



The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 111 No. 5

<https://carmelpinecone.com>

January 31-February 6, 2025

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PGA stars take center stage at revamped pro-am



The world's No. 1 player, Scottie Scheffler (left), just back on the PGA Tour from a serious hand injury, was one of the stars playing Spyglass Thursday in the opening round of the 2025 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. Jordan Spieth (above) was also at Spyglass, where his playing partner was former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Despite gray skies, there were spectacular views at Pebble Beach, where Taylor Pendrith (above left) played his approach to 18. For complete coverage, see our special section.

PHOTOS/(TOP LEFT) MICHAEL TROUTMAN - DMT IMAGING, (LEFT AND ABOVE) KERRY BELSER

Addis wants battery storage sites to be under local control

■ No more 'opt-in' permits?

By CAITLIN CONRAD

STANDING ACROSS the street from the smoldering remains of Vistra Energy's battery storage facility in Moss Landing, Assemblymember Dawn Addis last week introduced a bill written to restore local oversight for energy storage facilities in California. The legislation responds directly to communities demanding tougher regulation and more control over what's built near their homes. However, pushing the bill across the finish line in Sacramento, where renewable energy rules, is going to be an uphill battle for the Central Coast Democrat.

The Jan. 16 fire destroyed a 300-megawatt array of lithium-ion batteries inside Vistra Energy's 750-megawatt energy storage facility. The cause of the fire hasn't been determined, but the blaze has put the local community on edge as concerns over safety and environmental impacts mount.

'Normal process'

"AB 303 is a proactive measure that will ensure companies like Vistra go through the normal, local, regulatory process — designed to build trust, increase safety and give communities a choice by restoring local community processes for permitting these projects," said Addis.

Under current law, energy storage facilities and other clean energy projects are permitted via the California

See **BATTERIES** page 16A



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

A Vistra employee gives a tour of one of the company's massive battery storage facilities in Moss Landing during dedication ceremonies in 2021. The facility was built under a state fast-track permit program for renewable energy.

Heavy metals found in soil after power plant fire

By KELLY NIX

UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS this week announced they'd found unusually high levels of heavy metals in marsh soil at Elkhorn Slough Reserve following the Jan. 16 fire at the Vistra Energy battery plant, while Monterey County officials have conducted their own tests and are awaiting results.

Scientists at San Jose State University's Moss Landing Marine Laboratories said they detected the high concentrations of heavy metals as part of a decade-long monitoring program of Elkhorn Slough, which is adjacent to the Vistra Energy storage facility.

The heavy metals are used to make lithium-ion

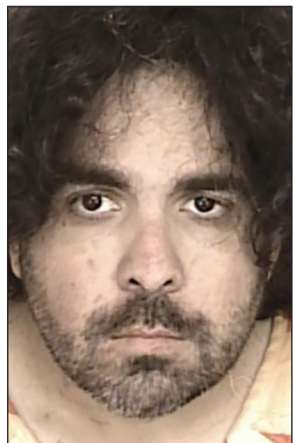
See **METALS** page 30A

MAN FACES CHARGES FOR TRYING TO KILL MOTHER

■ Del Mesa was locked down for hours

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL Valley man accused of trying to stab his mother to death in their home Saturday morning — prompting an hours-long lockdown of the senior community where the attack occurred — pleaded not-guilty in a Salinas courtroom Monday. William Darpinian, 34, remained in Monterey County Jail this week on \$1,015,000 bail after turning himself in early Sunday morning.



William Darpinian

Frightening

His surrender marked the end of a harrowing situation that began when a neighbor overheard Sherri Darpinian's screams at

around 10:15 a.m. Jan. 25 and rushed to help her after she emerged from her home, bleeding.

Pine Cone columnist Jerry Gervase, who lives at Del Mesa and was kept away from his condo during the lockdown, said he talked to the neighbor as they both sheltered at the clubhouse, and she told him what had transpired.

"She told me she lives in the unit next door, and

See **STABBING** page 22A

Rental registry is gathering facts — but what do they mean?

By MARY SCHLEY

A YEAR after the City of Monterey started requiring landlords to register their units and tell how much rent they charge, the city's housing manager, Anastacia Wyatt, says the data show that tenants need more legal safeguards, and she's asking the city to impose additional disclosure requirements to bolster the case.

But some questioned whether such conclusions could be reached based on less than a year's worth of information from the rental registry, which went online in January 2024 and is intended to provide data the city says "will assist council goals and objectives to address the city's housing needs."

Staff wants landlords to face more rules, pay higher fees

Share details

The registry requires landlords to share contact details about themselves and property managers, their rentals' street addresses or assessor's parcel numbers, dates of construction, how many units there are and the number of bedrooms, bathrooms and square footage each rental contains. Occupancy status and reasons for vacancy must be given, along with the amount and date of monthly rent and whether the total includes utilities or fees. Changes in ownership or management, rents and occupancy status must be reported

See **REGISTRY** page 24A

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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

His baby

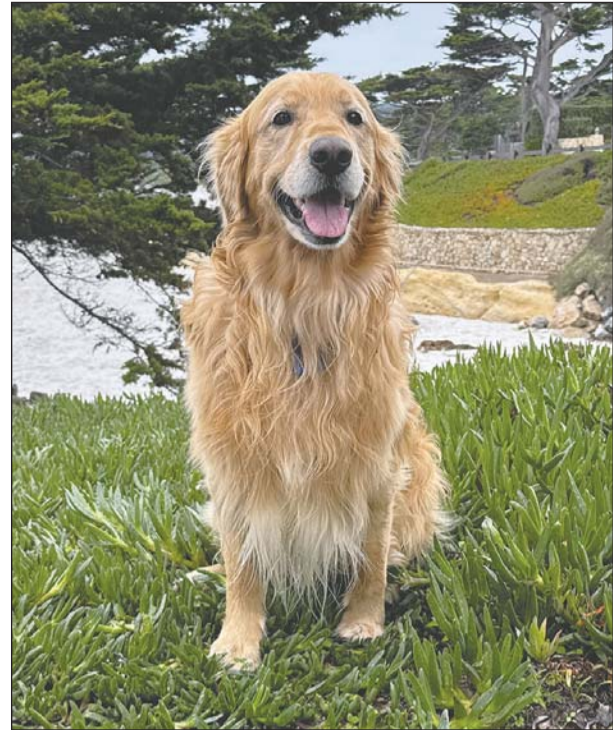
If Chase could go to the beach every day, he would. He is, after all a golden retriever who loves to splash into the sea, chase his tennis ball down the long stretch of sand, greet everyone he meets – although the Pacific Grove pup is more partial to people than their pets. Perhaps he understands they have more to offer.

“Chase typically does fine with other dogs,” his person said, “although I’m not sure he understands how big he is since he lets the small dogs rule him.”

When he was small, Chase also seemed a little daunted by the water. Now 5 years old, if his ball is tossed into the waves, he will chase it into the sea, dog paddle around and return to the shore to give it a good roll in the sand before the cycle begins again.

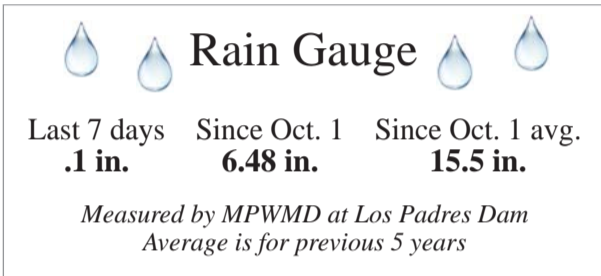
“We got Chase because my middle child has ADHD and sensory issues, and Chase has been his saving grace,” his person said. “The kindest dog, he is the best pal, responding to my kids as if they are his siblings.”

Now that his person has a new baby, Chase has adapted the role of guardian. Wherever the baby is, he’s there, too. Chase is the first one to greet the little one



in the morning. When the infant is sleeping in his crib, Chase is there. If he’s in his swing, Chase sits next to him.

“Chase is uneasy when the baby cries,” his person said. “If we are in the living room and the baby is crying in the nursery, Chase comes to us and barks to get us to go soothe him. We have to tell him, ‘We know. We’re on it.’ Chase still has to be sure.”



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CALIFORNIA SUES TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AS BATTLE OVER CITIZENSHIP HEATS UP

By CAITLIN CONRAD

AS PROMISED, California has sued the Trump administration. Just one day after the president was sworn into office, California Attorney General Rob Bonta filed a lawsuit challenging Trump's executive order to end birthright citizenship in cases where mothers are illegally in the country and the father is neither a citizen nor a permanent resident. The impending legal fight is the first of many as the state and feds go head-to-head over voting rights, water and immigration.

Last week, Bonta joined 18 other state attorneys general in challenging Trump's birthright citizenship order on the basis it contradicts the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution.

"The president's executive order attempting to rescind birthright citizenship is blatantly unconstitutional and, quite frankly, un-American," said Bonta.

The plaintiffs are arguing that under the 14th Amendment, all children born on U.S. soil are automatically granted citizenship. The Trump administration says that the constitutional language — "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and the state wherein they reside" — is ambiguous and has never been adjudicated to extend citizenship to babies whose mothers are in the country unlawfully.

A stop on documents

Trump's order directs the Social Security Administration to stop issuing citizenship documents to U.S.-born children of undocumented mothers or mothers in the

country on temporary visas, if the father is not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

Birthright citizenship is not unique to the United States, but it certainly is not universal. Many nations offer no birthright citizenship, including China and Russia. Others restrict it based on parental status or the residency of the child, including Australia and Great Britain.

Voter ID

Three days after the order was signed, a federal district court judge in Seattle blocked it for 14 days. A preliminary injunction could follow to extend the block while the case proceeds.

The lawsuit is the first of what will likely be many legal battles between California and the newly elected president. This week, California lawmakers in the Assembly held their first hearings on bills introduced during a special session of the Legislature called to "Trump-proof" the state.

Bills on the table would provide \$50 million in funding for the effort. Specifically, \$25 million for Bonta's department and another \$25 million for immigration legal and support services. The State Senate has already approved the funds. Trump has indicated he, too, has some bones to pick. Mere hours after his inauguration, the president hinted at one of his first lines of attack on California's left-leaning politics.

Following the swearing-in ceremony and his inaugural address, the president greeted a crowd gathered at the Capitol and spoke for more than half an hour. During that speech he put his sights on California's new voter identification ban.

What does 'and subject to the jurisdiction thereof' mean?

legal battles between California and the newly elected president. This week, California lawmakers in the Assembly held their first hearings on bills introduced during a special session of the Legislature called to "Trump-proof" the state.

See **BATTLES** page 23A



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Police & Sheriff's Log

Please be kind to the housekeeper

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.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Insurance fraud resulting in fraudulent credit card activity at First and Lobos.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found dog at Del Mar was brought to the police department for safekeeping. Owner was located, and the dog was returned to the owner. Kennel fee paid.

Pacific Grove: Report of lost or misplaced firearms on Monterey Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Report of a campsite in a public area at Central and Grand. Campsite notice left for the owner of the belongings.

Pacific Grove: Bicycle stop conducted for a vehicle code infraction on Central Avenue. Subject was warned of trespassing at a business. Released at the scene.

Boulevard was found to have a misdemeanor warrant and was in possession of drug paraphernalia. The 38-year-old male was cited and released.

Pacific Grove: Burglary on 10th Street.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle towed for expired registration.

Pacific Grove: Subject was contacted for trespassing on private property on Forest Avenue. The 30-year-old female was arrested for resisting peace officers, battery on a peace officer, and for an outstanding arrest warrant.

Carmel area: Adult Protective Service referral alleging neglect on Pradera.

Carmel area: APS referral alleging financial abuse involving a Sycamore Place resident.

Carmel Valley: APS referral alleging financial abuse involving an East Carmel Valley Road resident.

Carmel Valley: An adult male was discovered deceased at a residence on Calle de la Ventana.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Warrant arrest out of Santa Clara of a 35-year-old female Carmel Valley resident.

See **POLICE LOG** page 7RE
in the Real Estate Section

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of check fraud at Ocean and Monte Verde.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Theft from a business at Junipero and Sixth.

Pacific Grove: Male on Ocean View



The gavel falls

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

Dec. 20 — The Hon. Rafael Vazquez sentenced Eleuterio Dominguez Ortiz, 38 and a resident of Greenfield, to 40 years in prison for committing four counts of forcible lewd acts upon a child under 14. These offenses are serious and violent felonies and considered strikes under California's three strikes law. Ortiz will also be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

John Doe reported that Ortiz, a family member, had molested him on at least two separate occasions when Doe was in the fourth grade. His brave disclosure to law enforcement caused Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2 to disclose that Ortiz had molested them as well when they were very young. According to research into sexual assault victim behavior, it is very common for victims to delay reporting the sexual abuse, especially when the

victim is a minor and has a close relationship with the perpetrator.

This case was investigated by Greenfield Police detectives Armando Lerma and Joseph Dyels as well as other Greenfield P.D. officers. The victims in this case were assisted by victim witness program manager Alma Sanchez.

Dec. 20 — Daniel Self, 49, of Salinas, was sentenced to six years in state prison for battery with serious bodily injury.

On March 8, 2024, the manager of Dollar General in Salinas asked Self to leave the store. Self had previously been advised he was not welcome in the store due to previous shoplifting incidents. Self walked out of the store, then immediately walked back in and

See **GAVEL** page 29A

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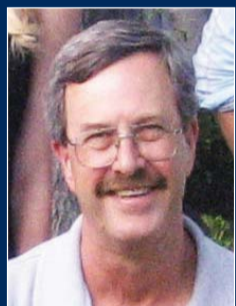
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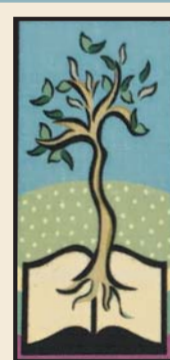
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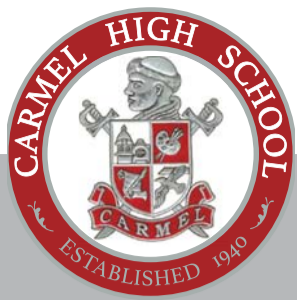
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Aldi, Amelia
Arnold, Ty C.
Bell, Olivia G.
Berg, Carmelle E.
Blut, Warren B.
Bonynge, Aaron J.
Brown, Caden
Brown, Skyler
Cabrera, Edgar
Chan, Elizabeth
Collins, Gavin S.
Cripe, Saylor R.
Desai, Aarna H.
Elazar, Jonathan J.
Elyoussoufi, David R.
Filly, Lilah F.
Foreman, Bennett T.
Frederick, Alexander H.
Gaily, Ella
Gardner, Thomas E.
Garneau, Jet P.
Ghio, Ava M.
Glaser, Harrison C.
Guzzi, Maura K.
Hendrick, Tyler A.
Herro, Travyn J.
Hess, Hans O.
Hill, Macie
Imamura, Riley M.
Jackson, Julia K.
Jeffers, Callum W.
Jeffries, Dwayne M.
Johnston, Oliver M.
Kang, Jade K.
Kemmerly, Sophia J.
Knibbe, Mieke A.
Lander, Zackary D.
LeMaster, Chloe M.
Loberg, Tallinn
Lome, Jady N.
Mangiapane, Ava M.
Martin, Ava P.
Martin, Sara C.
Mastin, Kristen
Mayer, Charlotte E.
Melicia, Dario M.
Mendieta, Cristofer
Meng, Kai
Mepani, Vishv T.
Moore, Alyssa
Moreau, Cynthia E.
Morgan, Sophie S.
Murray, Levi K.
Myrold, Ruby L.
Norbraten, Alexander
Palshaw, Avery A.
Radowicz, Savanna B.
Rasmussen, Zachary H.
Rees, Ashton
Reker, Roy C.
Scattini, Noah R.
Schoone, Tobias R.
Sciuto, Brianna G.
Shin, Emma C.
Shu, Jesse C.
Sullivan, Kyra P.
Tanguay, Bella
Tapon, Nicole
Trokel, Minna J.
Tucker, Sofia
Valdez, Victoria A.
Weaver, Sophie M.
Wennerholm, Scarlett B.
Wright, Kylie N.

High Honors 3.5 - 3.74

Alvarado-Cardenas, Andrew
Bell, Lily S.
Beltran, Nicholas
Bogey, Ezra
Chen, Jonathan P.
Cook, Orla M.
Danielson, Sebastian
Danielson, Sebastian
Gallagher, Ella A.
Gill, Amery I.
Goldberg, Bennett D.
Graham, Kate M.
Heilig, Fiona
Hernandez, Amanecer
Hogan, Daniel M.
Hohnloser, Daniel H.
Ikemiya, Erin A.
Kingshaven, Troy A.
Martinez, Flor
Martinez, Sandra
Mendez, Lillian R.
Miller, Katherine E.
Mirski, Nicole S.
Osorio, Jovan S.
Quintero Perez, Virginia
Riddle, Charlee F.

Robinson, Jeremiah E.
Sherratt, Jayda A.
Szamos, Samantha E.
Togneri, Marcus S.
Tringali, Joseph S.
Tupino, Eugene F.
Viel, Layla R.
Vitiello, Nicolas R.
Waroff, Madison M.

Honors 3.0-3.49

Aldi, Mack
Almaras-Perez, Elizabeth
Balbo, Craig
Barrios-Corona, Keneth
Bernahl, Patricia
Bullas, Dean
Cardinalli, John P.
Dwidari, Karim
Esquivel Garcia, Jenny
Evans, Royce D.
Falke, Norah K.
Foster, Mason J.
Goldman, Stefano J.
Hannah, Jake D.
Harleman, Mikhail P.
Hernandez, Ariana S.
Iandoli, Elizabeth R.
Lee, Tobias
Liss, Haley S.
Lukes, Carter M.
McNamara, Alanna M.
Melo De Figueiredo, Cauan
Moro, Peter A.
Ortega, Bella E.
Pritchard, Cullen A.
Ramirez Merino, Udali
Reyes, Kye B.
Rocha, Bella R.
Rodriguez, Laith I.
Rose, Eryll A.
Rutherford, Michael H.
Soriano-Prieto, Dayan
Stinnette, Alyssa L.
Swenson, Aidan C.
Thomas, Paige Allen
Verbera, Brianna M.
Walbrun, Madeleine R.
Walton, Grayson K.
Wilson, Weston W.
Wittmann, Ayden Marie
Zarazua, Maddox

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Adams, Grayson W.
Adams, Peyton M.
Adams, Raegan E.
Balaban, Zana R.
Balas, Jackson P.
Beesley, Esme I.
Bell, Henry M.
Beverly, Sidney A.
Blakely, Katherine
Blessing, Sebastian M.
Bone, Connor C.
Bonynge, Claire L.
Buran, Jonas
Cassady, Ava A.
Chavez, Cole A.
Chhor, Dylan G.
Cordy, Kaitlyn A.
Descalzi, Elizabeth G.
Dowse, Michael J.
Drumright, William T.
Dubrana Lehmkuhl, Margaux
Dutta, Julius A.
Farfan, Sienna
Ficarra, Claire G.
Flagg, Merielle F.
Ford, Chase
Galicia, Lauren O.
Galy, Drew C.
Glazier, Lila
Gomez Jolley, Lucca X.
Haag, Mason J.
Hart, Samantha A.
Hauser, Sarah E.
Henderson, Tristan J.
Herod, Holden W.
Hieronymus, Addison L.
Kalman-Zulik, Marc A.
Karavelioglu, Celine R.
Leatherberry, William R.
Leighton, Sydney K.
Lin, Matthew J.
Lin, Ryan J.
Lome, Ian G.
Lott, Ryan W.
Mabry, Averil A.
Maxon, Matthew J.
McColl, Tullah M.
Melton, Bodhi T.
Myrick, Jaiden E.
Nachbar, Rainn G.

Norman, Juliet A.
Onitsuka, Landon Y.
Phillips, Ian D.
Prescott, Anna S.
Ratzliff, Alexandria E.
Rodriguez, Dylan M.
Rodriguez, Liam M.
Savoie, Nathan M.
Scheid, Cassidy A.
Sibley, Leah B.
Silva, Jackson T.
Spooner, Galen O.
Stallcup, Tessa
Stiebel, Creedence K.
Strawser, Norah L.
Weaver, Samuel G.
Zodiacal, Grace A.

High Honors 3.5 - 3.74

Beretti, John
Berube, Rylee E.
Beverly, Robert E.
Biggs, Liliana C.
Bode, Stellina L.
Cannuli, Maria E.
Capote, Sarah M.
Carter Salazar, Scarlett
Cayo-Ramirez, Luis G.
Champagne, Jaya S.
Clark, Adalyn L.
Cole, Yoshi M.
Cosentino, Charles G.
DiMaggio, Maryanne T.
Ellis, McKenna C.
Evans, Luke E.
Hanson, Josephine J.
Ikemiya, Megan Y.
Jackson, Jake A.
Jedinak, Kyler R.
Kim, Claire S.
Loutas, Kirigin A.
Martinez, Alan
Meheen, Karen Z.
Melentieva, Eva A.
Moranda, Tanner
Thomas, Donovan S.
Neece, Payton M.
Peterson, Jacob R.
Profeta, Claire E.
Reed, Claire C.
Riddolls, Liam F.
Schlenker, Skylar G.
Shin, Christopher J.
Shipnuck, Benjamin M.
Speakman, Zachary J.
Staeble, Ava F.
Stewart, Bailey V.
Tischio, Cody R.

Honors 3.0-3.49

Angel, Adam
Bahu, Mason N.
Barnes, Nathaniel A.
Bates, Carson J.
BeVard, Brodie M.
Bishop, Elliot G.
Boaro, Isabella C.
Carr, Sean M.
Carrera, Rodrigo
Cho, Julien V.
Clay, Michelle B.
Foley, Daniela M.
Frew, Violet L.
Gabrielson, Indy B.
Gardea, Maira M.
Godsey, Alexandra R.
Granat, Joshua J.
Herro, Kaleb M.
Higson, Makayla R.
Levingston, Hana B.
Martellaro, Nicholas C.
Marzoni, Avery J.
Maxinoski, Ruby S.
McCarthy, Abigail R.
Melnick, Michael E.
Parker, William L.
Reilly, Connor A.
Schumacher, Wyatt W.
Sime, Viliami F.
Struve, Giselle L.
Sullivan, Acacia
Tonini, Jacob C.
Varney, Carson W.
Walker, Aden
Western, Sofia E.
Williams, Brody

CLASS OF 2027

Highest Honors 3.75 - 4.0

Ashe, Aspen E.
Bachir, Simon D.
Bolante, Jasper K.
Bonney, Asia M.
Brown, Skyler B.
Burttschell, Trinity P.

Chen, Carolyn E.
Collins, Leana A.
Combs, Annaliese M.
Crabbe, Hallie E.
David, Elijah D.
David, Matthew R.
Desai, Don O.
Espinoza, Ethan
Farren, Jacob J.
Foreman, Lucas T.
Fort, Christophe L.
Foudy, Naomi
Gardner, Joshua J.
Glass, Brianna J.
Guidi, Giovanna C.
Hage, Ella L.
Hirschfield, Alexander
Holz, Annabeth E.
Iranmanesh, Ruby N.
Jiang, Mingbao
Kim, Jeane
Kingshaven, Sophia K.
Kraut, Nicolas I.
Lander, Bradley M.
Lin, Meya C.
Lloyd, Carter
Lo, Sarah W.
Mac, Henry
Madsen, Skyler J.
McDonald, Elizabeth V.
Menig, Markus Z.
Miller, Helena N.
Murrillo, Hayden B.
Nascimento, Naima B.
Nothhelfer, Riley J.
Peelman, Chloe C.
Pfeiffer, Dana L.
Phillips, Lily M.
Rachuna, Nikolas B.
Rasmussen, Anna E.
Rittermal, Nicholas
Rossi, Mason L.
Roxas, Cameron E.
Sanz, Mia S.
Shillinger, Siena
Sogge, Eliana M.
Steinberg, Maya C.
Stenvick, Lily K.
Stiver, Lucas E.
Thomas, Matthew J.
Voss, Lola L.
Weaver, Chelsea J.
Wecker, Christian A.
Weigel, Carl C.
Wells, Devon
Willoughby, Madison J.
Zobenica, Milan J.

High Honors 3.5 - 3.74

Abrajan, Jasmine
Almaras-Perez, Esmeralda
Babenko, Alisa
Bogart, David N.
Boone, Casey W.
Carter Salazar, Ava P.
Coe, Abigail V.
Doyle, Travis A.
Dpenha, Neisha G.
Ehrhart, Enzo A.
Frey, Abigail C.
Gaily, Evan L.
Grahl, Ella I.
Hartwig, Nina V.
Jackson, Owen C.
Kemp, Logan J.
Kim, Emily
Larson, David F.
Lawson, Charlotte K.
Martinez Gutierrez, Zelena
Martynova, Katherine
Maxinoski, Violet R.
Meyers, Milena T.
Moet, Isabella C.
Overbaugh, Nicholas A.
Ozgur, Rolland T.
Ramirez-Luna, Jesus
Seeklander, Kanan
Sheth, Shyamali A.
Silveira, Jenna A.
Soriano-Garcia, Juan
Stavjanik, Antonin P.
Trokel, Lucas A.
Villegas, Benny G.
Vogelpohl, Henry M.
Weaver, Lillian B.
Williams, Ellie G.
Wright, Kendall

Honors 3.0-3.49

Aguiar Ramos, Amy M.
Andrade, Adrien G.
Bajari, Jaden
Barnes, Mireya I.
Becker, Jake H.

Bodensteiner, Daniel R.
Borges, Emilie A.
Cahill, Angela T.
Comello, Britenes R.
Contreras, Jonathan J.
Dampier, Colette G.
Daniels, Ava
Dpenha, Dylan R.
Dunton, Elise J.
Figge, James H.
Fort, Olivia C.
Fosmark, Holly K.
Fuentez, Janessa
Haas, Ethan M.
Heilig, Reese
Herro, Delilah R.
Hobson, Grant A.
Jeffries, Rowan B.
King, Hayden E.
Knight, Emerson R.
Lukes, Dylan J.
Lynch, Casie M.
Madrigal, Ileana V.
Mora Gallegos, Daniel
Moreland, Jette B.
Moreland, Perry L.
Morgan, Liam
Noto-Hagan, Alexander
Ortiz, Sofia
Papazian, Simon B.
Pinkerton, Radler Z.
Plog, Maia G.
Radowicz, Justin
Ramey-Fanderl, Nicolas
Ranansky, Dominik M.
Razi-Symes, Havana L.
Remynse, Jason M.
Riddle, Annabelle
Rocha, Lucas T.
Ruskell, Jace S.
Reeves, Eva M.
Solano Jimenez, Geraldine
Steady, Giavanna
Tringali, Christian M.
Waroff, Ava A.
Watts, Jesse

CLASS OF 2028

Highest Honors 3.75 - 4.0

Abma, Alyssa S.
Arnold, Drew W.
Beals, Lily E.
Beiderwell, Hudson S.
Beltran, Christian A.
Benson, Jack P.
Bonsper, Dalon A.
Borek, Chase R.
Briant, Dean B.
Brown, Abigail E.
Canan, Sophie Z.
Chelotti, Giulia F.
Cobb, Nico S.
Coleman, Annette B.
Collins, Ian R.
Cook, Imogen R.
Drew, Hannah J.
Emerson, June E.
Forsythe, Hamish E.
Ghio, Alexis J.
Graham, Ashley C.
Grahl, Grace E.
Henderson, Tanner A.
Holz, Margaret R.
Houston, Avery L.
Hurd, Griffin C.
Ibsen, Nicoya C.
Jin, Jasmine
Jones, Chase L.
Karavelioglu, Eda M.
Kemmerly, Gianna G.
Kim, Charlotte A.
King, Olivia J.
Leighton, Avery M.
Lim, Brandon T.
Lykken, Fallon
Martinez Cabrera, Nicole
Maxon, Ava
McDonald, Sean C.
Mearns, Timber H.
Mello, River S.
Mendoza, Addison J.
Messiah, Maia
Mettler, Lillian
Muivah, Choice J.
Myrick, Samantha J.
Myrold, Van K.
Palmer, Benjamin C.
Peng, Aiden R.
Perez Paz, Yuridia
Popky, Eli G.
Reneker, Henry M.
Rodriguez, Isabella A.
Ruskell, Jaxson W.
Salinas Martinez, Yazmin
Scherman, Tema

Smith, Storey E.
Solano Ramirez, Namid
Stafford, Liam
Steely, Arnold G.
Stephens, Claire
Stephens, Harper
Stiver, Emma
Tang, Ava
Tescher, Callan C.
Thompson, Lyla A.
Trambley, Bridget W.
Walbrun, Kipton R.
Watkins, Julie M.
Xu, Grace
Yi, Elise Y.
Ymata, Natalia K.

High Honors 3.5 - 3.74

Alcantara, Olivia M.
Alexakos, Georgia L.
Balaban, Miro S.
Banton, Erin E.
Besler, Joya I.
Brogden, Evan J.
Cannuli, Coraline L.
Chhor, Celia K.
Cogley, Oliver Z.
Crews, Sierra T.
Forsythe, Heidi E.
Gallagher, Julia E.
Haag, Jackson D.
Harrod, Bentley R.
Higson, Jayden C.
Hilliard, Wyatt
Hohman, August J.
Honda, Akira D.
Martellaro, Mary Grace
Marzoni, Blake R.
Matthee, Lily B.
McIntyre, Brayden R.
Morse, Colby G.
Muivah, Isaac N.
Noble, Keira I.
Nolan, Bennett R.
Olvera, Andrea
Ortiz, Stella
Patch, Maya M.
Picinini Drummond, Clara
Prowse Clayton, Sierra
Salas, Valeria
Samchenko, Gabrielle
Scattini, Lucas R.
Schmidt, Nicholai A.
Stiebel, Catalina C.
Tamlar, Michael L.
Voigtschild, Benjamin
Walker, William N.
Walsh, Teagan G.
Wheeler, Abigail E.
Willingham, John D.

Honors 3.0-3.49

Aboutalib, Maiy S.
Baiata, Christopher T.
Balas, Samuel R.
Barbeito, Oliver G.
Cabrera Resendiz, Tonantzi
Castagna, Daniel L.
Day, Rowan M.
Enea, Samantha J.
Entin, Jesse R.
Goldberg, Samuel H.
Grundy, Lucas T.
Guillen Perez, Jeraldin
Herendeen Hill, Calvin
Keener, Charlotte A.
Kephart, John R.
Khalil, Mariam M.
Kott, Jackson K.
Lambert, Trace
Langham, Khloe C.
Lathrop, Hamilton R.
Lookinghawk, Ian J.
Lim, Brandon T.
Lykken, Fallon
Mayer, Ronan B.
Milne, Kingston A.
Montellese, Giancarlo J.
Montoya, Louisiana M.
Patch, Isa E.
Perez, Pablo A.
Reed, Natalie
Rico Rico, Melanie
Rieser, Theodore J.
Salmoun, Jonathan A.
Sanchez Gonzalez, Kenny
Sciuto, Cole A.
Seybold, Ashton B.
Spencer, David J.
Teaby, Tyler N.
Thomas, Hailey L.
Togneri, Taylor B.
Verdeja Paz, Brisa N.
Yerace, Jacob O.

For their academic achievements, on Tuesday, these students were served tacos from Crossroads BBQ compliments of Padre Parents. Congratulations!

1ST SEMESTER SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

'FIREWISE' GROUPS PACK C.V. MEETING

By CHRIS COUNTS

NEARLY 300 residents filled a room at Tularcitos School Jan. 17 to talk about the risk of wildfire in their neighborhoods — dramatically illustrating the fears that many people have in the wake of the devastating Los Angeles wildfires.

The gathering highlighted the work being done by local Firewise groups. Nine such groups, each representing a different neighborhood in the upper half of Carmel Valley, attended the meeting at Tularcitos.

"Firewise groups are volunteer-based organizations dedicated to reducing wildfire risks at the local level," said Sherie Dodsworth, president of the Robles Firewise Group, which represents homeowners in the Robles del Rio neighborhood. "By working closely with local fire departments and county agencies, these groups empower residents to take proactive measures to enhance the fire resistance of their homes. One of the most significant aspects of Firewise groups is their ability to connect neighbors, fostering a sense of community and mutual assistance in times of need."

On everybody's mind

The packed room at Tularcitos was an indicator that local homeowners are paying attention to what their counterparts in Southern California are going through.

"We had 270 people in that room because the L.A. fires are on top of everybody's mind," she said.

Residents listened to presentations on three topics. Mary Beth Bykoswky of the California Department of Insurance talked about what the state is doing to lower insurance rates.

Matt Lumadue and Josh Mallobox of the Monterey County Regional Fire Department discussed regulations that require residents to create defensible space around their homes.

And Andrea Estrada from the County of Monterey Department of Emergency Management and Sgt. Brian Irons from the Monterey County Sheriff's Office discussed what residents can do to better prepare for an evacuation in case of a wildfire.

'If the wind is right, all of Carmel Valley is at risk'

Power in numbers

The president of the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, Richard Bates told The Pine Cone that the first Firewise group in Monterey County was formed just five years ago, and now there are 55 in the county, with 23 between Cachagua and the mouth of Carmel Valley, where the wildfire threat is arguably the greatest. "If the wind is right, all of Carmel Valley is at risk," Bates said.

Bates encouraged residents to either join existing groups or form new ones in their neighborhoods.

"There truly is power in numbers," he added. "The more people join groups, the safer the whole region becomes. If you are looking to create a safe space around your house, that safe space multiplies based on the number of safe homes that surround you."

Bates said the effort is "like a chain link fence — the more links you have in the chain, the safer everyone is."

If you are interested in joining or starting a Firewise group, visit firesafemonterey.org.

Also, a video of the Jan. 17 meeting can be viewed on YouTube — to find it, search for the RoblesFirewise channel.

Big Sur debates cap on hotel rooms, cabins and 'visitor-serving units'

By CHRIS COUNTS

IS THERE too much tourism in Big Sur? Responding to concerns by some that there is, the Monterey County Planning Commission hosted a hearing Wednesday on the viability of establishing a moratorium on new visitor-serving units in the highly scenic area — but commissioners made it clear they had no intention of taking any immediate action on the idea.

Marcus Foster of Keep Big Sur Wild told the planning commission that the county needs better data before it can determine if Big Sur warrants more overnight units for visitors. While the county contends there's room down the coast for 187 more hotel rooms, cabins and the like, Keep Big Sur Wild said a cap of 300 new units envisioned under the Big Sur Land Use Plan has already been exceeded.

He also said the start date for counting new units under the land use plan should be the date it was drafted, not the date it was certified.

Pricey tents, trailers

"The draft was completed in 1979, but it took almost seven years for that to get certified by the California Coastal Commission," Foster said. "There was a lot of development in Big Sur in between that time frame."

Foster also said it's essential for the county to apply the cap to luxury tents, yurts and trailers, which he said are being rented out for as much as \$1,200 a night.

Foster noted that Big Sur Campground and Cabins has submitted an application to replace 71 RV sites with their own trailers, which he said will reduce the number of affordable campsites in Big Sur.

Christina McGinnis, also of Keep Big

Sur Wild, said the increasing congestion along Highway 1 in recent years is a public safety hazard that justifies a moratorium on new visitor-serving units.

Citing the death of a woman crossing Highway 1 at Soberanes Point last year, she said "the public's safety and welfare are currently threatened by traffic and congestion impacts and the overcrowding of recreational facilities, which would be exasperated by the addition of visitor-serving units and the additional staff support needed to run them."

Not 'feasible or reasonable'

Representing a property owner who wants to develop a hostel, attorney Mike Linder pushed back against the viability of a moratorium on visitor-serving units.

"A moratorium is neither feasible or reasonable," Linder said. "There is no current or immediate threat to public health."

Linder suggested that visitor-serving units could reduce traffic by extending the stays of visitors. He also noted that business is slow at the moment due to the highway closure to the south.

"Visitation is down," he added. "Many local businesses I work with are struggling."

Also pushing back against the idea of a moratorium was attorney Aengus Jeffers, who is representing Post Ranch, the Big Sur River Inn and Treebones.

"My clients share concerns about over-visitation," Jeffers said. "But we have serious concerns regarding the county actually exercising its extraordinary moratorium powers to prohibit consideration of any new visitor serving units. We don't see why the existing visitor-serving units — and

See UNITS page 20A

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Police: Burglar invited friends over

By MARY SCHLEY

A 53-YEAR-OLD man let himself into a house on Monte Verde Street to do drugs while the tenants were away and invited a couple of friends to join him, according to Carmel Police Sgt. Gerald Maldonado, but the party came to an end when someone reported the burglary last Tuesday evening.

Shortly before 7 p.m. Jan. 21, the police department received a phone call from someone reporting a break-in had occurred at a home on the west side of Monte Verde south of Fifth. When the first two officers arrived, they observed “several subjects inside of the residence” and called for additional units to assist them, according to Maldonado.

“A perimeter was set up, and a total of three subjects were seen exiting the residence,” he said. Police captured two of them, while the apparent instigator, Michael Sobel, ran back inside.

“Officers gave chase and were able to apprehend him,” Maldonado said.

It turned out Sobel is an associate of the people who were renting the house. “Both of the renters were out of the area when he let himself in unlawfully,” he said. “It appeared he then invited the other subjects

over so they could use drugs together.”

