grounds — multi-instrumentalist **Gary Meek** (jazz, Friday at 4 p.m.), multi-instrumentalist **Gary Regina** (jazz, Thursday at 4 p.m.). In the Phoebe Hearst Social Hall, 800 Asilomar Ave.

Il Vecchio Restaurant — **The Cena Jazz Trio** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 110 Cen-

tral Ave.

Julia's Vegetarian Restaurant — singer and guitarist **Rags Rosenberg** (Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Smith** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea's Fault Duo** (“folky stuff mixed with surprises,” Monday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Holysea** (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave.

Monarch Pub in Pacific Grove — **The Katherine Lavin Band** (pop and rock, Friday at 6 p.m.). 617 Lighthouse Ave.

Pacific Grove Art Center — **The Carmel Guitar Society** presents a Holiday Mixer and Open Mic (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 568 Lighthouse Ave.

PG's Meetinghouse — singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Friday at 6:30 p.m.), **The Christmas Perls** with singers **Janice and Miranda Perl**, guitarist **Adam Astrup**, multi-instrumentalist **Gary Meek**, bassist **Zach Westfall** and drummer **David Morwood** (jazz, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), **The Pacific Grove High School Angels String Quintet** (classical, Sunday at 11 a.m.), Open Mic (Tuesday at 6 p.m., sign up by 5 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

Phill's Barber Shop in Pacific Grove — **PG-13** (rock, Friday at 7 p.m.). 610 Lighthouse Ave.

■ **Pebble Beach**

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — singer and guitarist **Kip Allert** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Adrea Castiano** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive.

■ **Seaside**

Gusto Pasta and Pizza — singer **Akina Miyata** and keyboardist **Bobby Phillips** (jazz, Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.). 1901 Fremont Blvd.

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

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2024 - 2025
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MUSIC DIRECTOR

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CARMEL

DECEMBER 20
7:30PM | HOLY CROSS CHURCH
SANTA CRUZ

DECEMBER 21-FREE ENTRY
2:30PM | STANTON THEATER
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PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20241984

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **Bermudez Family Cremations & Funerals, 475 Washington Street, Suite A, Monterey, CA 93940**

County of MONTEREY

Registrant(s):
FPG California, Inc, 369 N. New York Ave, Suite 300, Winter Park, FL 32789

This business is conducted by a Corporation

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/4/2024.

FPG California, Inc
S/ DAVID WALTZER, ,

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 10/28/2024.

11/15, 11/22, 11/29, 12/6/24

CNS-3862133#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Nov. 15, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 2024. (PC 1125)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20242009

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **FERGUSON WATERWORKS, 66 TARP CIR, SALINAS, CA 93901-3717**, County of MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):
FERGUSON ENTERPRISES, LLC, 751 LAKEFRONT COMMONS, NEWPORT NEWS, VA 23606

State of Incorporation: VIRGINIA

This business is conducted by A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/03/2019

S/ IAN T.GRAHAM, MANAGER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 10/31/2024.

11/15, 11/22, 11/29, 12/6/24

CNS-3869514#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Nov. 15, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 2024. (PC 1126)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 24CV004692

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, HENRY GANDALL IV, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

A Present name:
HENRY GANDALL IV

Proposed name:
HENRY GANDALL HALEMANO

B Present name:
JENNIFER TRANG TU

Proposed name:
JENNIFER TRANG TU-HALEMANO

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING:
DATE: Jan. 7, 2025
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
DEPT: 15

The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.

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

(s) Thomas W. Wills
Judge of the Superior Court
Date filed: Nov. 7, 2024

Publication Dates: Nov. 15, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 2024. (PC 1127)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20242065

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **1. FARM FRESH PRODUCE**
2. BARN FRESH PRODUCE
8856 Highway 1, Moss Landing, CA 95039.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):
KIRSTEN J. MORENO

This business is conducted by an individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 1, 2020.

