

The Carmel Pine Cone

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December 27, 2024-January 2, 2025

TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

Land trust buys Highway 68 ranch for \$14M

■ Was slated for housing project

By CHRIS COUNTS

ONCE PROPOSED as a site for 185 luxury homes and long targeted by environmentalists for conservation, 866 acres of the Ferrini Ranch on Highway 68 between Monterey and Salinas have been purchased by the Trust for Public Land for \$14 million, the trust announced Dec. 19.

For now, the property will be set aside as open space, but public access could one day be offered. The Trust for Public Land plans to sell the land to Big Sur Land Trust once funding is acquired, and the two groups are working together to explore obtaining taxpayers' grants and private donations.

The deal prevents more than 80 percent of the ranch's 1,062 acres from being developed. Conservation easements were previously placed on 180 acres.

Patchwork of properties

Located south of Highway 68 between San Benancio and River roads, the ranch features grazing land for cattle, a 68-acre strawberry farm and several buildings, along with many acres of oaks, grasslands and chaparral. Just as they have done for several generations, the Violini family will continue to graze cattle on the land, and

strawberries will still be grown.

The purchase of the ranch is just the latest move in an effort by environmental groups to preserve a patchwork of properties that allow for the safe movement of wildlife through natural or man-made corridors. In fact, the only

See **FERRINI** page 19A



PHOTO/TERESA FRAHM

Trust for Public Land and Big Sur Land Trust officials go for a hike at the Ferrini Ranch. The two groups are working together to conserve the land.

Shovels deployed to breach Carmel River sandbar

By CHRIS COUNTS

TO LOWER the risk of homes flooding around the Carmel River Lagoon, county workers used shovels Tuesday to reestablish a pilot channel through the lagoon sandbar, making it easier for the rising water to flow out to sea. They created a channel just like it two days earlier, but heavy surf undid their efforts.

"High tides closed up the channel over the last few days," the county reported Tuesday. "Crews had to wait out the dangerous surf this morning before hand-digging the channel again so the river can flow to the ocean."

County spokesperson Maia Carroll told The Pine Cone Thursday morning that the channel was holding up fine, and water was flowing out to sea.

The county had sent out word warning of "very

hazardous beach conditions" through Tuesday. To prepare for the threat, the county and the City of Carmel temporarily closed Scenic Road from Santa Lucia Avenue around Carmel Point to Carmel River State Beach, along with several other nearby streets.

30-foot waves

The National Weather Service issued high surf and coastal flood warnings last weekend. Another storm is expected to arrive Friday, with heavy rain and high surf predicted through Sunday.

"Satellite observations and wave models continue to suggest the swell will be roughly 15 feet high with a 15-

See **LAGOON** page 13A

Disaster averted when home fire puts itself out

By CAITLIN CONRAD and KELLY NIX

AN ALERT on a Pacific Grove homeowner's phone, quick responses from a neighbor and firefighters, and good insulation prevented what could have been more extensive damage to a home that suffered a fire the day after Christmas.

On Thursday at about 7 a.m., Frank Raymond, who owns a house on 18th and Spruce but was in San Jose, got an alert on his phone that an alarm had been triggered at his residence. Raymond called neighbor Nancy Spade, who checked on the home.

"When I walked over, the windows were blackened," Spade, who has a key to Raymond's house, told a Pine Cone reporter.

Because of the possibility of a fire, Spade called her son-in-law to help check on the house.

No more oxygen

When the firefighters opened the door, "smoke came out but there were no flames," Spade said, adding that the inside of the house was black and reeked of smoke.

After a call to 911, Monterey Fire arrived and took control. The fire was apparently started by an appliance in a bathroom.

"It's such a well-sealed house, with new windows and everything, the fire literally burned up

New council ready to get to business

■ Special meeting agenda includes police station rebuild, budget

By MARY SCHLEY

GETTING RIGHT down to business five days after city hall reopens after the holidays, the newly installed Carmel City Council will hold a special meeting Jan. 7 to receive reports on the midyear budget and the seemingly never-ending discussion about what to do with the aging police station. Members will also decide which of them should serve on which ad hoc committees and represent the city in various regional agencies and organizations.

Typically scheduled for the second Monday and Tuesday in January due to the holidays, the council's regular meetings will still take place Jan. 13 and 14.

The first order of business will be for Mayor Dale Byrne to appoint his vice mayor — a position held by former city councilman Bobby Richards under Dave Potter — after which the council will discuss appointments to ad hoc committees. Those comprise two council members apiece and can conduct business without following Brown Act rules for open meetings.

Past councils have created 10 that remain active to research and make recommendations on ambulance and fire services, police building renovation, housing, outdoor wine tasting, Flanders Mansion, underground utilities/Rule 20A, street addresses, Flock security cameras and the Mills Act. An ad hoc on board and commission training is staffed by the city attorney and the city clerk, but no members of the council.

AMBAG and TAMC

Similarly, the mayor and council represent the city in various regional agencies, and a proposal to confirm assignments for 2025 will be put forward for approval. The organizations involved include the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, Central Coast Community Energy policy board (alternate seat), Community Human Services, Illegal Dumping and Litter Abatement Task Force (Monterey County Health), Monterey Regional Taxi Authority, Monterey-Salinas Transit, ReGen Monterey (the waste management district), Transportation Agency

See **COUNCIL** page 21A

Kids learn about cow biz



PHOTO/CHRIS EVANS

A student from Rancho San Juan High in Salinas who is learning about the cattle industry, Hailey McVay cares for a young calf. See page 11A.

all the available air inside and basically just snuffed itself out," Monterey Fire Division Chief Matt Harris told The Pine Cone.

While the bathroom is a loss, Harris said had a window

See **FIRE** page 12A



PHOTO/CAITLIN CONRAD

Monterey firefighters enter a home on 18th and Spruce in Pacific Grove where a fire broke out in a bathroom Thursday morning.

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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Culinary cavalier

Although this Carmel couple once had a beagle, they are partial to the long, soft ears, tender eyes, and sweet sensibilities of the cavalier King Charles spaniel.

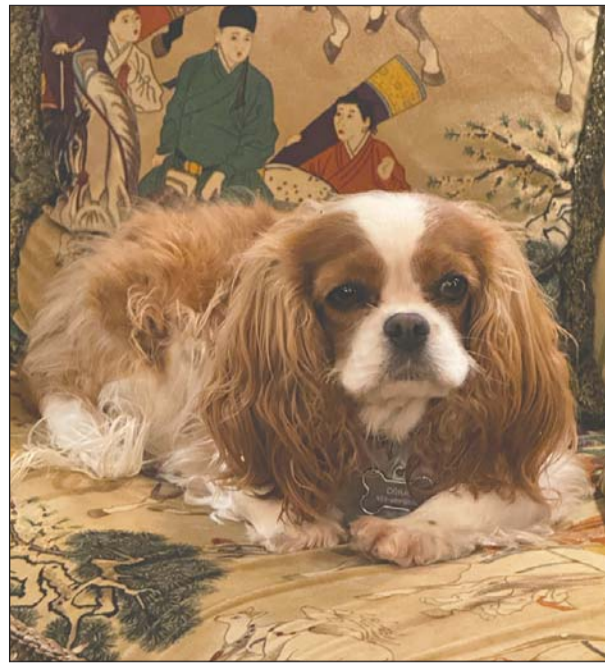
Yet, after losing their third cavalier, Maggie, at 16, a deep grief made them hesitate to adopt another. But after living 18 months without that little heart in their home at the north end of town, reminiscing about Maggie's antics and imagining what she'd be doing during the day, they decided it was time for a fourth cavalier.

The couple adopted Dora, a 6-year-old from Lucky Star Cavalier Rescue, founded in Florida to rescue cavaliers from puppy mills and operating virtually out of the Monterey Peninsula. Yet Dora is not a run-of-the-mill rescue. She actually came from a breeder in Washington state, which relinquishes cavalier mamas after two litters.

"Dora is a love bug," her person said. "When we brought her home, she jumped into my husband's lap, and I could see his blood pressure go down. He said, 'I love you already.'"

Sometimes he takes her to afternoon coffee, typically with another Carmel couple and their cavalier.

"When I come in from work," her person said, "Dora meets me at the door. I didn't know a tail could wag that far. I sit down on the couch, and she climbs up and



looks right into my face, connecting."
 Dora doesn't go to Carmel Beach because her people don't, either. But she's been to just about every restaurant in town.
 Her culinary introduction to the Monterey Peninsula began with a "welcome home" lunch at Tarp's Roadhouse, where she sat, perfectly behaved, her person said, under the table. That evening she was initiated into Carmel's "canine culture" at the Cypress Inn. The next day, she dined at Village Corner. She's becoming quite the "culinary cavalier."

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—
 Geoff, Rebecca & Danielle

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10th birthday for trauma center

■ ‘They had everything needed to save a life’

By KELLY NIX

FROM VEHICLE accidents, to assaults, and even shark attacks, the medical team at Natividad Trauma Center treats those who have suffered an assortment of maladies requiring specialized emergency care.

And on Jan. 5, the county-operated facility in Salinas will celebrate a decade of healthcare. It opened Jan. 5, 2015.

The only trauma center in Monterey County, it took Natividad years of preparation — including facility upgrades and hiring specialized staff — to handle traumatic injuries, Dr. Alexander Di Stante, the center’s medical and surgical services director, explained.

“The improvements we implemented not only elevated our hospital’s reputation but also transformed the standard of care we provide to our entire community,” Di Stante said of the Level II trauma center.

Trauma centers are classified as Level I to V according to their capabilities. Facilities designated Level II and Level I are “the most capable of caring for patients with complex life-threatening injuries,”

according to the National Library of Medicine. While the two levels offer the same level of care, Level I facilities offer trauma teaching, research and fellowship programs.

Shark bite

One of the trauma center’s most renowned patients is Steve Bruemmer, 64, a Monterey resident who was nearly killed by shark off Lovers Point in Pacific Grove in June 2022. Bruemmer, who was attacked while swimming, was rescued by three people who helped bring him ashore. After 911 was called, an ambulance rushed him to Natividad’s trauma center, where he needed massive blood transfusions and extensive surgery.

Bruemmer doesn’t remember much about the hospital but had the sense that the people working on him truly cared.

“They had surgeons, nurses and everything needed to save a life and absolutely saved mine,” he said in an interview last week. “It was touch and go, so close. So many things needed to go right — I’m really lucky it all did.”


He added that if Natividad hadn’t had a trauma center, “I wouldn’t have made it.”

See **TRAUMA** page 13A





The Natividad Trauma Center in Salinas is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Staff at the clinic treat a variety of critical injuries. The hospital has a helipad.

PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE


RYAN MELCHER
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Police & Sheriff's Log

Don't flirt with me, I'm working

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, DECEMBER 11

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of a citizen finding two loose dogs together at Junipero and 10th. They placed the dogs in a backyard of a house in the area. Unsure if the dogs lived there. Animal control checked with the house across the street and found the owner. Both dogs were then secured in the owners' house. The yard was checked for how they escaped and a hole was found under the fence. Information and possible solutions discussed.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of a loose unattended dog in the roadway at Junipero and 10th. Animal control contacted a nearby house and a person came out and secured the

dog.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fraud report at Dolores and Seventh.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A citizen found a small dog, with no ID, loose at Guadalupe and Fifth. Citizen brought the dog to the station. Shortly after, the dog owner called the department to report the dog missing. The owner was visiting a Carmel resident and came to the station to pick up his dog. ID, microchip and containment advised.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Adult protective services report at San Antonio and Eighth.

Pacific Grove: Traffic stop conducted at Forest and Spazier, and the driver was issued a written notice of suspension.

Pacific Grove: Violation of a domestic violence restraining order on Laurel. A 54-year-old male was arrested on Ocean View Boulevard.

See POLICE LOG page 24A



The gavel falls

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

Nov. 15 — Joseph Frank Avila Jr., 51, was sentenced to prison for one year and four months by the Hon. Andrew G. Liu for felony evading and felony check forgery.

On Nov. 4, 2021, a Monterey resident reported a check for over \$2,300 had been made payable to the defendant, a person she did not know. Her signature had been forged. Three months earlier, she had mailed several checks to her insurance company, which were never received. It is believed Avila intercepted those checks. Avila failed to appear for arraignment and a felony warrant was issued for his arrest.

On Oct. 4, 2024, a California Highway Patrol officer attempted to stop Avila's car for expired registration. Avila fled from the police and engaged them in a high-speed chase through a residential neighborhood. He was apprehended after stopping at a dead end and

then attempting to run from the police.

These cases were investigated by Monterey County Sheriff's Deputy Oscar Leon and California Highway Patrol Officer Peter Todd.

Nov. 15 — Salinas resident Nicholas Boronda, 32, was sentenced to prison for one year and four months by the Hon. Andrew G. Liu for felony vandalism and resisting arrest.

On June 3 and 5, 2024, Salinas police officers were dispatched to Boronda's apartment complex. On June 3, Boronda had used an object to dig a hole into the wall of a neighboring apartment. On June 5, Boronda deliberately set off the fire alarm and attempted to damage security cameras at the complex. When officers entered Boronda's apartment, Boronda told them to shoot him and physi-

See GAVEL page 17A

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CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS TO FOCUS ON QUALITY OVER QUANTITY

By CAITLIN CONRAD

MEMBERS OF the state Assembly and Senate will have to be a bit more particular when it comes to crafting legislation in the New Year. This month, Democratic leaders in both houses announced a new limit on how many bills the legislature will be allowed to consider.

"Everyone in this room has good and important ideas but we all know that our time and energy are limited," said Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas when he announced the rule change at the session kickoff earlier this month.

During the previous two-year session, the cap was 5,600 bills, but the newest session will see that reduced to 4,200. Each assemblymember will be allowed to introduce 35 bills, down from 50, and senators will also be allowed to introduce 35, down from 40.

"We're doing so because we want every leader in this room to have the greatest possible bandwidth to focus on laws that uplift affordability and prosperity," said Rivas.

No surprise

The speaker's announcement didn't come as a surprise. When the Hollister Democrat was inaugurated in June 2023, he promised to focus on quality over quantity.

"We must return our attention to the basics," said Rivas during his inauguration speech. "This will mean focusing less on how many bills we can pass and more on the impact we are having, and sometimes this will mean going back and fixing something, rather than passing a new law."

It's a novel concept for lawmakers in Sacramento who introduced 4,821 bills during the most recent two-year session, with 2,252 making it to the governor's desk. The new limit has gained the support of many lawmakers at the Capitol, including some Republicans.

"The new numbers will force each of us to set priorities, and if we have more than 35 ideas, we have to prioritize within that," said Sen. Roger Niello, a Republican from Fair Oaks.

According to the Digital Democracy database, some legislators even exceeded

the previous bill limit during the past session. The database shows 19 senators and 24 assemblymembers hit or went over the cap.

'Governing is complex'

The limit is a reversal of former Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon's decision to increase the cap from 30 to 50 bills in 2017. At the time, the Democrat said it was to compensate for shorter term limits imposed in 2012.

But Democrats in both the Assembly and the Senate are on board with reducing the cap, with many voicing support after Rivas' announcement at the session kickoff.

"What this election has taught us is that governing, and particularly in California, is a very complex business. I think the voters are saying, 'We need you all to think about how to do things differently,'" said Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, a Los Angeles Democrat.

Despite the lower caps, lawmakers are

See **QUANTITY** page 17A

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Third row: **Rod Lambert**/Construction Manager & Estimator-30 years, **Sal Sanchez**/Construction crew-3 months, **Robin Briggs**/Accounting Administrator-4 years, **Eduardo Hernandez**/Construction Foreman-14 years, **Victor Mendoza**/Pump truck driver-1 year, **Juan Garcia**/Pump truck driver-9 months, **Ernie Talamante**/Service Technician-16 years, **John Carminati**/Business Manager & Estimator-4 years.

Fourth Row: on pump truck-**Gabriel Martinez**/Construction Foreman-13 years, **Noah Landeros**/Construction Crew-3 years.

*Not in photo-**Jesus Alvarez**/Pump truck driver-7 years, **Judy Parham**/Owner-60 years.

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Man swept off P.B. rocks not yet found

By KELLY NIX

THE MAN who was swept off the rocks by a large wave along 17 Mile Drive in Pebble Beach on Monday is presumed dead, but his body has not been found, according to Cal Fire Battalion Chief Josh Silveira. However, officials say they plan on resuming the search this weekend when ocean conditions are not as rough.

The male, a tourist from China in his 70s, was with family members when he disappeared about 2 p.m. after climbing onto some rocks between Spanish Bay and Bird Rock. Drones, divers and a helicopter were deployed just after he went missing, but he wasn't found.

"He was taking a photo and was swept off the rocks by a wave," Silveira told The Pine Cone Thursday.

The Chinese man was wearing jeans and a hooded sweatshirt at the time of the mishap.

"He had flown in from China very recently to visit family, who live in the San Francisco Bay area, and they came down to see the big waves and unfortunately he was washed away," Silveira said.

With large swells and exceptionally high tides, weather conditions have been too difficult for firefighters and members of the Monterey County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Coast Guard to try to recover

the man's body.

"With the heavy ocean conditions that we've had for the last two to three days, we haven't had an opportunity to start the recovery search," he explained. "There's too much whitewash and water moving around. As conditions improve, we will get rescue swimmers" to look for the body.

'We know'

Fortunately, Silveira said, firefighters know where to search, including in coves, underwater caves, and crevasses along the coastline where debris often gets trapped.

"During really good conditions, we go out and train in those areas," he said. "We know where those underwater caves and coves are."

Because of the dangerous conditions early in the week, authorities closed

off 17 Mile Drive in Pebble Beach and Scenic Road in Carmel. Those roads have since reopened, though more storms and high waves are expected.

"The big thing we want to hammer home is that the ocean is beautiful, but extremely powerful," Silveira said.

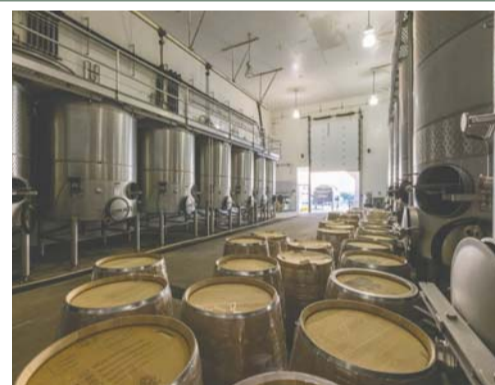
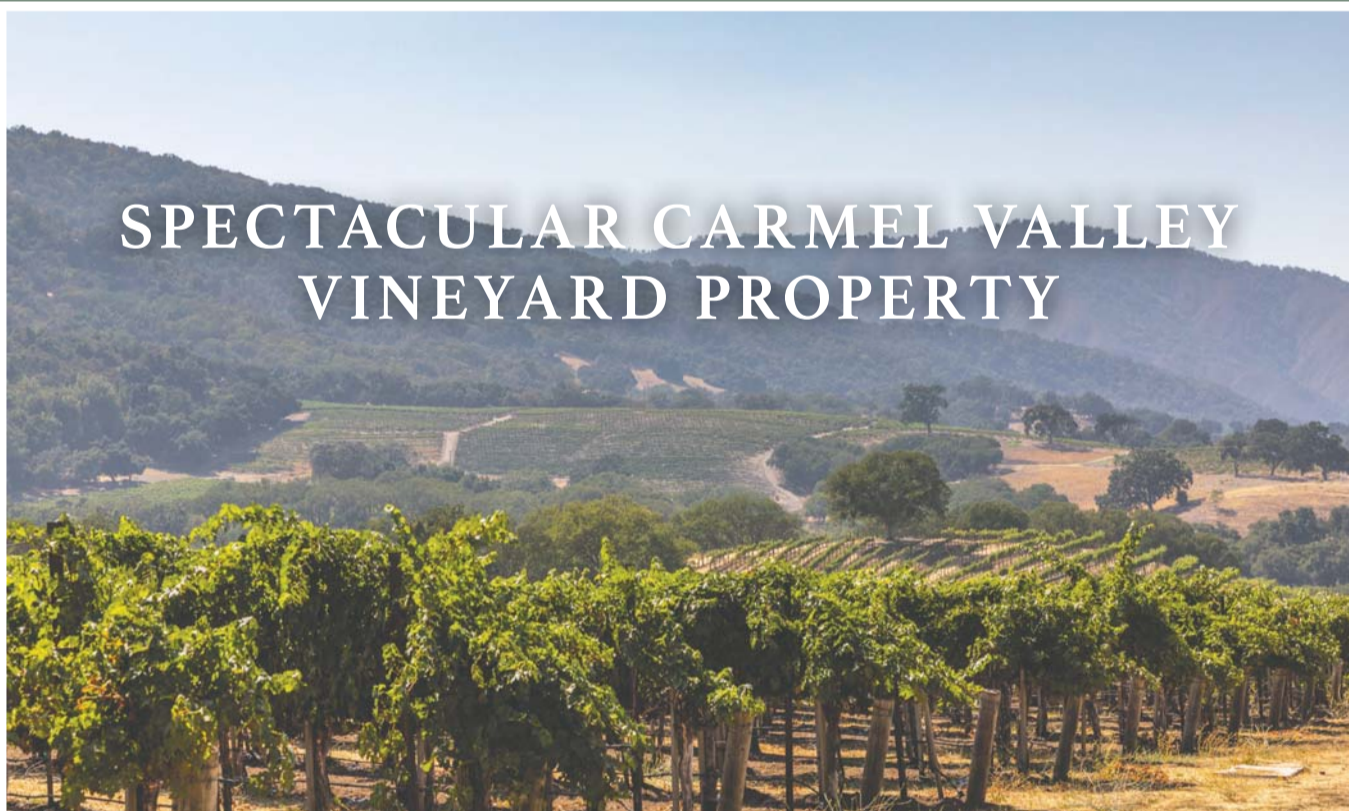
"We understand everyone wants to see the spectacle, the 25-foot waves, but getting on the rocks is very dangerous," he added.