Police arrested Sobel, whose last known address is on Crest Road in Pebble Beach, according to his booking information, for first-degree burglary, possession of a controlled substance with two or more prior convictions, and resisting arrest. He was booked into Monterey County Jail but has since been released. Monterey County Superior Court records show numerous felony, misdemeanor and traffic cases filed against a man by the same name since 1999.



Michael Sobel

Evicted

Of the other two people who were caught at the house, Maldonado said, 32-year-old Athena Miller was arrested and released at the scene with a promise to appear in court on charges of possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia, and the other was let go.

The renters have also been dealt with, according to Maldonado.

“The owner of the residence has been trying to evict the tenants for a while now,” he explained. “The owner finally got the sheriff’s department civil division to formally evict the tenants on Jan. 22,” and subsequently requested that Carmel P.D. issue trespass warnings to anyone found on the property.

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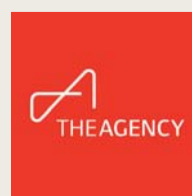


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Visitor hopes to find owner of old ring

By MARY SCHLEY

WHEN LORI Heilman stepped out of her car on San Carlos Street on a Tuesday afternoon a couple of weeks ago, she glanced down and spotted a man's gold wedding band in the gutter.

After police expressed pessimism at the chances of locating its owner, she said, she decided to see if she could manage it herself.

"The inside is engraved with what I believe is a wedding date — very old — and a name," she told The Pine Cone. "I would love to see it returned to its owner or surviving family."

Fruitless search

Heilman, who was visiting Carmel from just outside Las Vegas, found the ring Jan. 14. She said she contacted Carmel P.D. and left her contact information but was told that the department is "unable to

take reports for lost or found property, and if it were to be turned in to them, it would only be kept for 90 days before it would be destroyed.

"I do not wish for that to happen to something that I'm sure is precious to someone," she explained.

Heilman described the piece as being a simple, traditional men's wedding ring, and the only clues to its ownership are a first name and a date in 1950, which she attempted to research but found the effort fruitless.

"There were 1.6 million marriages in 1950, and the name is common," she explained.

She did not want to share the details, lest someone pretend to be the owner just to end up with a bit of precious metal that could be easily converted to cash. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Heilman at (775) 764-0278, preferably by text.

Man duped in health insurance scam

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

IN AN unusual twist on online scams, a resident who was looking for medical insurance ended up paying a company that doesn't exist, according to Carmel Police Sgt. Gerald Maldonado.

The 49-year-old man, who lives at First and Lobos, told police Jan. 14 that he visited a website that directed him to a different company's phone number.

"The victim called that phone number and was directed to make payments until the insurance took effect," Maldonado explained. The resident made a total of \$632 in payments over a two-month period before learning he'd been scammed.

"The victim did not find out this was a scam until he went to an appointment, and

he was told the insurance was not valid," Maldonado said.

With cyber- and identity-theft criminals constantly developing new tactics and scams to trick people and steal their money and identities, Maldonado suggested residents protect themselves by not clicking on untrusted links, not letting anyone rush them into immediate payment, and verifying information using trusted sources and websites.

"If there is an offer or a deal that is too good to be true, it most likely is a scam," he added. "The FBI also has an internet crimes complaint center which has information on current cybercrime trends and safeguards you can take."

Visit IC3.gov for more information and tips.

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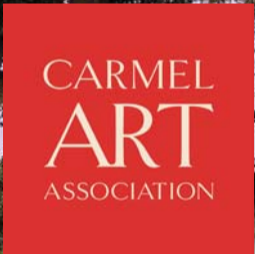


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Police: cameras nab driver who hit child

By KELLY NIX

A MARINA man who police say struck a 14-year-old boy with his car in Pacific Grove and fled the scene last weekend was arrested the next day, thanks to technology and several vigilant citizens.

Pacific Grove Police said that on Jan. 25 the teenager, a student at P.G. Middle School, was running southbound across Lighthouse Avenue at Alder Street when 36-year-old Toyota Prius driver Icaro Fernandes Araujo struck him and left the scene.

Ryan and Tracy Travaille, who were leaving a friend's house nearby, heard the crash and witnessed the immediate aftermath. Ryan told The Pine Cone Monday that he and his wife tended to the boy, who had an injured and bloody wrist and complained that his leg didn't feel right.

"As the car drove away, the boy was sitting on the curb," Travaille explained. "He had gotten up, made it to curb and sat down. I thought he had a concussion because he kept repeating the same thing."

He said the driver stopped briefly after the collision then drove off.

Travaille picked up headphones and a phone belonging to the teen — who had been on a 4-mile run when the accident occurred — and called 911 and a family member.

The teen was treated by Monterey Fire, which arrived quickly, but he declined a trip to a hospital. However, his parents took him to a hospital later that night, police said.

Spotted

While it was too dark to see the fleeing car's license plate or whether a male or female was driving, Tracy Travaille said she believed the car was a Toyota Prius in a blue or gray color. She posted information about the hit and run and the vehicle description on social media, where it led to a crucial tip.

"The day after the accident, the suspect's vehicle was seen driving through

See FLED page 29A



Icaro Fernandes Araujo

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Woman falls, sues after dogs attack her horse

By KELLY NIX

A WOMAN who said she was critically injured when three dogs attacked a horse that she was riding at a popular Carmel Valley park last year has filed a lawsuit against the owner of the dogs, which were not leashed at the time.

Tanya Tarantino claims in the Jan. 8 civil complaint that on Feb. 16, 2024, she was on her horse at Garland Ranch Regional Park off Carmel Valley Road when she was met by three dogs owned by Janet and Jessica Seagraves that were “off leash and uncontrolled.”

“Tanya Tarantino was exiting the trail when defendants’ dogs viciously and violently attacked Tarantino’s horse,” according to the lawsuit filed Jan. 8 in Monterey County Superior Court.

‘Strictly liable’

Tarantino, who contends she was using the trail “as it was intended to be used,” said she was “critically injured” in the accident when she was thrown from her horse.

She claims a violation of California Civil Code 3342, which states that dog owners are “held strictly liable for any damages resulting from a dog bite.”

“As a result of the misconduct of defendants, plaintiff suffered serious and permanent injuries,” the lawsuit, filed for Tarantino by Monterey attorney James Spiering, said.

Monterey County is also named as a defendant. The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District manages Garland Ranch Regional Park.

A Feb. 19, 2024, social media post by a friend of Tarantino’s said she was riding a horse called Ringo when the incident occurred.

“If you don’t have control of your dog, keep him on a leash or leave him home,” the friend wrote.

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District’s

website states that “domestic animals are welcome if under leash or immediate voice and visual control.”

Tarantino accuses the Seagraves of negligence and willful failure to warn, and Monterey County of dangerous condition of public property. She is seeking an undisclosed amount in damages exceeding \$35,000 for wage loss, property damage, loss of earning capacity and hospital and medical expenses. The complaint does not detail the extent of her injuries.

Foundation hosts talk on real estate market

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A MORTGAGE specialist and a real estate broker will share their insights into the local market during a free talk hosted by The Carmel Foundation in Diment Hall at Lincoln and Eighth Feb. 5 at 2:30 p.m.

Jeff McMullen with CrossCountry Mortgage and Patrick Ryan, a broker associate with Sotheby’s International, will offer “an insightful discussion on the current state of the Carmel real estate market,” according to organizers, and “the latest market trends and challenges, including affordability and inventory levels specific to Carmel.”

While the nonprofit foundation serves members 55 and older, the talk is open to all. Find more information at carmelfoundation.org.



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Fire prep, Flock cameras, financial audit, and a few contracts on agenda

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CITY of Carmel on Wednesday released its city council agendas for Feb. 3-4 with a new twist: time estimates. A financial audit report set for the special meeting Monday, for instance, is expected to run an hour, while a report on Flock license-plate-reading cameras on Tuesday is expected to go half that long.

Headlining the Feb. 3 meeting is a presentation on fire preparedness in the city, a topic at the top of everyone's minds given the devastating and deadly wildfires in Southern California.

Other notable items on the agenda — which also includes the consent calendar of routine items of city business like monthly reports, the check register and a resolution allowing the serving of alcohol during Third Thursday

events at Devendorf Park — are the annual comprehensive financial report of audited financial statements and the independent auditor's analysis, and a proposed \$110,543 contract for new audio/visual equipment in the council chambers.

The final topic during the open session involves a "discussion on establishing a financial stewardship workgroup and an emergency preparedness workgroup." The agenda packet does not include an accompanying staff report for this topic, so what, exactly, workgroups are and what they would do will be revealed at the meeting.

Cameras, contracts

At the regular meeting Tuesday, following a report from Carmel High, an introduction of new city employees, a presentation on the nonprofit Harmony at Home, and

announcements from councilmembers, the city administrator and the city attorney, Police Chief Paul Tomasi will present a revised contract with Flock for the lease of traffic cameras.

Approved by the council in April 2023, the initial agreement with the company — which also operates cameras in Pacific Grove, Seaside and other Monterey Peninsula cities — called for as many as 30 devices throughout the city, including in residential areas. But their installation was halted after members of the public expressed concerns about privacy and questioned whether that many cameras were necessary. They also objected to their aesthetics.

"It is the professional opinion of the chief of police that the Flock cameras are a benefit to the safety of the village. Although our crime rates aren't as high as some cities, we still have a history of significant crimes taking place, and we remain a prime target for criminals who are looking to victimize both our residents and businesses," Tomasi says in his report. "Our village contains several high-end retail shops and vacant residences, both of which make us a desirable location for criminal activity. These cameras act as both a preventative precaution as well as an enforcement tool to deter and prosecute crime."

Facial recognition

Therefore, Tomasi plans to recommend amending the Flock contract to retain the half-dozen cameras already in use in place of the former perimeter cameras and reserve the option to add six to 10 more after PG&E grants access to power poles in the business district. To address privacy concerns, the city would work with the vendor on the contract "to ensure language preventing the sharing of personal data by Flock" and forbidding the use of facial recognition technology without permission from the council. In addition, a yearly report presented by CPD would show the use and effectiveness of the system.

The council is also set to consider three contracts. If approved, Moffatt & Nichol, Inc. will be paid up to \$399,013 for coastal engineering and environmental services at Carmel Beach, Advance Design Consultants, Inc. will get \$58,020 to upgrade electrical panels and EV charging stations, and Ausonio, Inc., will get a \$50,000 increase to its contract for project management services, bringing the total to \$175,000.

To fill the vacancies left by councilmembers Hans

See **CAMERAS** page 28A




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MAN GETS PRISON FOR VIOLATIONS

By KELLY NIX

A JUDGE last week sentenced a man who in 2023 threatened to kill the former principal of Pacific Grove High School to prison after he violated the terms of his probation.

Riley Elvin, 29, was arrested by Monterey Police Nov. 30, 2024, at El Estero Park in Monterey after he was caught fondling himself. He was subsequently charged with lewd conduct, but prosecutors and Elvin’s attorney last month reached an agreement that allowed Elvin to plead guilty to violating his felony probation terms in exchange for dismissal of the misdemeanor lewd conduct case. He was on probation for threatening the school principal in November 2023 after trespassing onto school grounds.

While Elvin could have received 365 days in jail, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Pamela Butler sentenced Elvin — who has a lengthy criminal history — to a state prison term during a Jan. 22 court hearing.

“The lewd act charge was dismissed, and he was sentenced to a two-year prison term pursuant to Penal Code 1170(h), for the violation of probation,” Monterey County Assistant District Attorney Lana Nassoura told The Pine Cone after the hearing, adding that Elvin did not make a statement before being sentenced.

Elvin’s criminal history in Monterey County goes back to 2014. A quick search of his name on the Monterey County Superior Court database shows five pages of

See **PRISON** page 25A

Man who attacked woman gets prison

By KELLY NIX

A PACIFIC Grove man who choked his girlfriend a year after he kidnapped another woman was sentenced to more than four years in prison, the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office said.

On Jan. 10, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Pamela Butler sentenced Daniel Howland Hall, 25, to four years and four months behind bars after he pleaded no contest, which amounts to a guilty plea, to false imprisonment by violence when he physically abused his girlfriend July 30, 2024, at the unidentified woman’s home in Pacific Grove.

“When Jane Doe separated herself from Hall, he went into her bedroom, took her phone away, and proceeded to hold her down and strangle her for approximately one minute,” the district attorney’s office explained this week.

room with her three children before calling 911. She had visible injuries on her neck from Hall choking her, prosecutors said.

Kidnapping, too

At the time of last year’s crime against his girlfriend, Hall was on felony probation for kidnapping an ex-girlfriend, identified by prosecutors as Jane Doe 2, on June 30, 2023.

Hall “did unlawfully, forcibly and by instilling fear, steal, take, hold, detain and arrest” Doe 2, according to a July 2023 criminal complaint filed by the DA’s office.

Prosecutors say he also “knowingly and maliciously” attempted to prevent or dissuade a witness from “reporting her victimization,” and he was charged with the felony.

Butler terminated Hall’s probation and found that the 2024 incident constitutes a strike offense under the state’s three strikes law.

Doe broke free from Hall and ran into a



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Piano seller, teacher returns to P.G.

By KELLY NIX

PIANO SHOPS are rarer than brick and mortar bookstores, at least in Monterey County. They're so rare, in fact, there's only one — and it's in Pacific Grove.

Mark Stevens Fine Pianos, at 207 16th St., is operated by Chicago native Mark Stevens, who opened the store in November 2024 to sell gently used pianos and offer lessons to children.

"I offer fine pre-owned grand and upright pianos, and I personally select every instrument," Stevens told The Pine Cone, adding that he also takes them on consignment and accepts donations from those who no longer want their old upright or grand.

Days before a reporter from the newspaper interviewed Stevens at his store, he'd sold off a few pianos, but his offerings at the time included a roughly 100-year-old Wurlitzer with a walnut case, and a Remington manufactured by Pramberger in polished ebony.

Good advice

While Stevens doesn't sell new pianos, he said he's happy to put customers who want new ones in touch with authorized dealers and help steer them in the right direction.

"A lot of people don't want to shop for one," he said, adding that they'd rather rely on advice from someone knowledgeable about the instrument. "And people who live on the Monterey Peninsula also do not want to drive to San Jose to purchase a piano."

The bread and butter of his business is teaching piano to young students aged 6 to 12, something he's done for 42 years.

Stevens isn't new to the Peninsula, and

his new shop in Pacific Grove is his second — the first being in a different location nearly a decade ago.

"I moved to Pacific Grove with the dream of opening a piano store, and I opened my doors for business in June 2016," Stevens said.

Better weather

Six years later, he retired, closed shop and moved back to Chicago. After enduring the "miserable Midwest winters" and realizing that he wasn't suited to retirement, Stevens returned to the Peninsula.

"I continued receiving numerous phone calls and emails from people asking for advice on pianos, ranging from referring a piano mover, piano tuner, helping them sell or buy a piano, looking for a piano teacher



PHOTO/KELLY NIX

Mark Stevens sits behind a piano at his shop in Pacific Grove, where he sells the instruments and offers lessons to children.

for their kids, etc.," he said. "All of those things motivated me to reopen the store in Pacific Grove, and the doors opened once again in November."

A professional jazz pianist, singer and composer, Stevens may be remembered by some locals as the house pianist at Affina restaurant, which was on the corner of Sixth Avenue and San Carlos in Carmel.

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Officers receive lifesaving award

By MARY SCHLEY

TWO CARMEL Police officers who saved a choking victim at a downtown restaurant last fall were recognized at the Jan. 14 city council meeting — though neither was there to receive the praise in person.

“This is one of the highlights of the job, when we get to celebrate some of the high-quality service we provide,” Police Chief Paul Tomasi told the council before recounting the rescue.

“In some cases, it comes down to seconds that matter, and in this incident, the police were actually on scene first for a subject who was choking at a restaurant,” he said.

Full recovery

Officers Joe Boucher and Tim Ament were on patrol at around 8:15 p.m. Sept. 26, 2024, when a report came in that a customer at Anton & Michel on Mission Street was unresponsive and not breathing.

The men rushed to the scene, assessed the situation and realized the victim was choking on some food, according to Tomasi.

Boucher and Ament took turns administering abdominal thrusts until the food

was dislodged, all before the paramedics arrived.

“While performing the Heimlich, the obstruction was cleared from the airway, and the patient regained breathing and consciousness,” said Tomasi, who nominated the officers for the Monterey County Peace Officers Association’s Distinguished Service Award, which they received at a ceremony last October.

One of the medics who subsequently got on scene used suction to remove an additional piece of food, he said, and the patient made a full recovery.

“If it had not been for the swift and decisive actions taken by officers Boucher and Ament for saving the life of a choking victim who was unresponsive and not breathing,” Tomasi read, “the patient most likely would not have survived.”

After winning the MCPOA’s award, each now wears a red and white service pin on the left side of his lapel, Tomasi said at the council meeting.

“So when you see an officer with that pin, it means at some point in their career, they saved somebody’s life,” he said.

Neither could attend the meeting, Tomasi added, because Ament was on vacation and Boucher was on duty but responding to a call.

Gift cards for Altadena fire victims

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A ‘GIVING Day’ scheduled by Rotary for Feb. 8 will generate critical support for Altadena residents who lost their homes, and the Carmel Community Emergency Response Team is trying to get as many \$50 gift cards together for the drive as possible.

“In our communications with Altadena Rotary, we have learned that many of their CERT members and Rotarians have lost their homes,” said CERT captains Wanda

Vollmer and Scot Smythe. “We reached out to Graeme Roberston of Carmel-by-the-Sea Rotary a few days ago, and they are interested in supporting our efforts with a direct cash donation.”

Vollmer and Smythe are asking Peninsula CERT members and the general public to donate gift cards in \$50 increments from Target, Trader Joe’s and ARCO gas by dropping them off at Carmel P.D. at Junipero and Fourth or Monterey Fire on Pacific Street by Feb. 6. Altadena Rotary is a 501(c)3, so donations are tax deductible.

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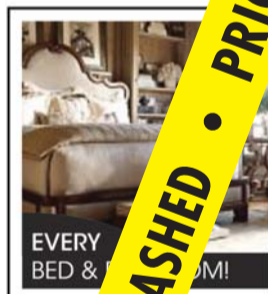
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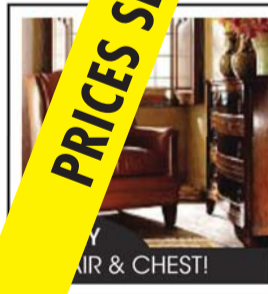
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BATTERIES

From page 1A

Energy Commission's opt-in certification program, which is designed to usurp local control, avoid not-in-my-backyard fights and keep clean energy projects on track. Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the program into law in 2022 to

help the state meet its lofty renewable energy goals.

AB 303, or the Battery Energy Safety and Accountability Act, would remove battery storage facilities from the California Energy Commission opt-in certification program and give approval authority back to local governments. It would also prohibit facilities capable of storing 200 megawatts or more from being built within 3,200 feet of homes, schools, healthcare facilities and environmentally sensitive areas. The language puts the future of the

Moss Landing battery site in question, as it sits next to Elkhorn Slough, an estuarine sanctuary.

The bill is the first piece of legislation Addis has introduced this session. If passed, AB 303 would take effect immediately as an emergency statute. It would also require the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to reject any pending applications for battery storage facilities.

Industry pushback

Addis will likely face tough opposition from the powerful renewable energy lobby in Sacramento. By reintroducing NIMBYism into the renewable energy permitting process, her bill could bring battery storage expansion to a screeching halt in the Golden State.

"The renewable energy industry is extremely powerful in Sacramento, they get kind of whatever they want. I would have a hard time imagining that this bill will get much support beyond communities that are looking at this directly," said Dustin Mulvaney, an environmental studies professor at San Jose State University.

Mulvaney studies energy storage systems and said battery facilities are key to achieving the state's climate goals. The sites store solar power during the day and deliver it in the early morning and evening hours when the sun is down but California's households need the most energy.

In September 2024, the California Energy Commission reported there were 13,391 megawatts of battery storage statewide, a huge increase from 500 megawatts in 2018. But the state has a lot further to go to reach its goal of 52,000 megawatts of storage by 2045, the same year California wants to reach 100 percent clean energy.

Moss Landing has been an important component in the storage map. The power plant there is home to three Vistra battery storage facilities — including the one that burned — along with a PG&E battery site. Together, the installations put Moss Landing on the map as the fourth-largest power storage locale in the state.

Better technology

As battery storage capacity has rapidly grown in California, the technology has evolved in step. By current standards, Vistra's Phase I plant was already outdated when it went up in smoke two weeks ago. Batteries used in storage facilities built today are less energy-dense, making them less likely to experience thermal runaway and cause a fire. Design standards for the facilities have also improved and require stronger containment like cement walls between batteries to halt fires if they start.

See **STORAGE** next page



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STORAGE

From previous page

Still, Mulvaney admits the newer batteries come with their own safety concerns. Vistra's site at Moss Landing housed batteries made from lithium manganese and cobalt. Mulvaney said newer storage sites use lithium iron phosphate batteries, which store less energy requiring more batteries, albeit ones that don't get as hot.

However, if lithium iron phosphate batteries do catch fire, they are more likely to emit toxic gases.

Mulvaney said it's understandable that community members, after seeing what happened in Moss Landing, are going to want to stop such facilities from being built near them, but he doesn't think they'll have the power to do it. "I don't think the opt-in process will go away for batteries I think that legislation is dead on arrival and Vistra will have the upper hand and be able to build whatever they want there at the end of the day," said Mulvaney

Local support

The Battery Energy Safety and Accountability Act does have the support of local leaders. Monterey County 2nd District Supervisor Glenn Church was at the press conference announcing the legislation and said he backs it.

"What we have now are rather haphazard regulations on this relatively new industry. I appreciate the aspects inside of AB 303 that will allow local control. This is what democracy is all about," said Church.

Addis also has support for her bill from locals in her home county of San Luis Obispo, where Vistra is attempting to open another storage facility. This week, Morro Bay's city council passed an ordinance

temporarily banning battery storage facilities for at least 45 days. Vistra has already applied for a permit, via the California Energy Commission's opt-in certification program, to build a 600-megawatt storage facility at the retired Morro Bay power plant.

Safety regulation

Local control over battery storage facility permitting may not be in the cards for California counties and cities, but increased safety standards could be on the horizon. If nothing else, the Moss Landing battery fire was a wake-up call for the renewable industry and the state regulators overseeing it.

On Monday, the California Public Utilities Commission heeded the call of Addis and her fellow central coast representatives, Assemblymember Gail Peller and State Sen. John Laird to start an independent investigation of the fire. Addis and her colleagues asked not only for a full breakdown of the environmental and public health impacts, but also that the commission enact and enforce safety standards for battery storage sites.

In a statement regarding the investigation, the California Public Utilities Commission said it is looking "to establish new standards for the maintenance and operation of battery energy storage facilities" and to "increase oversight over emergency response action plans for battery energy storage facilities."

The Jan. 16 fire marks the fourth incident at the Moss Landing Power Plant since 2019, and was the third for Vistra at the site. PG&E also had an incident in Moss Landing in 2022.

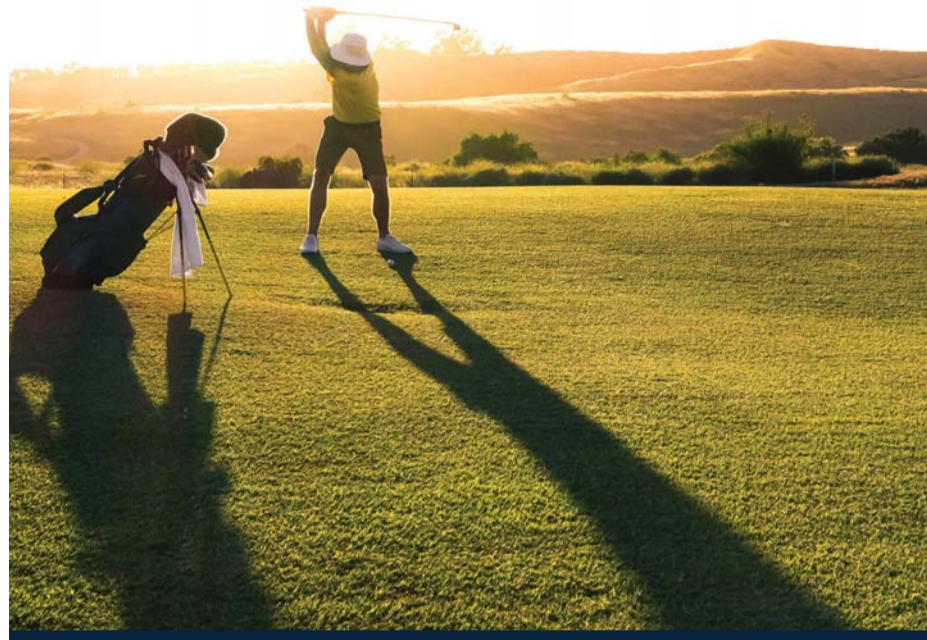
Addis said she believes we are living in a climate crisis in need of solutions, but said those solutions need to be safe.

"Response to emergencies is also much more expensive than prevention," she said.

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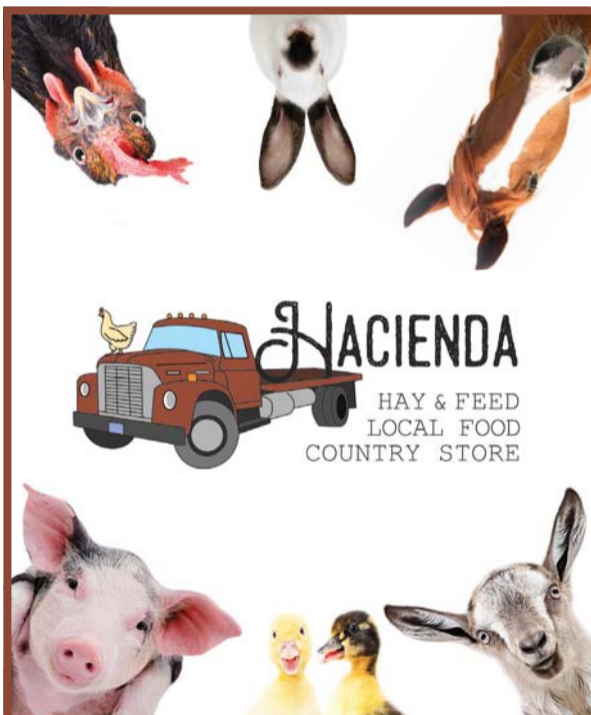
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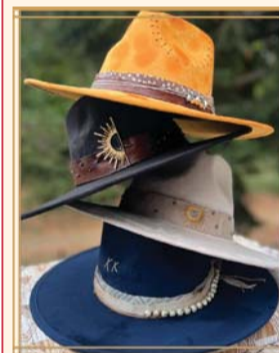
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Scottie Scheffler returns to PGA Tour — and Pro-Am — after hand surgery

By MICHAEL JAMES

PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS work in a non-contact occupation but get injured regularly. Strained lower backs, sore shoulders, painful knees and myriad other problems arise from the awkward nature of swinging a stick at a tiny ball.

Kitchen mishaps don't usually put PGA players on the injured list, but Scottie Scheffler discovered the dangers of broken glass on Christmas, and the golf's top-ranked player hasn't competed since.

In December, while preparing dinner for his family, Scheffler sustained a puncture wound from a glass that broke while he was using it to roll dough for ravioli. Shards ended up in the palm of his right hand, which required surgery.

After missing the early PGA Tour season, Scheffler is making his 2025 debut this week at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

Sixth in 2024

A month's recovery was recommended, which positioned Scheffler's return at the AT&T, the season's fifth tournament. He finished tied for sixth last year in its debut as one of the PGA Tour's eight Signature Events.

Scheffler hadn't previously played in the AT&T, but the \$20 million purse in 2024 (\$3.6 million to the winner) provided the incentive. It was a vast increase from 2023's offering of \$9 million, with \$1.62 million for the winner.

After an opening-round 69, Scheffler moved into a three-way tie for the lead after 36 holes with a bogey-free 64 at Pebble Beach Golf Links. He finished with birdies on the 17th and 18th holes and began the third (and eventual final) round tied with Thomas Detry of Belgium and Ludvig Aberg of Sweden at 11 under par, but Scheffler finished with a third-round 70.

"I felt like I hit a lot of quality shots," said Scheffler, who set the first of his two consecutive PGA Tour yearly earnings records with more than \$21 million in 2023. "I think I may have hit every green, giving myself a lot of good looks."

Scheffler, 28, has returned to the AT&T after a season of dominance — with one caveat.

In his fifth full PGA Tour season, Scheffler won the Masters, the Olympic gold medal, The Players Championship and the FedEx Cup among his nine titles worldwide. He was the PGA Tour player of the year and the first player since Tiger Woods in 2009 to hold the No. 1 ranking for the entire calendar year.

But Scheffler was also among the PGA Tour's poorest performers in short-range putting (103rd) and mediocre in the overall putting statistics (77th). He's now using a new style of putter in some situations and has a new putting grip.

"Last year, I was trying to be perfect on the greens," Scheffler said in the PGA Tour's "Scottie 24" documentary on Netflix. "It didn't really go that well, so when I switched it up, I was able to free things up and see some

good, consistent results from it. I was just trying to be too perfect."

Beyond his wayward putting, Scheffler had the strongest season in recent PGA Tour history, including a statistical wonder. He led the PGA Tour in more than 20 categories, including earnings (\$29,228,357), scoring average (68.01) and birdies per round (4.88).

Winings and a baby

Through five PGA Tour seasons, Scheffler has 13 titles in 130 events. He has nine second-place finishes, 10 third-place efforts and 59 top-10s.

With career earnings of \$71,793,586, Scheffler began this season fifth on the all-time career earnings list, trailing Tiger Woods (\$120,999,166), Phil Mickelson (\$96,685,635), Rory McIlroy (\$90,989,348) and Dustin Johnson (\$75,557,026).

While his tournament success was the sport's story of the year, Scheffler's off-course life was enveloped by joy and the bizarre.

Scheffler's wife, Meredith, gave birth to the couple's first child, Bennett, in early May, 2024. A few days later, Scheffler was arrested before the second round of the PGA Championship.

The arrest occurred when Scheffler was charged with four offenses amid confusion over his early morning arrival instructions from a law enforcement

See **INJURED** page 21A



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SUZANNE HREN

This is a tribute from my son, Adam Conway, to Suzanne Hren. She unfortunately passed away just before Christmas. She was a godmother of my two sons, Peterson and Adam. They loved her dearly and they knew her better than anyone. Our hearts are so saddened by losing her but so grateful for having her in our lives as the most tender, loving person we've ever known.

"I will never forget going to a bar in the Mission District in San Francisco with Susie and returning afterward to find a homeless drunk man in her car. I was ready to play Mr. Offended Macho Car Owner when Susie opened the driver's door and warmly told the guy, 'Hi, honey. These are my rings on your fingers. I would like them back, but you can keep all of the sunflower seeds.' Most of the seeds he had already eaten and those shells were littered all over her car. After getting her rings off his fingers, she gently helped him out of her Volvo which for whatever reason you couldn't lock, and then started laughing uncontrollably.

That was Susie.



UNITS

From page 6A

the potential for at most, approximately 187 units — are being singled out as a primary contributor to Big Sur's overvisitation. From what we see, the primary causes are day-use visitation and the illegal short-term rentals."

'Not the right time'

It's unclear if the push for a moratorium on visitor-serving units in Big Sur will gain traction, but based on the comments by planning commissioners, it won't happen anytime soon.

After noting that recently installed trailers at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park were

counted by the county as visitor-serving units — thereby establishing a precedent — planning commissioner Martha Diehl said she isn't supporting establishing a moratorium, at least for now. "There's a case to be made that this is not the right time for a moratorium," Diehl said.

She conceded that some units that were deemed campsites in the past should have been designated visitor-serving units. But she said the planning commission is focusing its resources on updating the Big Sur Land Use Plan.

"It's a question of urgency — we've been fighting really hard to keep the staff time we have for the Big Sur Land Use Plan update," she added. "I don't think we can make the required findings for a moratorium — I don't think it's a good use of resources to go down that road."

DIANE FLICK GRUNDY

Aug. 17, 1934 ♦ Dec. 26, 2024

Diane Flick Grundy, age 90, passed away peacefully on Dec. 26, 2024, in her beautiful Carmel Highlands home. She was surrounded by family and her beloved labradoodle, Sunny.

Diane was born on Aug. 17, 1934, in Evanston, IL, to George and Mabel Flick. She met her loving husband, John Grundy (d. 2017), at Nichols Jr. High School. They met again at DePauw University, where they swiftly fell in love. Diane formed lifelong friendships when she joined Alpha Chi Omega sorority. Shortly after graduation, she and John married and moved to Coronado, CA as part of John's Naval service.

Returning to Illinois in the late '50s, the couple settled in Glenview. The family grew with the births of their four children — John Jr., Cindy, Steve and Andy. The Grundy home was filled with love, laughter, endless friends and the joy of family life. Diane was an extraordinary mother. She tirelessly guided the children with steady love and patience, and always had time to listen, even in the middle of the night. If anyone needed support, she was there, with nurturing advice.

Diane and John crafted family vacations that were often beyond the norm. Ski trips to Michigan on the winter weekends, summer Boy Scout family camp in Wisconsin, road trips to Florida in a camper, and cross-country tours in antique automobiles that they collected. In fact, as the children grew, they traveled as a family to Canada, Mexico, and 45 of the 50 states.

Diane and John were co-owners of Profile Plastics Corporation, a successful business on the cutting edge of plastic manufacturing from 1956 until they sold in the late '80s, and retired to Carmel. Diane managed vital aspects of the family business alongside John. As respected as they were in business, they were equally admired as parents and members of the community.

Diane was an avid reader and was a contributing member of the Carmel Foundation Book Club. Diane and John traveled Europe, Africa, South America and the United States. They loved retirement, car events, tennis and their active social life.

Diane, "Nana," played a pivotal role in raising her 11 grandchildren, which now trickles down to the 10 great-grandchildren, Whether living locally, or across many miles, every child felt her loving, nurturing guidance.

Diane's competitive spirit shone in activities like ping-pong. She not only taught her children and grandchildren how to play, but also challenged them fiercely. She was a force to be reckoned with!

Diane was a humble athlete. She participated in synchronized swimming in high school, played "A" level tennis throughout adulthood, loved horseback riding, skiing, hiking and competitive dog agility. She was a healthy, strong, vibrant woman.

Even into her final months, Diane attended agility practices twice a week, driving to Morgan Hill with Sunny in tow. In May of 2024, her energy started to wane, and her friends stepped in as runners while Diane encouraged Sunny from the sidelines.

Diane was vibrant until the last days of her life. She had often said "90 will be enough", and she was right. Diane lived by example. Teaching all who knew her how to be better people and live a good life. Her kindness, strength and love left an indelible mark on her family and friends — a life well lived and deeply cherished.

A celebration of life will be held in March at the agility field in Morgan Hill, CA. Please contact the family for details at dianegrundymemorial@gmail.com



PHOEBE CROONQUIST

Phoebe Croonquist, a resident of Pebble Beach, California, passed away peacefully on Dec. 14, 2024.

Where do you begin to summarize a 99-year-long life? There are not enough words to describe who Phoebe was and what she did in her lifetime.

Born in Spokane Washington on October 9, 1925, Phoebe was an "active and athletic" Army brat, reminding her father of an energetic and curious squirrel which earned her the nickname of "Bushy Tail." As a child, Phoebe loved her outdoor adventures at Bozeman and Yellowstone. Kansas brought horseback riding into her life, and she excelled in that endeavor. In the Philippines, Phoebe, as the only girl in the cross-country riding competition, won and was awarded the trophy by General MacArthur! In New York, Phoebe was sent home from school because of an incoming hurricane and when she did not arrive home promptly her father found her at the top of a tree enjoying the storm.

Phoebe's father passed away when she was only 17 which resulted in Phoebe, her mother, Patricia, and sister, Barbara, buying a convertible and driving cross country to start anew in Spokane.

Phoebe left Spokane in her mid-20s to find her dreams in the Bay Area and ended up in the Palo Alto/Menlo Park area. It was here she met her future husband, Paul Croonquist, who was home on leave and together they were a match made in heaven. Phoebe excelled as an Army wife, doing all the tasks that only other military spouses can understand!

Eventually the couple settled in Pebble Beach where Phoebe was a volunteer at La Mirada, Santa Catalina School, St. Angela Merici and the Junior League. Phoebe enjoyed golf, loved a good bridge game and loved dancing. She made many people happy at Christmas with her famous Almond Roca.

Phoebe was above all a fantastic mother who gave her family an unparalleled example of unconditional love.

As children we did not see our parents with the same clarity that came later. As adults, we came to understand and better appreciate all of Phoebe's extraordinary qualities ... her patience and generosity, her loving, forgiving and caring nature and her strength of will. Phoebe's sense of style and humor will always remain with us.

Phoebe is survived by her five children, Bliss, Brookes, Paul, Kristina (Gerard) and Catherine; five grandchildren, Jack, Danielle, Brendan, Mike and Brad; as well as four great-grandchildren, Tommy, Matyn, Luka, and Xander. She was preceded in death by her husband, Colonel Arvid Paul Croonquist Jr., daughter, Ann Croonquist and sister, Barbara Nevers.

A Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Feb. 13, 2025, at St. Angela Merici Catholic Church in Pacific Grove.

