

The Carmel Pine Cone

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January 17-23, 2025

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Construction could begin soon at The Pit

By MARY SCHLEY

EVEN THOUGH it might feel like it, The Pit won't be The Pit forever. Patrice Pastor, whose company, Esperanza Carmel, owns the large property on the southwest corner of Dolores and Fifth, said this week that he has applied for a demolition permit to remove what the previous owners built so construction can finally begin on the mixed-use project approved by the planning commission in August 2023.

Since the vote

That unanimous approval of architect Henry Ruhnke's design for what will be called Ulrika Plaza was more than three years coming and marked a major step forward in Pastor's team's efforts to transform the blighted property, which has gone untouched since construction stopped

under its previous ownership in 2019.

But since that vote, nothing has changed at the site, and with the design approval set to expire next month, Pastor and his team would have had to apply for a time extension to keep it alive. Such extensions are not pro forma and could force another round of public hearings, but Esperanza Carmel applied for a permit for "demolition of an existing incomplete subterranean parking structure," keeping the design approval alive.

"We are eager to break ground on this project," Pastor told The Pine Cone. "With regards to the permit expiry, we applied for the demolition permit on Dec. 12, which qualifies for pulling a permit well in advance of this February expiry."

Pastor said the next phase will be to pull the full

See PIT page 21A



PHOTOS/(LEFT) KERRY BELSER, (ABOVE) ESPERANZA CARMEL

Jokes about the plans for a huge downtown swimming pool aside, the long dormant construction site at Dolores and Fifth (at left) should finally see some activity since its owner has applied for a demolition permit. The mixed-use design calls for Tudor and other styles (rendering above).

Commission dithers over metal roofs

■ L.A. fires add urgency to debate

By MARY SCHLEY

WITH THE widespread destruction of thousands of homes and other buildings — including schools and businesses — in the Southern California wildfires, along with the loss of lives and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, the possibility, if not the inevitability, of wildfire in Carmel is on everyone's mind.

In light of that, the battle over metal roofs continued at Wednesday night's planning commission meeting when, after a nearly two-hour discussion on the topic in general, commissioners OK'd one but denied two others.

As the number of applications for such roofs, mostly with vertical panels connected by raised seams, has increased due to fire worries and insurance woes, the commission has struggled with the issue. While residential design guidelines state that "metal, plastic and glass roofs are inappropriate in all neighborhoods," they are not illegal and can therefore be approved when commissioners determine the architecture and neighborhood context warrant it, associate planner Jake Olander noted.

'It doesn't do any good to preserve the character if it all burns down'

'Expressed distaste'

While far less common than the traditional wood shake roofs — which have become anathema in the worlds of property insurance and fire risk — metal roofs appear on many homes, and some have had them for decades.

But a spate of more recent approvals has sparked controversy, so planning staff has been referring all roofing applications that call for metal, composite shingles and

See METAL page 16A



PHOTO/YAHOO NEWS

A metal-roofed house in Lahaina, Hawaii, drew international attention after surviving the fire that devastated the town in August 2023.

Highway 1 through Big Sur reaches sober milestone

■ Two-year closure sets record

By CHRIS COUNTS

AN UNHAPPY anniversary was reached last week when Highway 1 through Big Sur marked its second anniversary of being closed, making this the longest period motorists have been unable to drive along the coast between Carmel and Cambria since the Big Creek Bridge

opened to drivers in September 1938.

As a result, businesses down the coast have struggled to survive, while road crews work long hours to reopen the highway, which has been plagued by slides since major storms shut it in January 2023.

This week, The Pine Cone reached out to a number of Big Sur inns and businesses about the hurdles they have faced staying open — and why this might be the best time to visit the spectacular, but sometimes inaccessible or over-visited, scenic area south of Carmel.

For now, about 40 miles of coastline south of Rio Road is accessible with minor delays for road work, making it possible to visit most of Big Sur's parks, resorts and shops.

The long view

Nepenthe restaurant general manager Kirk Gafill said his family's restaurant loses about a third of its visitors every time the highway closes from the south.

"The challenge is sustaining losses during a period like this, especially with an unknown timeline," Gafill said.

See HIGHWAY page 19A

1,000 ASK PANETTA FOR INAUGURATION TICKETS

By KELLY NIX

THERE HAS been an overwhelming demand in requests from constituents in the 19th Congressional District for tickets to President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration in Washington D.C., according to Democratic Rep. Jimmy Panetta, who will attend the historic event.

Panetta, who was also at Trump's first inauguration in 2017 and President Joe Biden's in 2021, told The Pine Cone Wednesday that demand for the inaugural event on Jan. 20 has been extremely high.

"We are getting an overwhelming number of requests for unfortunately a limited number of tickets that we have," Panetta said. "I think it's about a 5-to-1 request for tickets. We have received more than 1,000 requests for 198 tickets that each member of Congress gets."

Panetta said there have been more requests for passes

than for the last two inaugural ceremonies, which he said "demonstrates the sentiment behind the president-elect," but also the new 19th Congressional District, which stretches from south Santa Clara County into the hills of Santa Cruz, down the coastline of Monterey County and into northern San Luis Obispo County.

Less outrage

The congressman from Carmel Valley said he's noticed a stark difference in the political atmosphere in the region this time compared to when Trump was first elected eight years ago.

"I have not heard a lot of people saying they are not going to the inauguration, unlike 2017, when we had a number of calls into my office demanding that I not

See TICKETS page 21A

Making way for animals left homeless by fires



PHOTO/SPCA MONTEREY COUNTY

An SPCA worker holds Lyle, a 1-year-old terrier mix it's caring for to make room in shelters down south, which are getting pets that had to be evacuated from the fires. See page 5A.

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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Labrador lovefest

The love affair began with Whizz and Fly, English black Labrador retrievers their people acquired from Devon, England. The dogs, a marvel of grace and haste as they ran, were named for speed.

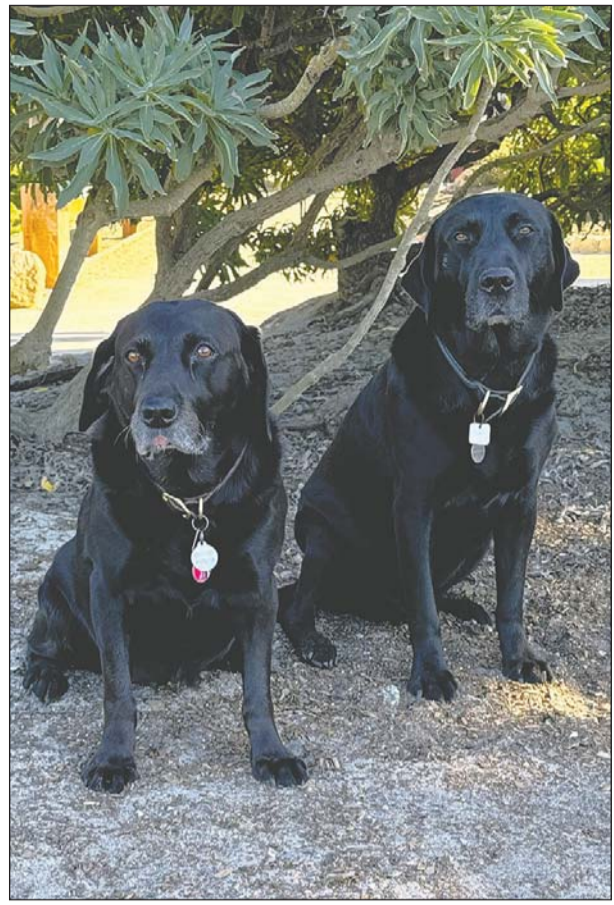
"Whizz's father was Garendon Captain, a world-class retrieval champion to whose person the Queen of England handed the trophy cup," his person said. "Whizz was our once-in-a-lifetime dog."

After Whizz and Fly passed and their people brought home Courage, a 5-month-old male, and Keeper, a 4-month-old female, they learned that Keeper's grandfather was Garendon Captain. It was like bringing a part of Whizz back into their lives.

"What we love about English black Labs, is their unconditional love," their person said. "A gift from God, all they want to do is love us. Despite any imperfections in us, they see only greatness. They are incredibly smart and really attentive. We were not blessed with kids so, to a certain extent, these dogs have filled that void."

The pups' person, once a goalkeeper, named Keeper as a nod to his soccer career yet acknowledges that she is a "real keeper." Courage, although shy, seems to carry the quality, earning him his name.

"Ironically, Courage approaches people with caution



but loves other dogs," his person said, "while Keeper is shy with dogs but loves people."

Courage and Keeper have a home in Sausalito but spend three-quarters of their time in the city-by-the-sea just a block from the 13th Street steps down to the sand. Yet, since Whizz and Fly each tore an ACL — a ligament that helps stabilize the knee — by racing around the shoreline, Courage and Keeper, now 11, don't go down to the beach.

"They're not siblings, but Courage and Keeper love each other and are inseparable," their person said. "We consider it a very successful marriage."

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City lands new planning director

Local with lots of knowledge

By MARY SCHLEY

FINDING THE right person for a high-level position in Carmel city government can be tricky for a lot of reasons: Living here is expensive, the city is idiosyncratic, and its laws, codes and issues are complex and not always logical. The role of planning director — a position last held by Brandon Swanson until he became assistant city administrator nearly a year ago — is one of the most important.

This week, Swanson announced he finally has a successor. Anna Ginette, who has worked in planning and building for Monterey County for more than two decades, will join the city Feb. 3.

“I have worked directly with Anna in the past and feel confident that you will all find her friendly, approachable, solution oriented and extremely hard-working,” Swanson said when he introduced Ginette to city officials. “On top of all that, she’s a genuinely nice human being that is great with managing and growing her team.”

Ginette, 48 later this month, started with the county as a land-use tech at the front counter 22 years ago and worked her way up to the position of principal planner.

A good place to learn

“Monterey County was a wonderful place to learn about planning,” she said, in part because it contains a lot of regulations, including those affecting coastal areas and historic properties, both highly relevant to Carmel.

Her entry position also taught her about the differences between planning a project and getting it built.

“Building is always one plus one is two, and planning is one plus one is sometimes green or a square,” she said.

While Ginette thought she’d spend her entire career with the county — where she and Swanson worked together before he took the director position here — she couldn’t ignore the opportunity the city presented. She was also confident the planners who worked below her at the county could continue to carry the department without her.

“And I figured, ‘Let me at least just take the opportunity, because the knocking is going to stop,’” she said.

A nice walk

After filing her application, Ginette was invited to interview with a panel that included a Monterey planner and a public works representative. “I was so nervous,” she recalled. “They asked really great questions. They allowed me to really talk about my strengths, as well as how I could be an effective and

good member of the team.”

Her second interview consisted of a walk around town with city administrator Chip Rerig.

“Ultimately, it was the second interview where I really felt I could thrive and I could be happy and I could help Carmel be an even better place than it already is,” she said. “It wasn’t just talking about structures and buildings, but saying hello to people on the streets, whether residents or visitors or business owners — it was really

See **DIRECTOR** page 19A



Anna Ginette



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Police & Sheriff's Log

Driver didn't see the pedestrian

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.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Responded to a report of a dog slipping out of its harness and running into the roadway at Lincoln and Seventh. The dog ran into a car and died on the scene.

Pacific Grove: MPD advised a vehicle was repossessed in P.G. jurisdiction and requested a case number.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle marked for possibly being abandoned in the 300 block of Sixth Street.

Pacific Grove: Two subjects on Sea Palm were cited for a municipal code violation — smoking in a public park.

Pacific Grove: Theft reported on Pico.

Pebble Beach: Person on El Bosque Drive reported a window was broken under suspicious circumstances.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Adult mountain lion seen crossing the roadway at Ocean and Hatton at 0624 hours. Reported to California Fish and Wildlife online — wildlife incident reporting.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Dog bit a person on San Carlos north of Fifth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Child Protective

Services referral at Dolores and Third.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury collision vs. parked city vehicle on Mission Street.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Traffic stop at Ocean and Carpenter at 2348 hours. The 25-year-old male Pacific Grove resident was arrested for DUI and released on a citation.

Pacific Grove: A traffic stop was conducted at Sloat and Dewey for vehicle code violations. The 66-year-old male driver was arrested for an outstanding warrant and other charges, including probation violation, driving on a suspended/revoked license, and failing to maintain insurance or proof of financial responsibility.

Carmel area: A 58-year-old male was taken into custody at the Crossroads for obstructing/delaying deputies, trespassing, obtaining utility services without consent and violation of probation terms.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Medical emergency/fall on city property at Ocean and Monte Verde at 0007 hours.

Carmel Valley: Elderly resident passed away in a residence on Dorris Drive.

Pebble Beach: Deputies responded to a report of a theft on 17 Mile Drive. Perpetrators still at large.

Carmel Valley: A subject on East Carmel Valley Road was placed on a hold for psychiatric evaluation.

See **POLICE LOG** page 10RE in the Real Estate Section



The gavel falls

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

Dec. 9 — George Allen Jaeger, 69, of Salinas, was sentenced to 16 months in jail for possession of a controlled substance for purposes of sales.

On Aug. 27, 2020, deputies with Monterey County Sheriff's Office conducted surveillance at a residence in Salinas. The deputies observed Jaeger walking back and forth from the backyard.

Deputies searched Jaeger and found \$3,195 in his wallet. Deputies searched Jaeger's room and found three bags containing over 129 grams of methamphetamine, a digital scale, and glass methamphetamine pipes. The Hon. Jennifer O'Keefe sentenced Jaeger to 16 months in county jail for possession of a controlled substance for sales.

Dec. 9 — Alex Adolfo Sandoval Martinez, 32, of San Mateo County, was sentenced to 32 months in prison for vehicle theft, re-

sisting an executive officer and possession of controlled substance paraphernalia.

On Oct. 14, 2024, officers responded to a collision at East Boronda Road and San Juan Grade Road. A stolen blue truck with a lawnmower in the back had driven over the raised concrete to the center median and was blocking traffic. Officers searched Martinez. and located a set of keys to the stolen vehicle, a key fob, and a methamphetamine smoking pipe.

After arrest, Martinez became disruptive, uncooperative, and aggressive towards the officers. Martinez was determined to be on post-release community supervision. The Hon. Jennifer O'Keefe sentenced him to 16 months in state prison, which was doubled to 32 months due to prior "strike" convictions within the meaning of California's three strikes law.



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SPCA, POMDR help wildfire pets

By KELLY NIX

LOCAL ANIMAL welfare groups are caring for dogs and cats from Southern California shelters to make room for pets whose owners have lost their homes in devastating fires there.

SPCA Monterey County said Monday that it took in 11 pets, including one cat, one kitten, five dogs and four puppies. Spokeswoman Beth Brookhouser told The Pine Cone they came from the Downey Animal Care Center. The fires have burned thousands of structures and displaced tens of thousands of residents, many of whom have dogs and cats.

“We know all too well how disasters can impact pet owners given our recent experiences here, and we are here to do anything we can to help the shelters who are working so hard to rescue and care for animals,” said Scott Delucchi, president and CEO of SPCA Monterey County.

The Southern California dogs and cats being cared for were available for adoption before the fires. They include Ben Jr., a 14-week-old tabby kitten, Winter, a 1-year-old pug, Gemma, a 4-month-old pit bull mix, and Lyle, a 1-year-old terrier mix that Brookhouser said is “shy but sweet.”

The SPCA said they could be available for adoption here this week. The nonprofit also said it has a skilled animal rescue team

ready to help in the fire areas if the agency is needed.

For adoption information, go to spcamc.org.

Another shelter helps

Pacific Grove-based Peace of Mind Dog Rescue also traveled south to take dogs after getting a Jan. 10 call from a Los Angeles County Shelter coordinator that the shelters needed space.

Peace of Mind cofounder and board member Monica Rua and adoption coordinator Emily Termotto left the Monterey Peninsula the next day at 6 a.m. They went to four impacted animal shelters and brought back four dogs.

“Fortunately, many of the shelters visited had already sent many dogs to foster or to other shelters or rescues,” the group, which has a private clinic on Forest Avenue, said.

While trying to load the animals in their van, people adopted several of them “right out from their arms,” Peace of Mind said.

They returned to Pacific Grove the same day at 11 p.m.

“The pups were walked, fed and tucked in for the night,” the nonprofit said. “They’ll all be going to foster homes this week and will be put up for adoption.”

For adoption information, go to pomdr.org.

PUPPY TRAINING CLASSES OFFERED

SPCA MONTEREY County is offering a series of puppy training classes that start Jan 18.

“This class focuses on the basics of puppy care, socialization, and training,” the nonprofit said about the six sessions, which are on Saturdays. “During class we discuss behavior, manners, and help you with simple solutions to problems you may be experiencing.”

Each of the Puppy Level 1 classes is one-hour. They will be held at Pet Food Express in the Carmel Crossroads shopping center and cost \$200 for six sessions.

“Start your new puppy off on the right paw this January,” the organization said.

Puppies must have had a minimum of their first two distemper/parvo shots to participate in class. Information is at spcamc.org/training.





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‘Centennial Renovation’ of library requires cooperation and lots of cash

By MARY SCHLEY

A PLANNED multimillion-dollar renovation of Harrison Memorial Library may be a good illustration of how well three separate groups can play together — and a test of how much the community supports the effort to “upgrade critical systems, enhance accessibility, improve visitor flow, and rejuvenate the building’s iconic interiors.”

The City of Carmel owns the nearly century-old building at Lincoln and Ocean and is responsible for its staffing and maintenance, an independent board of trustees oversees library operations, and the Carmel Public Library Foundation raises money for its materials, programs and services.

In a statement released by the city and the foundation Monday, the CPLF said it needs to secure donor pledges totaling \$5 million by June 30 to help pay for the renovation, which executive director Alexandra Fallon said the city has neither the capacity nor the funds to do on its own.

The announcement revealed that a 19-person selection committee picked the architect it wants to take on the project.

Co-chaired by Lacy Buck and library foundation President Marci Meaux, the committee chose the Santa Monica-based firm of Moore Ruble Yudell for what

the committee said was its “expertise in thoughtful preservation” and its “ability to respect the building’s history while implementing necessary upgrades.”

Who does what?

Only the city council has the authority to approve a contract with an architectural firm, but the board has a major say in the project, too. To clarify that and ensure no one is stepping on someone else’s authority, the library board held a special meeting Jan. 8 for a “review and discussion about the Harrison Memorial Library Board’s authority in general and with regards to the renovation project.”

Library director Ashlee Wright said the Carmel Municipal Code and state law give the library board “authority over operations, including managing property, administering funds, and making recommendations on capital projects and staffing during the budget process, while the city council retains approval for capital work based on funding priorities.”

For the renovation, the board will determine whether any proposed design “supports or compromises the functionality of the building — functionality which will ensure continuity and efficiency of library operations” and will “base any recommendation for the proposed design on whether

the design will meet library patron needs.”

They will accomplish that by following five guiding principles they adopted in April 2024, including that the renovation results in well maintained facilities, more service hours, no negative impacts on library staffing, no extra costs to residents and minimal disruption to services.

“This is a very exciting time for us, but then there’s going to be an awful lot of challenges,” observed library board member John Krisher.

Decades of disrepair

At the meeting, Fallon commented that “over the past 30 years, the library has continued to fall into disrepair,” and said its needs are significant, including ADA accessibility and seismic upgrades.

“The library foundation became involved because neither the board nor the city has the money to update the library,” she said. “Nor does the city have the bandwidth for a project of this magnitude.”

She said the foundation’s mission is “to help keep the library open, relevant and thriving,” and that it is the “primary revenue source for library operations.” The 2024-2025 adopted budget earmarks \$1,545,431 for the library.

“CPLF wanted to help the restoration by raising the funds needed, assuring the

renovation will be thoughtful and aligned with the historic building,” she explained.

She also said the committee’s selection of the architect was “near unanimous,” which prompted Wright to remind everyone that the firm doesn’t actually have the job until the city council signs on the dotted line. “Nothing is official until a contract is signed,” she said.

Fallon expressed confidence the council will accept the recommendation.

She also commented that the renovation will require cooperation on all sides.

The announcement released this week noted that once the council approves its agreements with the foundation and the architect, “the community will be invited to participate through collaborative meetings and periodic updates, and the CPLF is leading the capital campaign, “with the goal of completing construction by the library’s centennial year in 2028.”

“To propel the campaign forward, a matching \$5 million gift was made and \$500,000 was contributed for initial architectural work,” the announcement said. “To meet the campaign’s goals, \$5 million must be pledged by June 30. Community members who value the library’s architectural beauty and historical significance are encouraged to support the Centennial Restoration.”

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Agency going door-to-door to talk trash

By KELLY NIX

HAVE YOU been tossing your old food scraps into the green landscape bin? Whether you have or not, you may get a knock on your door from someone reminding you that it's the law and you should be doing so.

A state mandate went into effect in January 2022 requiring Californians to throw most unpackaged food waste into the bin that also accepts yard clippings so it can be turned into compost. The goal is to reduce methane and other greenhouse gas emissions statewide and to meet specific targets by the end of the year.

"Single-family and multifamily complexes are required to recycle both green waste and food waste, as well as other organic waste materials," government agency CalRecycle says.

Every home

It's not clear how many Monterey Peninsula residents are complying with the food waste program, which is difficult to monitor. But ReGen Monterey — the agency that operates the Marina landfill — is going door-to-door to educate customers.

"ReGen Monterey has hired a consultant on behalf of our member agencies to go door-to-door to residences across the Monterey Peninsula to increase participation in the food scraps program," ReGen spokeswoman Zoe Shoats told The Pine Cone.

Shoats said that the agency hired consultant Monterey-based Blue Strike Environmental to do the legwork.

"The amount currently budgeted in field outreach is \$51,252 for seven jurisdictions, but we may look to

reallocate some of this funding to other SB 1383 activities," said Shoats, referring to the name of the state legislation that requires recycling of food, except raw meat, oil and liquids.

One Pacific Grove resident said they got a surprise knock on the door last week.

"He told me that food scraps need to go into the green waste container," the person said. "I felt it was a waste of money on ReGen's part. They've already sent us postcards and mailers telling us it's the law."

Shoats said representatives from Blue Strike are trying to go to every home and are not targeting specific customers.

"Our aim is to educate and assist people in participating, placing food scraps in their green cart along with yard trimmings," Shoats said. "They are not mandating participation but rather providing the benefits of participation."

While monetary fines for violating the law range from \$50 to \$100 for the first violation and \$250 to \$500 for the third and subsequent violations, Shoats said she's not heard of fines being issued to local residents.



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Not sure which bin food scraps are supposed to go into? An inspector who may visit your home will be glad to help.



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CALIFORNIA HOLDS ONTO TITLE AS HOMELESS CAPITAL OF AMERICA

By CAITLIN CONRAD

ANOTHER YEAR has come and gone and, despite spending billions on the problem, California remains home to the largest number of homeless people in the nation.