Visitor from China was taking a picture

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Are local bobcats being poisoned?

By CHRIS COUNTS

DRAWING ATTENTION to what he believes is the deadly impact of rat poisons and other rodenticides on local wildlife, Carmel resident Nicolas Salzano recently photographed three different bobcats struggling with the effects of mange — and experts back up his beliefs.

Salzano said all three bobcats appeared to be “very sick and dying.” He suggested the cause can be traced to rodent poison bait stations that he contends are being used in the area.

“It’s highly possible that local bobcats are being exposed to a specific classification of poisons distributed by outdoor rodent bait stations,” Salzano wrote to *The Pine Cone*. “Bobcats exposed to these rat poisons show a clear and predictable pattern of immune dysfunction which contributes to a heightened susceptibility to mange, which is a contagious skin disease caused by parasitic mites.”

Sad sight

Salzano said he has taken numerous photos of the ill bobcats, which capture a depressing sight. “Observing these animals in such poor shape and in a near-constant state of scratching through open wounds has had a lasting effect on me,” he said.

Salzano urged his neighbors to control rats, mice and gophers with something other than poison, which harms many species along the food chain.

“My hope is that highlighting the ongoing issue with bobcats in the area will drive interest in rodent control methods that have less of an impact on wildlife,” he added.

According to Sierra Duits-Cavanaugh, wildlife center manager for SPCA Monterey County, it’s certainly possible that rodenticides contribute to bobcat illnesses.

“The way most rodenticides work is they accumulate in the system of an animal and weakens its immune system,” Duits-Cavanaugh explained. “That makes it more susceptible to other things, such as infections, diseases and parasites. It makes



PHOTO/NICOLAS SALZANO

This local bobcat shows signs of suffering from mange, which experts say can be caused by exposure to rodenticides.

it harder for their bodies to fight off things like mange.”

About 20 years ago, National Park Service wildlife biologists discovered a spike in bobcats dying of mange and reported that testing showed that all had rodenticides in their systems.

According to bigcatrescue.org, “The most common factor that makes bobcats susceptible to mange is the ingestion of poisoned rodents.”

The owner of a business that traps wildlife, Rebecca Dmytryk of Humane Wildlife Control, noted that state regulations “hinder” researchers’ ability to study rodenticides’ impacts on bobcats. Nevertheless, she is convinced that they are being poisoned.

“There is absolutely a link between infirm bobcats displaying mange and exposure to rodenticides,” added Dmytryk, who noted that there are efficient ways to control wildlife without poison.

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Pickleball wars lead to restrictions at Forest Hill Park

By MARY SCHLEY

IN ATTEMPT to appease two vocal factions, the Carmel Forest and Beach Commission last Thursday decided to restrict pickleball play on the courts in Forest Hill Park. Following more than an hour of public comment during the most recent of several meetings on the subject, commissioners unanimously decided to only allow pickleball on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — the same days it can be played on Pacific Grove’s courts — for at least the next three months.

Administrative analyst Tom Ford said he “recognizes the sport of pickleball for its enjoyment, camaraderie, community engagement and physical benefits,” but at the same time, he concluded the way it’s played at Forest Hill violates the noise standards established in the code to ensure residents can avail themselves of “quiet enjoyment” of their homes and surroundings.

“The noise generated may exceed acceptable thresholds,” he said, and “the repeated, unnatural, and loud

sound produced by the contact of plastic balls with paddles creates ongoing disturbances to the neighborhood.”

Get rid of it?

Ford said the commission could address the problem by eliminating pickleball at Forest Hill altogether, limiting the days and hours of play, requiring players to use USA Pickleball-recommended “quiet” balls and/or paddles, or reducing the number of pickleball courts.

While the concept of installing acoustical fencing was raised during previous discussions, Ford recommended against it due to its high cost and doubts about its effectiveness. Further, repeated efforts to reach the vendor have gone unanswered, he said.

“While acoustical fencing might address decibel levels, it may not resolve the annoyance caused by the repetitive nature of the sound, which currently occurs many hours a day, seven days a week,” he said. Regardless, Ford said he would continue researching noise-reducing options.

The tennis courts at Forest Hill were first striped for



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

As pickleball has exploded in popularity, so have complaints about the loud “whack” the balls make when they are struck by the paddles.

pickleball in 2011, with two courts available at first and two more added a decade later, Ford told commissioners at the Dec. 12 meeting.

Feelings run deep on both sides, with nearby residents decrying the noise and parking problems that pickleball, which has grown exponentially in popularity over the past several years, has brought to their neighborhood, and proponents extolling its virtues, from fitness and mental health benefits to camaraderie, friendship and fun.

“Luckily we do not have a lack of people who would like to provide their input,” Ford observed at the meeting. “This is the best opportunity we could have.”


‘Water torture’

A vocal opponent to people playing the game in his neighborhood, Graham Norton told commissioners that 25 people were playing at the courts on Monday, and he likened the sound to “water torture” and described it as “unbelievably unpleasant.”

He also said many players park illegally or in ways that

See **PICKLEBALL** page 14A

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Schools team up with Big Sur ranch to teach kids about cattle

By CHRIS COUNTS

A PARTNERSHIP between two schools and the owner of a Big Sur ranch is giving 10 Salinas youngsters a hands-on introduction to the cattle industry.

The program got its start when Chris Evans, who teaches agriculture classes at Rancho San Juan High School in Salinas and co-chairs its Future Farmers of America program, reached out to Jim Hill, who owns the El Sur Ranch in Big Sur.

“Out of the blue, I sent him a letter about a year ago,” Evans told The Pine Cone. “I told him I wanted to teach kids about beef, and I asked him for his help.”

Evans got a call back from Hill, who welcomed the kids to his 7,100-acre ranch. Since then, they’ve visited it seven times, and they’ve assisted Hill’s team in working with his cattle. They also witnessed how technology is changing the industry — for instance, cattle were once rounded up using horses, but now that is done with ATVs.

“The students help with weighing, vaccinations, deworming and sorting,” Evans explained. “They do everything.”

Next, Evans bought five young female cows — known as heifers — for the kids to raise. Rancho Cielo in Salinas is providing space for the cows, while Evans is donating the feed.

“The students showed the heifers at the Monterey County Fair and got Best of Show,” Evans reported.

“They also showed them at the San Benito County Fair.”

In September, Hill called Evans and offered his students an abandoned calf, which one of the kids is raising in a small barn on her parents’ property. Hill donated four more abandoned calves. The students work together to care for them, tending to them before school or during their lunch breaks.

Trip to K.C.

In late October, five of the students — all girls — took a flight to Kansas City to attend an annual gathering for the American Hereford Association. Hill helped to pay for the trip. “It wouldn’t have happened without him,” Evans said.

The trip was a big deal for the kids — some traveled very little before. Besides taking them to new places, the program is giving them a close-up look at a vital industry that could provide them with careers, and it’s teaching them valuable life lessons. Evans said the students were particularly moved by meeting families that have worked in the industry for generations.

“Three had never been on plane before, while four had

never been out of state,” Evans added. “Most of the kids come from low-income families and don’t normally get an opportunity like this.”



PHOTO/CHRIS EVANS

Students from Rancho San Juan High School in Salinas are getting a hands-on introduction to the cattle business on a Big Sur ranch.

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Group that helps kids navigate justice system has birthday

By KELLY NIX

AN ORGANIZATION that advocates for children is celebrating three decades of serving Monterey County. In 2025, CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocates, of Monterey County will mark its 30th year of “improving the lives of children and youth in foster care throughout the county.” The nonprofit trains residents to serve as advocates for children who have been neglected and abused.

Multiple services

Since 1995, the volunteers for CASA work one-on-one with children and young people in foster care, providing them with a “consistent and caring adult presence, navigating complex legal systems, ensuring that educational, medical, and therapeutic services are provided,” the group said.

CASA of Monterey County executive director Beth Wilbur said the anniversary marks a “critical milestone

in our mission as we continue to expand our services and now also support youth in juvenile justice and truancy.”

“As we look back on our journey, we celebrate the thousands of children and youth we’ve served and the countless volunteers who have given their time, energy and compassion to ensure that these children and youth have a brighter future,” Wilbur went on to say.

To address the increasing need for volunteers, she said CASA is launching a campaign on Jan. 1, 2025, dubbed “30 in 30 for 30” with the goal of recruiting 30 volunteers in 30 days for each training cohort.

The initiative aims at trimming the waiting list and ensuring that children in foster care get the advocacy they need.

“While we have accomplished so much in 30 years, there is still much work to be done,” said Danny Little, chair of the CASA of Monterey County’s board of directors.

Being a member of CASA will not only help a child or young person who needs help, but will also make a

“lasting difference in their life,” Little added.

CASA has trained more than 1,300 volunteers and “helped thousands of children and youth in foster care navigate their path to safety and stability,” the group says.

Volunteers and supporters

CASA will host events this year to recognize its anniversary and highlight its impact on the community and raise awareness about the needs of foster children.

The kickoff event is Jan. 23, and is in coordination with Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce, with a community celebration set for April 30, when the nonprofit said it will bring “together volunteers, supporters, and local leaders to reflect on CASA’s achievements and look ahead to the future.”

Last year, CASA helped 148 young people, the majority of whom are Hispanic and live in Salinas and South Monterey County, the group said.

To volunteer, or for more information about CASA’s anniversary events, visit casaofmonterey.org.

Get your complete Pine Cone every Thursday night by email — Free and easy subscriptions at <https://carmelpinecone.com>

FIRE

From page 1A

or door been open, there would have been enough oxygen for the fire to have raged throughout the structure. The home, however, suffered smoke damage and will need to be remodeled.

Harris showed The Pine Cone how firefighters traced the origin of the fire to a timer connected to the unidentified appliance, which could have been a heater or dehumidifier.

“You can see pretty clearly that’s the charred area and that’s the device” where the fire started, he said.

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Lawsuits funds help with drug, alcohol addictions

By KELLY NIX

A MONTEREY County organization that aims to eliminate opioid overdoses through education and better access to addiction treatment services recently received a financial boost to help carry out its mission.

The county announced Dec. 19 that it received funds stemming from legal agreements with more than a dozen companies that were “held accountable for their roles in the opioid epidemic.” The funds will help address substance abuse.

The county health department, which manages the money, forwarded \$627,609 to Central Coast Overdose Prevention to establish a Substance Use Response Team.

The program offers mobile outreach and medical treatment to those in the county who abuse drugs and alcohol.

“The Substance Use Response Team will bring care directly to those who need it most, connecting them with lifesaving resources and ensuring seamless transitions to local harm reduction, treatment, and behavioral health services,” president and medical director of the nonprofit, Dr.

Reb Close of Monterey, explained.

The program is staffed by a team of healthcare professionals, including a medical doctor and bilingual peer support specialists, to provide services in locations where individuals are most vulnerable, including on the streets, in shelters, and other temporary accommodations.

Long-term support

“Special attention is being given to those recently released from Monterey County Jail” and those who live in South Monterey County, including Soledad and King City, according to the county.

The drug treatment program offers individualized care and links patients with long-term support services.

The funds the county received come from legal settlements against manufacturers, distributors and other entities “responsible for aiding the opioid epidemic,” according to the California Department of Health Care Services.

The county received \$2.9 million from the legal settlements between 2022 and 2023, with a total of \$13 million anticipated over the next 20 years.

TRAUMA

From page 3A

Everything worked out, just barely.”

Accidents are the leading cause of death for people 45 and younger, though studies indicate that getting help at a facility like Natividad’s lowers death rates by 25 percent compared to non-trauma facilities.

During the 10 years it’s been open, the Salinas trauma center has treated about 1,400 patients every year. It’s equipped with “advanced medical technology and staffed by highly trained professionals, including trauma surgeons, neurosurgeons, orthopedic trauma surgeons, trauma nurse practitioners and trauma-trained nurses,” the hospital said. Some of the physicians are certified in two specialties.

The center’s preparedness and an “hour’s reach by ambulance or helicopter, has saved countless lives,” Di Stante explained.

Car accidents top list

The hospital released some interesting statistics about the types of incidents that bring patients into the center. Vehicle accidents make up 45 percent of the trauma cases, while falls account for 21 percent of patients, and assaults 12 percent. Pedestrian accidents, Natividad said, have “surged” to 7 percent, while motorcycle and bicycle crashes are at 6 percent and 4 percent, respectively. “Other incidents” account for 4 percent of those requiring care at the county facility.

The center treats all types of critical ailments, including broken bones, head trauma, severe bleeding and other serious injuries.

The hospital also offers trauma prevention and education programs, such as Stop the Bleed, which teaches citizens how to use compression and tourniquets to save lives, and CHOICE, which offers support and advocacy for victims of gunshot wounds, stabbings and beatings for those aged 13-30.

“Natividad is dedicated to continuing our journey of excellence and ensuring that our community has accessible world-class health care close to home,” Natividad CEO Dr. Chad Harris said. “We look forward to the next decade and beyond and are committed to saving lives and improving patient outcomes for everyone in Monterey County.”

LAGOON

From page 1A

second period,” the NWS said Thursday. “That translates to 20 to 30 foot breaking waves peaking on Friday and abating through the day Saturday.”

Creating a pilot channel in the sandbar near the south end of the beach has practically become a holiday ritual. Steelhead advocates contend that such breaches force young steelhead into the ocean before they are mature enough to survive there, but locals say emergency mechanical breaches have prevented homes from being flooding. Meanwhile, state and federal agencies have long lobbied to keep bulldozers off the beach, forcing county officials to balance the concerns of homeowners and steelhead advocates.

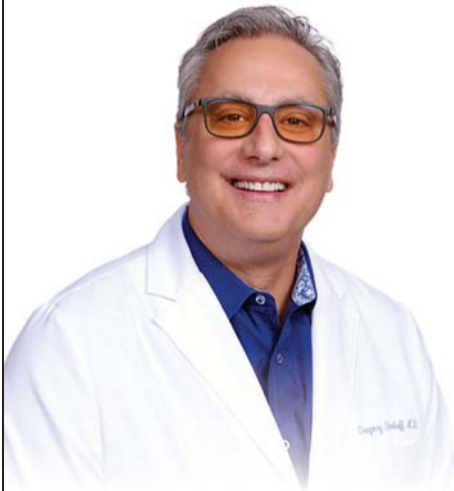


PHOTO/MONTEREY COUNTY

A common sight this time of year, county workers use shovels Tuesday to shore up a pilot channel in the Carmel River Lagoon sandbar.

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PICKLEBALL

From page 10A

make it difficult for residents to get in and out of their driveways.

“You are not going to enforce this unless you completely erase pickleball from that court,” he predicted, arguing against finding middle ground.

On the other side, Krista Ingalls, a long-time resident who attended Carmel public schools, said she lives near the courts and is a pickleball player. “I guess I’m kind of old-fashioned in thinking public parks should be used, and not just by local residents, but by everyone,” she said.

“When one moves next door to a park, one should realize it’s going to be used and how its used will change over time,” she added.

Player Paul Behan said he is “in favor of keeping the pickleball courts open as long as possible during daylight hours,” while other proponents suggested that limiting the days and hours it’s played could

strike a good compromise.

“We love the game, and there aren’t a lot of places we can play for free,” Barbara Lang said. “It would be a shame for it to be taken away.”

Homeowner John Kratchmer said he’s a strong advocate for eliminating the game, “because it shouldn’t be played in a residential area.”

“Lots of studies have shown a decrease in property values by 10 to 20 percent,” in areas near pickleball courts, he added.

‘Voices of a few’

Other suggestions from the public included moving the courts to another more suitable location in the city, requiring players to use “quiet” equipment — which players say changes the game significantly — and pursuing ways to mitigate the noise.

Several people sent letters sharing their views. “Given that there is clearly an effective solution to the noise issue, it seems absurd that the city would deprive several hundred pickleball enthusiasts from utilizing the facility,” wrote Peter Blatman. “While we certainly want to be

respectful of the rights of neighbors to ‘quiet enjoyment’ of their homes, the problem is clearly addressable and all parties can be accommodated.”

“It is clear from this report that no value has been placed on the needs of most of the people whom the commission is supposed to represent. In the options A-D presented, none of these allow for continued play at Forest Hill in a manner that is appropriate,” commented Bryan Touryan-Schaefer. “The report caters to the voices of a few homeowners above a much larger number of residents and visitors who regularly attend and wish to continue pickleball at Forest Hill.”

Commissioner Gerald Montmorency praised the commenters. “I think there are wonderful points on both sides,” he said.

“There’s no question there has to be consideration for the homeowners,” he added. “We’re all trying to work together. These neighbors are really not happy, so I think we need to try to understand that.”

“Trying to find the balance is not easy,” agreed commissioner Sarah Berling.



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Some pickleball opponents may have even resorted to vandalism to express their disdain for the game.

They and chair Tamara Michie agreed play should be limited to Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. for the next three months, at which time Ford will report back on the effectiveness of those restrictions. They chose the same days as play is allowed in Pacific Grove to spread out the players, rather than have the crowd shifting from one location to the other. “This will be enforced,” Michie promised.

ROBERT SADLER

Jan. 11, 1944 – Nov. 29, 2024

Robert E. Sadler (Bob), age 80, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family at Community Hospital, on Nov. 29, 2024. Born in Hartford, Connecticut, Bob spent his early years in Connecticut and Massachusetts before he and his wife Sharon moved in 1992 to London, England, for three years and then to San Carlos, California, in 1995. Bob and Sharon, wonderful partners in an amazing and loving 62-year journey, settled in Pacific Grove in 2007 before moving to Del Mesa Carmel in October.



Bob was, above all, a dedicated and loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, mentor, teacher and colleague. His parents, Robert Sadler, Sr. and Shirley Anderson, predeceased him. He is survived by his beloved wife, Sharon Sadler; his daughter, Jordan S. Sadler (husband Robert Margolis); her children, Ava Sadler-Gordon and Lyle Sadler Gordon; his son, Joshua R. Sadler (partner Erica Johnson); and his younger brother, Jim Sadler and his

family. Bob’s meaningful and loving life leaves a legacy that will impact others for generations.

Bob was a Vietnam veteran who discovered a love of teaching English literature at a local Vietnamese college on his days off from working as a dog handler. When he returned from the war, he immediately married his high school sweetheart Sharon, and became a teacher. Bob taught high school journalism at Westledge School in West Simsbury, CT. Former students remember him as an inspirational and creative teacher. While in Vietnam, Bob also bought his first camera and began to explore photography, learning to capture images of the people and places around him with a keen eye for composition. He shared photos he took with local children who had never had pictures of themselves before. His passion for photography grew deeper over time, and Bob became well-known as a master photographer with a striking ability to use the medium to convey his love of nature and an ability to see the humanity in others. Paired with his storytelling and poetry, his art was appreciated far and wide.

Bob spent his life standing with those who needed support in his community and beyond. This began with a years-long fight against racist housing practices in Hartford, in the 1960s and ’70s, and continued in many ways and many places, culminating in his most recent work fighting tirelessly to reform care for seniors in Pacific Grove. Bob combined his art with his drive for justice in the Monterey Peninsula community when he created the Inherent Worth and Dignity Project in 2012. He collaborated with the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP) to take professional portraits of unhoused individuals. Bob connected with each person with empathy and love, seeing their full humanity as he photographed them. Many of the people he worked with felt that being photographed by Bob was “lucky” because they went on to gain employment and housing after seeing themselves so powerfully reflected through his lens. This project continued until the end of his life as he and Sharon worked together to photograph and write the stories of families living in area shelters.

Bob was highly involved in the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula, where he served a term as board president. His professional life was wide-ranging and impactful; his change management consulting work over many years took him from Connecticut to London and then to Silicon Valley. In recent years, executives from well-known companies came to Monterey to work with Bob at Sadler Consulting. He coached them in executive presence, using a program he developed based on his understanding of team collaboration and business communication.

Bob’s family and friends will gather for a Celebration of Life at 2 p.m. Jan. 25, 2025, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 490 Aguajito Road, Carmel, CA. Charitable donations to the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP) and Interim, Inc. of Monterey County are welcomed in lieu of flowers.

DR. LYNN BOUGHTON

On Nov. 24th, 2024, Dr. Lynn Boughton of Monterey, CA, tragically but peacefully transitioned to the other side. Within one mile of finishing the Big Sur Half Marathon, Lynn suffered a massive heart attack that resulted in an irreparable, anoxic brain injury. After two weeks on life support, surrounded by her beloved siblings and niece, her soul was set free.

Born on March 18th, 1957, to Colonel Charles and Betty Boughton in Apple Valley, CA, Lynnette Louise (her official name which she always hated) was the eldest of five children. Larry and Michelle soon followed and after about a 10 year gap, the younger siblings, Denise and John came along to complete the Boughton pack.

Lynn was, from the start, the golden first-born child and daughter — an outstanding student with exemplary grades, a champion of spelling bees, bowling tournaments and science fairs. She also served as the editor of Notre Dame High School’s newspaper, from which she graduated with honors 1975. Always well-mannered, Lynn carried herself with humble grace, setting the bar high and leaving the trouble making to her brothers and sisters.