The family thanks the Hospice of the Central Coast. Donations can be made to the Hospice in lieu of flowers.



They look really good for being 100 years old



PHOTO/MICHAEL TROUTMAN, DMT IMAGING

The driving forces behind the Carmel Woman's Club, along with dozens of members and supporters, raised their glasses at a special ribbon cutting last Thursday to kick off a year of centennial celebrations.



Gloria S. Chavarria

Gloria S. Chavarria of Carmel, CA passed peacefully on Aug. 28, 2024. Gloria was born in San Francisco to Emanuel and Adele Sanchez.

Gloria lived in Pacifica, CA for many years before relocating to Carmel in the '90s.

In the early '60s, Gloria went to work as a stewardess for Pan Am, a career that she loved. She had a wonderful life in which she pursued many passions: sewing, animal services and traveling. She even took part in a safari to Africa with the Cheetah Conservation Fund to help in the conservation of these beautiful animals.

She often could be seen tooling around Carmel in her Miata and walking her dogs down to Carmel Beach.

Gloria was a longtime volunteer with the Animal Welfare Association and co-founded the Animal Switchboard with Virginia and Grace Handley. Together they assisted callers with animal-related problems and referred callers to veterinary and humane services.

She is predeceased by her sisters, Aida Jansen and Ana Shore.

She leaves behind her nephew, Brian Jansen and wife Cheryl of Tampa FL; and niece, Adi Philpott of Chicago, IL.

A private family memorial will be held. Those wishing to honor Gloria can make donations to the Golden Oldies Cat Rescue, or an animal charity of their choice.

INJURED

From page 19A

officer near the gates to Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Ky. He was released from jail on his own recognizance a few hours later, in time to play his second round before all charges were later dropped.

"It's been a long year; It's been a very fun year," Scheffler said in September, 2024 after the Tour Championship in which he secured FedExCup championship. "I think

emotionally right now I'm pretty drained."

"I really don't know how to put it into words. It's been a very eventful year but it's been really fun. You had the one weird spot there at Valhalla, which I just don't really know what to say about it. But everything else has been pretty special."

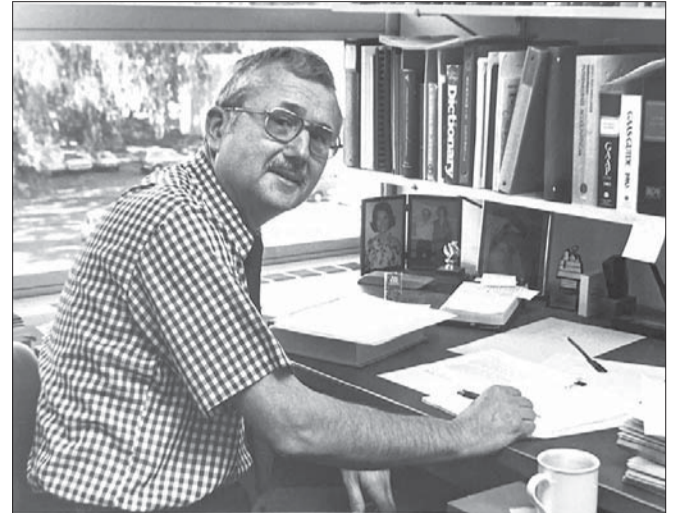
Scheffler's talents are easily defined by two traits; consistency and relentlessness. He's twice been golf's top-ranked player, for 30 weeks beginning in March 2022 and then beginning May 21, 2023. He's been perched at No. 1 since, with his status reaching 119 consecutive weeks at the beginning of the 2025 season.

JAMES M. FREMGEN

James M. Fremgen, a true gentleman who fell in love with the Monterey Peninsula while an officer in the Coast Guard and who lived in Pacific Grove for more than a half century, died Dec. 20, 2024, after an illness. He was 91.

Jim was born Dec. 5, 1933 — the day on which Prohibition was repealed — in Chicago to Marguerite and William Froembgen.

He received his baccalaureate degree from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., in 1954 and his master's and doctoral degrees from Indiana University in Bloomington in 1955 and 1961, all with majors in accounting.



He met the love of his life, Eleanor, at Indiana University where she also was a student, studying to be a librarian. They married on May 12, 1956, and moved to Coos Bay, Ore., where Jim had been assigned by the Coast Guard. He later was transferred to Monterey until 1958 when he left the Coast Guard as a lieutenant. He often, at the request of his sons and grandchildren, would regale them with stories of his service, from helping stranded fishermen to monitoring a drifting aircraft carrier and more.

The couple moved to Bloomington for Jim's doctorate studies and then in 1961 to South Bend where Jim became a professor of accounting at Notre Dame. He became a certified public accountant in 1964 in Indiana.

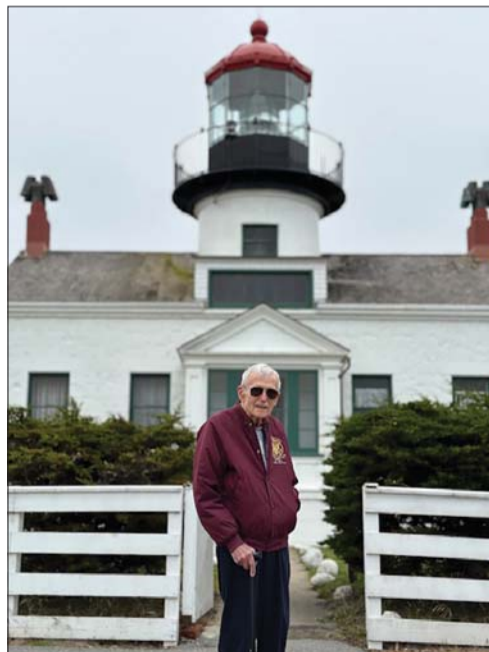
Tiring of South Bend's harsh winters and abundant snowfalls, they moved back to Monterey in 1965 and Jim became a professor at the Naval Postgraduate School until his retirement in 2000.

Jim also served as a visiting professor at the University of Hawaii, Northeastern University and Northwestern University. He was the author of three books and 20 professional articles.

Jim and Eleanor traveled throughout Europe, especially enjoying Switzerland, and often made trips to Bandon, Ore. Eleanor, his wife of 66 years, passed away in 2022.

In retirement, Jim was a volunteer docent at Point Lobos State Reserve, at Point Pinos Lighthouse and at Point Sur Light Station and a master of jigsaw puzzles.

For his 90th birthday, the Pacific Grove High School Marching Band marched to his home and helped celebrate his special day, performing Happy Birthday, the Notre Dame victory song and the Coast Guard anthem. The event was captured by KSBW-TV for all of its viewers.



Here's a note from his grandchildren: Our Grandpa. What a guy! There is not enough space in this entire newspaper to capture the essence of what he meant to us. He was a man who loved the opera, a cold glass of Chardonnay and most of all, us, his grandchildren. We always appreciated his humorous remarks that would leave the family roaring with laughter and the adoring looks between him and Grandma. Through Grandpa we inherited a love for fine dining, during which he would order his salmon "still swimming." Grandpa completed hundreds — if not thousands — of jigsaw puzzles in his life. It was only fitting and divinely timed that his final puzzle would be one made from a photo of him and his own soul's missing piece, Grandma. Although our hearts ache for the loss of our wonderful Grandpa, we find solace knowing their hearts are complete and together again never to be separated. Grandpa's gentle, loving heart lives on in his four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and his sons who learned the beautiful art of Grandfatherhood from him. We love you (Great) Grandpa!

Jim is survived by his sons, James (wife DeeDee) of Petaluma and Stephen (wife Colleen) of Salinas; by grandchildren, Jimmy and Peter (wife Breyko) of Sacramento, Natalie (husband Noah) of Weatherford, Texas, and Morgan of San Jose; and great-grandchildren, Carson and Kathleen of Weatherford, both of whom Jim took a special delight in; sister-in-law Amy of Cathedral City and brother Richard (wife Bonnie) of Evanston, Ill.

Inurnment is at El Carmelo Cemetery in Pacific Grove. A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 17, at Carmel Mission Basilica.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are suggested to Point Lobos Foundation, P.O. Box 221789, Carmel, CA 93922 or to Central Coast Lighthouse Keepers, P.O. Box 223014, Carmel, CA 93922.

STABBING

From page 1A

she said she heard screams and someone thrown against the wall, were the words that she used, so she left her house and locked the door," Gervase said. "A few minutes later, the woman who lives in the house, I think her name is Sherri, came running out of the house covered in blood from head to toe, and screaming, of course."

The neighbor told Gervase that she and some other nearby residents "sat her down and placed her against a tree, and someone got a towel and started cleaning her up," he said. "They also called 911, and she said it took three calls to get through."

Gervase said she told him it took law enforcement and the ambulance 15 minutes to get there.

The deputies and medics found the victim sitting outside, according to Monterey County Sheriff's Cmdr. Andy Rosas. "She had sustained multiple stab wounds to the upper portion of her body," but she was conscious and was

able to name her son, William, as the person who attacked her in their home. Rosas said she believed he was still inside.

SWAT, bomb squad

While an ambulance took Darpinian to the trauma center at Natividad Medical Center for treatment, deputies surrounded the unit and called to him to come out, but that elicited no response. The sheriff's office scrambled its SWAT team so it would have crisis negotiators on hand to try to talk to him, and the bomb squad came to send its robot inside to see if Darpinian was there.

"We didn't believe there was anyone in the house other than Darpinian," Rosas explained.

In case the suspect had escaped and was hiding, the sheriff's office and Cal Fire also sent drones up to aid in the search, and the Del Mesa community was ordered to shelter in place, with people who were off the property at the time not allowed to return.

"You have one way in one and way out, with narrow roads, and we knew we had emergency assets and equipment coming in," Rosas explained. "But we also had that



PHOTO/JERRY GERVAISE

The Monterey County Sheriff's SWAT team helped in the search for a stabbing suspect Saturday in Carmel Valley, to no avail.

aspect of not knowing where Mr. Darpinian was," and trying to keep others out of harm's way while they tried to find and arrest him.

After hours of searching and waiting and determining Darpinian was not, in fact, in his mother's residence or in another unit that appeared to have been forcibly entered, they combed the neighborhood, which has ample hiding spots, and nearby hiking trails, but found no sign of the accused stabber there, either. Meanwhile, residents continued to be told to stay indoors, and those who live in units near the crime scene and had left for the safety of the clubhouse and Woody's restaurant were not allowed to return.

Finally, at 5:30 p.m., the sheriff's office lifted the shelter-in-place order.

"They kept us until after 5 p.m. before they allowed us to go home," Gervase said. "By then, we surmised the guy was never in the house, and the reason they didn't want people outside was because they were searching for him."

The sheriff's office released a description and photo of Darpinian and asked the public to keep an eye out for him but to stay away, since he was considered armed and dangerous.

"Once we confirmed he wasn't in the house, we did those searches and were not able to locate him, so we started to get descriptive information and photos out to the public to try to find him," Rosas said. "We did get one phone call from someone who provided a description of someone they saw down the hill" near Carmel Valley Road.

The man had long, curly hair and was wearing shorts, a T-shirt and no shoes, the caller told deputies, Rosas said. "And that's what he was wearing when he turned himself in."

Shortly after 4 a.m. Jan. 26, freezing while hiding through the night in little clothing, Darpinian walked up to the entrance gate at Del Mesa Carmel and told the guard he knew sheriff's deputies were looking for him and that he wanted to turn himself in, according to Rosas, and then calmly waited for them to arrive.

Evidence?

During the investigation, crime-scene technicians recovered evidence from the Del Mesa residence, "but we don't know if any of them were used" in the stabbing, he said.

He also had no further information on Sherri Darpinian's condition, and efforts to reach her were unsuccessful. Former Del Mesa Carmel resident Toby Rowland-Jones, who had her as a former tenant, said he also dropped her a note but hadn't heard back.

The DA's office filed its criminal complaint against the alleged stabber Jan. 27, charging him with "attempted willful, deliberate and premeditated murder, a felony, against Jane Doe, a human being," and an enhancement for using "a deadly and dangerous weapon, to wit, a knife."

He was assigned a public defender and pleaded not guilty. The next hearing in his case is set for Feb. 7 in Monterey County Superior Court Judge Pamela Butler's courtroom in Salinas. According to court records, he has no prior citations or criminal cases against him in this county.

VIRGINIA (GINNY) KATHLEEN DAVIS

Virginia (Ginny) Kathleen Davis passed away on Jan. 19, 2025, after a short bout with cancer. Ginny was born in Arlington, VA to G. Gervase (Gerry) Davis III and Kathleen Anderson Davis on March 11, 1957. The family moved to Van Nuys, CA where her sister Cynthia (Cindi) Davis was born in 1959. The family then moved to Marin County, CA before finally settling in Monterey in 1962. Two more sisters, Susan Davis (1962) and Shauna Davis (1965) were born in Monterey.

Ginny attended Monterey public schools, graduating from Monterey High School in 1975. She graduated from Mills College in Oakland, CA in 1979 and then obtained her master's degree from Holy Names College in Oakland, CA. Ginny worked in business administration before choosing the medical field. She started out as an EMT, moved up to a paramedic, and then always wanting to do more for others, she furthered her education and became a Physician's Assistant (PA).

Ginny worked at several health clinics as a PA in general practice and in pediatrics in Soledad, Watsonville, Salinas, Gonzales and later, Seaside. She became fluent in Spanish so that she could better serve her patients. Ginny enjoyed her work as a PA and was well-loved by her patients and coworkers.

In 1995 she met Kim Kelley at a music festival in Northern California while both were working as EMTs, and they remained together until Kim's death in 2021 (they married in 2013). They had two children, Makenna Kelley Davis (23) and Griffin Kelley Davis (19).

Ginny loved to travel with her family and friends, most recently completing a tour around the world visiting many National Parks and animal habitats. The highlight of the tour was seeing Dian Fossey's gorillas in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She is survived by her children, three sisters, nieces and nephews – Tarrah, Kelly, Lauren, Riley and Jimmy, new grandnephew Finch, and sisters-in-law Kathleen Kelley and Tracy Kelley-O'Neill. She was preceded in death by her parents, Gerry and Kathy Davis, who both passed in 2018.



Donations in Ginny's name can be made to the Kim Kelley Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund, established in 2021 to provide scholarships for Hartnell nursing students: (<https://give.salinasvalleyhealthfoundation.org>) or the charity of one's choosing.

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BATTLES

From page 3A

“They passed a law in California that if you work in an election bureau and if you so much as ask for a voter ID, if you say ‘Sir, ma’am could I please look at your voter ID?’ they have the right to put you in jail, you’re a criminal,” the president told the crowd.

Trump was talking about Senate Bill 1174, which was passed last year and took effect Jan. 1. The law prohibits local governments from compelling people to show identification when casting ballots.

Irvine Democrat Dave Min authored the ban in response to Huntington Beach amending its city charter in March to require ID in its municipal elections. Min moved on to the U.S. House of Representatives after winning a close race against Republican Scott Baugh in November, 2024.

During his Inauguration Day remarks, Trump went on to say he could have won California, alleging that voter ID bans and vote-by-mail ballots were the reason his vote count was low in the solidly blue Golden State.

“I think when we get things cleaned up and we get back to a little bit of normalcy, I’m going to ask the speaker to really get involved, because I think we would have won the State of California,” said Trump.

Republicans could move forward with the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act. It requires proof of citizenship when registering to vote, and election officials who fail to comply can be penalized. The bill passed the House in July but stalled in the formerly Democrat-controlled Senate.

Delta water

The president is also taking action on California’s water supply. On the day he was inaugurated, Trump sent a memo to the secretaries of the interior and commerce to route more water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to Southern California.

The memo — with the subject line, “Putting People over Fish: Stopping Radical Environmentalism to Provide Water to Southern California” — calls on federal agencies to develop a new plan within 90 days.

Delta water comes from the federal Central Valley Project and the State Water Project. Both deliver water from Northern California to San Joaquin Valley farmers as well as Southern California customers. The delivery system is highly regulated and debated as government agencies work to balance the desires of farmers, tribes and environmentalists.

In December, 2024 the Biden administration, with the blessing of Gov. Gavin Newsom, announced new rules surrounding water allocation. Trump’s memo directs federal agencies to override the latest plan.

If put into action, the water directive would continue the work Trump started during his first administration when he attempted to change the state’s water infrastructure and bring more water from the north to the south. California halted those plans with a lawsuit aimed at protecting fish species, including the Delta smelt.

California Democrats predict these fights are just the start. The vote to provide the \$50 million for future legal battles is expected next week.

County legal challenge to birthright order

By KELLY NIX

MONTEREY COUNTY has decided to join the fight against President Donald Trump’s executive order denying birthright citizenship to children born to mothers and fathers who are in the United States illegally.

Spokeswoman Maia Carroll said Wednesday that the county had joined an amicus brief filed in federal court to oppose Trump’s order. The court document allows an entity with a strong interest in a case to offer input on a lawsuit without being a plaintiff.

After the Civil War, the 14th Amendment was added to the Constitution to convey citizenship upon anyone “born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof.” The Supreme Court has never determined how that language applies to illegal immigrants. Many Americans believe the right of birthright citizenship has long been abused.

‘Cornerstone of democracy’

Numerous states filed suit against the Trump administration on Jan. 21, seeking an injunction “to protect states, localities and residents from the president’s flagrantly unlawful attempt to strip” children of “citizenship based on their parentage.”

“Monterey County stands alongside the cities of Alameda, Oakland, Sacramento, Santa Monica and West Hollywood, as well as the County of Santa Clara, in challenging the legality and impact of the executive order,” the press release stated.

The county, which has a large undocumented

population, believes that the order, if it gets past legal challenges, would cause “harmful consequences,” Monterey County contends. District 3 Monterey County Supervisor Chris Lopez contends the order “directly contradicts” the nation’s “constitutional principles and American values.”

“Birthright citizenship has been a cornerstone of our democracy, ensuring that all children born on U.S. soil are recognized as full citizens,” the board chair said. “The County of Monterey is committed to standing up for the rights of our residents and protecting the integrity of our community.”

‘Increased burdens’

District 4 Supervisor Wendy Root Askew said in December 2024 that “21 percent of Monterey County residents are undocumented immigrants.” If that number is accurate, it would mean there are roughly 90,000 undocumented people in the county.

The county and more than 70 other jurisdictions that also oppose the order contend that if it is implemented, it would deny affected children “fundamental rights such as voting, serving on juries, and accessing federal financial aid for education, restrict employment and benefits, and bar individuals from obtaining work authorization and make them ineligible for key federal programs.”

The county claims it would also increase burdens on local governments, “forcing counties like Monterey to develop new administrative processes for birth certificates, citizenship verification and social services” and “create economic and social instability, with ripple effects on local economies, public health and education.”



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REGISTRY

From page 1A

within 30 days.

Those who own fewer than four rentals are exempt from the registry and its \$50-per-unit annual fee, but they must file for exemptions with the city. Owners of subsidized units, mobile homes and owner-occupied homes containing rooms for rent must register them but don't have to pay the annual fees.

Much of that information was made available last month via a public database accessible from the city's website.

Since the rental registry was launched a year ago, 75 percent of the estimated 8,130 rentals in the city have complied, with 4,200 units on 737 properties registered and 1,729 rentals on 1,398 properties exempted. So far, the program has cost \$243,354 to manage, with fees from landlords covering just over 81 percent of it.

By the numbers

The Jan. 21 hearing marked the first time information gathered from the database was distilled and presented to the public.

Most of the rentals in the city — more than 86 percent — are small, with one or two bedrooms, and the average rents for places of those sizes are \$1,801 and \$2,362,

respectively. The highest number of rentals, more than 1,400, are in the New Monterey area, while the fewest — four — are in the upscale Alta Mesa neighborhood near Del Monte Center. The highest average rent of \$3,162 is in the Del Monte Beach area, where the median renter household income is also the highest, at \$158,363. The lowest rents are charged downtown, where the average is \$1,596, which also coincides with the lowest median income of \$52,404.

More than half of the properties are locally owned, and just under 73 percent of rental properties are owned by smaller-scale landlords, as opposed to large companies.

Stable rents

While the review breaks down the data across 15 Monterey neighborhoods and looks at "renter socioeconomics" by area, too, such as the ethnicities of the people who live in them, it draws no conclusions on what it all means, whether rents are too high and, if they are, what can be done about it.

In fact, a consultant's analysis of the data shows that inflation-adjusted rents have been stable in Monterey since 2010. Renters' incomes, however, haven't kept pace with inflation, the consultant said.

"We're starting to understand what's going on in our rental market," Wyatt said, and starting this year, the database will also require landlords to disclose security deposits and charges related to the ratio utility billing system, which spreads costs for laundry facilities, common areas and the like in multifamily-residential complexes among the tenants. Renters have complained about those charges, which some council members described as "hidden fees."

"Tenants facing the threat of eviction who applied for the city's rental assistance program indicated that fees accounted for a significant additional cost that prevented

them from paying rent," Wyatt said. "It is important to understand how often this charge is occurring and to determine how it is being applied."

While she said the information from the registry is useful, it's missing data due to the exemption for owners of fewer than four rentals, so she argued for eliminating it.

"Removing the exemption for property owners who own three or fewer properties is integral to the overall success of the program," she said. "Removal of this exemption will provide data that is needed to best illustrate the city's rental market landscape. There is no data-based reason to retain this exemption."

She also pointed out doing so would generate more money for the program, as would her proposal to raise the per-unit registration fee from \$50 to \$75.

Sympathizing with renters, Wyatt recommended the council no longer allow landlords to pass through half of the per-unit rental registry fee on to their tenants.

"If you're a tenant and all of a sudden you get one bill for the year that's an additional \$25, and you just don't have enough money, that can really make or break a family," she said.

In addition, she advocated for more tenant protections, including requiring owners to offer 12-month leases to new renters and upon expiration of prior agreements.

She said many tenants are having a hard time paying their rents, as costs for other necessities, like groceries, healthcare and childcare, have risen, and are facing unfair evictions.

Most oppose

Of the 19 members of the public who commented on the report and Wyatt's recommendations, two were supportive.

"Increasing transparency around rent and utilities is so important," Carissa, who said she is a pediatric nurse practitioner, told the council. "I hope it leads to policies that make Monterey more accessible to working folks like myself." She argued no owners should be exempt from the registry.

See RENTAL next page



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RENTAL

From previous page

“We have a lot of compassion for our tenants,” owner Elizabeth Todd said. “But I would like the city to also have compassion for landlords,” many of whom have seen their insurance rates and other costs spike.

Jeff Davi, former California Real Estate Commissioner, said many owners are worried the registry will lead to rent control, as happened in Salinas last year. “This is all pointing toward rent stabilization, and that’s very concerning to me,” he said. “You told me it’s not, but that’s what we’re all worried about. Salinas is a disaster.”

‘Immense burden’

Nelson Vega said the registry has caused rents to increase, and Adam Pinterits, government and community affairs director for the Monterey County Association of Realtors, said requiring 12-month leases would “force property managers and landlords to take absolutely no risks” when selecting tenants.

“If they see a single red flag, they’re simply not going to take the chance,” he said. “That would have a disparate impact on hardworking families.”

Graziella Cardinalli, who sold her rental rather than deal with the registry, said Wyatt is asking for changes too soon.

“Claiming this is not an effort toward rent stabilization is dishonest,” she said. “This dishonesty is evident from the new wave of proposals being brought forth tonight on how to amend this registry without even a year under its belt.”

Recently elected councilwoman Jean Rasch observed that everyone wants stable communities and affordable rents, “and I think the question is, how can we do that, and is government intervention going to be effective?”

She was sympathetic to small-scale landlords who are grappling with rising insurance rates and maintenance issues on

their older residences. “I think that’s an immense burden that we underestimate,” she said. “I oppose making any changes. I don’t want to drop the small exemptions.”

Councilman Ed Smith reminded his colleagues that he “argued vehemently against” the registry when it was being debated in 2023, but he acknowledged it’s probably here to stay.

But with less than a year of information-gathering, he said, it’s too soon to draw any conclusions or make any changes.

“I don’t see enough data to make one single change to the program,” he said, adding that the idea of requiring 12-month leases is “intrusive” and “borders on illegal.”

Smith also challenged the housing staff to work within their means rather than raise fees. “We should look at trimming and work within the revenue we know we’re going to capture,” he said.

Mayor Tyller Williamson again insisted the registry is not a precursor to rent control and said he would favor eliminating the exemption, which he didn’t want in the first place, but that he didn’t feel the need to do it now. He also said he would support more protections for tenants and other ways to make the registry more robust.

PRISON

From page 13A

cases (each page contains 10 cases), most of them criminal, that he’s been charged with in the last 11 years, though some of them have been dismissed. The crimes he’s been convicted of include drug possession, battery and shoplifting.

On Jan. 17, 2024, Elvin was deemed incompetent to stand trial and ordered to be placed in a state mental hospital for treatment with the goal of having his competency restored so he could face the charges. About five months later, after reviewing a report from the Department of State Hospitals, Butler found that he was fit to stand trial.



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Editorial

CEQA can't catch a break

PITY THE poor California Environmental Quality Act. For decades, it was royalty in the Golden State, overriding local control of land uses, empowering environmentalists, frustrating property owners and giving thrills to all those narcissistic activists you see at every city council and county board of supervisors meeting.

So worshipped was CEQA, you'd think it was more infallible than the pope. At least, from the 1970s until just a few years ago, it was treated that way.

But things started to change when powerful politicians and their union allies started noticing that CEQA was getting in the way of projects that would benefit them. Sure, some poor schlub with an undeveloped lot in the middle of a city might spend years trying to figure out what CEQA required him to do, and then even longer in court trying to prove he did it, but when big-money projects started to get the same treatment, the Legislature and the governor rushed to create exemptions. Outstanding examples of this "good for thee but not for me" are the NFL football stadium in Inglewood, the NBA arena in Sacramento, freeway widening projects from San Diego to Eureka, all sorts of "sustainable" transportation proposals, and even major housing developments, provided they served a favored constituency.

As the years went by, it wasn't just things the politicians liked that were lost in the CEQA labyrinth. So destructive was the law, it created a massive housing shortage that even the most ardent no-growth could no longer ignore. And that's when things like the state housing mandates started to emanate from Sacramento — once again overriding local control over land uses, but this time, instead of blocking new development, the legislature and the governor started requiring it and waiving CEQA rules to make sure it happens.

And then came the fires in Los Angeles. This week, Gov. Gavin Newsom issued an executive order suspending not CEQA, but its evil twin, the Coastal Act, to help get the thousands of homes destroyed in Pacific Palisades and other communities rebuilt.

"We will not let over-regulation stop us from helping the L.A. community rebuild and recover," Newsom said.

The step came just days after the governor issued a separate order waiving environmental review and permitting requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act that he said would have resulted in delays for rebuilding efforts.

The entire effort led the Sacramento Bee to ask, "Do environmental rules even matter?"

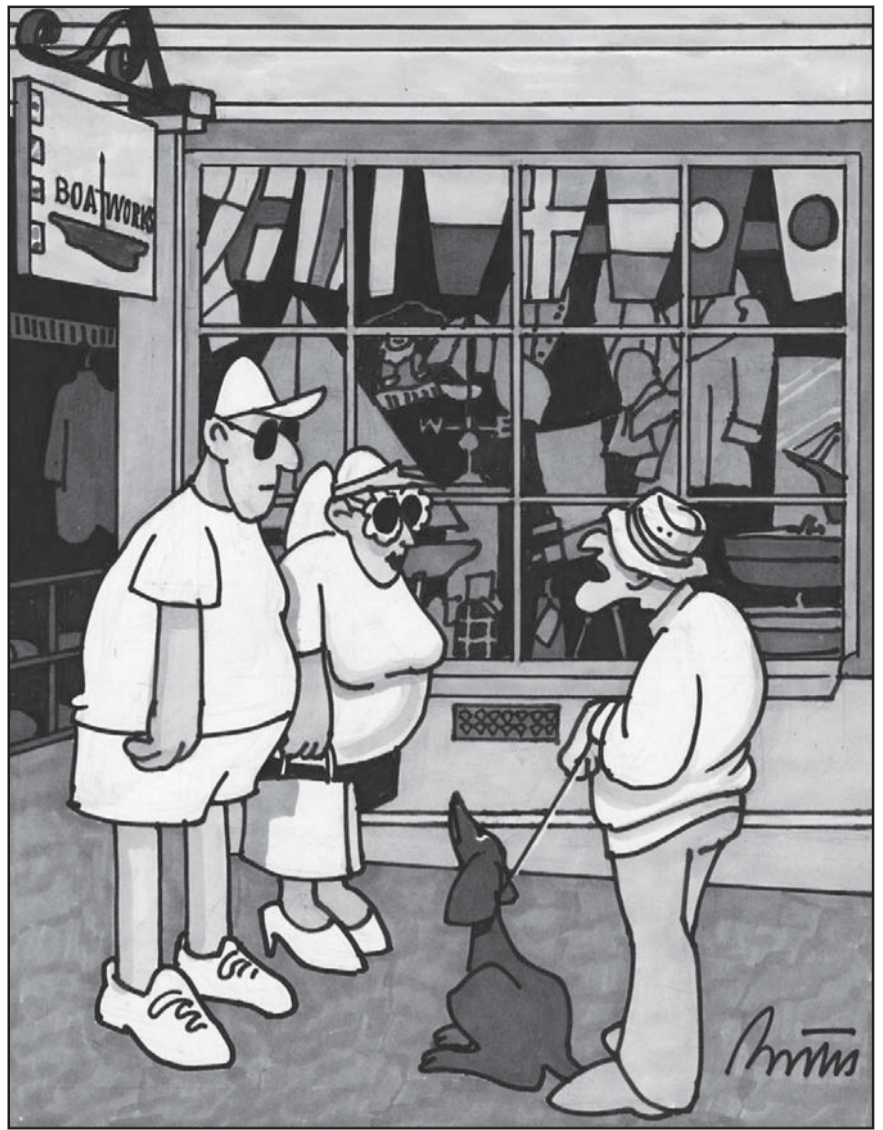
"It is remarkable that Newsom put the Coastal Commission in a choke hold," wrote Tad Weber. "Over-regulation is the charge Republicans have leveled at the commission for years."

Environmental laws to protect species, be they plants or animals, "exist for a reason," Weber observed. "To keep mankind from exterminating creatures and polluting the planet, the only home for humans. But recent history shows how the rules meant to protect nature can also be abused to stop almost anything from being built."

You don't say!

California is finally acting with common sense when it comes to balancing environmental concerns with human needs. What's a shame is that it took so long — and a massive housing shortage and a deadly fire catastrophe — to get them to do it.

BEST of BATES



"You're asking me how to get to Porta Bella? My memory went out when Doc Staniford's Drug Store folded."

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

Preserving Flanders Dear Editor,

The Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve board of directors would like to respond to the "Flanders Birthday" letter published in last week's Pine Cone. Our goal is to clarify certain misleading statements and share insights into our vision for Flanders Mansion, ensuring its place as a cherished part of the preserve, which we are honored to steward.

The Flanders Mansion Restoration Committee (part of Carmel Outlands) describes its proposal as a "low-impact plan that protects the property, complements Mission Trails, respects the neighborhood, and ensures financial sustainability." To the contrary, the proposal seeks to transform Flanders into a publicly accessible "event destination" where the appointed executive director and his family may reside, manage a commercial enterprise, and operate the property as a

"museum," misleadingly asserting that this use would involve no "personal gain."

Carmel Outlands' proposal overlooks the significant ramifications to the Mission Trail's habitats, trails, and wildlife. It also exposes Hatton Road and many surrounding area residents to the dangers and disruptions of increased traffic, parking, and noise, which will necessitate a costly environmental impact study.

To protect one of the most inviting and historic properties in the Carmel region—loved by neighbors, dog enthusiasts, birders, and local tourists — our group has partnered with concerned neighbors who strongly oppose this proposal. Our subgroup, Friends for Flanders, will establish a self-funded fellowship program that offers the community direction on forestry management, climate change, native plant expertise, best practices for fire safety, and effective forest and beach conservation.

Using the Mission Trail Nature Preserve as a living laboratory, our group, which has a 15-year track record of fundraising and stewardship, will oversee the restoration of Flanders Mansion to provide housing for a "resident ranger" and fellows for a set term. This genuinely "low-impact" solution respects the neighbors' needs and leaves the preserve as intended: a place of tranquility and beauty.

While we await the city council's strategic priorities directive for an open, transparent process, we present this alternative option that preserves our local gem and benefits our entire community.

For more information about our

See LETTERS page 29A

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‘The fish don’t take a day off,’ and other lessons in diligence

DOMINIC MERCURIO, the owner of Cafe Fina on Monterey’s Old Fisherman’s Wharf, comes from an old Peninsula fishing family, but he is also a successful businessman, hunter, and loving father and “nono” (grandpa). He was born and raised in Monterey, the son of Sicilian-Americans. His father was a fisherman born in North Africa who “followed the fish,” eventually ending up on the sardine-rich Monterey Bay. His mother’s family immigrated to New York, then moved to Monterey and opened a tailor shop downtown.

“I was raised on Spaghetti Hill,” he said, referring to the neighborhood between the Presidio of Monterey and the old part of town once dominated by the San Carlos Cathedral.

Garlic, basil

“It’s where all the Sicilians settled when they came to fish, because it’s sunny and walking distance to the wharf,” Mercurio, 66, said. He remembers a vendor coming by the neighborhood with fresh bread. “You always knew when he was coming, because he played music from his truck,” he recalled. The ice cream truck and the donut truck also played tunes. “To this day, the sound of that music brings back the most carefree memories of my childhood,” he said. On Sunday mornings, the whole neighborhood smelled like tomato sauce as all the moms

professional fishing. When he was 13, his father took him on his annual fishing trip to Alaska for the summer. The state’s fish



PHOTO/SALLY BAHO

Where else would he be? Dominic Mercurio is shown at Cafe Fina, his restaurant on Monterey’s Old Fisherman’s Wharf, where he welcomes tourists and locals alike.

and game agency, which tries to regulate fishing, offered separate licenses for gear holders — or deck hands — that would allow them to use more net. “So, many of the fishermen brought their kids,” he explained, adding that the youth were usually unpaid. Still, Mercurio liked it so much he spent the next 19 summers fishing in Alaska.

In the off season, he worked in Monterey’s restaurants. He got started at the former Captain’s Gig on the wharf, which belonged to his uncle, longtime restaurateur John Pisto. “When I was 10, he hired me to wash beer mugs for 50 cents an

See **LIVES** page 30A

Great Lives

By **SALLY BAHO**

and nonas worked in their kitchens. The streets were filled with kids playing, biking and running amid the aroma of garlic and onions, tomato and basil, “until we were called to lunch. Sunday lunches were sacred,” he reminisced.

Mercurio grew up in the world of

From the mayor’s desk —

Lessons learned at League of Cities

By **DALE BYRNE**

LAST WEEK, councilmember Hans Buder and I attended a two-and-a-half day mayors and council members academy hosted by the League of California Cities in Sacramento. This intensive program provided insights into crucial aspects of municipal governance, including finance, land use planning, legal obligations, social media, the league’s advocacy efforts, and many others.

Established in 1898, the league represents all 483 cities in California, providing a wide range of services to support local governance.

■ The challenge and reward

Public service is unique. Leading a city doesn’t require formal credentials like those needed to be an accountant, engineer,

doctor or airline pilot, yet the responsibility is immense. Being a mayor, councilmember or commissioner means making decisions that shape residents’ lives — passing ordinances, managing growth or approving house plans. The only official requirements are winning an election, taking an oath and completing brief courses on ethics and sexual harassment.

Sitting with a large roomful of dedicated public servants from 120 cities, I reflected on the weight of the responsibility we carry and the complex rules under which we operate. Each person in the room was there because they care deeply about their community. Public service isn’t about a paycheck — Carmel’s mayor earns \$200 and council members receive \$150 a month — but about preserving the character of our cities while meeting the health

See **MAYOR** page 29A

A vivid dream that came to life

HER DREAM — the sweetest of dreams — recurs most mornings, the minute Denise Kesten opens her eyes and embraces a freedom she’s enjoyed for the past seven years, since she retired from her civil service career as a psychotherapist.

“It’s a wonderful feeling, being able to get out of bed and do exactly what you want to do in this world. For me, it feels like a second childhood,” said Kes-

ten, whose bliss awaits at an easel in her Marina home.

College, then earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of San Francisco. As a civil servant, she became the first African-American woman hired as a key-punch operator and supervisor at Fort Ord, where she later worked as a computer technician, computer librarian and finance analyst. Hooks ultimately achieved a GS-12 rank as a civil servant — the civilian equivalent of a major in the U.S. Army.

Those accomplishments didn’t go unnoticed by her daughter, who, by the time she came to Seaside High, was aware that the world was changing.

“My mother had gone to segregated schools in Arkansas and Texas, where she grew up. I was fortunate that I never was exposed to that kind of thing in Pacific Grove,” she said. “And by the time I got to Seaside High, the superintendent of Monterey Peninsula Unified School District was an African-American woman.”

Laundry to superintendent

That superintendent, Dr. Charlie Mae Knight (1933-2013), arrived on the Peninsula with a teaching degree from the University of South Carolina but wasn’t allowed to hold a teaching job, so she, too, found employment at the Fort Ord laundry.

“Eventually, she got to teach, then worked her way up to the superintendent position and became very instrumental in recruiting people from historically Black universities to teach here,” Kesten said.