On Dec. 27 the Department of Housing and Urban Development released new data on the number of people living on the streets nationwide. The 2024 “point in time” count found an 18 percent increase in unsheltered people across the country over the last year. The count was taken during a single night in January 2024 and found 770,000 people in America were homeless, most of them in California, although New York gave us a run for our money.

The point in time count does not purport to be perfectly accurate. Each county conducts the count differently, relying on volunteers, outreach workers and local government staff. In California, the homeless population tallied 187,084 people, only a 3 percent increase over 2023, however, it still represents nearly a quarter of all the

unhoused nationwide. HUD also found the Golden State is where 44 percent of the country’s chronically homeless — people who have been homeless for a year or more and may struggle with a disabling condition — live.

\$24 billion spent

California spent \$24 billion to remedy the problem between 2019 and 2024, but the money seems to have only made the problem worse. During that time, the state’s homeless population increased 23 percent despite taxpayers spending roughly \$150,000 per homeless person. A state audit of spending during that five-year period was released in April and found state-funded homeless programs failed to adequately track ongoing costs and outcomes of their work. In other words, California isn’t sure where all the money went or how many people it kept off the streets.

Regardless of past failures, Gov. Gavin

See **HOMELESS** page 23A



A homeless encampment in 2023 alongside Highway 1 in Seaside. During the pandemic, such campsites were allowed to flourish.

PHOTO/KELLY NIX

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Lawsuit over restroom ADA access

By KELLY NIX

A DISABLED tourist who visited the Monterey Bay Aquarium last year has filed a legal claim against the popular attraction, claiming she suffered emotional trauma and embarrassment after she was unable to find a restroom that could accommodate her.

Gloria Jean Kish, from Alameda, said she and her sister were visiting the aquarium's living kelp forest and jellyfish exhibits on July 24, 2024, when she said she encountered "significant challenges" in finding a bathroom that could accommodate disabled people.

"The ADA-accessible restroom they found in the middle of the facility was too narrow for Kish's wheelchair and prevented her from entering," according to the complaint filed Jan. 9 in Monterey County Superior Court. "Despite attempting to access three different restrooms, none were suitable for wheelchair use."

An aquarium employee helped Kish — who uses an oxygen tank — find a restroom, but the one offered was also not ADA accessible, and Kish said she "experienced great difficulty" using it.

Kish "urinated slightly before she could adequately position herself and, in the process, her oxygen tank broke," she said. "The incident caused Kish embarrassment, inconvenience and mental trauma."

'Twisting of the wrist'

According to the aquarium's website, all its restrooms "have accessible stalls and lowered sinks, and electronic-assist doors for entry." There are photos on the site showing lowered sinks and push buttons to open doors.

Kish claims that the restroom she used had a "traditional style" doorknob that required "tight pinching, grasping and twisting of the wrist to operate." She also

See ADA page 15A

Axe murderer gets 76 years to life

By MARY SCHLEY

A 27-YEAR-OLD South County resident convicted by a jury last month of using an axe to murder a man and attack another was sentenced last Thursday by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Rafael Vazquez to 76 years to life in state prison, according to deputy district attorney Michael Witt.

Kevin Powell had blamed "methamphetamine-induced psychosis" for his brutal attack on two brothers who were staying at a Motel 6 in King City the night of Sept. 14, 2022, while they were in town for work.

"That night, after returning from dinner at their sister's house, they stood outside their room talking. Meanwhile, another

guest, later identified as Powell, parked his car near the victims," he said. "The victims — strangers to Powell — paid no attention as he got out, rummaged in the rear passenger seat of his car, and then suddenly produced a 3-foot axe and attacked them with it."

One of the brothers ran and managed to escape with minor injuries, but the other man tripped, and Powell struck him with the weapon. The victim later died at the hospital.

Powell, who has an extensive criminal record and has been in Monterey County Jail since his arrest shortly after committing the crimes, has a prior strike conviction for street terrorism. In addition to

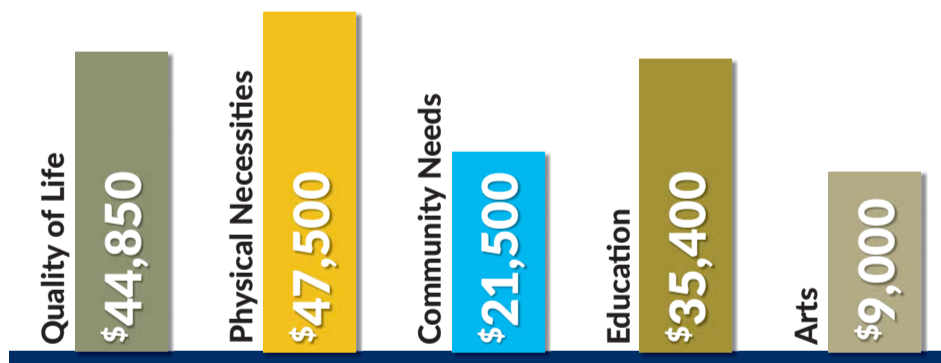
See AXE page 15A



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Julie Packard to retire, will stay on until successor is found

By KELLY NIX

JULIE PACKARD, the woman who's spent four decades at the helm of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, announced this week she will step down from her role as executive director.

The aquarium's first and only executive director, Packard, 71, did not say when she would retire but that she will continue to serve until her successor is selected. Her parents, David and Lucille Packard, donated \$55 million



PHOTO/MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM

The Monterey Bay Aquarium's first and only executive director, Julie Packard said this week she'll step down from the position.

to create the aquarium, and she was project director during the planning and construction from 1978 to 1984 before taking the executive role. An employment search firm will look for her replacement.

Pass the torch

"As we enter a new year, it's time for me to pass the torch to a new leader who will chart the aquarium's course in the decades to come," Packard said Wednesday. "As soon as we find a successor, after 40 years as executive director, I'll be transitioning to a new leadership role on the aquarium's board of trustees."

In a 300-word note to aquarium donors, she said the aquarium has made "real progress" during a time of "unprecedented global change," and touted the attraction's influence on other aquatic museums.

"Our extraordinary living exhibits and growing online presence have inspired people to care more — and do more — to protect and restore the ocean," she went on to say, calling the aquarium the "best in the world."

"We've redefined the role aquariums can play as conservation leaders," she said. "And we're helping new

generations discover how to use their talents to create a future where the ocean flourishes and people thrive in a just and equitable world."

Packard was paid \$407,000 in salary and benefits,

See **RETIRE** page 14A



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Council chooses new courier for mail delivery

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL City Council on Monday voted to hire a new courier service to deliver mail to residents who can't go to the post office — where everyone else without a house number and a mailbox must go. The new contract

could run through June 30, 2028, with a maximum cost of \$270,000.

Switching from longtime carrier Peninsula Messenger Service, finance manager Jayme Fields told the council Jan. 13, will save taxpayers an estimated \$2,250 per month in the five-day-a-week delivery of mail to 82 recipients.

The new company, MoGo Express, had the lowest of four bids submitted by various courier services, including Peninsula Messenger Service.

But even the new contract won't necessarily be for the long term.

"It is structured so that only the remaining portion of this current fiscal year would be 'guaranteed,'" Fields explained. "In order to continue providing courier service through the next fiscal year, the city would need to approve the first option of the contract, and so on into years two and three."

Free or pay?

Since 2001, taxpayers have covered the costs of taking mail to dozens of residents via a courier service, a compromise struck after an activist who briefly called Carmel home demanded that the council put numbers on houses so the postal service could start delivering. The council at the time opted not to do that, instead choosing to hire a private company to ferry mail to anyone who wanted it, regardless of need or lack of a street address, which some annexed sections of the city have.

The costs, along with the number of recipients, continued to rise, reaching a peak of 186 during the Covid pandemic, and the city council decided in June 2020 to explore changing the program by limiting taxpayer-funded delivery to those who could prove the necessity via a doctor's note, disabled-parking placard or other means. Meanwhile, able-bodied recipients could continue receiving mail delivery — but only if they paid for it.

By Sept. 1, 2021, when that change took effect, the number of recipients had dropped to just 78, with no one paying for the service. The decline did not result in a commensurate cost reduction, however, as Peninsula Messenger Service raised the per-customer rate to compensate for it. According to a review of the city's check registers over the past several months, the company's monthly invoices routinely run more than \$7,300.

'A nice thing to do'

Resident William O'Neil wrote to the council expressing concerns about the cost and suggested reducing it by cutting the number of days residents receive deliveries.

"It is very kind of the city to pay for mail delivery to a select few," he said. "First, mail does not have to be delivered every day. We pick up our mail twice a week, and still find most of it is junk mail."

He also suggested volunteers could take over — an idea that has been raised before but which could present legal

See MAIL page 15A



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ESSELEN TRIBE GIFTED 327 ACRES

By CHRIS COUNTS

FIVE YEARS after taxpayers spent \$4.5 million to buy the 1,200-acre Adler Ranch in Big Sur for the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County, they did the same for another 327 acres nearby, which sold for \$1.4 million and will also be given to the tribe.

The land, which is upriver from the Adler Ranch, provides “critical habitat” to “numerous imperiled species,” along with one of the largest stands of old-growth redwoods in the region and more than a mile of Little Sur River frontage, according to the groups involved in the purchase.

The latest property, which is undeveloped, was part of the Pico Blanco Boy Scout Camp and before that, it was owned by newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst.

The acquisition was made possible by the Western Rivers Conservancy, which put it together, and the California Wildlife Conservation Board, a state agency which arranged the funding. Tribal leader Tom Little Bear Nason thanked the two groups for their efforts.

“The Pico Blanco area, defined by the

Little Sur River, is the spiritual, cultural and geographical center for the Esselen Tribe,” Nason said. “To have the opportunity for our tribal members to reconnect with more of the river and these ancient redwoods fulfills a deeply meaningful part of our mission.”

‘Pristine spawning stream’

Nelson Mathews, president of the Western Rivers Conservancy, said the group is “honored” to team up with the Esselen Tribe “to achieve our shared goals of permanently protecting the West’s precious waterways.”

The group’s partnership with the Esselen Tribe “has delivered tremendous conservation wins for the Little Sur River with its majestic redwoods, threatened fish and endangered wildlife, while returning it to its original stewards, the Esselen people,” Mathews said.

The group contends the Little Sur River is the “most important and pristine spawning stream” in the region for steelhead. Flowing 25 miles down a steep, shaded canyon to the ocean, the river also provides habitat for the endangered California condor and threatened red-legged frog.

PacRep offers new round of classes

By CHRIS COUNTS

FOR THE next generation of local stage performers, class gets started in early February.

PacRep Theatre’s Peppy Garner & Darnell Whitt School of Dramatic Arts kicks off its spring semester Feb. 10-15 with 10 different classes for theater students.

The courses are taught in the Indoor Forest Theater, which is located on the lower floor of the Outdoor Forest Theater stage at Santa Rita and Mountain View.

According to PacRep, the classes offer

training in a wide range of theater skills. “Students explore and expand their talents, learning to express themselves on stage, as they build confidence and self-esteem,” the theater group said. “Through a variety of activities and songs, participants will develop their vocal technique, enhance their acting skills, and learn the art of stage movement.” Students can register online or by mail. For a complete schedule of classes, visit pacrep.org/soda-school-of-dramatic-arts. For more details, including questions about student aid, call (831) 622-9175.

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Trump-proofing session expanded to tackle fires

By CAITLIN CONRAD

GOV. GAVIN Newsom decided this week to expand a special session of the Legislature to consider wildfire relief. The session was originally called in December in an effort to “Trump-proof” the state.

Newsom’s decision to add wildfire response funding came after California Republicans pressured the governor to drop plans to focus on Trump and concentrate on helping Los Angeles County recover.

“I’m glad to see Newsom agreeing that the state needs to prioritize relief for Californians impacted by these fires,” said Assemblymember James Gallagher, a Yuba City Republican.

On Tuesday, Newsom added a budget item to provide \$2.5 billion in wildfire relief. The funding would include

\$1 billion in emergency response, \$1.5 billion for future wildfire threats, and money to help rebuild and repair schools.

A key leader of the Trump resistance, State Sen. Scott Wiener, a San Francisco Democrat, applauded the decision.

“My GOP colleagues say we have to choose between helping L.A. recover from wildfires and protecting California from Trump. But we can do both. Indeed, we must do both,” wrote Wiener on social media platform X.

Rather than dropping plans to Trump proof the state, Democrats moved full speed ahead this week, increasing the legal fund to fight the administration from \$25 million to \$50 million.

California Democrats plan to earmark \$25 million for the Department of Justice to use when it wants to sue the Trump administration. Because Newsom, Wiener and their colleagues fear mass deportations and mass detentions, the additional dollars will be set aside for immigration

services.

The hope was to have Trump-related legislation in effect ahead of his inauguration Jan. 20, but hearings are scheduled to start Wednesday, with full votes the week of Jan. 27.

RETIRE

From page 11A

according to the nonprofit’s tax filing in 2022, which also showed that the aquarium had nearly \$116 million and its assets were valued at more than \$642 million.

Aquarium staff credited Packard with transforming public awareness of ocean issues and marine life.

“Consistently ranked as the top aquarium in the world, it has attracted more than 72 million visitors — including more than 2.7 million students admitted free of charge for class visits and education programs,” according to staffers at the aquarium, which opened Oct. 20, 1984. “Its focus on exhibiting marine life of a single region — the waters of Monterey Bay — and displaying those plants and animals living together as they would in the wild was unprecedented when it opened and helped to transform the aquarium world.”

Packard gave credit to strong support from donors, members and others, whom she said are making a “lasting difference for the ocean,” while assuring them the aquarium will still work to make a “positive difference for the future of the ocean.”

“A look back on all we achieved in 2024 demonstrates the impact we’re having,” she said. “Thank you for doing your part to sustain this vital work.”



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MAIL

From page 12A

issues due to postal service regulations and be a challenging obligation to fulfill.

“Thirdly, the person receiving this service should be required to participate in the cost of this service,” O’Neil said.

After some discussion among councilmembers that touched on whether to discontinue the service and if recipients should have to prove a financial need to receive it, councilwoman Alissandra Dramov remarked, “I think we’re

overthinking this.”

“It’s a good program — I think we should continue it,” she said. “The doctor’s note means these people are sincere. It’s a nice thing the city can do, and it’s a reasonable amount.”

Councilman Jeff Baron queried whether reducing deliveries to four days a week would cut the cost by 20 percent.

Mayor Dale Byrne said he would start researching the issue, with councilman Hans Buder agreeing to work with him on it, and the council unanimously voted to approve the contract as proposed while further examining ways to reduce the cost. Councilman Bob Delves was absent.

ADA

From page 10A

alleged other non-compliant ADA features at the aquarium, which she characterized as “obvious and blatant.”

“The aquarium failed to comply with ADA standards, particularly as they pertain to individuals who rely on wheelchairs for mobility,” according to the suit filed by Kish, who is represented by the Alameda-based Reddy Law Firm.

She also suggested that the restroom incident contributed to medical issues, including a urinary tract infection and a permanent catheter, and that she’s been in “bed most of the time since the accident.”

She alleges violation of state laws that are intended to protect disabled people and is asking a judge to order the aquarium to comply with standards required in the Americans with Disabilities Act. She is seeking an unspecified amount in monetary damages exceeding \$35,000.

A spokesperson for the aquarium did not respond to a message seeking comment.

AXE

From page 10A

finding him guilty of first-degree murder and first-degree attempted murder, the jury “found Powell used a deadly weapon, and that the crimes involved great violence, great bodily harm, or a high degree

of cruelty, viciousness or callousness,” Witt said, which figured into the sentence Vazquez handed down during the Jan. 9 hearing.

Powell remained in county jail Thursday, pending transfer to the state Department of Corrections. Witt said former King City detective Juan Rodriguez and DA investigator Dominique Hohmann handled the case.

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Panetta supports sex offender bill

By KELLY NIX

REP. JIMMY Panetta joined mostly Republicans Thursday in passing a bill that makes any sex offense committed by undocumented immigrants grounds for deportation from the United States.

Current law says that a non-citizen can be deported for certain criminal convictions, including domestic violence, stalking, and child abuse. The Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act, which Panetta supported, makes illegal immigrants convicted of any sex offense or conspiracy to commit a sex offense, a deportable crime.

The bill also makes immigrants who have admitted to sex offenses or domestic violence inadmissible and deportable and “expands the domestic violence crimes

that make a non-U.S. national deportable to include physical or sexual abuse or a pattern of coercive behavior when it occurs within certain close relationships,” according to a summary of the legislation.

Panetta was one of only 61 Democrats to OK the bill, which was proposed by South Carolina Republican Rep. Nancy Mace, a rape survivor. The bill won approval from all 213 Republicans who voted.

Since being elected to Congress eight years ago, Panetta has shown himself to be a moderate on immigration issues. Last week, though, he sided with most of his Democratic colleagues in opposing the Laken Riley Act that would require federal immigration authorities to detain undocumented immigrants who have been arrested for nonviolent crimes such as burglary, theft, larceny, or shoplifting.

METAL

From page 1A

other materials that can’t be OK’d over the counter to the full planning commission. The goal, associate planner Jake Olander said, is for the commission to develop a better policy on acceptable roofs so the practice doesn’t continue.

“Some residents have expressed concerns about metal roofs and high-contrast composite shingle roofs. These residents have stated that the metal roofs are inappropriate for all neighborhoods and believe that they are eroding the village character of Carmel-by-the-Sea,” Olander said in his report. “The planning commission has previously set precedents for the staff to approve earth-tone metal roofs and composite shingle roofs. Some residents have continued to voice their concerns over earth-tone metal roofs, leading staff to refer all metal roofs to the planning commission once again.”

Most of the speakers Jan. 15 argued in favor of metal roofs.

Architect Daniela deSola — whose client, Brandi Faia, was told by commissioners last month that she could not have a vertical-paneled metal roof and should install stamped metal shingles or some other material, instead — commented, “When we consider the long-term welfare of our citizens, it’s essential safety is never compromised in favor of visual appeal.”

“That could lead to significant financial costs and legal liabilities,” she said.

“We have to recognize not only safety, but also property rights,” said resident Joe DeNucci. “And ask ourselves if some of these recommendations are strictly arbitrary and subjective.”

Architect and former planning commissioner Don Goodhue pointed out that standing-seam metal roofs have been used for hundreds of years all over the world — including on Rome’s Pantheon — and said they are “a perfect application for Carmel.”

“Given the current fire concerns, it makes it all the more imperative to allow metal roofs to address those concerns,” he said. “To rule them out would be to take a step backward rather than one to meet today’s needs.”

Too heavy

Others echoed those sentiments, with architects and builders observing that metal roofs come in various colors and finishes and can be of high quality. Contrary to what some detractors imply, they are not a cheap solution, either. And other fireproof materials, like clay tiles, slate and cement, are often too heavy for older homes to bear.

A couple of speakers observed that a few of the homes that survived the Los Angeles County fires have metal roofs.

“My brother-in-law’s house was saved in the Palisades because it has a standing-seam roof,” said builder Justin Hastings. A former firefighter, Hastings also said that common practice during wildfires

Continues next page

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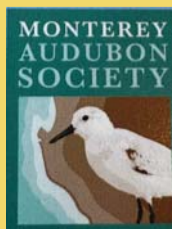
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From previous page

is for crews to seek out and defend the houses they know they have a higher chance of saving — particularly, those that are more hardened against burning.

Resident Neal Kruse, an outspoken opponent of contemporary architecture and metal roofs, dismissed those concerns.

“Are we so afraid of fire that we’re willing to lose the character of Carmel? I don’t think so,” he said. Kruse provided a list of other materials, including slate, stamped metal, asphalt and fiberglass, that he would find more acceptable.

During the discussion, assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson said the latest draft of the revised design guidelines — an update that’s been in the works for years — calls for allowing for metal roofs if they are detailed simply, have narrow flat panels to avoid corrugations or striations, use standing or flat seams, and are uncoated or painted in a neutral tone.

Simplify it

Former city councilwoman Victoria Beach is part of the steering committee leading the overhaul of the design rules and said the goal is to “simplify the city’s approach so these are not agonizing decisions,” by identifying a list of acceptable materials that have “authenticity and naturalness.”

But most commissioners were resistant to accepting metal roofs outright. “We can’t have every single roof metal here, because it will change the look of our community,” commissioner Erin Allen said, adding that other fire-resistant materials are already on the list of acceptable roofs, including asphalt shingles.

“They satisfy the safety requirement, the aesthetics requirement and the affordability,” she said.

As requested last month, commissioner Stephanie Locke wanted information on California insurance requirements and feedback from insurance companies and the fire department, as well as product samples, none of which was presented Wednesday.

Commissioner Stefan Karapetkov said the policy should not amount to a knee-jerk reaction to recent events.

“The worst thing we can do is introduce a policy and end up with all metal roofs,” he said, adding that “if you want to live in a village in the forest, it’s going to be very, very expensive.”

While the outdated residential guidelines call for wood roofs, chair Michael LePage said, “we’re up against the dilemma that we can no longer use that material, so we are at the point where we have to eliminate a roofing material that has been a defining characteristic of our community.”

He said he would “love to have” a standard list of materials for applicants to use.

“I really want to try to get the subjectivity out of it,” he said. “I see there’s an inherent unfairness to this, and it makes me very uncomfortable.”

He also observed that Los Angeles, Lahaina and other locations that suffered devastating wildfires will never be

the same.

“It isn’t going to do us any good to try to preserve the character of the community if we have a fire that burns it all down,” he said.

Planners said they will take the feedback, do more research, and return with another report at next month’s meeting.

HEAD AND NECK PAIN

A CHIROPRACTIC MESSAGE from Dr. Steven MacDonald, D.C.

Dr. MacDonald’s specialty is the Cervical Spine and Skull alignment. The skull and the cervical spine (Cranial-Cervical segment) must be in alignment to keep the rest of the body in balance. This section of the spine houses and protects the most important area of the central nervous system—the brain and brainstem. There are also so many life forces housed here, often called the mouth of God where the skull meets the cervical spine. The nervous system, Cerebral spinal fluid, circulatory system must be able to flow freely here to keep us healthy. Head and neck injuries and stress can misalign this area and interfere with these systems. Old and new injuries can hurt this spinal alignment and then be the cause of many of the symptoms people have today and distort posture later in life. Headaches can occur, balance problems, middle ear problems, neck and shoulder pain, mid and low back pain, poor memory, brain fog, blurred vision, speech, mood, depression, numbness and tingling, constipation, Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue. Cranial-Cervical misalignment can hurt every system in the body. It’s not something to take lightly.

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Point Sur lighthouse needs volunteers so more people can visit

By CHRIS COUNTS

A UNIQUE site that offers unparalleled views up and down the Big Sur coast, Point Sur State Historic Park offers tours of its light station and adjacent former naval facility. But those who operate the landmark along Highway 1 can't welcome as many visitors as they would like because they don't have enough docents.