As a young adult and while putting herself through medical school, Lynn worked in the service industry for many years. She always valued her experience in hospitality and felt it should be a requirement for every human’s personal growth into adulthood. This is also where she met some of her oldest and dearest friends. She graduated with a psychology degree from Santa Clara University in 1979 and, 10 years later, received her doctor in chiropractic degree from Palmer College.

An avid, experienced runner and all-around health nut (“Is it gluten free??”), Dr. Lynn dedicated her life to learning about the science of our bodies, fitness, nutrition and healing. She was a gifted and esteemed local chiropractor of more than 30 years, always prioritizing the needs of her patients ahead of her own. Lynn approached her practice with warmth, empathy and an openness that set her apart and made her feel more like an old friend than a chiropractor. And she certainly was, to so many. The driving force and livelihood of her life was healing her patients. Her office was her second home, and her patients were her second family.

Continuing in the charitable footsteps of her mother, Lynn also religiously donated to St. Jude Children’s Hospital and UNICEF, yet another testament to her genuinely compassionate heart. Outside of work and her commitment to wellness, Lynn was passionate about traveling, shopping, going to concerts and supporting Bay Area sports teams. She loved ’70s and ’80s music, an Aperol Spritz, and Denzel Washington. Her notable giggle and silliness when she was around the people she loved most, is something that will live vividly in our minds forever.

Lynn is survived by her four siblings, Larry, Michelle, Denise and John; and her nieces and nephew, Kayla, Sophia, Cassidy and Stephan. She is preceded in death by her mother and father, as well as her beloved best friend and life partner, Bill.

A celebration of her life will begin at 2 p.m. Feb. 22nd, 2025, at Carmel Valley Ranch.

Lynn died doing something she loved deeply and dedicated decades of her life to. It was her 21st marathon, and her goal was to complete 25. On Sunday, Feb. 23rd, 2025, we will finish the remaining mile of the race for her. We welcome anyone who knew and loved her, to join us. Further details will be shared at her celebration of life on Feb. 22nd.

On behalf of the Boughton family, we thank you for the profound outpouring of love and support for our dear “Lynn.”

Donations can be made in her name to St. Jude’s Children Hospital, UNICEF or the Carmel Foundation.



Consultant to help weed through marijuana applicants

By KELLY NIX

THE CITY of Pacific Grove is a step closer to getting a pot shop, two years after residents OK'd a ballot measure to allow retail sales of the drug.

The P.G. City Council last week authorized city manager Matt Mogensen to hire Brea-based HdL Companies to help the city with services related to the marijuana business, including helping process business applicants, conducting background checks and ensuring that "only well-qualified applicants are included in the lottery drawing to select the sole cannabis business operator."

Users fee to be used

The initial term of the contract with HdL is expected to be less than \$24,000 through December 2026.

"Consultant fees to the city will only be charged for the hours necessary to finalize the application process and establish the user fees," according to a report by Mogensen presented to the council at its Dec. 18 meeting.

"The user fees will cover all other costs associated with the consultant's work and will be charged to the applicant," the report said.

After voter approval of a pot shop, the council directed city officials to create a licensing program to allow the operation of a retail storefront. A cannabis business must first obtain a license to operate from the city before getting a use permit.

Poor services?

Voters in November 2022 approved Measure M to allow a cannabis seller, and Measure N, which set a tax on such a business at the rate of 6 percent of gross receipts — including sales made in brick-and-mortar stores and through deliveries.

Citizens Inge Lorentzen Daumer and Mike Gibbs opposed hiring HdL, with Gibbs, a member of the city's Economic Development Commission, saying he believed the company's services were "particularly poor," while Daumer said she had "never been a fan" of the consulting firm. The city council did not entertain their concerns.

Mogensen told the council that he expects a 60-day application process to start in mid-February.

A pot shop in Pacific Grove will not be allowed within 1,000 feet of any licensed daycare facility, the city's youth center, or a school, according to the municipal code.

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San Carlos btwn Ocean & 5th

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23
Carmel Woman's Club 100th Year
Ribbon Cutting & Celebration
5:00pm – 7:00pm
9th & San Carlos

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29
Chamber Mixer at Chalone Vineyard
5:00pm – 7:00pm
Carmel Plaza, lower level

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
Chamber Mixer at Mad Dogs Bike Shop
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Photos: DMT Imaging

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QUANTITY

From page 6A

already busy turning out new bills. In the past three weeks assemblymembers have introduced 87 pieces of legislation and senators have written 53 bills.

So what's worthy enough to warrant a bill? The newly introduced legislation covers a wide range of issues, including efforts to make California more affordable and more racially equitable.

Bills for 'Trump-proofing'

Unsurprisingly, several pieces of legislation are geared at thwarting plans President-elect Donald Trump may have for the state. Gov. Gavin Newsom called the new session early so lawmakers could get to work doing just that.

In the new year, California legislators will consider several bills designed to make it harder for Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain people. Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, a Los Angeles Democrat, has written a bill to keep ICE out of schools and daycare centers. California law already prohibits those entities from collecting immigration information, but AB 49 would ban schools from allowing ICE on their grounds without a warrant and approval from the superintendent or principal.

Assemblymember Mike Gibson, a Democrat from Carson, doesn't want law enforcement working with immigration authorities, either. His bill, AB 15, would prohibit the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation from cooperating with the Federal Department of Homeland Security.

Currently, state corrections officers are required to provide the use of prison facilities, transportation and support in the form of hold requests and release date information. Gibson wants to repeal existing law and make it harder for the federal government to deport undocumented immigrants incarcerated in state prisons.

When Newsom called on state lawmakers to help "Trump-proof" the state, abortion rights were also a top priority. Terminating a pregnancy is already protected under the California Constitution, but the Access to Safe Abortion Care Act would ensure the state has a stockpile of abortion drugs.

Medical abortion is available in California, but the bill's authors fear there may be shortages of the most

common abortion pills during Trump's presidency. The Newsom administration started stockpiling mifepristone and misoprostol after Roe v. Wade was overturned, but the Access to Safe Abortion Care Act require the state to renew those supplies.

In addition to making California a bastion of resistance against the incoming president, Democratic lawmakers are also striving to make the state more affordable.

According to Forbes, Californians pay \$53,170 a year for essential goods and services, 30 percent above the national median, along with the highest median housing prices apart from Hawaii. Bringing those costs down in any meaningful way is a tall order, but the Cost of Living Reduction Act of 2025 aims to give it a shot.

The bill comes from Carl DeMaio, a San Diego Republican, who blames California's affordability crisis on "insane regulations and high taxes." If passed, the law would give middle-class families \$2,500 per year as a cost-of-living rebate. The bill would also suspend all state taxes and fees on gas and utilities until lawmakers undertake major regulation reform to prevent cost of living increases. DeMaio envisions those reforms would happen based on recommendations from the Little Hoover Commission, an independent state oversight agency.

"If we want politicians to address the cost crisis, we have to force them to pay the price — not our families," said DeMaio.

Slim to none

The Cost of Living Reduction Act of 2025 has little-to-no chance of passing under the Democratic supermajority in Sacramento, but a bill to stop taxing baby wipes and car seats might have a shot.

Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, a Democrat who represents parts of Los Angeles, has written a bill to make those items exempt from sales taxes, just like food. Isaac's goal is to reduce the financial burden of providing necessary supplies for raising children.

Bryan is also one of several California lawmakers introducing racial equity legislation this session. His bill, AB 7, would give admission priority at the University of California and California State University to the descendants of slaves.

In 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against race-conscious admission programs at universities, banning affirmative action, but still allowing legacy preferences, which Bryan says favor wealthy White students.

"For decades universities gave preferential admission treatment to donors, and their family members, while others tied to legacies of harm were ignored and at times outright excluded," Bryan told the Associated Press. "We have a moral responsibility to do all we can to right those wrongs."

The bill defines a "descendant of slavery" as "a person who, based on lineage, is a descendant of a chattel enslaved person of American chattel slavery." However, the text doesn't go into detail on the verification process.

Most of the 87 bills introduced this month remain in their infancy, with only the skeleton of what's to come available to the public. In the New Year, Rivas is hopeful the reduced bill cap will give lawmakers more time to spend hashing out legislative language. The new limit should also force them to be pickier about what they write, moving forward.

GAVEL

From page 4A

cally resisted arrest. During the struggle, an officer received an injury to his knee.

Nov. 18 — Michael Ellison, 42, of Riverside was convicted by a jury of first-degree murder, first-degree attempted murder of a peace officer, and first-degree attempted murder. Ellison was also convicted of three counts of assault by a life prisoner. The Hon. Judge Stephanie Hulsey presided.


On April 8, 2018, Ellison stabbed fellow prisoner Jason Lewis to death on the yard at Salinas Valley State Prison. On July 26, 2019, Ellison, while housed in administrative segregation at Correctional Training Facility in Soledad, stabbed a correctional officer multiple times. On Aug. 12, 2023, Ellison stabbed his cellmate at Salinas Valley State Prison.

The jury also found true allegations that Ellison has a prior conviction for murder out of Riverside County in 2004, assault by a prisoner with a deadly weapon from Kings County in 2005, and assault with a deadly weapon causing great bodily injury from Kern County in 2017.

Ellison faces a maximum sentence of life without parole plus an additional 87 years to life in prison.


This case was investigated by the Investigative Services Unit of Salinas Valley State Prison and the Investigative Services Unit of the Correctional Training Facility, as well as district attorney investigator Erik Morris and retired district attorney investigator Jackie Meroney.

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A quarter-century later, artists again take different paths to color

REVISITING A show they did together at the Monterey Museum of Art 25 years ago, painter Lucas Blok and photographer Jeffrey Becom team up to explore how the “enduring power” of color can “shape our visual reality.”

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

Titled “The Persistence of Color II,” the exhibit opens Thursday at the same museum.

Through “simple compositions and experimental color interactions,” Blok’s paintings are “grounded in the elemental use of color,” but lack a visual narrative, according to the artist. “Ultimately, what one sees is the creation of

the viewer,” said the painter, who has a gallery on the third floor of Carmel Plaza.

In contrast, Becom, who studied anthropology and architecture, seeks to showcase subjects with stories behind them. “Painted facades from around the globe are the subject and color palette that inspire my artwork, and I seek to preserve their cultural history, myths and meanings,” explained the photographer, who lives in Pacific Grove and has traveled extensively throughout Latin America to find creative inspiration.

As the years have passed, Blok and Becom have continued to push the boundaries of their mediums. But they still find color fascinating. “Our work has progressed over the last quarter-century, but both of us have adhered faithfully to a direct and steady course of color investigation,” Becom explained. “I am delighted to reprise, commemorate and build upon our earlier exhibition and installation.”

Museum executive director Corey Madden urged people to check out the show. “This exhibition is an exceptional opportunity to consider how one’s experience of



Photographer Jeffrey Becom explores color in the painted facades of buildings in Latin America.

color evolves across time, place, medium and creative perspective,” Madden said.

“The Persistence of Color II” will be on display through April 27. The museum is located at 559 Pacific St. For more details, visit montereyart.org

ROBERT ‘BOB’ E. RICE

After a well-lived, happy, and achievement-filled life, Robert “Bob” E. Rice of Washington, IL, (former resident of Monterey, CA for 22 years), passed away at the age of 93 on Dec. 6, 2024, at Saint Francis Hospital (OSF) in Peoria, IL, surrounded by his family.

Bob was born in Suffern, NY, to Edward N. and Mildred E. Rice. At age 5, he began his lifelong love of the New York Yankees, frequently boasting about sitting on Babe Ruth’s lap and getting his autograph.

Bob displayed a commitment to leadership and service early in his life, first as an Eagle Scout and president of his class at Suffern High School, and then as student body president at Ithaca College where he worked his way through college and earned a degree in radio. He and his college sweetheart, Patricia Tanner, co-founded the Freshman Orientation Program and were married for 21 years. They raised four children, Robin, Kathleen, David and Paul.

Bob proudly served in the Army Signal Corps, stationed in the U.S. and Germany, before earning a master of science degree in radio-television from Syracuse University.

His distinguished 44-year career in television broadcasting included managing four ABC and NBC television stations in Peoria, IL, Providence, RI, Portland, ME and Salinas/Monterey Bay, CA (KSBW). He was elected chair of the ABC Television Affiliate Board of Governors and served in leadership roles with the All Industry (Television) Music License Committee, the Television Bureau of Advertising, and Illinois and Maine Broadcasters Associations. His leadership and dedication to community service earned him the prestigious National Television Abe Lincoln Award.

In 1981, Bob married his beloved Sandra “Sandy” Williams in Illinois, welcoming her children, Jill and Joe Bocian, into his life. Together, Bob and Sandy lived in four states. They shared passions including traveling across the USA and to six continents, playing tennis at Spanish Bay and traveling to professional matches, cheering on the Golden State Warriors, and building a rich life filled with family. In 2018, they left California and returned to Illinois.

Bob was deeply committed to every community he lived in. He was an advocate for building business-community partnerships to create healthy, safe, and well-educated communities through his leadership with the United Way, Partners for Peace, Crime Stoppers, the Red Cross, Salvation Army and the Boys and Girls Club. He championed his value of lifelong education through launching First Day of School celebrations and Adopt-A-School programs.

Bob “retired” several times, only to answer new calls to serve as the president of the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, executive director of the Monterey County Business Council, board treasurer of the Church in the Forest and trustee of the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation.

Bob strived to live his life by the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” He became an ambassador everywhere he went, whether it was at Five Points Washington (IL) where he and Sandy exercised five days a week until his illness, or at Braker’s Market in Eureka, IL, where he significantly increased their fan base. Many have said they looked to Bob for guidance in their own lives, a warm hug, and thought-provoking conversations.

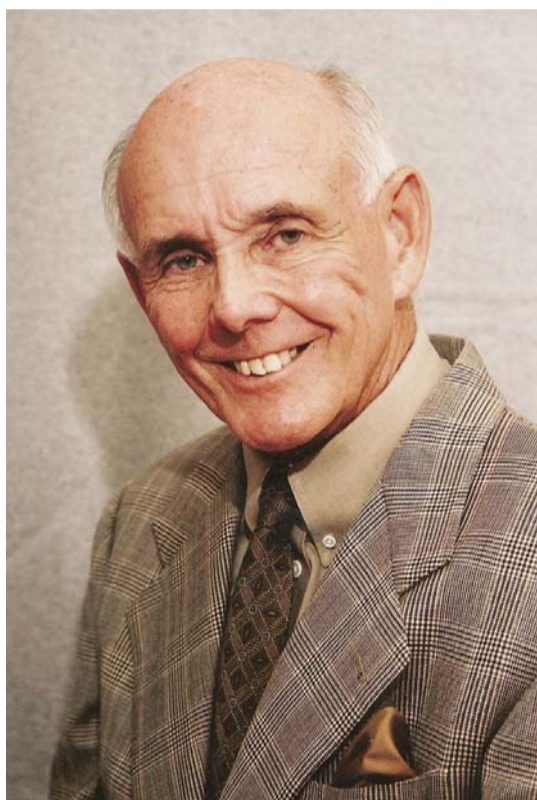
Bob is survived by his best friend, and wife of 43 years, Sandy; brother, James Rice of Ballston Spa, NY; his six children, Robin Barnes (Scott), Washington, IL; Dr. Kathleen Rice (Richard Gerber), Oakland, CA; David Rice, Normal, IL; Paul Rice (Rita), Evanston, IL; Jill Johnson, Washington, IL; and Joseph Bocian (Ana), North Kingstown, RI; ten grandchildren: Michael Barnes (Emily), Katy Barnes, Nicholas Rice, Ryan Rice, Amir Rice, Kayla Rosen (Peter), Kristen Laible (Adam), Tanner Johnson, Joseph Bocian and Jason Bocian; and two great-grandchildren: Elliott Barnes and Scottie Barnes.

Bob’s legacy will live on in the countless lives he touched and the communities he inspired. A celebration of his life will be held on June 28, 2025, in Washington IL.

Contributions honoring his spirit may be sent to:

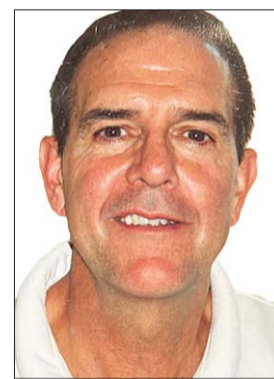
- Naval Postgraduate School: <https://www.npsfoundation.org/support/donate>
- Little Free Library: <https://give.littlefreelibrary.org/campaign/641116/donate>
- Washington District Library (please send a check to the library at 380 Wilmor Road, Washington IL 61571, mentioning it is in honor of Bob Rice).

To leave condolences, visit Legacy.com.



JAMES ALFRED BELL

James Bell, born Feb. 27, 1941, in Baltimore, Maryland, died Dec. 7, 2024, in Carmel, surrounded by family.



Jim was known by many for his kindness and ability to listen deeply to others. He played basketball growing up in Oregon and throughout his undergraduate studies at Dartmouth University and doctorate degree at Boston

University. He went on to play professional basketball in Strasbourg, France from 1969-1971 while working on post-graduate degree at the University of Strasbourg and the University of Mannheim, Germany. He spent the rest of his academic career as a professor of philosophy at the University of South Florida and retired with an Emeritus award in 2003.

As an avid triathlete and road runner, Jim met Catherine Goddard Bell, whom he called “the love of his life,” at a road race in Florida in 1983 and they married in 1986. Jim became stepfather to Laura Mullen and Cristin DeVine. Jim and Catherine moved to the Goddard family home in Carmel and Jim commuted to his professorial post in Florida for a few years before retiring and settling full time in Carmel.

Following his interests in both business and architecture, Jim began working with Alain Pinel Company as a real estate agent in 2005 and worked with Carmel Realty Company until his death.

The richness of Jim’s outer life was also reflected in his inner life, and he could often be found sitting at the dining table, writing in his journal, in the middle of the night. He shared his love of introspection and connection with others as a member and supporter of the Breakthrough for Men organization and showed his strong dedication to friends by continuing to talk regularly with ones he had since college and his time living in France.

Jim is survived by his wife, Catherine; his daughters, Laura and Cristin; grandson, Shannen and great-grandchildren, Abby and Wyatt; and his sister, Barbara; and brother, Dexter.

He will be missed by family, friends, and neighbors in Carmel. Jim did not want a memorial service but donations in his memory can be made to Breakthrough for Men: (<https://breakthroughformen.org/donate>).

FERRINI

From page 1A

safe wildlife corridor along Highway 68 — a creek that runs parallel to San Benancio Road and underneath the busy highway — passes through the property.

Christy Fischer of the Trust for Public

Attesting to the need to protect wildlife, Big Sur Land Trust's Rachel Saunders reported that her group has been studying animal activity at the ranch for two decades.

"These studies recorded more than 400 wildlife detections over a one-year period at the Highway 68 undercrossing, including species such as bobcats, mountain lions, foxes, American badgers and Monterey dusky-footed woodrats. Conserving Ferrini Ranch ensures that innumerable wildlife species — each playing a unique role in the web of life — can move more freely across this landscape."

Discounted deal

Fischer thanked the Kelton Family for their generosity, and pointed out that they sold the ranch for about \$11 million less than its appraised value. The land had been listed for as high as \$35 million. The Keltons bought the land from the Ferrini family in 1970. "We're really grateful they were willing to work with us," she added.

Big Sur Land Trust executive director Jeannette Tuitele-Lewis celebrated news of the acquisition.

"Ferrini Ranch is a critical piece of this landscape that is beloved by the community," Tuitele-Lewis said. "We are thrilled

to work with Trust for Public Land, and given the purchase price and the complexity of the project, we knew that a partnership with the trust would increase our chances of success. This approach also allows us more time to raise the funds needed to permanently protect this magnificent property."

The Kelton family is also happy to see

their ranch become open space.

"Our family has a long history with this property," Mark Kelton added. "While it had been our intent to develop this into a unique and special neighborhood, we also have a strong affection for natural beauty and we are very happy to find a long-term opportunity to see this special property conserved."



PHOTO/TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Deidre Monroe of the Big Sur Land Trust admires the views from a ridgeline at the Ferrini Ranch along Highway 68.

Land told The Pine Cone that the ranch provides a "unique and truly irreplaceable link" in a network of wildlife corridors that connects Fort Ord National Monument with the wildlands of the mountains to the south.

DANIEL L. CARLIN

Bluffton, South Carolina

May 9, 1927 - June 16, 2024

Daniel L. Carlin, "Dan," cherished husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend, passed away peacefully on June 16, 2024, at his home in Bluffton, South Carolina. He was 97 years old.

Born in Chicago in 1927 to Elsie Mae Hurst and Daniel Lulus Carlin, Dan exhibited a zest for life from a young age. His passion for adventure was evident early on when he owned both a car and a plane, earning his pilot's license at an early age. He graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago and went on to open his own real estate business. His career took him to the savings and loan industry in California. He loved his communities and was involved in many civic groups. He enjoyed golfing, dancing, making his family and friends laugh, and sharing a good scotch.



Dan spent most of his life in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California with his adored wife, June Kindig Carlin. They raised their three daughters, Misty, Patty and Vicki, who were his pride and joy. Dan retired to Mexico, where he eventually met his wonderful, second wife, Pat Rutkowski of New York. They enjoyed many years exploring and traveling together. After 10 years in Mexico, they made Bluffton, South Carolina their home.