She added, “When I took my college prep English class at Seaside High, my African-American teacher, Ms. Dennis, introduced me to Black writers and Black

See **ARTIST** page 22RE

Carmel’s Artists

By **DENNIS TAYLOR**

ten, whose bliss awaits at an easel in her Marina home.

She’s a painter — one of the newer members of the Carmel Valley Art Association — specializing in acrylic renderings of the landscapes, seascapes and nature she’s appreciated since she was a kid in Pacific Grove.

“My brother and I grew up across the street from a family with eight kids, so we spent a lot of our time outside, playing all kinds of games,” remembered Kesten, whose childhood last name was Johnson. “With that many, we could always have teams.”

In quieter times, she was a blossoming artist, sketching, drawing, creating things — a talent that attracted attention as a youngster.

“I always got good grades, and nice remarks on my art — or my piece would get chosen to be on display in the hallway,” she said.

Raised by mom, grandmother

Her father moved the family to the Monterey Peninsula from Washington State when he was stationed at Fort Ord, but he moved away after serving his hitch.

“We were raised by my mother and grandmother,” said Kesten, who realized at a young age that her mom, an African-American, didn’t have access to the same opportunities as her White counterparts.

“When we came here in the 1950s, Black women couldn’t get jobs, other than menial and domestic-type work,” she said. “My mother, Ada Hooks, couldn’t be a saleslady or a teacher, or anything like that.” Instead, she found civil service employment in the laundry at Fort Ord, working alongside other minority women.

“She stayed in civil service for most of her life, slowly moving up,” Kesten said.

Hooks — valedictorian of her high school class in Houston — eventually got an associate’s degree from Monterey Peninsula



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

Marina artist Denise Kesten retired after 30 years as a psychotherapist to become an award-winning acrylic painter.

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CAMERAS

From page 12A

Buder and Bob Delves, both of whom were serving on commissions when they were elected in November 2024, the council will be asked to appoint Neal Rutta to the forest and beach commission and Mel Ahlborn to the planning commission, as recommended by Mayor Dale Byrne and Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Delves.

Byrne and Delves reviewed a dozen applications and interviewed candidates, including former council candidates David O'Neil and Parker Logan, former planning commissioner Gail Lehman and former forest and beach commissioner David Refuerzo, community activities commissioner Donna Jett, and city hall regular Melanie Billig, who sued the city years ago when it tried to sell Flanders Mansion.

Finally, councilmembers will review a proposed agreement with the nonprofit Carmel Public Library Foundation regarding the restoration of Harrison Memorial Library and will provide direction.

According to the agenda's time estimates — which don't include the open public comment periods, of course — Monday's meeting will include 125 minutes of presentations and discussion, and Tuesday's will include 135 minutes.

Each session is set to begin at 4:30 p.m. and will be held in person in city hall and online via Zoom. For more information, including full agenda packets and how to participate, visit ci.carmel.ca.us.

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MAYOR

From page 27A

and welfare needs of our residents, businesses and visitors.

■ Collaboration is key

A critical takeaway from the training was the importance of a strong, collaborative relationship between a city council and its city manager. Effective governance depends on trust and partnership. Hearing from city managers in El Cerrito and Morgan Hill highlighted both successes and cautionary tales regarding budgets, financial reporting, and pension issues. I believe our council is well on its way to fostering a productive relationship with our city administrator to implement policies effectively. It feels good.

■ Learning from others

One of the most valuable aspects of the training was learning from other cities facing similar challenges. Personal conversations with councilmembers in Mountain House, California's newest city (incorporated July 1, 2024), showed me they are working to develop a sustainable business model from a standing start. Grover Beach, just south of Pismo Beach, is meeting the same housing requirements as Carmel, but by building taller, denser structures in its downtown area. Milpitas has found that criminals evade Flock cameras by using stolen cars or fake IDs to rent vehicles. With 483 California cities managing complex operations 24/7, the scale of our state's collective municipal governance is staggering.

■ Community engagement

Over the past two months, Mayor Pro Tem Bob Delves and I have been actively recruiting for two open commission positions. After interviewing 12 outstanding applicants, we're excited to announce our new planning and forest and beach commissioners at next week's council meeting. We're inviting all applicants to attend to thank them for their passion to bring their expertise to serve our community. We will find a way for them to help!

I encourage everyone to join us for the upcoming council meetings on Monday and Tuesday, where you'll hear from civic organizations, engage in public comment, and meet talented new city team members. Additionally, the council will be debating and voting on several important contracts including Flock security cameras, shoreline infrastructure, electric charging stations, a new financial stewardship committee, and a transformational Carmel Public Library Foundation contract for restoring the historic Harrison Memorial Library.

These are important discussions that shape our community — don't miss the opportunity to be part of them! Public service thrives on collaboration — not just among city officials but with the residents we represent. I hope to see you next week.

FLED

From page 10A

the City of Pacific Grove," P.G. Police said. A citizen "got the suspect vehicle's license plate number and provided it to the police department."

Investigators checked the city's Flock camera system, which captures images of license plates of vehicles entering and leaving the city, and confirmed that a car with the same plate had been in P.G. around the time of the hit-and-run. That led officers to Araujo, who was arrested by P.G. Police and booked into Monterey County Jail on felony hit-and-run.

By Monday afternoon, jail records indicated that Araujo was no longer in custody, meaning he likely posted bail. The Monterey District Attorney's Office as of Wednesday afternoon had not filed any charges against him, court records show.

GAVEL

From page 4A

toward the manager. Self then struck the manager in the face with a closed fist and fled the scene. The manager suffered a laceration under his eye and a fracture to his right orbital socket.

On March 12, 2024, Self returned to the same Dollar General and confronted the manager again. Salinas Police Department officers responded to the scene and placed Self under arrest.

The Hon. Mark E. Hood sentenced Self to three years in state prison, which was doubled to six years because of a prior conviction under California's three strikes law. Self admitted that he inflicted great bodily injury on the victim, making this a second strike offense under the three strikes law.

This case was investigated by officers Alvarez and Han of the Salinas Police Department. The victim was assisted by victim advocate Ana Galvez.

LETTERS

From page 26A

proposal, please go to www.friendsforlanders.org.

Karen Ferlito, Greg D'Ambrosio and 16 others
Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve and Friends for Flanders

Water for developers?

Dear Editor,

Is it responsible to prioritize the needs of developers over the needs of existing residents who already face mounting pressures on water access, real fire hazards, and substantial cancellation of homeowners insurance policies?

In the Jan. 3 Pine Cone, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's Pure Water Monterey proposed to allocate 1.8 billion gallons of water for new housing and increased density in Monterey County in 2025. This action cannot be justified. The people on the Monterey Peninsula need this water supply to combat a probable fire, given the existing fire fuel vegetation in this forested area.

The Monterey Peninsula shares much of the same topographical challenges as Los Angeles — an area struggling with severe water scarcity, urban sprawl, environmental stress, and now transformed into an apocalyptic devastation. The Monterey Peninsula, though smaller in population and size, faces very similar concerns. We have less access to secure, sustainable sources of water due to the fragile nature of our local water systems and the increasing threats posed by climate change.

Allocating such a massive quantity of our precious water resources for new development not only risks compromising the long-term stability of our water supply, but also sets a dangerous precedent, where reliable access to water is a real concern. As the population in our county grows, so, too, will the demands on our limited resources.

The region's natural infrastructure — rivers and groundwater supplies — cannot support unchecked urban sprawl and increased density without dire consequences. When we deplete our resources for short-term gain, we risk the long-term health of our communities and ecosystems.

Instead of greenlighting massive water giveaways for new development, we urge the county to invest in solutions that promote sustainability, resource conservation, and resilience. We must prioritize improving water efficiency,

investing in desalination and water recycling technologies that strengthen our local infrastructure to ensure a future where all residents — current and future — have equitable access to the water we so desperately need. It is critical that we take a hard look at the choices we make today to ensure a future for the greater good.

Vicky Torcolini,
Carmel

Climate gobbledygook

Dear Editor,

In response to Monterey County supervisors' "climate action simulator," an online survey of how Monterey County should "meet its emissions reduction standards for the next five years," I would simply ask the supervisors, where's the science? And where are your priorities?

There is no empirical evidence supporting direct anthropogenic global warming (AGW) theory. Man's CO₂ emission — are less than 4 percent. Mother Earth's contribution is more than 96 percent. In total, CO₂ emissions represent just .04 percent by atmospheric density. Of man's 4 percent emissions, the United States contributes roughly 20 percent, or a mere .00032 percent of CO₂ by atmospheric density.

While our supervisors are scheming to push CO₂ emission-reduction standards, local citizens have had to deal with a toxic plume floating over their communities from a lithium battery "clean energy" fire. So much for emission-reduction standards. So much for clean air. So much for real county priorities.

And who can forget our county's previous, meaningless, non-science, unconstitutional Covid mandates?

With no empirical evidence of a direct, human-caused climate change, Monterey County supervisors need to focus on real issues affecting our community, starting with clean Monterey County air, abundant clean water and smart fire-abatement programs for 2025.

The county's climate action simulator gobbledygook and its approved "green energy" lithium battery facility, now a hazardous waste disaster, speak volumes of the supervisors' misplaced priorities.

Robert A. Sinotte, *Carmel*

Vistra's promises

Dear Editor,

How many times are we going to hear Vistra tell us

See **COMMENTS** page 14RE



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LIVES

From page 27A

hour,” he said. Mercurio worked his way up the kitchen ladder, first prepping, then cooking, learning to bus tables, and eventually becoming assistant manager at The Whaling Station, another Pisto property. In 1981, the two purchased Domenico’s on the Wharf as business partners.

Dedication

After a 1988 family squabble over Mercurio’s annual fishing trip to Alaska — which he took — he and Pisto parted ways. However, when he returned to California, the opportunity arose for Mercurio to buy what is now Cafe Fina, which is named for his mother. He remodeled the property and poured himself into it, making it an efficient and welcoming establishment beloved by many locals. Over the years, it has been featured on various shows on Food Network and, most recently, on

KQED’s “Check Please, Bay Area.”

He still goes fishing — and enjoys duck hunting — but has had to make sacrifices for the success of his restaurant, which he runs with his partner, Roxanne Roark. “Watching my mom and Nona cook for so long taught me not only to appreciate food, but also the dedication good food requires. I have that kind of dedication for my restaurant. If you want something to be successful, you have to dedicate yourself to it. I learned from the fishermen that the fish don’t take a day off, and you can’t do that in the restaurant business either,” he explained.

Mercurio runs a small family farm in the Central Valley, where he grows many of the fruits and vegetables for his restaurant — and does the aforementioned duck hunting.

He also had the good fortune of befriending late football coach and broadcasting legend John Madden, who first dined at Cafe Fina some 30 years ago. The two forged a friendship over poker, good food and golf, and even embarked

on a business venture together, buying and running 700 acres of almond orchards near Los Banos for many years. Among other adventures with the football star, Mercurio put on a barbecue for Madden’s 2006 induction into the NFL Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, a tradition which persisted for years, with the two riding cross-country in Madden’s famous bus.

You can find a plaque in his memory and his Raiders jacket at his regular table at Cafe Fina.

Mercurio is also proud of his children — Kathryn, who has a successful food blog (kathrynskitchenblog.com), and Dominic, a police officer in Watsonville. Despite his business successes, to Kathryn’s two little girls, Gianna and Mia, he’s just Nono.

METALS

From page 1A

batteries — the type at the Moss Landing facility that caught fire. The findings “clearly connect the occurrence of the heavy metals to airborne cathode material from the Vistra battery fire,” according to the research team, led by Ivano Aiello, professor of geological oceanography at the Moss Landing labs.

Magnification used

The researchers analyzed properties of the soil, including the presence of major and trace elements, immediately following the fire, which burned for more than 24 hours inside the large structure that housed the batteries. The disaster led to road closures, an evacuation of the area, and air quality and health concerns.

“The field surveys, conducted within a

radius of approximately 2 miles from the power plant, measured a dramatic increase in marsh soil surface concentration (hundreds- to thousand-fold) of the three heavy metals, nickel, manganese and cobalt,” San Jose State reported.

Samples of the “heavy metal layer” in the marsh soil were examined using high magnification. A photograph taken by Aiello shows a worker taking samples, with the former Moss Landing power plant’s smokestacks in the background.

The heavy metals, the researchers say, “can affect local aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems” as they move through the environment.

“These findings and the research that follows are crucial not only to the impacted community but to the national and international community because of the need to store more power and thus build more and larger battery storage facilities,” Aiello

Continues next page



San Jose State University researchers take samples of soils at Elkhorn Slough Reserve, not far from the Vistra Energy battery storage facility. They found an unusually high concentration of heavy metals there.

PHOTO/IVANO AIELLO

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From previous page

said. "This is a new and fast-growing technology, and we must understand the ecological impacts in the event that accidents like this happen again."

Drinking water "safe"

Marina Coast Water District, which takes its drinking water from aquifers several miles south of Moss Landing, said the aquifers "are well-protected due to their depth and distance from the fire and are not affected by any potential contamination."

"Our water supply remains safe from the battery fire," the agency said.

While air samples during and after the fire have not detected anything hazardous, some people who live near the Vistra property have reported having irritated eyes, headaches and other health issues, including a "metallic taste." Residents

Some residents blame the Moss Landing fire for health problems

are also expressing concerns about safety at nearby schools and agricultural fields

Last week, Monterey County District 2 Supervisor Glenn Church, whose district includes the area where the fire occurred, and others said the facility should be kept offline until more information, including the cause, is determined, more regulations are in place, and there's a better way to control lithium-ion battery fires instead of letting them burn until they're out.

"I am not convinced this industry is safe with these batteries," Church told The Pine Cone. "Fire being an expected byproduct of the operation with no way to put it out is not safe and should not be accepted."

More testing

On Wednesday afternoon, Ric Encarnacion, head of the Monterey County environmental health bureau, told reporters that his team and a third party conducted soil and potable water testing Jan. 24, and that the results would be released soon.

"The environmental health bureau is responsible for ensuring proper cleanup by the responsible party," Encarnacion said, referring to Vistra Energy. "So, it's very important for us to tell the people, and that the public knows, that we will ensure that damaged batteries are properly removed and disposed of safely."

However, it could take weeks or even a year to remove the batteries from the facility owned by Vistra Energy, which he said has been "very cooperative" during the investigation and cleanup process.

"We want to make sure it's done safely and properly," Encarnacion said. "There are plans that need to be submitted, reviewed, then approved."

County officials also responded to the San Jose State University report Monday.

"We understand that such findings may raise concerns among residents, particularly those living in proximity to the affected areas," it stated. "Our goal is to provide clear, timely, and accurate information while avoiding unnecessary anxiety."

The county said it would continue to monitor environmental data and collaborate with state and federal agencies to analyze datasets and provide regular updates to the public and the board of supervisors.


Donations

Like many big corporations, Vistra Corp., through a PAC, donates to Republican and Democratic candidates. According to OpenSecrets.org, from 2018 to 2024, Vistra Corp. donated \$16,500 to Carmel Valley Rep. Jimmy Panetta. Last year, it gave \$1,000 to California U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla and \$260 to then-Senate candidate Adam Schiff, who won the seat. It also donated \$20,171 to former vice president and then-presidential candidate Kamala Harris, and \$9,845 to then presidential candidate Donald Trump, who defeated Harris in the 2024 election for the presidency.


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Santa Lucia Preserve - 4Q 2024 Update

\$19.43M

TOTAL DOLLAR VOLUME

↓ 28% less than 3Q 2024

↑ 3783% more than 4Q 2023

3

TOTAL UNITS SOLD

↓ 40% less than 3Q 2024

↑ 200% more than 4Q 2023

56

AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET

↓ 80% less than 3Q 2024

No sales in 4Q 2023

\$6.725M

MEDIAN SALES PRICE

↓ 16% less than 3Q 2024

No sales in 4Q 2023

“The 4th quarter in **The Preserve** mirrored the number of home sales in the 3rd quarter with 3 home sales each. There were a total of 2 home sales in 2023, and 9 in 2024, and the sales price per sq.ft. increased from \$1,257/sq.ft. to \$1,438/sq.ft., a 14+% increase in value. Land sales went from 2 sales in 3Q24 to none in 4Q24. There are currently 31 lots available for sale, and one in escrow set to close in the first week of 2025, in which we represent both the buyer and seller.”



Brian Keck
Santa Lucia Preserve Specialist

To View the Full Report Scan the QR Code Above

The Santa Lucia Preserve offers 42 miles of private roadways for biking, and nearly 100 miles of hiking trails

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Section 2

Pirate soccer players show their toughness, versatility and experience

STEVENSON'S 2024 boys soccer team, easily the best in school history, was one for the ages. For the first time, the Pirates won a league championship, a Central Coast Section crown, and reached the NorCal finals.

Stevenson's girls also had a banner year, winning the Santa Lucia Division at 10-0-2 — the school's fifth league trophy — then lost a play-in game and failed to reach the main CCS bracket.

Both squads returned multiple key players this year, and are contending for postseason consideration after being "rewarded" with promotions to tougher divisions of the Pacific Coast Athletic League.

The boys team entered this week with a 2-2-2 record in the PCAL's Mission Division (4-6-3 overall), where King City (3-0-3), Palma (4-1-1) and Watsonville (3-1-2) are battling for supremacy with two weeks to play.

Stevenson's girls, 2-1-3 in the Cypress Division, are also in a scramble, looking up in the standings at Greenfield (5-0-1) and Gonzales (3-1-2) with seven games left before the playoffs.

First-year coach

The boys, 4-6-3 overall after a rugged non-league gauntlet, are adjusting to a first-year varsity coach, Cristian Materazzi, who is also working with high school players for the first time after 20 years as a collegiate coach.



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

Georgia Bonifas (left) is an all-division defender in field hockey and lacrosse, and first-team as a goalie in soccer. (Right) Henry Blaxter, second-team All-Cypress in 2024, is the heart of Stevenson's midfield as a senior.

Division, before leading the Pirates' historic playoff run: Brandler shut out all three CCS opponents and allowed just two goals in the team's two NorCal victories. The Pirates lost the title game 2-0.

"He's got a great head on his shoulders, he's a great leader, and he's one of the best all-around athletes at the school," Materazzi said of Brandler, who stands 6-foot-4.

Talented defensive line

Brandler is fronted by an exceptional line of defenders composed of left-footed senior Ian Schindler and two talented freshmen — Dexter McIntosh and Mexican boarding student Fede Banos Alvarado.

The center midfielder, Zach da Silva, is a sophomore who earned second-team all-division honors a year ago along with middle Henry Blaxter, a co-captain with Brandler in his senior season. The third midfielder, junior Logan Law, is a hard-nosed player and tireless worker, the

coach said.

Pirates on the front line include Matthew Whang, a left-footed senior with strong technical skills, Nico Jimenez, a sophomore from Mexico City, and Swedish boarding student Jacob Forste.

Others who get substantial playing time include Jett Jones, a versatile senior, and Alessandro Spada, a boarding student from Italy who can run forever.

"Defensively, we're very strong," Materazzi said. "If we can find ways to connect between our back line and our offensive three, we're going to be dangerous. That's going to take some discipline, teamwork, cohesion and chemistry."

The Pirates are scheduled to play a home game January 31 at 3:45 p.m. against Pajaro Valley.

After breezing undefeated to last year's Santa Lucia

Continues next page

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

"It's all brand-new to me, but it's been super-fun," said Materazzi, who was a pro goalie with the United Soccer League's California Gold in 2003 and played in Mexico's Primera Division in 2004.

Coincidentally, his top player, senior Luke Brandler — a goalkeeper — was last year's Defensive Player of the Year, under previous coach Toby Elmore in the Cypress

CARMEL ART ASSOCIATION

presents

Ocean Windows

In Kathryn Greenwald's most recent artwork, created for Ocean Windows, she was highly inspired by The Deep Sea exhibit at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and her experiences with the vibrant world seen snorkeling and walking our nearby shores. Spatial dimensions—physical, subjective, and unknown—are expressed with color, geometry and the flow of melted beeswax with pigment in her pieces.

Boardwork

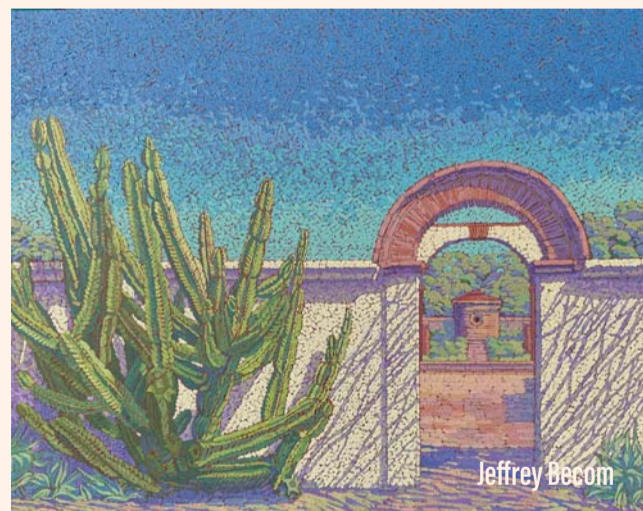
Boardwork is a curated exhibition showcasing the 2025 Carmel Art Association Board of Directors. Featuring paintings, weavings, and sculptures by Ann Artz, Jeffrey Becom, Jessica Bovert, Kathleen Crocetti, Kathryn Greenwald, Sarah Healey, Craig Lauterbach, Melissa Lofton, Gerard Martin, Kate Martin, Dennis Peak, Lilli-Anne Price, Chris Sawyer, Robin Sawyer, and Joaquin Turner.

February Exhibitions February 5th through March 3rd

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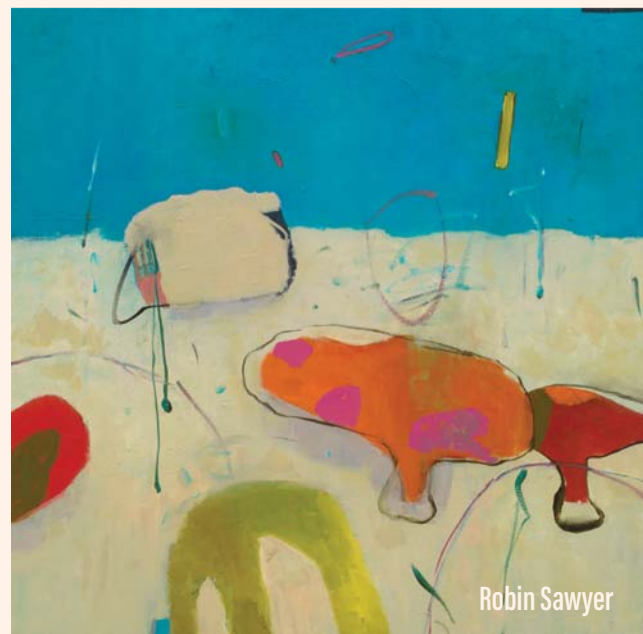
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From previous page

Division championship, Stevenson's girls are facing consistently better competition as new members of the PCAL's Cypress Division.

Thirteen of this year's players were on coach Phillip Koshi's 2024 team (11-2-4 overall), and almost all of Stevenson's players are multisport athletes.

That's typically a recipe for success, particularly when most of those athletes played tactically similar sports. Ten of this year's soccer players were on the Pirates' 11-0-1 PCAL-champion field hockey team in the fall and eight helped Stevenson lacrosse go 10-0 as PCAL Gabilan Division champs last spring.

Bonifas, Torres stand out

Koshi's standout goalkeeper, Georgia Bonifas (a defender in field hockey and lacrosse) earned first-team all-league honors in all three sports. "Georgia is a leader — a captain for us as a junior — and just an incredible athlete," the coach said. "She's learning every day."

Soccer midfielder Macey Torres — a second-team all-division soccer player a year ago — was named Player of the Year in field hockey and lacrosse. She'll play lacrosse for an NCAA Division I university next year. "Macey is a bulldog-type player who never quits — she's always hunting the ball," Koshi said.

Sydney Holland, a soccer wing, was an All-Gabilan lacrosse player and a second-team pick in field hockey. Holland, a junior, is the Stevenson's fastest player and plans to play Division I lacrosse in college.

Charlotte Schipper, second-team All-

PCAL in field hockey, is an aggressive, tough-minded defender but played nearly every position on the soccer pitch last season as a freshman. She also played lacrosse. "She's a very coachable kid who does all the right things," her coach said. "Her ceiling is really, really high."

Defensive player of year

Senior defender Siena Bullock-Martinez, a co-captain, was the Santa Lucia Division's Defensive Player of the Year. "She's disciplined, she's a good communicator, and she's the kind of hardnosed defender that you don't really want to go up against," said her coach.

Co-captain Ava Edwards, a high-scoring soccer forward, was the Mission Division MVP in volleyball as a junior, all-county as a senior. "Ava is fast, athletic, very dangerous around the box, and she's a great leader," Koshi said of the senior co-captain.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Stevenson goalie Luke Brandler was Defensive Player of the Year in the Cypress Division last season.

Katrina Bauer returns to soccer after sitting out last season to focus on her best sport, track and field. She was Mission Division runner-up last spring in the long

See SPORTS page 40A



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Yelp photo by Natalia S.



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Decided to try a new sandwich spot after going to Point Lobos and we were not disappointed. The deli is located in the back of the store where you complete a deli form, grab a number, and hand it to the deli clerk who will then prepare your meal.

We created our own sandwiches, but they also have other food options. It was pretty busy, but we only waited around 15 minutes for our food to be ready and each sandwich was \$11.99. Overall, I definitely recommend this deli and will be going back.

- Maricarmen C., Watsonville, CA

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Cover bands at Golden State Theatre pay tribute to Eagles, Grateful Dead

YOU CAN always go to the Sphere in Las Vegas to see the Eagles, but if you don't want to travel that far or spend that

The Vancouver-based cover band will play songs that span the Eagles' career, from early country-rock hits like "Take It Easy" and "Desperado," to enduring classic rockers like "Hotel California" and "Life in the Fast Lane."

The group was assembled by **Jonas Falle** and **Jeannette O'Keeffe** of Moon Coin Productions, who are both big Eagles fans. The husband-wife team had previously found success with Abba Cadabra, an Abba tribute band.

"These extraordinarily talented gentlemen have so much love and reverence for this music," the production company said. "They've invested endless hours to perfect every vocal part, guitar lick, groove and instrumental part of these legendary songs."

Tickets start at \$60. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. For more details, call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

■ Recreating the magic

Also at Golden State, **The Dark Star Orchestra** takes the stage Wednesday at 8 p.m. One of the world's premier Grateful Dead tribute bands — and there are hundreds of them — the hard-working group has played more than 3,000 shows since hitting the road in 1997 — two years after the passing of legendary singer and guitarist Jerry Garcia.

Performing music that spans four decades, the orchestra meticulously recreates a Grateful Dead concert from the band's heyday. They are frequent visitors to the Monterey Bay, where they've earned a devoted local following.

"For us, it's a chance to recreate some of the magic that was created for us over the years," keyboardist and vocalist **Rob Barraco** said. "Even for Deadheads who can say they've been to a hundred shows in the 1990s, we offer something they never got to see."

Tickets start at \$51.

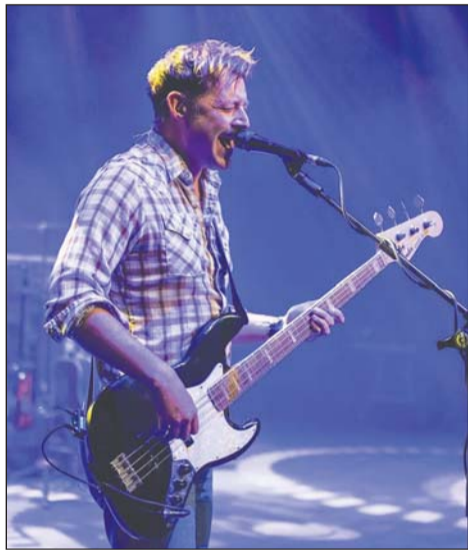


The Dark Star Orchestra, featuring bassist Skip Vangelas, takes the stage Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

much, a band called **Take it to the Limit** pays tribute to the mega-successful rock group Friday, 7:30 p.m., at the Golden State Theatre in Monterey.



Singer and bassist Corey Curtis, along with Take it to the Limit, pays tribute to the Eagles Jan. 31 in Monterey.

■ 'Epic kickoff' to Jazz Jam

Embassy Suites hosted its first Jazz Jam of the new year last Sunday afternoon, which singer and co-host **Lee Durley** called "an epic kickoff."

"The atrium was filled to capacity with passionate music fans for our season opener, which featured an electrifying performance by singer, songwriter, and bandleader **Kaye Bohler** and her world-class ensemble," reported Durley, who co-hosts the monthly gatherings with drummer **Jim Vanderzwaan**. "The stellar lineup included **Scott Jensen** on harmonica, **Mike Miller** on guitar, **Victor Revere** on

bass, **Kevin Coggins** on drums, and **Bob Phillips** on keys — their dynamic performance had everyone on their feet, dancing throughout the venue."

Durley said the next Jazz Jam, which is set for Feb. 23 at 1 p.m., will showcase singer **Julie Capili**. The venue is located at 1441 Canyon Del Rey Blvd.

Live music Jan. 31-Feb. 6

■ Big Sur

Big Sur River Inn — singer and gui-

See MUSIC page 39A



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New culinary leadership, a drive-thru deli and a pub makeover

AT ITS annual president's brunch and business meeting Saturday in Woody's at Del Mesa Carmel, the Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Culinary Federation celebrated a major changing of the guard, with EJ Jimenez, executive chef at Rancho Cielo's Drummond Culinary Academy, stepping in as president of the board — a position held by chef Jacques

some 170 chapters. It changed the industry in 1976 by "elevating the position of the executive chef from service status to the professional category in the U.S. Department of Labor's Dictionary of Official Titles." It also operates "the most comprehensive culinary certification program in the world."

Locally, Wilson said at the meeting, the chapter has 87 members, most of whom are professional chefs, with the balance comprising students, senior professionals, culinarians and a handful of "enthusiasts" — and is always looking for more. Members don't need to live here, either. In addition to several who reside in neighboring counties, a handful are out of state, including chef Soerke Peters, who, with Amy Stouffer, owns Mezzaluna in Pacific Grove. The couple now calls Arkansas home.

When he accepted his new role as president, Jimenez told everyone he is grateful for their continued support and investment in the community — especially its youth — and in the local chapter.

To learn more about the ACF and its mission, visit acfmontereybaychefs.org.

Soup to Nuts

Wilson for nearly a decade. In addition, executive chef Paul Lee stepped down as treasurer after almost as many years of service, handing the role over to chef Anthony Pangelina.

Jimenez and his fellow board officers took the ACF's oath of office at the Jan. 25 event, pledging to share their "professional knowledge and skill with all culinarians," to "place honor, fairness, cooperation and consideration first" when dealing with colleagues, and to keep their comments "professional and respectful" when conversing with those in the industry.

The organization supports students, professionals and others aspiring to enter the industry by offering educational opportunities, apprenticeships, scholarships and certification "while creating a fraternal bond of respect and integrity among culinarians everywhere."

Professional status

The ACF was founded in 1929 in New York City and is the largest professional chefs' organization in North America, with more than 14,000 members belonging to

■ Deli sale has Monterey pickup

Have a hankering for a good corned beef or pastrami on rye? Fear not. Temple Beth El in Salinas is once again inviting Monterey Peninsula residents to enjoy its annual kosher-style Deli Pack Drive-Thru

Continues next page

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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

without so much driving. Now in its 69th year, the event has evolved from its origins as a sit-down lunch and will take place Feb. 6 and 7 with pickups at the congregation's facility in South Salinas and at First Presbyterian Church at 501 El Dorado St. in Monterey.

Temple Beth El continues its tradition of dedication to authentic Jewish deli fare. Each \$45 pack features a full pound of either pastrami or corned beef shipped from specialty suppliers in the Midwest and on the East Coast. That's complemented by San Francisco's renowned Wise Sons Jewish rye bread, four classic dill pickles, a fresh salad and a generous half portion of homestyle chocolate cake.

Extra deli meat is \$20 per pound, more



Temple Beth El's deli packs, with rye bread from Wise Sons in San Francisco along with corned beef, pastrami and sides, will be available next week in Monterey.

cake can be had for \$12, and an additional loaf of rye bread is \$10.

Orders can be placed at templebethel-salinas.org or by calling (831) 424-9151. With pickup times running from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, organizers will take advance orders until the event sells out — as it usually does. Proceeds benefit Temple Beth El.

■ **New look for Peter B's**

Earlier this week, the Portola Hotel at the foot of Alvarado Street in Monterey announced a \$1.8 million renovation of its on-site brewery, Peter B's Brewpub. The update to the longtime sports bar is set to begin Monday, Feb. 10, the day after the Super Bowl, and will involve overhauling the 4,880-square-foot space, including the main restaurant, bar and patio. The name will be downsized to Peter B's — which is what most locals have been calling it all along.

RoseBernard Studio, a firm in San Francisco that has worked with numerous hotels and restaurants, including the renovation a few years ago of the Portola's lobby and bar, will lead the update.

■ **'Memorable experience'**

Robert Polacek, creative director and partner at the firm, shared his vision for the project. "Our goal for Peter B's was to craft a space that reflects the unique landscape and spirit of Monterey." He continued, "By integrating tactile, natural materials and maximizing the interplay of light and space, we aim to create an environment that ensures every visit is a memorable experience for guests."

The hotel's managing director, Janine Chicourrat, added, "Peter B's is more than just a brewery, it's a tribute to the soulful craft of brewing. Peter B's

new look will create a vibrant community space, and we are eager to welcome new visitors and longtime patrons."

In the meantime, you can catch the

Kansas City Chiefs vs. the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday, Feb. 9, from 2 to 8 p.m.

Continues next page



Peter B's brewpub in the Portola Hotel will soon get a makeover, as shown in this rendering from RoseBernard Studio. But don't worry — it'll still be open Super Bowl Sunday, with all 18 screens.

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From previous page

at the brewpub, which has 18 HDTV screens. Once Peter B's goes dark, you'll be able to find its beer at Jacks in the Portola Hotel, Nacho Bizness, Tippy Putt and Sovino Wine Bar in Monterey, Phoebe's Café in the Hearst Social Hall at Asilomar, and The Wine House in Carmel Valley. The renovation is expected to be complete sometime this summer.

■ Jumbo anniversary

"It's hard to believe, but Mopane is starting its fourth year in business at the Crossroads on Feb. 1," said a recent email from the management at the eclectic shop. Featuring fair-trade artisanal crafts and products from all over Africa, Mopane also helps support more than a dozen local causes, including Carmel Cares and the Carmel Public Library, as well as Elephant Havens, a nonprofit in Botswana supporting African pachyderms.

The store will celebrate its anniversary on Saturday with Champagne, wine and chocolates. In addition to shopping, you can "adopt" a baby elephant. To learn more about Mopane and the many people and causes it supports — not to mention a chance to browse some really cool home and fashion accessories — visit mopane.org.

■ Noshing at the disco

The golden age of the disco ball is now nearly 50 years in the rearview mirror of that sweet Oldsmobile Cutlass, but Compact Disco at 420 Tyler St. in Monterey is keeping the vibe alive. Even if you're no longer up for dancing until the wee hours of the morning, you can check out the place's new weekly Sunday Champagne and Charcuterie Experience, launching Feb. 2 from 3 to 9 p.m. "Enjoy delicious charcuterie boards and bubbles along with fantastic music," organizers say.

For \$40 per person, folks 21 and older can enjoy the "all-day brunch-esque dining experience" that includes two glasses of bubbly along with meats, cheese and fruit served charcuterie style. Walk-ins

are welcome, but the folks at Compact Disco recommend signing up on Eventbrite.com (prepayment not required) to reserve space for you and your friends.

■ ALBA gets \$\$ for organic growers

The Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association — better known as ALBA — received \$225,000 from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Fertilizer Research and Education Program to support an outreach project aimed at empowering local organic growers who need a leg up.

The Salinas-based program focuses on educating Spanish-speaking farmers in Monterey and San Benito counties about soil fertility, plant nutrition, and irrigation management techniques. It's part of the nonprofit's efforts to help aspiring growers build successful organic farming businesses. For more information about ALBA and its programs, visit albafarmers.org.

Mary Schley and Elaine Hesser contributed to this column.



ALBA is a Salinas nonprofit that helps local organic farmers start their own operations. The organization recently received nearly a quarter-million dollars from the state's coffers to teach growers about soil fertility, irrigation and more.

CALENDAR

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

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. at Carmel Woman's Club, San Carlos and Ninth, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Open to the public. \$10 guests/members free.

Feb. 6 — B4Noon Organ Recital, 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., at Carmel Presbyterian Church, Ocean and Junipero, SE corner, every Thursday through April 24. Free. This week, Feb. 6: **Music of Beethoven, Messiah & Widor with Janneke Hoogland (cello), Lucy Farinday (piano), & Eun Ha Chung (organ).**

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.

Feb. 9 — Meet Ann Sheppard, author of "The Italy Affair" and the Carmel-based **Destination Murder Mystery series**. Reception takes place 1 to 2:30 p.m. at River House Books in the Crossroads, Rio Road off Highway 1, Carmel.