"It is not unusual to turn folks away because we hit capacity," volunteer Lisa Huntley told The Pine Cone. "If we are able to increase our ranks, we could offer additional tours."

Huntley said the park is run entirely by people who donate their time.

"We have a remarkable team of talented volunteers who give tours, restore buildings by doing masonry,



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

The Point Sur Light Station offers volunteer-led tours of its spectacular site along the north Big Sur coast.

carpentry and painting, manage the visitor center and do all the administrative tasks of keeping the park open to visitors," she said. "We do it all."

Three days a week

The light station offers tours on Saturdays and Sunday at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 1 p.m., with a maximum of 40 guests per tour. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$5 for children over 6, and free for anyone under 6. Special full-moon tours are offered four times each summer, along with a special Halloween Tour in October.

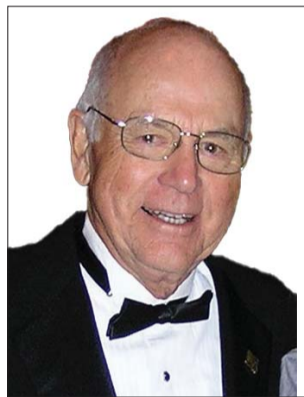
If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, you will need to attend several evening lectures — the next ones start in late February — and spend a few Sunday afternoons at the light station practicing your skills. The training is free. For more about becoming a volunteer, send an email to pointsurlisa@gmail.com

The facility opened in 1889 and was staffed until 1974. While it was in service, its light and horn helped ships navigate and warned them about the dangerous outcropping.

"Point Sur is a remarkable place rich in history and a visible landmark noted for centuries from both land and sea," Huntley added.

COLBURN ALDEN JONES, SR.

Colburn Alden Jones Sr., known fondly as Colby, passed away peacefully at his home in Palm Springs, California, on Jan. 6, 2025, after a brief illness. Born on Aug. 21, 1927, in Schenectady, New York, Colby grew up in a family shaped by his father, Seth, a manager at General Electric, and his mother, Sadie, a devoted homemaker.



After graduating from high school, Colby proudly served in the Navy toward the end of World War II. Upon his return, he earned a degree from Michigan State University and began his career by founding Longley-Jones, a real estate brokerage in Syracuse, New York. Colby's entrepreneurial spirit led him to become a builder and developer of various projects across upstate New York. Colby was the driving force behind three significant developments in Albany throughout the '60s and '70s: Crossgates Mall, Woodlake Apartments and Heritage Village.

In 1977, after the recession, Colby relocated to the San Francisco Bay Area, where he accepted a new role with a local builder. In 1983, he co-founded The Alden Company with two of his sons, focusing on the development of single-family homes. In his later years, Colby and his wife, Alana, became passionate advocates for integrative medicine, inspired by their association with Dr.

Andrew Weil and the University of Arizona.

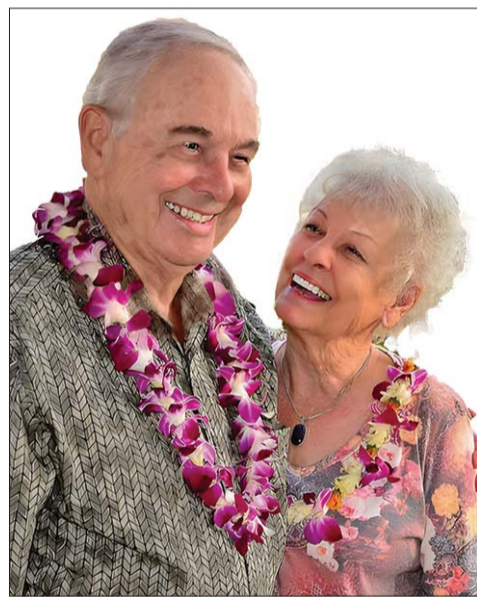
Colby was an entrepreneur, a philanthropist, and a visionary, often described as a dreamer with an unyielding belief in the potential of others. Whether it was his ambitious attempt to sail around the world, supporting local schools and hospitals, or his unwavering support for family and friends, Colby lived life with enthusiasm and optimism.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Christine, and sister, Barbara. He is survived by his beloved wife, Alana, and his children, Kip, Mark, Doug, Kathy, Jason, Seth and Kristy, as well as numerous grandchildren.

A celebration of Colby's remarkable life will be held later this year.

CHARLES LEE 'CHARLIE' BYRNE

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Charles Lee Byrne (Charlie) on Dec. 30, 2024, at age 96, at the Southern Utah Veterans Home in Ivins, Utah, with his daughter Marlene by his side. Charlie's son Dale was recently elected as mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea.



Born on May 14, 1928, in Chicago, Illinois, Charlie was the son of Charles H. and Clara Louise Kemp Byrne. Growing up during the Great Depression, his family moved frequently, leading him to attend 14 different grammar schools before settling in El Sereno, California. There, Charlie made lifelong memories and met the love of his life, Mary Ellen Bracken, while attending Wilson Junior High School. Their love blossomed, and they married on June 25, 1950, the same day the Korean War began. Shortly after, Charles was called to serve in Japan, where he learned Mary Ellen was expecting twin daughters. Upon his return, they welcomed their growing family and built a life filled with love and resilience.

Charles and Mary Ellen raised four children — Cheryl, Marlene, Dale and Wayne — in San Gabriel, California. He brought back skills in the X-ray business from his Army days and, over the years, became a highly respected expert in the industry, speaking at events around the county while building a successful career in sales, first for GAF Film and later for Fuji Film. While ensuring a stable and loving home for his

family that was active in the Emmaus First Lutheran Church community, Charlie coached his sons' Little League teams, instilling strong values of teamwork and sportsmanship. Known for getting along with everyone, a great sense of humor, and his ability to fix just about anything, after many years or extensive air travel for work, Charlie managed to travel to virtually every state in the union.

After retirement, Charlie and Mary Ellen moved to Heritage Ranch in San Jacinto, California. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2001, a milestone marked by joy and gratitude. Sadly, Mary Ellen passed away suddenly in 2002, leaving Charlie heartbroken. In time, he found love again with Shirley Hilbrands, whom he married in 2003. Together, they shared 21 wonderful years, embracing life's joys and challenges with resilience and grace.

In his later years, Charlie moved to Utah, where he was cared for by Shirley, his daughters, and son-in-law Kerry. Despite dementia, his humor and kindness remained, with signature phrases like "Everything is cool in the motor pool" bringing smiles to all who visited. Charles's life was a testament to love, resilience and devotion to family.

He was survived by his wife, Shirley (who sadly also passed shortly after Charlie on Jan. 9, 2025); children Marlene Shirley (Kerry), Cheryl Cowan, Dale Byrne (Margaret) and Wayne Byrne (Kathleen); 26 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren and one on the way, niece Karen Chadwick and nephew Michael Smith. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Mary Ellen, sister Audrey Spangenberg, and niece Valerie Snoke.

A graveside service with military honors will be held at Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, California, at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 27, 2025, followed by a celebration of life at Wayne Byrne's home in Murrieta, California.

The family expresses deep gratitude to the Southern Utah Veterans Home and Dixie Hospice for their compassionate care. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Tunnels to Towers Foundation (t2t.org).



WILMA GERALDINE JAUREGUI

Wilma Geraldine Jauregui, a Carmel resident, died on July 26, 2024. She was born on Aug. 25, 1926, and grew up on a farm in Hartville, Missouri. She lived locally for 54 years.

When she graduated from high school, World War II was underway. She bought a one-way bus ticket to San Diego, and got a job in the aircraft factory where her aunts worked. She met and married Stephen Jauregui Jr., just back from the war in the Pacific, after a whirlwind romance in 1945.

Wilma, mother to 10 children, was preceded in death by her husband, Stephen, and her son, Timothy. She is survived by nine of her children — Stephen Jauregui III, Michele Sackman, Jacqueline McFeely, James Jauregui, Theresa Jauregui, Julie Holloway, Joe Jauregui, Katie Lovette and Melissa Jauregui; 12 grandchildren and a passel of great-grandchildren.

She spent her golden years traveling the world, enjoying her house in Carmel, walking at Point Lobos and by the beach, and living her faith.

The family held a private memorial service. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Carmel Mission Basilica.

HIGHWAY

From page 1A

“We’ve had two significant net-loss years as a result of greatly reduced visitation levels.”

Gafill conceded it was easier for resorts, restaurants and shops in Big Sur to weather a rough winter in the past than it is now — in part due to the rising costs of health and property insurance. In fact, many Big Sur businesses once closed for winter.

The general manager also noted that the Big Sur hospitality community has faced an extraordinary number of pitfalls in recent years, including Covid, the Pfeiffer Canyon bridge collapse, numerous slides and wildfires.

“The last eight years have been really challenging,” he conceded. “This has been a uniquely difficult period.”

But Gafill said he’s “pretty optimistic” about what’s next.

“We always take the long view,” he explained. “When the highway is open and the weather is good, we’re in a position to do really well.”

Getting through

At the Big Sur River Inn, general manager Colin Twohig said the highway closures have not been easy on the resort and its staff.

“Getting through the tough times was hard on everybody, but we worked together and made it happen,” Twohig said. “Our core staff has either worked for us for a while, or they live in Big Sur, so they are familiar with the ebbs and flows of business. I’m proud of our team and the job they’ve done — we lost very few people through the winter storms or Rocky Creek slip-out.”

Twohig said now is a great time to visit Big Sur, although a little rain would be nice — especially given the recent wildfires that have devastated communities in Pacific Palisades, Altadena and elsewhere.

“The good weather gets a few more folks down here, but it’s a double-edged sword,” he said. “If we don’t get those rains, it’s going to be fire season down here, and that makes us nervous.”

Twohig said winter is one of his favorite times of the year in Big Sur. Also, the rates are much better for overnight stays.

“Everyone knows this area for its summers, but there’s beauty in every season,” he added. “It’s more wild and extreme. The nights and days are cooler, but it’s peaceful and quiet and less crowded.”

About a quarter-mile south of Nepenthe, Deetjen’s Big Sur Inn has welcomed fewer guests in recent years, in part due to all the road troubles. That’s translated into less work and fewer tips for its employees, particularly in the restaurant.

“We’ve been off 25-30 percent at

breakfast,” Deetjen’s executive director, Matt Glazer, told The Pine Cone. “We’ve always relied on travelers driving south. We never recovered from Covid. We have to maintain a small scale of operations. There’s no dinner offered Wednesday and Thursday — we’ve intentionally scaled back so we don’t overextend ourselves.”

While it might be a while before you can drive along the coast from Carmel to Cambria, Glazer said it’s still a great time to visit. He’s calling Big Sur “the world’s most beautiful cul-de-sac.”

“Look outside,” he added. “It’s sunny and perfect. The drive from Carmel is shorter, if measured by time and not miles. Big Sur sparkles in the winter.”

Moving mountains

No resort in Big Sur is more remote than Esalen Institute, which hosts workshops for guests who travel from all over the world to take classes and soak in its famous sulfur baths.

While Esalen has experienced a slowdown of business due to road closures to the south, spokesperson Shira Levine said its guests are particularly resilient, reducing the impacts it has suffered.

Also, people are often staying for days or weeks at a time, so there are fewer chances for them to be stranded or stuck due to road closures.

“People who come to Esalen will move mountains to make it happen,” Levine said. “Part of your journey is the trip to Esalen.”

Levine described winter as “a magical time” to visit the institute, with “a lot of cool programming,” along with great weather. It’s also easier to book workshops than it is during busier times — especially with plans to expand the number of them starting Feb. 3.

“People often don’t realize how special Esalen and Big Sur are at wintertime,” she

added.

Two years and counting

The last time Highway 1 was open to through-traffic in Big Sur was Jan. 7, 2023, according to Caltrans. After passing the two-year anniversary last week, The Pine Cone contacted the Big Sur Historical Society to see if the remote and often isolated rural community had ever experienced a longer road closure. After consulting with retired Caltrans worker Ray Ortega and one-time local Don McQueen



PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

The Regent Slide, which is located along Highway 1 in Big Sur about 4.5 miles south of Esalen, prevents through traffic.

— who is 96 and lives in Oregon — the historical society’s Jaci Pappas confirmed that while there have been long shutdowns before, the ongoing closure is the longest experienced in Big Sur since Highway 1 opened in 1938.

Unknown reopening

It’s anybody’s guess when the highway will reopen.

The viaduct being built at Highway 1 and Rocky Creek is expected to be completed by summer, but it’s unknown when the Regent Slide, about 4.5 miles south of Esalen, will finally be cleared.

And we still have two months of winter to get through.

DIRECTOR

From page 3A

eye-opening.

“The county is great, but it’s massive, so you don’t get that day-to-day interaction with the community,” she said. “I’m excited about that part, and it will be pretty new.”

Ginette described herself as an “extroverted introvert,” which makes her a good listener.

“I want to listen and understand before I start engaging in a conversation,” she said.

‘The right person’

She said she’s the type of manager who wants to see her staff “develop and grow and be successful and know there’s support backing them up,” and she’s looking forward to working in a small department where she’ll be involved in multiple aspects of planning and building, as well as high-level decision-making on budgets

and other issues.

Ginette also acknowledged that balancing the needs and desires of various constituents, including those who don’t want any change and those who do, can be tricky.

AICP certified, a process that requires a lot of study and hard work, Ginette is a longtime Monterey Peninsula resident who lived in Marina but recently relocated to Monterey. She has four kids: a daughter who is a dental assistant, a son who works on C-130 engines for the Air Force, a girl who’s a junior at Marina High School and a son in the seventh grade at the International School of Monterey.

Swanson said after she arrives next month, he’ll spend a lot of time introducing her around and getting her up to speed on what’s happening in the planning and building department.

“Anna is the right person — she’s going to be awesome,” Swanson told The Pine Cone. “I think everybody’s going to really like working with her. She’s nice, she’s fun, and she’s got a ton of energy.”



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- City of most recent residence • Age
- Milestones in the person’s life (education, military service, career, etc.)
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For more information please contact: Anne Papineau (831) 274-8654

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FRANCES ‘FRAN’ ANN DRAGIEFF

FEB. 13, 1919 – JAN. 9, 2025

Fran Dragieff passed away peacefully on Jan. 9, 2025, in Carmel, California at the remarkable age of 105, just shy of her 106th birthday.

Fran was born in Rockvale, Colorado to Thomas and Mary Sekulich and was raised on a farm in Penrose, Colorado, in a close-knit family of nine children. Among her siblings, Fran shared a special bond with her brother Johnny, who lived to 106. They visited each other over the years and spoke on the phone weekly until his passing in 2023.

Fran attended a business school in Denver and began her career with Universal Film Exchange before marrying a dashing Army captain, Paul Dragieff, Sr. in 1944. The couple were married for 59 years. They raised two children in Southern California, Paul Dragieff, Jr. (Mary) and Mary Kay Anderson (Carl).

Fran was known for her warmth, kindness and passion for cooking and entertaining. Every Christmas, she made traditional Croatian walnut bread (povitica) and her famous fudge, which she joyfully shared with family and friends.

For the past 13 years, Fran lived at Hacienda Carmel, where she made many dear friends and cherished her time with family. She delighted in being with her grandchildren, Heather Ferreira (Scott) (Andrew and Braden), Lesley Varney (Jeff) and was especially proud of her great-grandchildren, Carson and Morgan Varney. “Aunt Fran,” as she was affectionately known by her extended family in Colorado, held a special place in her heart for her many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and even great-great-nieces and nephews. She was especially delighted by a recent visit from four of her great-nieces, who came to share cherished memories with her.

Fran often attributed her longevity to her early life growing up on a farm and her love of daily exercise. She was a natural at making friends and brightened the lives of all who knew her. Funeral services will be held at Forest Lawn in Southern California. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to a charity of your choice in Fran’s memory.

Fran’s warmth, kindness and culinary delights will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by her family and friends.



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Continues on next page

Police Log: Carmel Area, Feb. 1, 2

Unknown subject(s) stole the ATM machine from a hotel on Highlands Dr.



An 88-year-old female on Hatton Rd. reported receiving letters



from an inmate in Monterey County Jail.

HOMELESS

From page 9A

Newsom touted the results of the recent point in time count as a sign his agenda is working.

“Homelessness continues to rise and increase at ever-higher numbers nationwide, but we are seeing signs of progress in California. We have turned the tide on a decades-long increase in homelessness, but we have more work to do. California’s plan is ambitious and challenging but the data is proving that it is not impossible: Our strategies are making a positive difference,” said Newsom in a written statement.

Bright spots can be found in the newest numbers, specifically in the decreased number of California veterans experiencing homelessness. The report showed 1,279 fewer veterans living on the streets in 2024. That said, 28 percent of all unsheltered veterans nationwide are in California.

Newsom is also correct in pointing out that homelessness rose at higher rates nationwide in 2024 than it did in California. However, he failed to mention that other blue states are seeing the steepest increases. Colorado, Illinois and New York, which are all dominated by Democratic Party politicians, saw a more than 25 percent increase in homelessness in 2024, while their West Coast allies, Oregon and Washington, saw a homeless increase of 13.6 percent and 12.5 percent, respectively.

Getting into shelter

California’s plan to combat the problem has largely centered around getting people into shelter and building more low-income housing. According to the Public Policy Institute of California, nearly half of California households are renters and 30 percent of that group pay 50 percent or more of their pretax income on rent. This group is vulnerable to becoming homeless, but building more affordable housing for them hasn’t happened at scale.

Red states, however, are making progress on the housing front, and they also have lower housing costs, which contributes to lower numbers of homeless. In Texas, 232,373 new housing permits were issued in 2024 and in Florida 193,788 were issued. Compare that to California, which has a much larger population but only issued 117,760 permits.

Housing is only part of the problem. Mental health and drug use are also factors, as is evident to anyone who has ever walked past a homeless encampment. But the recent

Department of Housing and Urban Development report barely touches on these problems as factors in chronic homelessness. The department’s 117-page report on the homeless count only includes the word “drugs” once, in the department’s definition of someone with a disability.

Disabling conditions

Monterey County data on homelessness and mental health paints a clearer picture. Statistics from the county’s 2024 homelessness survey showed 52 percent of the unsheltered reported having at least one disabling condition, including 40 percent reporting they abuse drugs or alcohol.

Other disabling conditions included depression (50

percent), post-traumatic stress disorder (32 percent) and physical disabilities (31 percent).

According to the 2024 count, Monterey County saw a 19 percent increase in chronic homelessness since the last count in 2022.

The Coalition of Homeless Service Providers led the count and found 2,436 people were experiencing homelessness countywide on a single night in January. Of them, 23 percent were in shelters and 77 percent were living outside.

Surveyors found 81 percent of unhoused people they talked to that night became homeless in Monterey County and 60 percent said they’d lived in the county for 10 years or longer.

‘Homelessness continues to increase at ever-higher numbers’

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Coach sets example of caring, determination and grit for wrestlers

THE AVERAGE high school wrestler has 99 problems on the average day, including (but not limited to) aching muscles, a bruised face, swollen eyes, a sore nose, a growling stomach and the nagging notion that every potential opponent might be working longer and harder.

Carmel High wrestlers are burdened with few more, beginning with the sinking feeling that every opponent got a head start this season.

The Padres' popular head coach, Russ Shugars, was placed on administrative leave and (perhaps temporarily)

settlement offer to fight the charges.

While rival teams were conditioning and training in November, Carmel's wrestlers, with no head coach, sat wondering whether they'd have a team this season until an alumnus offered to step in.

"I was interviewed on the morning of Nov. 12 and was coaching that afternoon," said Shadd Madsen, who wrestled four years at Carmel High (Class of '94), and is the father of sophomore wrestler Skyler Madsen.

The period of uncertainty took a toll on participation. Shugars finished last season with a 23-man roster that had only two graduating seniors, and he was optimistic about the incoming talent from the middle school.

Several experienced wrestlers, along with assistant wrestling coach Jason Gorman, were part of an undefeated Carmel High football team that won California's Division 5-AA state championship in a 15-game season that ended on Dec. 13.

After that 15-game grind, some opted against participating in another physically intense wrestling season. And about half of the athletes listed on Madsen's 13-wrestler roster have attended practices only sporadically.

"I'm lucky when I have six guys at practice — those are the guys who are dedicated — and there's no way we'll be able to fill out a full lineup this season," he said.

Sharing their room

One more frustration: The team now shares its wrestling room with Carmel High's cheerleaders, who have a year-round varsity sport of their own, and the CHS dance team.

The wrestlers don't have the room immediately after school on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and sometimes on Fridays, when Madsen's workouts become creative.

"Sometimes we'll run down Ocean Avenue to Carmel Beach, where they'll do more running, conditioning, and drills. And we have access to the weight room, so sometimes we'll go in there," the coach said.

"But there's a big difference between getting into shape and getting into wrestling shape," Madsen said. "You can only do that by wrestling."

When the girls vacate the wrestling room at 5:15 p.m., Madsen and crew are welcome, but late practices have been a tough sell.

"These kids also have hours of homework a lot of nights, so we try not to get them home late," he said.

Centerpieces of this year's team figure to be two Central Coast Section qualifiers from 2024.



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

While other teams train in the wrestling room, grapplers hit Carmel Beach. (Top) Team members got in some heavy lifting made more challenging by the sand. (Above) Assistant coach Josh Bailey works out with Alexander Noto-Hagen as other wrestlers watch.

Zack Lander, the lone senior, is likely to compete at 157 pounds, and Alexander Noto-Hagen returns at heavyweight.

"Zack shows up every day, and he's a very hard worker," Madsen said. "He's got a lot of promise, and I'm really looking forward to seeing what he can do this year."

Noto-Hagen has an early-season challenge of reducing from 300 pounds to 285, the high school limit. But arrival of assistant coach Josh Bailey, a former heavyweight wrestler at the U.S. Naval Academy, gives him a formidable workout partner in the gym — something he's lacked in the past.

Other wrestlers to watch this year are juniors Mason Bahu (150-157 pounds), Cody Tischio (175) and Grayson Adams (144), and sophomores Skyler Madsen (150),

Continues next page

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

ily) dismissed from his coaching jobs at the high school and Carmel Middle School after parents at Carmel River School complained to the school district about the way he was teaching his physical education class there.

Shugars and attorney Joe Cisneros will contest those actions at a public hearing at the Carmel Unified School District Office, 4380 Carmel Valley Road, at 9 a.m. on Feb. 3.