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

S/Kirsten Moreno

Date signed: Nov. 8, 2024

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 8, 2024.

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

Publication Dates: Nov. 15, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 2024 (PC 1128)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20242102

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **SUPER SCOOPERS LLC, 471 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
SUPER SCOOPERS LLC, 471 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA

This business is conducted by a limited liability company.

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

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

S/Norman Kealohanui Tutaiuvaki, CEO

Date: Nov. 5, 2024

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 14, 2024.

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

Publication Dates: Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 2024. (PC 1131)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 24CV004755

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, CHERYL LYNN EISNER, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

A Present name:
CHERYL LYNN EISNER

Proposed name:
CHERYL LYNN EISNER-BEEBE

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING:
DATE: Jan. 7, 2025
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
DEPT: 14

The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.

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

(s) Thomas W. Wills
Judge of the Superior Court
Date filed: Nov. 12, 2024

Publication Dates: Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 2024. (PC 1132)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20242054

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **SAN MIGUEL WATER SYSTEMS 26, 2057 San Miguel Canyon Road, Salinas, CA 93907.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):
GABRIEL DE LA LLATA

This business is conducted by an individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 7, 2024.

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

S/Gabriel De La Llata

Date signed: Nov. 7, 2024

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 8, 2024.

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

Publication Dates: Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 2024 (PC 1133)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20242066

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **Monterey Osteopathic and Sports Medicine, 222 Forest Ave, Pacific Grove, CA 93950**

County of MONTEREY

Registrant(s):
Dr. Aubrey Taow, Osteopathic and Sports Medicine, Inc, 222 Forest Ave, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

This business is conducted by a Corporation

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

Dr. Aubrey Taow, Osteopathic and Sports Medicine, Inc
S/ Aubrey Taow, Chief Executive Officer

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 11/08/2024.

11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20/24

CNS-3867541#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 2024. (PC 1137)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20242115

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **FRESH LEAF FARMS, 925 JOHN-SON AVENUE SALINAS, CA 93901**, County of MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):
FIRST LEAF FARMS, LLC, P.O. BOX 673 SALINAS, CA 93902; CALIFORNIA

This business is conducted by A LIMITED

LIABILITY COMPANY

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/18/24

S/ MICHAEL W. SCARE, MANAGER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 11/18/2024

11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20/24

CNS-3872816#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 2024. (PC 1138)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20242073

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **SPACE MAID CLEANING SERVICES, 1754 Vallejo St., Seaside, CA 93955.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):
ERIN COLEEN HERNANDEZ

This business is conducted by an individual.

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

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

S/Erin Hernandez

Date signed: Nov. 12, 2024

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 12, 2024.

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

Publication Dates: Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 2024 (PC 1139)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20242101

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **1. REBECCA SHANSBY ENTERPRISES**
2. RHINO ADVENTURES FUELED BY JESUS
33801 E. Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel Valley, CA 93924.

Registered Owner(s):
REBECCA ANN SHANSBY, 33801 E. Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel Valley, CA 93924.

This business is conducted by an individual.

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

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

S/Rebecca Shansby

Date signed: Nov. 14, 2024

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 14, 2024.

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

Publication Dates: Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 2024 (PC 1142)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20242024

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **SEAGROVE APARTMENTS, 1105 Broadway Ave., Seaside, CA 93955.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
ASCENT APARTMENTS QOZB, LLC, 3021 Citrus Circle, Suite 130, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

State of Inc./Org./Reg.: DELAWARE

This business is conducted by a limited liability company.

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

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

S/Charles C. Bond III, Chief Financial Officer

Date: Oct. 24, 2024

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 4, 2024.

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

Publication Dates: Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 2024. (PC 1143)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20242031

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **A1 FINISH PAINTING, 1627 Highland St., Seaside, CA 93955.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):
ANTHONY JASON AGUAYO MANZANAREZ

This business is conducted by an individual.

