

# The Carmel Pine Cone

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January 24-30, 2025

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## ‘City in a Forest’ tries to prepare for wildfires

By MARY SCHLEY

IN LIGHT of the devastating, ongoing and numerous Southern California wildfires that have destroyed hundreds of thousands of acres, tens of thousands of buildings and numerous lives, the Feb. 3 Carmel City Council meeting, a town hall organized by the City of Monterey, and a Carmel Residents Association session will focus on how the Peninsula is prepared to deal with wildfires.

In the Jan. 17 Friday video, city administrator Chip Rerig said he is preparing a presentation touching on “what we’ve done to prepare for wildfire and fires in general, and what we’re doing on an ongoing basis” in a city that is heavily forested — and staunchly defended as such.

### Siren test?

The session will have building official Jermel Laurie, Police Chief Paul Tomasi, Fire Chief Andrew Miller and city forester Justin Ono discussing the community wildfire protection plan completed by the cities of Monterey, Carmel and Pacific Grove last fall, ongoing maintenance of fire hydrants, the city’s evacuation plan, and forest management, among other topics. Carmel’s volunteer emergency response team will also be highlighted.

“And we’re talking about testing our air raid siren again,” Rerig said.

The Carmel Residents Association will be hosting a roundtable on the same topic Feb. 6, and the public will

See **PREPARE** page 24A

## Commission approves one metal roof, denies two

By MARY SCHLEY

FOLLOWING A two-hour discussion about whether Carmel residents should be allowed to have metal roofs on their homes, the planning commission last week approved one but denied two others, continuing a trend of inconsistency that has frustrated some homeowners.

“I am dumbfounded that a house literally one block north of me on the northeast corner of Torres and First was approved for a standing-seam roof, and the style is definitely not much different than mine,” said resident Brandi Faia. Her request to replace the failing wood roof that prompted her insurance company to drop her coverage was denied by the planning commission last month. “It’s grossly unfair and wrong.”

### Consternation

She was referring to Nathan Smith’s application, which the commission considered at its Jan. 15 meeting alongside those for Russell Barretta’s residence on the southeast

See **METAL** page 12A



PHOTO/CITY OF CARMEL

The planning commission last week told the owner of this house at Junipero and 10th to reroof it with something other than metal.

## Moss Landing blaze raises alarm about batteries

■ Officials want plant closed until cause of frightening fire is found

By KELLY NIX

WHILE THE flames are out and smoke from last Thursday’s fire at the Vistra Energy battery storage facility in Moss Landing has dissipated, elected officials this week demanded that the plant remain offline until more information is provided on the cause, public health impacts and how to prevent a similar event from occurring.

At about 3 p.m. Jan. 16, a major fire broke out in a building that houses about 100,000 battery modules adjacent to the familiar twin smokestacks alongside Highway 1.

The fire raged for almost 24 hours, closing the highway, scaring nearby residents and leading county officials to issue an evacuation notice for about 1,200 of them. Monterey County Supervisors held a special meeting in Salinas Tuesday to find out more from Vistra about the fire and listen to residents, some of whom reported health issues related to smoke.

### ‘Disconnect it’

District 2 Supervisor Glenn Church, who represents the Moss Landing area, recommended that operations at Vistra’s massive battery facilities — including two that were undamaged — remain offline until the cause of the fire is determined. He said a PG&E open-air battery storage facility, which was not affected in last week’s fire, should

be shut down, as well.

The rest of the supervisors agreed and created an ad hoc committee composed of Church and District 5 Supervisor

See **BATTERIES** page 8A



A blackened hole (above) is all that’s left of a Vistra Energy facility in Moss Landing after Thursday’s disastrous fire, which forced evacuations, closed Highway 1 and lit up the sky for miles around (right).

PHOTOS/(ABOVE) HOUSE OF 8 MEDIA, (RIGHT) ELROND LAWRENCE



## P.G.’s largest park a ‘tinderbox,’ citizens warn

By KELLY NIX

FEARING THE type of wildfires that have ravaged communities in Southern California in the past several weeks, Pacific Grove residents are urging the city council and officials to undertake measures to prevent the same thing from happening in the coastal town.

At the Jan. 16 Pacific Grove City Council meeting, citizen Kevin Hanley made a plea to councilmembers to

reduce the amount of fuel load — dead dry brush, downed trees, etc. — in George Washington Park, a 20-acre, thickly wooded greenspace. Doing so, Hanley said, would reduce the chances of a fire spreading to nearby houses.

“One cannot believe in climate change and at the same time maintain a tinderbox at George Washington Park,” Hanley told the council. “Because all it takes is high winds and a spark, whether intentional or unintentional, to create a catastrophic fire in Pacific Grove.”

Hanley pointed to the city’s trimming of brush on the edges of the heavily forested open space area.

“I don’t think that any professional believes that merely

See **TINDERBOX** page 17A

## WIDESPREAD FAULT IN STATE’S INSURANCE CRISIS

By CAITLIN CONRAD

JANUARY HAS been the month from hell for people who once called the Pacific Palisades home — and the trouble in Los Angeles County isn’t over yet. Fires continue to burn, a major one broke out Wednesday, and many people who’ve been able to return to their properties have found only ash remains of what used to be multimillion-dollar homes.

### Worth it?

Now those homeowners are left dealing with insurance, finding out what they’ll receive to rebuild and weighing if it’s worth it to stay in California. One factor in their decision-making will be the cost of insuring new structures on their old lots, as premiums are sure to go up statewide.

See **INSURANCE** page 10A

## Sunny skies boost ticket sales for AT&T Pro-Am

By MARY SCHLEY

WHAT’S THE No. 1 lesson he’s learned after being in charge of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am for the past 14 years?

“Never trust Mother Nature,” Steve John, executive director of the nonprofit Monterey Peninsula Foundation that hosts the annual tournament, said Wednesday. “That’s 1 through 100 right there.”

When he was contacted this week by a Pine Cone reporter, John was cruising around the Pebble Beach Golf Links with his operations team and PGA Tour representatives, “just looking at everything to make sure everything

See **PRO-AM** page 16A





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# Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

## Otto pulled through

Surely it helped that Otto was adorable, igniting a “love at first sight” kind of feeling among the whole family. Including Mom, who is allergic to dogs and had said “no” for as long as she could. Just over 8 weeks old, the little Maltipoo — a Maltese and poodle mix—was just about the cutest thing the family had ever seen. Mom even said “gorgeous.”

“Our children had been pestering us to get a dog for a long time,” she said, “and ultimately they convinced me this breed combo would be hypoallergenic. Besides, the Covid shutdown had been hard on the kids, which helped persuade me to get them a dog.”

So, the Carmel Valley Village family looked online and ultimately found a breeder in San Jose who had a litter ready for adoption. They climbed into the car and drove up the coast to meet their forever friend.

Otto, now nearly 5, loves his family and absolutely adores the beach. He buries himself in the sand then shakes it off and runs around investigating some more. He’s not quite sure of the rush of the waves, his person said, but he’s totally enamored of the sand. His person keeps a towel or two in the car to help him leave the

beach where he found it.

“Otto also likes hiking through the parks that allow dogs — Garland, Palo Corona, Mission Trail — we try to vary his outlook,” his person said. “When we go to Garland Park, he likes to paddle around in the river — you can’t really call it swimming — usually in the muddiest parts.”

In the spring of 2023, the kids found odd lumps just under Otto’s skin and insisted their mom take him to the vet. After a cancer diagnosis, followed by six months of chemotherapy, Otto pulled through.

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# Police & Sheriff's Log

## From stereo to mono at the beach

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

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Credit card fraud at a jewelry store at Dolores and Sixth.
- Pacific Grove:** Male on Maple Street arrested for public intoxication.
- Pacific Grove:** Report of a deceased elderly female on Glen Lake Drive.
- Pebble Beach:** Deputies documented a welfare check on Viscaino.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 6

- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Reporting party at Carpenter and Fifth received a suspicious email requesting monetary payment in bitcoin from a person she did not know. Believed it to be scam-based criminal activity.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Adult Protective Services referral and investigation at Casanova and Second.
- Pacific Grove:** A 40-year-old male was arrested on Forest Avenue for public intoxication and failure to appear on a misdemeanor warrant.
- Pacific Grove:** Vehicle on Gibson was towed for expired registration over six months.
- Carmel Valley:** Deputies responded to a report of a civil dispute and eviction on Cachagua Road in which a female adult's property

was damaged.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Report of non-injury accident at Sixth and San Carlos on private property. Vehicle drove the wrong way into a bank parking lot and onto a curb which resulted in a damaged flat tire and dents to front right bumper. Person called for a private tow.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Non-injury accident at Lincoln and Seventh.
- Pacific Grove:** Vehicle on Buena Vista was marked for a 72-hour parking.
- Carmel area:** An individual on Handley was given a courtesy transport.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

- Carmel-by-the-Sea:** No calls to report.
- Pacific Grove:** Prescription drug bin destruction.
- Pacific Grove:** Found dog at Mile Drive and Sunset brought into the police department.
- Pacific Grove:** Report of unwanted phone calls to a business on Austin.
- Carmel area:** Possible small piece of bone was discovered in a known tribal site on Ribera Road.
- Carmel Valley:** Family member on Arboleda turned in a rifle for destruction.
- Carmel Valley:** Property damage occurred on El Hemmorro.

See **POLICE LOG** page 8RE in the Real Estate Section



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## The gavel falls

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

**Dec. 12, 2024** — A jury convicted Kevin James Powell of first-degree murder and first-degree attempted murder.

On Sept. 14, 2022, the deceased victim and his brother were in town for work staying at a Motel 6 in King City. 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. 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 three-foot axe and attacked them with it. One victim ran and escaped with minor injuries; the other tripped, suffered serious injuries from the assault and later died at the hospital.

Powell testified that he attacked the victims due to methamphetamine-induced psychosis.

After convicting Powell of first-degree murder and first-degree attempted murder, the jury determined that Powell used a deadly weapon and that the crimes involved great violence, great bodily harm, or a high degree of cruelty, viciousness or callousness. Finally, the court found Powell had a prior strike conviction for street terrorism.

Hon. Rafael Vazquez will sentence Powell on Jan. 9, 2025. He faces up to life in state prison.

This case was investigated by former King City Detective Juan Rodriguez, and district attorney investigator Dominique Hohmann.

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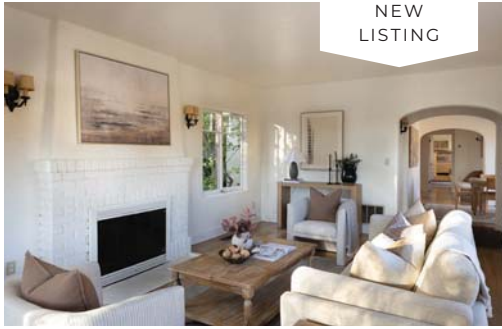


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# Panetta willing to work with Trump

By KELLY NIX

ON THE same day President Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th commander in chief, the Monterey Peninsula’s representative in Congress, Democrat Jimmy Panetta, pledged to find common ground with the new administration for the benefit of his constituents and the country.

Trump was sworn in inside the Capitol rotunda Monday following campaign promises that included expanding oil drilling in the United States, deporting millions of undocumented immigrants, canceling federal DEI programs and ending the war in Ukraine — among the issues that helped him win the popular vote and the Electoral College against former Vice President Kamala Harris.

“The golden age of America begins right now,” Trump proclaimed in his inaugural address. “From this day forward, our country will flourish and be respected again all over the world.”

But many voters in Monterey County are anti-Trump, and the majority voted for Harris.

### ‘Worried’

Panetta — who has made bipartisanship a hallmark of his tenure in office — told The Pine Cone that, while he’s aware that some of his constituents are “understandably worried” by Trump’s rhetoric, he’s open to working with his administration.

“As the representative for California’s 19th Congressional District, and as I faithfully did during the past two administrations,” said Panetta, who attended Trump’s inauguration Monday, “I will continue to fulfill my responsibility to govern by working to find common ground with anybody

for federal legislation, federal funding, and solutions that help, promote and perpetuate the people and values of our home.”

### What’s important

In an interview with a Pine Cone reporter last week, Panetta said he would approach Trump’s second term in office the same way he did his first from 2017 to 2021.

“How I learned to deal with the Trump administration during the first four years of it, is not getting distracted by every little thing he says or tweets or does,” the congressman from Carmel Valley explained. “And being able to discern what’s important and what to fight him on. And to be more than willing to work with this administration to get things done for the 19th Congressional District.”

Panetta went on to say this week that as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee — which has jurisdiction over taxes, tariffs and other revenue-generating laws — he’s committed to working with the Republican administration on tax and other fiscal policies.

“There is progress to be made on housing, environmental stewardship, public safety, immigration reform, national security, and more,” Panetta said.

“I will work with anybody and any administration to pursue areas of agreement and aggressively deliver for the people I serve,” he continued.

But sounding themes that echo Biden-era priorities, Panetta also said he firmly believes that “diversity is our strength,” and said “our unity is the power to endure and succeed no matter the many challenges that we face.”

## A controversial new president, but a readiness to cooperate

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# Battle over views leads to impasse at planning commission

■ Applicant wants to take case to city council

By MARY SCHLEY

A WOMAN who has been trying to get plans for a new house on Casanova Street approved by the planning commission for nearly two years finally gave up last week and asked for denial so she can take her fight to the Carmel City Council. Considering the ongoing and seemingly unresolvable fight between Liyoong Lim and her northern neighbors, Mike and Gwynn McColl, over impacts on views, the commission granted her request.

Lim, who bought her 848-square-foot, single-story home near Palou in 2013 for \$900,000, according to Monterey County records, wants to tear it down, along with a 205-square-foot garage, and replace them with a 1,508-square-foot, two-story home and 286-square-foot garage — all of which is consistent with the zoning in that neighborhood.

Hastings Construction is handling the design and proposed a combination of stone and stucco with wood windows and doors and a composition-shingle roof, senior planner Evan Kort told the commission Jan. 15.

He reminded commissioners that they held public hearings on the proposal on three earlier occasions — July 12, 2023, and Aug. 14 and Dec. 11, 2024 — and asked for changes each time, mostly to address impacts on the northern neighbors' views and light.

### Irreconcilable differences

"The primary issues raised at the July 2023 hearing were in respect to privacy, views, light, and impacts to trees," Kort said, and at the two subsequent hearings, commissioners asked for more changes to

address those same issues. "The December 2024 hearing was continued with direction to redesign the project, as the commission found the light and view impacts had not been adequately addressed."

But after that hearing, designer Angie Phares sent a letter to the city disagreeing with the outcome. "We are not willing to make any additional changes and would like to pursue an appeal," she wrote.

### 'We're stuck'

At the Jan. 15 meeting, the construction company's owner, Justin Hastings, told commissioners the design had been changed numerous times to try to accommodate the needs and concerns of the McColls, who purchased their two-story house north of Lim's in spring 2020 for \$1,550,000, according to county records.

Hastings argued that his client simply wants what the neighbors have: a roughly 1,500-square-foot, two-story house, though theirs involves a basement level.

"We've done a redesign on this four times," he said, including lowering the house by 4 feet, shifting it back 8 feet and moving it away from the neighbors' property an additional 4 feet. He also said the room configurations have changed.

"Obviously the view has repeatedly been brought up as an issue," he said, adding that the neighbors have said they'd only support a design with the upstairs portion shifted to the rear of the lot, which can't be done without a variance.

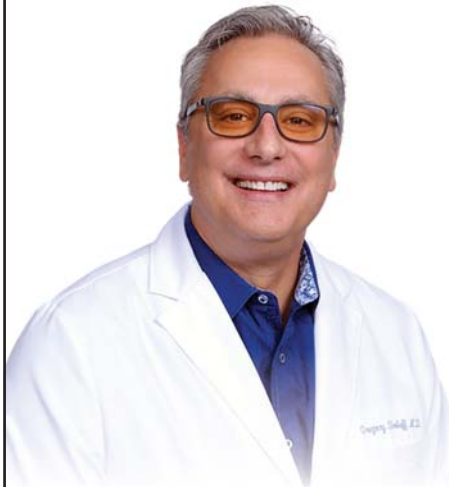
"We're stuck with the quandary of trying to accommodate the McColls," he said, arguing that the view impacts of the home won't be as bad as they are suggesting.

"If I didn't live in my house, I would potentially buy what Justin just tried to sell you," Mike McColl responded.