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

To advertise, email anne@carmelpinecone.com \$0.50 per word (\$25 min. charge)
• Add a photo for your event for only \$25 •


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Shearwater
EST. TAVERN 2021

Shearwater Tavern and
the Carmel Mission Inn present

MISSION : BOOGIE



Come dance the night away with **SCARLET**

\$15 at the door includes welcome cocktail

Friday, February 14th • 7-10pm

Join us before, during or after the show for dinner. Chef Jae Moon has created some special entrees for Valentine's on top of our normal menu.

3665 RIO ROAD, CARMEL • SHEARWATERTAVERN.COM

MUSIC

From page 35A

tarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Saturday at 12:30 p.m.). 46800 Highway 1.

Fernwood Resort in Big Sur — **Forrest Day** (“attention-deficit-disorder rock,” Friday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

■ Carmel

Barmel — singer and guitarist **Tony Burciaga** (Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Chris Jamez** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). In Carmel Square on San Carlos north of Seventh.

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.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and guitarist **Fred McCarty** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Saturday and Thursday, both at 6

p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.

La Playa Hotel — guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Tuesday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Thursday at 5 p.m.). Camino Real and Eighth.

The Links Club — **The Edge Band** (rock, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **Neon City Lights** (contemporary country covers, 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 **Martan Mann** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Saturday at noon), pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Folktales Winery — singer and guitarist **Asher Stern** (Friday at 4 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Saturday at 2 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Martin Barnes** (jazz, Sunday at 11

See LIVE page 43A

New Year, New Leadership, New Vision

With new leadership, Monterey County Bank aims to strengthen partnerships that support local businesses, promote sustainable development, and enrich the overall quality of life in Monterey County.

We invite you to come visit us at one of our locations in Monterey, Salinas, Carmel and Pacific Grove.

montereycountybank.com



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JANUARY 2025

NEW MEMBERS

BLUE POWER SYSTEMS
blu-pwr.com

ELEMENTS OF CARMEL
elementsofcarmel.com

PERFECTLY PRESSED CARMEL
perfectlypressedjuice.com

THE SALON & SPA CALIFORNIA
thesaloncalifornia.com

SAVE THE DATES

JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 2
AT&T PRO-AM SHUTTLES
\$40 / Day (\$35 for Members)
6:30am - 5:30pm
Carmel Plaza on Ocean Ave

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
Chamber Mixer & Ribbon Cutting
Mad Dogs and Englishmen
Bike & Coffee Shop
5:00pm-7:00pm
Ocean & Mission

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20
Monterey Credit Union
Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting
5:00pm-7:00pm
26135 Carmel Rancho Blvd

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25
State of the City Breakfast
8:30am-10:30am
Carmel Woman's Club
9th & San Carlos

CARMEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PO Box 4444, Carmel, CA 93921 (831) 624-3877



CARMEL
Chamber of Commerce



STILWELL HOTEL GRAND OPENING
Photo by DMT Imaging



ELEMENTS CARMEL GRAND OPENING
Photo by Glen McDowell, McDowell Photo



BAMBACE PETERSON RIBBON CUTTING
Photo by DMT Imaging



CARMEL WOMAN'S CLUB CENTENNIAL
Photo by DMT Imaging



ARTISTS SUBMISSIONS OPEN NOW

We're sniffing out talented local artists to design and decorate the 2025 pups.

Let your imagination off the leash and make your mark on this community project.

APPLY NOW AND FETCH YOUR SPOT!
CARMELCHAMBER.ORG



STATE OF THE CITY BREAKFAST



Tuesday, Feb. 25th
8:30am - 10:30am
Carmel Woman's Club

Hear from our city leaders about recent accomplishments, upcoming projects, and the vision for our community's future

Tickets:

\$40 Members/
\$50 Potential Members

Limited Seating. Register Now!
CarmelChamber.org

SPORTS

From page 34A

jump, placed third in the 100-meter hurdles, and aspires to compete in track in college. "She has one of the best shots on the field, some good technical ability, and her energy level is super-high," Koshi said.

Tatum LeTowt, a sophomore wing, also tasted unde-



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Macey Torres was second-team all-division in soccer, Player of the Year in field hockey and lacrosse.

feated title seasons in all three field sports, and Iris Burch, a first-year soccer forward, plays field hockey and lacrosse, as well.

Other field hockey players on the soccer pitch are: Sarah Chaabane, an attacking center midfielder in her third-varsity season; senior midfielder Hannah Haggquist, quick and athletic, with a strong leg; sophomore Paige Skinner, a versatile first-year player with an exceptional work ethic; and freshman Ella Bradford, an athletic and coachable defender.

Lacrosse/soccer hybrids include senior Amelia Myers, who started every soccer game in 2024 and enjoyed some of her best performances in Stevenson's biggest games, and fleet-footed sophomore wing Brennecke Daley, with a knack for being in the right place.

Emi Wheat, another co-captain, "leads by example," Koshi said. "She's a skilled defender and a student of the game who reads the field well." Lucy Burnett is a traditional-style forward, her coach said, with a talent for scoring. Savannah Yant, a wing, tends to be calm and composed at high-tension moments, said Koshi. All are seniors.

Culture of dedication

"It's really good for the culture of the program to have those kinds of dedicated athletes — players who know how to work hard every day, how to battle in the trenches. They set a good example," Koshi said.

"Winning becomes something you want to do more of after you've experienced it — and, obviously, it's contagious."

A junior, Delara Gholormi, is a technically-strong midfielder with exceptional intelligence on and off the athletic field.

Kate Venema, a sophomore center midfielder, is an experienced club player with a strong soccer IQ, Koshi said.

"I think there's a healthy confidence on this team, but I also think there's an understanding that the Cypress Division is a higher level of play," Koshi said. "We haven't earned anything this year, and whatever we accomplished last season isn't necessarily going to serve us."

Stevenson's girls travel to Salinas Monday for a 5:45 p.m. game against Gonzales at Rabobank Stadium, then return home Wednesday to play Seaside at 3:30 p.m.

CCS playoffs begin Feb. 22.

Shugars hearing Monday

Former Carmel High wrestling coach Russell Shugars, a physical education teacher at River School, will appear Monday before the Carmel Unified School District School Board to address allegations that led to a paid leave of absence in late 2024.

The 9 a.m. hearing, which is open to the public, will take place at the school district headquarters, 4380 Carmel Valley Road.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250163
Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

1. GAEL GALLAGHER TOURS
2. CARMEL WALKS
349 Pine Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):
GAEL GALLAGHER, 349 Pine Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

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/Gael Gallagher
Date signed: Jan. 23, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 23, 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. 31, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 2025 (PC 133)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250111
Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **FULL CIRCLE PHYSICAL THERAPY, 281 Webster St., Monterey, CA 93940.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: **FULL CIRCLE PHYSICAL THERAPY, PC**

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 March 16, 2020.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code 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/Alcina Lima, CEO
Date: Dec. 24, 2024

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. 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21, 2025. (PC 134)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250143
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

CARMEL RANCHO CLEANERS, 26080 CARMEL RANCHO BLVD. STE 100, CARMEL BY THE SEA, CA 93923

County of MONTEREY

Registrant(s):
SAM'S CARMEL RANCHO CLEANER, INC., 26080 CARMEL RANCHO BLVD., STE 100, CARMEL BY THE SEA, CA 93923

This business is conducted by a Corporation

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

SAM'S CARMEL RANCHO CLEANER, INC

S/ HAEIL PARK, PRESIDENT

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on

01/21/2025.

1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21/25

CNS-3890573#

CARMEL PINE CONE

Publication Dates: Jan. 1; Feb. 7, 14, 21, 2025. (PC 135)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. 20250174

Filing type: ABANDONMENT:

County of Filing: Monterey

Date of Original Filing: 02/13/2020

File No.: 20200345

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **ESMERALDA DEL REY INTL CLUB, 700 Dias Ave., Sand City, CA 93955.**

Registered Owner(s):
JOSE ANTONIO JIMENEZ PALACIOS, 700 Dias Ave., Sand City, CA 93955.

This business is conducted by an individual.

S/Jose Antonio Jimenez Palacios
Jan. 24, 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).

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 24, 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. 31, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 2025. (PC 136)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250165
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **NIDITO, 833 Padre Dr., Salinas, CA 93901.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):
ROSALBA TOLENTINO GUERRA.

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/Rosalba Tolentino Guerra
Date signed: Jan. 23, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 23, 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. 31, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 2025 (PC 137)

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)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible. Immediately prior to the Public Hearing, the Commission will visit some or all the project sites in person as part of a Tour of Inspection. Interested members of the public are invited to attend both the Tour and the Hearing.

This meeting will be held via teleconference and in person in the City Council Chambers at City Hall located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues. **To participate via teleconference, use this link:** <https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/86111990178?pwd=qUAkKkxK1jkf4xhS5mbl7wTPUMbJl.1>. **To participate via phone, dial +1 (669) 444-9171.** Webinar ID: 861 1199 0178. Passcode: 001916.

All interested people are invited to attend in person or via teleconference at the time and place specified above to give oral or written testimony concerning this matter. Written comments may be submitted to the Community Planning & Building Department at City Hall located on the east side of Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, 93921, or P.O. Box CC, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, 93921, or by emailing bswanson@ci-carmel.ca.us prior to the meeting. With respect to written comments, please submit them at least 2 hours before the meeting to ensure they are provided to the legislative body and made part of the record. Comments received after that time and up to the end of the public hearing will be saved as part of the record but may not be provided to the legislative body prior to or during the public hearing.

The staff report and relevant documents will be available at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting on the City's website at <http://www.ci.carmel.ca.us> and found by clicking on "Government" and then "Meetings." The Planning Commission meeting will be broadcast live on the City's website at <http://carmel.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/meetingsresponsive.aspx> and the City's YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofCarmelbytheSea> and archived there after the meeting. For more information regarding Planning Commission meetings, please contact the Community Planning & Building Department at (831) 620-2010.

Roofing Materials
Citywide
Continued discussion and direction from the Planning Commission for staff on roofing materials, including but not limited to metal roofs

Artificial Turf Policy
Citywide
Consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding adoption of an Artificial Turf Policy prohibiting the installation of artificial turf/synthetic grass in the City

DS 23-137 (Layman)
Adam Jeselnick, Architect
San Carlos Street 5 southwest of 13th Avenue
Block 143, Lot 11
APN: 010-165-021-000
Consideration of a request for a time extension of DS 23-137 (Layman) and associated Coastal Development Permit to demolish 26 square feet of a single-story residence and construct a 219-square-foot single-story addition to a 1,597-square-foot single-story residence located on San Carlos Street 5 southwest of 13th Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-165-021-000

DS 24289 (Your Golden Key No 1 LLC)
Claudio Ortiz, Architect
13th Street 2 southeast of Mission Street
Block 141, Lots 1,3,6, & 8
APN: 010-161-018-000
Consideration of a Concept Design Study for the demolition of an existing approximately 1800-square-foot, one-story single-family residence, inclusive of a 200-square-foot garage, and the construction of a 2435-square-foot, two-story single-family residence, inclusive of a 200-square-foot attached garage, located on 13th Avenue 2 southeast of Mission Street in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-161-018-000

DS 24346 (P&T 2024 LLC)
Karen C Cullen, Architect
Santa Rita Street 5 southwest of 3rd Avenue
Block 39, Lot 9
APN: 010-029-005-000
Consideration of a Concept Design Study for the demolition of an existing 946-square-foot, one-story single-family residence and 200-square-foot carport, and the construction of a 1,588-square-foot, two-story single-family residence and a 200-square-foot detached garage, located at Santa Rita Street 5 southwest of 3rd Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-029-005-000

DS 24014 (Lewis & McClellan Trust)
Adam Jeselnick, Architect
San Carlos Street 3 southwest of Vista Avenue
Block 6.5, Lot 7
APN: 010-116-019-000
Consideration of a Track 1 Design Study referral and associated Variance for the construction of a 39-square-foot addition to the existing residence and a 200-square-foot parking pad in the front setback located on San Carlos Street 3 Southwest of Vista Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-116-019-000

DS 22-331 (Collins)
Claudio Ortiz, Agent
San Carlos Street 3 southeast of 1st Avenue
Block 11, Lots 8 and 10
APN: 010-121-013-000
Consideration of a Concept Design Study for the demolition of an existing 866-square-foot single-family residence and 213-square-foot shed, and construction of a new

City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Brandon Swanson, Assistant City Administrator & Acting Director of Community Planning & Building

Publication dates: Jan. 31, 2025 (PC138)

NOTICE OF VACANCY INVITATION TO RESIDENTS TO SERVE ON DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) Board of Directors desires to make an appointment of a qualified person to fill a vacancy on the Board. The five-member Board is the governing body of the District. Its members are elected to serve four-year terms of office. The person appointed to fill the vacant Board member position will assume the office February 26, 2025 and must stand for election by District voters in the District's general election on November 3, 2026, if they wish to continue to serve on the Board for any subsequent full term. Other qualified candidates may also seek office in the November election.

Candidates for the Board of Directors' vacancy must be residents of the District, citizens of the United States and be a registered voter. Applications, including biographical information, will be received until 3:00 p.m. February 14, 2025. The Board will review written applications and other submitted information.

All candidates will be invited to make an oral statement and answer questions in support of their application to the Board of Directors on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 9 a.m. at the special board meeting.

The Board meets monthly on the last Thursday at 9:00 a.m., and members may also be assigned to standing and ad hoc committees of the Board.

For more information, interested individuals may contact CAWD at 831-624-1248 or stop by the office at 3945 Rio Road, Carmel, CA 93923. An application may also be requested via email from downstream@cawd.org.

Ken White
Carmel Area Wastewater District Board President

District map: <https://www.cawd.org/district-map>

Publication dates: January 10, 2025 And January 31, 2025

Publication dates: Jan. 10 & 31, 2025 (PC111)

BE PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES

Register your phone number at:

www.alertmontereycounty.org

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250010

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **THE PLANTIST, 627 Ambrose Drive, Salinas, California 93901.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.

Registered Owner(s): JEANETTE MONCADA ERIKSSON, 627 Ambrose Drive, Salinas, California 93901. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 3, 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/Jeanette Moncada Eriksson Date signed: Jan. 3, 2025 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 3, 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. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025 (PC 110)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20242316

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CATALYST CANNABIS DISPENSARY MARINA, 3100 Del Monte Blvd, Marina, CA 93933.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: PACIFIC ROOTS MARINA, LLC, 401 Pine Ave, Long Beach, CA 90802. 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

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/Elliott Lewis, Managing Member Date: Dec. 16, 2024

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Dec. 23, 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. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025. (PC 112)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250025

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CARMEL DIGITAL SOLUTIONS, 826 Parcel Street, Unit B, Monterey, CA 93940.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s): OREN LAUFER

This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 6, 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/Oren Laufer Date signed: Jan. 6, 2025 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 6, 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. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025 (PC 114)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250033

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING

The following person(s) is (are) doing busi-

ness as: **CARMEL BELLE, San Carlos St and Ocean Ave, Carmel, CA 93921.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: JCJ BELLE GROUP INC, 26203 Jeannette Rd., Carmel Valley, CA 93924.

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 N/A.

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

S/Jeff Nelson, President Date: Jan. 7, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 7, 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 116)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20242285

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CDV CONSTRUCTION, 15 Laguna Robles, 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.: CDV ENTERPRISES, INC., 15 Laguna Robles, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.

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 June 1, 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/Tim Glass, President Date: Dec. 12, 2024

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Dec. 16, 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 117)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20242331

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **456 LIGHTHOUSE, 456 LIGHTHOUSE AVE MONTEREY, CA 93940, County of MONTEREY**

Registered Owner(s): VELOCE VALUATIONS LLC, CALIFORNIA

NIA

This business is conducted by A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 08/01/2024

S/STEVEN KITRELL, MANAGER This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 12/30/2024

1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7/25

CNS-3885946#**CARMEL PINE CONE**

Publication Dates: Jan. 17, 24, 31; Feb. 7, 2025. (PC 118)

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 be-**comes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).*

S/Julie M. Ruiz, Managing Member 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 119)

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).

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-Devillers 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 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)

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 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 viola-

tion 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

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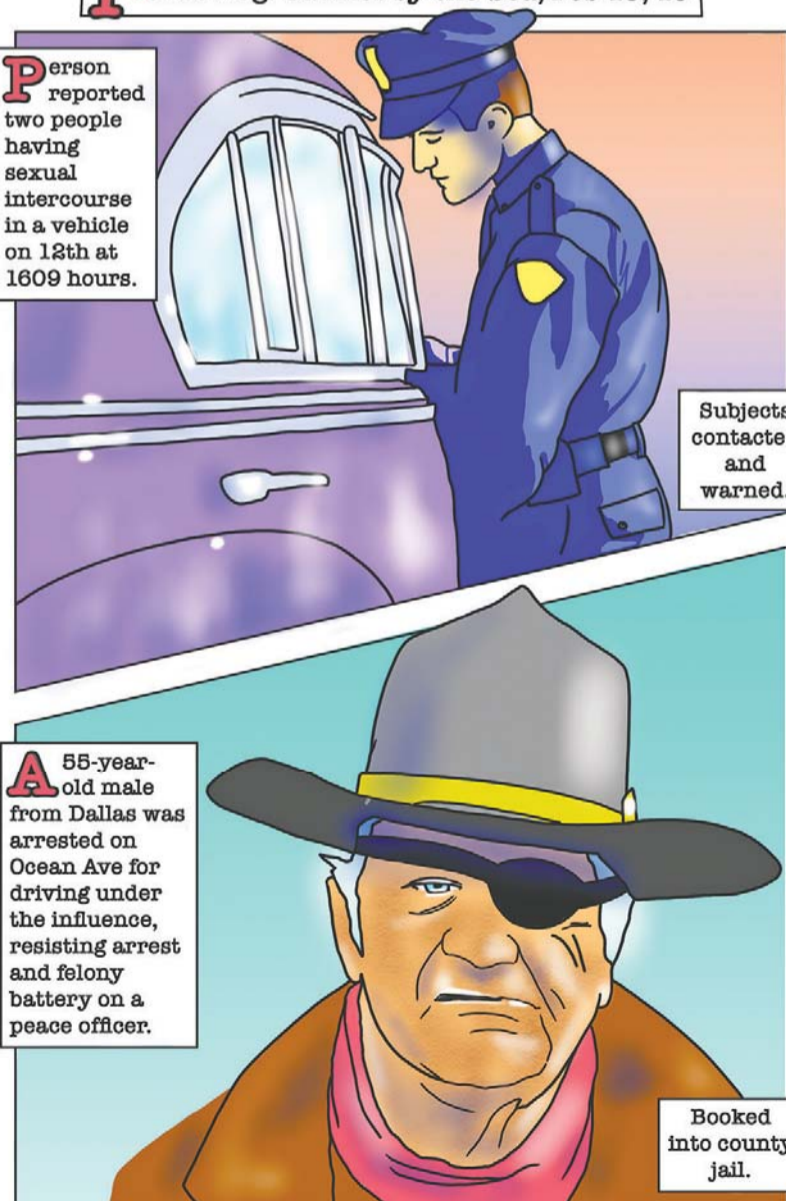
Police Log: Carmel-by-the-Sea, Feb 13, 16

Person reported two people having sexual intercourse in a vehicle on 13th at 1609 hours.

Subjects contacted and warned.

A 55-year-old male from Dallas was arrested on Ocean Ave for driving under the influence, resisting arrest and felony battery on a peace officer.

Booked into county jail.



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LIVE

From page 39A

a.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

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

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

Monterey

Albatross Ridge Winery and Kitchen — singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Friday at 6 p.m.) singer and guitarist **Dan Cioper** (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.

Midici Pizza — **Janice's Jazz Jam** with singer and host **Janice Perl**, keyboardist **Gary Meek**, bassist **Steve**

Uccello and drummer **Andy Weis** (Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl-Astrup** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa — singer and pianist **Steve Mann** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Martan Mann** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Adrea Castiano** ("indie pop shimmer, vintage country and 1990s alt-rock," Monday and Wednesday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea's Fault Duo** (jazz and pop, Tuesday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (pop, rock and country, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

Pearl Hour — **The Carmel Delights Dance Company** presents a special evening of burlesque and live jazz music (Friday at 9 p.m.), **The Zach Westfall Group** (jazz, Sunday at 8 p.m.), **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz, Wednesday at 8 p.m.). 214 Lighthouse Ave.

Puma Road at Portola Plaza — singer and guitarist **RJ DeMarco** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Jacob Chase** (Saturday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** and bassist **Zach Westfall** (jazz, Sunday at 4 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

Salty Seal Pub — **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Saturday at 8 p.m.), **Santa Cruda** (reggae, Sunday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 653 Cannery Row.

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

Sly McFly's — **Velvet Jones** (pop and rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **Phil 'n' the**

Blanks (pop and rock Saturday at 9 p.m.), **The Stingrays** (classic rock, Monday at 8:30 p.m.), **The Pacific Jack Band** (classic rock, Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.), **Johnny Tsunami** (rock, Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.), **Blue Fire** (classic rock and modern funk, Thursday at 8:30 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

Pacific Grove

Asilomar Hotel and Conference Grounds — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Alison Sharino** (Friday at 4 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Thursday at 4 p.m.). In the Phoebe Hearst Social Hall, 800 Asilomar Ave.

Il Vecchio Restaurant — **The Cena Jazz Trio** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 110 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** (folk, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave.

PG's Meetinghouse — electric banjoist **Terceira** ("alternative electronic," Friday at 6:30 p.m.), **The Kenny Stahl Trio** (jazz, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), singer **Akina Miyata** and keyboardist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Sunday at 11 a.m.), Open Mic (Tuesday at 6 p.m., sign up by 5 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.



Guitarist Glenn Bell plays jazz Tuesday at La Playa Hotel and Thursday at the Asilomar Conference Center.

Pebble Beach

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — singer and multi-instrumentalist **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 — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Tamas Marius** (jazz, Sunday at 9:30 a.m.). At the Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Club, 1 McClure Way.

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

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Continues from previous page

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SECTION RE ■ January 31-February 6, 2025

Open Houses on page 24RE

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate



■ This week's cover, located in Pasadera, is presented by Canning Properties Group of Sotheby's International Realty. (See Page 2 RE)



About the Cover

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate

January 31-February 6, 2025



412 Estrella d'Oro, Pasadera

This exquisite Spanish Colonial estate is the crown jewel of Pasadera, offering unrivaled privacy on the Community's largest lot. Overlooking the 15th fairway, the main house has 4 beds & 4.5 baths plus a 1 bed, 1 bath guest house, totaling 5,784 sq.ft. of living space on a 1.09 acre lot. This property combines elegant European charm with modern luxury creating an exceptional living experience. The main residence features sophisticated design elements throughout highlighted by a spacious living room, hickory wood floors, formal dining room, gourmet chef's kitchen, breakfast nook and an adjacent great room ideal for relaxed gatherings. The primary bedroom suite is a serene retreat with a new spa-like bath, while a large office and sizable wine cellar offer additional functionality to the home. Outdoor living features multiple patios areas and balconies, bbq, fireplace and putting green. The beautifully landscaped grounds include raised garden beds, tranquil fountain and water features and breathtaking views of the surrounding hills and fairways. The attached 3-car garage and separate single-car garage for the guest unit provide additional storage. A picturesque hillside vineyard produces approximately 250 bottles of award-winning Pinot Noir each year evoking the charm of Catalonia right in your backyard.

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Real Estate Sales Jan. 19 - 25

Escrows closed: 21
Total value: \$31,805,000

Carmel

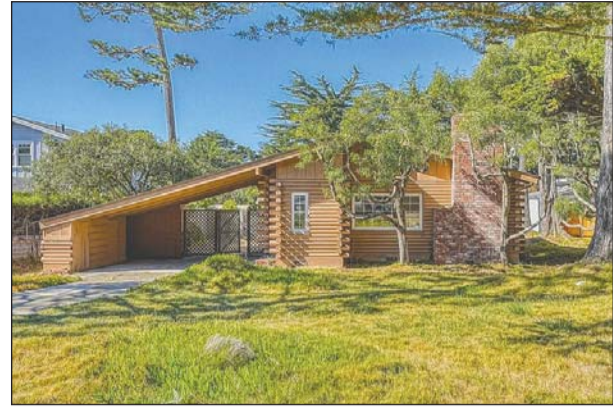
Lobos Street, NE corner of First — \$2,215,000
Helmut Fritz and Xiaojun Lu to Kristin Hein and Philip Cozzi
APN: 009-143-003

25987 Mission Street — \$2,700,000
Mission Street Office LLC to Belgreggan Investments Ltd.
APN: 009-353-012

Palou Avenue, 2 SW of Second — \$4,125,000
Donald and Molly Fezell to Exeter 25666 WY LLC
APN: 010-231-002

Carmel Valley

24501 Via Mar Monte unit 63 — \$799,000



266 Crocker Avenue, Pacific Grove — \$1,325,000

Amy Granat to Maria Rasmussen
APN: 015-472-009

See HOME SALES page 4RE

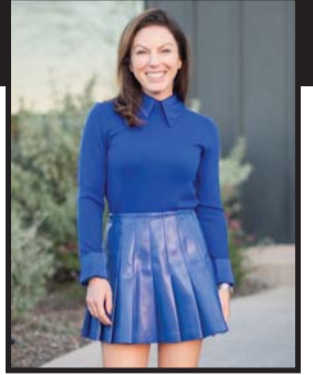
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Carmel-by-the-Sea ■ 2 beds, 1 bath ■ \$2,385,000 ■ www.SanCarlos5SWof10th.com



Carmel-by-the-Sea ■ 4 beds, 2 baths ■ \$2,350,000 ■ www.BirchAndCedarCarmel.com



Carmel ■ 3 beds, 2.5 baths ■ \$1,895,000 ■ www.25450ViaCicindela.com



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Mission 2 SE of 9th Avenue

Carmel-by-the-Sea ■ 1 bed, 1 bath ■ \$1,695,000 ■ www.Mission2SEof9th.com



Carmel Valley ■ 3 beds, 2.5 baths ■ \$1,495,000 ■ www.68Arboleda.com



Carmel Valley ■ 3 beds, 2 baths ■ \$1,375,000 ■ www.CalleDeLaVentana.com



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HOME SALES

From page 2RE

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207 Hacienda Carmel — \$910,000

Patricia Golman to Jayne Moore
APN: 015-347-003

12547 Oak Glen Drive — \$1,950,000

Nikolas Papadakis to Becky and Robert Mortlock
APN: 416-123-004

3400 Red Wolf Drive — \$2,000,000

The Big Sur Land Trust to Christopher Chartier
APN: 416-011-007

Highway 68

260 San Benancio Road — \$925,000

Elisa Leonard to Erick Sanchez



1101 Golden Oaks Lane, Monterey — \$795,000

APN: 416-301-003

10 Ryan Court — \$4,000,000



1213 Shafter Avenue, Pacific Grove — \$1,350,000

Blue West to Montage Health Properties LLC
APN: 259-033-003

See ESCROWS page 26RE



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Monterey ■ 4 beds, 4+ baths ■ \$6,500,000 ■ www.24275ViaMalpaso.com



Pebble Beach ■ 3 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$3,950,000 ■ www.1424Oleada.com



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



Pebble Beach ■ 4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$3,195,000 ■ www.3128StevensonDrive.com



Pacific Grove ■ 4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$2,495,000 ■ www.16015thStreet.com



Pebble Beach ■ 3 beds, 2 baths ■ \$2,195,000 ■ www.2903ColtonRoad.com



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From fairway to Enlightenment, philosophical musings on the game of golf

WITH THE AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am in town, I am reminded that, as a recovering hacker, there was a time golf had become a grave threat to my well-being. Yet I would willingly backslide if someone forced my hands around a driver with a persimmon-wood head and challenged me to chase that dimpled little ball around Pebble

Beach. There is a duffer's philosophy. The game is often seen as a metaphor for life. As a golfer, you must figure out how to overcome obstacles — just as in the real world, where your mental game is as important as your physical skills. You need to stay calm and focused and believe in yourself,

which is the same kind of mindset you need to succeed in life. That mental game is a big part of golf. Arnold Palmer said, "Golf is a game of inches. The most important are the 6 inches between your ears." A 2-foot putt can leave you freaking out.

Studying philosophy in college helped me through the crisis of quitting golf later in life, when I realized the game was making me crazy. Logic 101 taught me to use deductive reasoning to reach conclusions. But if your premises are skewed, your conclusion will be, too.

*Golf is a game of precision.
Life is about finding the right balance.
Therefore, golf is the key to a balanced life.*

Such is the convoluted reasoning of an addicted hacker.

Scenic Views

By JERRY GERVASE

In my case, since golf was an existential threat, I figured I should go back and study the Existentialists, a group of philosophers who grappled with the conflict between humanity's desire for meaning and the universe's indifference. Soon I began to wonder what their approach to golf would be.

Deeply ironic

Albert Camus wrote about a Greek king named Sisyphus who was condemned to roll a boulder up a hill forever, just to have it roll back down. Land in one of the bunkers on No. 17 at Pebble Beach and you might find your ball rolling right back down to your feet. Camus might have thrown his clubs into the ocean because of the absurdity of the game — fancy rules, weird outfits, the endless search for meaning in a little ball. But with his keen sense of humor, he might also have found it deeply ironic and hilarious. He also would have been defiant, because he believed that defiance in the face of the absurd is a form of victory — a good strategy to have on the 17th Hole.

Jean-Paul Sartre, with his "existence precedes essence," thing, might find golf a perfect example of finding your own meaning. Each shot involves a choice that defines

See GERVASE next page



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POLICE LOG

From page 4A

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

Carmel-by-the-Sea: DUI arrest of a 46-year-old male Walnut Creek resident at Ocean and Monte Verde at 0129 hours. The driver was booked into Monterey County Jail.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Theft on Lincoln south of Ocean.

Pacific Grove: Vandalism of a vehicle on Lighthouse. Perpetrator unknown.

Pacific Grove: Possible violation of a restraining order on Workman Place.

Pebble Beach: APS referral alleging financial abuse involving a Customs Road residence.

Carmel Valley: APS referral alleging financial abuse on Los Robles.

Carmel Valley: Child Protective Services referral alleging mental abuse and neglect at a Via Los Robles residence.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Hit-and-run at Mission and 10th. No suspect information.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Traffic stop at San Antonio and Fourth resulted in the pursuit of an unreported stolen vehicle. Vehicle was in-

See **SHERIFF** page 10RE

GERVASE

From previous page

who you are in that moment. Each shot was defining me as not being Arnold Palmer.

Friedrich Nietzsche believed in eternal recurrence, a philosophical concept stating that time repeats itself in an infinite loop, and that exactly the same events will occur in exactly the same way over and over again for eternity. He was probably responsible for my recurring dream, in which three members of my foursome hit great drives on No. 18 at Pebble, while I hit ball after ball into the Pacific. Maybe Nietzsche wrote the movie, "Groundhog Day"?

Kierkegaard was not quite a standup comic, but he often acknowledged the role of humor in grappling with existential dilemmas. He viewed it as a way to confront the limitations of human existence and the contradictions inherent in life. He might see golf as a metaphor for that — you're out there on your own, facing all those challenges on No. 8, and it's up to you, and only you, to figure out how to cover that daunting shot over the deep chasm to a small green that's about 200 yards away.

Existentialists focused on the meaninglessness of life and how alone we are in the universe. That's not a philosophy I adhere to. I decided to return to my favorite philosopher of the 20th century, Popeye the Sailor Man, who famously stated, "I yam what I yam," which clearly is about self-acceptance. It's saying, "This is me and that's enough."

Pass the spinach

There is no evidence that Popeye was a golfer or an existentialist. But imagine him at Pebble Beach. He steps to the tee, takes a big swallow of spinach and blasts the ball 100 yards beyond Scottie Scheffler's. He has that same "I yam what I yam" attitude on the course. No fancy clothes or clubs. He grabs his trusty putter and sets a new course record.

Truth be told, it was during the lengthy recovery times from replacement knee and hip surgeries that my golfing days ended. I enjoy watching the game more than I did in the past. This weekend I'll follow the AT&T Pro-Am on TV, knowing I once walked the same fairways and greens as the pros. In fact, I've been places on Pebble where professionals fear to tread. Fore!

Contact Jerry at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.

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33732ECVRoad.com

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22RanchoFiesta.com

McLean Seaborn Team 831.277.2020

License# 02115528 & 02095210



OPEN SAT & SUN 12 - 3 PM



OPEN SUN 11 AM - 1 PM

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25905JuniperoCarmel.com

Vilia Kakis Gilles 831.760.7091

License# 00883948

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

Junipero2SEof10th.com

Piper Loomis 831.402.2884

License# 01867933



OPEN FRI & SUN 1 - 4 PM. & SAT 2 - 5 PM



OPEN SAT 12 - 2 PM & SUN 1 - 4 PM

18511 McClellan Circle, Marina

3 BD | 2.5 BA | 2,121± SQ. FT. | 4,792± SQ. FT. LOT | \$1,149,000

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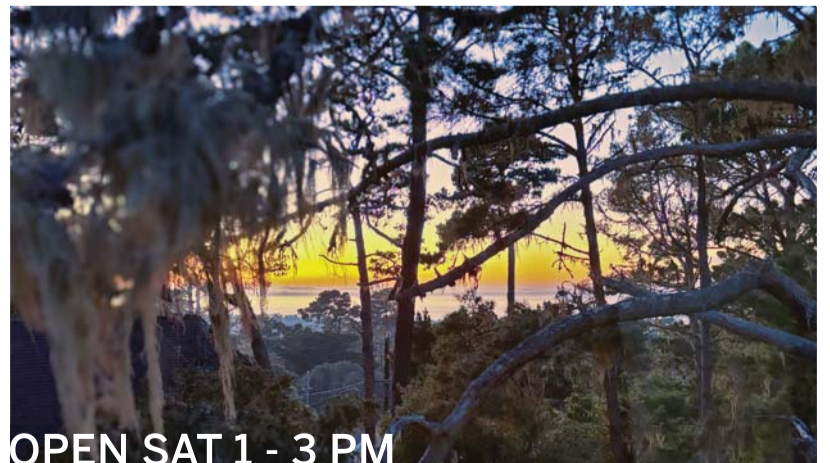
1148 Patterson Lane, Pacific Grove

2 BD | 1 BA | 1 HBA | 1,474± SQ. FT. | 4,500± SQ. FT. LOT

\$900,000

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\$4,995,000

50LaRancheria.com

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330ElCaminito.com

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License# 00681652



1100 Pacific Street, Monterey

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1100PacificStreet.com

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License# 01004504



38025 Poppy Tree Lane, Carmel Valley

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\$1,499,000

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Letty Veitengruber 831.277.1206

License# 02056862

4029 Costado Road, Pebble Beach

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\$1,350,000

RandallRealty.com

Nate Randall 831.869.6117

License# 02033961



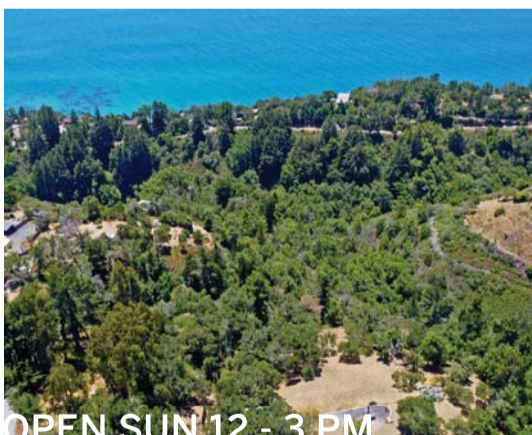
28900 Underwood Road, Corral De Tierra

3 BD | 2.5 BA | 1,798± SQ. FT. | 51± ACRES
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28900Underwood.com

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1.66± ACRES | \$895,000

JuleeThomas.com

Julee Thomas 831.402.5877

License# 02191762

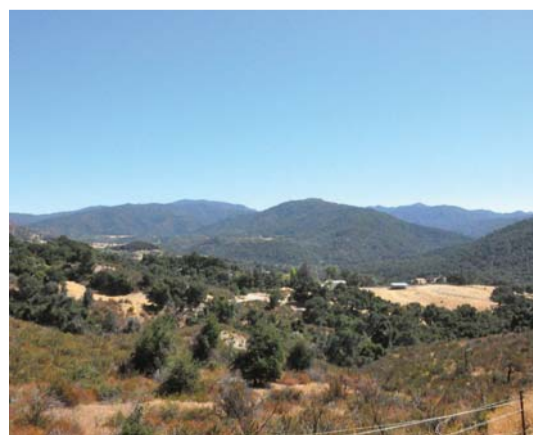
190 Cachagua Road, Carmel Valley

10.92± ACRES | \$625,000

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David Bindel 831.238.6152

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39 Arroyo Sequoia, Carmel

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SHERIFF

From page 7RE

Involved in accident, and subjects fled on foot, jumping fences in the residential area. One 35-year-old subject was taken into custody. Warrant request for the other subject.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Investigation of an injury collision on Monte Verde Street.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Burglary on Dolores Street.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle towed from Union and Caledonia due to expired registration.

Pacific Grove: Monterey Fire forced entry to a building on Forest Avenue during a medical call.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle on Forest was towed for expired registration.

Pebble Beach: A domestic battery occurred on 17 Mile Drive. The 37-year-old male suspect was arrested and lodged in county jail.

Carmel area: A 43-year-old male was arrested on Yankee Point Drive for drug offenses.

Carmel area: Private property was damaged on Fern Canyon Road.