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

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

S/Jason Aguayo Manzanarez

Date signed: Nov. 5, 2024

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 5, 2024.

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

Publication Dates: Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 2024 (PC 1144)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20242087

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CYPRESS ENERGY SYSTEMS, 613 Ortiz Ave., Ste. C, Sand City, CA 93955.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
REMYNSE INDUSTRIES, INC., P.O. Box 3181, Monterey, CA 93942.

State Inc./Org./Reg.: CALIFORNIA

This business is conducted by a corporation.

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

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

S/Jason Remynse, President

Date: Nov. 3, 2024

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 13, 2024.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST T.S. No.: 24-0153 Loan No.: HOWLAND Other: 2519880CAD APN: 001-995-007-000 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 01/05/2024. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NOTICE is hereby given that Law Offices of Richard G. Witkin APC, as trustee, or successor trustee, or substituted trustee, or as agent for the trustee, pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by GOLNESA HOWLAND A MARRIED WOMAN AS HER SOLE AND SEPARATE PROPERTY, recorded 01/09/2024 as Instrument No. 2024000760 in Book N.A., Page N.A. of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of MONTEREY County, State of California, and pursuant to the Notice of Default and Election to Sell thereunder recorded 09/24/2024 in Instrument No. 2024034113 of said Official Records, WILL SELL on 12/31/2024 at 10:00 AM At the main entrance to the County Administration Building at 168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901 AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States), all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State hereinafter described: As more fully described on said Deed of Trust. The property address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 400 DRAKE AVENUE #7, MONTEREY, CA 93940 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$112,534.19* *The actual opening bid may be more or less than this estimate. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust including advances authorized thereunder and also including, without way of limitation, the unpaid principal balance of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust together with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus the fees, charges and expenses of the trustee and the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. THIS PROPERTY IS BEING SOLD IN AN "AS-IS" CONDITION. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (916) 939-0772 or visit this internet website WWW.NATIONWIDEPOSTING.COM, using the file number assigned to this case 24-0153. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (916) 939-0772, or visit this internet website WWW.NATIONWIDEPOSTING.COM, using the file number assigned to this case, 24-0153, to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. FOR SALES INFORMATION AND STATUS 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, GO TO: WWW.NATIONWIDEPOSTING.COM OR CALL (916) 939-0772. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, DISCLOSURES AND CONDITIONS OF SALE: (1) At the time of sale, the opening bid by the beneficiary may not represent a full credit bid. The beneficiary reserves the right, during the auction, to increase its credit bid incrementally up to a full credit bid. The beneficiary may also bid over and above its credit bid with cash, cashier's checks or cash equivalents. (2) The Trustee's Deed Upon Sale (TDUS) will not be issued to the successful bidder until the bidder's payment has been deposited in the trustee's bank and cleared (all holds released). The bidder may have to take additional actions as required by trustee's bank in order to facilitate the deposit and clearance of bidder's funds. (3) If, prior to the issuance of the TDUS, the trustee shall become aware of any deficiency in the foreclosure process, or if the trustee becomes aware of any bankruptcy or other legal issue affecting the validity of the foreclosure process, then, after consultation with its attorneys, the trustee, in its sole discretion, may decline to issue the TDUS and return the bidder's funds, without interest. If, subsequent to the issuances of the TDUS, the trustee shall become aware of any deficiency in the foreclosure process, or if the trustee becomes aware of any bankruptcy or other legal issue affecting the validity of the foreclosure sale, then, after consultation with its attorneys, the trustee, in its sole discretion, may rescind the TDUS pursuant to Civil Code Section 1058.5(b) and return the bidder's funds, without interest. (4) When conducted, the foreclosure sale is not final until the auctioneer's funds "sold". Any time prior thereto, the sale may be canceled or postponed at the discretion of the trustee or the beneficiary. A bid by the beneficiary may not result in a sale of the property. All bids placed by the auctioneer are on behalf of the seller/beneficiary. (5) NEW – SEVERAL CITIES IN CALIFORNIA, INCLUDING THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES (GOOGLE "MEASURE ULA"), HAVE IMPOSED VERY LARGE, NEW TRANSFER TAXES ON SALES OF CERTAIN HIGH VALUE PROPERTIES. THESE TAXES CAN AMOUNT TO HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS OR EVEN MORE. AS A CONDITION OF THIS SALE, THESE TAXES WILL NOT BE PAID BY THE FORECLOSING LENDER NOR BY THE FORECLOSURE TRUSTEE. THESE TAXES, IF AND WHEN CHARGED, ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SUCCESSFUL PURCHASER AT THE FORECLOSURE SALE. This communication may be considered as being from a debt collector. To the extent your original obligation was discharged or is subject to an automatic stay of bankruptcy under Title 11 of the United States Code, this notice is for compliance and/or informational purposes only and does not constitute an attempt to collect a debt or to impose personal liability for such obligation. However, a secured party may retain rights under its security instrument, including the right to foreclose its lien. Date: 11/20/2024 Law Offices of Richard G. Witkin APC 5805 Sepulveda Boulevard, Suite 670 Sherman Oaks, California 91411 Phone: (818) 845-4000 By: APRIL WITKIN, TRUSTEE OFFICER NPP0468128 To: CARMEL PINE CONE 12/06/2024, 12/13/2024, 12/20/2024