See **VIEWS** page 21A

## DR. GREGORY SHOLEFF, MD

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# BATTERIES

From page 1A

Kate Daniels to further investigate.

Batteries at the Vistra facilities store energy from wind and solar power systems in California and release it back to the grid at night and when the wind isn't blowing. Collectively, the battery storage facilities in Moss Landing are said to be the largest in the world, with more on the way.

### Experimental tech

While Church said he understands that battery storage is "essential for the future," energy needs can't be placed "above safety."

"This technology is ahead of government's ability to regulate it and industries' ability to control it," he remarked early in the supervisors' meeting Tuesday. "This process we are in, which is learn-as-we-go, just doesn't work. It jeopardizes communities."

He also said the county needs to "step back," look at the

battery storage technology "skeptically" and impose new safety regulations.

"We just can't proceed with the way we are going," Church added. The day after the fire, he called it a "Three Mile Island event for the battery storage industry," and said he'd been misled about safety at the plant.

While Vistra had an emergency response plan for the possibility of a fire in even a single battery module, Church said the PG&E facility does not have any such plan in place.

"Emergency response plans really need to look at what is a worst-case scenario," he said.

Monterey Bay Air Resources District head Richard Stedman said his agency received "hundreds of calls" from citizens worried about air quality near the power plant, but no adverse impacts from the fire have been detected — not even from the much feared hydrogen fluoride, which can be emitted from burning lithium-ion batteries.

But he also warned that the substance is a lighter-than-air gas that would not typically follow plume characteristics associated with smoke. "So, we would not expect to find hydrogen fluoride gas in any of the plumes," he said.

More than two dozen Monterey County residents expressed anger and demanded answers from the supervisors and Vistra, including Bill Lipe, who asked why such a battery facility — which can generate a fire that cannot be extinguished with water — was permitted in the first place.

"Who are the powerful people in our state and country who allowed this toxic brew to be built next to our neighbors and our beloved Elkhorn Slough?" Lipe asked. The fire "is not just an accident, it's a result of short-sighted decisions that prioritize profits over public safety."

Regarding smoke, Church said that people are not so concerned about air quality now and are more worried about "what has already landed, what has fallen" on soil and bodies of water.

The supervisor said a resident reported an oily film on his horse water trough, while the windshield on a pickup truck parked on his small farm contained a "little oily substance" on it.

### Investigation

On Wednesday afternoon, Assemblywoman Dawn Addis, who represents parts of Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties, urged the state Public Utilities Commission to launch an independent investigation into the Vistra fire, and, like the supervisors, asked that the operations not be restarted any time soon.

"California must never have a disaster like this again," she wrote to PUC President Alice Busching Reynolds. "Vistra and its vendors should cooperate with any and all state investigations by sharing their data and allowing access to the site."

She also argued that the "Vistra battery energy storage system at Moss Landing should remain completely offline until the cause of the fire is determined and safety is guaranteed for our community and natural habitats."

While Addis' letter, which was also signed by State Sen. John Laird and Assemblywoman Gail Pellerin, stated that the facility represents a "pivotal piece" of the state's energy future, the fire has "undermined the public's trust in utility-scale lithium-ion battery energy storage systems."

Daniels, who was appointed to serve on the Monterey County Planning Commission in January 2020 after the Vistra facility that burned had already been approved, said that the "potential" for fire at the battery plant was "never brought up."

"I have no recollection of the potential for lithium batteries to explode," said Daniels. "It wasn't common knowledge at the time."

See FIRE page 26A



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# Spanish Bay to shut in March 2026, reopen in time for 2027 U.S. Open

## ■ Storm-damaged boardwalk to be fixed soon

By MARY SCHLEY

GOLFERS WHO particularly enjoy playing the Links at Spanish Bay — especially when the game is on everyone’s mind during the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am — have a little more than a year to get their rounds in before it is shut down for a complete overhaul.

The course — which has remained fairly untouched since the trio of Robert Trent Jones Jr., former USGA President Sandy Tatum and Tom Watson designed it nearly 40 years ago to be reminiscent of the old Scottish courses laid out on sandy seaside wasteland with bristly grasses and stiff prevailing winds — will close on March 18, 2026, for a complete redesign and overhaul, the Pebble Beach Co. announced last week. It will reopen in the spring of 2027, a few months before the U.S. Open is set to take place at the Pebble Beach Golf Links for the seventh time.

### Higher pedigree

In September 2023, P.B. Co executives announced the hiring of Hanse Golf Course Design to oversee the course’s transformation. Gil Hanse started the Pennsylvania-based firm in 1993 and brought Jim Wagner in as a partner two years later. They share the philosophy that “golf courses are designed, restored and renovated in the field, as opposed to solely on

the drawing board,” and say they have kept their company “intentionally small” and have “patiently nurtured its reputation.”

Hanse, Wagner and their associates have had a hand in designing notable courses all over the world, including North Carolina’s Pinehurst No. 4, TPC Boston in collaboration with pro golfer Brad Faxon, and the storied Colonial Country Club in Texas, as well as Australia’s Royal Syd-



PHOTO/PEBBLE BEACH CO.

After nearly four decades, the golf links at Spanish Bay will undergo a major overhaul that is expected to take more than a year.

ney Golf Club, Gavea Golf Club in Rio de Janeiro, and the Narin & Portnoo Links in Donegal, Ireland.

During the closure, Hanse, Wagner and their team will oversee the construction process “with the goal to elevate the 40-year-old course to the pedigree of the other championship courses in the Del Monte Forest,” according to P.B. Co.’s announcement. “Hanse’s guiding tenets will be to transform Spanish Bay from a 1980s-era Scottish-inspired links to a

See **BAY** page 20A

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# INSURANCE

From page 1A

California was already facing an insurance crisis prior to the fires in Los Angeles, and the recent devastation is exacerbating the situation. This week, Cal Fire estimated at least 6,000 homes and businesses had burned to the ground in the Palisades Fire alone, with some estimates of the losses as high as \$50 billion.

Whatever the final number, the payouts will be a major hit for insurance companies, many of which are already looking for ways to exit the California market. In 2023, State Farm announced it would stop accepting applications for all business, personal property and casualty insurance in the state. The previous year, Allstate pushed the pause button on new California homeowners, condo and commercial policies. Both insurance powerhouses cited a challenging reinsurance market, rapidly growing catastrophe exposure and the increased cost of rebuilding as reasons to exit the Golden State.

### Moss on the roof

Even insurers still doing business in California are looking for reasons to drop policies. One Pacific Grove resident, who wished to remain anonymous, told The Pine Cone he received a letter in November

2024 notifying him his homeowner’s policy would not be renewed. The reason? His insurer, Safeco, said it discovered moss growing on his roof. The note left him scrambling to find coverage and wondering how they discovered the small patch of algae growing on the cold side of his home.

“I did a little homework. What they are now doing is they are flying drones over properties to see conditions,” he said.

### Last resort

The resident said his home is 12 years old, brand new by Pacific Grove standards, and he’s had the same insurance for the last decade. Never has he filed a claim.

“They’re trying to find whatever excuse they can to exit the state,” he said.

The Pagrovia remedied the moss problem and was able to secure coverage through insurer Homesite for \$1,800 a year.

Others in more fire-prone areas have not been so lucky, and hundreds of thousands have been pushed onto what’s euphemistically called the California Fair Plan, also known as the insurer of last resort.

The plan is a pool of insurers required by the state to sell fire policies to home and business owners who cannot find coverage elsewhere. In 2024, the Fair Plan was insuring 451,000 homeowners in California, up from 126,709 policies in 2018, the year of the devastating Camp Fire that marked the beginning on the insurance crisis.

“It’s critical for Californians to understand that a growing Fair Plan contributes to our insurance crisis,” said insurance commissioner Ricardo Lara last September.

That’s because the Fair Plan was never meant to be a long-term fix for homeowners, but was set up as a temporary solution for people until they could secure a cheaper and longer-term policy. Predictably, people have not been able to find better insurance, or any at all, and 90 percent of Fair Plan policyholders renew year after year.

Data from the California Fair Plan administrator shows there were 4,231 active policies in Monterey County in 2024, almost three times as many as in 2020. Many of them issued in areas of the county where fire danger is highest, Carmel (1,016), Carmel Valley (711), Monterey (303), Big Sur (120), Pebble Beach (117), and Pacific Grove (16).

The Fair Plan may need a bailout following the L.A. fires. Last year, an estimated 1 in 5 homes in the Pacific Palisades was covered by the plan, and the wealthy enclave was listed as one of the areas where it is most financially exposed. The plan was responsible for \$5.9 billion worth of assets in just the Palisades, and in the Eaton Fire zone, the plan had another \$775 million in exposure.

Last Friday, the plan said it had \$377 million in reserves and \$5.78 billion in reinsurance, which is coverage for insurers

and is supposed to guarantee there will be enough money to pay claims, but in this case, the state’s plan may still be wiped out.

The state has clarified what will happen if the Fair plan runs out of money, and it’s not good news for anyone.

To cover the cost, other insurance companies will have to foot the bill and will be allowed to pass those expenses on to customers. In the event the Fair plan runs dry, a special assessment can be imposed on home insurance policyholders across the state to make up the shortfall.

“There’s no question that before these wildfires, they were going to raise rates, and with these wildfires, they’re going to be able to ask for even higher rate increases,” said former California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones in an interview with National Public Radio.

### Rising Rates

Rates for homeowners in high-fire-danger areas of Monterey County have been climbing. One resident in the Monte Vista neighborhood of Monterey said her rates have tripled since she bought her home 12 years ago. Jeannie Ferrara said she now pays \$3,000 a year for coverage on her home that’s assessed at \$1 million.

Ferrara is a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker. She said insurance has also

Continues next page

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From previous page

become an issue for anyone trying to sell a house in her neighborhood and other high- fire-risk areas.

“People have been having problems getting insured, and the mortgage companies require you to have fire insurance, or they won’t fund your loan,” said Ferrara.

As for her thoughts on insurers dropping their customers, Ferrara said it’s not right. “If someone cancels you — and you have been paying them for 10, 15 years — because there is a danger that is an act of God that you have nothing to do with. I think that’s criminal,” said the real estate agent.

State regulation

Right or wrong, it’s happening, and the state played a role in creating the problem. Until this year, California did not allow insurers to use catastrophe modeling to predict a property’s risk. Companies have instead had to assess premiums based on historical losses.

California Proposition 103, passed in 1998, required insurance companies to get state approval for rates. Sacramento estimates Prop 103 saved Californians billions of dollars in premiums but also forced private insurers to sell insurance well below cost. Regulations have also prevented insurers from incorporating reinsurance premiums into the cost of policies. The result is that what seemed to be a well-intentioned regulation has prevented insurers

from charging premiums that reflect the risks and costs of insuring homes in fire-prone areas.

A recent paper on Prop 103 from the International Center for Law and Economics described the resulting market as “the biggest gap between rates and risk in the nation.”

There’s no bright light on the California insurance market horizon, but in recent weeks, the insurance commissioner has finalized some new rules that will change the game.

For one, insurance companies will be allowed to pass along the cost of reinsurance to customers.

Lara has also given the green light for companies to use catastrophic modeling, although the modeling system is designed by the state.

In exchange for being allowed to charge more, companies will have to meet policy quotas in disaster-prone areas, a requirement that may result in more companies quitting California.



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# METAL

From page 1A

corner of Junipero and 10th, and Missy and JD Jensen’s home on Santa Lucia northeast of Scenic.

Considering the commission’s consternation over metal roofs — which residential design guidelines say are inappropriate in all neighborhoods, but which can nonetheless be approved if commissioners decide they fit with the character of the home and surrounding area — associate planner Jake Olander recommended the commission direct the applicants to find other options. All three houses have wood shake roofs in various states of deterioration.

Smith, a fire captain for 15 years whose crew was down fighting the Palisades Fire, said only metal roofs are noncombustible,

while other products are just fire resistant.

“We can change the aesthetics of our community by burning it down, as well,” he told the commission. “The fires we have had over the past 10 years are far worse and more destructive than ever in the history of California. It is new and different now.”

**Any color will do**

Two other homes nearby have metal roofs, including one that’s red. Smith proposed black for his white house with black trim, but given the commission’s recent objections to such “high-contrast” color palettes, he said he’d accept any color.

“My proposal for a metal roof is simply to protect my home and my neighbors’ homes,” he said. “I like the color. But I don’t care — tell me what color you want, and I’ll put it on.”

Commissioner Stephanie Locke said

she doesn’t want to approve any additional metal roofs until the policy on them is decided.

“I don’t know how we move forward with these types of situations when everyone is under the impression that this is the only way to save your home from a fire, so I’m struggling right now,” commissioner Erin Allen commented.

Chair Michael LePage — who more than any of the other commissioners acknowledged the move away from the traditional wood shakes found on Carmel homes toward more fireproof materials is necessary, especially given the wildfires in Southern California — made a motion supporting Smith’s roof in a different color. He also noted that a proposed update of the residential design guidelines 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.

“We have draft guidelines supporting a standing-seam roof,” he explained.

Commissioner Stefan Karapetkov seconded it, and it passed 3-1, with Locke dissenting.

**‘Stripes everywhere’**

Barretta and the Jensens, however, weren’t so lucky.

Barretta proposed a dark bronze roof with 2-inch-high seams and 16-inch-wide aluminum panels for his wood-sided home. “Standing seam seemed to be the most architecturally palatable alternative, and it’s also lightweight and fireproof,” he said, adding that he recently had the insurance on his main home in Orinda canceled due



PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

This recently completed house on Lincoln was approved with a standing-seam metal roof, but city officials have denied others.

to fire risk and is now paying 40 percent more for California Fair Plan coverage.

He said he found the less expensive option, asphalt shingles, while acceptable to the city, a poor architectural fit for his home.

Resident Neal Kruse, an outspoken opponent of contemporary architecture and metal roofs, was adamant in his opposition.

“If we don’t resist modern trends with all we’ve got,” he said, banging his fists on the speaker’s stand with each of the last three words, “we will not have anything left of Carmel.”

“Please don’t let this town go to standing-seam metal roofs everywhere,” he continued. “It will be over.”

Allen disliked the idea of having “stripes everywhere.”

“You have stripes on the roof, you have stripes on the walls — I don’t even understand why anyone would want that look,” she said, and recommended asphalt shingles.

Locke stuck with her previously stated

See **ROOF** next page



Mary “Terri” Bilbro  
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# ROOF

From previous page

position, and while Karapetkov said he was fine with a metal roof, he voted in favor of Locke’s motion to require a different material. It passed 3-1, with LePage dissenting because he was “not comfortable denying” the right to a metal roof and because it would be appropriate for the residence.

Finally, on their contemporary Mark Mills house, the Jensens applied for a medium-bronze standing-seam metal roof. Their proposal garnered support from nine neighbors for safety and aesthetic reasons, and their architect, Gretchen Flesher, said it would be especially fitting, given the home’s architectural style.

“The roof itself is not really seen from the street,” she added.

## Foundation orientation for new members

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE NONPROFIT Carmel Foundation, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary, is inviting new members, longtime members and prospective members to an orientation Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 2:30 p.m. The session will be held in Diment Hall at Lincoln and Eighth and will provide “an opportunity to explore the foundation’s wide range of programs and services, designed to enrich the lives of seniors aged 55 and better across Monterey County and beyond,” according to the organization.

Guests will learn about the luncheon program, free mobility equipment loans, lending library, Saturday movies, and more than 60 classes and activities offered each week — with even more planned for this year. The foundation will also introduce its support services department, cover volunteer opportunities, and include a guided campus tour and a chance to connect with other members.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call (831) 624-1588 or visit [carmelfoundation.org](http://carmelfoundation.org).

Karapetkov supported the application, as did LePage, while Locke maintained her stance, and Allen said she’d “like to see something more creative.”

“Is there a way of doing a metal roof that doesn’t look like mass-manufactured painted metal?” she asked. “I would be suggesting that we go with something different.”

As a result, a motion for approval of the Jensens’ metal roof failed on a 2-2 vote, and a subsequent motion telling

them to use a different material passed 3-1, with LePage dissenting.

The newly seated Carmel City Council, on which Mayor Dale Byrne and councilmembers Bob Delves and Hans Buder are recent arrivals, has yet to take a position on the issue. If any of the homeowners denied by the commission files an appeal for a hearing before the council, that could change.