It is hard to describe a long life well lived. Dan was the life of the party wherever he went, known for his quick wit, and great sense of humor, and captivating stories. He had a sharp eye for stylish automobiles, houses and clothing. He was exceptionally clever and creative, consistently going above and beyond to make a memorable impact for others. There wasn't a problem he would not attempt to solve. His wisdom and opinions, sought after or not, were cherished by his family. He was caring and generous. Family was important to him. He was an adored uncle to Michael, Rob, Paul, Peter C., David, Sue, Richard, Tommy, Steve, Peter H., Holly, Danna, Bradley and Kimberly. As a grandfather, he enjoyed spending playful time with Jake, Josie, Kevin, Lauren, Hannah, and his namesake, Carlin Anne.

As fate would have it, his wife Pat Rutkowski, passed away 28 days prior to him. He was predeceased by his parents, all his siblings and their spouses: Muriel (Bob) Schermerhorn of Connecticut, Danna (Russ) Davenport of Oklahoma, Richard (Evie) Carlin of Chicago, Roger (Shirley) Carlin of Chicago/Florida and Connie (Buzz) Hungett of California. He was also preceded in death by his first wife, June Kindig Carlin; cousins, Jack (Polly) Carlin and their son Brian Carlin of Santa Barbara, CA; as well as nephews, Peter Carlin (IL), Paul Carlin (AZ), Tommy Davenport (OK) and Steve Hungett (AZ/SC); and his stepdaughter and son-in-law, Norby (Larry) Gasho (McLean, VA).

Dan is survived by his daughters and their spouses: Misty (Mike) Carpenter of Ventura, CA; Patty (Casey) Beal of Mandeville, LA; Vicki (Mike) Odello of Carmel, CA; stepson, David (Carol) Rea (Edmonds, WA); his grandchildren, Jake Odello (Carmel Valley, CA), Josie (Justin) Irby (Carmel Valley, CA), Kevin Carpenter (Ventura, CA), Lauren Carpenter (Ventura, CA), Carlin Beal (Dallas, TX) and Hannah (Brayden) Bourg (Madisonville, LA) and a great-grandchild, Weslie Joseph Bourg, due in March 2025; his step grandchildren, Eric Rea (Edmonds, WA), and Anne (JD) Krohn (Washington DC). He is also survived by his cousin, Steve (Christine) Carlin (San Diego, CA) and many grand and great-grand nieces and nephews.

The family extends a special thank you to loving neighbors the Kerney's and Santone's in Bluffton, SC, and to dear friends Lisa Karoon and Dee Ladson.

Dan's legacy of humor, adventure, and love will be fondly remembered and deeply missed.

In honor of Dan, please take a moment to pray, as he did daily, for love and laughter to be spread around the world.

In Loving Memory of Jan Clayton Buhl

Jan Clayton Buhl passed away peacefully on Dec. 4, 2024, at the age of 82. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend.

Born on Dec. 22, 1941, in Dothan, AL, Jan Clayton lived a life full of love, laughter and dedication to family. He was a man of integrity, fairness, hard work, but most importantly, unconditional love, intelligence, generosity and a ceaseless dry wit.

He had dreams of becoming a fighter pilot, and while he did enter the U.S. Air Force as a captain due to his medical degree, he became a radiologist for his lifelong career. Though he always had his eyes on the skies, whether it was flying in a glider plane, watching "Top Gun" and its following sequel way too many times, or catching an air show.

Jan Clayton also spent much of his free time gardening, taking care of and feeding various local critters (he always had a soft heart for any and all living creature), taking his daughter on nature walks, working on old classic cars, reading yet another mystery book, and never ceasing to learn something new.

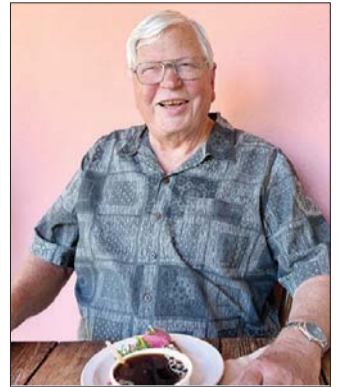
Jan was blessed in his life to have loved, not just one woman, his first wife, the late Bunny Harper Buhl, but later on in life, his second love, the late Ivy Berman Buhl.

He continued to live in Monterey, among the loving families of Bunny, Ivy and his daughter Angel, sharing holidays and quality time with all of them.

Jan is survived by his loving daughter, Angel; his son-in-law, Essam; his stepchildren, Victoria and her spouse Andrew; and Knight and his spouse Kate; as well as his grandchildren, Blake, Zach, Javon, Amanda and Dante. He will also be deeply missed by his Harper family members, local friends and former colleagues.

Jan Clayton Buhl will be remembered for his Godly love for people and critters, kindness, generosity, intelligence and dry sense of humor. He was a man who always had a smile on his face and a kind and/or humorous word for everyone he met. He will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege and blessing to know him.

A private funeral/memorial service will be held on Dec. 30. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to The Bridge Restoration Ministry in Monterey, CA in his memory.



PAMELA BERNHARD

Pam is noted for an innovative program at Alisal High School in Salinas that identified able students, who in many cases were headed to a life in the fields picking crops, and got them headed to college and a brighter future instead.

She wrote countless letters of introduction and encouraged students to apply, even though many of their parents saw no future in this and wanted the income from picking instead.

Her students excelled at universities and she received substantial publicity, even in the national press. There were efforts to get her to monetize this in the private sector but she turned it all the down, including a movie deal, and stayed the course at Alisal.



Pam's family took her to Mexico as a child, but could not care for her and she found herself in a Mexican Catholic orphanage where only Spanish was spoken. Returning to the U.S. was a real culture shock for her, but she did do well in high school and actually broke the school record in the hurdles. She could not have achieved what she did without the empathy that came from that special history.

Multi-generational benefits can be among the best but the most difficult to achieve. As her students now establish growing family trees, their hard work will pass down to their descendants and allow them to excel in professional, not agricultural fields.

As their family trees grow, more and more descendants will benefit from the path their ancestors took and certainly Pam's efforts have established a special legacy.

Pam was a baseball mom to her sons, David and Joe; and is also survived by her husband, Carl; sister, Linda; brother, Butch; and grandkids, Izzy, Sophie, Valentina and Ethan.

A Celebration of Life will take place in March at Alisal High School. To learn more, email carlos.bernie@icloud.com

Dean of NFL referees was neighbor to many in Peninsula community

JIM TUNNEY was an educator, school administrator, college trustee, celebrated public speaker, newspaper columnist, author, philanthropist, and quite possibly the greatest professional football official who ever donned the striped shirt.

The longtime Monterey Peninsula resident, who died Dec. 12 at his Pebble Beach home, famously officiated many of the legendary games in NFL history during a 31-year career (1960-1991), making memorable calls witnessed on live television by generations of football fans.

'Babe Ruth'

"In the world of officiating, Jim Tunney is Babe Ruth," CBS announcer Jim Nantz once said of his former Del Monte Forest neighbor, who was in uniform for many of the sport's all-time greatest games.

Tunney shivered in a howling wind as an alternate referee in Green Bay during the infamous "Ice Bowl" on Dec. 31, 1967, when the temperature dipped to 13 below zero with a wind chill of -48 as the Packers beat the Dallas Cowboys 21-17 for the NFL Championship.

Tunney said he was lucky that day to be merely the backup ref because he was able to sneak over to the heater on Green Bay's bench once in a while.

"Two of our officials had their whistles freeze to their lips during the game," he told me in an interview. "Every time they

off-balance pass in the back of the end zone with 58 seconds left.

On Dec. 31, 1988, Tunney officiated one of the sport's weirdest games — "The Fog Bowl," Eagles vs. Bears in the NFC Playoffs — when fog crept in from Lake Michigan to reduce visibility at Chicago's Soldier Field to 20-30 yards. Players and CBS commentators Verne Lundquist and Terry Bradshaw complained that they couldn't see the sidelines or the first-down markers.

29 playoff games, four Super Bowls

Being present for so many of the NFL's most memorable events was neither coincidence nor accident. Over more than three decades, Tunney officiated more than 400 NFL games, 29 postseason matchups, 10 championships, four Super Bowls, six Pro Bowls, and 25 Monday Night Football games — a resume that earned him the nickname, "The Dean of NFL Officials."

When he made a call, he wasn't always right and wasn't always appreciated.

One of his most controversial decisions came in the waning moments of a 1965 playoff game between the Packers and the Baltimore Colts, when Tunney, working as the field judge, was the only official stationed under the NFL's old-style goalposts (H-shaped, with 10-foot uprights) as Green Bay kicker Don Chandler attempted a go-ahead field goal.

The kicker's shoulders slumped, and his head fell forward in apparent disgust, as the attempt appeared to sail wide-left.

When Tunney threw his arms in the air,



PHOTOS/PINE CONE FILE

At left, Jim Tunney in 2009, and above with Joe Montana during an NFL game in the 1980s.

ruling the kick good, Colts head coach Don Shula went berserk.

"Don Shula was pretty great at chewing out an official," Tunney recalled of the famously volatile coaching legend, who became one of his closest friends. "Tom Landry could get mad, too, but what I liked about Tom was he moved on as soon as the next play began. Chuck Knox, Hank Stram, George Halas ... those guys would scream at you about the same play for a whole quarter."

Alter ego: Educator

Tunney, the famous ref, also had a day job. He began teaching at L.A.'s Lincoln High School in 1951, worked as vice principal from 1959-64, then served as principal in Los Angeles at Fairfax High

(1964-1970), Franklin High (1972-1973), and Hollywood High (1973-1974).

He also officiated basketball and football at the high school and collegiate levels for several years.

After serving as superintendent of secondary education for the Bellflower Unified School District (1975-1977), Tunney left education for 16 years. He moved to the Monterey Peninsula in 1980.

He retired as an on-field NFL official after the 1990 season but remained active in the sport with the Jim Tunney Youth Foundation, which he founded in 1993 (mission statement: "To support local community programs that develop leadership, work skills, wellness, and self-esteem in

See **SPORTS** next page

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

pulled the whistles out of their mouths, some skin came with them."

He was the ref in San Francisco on Jan. 20, 1982, when 49ers tight end Dwight Clark scored to beat Dallas, 28-27, for the NFL Championship with "The Catch" — a fully-extended grab of Joe Montana's



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COUNCIL

From page 1A

for Monterey County, Tor House Foundation, Carmel Unified School District and Visit Carmel. (City administrator Chip Rerig acts as the city's representative for CUSD and Visit Carmel.)

According to the resolution in the council's agenda packet, councilman Bob Delves will not be assigned to any organization, while councilman Hans Buder will serve as the primary on one, councilwoman Alissandra Dramov will do likewise, and councilman Jeff Baron will serve as primary representative on three, as will Byrne. Some of the organizations also have alternative members listed.

They'll then receive the midyear budget report with recommended adjustments to revenues and expenditures based on changes in the original estimates in the 2024-2025 budget adopted in June, but finance manager Jayme Fields said it will be a wash, with income and costs continuing to balance each other out.

Finally, Police Chief Paul Tomasi will

update the council on the long-discussed topic of renovating the police station, which has been occupied since 1968 and has not aged well. The preliminary design concept he'll present calls for updating and expanding the police and adjacent public works buildings on their site at Junipero and Fourth.

'Ingenious'

"These plans demonstrate that all the police programs and a large portion of the public works programs can be housed on the existing site if the building envelope is expanded," Tomasi says in his report. The design firm, Indigo, "developed these plans in such a way as to minimize the impact on the residents adjacent to the proposed expanded facility."

"In addition, Indigo developed a very ingenious construction phasing plan that is designed to minimize the cost of providing swing space that would be abandoned after occupying the rebuilt facility," he says.

The special meeting will take place in person at Carmel City Hall on Monte Verde south of Ocean and online via Zoom, and is set to begin at 4:30 p.m. For more information and a full agenda, visit ci.carmel.ca.us.

SPORTS

From previous page

youth.")

In 1994, Tunney was hired in Monterey as headmaster at York School, where he joined the school's board of trustees the following year.

"His advice to the Head of School was to 'get close to the kids,'" said Doug Key, who became York's Head of School in July 2019. "He thought that the best way to be an effective leader is to understand the students."

From 1997-2009, he served on the board of Monterey Peninsula College, six of those years as board chair.

Tunney was presented with MPC's President's Award in 2009, when he was also named Public Official of the Year by the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of

Commerce.

He authored six books: "It's the Will, not the Skill," "Impartial Judgment," "Taking Charge: Lessons in Leadership," and two collections from his newspaper column, "The Tunney Side of Sports." He also contributed to "Chicken Soup for the Sports Fan's Soul."

Linda Tunney shared her husband's passion for making a positive impact on youngsters, serving for 24 years as executive director of AT&T Pebble Beach Junior Golf Association, a foundation that granted almost \$1 million in scholarship money before she retired in 2019.

The Tunneys celebrated 28 years of marriage in November.

They shared six children, Maureen, Michael, Mark, Janet, Debbie and Bill, and 16 grandchildren.

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

File # 15952235 T.S. No.: 24-14241-168 Loan No.: *****0001 **Notice of Trustee's Sale Deed of Trust**, Assignment of Rents, and Fixture Filing (hereinafter referred to as 'Deed of Trust') You are in default under a deed of trust dated 6/27/2017. 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. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Original Trustor(s): Signature YHM Land LLC, a California Limited Liability Company Duly Appointed Trustee: WT Capital Lender Services, a California corporation Recorded 7/3/2017, as Instrument No. 2017035228 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Monterey County, California Date of Sale: 1/21/2025 at 10:00 AM Place of Sale: At the main entrance to the County Administration Building, 168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, Ca 93901 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$1,886,523.22 Estimated Street Address or other common designation of real property: York Highlands, Lot #18, Monterey, Ca 93940 Legal Description: Real property in the unincorporated area of the County of Monterey, State of California, described as follows: Parcel One: Lot 18, in the County of Monterey, State of California, as shown on that certain map entitled Tract no. 1513 York Highlands subdivision which map was filed in the office of the recorder of the County of Monterey, State of California, recorded May 31, 2012 in book 24, of map page 34. Parcel Two: A non-exclusive easement for road and utilities over that parcel designated as "Parcel M", as shown on that map entitled "Tract 1452 Monterra Ranch Phase 10", filed December 1, 2005 in volume 23 of maps, "Cities and Towns", page 16 in the office of the County recorder of Monterey County, California. Parcel Three: A non-exclusive easement for road and utilities over that parcel designated "Monterra Ranch Road Parcel L" as shown on that map entitled "Tract no.1450 Monterra Ranch Phase 8" filed September 14, 2005 in volume 23 of maps, "Cities and Towns", page 14, in the office of the County recorder of Monterey County, California. Parcel Four: A non-exclusive easement for road and utilities over that parcel designated "Parcel R2", as shown on that map entitled "Tract 1419 Monterra Ranch Phase 6", filed June 16, 2004 in volume 22 of maps, "Cities and Towns", page 56, in the office of the County recorder of Monterey County, California. Parcel Five: A 40' wide access and P.U.E. purposes over and across "Parcel H" for benefit of lots 21 and 22, as shown on the above map, recorded May 31, 2012 in book 24, of maps, page 34. A.P.N.: 259-261-018-000 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. In the event that the Deed of Trust described in this Notice of Trustee's Sale is secured by real property containing one to four single-family residences, the following notices are provided pursuant to the provisions of Civil Code section 2924f. 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. Bidders at the trustee auction must make cashier's checks payable to WT Capital. Third party cashier's checks will not be accepted. 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 559-228-8393 or visit this internet website www.wtcap.com, using the file number assigned to this case 24-14241-168. 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: Effective January 1, 2021, 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 (559) 228-8393, or visit this internet website www.wtcap.com, using the file number assigned to this case 24-14241-168 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. Date: December 20, 2024 WT Capital Lender Services, a California corporation 7522 North Colonial Avenue, Suite 111 Fresno, California 93711 (559) 228-8393 WTCap.com By Nate Kucera, Chief Executive Officer (IFS# 37606 12/27/24, 01/03/25, 01/10/25)

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Editorial

The cracked crystal ball

WHEN THE New York Times announced recently that progressive economist Paul Krugman would be retiring as a columnist on the newspaper's op-ed page, political commentators from the right took the opportunity to revisit some of the whoppers Krugman told over the years, including his prediction on election night 2016 that the stock market would "never recover" from having Donald Trump in the White House. Not only did the market quickly recover from an initial downturn when Trump's victory became evident, it went on to hit record highs in the months following.

But that's not the dumbest prediction that came from Krugman's treasure chest. That distinction goes to his 1998 prophecy that the internet would turn out to be a dud. In an article published in Red Herring magazine, Krugman bemoaned that technological advances weren't what they were cracked up to be — "The truth is that we live in an age not of extraordinary progress but of technological disappointment," he said — and made a prediction that brought him global fame for being wrong:

"The growth of the Internet will slow drastically," Krugman wrote, because "most people have nothing to say to each other. By 2005 or so, it will become clear that the Internet's impact on the economy has been no greater than the fax machine's."

Krugman, who has a Nobel Memorial Prize in economics, is certainly not the first "expert" to be stupendously wrong, even in his field of expertise.

In 1943, Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, opined that "there is a world market for maybe five computers." In 1977, Ken Olson, founder of Digital Equipment Corp., said "there is no reason any individual would want to have a computer in their home." In the early 1980s, Bill Gates, a pioneer of the personal computer industry, offered that "nobody's getting rich writing software that I know of," and later said, "640K ought to be enough for anybody." Oops.

Of course, the news media are another rich source of embarrassing mistakes, and we're not just talking about "Dewey Defeats Truman," or the type of politically motivated lies that ruined the credibility of the media in recent years.

Even when they're not engaging in propaganda in favor of a candidate or cause, people who supposedly know what they're talking about can get things much more wrong than the man in the street. Outstanding in this field are the weapons of mass destruction story in the run-up to the 2003 Iraq War, the idea that Hillary Clinton was a shoo-in to win the 2016 presidential election, the cover-up of the origins of the coronavirus during the first three years of the pandemic, and hundreds of other missteps and lies.

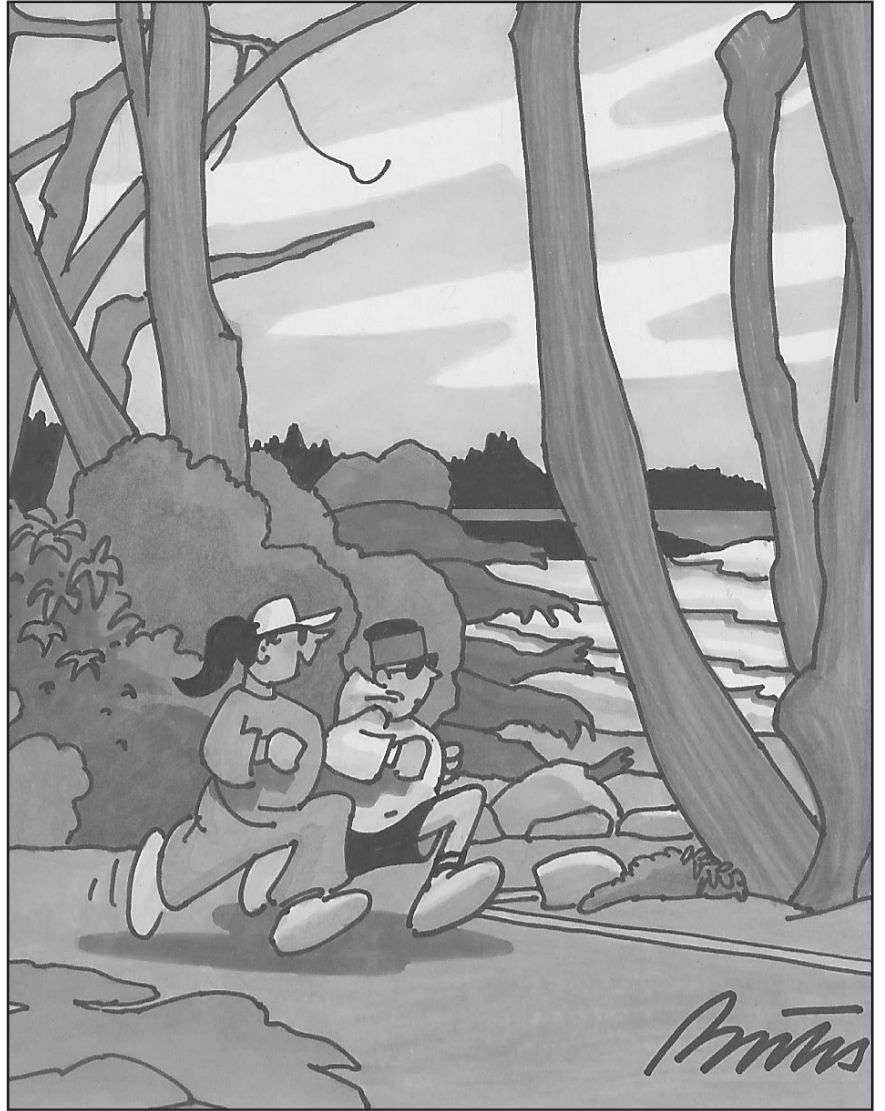
But foremost of all the erroneous predictions of the last 100 years was the idea that humankind was doomed to an age of war, famine and disease brought on by overpopulation. Originated by 19th-century economist Thomas Malthus, the concept of an inevitable Malthusian Catastrophe was popularized by Stanford University biologist Paul Ehrlich, whose 1968 book, "The Population Bomb," included such priceless prognostications as, "In the 1970s, hundreds of millions of people will starve to death," along with statements like, "the entire planet and virtually every nation is already vastly overpopulated" and "the problem in the world is that there are too many rich people."