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

Publication Dates: Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 2024. (PC 1145)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20242111

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **VICKY'S CLEANING SERVICE, 1315 Las Cruces Ct., Salinas, CA 93901.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):
VICTORIA VAZQUEZ VILLAR

This business is conducted by an individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 18, 2024.

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

S/Victoria Vazquez Villar

Date signed: Nov. 18, 2024

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 18, 2024.

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

Publication Dates: Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 2024 (PC 1147)

under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Publication Dates: Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 2024 (PC 1146)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20242091

Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **BALLOONS AND WEIGHTS, 200 Clocktower Pl. #201A, Carmel, CA 93923.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
CREATIVE BALLOONS MANUFACTURING INC., 200 Clocktower Pl. #201A, Carmel 93923.

State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CALIFORNIA

This business is conducted by a corporation.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 12, 2015.

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

S/Reagan Pollack, Treasurer

Date: Oct. 25, 2024

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 13, 2024.

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

Publication Dates: Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 2024. (PC 1147)

CHRISTMAS WEEK DEADLINE
FOR LEGALS

(for publication in the Dec. 27 issue)

Legal notices must be submitted no later than
3 P.M. Thursday, December 19

Call or email Irma at (831) 274-8645
legals@carmelpinecone.com

MORE SPORTS

From page 34A

Cross Country

Aldi 19th at state — Carmel senior Mack Aldi placed 19th Saturday at the Division 4 California State Cross Country Championships in Woodland Park with a time of 15 minutes, 47.7 seconds, for the 5,000-meter course. The state champion, Eli Fitchen-Young, a senior from Santa Cruz, finished in 14:41.3.

Postseason honors

Football
Mission Division South — **MVP:** Jackson Lloyd, OL/DL, Carmel. **Offensive Player of the Year:** Ashton Rees, RB, Carmel. **Defensive Player of the Year:** Nathan Barajas, LB, North Salinas. **All-Division Offense:** Hudson Rutherford, QB, Ashton Rees, RB, Ty Arnold, WR, Simeon Brown, WR, and Jackson Lloyd, T, Carmel. **All-Division Defense:** Jackson Lloyd, DT, Matt Maxon, LB, Ashton Rees, DB, Ty Arnold, DB, and Simeon Brown, DB, Carmel. **Second Team Offense:** Brooklyn Ashe, WR, Carmel. **Sportsmanship:** Indy Gabrielson, Carmel.



Carmel coach Golden Anderson prepares his football team during Tuesday night's practice for Friday's 7:30 p.m. NorCal Championship game against Acalanes at MPC.