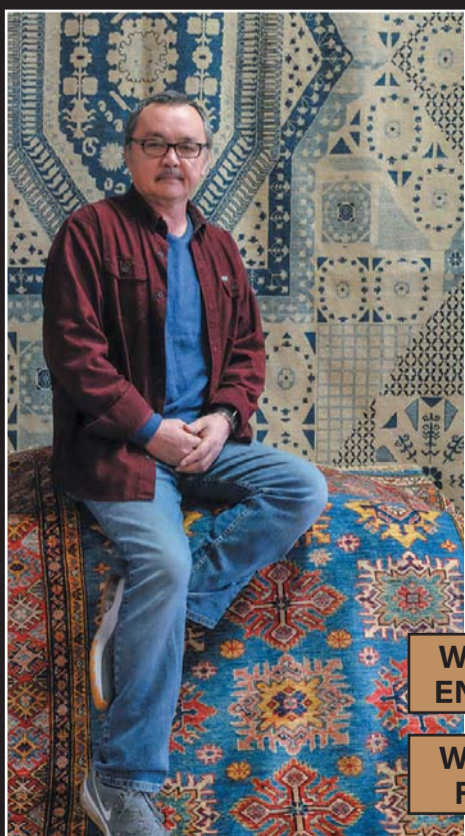
"I would appreciate the attendance that day of any community members who support me," said Shugars, who, according to his attorney, turned down a significant



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Shadd Madsen, parent of wrestler Skyler Madsen (to his right), stepped in as a late replacement when longtime head coach Russ Shugars was placed on administrative leave.

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From previous page

Dominik Ranansky (190), Aden Walker (138) and Emerson Knight (144).

The Padres' only home meet of the year is scheduled at 5 p.m. Thursday against Monte Vista Christian.

Carmel travels next week to the MidCals Classic, a high-level tournament at Gilroy High School, at 9 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

■ Byrne hopes Georgia Tech leads to NFL

After two-year stopovers at Oregon State and UC Berkeley, J.T. Byrne is gearing up to play his final college football season at Georgia Tech.

The former Carmel High standout hopes his next stop will be the NFL.

"I wanted to explore what was out there — see if there



PHOTO/COURTESY J.T. BYRNE

Cal graduate J.T. Byrne, a tight end, will use his final year of NCAA eligibility at Georgia Tech, then hopes to play in the NFL.

was a place that felt like a good fit, schematically, to give me the best chance to play in the NFL," said Byrne, who was a three-sport supernova at CHS (Class of '21).

"My two goals for my last year of college football are to win a national championship and make it to the NFL, and I believe Georgia Tech offers an opportunity for me to do both of those things."

A pass receiver and occasional quarterback in high school, Byrne added 40 pounds to his 6-foot-5 frame to become a 255-pound blocking tight end at Oregon State, where he used the fall of 2021 as a "redshirt" year, a developmental season that doesn't count against the player's eligibility.

After appearing in nine games for the Beavers in 2022, he entered the NCAA's transfer portal and moved to Cal, where he played his sophomore and junior seasons.

A December graduate

Byrne graduated from UC Berkeley in December — but had one year of athletic eligibility remaining — and went shopping again for a football program that ideally suited his aspirations and skill set.

"I seriously looked at several schools, then took a recruiting trip to Georgia Tech. Halfway through their practice, I knew it was the place for me," he said. "I felt like, 'Wow, this is the standard for the way tight end play should look every, single week.'"

Byrne was equally impressed with Yellowjackets head coach Brent Key and tight ends coach Nathan Brock, both standout offensive linemen during their own playing days.

"Coach Key has the kind of chip-on-your-shoulder mentality that really gets me excited — he kind of reminds me of the CHS basketball coach, Kurt Grahl," he said with a laugh.

"Nathan Brock is a younger guy who played in a couple of Rose Bowls for Ohio State, and I love that experience with winning that he brings to the table," Byrne said. "Having coaches who enforce that lineman mentality on a daily basis is going to push me to get a lot better."

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

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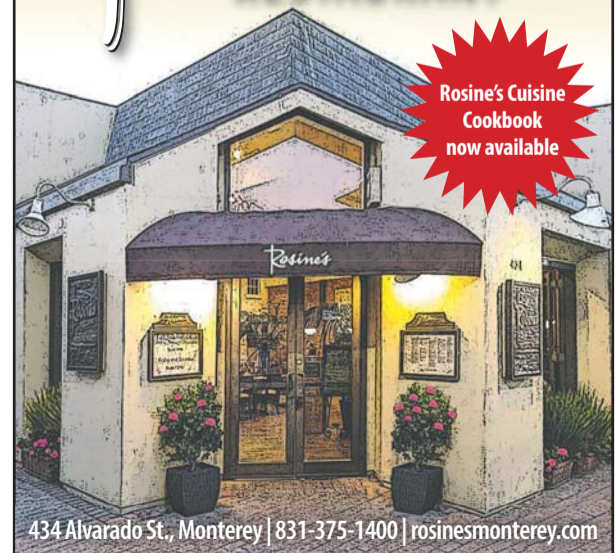
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Editorial

Tragedy of the Commons — wildfire version

EVERYBODY IS familiar with the phenomenon called the Tragedy of the Commons, even if they haven't heard the name. It's what happens when individuals, acting independently according to their own self-interests, overuse a shared resource, leading to negative outcomes for the whole group.

The term's roots are in historic times, when common pastures were open for local farmers to graze their livestock. On their own, individual farmers may not have had enough animals to ruin a shared pasture, but collectively, they did. In 1646, to cite perhaps the original example in the United States, grazing on the Boston Common was limited to 70 cows at a time after overuse "led to the collapse of the Common as pastureland," according to Wikipedia.

The same situation has repeatedly happened with overfishing of common bodies of water — even ones as big as the ocean. The disappearance of sardines in Monterey Bay is one classic occurrence.

Modern examples of the Tragedy of the Commons — things like littering, air pollution and traffic congestion — involve overloading shared resources instead of depleting them, but can be especially helpful in understanding how tiny, seemingly benign contributions from thousands of people can add up to destruction. It's hard to imagine when you're in your own car that you're just as responsible for a traffic jam as anyone else, but you are.

In the last few years, we've also learned that a disastrous Tragedy of the Commons can occur when a shared resource is neglected. Public safety is one such resource — if you let a few dozen individuals get away with what may seem like relatively minor crimes, the effect on a city can be devastating, as San Francisco learned again earlier this week when Walgreens announced it would close a dozen stores.

Fire safety can be another disastrous example. We haven't yet been told the direct cause of the Pacific Palisades and Altadena fires in Los Angeles, but the internet is brimming with news about things that indirectly contributed:

- In 2020, the California Coastal Commission fined the Los Angeles Department of Public Works \$1.9 million over a fire-safety utility pole project in the Pacific Palisades because almost 200 federally protected Braunton's milkvetch plants had been bulldozed, according to Newsweek.

- Budget cuts at the Los Angeles Fire Department "hampered firefighters' ability to respond to the deadly wildfires that have ravaged Southern California," according to Chief Kristin Crowley.

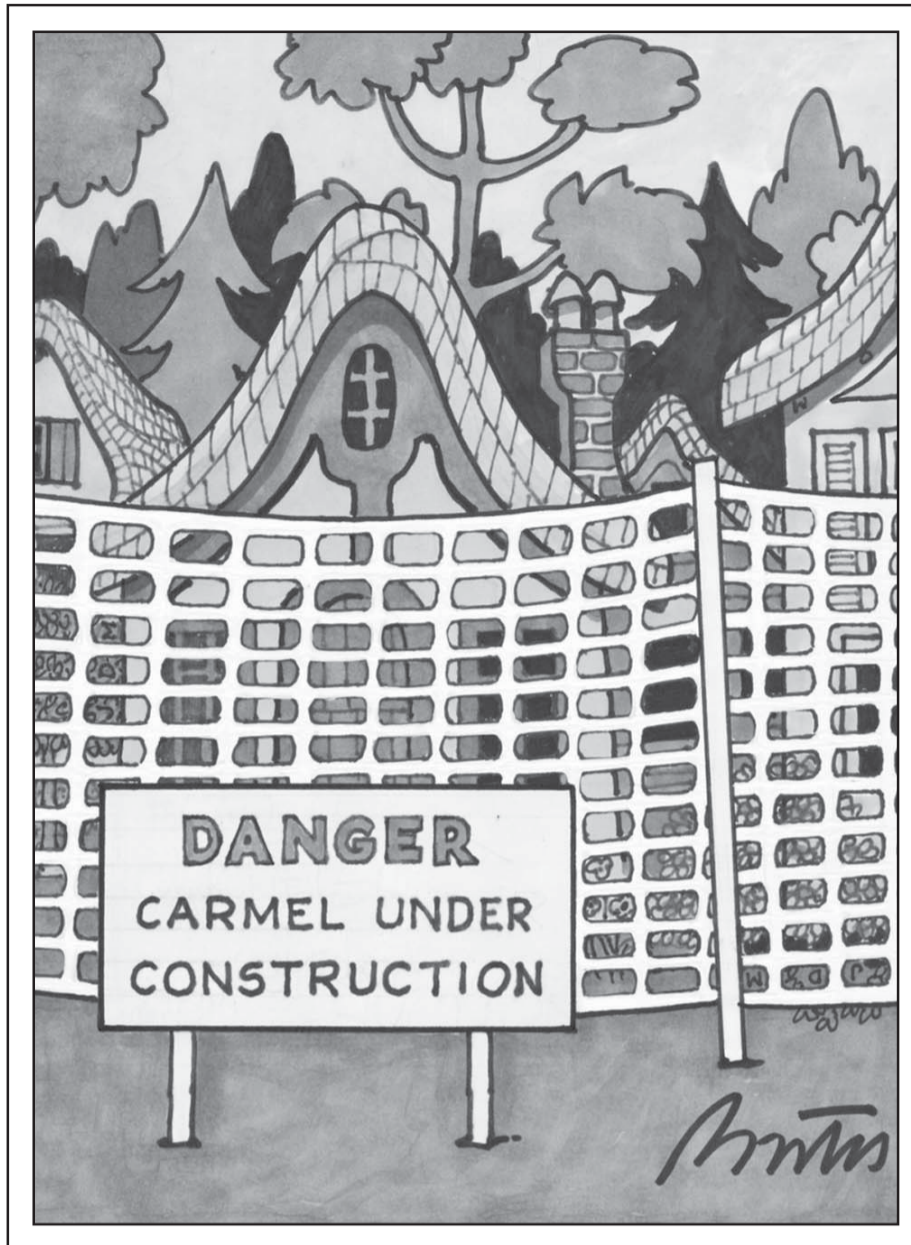
- Hydrants ran dry less than 24 hours after the Palisades Fire broke out, according to CNN and the New York Times, because there was inadequate storage to supply them.

- Even amid dire warnings of hazardous fire conditions early last week, "top commanders in the L.A. Fire Department decided not to assign for emergency deployment roughly 1,000 available firefighters and dozens of water-carrying engines" and only started "calling up more firefighters and deploying those additional engines after the Palisades blaze was burning out of control," according to the Los Angeles Times.

Everybody wants to be safe from fire — not just people and their families, pets and belongings, but their homes and communities. This basic public safety necessity is a commons, and maintaining it requires vigilance, planning and work. In Los Angeles last week, it seems all of those things were lacking.

The fire danger in the Monterey Peninsula is almost as bad. Are we doing everything we can to keep a fire from destroying the neighborhoods we love?

BEST of BATES



Letters to the Editor

County misleading immigrants

Dear Editor,

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors has given false information and false hope to those undocumented people who reside in Monterey County illegally. People who have entered the United States illegally and are within 100 miles of the border are subject to U.S. Customs search authority.

The "100-mile rule" has been hardened by the U.S. Supreme Court. No warrants are needed. The rule also applies to a 100-mile radius from any internal airport such as Fresno and Sacramento.

I have no opinion either way on this issue, but as a prior military policeman and retired customs and border protection officer, I just want the county to offer the truth when it comes to federal immigration matters.

Henry Leinen, Pacific Grove

Snail darter and science

Dear Editor,

Your editorial on the snail darter is a good example of how scientific research methods and findings evolve over time as new research tools are developed, and how they can be misinterpreted because of that.

In 1976, when the snail darter was described as a new species by David Etnier, DNA-based research tools were not yet

available to help determine if a fish was a new species; rather, scientists were dependent on physical features they could readily describe, count, measure, and compare. Etnier realized that the darter in the river basin he was studying was very similar to the stargazer darter (not a perch, but in the same family) in the adjacent river basin, and he compared the two groups using all the standard tools available at that time.

When he found differences in multiple major features between the two groups, he was faced with the question posed by taxonomists at that time: "How different is different enough (to identify different groups as different species)?" Scientists called "splitters" believed small but multiple differences were sufficient to differentiate species, whereas those called "lumpers" demanded 100 percent separation in at least one feature. Etnier followed the "splitter" philosophy, naming the snail darter as a new species, and his paper was peer reviewed and published in a respected journal.

About a decade later, DNA analysis was introduced as a new and stronger tool to compare species. Using this tool, Near and his colleagues found that the snail darter and stargazer darter actually belong to a single genetic group, with the stargazer's scientific name having priority as that name was used first.

So as scientific research methods evolve and new tools are developed, earlier conclusions are evaluated and can be sustained, modified, or even reversed, much like some old court convictions have

See LETTERS page 28A

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Some obstacles you run past and others you walk around

AFTER 46 years on the roads and trails, their engines are high-mileage, and their acceleration isn't what it used to be, but the Sargissons — both octogenarians — are still out there motoring.

Stuart Sargisson, who turned 85 in December, jogs most days at Carmel's Palo

runs one day a week on the track at Carmel Middle School.

"I wouldn't be doing it if I was in pain, and I just feel better — and feel like I've accomplished something — when I exercise," he says. "I can go a day without running, but after two days, I'm not feeling quite right."

The hallway of their home at the Del Mesa Carmel retirement community is an impressive shrine to their athletic journey, draped with several hundred ribbons, medals and mementos of the courses they've conquered over the past four decades. His collection decorates one wall, hers is on another. The decor also features a large, framed photograph — a panoramic shot from a distance of Big Sur marathoners crossing the famous Bixby Creek Bridge.

100 half-marathons

"See that hunched-over runner right in the middle of the bridge, wearing the white tank top? I'm pretty certain that's me," Stuart said. "Lisa's always telling me to stand up straighter when I run."

Since the early 1980s, Lisa has completed 98 half-marathons in several states. "My goal was to run 100, and I stopped running half-marathons after Covid struck," she lamented. "But I ran a 20-miler at the 1998 Big Sur International Marathon, the year they closed the road at the 10-mile mark. And I also ran twice around Donner Lake (in Truckee) — at least 14 miles — so I guess I can count those toward my half-marathon goal."

In her 60s and 70s, she placed first in her age division at numerous races.

Stuart, meanwhile, has

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Great Lives

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Corona Regional Park, easily recognizable by the yellow vest he wears to identify himself as a blind runner.

His wife, Lisa, also an avid runner, decided only months ago that she prefers to walk at 84, crisscrossing her husband's path at Palo Corona, keeping him within eyesight as they cover hill and dale.

"She walks faster than I run nowadays," Stuart said with a laugh. "But I probably do more running than I did five years ago, when I lost my eyesight (from glaucoma), because there are fewer things I can do now." But he can still get that "runner's high," said Sargisson, who also typically



PHOTO/COURTESY STUART AND LISA SARGISSON

Stuart and Lisa Sargisson met in college. They've been married for 61 years and have been running together since the 1980s.

From the mayor's desk —

How city gov't. can enable success

By DALE BYRNE

WHEN I entered public service five weeks ago, many warned me about the frustrations of transitioning from the private sector to municipal government. "Government moves too slowly," they said. "There's too much red tape," and "It's impossible to get things done." But my experience so far has opened my eyes. Municipal government doesn't hinder success — it provides a structure that enables it. The processes, collaboration and public accountability create opportunities to address challenges with sustainable solutions.

The vision of our founders

In 1916, Carmel's visionary founders saw something extraordinary in their fledgling artist community. Seeking autonomy from Monterey County, they incorporated

Carmel-by-the-Sea as a California general law city. Their goal was to protect a unique way of life through local governance and all that comes with that.

A corporate structure with a public mission

On the surface, Carmel's government resembles a corporation. The city council acts as a board of directors, the city administrator as CEO and the assistant city administrator as COO, with department heads overseeing daily operations. However, the similarities end there. Carmel's government isn't focused on profits but on the public good. Our "board of directors" is elected by residents, and their mission centers on balancing priorities and providing services as measured by the health, happiness, and quality of life of the community.

See **MAYOR** page 29A

BRINGING DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS TO THEIR FRAMES OF REFERENCE

Artist Confidential (Part 3): Here are some fun and fascinating things we learned in 2024 about local artists. Publication date of each artist's full profile in the Pine Cone is in parentheses:

CARMEL PAINTER Susan Manchester (Aug. 23, 2024) was just 20 years old in 1962 when she made a solo voyage — eight days aboard the SS Cristo-

became husband and wife in 2023, painting vibrant coastal landscapes and floral scenes in separate studios at their Carmel home.

From age 6 to 9, **Taki Gold** (Nov. 15, 2024) fled missiles falling from the sky and unspeakable brutality on the ground during the Liberian civil war, but kept himself mentally healthy by envisioning natural beauty — blossoms and trees — that had



PHOTO/COURTESY MONTEREY PENINSULA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS

Even though locals may paint, sketch, photograph or sculpt subjects from the same coastline, their depictions vary widely. Artists' divergent perspectives and experiences make the local scene vibrant.

foro Colombo — from New York to Italy to study art in Florence, "the Seat of the Renaissance."

That program was headed by legendary Italian painter and printmaker Giorgio Morandi, and Manchester spent most mornings looking at original work by Rembrandt, del Sarto, Pontormo, Michelangelo, Caravaggio, Goya and others at the Uffizi Gallery library of prints and drawings.

From 1980 to 1994, she taught at York School, where she was director of the art department.

Shagufta Khan (June 28, 2024), a native of Pakistan, returned to art after 27 years of devoting her life to motherhood, marriage, education and a professional career.

In 2019, after enduring a major health crisis, the loss of a good job and the end of her 25-year marriage — all within a few months — she found solace at her easel, rediscovering her long-dormant artistic passions.

"I painted all night, then all day ... then all night. I was just spilling my energy out. I don't like to say I was spilling all of the hurt and sorrow, but that's what it was," said the Pacific Grove resident, who rents studio space at Artworks, a Salinas studio/gallery operated by the Arts Council of Monterey County.

When **Kirk Miller** and **Sylvia Schaefer** (Jan. 19, 2024) met in 2014, she was an art collector and aspiring painter, and he was a well-established artist, teaching classes in downtown Folsom.

She took a multi-week course from him, bought one of his paintings, and they

been destroyed in battle.

At 40, he lives and paints contemporary abstracts in Carmel, believing that finding beauty in an often-disheartening world is up to each of us.

One of the earliest memories of **Tatiana Cabrera** (June 14, 2024) is sitting as a child with Carmel Art Association luminary Patricia "Debbie" Di Grazia (1925-2016), a family friend who talked to the preschooler about tools and supplies she was using, and patiently described how she was using them.

"I'd watch her create something out of nothing and see how beautiful it was, and I

Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

remember it as a very cathartic part of my childhood," said Cabrera, who honed her skills at Monterey High, the Youth Arts Collective, Monterey Peninsula College and CSU Monterey Bay.

She shows her work at Patricia Qualls Gallery in Carmel Valley, where she's also a full-time gallery director.

Photographer **Keith Evans** (July 26, 2024), a Prunedale resident, spends at least 40 weekends a year exploring wilderness areas — frequently off trail — looking for creative ways to capture Mother Nature's intimate secrets.

"Patience and creative awareness are the whole thing," he said. "You spot something beautiful — something that calls out

See **ARTIST** page 30A



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LETTERS

From page 26A

been reversed based on new DNA data. Such changes do not indicate "lies," only new data resulting from new and more modern investigative tools. Etnier's scientific conclusions were based on the best tools available to him at that time.

David and Teresa Greenfield, *Pacific Grove*

'You should be ashamed'

Dear Editor,

I should be shocked but I'm not. While tens of thousands of people in Los Angeles are suddenly homeless — having not only lost their physical home but everything in it — the best thing you can offer is to jump on the bandwagon with Mr. Trump and start pointing fingers of blame.

If none of the environmental laws had been in place, it wouldn't have changed what's happened in Los Angeles one bit. This is and was a catastrophic weather event — fires created and fanned by day after day of Santa Ana winds blowing at speeds never recorded previously.

Firefighting aircraft could not be airborne. Blowing embers spread the fires faster than the armies of firefighters could control them. And yet, you, like Trump, think the best use of your pulpit is to suggest that if it wasn't for these terrible environmental decisions, all would have been much better and less tragic.

All this grand thinking done from our precious little town, 300 safe miles away, that likes to make all kinds of rules. The environmental laws are no doubt loaded with problems that should be addressed. But in the face of such enormous loss and suffering in L.A., you should be ashamed of yourself for hopping on the bandwagon of blamers.

Peter Serchuk, *Carmel*

Spiderweb DNA expert to speak at Barnyard

THE CALIFORNIA Arts & Sciences Institute will host genomics researcher Josh Kittleson, who has a doctorate in bioengineering from UC Berkeley, for a presentation on recent developments in biotechnology on Jan. 20 at 3:30 p.m. The event will take place at the Barnyard shopping center, above the Patrick James clothing shop.

Kittleson, whose team recently developed new fabric materials based on spiderweb DNA sequencing, will discuss advances in genomic biochemistry and genetic engineering. His presentation will include insights into genetically modified food research and emerging applications in the field.

The event is open to the public for \$20 per person, with free admission for attendees under 27 years of age.

Tickets and more information, along with information the Institute's Gold Membership which includes access to more than 15 events this year, are available at casicalifornia.org.

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MAYOR

From page 27A

Volunteer commissions: a critical asset

What strengthens Carmel's government is its system of volunteer commissions. The planning commission, forest & beach commission, the historic resources board, and other committees are made up of talented community members who provide professional and local knowledge at no cost to taxpayers. These volunteers invest countless hours reviewing staff proposals and making recommendations based on city governing documents.

Volunteerism and philanthropy: unbudgeted benefits

Carmel is blessed to have an abundance of world-class nonprofits. Their volunteers bring passion and expertise, and their philanthropic contributions fund initiatives that might otherwise be unattainable. These contributions empower the city to achieve ambitious goals while maintaining fiscal responsibility unlike anything in private enterprise.

Balancing a complex stakeholder landscape

City government serves a far more diverse stakeholder environment than the private sector. We must balance the interests of state and federal government, residents, businesses, employees, bondholders and community organizations. Every decision is subject to public debate and open records laws, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Collaborative decision-making

While corporations may make decisions more quickly, our deliberative process ensures careful consideration of each choice. Public meetings provide genuine opportunities for dialogue, shaping policies and building consensus. Properly managed, this approach doesn't sacrifice efficiency; it strengthens decision-making, ensuring solutions stand the test of time.