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Marty Livingston  
Michael Blas

Rhonda Mohr  
Richey Family  
Steven Keller  
Thomas Neu  
TJ Protsman  
Bob Daw  
Joe Aaron  
Susan Farina  
Gary Koeppel

### BRONZE

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Merritt House  
Sawyer Family  
Steven Mitchell  
David Buckingham  
David and Ceil Cummings  
Douglas Adams  
Lawrence Holden  
Steven and Susan Murphy  
Rick Fezell  
Andy Walker  
Dorothy Dixon

Ed and Susie Delacy  
Gary and Lou Hutchinson  
Mark Sconyers  
Michael Carter  
Michael Mordaunt  
Natalie Stewart  
Nick Glaser  
Peter Boyle  
Scott Gebhardt  
Steve Ikemya  
Steve McNally  
Ben Kline/Christine Babalis

Carmel Valley Roaster  
Christine Chew  
Gene Van Hootegen  
Marc Baseman  
Martin Wolf  
Mic Falkel  
Ric Handler  
Ron Frudden  
James Press  
JR and Cindy Hunter  
Ron Leidig  
Thomas Murray

## CHANGING LIVES ONE SCHOLARSHIP OR AWARD AT A TIME

If you would like to learn more about the MGA Scholarship Fund, recipients, scholarship opportunities or how to contribute, please contact Nic Canning: [nic@canningproperties.com](mailto:nic@canningproperties.com) | 831.241.4458





*From page 1A*

Despite the adage to never trust Mother Nature — who walloped the Peninsula so brutally last year that the final day of play

John shared other lessons learned during the AT&T's debut last year as one of the PGA Tour's eight Signature Events, with the tournament played on two courses — Pebble Beach and Spyglass Hill — instead of three and the field reduced from

"They're very golf-centric fans," he said. "It really is the best case to have the No. 1 golf course host the No. 1 players."

“We’re going to feature more of a California vibe, and the interior decor looks different. The menu will be fantastic,” he said. “And we added seats outside, which is great, because it allows many more guests to take in the view of 15 right on the green.”

"The grant-making model is funded by ticket sales. They're not expensive tickets — we kept it that way, because we want everybody to be able to come to Pebble Beach," he said.



## KATE MILLER M.A.

*If we change nothing, nothing can change.  
What is one step you can take today to begin  
the change you desire in your life?*

With over 25 years of experience, Kate has served as a consultant for local schools, supporting hundreds of students and creating impactful programs that foster growth and positive change. She also works with private clients, offering her expertise in the following areas:

### TEENS

- Peer-Related Challenges
- Social & Emotional Confidence
- Empowering Teens

### ADULTS

- Rebuilding After Divorce
- Social & Emotional Confidence
- Moving Beyond Betrayal

**Kate Miller M.A.**

831-210-2101

info@contactkatemiller.com

Phone: (831) 210-2101

www.contactkatemiller.com



*From page 1A*

# Valentine's card drive for seniors

## PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

The organization welcomes card submissions at its Salinas office at 247 Main

Kubica suggested the city update wildfire and emergency evacuation plans, remove dead brush, and have fire officials be aggressive about instructing property owners to get rid of fuel on their land.

The Alliance on Aging, a center for senior advocacy in Monterey County, can be reached at (831) 655-1334 for those interested in participating or learning about additional volunteer opportunities. More information is also available at [allianceonaging.org](http://allianceonaging.org).

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BRANDON KEITH DURHAM

With profound sadness, we announce the passing of Brandon Keith Durham, a Carmel resident who passed away on Jan. 14, 2025, at 21 years of age. He was born on Dec. 22, 2003, and grew up in Los Gatos, California before moving to Carmel in 2015. Brandon was a Stevenson High School class of '23 graduate and a beloved sophomore at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he was a psychology major. Brandon was known for being a kind, enthusiastic soul, always caring about the feelings of others and ensuring their inclusion. Brandon was also an active member of the University of Colorado Boulder snowboarding team.

He made a lasting impact on his campus communities and friends. Beyond academics, his passions included skateboarding, snowboarding, rock climbing, hiking, and spending time with friends and family. Brandon's smile and personality always brought joy to those around him.

Brandon is survived by his brother, Bryce Durham, and his father, David Durham. He is predeceased by his mother, Martina Durham. Brandon will always be remembered by those who know and love him.

A celebration of Brandon's life is in the planning. An announcement on the date will be forthcoming.

Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, my unfailing love for you will not be shaken, nor my covenant of peace be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

— Isaiah 54:10 NIV

P.G. offers free admission to Lighthouse

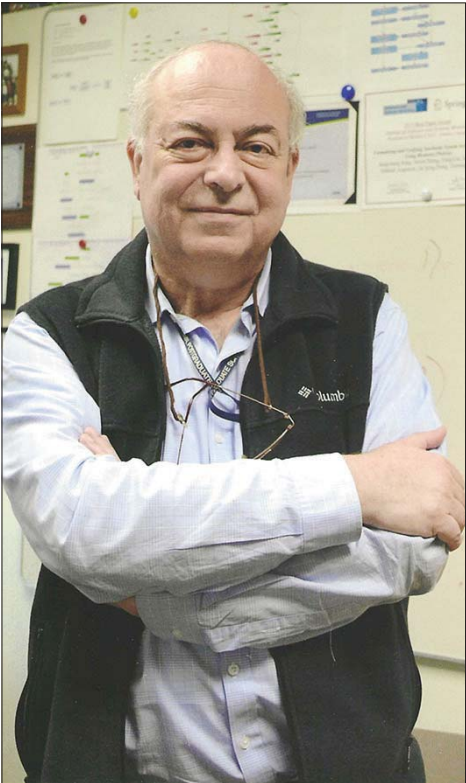
PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE POINT Pinos Lighthouse in Pacific Grove is having a birthday, and the public is invited to the celebration. On Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the City of Pacific Grove will recognize the 170th birthday of the lighthouse. The city said it will be a “fun-filled day of history, music, and family-friendly activities.

Admission is free, so bring the whole family to experience the magic of this historic landmark.” Events include games and activities, a giveaway in which 50 visitors will receive a special lighthouse birthday pin, and “captivating tales” of early lighthouse keepers and the story of Jiggs the Cat, the lighthouse’s famous feline resident. For more information and event details, visit [cityofpg.org/lighthouse](http://cityofpg.org/lighthouse).

MIKHAIL AUGUSTON

Of generous spirit and heart, an admirer of concepts like “elegance” in constructs of thought, a believer in life as precious to be lived fully, ready with “celebrations” every step along the way to acknowledge each positive life event however small, Mikhail Auguston left us too soon. Mikhail, the beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, grand-uncle died at home in Carmel Valley, CA, on Jan. 8, 2025, with family members at his side, after battling two incurable cancers for almost 12.5 years. He was 76 years old.



Mikhail was born in Riga, Latvia, to Isay Auguston and Sofia Levina on April 16, 1948. Sickly as a child, he missed school and spent many hours at home reading voraciously, self-educating himself, forming early the habit of thinking independently. He loved books and continued to make gifts of them, both fiction and nonfiction, to everyone in his life.

He graduated with a degree in mathematics from the University of Latvia, where he continued to teach and obtain a Ph.D. in mathematics. He was most proud of having brought Ada Lovelace Day to the University of Latvia, where it is still celebrated annually, recognizing the top computer science students. Ada Lovelace, the daughter of English poet Lord Byron, was a mathematician who is acknowl-

edged as the world’s first computer programmer. Mikhail later added a second Ph.D. level degree in computer science from the V.M. Glushkov Institute of Cybernetics in Ukraine. Both institutions were at that time part of the Soviet Union.

Mikhail liked to talk about how the professors were required to work during the summer on the Soviet Union’s collective farms harvesting potatoes. One of his colleagues made it a point to put one of his university business cards, like a quality control card, in each bag he filled. Or how they huddled stealthily to listen to a bootlegged recording of the Western musical “Jesus Christ Superstar.”

After the fall of the Soviet Union in December 1991, Mikhail was allowed to leave the country for the first time in his life. He said he felt like a man from Mars landing on a strange planet. He was invited to spend a year at a university in Sweden, where he was offered its tenure track. Next, he was invited to New Mexico State University, where he again was offered a tenure track. This time he accepted. A research sponsor from the Department of Defense, however, visited Mikhail at NMSU and arranged for him to come to the Naval Postgraduate School. At NPS, he accepted tenure and found a permanent home for 16 years before his retirement as a professor emeritus.

Mikhail was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2012 after returning from a Paris conference where he delivered his paper. By then, 95% of his bone marrow was cancerous, but he continued to teach at NPS and work with students on Monterey Phoenix, the behavior modeling program he created, the culmination of his life’s work. Then, 2.5 years ago, he added colon cancer to his health battle. Monterey Phoenix is ready to fly. It is being introduced into major universities in the U.S. and has gained broad support in government and industry.

Mikhail loved to pursue his software dreams and visions, but he equally treasured family and family life. He is survived by his devoted spouse and best friend of almost 24 years, Patricia Little-Auguston, Pebble Beach/Carmel; daughter, Maria Auguston (Michael Chernyavsky), Petach Tiqwa, Israel; stepdaughter Stacy Little, Santa Barbara, CA; stepson, David Little, Seattle, WA; stepson, Robert Little, Seattle, WA; sister, Cecilia Markovich (Mikhail), Twinsburg, OH; nephew, Albert Sheynkman (Angie), Strongville, OH; grandchildren, Tom Chernyavsky and Roi Chernyavsky of Petach Tiqwa, Israel; and grand-nephew, Noah Sheynkman, Strongville, OH. And, his “academic daughter,” Kristin Giammarco of NPS who will carry on his research and legacy. Funeral services took place at 1 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 17, at El Carmelo Cemetery, grave site Section N, Plot B11, Pacific Grove. Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum officiated. Mikhail, forever in our hearts.

Donations to honor Mikhail’s memory can be made to Dr. Jeffrey Wolf, UCSF, Multiple Myeloma Translational Initiative, Fund Code: B7980.



# BRENT ANDREW BISPO

Brent Andrew Bispo was a loving husband, brother, son and friend who passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 2, 2024, at his home in Carmel, CA. Born on March 9, 1964 in Groton, Connecticut, where Brent’s father Roland was stationed at New London Naval Submarine Base. The family moved with Roland’s naval career to Virginia and San Diego before settling in Pacific Grove, CA in 1972 when Roland retired from the Navy.

Brent at an early age of 8 became involved in Cub Scouts, Webelos and Boy Scouts, honing teamwork and hands-on learning skills. Brent also joined Little League Kiwanis in 1973 and began his lifelong love of mentorship as he lead the way on how others could improve their talents in the game. Little did he know that one of his coaches, Charles Shinaut, would later become his father-in-law.

At the same early age of 8 years old, he created his first surfboard by cutting off the legs of his mother’s ironing board to go surfing! A few days later Tim Flannery, a local surf legend, discovered Brent in the water with the ironing board, where he then offered Brent a skimboard, but Brent said, “No, I am a surfer. I want to ride a surfboard.” During the same year Richard Mole, Rick Firpo and Tim took Brent under their wings and taught him how to surf, and where to surf. By the time Brent was 10 years old Brent cherished surfing with the PG locals including David Stember, Forrest Millington, Michael Bauer and Scott Vucina.

Brent went to Lighthouse Elementary School, Pacific Grove Junior High School and Pacific Grove High School and graduated from Pacific Grove High in 1982. In Brent’s early 20s he started competitive surfing up and down the coastline of California. He had a competitive edge that was outstanding! He was especially involved in the local Sunshine Freestyle Surfabout events, winning best all-around waterman in 1991, 1993 and 1994, along with numerous other awards in the Sunshine Freestyle Surfabout. Brent always surrounded himself with people who understood his passions. He was very respected in the surf community and became a legendary surfer.

Brent started shaping surfboards in 1984. He learned from other shapers throughout the years including his favorite teacher and instructor of shaping, Steve Coletta. He also shaped in many shaping rooms throughout the years, helping build them with his construction skills. He then applied what he had learned from others and started ingenious, one-of-a-kind custom Bispo Surfboards. Brent became a master surfboard maker and designed unique boards shaped to the customers’ waves they were going to ride. He also spent a lot of time painting the boards with his own visionary style. For 40 years Brent crafted custom surfboards and was able to earn his living from them.

Brent said the facilitator of joy is the goal of a board builder. When you see or hear from people who light up on their boards’ performance you know how important that is to all surfers. We are blessed to be given the knowledge from mentors and the people who trust us with such a personal choice in their lives.

Brent became a commercial fisherman in the late ’80s and worked with the Monakai Corp., working on the Junior and the Buckaneer fishing vessels. He worked hand-in-hand with Jimmy Campos, the owner, and they became very successful lure legends. They were very good in the rough seas and were able to navigate through some very serious weather patterns, keeping calm and safe. Navigating the boat and staying on top of the waves were key. Even through the worst weather they managed to catch their limit in fish.

Brent was also a master in stone masonry, creating radiant stone hot tubs with his partner and friend, Jay Garretson. They lined the Big Sur Coast with many one-of-a-kind hot tubs that nobody can replace. Brent also was in construction with Travis Trapkus, building many breathtaking Big Sur homes and Travis was a remarkable teacher of the trades to Brent. Travis and Brent loved to teach others to build it like them, and I am sure what they learned was well applied in other jobs.

Brent joined the Mid Coast Fire Brigade in 2006 and resigned in 2018. He had the intention to protect our community and help others in firefighting. He was promoted to fire captain with numerous hours of hard work and training courses. With Brent’s born leadership, his team turned to him for guidance, earning trust and admiration, given his immense knowledge and steadfast presence. Brent fought wildfires throughout California and saved many homesteads from burning. He also saved lives with the jaws of life extraction tool. Brent had the expertise to carry this out. You need to be fast and efficient — not everyone can do this. Cheryl Goetz and Jake Goetz created the first ocean rescue team in Monterey and Brent, Brian Gorrell and Bryce Hall were the first to achieve certifications on the Ocean Rescue Team. They took the K38 rescue water certification courses which were extremely helpful. Brent was very proud to achieve his Ocean Lifeguard Certification at the age of 50, a rare and impressive accomplishment at that age.



Brent met his wife, Judy, at Lovers Point Beach in the early ’80s. Prior to the actual meeting, Brent had admired Judy from afar and told one of his friends he was going to marry that girl even before they ever met! He proposed to her when she met him on the North Shore of Oahu in 1989 and they married in 1991. They bought a home in the Santa Lucia mountains in the year 2000 and created a magnificent homestead with a garden that both Brent and Judy loved to work in, growing their own fruit and vegetables organically. Living in the wilderness is not an easy task but Brent and Judy were born to live out in it enjoying the hard work everyday. He loved and cherished the property and was very blessed and thankful for it. Brent and Judy enjoyed traveling to the North Shore of Oahu where Brent loved to surf and Judy loved the sun and warm water. He especially enjoyed spending time with his very good friend, Darrick Doerner, and had the opportunity of a lifetime to shape Bispo boards in his shaping room. Brent shaped many surfboards in Hawaii and had many great connections with the people who helped him and rode them. The smile on the faces of people when they got the board was the very best part of it.

Brent took the trip of his lifetime in 2024, sailing from Christmas Island to Tahiti. He said fishing the atolls and their seemingly endless crystal clear waters and white sand bottom. It was something out of heaven on earth. Thank you, Tim Watts, for making that happen.

Brent often said that he was truly blessed in his life to have good people train him to develop all types of skills. He always felt the best thing you can do is to return that gift, to make a difference in peoples lives.

Brent was a great storyteller and had a sense of humor that would leave you laughing for days! Brent’s absence leaves a void that no one can fill, but his presence is felt in every life he impacted. From the selfless acts of kindness to the way he instinctively lifted others up, his legacy is woven into the stories shared by those who knew him. His wife and best friend, Judy, his family, and countless friends carry with them the warmth of his huge heart and the lasting impact of his generosity. (When you see the sunshine sparkling like diamonds on the ocean, that’s Brent.)

Brent was preceded in passing by his parents Roland and Patricia Bispo; in-laws, Charles and Geneil Shinaut and brother-in-law, Charles Shinaut Jr. He is survived by his wife, Judy Bispo, and her sister, Barbara Tovey; as well as s siblings, Ron Bispo, Nadine and Mike Redfern, Randall and Ann Bispo, Keith and Melissa Bispo and many nieces and nephews.