Santa Lucia Division – MVP: Haden Woolworth, San Lorenzo Valley. **Offensive Player of the Year:** Finn Mink, QB, Stevenson. **Defensive Player of the Year:** Tommy Dayton, LB, Stevenson. **All-Division Offense:** Finn Mink, QB, Caden Olson, WR, and Tucker Green OL, Stevenson. **All-Division Defense:** Cody Thatcher, DL, Tommy Dayton, LB, Flint Dixon, LB, and Derek Diniz, DB, Stevenson. **Second-Team Offense:** Antonio Borgomini, RB, Stevenson. **Second-Team Defense:** Logan Lund, DB, Stevenson.
Dennis Taylor is a professional freelance writer in Monterey County. Contact him at scribelaureate@gmail.com.

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Kapp and Kooper, AKC Standard Poodles turned one in July.
Brothers from the same litter, a breeder out of LA. Two different personalities, but both very sweet and loving. Kooper, loves to be closer in contact, a lot more passionate. Kapp, is the more independent, and usually the one getting into what he shouldn't. They are house trained, obedient and love to run and go on their walks. They love their car rides. Kapp, loves his head out of the window, while Kooper just waits to arrive at our destination. Very friendly dogs that just need a lot of attention and well-deserved love. Need to Rehome
Please call 831-970-2988 or email joseph.mallobox@qvproduce.com

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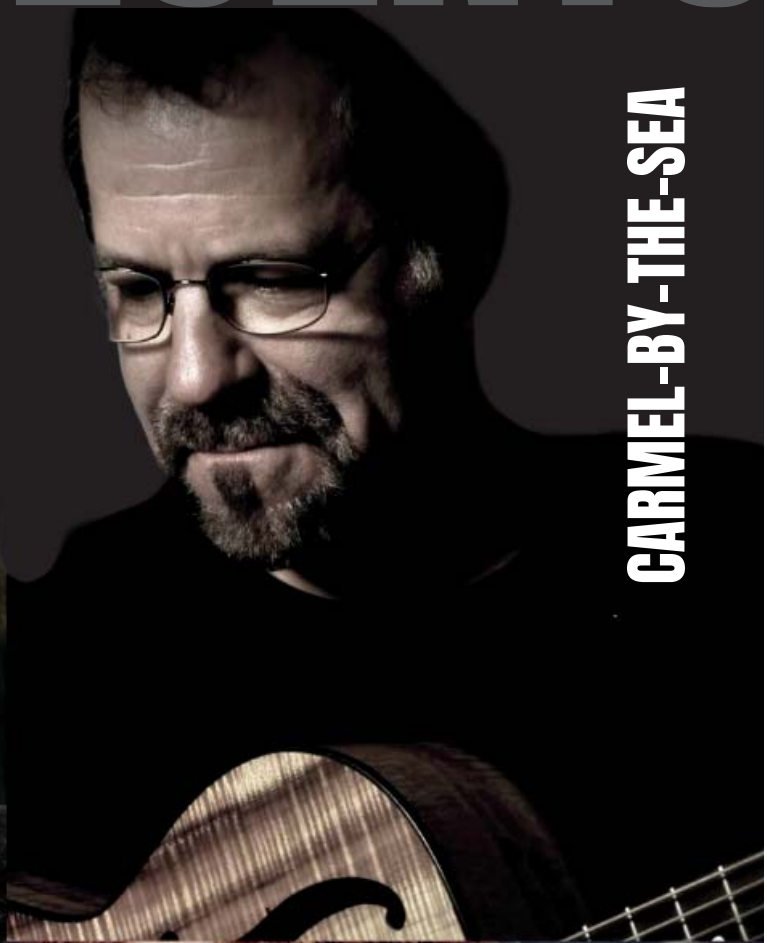
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ON A WINTER'S NIGHT

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AND PATTY LARKIN



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