Pacific Grove: A 55-year-old male on Ocean View Boulevard was cited and released for a misdemeanor warrant for failure to appear in court.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Adult couple was warned about trespassing at a hotel at Monte Verde and Sixth after reportedly mistreating a housekeeper.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Forwarded informational report for suspected child abuse at Torres and First.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found cash at Monte Verde and Seventh.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fall on city property on Dolores north of Eighth resulting in a complaint of pain. Subject self-transported to the hospital for further assessment.

Pacific Grove: A traffic stop was conducted at Ocean View and Marine for a vehicle code violation. The 25-year-old male

See LOG page 12RE



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LOG

From page 10RE

driver was arrested for an outstanding arrest warrant for failure to appear in court, and the vehicle was towed.

Big Sur: Deputies responded after the

report of a 23-year-old male trespassing on property on Highway 1.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury vehicle accident on Mission north of Seventh with no suspect information.

Carmel area: Deputies responded to a disabled vehicle on San Luis Avenue which resulted in the DUI arrest of a 58-year-old female.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found knife on San Carlos south of Ocean.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Blank cartridges surrendered at Torres and Second.

Pacific Grove: A 40-year-old male was arrested on Sunset Drive for public intoxication and was transported to Monterey County Jail, where he was held on \$3,500 bail.

Pacific Grove: Report of dog at large in a public park at Pine and Alder during on-leash enforcement.

Pacific Grove: A male was unwanted from a business on Asilomar. Trespass admonishment was signed. Subject was not admonished yet.

Pacific Grove: Report of a walkaway missing adult from a convalescent home on David Avenue. Information only.

Big Sur: Deputies respond to the report of sexual assault on Highway 1.

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fall on city property at Sixth and Lincoln.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A dog tied inside a parked vehicle on Camino Real south of Seventh attempted to escape out a window. The dog was hanging outside when a Carmel resident assisted the dog.

Pacific Grove: A 50-year-old male was arrested on Lighthouse for disturbing the peace and probation violation.

Pacific Grove: A subject fell on public property on Ocean View Boulevard.

Pacific Grove: Trailer towed from 17th

Street for expired registration.

Pacific Grove: Subject on 15th Street was placed on 5150 W&I hold [danger to self or others].

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Trespass admonishment at Mission and Sixth, and a subject was arrested for warrants. Subject was released on a citation to appear.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found earbuds at Junipero and Third.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Burglary of a home on Monte Verde south of Fifth. A 53-year-old male Pebble Beach resident was arrested for burglary, possession of a controlled substance with two or more priors, and obstruction. He was booked into Monterey County Jail.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found driver's license at Ocean and Lincoln was turned in.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found camera at Del Mar and Scenic was turned in.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle was stopped at Forest and Beaumont for a California Vehicle Code violation. The 40-year-old female driver was arrested for driving under the influence.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle at Forest Lodge Road and Country Club Gate was given a 72-hour notice sticker and marked as abandoned.

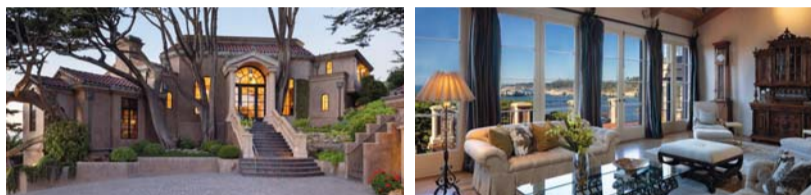
Pacific Grove: Suspicious circumstances occurred on Pine. Information only.

Carmel area: Deputies were dispatched to a possible domestic on Ocean Avenue.

Pebble Beach: Deputies responded to a report of a theft from a vehicle on Wranglers Trail.

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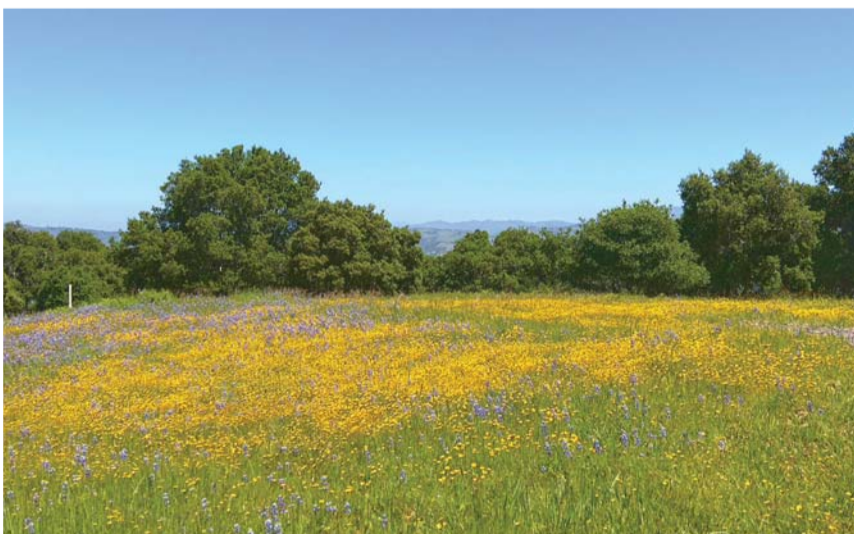
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COMMENTS

From page 29A

they are “focused on safety?” Whatever your belief about climate change, we should not be allowing Vistra to continue to experiment with their unproven and obviously dangerous battery technology in our environmentally sensitive community. We need a safer, relatively clean and proven, natural-gas-fired power plant to make up for the unreliability of the solar panels. Yes, natural gas is much cleaner than those recurring, dark, toxic plumes.

Vincent Tuminello,
Pacific Grove

Firefighting skills

Dear Editor,

I am alarmed at the dilution of fundamental firefighting skills being currently demonstrated on the Southern California fires.

My first exposure to wildfire was the Coyote Fire behind Santa Barbara, where I chased spot fires at 9 years old using pails of water from a wading pool. I spent 38 years as a firefighter in Los Padres National Forest, and I continue to train and mentor firefighters and homeowners.

I was part of the generation of firefighters who saved homes and cities from conflagrations, including wind events. We practiced fire fundamentals, especially using water the right way.

By using water ejectors, we brought water back to the fire engines using swimming pools, the ocean, etc. Ejectors have a reach of up to 400 feet with up to an 80-foot lift. We hit the base of the fire with a straight stream and used fog patterns including the widest setting to defeat ember flow. Water curtains helped to defeat ember flow and provide exposure protection preventing structures from being ignited.

We constructed fire lines around the perimeter and monitored the fires until 24 hours after the last smoke.

If a wind event was predicted, we were ordered to the past fires in our area. Confirming that the fire lines were holding the previous fire and that rekindles or roots on fire had not crossed under the fire lines and surfaced in the unburned areas.

Experience as a fire investigator had demonstrated that roots could carry fire 70 to 90 feet, surfacing weeks after the original fire.

I am confident that practicing fire fundamentals, including live fire suppression training can save lives and homes. Also maintain your defensible/survivable landscaping around values at risk.

Stephen E. Davis,
retired Division Chief,
Carmel Valley

Forests don't cause fires

Dear Editor,

The article in the Jan. 24 edition of The Pine Cone entitled “tinderbox,” is a textbook case of biased and unbalanced reporting.

The report cites three citizens from Pacific Grove who expressed concerns about the fire hazard posed by George Washington Park for adjacent homeowners, but did not solicit opposing points of view.

The article misses a fundamental truth about wildfires in California that spread to populated areas: The majority of wildfires in California are caused by human activity, not by wild ecosystems. The devastating wildfires in Southern California should not be construed as a rationale for further destruction of our wildlands.

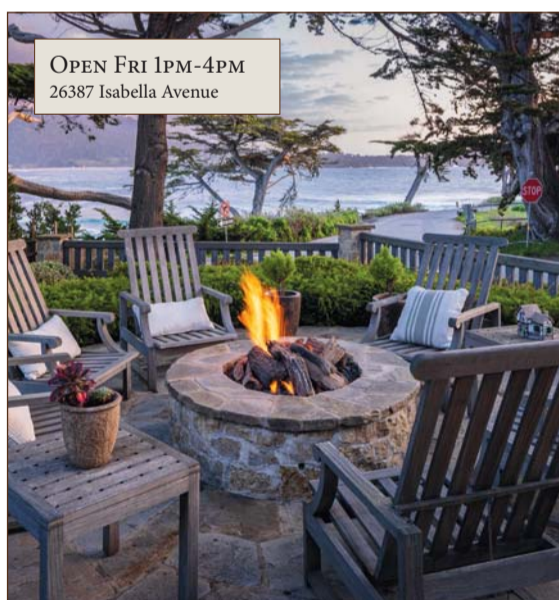
The wild areas in Pacific Grove have been reduced to a small percentage of their original coverage and provide an important habitat for the natural ecosystem we treasure in Pacific Grove.

Instead of blaming natural areas for the devastating fires such as those in Los Angeles, we should be prioritizing measures to reduce the causes from human impacts

See **MORE LETTERS** page 20RE

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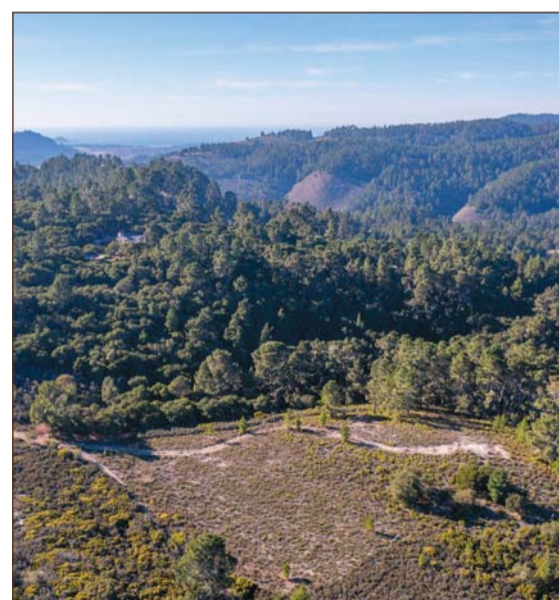
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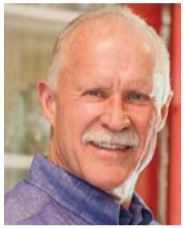
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MORE LETTERS

From page 14RE

such as overhead power lines and outdoor barbecues.

Dominick Sinicropi, Pacific Grove

Fire and wind

Dear Editor,

The Los Angeles fires highlighted the role of wind, in case the public forgot. Current government fire mitigation/forest management increases wind by removing lower limbs of trees, thinning forests, and removing bushes and plants. This dries out the forests and creates spaces and tunnels for wind, allowing wind currents to flow in and through trees, swirl, and accelerate up and down hillsides via the Venturi effect, fanning any sparks into raging fires and carrying embers from other fires, as well as causing erosion.

Driving up Highway 68 from Pacific Grove this week I saw an example of CalFire-county work that increases fire danger to nearby homes; the formerly dense forests which blocked wind coming from the ocean and over the hills and contained fires along the roadway, are now open to the wind, which can access and travel up and down the canyons. These faulty practices are based on U.S. Forest Service management policies for commercial tree and vegetation harvest for timber and wood pellet industries — a completely different goal.

Fear and myth don't make us safe or make effective policies. Trees, plants, and vegetation slow and block wind and also create moisture zones. Vegetation is insurance, not fuel. Observation, science, and discussion ensure plans decrease fire threats to our community, forests, and open spaces, not increase them. Metal and fireproof roofs are essential.

Nina Beety, Monterey

PG&E and energy bills

Dear Editor,

PG&E is listening and addressing your concerns. In 2025, customers will see more stable electric rates compared to last year.

In January, most residential customers saw electricity costs drop by 4 percent, or \$11, helping offset gas price increases. This means that if your usage hasn't increased compared to last year, your combined gas and electric bill remained flat.

We're working hard to further stabilize bills through 2026 by cutting costs, improving efficiency and pursuing nontraditional financing sources without compromising safety.

For example, customers could see an additional \$16 monthly decrease in their electric bill in the next 6 to 12 months, if the CPUC approves PG&E's request to issue bonds to spread vegetation management costs over a longer period.

We want you to know we're making progress. Learn more about what we're doing to lower energy costs at PGE.com

Teresa Alvarado, vice president

PG&E's South Bay/Central Coast Region



25520 BOOTS RD | MONTEREY
4 BD, 5 BA | 3,400 SF | \$2,700,000

Nestled in the sunlit mountains off Highway 68, this stunning Mediterranean-style estate combines elegance, privacy, and breathtaking natural beauty. Spanning 3,400 sqft, the single-story home features 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, and a thoughtfully designed layout with stone floors, vaulted ceilings, and expansive windows showcasing panoramic ocean views. Step outside to a wrap-around deck, perfect for entertaining or unwinding while enjoying the scenic vistas. The gated and fenced property ensures ultimate privacy and includes a meticulously landscaped front yard. Conveniently located just 1.6 miles from Pasadena's world-class golf and amenities, 5.8 miles from the regional airport, and under 4 miles from Laguna Seca Raceway, this estate is a sanctuary for those seeking luxury, convenience, and adventure. Don't miss the chance to call this exceptional property home!



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IEWS!! LOCATION!! 1045 Highlander Dr., Seaside

Nestled on the hill in the quiet and secure much sought after enclave of "Pacific Heights." This inverted floor plan 3 bed, 2.5 bath home has it all: Unobstructed 180 degree view of the entire Monterey Bay, vaulted ceilings, private balcony w/ gas and electric outlets for BBQ, 2 master bedrooms w/bath, den/office, indoor W/D gas or electric, attached 2-car garage w/ remote, off street guest parking. Conveniences are within ¼ mile including Safeway, Walgreens and most takeout food stops. **COME SEE! \$938,888**



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3903 RONDA ROAD, PEBBLE BEACH
Classic & Timeless Pebble Beach Estate



6 beds, 5.5 baths ■ \$11,500,000 ■ 3903RondaRoad.com

27540 VIA SERENO, CARMEL
California-Style Ranch Home in Mid-Valley



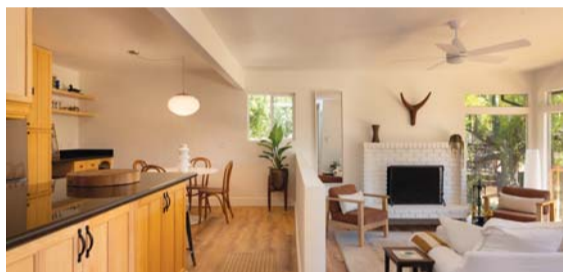
4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$2,700,000 ■ 27540ViaSereno.com

160 15TH STREET, PACIFIC GROVE
Great Location in Downtown Pacific Grove



4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$2,495,000 ■ 16015thStreet.com

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Walking Distance to Carmel Valley Village



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212 PINE CANYON ROAD, SALINAS 93908 - VACANT LOT \$450,000

Approved Building Plans for a 2950 SF 3 bed/3 bath home & 1165 SF garage. Spectacular Salinas Valley Views. This remarkable vacant lot offers an unparalleled opportunity to build a dream home. Nestled in a serene location, this property boasts breathtaking views of the Salinas Valley, including sparkling city lights at night. All the hard work has already been done! Included with the sale are energy calculations ensuring an efficient and sustainable design

- Comprehensive engineering studies for a solid foundation
- Detailed soil report confirming site suitability
- Architectural planning for a stunning and functional home
- Septic inspection, ensuring a ready-to-go system
- Paid school fees, paving the way for your construction.

Conveniently located just 10 minutes from Salinas and only 30 minutes to the world-renowned Monterey Peninsula, this property offers the perfect blend of privacy, accessibility, and natural beauty. Email or text Susan for more info on plans.



Need help with finding a lender who loan on vacant land, give Susan a call.

Susan Brownlie
831-320-3001
DRE 01069736



27765 MESA DEL TORO - VACANT LOT \$375,000

Great Price for this stunning property in the Corral de Tierra area. So few unimproved parcels available in Monterey County with water, truly a rare find. Buildable parcel unimproved land in the highly desirable Corral de Tierra area. Located in the Mesa del Toro subdivision, approx. 2 miles from the 4 corners. This is a gorgeous tree studded 2.27 acres of land. Water is available through the Mesa del Toro water company. See documents in disclosure package for more information. Great spot for a custom home, dream big. This property does not currently have horse amenities, however, they are allowed. There is a seasonal creek that runs along the frontage of property which abuts to Corral de Tierra Road. Property recently surveyed (4 corners identified). See disclosure documents for more information. HOA dues are approximately \$600.00 a year. Water \$85 a month plus tiered usage.

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OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 12-3PM



**1076 Sawmill Gulch Road, Pebble Beach
Offered at \$2,750,000**

This single level turn-key property was fully remodeled in and out in 2023 with a completely reconceived floorplan, 1600 sf in decks, walkways, spa, outdoor shower and lush landscaping. Designed and executed by a long time local developer, the home molds exceptional indoor/outdoor living and extraordinary architecture seamlessly together while its ideal south east exposure drenches the very private yard and deck with full sun.

**- By Appointment Only -
Contact Julie at 831-601-9963**

ARTIST

From page 27A

literature.”

Despite her passion for art, Kesten was nudged by her mother toward “more practical employment” — a career with a steady paycheck — and chose to major in social work at CSU Fresno. She graduated cum laude, then earned a master’s degree.

“I realized that if I majored in art, I’d probably have to become an art teacher, and I didn’t want to teach,” she said. “I wanted to help people, so I went into social work and became a psychotherapist.”

Making a difference

At her practice in Pacific Grove, Kesten counseled children, teens and adults and savored the opportunity to make a difference in their lives during a career that spanned three decades.

“Part of my practice was helping teenagers express their feelings through art,” she said. “And at the end of a work day, I always went home and painted.”

Creating art, then and now, is “like a meditation for me.” And, she said, after retiring in 2017, “I could just focus on painting. And, by then, I was ready to rest and paint.”

She also was ready to learn. Kesten, who never took an art course at Fresno State, enrolled in classes at Michael’s craft store, then connected with master artist Dong Sun Kim — best known for his murals, including the plywood cutouts (some 18 feet high) of farmworkers, which tower over Monterey County’s agriculture fields.

“I started taking lessons from him in his regular group class, then he invited me to take private lessons,” she said. “He believed in my talent and told me I could become a gallery artist, which gave me confidence.

“Mr. Kim is a wonderful teacher, and he’s become my mentor. I still try to see him at least once a week.”

Best of Show

In 2018, the year after his tutoring began, one of her paintings won Best of Show and first place in the land and seascapes category at the Monterey County Fair. The following year, Kesten’s paintings placed first in two competitions: land and seascapes, and figures and portraits.

“Mr. Kim taught me to slow down, put the basics down first, then layer, layer, layer,” said Kesten, whose colorful paintings are highly detailed. “I learned a lot from him about putting shadows into my art, and I also became a more careful painter.”

A breakthrough for Kesten came in 2024, when her art was accepted into the Carmel Valley Art Association, her first gallery.

She’s been married since 1989 to Detlev Kesten, assistant provost at Monterey’s Defense Language Institute. She has an adult daughter, Donique, and five grandchildren.

Her work can be seen at Carmel Valley Art Association (8 Del Fino Place, Carmel Valley Village) and at carmel-valleyartassociation.org.

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

RECENTLY CLOSED



316 1st St, Pacific Grove
Represented Seller
SOLD in 1 week
Sales price \$1,300,000

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3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,
2106 sq.ft. on over an acre lot
\$1,895,000

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IN FEBRUARY:**

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Offered at \$1,695,000

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HOUSE OF THE WEEK



12 Ring Lane, Carmel Valley | CarmelValleyMasterpiece.com
\$8,950,000
6 bedrooms | 5 full, 2 half bathrooms | 8,968 SqFt | 3.765 acres

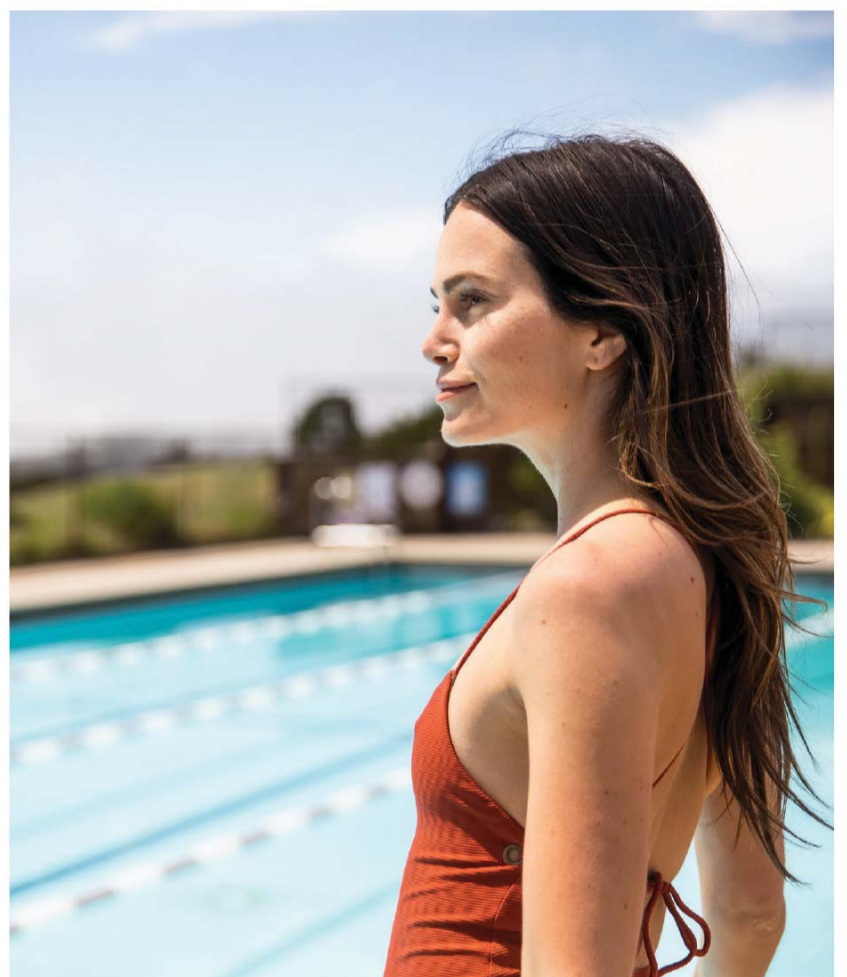
We are proud to present one of the finest estates ever to be offered in Carmel Valley. Entirely reimaged in 2022 by Merritt Amanti Architecture & Interiors, virtually every surface of this ~9,000 sqft classic county manor was meticulously refinished. Highlights include Herringbone-patterned oak floors, vaulted-ceiling grand room, library, gym with sauna, formal dining room, chef-worthy kitchen, serene views, beautiful stonework terraces, a swimming pool, in-ground hot tub and more. With the idyllic weather and peacefulness of its mid-Valley location, 12 Ring Lane is as close as it comes to Edenic perfection, this side of Heaven.



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BIG SUR

\$895,000 0bd 0ba Su 12-3
 8 E. Coastlands Big Sur
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 402-5877

\$5,785,000 3bd 2.5ba Sa 12-3
 38462 Highway 1 Big Sur
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 297-9805

CARMEL

\$580,000 1bd 1ba Sa 2-4:30
 9500 Center Street 5 Carmel
 Monterey Coast Realty 277-1040

\$885,000 2bd 2ba Sa Su 3-5
 62 Del Mesa Carmel Carmel
 Silver Lining Realty 917-9857

\$945,000 2bd 2ba Sa Su 1-3
 4000 Rio Rd. #26 Carmel
 KW Coastal Estates 220-5186

\$999,000 2bd 2ba Sa 1-5 Su 11-3
 24520 Outlook Dr #1 Carmel
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-7600 / 333-6060

\$1,680,000 3bd 3.5ba Sa 12-2
 9606 Buckeye Ct Carmel
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 236-7363

\$1,695,000 1bd 1ba Su 2-4:30
 Mission 2 SE of 9th Avenue Carmel
 Carmel Realty 277-1040

\$1,985,000 3bd 2ba Fr 1-4 Sa 2-5 Su 1-4
 Junipero 2 SE of 10th Carmel
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 402-2884

\$1,995,000 3bd 3.5ba Sa 10-2 Su 1-3
 9668 Willow Court Carmel
 Compass 236-5290

\$2,460,000 3bd 2ba Sa 12-3 Su 2-4
 3050 Ribera Rd Carmel
 Coldwell Banker Realty 915-0431 / 917-7029

\$2,900,000 4bd 2.5ba Su 11-1
 25905 Junipero Avenue Carmel
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 297-9805

\$3,395,000 4bd 3.5ba Sa Su 12-3
 7066 Valley Greens Circle Carmel
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 596-0573

\$3,585,000 3bd 3.5ba Su 12-2
 Santa Rita 2 SW of 5th Carmel
 Coldwell Banker Realty 238-5793

\$3,998,000 4bd 3ba Su 1-3
 3128 Serra Ave Carmel
 Coldwell Banker Realty 917-3966

\$4,195,000 4bd 3ba Fri Sa Su 1-4
 Forest 5 SW of 7th Avenue Carmel
 Carmel Realty 747-4300 / 594-8767

\$4,888,888 3bd 3.5ba Fr 1-4 Su 1-3
 4 Oak Knoll Way Carmel
 Carmel Realty 521-4855 / 915-0790

\$4,950,000 3bd 3.5ba Sa Su 12-3
 Casanova 4 NW of 13th Street Carmel
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-8029

\$5,450,000 5bd 3ba Sa 1-4 Su 12-2
 Mission 3 NW of Santa Lucia St Carmel
 Coldwell Banker Realty 206-0129 / 915-0431

\$5,600,000 4bd 4.5ba Sa Su 12-3
 5462 Quail Way Carmel
 Coldwell Banker Realty 227-3914

\$5,875,000 4bd 3.5ba Fr 1-4 Sa 11-4 Su 11-1
 Mission 4 NE of 10th Ave Carmel
 Compass 236-4318

\$7,900,000 3bd 3ba Sa 1-3 Su 1-4
 2385 Bay View Ave Carmel
 Coldwell Banker Realty 915-1004 / 320-6391

\$14,500,000 4bd 3ba Fr 1-4
 26387 Isabella Avenue Carmel
 Carmel Realty 521-4855

CARMEL VALLEY

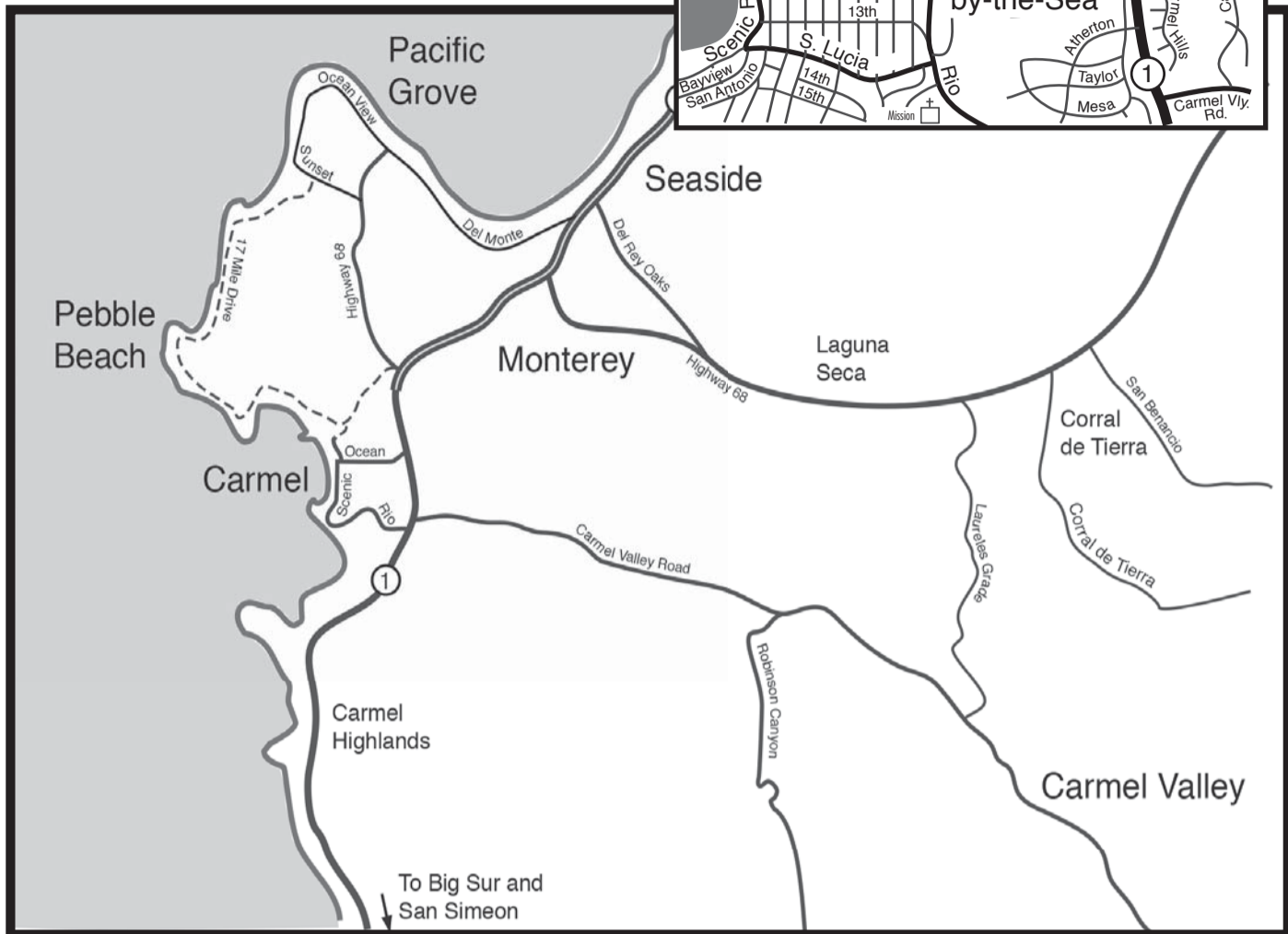
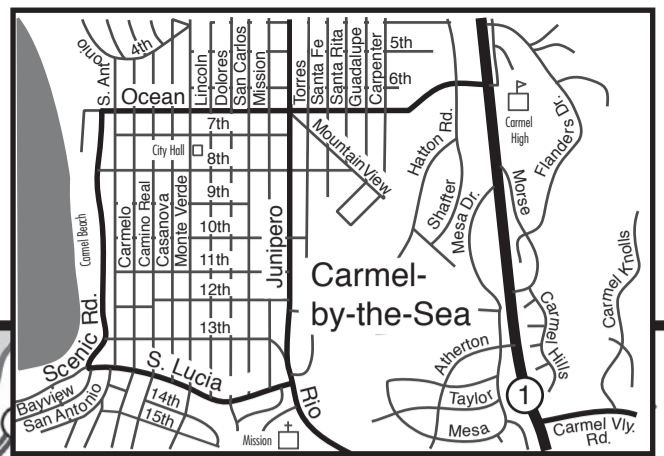
\$1,690,000 3bd 2ba Sa 12-3
 35 Lilac Lane Carmel Valley
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 402-4394

\$1,950,000 2bd 3ba Su 2:30-4:30
 1/2 Paso Hondo Carmel Valley
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 915-0265

\$2,225,000 2bd 2.5ba Sa 12-2
 9 Story Road Carmel Valley
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 236-8571

This Weekend's
OPEN HOUSES

Jan. 31 - Feb. 2



\$2,400,000 3bd 2ba Su 12-2
 15415 Via Los Tulares Carmel Valley
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 915-0265

\$2,980,000 4bd 4.5ba Sa Su 12-2
 15513 Via La Gitana Carmel Valley
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-5971 / 917-0839

\$3,095,000 3bd 2.5ba Sa Su 1-3
 13369 Middle Canyon Road Carmel Valley
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\$3,850,000 3bd 4ba Sa Su 12-2
 332 W. Carmel Valley Road Carmel Valley
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\$4,500,000 4bd 4.5ba Sa 11-1
 33732 E Carmel Valley Road Carmel Valley
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 293-3030

\$4,995,000 5bd 5.5ba Sa 2-4
 50 La Rancharia Carmel Valley
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 293-3030

\$6,950,000 7bd 6.5+ba Sa Su 12-3
 22 Rancho Fiesta Road Carmel Valley
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-2020

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CORRAL DE TIERRA

\$3,750,000 4bd 4.5ba Sa 10-12
 372 Corral De Tierra Corral de Tierra
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 915-7814

MARINA

\$1,149,000 3bd 2.5ba Sa 12-2 Su 1-4
 18511 McClellan Circle Marina
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 915-2800 / 510-589-6892

\$1,725,000 5bd 4ba Sa 1-3 Su 2-4
 465 Russell Way Marina
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MONTEREY

\$739,000 1bd 1ba Sa 11-2
 125 Surf Way #310 Monterey
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\$779,000 2bd 2ba Sa Su 12-3
 57 Montsalas Drive Monterey
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 915-8989

\$915,000 3bd 2ba Sa Su 1-4
 202 Lerwick Drive Monterey
 Century 21 234-0296 / 373-5204

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\$945,000



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OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 1 - 3PM



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OPEN SAT & SUN 3-5



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DEADLINE FOR ABOVE SUBMISSION IS TUESDAY AT 4 PM FOR FRIDAY'S EDITION

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS TUESDAY AT 11 AM FOR FRIDAY'S EDITION

OPEN HOUSES

From previous page

MONTEREY

\$1,299,000 4bd 3ba 7 Wyndemere Vale Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa 1-4 Monterey 510-589-6892
\$1,695,000 3bd 2.5ba 989 Madison St Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa Su 1-3 Monterey 214-2545 / 262-2301
\$1,729,000 3bd 3ba 17 Deer Forest Drive Sotheby's Int'l RE	Su 2-4 Monterey 297-9805
\$1,879,000 2bd 1.5ba 457 Wave St 1 The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Inc.	Su 11-2 Monterey 261-6468
\$2,250,000 3bd 3.5ba 127 Las Brisas Drive Sotheby's Int'l RE	Su 12-2 Monterey 277-2070

Monterey reads *The Pine Cone*

PACIFIC GROVE

\$900,000 2bd 1.5ba 1148 Patterson Lane Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa 1-3 Pacific Grove 917-6080
\$995,000 2bd 2ba 704 Redwood Ln Pacific Grove Sotheby's Int'l RE	Fr 1-3 Sa 12:30-2:30 Pacific Grove 238-8029 / 650-248-5030
\$1,225,000 3bd 2ba 34 Country Club Gate Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa 1-3 Su 1:30-3:30 Pacific Grove 238-0464
\$1,275,000 2bd 2ba 60 Country Club Gate Coldwell Banker Realty	Fr 3-5 Sa 1-3 Su 11-3 Pacific Grove 884-3919 / 717-7815
\$2,589,000 6bd 3ba 116 Evans Avenue Sotheby's Int'l RE	Fr 2-5 Sa 1-5 Su 1-3 Pacific Grove 917-1631 / 915-4093

PEBBLE BEACH

\$2,750,000 3bd 4.4ba 1109 Arroyo Dr Compass	Sa 1-3 Pebble Beach 262-7768
\$2,750,000 3bd 3ba 1076 Sawmill Gulch Rd Carmel Coast Realty	Sa Su 12-3 Pebble Beach 601-9963
\$2,795,000 4bd 2.5ba 4055 Sunset LN Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa 12-2 Su 2-4 Pebble Beach 277-6020
\$2,895,000 4bd 2.5ba 1047 San Carlos Rd The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Inc.	Sa 11-4 Pebble Beach 917-4707

\$2,995,000 4bd 3.5ba 1086 Spyglass Woods Dr Coldwell Banker Realty	Fr 2-4 Sa 10-2 Pebble Beach 227-3914 / 238-5793
\$3,495,000 3bd 2ba 1030 Sombrero Rd Compass	Su 1-3 Pebble Beach 238-2022
\$3,750,000 4bd 3ba 1268 Viscaino Rd Sotheby's Int'l RE	Fr 3-5 Sa Su 1-5 Pebble Beach 277-3371 / 238-8116
\$3,895,000 3bd 3.5ba 3045 Stevenson Drive Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa 11-1 Su 3-5 Pebble Beach 408-833-4255
\$5,299,000 4bd 3.5ba 3116 Bird Rock Rd Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa Su 1-3 Pebble Beach 620-2936
\$6,995,000 3bd 3.5ba 1425 Oleada Road Compass	Fr 5-7 Pebble Beach 915-0653
\$7,495,000 5bd 4ba 3301 17 Mile Drive #10 The Agency	Sa Su 1-3 Pebble Beach 277-7200

SALINAS

\$829,000 4bd 3ba 1202 Palermo Ct The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Inc.	Sa Su 10-1 Salinas 869-3992
\$830,000 3bd 3ba 166 Riker Terrace Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa Su 12-2 Salinas 521-8508 / 238-8116
\$1,499,000 3bd 2ba 15843 Pleasant Valley Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa 1-3 Salinas 917-9886
\$1,649,000 4bd 3ba 23 Seca Place Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa 1-3 Salinas 333-6060

SEASIDE

\$750,000 3bd 2ba 1332 Military Avenue Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa 1-3 Seaside 277-8622
\$800,000 2bd 1ba 1618 Kenneth Street Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa 12-2:30 Seaside 402-5877

WATSONVILLE

\$945,000 2bd 2ba 101 Shell Drive 145 Sotheby's Int'l RE	Sa 12-3 Su 10-1 Watsonville 227-9008 / 760-1690
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The Carmel Pine Cone has been a member of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce for more than 100 years.