**Contributions honoring his spirit can be donated to:**  
**Salinas Surf Club**  
**K38 Ocean Rescue**  
**Mid Coast Fire Brigade**  
**Operation Surf**  
**Monterey Surf Riders Foundation**

**A paddle-out in Brent’s honor will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 10, at Lovers Point beach, followed by a celebration of life at Lovers Point Park.**





PETER RILEY DYER, JR.

Peter Riley Dyer, Jr, passed away on Nov. 26, 2024, at home in Woodland. He was born in Monterey and grew up in Carmel before living in Yolo County. For more than 45 years he made a home in Woodland (where his grandmother lived after emigrating from Wales) with his wife and daughter. After graduating from York School in Monterey, he attended Stanford, eventually transferring to the University of California, Davis, where he earned a B.A. in German.



In 1976 he married Zin May Nyunt and became part of the Nyunt family clan. He worked in the construction industry before a career with United Parcel Service in a variety of positions. He ended his career as an industrial engineer at the management level as part of UPS Supply Chain Solutions.

Peter was curious, creative, inventive, a reader, humorous, and had a special affinity with cats. He had a detailed mind, was extremely thorough, loving, and supportive of his family and friends. He enjoyed exploring through travel, cuisine, research, reading, completing complicated jigsaw puzzles, and watching documentaries. He was a high school athlete, Eagle Scout, and on the staff of the White Stag leadership program. He loved time in the outdoors, especially hiking and fly-fishing at the Dyer family summer cabin in the southern Sierra, and was a gifted carpenter and woodworker.

After his wife’s death, he married Agustina Seminio in 2011 and enfolded her family into his. They spent many happy years traveling in the United States, Europe, and Asia and building a beautiful home in Bacolod, the Philippines.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Peter and Jeannine Dyer; and wife, Zin Nyunt Dyer. His loss is deeply grieved by his wife, Agustina; daughter, Alison (Brett Sikola) and his beloved granddaughters, Zoe and Zin Sikola of San Jose. He is also survived by his brothers and sister, Stephen (Cindy) of Carmel, Jane (Alan Cook) of Stockton and John (Katee) of Silver Spring, Maryland; Manzon family, Kris, Espe and Bettina of Norwich, England; Tim, Rica, Matthew, Sophia and Inigo of Bacolod; the extended Nyunt family; cousins Nicholas and Richard Sturch and Susanne Dyer; four nieces and nephews, and 13 great-nieces and nephews and extended family on the East Coast, in England and New Zealand.

A private memorial will be held at the family home on Feb. 8th.  
Memorial donations can be made to Doctors Without Borders.

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

ALEXANDER 'BAMMY' S. SHIRLEY

Alexander (Bammy) S. Shirley was born on March 20, 1964, and entered into eternal rest with Jesus, on Jan. 12, 2025. He brought joy to so many with his music, positive outlook on life and friendship.



Alexander was born in Montego Bay, Jamaica, to Basil and Beverly Shirley, and became a United States citizen on Oct. 29, 2009.

He played reggae and blues around California's Central Coast, primarily in Carmel, Monterey and Santa Cruz, for more than 30 years, with different bands, and was the founding member, lead vocalist and bass guitarist for the reggae band, Jonah and the Whale Watchers.

Alex grew up in a musical family with several siblings, and his mother and father. His father, Basil Shirley, was an accomplished drummer, and had a major influence on Alex's decision to become a musician and a Rastafarian.

His father welcomed Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia, to Jamaica in 1966, by playing drums before a crowd of about 100,000 Rastafarians. The Rastafarian religion reveres Emperor Selassie I.

Alex learned to play many instruments, including drums and guitar, with bass guitar being his favorite. He joined his dad's band, along with his brother, Prince Shirley, and played in Kingston, Montego Bay, Ochos Rios and Negril in Jamaica, before playing for many years on several cruise ships.

Alex will live on in his music. Many videos of his performances can be found online on YouTube. "Turn It Up" is Alex's solo reggae album that came out in 2016, with a touch of blues. It includes 15 original songs which he wrote, sang, and played all the instruments for, except keyboards, and keyboard effects. His album includes songs with social relevance messages, as well as dance and love songs. His "Turn It Up" CD is available at Amazon, CD Baby, iTunes, Spotify, and several other internet music sites and streaming services.

Alex is survived by his two daughters, Alicia Stephenson and Lisa Shirley; and his grandchildren. He is also survived by his brothers, Neville, Winston and Kieno; and his sisters, Jackie, Charm and Beauty. His brothers, David and Prince, predeceased Alex.

He had a large devoted fan base, and will be missed by all who knew him. He was so full of life, it is hard to believe he has passed.

Graveside service and interment for Alex took place Jan. 22 at San Carlos Cemetery, 792 Fremont St., Monterey, CA 93940.

BAY  
From page 9A

modern California Coastal masterpiece while remaining within the existing development footprint.”

The overhaul will also “further enhance the golf course’s environmental standing and upgrade its infrastructure for the next generation,” the company promised.

Hanse, the president and lead designer of HGCD, observed that golf on the Monterey Peninsula is “an unrivaled experience” and said he and his team “are thrilled at the opportunity to put our stamp on one of the most spectacular backdrops in the world.”

Colin McDonald, senior communications manager for Pebble Beach Co., said locals in particular will be interested to know that the project’s scope was expanded to include reconstruction of the iconic Spanish Bay boardwalk, which was damaged in recent storms. Work on that critical element of public access is set to begin in a few months.

In addition, McDonald confirmed the inn and its restaurants and other amenities will remain open while the course is closed.

Lots of rules

In the 1930s, the Pebble Beach Company’s sand plant at Spanish Bay was its only profitable enterprise. Nearly a half-century later, in November 1987, the Spanish Bay Golf Links opened on the former mining site, bringing to fruition a plan that had been envisioned since the 1970s. The late Marvin Davis, who had made his fortune in the petroleum industry and owned 20th Century Fox, had by then added P.B. Co. to his portfolio.

Jones was already in Del Monte Forest working on the new Poppy Hills Golf Course when he was hired alongside Tatum and Watson to design Spanish Bay. Because it had been used for mining, the land required extensive rehabilitation of the dunes and native plants as part of its permit approvals, and the company was also required to preserve the native habitat that had been left unscathed by the sand plant’s operations. The redesign will work around those protected areas.

NEIL FRANCIS SMITH

Sept. 27, 1926 ♦ Nov. 16, 2024

Neil Smith, loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, long-time teacher and outdoor enthusiast, passed away peacefully with family by his side in Santa Rosa, CA.

Born in Reno, NV, Neil grew up in the Oakland, East Bay area. As a teenager, he would often hitchhike to Yosemite to hike and camp with a buddy. He was drafted by the Navy during World War II, where



he was assigned to work on his undergraduate degree at the College of the Pacific. He completed his undergraduate degree at UC Berkeley where he was a member of the gymnastics team.

After graduation, he moved to the Monterey Peninsula and began his teaching career. While teaching in Carmel schools, starting at Sunset School, Neil would lead adventurous outings with his students to Yosemite, Mt. Diablo and Pinnacles, and jaunts from River School to the Carmel River lagoon area. Neil loved to explore and share with others the beauty and challenge of the great outdoors. He finished his long, illustrious teaching career at Tularcitos Elementary School in Carmel Valley and Captain Cooper School in Big Sur.

In addition to spending time with his family, Neil loved biking, music, art, playing the piano, gardening, his caring group, his dogs, long trips, and challenging his children to various athletic feats.

Much later in life, Neil and his wife, Ann Priebe, moved from California to Kirkland, WA. After the passing of his beloved wife of nearly 40 years, Neil relocated to Santa Rosa to be closer to family. Neil leaves behind daughters, Dorie (Smith) Ammons and Elizabeth (Priebe) Homsey (Sam); sons, Joel Smith (Anna Jin), David Priebe (Rachel Oser) and Nicholas Priebe (Jessica Hanover); 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A gathering in remembrance of Neil will take place at Ribera Beach in the summer of 2025.

Thanks, Pop, from all of us.



# Post Ranch Inn welcomes new bistro named for late architect

By CHRIS COUNTS

PAYING TRIBUTE to the late architect Mickey Muennig — who designed the high-end cliffside resort — Post Ranch Inn this week announced the opening of Mickey’s restaurant.

“Capturing the warmth and beauty of Big Sur,” Mickey’s will offer a cozy and intimate bistro-style experience inside an art gallery, according to the resort.

Post Ranch Inn’s award-winning Sierra Mar restaurant is closed for renovation for two months, so Mickey’s will give guests an onsite dining option.

“Mickey’s presents a fresh perspective to the culinary offerings, with a casual à la carte lunch menu featuring items such as

a smash burger, croque monsieur, charred caesar salad, wild mushroom risotto, fennel and apple salad, striped bass, venison and chorizo chili, steak frites, and more — all conceived and crafted by chef Reylon Agustin,” the inn announced. “The bistro is open exclusively to hotel guests for dinner,” but the public can eat there for lunch.

### Innovative and original

A wildly inventive architect whose accomplishments included designing Hawthorne Galley and the bath complex at Esalen Institute in Big Sur, along with many private homes down the coast and elsewhere, Muennig died in June 2021 at age 86.

The architect visited Big Sur in the

early 1970s when he took a workshop at Esalen. His daughter, Michelle, was a young child at the time. “Mickey came to Big Sur to take a workshop at Esalen and returned home to announce that we, his wife and two children, were moving to Big Sur,” she recalled in 2021.

Later in life, he earned the nickname, “The White Elf,” for his abundant, frizzy, white hair, funny stance, and one raised eyebrow.

Muennig was recognized by Architectural Digest as one of the top 100 architects in the United States.

“His architecture became a legend both in Big Sur and around the world,” his

daughter added. “It was innovative, original, and he often forgot to add a closet. You can feel him within his structures.”



PHOTO/NICOLE KRAFT

Mickey’s at Post Ranch Inn offers guests an onsite dining option in the coming months while Sierra Mar restaurant is renovated.

## VIEWS

From page 7A

He complained that Lim refused to talk to them about her plans, which didn’t even come to light for them until the story poles went up, and that she sent Hastings and Phares to represent her. He also argued Hastings grossly understated the impacts to their views and said the flagging for Lim’s proposed residence can be seen “from every window in the house.”

“Every reasonable person who’s looked at this design has said this is wrong and this is unfair to us,” he said. He suggested Lim excavate if she wants two stories home.

Gwynn McColl shared similar thoughts, along with the hope that they and Lim can still find an acceptable compromise.

Phares noted the design complies with the design guidelines and ordinances and said digging isn’t an option, considering the flatness of the lot. “We’ve done everything you guys have asked us to,” she said. “We’ve already made a lot of concessions. I’m not sure it will ever be solved, but

we’ve tried our best,” she said.

Commissioners didn’t have much to say that hadn’t been said during past hearings.

“I am supportive of doing a denial at this point,” commissioner Stephanie Locke said, based on the project’s failure to meet the required conditions regarding consistency with the city’s objectives for public and private views and “the goals, objectives and policies related to residential design in the general plan.” As a result, Lim’s proposal also fails to conform with the city’s local coastal program.

“Privacy and access to views are what are behind our requests for redesign on this project,” she reiterated.

Commissioner Erin Allen concurred.

“I’m sad that we couldn’t get a resolution, and hopefully the city council has a different way of approaching this that might work,” she said.

“I think we did our best on this, but this is a very exhausting process,” commented commissioner Stefan Karapetkov. “Going for the same project three times is really painful.”

The commission unanimously denied Lim’s application.

### SUSAN JEAN HREN

It is with deep sadness that we announce the unexpected passing of Susan Jean Hren on Dec. 20, 2025, while visiting Tacoma, WA, for her annual Christmas holiday with family and friends. Her sudden departure has left all who knew her in shock, but we find comfort in imagining that she embarked on a magical journey straight to the stars.

Susan was born in Puyallup, WA, on Aug. 7, 1947. She is survived by her siblings, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and the Peterson Conway children, whom she loved and cherished deeply.

Susan’s extraordinary journey as a master weaver began serendipitously in her early 20s when she met an Armenian rug master weaver, Aroot Kirishian, in Tacoma. Under his mentorship, she apprenticed for several years, eventually establishing herself as a renowned weaver and rug restorer. Her devotion to her craft led her to travel the world, studying with elite weavers and mastering techniques that made her a trusted expert in her field.

In the late 1970s, Susan settled on the Monterey Peninsula, where she specialized in restoring and cleaning valuable Persian rugs and managed the Conway of Asia Carmel store. She developed a deep bond with the Conway family and maintained lifelong relationships with the Conway children, whom she held close to her heart.

Susan was a vibrant soul with a passion for life and an unwavering commitment to spreading love and light. She had a deep appreciation for astrology and numerology, often delighting her loved ones with detailed horoscopes and personalized numerological year plans. Her intuitive nature and insightful understanding of the human spirit offered guidance and comfort to those fortunate enough to know her.

A person of immense compassion and generosity, Susan dedicated herself to helping others and leaving the world better than she found it. Her warmth, talent, and genuine kindness resonated with everyone she encountered, whether through her friendships, family ties, or professional relationships.

Susan’s passing leaves an irreplaceable void in the hearts of her loved ones.

**A private memorial service will be held. For those who wish to celebrate Susan’s life on Jan. 26, 2025, please email [ellenmcarmel@aol.com](mailto:ellenmcarmel@aol.com) for more information.**



### Chiara Vultaggio

Loving mother, wife, daughter, sister, cousin and friend to many, Chiara Vultaggio passed away peacefully in her daughter’s home surrounded by members of her family on Jan. 4, 2025.

Chiara was born in 1933 in Sicily, Italy; happily married Antonino Vultaggio (deceased); immigrated to America and became a United States citizen; and made Monterey her home for 62 years.

Chiara exemplified the role of matriarch to her family to which she had entirely dedicated herself.

Over her lifetime, Chiara also showed her love and care to her extended family and many friends with open arms and an open kitchen, and unforgettably good food, delicious pastries, cups of coffee or tea, a compassionate heart and many sage life lessons.

In short, Chiara made everyone who entered feel at home, and by the time they left, feel like family.

Chiara was predeceased by her brothers: Gaspere, Salvatore and Leonardo.

She will be greatly missed by many, most especially by her four children: Peter, Filippo, Giovanna and Anthony; her in-laws, Maximo, Maisie and Nina; and her six grandchildren, Nino, Fiorella, Anna, Gabriella, Marco and Chiara.

Services in Chiara Vultaggio’s memory will be held at the following times and locations:

Visitation and Rosary are set for Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, starting at 5 p.m. PT, with the Rosary starting at 6 p.m. PT, at The Paul Mortuary, 390 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, at St. Angela Merici, 362 Lighthouse Ave, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

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# Editorial

## Most regrettable

RECENT HEARINGS in front of the Carmel Planning Commission have seen the return of arguments that are so discredited, you wonder how anybody marshals the courage to utter them. Isn't it embarrassing to say something that's painfully and obviously wrong?

You might think so, but there was a member of the planning commission last week, weighing in against metal roofs, which several residents want to install as a fire prevention measure, by saying, "We can't have every single roof metal here, because it will change the look of our community."

We used to hear this kind of thing about trees, too. During storms, some of our aging Monterey pines invariably fall, which brings a rush of applications to remove some of the trees that tower over — and terrify — the people living in their shadows.

Living among trees is a blessing for about 350 days a year. But when winter storms rush onshore with their winds of 60-70 mph, a giant pine can suddenly be transformed from a friendly neighbor into a fearsome intruder. Sure, Carmel is proud of its forested setting, but that doesn't mean you have to ignore the dangers. Trees are a scenic and healthful resource valued by everyone — but, like all natural resources, trees also have to be managed if humans are living in the vicinity.

Tree huggers, of course, disagree. They think trees are so valuable, all human considerations must fall by the wayside. So powerful is this school of thought in California, it's not uncommon for the law to require a property owner to get a permit to remove even a small branch. And cut a tree down? You practically have to prove it will fall in the next five minutes.

Logic and reason fall by the wayside when tree huggers are in the room — which explains why, several years ago, during a permit hearing for a family that wanted to remove an aging pine they feared would damage their home or take their lives, an activist uttered the memorable words, "We can't let trees be removed just because someone's afraid of them, because if we do, pretty soon we won't have any trees."