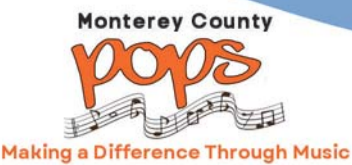
Leadership is important for action




While city government doesn't always move as quickly as it could, I believe this mayor, this council and this city leadership team are committed to moving common-sense initiatives forward while maintaining the thoroughness our constituents deserve. My meetings with city leadership have been inspiring, honest and positive, and the expression of support from the community has been outstanding. Please be patiently persistent with us as our team gets to work.

The best of both worlds

I may be overly optimistic, but I now see municipal government's processes as useful tools, not barriers. They connect us to the community, ensure fairness and create a framework for sustainable progress. By dovetailing in tools from our private sector experience, we can address challenges and achieve meaningful results. Carmel's incorporation in 1916 wasn't just about self-governance; it was about protecting a way of life. That legacy continues today. By all of us working together to build a stronger, more responsive government, we're not just maintaining our community — we're ensuring Carmel continues to thrive as one of America's most distinctive, beloved and respected small cities.

The Pine Cone has been a member of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce for more than 100 years.




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ARTIST

From page 27A

to you — then you sit down and wait for it show you what it is. It becomes kind of meditative.”

Valentina Milaychev (Oct. 25, 2024) and her husband, Lev, grew up in Belarus when the country was part of the Soviet Union under Leonid Brezhnev.

When the U.S.S.R. was nearing its end, the couple, both engineers, got working visas to come to the United States, where they barely survived the 1994 Northridge earthquake that destroyed their home.

In 2014, they moved to the Monterey Peninsula, where Valentina joined the Central Coast Art Association and Monterey Bay Plein Air Painters Association, “and my art just exploded,” she said. The artist paints uplifting landscapes, seascapes, florals, birds, and figures in impressionist and post-impressionist styles.

Monterey resident **Filipp Karshirtsev** (Dec. 20, 2024), a native of Russia, is a 28-year-old fine-art photographer who makes his living as an environmental scientist.

Karshirtsev’s preferred contraption in the wild is a 1970-vintage Mamiya RB67 medium-format camera — fully mechanical (no electronics) — that weighs 6 pounds. He carries “the brick” in his backpack with multiple lenses, handheld light meters, a tripod and film.

“It’s a really heavy load. I was traveling one time and injured my back while I was running between flights,” he said. “I had to get some medicine for the pain when I got back home.”

Rosiland Solomon (Nov. 29, 2024) believes her parents — Holocaust survivors — passed along their post-traumatic stress disorder through their genes, instilling her with a lifestyle of perpetual motion.

“I’m tired,” said the multimedia artist, whose creativity includes airbrush gouache, colored pencils, graphic design, fabric art, and sculptures made from kelp and found items.

At 75, Solomon also works four days a week as a caregiver, performs acupressure on longtime clients, creates homeopathic teas, oils, tinctures and creams from plants she grows in her garden, and teaches “intuitive Photo-shop” techniques.

Edward Drapkin (Dec. 13, 2024) is living his best life

at 84, creating detailed, highly expressive, often humorous sculptures at the Carmel Hills home he shares with his wife, Natasha.

Drapkin became a puppeteer as a young man in the Soviet Union, had a 30-year tech career in Silicon Valley, then taught himself to sculpt the pieces he’s shown throughout the United States, as well as Russia.

Acrylic artist **Julie Foudy** (Nov. 4, 2024) was a shy teen who majored in art at UC Berkeley during a time when other kids her age were making a lot of noise.

“It was a very turbulent place to go to school at the time,” said Foudy, who recalls carrying her schoolbooks past rifle-toting National Guard troops on both sides of Durant Street while fellow students were protesting the university’s restrictions on political activities and free speech.

Foudy spent her career as an educator, beginning in 1972, and taught kindergarten for 38 years at Carmel River School, where she often used art as a fun educational tool.

Pebble Beach painter **Stephan Pratt** (Sept. 27, 2024), chair of the fine and performing arts department at Stevenson School, spent a year of college studying in France, where he learned to enjoy life, fell in love with the impressionist masterpieces of Renoir and Monet, was a practice player for a pro hockey team, and became a French-English translator for televised tennis matches, working with commentators John McEnroe, Pete Sampras, Mats Wilander, and others. He later produced a Hollywood film, “Facing Trump.”

Pebble Beach resident **William Eatmon** (Oct. 18, 2024) is a prolific painter at age 86, but art wasn’t his first fascination.

As a 14-year-old, he assembled a 300-watt bulb, the coil from a Model T Ford, and other things he found in his dad’s garage into a working X-ray machine that earned him a spot at the National Science Fair, where the contraption garnered an honorable mention.

Eatmon went on to become a rocket science, researching ballistic missiles for the U.S. Navy, then enjoyed a 36-year science and aerospace career.

“I put science in almost all of my paintings,” said Eatmon, whose art is privately owned in 19 countries.

Carmel Valley’s **Ron Pierce** (Dec. 27, 2024), a fine-art photographer, spent 13 years writing code for IBM during the company’s infancy — a job he got just after graduating from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Weeks later, he was able to trade his rusty ’52 Chevy for the spanking-new ’66 Corvette he bought off the showroom floor. Pierce added 400,000 miles to the odometer of the sports car searching for compelling photos after retiring from the tech industry at age 37.

The impressionist-style painter who owns and operates Reflections Elegante Gallery in Monterey, **Lori Howell-Thompson** (Aug. 30, 2024), has authored six books, including a mystery novel she converted into an award-winning screenplay, currently in the hands of a producer. Thompson also is a mom, grandmother and great-grandma.

“I don’t sleep,” she confided with a shrug.

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

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LIVES

From page 27A

completed more than 100 full marathons since he began running in 1978. At 5-foot-6, he complains that he's too short to be fleet — his best time was 3 hours, 19 minutes in Napa Valley — but he's been passionate from the beginning.

"I was coming up on my 40th birthday, having a midlife crisis, when I ran that first one in Sacramento," he said. "From then on, I was hooked. The next year, I ran 12."

Blind date

He grew up in Massachusetts, earned his high school diploma from Brooks School (famous alum: President Franklin Roosevelt) in North Andover, then enrolled at Brown University, an Ivy League school.

He met Lisa Vosberg, a student at

Mount Holyoke College, on a blind date then invited her to Brown for a football weekend. Both graduated in 1960, and they married in 1963. "I wanted to go to medical school, but then Khrushchev built the Berlin Wall, and I wound up facing the draft," he said. "So I signed up for the U.S. Air Force's officer training school."

The Sargissons' first child, a son, was born in 1963 with a severe birth defect, derailing Stuart's plan to exit the military after his first hitch. The family needed the healthcare coverage, and he re-upped.

"I volunteered for Minuteman missile duty and became part of the team responsible for 'pushing the button' to launch our nuclear missiles if we got in a war," said Sargisson, who was stationed in Texas, Puerto Rico, Wyoming and Thailand during his 20-year career.

After retiring in 1982, he enrolled in pharmacy school and began a 28-year career as a pharmacist.

Lisa's degree was in Latin, a language she initially taught after leaving Mount Holyoke, but she soon changed course.

"It wasn't much fun — I didn't care for it at all — so I went back to school and got a master's degree in speech pathology," she said. "I wound up working mostly with elementary school children — primarily kindergartners — and absolutely loved it." She retired with full benefits after 30 years.

In 2005, after competing together in the very first Big Sur Half-Marathon, the couple — Elk Grove residents at the time — fell in love with the Monterey Peninsula and decided to retire to Carmel.

"We were living in a place where it gets too hot, and the weather here is perfect for a runner," Lisa said.

Stuart's 26-milers have included the London Marathon and several Boston Marathons. The toughest course, he said, was Big Sur, because of the long, steep, usually windy climb to Hurricane Point. He ran his last full marathon at age 70, his last half-marathon in 2017, and his last 10K in 2020.

Lisa's crown jewels include several first-places in her age division, most recently the 2011 Avenue of the Vines Half

Marathon in Lodi, and the 2014 Salinas Valley Half Marathon, both in the 70-74 age division.

Healthy in their 80s

"I've been incredibly fortunate. I have no physical issues at all from running," she said. "Other than osteopenia — the beginning of osteoporosis — I'm extremely healthy."

Stuart survived a 2005 bout with prostate cancer and later underwent arthroscopic surgery to remove bone chips from his knee.

"I'm probably very lucky that I can still run. A lot of people eventually have problems if they over-exercise," he said. "I'll sometimes feel some pain in my left knee or my right hip or my lower back, but I'm able to work through it most of the time. It hasn't been serious."

The Sargissons' two biological sons died young from birth defects. They adopted a daughter and son while Stuart was stationed in Thailand. Both are 50 years old.

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

Hess keynote speaker on genealogy

By MARY SCHLEY

WHEN THE Commodore Sloat Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution convenes for its 44th Annual Ancestor Roundup Genealogy Seminar — which includes a full day of sessions with 10 experts — Carmel resident Ken Hess will be its keynote speaker, presenting "Opening Frontiers: Human Migration, New Technology & Your Family Research."

Hess, who lives on Torres Street with wife Connie, is a recent Blue Origin astronaut who made his career in education and tech and was a pioneer of technology-based genealogy research as the developer of the Family Tree Maker product line in the 1990s.

"My keynote talk will compare frontiers like the European colonization of North America with the current opening of the space frontier," he told The Pine Cone. "We're so used to overnight changes in technology that we forget that some processes, like migration to a new frontier, occur over hundreds of years. Why is that, and what are the steps?"

Adapting to AI

In addition to his keynote talk, he'll lead sessions on using AI and making family history books, and during "Q&A with Ken Hess & Friends," he'll be joined by

fellow instructors.

"Surprising to some people, family historians have a history of being early adopters of new technology," he said. "I will also have a talk on artificial intelligence in family history research, one of two AI sessions at the event."

Overall, more than 25 classes are planned for the day, including Salinas Public Library senior librarian and genealogist Cathy Andrews leading sessions on using various public records and documents, Bob Givens on "What do You Mean My Tree Isn't Accurate?" and Pamela Brigham, president of the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group, discussing the use of AI to transcribe handwritten documents.

The seminar is set for Saturday, Jan. 25, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 1024 Noche Buena in Seaside.

The cost of \$45 includes the seminar and a printed syllabus, while attendees who would prefer an e-syllabus can pay \$30. Everyone is encouraged to bring a lunch, while the hosts will provide beverages and sweets.

For information and registration, send email to DAR.AncestorRoundup@gmail.com. Same-day registration will also be available.



Ken Hess

Everybody reads The Pine Cone

World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area

"2024 - The Historic Year of Elections Worldwide: How Well Did Democracy Do?"



Dr. Larry Diamond
Stanford University

11:30 a.m.: Registration
Noon: Luncheon
12:45 p.m.: Speaker
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To register, visit <https://www.wacmb.org>. Registration due Monday, Jan. 20

Please note: Cancellations after the deadline are non-refundable

More people voted in competitive elections in 2024 than in any year in human history. From big countries like India, Indonesia, and the United States, to small ones, barely reported on, such as Botswana and Guatemala; from backsliding democracies struggling to reverse the tide, such as Senegal and Sri Lanka, to liberal but challenged Taiwan. Our guest will explore how democracy fared during this critical year of electoral tests.


Larry Diamond is an American political sociologist and leading contemporary scholar in the field of democracy studies. His research focuses on democratic trends and conditions around the world and on policies and reforms to defend and advance democracy. He is the Mosbacher Senior Fellow of Global Democracy at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI) and Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, both at Stanford University.

A limited number of seats for auditors will be available. Please notify the WACMB office no later than Monday, Jan. 20 at www.wacmb.org or call 831-643-1855. Auditors will be allowed entry at 12:40 p.m.




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34

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77

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↑ 11% less than 4Q 2023

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Nic Canning
Pebble Beach Specialist

Nic



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HEALTHY

Lifestyles

More than an ounce of prevention — and you can go incognito, too

By SALLY BAHO

SUNGLASSES ARE much more than an accessory or a flashy fashion statement. They play a vital role in protecting the eyes and promoting healthy vision. You've probably been warned many times to wear sunglasses when you're outside, even when the cypress trees are cloaked in fog. But why?

First, for comfort and safety. You don't want to ruin a beautiful day — or give yourself a headache — by constantly squinting because of glare from sun, water or even asphalt, explained Anil Sethi, an optometrist at Crisp Vision Optometry in Monterey. That's not to mention unexpected flashes of brightness from windshields of other vehicles, which can cause collisions or other accidents.

Of course, Sethi encourages people to have their vision evaluated first to correct any nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism. Then, in addition to your regular glasses, you can have those prescription lenses put in your favorite designer sunglasses, or get lenses that adjust to the light.

Besides, squinting increases the occurrence and severity of wrinkles around the eyes. "Protecting the eye means no squinting, which means the eye is calmer and more relaxed," said Sethi, including nearby muscles and skin.

'Surfer's eye'

And speaking of the skin, basal cell carcinoma — the most common type of skin cancer, according to the American Cancer Society, "is quite common on the eyelids," Sethi said. "Wearing a good pair of polarized sunglasses that wrap around your eyes will block the harmful rays."

The other reason is for eye health. Excessive exposure

SHADES *con't. page 37A*



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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Finding purpose in ‘a rush of awe and inspiration’

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

TELMA BARSEGHIAN was pursuing her undergraduate degree in biochemistry and cell biology at UC San Diego to lay the foundation for a career in healthcare. Although she was determined to pursue a profession dedicated to helping to improve the quality of people’s lives through their health, she really didn’t know on what field she wanted to focus. That was before her future husband took her on an inaugural ski trip.

Which sounds like a broken leg or torn ACL is coming, leading to a career in orthopedic surgery. But no.

Barseghian was tentatively snowplowing her way down a bunny slope when a single file of little kids passed her. They were all wearing vests that read, “Blind.” Bolstered by a rush of awe and inspiration, she followed them down the hill to speak with their guide.

He told her the children were using their other senses — listening to the wind, the crunch of snow, the directions provided by his voice. He also said some of the kids had been born blind, yet others, had they gotten to a doctor in time, could have avoided vision loss.

“I thought, as I stood there in the snow, if I could go on to help kids and adults see better, if I could get there in time, it would be an amazing way to help enhance their quality of life,” said Barseghian. “So, I looked into optometry.”

An optometrist has a four-year doctor of optometry degree, earned after completing an undergraduate degree. They are trained and licensed to provide healthcare for eye-related conditions, give eye exams and dispense eyeglasses.

Barseghian graduated from the UC Berkeley school of optometry. While there, she participated in volunteer eyecare pro-

grams in El Salvador and in low-income housing in Berkeley. After graduating, she volunteered for various service organizations, including the Lions Club and the Boys and Girls Club.

“One reason I love optometry is that by helping people see better, we are making their lives better. The eye is the only organ where we can look through the pupil and find a window into a person’s overall health.” She noted that optometrists can identify high blood pressure, cholesterol, certain types of cancer, and diabetes, all by looking at the arteries of the eyes. Barseghian also mentioned the ability to detect Alzheimer’s through retinal scans, a promising procedure that is still being researched. “The eye is such a fascinating organ, and there is so much more for us to address than glasses and contacts,” she said.

Coming to California

Barseghian was born in Iran, where she and her family lived in the Armenian quarter of Tehran. The Iranian Revolution had not begun, so it was, she said, a safe place to live. And then it wasn’t.

“Once the Shah of Iran was ousted in 1978, it was no longer safe for Christians to live there,” she remembered. “So, with nothing but a suitcase filled with clothes, we immigrated to the United States, to Los Angeles, where there was a big Armenian community. The Armenian school gave my mom a job, we learned to speak English, and our mom built us a life in Southern California. She was my hero.”

Once her degree was conferred in 1994, Barseghian and her husband, Adam Cox, left the San Francisco Bay area in search



Telma Barseghian, O.D., decided to become an optometrist after seeing a group of blind skiers on the slopes.

OPTOMETRIST *con't. page 39A*



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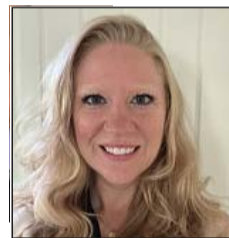
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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Helen Keller and a century's worth of inspiration

By ELAINE HESSER

AMONG THE many tributes last week to former President Jimmy Carter were mentions of his nonprofit, the Carter Center, and its work fighting trachoma and "river blindness" (a parasitic infection), preventable and treatable conditions that rob people of their eyesight. Less well known is his personal connection to Lions Club International, which has supported the Carter Center's efforts to prevent blindness since 1994. The organization had a profound effect on Carter's life, beginning when he joined in 1953. He has been widely quoted as saying, "Lions changed my life. I would have never been ambitious enough to run for governor of Georgia. I would have never dreamed of being president of the United States if it were not for

the Lions."

The group's eyeglass collection boxes in optometrists' offices are relatively common, leading to the question of how the Lions got involved in eyesight-related causes. Carmel Mission Trail Lions Club member Pam Klaumann and her daughter, Tammi Lyon, a "zone chair" who oversees several local clubs, said the organization's unified efforts to help those who have lost their sight can be traced to an early 20th century speech by Helen Keller. More on that in a minute.

The service club, founded in 1917, had several chapters that took on projects providing aid to visually impaired people, in-

LIONS *cont. page 40A*



Along with other local Lions groups, the Mission Trails Club of Carmel collects used eyeglasses to give to the visually impaired.

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

SHADES from page 33A

to the sun can cause small callouses on the surface of the eye that are called pinguecula, unwanted yellow growths on the conjunctiva, the thin layer of tissue that covers the white of the eye. While they're not harmful, if UV exposure continues, they can grow over the pupil, at which point they are referred to as pterygium, also known as "surfer's eye." Pterygium may cause redness, discomfort and vision problems and may need to be surgically removed. "This is due to years of exposure," explained Sethi, so prevention is a great strategy.



Anil Sethi, O.D.

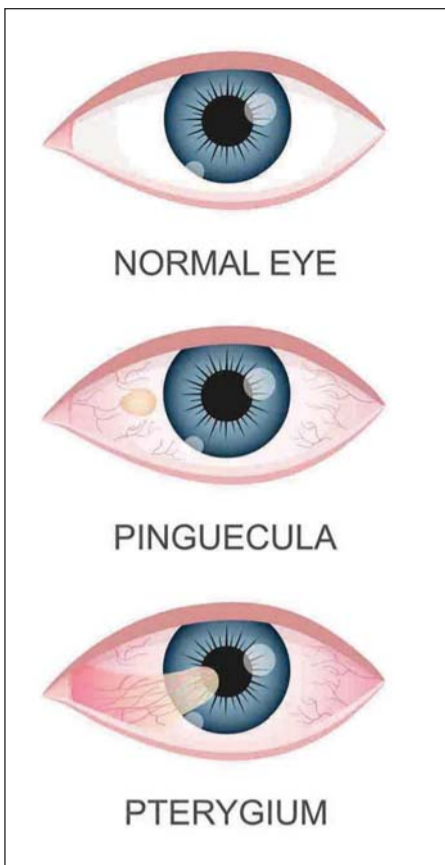
Two other eye diseases that — while age-related — can be accelerated by excessive sun exposure are cataracts and macular degeneration.

In fact, the Cleveland Clinic warns that "long-term exposure to even small amounts of ultraviolet radiation can increase your risk of developing a cataract or macular degeneration." Cataracts are a natural clouding of the eye's lens, and age-related macular degeneration is the deterioration of the central part of the retina, the eye's back inside layer which is vital for vision. Patients already diagnosed with AMD are strongly encouraged to wear sunglasses outdoors at all times to prevent further damage.

The sun's damaging ultraviolet rays — referred to as UVA and UVB — are not visible and penetrate clouds and fog. This is why you should look for sunglasses late in the day.

Snow not required

It's especially important to wear sunglasses when participating in water or snow sports because the rays of sun can intensely reflect from those surfaces into the eye. Photokeratitis — sometimes called



Sunglasses help prevent some conditions that can lead to vision impairment.

"snow blindness" — is a painful but temporary loss of vision due to overexposure to the sun. It is essentially a sunburn of the eye.

The Cleveland Clinic says that common symptoms include blurry vision, tearing, swelling, a gritty sensation, headaches, and other unpleasant developments. Ouch.

The sun's damaging ultraviolet rays — referred to as UVA and UVB — are not visible and penetrate clouds and fog. This is why you should look for sunglasses late in the day.

SUNGLASSES *cont. page 41A*

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Pasta e Fagioli

Courtesy Brandon Miller, chef/owner of Paella LLC

“When the stars make you drool just like pasta fazool, that’s amore!”

A MEAL by any other name...

Sometimes pronounced “pasta fazool,” this hearty soup with beans and macaroni is a beloved winter dish. Some dialects of Italian use “fasule” or “fazool” for beans, hence the rhyme in one of Dean Martin’s best-known songs.

There are plenty of variations on the theme — some recipes include more vegetables, like broccoli florets or zucchini, some sub in pasta shells for macaroni, and others use kidney beans or even chickpeas. Inclusion of meat is a mildly divisive issue, too.

Healthy Lifestyles advises always following a recipe as it’s written the first time you make it. After you have a feel for the process, go ahead and improvise. If you’re fighting the cholesterol wars, skipping the

meat or using chicken, turkey or plant-based sausage is a good idea — the rest of the recipe is pretty darned healthy. The only other tweak you might try is swapping in whole-grain macaroni.

You should know that if you want to freeze leftovers, it’s best to leave the pasta out of anything that’s going into cold storage, which really messes with the texture. Instead, make and freeze the soup and then cook the pasta right before you serve it.

Try not to use cheaper canned tomatoes — the San Marzanos really do make a difference. Use a good quality olive oil for drizzling, not that bottle that’s been lurking in the back of the pantry since your bestie brought it back from Italy eight years ago (actually, you might want to throw that out). Finally, the fresh parsley is more than just garnish — it adds a really nice fresh note to the finished dish.

INGREDIENTS

(Serves 4-6)

12 ounces loose Italian sausage or diced pancetta

2 small onions, diced

3 ribs celery, diced (reserve leaves)

3 medium carrots, pared if necessary, and diced

1 tablespoon fresh thyme

1 tablespoon dried oregano

1 tablespoon chili flakes (or to taste)

3 large cloves of garlic, diced

3 bay leaves

1/4 cup tomato paste

1/2 cup white wine

1 28-ounce can San Marzano tomatoes

2 cups of cooked beans (Chef Brandon’s favorite is cannellini beans.)

8 ounces cooked macaroni

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Extra virgin olive oil for drizzling

Freshly grated Parmesan cheese to taste

Italian parsley for garnish

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, sauté the sausage until evenly browned. Add diced onions, celery, and carrots. Reduce heat to low and simmer until the vegetables release their juices and become tender. Add fresh thyme, bay leaves and dried oregano. Stir well.

Incorporate diced garlic and simmer for



an additional five minutes over medium heat, then add the tomato paste and continue to cook for another five minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the white wine and cook for an additional five minutes to allow the alcohol to evaporate, then add the canned San Marzano tomatoes, crushing them with your hands. Stir well.