The Carmel Pine Cone

Press Release guidelines

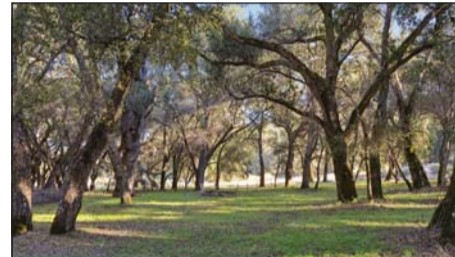
Press releases about newsworthy events should go to the following Pine Cone reporters:

Mary Schley: Carmel-by-the-Sea, food & wine, police, fire, criminal courts and schools
mary@carmelpinecone.com

Chris Counts: Carmel Valley, Big Sur, Arts & Entertainment and scholastic sports
chris@carmelpinecone.com

Kelly Nix: Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Monterey, Seaside, state government, civil courts and water
kelly@carmelpinecone.com

Letters to the editor are only accepted by email and should be sent to mail@carmelpinecone.com



Paradise Awaits in the Santa Lucia Preserve

This rare, 5.35-acre flat lot is tucked into the serene Woodland area, offering the perfect foundation for your next home.

Offering Eric Miller Architects approved architectural plans for a 4433 sq ft contemporary masterpiece. The home design features 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, indoor-outdoor living spaces, 3-car garage, and an inviting pool—all thoughtfully designed to harmonize with the natural beauty of the Preserve. Step into a lifestyle of elegance, privacy, & endless recreation. Your opportunity to live inspired in a place like no other.



Debbie Stone
REALTOR® · DRE 02119091
831-236-7687
debbie.stone@compass.com



Melissa Radowicz
REALTOR® · DRE 01316691
831-320-7961
melissa.radowicz@compass.com

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John Romley's

Recent Sales on the Monterey Peninsula

15270 Via Los Tulares, Carmel Valley



3 Beds, 2 Baths • LP: \$1,950,000 • Rep. Seller

401 Laine Street, Monterey



3 Beds, 2 Baths • LP: \$1,638,000 • Rep. Buyer

1086 4th Street, Monterey



3 Beds, 2 Baths • LP: \$1,325,000 • Rep. Seller

34 Ocean Pines Lane, Pebble Beach



2 Beds, 2 Baths • LP: \$1,275,000 • Rep. Buyer

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John@JohnRomley.com
JohnRomley.com



*by sales volume according to 2024 MLS Listings Data



25987 Mission Street, Carmel — \$2,700,000



12547 Oak Glen Drive, Carmel Valley — \$1,950,000



406 10th Street PG — \$1,115,000

ESCROWS

From page 4RE

Marina

189 San Pablo Court unit 7 — \$580,000

Richard Pine to Robbie Orenza
APN: 033-162-007

3035 El Capitan Drive — \$1,933,000

The Sea Haven LLC to Jay and Anca Husher
APN: 031-311-025

Monterey

500 Glenwood Circle unit 535 — \$485,000

Pavel Bielecki to Koly Moore
APN: 001-773-056

1101 Golden Oaks Lane — \$795,000

Ann Martinez to Pavel and Marketa Bielecki
APN: 001-942-001

Pacific Grove

1212 Funston Avenue — \$980,000

Robert Randick to Kurt and Arin Westendorf
APN: 007-563-023

406 10th Street — \$1,115,000

Cynthia and Wilfredo Viray to David and Jannell Anthony
APN: 006-494-003

266 Crocker Avenue — \$1,325,000

Constance Summers to Karen and Michael de la Cuesta
APN: 006-392-022

1213 Shafter Avenue — \$1,350,000

Lori Clark and Charles Coleman to Fred, Daniel and Kristin Dotterer
APN: 007-563-011

Seaside

1716 Fernando Street — \$600,000

James Dull to Blake Davis and Jordyn
APN: 012-111-047

1131 Birch Avenue — \$750,000

Robert and Tracy Winkleblack to Chris and Yoko Wilson
APN: 012-072-019

1470 Silver Lane — \$799,000

Erin McCombs and Megan Gonyea to Dennis and Theresa Allion
APN: 012-421-047

5030 Peninsula Point Drive — \$1,469,000

Richard and Laura Storms to Mona Aatai and Nima Kourang
APN: 031-231-052

The Pine Cone prints all Monterey Peninsula real estate sales shown on recorded deeds, and we do not omit sales for any reason. For more on our home sales policy, please go to pineconearchive.com/homesalespolicy.html.

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See Service Directory pages 42 & 43A | Email your ad to: service@carmelpinecone.com

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* There is a 10-word minimum on all classified ads.

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7595 Paseo Vista, Monterey
4 beds, 4.5 baths • \$5,695,000 • www.7595PaseoVista.com



25540 Via Malpaso (Lot 91), Carmel
6.31 acres • \$2,750,000 • www.25540ViaMalpaso.com



311 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove
4 beds, 2 baths • \$2,300,000 • www.RareViewProperty.com



28002 Oakshire Drive, Carmel
3 beds, 3 baths • \$2,175,000 • www.28002OakshireDrive.com



OPEN HOUSE | Sat 1pm-3pm & Sun 2pm-4pm

465 Russell Way, Marina
5 beds, 4 baths • \$1,725,000 • www.465RussellWay.com



Digital Rendering

Pfeiffer Ridge Road, Big Sur
5 acres • \$1,495,000 • www.PfeifferRidge.com



7567 Paseo Vista, Monterey
3.32 acres • \$1,200,000 • www.PaseoVistaMonterra.com



OPEN HOUSE | Sat 2pm-4:30pm

9500 Center Street #5, Carmel
1 bed, 1 bath • \$580,000 • www.9500CenterStreet5.com



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CARMEL VALLEY

NEW LISTING | www.CarmelValleyOasis.com | **\$3,850,000**

Sited on an idyllic 1.77 acre lot in mid-valley behind a tree-lined gated entry, this mid-century modern estate offers the ultimate Carmel Valley Oasis with vaulted redwood ceilings, hardwood floors, a luxurious primary suite, pool and serene mountain views.



PEBBLE BEACH

www.PebbleBeachManor.com
\$11,950,000

Set in one of the most iconic locations of the Del Monte Forest among the great estates of Pebble Beach, this Mediterranean coastal retreat encapsulates the classic 1920s Pebble Beach essence.



PEBBLE BEACH

www.PebbleBeachElegance.com
Sold at \$4,900,000

This immaculate renovated ~2,737 SqFt home located in the highly sought-after Country Club West neighborhood of Pebble Beach is the epitome of modern elegance.



JAN. 29 - FEB. 2, 2025

AT&T PEBBLE BEACH

PRO-AM

PEBBLE BEACH ■ SPYGLASS

- Schedules, tickets, TV viewing and how to get there
- Wyndham Clark calls his record-breaking round 'surreal'
- How birdies get turned in to computers for young people
- Finding love among the greens, fairways and movie stars
- 'Magical realism' produces unique tournament poster
- Sampling a wonderland of scenery, history and culture
- More of our complete tour of the Peninsula's golf courses

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1463 Oleada Road, Pebble Beach ♦ 8 Beds, 9 Full & 2 Half Baths ♦ 10,282 Sq. Ft. ♦ 2.63 Acres ♦ \$29,000,000 ♦ BellaVistaPB.com



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72 Fern Canyon Road, Carmel ♦ 9 Beds, 10 Full & 2 Half Baths ♦ 12,175 Sq. Ft. ♦ 14 Acres ♦ \$16,800,000 ♦ FernCanyonCarmel.com



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24275 Via Malpaso, Monterey ♦ 4 Beds, 4 Full & 2 Half Baths ♦ 6,003 Sq. Ft. ♦ 1.79 Acres ♦ \$6,500,000 ♦ 24275ViaMalpaso.com



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Oceanfront Vacation Rental on the Famed Scenic Road



Downtown Carmel Vacation Penthouse



Pebble Beach Estate Vacation Rental

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This home offers the perfect complement of privacy and convenience in the heart of the Santa Lucia Preserve's sought after amenities - walking distance to The Hacienda, Sports Center, The Nest, Equestrian Center and Moore's Lake. This peaceful setting is the perfect place to take in all the Santa Lucia Preserve has to offer.



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

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29ArroyoSequoia.com ■ 10.20 acres ■ \$1,495,000



33022RanchoSanCarlos.com ■ 82.432 acres ■ \$1,300,000

CO-LISTED WITH CHRIS PRYOR | DRE#01750627



Digital Rendering

8TouchePass.com ■ 18.15 acres ■ \$1,300,000



8CorralRun.com ■ 40.62 acres ■ \$1,175,000



KRIS MCAULAY 831.917.8476
Kris@CarmelRealtyCompany.com
 Broker Associate | DRE#01824908



CHRIS PRYOR 831.229.1124
Chris@CarmelRealtyCompany.com
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A Healthy 2024 with More Promise Ahead in the Coming Year

Throughout a beautiful holiday season, town was busy, vibrant, and festive, an indicator that the community is healthy alongside a healthy real estate market. The Monterey Peninsula real estate market experienced a strong and resilient performance in 2024, demonstrating overall health despite a notable slowdown at key price points of the business. Throughout the year, and certainly closer to the Q4 presidential election, the market experienced a slowing of both inventory and demand. This is typical of an election year when many sellers and buyers decide to wait until after the election before making a real estate decision. This clearly had an impact on the number of sales to end the year, but even with this influence, the overall market saw an 8.4% increase in home sales year over year and a small increase in average sales price, leading to a 9.7% rise in total sales dollar volume in 2024 over 2023.

The overall performance of pricing was strong in eight of the nine markets we track. While five areas saw prices go up, only Pebble Beach saw a greater than 2% decline in average sales price, with that decrease coming in at

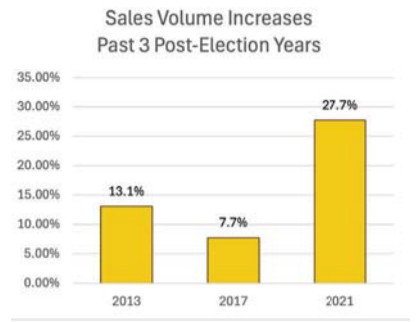
-11.6% year over year. This was much in part to a smaller than average percentage of high-priced sales in the area, especially in the very high-end (\$10M+ sales) of the market.

Both Q4 and Q3 saw exactly 283 home sales. Over the course of 2024 there were 1,081 homes sold across the nine markets we track. One of the reasons for the 8.4% increase in sales was expanded inventory, rising to the highest level we have seen on the market since mid-2020. Inventory levels increased from 232 to begin the year to a peak of 411 actives during August, before dipping back to 279 at the end of 2024. Year over year, this is an increase of 20.3% in homes available for sale. This influx of inventory combined with a projected growing demand as the year continues, positions the market to be strong in 2025. A reason for the projected growth in demand this year is due to our market having seen three consecutive post-election years experience a substantial increase in total sales volume compared to the year of the election.

Each of the nine markets we serve experience a constant balancing act between supply, demand and pricing.

SALES VOLUME INCREASES PAST 3 POST-ELECTION YEARS

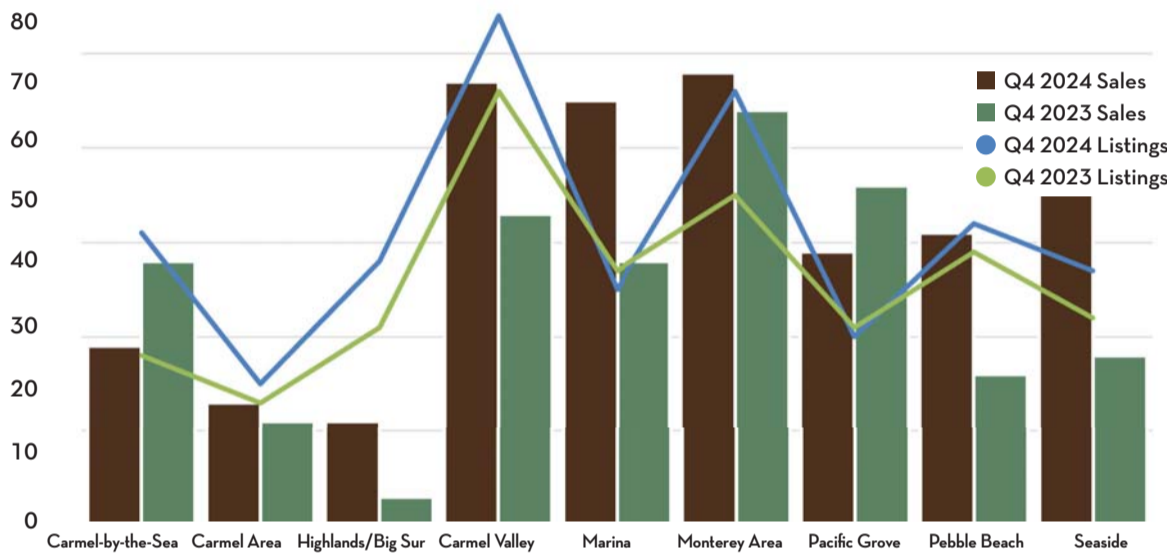
The last three presidential election years of 2012, 2016, and 2020 each saw the following year increase substantially in total sales dollar volume on the Monterey Peninsula.



This makes it essential to have experienced, local, expert representation when buying or selling a home. Our seasoned, informed, and connected agents can make a significant difference in the value of your purchase or sale, all while working to find the right home that allows you to truly enjoy the lifestyle this community has to offer. Please reach out to one of our full-time professional agents should you and any of your friends or family be considering a real estate transaction here on the Monterey Peninsula.

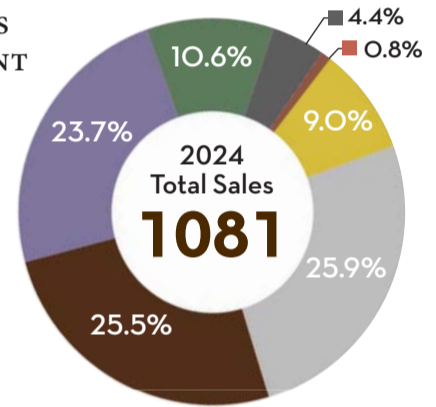
For additional information, please visit carmelrealty-company.com, contact us at (831) 622-1000, or visit us at any of our Carmel-by-the-Sea locations.

CLOSED SALES VS. AVAILABLE LISTINGS YEAR OVER YEAR



2024 SALES BY SEGMENT

- Up to \$700k
- \$700k-\$1m
- \$1m-\$1.5m
- \$1.5m-\$3m
- \$3m-\$5m
- \$5m-\$10m
- \$10m+



	SALES BY SEGMENT							TOTAL VOLUME SOLD			AVAILABLE LISTINGS QUARTER END		
	Up to \$700K	\$700k-\$1M	\$1M-\$1.5M	\$1.5M-\$3M	\$3M-\$5M	\$5M-\$10M	\$10M+	Q4 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2023	Q4 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2023
Carmel-by-the-Sea	0	0	6	31	40	14	5	\$100,992,000	\$113,257,864	\$112,547,900	31	30	18
Carmel Area	0	6	22	20	10	2	0	\$28,814,300	\$32,216,500	\$24,782,000	15	21	13
Carmel Highlands/Big Sur	2	3	1	5	7	6	1	\$54,835,376	\$23,389,000	\$6,925,000	28	35	21
Carmel Valley	15	23	45	64	22	10	1	\$98,419,500	\$99,295,305	\$66,003,009	54	77	46
Marina	11	86	48	6	0	0	0	\$43,937,972	\$27,902,129	\$27,352,647	25	44	27
Monterey Area	42	62	73	40	8	5	0	\$49,760,674	\$88,840,250	\$61,831,499	46	56	35
Pacific Grove	0	16	49	51	9	0	0	\$47,014,000	\$73,237,270	\$62,834,600	20	32	21
Pebble Beach	0	3	11	34	19	11	2	\$101,956,000	\$56,070,000	\$57,000,000	32	44	29
Seaside	27	81	21	5	0	0	0	\$34,605,750	\$26,515,215	\$16,014,706	27	40	22
Totals	97	280	276	256	115	48	9	\$560,335,572	\$540,723,533	\$435,291,361	278	379	232

	MEDIAN SALES PRICES			AVERAGE SALES PRICES			DAYS ON MARKET			NUMBER OF SALES		
	Q4 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2023	Q4 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2023	Q4 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2023	Q4 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2023
Carmel-by-the-Sea	\$3,995,000	\$3,137,500	\$2,725,000	\$5,315,368	\$3,539,308	\$4,019,568	35	43	62	19	32	28
Carmel Area	\$1,800,000	\$1,440,000	\$1,700,000	\$2,216,485	\$1,789,806	\$2,252,909	31	45	50	13	18	11
Carmel Highlands/Big Sur	\$4,250,000	\$3,128,000	\$3,105,000	\$4,985,034	\$3,341,286	\$2,308,333	82	26	65	11	7	3
Carmel Valley	\$1,340,000	\$1,625,000	\$1,575,000	\$2,094,032	\$2,256,711	\$2,000,091	69	64	40	47	44	33
Marina	\$870,000	\$890,000	\$947,500	\$976,399	\$930,071	\$976,880	46	40	49	45	30	28
Monterey Area	\$950,000	\$1,185,000	\$1,126,500	\$1,036,681	\$1,558,601	\$1,405,261	49	43	33	48	57	44
Pacific Grove	\$1,375,000	\$1,495,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,621,172	\$1,664,483	\$1,745,406	43	42	31	29	44	36
Pebble Beach	\$2,600,000	\$2,192,500	\$2,967,500	\$3,288,903	\$2,803,500	\$3,562,500	79	64	70	31	20	16
Seaside	\$805,000	\$830,000	\$713,500	\$865,144	\$855,330	\$889,706	52	25	39	40	31	18
Totals										283	283	217

These charts are based on data supplied by the Monterey County Association of Realtors Multiple Listing Service. Neither the association nor the MLS guarantees or is responsible for their accuracy. The data may also not reflect all real estate activity in the market. For more information, go to www.carmelrealtycompany.com.

	TEN-YEAR MEDIAN SALES PRICE										1-Year Change	10-Year Change
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
Carmel-by-the-Sea	\$1,550,000	\$1,607,500	\$1,700,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,875,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,750,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,007,500	\$3,450,000	14.7%	122.6%
Carmel Area	\$869,000	\$1,065,000	\$1,050,000	\$1,297,500	\$1,225,000	\$1,450,000	\$1,550,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,620,000	\$1,625,000	0.3%	87.0%
Carmel Highlands/Big Sur	\$1,857,500	\$1,685,000	\$1,937,500	\$1,597,500	\$1,775,000	\$2,645,000	\$2,375,000	\$3,709,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,640,000	21.3%	96.0%
Carmel Valley	\$836,000	\$950,313	\$937,000	\$1,000,000	\$950,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,495,000	\$1,570,000	5.0%	87.8%
Marina	\$442,500	\$490,000	\$537,200	\$599,000	\$639,000	\$675,000	\$792,000	\$849,000	\$875,000	\$930,000	6.3%	110.2%
Monterey Area	\$610,250	\$656,500	\$722,500	\$772,000	\$740,000	\$850,000	\$930,000	\$1,050,000	\$1,074,000	\$1,054,500	-1.8%	72.8%
Pacific Grove	\$780,000	\$800,000	\$886,500	\$889,750	\$958,000	\$980,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,390,000	\$1,497,500	\$1,490,000	-0.5%	91.0%
Pebble Beach	\$1,378,750	\$1,525,000	\$1,575,000	\$1,557,500	\$1,767,950	\$2,100,000	\$2,795,000	\$3,150,000	\$2,690,000	\$2,612,500	-2.9%	89.5%
Seaside	\$405,000	\$445,000	\$495,000	\$525,000	\$540,000	\$593,500	\$700,000	\$757,000	\$750,000	\$817,500	9.0%	101.9%

2025



SCHEDULES, TICKETS AND PARKING

January 27 - February 2

■ Pebble Beach Golf Links (6,972 yards, par 72)

■ Spyglass Hill Golf Course (7,041 yards, par 72)

■ Purse: \$20,000,000

■ Winning share: \$3,600,000

■ 2nd Place: \$2,160,000

■ 3rd place: \$1,360,000

■ 2024 Champion: Wyndham Clark (199) (54 holes)

Thursday, January 30

8:35 a.m. • First round — Pebble Beach and Spyglass
TV coverage: The Golf Channel, noon to 4 p.m.

Friday, January 31

8:35 a.m. • Second round — Pebble Beach and Spyglass
TV coverage: The Golf Channel, noon to 4 p.m.

Saturday, February 3

8:30 a.m. • Third round — Pebble Beach and Spyglass
TV coverage: The Golf Channel, 10 a.m. to noon, CBS, noon to 4 p.m.

Sunday, February 2

8 a.m. • Final round — Pebble Beach Golf Links
TV coverage: The Golf Channel, 10 a.m. to noon, CBS, noon to 3:30 p.m.

Ticket prices: General admission, Thursday-Friday \$110, Saturday-Sunday \$130, children 15 and under free. Clint's Hospitality at the 15th Green, Thursday-Friday \$400, Saturday-Sunday \$460.

There may be fewer big-name actors and famous musicians playing in the AT&T Pro-Am these days, but plenty of superstars can still be seen on the fairways, as NFL legend Tom Brady was last year.

PHOTO/MICHAEL TROUTMAN, DMT IMAGING



Free spectator and volunteer parking is located at California State University Monterey Bay, near the corner of Second Avenue and Fifth Street in Marina. Free tournament shuttles transport spectators and volunteers from the parking lot to the Pebble Beach Main Gate.

To encourage AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am spectators to visit their downtowns instead of hopping the buses from parking lots at CSUMB, the chambers of commerce in Carmel and Pacific Grove are offering shuttle services.

Available Thursday, Jan. 30, to Sunday, Feb. 2, Carmel's shuttles leave every 15 to 30 minutes from Carmel Plaza on Ocean at Junipero between 6:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The Carmel shuttle costs \$40 per day or \$130 for a four-day pass, and tickets can be purchased in advance at

carmelchamber.org or in person at the shuttle stop. Spectators are dropped off near The Hay golf course at the entrance to the tournament. Chamber members receive a \$5 discount, and AT&T volunteers ride for free.

In Pacific Grove, wristbands can be bought online at pacificgrove.org or at the office at 584 Central Ave., and the shuttles run Thursday through Saturday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sunday from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., though it's unclear why Sunday would offer shorter hours than Saturday, since both days feature the same number of players on the course, a departure from past years. Passes cost \$30 per day. The shuttle picks up in front of the museum at 165 Forest Ave.

More details about parking, tickets, facilities and spectator rules can be found at attpbgolf.com.



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2025



THE PLAYERS

Even among golf's legends, Wyndham Clark stands out

By MICHAEL JAMES

GOLF'S GREATEST players, from Ben Hogan, to Jack Nicklaus and Sam Snead, to Tiger Woods, all won the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. None were victorious with any better golf or in more unusual circumstances than Wyndham Clark.

With a third-round, 12-under 60, the lowest competitive round ever posted on

Pebble Beach Golf Links, he claimed the weather-plagued 2024 AT&T in its debut as a Signature Event on the PGA Tour.

Amazing round

Clark, 31, who is defending his title this year, finished with a 17-under-par 199 total in the 54-hole event after inclement weather canceled Sunday's and Monday's potential final rounds. He finished with a one-shot margin over Ludvig Aberg of

Sweden and a two-shot advantage over Frenchman Matthieu Pavon.

Clark's round included two eagles, nine birdies and one bogey. He eclipsed the previous tournament record of 62, shared by Tom Kite, David Duval, Patrick Cantlay and Matthias Schwab.

The tournament winner's score topped the previous overall competitive course record of 61 set by Texas Tech's Hurly Long at the 2017 Carmel Cup, a collegiate event.

"I mean, it was an amazing, fun week," said Clark, No. 7 in the world golf rankings. "I think of all the great memories. I was staying with some good friends that week and we got to spend a lot of time together obviously due to the weather.

"And then obviously the golf part, it was probably the most unique win I've had. It was also really good for me. Anytime you start and you get hot like that, it's really hard to keep it going. I was proud of myself because I made the birdie on 9, then I made the birdie on 10, then 11. Then the little mess-up on 12, I still followed it up with birdies and kept putting the pedal down."

Eagles on 5 and 6

Clark's record round included the epitome of precise putting. He eagled the 5th Hole from 39 feet and the 6th Hole from 42 feet. He had 29-foot and 25-foot birdies on the 8th and 9th holes, finishing the front nine with a record 8-under 28. It was only the fourth 28 in AT&T history and

the first since Brent Schwarrock's front nine in his first round in 2002.

Five more birdies followed on the back nine en route to Clark's 32. He had his only bogey at the par 3 12th. Clark's tee shot landed in the sand trap to the right of the green. His second shot landed in the deep rough between the left-side bunker and the green.

He chipped left-handed and skulled his third shot, but saved a bogey from about 25 feet.

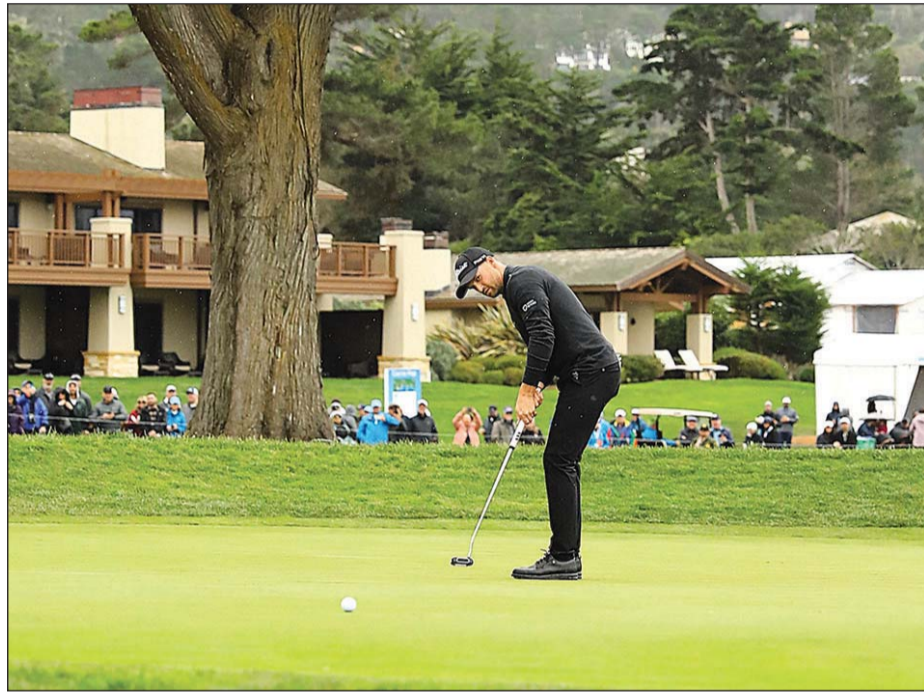
A sub-60 round was feasible, but its chances ended when Clark's birdie attempt on the 17th Hole stopped an inch in front of the cup.

"I was really impressed with myself doing that, because it can be hard," said Clark. "Sometimes, guys turn that into only a 7, 8-under round, like 'great round,' and you get a top finish. But to keep getting birdies, I was impressed with myself," he added.

"I think anyone who has ever shot 59 or gets into that kind of zone, you don't really think about the score. You're just so focused on the next shot. I really didn't think about it until I got to the 18th Tee

Accomplishing something none of the game's greats ever did

See CHAMPION page 20ATT



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Wyndham Clark putts on 18 at the end of his amazing round of 60 — a Pebble Beach course record — during the 2024 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

Photo Credit: Robert Miller Photography



Photo Credit: John Vaughn



Photo Credit: Mary E. Nichols



STYLE

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Charles Gruwell is a national award-winning interior designer who has had a 45-year design career filled with prestigious design mentorships, 40 boutique hotels, luxury residential projects and extensive international world travel. Charles returned to his hometown on the Monterey Peninsula in 2020 and has reestablished himself as the Premier Luxury Residential & Hospitality Designer for Carmel, Pebble Beach and surrounding areas. He was mentored by some of the best designers in the world and has worked on projects in San Francisco, Bali Indonesia, Disney Resorts in Orlando Florida, Seattle Washington, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Hawaii, Sun Valley, Puerto Rico, and Hotels and Luxury homes here on the Peninsula and throughout California.



Photo Credit: Randy Tunnell



Photo Credit: Robert Miller Photography

He is a Master in the Art of Design with a passion for Coastal Contemporary, Classical European, Rustic Ranch Style Elegance and Asian inspired projects. Charles has a DIVERSITY of Style and Flair that is second to none and has developed a Curated Home Furnishings Collection called CHARLESTYLE. He is known for his artistic prowess, meticulous attention to detail and exceptional design eye. He is available to collaborate with you on your next Luxury Residential or Hospitality commission.

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2025



THE CHARITIES

Facing long shots, hazards and a risk of going out of bounds

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

LAST YEAR, Hollister resident Ariana Ventura was finishing high school, working to bring income to her family and preparing to give birth to her son. She didn't own a computer, and her household had no internet access. It might be difficult to imagine that she could have much in common with

golfers playing the well-manicured links at Pebble Beach, competing for millions of dollars in prize money.

Creating opportunity

But decades ago, Bing Crosby didn't have any trouble doing so. He saw a potential connection — one in which golfers and performers like he was, who had money and time to share, could have fun and give back to the community, perhaps

touching the lives of young people like Ventura.

As a result, golf and giving have long paired up during what's now called the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, hosted by the Monterey Peninsula Foundation. While a \$20 million purse was distributed among last year's winning golfers, charitable giving came close, with \$18 million donated to more than 200 local nonprofits doing important work.

Last year's featured charity was the Hollister-based Youth Alliance, a community-based organization that strives to "create thriving and equitable communities and to equip youth and their families to become change agents." It was established in 1995 by CEO Diane Ortiz, following her commencement from Pacific Union College — she was the first in her family to get that far — with a degree in social work.

The group aims to provide educational opportunities and learning support for students in a safe, constructive environment before and after school. Hundreds of students receive help developing leadership skills daily, along with homework assistance, support in applying for college, and career opportunities and development.

Birdies for Students

Through its Avenida (Avenue) Program, the organization addresses the needs of homeless people aged 18 to 24 by identifying community resources and working with local partners to satisfy basic needs and provide long-term support throughout San Benito County.

During the 2024 pro-am, AT&T hosted Birdies for Students, through which it donated \$5,000 for every birdie or better on Hole 17 to the Alliance to give kids and their families free internet access and digital devices. Through a partnership among AT&T, Monterey Peninsula Foundation,

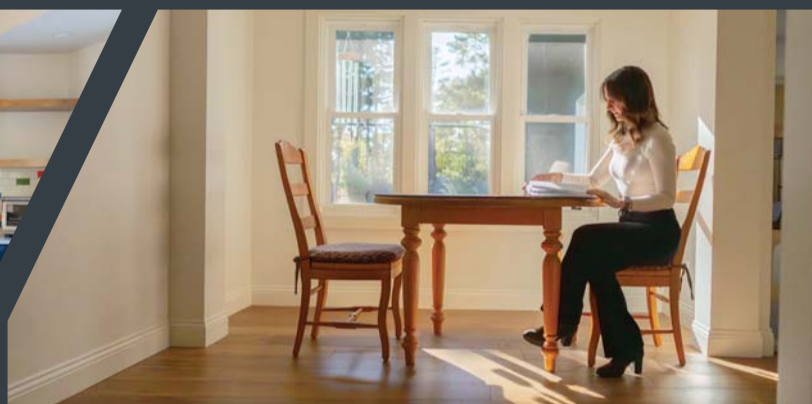


PHOTO/COURTESY YOUTH ALLIANCE

Youth Alliance, a Hollister-based nonprofit, was the featured charity for last year's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am's Birdies for Students contest. The fundraising effort provided 200 computers and internet access for kids.

See BIRDIES page 20ATT

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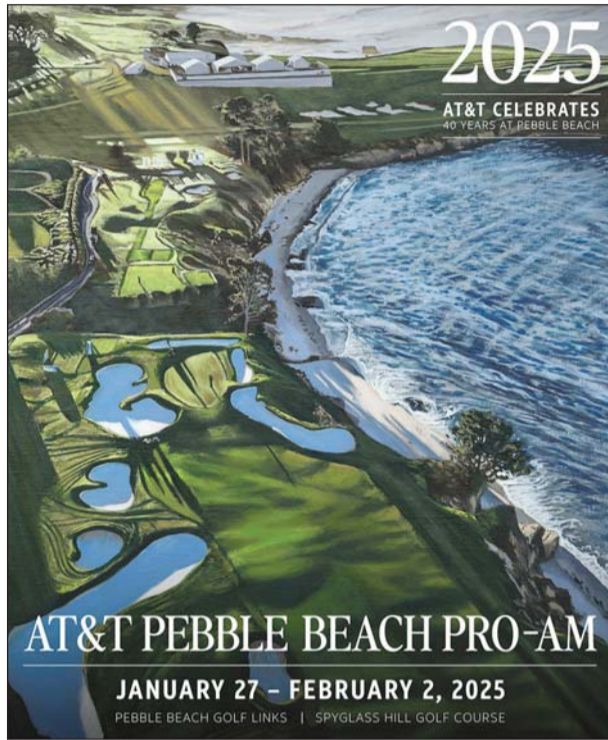
THE ART

Drone shot turned into painting for 2025 AT&T Pro-Am poster

By CHRIS COUNTS

IS IT a photograph or is it a painting? Well, actually, it's a little of both. For the first time, the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am is featuring a dramatically enhanced drone shot on the commemorative poster for this year's tournament.

The commission for the art came about due to a chance encounter in May between painter Simon Dalby and tournament director Steve John.



The stunning image on this year's Pro-Am poster was created thanks to a "magical realist" technique used by artist Simon Dalby.

"Steve invited me to create the painting for the 2025 tournament poster," said Dalby, who lives in the United Kingdom. "We wanted to come up with something a little different from the typical images of this iconic golf course and were fortunate to be able to use this stunning early morning drone photograph."

The drone shot was captured by Jordan Green of marketing agency Golf Space Collective, and Dalby welcomed the opportunity to push the boundaries of what the tournament has previously done with its posters.

"I was delighted to accept the commission and join a long line of distinguished artists who have created original artwork for this event every year," he said. "Golf and art are my two great passions."

According to Dalby, he was given "full license to apply what I call my 'magical realist' approach" to the piece.

"My paintings have the semblance of photographs and yet they are not," he explained. "The colors are just that little bit too vibrant, the composition dreamlike in intensity. The magic comes from the interface between painting and viewer. I'm looking for you to suspend your disbelief, and become absorbed by the alternative reality on the canvas."

Acrylics and oil

While Dalby didn't take the drone shot, he often enhances his own photos, too.

"I work by taking loads of digital photos on my phone. Then I play around with them in the studio, often changing the composition, the lighting, even moving buildings and people around until it looks right," the artist explained. "The next step is to project the image onto canvas, which gives me a speedy way of laying out the base drawing. Then, it's often a layer of acrylic paint to put down the basic tonal areas quickly. But oils from then on. Often many different layers and glazes."

The posters are being sold at the Lone Cypress Shop,

the Spyglass Pro Shop and the 17th Green Merchandise Tent. The original painting will be on display during the tournament and auctioned off.

For more about Dalby's art, visit sjdalby.com.

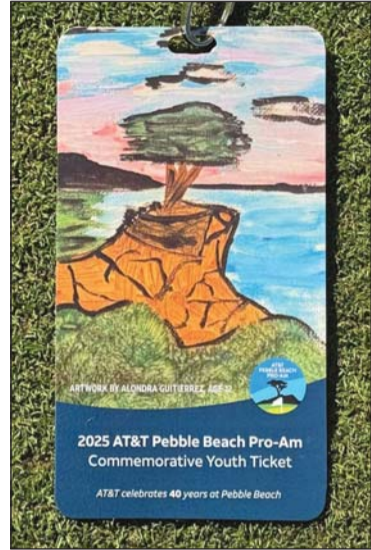
Youth ticket

Encouraging young people to love both golf and art, the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am recently put together its first Youth Ticket Artwork Contest, and, in December 2024, picked the winning design, which was created by a 12-year-old from King City credited only as Alondra.

A member of the First Tee Foundation as well as a young artist, Alondra was given three AT&T tickets for her efforts, and she plans to bring her parents to the tournament Sunday.

The design — a striking portrait of Pebble Beach's iconic Lone Cypress — will be featured on youth tickets for the 2025 tournament, which is set for Jan. 30 through Feb. 2. The commemorative tickets will be given to kids 15 and under, who get in free with a ticketed adult.

More than 100 young people submitted entries, and the field was narrowed to three designs before the winning image was selected by a poll on social media. You can see Alondra's artwork at the tournament — it's on display at Triangle Plaza at the Pebble Beach Golf Links.



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2025



THE COMMUNITY

Getting lost at Poppy Hills led to finding true, lasting love

By SALLY BAHO

CHARLOTTE ROCHA got talked into attending the 2001 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am by a girlfriend. “She was an avid golfer and had gone plenty of times. I am not a golfer and was leery, but she told me not to worry — there would be plenty of men,” Rocha said.