To which we asked, "If everyone wants to cut down their trees, why is it illegal?" A point that could equally be made about metal roofs: If everybody wants one, why are they banned? Isn't this a democracy?

Equally dumb is the idea, also heard at the planning commission last week, that you can't be allowed to build a house, even if it meets all the zoning on your property, unless your neighbor approves.

By definition, this type of situation is the opposite of "zoning." Its very name makes clear it is supposed to apply equally to everyone within a zone. But on Casanova Street, the owner of a standard Carmel lot has gone through multiple, expensive revisions of plans for her proposed home, all to try to appease a neighbor who apparently can never be appeased. This should not be.

Memo to everyone in Carmel: If you are concerned about possible new development in your neighborhood, you must educate yourself about the zoning rules on all the property that's important to you and assume that every piece will be built to something close to the maximum allowed by the zoning. If that level of development is too much for you, do not wait for someone who lives close by to apply for a permit. Take your objections to city hall and try to get the zoning changed. And if you don't succeed, don't take it out on the neighbor, who is only trying to follow the rules. Let them have the benefit of the zoning that applies to them, just as you'll want the benefit of the rules that apply to you.

A little common sense, not to mention courtesy, would make many of the town's bitterest and most common disputes disappear, and it is most regrettable that this so rarely seems to happen.

## BEST of BATES



“Aren’t sunsets romantic? Let’s go back home and finish our needlepoint.”

## Letters to the Editor

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

**The Pine Cone only accepts letters to the editor by email. Please submit your letters to [mail@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:mail@carmelpinecone.com)**

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**‘Everything we can’**

**Dear Editor,**

You asked in last week's editorial, "Are we doing everything we can to keep a fire from destroying the neighborhoods we love?" The fires in L.A. demonstrate how destructive a wind-driven ember storm can be. Nature could do something similar here.

The contributors to destructiveness are several. Most notably are regulatory restrictions and lack of funding for fire fuel reduction throughout the community, deficiencies in individual structure hardening, and limitations on firefighting capabilities. Creating fire safety requires continuous action to manage them all.

Are "we" doing everything we can? Of course not. Money and political will are the limiting factors. Police, sanitation, housing, health, etc., all demand resources, as well. The relative priority of these services for funding are political choices and

it is up to the electorate to choose leaders with the right priorities. Life, property, and the environment all need protection from wildfire.

A parallel problem is insurance. When carriers experience abnormal losses as a result of deficiencies, it's understandable for them to discontinue insurance policies in that area. We should recognize that substantial solution of the wildfire problem would largely eliminate the insurance problem.

We've seen individual homes left standing in the midst of recent fires. What was special about them? They all were individually hardened against fire with non-flammable exterior materials. Homes that do not have defensible space or are not sufficiently fire hardened are themselves a threat since they, too, can generate flaming embers. Hardening is not simply a protection for the individual home, it is protection for the whole community.

CalFire has webpages that further explain the important steps that should be taken to harden a home against fire. See <https://readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/hardening-your-home>.

**Rick Verbanec, Pebble Beach**

**Reducing fire risk**

**Dear Editor,**

There was lots of appropriate teeth-gnashing at last week's Carmel Planning Commission meeting. Given the horrors we saw in L.A., we worry: Can that happen here? Of course it can. Great that it

See LETTERS page 26A

■ **Publisher** ..... Paul Miller ([paul@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:paul@carmelpinecone.com))  
■ **Production/Sales Manager** ..... Jackie Miller ([jackie@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:jackie@carmelpinecone.com))  
■ **Office Manager**..... Irma Garcia (274-8645)  
■ **Reporters** ..... Mary Schley (274-8660), Chris Counts (274-8665)  
..... Kelly Nix (274-8664)  
■ **Features Editor**..... Elaine Hesser (274-8661)  
■ **Editorial Assistant**..... Emilie Ruiz ([emilie@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:emilie@carmelpinecone.com))  
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■ For complete contact info: <https://carmelpinecone.com/contact.html>

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

**Deliveries:** 734 Lighthouse Ave.,  
Pacific Grove CA 93950

**Telephone:** (831) 274-8593

**Email:** [mail@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:mail@carmelpinecone.com)  
or [firstname@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:firstname@carmelpinecone.com)

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# To save the Earth, save the ocean

MICHAEL SUTTON’S father was a ranger with the National Park Service for 40 years, and his mother was a Ph.D. geologist and paleontologist. Together, they authored 20 books, shared an insatiable curiosity for the natural environment, were inseparable and traveled the world, studying it. That explains Sutton’s passion for his career, which led to his job as executive director of the Goldman Environmental Prize “for sustained and significant efforts to protect and enhance the natural environment,” according to its website.

Sutton lives in Carmel Valley with his wife, Hilary LeForte — a conservationist in her own right — and son Matthew, who’s completing a bachelor’s degree in



PHOTO/COURTESY MICHAEL SUTTON

Carmel Valley resident Michael Sutton’s lifelong work in environmental science led to his job as executive director of the Goldman Environmental Prize.

ecology and evolutionary biology, “carrying on the fight,” said Sutton. Their daughter, Sallie, studies at the Royal Central School of Drama in London.

## Great Barrier Reef

Sutton was born in Washington D.C. and grew up in Alexandria, Va., where he attended Burgundy Farm Country Day School, a private elementary school. “My seventh-grade teacher was a great naturalist. That, and my travels with my parents as they wrote their natural history books, set my course,” he said.

At 15, he was teaching subjects such as ornithology and freshwater biology as a student at the Burgundy Center for Wild-

wasn’t going to be enough to solve the problems he believed the oceans were — and are — facing.

His dad had told him, “We defeated fascism and won World War II and the Cold War. Now it’s your turn. Your challenge is man’s degradation of the natural environment and climate change — you better win.” Sutton wanted to be on the front lines of that fight, and adding a law degree gave him one foot in each camp — science and policy.

## Lucrative as narcotics

Sutton spent 10 years in the 1980s and ’90s as a national park ranger and a U.S. Department of the Interior fish and wildlife agent working on wildlife smuggling cases and crimes — difficult to combat, because, he said, trade in wildlife is as lucrative as narcotics.

In the late 1990s, while working in London directing the Global Marine Conservation Campaign for the World Wildlife Fund, Sutton founded the Marine Stewardship Council. He said that among its many achievements, the group created the world’s first creditable safe-seafood label, using strict criteria to help consumers identify products that are deemed environmentally preferable. In 1999, he moved to the San Francisco Bay area to direct global marine funding for the Packard Foundation, one of the world’s largest private funders of marine and terrestrial conservation.

Six years later, Julie Packard — founding director of the Monterey Bay Aquarium — asked Sutton to be VP of its Center for the Future of the Oceans. It was where he’d always wanted to be, on the front lines of conservation. “Almost three-quarters of the planet is ocean,” he declared. “If we’re going to save the planet we better think about the ocean.”

## Governor’s legacy

Sutton assisted in the campaign to pass the Marine Life Protection Act in 1999 and was deeply involved in its implementation. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed him to two terms from 2007 to 2015 on the California Fish and Game Commission (Fish and Wildlife renowned in 2013). During that time, Sutton said, they divided the state’s coast into four regions and created an elaborate public process to review proposed marine protected areas. He added that many people believe the commission’s most significant accomplishment “was to create the nation’s largest network” of such areas along California’s coast.

He was elected president of the commission and became a member of its

See **LIVES** page 27A

# Great Lives

By CARLIN JARDINE

life Studies in the mountains of West Virginia. He graduated from Utah State University with a degree in wildlife biology in 1974, then completed two years of graduate school in Sydney, Australia, in the late 1970s and early ’80s, studying the Great Barrier Reef. He regularly made the 1,200-mile trip from Sydney to the reef, sometimes for six weeks at a stretch.

Sutton then returned to the United States to complete a law degree, realizing that studying wildlife and the environment

# Finding expression and freedom in creating abstract works

FEW THINGS are as alluring as a blank canvas to an abstract artist like Oya Bolgun, who spills her emotions and shares her secrets through colors, shapes, lines, forms and textures.

The language she speaks with her acrylic paints, brushes and an assortment of mixed-media materials is uniquely

create drawings or paintings that realistically depicted her subjects. Bolgun was very good at that, but, for her, realism seemed limiting.

“I felt a little bit stuck. Drawing or painting something that looks like a photograph wasn’t very satisfying,” she said. “I found myself too deeply focused on technique, and I wanted something different. I wanted freedom.”

She credits two Ball State instructors — artist Nina B. Marshall and watercolorist Marilyn Derwenskus — for

broadening her artistic horizons, which ultimately led to her transformation to abstraction as her visual language 30 years ago.

“Things change when you get to university,” she said. “You meet new people, you learn from your teachers, and you grow in many ways,” she said.

## It starts with a vision

Her process as she approaches a blank canvas is somewhat unusual among abstract painters: She frequently has a strong concept of the finished painting before she applies the first stroke.

“In my mind, the painting is already done. There’s something I want to say and thoughts or feelings I want to express,” she said.

“I have a vision in my head of what it’s going to look like, but, of course, I also like flexibility. Sometimes my thinking will change as the painting progresses.”

Feedback from others — including criticism — is also important to Bolgun, who is interested in knowing how viewers interpret what they see.

“As an abstract painter, I always feel like I’m in a dark room. I love when people tell me what they think and how the painting makes them feel,” she said.

“I think of myself as a poet who uses colors, shapes, objects, and lines to write her poems,” Bolgun wrote on her website.

## Sketches

The vocation might have been destiny for Bolgun, the firstborn child in an artistic family. Her father, who taught literature, and her mother, a homemaker, enthusiastically encouraged all types of creativity.

“Two of my sisters became sculptors, and I have a brother who does ceramic art. As the oldest, it was important to me to set an example,” said Bolgun, whose schoolgirl notebooks were adorned on nearly every page with sketches she made as she did homework or studied for an exam. “When they saw me doing artistic things, I think they wanted to do it, too.”

See **ARTIST** page 38A

# Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

her own, and interpretation is left to the beholder.

If the viewer is touched in some way, Bolgun feels exhilarated. If not, that’s OK, too, because her art is deeply personal.

“Abstract art is about freedom. It allows you to think differently, and my motivation comes from that flexibility. I want my art to encourage critical thinking,” said Bolgun, a Marina resident, whose mixed-media collage-style paintings are on exhibit through Feb. 27 in the Dyke Gallery at Pacific Grove Art Center (568 Lighthouse Ave.).

That show also includes paintings by Elizabeth Murray in the center’s Gill Gallery, Yuliya Greben in the Annand Gallery, and work by art students from Pacific Grove and Monterey high schools.

## A means of expression

A native of Turkey, Bolgun had limited English-language skills when she came to the United States with her husband, Ali, to study at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

When the right words eluded her, she sometimes found solace in her art as a means of expression.

She was a representational artist when she arrived at the university, heavily focused on perfecting her technique to



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

The abstract art of Marina painter Oya Bolgun, a native of Turkey, is part of an exhibition that runs through Feb. 27 at the Pacific Grove Art Center.

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## PREPARE

From page 1A

be able to ask questions.

“You can always do more in preparation, but we’re in a good situation in that the city and our partners have been working on fire prevention for a few years, now,” added assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson. “And we’ll talk about if there is anything we learned from the fires in the south that we can do to be more prepared. This isn’t a reactionary thing. We’ve got a lot of plans in place, and we want to make sure people know about them.”

Rerig added that MFD conducts surveys to ensure property owners are maintaining their parcels in a fire-safe manner and will provide information to anyone interested in hardening a home against fire.

“To further safeguard residents, the Monterey Fire Department has been conducting defensible space and home hardening inspections in high hazard severity zones,” Monterey officials said. “These inspections are part of a broader initiative to ensure that homes and properties — both public and private — are prepared for potential wildfire risks.”

Monterey is also encouraging the formation of Firewise USA communities — neighborhoods that work with public agencies to implement fire safety measures.

In addition, a wildfire prevention and community fire safety town hall meeting, with the date to be determined, will take place at the Monterey Conference Center. City officials said the panel will consist of representatives of the fire department, police department and forestry division, and experts from Cal Am and PG&E.

Of course, a salient question at any of these sessions might be what makes the Monterey Peninsula different from the City of Los Angeles and its communities, including Pacific Palisades, which also had robust wildfire prevention plans. In fact, the Pacific Palisades Community Council in September 2024 received a presentation

on readiness from the L.A. Fire Safe Council detailing everything from having a planned response, building fire-hardened homes — including fire-safe roofing materials — and creating defensible space around residences to help keep them from burning, to being evacuation-ready and other critical elements. But when conditions were right, their communities burned.

### Hydrants online

Considering that hydrants ran low and water supplies were quickly depleted as crews battled the Palisades Fire and others, Miller said he has been fielding a lot of questions about the reliability of the system here. “As you can imagine, I have been inundated with questions, concerns, requests for information,” he said.

He told The Pine Cone that California American Water Co. is “responsible to flow test all of the fire hydrants in their service area, which includes Carmel.”

“I have reached out to them, and they have assured me that the water system is fully operational and all fire hydrant flow testing is up to date — standard is to flow 20 percent of hydrants every year in a five-year cycle per the National Fire Protection Association,” he said.

Cal Am spokesperson Josh Stratton said the utility “is committed in its efforts toward enhancing wildfire preparedness and helping to ensure the reliability of water service during emergencies.”

The company “has practices and plans in place for maintaining tank levels, modifying system maintenance, and preparing backup power sources in high-risk wildfire areas when notified about red-flag fire warnings,” he continued. “Our operations teams prioritize system reliability through the strategic placement and use of backup power generation, energy storage systems, and engineering for resiliency.”

He said Cal Am diligently maintains and inspects hydrants and “prepares comprehensive risk and resiliency plans to identify and help mitigate potential threats to our water infrastructure, including fire risks.”



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# GRASS

From page 3A

settings, natural forest character and natural materials,” and the Carmel Municipal Code prohibits “unnatural” landscape design.

Wallace said several California cities have already banned fake grass or are considering doing so, including Millbrae, Palo Alto and Los Angeles.

### Have it? Keep it

While the policy would give decision-makers the authority to deny applications for fake grass, it would not require residents who have it to rip it out, she added. Some other jurisdictions have done so, however, giving residents 10 years to get rid of it.

Wallace asked commissioners to consider the proposed policy and make a recommendation to the city council. The same will be requested of the planning commission, she said.

Commissioner Sarah Berling said the update of the city’s residential design guidelines might overlap with some of the policy Wallace presented and suggested waiting until after that process concludes.

Recalling reports of student athletes being stricken with cancer after playing on artificial turf a few years back, commissioner Tamara Michie said she was comfortable moving ahead.

“It’s a serious thing,” she said. “I certainly see the danger in this. I’m comfortable with not using it from this point, on.”

But studies on the issue are far from clear.

### ‘Ongoing and inconclusive’

“Due to the paucity of health-focused studies on artificial turf, risk assessors have not been able to make confident recommendations, and communities have come to a wide range of conclusions about installation of artificial turf in parks and schools,” reads a 2022 journal article published by the National Institute of Health’s National Library of Medicine. “In conclusion, few laboratory and epidemiology studies have been performed on the potential health impacts of artificial turf in athletes and communities, despite the abundance of evidence of carcinogens, neurotoxins, mutagens and endocrine disruptors in its components. The existing studies have focused exclusively on a single component, crumb rubber infill, neglecting the complexity of the mixture caused by simultaneous

exposure to all components.”

The Mount Sinai Children’s Environmental Health Center at the Institute for Climate Change, Environmental Health and Exposomics “recommends against the installation of artificial turf playing surfaces and fields due to the uncertainties surrounding the safety of these products and the potential for dangerous heat and chemical exposures.” The position paper, published in July 2024, observes that studies “to assess the safety of artificial turf are ongoing and inconclusive.”

Chair Kelly Brezoczky agreed with Michie. “Commissioner Michie and I have children who were in the era that they discovered this was an issue,” she said. “I would certainly support grandfathering in anyone who has used these materials,” but it makes good environmental sense to stop using them.

Commissioner Gerald Montmorency said the policy should focus exclusively on banning the use of artificial turf and not go into other landscaping issues — such as

the “natural” look of things or whether lawns in general are appropriate in Carmel — since matters like those are addressed in other policies and codes.

### All in favor

Four members of the public testified in favor of the proposed prohibition.