Heat the mixture until it starts bubbling, then add the beans and simmer for 30 minutes. Taste and season with salt and pepper, and top with Italian parsley. Put a handful of pasta in each serving bowl and top with soup, then garnish with the reserved celery leaves, drizzle with olive oil and grate on some Parmesan cheese.



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— Thurlow, Ca

Chef Bio



CHEF BRANDON Miller is a familiar face to local foodies. The proud owner of Paella LLC, a mobile catering operation specializing in his signature Spanish dish, Miller previously helmed kitchens at the former Mundaka in Carmel, a previous incarnation of Stokes Adobe, and Alvarado Street Brewery, to name a few. You can often find him doing cooking demos at local events, where you begin to see he’s as much showman as chef.

Miller has been working in kitchens for more than 30 years. He started as a kid, cracking crabs on San Francisco’s Fisherman’s Wharf as a summer job, and at 20 took over the oyster bar at Pacific Heights Bar and Grill. By the time he’d moved on to the city’s famous Fog City Diner — first in the pantry and then as sous chef — he said, “I knew this was the natural thing for me to do.”

His culinary education included stints in Amsterdam and France, and he said he “ate his way through Italy.” In his spare time, Miller grows some of his own food, makes a little homebrew and enjoys spending time with his wife, Marci Bracco, and their French bulldogs.

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

OPTOMETRIST from page 34A

of a family-oriented community and settled in Pacific Grove, where they raised their two daughters.

“When we first moved to the Peninsula, I had to cobble together a full-time job experience by working for three different practices, which gave me a chance to see where I wanted to land,” she said. One of those was Hattori Vision. After a year, I joined the practice and was there 19 years before Dr. Trevor Fogg and I opened our own practice, Blink Optometry.”

‘A gift’

It has been 10 years since Barseghian opened the practice at the Crossroads shopping center, during which she has seen considerable advancement in optometry.

“I’ve been fortunate to see the eye-care field advance from rudimentary equipment — where we were spinning dials and doing a lot more manual manipulations of equipment — to incredible cutting-edge technology that enables us to catch things and intervene at earlier stages. And treatment options have progressed, which enables us to advance wellbeing through healthcare.”

Barseghian also appreciates the opportunity to become acquainted with her patients through such an in-person, up-close practice. She learns about their concerns and sensibilities, as well as their careers, lifestyles and activities, which enables her to customize their eye care and treatment plans.

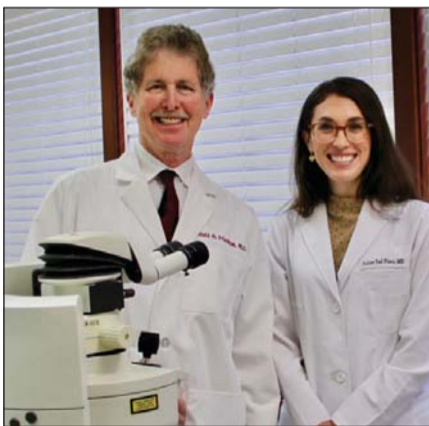
“Knowing our patients at that level is such a gift,” she said. “It helps me help them. If a teacher is in the classroom, on Zoom, and also on yard duty, then I customize the glasses or contacts to serve them indoors and outdoors, mindful of all the different distances they need to see. If their hobbies include bird-watching or delicate needle work or standing at a computer, this requires additional fine-tuning. No two people walk out with the same treat-



Getting to know patients of all ages is one of the best parts of the job.

ment plan; each person is unique and so are their eye-care needs.”

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- Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo
- Medical degree from Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Surgical internship at Maricopa Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ
- Dermatology residency at Prime West Consortium in Newport Beach, CA
- One-year fellowship in Mohs Micrographic Surgery at Island Dermatology in Southern California which encompassed over 1,700 Mohs surgical cases and more than 500 excisions

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LIONS *cont. from page 36A*

cluding employing them in various kinds of jobs, as well as screening schoolchildren's eyesight and publishing a braille magazine for kids.

In 1925, in Cedar Point, Ohio, Helen Keller, famously blind and deaf from the age of 19 months, was accompanied by her teacher and friend, Anne Sullivan, who was partially blind from trachoma, to speak to 7,500 delegates at the Lions national convention. She urged them to become "knights of the blind in my crusade against darkness." They responded enthusiastically, and that phrase — "knights of the blind" — is still found throughout the group's literature and repeated by its members.

The organization supports Guide Dogs for the Blind, said to be the largest such school in North America, and runs the World Vision Institute, which says it is the "largest combined eye bank" in the world, with multiple international locations. It uses donated eyes, obtained like other organs when a donor dies, for corneal transplants and vision research.

Farmworkers

Locally, Lions gather used prescription eyeglasses, readers and sunglasses for reuse. According to Klaumann, "We collect about 1,500 pairs every six months." District-wide, in an area that covers Monterey, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara and San

Benito counties, Lyon said they processed 200,000 pair last year. She mentioned that they often come from people's estates, and the Lions have collection boxes at various locations on the Peninsula, including some eye doctors' offices.

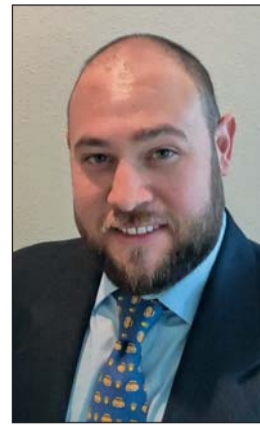
The glasses are taken to a central location in San Jose, where club members sort and clean them. Volunteers trained to use a lensometer determine the lenses' prescription strengths and label each pair for distribution to those in need. Reading glasses are given away, too, and Lyon noted that many sunglasses are provided to farmworkers.

Local groups have also provided vouchers to seniors and children who could not afford prescription glasses. In addition, Lyon said the clubs support the Blind and Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County (blindandlowvision.org) in Pacific Grove, which offers a wide variety of services.

Steven Macias, the Center's executive director, said it has "a longstanding relationship with the local Lions Clubs. The Center was founded in 1971 by a group of Lions, who have supported the non-profit over the years through a number of programs.

"Lions Building for the Blind, a consortium of Lions Clubs, owns the Pacific Grove office property and leases to the Center at a reduced rate. Chariots for Charity through Old Capitol Lions Club (in Monterey), a vehicle donation program, has raised more than \$400,000 since

KNIGHTS *cont. page 42A*



Steven Macias



Tammi Lyon

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

SUNGLASSES from page 37A

beled as blocking 100 percent of UVA and UVB rays. The peak time for UV damage is between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., just like for the skin, so certainly wear sunglasses during those times.

A hat or visor can ensure extra protection if you have prolonged exposure over those hours, like a long walk along the beach or a round of golf.

So how do you choose a good pair of sunglasses? “You can’t go wrong with a polarized lens because it will block out ultraviolet rays and blue light rays which we think can be potentially harmful to the eye,” explained Sethi. If they wrap around

the eyes and are snug, sunglasses can also block out wind, sand, dust and debris — like from an unintended encounter with one of those ubiquitous leaf blowers, for example.

“If you’re in a windy environment, you can get those particles in the eye that can scratch the cornea — the front clear portion of the eye. A corneal abrasion can be painful, uncomfortable, or even scar the eye,” said Sethi.

Wearing sunglasses is a great way to keep your eyes healthy, whether you’re outdoors or have a long commute to work. So, embrace your inner Jackie O — or Tom Cruise in “Top Gun” — and protect your eyes.

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Help Healthy Lifestyles to recognize them in the March 28 and May 30 issues by emailing elaine@carmelpinecone.com.

Please include their name, profession and contact info, as well as a short description of their volunteer work.



The Hearing and Vision Connection

The connection between hearing and vision shapes how we perceive and interact with the world around us. When an individual has both hearing and vision deficits and does not receive proper medical care to improve these senses, studies show a rapid decline in overall cognitive function compared to those with only one sensory deficit.¹ In fact, this dual sensory impairment can cause impairment in the ability to acquire information, communicate or function within one’s environment. Furthermore, a recent study of adults aged 65 and older determined that dual sensory impairment was associated with a 160% increased risk for all-cause dementia and a 267% increased risk for Alzheimer’s disease.²

Dual sensory impairment in older adults is linked to withdrawal from social interactions and poorer quality of life, as well as

depression.³ One study of adults ages 60 and up found that 60% of those with dual sensory impairment experienced depression.⁴ Fortunately, current evidence suggests that seeking help from a qualified healthcare provider to manage vision and hearing impairments may help decrease the negative impact of dual sensory impairments.⁵

The first step in addressing hearing or vision loss is to consult a qualified healthcare provider. For vision, start with an optometrist. For hearing, Dr. Cheri Taylor at Emerald Hill Audiology provides expert care, offering personalized, evidence-based treatment to meet each patient’s needs.

Call us at 861.661.6200 or visit our website at www.emeraldhillaudiology.com.



1 Hwang, P et al. (2022). Dual sensory impairment in older adults and risk of dementia from the GEM Study. Alzheimer’s Association. <https://alz-journals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/dad2.12054>
 2 Hwang, P et al. (2022). Longitudinal changes in hearing and visual impairments and risk of dementia in older adults in the United States. JAMA Network Open. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2791871>
 3 Killen, O et al. (2022). Longitudinal associations of self-reported visual, hearing, and dual sensory difficulties with symptoms of depression among older adults in the United States. Frontiers in Neuroscience. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8829390>
 4 Marmamula, S et al. (2021). Depression, combined visual and hearing impairment (dual sensory impairment): a hidden multi-morbidity among the elderly in Residential Care in India. Scientific Reports. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-95576-5>
 5 Mahmoudi, E. (2021). Hearing, vision, or dual sensory impairment and dementia risk. JAMA Network Open. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2777676>

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

KNIGHTS from page 40A

1985 to support the Center.” He added that regular financial support from other Lions Clubs benefits visually impaired Monterey County residents.

Macias also described a service provided by Lions throughout the four-county district. “The A.J. Robinson mobile screening unit provides direct referrals for clients needing low vision services,” he said, providing “a basic eye screening” and

referring anyone needing further testing to the Center.

Lyon said she was organizing a “dining in the dark” fundraiser in February, an idea she’d heard about from other clubs. To have a hint of what it’s like to be blind, ticketholders will don blindfolds before a catered meal is served. All food must be plated identically and placed in front of everyone in the same way, because diners will locate items on the plate by imagining it’s the face of a clock, with a sighted guide at each table saying, for instance, “There’s rice at 1 o’clock and a burrito at 4 o’clock.” Although the first event will be for members only, she hopes to make it bigger and open it to the public, perhaps as a dinner. Proceeds will go to the Blind and Visually Impaired Center.

Lions Club International’s efforts — made possible in ways large and small by local clubs — along with those of the World Health Organization and other entities, having been adding up.

Ambitious goal

In 2013, Carter said, “Our goal is to eliminate blinding trachoma from the face of the Earth by 2020.” The self-imposed deadline passed, but significant progress has been made. In 2011, WHO validated the elimination of trachoma as a public health problem in eight nations, including Mexico. In 2019, it reported that the number of people requiring surgery as a result of the disease had dropped from 7.6 million in 2002, to 2.5 million in 2019, a reduction of 68 percent.



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Live Music,
Clubs and Events

Pianist plays Bach, Brahms and Chopin at Sunset, quartet honors guitarist

A GIFTED pianist who made his debut at 10 — and who has been an inspiration for several generations of music stu-

played with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. His performances have been aired by National Public Radio and Voice of America, and he's been a professor of music at Santa Clara University since 1978.

A first-prize winner at the International J.S. Bach Competition, Boepple has mentored students who have been awarded more than 175 state, national and international awards.

Tickets start at \$42. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. To purchase, visit carmelmusic.org.

Europe, where his tours have earned him a devoted following.

The show is the first in a series. Upcoming performers include **Dan Frechette & Laurel Thomsen**, and **Magenta Spreen** (Feb. 14) and **River Voices and Ripatti & Rose** (March 14). "The first installment will be an unforgettable night of live blues music," promoter **Steve Vagnini** said.

Tickets are \$25. The venue is located at 774 Wave St. For details, visit wavestreetstudios.com



With guitarist Glenn Bell, trumpeter Schuyler Horn plays Friday at PG's Meetinghouse.

located at 794 Lighthouse Ave. Call (831) 375-6958.

Live music Jan. 17-23

Big Sur

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

See MUSIC page 46A

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

dents at Santa Clara University — **Hans Boepple** offers a piano recital Sunday, 3 p.m., at Sunset Center. The concert, which includes music by Bach, Brahms and Chopin, is the first of the year presented by the Carmel Music Society.

Introduced to the piano at 4 by his mother, who was a noted concert violinist, Boepple was just 10 at when he

Nothin' but the Blues

A hardworking local singer and guitarist, **Brad Wilson** steps into the spotlight when Wave Street Studios in Monterey presents "Nothin' but the Blues" Friday at 7 p.m. Wilson will share the stage with **The Al James Duo**.

Wilson — who says he plays more than 100 shows a year — is touring in support of his latest album, "Buckle Up," and he's been busy traveling between the United States and



Multi-instrumentalist Roger Glenn joins pianist Glen Pearson and drummer Leon Joyce Jr. Sunday, 11 a.m., at Shearwater Tavern.

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Bruno's Market is such a solid spot, I'm so grateful I stumbled upon the deli in the back. I tried the famous tri-tip sandwich (tender and sweet with BBQ sauce) and a build-your-own pastrami with chipotle sauce and mustard, so fresh and toasted exactly how I wanted. The deli has this chill local vibe and the service was crazy fast. Perfect for a quick sandwich for the road. I wish there was a Bruno's in LA, this place is a gem.

- Mona A., Marina Del Rey, CA

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FOOD & WINE

Romantic winter nights, exceptional wine dinners and wagging tails

IN CASE you haven't glanced at your calendar lately, consider yourself forewarned: Valentine's Day comes on Friday of the three-day Presidents Day weekend.

That means that while you're nailing down a spot to take out-of-town guests during the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, you might also want to ask about reservations with your sweetie for Feb. 14, because the Peninsula is bound to be busy.

Amy Herzog, executive director of the city's tourism group, Visit Carmel, says Carmel-by-the-Sea is "consistently a top spot for people to celebrate love" and encourages Valentine's Day visitors "to secure their reservations early to ensure a memorable experience."

Choose your setting

On Valentine's Day, from 5 to 9 p.m., Bernardus Lodge (415 W. Carmel Valley Road) will offer a four-course tasting menu, featuring oysters, duck breast and cheesecake in Lucia Restaurant — pretty enough in daylight, but dramatically swanky after dark. Cost is \$165 per person, plus tax and tip, and wine pairings can be added for \$125 apiece. Required reservations can be made at exploretock.com/bernardus-lodge-spa-carmel-valley.

Speaking of romantic settings, the rustic French farmhouse furnishings and blazing fireplaces at Fandango (223 17th St., P.G.) offer cozy surroundings for a V-Day feast.

From 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., the regular menu will be replaced by a three-course dinner priced at \$145 per person plus tax and tip. After a choice of soup, salad or prawn cocktail, there are seven entrees to choose from — among them scallops, a petit filet mignon with double lobster tail, and rack of lamb. Dessert options include the ever-popular profiteroles ... wait, you haven't had the profiteroles? Adorable little cream-puff pastries filled with coffee ice cream and served with hot fudge sauce are a fine finish to

spiced sugar. The regular menu will also be available. The prix-fixe dinner is available Feb. 14 and 15 from 4:30 to 9 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 16, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Call to reserve a table at (831) 375-0176 or email info@esteban-restaurant.com.

There's more to come in the next week or two, so check back for additional ideas.

Wine events for POMDR

Hofsas House Hotel announced it will host three wine tastings in its poolside meeting room this year, all benefiting Peace of Mind Dog Rescue. The nonprofit says it has assisted more than 5,000 senior dogs and their owners since 2009.

Tastings are scheduled from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Jan. 17 (Bernardus Winery), May 16 (Scheid Vineyards) and July 18 (Twisted Roots). Admission is \$15 per person, which includes one glass of wine and appetizers, with additional glasses available for \$5 each.

Reservations are required. Contact Carrie Theis at (831) 624-2745 or carrie.theis@hofsashouse.com. Hofsas House is at Fourth and San Carlos. Learn more about POMDR at peaceofminddogrescue.org.

Continues next page

Soup to Nuts

any dinner there. Reservations and details are at fandango-restaurant.com.

For a little Spanish flair, try Estéban in Monterey's Casa Munras Garden Hotel at 700 Munras Ave., where the kitchen crew is cooking up a three-course meal priced at \$79 per person. After a roasted beet salad with the salty accent of manchego cheese, tuck into a surf-n-turf of prime steak paired with prawns and — we'd be remiss if we didn't mention it — sides that include duck-fat fried potatoes. Dessert is a suave version of a churro with espresso gelato, orange liqueur whipped cream and cocoa-



Sunsets and roaring waves are a fine setting for Valentine's Day, but if you'd prefer something a little warmer, Lucia restaurant at Bernardus Lodge (left), Estéban at Casa Munras (center) in Monterey, and Fandango in Pacific Grove (right) are all offering special romance-themed menus. Offerings include lamb, prime steaks and delicious-sounding desserts, all to make your evening memorable.



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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

Dinner at The Annex

The Annex Wine Bar next to the Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse in downtown Carmel will host its first Master Makers Dinner Thursday, Jan. 23, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., offering a five-course menu crafted to pair with the signature wines of Daou Vineyards.

On arrival, guests will enjoy crisp rosé, followed by lobster bisque paired with reserve chardonnay.

Next, savory cauliflower and cheddar fritters will be served with Reserve Seven-

smells to match from seasonal offerings designed to take the chill off.

For a little antifreeze, the cocktail menu features a wide assortment of original concoctions, notably including six negronis. The traditional version of the Italian drink is made with equal parts of the aperitif Campari — a deep red Italian bitter — gin, and sweet vermouth, and Mezzaluna has variations with rye, bourbon, and mezcal. One of the other house specialties, the Figtaboutit, is made with Four Roses bourbon, lemon, Luxardo amaretto, Italian fig jam, and angostura bitters. There are five mocktails, as well, like the refreshing rosemary paloma, with pink grapefruit, lime, rosemary, soda and sea salt.

But what about the food? Winter dishes promise to deliver comfort, with warming plates like rigatoni alla buttera — fat tubes of pasta with pork sausage, English peas, cream, tomato, and garlic chili flakes — and mafaldine con coniglio, which pairs noodles resembling wavy-edged ribbons of lasagna with an addictive combination of white wine-braised rabbit, artichokes, sage and pine nuts.

Antipasti cover a lot of territory, including duck liver pate, a salumi (Italian charcuterie) plate, grilled octopus, and clam chowder served with torched bone marrow and country toast. And of course, be sure to check out the mozzarella bar offerings. Finish up with little scoops of house-made gelato or sorbetto in a variety of flavors, which can also be purchased to go by the pint. Packaged sauces and pastas are available, too.

Louis Jadot at Grasing's

A special tasting of Les Vins de Louis Jadot will be held at Grasing's restaurant at Mission and Sixth Monday, Jan. 27, at 5:30 p.m. for \$25 per person.

Louis Jadot, the well-known and highly regarded Burgundian producer founded in 1859, is sending technical director Frédéric Barnier to discuss the house's white and red wines during a session in the restaurant's west wing. Tastes will be complemented by small bites prepared by executive chef Mario Garcia and his culinary team.

The tasting costs \$25 per person. To register, fill out the form at form.jotform.com/250127085917155. For more about the restaurant, visit grasings.com.

Pisoni at Foray

Foray restaurant's husband-and-wife team, executive chef Michael Chang and sommelier Caroline Singer, are hosting



Hofsas House hotel is hosting a series of wine tastings to raise money for Peace of Mind Dog Rescue, a nonprofit that specializes in working with senior dogs and their human companions.

their first wine dinner featuring the creations of Pisoni Feb. 6. The event is sold out, but hopefuls can sign up on Tock to be notified if spaces open.

The evening will include five courses created by Chang to pair with five wines presented by Mark Pisoni. Planted in 1982, Pisoni Estate's vineyards were among the first established in the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA. The grapes are certified sustain-

able, and the family produces high-quality, sought-after wines, which will be available for purchase at the event.

The cost is \$175 per person, plus a 20 percent service charge and a \$5 order fee. Foray is located at San Carlos and Fifth. Go to exploretock.com/forayrestaurant.

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



Mezzaluna's winter menu includes a lot of comforting food, like rigatoni alla buttera, made with pork sausage, peas and a creamy tomato sauce.

teen Forty, a blend of cabernet franc and merlot.

A third course of charred Little Gem lettuce salad will complement Daou's reserve cabernet sauvignon, and the entree will be grilled ribeye cap paired with Soul of a Lion, a cabernet sauvignon-dominant Meritage with cabernet franc and petit verdot.

The meal will end with Valrhona Chocolate Crunch Delight served with a dessert wine.

Dinner costs \$200, with Folktale wine club members receiving a 10 percent discount. Go to theannexcarmel.com/events for more information and to reserve.

Warming up for winter

If it's one of those evenings when the fog seems to reach in and wrap its cold tendrils around your bones, try a warming visit to Mezzaluna Pasteria and Mozzarella Bar, where owners Soerke Peters, the chef, and Amy Stouffer, make fresh pasta, mozzarella and gelato daily and take pride in using the best local ingredients they can find. From the moment the door opens, you're enveloped in that uniquely Italian sense of a warm embrace, with tantalizing



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FOOD & WINE

MUSIC

From page 43A

■ Carmel

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 Fifth.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry**

(Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Saturday and Thursday, both at 6 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.

La Playa Hotel — guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Tuesday at 5 p.m.), mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Thursday at 5 p.m.). Camino Real and Eighth.

The Links Club — **The Wharf Rats** (rock and blues, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **Surf Monsters** (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.

Shearwater Tavern — flutist **Roger Glenn**, pianist **Glenn Pearson** and drummer **Leon Joyce Jr.** (jazz, Sunday at 11

a.m.). At the Carmel Mission Inn, 3665 Rio Road.

■ Carmel Valley

Bernardus Lodge — pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), **Two Rivers** with singer **Richard Bryant** and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (pop and rock, Saturday at noon), pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Folktales Winery — singer and guitarist **Lindsey Wall** (Friday at 4 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Saturday at 2 p.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 — singers and guitarists **Pattie Gilbert** and **Dave “Nomad” Miller** (Friday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

■ Marina

Marina Public Library — **Monte-rey County Pops** with singers **Brenda Thomas** and **Jackie Craghead** celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Monday at 12:30 p.m., a Southern-style lunch precedes the show). 190 Seaside Circle.

■ Monterey

Albatross Ridge Winery and Kitchen — singer and guitarist **Zach Freitas** (Friday at 6 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

Bon Ton LeRoy’s Smokehouse — mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** and others pay tribute to the late guitarist **Django Reinhardt** (Gypsy jazz, Sunday at 2 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.