Since Ehrlich penned those gems, the Earth's population has increased from 3.5 billion to more than 8 billion, with no widespread famine, war or disease — at least, not caused by resource depletion, as he claimed — and wealth has increased almost everywhere, with global poverty rates falling dramatically.

Meanwhile, the rate of population growth has collapsed to the point that worries about overpopulation have been replaced by concerns about population shrinkage in almost every developed part of the globe. In one country, South Korea, the fertility rate has fallen so low — just .7 babies per female lifetime — a recent analysis at firstpost.com was headlined, "Why South Korea could be the first country to disappear from Earth."

So next time you hear someone confidently opining about the future or smugly describing the present, please remember that experts can be the wrongest of all, or, as George Orwell put it, "Some ideas are so stupid only intellectuals believe them."

BEST of BATES



"So far we've gotten 19 'hellos,' 17 waves, 13 smiles, and three just raising their eyebrows."

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

Short-term rentals in Big Sur

Dear Editor,

We at Keep Big Sur Wild would like to commend the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and county staff for their approval of the short-term vacation rental ordinance, a result of years of deliberations, revisions, community input, and an understanding of the nuances of the issues and challenges facing Big Sur.

The ordinance disallows short-term commercial vacation rentals in Big Sur, which we hope will mean that additional affordable long-term rental opportunities will be made available to those who need housing.

The unique character and challenges Big Sur faces with short-term rentals have been acknowledged, and we would like to take this opportunity to recognize the leadership of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors on this important issue. This ordinance will help to protect housing, community character and safety, and

neighborhood stability throughout Big Sur. We also wish everyone a wonderful New Year!

Christina McGinnis, on behalf of Keep Big Sur Wild

'Keep the lines open'

Dear Editor,

I share David O'Neil's enthusiasm for our new mayor and city council members. They all seem full of energy and passion for continuing the evolution of our one-of-a-kind village. David has that passion as well.

I must say that my own experience with councilwoman Karen Ferlito has been very different. We met at a Farmers Market where she represented the city's efforts to comply with the state housing mandate. She patiently let me rant for a few minutes, then asked me, "Would you be interested in some facts?" That was a 15-minute conversation with a person very interested in both hearing from a resident, and well prepared to explain what she believed had to be done and why.

Does anyone love the housing mandate? Me neither. But who else would tackle the thankless job of keeping Carmel in compliance with that law? And if others were so certain that we must resist, why didn't they?

After counseling David O'Neil on this, he asked me to quote him: "I agree with Mrs. Ferlito that council members should consider all available guidance when making decisions, not just input from those who attend meetings. Greater community participation leads to better

See LETTERS page 24A

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The Carmel Pine Cone was established in 1915 and is a legal newspaper for Carmel-by-the-Sea, Monterey County and the State of California, established by Superior Court Decree No. 35759, July 3, 1952

After feeding his own hunger for knowledge, he decided to share

MATH AND hard work were the keys to upward mobility, Michael Hogan decided as a boy in Arkansas. A founding member of Carmel's 2-year-old California Arts and Sciences Institute, Hogan's life-long workplace and volunteer efforts have been rewarded with adventures and opportunities that have fed his seemingly unrelenting hunger for knowledge.

During his childhood, his parents moved to St. Louis, Mo., where Hogan said he attended an "extraordinary public high school" that attracted Ivy League

Perhaps as remarkable as the team's achievements was the fact that they were accomplished with slide rules and primitive computers working with data stored on punched cards.

Hogan was subsequently employed by ESL Inc., a private firm in Sunnyvale. It worked with the CIA, but "didn't do just average spy things," he said. Headed by Bill Perry, who would eventually become President Bill Clinton's Secretary of Defense, the organization comprised "an amazing assortment of people — really smart," said Hogan.

He mentioned that he was project manager for the CIA's first satellite system to attain high-resolution video that famously could read license plates from outer space. "It was totally new technology to spy on the Russians and Chinese," he recalled, and it was kept secret for a decade.

Whales

As much as he enjoyed his work with heat shields and spy satellites, he said, "I wanted to do something more on Earth," and became director of his firm's environmental science laboratory, a division he convinced Perry to establish as a way to diversify the company.

The newly formed federal Environmental Protection Agency employed the lab to analyze statistics about thermal pollution from nuclear reactors. And at the Navy's request, Hogan said, ESL analyzed data that indicated ships' movements and sounds were interfering with whales' ability to communicate, and he led the team that studied it. Not only did they learn that noise had deleterious effects on migration and feeding, but the work also led to other remarkable findings and experiences.

"Whales have so many different sounds. Hundreds of words, maybe thousands," and the language varies by species, he said. A whale calf can distinguish its mother's voice from those of other females in the area.

'Wing man'

If you sit in a canoe in San Ignacio Lagoon in Mexico, he said, "Whales come up and visit you. They want to communicate with other mammals. They like to be petted." He added that when they mate, they have the cetacean equivalents of "wing men," the guys who help their buddies meet and flirt with women.

Hogan is also a national expert on atmospheric and air pollution. He contributed to a scientific model that provided information to reduce people's exposure to exhaust fumes from proposed highways.

See **LIVES** page 25A

'SAUNTERING IN PLACE' IS A WAY OF LIFE FOR NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER

AMONG FREE spirits, few are as liberated as Ron Pierce, an 81-year-old fine-art photographer who converses with trees and flowers, builds "restaurants" in his backyard for the birds that gleefully visit his Carmel Valley home, and writes songs, poetry and books.

He lived on a sailboat. His ex-wife — still a good friend — is Delana Schneider, who became famous as the "Carmel Medium." His daughter is an animal coun-

festival, where he sheepishly collected Best of Show with one photo and a blue ribbon for another.

"I wasn't there to sell anything, and I certainly wasn't trying to win anything," he said. "I actually felt embarrassed — felt like I had taken something away from real artists who had made something beautiful with their hands. I didn't even print those photos myself."

Pierce has a white beard and mustache with a full head of hair that drapes his ears and laps over the collar of a flannel shirt tucked into khaki hiking pants. A red kerchief hangs from his neck, and a wide-brimmed, rust-colored fedora tilts back from his forehead.

His mischievous eyes reflect a happy, bohemian lifestyle as he tells tales from a remarkable life.

Inspiration from Ansel Adams

He said he was probably 13 or 14, vacationing with his family in Yosemite National Park, when he wandered into the Ansel Adams Gallery — a moment that dramatically impacted his life.

"I saw Ansel's photographs — black-and-white, of course — and they were ... well, they were alive. That's the only way I can describe his work," he remembered. "It was a visceral feeling. His photos just touched me, and that's kind of where it started."

But it didn't start right away. Pierce, who grew up in Atascadero, displayed an aptitude for math and science as a high school student and moved on to Claremont's Harvey Mudd College — infamous for its difficulty.

"For science and engineering, it was harder to get into that school than MIT or Stanford," he said. "I turned down a full scholarship to Stanford and accepted one at Harvey Mudd instead. I could compete, but there were real geniuses there. We were taking senior-level math courses as freshmen. After two years, I was tired of working that hard."

So, he transferred to California Polytechnical University at San Luis Obispo — another brainiac factory — where he found more reasonable expectations.

Math degree

"At Cal Poly, you weren't allowed to take physical chemistry until your senior year," he reflected. "That was a mandatory class for freshmen or sophomores at Harvey Mudd."

After earning a degree in mathematics, Pierce drove his rusted-out 1952 Chevy

See **ARTIST** page 27A

Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

selor. He was resident astrologer for several years at Carmel's Thunderbird Bookshop, which closed in 2004.

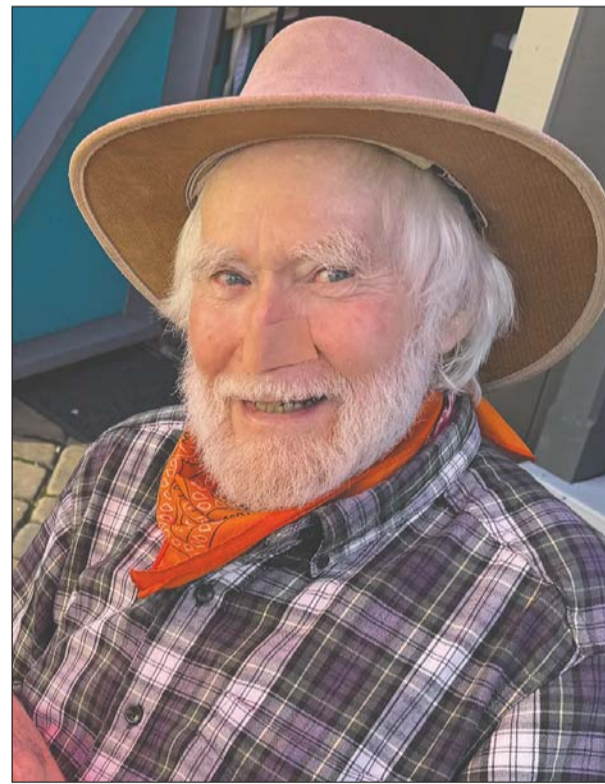
"I'm a renegade," he declared with a laugh that might register on the Richter scale. "I've never belonged to any groups or clubs, because I've never been very good at following rules."

He doesn't exhibit in any galleries. Pierce couldn't care less about selling his spectacular images — gasp-inducing landscapes, sparkling seascapes, glistening, intimate shots of flora that sprouts in his yard, or whatever calls out to him as he hikes.

Not trying to win

"I've posted thousands of images on my Facebook page, and anyone is welcome to download them for personal use, as long as they don't use them for commercial purposes" he said.

Pierce also doesn't compete for awards. Over 40-plus years, he only recalls entering one contest at an arts-and-crafts



PHOTO/SHELLEY ALIOTTI

Carmel Valley's Ron Pierce is a free-spirited fine-art photographer, poet, author, and outdoors enthusiast who still enjoys nature walks at age 81.

Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

graduate a year early. The administration said no, and he turned to physics and completed his bachelor's degree in that subject, then went on to Stanford University, where he earned a Ph.D.

That was during the space race fueled by President John F. Kennedy's 1961 commitment that the United States would send someone to the moon before that decade ended, and NASA hired Hogan before he had even finished his doctorate. At the space agency, he led the design team for the Apollo re-entry heat shield, a challenging and critical issue. Without the proper materials, astronauts would be incinerated as the space capsule plummeted through the atmosphere. And, Hogan pointed out, it wasn't just the shield. The adhesive attaching it to the capsule also had to withstand the extraordinary heat and buffeting.

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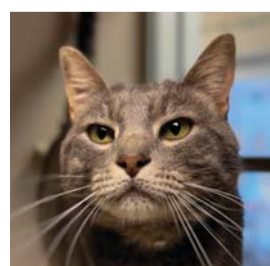
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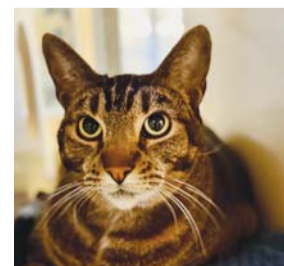
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LETTERS

From page 22A

decision-making and a more transparent government.”

Karen also encouraged me to get involved, show up, and speak up on issues. I am certain that what Karen intended to recommend to council candidates was the opposite of not listening. She knew the value of listening to the people who care enough to come to council meetings, but not only to them, and the value of talking and listening to as many residents as possible.

I wish our incoming council the very best — Carmel needs their best — and hope they keep the lines open.

Joe DiNucci, Carmel

‘Years of service’

Dear Editor,

I am compelled to write after reading a local resident’s unctuous and smarmy word-salad letter that was published in last week’s Pine Cone, criticizing council member Karen Ferlito while tooting his own horn and glorifying the new council members. These kinds of personal attacks should be a disqualifier for any future appointments to boards, commissions or council.

The writer took Karen’s comments out of context and completely misconstrued her advice. She was encouraging the incoming council to not just listen to meeting participants who speak before them, but to read every letter, correspondence and email they receive in determining what is best for Carmel, based on all viewpoints.

Trust me, councilmembers listen to speakers all the time. They just may not always agree with them as to what is best for Carmel.

Karen has honorably served this community for decades and does not deserve the personal attacks heaped on her. I hope the community and new mayor will rise up to join me in thanking her for all her years of service, of which only four were served on council.

Carolyn Hardy, Carmel

Cannery Row condos

Dear Editor,

Well, of course the California Commission rejected the application to convert an unused building to condos. Approving it would mean more housing in the City of Monterey. Apparently, building more housing and creating business opportunities are “inconsistent with a host of Coastal Act provisions addressing core coastal resource concerns.”

The commission would rather let this old eyesore of a building deteriorate and slide into the ocean. And people wonder why it takes decades to get anything done in California.

Gregory D. Lee, Pebble Beach

Supervisor’s efforts

Dear Editor,

Thanks to retiring Monterey County supervisor Mary Adams for working so diligently on behalf of her constituents in Carmel Valley up until her very last days in office. Few people know how much she worked with County Public Works to expand the recent chip-sealing & re-striping of Carmel Valley Road all the way from Garland Park to Valley Greens Drive. The project was initially scheduled to stop at the Mid-Valley Fire Station, yet she worked hard to make sure the even worse section to Valley Greens was included, too.

Over the years, she has kept pushing for the construction of the Laureles Grade/Carmel Valley Road roundabout. When it looked like the project might be further delayed because of insufficient funding, she worked with county public works director Randall Ishii to obtain the funding necessary to get this project funded. The project is now out for bids and there is real hope construction will begin in the spring.

Thank you, Mary, for working so hard on behalf of the 5th District in your final days in office as you did in your first. The 5th District and Carmel Valley are better off today than when you took office. Happy retirement, you have earned it.

Joseph Hertlein, Carmel Valley

POLICE LOG

From page 4A

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Fall on city property on Junipero.
- Pacific Grove:** A 29-year-old male on Sinex was issued a citation for driving on a suspended license.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Suspicious circumstances at Junipero and Fifth.
- Pacific Grove:** Subject was contacted on Lighthouse Avenue. A records check revealed he had an outstanding arrest warrant. The 48-year-old male was arrested for possession of unlawful paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance, obstruction, public intoxication and failure to appear in court. He was booked into Monterey County Jail and held on \$14,500 bail.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Theft of a bicycle on Junipero.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Warrant arrest of a 38-year-old unemployed female Monterey resident at Junipero and Fourth for outstanding warrants for possession of unlawful paraphernalia, being under the influence of a controlled substance, possession of unlawful paraphernalia, possession of narcotics and DUI under the influence of drugs. Warrants totaled \$45,000.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Suspicious person and vehicle at Rio and Atherton.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Theft of credit cards and fraud at Lincoln and Sixth.
- Pacific Grove:** Vehicle tampering on Ransford with no suspect information.
- Pacific Grove:** Violation of a domestic violence restraining order on Sinex. The 38-year-old male was arrested.
- Pacific Grove:** Animal bite report received from the Monterey County Health Department.
- Carmel Valley:** Unknown subject appeared to look inside a house on Paso Cresta at night.
- Big Sur:** Deputy responded to a dead body found on Highway 1.
- Carmel Valley:** Burglary on Valley Greens Drive.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Assault at San Carlos and Seventh at 0016 hours.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** A tree fell onto a neighbor’s garage, causing damage. The tree penetrated the garage roof.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Male loitering inside of a business at San Carlos and Sixth. Male stated he was waiting for the president of the United States to contact him. Male was asked to leave and left without incident.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** A citizen brought a found dog to the station for safekeeping. Shortly after, the owner tracked the dog to the station. Dog returned to owner with a warning.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Car hit a fallen tree in the roadway at Ocean and Hatton.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** A juvenile female was following her juvenile ex-boyfriend. Both were contacted and counseled.
- Pacific Grove:** Found bicycle on Sinex.
- Pacific Grove:** Vehicle stolen while it was parked in front

See LOG next page



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LIVES

From page 23A

At the National Academy of Sciences, he was one of eight people working on air quality issues and influenced the passage of the 1970 Clean Air Act. In County Board of Arlington v. U.S. Department of Transportation, a 2010 Supreme Court case about highway construction, he said, the county prevailed based in part on air pollution models he helped create.

'All political stripes'

His resume includes a large and diverse body of scientific work — more than 1,200 peer-reviewed articles and publications. He's served as the editor-in-chief of the Encyclopedia of Earth, an ambitious online undertaking described on its home page as "an electronic reference about the Earth, its natural environments, and their interaction with society," and "a free, expert-reviewed collection of content contributed by scholars, professionals, educators, practitioners and other experts who collaborate and review each other's work."

After a career that included performing ecological research in 68 countries, testifying before Congress, studying groundwater in Monterey County for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and mapping watersheds in four Western states for the

Bureau of Land Management, the scientist who lives in the hills just outside Carmel has decided to focus his attention on the fledgling organization he helped found.

The all-volunteer California Arts and Sciences Institute began when 45 artists, scientists, entrepreneurs, CEOs and architects decided to work together toward two goals — inspiring young people and promoting dialogue among adults on contemporary issues.

"We have people of all political stripes," Hogan noted, but they focus on facts and data. For instance, he said, while he understands the allure of all-electric vehicles, over their lifespans, they're less environmentally friendly than hybrids. The group has a speakers bureau and is addressing topics as diverse as art, wildfires and artificial intelligence.

Animal-free mozzarella

CASI is dedicated to mentoring youth and providing scholarships. One upcoming event is tailored to students preparing biotech papers for the organization's writing contest, but it's also open to the public. A Jan. 20 presentation by biotechnology inventor Josh Kittleson in the Barnyard shopping center will focus on "genomic biochemistry."

A concrete example is using microbes to produce the proteins found in cheese, "enabling the development of stretchy, melty, and delicious animal-free

mozzarella." (To attend, visit casicalifornia.org and click on the link for the event, which free for students and their families and \$20 for everyone else.)

With so many accomplishments and travels to all seven continents — "Some

just for fun," — behind him, he said he wants to continue to be a good father to his two adult children. He'd also like to visit Mongolia. "It's a huge country and one of the most sparsely populated," he said. And, he added, "so few people get to visit it."

LOG

From previous page

of a residence on Junipero.

Pacific Grove: Outside agency assist on Ocean View Boulevard.

Pacific Grove: Animal bite report received from the Monterey County Health Department.

Pebble Beach: A 54-year-old male and a 35-year-old male obstructed medical personnel from performing life-saving measures on two male victims on 17 Mile Drive.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Animal control responded to several people attempting to capture a loose dog at Santa Lucia Avenue and Dolores. The dog was secured on a leash until the owner could pick up the dog. Returned to owner with a warning.

Pacific Grove: Welfare check on Monarch Lane. Subject transported to hospital.

Pacific Grove: Vandalism to a vehicle on Lighthouse. No suspect information.

Carmel area: Deputies responded to a report of a suspicious item on Portola Drive.

Pebble Beach: Verbal altercation between two males on 17 Mile Drive.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Traffic stop at Forest and Seventh. In-field cite and release for false DMV tabs.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Burglary at a residential construction site at Scenic and 12th.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Assisted the sheriff's office with initial response to an armed robbery of a bank on Carmel Rancho Lane.

Pacific Grove: Vehicles on Austin Avenue and on Monarch Lane marked for 72-hour parking.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Outside assist at San Carlos and Fourth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Animal control responded to a loose dog and followed it to a home. The part-time resident was contacted and possible solutions for keeping the dog contained were discussed.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Wallet found in bushes at San Carlos and Sixth was brought to CPD and booked for safekeeping.



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ARTIST

From page 23A

to San Jose, strutted into IBM's headquarters and asked for a job.

"Uh ... have you filled out an application?" he was asked.

"Well ... no," answered the naive young candidate, who completed the paperwork, handed it in, and sat down to wait for an interview he assumed was merely a formality.

"Forty-five minutes later, somebody walked up and said, 'Can we help you?'" reminisced Pierce, who was told to go home and wait for a phone call.

"I didn't apply anywhere else," he said.

A week later, after hearing nothing, he called, managed to get an appointment and nursed his aging car all the way back to San Jose.

The dead battery

This time, Pierce was interviewed by a gauntlet of managers. The last one walked him to the parking lot.

"When I tried to start my old car, the battery was dead," he said. "I'm pretty sure that's when he decided, 'Somebody needs to give this poor kid a break.'"

The company put him on a jet that same afternoon to its training school in New York. The fresh-faced Cal Poly alum spent six weeks in downtown Manhattan, all expenses paid, and graduated first in his class.

When he returned, Pierce became the first programmer at IBM's San Jose facility, writing cutting-edge code that solved almost any problem they sent his way.

After six weeks there, he traded his clunky Chevy for a brand-new 1966 Corvette Stingray convertible with a bolt-on hardtop. "I bought that car right off the showroom floor and drove it for 400,000 miles," he said.

He was an IBM star, a roguish innovator in the Wild West days of computer coding.

"I think I actually created the first-ever computer virus," chuckled Pierce, who earned multiple promotions through the years, ultimately landing in the company's research lab. "They gave me all the plum jobs."

In 1970, at 27, he bought his first camera, a Nikon Nikkormat, which he soon upgraded to a Nikon F2. He prefers digital photography today. In 1980, after 13 years with IBM, he abruptly walked away at age 37 to pursue photography as a full-time

professional.