“The state is just wising up to a very bad decision they made before they had the scientific information to make a wise decision,” resident Melanie Billig said.

Others pointed out fake turf is bad for the soil underneath it and for nearby trees and vegetation.

Montmorency made the motion to recommend the city council ban synthetic grass, and Brezoczky and Michie agreed, while Berling chose to abstain. (According to city attorney Brian Pierik, “if a commissioner participates in the proceedings on a matter and then abstains from voting, the vote shall be recorded as an affirmative vote on the motion.”)



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# LETTERS

From page 22A

hasn't happened yet, but it could. So each of us must ask ourselves: Have we done what we can to reduce the risk to our homes (fire-resistant materials, cleared brush and vegetation, etc.)?

What are we willing to do? We could clear-cut 93921, and the fire risk would drop. That's no one's preference, so the trees will stay. Here's another radical idea: Eliminate our own fire risk almost entirely by moving into a modern apartment building in a city the size of Monterey or Salinas.

The good news is, there are many and better tradeoffs to reducing the danger, including more varieties of roof materials. We can push on the city and county governments to better prepare for fire. Maybe invest in a reservoir and pump system, leveraging the big beautiful Pacific Ocean next door.

Whatever our personal risk tolerance may be, we should do what we can to reduce the dangers and then accept the risk that comes with life in a village in a forest, and celebrate and enjoy our privileged piece of Heaven.

**Joe DiNucci, Carmel**

## 'Spur us to action'

Dear Editor,

The Los Angeles fire tragedy should spur us to action. All the elements are in place to support a similar debacle here. Entire villages can be swallowed up in minutes or hours, especially ones like Carmel with homes built closely together, many with wood framing and exterior wood sheathing.

The danger is obvious, and it does not require a committee to debate the obvious. When wildfires erupted in L.A., there were not enough firefighters, equipment, or water — not enough preventatives, and no plans for evacuation. Is it different here?

Carmel, Pebble Beach, the county and the state need to activate men with shovels and heavy machinery to create credible firebreaks. They could start in Pescadero Canyon, which is a dangerous morass. Residents of an "urban forest" must take responsibility, too, by pruning trees and

eliminating flammable ground cover in yards and common spaces. All the elements are present for Carmel to become another Pacific Palisades, but with less time and fewer avenues of escape if and when it happens.

**C. Robert Pettit, Carmel**

### Twin toxic industries

Dear Editor,

The Central Coast has two industries that are joined at the hip: electricity storage plants and offshore wind. These well-intended efforts to address environmental issues such as climate change instead are responsible for profound environmental damage. The toxic explosion at Vistra Corp's Moss Landing plant encapsulates that environmental impact: carcinogenic clouds lingering for days, exposing thousands of our people.

These toxic industries exist because Sacramento politicians promoted them, voting to support them with subsidies and environmental waivers. Why, given that offshore wind has killed thousands of whales in the North Sea and New England (according to government data), not to mention released carcinogenic bisphenol A into the Atlantic Ocean? Moss Landing has had four toxic, explosive fires in the last five years. Given that level of environmental destruction, let's demand that our incumbents disclose how much money they have received from offshore wind and Vistra Corp, including PAC money.

**C. Michael Hogan, Monterey**

## Battery facility must not be rebuilt

Dear Editor,

The battery facility at Moss Landing must never be allowed to be rebuilt. When a county supervisor says that we were duped into believing this event could never happen, that says it all. Duped by professionals.

The 700-million-watt Moss Landing facility stored the equivalent of 10,000 fully charged cars. If the wind had been blowing stronger from the west last week, thousands of people inland from Moss Landing would be dead or wish they were, literally before they could have been evacuated or even notified.

Hydrofluoric acid. Folks should Google it. It even enters the body through the skin.

Vistra is using all the buzzwords now, I imagine to make sure we all presume a rebuild is a given. Buzzwords like "community," "cooperation," "partnering" and "working together" — all examples of textbook public relations crisis management.

Of course it will happen again, just like there will be more and more electric vehicles bursting into unextinguishable flames. Again, "The battery facility at Moss Landing must never be allowed to be rebuilt."

**Jon Levy, Carmel**

## Flanders birthday

Dear Editor,

Happy birthday, Flanders Mansion! This year marks your 100th anniversary. Despite your significance as a treasure on the National Register of Historic Places, you remain in limbo — depreciating year by year and costing the city increasing amounts to maintain. It's time to ask: What will become of you?

Previous councils have wrestled with this taxpayer liability without resolution, and the burden continues to grow. While selling, restoring or leasing the property have all been considered, the problem remains unresolved.

The options are narrowing:

- Continue using taxpayer dollars to repair and mitigate damage from vandalism and time — an unsustainable approach that benefits no one.
- Allow the property to be demolished by neglect — a path fraught with liabilities and a loss of heritage that our

community cannot justify.

- Pursue a solution that preserves this historic treasure, benefits the public, and harmonizes with the Mission Trails Nature Preserve and the Hatton Fields neighborhood.

To our fellow residents, are we truly prepared to let this historic property continue to decay and drain resources, or can we unite around a path forward?

The Flanders Mansion Restoration Committee has developed the viable plan under Option 3. This thoughtful, low-impact plan protects the property, complements Mission Trails, respects the neighborhood and ensures financial sustainability. They bring vision, a nonprofit framework and the dedication to restore Flanders Mansion for generations to come. But this effort requires the support of city leaders and the community.

You can visit [carmeloutlands.org/contact-us](http://carmeloutlands.org/contact-us) to sign up for updates and learn how you can be part of the solution. Whether you're a resident, city official, or community member, join them in finding a solution. Let's make 2025 the year we restore the Flanders Mansion — a year of renewal, action, and community pride.

**Bobby Richards, former councilmember**  
**Ken White, former mayor, Carmel**

# FIRE

From page 8A

She reminded the public that before it was OK'd, several groups, including building trade organizations and the famously skeptical Sierra Club, gave the Vistra battery plant their full support. Daniels said she recalled community group Friends, Artists and Neighbors of Elkhorn Slough expressing concerns about the facility, and that it was not required to get a permit from the California Coastal Commission.

She also wanted to know about alternatives to lithium-ion batteries, including what she called "cleaner solutions."

However, the battery facility — and others next to it, including the PG&E one, which uses open-air batteries made by Tesla — were intended to be the "clean energy" alternative to dreaded fossil fuels, a lofty goal that California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Democratic lawmakers are passionately pursuing.

Church's predecessor, John Phillips, Rep. Jimmy Panetta, Laird and others praised the Vistra project during a press event in August 2021 when the company announced it had added 100 megawatts to its massive battery storage portfolio.

"California has committed itself to a renewable energy future and the Central Coast is the perfect example of how to transition former fossil fuel plants to renewable energy centers," Laird, a Democrat, said at the time. "Vistra's Moss Landing Energy Storage Facility is a testament to that bright future. Developing battery storage in conjunction with wind and solar energy will ensure reliable, clean energy for decades to come."

## 'No threat'

The EPA said Monday that tests indicate that hydrogen fluoride and particulate matter showed no risk to public health throughout the fire, and smoke from the facility has "greatly diminished." This week, after consulting with Monterey County emergency officials, the EPA demobilized air monitoring operations installed on the day of the fire. The agency also said it detected no threat to public health.

District 1 Supervisor Luis Alejo suggested that the building that burned building contained too many battery modules close to each other, which could have contributed to the fire spreading to other modules quickly.

The spokesman from Vistra said that some of the batteries in the building were double stacked.

"I think Monterey County has to relook whether allowing this design of so many battery units under one roof should be phased out in the future, because it does create a further danger once thermal runaway takes place," Alejo said.

Official information about the incident and daily air monitoring reports are at <https://shorturl.at/xpQkW>.



PHOTO/MICHAEL TROUTMAN, DMT IMAGING

A Vistra Energy official gives a tour of one of the company's Moss Landing indoor battery storage facilities in August 2021.

## BRIDGE LESSONS FOR BEGINNERS

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# LIVES

From page 23A

Wildlife Conservation Board, where he helped to allocate a \$100 million yearly budget for wildlife and wildland restoration. “The governor wanted his legacy to be the protection of the coastal ocean. That’s what he achieved, and I was able to help him do it,” said Sutton.

Sutton has a long history of political involvement with many achievements. To name a few, he helped found and then chaired Ocean Champions, reportedly the first political action committee for ocean conservation. While at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, he said, he was pivotal in forming the West Coast Governors Agreement on Ocean Health, bringing California, Oregon and Washington together to work on marine environmental issues. “Those who control the politics control the outcome, so we have to be a part of that. When anti-environment forces are in charge at the federal level, work by the states becomes critically important,” Sutton stressed.

**‘Grassroots heroes’**

In 1988, Chico Mendez, a Brazilian environmentalist, was murdered by ranchers who opposed his fight to save the country’s rain forest. That was followed a year later by the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska. The two events prompted Richard and Rhoda Goldman — prominent San Francisco philanthropists — to create the Goldman Environmental Prize, sometimes called the “Green Nobel.”

“The award is given yearly to grassroots environmental heroes — one from each inhabited continent — laboring in obscurity to save our planet. We’re not only in the prize-giving business, we’re really more in the inspiration business,” said Sutton, who became its executive director in 2017. He commented, “My job with the Goldman Prize puts me in my favorite place to be — a multicultural, multiethnic, multinational setting. I love to interact with people from all over the world. I learn a lot from them.”

He also noted that every year — largely unnoticed — two billion birds migrate, “right over our heads, from continent to continent.” From 2012 to 2015, as the National Audubon Society’s vice president for the Pacific Flyway, he led the effort to protect the migration route from Alaska to South America.

“The birds have to have protected habitat to feed, to breed and to live,” he said. After leaving the Audubon Society, Sutton worked with the late Kenneth Hofmann, an East Bay builder and philanthropist, to build the \$100 million Pacific Flyway Center, currently under construction in

Solano County. Just as the ultimate vision of the Monterey Bay Aquarium is to inspire conservation of the oceans, the Pacific Flyway Center’s vision is to inspire conservation of the migratory route.

A great deal of reporting and talk about the environmental movement is shrouded in gloom and doom, but Sutton believes that extraordinary progress in the last 30 years is something to celebrate. Still, he said, problems and threats remain, climate change foremost among them.

“I’ve experienced the resilience of nature and that gives me hope that all is not lost and we still have time to make a difference,” he affirmed. Along with the work of Goldman Prize winners and other conservationists worldwide, he’s confident humankind is up to it.

“I don’t have any plans to retire. I know at some point I’ll have to, but helping wonderful people do extraordinary things is way too important and rewarding to consider it anytime soon,” he concluded.

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## Carmel

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↓ 23% less than 3Q 2024  
↓ 14% less than 4Q 2023

24

TOTAL UNITS SOLD  
↓ 37% less than 3Q 2024  
↓ 27% less than 4Q 2023

38

AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET  
↓ 29% less than 3Q 2024  
↓ 38% less than 4Q 2023

\$3.75M

MEDIAN SALES PRICE  
↑ 20% more than 3Q 2024  
↑ 49% more than 4Q 2023

“**Carmel** slowed to its slowest pace in well over a decade this quarter with just 24 deals closing for a total of \$108.21M, down from the 38 deals that closed for \$140M last quarter. It took considerable movement on the sellers’ part to negotiate with buyers, as the discount off list jumped to 6% this quarter. Demand continues to be strong for oversized houses and ocean views, with the median sales price jumping up to \$3.75M this quarter, compared to \$2.5M in 4Q23, with those listings also moving faster.”



Jessica Canning  
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Jess



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# The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

## Wristbands and countdown clocks — welcome to a trainer’s pressure cooker

NATE TROSKY became a celebrated baseball visionary by teaching talented young players to think “outside the box” — primarily, the batter’s box.

### Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

In November, the former Big Sur resident added a luminescent jewel to his legacy when one of his most notable private clients — Kansas City Royals superstar Bobby Witt Jr. — was honored with the Gold Glove Award as the



PHOTO/COURTESY TROSKY BASEBALL

Nate Trosky, widely regarded as one of the top infield coaches in the world, is flanked by private clients Bobby Witt Jr. (left), a Gold Glove shortstop for the Royals, and A’s corner infielder Jonah Bride (right).

best fielding shortstop in the American League. The prestigious award is the culmination (so far) of the player’s two-year relationship with Trosky, who was hired in 2022 to remake the defensive side of Witt’s game.

#### From worst to best

“I started working with Bobby right after his rookie year, when he was one of the worst defenders in the league. Two years later, he’s the best,” said Trosky, who is regarded as one of the world’s elite infield coaches. “He’s obviously one of the most athletic guys in the game, but playing infield isn’t just about athleticism. It’s a skill, and Bobby was not highly skilled at his craft.”

Trosky’s reputation as an infielders’ guru has been under construction since his own playing days at Hawaii Pacific University, where he was an All-America infielder, but has grown exponentially since he launched his company, Trosky Baseball — Complete Player Development.

Over the past three decades, his academies have been staged throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Europe, Asia, and the Dominican Republic — the Caribbean country where Trosky makes his home.

#### Infield every day

“American players are all about hitting. They want to spend all of their time in the batting cage, and they only work on their infield skills one or two days a week, depending on the time of year, which is why there aren’t a lot of great defenders in the United States,” the coach said. “Dominican kids play infield every single day.”

In an impoverished nation, they often field grounders with poor-quality gloves (sometimes homemade from cardboard) on unkempt fields riddled with rocks and ruts.

Dealing gracefully with “bad hops” — grounders that bounce in unexpected ways — becomes second nature, which is why many of the greatest defensive infielders in major league history were or are Dominicans: Adrian Beltre, Tony Fernandez, Rafael Furcal, Jose Reyes, Placido Polanco, Luis Aparicio, Miguel Tejada, Carlos Santana and Robinson Cano, to name just a few



PHOTO/COURTESY TROSKY BASEBALL

Nate Trosky equips talented prospects with cutting-edge mental and physical tools he devised with Trosky Baseball. He coaches youngsters, high school and college standouts and professional players in multiple countries.

Trosky, a keen observer, took note, and developed an innovative program that shows even the professionals how to make high-level infield play second nature, both physically and mentally.

That, he said, is what transformed Witt. “We worked with Bobby on slowing the game down by speeding it up,” he said.

Each of Trosky’s infield drills were at an accelerated speed — “game speed.”

Players are forced to move at game speed on every grounder, and “beat the clock.” Every play is a race against a countdown clock connected to an on-field Bluetooth

See SPORTS next page



## Valentine's Day

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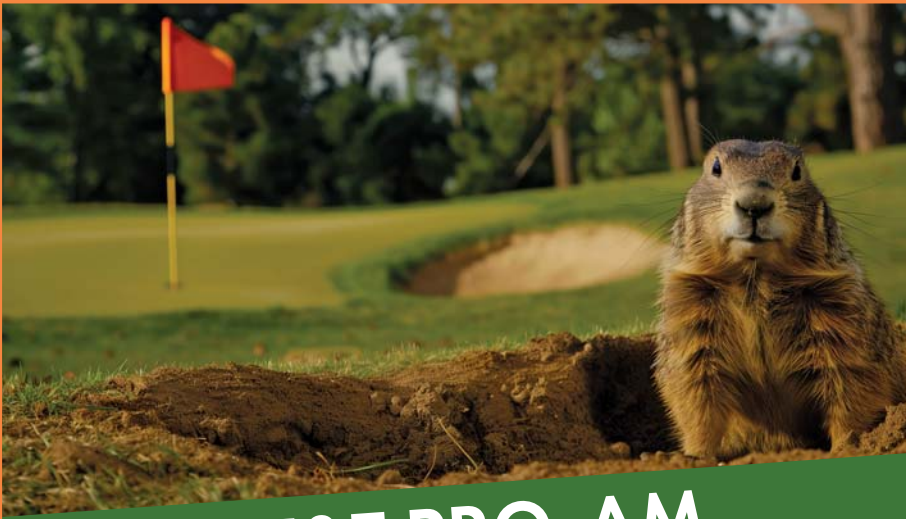
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SPORTS  
From previous page

speaker.  
The drill is conducted in rapid-fire cadence (one grounder immediately following the previous), allowing little time for thought — only reaction.