Midici Pizza — guitarist **Bob Basa** and multi-instrumentalist **Paul Contos** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), keyboardist **Luca Frederickson**, bassist **Zach Westfall**, drummer **Skylar Campbell** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa — pianist **Steve Mann** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.),

singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Monday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (pop, rock and country, Tuesday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (Wednesday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

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

Puma Road at Portola Plaza — singer and guitarist **Linda Arceo** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kristen Gradwohl** (Saturday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** and bassist **Zach Westfall** (jazz, Sunday at 4 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

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 — **The New Wave Band** (rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **Duality** (“a nod to the disco era,” Saturday at 9 p.m.), **The Stingrays** (classic rock, Monday at 8:30), **The Pacific Jack Band** (classic rock, Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.), **Johnny Tsunami**



Singer and guitarist Michael Gaither plays Sunday at the De Tierra Vineyards tasting room.

(rock, Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.), **Blue Fire** (“classic rock and modern funk,” Thursday at 8:30 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

■ Pacific Grove

Asilomar Hotel and Conference Grounds — singer and instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Friday at 4 p.m.), **Andrea’s Fault Duo** (jazz and pop, Thursday at 4 p.m.). In the Phoebe Hearst Social Hall, 800 Asilomar Ave.

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

Julia’s Vegetarian Restaurant —

See LIVE next page



Blues singer and guitarist Brad Wilson takes the stage Friday, 7 p.m., at Wave Street Studios in Monterey.



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NEW BOOKS SHEDS LIGHT ON FAMOUS FAMILY OF FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHERS

THE FIRST family of fine art photography is the subject of a new book, and its author, Kim Weston, will have a book signing Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. at Winfield Gallery.

Titled, "Growing Up Weston, In the Presence of Women," the book delves into the legacy of the Weston family and is filled with images. Starting with Edward Weston — who stands today as one of the giants of fine art photography — and continuing with his sons, Brett and Cole, the Westons have helped shape one of the world's most striking art forms.

The book offers the reader a chance to delve into the "extraordinary legacy" of the Weston family. "From the tender age of 6, Kim has been behind the lens, continuing and expanding on the profound artistry passed down

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

through his family — this book is a powerful tribute to both his forebearers and his own remarkable career," the publisher says.

Gallery owner Chris Winfield encouraged people to come to the public reception Sunday and meet the author.

The gallery is located on Dolores between Ocean and Seventh.

■ The art of government

If you happen to visit the Monterey County Administration Building in downtown Salinas, be sure to check out its latest art show, "Monterey County, Capturing the Light," which went on display early this month and will be up through December.

The exhibit features a mix of painting and photography from artists Barbara Furbush, Steve Zmak, Susann Cate Lynn, Ekaterina de la Torres, Gary Lopez, Andrea Johnson and about three dozen others.

The display marks a partnership between the county, which provided the space, and the Arts Council for Monterey County, which helped bring together the artists. The paintings and photographs are displayed throughout all

three floors of the building.

"This year's theme invited artists and photographers to showcase how light illuminates the beauty of Monterey County," the arts council said. "From golden-hour moments, to sunlight dancing on landscapes, the exhibit celebrates the unique ways light transforms the region."

The building is located at 168 W. Alisal St.

■ Everybody needs a hug

An artist who has created more than 70 murals throughout Monterey County debuted his latest creation last month at the Alisal Integrated Health Clinic, which is operated by Monterey County.

Painted by Jose Ortiz and titled "The Hug" — or "El Abrazo" in Spanish — the mural represents "support, safety, acceptance, and belonging in our community" and is "an outward expression of the therapeutic work that is happening inside our clinics and the support provided to the children, youth, and families," the clinic's Dr. Marni R. Sandoval said.

The mural was unveiled Dec. 14 at the clinic, which is located at 331 Sanborn Rd.

Ortiz employs a creative style that's reminiscent of that used by mural artists funded by the Works Progress Administration during the 1930s. Two years ago, he created a striking mural next to a staircase in the Monterey County government building.

The Alisal Integrated Health Clinic offers a wide range of services through Monterey County Behavioral Health to children and their families who are Medi-Cal recipients or who do not have health insurance.

■ Art contest kicks off

Offering 10,000 in cash prizes, the 480 Lighthouse Gallery in Pacific Grove kicked off an art contest Jan. 14. The contestants will do their work inside the gallery on 16-inch square panels.

"The contest is free to enter," gallery manager Elizabeth Rodriguez said. "The 72 available squares will be randomly assigned, one per artist, first come, first served. Artists can paint whatever they want into an assigned square. Approximately one week after the last of all 72

■ Pebble Beach

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — singer and multi-instrumentalist **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), multi-instrumentalist **Gary Regina** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive.

■ Seaside

Gusto Pasta and Pizza — singer **Pamela Forman** and guitarist **Bruce Forman** (jazz, Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.). 1901 Fremont Blvd.

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



Photographer and writer Kim Weston has a new book out that celebrates his family's legacy.

squares has been painted, a gallery jury will decide the three winning squares."

The first-place winner will take home \$6,000, while the second- and third-place winners will receive \$3,000 and \$1,000, respectively.

Located at 480 Lighthouse Ave., the 10,000 square-foot gallery represents 302 painters and sculptors. For more details, call (831) 915-7848.



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LIVE

From previous page

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 — guitarist **Glenn Bell** and trumpeter **Schuyler Horn** (r&b, Friday at 6:30 p.m.), **The Patrick Tregenza Trio** (jazz, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), guitarist **Jack Gates** and percussionist **Steve Robertson** (Sunday, jazz at 11 a.m.), Open Mic (Tuesday at 6 p.m., sign up by 5 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

CALENDAR

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. 20 — "Are You Afraid of Change?" Professor **Mihai Nadin** will provide timely insights into the limitations of **Artificial Intelligence** in contrast to human intelligence. 2 p.m. Carmel Woman's Club, San Carlos and Ninth. Open to the public. \$10 guests/members free.

Jan. 20 — Free MLK Day concert, presented by Monterey County Pops! Event begins 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. with Southern-style lunch provided by Kona Jerry. First 250 guests eat free. Concert begins 12:30 p.m. with the orchestra and featuring vocalists **Brenda J. Thomas** and **Jackie Craghead**. Setting is the Oak Woodland Community Garden, Marina Library Lawn, 190 Seaside Circle, Marina. Details at montereycountypops.org.

Jan. 22 — Henry Meade Williams Local History Lecture Series presents: A Sense of Place: Profiles from the Collection. Timeless Treasures: Through Architectural Preservation with **Kent Seavey** and **Seth Bergstein**. Starts 7 p.m. at Carpenter Hall, Sunset Center. Registration required, on our website: www.carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org. Hosted by the Carmel Public Library Foundation. Cost: free; \$10 suggested contribution. Questions? info@carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org or (831) 624-2811.

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

Jan. 29 — Baum & Blume Catering celebrates Lunar New Year 2025, Year of the Serpent! Gung Hay Fat Choy! The chefs of Baum & Blume will be creating a delicious take-out menu for The Lunar New Year. Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley (831) 659-0400.

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 — Sign up now to volunteer at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. You are welcome to use your volunteer badge to spectate the event before or after your shift on the day/s you volunteer. For more information: email us at Info@CarmelYouth.org, visit our website, www.CarmelYouth.org, click "How to Contribute" & then "Volunteer," or call (214) 906-1361.

Feb. 13 — SIR Monterey Branch monthly luncheon at Monterey Elks Lodge. Guest speaker will be **Luis Perez**, Cal Fire Education Officer, Monterey. Email Al Williams at alw831@comcast.net for more info on luncheon and membership.

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SECTION RE ■ January 17-23, 2025

Open Houses on page 12RE

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate



■ This week's cover, located in Pacific Grove, is presented by J.R. Rouse of Sotheby's International Realty. (See Page 2 RE)

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate

January 17-23, 2025



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West Valley Ventures LLC to Howard Nute
 APN: 010-162-002

575 Aguajito Road — \$6,500,000

Thomas and Elece Leverone to Robert Ditmore
 APN: 103-061-004

Carmel

Vizcaino Avenue, corner of Mountain View — \$490,000

Margaret Henry and Boland Trust to Gabriel and Jamila Cioffi
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San Antonio Avenue, 3 SE of Ninth Avenue — \$1,023,000

Brent Peterson Partners to Timothy and Mary LaBrucherie
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Carmel Valley

2 Laguna Robles Road — \$985,000

Randy and Suzanne Fagundes to Alan Friedman
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24763 Upper Trail — \$2,200,000

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See **HOME SALES** page 4RE

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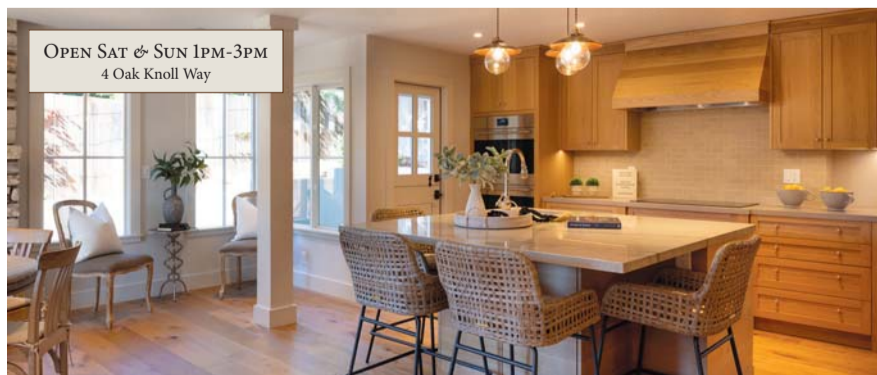
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1PM-4PM
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Carmel-by-the-Sea ■ 4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$4,450,000 ■ www.Forest5SW7th.com



OPEN SAT 1PM-4PM
NE Corner of Guadalupe & Mountain View

Carmel ■ 3 beds, 2.5 baths ■ \$3,995,000 ■ www.Guadalupe-MountainView.com



Monterey ■ 3 beds, 3 baths ■ \$3,200,000 ■ www.877ViaMirada.com



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HOME SALES

From page 2RE

Carmel Valley (con't.)

25490 Via Mariquita — \$2,700,000

Raymond, Johnathan and Cecilia Sequeira and Cassidy and Evan Sousa to Kevin Riley and Feenstra Trust
APN: 169-341-007

Mercurio Road — \$4,820,000

Larry and Shonna Scholink to Mark and Shari Lasher
APN: 169-081-028/029/030

Carmel Valley (con't.)

8640 River Meadows Road — \$6,400,000

James and Jill Moise to Rio Carmelo LLC
APN: 416-028-017



172 San Benancio Road, Highway 68 — \$1,600,000



135 Pacific Avenue, Pacific Grove — \$2,875,000

Highway 68

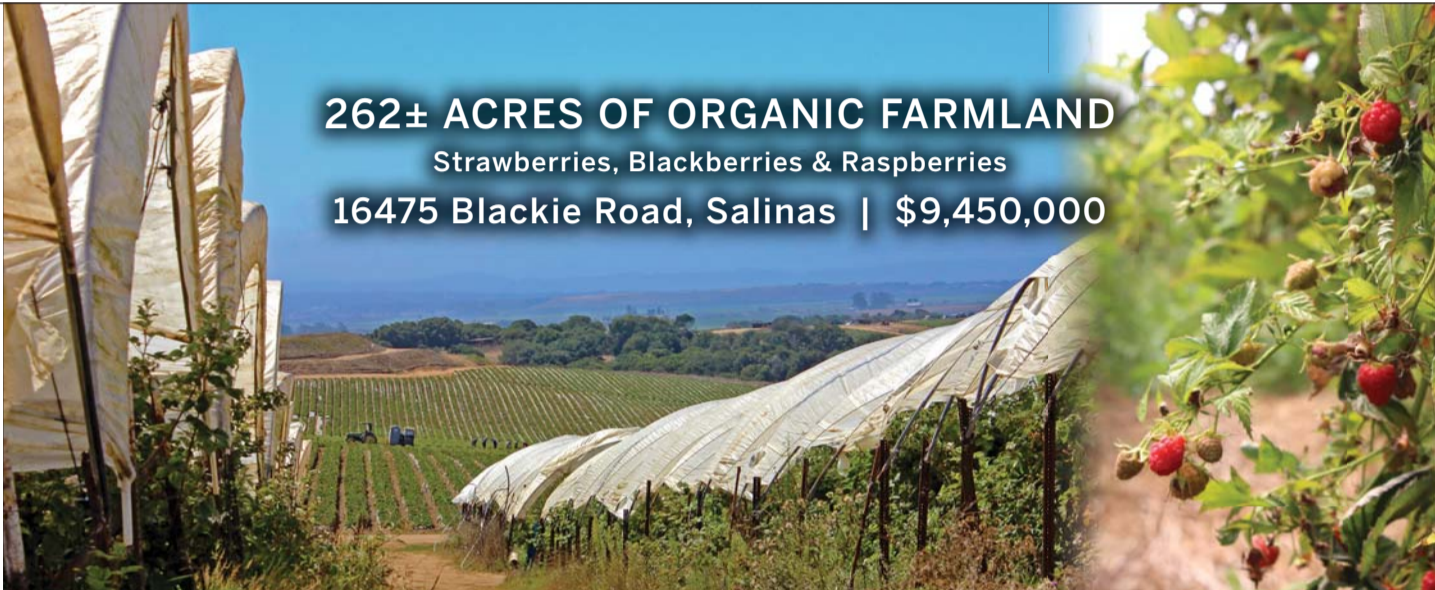
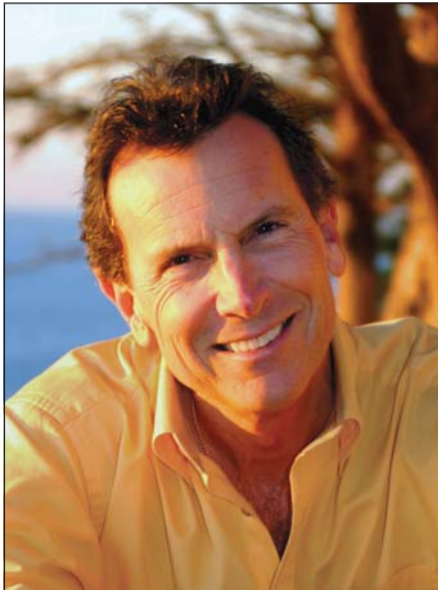
7755 Paseo Venado — \$849,000

Paul and Corinne Zane to Bradley Larson
APN: 259-161-026

172 San Benancio Road — \$1,600,000

Rhonda Franscioni to Nancy and Tanya Bennett
APN: 416-261-013

See ESCROWS page 14RE



262± ACRES OF ORGANIC FARMLAND
Strawberries, Blackberries & Raspberries
16475 Blackie Road, Salinas | \$9,450,000

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Stunning Ranch-Style Home in the Santa Lucia Preserve



7 Rumsen Trace, Santa Lucia Preserve ■ 5 Beds, 4+ Baths ■ 6,300 Sq. Ft. ■ 3.34 Acre Lot ■ \$5,600,000 ■ 7RumsenTrace.com

This contemporary, ranch-style home offers the perfect complement of privacy and convenience in the heart of the Santa Lucia Preserve's sought after amenities - walking distance to The Hacienda, Sports Center, The Nest, Equestrian Center and Moore's Lake. Boasting 6,300 square feet of living space with an expansive primary suite, living/dining great room, oversized kitchen and family room with bar area. A separate guest wing includes four bedrooms, two offices and an oversized 8-car garage. Multiple oversized garage spaces for the car enthusiast. An entertainer's dream awaits in the backyard with an expansive stone patio, Sierra granite boulder waterfall and pool, outdoor kitchen and bar area. This peaceful setting is the perfect place to take in all the Santa Lucia Preserve has to offer.



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Sold 4055 Mora Lane, Pebble Beach
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Sold 790 Country Club Drive, Carmel Valley
\$2,225,000 | Represented Seller



Sold 27299 Prado Del Sol, Carmel
\$2,810,000 | Represented Buyer



Sold Carmelo 5 SE of 12th, Carmel-by-the-Sea
\$2,955,000 | Represented Buyer



Sold 8700 River Meadows Road, Carmel
\$4,100,000 | Represented Buyer



Sold 775 Edge Lane, Los Altos
\$5,870,000 | Represented Seller



Sold 26255 Ocean View Ave, Carmel
\$6,500,000 | Represented Seller



Sold 49155 Highway 1, Big Sur
\$18,000,000 | Represented Buyer and Seller



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Jonathan Spencer
Realtor® | DRE 01916757 | 831.238.7420
jonathanspencerproperties.com

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My heart goes out to my many friends and clients affected by the Pacific Palisades and Eaton fires in Los Angeles. Please consider offering support, either individually or through a charitable organization, to assist those in dire need. I ❤️ LA!

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COMPASS

Growing up Weston: Going way beyond ‘smile for the camera and say cheese’

MEETING REMARKABLY interesting people through this column is a gift that keeps on giving. Some have been famous, or at least recognizable, while most have been folks whose names will never appear on a marquee or a monument.

One exception is Kim Weston, grandson of the famous photographer, Edward Weston, son of photographer Cole Weston, nephew of photographer Brett Weston, and father of photographer Zach Weston. Oh, and I should mention Kim is a photographer, too. Artists all, they form one of

the most influential families in modern photography, an American story happening right in our own backyard.

I spent a memorable morning at Kim’s home in the Carmel Highlands, a short distance down Highway 1 from Rio Road. He and his wife, Gina, invited me to stop by to visit his studio and the old darkroom where so many famous iconic photographs were developed and printed.

Kim and Gina teach photography workshops throughout the year at home and internationally. In their private gallery, they show Kim’s photographs and have a small collection of Edward Weston’s work. Kim is an accomplished practitioner of figurative/nude photography.



OPEN SAT 1-3 / SUN 1-3

Golf Course Living | Pebble Beach

1109 ARROYO DRIVE | MPCC NEIGHBORHOOD IN PEBBLE BEACH
3 BD 3.5 BA + 1 BD 1 BA Guesthouse | 2,571 SF | \$2,750,000

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Scenic Views

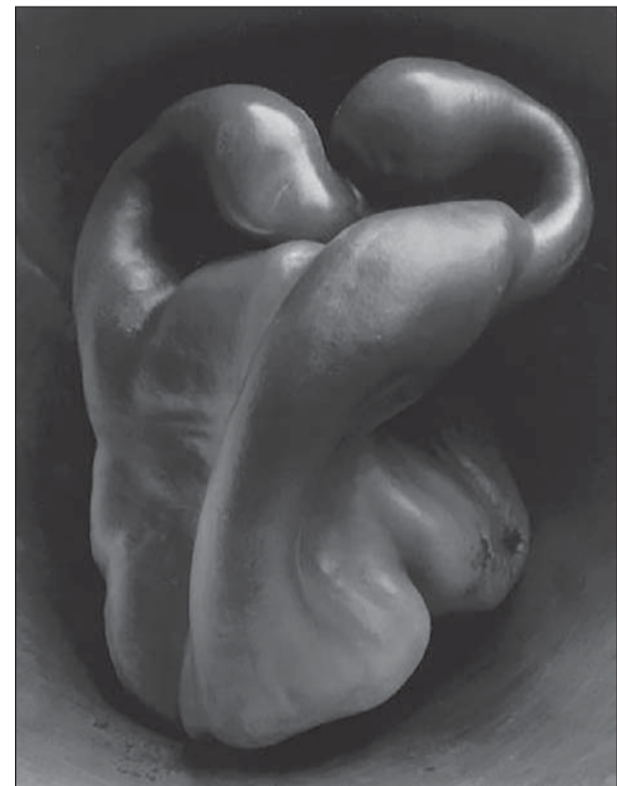
By JERRY GERVASE

“It’s not unusual to have half a dozen naked ladies running around during our workshops,” he told me, a phenomenon I unfortunately missed. He is a pretty solid man, built like someone who wears a hard hat and wears a tool belt. “I didn’t try to make a living from my photographs,” he said. “I spent much of my life in construction.”

His father, Cole, taught him the basics of photography, how to use a camera, develop negatives and print. “But it was my mother who encouraged me,” he said. “She instilled the importance of art in her children.”

Tools of a genius

My personal interest in photography dates to when I received a Kodak Duaflex II box camera for my 12th birthday. You hung it around your neck and looked down into its big, bright viewfinder. I advanced to a single-lens reflex and proceeded to chronicle our family’s growth and history for several decades. So when Kim took me into his grandfather’s darkroom, I felt the same awe as Hillary atop Everest, or the first time I saw Michelangelo’s David.



Edward Weston’s iconic black-and-white photo, “Pepper No. 30,” has been exhibited in museums all over the world.

This wood-paneled museum held not only the mementos and artifacts, but the basic tools of a photographic genius. It was impossible not to think about the qualities that set Edward Weston apart and were passed on to Brett, Cole, Kim, and Zach. Kim still uses this same darkroom to develop and print. He also writes under the light of the lamp that sits on his grandfather’s desk.

Kim showed me a photo of “Pepper No. 30,” one of the best-known photographs by his grandfather. It was taken in 1930 and features a close-up of a single bell pepper with a curvaceous form and rich tonal range that emphasizes its texture and shape. The lighting and composition make the pepper look like a sculpture, showcasing the elder Weston’s skill in transforming a simple subject into a powerful and evocative work of art.

The book becomes art

I tell of this encounter with Kim because he has published a book, “Growing up Weston in the Presence of Women,” which exemplifies how a volume about an artist’s work can itself become a work of art. The volume is visually stunning, just what you would expect of an artist. I feel inadequate to describe it. I know the words exist, but I am having trouble finding the right ones. Let me use Kim’s own words to describe what he calls “unleashing the power of visual storytelling.”