"I wasn't the kind of person who saved money and didn't have much when I quit IBM, so I sold a piece of property in the Carmel Highlands — 1 acre, with a spectacular view of Malpas Canyon and the ocean, for \$40,000," said Pierce, who then made a couple of unsuccessful attempts to rent space in a local gallery. Carmel landlords rejected him, despite his offer to pay a full year's rent in advance, citing zero previous experience as a business owner.

"Eventually, I ran low on money and moved onto a friend's sailboat in Santa Cruz to sulk," he said. "But I managed to create a decent portfolio up there, then moved to Tahoe. I set up outside on the street in South Lake Tahoe but never sold a thing."

Lake Tahoe is also where he found Delana, a kindred individualist who became his wife of 20 years and blessed him with three children, all married:

■ Marisa, 40, is a spiritual counselor in New York, where she does intuitive psychic readings and channeling.

■ Alan, 36, works for a Denver company specializing in "impact investing" for a socially conscious clientele.

■ His brother, Christie, 34, is vice president of media development for a Denver public relations firm.

Shaving at Jack in the Box

Pierce estimates that he was "basically homeless about five times over the years," sometimes living in his car, breakfasting at burger joints, shaving in the bathroom at Jack in the Box.

But he honed his camera skills with help from elite fine-art photographers, including his accomplished friend, Peter McArthur, and legendary mountain climber and wilderness photographer Galen Rowell.

"I was a backcountry skier in those days and did a four-day winter climb in the Sierra with Galen, who told me, 'Just go where the light speaks to you,'" he said of the author of "The Morning Light."

The adventurous Pierce once made a risky solo seven-day backcountry skiing trek through Yosemite's Alpine Meadows, carrying a 90-pound pack loaded with camera gear, rope, an axe, crampons and other equipment.

"It's 22 miles to 8,000 feet in elevation, and the only way to get there is on skis," he said. "I'd already had two knee surgeries, so it wasn't the brightest idea, and I'm probably lucky that I survived."

Images Pierce shot during multiple ski expeditions became slideshows he shared

at workshops and seminars he conducted through the years in Yosemite as a volunteer with the Sierra Club.

He has self-published two collections of poetry, "Moments One" and "Moments Two," under his pen name, Henry Tunahuna, and is working on two new books — "Sauntering" and "Sauntering In Place" — inspired by a concept attributed to John Muir and Henry David Thoreau.

"Saunter, the word, comes from the French phrase, 'sans terre,' which essentially translates to 'without earthly care,'" Pierce said.

"As a technique, sauntering means you

have no goal other than being on foot. You might make a turn here or there. You might stop. You listen for the voices to say hello — the flowers, the trees, the people, the images ... they all speak."

Sauntering in place, to Pierce, means "not moving, waiting for the light to change, enjoying the solitude, listening for the voices of the natural world. Nature comes," he said.

View Pierce's photography online at facebook.com/henry.tunahuna.

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

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Have you made New Year's resolutions, such as exercising more or learning a new skill? These are good objectives, but why not add some financial resolutions?

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And speaking of investing, see whether you can boost your pre-tax contributions to your traditional IRA and 401(k). Once you're 50, you can even make catch-up contributions. If you have an education goal, consider investing in a tax-advantaged 529 education savings plan.

Also, try to build an emergency

fund containing up to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account.

Finally, even if you're relatively young, it's good to have your estate plans in order. And if you've already created these plans, you may want to review them, especially if you've had changes in your family situation involving marriage, divorce or birth of children or grandchildren.

You may not be able to tackle all these resolutions in 2025. But by addressing as many of them as possible, you can make progress toward your goals and set yourself on a positive course for the future.

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HEALTHY

Lifestyles

Don't make a resolution — plan a lifestyle change

By ELAINE HESSER

“IT’S TIME to get motivated.” It makes sense — not only is the number on the calendar changing, but the holidays are in the rearview mirror, a month’s worth of candy boxes are in the trash and the recycling bins are full of bottles that once made spirits bright. The New Year seems like the perfect time to take control of your health.

Surprisingly, however, getting mentally revved up isn’t the answer. As Chris Range, general manager of Montage Wellness Center, put it, “Consistency beats motivation.” In other words, people need to schedule exercise, rather than doing it when they feel like it. Although most folks experience some immediate results like better sleep or an emotional boost, “Training is a marathon, not a sprint. It’s a very slow process. To get visible results can take from six months to a year,” Range said.

He should know — with a master’s degree in sports coaching and sports management, he’s trained thousands of athletes, including more than 50 professionals, including multiple NFL players and Olympians. For nearly two decades, he’s been working in hospital-based centers like Montage Wellness, where he continues to manage fitness training as well as developing customized programs for people of all ages and abilities.

Begin with a goal

First, he said, though it seems self-evident, list the specific reasons you want to improve your fitness. Some people want to enjoy traveling without being tired all the time. Maybe you’d like to lower your blood pressure. You might want to walk a mile along Scenic Road without stopping, or perhaps you just wish you were able to tackle a flight of stairs easily.

The next step is to break that goal down into smaller,

more doable bits. “People think, ‘I gotta work my butt off,’” Range said. “They try to do things too fast and it’s not sustainable.”

If you prefer to begin in your living room, the National Institutes of Health’s website (odphp.health.gov/moveyourway) has a wealth of information on types of exercises and how to make housework into a workout, plus a tool to put together a weekly activity plan without creating an account or providing personal information.

Range also suggested teaming up with a friend. “Tell them you want to learn to swim better,” or go on more walks. If gym occupancy in January is any indication, you’re not the only one kicking off a new habit.

Facilities like Montage Wellness are great places to start, too. Range described the population at the Marina and North Salinas facilities as “40 to 70 years old, with an average age around 60.” He continued, “We’re geared to the average person who’s not exercising a whole heck of a lot.” There’s a friendly, relaxed vibe and no music blasts from the rafters — although you can watch a little TV from the treadmill or bring your headphones and work out to your



Elizabeth Ayala (left), clinical integration coordinator, with Chris Range, general manager of Montage Wellness Center. Learning to use the equipment at your gym properly — and safely — can help you reach your goals.

CONSISTENCY *con’t. page 36A*

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Meditation and mindfulness are only a breath or two away

By LISA LAPIN

IT COULD be as simple as taking a walk in nature without your phone. Or closing your eyes, being still for one minute and just focusing on your breath and mood. Or pausing before bed to jot a few notes: What are you thankful for from your day?

Practicing mindfulness can be one of the easiest and healthiest ways to start the New Year, according to local healthcare, meditation and mindfulness practitioners, who say it can lower blood pressure, reduce stress, help you deal with challenges and improve your relationships.



Krista Reuther

"So much research shows that mindfulness reduces stress. It enhances our focus. And it cultivates a passion for ourselves and others that raises our capacity for empathy," said Krista Reuther, assistant director of Ohana's community health and prevention program and Montage Health's family care management program.

"When we are able to be aware of our inner state, we are able to name our emotions. That is a crucial skill for therapy. It's really foundational. All those things, in turn, help us improve relationships and have better relationship satisfaction."

Guided relaxation

At Ohana, Montage's youth mental health center in Ryan Ranch, mindfulness is woven into the curriculum for young people and their families. Group therapy sessions start with guided visualization of body awareness, body sensation and muscle relaxation — picturing different parts of the body, noticing areas of tightness and consciously releasing them. Ohana staff meetings start the same way and sometimes include a qi gong practice (pronounced chee-gong), an ancient Chinese healing technique that combines controlled breathing and gentle movement.



Mindfulness doesn't have to be complicated, and it can help people of almost any age to reduce stress, improve relationships and find a little inner peace. And no, you don't have to be able to get into the lotus position to do it.

MEDITATION *con't.* page 35A

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montagehealth.org/cancer

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

One of the easiest fitness choices you can make

By SALLY BAHO

STAYING HYDRATED is a great overall health goal for the new year. While it's not a one-size-fits-all recommendation, there is clear guidance to make sure you're getting enough water.

Human bodies are made up mostly of water and need it to work properly. That includes helping to carry nutrients around in the blood, flushing toxins through urination, aiding with digestive system, lubricating joints, and so much more. In spite of that, many estimates say that as many 40 percent of adults in the United States don't drink enough of something they need to live.

"If you don't drink water, you are going to get renal (kidney) failure and muscle breakdown," explained Misty Navarro, an emergency medicine doctor at Salinas Valley Health. But it's not just about the H₂O. It's a delicate balance of water and electrolytes — minerals like magnesium, potassium and sodium, among others.

Not drinking enough water has big implications but surprisingly subtle symptoms, like decreased energy, being lightheaded or having headaches, Navarro explained.

How much is enough?

Unless your doctor has told you to restrict fluids, general medical guidance is to consume the equivalent of six to eight 8-ounce glasses of water a day. "But I usually tell people to take a look at their urine and go by that. If your urine is dark or tea colored, you probably need to increase your hydration. It should look like a light lemonade," Navarro said.

Active people who lose water and electrolytes through sweating should increase their water consumption, again



If you just want to make a single effort to improve your health, try making sure that you're drinking enough water.

using urine color as a guide. Nursing moms ought to double their water consumption, consuming about 16 cups daily to replace fluids used in their milk. Breast milk is mostly water and vital not only for babies' nutrition, but also their hydration, as little ones under the age of 6 months cannot drink water. Navarro simply recommends that mothers drink water every time they nurse.

Harvard Medical School warns that seniors frequently don't get enough water, in part because "the sense of thirst diminishes with age, so many older adults can't always tell when they are dehydrated." And, the website adds, when seniors do feel thirsty, "Odds are they are already dehydrated." In addition, many are on medications like Microzide, HydroDiuril or Oretic (brand names for hydrochloro-

thiazide), which are used to treat high blood pressure and work as diuretics, increasing the need to urinate. People taking those medication need to make sure they're drinking enough water to prevent dehydration.

The best choice for hydration is consuming plain water day. But some people simply don't like water and believe they can just drink coffee or tea. This is not a great hydration strategy, Navarro explained, as caffeinated beverages are diuretics. A note to the jittery — decaffeinated beverages do not have the same dehydrating effect, as they are basically flavored water. Navarro said that there's a lot that you can do to make plain water taste better — you

WATER cont. page 36A

The best choice is six to eight glasses of plain water a day



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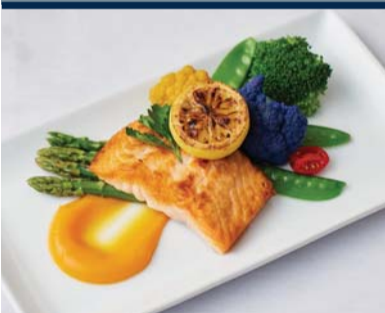
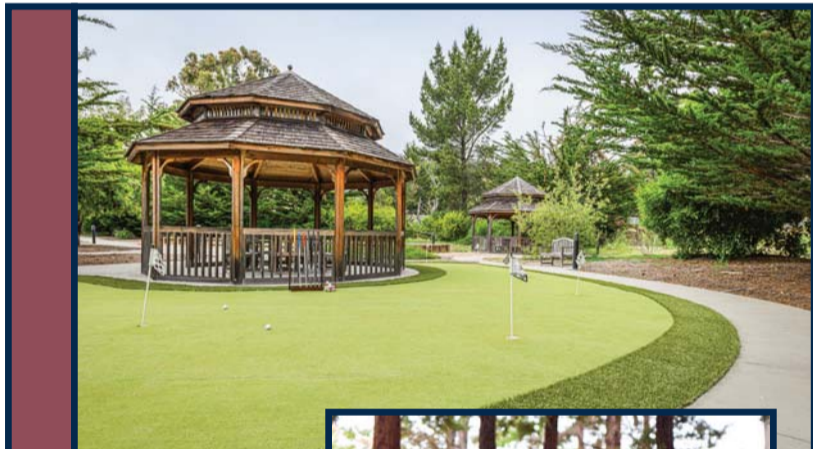


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THE KITCHEN

PRAWNS RANCHERO

Courtesy Manuel Aviles, chef/owner Del Monte Grill & Café

USUALLY THE challenge of getting Healthy Lifestyle’s monthly recipe onto the page is either making sure it’s really healthy or asking the chef to scale it down for fewer people than they feed in an entire shift. However, chef Manuel Aviles, chef and owner of the Del Monte Grill & Café at 2030 N. Fremont St. in Monterey, pared the portion of this vegetable and shrimp entrée down to two people. You can easily make more if you need to, of course.

If you are preparing the dish for two, one of those mini-blenders would be help-

ful in making the sauce. Depending on your heat tolerance, you can seed and de-vein the jalapeno to tame it somewhat.

By the way, when you check a pepper’s spiciness, the tip is usually a poor indicator — ask anyone who’s nibbled the end off of a jalapeno and decided it “wasn’t too hot” before chopping up the rest and throwing into a bowl of salsa. And, of course, you know to wear gloves or at least thoroughly wash your hands — and the cutting board

PRAWNS cont. on page 37A



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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

MEDITATION from page 30A

It may all sound a bit far out, but Reuther explained that it has immediate, real-life applications.

The more quickly people can identify their emotions in an argument or when they're getting triggered, the sooner they can become aware of feelings of anxiety or anger, Reuther said. "Then they can make

a choice about what to do about it rather than reacting. It's good for parents, too, to make sure we stay present and don't get activated or triggered. The more that we can practice mindfulness, the better we are setting ourselves up for success."

In Buddhist meditation practices, the objective is to drop all judgment and ex-

BREATHE cont. page 38A



Meditation can be as simple as closing your eyes and focusing on your breath — and you can do it almost anywhere.

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

CONSISTENCY from page 29A

Spotify playlist.

Montage offers personal trainers to help create custom workout plans. Range said you're going for a mix of "sweat, strength, mobility/flexibility and balance," in which "sweat" means a cardiovascular workout. When working with a trainer, "Explain what you want," he said. Don't be embarrassed, but do tell the person what you expect your workout schedule to be.

Try a new class

The goal, as expressed by the NIH, is "150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity aerobic exercise, like brisk walking or fast dancing. Being active at least three days a week is best, but doing anything is better than doing nothing at all. You should also do muscle-strengthening activities, like lifting weights or doing sit-ups, at least two days a week."

Range said five to 10 sessions with a trainer are "about right," and you can expect to learn approximately 15 to 20 exercises in that period. After a workout, he added, "stretch for 15 minutes" to reduce stiffness and soreness.

Another way to get moving is to take a class. Most gyms provide an assortment of group workouts, which often combine aerobics with strength and flexibility work. There are specialized studios for certain types of exer-

cise, as well, many of which offer introductory classes at reduced rates. For example, Pilates builds strength and flexibility through prescribed series of movements. Yoga comes in many varieties, from restorative (stretching and relaxing), to classes that can be pretty aerobic. Some studios also incorporate spiritual elements into their practices. Barre workouts use that piece of ballet apparatus to aid in strength and balance training, as well as in some routines that can really get your heart pounding.

One other benefit of a gym is a feeling of security — there's something reassuring about being surrounded by people who can help if you're not sure you're doing something correctly. Although treadmills are monotonous, you won't find yourself farther from home than you expected with no alternative but to walk back (that may or may not have happened to this reporter more than once). You can also focus on what you're doing without worrying about tree roots, traffic or loose dogs.

Hit the beach

As you become more confident, you can increase weights or distances, along with the frequency and length of your workouts. Or, change things up a little. If you're easily walking a mile or two around town, Range suggested trying it on sand or in a place with hills.

Record your progress in a journal or use a fitness tracking app. Celebrate modest gains and achieving smaller,

intermediate goals. Once you reach your desired level of fitness, you'll need to maintain it — but by then it should be part of your routine. You might even miss it if you start skipping.

And, if you're injured, don't quit. "It's one of my pet peeves," said Range. "Someone sprains their ankle and thinks they have to take eight weeks off," without exercising. "It's a time to learn and do new things." Talk to your doc about getting into the swimming pool, or "pedaling" on a machine that uses your arms.

If you can't get excited about any of those ideas, Range noted that the easiest place to start might just be hydration. Get yourself a good-sized water jug and have at it. "Most people are 10 to 20 percent deficient" in their water consumption, he said. (See story on p. 32A to learn more.)

Find your "why," plot a path and then stick with it. By this time next year, you could be looking back with pride at real achievements. And then, you can go for a nice long walk.



Chris Range

WATER from page 32A

can drink sparkling water or put fruit, lemon or cucumber in it.

Many sources

Most foods contain some water, so those are a help, but sugary drinks like sodas are not advised, as the high sugar content draws water out of the body's cells, increasing dehydration, not to mention the other ill effects of consuming lots of sugar, like weight gain and inflammation. And if you will be imbibing an adult beverage or two on New Year's Eve, Navarro recommends alternating alcoholic drinks with water. This will decrease the likeliness of a hangover and keep you hydrated.

Drinking too much water, although rare, can

also be harmful. Remember the delicate electrolyte balance mentioned above? Too much water can dilute those electrolytes and result in a condition called hypervolemic hyponatremia, Navarro said. The symptoms are progressive, starting with a headache, nausea, then confusion and, on the extreme end, seizures.



Dr. Misty Navarro

If you're worried, check in with your urine — it shouldn't be completely clear — and your doctor.

As we head into 2025, consider making "stay hydrated" a goal for your health and well being.

There are several strategies to ensure you get enough water. Set a timer on your phone or computer to remind yourself to drink water throughout the day. Or fill

Make staying hydrated a goal for your health and well being

up the recommended number of glasses in the morning and place them on the kitchen counter. By bedtime, they should all be empty. Or you could put rubber bands on glasses or bottles of water, removing a band as you finish each serving. Get creative with what works for you, but stay hydrated this year. It's an easy thing to do for your health, and the benefits for the body are great.

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

PRAWNS from page 34A

— after working with one of those little incendiary devices, right?

When preparing shrimp or prawns, “C” is for cooked. Once they just curl up into a C shape, they’re done — when they spiral in tightly, they’re probably overcooked, which makes them little dry and tough.

Aviles suggests serving the shrimp with rice and beans, which are great sources of fiber — and brown rice is even better than white in that regard. Tortillas would be great, and of course, a salad is always nice.

(Serves 2)

INGREDIENTS:

For the sauce:

- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped finely
- 1/2 tomato, diced
- 1/2 jalapeno, diced (see notes)
- 1 whole peeled tomato
- 1 clove garlic, rough chopped
- 1 teaspoon butter
- Splash white or red wine

To prepare:

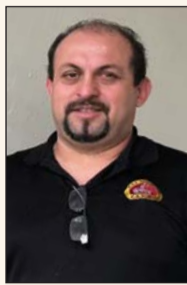
- 1/2 green bell pepper, julienned
- 1/2 red bell pepper, julienned
- 1/2 onion, julienned
- 7 or 8 large, fresh prawns, peeled and deveined

Roughly chop and sauté the whole peeled tomato with a little chopped garlic, butter and wine for several minutes until the garlic softens. Puree those ingredients together, then add the remaining sauce ingredients to the blender and process until smooth. You can also use a handheld blender to puree everything.

Pour the sauce into a deep saucepan over medium heat, add the peppers and onion, and cook for two or three minutes.

Add the prawns and continue cooking for about two minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste, then cook

Chef Bio



Manuel Aviles

MANUEL AVILES, originally from El Salvador, came here with his family in 1984 and grew up near Cannery Row.

He said that as a child, he loved watching his mother cook and decided to make it his career, working in restaurants and becoming proficient in the kitchen. After 15 years at the Tap Room and Stillwater Bar & Grill at the Lodge at Pebble Beach, where he said he learned most of his skills, he opened his own restaurant, Del Monte Grill & Café, on Del Monte Avenue in Seaside in 2005.

About a year-and-a-half ago, he relocated to North Fremont Street in Monterey, in the space adjacent to the Monterey Bay Travelodge, where he can be found cooking up breakfast, lunch and dinner. The space has a banquet room for as many as 80 guests and a smaller meeting or more intimate dining room, as well.

Aviles said that he still gets the most joy from making food that people enjoy and seeing them happy in his restaurant.

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CARMEL VALLEY MANOR



HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

BREATHE from page 35A

expectations, to develop a tolerance and patience in hard situations, according to Robert Reese, a member of the teaching council and Buddhist priest with the Monterey Bay Zen Center.

“We drop the idea of getting something out of it,” Reese said. “There is a toolkit of Buddhism. Through meditation, we don’t receive things, but we let things go. Once you get going, meditation provides a respite from difficult things.”

So how do you get to a place of cultivating mindfulness, and what does it mean to meditate or “be present,” exactly?

“You really can practice it all day long, just by pausing and noticing what you are thinking at any given moment, by not worrying about what happened in the past or planning for the future, but staying in one moment in time,” said Amanda Hoff, who co-owns Carmel’s Salty Soul Sanctuary yoga studio with her husband, Kyle. “For some people, that can be going on a walk in nature and just listening to sounds. For others, it can be something physical, like yoga or breathing and focusing on postures and flow.”

Journaling, movement

Kyle Hoff said he practices mindfulness in the gym by focusing on his workout, tuning out any other distractions and trying not to think about work. “I remind myself what is happening in that moment for that hour, and I just focus on that, not what comes later in the day,” Hoff said. “One of the first things to do is put your phone away and focus on whatever you are doing. With focus you are going to do it 1,000 times better, whether it’s a workout or playing with your kids on the beach.”