Creating a ‘new normal’

The goal, Trosky said, is to teach the mind to make game-like stress feel routine and normal. That “new normal” fosters relaxation under pressure. The proven result is that a relaxed infielder makes far fewer stress-related mistakes — fielding, throwing, and decision-making — in the heat of competition.  
“You have to learn to work fast and under control,” said Trosky, who calls the drill “Time Under Tension.”  
Trosky, who works at camps and academies each year with about 2,500 with top-level high school and college infielders, as well as professionals, also has purposefully made playing catch into a competitive drill. He records every throw that hits its target zone (the partner’s chest), along with throws that miss.  
“I call that drill ‘Blackbelt Throwing,’” he said. “If you play catch for 10 minutes and hit your partner in the chest 80 percent of the time, I give you a black wristband to wear for the rest of the day. If you hit the target 70 percent of the time, you get brown, 60 percent gets blue ... all the way down to orange and white. If you’re walking around with an orange wristband the rest of the day, your buddies are dogging on you. It becomes a game, competition, and pressure.”

‘This is what you need!’

A vocal observer in the bleachers each day during Witt’s training was his father, Bobby Witt Sr., who pitched 16 seasons with seven major league teams, including 11 years with the Texas Rangers. And he was all in.

“His dad was there the whole time, writing things down, taking notes, and yelling, ‘Yeah, Bobby! This is it! This is what you need!’” Trosky said.  
Trosky Baseball camps also have attracted observers from the U.S. military’s Special Forces.  
“Special Forces call their training ‘fight reps,’ because their motto is ‘We train as we fight,’” Trosky said. “They’re fighting during training at the same speed that they fight in battle, which is the same philosophy we use with our drills. We don’t take



PHOTO/COURTESY TROSKY BASEBALL

Nate Trosky and Trosky Baseball have produced more than 500 major league players through the years, including more than 50 first-round draft picks.  
lazy reps.”  
Witt showed dramatic improvement at shortstop in his second year as a big-leaguer after working with Trosky, then moved to another level in 2024 to win the Gold Glove.  
He also won the American League’s Silver Slugger Award as the league’s best-  
See **TROSKY** page 34A



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# This Week

Live Music,  
Clubs and Events

## Ska band is still keeping the beat, Carmel High hosts musical fundraiser Sunday

WHEN SKA had its heyday in the early 1980s, no musical act better represented the genre than **The English Beat**, which reunites Saturday, 8 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey. Still led by singer and guitarist **Dave**

### On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

**Wakeling**, The English Beat are best remembered for their irresistible hit single, “Save It For Later” — which was a staple of early MTV — and ska-dance anthems like “Rankin’ Full Stop,” “Mirror in the Bathroom,” and their cover of Smokey Robinson’s “Tears of a Clown.” The group was more popular on the other side of the pond,



Ensemble Monterey presents a concert Saturday, 8 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church in Monterey.

scoring five Top 10 singles in the UK. Tickets start at \$43. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com. Country singer **Aaron Lewis** takes the stage Wednesday, 8 p.m., at the same venue. A one-time alt-rock, Lewis has had four Top 10 country albums since switching to country music in 2010. His patriotic single, “Am I The Only One,” topped the Billboard country charts in 2021. Tickets start at \$49.50.

### Concert for a good cause

Three musical acts raise money for breast cancer support Sunday, 4 p.m., at the Center for Performing Arts at Carmel High School. KSBW TV anchor Erin Clark will be the emcee. The lineup includes an acoustic duo, singers and multi-instrumentalists **Alisa Fineman** and **Kimball Hurd**, singer and multi-instrumentalist **Cindy Alexander** and pianist **Lisa Spector**. Fineman started her career in Big Sur more than three decades ago, while Hurd is a former member of the acoustic trio, City Folk. Alexander, who also has roots in Big Sur, was named Songwriter of the Year by the Los Angeles Music Awards in 1998. Spector is an award-winning classical pianist. The high school is located at 3600 Ocean Ave.

### Best music you’ve never heard

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Chart-topping country music artist Aaron Lewis takes the stage Wednesday, 8 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

presents its third concert of the 2024-25 season Saturday, 7 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church in Monterey. The ensemble will be joined by Youth Music Monterey’s South County Strings. The program includes Johannes Brahms’ brilliant Serenade No. 2 in A Major, Op. 16, along with pieces by two 20th century composers, Jean Françaix (“Pièces Caractéristiques”) and Gustav Holst (“St. Paul’s Suite”), and

See MUSIC page 36A

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Danielle Dufayet	Valentina Milaychev	Jane Willis
Julie Foudy	Ed Penniman	Judy Willis
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FOOD & WINE

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QUAIL LODGE in Carmel Valley — now officially “The Quail” — is celebrating love every which way. If you’re still on the prowl for a Valentine’s Day spot, the Covey Grill will have a three-course prix fixe menu for \$98 per person plus tax and tip. It starts off with a choice of a pear served with a soft, double-cream cheese from Fromager d’Affinois, a wedge salad with Point Reyes

Soup to Nuts

blue cheese and a seven-minute egg, or a leek-and-pop-corn soup with brioche, “crustacean” and fennel. Main-dish options sound equally decadent and include steak, a duck dish with savory French toast, or chestnut gnocchi with Dungeness crab. Order one of each of the desserts — “chocolate and grapefruit” with mascarpone cheese, marshmallow fluff and cacao nibs, or pear Pavlova with pistachio and lemon verbena — and trade with your sweetie halfway through.

Regular old Wednesday love

The Covey also offers a three-course prix fixe Wednesday night dinner designed with locals in mind. Dubbed



Students and teachers from Rancho Cielo, the alternative high school in Salinas, will be at its annual fundraising Round Up at the Portola Hotel on Feb. 23 with many other local chefs and vintners.

“Love Thy Neighbor,” the menu rotates weekly and is priced at \$59 per person plus tax and gratuity. On a recent visit, thinly sliced raw scallops were arranged with mandarin orange slices, slivers of mildly spicy pickled Fresno chilies and nibbles of avocado for a whimsically elegant starter. A salad and a Scotch egg were also on offer.

A small, lightly salted loaf of bread came to the table with butter and a cute jar of tomato spread. Entrée options included a petite filet with sweet caramelized shallots and adorable white mushrooms that looked as if they were foraged near a doll’s house. Swordfish was served fish-and-chips style, and roast chicken roulade was the third option. Dessert was flourless chocolate torte with berries or a citrusy Meyer lemon tart with a touch of meringue. Everything was delicious and portions were just right. Service was great, and it was a full house — reservations are recommended. Call (831) 620-8860. The restaurant is at 8205 Valley Greens Drive.

Hearts and flowers in Monterey

Jacks in the Portola Hotel at the foot of Alvarado Street is planning “a romantic evening in the heart of downtown Monterey” from 4 to 10 p.m. on Valentine’s Day. Guests who come for the four-course prix fixe meal can also enjoy live music in the atrium from 5 to 9 p.m.

Start with a salad of lettuce, red onions, tomatoes, gorgonzola cheese, pecans, feta and a raspberry vinaigrette. A salmon croquette is up next, followed by a 4-ounce filet mignon and grilled prawns with potatoes galette, and chocolate lava cake with vanilla ice cream, chocolate syrup and whipped cream.

The meal is \$74.95 per person exclusive of gratuity and tax, with a \$50 supplement for suggested wine pairings. Jacks’ regular menu will also be available. Recommended reservations can be made by emailing jacks@portolahotel.com or calling (831) 649-7830.

‘Just’ friends

“Galentine’s Day,” a newish holiday on Feb. 13, is designed to celebrate women’s friendships, and Twisted Roots tasting room is throwing a soirée from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 12 Del Fino Place in Carmel Valley to honor the bonds among women that often last a lifetime.

For \$50 apiece, organizers say that guests will receive a glass of “the vineyard’s finest, a gourmet charcuterie



Jae Moon is the new executive chef at Carmel Mission Inn and Shearwater Tavern. He said he got into culinary work because it was fun — and he was never that thrilled about wearing a suit.

selection from Platter Perfection, and a sterling silver ring from Bonded Monterey Permanent Jewelry, with onsite upgrades available for bracelets and necklaces.”

Set Free Monterey Bay, a local nonprofit dedicated to helping people in need due to human trafficking, will receive 25 percent of each \$50 ticket sold. Purchase at [twistedrootsvineyard.com/events](http://twistedrootsvineyard.com/events).

■ Carmel Mission Inn gets new chef, new night out

Shearwater Tavern’s newest event, “The Dog Bar,” debuts Tuesday, Jan. 28, at Carmel Mission Inn’s courtyard. “Combining live music, creative hot dog-inspired eats, and refreshing drinks, this canine-themed gather-

See **FOOD** next page

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# FOOD & WINE

## FOOD

From previous page

ing promises to be the paw-fect midweek escape for two- and four-legged locals and visitors alike,” says the inn’s marketing team.

Guests can indulge in gourmet hot dogs and toppings, along with craft cocktails, wines and local beers. Four-legged friends get treats and water stations.

### Welcoming a new chef

The tavern has a new executive chef, too. Jae Moon moved to the Shearwater kitchen from Lucia Restaurant in Bernardus Lodge, where he was executive sous chef. Other local gigs have included the Monterey Plaza, Portola Hotel and The C at the Clement InterContinental on Cannery Row.

A South Korea native, he came to Marina with his family as a child. Moon said he became interested in the culinary world through a series of circumstances that began with playing football and bulking up to the point where suits just weren’t comfortable, and he couldn’t imagine spending all day every day wearing one.

That led to further soul-searching, and he took a break before heading to college (he was accepted at Berkeley and Long Beach), during which helped a friend who had a restaurant in P.G. Moon said that was more like sports, with lots of moving around all day. He’d also grown up watching Julia Child and the antics of Graham Kerr, “The Galloping Gourmet,” on public television. “He’s crazy, he’s cooking, there’s fire and knives — it seemed fun,” he recalled of Kerr’s show. After getting formal training at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., Moon moved



back home to put his education to work.

His plans for Shearwater Tavern are to provide, “Carmel country-ish” food — “honest, elevated, but not super-fancy,” at a good price. “I want to have fun and run” with it, he said.

### ■ Equal time for kitties ...

Have a pint and help the older cats of Monterey County from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13, at Other Brother Beer Co., 877 Broadway in Seaside. The event, called “Pints for Paws,” will raise \$1 for every pint sold during that three-hour period for Golden Oldies Cat Rescue. The nonprofit, founded in 2016, says it’s “a resource and advocate for cats ages 6 and older residing” in Monterey County that are either “at risk in local shelters” or “whose guardians can no longer care for them.”

### ■ Rancho Cielo roundup

Rancho Cielo’s chefs and students from its Drummond Culinary Academy will be serving and cooking up a storm for the 15th Annual Culinary Round Up. The evening promises “unforgettable flavors, incredible experiences and heartwarming moments,” and is scheduled for Feb. 23 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Monterey’s Portola Hotel.

Twenty local restaurants will also showcase their own culinary masterpieces at the fundraiser for the alternative high school in North Salinas founded 25 years ago by now-retired Monterey Superior Court Judge John Phillips.

The strolling dinner will include contributions from Alvarado Street Brewery, the C Restaurant in the Clement InterContinental on Cannery Row, Estéban in the Casa Munras Garden Hotel in Monterey, Jacks and Peter B’s in the Portola Hotel, Lucia Restaurant at Bernardus Lodge, Quail Lodge, Roy’s at Pebble Beach, the Sardine Factory, Seventh & Dolores



Bijou and Coco (above) from Golden Oldies Cat Rescue have a serious bro vibe. Maybe they’re excited about the nonprofit’s upcoming “Pints for Paws” fundraiser at Other Brother Beer. Yes. That’s definitely their excited look.

live auctions.

Tickets are \$195 per person and may be purchased at [ranchocieloyc.org/culinary-round-up](http://ranchocieloyc.org/culinary-round-up).

See **BARTENDER** next page



Quail Lodge’s “Love Thy Neighbor” dinners on Wednesday evenings offer a three-course prix-fixe menu with appetizer, entrée, and dessert — like this Meyer lemon tart.



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FOOD & WINE

TROSKY  
From page 30A

hitting shortstop after batting .332, with 211 hits, including 32 home runs, and driving in 109 runs.

Last February, he became the highest-paid player in the



PHOTO/COURTESY TROSKY BASEBALL

The Cincinnati Reds signed 17 Dominican players who were developed by Trosky Baseball to minor league contracts earlier this week.

history of the Kansas City Royals, signing an 11-year deal worth \$288.8 million.

‘Expected it’

Trosky wasn’t surprised when the list of Gold Glovers was announced in November.

“I basically expected it,” said the coach, whose company has developed 50-plus first-round MLB draft picks, and more than 500 major leaguers. “I don’t have a celebration when something like that happens. If I have high expectations, great things happen.”

The next challenge for the 23-year-old superstar, said the coach, is to stay hungry.

“It’s easy to get good and forget where you came from,” the coach cautioned. “It’s important for Bobby to stay focused and continue to learn.”

Trosky has created an instructional app — Trosky Toolbox — which is not yet on the market but is already being used by several NCAA Division I baseball programs.

Trosky is the grandson of Hal Trosky, who was the American League’s Rookie of the Year in 1934, when he batted .333 with 35 home runs and 137 RBI for the Cleveland Indians.

Four years later, was on the front of the Wheaties box after batting .343 with 42 homers and leading the league with 162 RBI.

Jabin Trosky (Carmel High, 2021), Nate’s nephew, is a redshirt junior at Oregon State (No. 7 in the nation in preseason polls), where he is rated as the best-fielding shortstop in the nation.

Visit YouTube to find Trosky’s tutorials describing his “Time Under Tension” philosophy. Additional information about Trosky Baseball can be found at troskybaseball.com.

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

BARTENDER  
From previous page

■ Bartender battle returns

The Links Club in Carmel Plaza will host another round of Battle of the Bartenders this year, with an expanded field to include competitors from Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach and other Monterey Peninsula locales.

“This annual event promises to be more exciting than ever, as invitations have been sent out to a select group of talented mixologists ready to showcase their skills and creativity,” said owner April Montgomery.

The first round will be held Feb. 24 featuring bartenders from Carmel-by-the-Sea, with the competition spanning seven months and ending with a final round at which a champion is crowned.

Other rounds will feature talent from establishments in Big Sur and Carmel Valley, Monterey, and Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach, with semifinals taking place in November and the Grand Championship set for Dec. 1.

“Guests are invited to join the fun as judges, sampling each bartender’s unique creations while enjoying a specially curated snack menu included with their ticket,” Montgomery said.



If you missed the last Battle of the Bartenders at Carmel’s Links Club — or you can’t wait for the next one — just hang on until Feb. 24 for the first round of this epic mixological tournament.

Tickets are available at linksclubgolf.com. Elaine Hesser and Mary Schley contributed to this week’s column.

*il vecchio*

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# MUSIC

From page 31A

a new overture by contemporary composer Steve Ettinger (“All Mixed Up”).

Tickets are \$60 for general admission, \$50 for seniors, \$20 for students and \$10 for children.

## ■ Late reggae singer missed

The local music scene was rocked when word went out that singer and bassist **Alexander Shirley** died Jan. 12. Shirley was the longtime lead singer of Jonah and the Whale Watchers, who have been playing reggae on the Monterey Peninsula since the 1990s. “Alex had an infectious smile, bringing positivity and a message of love every time he took the stage as a singer or a bassist,” local resident Michael Lojkovic wrote. “From Montego Bay, to Monterey Bay and beyond, he will be missed.”

## ■ Jazz Jam kicks off New Year

The first Jazz Jam of the year is set to happen Sunday from 1-4 p.m. at Embassy Suites in Seaside, and the guest of honor will be **The Kaye Bohler Band**. The show has no cover, and professional musicians are encouraged to join in. The monthly show is co-hosted by drummer Jim

Vanderzwaan and singer Lee Durley. “We’re off and running again,” Vanderzwaan told The Pine Cone.

The resort is located at 1441 Canyon Del Rey Blvd.

## Live music Jan. 24-30

### ■ Big Sur

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

### ■ 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 **Freshour** (Sunday at 3 p.m.). Mission and Fifth.

**Hyatt Carmel Highlands** — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (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

See **LIVE** next page



Joined by her longtime musical partner Kimball Hurd, singer and guitarist Alisa Fineman helps raise money for breast cancer support Sunday, 4 p.m., at Carmel High.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250049

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **TWISTED ROOTS WINE, 12 Del Fino Place, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: **TWISTED ROOTS WINE LLC, 18911 Portola Dr., Ste. C, Salinas, CA 93908.**

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

This business is conducted by a limited liability company.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Dec. 3, 2024.