“Welcome to a world where the magic of words and images collide to ignite your reading journey like never before,” Weston writes in the introduction. “In this digital



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OPEN SATURDAY 12:00 – 2:00 PM



13369 Middle Canyon Road, Carmel Valley

3 BD | 2.5 BA | 3,108± Sq. Ft. | 1.32± Acres

New Price \$3,095,000

- Stunning Views from Every Room
- Beautifully Remodeled
- Vaulted Wood Beam Ceilings
- Professionally Landscaped, Stone Patios and Walkways, Lutron Lighting, Fountain & Irrigation System
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- Grand Vistas from Multiple Patios and Decks
- Gated Community with Firewise Designation
- Custom Remote Window Treatments throughout the Home
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- Solar



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MONTEREY | 127 LAS BRISAS DRIVE
127LASBRISASDRIVE.COM
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OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4PM
CARMEL | 9606 BUCKEYE COURT
9606BUCKEYE.COM
OFFERED AT \$1,690,000



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CARMEL VALLEY | 5 LAUREL DRIVE
5LAURELDR.COM
OFFERED AT \$1,450,000



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250HACIENDACARMEL.COM
OFFERED AT \$619,000



STEINY FAMILY PROPERTIES

Doug 831.236.7363
doug@dougsteiny.com

Lisa 831.277.2070
lisa@dougsteiny.com

dougsteiny.com
DRE: 00681652 & 02009666



Character like no other



OPEN SAT 11 - 1 PM

4055 Sunset Lane, Pebble Beach

4 BD | 2.5 BA | 3,114± SQ. FT. | 0.33± ACRES | \$2,795,000

kathrynpicetti.com

Kathryn Picetti 831.277.6020

License# 01304078

22 Rancho Fiesta Road, Carmel Valley

7 BD | 6 BA | 4 HBA | 10,626± SQ. FT. | 22.8± ACRES | \$6,950,000

22RanchoFiesta.com

McLean Seaborn Team 831.277.2020

License# 02115528 & 02095210



OPEN SUN 11 - 2 PM



46190 Clear Ridge Road, Big Sur Coast

3 BD | 2.5 BA | 1,500± SQ. FT. | 5± ACRES | \$2,850,000

46190ClearRidge.com

Nancy Sanders 831.596.5492

License# 01343023

25950 Colt Lane, Carmel Valley

3 BD | 3.5 BA | 3,422± SQ. FT. | 2.51± ACRES | \$2,850,000

25950Colt.com

Rhonda Mohr 831.293.4935

License# 02120365



OPEN SAT 1 - 3 PM



OPEN SAT 12 - 3 PM & SUN 1 - 3 PM

1268 Viscaino Road, Pebble Beach

4 BD | 3 BA | 3,224± SQ. FT. | 1.3± ACRES | \$3,750,000

1268viscaino.com

Jeannie Fromm 831.277.3371

License# 01348162

Junipero 2 SE of 10th Avenue, Carmel

3 BD | 2 BA | 1,491± SQ. FT. | 4,000± SQ. FT. LOT | \$1,985,000

Junipero2SEof10th.com

Piper Loomis 831.372.7700

License# 01867933



OPEN FRI & SUN 1 - 4 PM & SAT 2 - 4 PM



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3116 Bird Rock Road, Pebble Beach

4 BD | 3.5 BA | 3,615± SQ. FT. | 0.26± ACRES
\$5,299,000

3116BirdRockRoad.com

Debora Sanders 831.620.2936

License# 01966114



24715 Cabrillo Street, Carmel

3 BD | 2 BA | 1,460± SQ. FT. | 0.25± ACRES
\$1,725,000

BluhmTeam.com

The Bluhm Team 831.372.7700

License# 01075634, 01876835 & 02012679

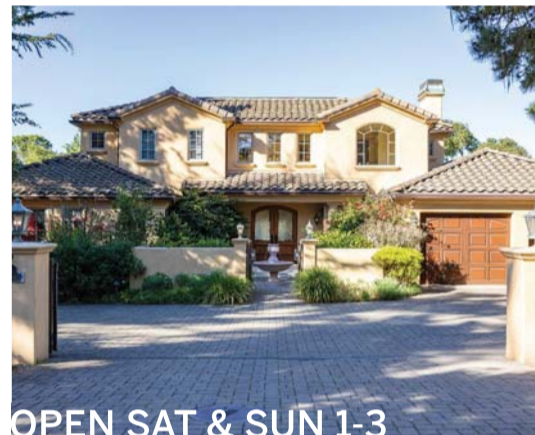
53810 Highway 1, Big Sur Coast

11 BD | 11 BA | 2 HBA | 7,668± SQ. FT. | 43.83± ACRES
\$21,500,000

BienSurEstate.com

Truskowski Freedman & Associates 831.250.3560

License# 01240204 & 01956633



OPEN SAT & SUN 1-3



OPEN SAT 12-4

35 Lilac Lane, Carmel Valley

3 BD | 2 BA | 1,870± SQ. FT. | 0.25± ACRES
\$1,690,000

35LilacLane.com

Kathleen Hendricks 831.917.0839

License# 01378614

23 Seca Place, Monterey/Salinas Hwy

4 BD | 3 BA | 2,391± SQ. FT. | 1.06± ACRES
\$1,649,000

23SecaPlace.com

Leilani Courtney 831.333.6060

License# 02003973



OPEN SAT & SUN 1-3

15843 Pleasant Valley Lane, Mont./Sal. Hwy

3 BD | 2 BA | 2,150± SQ. FT. | 3.75± ACRES
\$1,499,000

BlakeRussellRealty.com

Blake Russell 831.917.9886

License# 02188622



OPEN SAT 1-3



OPEN SAT 12-2 & SUN 11-2

51 Country Club Gate, Pacific Grove

2 BD | 2 BA | 1,567± SQ. FT. | \$1,200,000

PebbleBeachAbodes.com

Patrick & Katie Ryan 831.238.8116

License# 01957809 & 01970033

3528 Lazzaro Drive, Carmel

0.44± ACRE LOT | \$995,000

CarmelCoastalLot.com

Laura & Kent Ciucci 831.236.8571

License# 01135238 & 01708994



250 Hacienda Carmel, Carmel

1 BD | 1 BA | 625± SQ. FT. | \$619,000

250HaciendaCarmel.com

Doug Steiny 831.236.7363

License# 00681652



GERVASE

From page 6RE

age, where attention spans are fleeting and distractions are abundant, it has become more important than ever to captivate readers from the very first page. Enter photo books,

the secret weapon that can transport you into the heart of a story and make it come alive in ways unimaginable.”

Promising “stunning cover art that entices you to pick up a book” and “vivid illustrations that breathe life into the characters and settings,” Weston says, “visual storytelling has the ability to evoke emotions, spark curiosity, and deepen our connection with the written word.”

On Jan. 19, from 2 to 5 p.m., at Carmel’s Winfield

Gallery, Dolores between Ocean and Seventh, Kim will sign copies of his book, which includes his work, as well as that of Edward, Brett, Cole and Zach. There is a limited collector’s edition of 100 that comes in a handmade, linen-bound box set. There is also a standard edition. Both will be available for purchase.

Before I left, Kim had me sign one of the oversized autograph books that contain the signatures of the many dignitaries who have visited. I’m not on the same page with Ansel Adams, but it’s pretty good company to be in for a kid who started out with a \$15 box camera.

Contact Jerry at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.

POLICE LOG

From page 4A

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

Pacific Grove: Vehicle was stopped on Forest Avenue for a traffic violation. The 69-year-old male driver was arrested for traffic-related violations, including driving on a suspended/revoked license, failure to provide proof of insurance and obstructing the driver’s view.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Hit-and-run collision to parked vehicle on Scenic. No driver information.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle-vs.-pedestrian injury collision on Junipero. Patient transported to the hospital for a complaint of pain. Driver stated she did not see the pedestrian in the crosswalk. She was not cited.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Unknown subject shooting a BB gun at a person on Ocean Avenue. The victim did not have any injuries and requested no prosecution. The case is for documentation purposes only.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle on Laurel was marked as abandoned.

Pacific Grove: Report of fraud on Wood Street. Possible suspect information.

Pacific Grove: Theft of personal property on Laurel Avenue.

Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to a report of a deceased individual on La Rancheria. Incident was documented.

The Carmel Pine Cone has been a member of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce for more than 100 years.

OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY & SUNDAY 12-3 PM



316 1st Street, Pacific Grove
2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1302 Sq. Ft.
Offered at \$1,275,000

Here is your opportunity to own a home with ocean and Monterey Bay views just a few short blocks from the coast in America’s last home town of Pacific Grove. The home offers:

- Adorable curb appeal
- Mature and lush landscaping
- Charming entry gate onto the front patio
- Wall of windows in the living room captures peaks of the Monterey Bay
- Combination living room/dining room is light & bright with newer white carpet
- Updated kitchen offers custom cabinetry and plenty of counter space
- Large primary bedroom suite offers a walk-in closet, bathroom and a private deck with more bay views
- Convenient location is just a few short blocks to the coast, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Recreation Trail, Cannery Row, as well as restaurants and shopping



Julie Kavanaugh
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NEW OFFERING

25373 MARKHAM LANE, CORRAL DE TIERRA
3 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS | 2,644± SQ. FT. | \$1,499,000

Spacious 3-bed, 2.5-bath home in desirable Markham Ranch, Corral de Tierra. Primary en suite on the lower level. Enjoy privacy with a large front yard, rear deck, and updated kitchen with stainless appliances and reverse osmosis water system. Entertain with built-in buffet storage and cozy up by the fireplace. Markham Ranch offers gated living with a clubhouse, pool, tennis courts, and scenic walking trails under oak trees. Just minutes from Corral de Tierra Country Club.



25373MARKHAMLANE.COM



SUSAN CARDINALE
 Sales Associate | DRE# 02045240
 831.277.7600
susan.cardinale@sothebysrealty.com
susancardinalerealestate.com



OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 12 - 3

Casanova 4 NW of 13th
Carmel-by-the-Sea

2 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, with possibly 3rd Bedroom & 3rd Full Bath. Quality & Exquisite craftsmanship by the builder Fred Slabaugh in the Golden Rectangle. Beautifully refreshed. Offered at \$4,950,000



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\$1,998,000

2 BR | 2.5 BA | 2559 SF | Corner Unit
TheHolman203.com

Listed by Kimberly Flores
DRE: 02062789



WALK TO MPCC
\$2,995,000

4 BR | 3 BA | 2576 SF | Ocean Views
1047SanCarlosRd.com

Listed by Pete Ruiz
DRE: 01974535



HISTORIC CANNERY ROW
\$1,899,000

2 BR | 1.5 BA | 1378 SF | Unit 1
WaveStreetCondos.com

Listed by Pete Ruiz
DRE: 01974535



831.210.4034
Jeff McMullen
NMLS694626



831.877.2057
Pete Ruiz
DRE#01974535



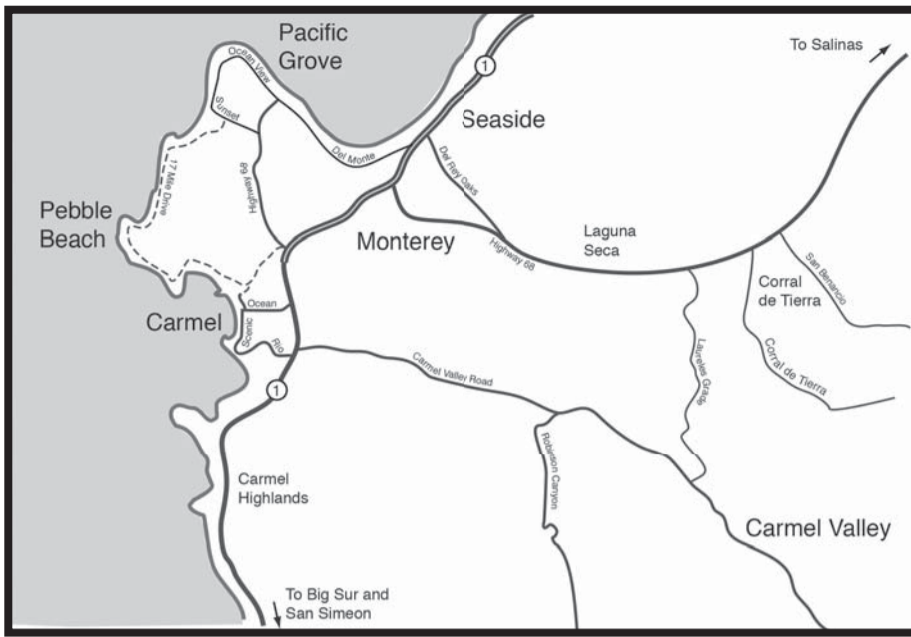
Keller Williams Realty
29251 Highway 1, Carmel, CA 93923

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This Weekend's OPEN HOUSES

Jan. 17 - 19



CARMEL

\$580,000	1bd 1ba	Su 2-4:30
9500 Center Street #5 Monterey Coast Realty		
\$945,000	2bd 2ba	Sa Su 1-3
4000 Rio Rd #26 KW Coastal Estates		
\$1,425,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1-3
7026 Valley Greens Circle #18 Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$1,690,000	3bd 3.5ba	Su 2-4
9606 Buckeye Ct Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$1,985,000	3bd 2ba	Fr 1-4 Sa 2-4 Su 1-4
Junipero 2 SE of 10th Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$1,995,000	3bd 3.5ba	Sa 1-3 Su 11-3
9668 Willow Court Compass		
\$2,150,000	2bd, 2ba	Sa 1-3
Mission 4 SW of 1st Ave Carmel Realty		
\$2,175,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 12-2
28002 Oakshire Drive Monterey Coast Realty		
\$2,200,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 12-3
146 San Remo Rd Coldwell Banker Realty		
\$2,550,000	3bd 2ba	Su 1-4
Mission 4 NW of 4th, #6 Carmel Realty		
\$2,925,000	4bd 2.5ba	Sa 12-3
25905 Junipero Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$2,995,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 12-3
30772 San Remo Rd Coldwell Banker Realty		
\$3,585,000	3bd 3.5ba	Su 1-3:30
Santa Rita 2 SW of 5th Coldwell Banker Realty		

\$4,888,888	3bd 3.5ba	Sa Su 1-3
4 Oak Knoll Way Carmel Realty		
\$4,950,000	2bd 2.5ba	Sa Su 12-3
Casanova 4 NW of 13th Street Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$4,950,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-4
Camino Real 3 NW of 10th Avenue Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$5,450,000	5bd 3ba	Sa 12-3 Su 1-4
Mission 3 NW of Santa Lucia St Coldwell Banker Realty		
\$5,995,000	3bd 4.5ba	Sa 1-3
2416 Bay View Avenue Carmel Realty		
\$6,799,000	3bd 3ba	Su 1-3
26261 Ocean View Ave Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$8,200,000	3bd 3.5ba	Sa 12-2
Casanova 8 NW of Ocean Avenue Carmel Realty		
\$8,600,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 1-3
2385 Bay View Ave Coldwell Banker Realty		

Everybody reads The Pine Cone

CARMEL VALLEY

\$1,159,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 2-4
25455 Tierra Grande Dr Coldwell Banker Realty		
\$1,299,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 12-3
126 Chaparral Road Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$1,690,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 12-4
35 Lilac Lane Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$1,750,000	2bd 2.5ba	Sa Su 1-3
38 Asoleado Drive Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$2,850,000	3bd 3.5ba	Sa 1-3
25950 Colt Ln Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$3,095,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 12-2
13369 Middle Canyon Road Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$3,895,000	4bd 2ba	Sa 11-1, 2-4
9140 Carmel Valley Rd Coldwell Banker Realty		
\$6,950,000	7bd 6.5+ba	Su 11-2
22 Rancho Fiesta Road Sotheby's Int'l RE		

PACIFIC GROVE

\$1,200,000	2bd 2ba	Fr 3-5 Sa 12-2 Su 11-2
51 Country Club Gate Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$1,249,000	3bd 2ba	Su 12-2
34 Country Club 34 Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$1,275,000	2bd 2ba	Sa Su 12-3
316 1st Street Carmel Coast Realty		
\$1,295,000	3bd 2ba	Fr Sa Su 12-4
2828 Forest Hill Blvd Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$1,998,000	2bd 2.5ba	Th Fr 2-4 Sa Su 12:30-3:30
542 Lighthouse Ave #203 The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Inc.		
\$2,589,000	6bd 3ba	Fr 1-5 Sa 2-5 Su 12-5
116 Evans Ave Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$3,249,000	5bd 3ba	Sa 1-4 Su 12-4
116 11th St Sotheby's Int'l RE		

PEBBLE BEACH

\$2,195,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 2-4
2903 Colton Road Carmel Realty		
\$2,750,000	3bd 4.5ba	Sa Su 1-3
1109 Arroyo Dr Compass		
\$2,795,000	4bd 2.5ba	Sa 11-1
4055 Sunset Ln Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$2,995,000	4bd 2.5ba	Fr 10-5 Sa 11-2 Su 11-1
1047 San Carlos Rd The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Inc.		
\$3,195,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 1-3
3128 Stevenson Drive Carmel Realty		
\$3,350,000	4bd 3.5ba	Su 12-2
1086 Spyglass Woods Dr Coldwell Banker Realty		
\$3,500,000	3bd 2ba	Sa Su 1-3
1030 Sombrero Rd Compass		
\$3,850,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 12-3 Su 1-3
1268 Viscaino Rd Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$5,299,000	4bd 3.5ba	Sa Su 1-3
3116 Bird Rock Rd Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$6,995,000	3bd 3.5ba	Sa 2-4
1425 Oleada Rd Compass		

SALINAS

\$1,499,000	3bd 2ba	Sa Su 1-3
15843 Pleasant Valley Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$1,649,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 1-3
23 Seca Place Sotheby's Int'l RE		

SEASIDE

\$800,000	3bd 2ba	Sa Su 1-3
1332 Military Ave Sotheby's Int'l RE		

WATSONVILLE

\$945,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 12:30-3
101 Shell Drive 145 Sotheby's Int'l RE		

CORRAL DE TIERRA

\$1,295,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-3
28900 Underwood Road Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$1,395,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 12-3 Su 1-3
24125 Mallard Ct Agency One, Norm Yop Group		
\$3,750,000	4bd 4.5ba	Sa Su 12-2
372 Corral De Tierra Sotheby's Int'l RE		

MARINA

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

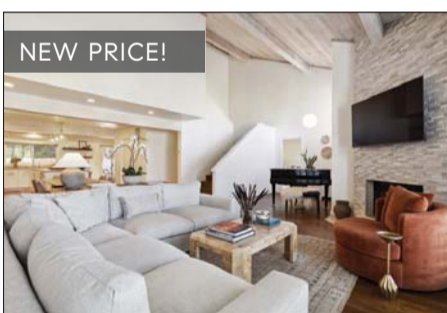
MONTEREY

\$599,000	1bd 1ba	Su 2-4
300 Glenwood Circle #403 Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$739,000	1bd 1ba	Su 11-2
125 Surf Way #310 The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Inc.		
\$799,000	2bd 2ba	Sa Su 10-1
57 Montsalas Drive Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$915,000	3bd 2ba	Sa Su 1-4
202 Lerwick Drive Century 21		
\$995,000	4bd 2ba	Sa Su 1-3
26 Via Paraiso Coldwell Banker Realty		
\$1,299,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 1-4
7 Wyndemere Vale Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$1,729,000	3bd 3ba	Su 12-3
17 Deer Forest Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$1,795,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa Su 1-3
989 Madison St Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$2,250,000	3bd 3.5ba	Sa 11-1
127 Las Brisas Drive Sotheby's Int'l RE		

To publish a legal notice in The Carmel Pine Cone contact irma@carmelpinecone.com
831-274-8645 (Se habla Español)



\$3,995,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-4
NE Corner Guadalupe & Mountain Carmel Realty		
\$3,998,000	4bd 3ba	Sa Su 12-2
3128 Serra Ave Coldwell Banker Realty		
\$4,295,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 1-3
6 NE Junipero Ave Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$4,450,000	4bd 3ba	Sa Su 1-4
Forest 5 SW of 7th Avenue Carmel Realty		



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 My Sales



24763 Upper Trail, Carmel — \$2,200,000



1060 Laurel Lane, Pebble Beach — \$2,300,000



3360 Kingsley Court, Pebble Beach — \$7,995,000

APN: 007-162-001

3360 Kingsley Court — \$7,995,000

Stephen Metzger, Michael Ginsberg and Kingsley Court Trust to 3360 Kingsley Court LLC
APN: 008-162-021

Salinas

690 Airport Blvd. — \$2,800,000

Coast to Coast Property Holdings to JW Retail Properties
APN: 003-471-032

Seaside

335 Sonoma Avenue — \$355,000

Clyde and Claudia White Trust to Bhag Bhullar
APN: 011-315-014

See **MORE SALES** next page

HOME SALES

From page 4RE

Monterey

461 Dela Vina Avenue unit 309 — \$643,000

Regina Halderman to Pixaan Serna
APN: 013-122-029

491 Mar Vista Drive — \$1,325,000

Lilian Yahyavi to Amber Smith
APN: 001-793-004

1137 Alameda Street — \$1,875,000

Thomas and Sandra Provasi to Brian Bigley
APN: 001-612-013

Pacific Grove

618 Walnut Street — \$950,000

Alfred Regalo and Estate of Mary Leandro to Idalina Maceda
APN: 006-562-009

209 Crocker Avenue — \$1,950,000

Daniel Miller to Anthony and Pepper Bottini and Josh and Allyson Maston
APN: 006-381-002

135 Pacific Avenue — \$2,875,000

Christopher and Virginia Ferrigno to Alexander and Maryn Ljubimow
APN: 006-144-004

Pebble Beach

1060 Laurel Lane — \$2,300,000

Joseph Capuccio to Jeffrey and Lisa Oki

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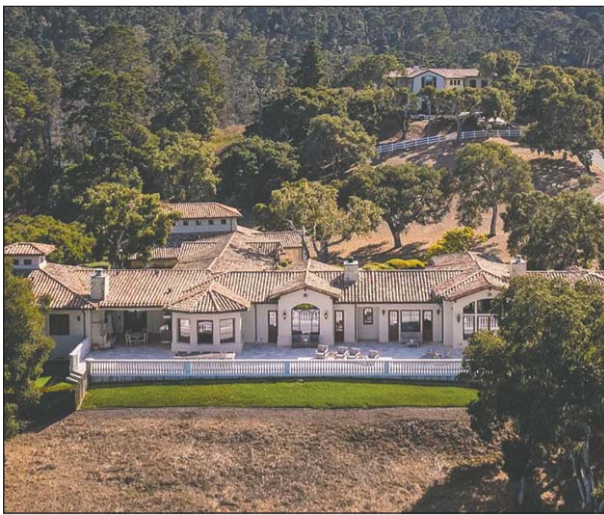
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575 Aguajito Road, Carmel — \$6,500,000



8640 River Meadows Road, Carmel Valley — \$6,400,000



25490 Via Mariquita, Carmel Valley — \$2,700,000

MORE SALES

From previous page

1348 Green Court — \$680,000

Roberta Selvig and Reid Trust to Angel Banuelos, Jose Diaz and Yesenia Lopez
APN: 012-392-052

8 Mizpah Court — \$785,000

Paul Rendon to Jonathan and Lindsey Bell
APN: 012-109-030

1289 Metz Avenue — \$1,044,000

Eagles Properties LLC to Matthew Johnson and Chelsea Jenkins
APN: 011-034-007

5041 Sunset Vista Drive — \$1,485,000

Giovanni Aliotti to Richard and Kelly Demayo
APN: 031-231-038

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www.LeCapDuRoc.com
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SAN JUAN ISLAND, WA

www.SanJuanIslandEstate.com
\$6,950,000

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CARMEL VALLEY

www.CarmelValleyTreasure.com
\$3,895,000

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CORRAL DE TIERRA

www.StunningCountryEstate.com
\$3,695,000

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CARMEL HIGHLANDS

www.CarmelHighlandsLiving.com
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