Keuther said she also practices yoga for its meditative benefits, and every night, she takes out a journal and writes three things that she was thankful for that day. “It only takes a minute, and it gives me a warm good feeling before I go to bed. I keep the journals and re-read them over the years, remembering all the things I have been grateful for.”

On the Monterey Peninsula, there are many ways to get

into the mindfulness groove.

At CarmelCalifornia.com/mindful, you can find a “Mindful-by-the-Sea Beginners Guide” with tips on how to unplug. It describes simple steps that can be done in just five or 10 minutes: Find a quiet place to sit. Settle and feel your body. Pay attention to your breath. Notice your thoughts, sensations and emotions.

The Monterey Bay Zen Center offers daily and weekly opportunities for more formal meditation sessions in Carmel and Monterey. A Buddhist meditation community with ties to the Tassajara Zen Mountain Center, the Zen Center has been around since 1988. Its Tuesday night sessions at the Carl Cherry Center go from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and include 40 minutes of sitting meditation, 10 minutes of walking meditation, a short ceremony, and a one-hour lecture. Meditation instruction is provided free of charge the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. It also offers other opportunities at St. James Episcopal Church in Monterey, including Brown Bag Zen each Friday from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. The center operates on donations, and a calendar can be found at montereybayzencenter.org.

“You don’t need to devote hours and hours to meditation each day. Even 10 or 15 minutes a day is a great start,” said Reese. “Being consistent in your practice creates a good habit. It builds a mental foundation you can always go to.”

The Monterey Bay Healing Tao Center offers several ongoing evening classes on at Monterey Peninsula College, cultivating slow-motion mind-body awareness intended “to help one to cope better with daily tasks as well as improving one’s mental and physical health,” the center’s literature says. Class schedules and registration information can be found at mbhealingtao.com.

In addition to many types and styles of yoga, Salty Soul Sanctuary offers sound bath healing classes three times a month. “Listening to singing crystal bowls is a wonderful way for someone new to meditation to practice,” said Amanda Hoff, adding that the sound “gives you something



Salty Soul Sanctuary yoga studio cultivates a soothing environment for meditation.

to focus on and be present with.”

Reuther said that mindfulness apps for mobile phones provide simple, short, guided exercises. She likes Headspace for its user-friendly interface. Others popular apps are Calm and Insight Timer.

No matter how you elect to begin a mindfulness practice, being kind to yourself is key.

“Be gentle and nonjudgmental about yourself,” Hoff said. “Don’t get angry at yourself for not being able to clear your thoughts. That’s the hardest part to do, especially in meditation, to not be hard on yourself. Just like anything new, you have to practice.”

Reuther agreed. “Self-forgiveness is key.” She noted that “even very experienced meditators” have trouble with wandering minds. “What people get better at over time is recognizing that their mind has wandered. Catching the wandering mind and bringing it back is the real practice of meditation.”

All recommend practicing mindfulness in any way that people think they will enjoy. “Just get outside and sit still somewhere,” Hoff said. “Stepping outside our homes is a beautiful place to start. And around here, that’s so easy.”

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This Week

Live Music,
Clubs and Events

Coffis Brothers, Latin Jazz Collective headline 32nd First Night

WITH ABOUT two dozen musical acts performing in downtown Monterey Tuesday as part of the 32nd annual First Night street party, locals of all ages will be celebrating the arrival of 2025 by dancing past midnight.

When the clock strikes 12, **The Coffis Brothers** will be playing at the Golden State Theatre, while a short stroll away, **The Latin Jazz Collective** will be tearing up the dance floor in the Monterey Confer-

Center's Serra Ballroom. The music lineup also includes **Bubba Pickens Band**, **The Al James Band**, **The Black Irish Band**, **Los Survivors**, singer and guitarist **Dan Frechette**, singer and violinist **Laurel Thomsen**, **Le Jazz Hot Quartet**, hip-hop artist **MC Lars**, singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** and many others. Many genres of music will be represented, starting at 3 p.m.

"First Night Monterey showcases a diverse array of live performances and cultural experiences for the entire family," said **Ellen Martin**, the longtime executive director of the annual New Year's Eve party.

"From jazz to rock, Celtic to country, and bluegrass to amazing dance

by Dec. 30. Kids 5 and under get in for free.

For more details visit first-nightmonterey.org.

■ Hanukkah at Hacienda

Hanukkah will be celebrated Sunday, 3 p.m., at **Hacienda Hay & Feed** in Carmel Valley, and besides observing the annual Jewish festival with a menorah lighting and an array of tasty treats like latkes and bagels, there will be live jazz courtesy of **The Dave Holodiloff Band**. The event is free.



Percussionist John Nava and the Latin Jazz Collective will celebrate the New Year Tuesday, starting at 10:15 p.m., in the Serra Ballroom at the Monterey Conference Center.

"Join us for a festive and joyful celebration," **Hacienda Hay & Feed** said.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

performances, there is something for everyone."

Besides offering a bounty of live music, the alcohol-free event features a Twilight Procession, face-painting, a meet-and-greet with firefighters, interactive art, a Bubble Stomp — which involves jumping up and down on bubble wrap — and an assortment of other family-friendly activities.

Admission buttons are \$31 for adults and \$20 for children 6 and over, with discounts available if purchased

"Whether you're lighting candles for the first time or continuing a cherished tradition, this event invites everyone to experience the warmth and joy of Hanukkah."

Hacienda Hay & Feed is located at 7180 Carmel Valley Road.

■ Party like it's 1699

Just as the talented ensemble has done for many years, **The Cherry Trio** welcomes the New Year with a baroque con-

cert Wednesday, 3 p.m., at The Cherry Center for the Arts. A reception follows the performance. "Ring in the new year with music from 17th century France, Germany and England," executive director **Robert Reese** offered.

The ensemble features **Elizabeth Gaver** and **David Wilson** on baroque vio-

See MUSIC page 43A



Le Hot Jazz Quartet presents three shows Tuesday, starting at 8:45 p.m., at the Monterey Center for Spiritual Living.

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Steak Frites <i>Spicy Marmalade, Taleggio</i>	Lobster and Truffle Raviolo <i>Egg Bottarga, Sauce Americainé</i>	Persimmon Sticky Toffee Pudding <i>Five Spice Mascarpone</i>
Tater Tots and Caviar <i>Alliums Crème Fraiche and Prosciutto</i>	Duck Leg Confit <i>Brussels Hash and Persimmons</i>	

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FOOD & WINE

Dance your way out of 2024, get tickets for 2025 PBFW

WITH CHRISTMAS behind, it's time for that last party of the year. Before you even have a chance to start trying to remember the words to "Auld Lang Syne," here are some suggestions for places you might want to bust it out.

Monte Carlo meets P.B.

Party like a jet-setting high roller at Spanish Bay's New Year's Eve bash. The "celebration inspired by the elegance of Monte Carlo," starts at 8 p.m.

There will be a casino, of course, along with live music in the Grand Ballroom, the Andy Weis Jazz Trio in the lobby, a DJ in Traps and a guitarist serenading guests at Pèppoli.

In addition to a dinner and dessert buffets in the hotel's banquet spaces, Pèppoli will house a Tuscan buffet, and there will be open bars throughout the event.

After midnight, you can help yourself to a little breakfast before you go. Tickets are \$495 per person, and you can purchase them at pebblebeach.com/events/new-years-eve.

The Inn at Spanish Bay is at 2700 17 Mile Drive in Pebble Beach.

In the valley

Bernardus Lodge's Lucia Restaurant at 415 W. Carmel Valley Road is offering a special New Year's Eve dinner Dec. 31 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Chef Christian Ojeda's celebratory six-course menu pulls out all the stops.

Start with something sophisticated, like a trio of oysters with rose-apple-cucumber

Soup to Nuts

relish, jump into a second course of artichoke and wild mushroom lasagna, blackened bluefin tuna or potato-leek soup with black truffles, and choose from duck confit hash, roasted celery root and wild mushroom risotto or Dungeness crab cake.

Entrées include Chilean sea bass, Waygu beef filet with black garlic-truffle

See **FOOD** next page

In addition to being the scene of a posh New Year's Eve party, Spanish Bay will be one of the venues for the 2025 edition of Pebble Beach Food & Wine. Tickets for both are on sale now.



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Tuesday, December 31, 2024 | 5:30pm – 9:30pm

Six-course tasting menu, \$250 per person, plus tax & gratuity

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CARMEL
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FOOD & WINE

FOOD

From previous page

jus, or Niman Ranch lamb, and dessert is Carmel Valley Black Forest — a decadent-sounding combination of dark chocolate, sponge cake, mascarpone cream, and black cherry sorbet — or coconut panna cotta with salt-baked pineapple.

Guests can raise a glass for the Times Square ball drop at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$250 per person and reservations can be made at ExploreTock.com.

Highlands

The Pacific's Edge restaurant at the Highlands Inn (120 Highlands Drive) is offering a celebration that includes a party with live music, dancing and a five-course New Year's Eve dinner. A midnight toast is also part of the package, which goes for \$250 per person plus fees and is available at eventbrite.com.

If you want your party budget to go to a good cause, Carmel Mission Inn's (3665 Rio Road) bash to welcome 2025 starts at 10 p.m. and will benefit Max's Helping Paws Foundation, which helps dogs and cats and their people with unexpected or emergency veterinary expenses.

The cover charge of \$28.52, payable at the door or eventbrite.com, includes a welcome cocktail, a midnight toast, and live music.

Meanwhile, in Monterey

Portola Plaza is hosting a Dec. 31 party with a "Wild Wild West" theme. There may

be no place to hitch your horse, but vintage and classic Western looks — cowboy hats, boots and such — are encouraged. Food includes passed hors d'oeuvres like beef crostini and a dinner buffet with salmon, fried chicken, and Salinas baby back ribs.

They didn't forget dessert — how about some cowboy cookies or apple cobbler? Selected wines, beer, well cocktails and cordials will be served at Western-themed bars open all evening. A bubbly toast and



New Year's Day is on a Wednesday, so you can indulge in the Covey Grill's weekly "Love Thy Neighbor" three-course prix fixe dinner.

balloon drop will help ring in 2025. Cost is \$240 per person plus fees, gratuity and tax, or \$210 for active-duty military with ID. The party starts at 7 p.m. you can book your tickets at portolahotel.com.

Right outside the hotel, First Night Monterey — the annual family-friendly party spread out along Alvarado Street and in a few nearby venues — will be going strong, too.

Through Dec. 30, you can purchase buttons that will admit you to all the indoor concerts and performances from 3 p.m. to midnight for \$28 for adults and \$17 for youth ages 6 to 15. After that, prices

See **EVENTS** next page

Cheers

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FOOD & WINE

EVENTS

From previous page

go up to \$30 per adult and \$20 each for the younger set. Outdoor kids' activities that start at 3 p.m. are free, as are the twilight parade and outdoor stages. Contact your favorite downtown restaurants to see if they're taking reservations — it's fun to watch the goings-on from Rosine's or Alvarado Street Brewery, for example.

On New Year's Day

At Quail Lodge's Covey Grill (8205 Valley Greens Drive), the chef and kitchen crew are working on "carefully prepared, seasonally inspired menu selections" offered each Wednesday. The first of these for 2025, on Jan. 1, is a three-course prix fixe menu that starts with a choice of appe-

tizers including a prawn brioche roll with Meyer lemon, steak frites or — and honestly, this sounds amazing — tater tots and caviar with crème fraiche and prosciutto.

For an entrée, there's a petite filet, a duck leg confit, or a lobster and truffle raviolo — a singular large ravioli. Ignoring any good intentions you had for your 2025 diet, they're topping everything off with a choice of persimmon sticky toffee pudding served with five-spice mascarpone or chocolate and cranberries with crème fraiche and citrus.

Dinner is \$59 per person plus tax and gratuity. Call (831) 620-8860 for more information or to make reservations.

Get 'em while they're hot

Pebble Beach Food & Wine tickets are on sale, and while the festival won't take place until April 10-13, 2025, prices will increase in January, so it might be prudent to take that holiday gift money you just received and spend it now.

Packed with more than 40 options for lunches, dinners, happy hours, seminars and "walk-around tastings," PBFW will host 135 chefs and 150 wineries and spirit producers, along with sommeliers, mixologists and other experts.

Interested in learning all about the revered

Louis XII Grande Champagne Cognac or the blending techniques used by top Champagne producers? There are seminars for you. How about a decadent French dinner with Max Boonthanakit, Markus Glocker, Philip Tessier, Laurent Tourondel and Laura Werlin at your service, or a night with culinary icons Alice Waters and Jonathan Waxman? Those will set you back a bit, at \$1,250 and \$1,500 per person, respectively, but they'll provide amazing experiences.

Other events focus on broader food and wine tastings, and some lunches and dinners highlight a particular ethnicity of cuisine, such as Indian or Asian.

While a la carte tickets are available for most events, Pebble Beach Food & Wine also sells three packages, each of which claims savings over individual event pricing.

Diamond — "The Ultimate All-Access Pass" — starts with golf on opening day and includes invitation-only after-hours gatherings and other exclusive perks, for a total of 18 events.

Prices start at \$7,500 per person, and discounts are available for rooms at Pebble Beach Resorts properties.

Gold — "The Curated Experience" — includes passes to 14 "tastings, intimate seminars, seated lunches and memorable dinners." It costs \$3,995 per person, representing a savings of \$1,000 compared with purchasing tickets individually.

And Walk Around — "The Explorer's Pass" — provides general admission to



Monterey's First Night is an indoor/outdoor celebration. Although it's alcohol free, you'll be near many restaurants where you can buy a good dinner at a reasonable price.

five walk-around events to allow guests to "explore an array of flavors, wines and culinary creations at your leisure," from opening night to the tasting pavilions both days. Priced at \$1,750, it represents a \$250 discount.

The nonprofit Pebble Beach Company Foundation hosts the festival, with funds raised going toward its mission of providing "Monterey County's children with essential educational resources for success." It has contributed more than \$19.1 million since 1975 and impacts 10,000 students annually.

For the full lineup, a list of the talent, and lots of other information, visit pebblebeachfoodandwine.com.



The Pacific's Edge restaurant at the Highlands Inn has a five-course New Year's Eve menu planned, along with live music and dancing.

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MUSIC

From page 39A

lin, Penny Hanna on viola da gamba and **Michael Peterson** on the harpsichord.
 Tickets are \$35. The Cherry Center is located at Guadalupe and Fourth. carlcherrycenter.org

Live music Dec. 27-Jan. 2

■ Big Sur

Big Sur River Inn — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Saturday at 12:30 p.m.). 46800 Highway 1.
Fernwood Resort — **Wooster** (reggae and soul, Tuesday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

■ Carmel

Barmel — singer and guitarist **Tony Burciaga** (Sunday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). In Carmel Square on San Carlos north of Seventh.
Carmel Mission Inn — **Scarlet** raises money for Max's Helping Paws Foundation (rock and r&b, Tuesday



As part of First Night Monterey, the Black Irish Band plays three shows Tuesday at the Golden State Theatre.

at 10 p.m.). In the Shearwater Tavern, 3665 Rio Road.
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.
De Tierra Vineyards tasting room — singer and guitarist **Michael Gaither** (Sunday at 3 p.m.). Mission and

See **LIVE** next page

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New video

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Email

Anne@carmelpinecone.com
 to be included in this directory



LIVE

From previous page

Fifth.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (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.). Camino Real and Eighth.

The Links Club — **The Bubba Pick-**

ens Band (bluegrass, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **The Katherine Lavin Band** (pop and rock, 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.

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.

O'Callaghan's Pub — singer and guitarist **Paul Behan** (Friday at 6 p.m.), **The Vick Silva Band** (rock, Saturday at 6 p.m.). In The Barnyard shopping center.

Carmel Valley

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

Folktale Winery — singer and guitarist **Kris Angelis** (Friday at 4 p.m.), **Two Rivers** with singer **Richard Bryant** and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (pop and rock, Saturday at 2 p.m.), **The Jesse DeCarlo Trio** (jazz and funk, 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.

Trailside Cafe in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Dan Cioper** (rock, Friday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

Monterey

Albatross Ridge Winery and Kitchen — singer and guitarist **R.J. DeMarco** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

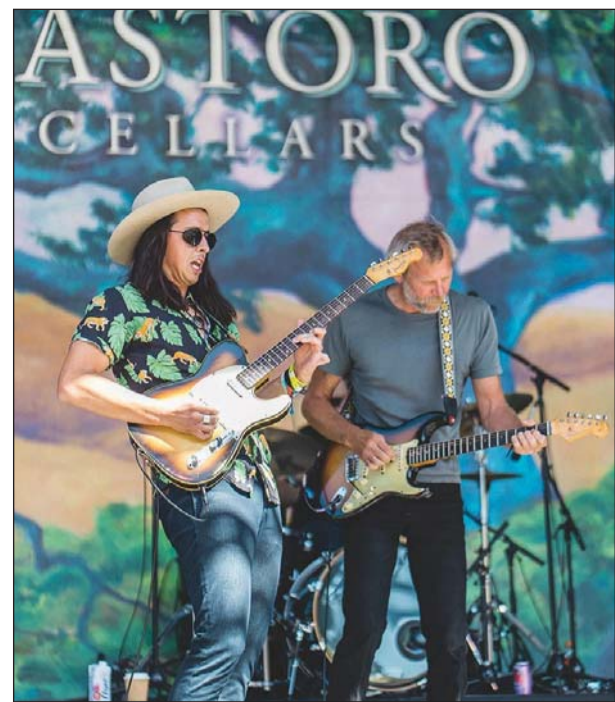
Bon Ton LeRoy's Lighthouse Smokehouse — Singer and multi-instrumentalist **Alligator** (blues, zydeco and Cajun, Tuesday at 7 p.m.), **Open Mic Night** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 794 Lighthouse Ave.

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.

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



When the clock strikes midnight Tuesday, the Coffis Brothers will be rockin' Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

Midici Pizza — "Janice's Jam" with keyboardist **Gary Meek**, bassist **Dennis Murphy** and drummer **Mike Shannon** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer **Lauri Hofer-Romero**, guitarist **Adam Astrup** and multi-instrumentalist **Paul Contos** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa — pianist **Gary Meek** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday and Tuesday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Tamas Marius** (jazz, Monday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

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

Puma Road tasting room at Portola Plaza — singer and guitarist **Kristen Gradwohl** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Adam Behan** (Saturday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kris Angelis** (Sunday at 4 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

Salty Seal Pub — **The Transducers** (rock and funk, Saturday at 8 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 — **Scarlet** (rock and r&b, Friday at 9 p.m.), **The Bridget Ma-**

See SHOWS page 47A

CALENDAR

Dec. 31 — **Carmel Mission Inn** presents the ultimate **New Year's Eve party**, 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at 3665 Rio Road, Carmel. Event features a welcome cocktail, entertainment by Sclarlet and a champagne toast to the new year at midnight. Cover charge is \$25 and a portion of proceeds will benefit Max's Helping Paws Foundation. Also, overnight accommodations can be made directly at carmelmissioninn.com

Il Vecchio hosts live music every **Tuesday and Thursday** at 6 p.m., featuring Blues Night on Tuesdays and Jazz Night with the Cena Trio on Thursdays. Also showcased are local artists quarterly — Matt Mesero's "Night Vision" black and white photography exhibit continues through February. Visit ilvecchiorestaurant.com for more.

Jan. 8 — **Henry Meade Williams Local History Lecture Series** presents: **A Sense of Place: Profiles from the Collection — Literary Luminaries: Six Trailblazing Writers Who Shaped Carmel**, with **Vince Emery**. 6:30 p.m. at the Harrison Memorial Library. Register required, on our website: www.carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org. Hosted by the Carmel Public Library Founda-

tion. Cost: free; \$10 suggested contribution. Questions? info@carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org or (831) 624-2811.

Jan. 15 — Enjoy a lighthearted evening of jazz and other hits from **Yale University's The Whiffenpoofs**, the oldest collegiate a cappella ensemble in the nation, returning to St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. after last year's concert sellout. \$35 adults, \$25 students and children under 12, under 5 free. Tickets at the door or at https://whiffs.ticketbud.com/whiffenpoofs-in-monterey 28005 Robinson Canyon Road, Carmel Valley. To learn more visit stdcv.org.

Jan. 26 — Live concert "Songs of Hope, Harmony and Healing," 4 p.m. at the Center for Performing Arts, Carmel High School. Award-winning artists include **Cindy Alexander, Alisa Fineman, Kimball Hurd** and **Lisa Spector**. Event benefits the Breast Cancer Assistance Group of Monterey County and Congregation Beth Israel Caring Circle. For tickets and sponsorship information, contact www.carmelbethisrael.org/form/BCAGfundraiser.html

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Chloe Cole had detransitioned and has become a national spokesperson for protecting children from transgenderism. She has testified before Congress and has become one of the most powerful voices against transitioning children.



Jeffrey Younger has received national media attention for his custody fight to protect his son from his ex-wife's efforts to transition him to a girl, in which he brought his fight to the Texas Supreme Court and has become one of the most powerful voices against transitioning children.

Adam Vena lost custody of his 5 year old son, for refusing to affirm his trans identity. He has appeared on OAN and Newsmax to share his story.



Tracy Henderson is the founder and president of California Parents United, a parental rights group. She is an attorney, a mom and political organizer.

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Continues on next page

Police Log: Carmel-by-the-Sea, Dec. 27

Old class ring found at Eighth and Casanova.
 Finder would like to claim after 90 days.