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

S/Julie M. Ruiz, Managing Member

Date signed: Jan. 8, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 8, 2025.

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

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250043

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **H&H COASTAL REAL ESTATE, 86 Via Ventura, Monterey, CA 93940.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s): **KYLE HOFF**

**NIKLAS KENT HUGOSSON, 2350 W. Shaw Ave, Ste. 149, Fresno, CA 93711.**

This business is conducted by a general partnership.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 7, 2025.

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

S/Kyle Hoff

Date signed: Jan. 8, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 8, 2025.

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

## TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

Parties:

**Plaintiff:** Sage Scherman

**Defendant:** Todd Spring

**Notice of Hearing:** March 20, 2025, 8:30 a.m.

**Purpose of hearing:** Order to Show Cause re Temporary Restraining Order Request for Civil Harassment Restraining Orders

**Location:** Marina Courthouse Dept 21, located at 3180 Del Monte Blvd, Marina, CA

Monterey County Superior Court Case No: 24CV004867

For any additional information please contact R.S.C. Law Group at 831-275-1191 or email jonthan@rsclawgroup.com.

Publication dates: Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14, 2025 (PC129)

[HTTPS://CARMELPINECONE.COM](https://carmelpinecone.com)

Publication Dates: Jan. 17, 24, 31, Feb. 7, 2025 (PC 121)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250045

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **LA MIA CUCINA, 208 17th St., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: **LMC RISTORANTE INC.**

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

This business is conducted by a corporation.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 1, 2025.

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

S/Michael Scanlon, President

Date: Jan. 8, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 8, 2025.

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

Publication Dates: Jan. 17, 24, 31; Feb. 7, 2025. (PC 122)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20242264

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **STUDIO CV, 1 W. Carmel Valley Road #1, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s): **JENNIFER ANN KING-DEVILLIERS, 1 W. Carmel Valley Road #1, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.**

This business is conducted by an individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or

names listed above on N/A.

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

S/Jennifer King-Devilliers

Date signed: Dec. 12, 2024

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

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

Publication Dates: Jan. 17, 24, 31, Feb. 7, 2025 (PC 124)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250095

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **RIDGE TOP ADVISORS, 9815 Palisades Dr., Carmel, CA 93923.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s): **ANARION WITTLER.**

This business is conducted by an individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 1, 2025.

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

S/Anarion Wittler

Date signed: Jan. 13, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 13, 2025.

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

Publication Dates: Jan. 17, 24, 31, Feb. 7, 2025 (PC 126)

14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Publication Dates: Jan. 17, 24, 31, Feb. 7, 2025 (PC 125)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250105

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **AT HOME FITNESS/FUNCTIONAL TRAINING, 530 Toyon, Monterey, CA 93940.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.

Registered Owner(s): **JANE HALE, P.O. Box 22481, Carmel, CA 93922.**

This business is conducted by an individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 1, 2025.

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

S/Jane Hale

Date signed: Jan. 13, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 14, 2025.

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

Publication Dates: Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14 2025 (PC 126)

Date signed: Jan. 15, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 15, 2025.

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

Publication Dates: Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14 2025 (PC 127)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20242278

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **INFerno-ROLL SHUTTERS, 57 Ocean Pines Lane, Pebble Beach, CA 93953.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: **INFerno-ROLL SHUTTERS, INC.**

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

This business is conducted by a corporation.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on April 20, 2024.

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

S/David Horobin, C.E.O.

Date: July 20, 2024

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

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

Publication Dates: Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14, 2025. (PC 128)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250108

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **KING'S THRIFT STORE, 330 Kings St., Salinas, CA 93905.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.

Registered Owner(s): **DAVID ROJAS-PEREZ.**

This business is conducted by an individual.

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

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

S/David Rojas-Perez

[HTTPS://CARMELPINECONE.COM](https://carmelpinecone.com)



# LIVE

From previous page

at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Thursday at 5 p.m.). Camino Real and Eighth.

**The Links Club — Sixth Street Alternative** (rock, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **Lolah & The Travelers** (pop, 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.

## Carmel Valley

**Bernardus Lodge** — pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kip Allert** (pop and rock, Saturday at noon), pianist **Mathias Morris** (classical, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

**Folktale Winery** — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Friday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (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 — **The Better Together Duo** (Americana, Friday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

## Monterey

**Albatross Ridge Winery and Kitchen** — singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

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

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

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

**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.

See **PERFORM** page 39A

# Worship

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831.624.3883 info@allsaintscarmel.org



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## Obituary Notices



Let us help you pay tribute to your loved one with an affordable obituary in The Carmel Pine Cone.

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



# Monterey museum looks at the legacy of photographer Morley Baer

A SHOW that’s on display at the Monterey Museum of Art explores the late fine art photographer Morley Baer’s fascination with Northern California’s mid-century modern homes.

Titled “Modernism in Northern California Architecture,” the show opened earlier this month and will be on display through April 27. It is one of several shows the museum is presenting in the coming months to celebrate 20th-century modern aesthetics.

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

Baer, who died in 1995 in Monterey at 79, had planned to be a journalist, but a visit to an Edward Weston exhibition in Chicago changed his direction in life.

“Baer’s mind was made up,” according to Weston Gallery. “He was California-bound to pursue photography and to meet Weston himself.”

He made two trips to Carmel — in 1939 and 1945 — and eventually became close friends with Weston. He was also mentored by Ansel Adams. At one point, he had a studio in town, along with a house on Carmelo Street.

From combat to architecture

After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, where he pursued combat photography, Baer developed into “one of the foremost architectural photographers in the world, according to several biographies.”

Baer also became a sought-after photography instructor and workshop leader. He was also head of the San Francisco Art Institute.

“Although Baer may be best known for his images of Monterey’s adobes and landscapes, guest curator Cydney Payton shines a spotlight on Baer’s images of mid-century modern architecture in stunning locations from Big Sur, to Sea Ranch,” executive director Corey Madden said. “Drawing largely from the museum’s permanent archive, this exhibition offers a fresh perspective on both Baer as a California artist and some of the region’s most iconic structures.”

First time

Payton noted that this is the first time the museum has hosted an exhibit of Baer’s images.

“The exhibition serves as an introduction to a body of Baer’s work that until now has been overlooked”, she said. “What is revealed in Baer’s photographs is the history of an emergent architectural modernism that came to define Northern California style.”

The museum is located at 559 Pacific St. For more about its other shows, visit [montereyart.org](http://montereyart.org).



Simon Bull is donating the proceeds from his painting, “In This Together,” (left) to charities supporting wildfire victims. Morley Baer captured striking images of mid-century modern homes (right).

■ Painting for a good cause

Gallery owner Simon Bull of Meuse Gallery is using his creative talent to raise money for those whose lives have been devastated by the wildfires in Southern California. Proceeds will benefit the Pasadena Humane Society and the Greater Good Charities’ Disaster Relief Fund.

“When faced with heartbreak and trauma on the scale of the Los Angeles fires, it is easy to feel paralyzed by the greatness of the need,” Bull said. “It can seem like our response and offers of help are inconsequential. Yet



what we can do, we must. My daughter, Bekah, and her boyfriend, Kurz, have both urged me to help them in their efforts to raise support for charities close to their hearts in L.A. They are each offering one of their highly sought-after new paintings for sale, with 100 percent of the selling price going to the cause. I also am offering the painting, ‘In This Together,’ and donating 100 percent of the sale price.”

The gallery is located at Ocean Avenue and Monte Verde Street.

For more details, visit [meusegallery.com](http://meusegallery.com).

## ARTIST

From page 23A

Her talent was evident when she moved on to study at Anadolu University, in Eskisehir, Turkey.

“It was kind of funny to me when my art instructors kept asking, ‘Do you have any brothers or sisters coming here?’” she remembered. “And at one point, four of us were studying at the university at the same time.”

Following Ali

Ali, her future husband, was a student at Ball State when they met. She followed him to Indiana, earned her Master of Arts from BSU, and later achieved a second postgraduate degree in instructional design from Brandman University’s Monterey location.

When Ali was hired to teach at Monterey’s Defense Language Institute in 2005, the couple and their 4-year-old daughter, Derya, moved to the Monterey Peninsula. Their

second daughter, Ela, was born here in 2010. Derya, 23, is applying to medical schools. Ela, 14, is a freshman in the Monterey Academy of Oceanographic Sciences program at Monterey High.

Many countries

Like her husband, Oya taught at the Defense Language Institute until she was sidelined by health challenges, including a recent back surgery that has temporarily curtailed her time at the easel.

Bolgun’s art has been showcased at solo and group exhibitions in Turkey, Italy, Germany, Greece, Dubai, Switzerland, Indiana, Laguna Beach, San Francisco and Carmel. Her paintings also are in private collections around the world.

She has a piece on exhibit at the 480 Lighthouse Gallery in Pacific Grove. To view images of her work, visit [oyasabstractart.com](http://oyasabstractart.com). More details about the Pacific Grove Art Center show can be found at [pgartcenter.org](http://pgartcenter.org).

For a commissioned painting, contact her at [oyabolgun@hotmail.com](mailto:oyabolgun@hotmail.com) or (831) 402-0339.

## Carmel Pine Cone’s WEDDING & Special Occasions

*It’s the time of year Pine Cone readers are planning their weddings and special occasions for 2025...*

Let us help you reach them in our **February 14** Wedding & Special Occasion Section



Feb. 14, 2025



Meena Lewellen    [meena@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:meena@carmelpinecone.com)    (831) 274-8655

Jessica Caird    [jessica@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:jessica@carmelpinecone.com)    (831) 274-8590



# PERFORM

From page 37A

**Midici Pizza** — singer **Janice Perl** and keyboard-ist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), bassist **Dennis Murphy** and guitarist **Paul Magpusao** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

**Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa** — singer and pianist **TJ Kuenster** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Peter Corr** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Daniel Cortes** (American roots and traditional Mexican, Monday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (pop, rock and country, Tuesday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Wednesday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

**Old Capitol Books** — singer and guitarist **Richard Tripps** and others (“indie rock and mystical folk,” Friday at 7 p.m.). 482 Alvarado St.

**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.



Singer and guitarist Cindy Alexander plays a benefit concert Sunday, 4 p.m., at Carmel High School.

**Puma Road** at Portola Plaza — singer and guitarist **Joyce Sampson** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Adam Behan** (Saturday at 5 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (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 Money Band** (pop and rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **Mad About You** (hits from the ’80s and ’90s, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

## ■ Pacific Grove

**Asilomar Hotel and Conference Grounds** — guitar-ist **Daniel Cortes** (American roots and traditional Mex-ican, Friday at 4 p.m.), pianist **Tom Gastineau** (jazz, Thursday at 4 p.m.). In the Phoebe Hearst Social Hall, 800 Asilomar Ave.

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

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

**PG’s Meetinghouse** — singer and guitarist **Kito Ray-burn** (Friday at 6:30 p.m.), **The Paul Contos Trio** (jazz, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), guitarist **Cat Broz** (classical and Spanish, Sunday at 11 a.m.), Open Mic (Tuesday at 6 p.m., sign up by 5 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

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## ■ Pebble Beach

**The Lodge at Pebble Beach** — singer and multi-in-strumentalist **Alison Sharino** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Pfeffer** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive.

## ■ Seaside

**The Bayview Grill** — guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Sun-day at 9:30 a.m.). At the Bayonet and Black Horse golf club, 1 McClure Way.

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

To update these listings, email [chris@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:chris@carmelpinecone.com).

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A

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PUBLIC NOTICES

REFeree's NOTICE OF SALE

Please take notice that the following real property will be sold by private sale by Andrew H. Swartz, Partition Referee, on February 14, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at Chicago Title Company, 26609 Carmel Center Place, Carmel, CA 93923, pursuant to an order of the Monterey County Superior Court: Street Address: Lobos Street 5th NE of 2, Carmel, California 93923; Assessor's Parcel Number: 010-011-014-000; Legal Description: "LOT 12, IN BLOCK 19, AS SAID LOT AND BLOCK ARE SHOWN ON THAT CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED "MAP OF CARMEL CITY, MONTEREY COUNTY, CAL., SURVEYED BY W.C. LITTLE, APRIL 1888", FILED FOR RECORD MAY 1, 1888 IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF THE COUNTY OF MONTEREY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, IN VOLUME 1 OF MAPS, 'CITIES AND TOWNS', AT PAGE 52." (Hereinafter, the "Subject Property") Please take notice that the Subject Property is being sold by private sale by Andrew H. Swartz, as Partition Referee appointed in the matter of Johnson v. Miller, Monterey County Superior Court case number 23CV000923. The sale is being made pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 873.640, et seq. The Subject Property is sold in an "As Is" condition with no warranties or representations. Offers must be submitted in writing on a California Association of Realtors form contract. All sales are subject to court confirmation. Offers must be submitted to Carmel Realty Company, c/o Courtney Jones, P.O. Drawer C, Dolores Street South of Seventh, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921, and must be received on or before January 31, 2025. This date may be extended by the Partition Referee. A Motion to Confirm Sale of Real Property and any associated overbids will be held in Department 13a of the Monterey County Superior Court, 1200 Aguajito Rd, Monterey, CA 93940, on February 7, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

Publication date: Jan. 10, 17, 24, 2025 (PC109)

Be prepared for emergencies — [www.alertmontereycounty.org](http://www.alertmontereycounty.org)

The Carmel Pine Cone

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS  
MONDAY AT 1:00 FOR FRIDAY’S EDITION

Legals:  
Irma Garcia (831) 274-8645  
[legals@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:legals@carmelpinecone.com)

Obituaries:  
Anne Papineau (831) 274-8654  
[anne@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:anne@carmelpinecone.com)  
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS TUESDAY AT 1:00 FOR  
FRIDAY’S EDITION

Calendar:  
[calendar@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:calendar@carmelpinecone.com)  
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS  
TUESDAY AT 4:00 FOR FRIDAY’S EDITION

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](http://ilvecchiorestaurant.com) for more.

Jan. 26 – Live concert “Songs of Hope, Harmony and Healing,” 4 p.m. at the Center for Performing Arts, Carmel High School. Award-winnning 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](http://www.carmelbethisrael.org/form/BCAGfundraiser.html)

Jan. 29 – 2025 Lunar New Year dinner to go! Celebrate The Year of The Serpent! \$42.50 per person includes crab Rangoon, chilled sesame noodles, velvet corn soup, Mongolian lamb or orange shrimp, steamed rice, ginger orange slices and almond cookies. Baum & Blume Catering, 4 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley. Call to reserve. (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](mailto:Info@CarmelYouth.org), visit our website, [www.CarmelYouth.org](http://www.CarmelYouth.org), click “How to Contribute” & then “Volunteer,” or call (214) 906-1361.

Feb. 1 – Robert Burns Supper, honoring Scotland’s famous poet! 5:30 p.m. at the historic Casa Serrano Adobe, 412 Pacific St. Monterey. Experience bagpiper, Celtic music, Scottish dinner menu with wine, Bard’s Poetry & Tales and more! Hosted by Los Amigos of Monterey History & Art Assn. \$100 per person. Questions? [susanmar@gmail.com](mailto:susanmar@gmail.com)

Feb. 3 – “For Love”. Brian Schultz, founder, The Freshwater Pearl Company, shares how he created it as a symbol of love to honor his mother and her 19 year journey with breast cancer. 2 p.m. Carmel Woman’s Club, San Carlos and Ninth, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Open to the public. \$10 guests/members free.

Feb. 6 – Carmel Residents Association hosts Chiefs Tomasi and Miller for live Q&A on wildfire preparedness. This program is open to the public and begins 5:30 p.m. at the Carmel Woman’s Club, San Carlos at Ninth, Carmel. Please join us for this interactive session with village chiefs to address concerns on what actions and readiness are in place. More details are available at [www.carmelresidents.org](http://www.carmelresidents.org).

Feb. 13 – SIR Monterey Branch monthly luncheon at Monterey Elks Lodge. Guest speaker will be **Luis Perez**, Cal Fire Education Officer, Monterey. Email [AlWilliams@comcast.net](mailto:AlWilliams@comcast.net) for more info on luncheon and membership.

To advertise, email [anne@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:anne@carmelpinecone.com) \$0.50 per word (\$25 min. charge)  
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