“We were looking for Bill Murray. We were trying to figure out what course he was going to be on that day and got lost,” she remembered.

‘I bet she knows him. She knows everyone.’

They were wandering Poppy Hills when a man named Rob and his friend stopped to ask if they needed directions. “My friend started up a conversation with them and let them know that we were going to be at Mission Ranch for dinner that evening, which is crazy because he was a complete and utter stranger,” Rocha recalled. Meanwhile, the women ended up finding Murray, which Rocha thought would be the highlight of her day.

That evening, as planned, the ladies went to dinner with Rocha’s friend’s parents at Mission Ranch. Her friend’s father is an avid golfer, and the family regularly attends the pro-am, so he had planned accordingly, months in advance, to make sure they’d have a table. While at dinner, she looked up to find Rob and his friend. “Hi again,” he said. Rocha was flabbergasted, thinking, “How on Earth did they get a table?”

VIP friend

The two groups enjoyed their dinners, and afterward, Rocha, her friend, and Rob and his friend stuck around at the piano bar. The women asked the men how they

managed to get a table. As it turned out, Rob’s friend’s last name was Singh, and they spun a story to the host that his cousin was famous golf pro Vijay Singh, who would be joining them. They were seated immediately.

A possibility

“We exchanged numbers that evening,” Rocha said, but she still felt like the guy was a stranger. However, the fact that she lived in San Jose and he lived in Santa Cruz made her feel like “there was at least a geographic possibility,” she said. The following Monday when she went to work — which was in real estate at the time — she told a colleague about her chance encounter. The colleague immediately thought of a thoroughly networked lender who might be acquainted with the fellow.

“I bet she knows him. She knows everyone,” the co-worker said. And, sure enough, that was the case. Rob ended up calling her for a date — dinner in Los Gatos on Valentine’s Day — and she agreed to go. And, of course, they became a couple.

The following year, they attended the pro-am together. Not long after, they found out that Rocha was expecting a baby, so they got married in Berkeley Park in Pacific Grove, not far from where it all began. The couple welcomed a baby boy in May 2003 and bought a house in Gilroy the following year.

“We met in 2001, got married in 2002, had a baby 2003, bought a house in 2004 and have been quiet ever since,” Rocha said with a laugh.

After Rocha retired from her real estate career in 2019, another girlfriend who worked for AT&T convinced her to volunteer. Rocha does so annually in the hospitality tent and said she loves seeing friends she’s made in years past. Returning every year is like a homecoming for her. “It’s the same people over and over again,” she said.



PHOTO/COURTESY CHARLOTTE ROCHA

Charlotte and Rob Rocha met on the golf course at Poppy Hills, while Charlotte and a friend were searching for Bill Murray.

But that’s not quite the end of Rocha’s pro-am story. “My life is a bunch of weird circumstances,” she said.

Missing celebrities

“When I showed up to volunteer the first year, they randomly assigned me to make burgers with another woman. When I looked over at her, we both realized that we had not only gone to college together at Chico State, but had also worked at a burger joint together,” she re-

See LOVE page 31ATT

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The Monterey Peninsula is a lot more than just golf courses

By LISA LAPIN

colonized on the West Coast. **Monterey State Historic Park** (mshpa.org), spread throughout downtown Monterey, has museums and a self-guided walking trail that winds among historic 250-year-old

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a break from cruising the fairways and hillsides at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. Or you'd like to see the non-golf side of this golfer's paradise, to learn more about the region and its combination of attributes found nowhere else. There are plenty of ways to enjoy all that the Monterey Peninsula has to offer, including the splendor of the landscape and numerous engaging activities.



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

The Monterey Bay Aquarium is not only one of the Peninsula's most iconic attractions, it's one of the most scenic.

No other major golf venue offers the same rich, robust combination of activities that await you on the Monterey Peninsula. Here are a few suggestions to explore.

Early California history

The Monterey Peninsula was home to California's Rumsen and Esselen tribes, the state's first presidio and shipping harbor, its first Capitol, and was the first location in Alta California that the Spanish

adobes, their secret gardens and the state's first theater. Maps are available at the free Pacific House Museum in Custom House Plaza near Old Fisherman's Wharf.

The **Point Pinos Lighthouse** museum and grounds in Pacific Grove (bit.ly/4huk8VY) is another place where time stands still, in and around the oldest

See **PLACES** page 18ATT

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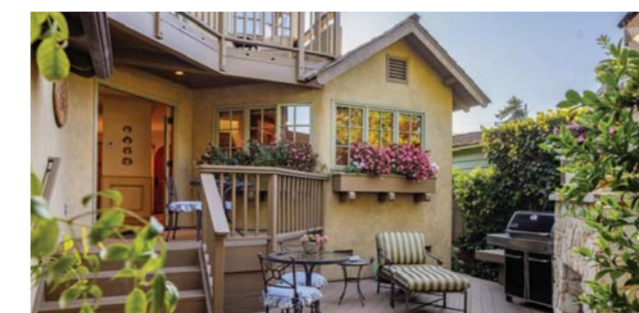
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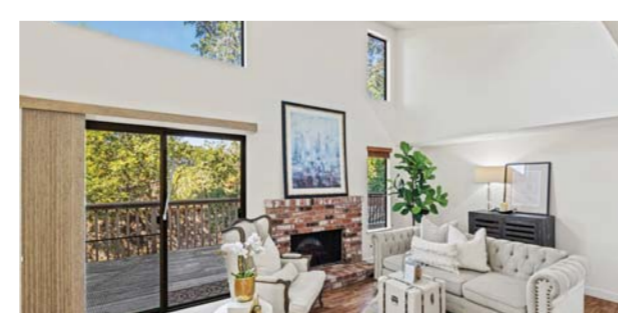
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2025



THE TOUR

PLACES

From page 15ATT

continuously operating lighthouse on the West Coast. It will mark its 170th anniversary during the AT&T tournament, having first shined its beacon along the rocky shore on Feb. 1, 1855. Adjacent to the Pacific Grove Golf Links, the meticulously restored lighthouse is full of local maritime lore and open to the public Monday, Thursday and Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The **Carmel Mission Basilica** (carmelmission.org) is another trove of local history. In addition to the main church sanctuary founded in 1771, visitors can tour the mission's former residential areas and artworks for a \$15 admission fee. Not to be missed is the Munras Family Heritage Museum, near the rear of the grounds, filled with artifacts belonging to one of the earliest Spanish families of the Monterey Peninsula.

■ Explore the Peninsula

The Monterey area is one of the easiest places for visitors to safely explore by bicycle or on foot with numerous places to rent bikes by the hour or day, including Mad Dogs & Englishmen with locations in downtown Carmel and Monterey, and Adventures by the Sea — which also rents kayaks.

Start on **Scenic Road** in Carmel, with views of the beach, Point Lobos, writer Robinson Jeffers' stone Tor Horse and Frank Lloyd Wright's Cabin on the Rocks, also called the Walker House.

Feeling more ambitious? You can follow the car-free **Monterey Bay Coastal Recreational Trail**, (bit.ly/3Cn3Fei) a paved bike and pedestrian path that runs 18 miles from Lovers Point in Pacific Grove (Ocean View and 17th Street) north through Steinbeck's Cannery Row and past the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Old Fisherman's Wharf, with its restaurants and gift shops. From there, trail traffic calms down considerably as it continues along sand dunes with bay views all the way to the for-

mer Fort Ord, Marina, and past miles of agricultural fields to Castroville, aka the "Artichoke Capital of the World." Snacks and water are available for purchase along the out-and-back trip — locate them on or near the trail in P.G., Monterey, Marina and Castroville.

Tours and equipment rentals can be found at Big Sur Adventures, Adventures by the Sea, or Mad Dogs & Englishmen. Expect to pay about \$60 for a four-hour rental, more for a tour.

There are numerous places to take short strolls or longer hikes and soak in the remarkable vistas. **Asilomar State Beach** in Pacific Grove has a boardwalk and trail that runs atop the coastal bluffs for a mile along Sunset Drive. Near Monterey Regional Airport, **Jacks Peak County Park** offers hiking trails with excellent views from high above the Monterey Bay. To the south of Carmel, **Point Lobos State Natural Reserve** has many miles of hiking trails with modest inclines and dramatic rocky views, as well as ancient Monterey cypress and Monterey pine

See **SIGHTS** page 24ATT



PHOTOS/PINE CONE FILE

Opportunities to take in magnificent ocean vistas are endless on the Monterey Peninsula, such as on the rec trail that runs for miles along Monterey Bay (right). Historic buildings are numerous, as well, including the Point Pinos Lighthouse (center). And don't forget the shopping in downtown Carmel (left).

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2025



THE COURSES

CHAMPION

From page 8ATT

Box of those last two because then I only have to birdie 18.' To keep the pedal down and still get more birdies, I was impressed with myself."

The victory for the 2023 U.S. Open winner was worth \$3.6 million of a \$20 million purse. It was his third PGA Tour title in 10 months, adding to his wins at the 2023 Wells Fargo Championship and 2023 U.S. Open.

'It was surreal'

Clark's success on PGA Tour took several years. After turning professional, Clark won at the second stage of Korn Ferry Tour Q school at the end of 2017 and earned status on the developmental circuit. He didn't win in 2018 but acquired his PGA Tour card by finishing inside the top 25 on the points list.

After several potential PGA Tour victories faded in Sunday rounds, Clark began working with a sports psychologist in early 2023. He won his first PGA Tour title in May 2023. Six weeks later, Clark won the U.S. Open, followed early last season with his record-breaking round and victory on the Monterey Peninsula last February.

"It was honestly surreal," said Clark, who completed the 2024 season with eight top-10 finishes in 21 events, including two seconds. "To have a chance to shoot 59, it was pretty special."

Before last year's win, Clark had competed in the AT&T three times. He tied for 18th in 2020, tied for 61st in 2019 and tied for 65th in 2022.

"I would have obviously loved to have gone and played that fourth round and have the nerves and excitement that you do on a final round, and to come down 18 hopefully with a lead and to win," said Clark. "It's always weird when you play a three-round tournament, but at the end of the day it's still a win and I'm going to count it as a win. Hopefully this year we get four rounds in."

BIRDIES

From page 10ATT

and Human-I-T, Youth Alliance received 200 Lenovo laptops loaded with Microsoft software, plus three years' tech support, for students in Hollister and Gilroy.

That brings us back to Ventura. After Youth Alliance gave her a computer provided through Birdies for Students, she graduated from San Benito High School, where she is pursuing adult education classes.

"I am allowed to keep the computer, so I will be able to use it when I go to college to study phlebotomy," she said. "I am determined to work my way up from there in the medical field, so I can provide the most I can for my baby. I want to give him everything I didn't have. I hope more people can know about this program so they can get help, like I did."

Lack of access to computers and the internet is one of the biggest barriers students face in completing their educations, standing between them and the opportunity to improve the quality of life for them and their families.

"A pillar of our program is to bridge the digital divide in our communities," said Eddy Navarro, Youth Alliance senior director of development. "Around 85 percent of our youth come from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and don't have access to digital equipment or transportation to where there is such equipment."

The computers provided through Birdies for Students, Navarro said, give middle-school through college-level pupils the tools that will enable them to learn and access the world and succeed.

This year, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation celebrates AT&T's 40th year as title sponsor, the longest continuous title sponsor on the PGA tour.

"AT&T's commitment to giving back to our community has been the cornerstone of the tournament's charitable impact since 1986," said the foundation's senior marketing manager, Lily Hansen. "Over the decades,



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Bill Murray may not be seen around Pebble Beach much these days, but memories of his antics on the golf course still make everybody smile.

proceeds from the tournament have made it possible for the Monterey Peninsula Foundation to fund more than 1,000 nonprofits, responding to the region's most urgent needs, bringing to fruition new healthcare and educational facilities, and advancing access to housing, arts, culture and economic prosperity."

Childhood literacy

The organization designated to benefit from Birdies for Students 2025 is The Foundation for Monterey County Free Libraries, a nonprofit established to help fund programming for three bookmobiles and 17 Monterey County libraries, including those in the most rural sections of the county. This funding also helps provide support for early childhood literacy, homework centers and adult reading, book drives, online tutoring, and technology centers.

That means with each ticket purchased — and each birdie scored on the designated hole — fans and golfers alike can add "helping local kids" to the list of their accomplishments for the day.

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2025



THE COURSES

SIGHTS

From page 18ATT

forests, some of the rarest forest habitat in the world. Farther south, **Garrapata State Park** offers trails along the bluff at the beginning of the Big Sur coastline, as well as inland trails into Soberanes Canyon and redwood forests. **Palo Corona Regional Park**, accessed from Carmel Valley Road, has several fairly level hikes and a 4-mile roundtrip climb to Inspiration Point, culminating in views of Carmel and Carmel Bay.

State and regional park info can be found at parks.ca.gov and mprpd.org, respectively.

■ Check out the wildlife

Otters, sea lions and harbor seals can readily be seen by strolling along the rocky shores from Monterey through Carmel and Point Lobos. A pair of binoculars helps but isn't always needed. Whale-watching expeditions depart from Fisherman's Wharf, and odds are good for spotting humpbacks, orcas or migrating gray whales.

If the weather turns inclement, **Monterey Bay**

Aquarium (montereybayaquarium.org) provides a close-up, indoor view of local wildlife and marine environments. Purchase tickets online in advance as the place is quite busy on weekends but less so in the afternoons. Another indoor alternative is the **Pacific Grove Natural History Museum** (pgmuseum.org), which features a different look at local wildlife with exhibits that include an extensive collection of taxidermied birds representing all of the native species of the central California coast.

See **SCENERY** page 26ATT



PHOTO/FRANS LANTING

If you take a whale-watching trip on Monterey Bay, you may see all sorts of wonders.

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2025

THE COURSES

SCENERY

From page 24ATT

Sit and sip

The Santa Lucia Highlands wine growing region in the rich alluvial soils on the Salinas Valley side of the Santa Lucia mountain range produces some of the most sought-after wines in California. While the vineyards themselves are about a 45-minute drive from Pebble Beach, clusters of tasting rooms are conveniently located in downtown Carmel and Carmel Valley Village. The fog-cooled region produces world-class pinot noir and chardonnay grapes, not to mention a few Rhone and Italian varietals. Local vintners such as McIntyre, Bernardus, Talbott, Caraccioli Cellars, Holman Ranch, Boekenoo-gen and Scheid, to name just a few (see montereywines.org), produce a multitude of small-batch estate and vineyard-specific vintages. Santa Lucia Highlands grapes are so coveted that they are purchased and used by vintners statewide. Wine tasting in most cases is casual and on a drop-in basis, but call ahead to see if a reservation is required — or helpful — during the AT&T.

Art scene

Downtown Carmel is home to a high concentration of art galleries, many of which can be found north of Ocean Avenue. You'll find everything from oil paintings,

to plein air works, fine photography and sculpture. The Carmel Art Association (carmelart.org) is always worth a visit, as it features the works of dozens of local artists who were juried into its membership. Found on Dolores Street between Fifth and Sixth, the association has been representing local artists since 1927. Displays in its galleries are continually changing, and during the AT&T golf tournament, it will be holding its All-Members Show.

The Monterey Museum of Art (montereyart.org) in downtown Monterey has permanent exhibitions featuring the works of early California painters. It's an easy, quiet place to spend an hour or so perusing its galleries. More California art, including a special exhibition of historic carte maps by the late local artist Jo Mora, can be found nearby at the Monterey History and Art Association at Stanton Center (montereyhistory.org).

If you run out of things to do, though, there's always that golf tournament.



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

The Carmel area is packed with tasting rooms to delight your senses.



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2025



THE COURSES

Peninsula golf offers something for absolutely everybody

Editor's note: This column is continued from last week's edition of The Pine Cone —

■ Pebble Beach Golf Links, Pebble Beach

Celebrating its centennial in 2019 by hosting the U.S. Open for the sixth time — and set to host its seventh in 2027 — the Pebble Beach Golf Links is situated on scenic coastal land originally slated for houses. Designed by Jack Neville and Douglas Grant, the course is considered one of the greatest ever created. “If I had only one more round to play, I would choose to play it at Pebble Beach,” professional golf icon Jack Nicklaus once said. “I’ve loved this course from the first time I saw it. It’s possibly the best in the world.”

Its oceanfront holes, including the dramatic par-3 7th and the spectacular 18th, are particularly captivating. Nicklaus designed the par-3 5th Hole dedicated in November 1998 after the company negotiated a deal with nearby property owners in order to have the coastal hole installed as founder Sam Morse originally envisioned. Pebble Beach has been named the No. 1 public course in the country since Golf Digest began ranking courses in 2003. “It’s not just the greatest meeting of land and sea in American golf, but the most extensive one, too, with nine holes

perched immediately above the crashing Pacific surf — the 4th through the 10th plus the 17th and 18th,” the publication observed in 2021.

“Pebble’s 6th through 8th are golf’s real Amen Corner, with a few Hail Marys thrown in over a ocean cove on 8 from atop a 75-foot-high bluff.” Pebble Beach hosted U.S. Open Championships in 1972, 1982, 1992, 2000, 2010 and 2019 — more than any other course over the past half-century — and in 2022, the USGA announced plans for several more. The course will host four U.S. Open Championships from 2027 to 2044, and after hosting its first U.S. Women’s Opens in 2023, it will be the site of three more between now and 2048. When not closed for tournaments, the course is open to the public, with priority given to resort guests.

Green fees are \$675 and include a cart for resort guests. Carts for non-resort guests are \$55, and caddies are also available for a fee. For more information, call (800) 877-0597 or visit pebblebeach.com.

■ The Hay, Pebble Beach

Opened in October 1957 and originally called Peter Hay, the course was the only nine-hole par-3 public option on the Monterey Peninsula and was designed by

See **GREENS** next page



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2025



THE COURSES

GREENS

From previous page

P.B. golf pro Peter Hay, Pebble Beach Golf Links designer Jack Neville, and Maj. Gen. Robert McClure, who designed Bayonet Golf Course in Seaside in 1954. The course was scraped to make way for the main entrance for the 2019 U.S. Open and was then transformed into a new par-3 layout designed by Tiger Woods' group in 2021.

Among its notable features are a replica of Pebble Beach's famous 7th Hole and a 20,000-square-foot putting area. Renamed The Hay, the course reopened to great anticipation and boasts a lively restaurant and bar, Hay's Place, situated at the top of the hill to take in the expansive and stunning coastal views. The cuisine is Mexican-inspired, adding a new flavor to Pebble Beach Resorts' restaurant repertoire. The cost to play is \$75 for resort guests and the general public, and then half-price for those who want to play another round.

Del Monte Forest residents pay \$45, and juniors 12 and under can play for free. The putting course is also free. For information or reservations, call (800) 877-0597 or visit pebblebeach.com.

■ Poppy Hills Golf Course, Pebble Beach

The Northern California Golf Association built Poppy Hills to serve as its headquarters and tournament home on land that was earmarked for a golf course by

Pebble Beach founder Sam Morse, purchasing the 164-acre site in 1977 for just \$7,000 per acre. When it opened on June 1, 1986, Poppy Hills was the first course in the United States to be owned and operated by a golf association. Robert Trent Jones Jr. designed Poppy, which was originally going to be called the Hilltop Course but ended up earning its moniker through a naming contest among NCGA members.

It hosted the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am from 1991 through 2009. The course underwent an extensive renovation by Jones beginning in March 2013, focusing on water conservation and creating "a firm, fast and fun course that unfolds seamlessly through the stunning Del Monte Forest," while reducing irrigated turf by almost 25 percent. The new Poppy Hills reopened April 4, 2014, to many accolades.

Green fees are \$350 for the general public (\$100-\$120 for twilight), with big savings for NCGA members (\$90-\$120/\$60-\$90 for twilight), accompanied guests (\$135-\$175/\$90-\$120 for twilight) and juniors. Carts are \$25 per rider. The clubhouse has a restaurant and full bar, Porter's Grill and Pub, which serves breakfast and lunch and is a popular spot with locals. For more information, visit poppyhillsgolf.com or call (831) 622-8239.

■ The Preserve Golf Club, Carmel Valley

When Tom Fazio was hired to design this private, 7,004-yard par-72 course located among the "stands of massive

See TEES next page



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2025



THE COURSES

TEES

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ancient oaks, beautiful rolling meadows, ponds and streams” deep within the beautiful, tree-studded hills of the Santa Lucia Preserve, he took a helicopter ride over the raw land, was given a map and survey of every archeological and ecological feature, and “asked to design the golf course of his dreams.” The result has consistently made Golf Digest’s America’s 100 Greatest Golf Courses and other similar lists. Fazio commented,

“It’s as if you are going on a grand hike and happen to have a golf club in your hand,” and said the course has no signature hole, as the entire place is a signature property. “The course wanders by towering oaks, through rolling savannahs, around wetlands and across seasonal streams with a backdrop of the Santa Lucia Range. It never trumpets its presence; it whispers through the landscape.” No tee times are required, and caddies are available. Golfers can’t see from one hole to the next and often don’t encounter other people at all during an experience designed to incorporate “all three schools of golf design — penal, heroic and strategic.”

The clubhouse serves lunch daily, hosts numerous golfing events throughout the year and contains a pro shop and men’s and women’s locker rooms.

When the course opened in 1999, membership was limited to owners of property within the preserve’s gates, but The Preserve now accepts membership

applications from non-property owners, making Fazio’s gorgeous work and the stunning natural setting accessible to more enthusiasts who will truly appreciate the opportunity to play a course that “lets you experience how the game was meant to be played.” “A good walk spoiled?” they ask. “Mark Twain had it all wrong.”

Contact (831) 620-6700 or register at santaluciapreserve.com for information.

■ The Quail, Carmel Valley

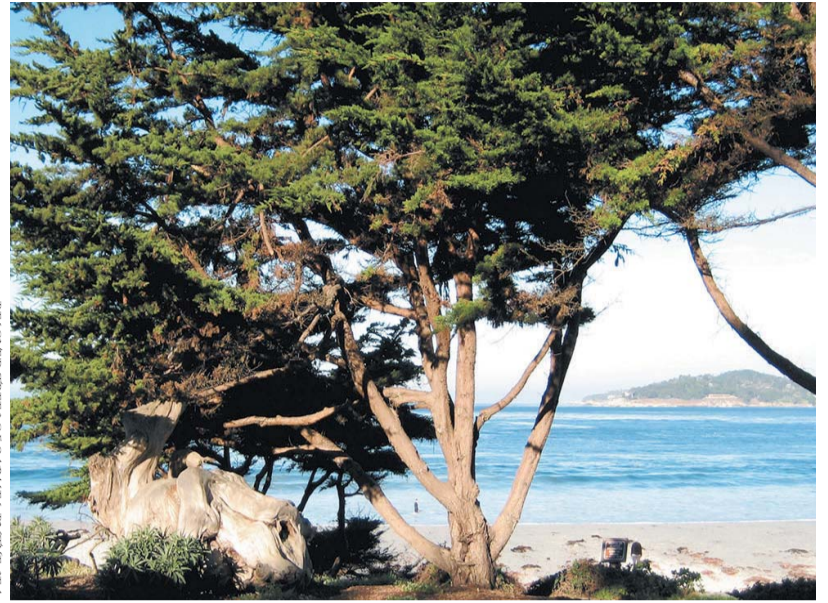
Formerly Quail Lodge & Golf Club, the property and its lodge underwent a refresh and a rebrand last year, but its friendly course still provides “an enjoyable golfing experience perfect for all ages and skill sets.”

The Quail course was abundant with 10 lakes and lush, colorful landscaping when it was designed in 1964 by Robert Muir Graves, but subsequently underwent major renovation by principal designer Todd Eckenrode of Origins Golf Design, with increased water conservation in mind. The resulting 6,500-yard par-71 course, described as being “perfect for the walking golfer of all ages and skill, offering just enough bite to make it interesting,” re-opened in May 2015 and includes “some of the Monterey Peninsula’s most unique bunker designs trimmed with fescue lips, short grass areas that surround the greens to provide more shot options, and challenging grass swales that come into play on seven holes.”

It’s also annually awarded “Best Play-

See **FAIRWAYS** next page

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THE COURSES

FAIRWAYS

From previous page

ing Conditions” for all of Central California. Green fees vary greatly based on date and time, but generally run from \$300 to \$150. Practice facilities feature a 7-acre driving range, a bunker, chipping areas and a 6,500-square-foot bent grass putting green. Instruction, custom club fittings, shoe and club rentals, pull carts, golf carts and other services are available, too. Located at 8205 Valley Greens Drive, the course is complemented by a nicely appointed clubhouse and Edgar’s restaurant, named for the late founder and longtime owner Ed Haber.

Edgar’s offers lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Happy Hour from 3 to 5 p.m. daily. The lodge’s Covey Grill serves breakfast daily from 7 to 10:30 a.m., and dinner Wednesday through Saturday from 5 to 9 p.m. For more information, contact the golf shop at (831) 620-8808 or visit quailodge.com/golf.

■ Spyglass Hill Golf Course, Pebble Beach

Designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. in 1966 as part of the master plan for the Pebble Beach oceanfront, this resort/semiprivate course measures 6,960 yards at par 72 and was described by Sports Illustrated as “Pine Valley-by-the-Sea meets Augusta National.” Other major golf publications, “propose it is one of the toughest courses in the country, and the best course to nev-

er host a major.”

“The greatest meeting of sand and trees,” as the company describes it, Spyglass takes its name from Robert Louis Stevenson’s “Treasure Island.” Local legend has it he spent time walking in the area while brainstorming, and many of its holes bear notable names, like Black Dog and Billy Bones. A year after the course was completed, Spyglass replaced the Monterey Peninsula Country Club in the Bing Crosby Pro-Am Golf Tournament in 1967 and has been part of that contest — now called the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am — ever since.

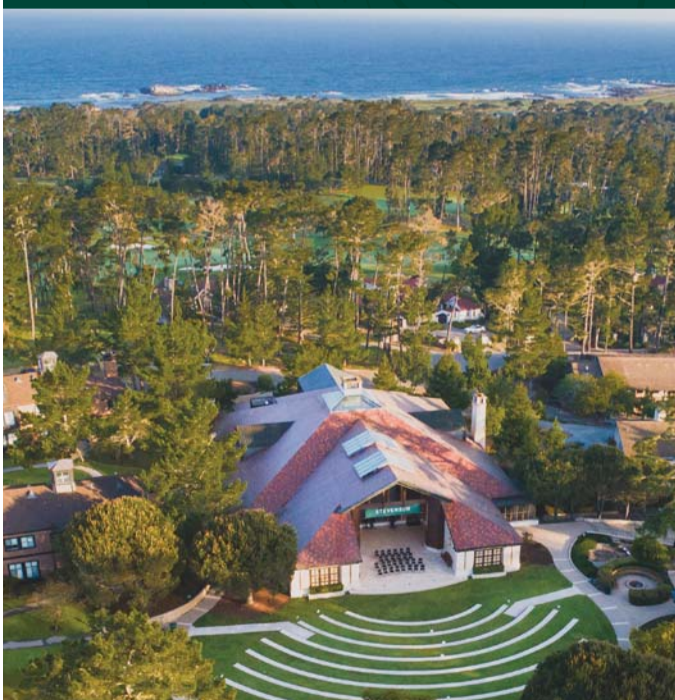
“The defining characteristic of Spyglass Hill is how starkly the first five holes juxtapose the rest of the round,” the course description states. “Incredible ocean views give way to the understated natural beauty of the Del Monte Forest, as the final 13 holes relentlessly examine your game with a litany of bunkers, ponds and uphill tests.” The PGA Tour consistently ranks Holes 6, 8 and 16 among the most difficult on the tour. But don’t be intimidated.

When the course opened, Bing Crosby bet that even Jack Nicklaus wouldn’t be able to break par, with Nicklaus promptly shooting a 2-under 70 in his inaugural round. The rate to play is \$495, with an increase to \$525 April 1. Carts (included for resort guests), pull carts and/or caddies are available. The course is located at Stevenson Drive and Spyglass Hill Road in Pebble Beach. For reservations, call (800) 877-0597 or visit pebblebeach.com.

See TRAPS next page

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TRAPS

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■ Tehama Golf Club, Carmel Valley

“Welcome to Tehama Golf Club... where the golf is legendary, the service is impeccable, and the memories last a lifetime.” This private course is named for a Native American word meaning, “abundance of nature.” Jay Morrish, who also designed Shadow Glen in Kansas City, Troon and Troon North in Scottsdale, and Loch Lomond in Scotland, created this 6,506-yard par-71 course high in the hills above Carmel Valley. According to Tehama, “the tranquility and natural beauty of the land, combined with this time-honored game, provide the golfer a surreal hideaway.”

Owned by former Carmel Mayor Clint Eastwood, the course opened for private play in 1999 and climbs 200 feet in elevation during its 18 holes, six of which are uphill. “Golfers of all levels will appreciate the vistas of the Monterey Bay and the mountains surrounding the adjacent Carmel Valley,” according to Tehama. “Amongst trees of grandeur and some of the best manicured greens in golf, you will experience a challenging layout like no other.” Membership is private and by invitation only, and those lucky enough to join have access not just to the course, but to the clubhouse, with its full-service pro-shop, world-class cuisine enjoyed casually in the saloon and on the terrace and more

formally in the dining room, and banquet facilities that boast stunning views of Carmel Valley and the Monterey Bay. (Among Tehama’s signature touches are homemade potato chips and freshly baked cookies — a perfect pick-you-up after a challenging round.) The surrounding 2,000-acre development is home to just 90 families.

For more information about membership and other aspects of Tehama, which is located at 25000 Via Malpaso off Carmel Valley Road, contact Vince Ferrante at (831) 622-2208 or vferrante@tgcmail.net, or visit tehamagolfclub.com.

LOVE

From page 14ATT

counted. They spent their shift catching up on life and making burgers for the other volunteers, which is about as full-circle as you can get.

Rocha enjoys the volunteer appreciation activities and attends them all, although she noted that she misses the celebrities. “It used to be really fun bumping into celebrities on the greens. You don’t really get that now,” she said. She liked how approachable they were, and that they were willing to chat with everyone. Nevertheless, Rocha plans to continue volunteering at the hospitality tent for the foreseeable future. She also gives her time to Pebble Beach Food & Wine, and at Laguna Seca for Monterey Bay Veterans Inc. Who knows what chance encounters remain in store?

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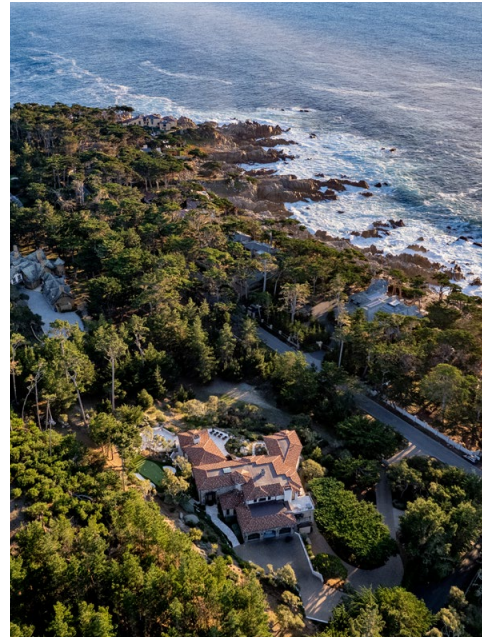
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MonterraOceanViews.com

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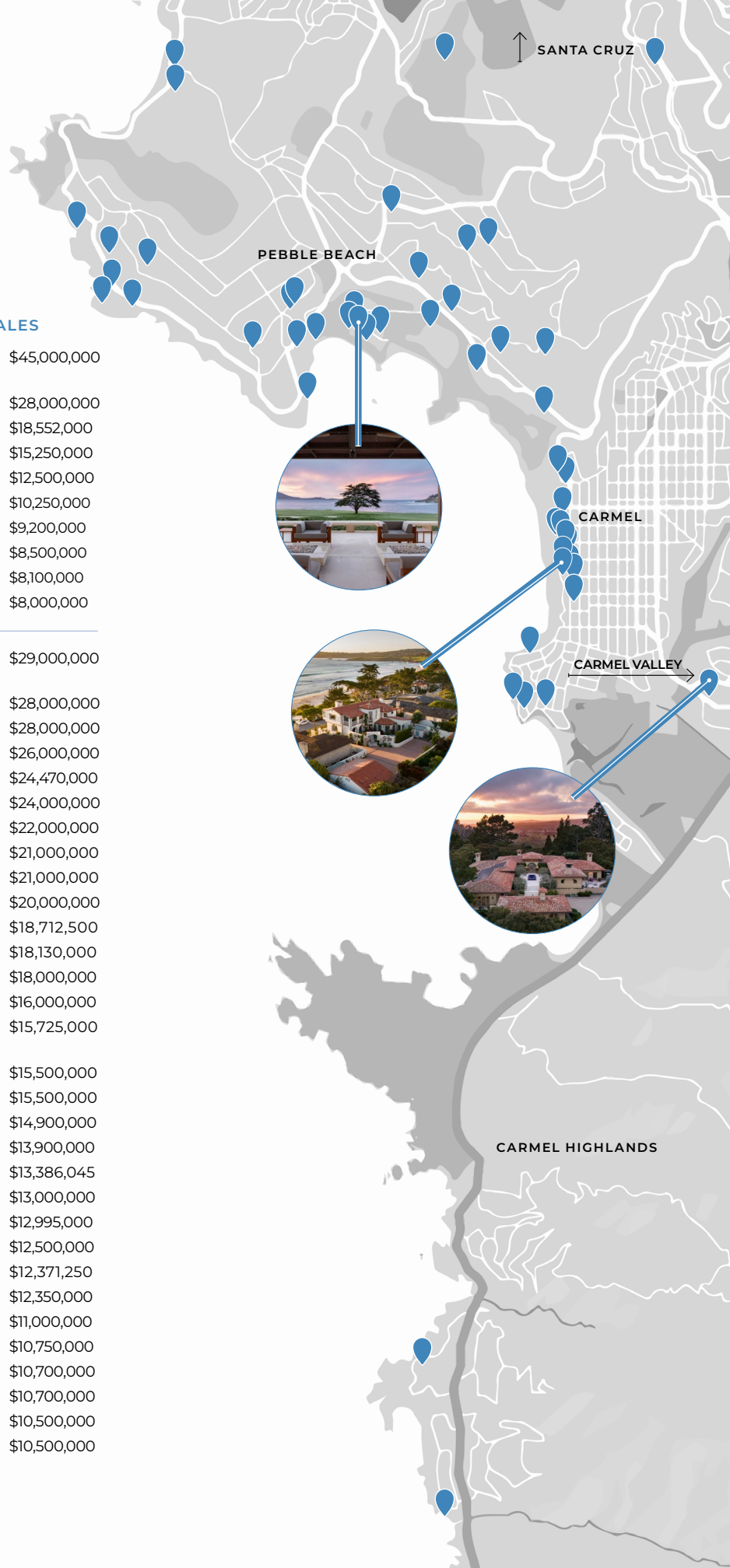


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26405 Scenic Road, Carmel	\$15,250,000
Scenic 6 SE of 9th, Carmel	\$12,500,000
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3125 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach	\$9,200,000
Scenic 3 NW of 8th, Carmel	\$8,500,000
5 Sand & Sea, Carmel	\$8,100,000
5481 Covey Court, Carmel	\$8,000,000
<hr/>	
The Butterfly House, Carmel*	\$29,000,000
<i>Record highest sale in Carmel</i>	
3290 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach	\$28,000,000
1498 Cypress Drive, Pebble Beach*	\$28,000,000
1470 Cypress Drive, Pebble Beach*	\$26,000,000
3376 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach	\$24,470,000
1536 Cypress Drive, Pebble Beach*	\$24,000,000
Frank Lloyd Wright's Della Walker House, Carmel*	\$22,000,000
3200 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach	\$21,000,000
1520 Cypress Drive, Pebble Beach*	\$21,000,000
3196 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach*	\$20,000,000
3177 Del Ciervo Road, Pebble Beach	\$18,712,500
1552 Cypress Drive, Pebble Beach*	\$18,130,000
3168 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach	\$18,000,000
1145 Spyglass Hill Road, Pebble Beach	\$16,000,000
2030 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz	\$15,725,000
<i>Record highest sale in Santa Cruz</i>	
Scenic 8 SE of 8th, Carmel	\$15,500,000
Scenic & 9th SEC, Carmel*	\$15,500,000
3212 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach*	\$14,900,000
1231 Padre Lane, Pebble Beach	\$13,900,000
1557 Cypress Drive, Pebble Beach	\$13,386,045
182 Van Ess Way, Carmel Highlands*	\$13,000,000
Scenic & 10th NEC, Carmel	\$12,995,000
1659 Crespi Lane, Pebble Beach	\$12,500,000
3208 Stillwater Lane, Pebble Beach	\$12,371,250
3301 17 Mile Drive #22, Pebble Beach	\$12,350,000
3164 Palmero Way, Pebble Beach*	\$11,000,000
1468 Padre Lane, Pebble Beach*	\$10,750,000
3187 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach*	\$10,700,000
7 Sand and Sea, Carmel	\$10,700,000
907 Laureles Grade Road, Carmel Valley	\$10,500,000
3359 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach	\$10,500,000

*Represented the buyer





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With many decades of combined knowledge of the Monterey Peninsula, the Tim Allen Properties team looks forward to providing you with a real estate experience that is second to none.



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