Male reported walking with his daughter in the area of Rio and Ladera
 and losing her doll from the stroller.



SHOWS

From page 44A

rie Band (r&b and rock, Saturday at 9 p.m.), **The Sting-rays** (classic rock, Sunday at 8:30 p.m.), **Victory Lane** (classic rock, Monday at 8:30 p.m.), **Blue Fire** (rock and funk, Tuesday at 9 p.m.) **5 Star** (rock and soul, Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.), **The Classic Connection** (rock and soul, Thursday at 8:30 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

■ Pacific Grove

Asilomar Hotel and Conference Grounds — singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Friday 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 Central 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.

PG's Meetinghouse — **The Steve Robertson Trio** (jazz, Friday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Frida Vossler** (Saturday at 3 p.m.), drummer **David Morwood** and friends (jazz, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Vic Vesey** (Sunday at 10 a.m.), **Open Mic** (Tuesday at 6 p.m., sign up by 5 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

■ Pebble Beach

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive.

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



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SECTION RE ■ Dec. 27, 2024-Jan. 2, 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Carmel Pine Cone Real Estate



■ This week's cover, located in Carmel-by-the-Sea, is presented by David Crabbe of Sotheby's International Realty. (See Page 2 RE)

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About the Cover

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate

Dec. 27, 2024 - Jan. 2, 2025



OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 1 - 4

Casanova 4 NW of 13th | In the Golden Rectangle

“Fleur De Mer” — Nestled under one of the most beautiful oak trees in Carmel sits a Fred Slabaugh built classic Carmel cottage. This 2 bed, 2.5 bath (+ a bonus room that could be used as a third bedroom with a possible bathroom) cottage is located in the Golden Rectangle. It is in close proximity to picturesque Carmel Beach and a short distance to charming downtown. The cottage has been completely refreshed with ivory paint in the interior, new white washed oak floors throughout and two Carmel-stone gas fire places. This exquisite home also features vaulted ceilings, hand-hewn beams, leaded glass windows, Carmel-stone walkways and new landscaping which reflects the beauty of this wonderful Carmel cottage.



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Real Estate Sales Dec. 15 - 22

Escrows closed: 38
Total value: \$165,834,000

Big Sur

Palo Colorado Road — \$1,400,000

Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council Boy Scouts of America to Esselen Tribe of Monterey County
APN: 418-021-056

Carmel

Guadalupe Street, SE corner of Mountain View Avenue — \$300,000

See HOME SALES page 4RE

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS &
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Thank you to my clients for a wonderful 2024!



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DRE 01299648

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SOLD IN 2023-24

830 Balboa Ave, PG	\$3,350,000	859 Balboa Ave, PG	\$2,250,000
910 Del Monte Blvd, PG	\$2,300,000	38 Calera Cyn, SAL	\$1,500,000
911 Shell Ave, PG	\$1,818,000	420 11th St, PG	\$1,452,000
216 2nd St, PG	\$1,490,000	864 Del Monte Blvd, PG	\$1,225,000
45 Del Mesa, CAR	\$1,255,000	606 Mar Vista, MTY	\$1,225,000
1107 Presidio Blvd, PG	\$1,050,000	400 Mar Vista, #15, MTY	\$1,050,000
24501 Via Mar Monte #74 CAR	\$939,000	1221/ Roosevelt St, MON	\$855,000
1757 Havana, Seaside	\$715,000	145 Hacienda Carmel, CAR	\$843,000
300 Glenwood Cir, #265, MON	\$635,000	700 Briggs, #83 PG	\$710,000
1570 Flores St, Seaside	\$650,000	409B Tyler Pl, SAL	\$375,000



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Carmel ■ 1 bed, 1 bath ■ \$4,500,000 ■ www.NotleysLanding.com



Carmel-by-the-Sea ■ 3 beds, 2 baths ■ \$2,895,000 ■ www.NECSanCarlos13th.com



OPEN SAT 1PM-3PM
Mission 4 SW of 1st Avenue

Carmel-by-the-Sea ■ 2 beds, 2 baths ■ \$2,150,000 ■ www.Mission4SWof1st.com



Carmel ■ 3 beds, 2.5 baths ■ \$1,895,000 ■ www.26022CarmelKnolls.com



Carmel ■ 3 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$1,850,000 ■ www.28062HeronCt.com



Carmel ■ 3 beds, 2 baths ■ \$1,685,000 ■ www.3341SycamorePlace.com



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HOME SALES

From page 2RE

Carmel (con't.)

Timothy Ragan and Heron Trust to Reed and Kassia Kingsley
APN: 010-042-027

San Carlos Street, SW corner of Fourth Avenue — \$940,000

Peter and Gerald Fairley to Richard Clark
APN: 010-146-003

Mission Street, 3 NE of Santa Lucia Avenue — \$1,000,000

Alfred and Regina Amoroso to Carmel PS 37 LLC
APN: 010-161-024

3751 Raymond Way — \$2,000,000



24 Mentone Road, Carmel Highlands— \$5,250,000

Michael Branson to Charles and Jennifer Piercey
APN: 103-121-010

Torres Street, 6 NW of Eighth Avenue — \$4,000,000

Douglas Alcorn to Stone Cottage LLC
APN: 010-084-007

San Carlos Street — \$8,200,000

CFI B&B Inc. to Places in Space LLC
APN: 010-136-021

Carmel Highlands

24 Mentone Road — \$5,250,000

Steven and Sona Dennis to Larry and Peggy Holmes
APN: 243-201-008

Carmel Valley

9664 Willow Court — \$425,000

Brian Fields to Kelly Bernard
APN: 416-531-077

25805 Carmel Knolls Drive — \$1,150,000

See ESCROWS page 10RE



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Best Wishes to all!*

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Pebble Beach ■ 5 beds, 6 baths ■ \$12,900,000 ■ www.3365SeventeenMilePB.com



Pebble Beach ■ 4 beds, 4+ baths ■ \$12,600,000 ■ www.1483BonifacioRoad.com



Pebble Beach ■ 4 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$9,450,000 ■ www.ViscainoRoad.com



Monterey ■ 3 beds, 2 baths ■ \$2,695,000 ■ www.575FoamunitC.com



Pebble Beach ■ 3 beds, 3 baths ■ \$1,975,000 ■ www.2994ColtonRoad.com



Carmel Valley ■ 3 beds, 2 baths ■ \$1,250,000 ■ www.CalleDeLaVentana.com



Carmel Valley ■ 3 beds, 2 baths ■ \$1,099,000 ■ www.5LagunaRobles.com



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If I've been around for so darned long, how'd I get here so fast?

AT THE approach of a New Year, reflections by big-city pundits are standard newspaper fare. I'm not sophisticated like those other guys. Sometimes I think I'm the Scarecrow headed for Oz in search of a brain. But here goes:

I've learned to be slower to judge, because things can change with astonishing speed. I need to gather all the facts before forming an opinion. Deep thinking is often difficult.

From here to eternity is not very far. I'm reconciled to the fact that we're always in eternity, just different phases of it. Living in the moment is not only good advice, it is absolutely a necessity for maintaining stability in a chaotic world. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself, says the book of

Matthew. Each day has enough trouble of its own. We suffer more in our imaginations than we do in reality. As some author said years ago, "Don't sweat the small stuff."

Lions and tigers

I've learned that my world is becoming smaller by my own making. It has shrunk like the waterlogged Wicked Witch of the West. That may come from a reluctance to travel beyond my comfort zone, which is bordered by the Pacific Ocean on one side and Laureles Grade on the other. Go on the other side of Carmel Hill? Gracious no! There be lions and tigers and big box stores. Food, fuel, housing and fine dining are minutes, not miles away. Carmel is a destination city. Why not stay here? You

might say this limits my horizons. But this contraction of the outer world gives rise to a rich expansion of my inner life — a profound shift from doing to being. This is where the quiet corners of my life are, where beauty can sink in and I can forget the frenetic multitasking pace of life. As for horizons, sunrises and sunsets are just outside my window.

Physical limitations curtail once-cherished activities. The vastness of earlier accomplishments narrows. Aging, in this sense, is not merely the process of accumulating years, it is the art of distilling life's essence. I have fewer responsibilities since jettisoning demanding careers. The sales that weren't made, the reports that didn't get written? As relevant as yesteryear's Yugo. I have an even smaller social circle, as friends and loved ones pass away, making it natural to feel a little less connected to the world. Which leads me to relearn and appreciate the fragility of life, and that none of it can be replaced.

I've learned that more isn't better. I've come to understand that meaning often resides in simplicity. The relentless pursuit of more gradually gives way to a search for enough. I cherish quiet moments — a conversation with a loved one, the warmth of sunlight on my skin, or the pages of a well-worn book.

I've learned to appreciate technological advances. My gouty fingers that turn curative into hieroglyphics readily skim across a keyboard, allowing me to change my mind about a word or sentence and display them legibly on a bright screen.

Images from the James Webb telescope have shown me the range of God's dominion. The incredible advances and breakthroughs in medicine give me a life my parents never had when they were younger

than I am now. I have metallic joints that allow me to move about, perhaps without the speed of a graceful gazelle, but not too bad for a galumphing geezer.

I've learned that a sense of humility is

Scenic Views

By JERRY GERVASE

the secret ingredient to a good life. The feedback I receive from writing this column humbles me, making me realize I don't know everything and there's always more to learn. It helps me connect with others as they express their thoughts and feelings with equanimity in agreement or disagreement, keeping me open to new ideas.

Rich inner world

I've learned how much I miss my parents. I'm no longer the apple of an eye, and no mama's boy with cheeks pinched pink. And no longer am I the joy of anyone's old age.

After 88 Christmases, I've learned that peace on Earth may be wishing on a star, but there are still wise men and women who always seek that elusive goal.

I've determined that being blessed with a gold-medal family and having love in my life are the truest things I can imagine. That is what makes us human — a rich inner world that is unique.

We understand love, loss and the quiet beauty of a sunset. Those special moments of peace and reflection when we feel connected to ourselves and the world are things we experience, but cannot be seen by the naked eye.

Happy New Year!

Contact Jerry at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.



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centerpiece of the sunken living room, which opens to a private deck with an outdoor custom Carmel stone fireplace — ideal for relaxing evenings. This tranquil retreat includes exposed beams, a private balcony, a walk-in closet, and an en suite bathroom with a shower and jetted tub. This home is a rare chance to own a piece of coastal paradise in Carmel.

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\$895,000 2bd 2ba 22 Del Mesa Carmel Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa Su 1-3 620-2468 / 293-3391
\$945,000 2bd 2ba 4000 Rio Rd #26 KW Coastal Estates	Sa Su 1-3 220-5186
\$2,150,000 2bd 2ba Mission 4 SW of 1st Carmel Realty	Sa 1-3 915-6187
\$2,195,000 3bd 2.5ba 25265 Arriba Del Mundo Compass	Su 1-3 262-7768
\$3,585,000 3bd 3.5ba Santa Rita 2 SW of 5th Coldwell Banker Realty	Sa 1-3 238-5793
\$3,995,000 3bd 2.5ba NE Corner Guadalupe & Mountain Carmel Realty	Sa Su 1-4 241-2600
\$3,998,000 4bd 3ba 3128 Serra Ave Coldwell Banker Realty	Su 1-3 238-5793
\$4,450,000 4bd 3ba Forest 5 SW of 7th Ave Carmel Realty	Sa Su 1-4 601-3207 / 594-8767
\$4,950,000 2bd 2.5ba Casanova 4 NW of 13th Street Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa Su 1-4 320-1109
\$4,995,000 3bd 3ba 139 Boyd Way Compass	Sa 12-3 238-2022
\$5,200,000 3bd 3ba 24509 Portola Ave Compass	Sa 1-3 262-7768
\$8,600,000 3bd 3ba 2385 Bay View Ave Coldwell Banker Realty	Sa Su 1-4 206-0129

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CARMEL VALLEY

\$650,000 2bd 1ba 4 Calle De Los Helechos Sotheby's Int'l RE	Su 11-1 915-8688
\$1,899,999 4bd 3ba 12740 Sundance Ln Sotheby's Int'l RE	Su 12-3 238-0464
\$2,395,000 3bd 2.5ba 310 El Caminito Road Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa 1-3 238-2101

CORRAL DE TIERRA

\$3,750,000 4bd 4.5ba 372 Corral De Tierra Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa 12-2 915-7814
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MARINA

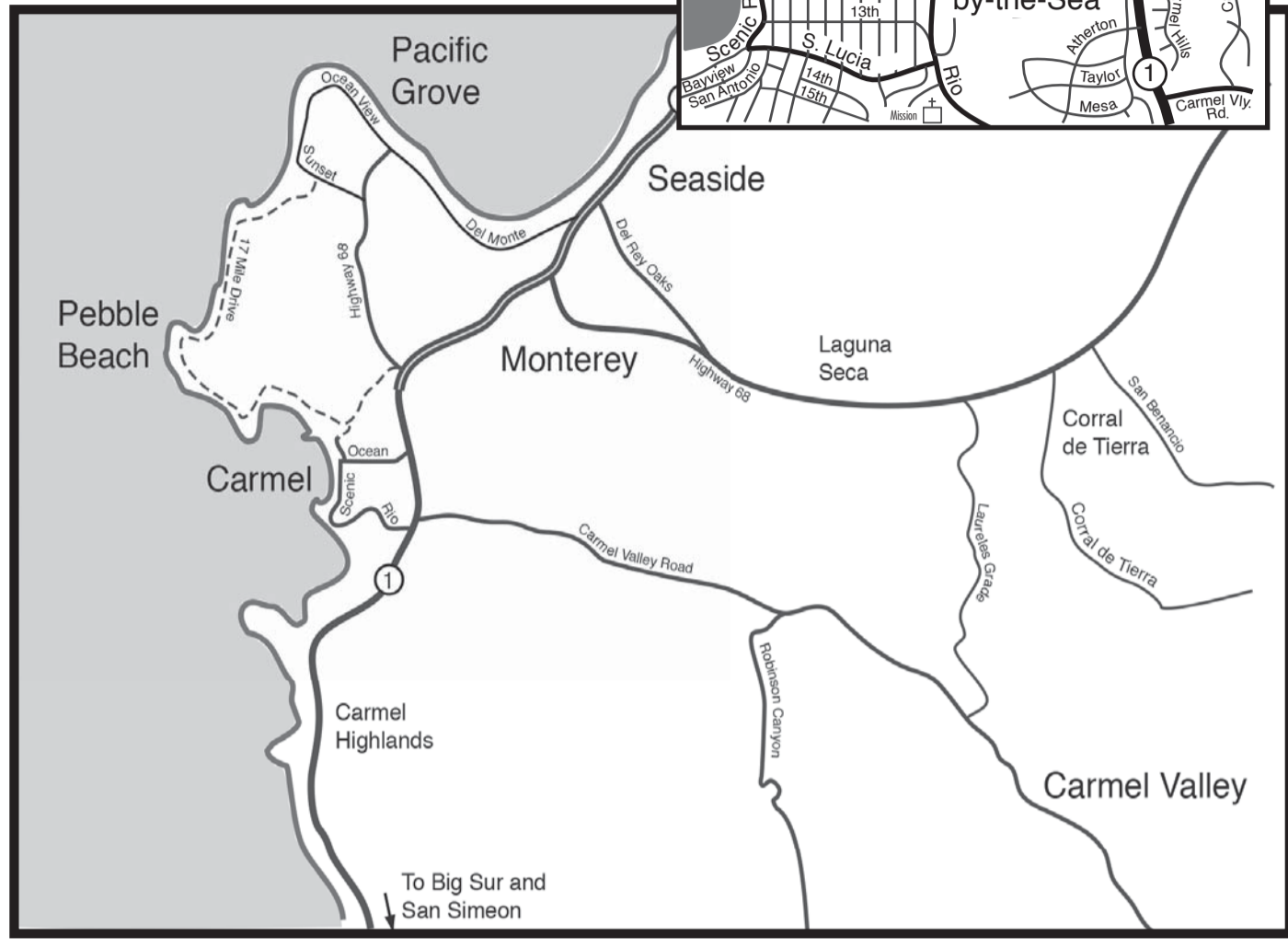
\$1,199,000 3bd 2.5ba 18511 McClellan Circle Sotheby's Int'l RE	Su 1-4 510-589-6892
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MONTEREY

\$799,000 2bd 2ba 57 Montsalas Drive Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa Su 12-2 214-3377
\$1,349,000 4bd 3ba 7 Wyndemere Vale Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa 1-4 510-589-6892

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\$1,249,000 3bd 2ba 34 Country Club 34 Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa 12-2 915-0265
\$3,490,000 5bd 3ba 116 11th St Sotheby's Int'l RE	Fr Sa Su 12-4 278-1642 / 238-4075

PEBBLE BEACH

\$2,750,000 3bd 4.5ba 1109 Arroyo Dr Compass	Sa 1-3:30 Su 12-2 236-4318 / 238-2022
\$3,350,000 4bd 3.5ba 1086 Spyglass Woods Dr Coldwell Banker Realty	Su 1-3 915-1004

\$3,850,000 4bd 3ba 1268 Viscaino Rd Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa 11-2:30 Su 11-3 238-8116
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\$7,495,000 5bd 4ba 3301 17 Mile Drive #10 The Agency	Sa 1-3 277-7200
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SALINAS

\$950,000 3bd 2ba 9791 Arrowleaf Trail Coldwell Banker Realty	Su 1:30-4 596-6118
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ESCROWS

From page 4RE

Carmel Valley

Ann Morse to Xhevdet Kraja
APN: 015-301-005

Corral de Tierra Road — \$1,890,000

Russell and Heather McCallion to Tena Farr
APN: 151-051-002

6 Vuelo de las Palomas — \$7,200,000

Michael and Corinne Roffler to Christopher Caren
APN: 239-041-015

Greenfield

Metz-King City Road — \$35,583,500

Singleton Properties LLC to CA Ranches LLC
APN: 245-011-001

Highway 68

24585 Rimrock Canyon Road — \$1,014,000

Timothy Webb to Lance Koehler and Christina Whitton
APN: 416-412-004

22374 Ortega Drive — \$1,050,000

Alexander and Alethea Pardi to Dominic De Santis and Rachel Schaefer
APN: 161-312-010

22374 Blue Larkspur Lane — \$1,500,000

Toeppen Family LLC to 2400 Garden Road LLC
APN: 173-121-017

117th Drive — \$14,000,000

Domain Corporation and Islandia 29 LP to the Trust for Public Land
APN: 161-031-016

King City

51928 Cattlemen Road — \$2,200,000

Kelly Melano and George Trust to Jerry Rava
APN: 235-081-050

Airline Highway — \$38,950,000

Singleton Properties LLC to CA Ranches LLC
APN: 247-011-001

Marina

Hodges Court — \$587,500

University Corporation at Monterey Bay to Matthew and Tara Hughes
APN: 031-171-005

Monterey

2300 Garden Road — \$213,000

23 Garden LLC to Redwood Gulch LLC
APN: 013-312-004

Pacific Grove

908 Ruth Court — \$1,150,000

Zineb Benmayouf to David and Penny Meyer
APN: 006-634-024

74 Country Club Gate — \$1,490,000

William and Ann Bray to James Thomson and Janet O'Halloran
APN: 007-673-021

403 Central Avenue — \$1,690,000

Kenneth Rockefeller to Mollie Westphal
APN: 006-195-002

1134 Ripple Avenue — \$1,700,000

Robert Kent and Susan Sherrill to Christopher Suhr
APN: 006-051-018

1261 Ocean View Blvd. — \$3,710,000

Bolin Trust to 1261 OVB LLC
APN: 006-011-004

Pebble Beach

3025 Forest Way — \$1,525,000

Theodore Nyznyk to Chandler, Brandi, William and Helen Bluhm
APN: 007-682-006

1121 Circle Road — \$1,640,000

Jeffrey Emery to WH1 LLC
APN: 007-512-013

1044 Lost Barranca Road — \$2,600,000

Huining Feng and Wanmei Huang to Gretchen Brown
APN: 007-192-006

3052 Valdez Road — \$3,500,000

David Littrell to Xizeng Shi and Yun Teng
APN: 007-302-009

1298 Portola Road — \$7,000,000

Jerald Heisel and Gail Zug to Robert Lee
APN: 008-302-034

Seaside

1658 Soto Street — \$500,000

Triad Rentals to Cheryl Assemi
APN: 012-654-046

780 Sonoma Avenue — \$680,000

Glenn and Benjamin Weaver to Antonio Salazar
APN: 011-332-007

1720 Harding Street — \$730,000

Don and Jeni Neiswonger to Yolanda, Jose and Xochil Garcia
APN: 012-763-005

5125 Peninsula Point Court — \$1,430,000

Ernesto and Caroline Heres to Ayman Adeeb and Yassmin Banyamin
APN: 031-231-042

2310 Cypress Lane — \$2,255,500

Shea Homes LP to William and Tara Palajac
APN: 031-054-021

2280 Cypress Lane — \$2,359,500

Shea Homes LP to Susan Terry
APN: 031-054-024

Cypress Lane — \$3,021,000

Shea Homes LP to James and Grace Kim
APN: 031-054-003

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January 29 - February 2, 2025

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**Publications dates:
January 24 & 31**

Jung Yi-Crabbe (831) 274-8646
jung@carmelpinecone.com



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13829 Sherman Boulevard, East Garrison
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1212 Funston Avenue, Pacific Grove
3 beds, 2 baths • \$1,100,000 • www.1212FunstonAve.com



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