

P.G. plane crash devastates business, families

■ NTSB investigating cause

By KELLY NIX

THE THREE men who died in a plane crash in Pacific Grove Saturday night while returning from a scuba diving trip off the coast of Cuba are being remembered this week as adventurous and kind souls who were the heart of the Monterey Peninsula diving community.

Steve Clatterbuck, 60, Jamie Tabscott, 44, and pilot James Vincent Jr., 36, died when the twin-engine Beechcraft Baron carrying them home from the San Francisco Bay area crashed into the ocean near Asilomar State Beach at about 10:30 p.m. July 26. The friends and coworkers were on their way back from a seven-day dive trip to Jardines de la Reina, an archipelago located about 60 miles off the southeastern coast of Cuba.

Cared for everyone

They “were loved so much,” a longtime friend of Vincent’s told The Pine Cone this week. “They were the heart of the diving community on the Monterey Bay.”

The owner of Aquarius Dive Shop in Monterey and a dive shop in San Jose, Vincent was an experienced pilot who was careful, capable and confident, and his friend is certain that he did everything he could to return home safely. He was the

owner of the plane.

“I like to think that in his very last moments, he wasn’t scared for himself, but rather angry that he put the other two people on board in danger,” the friend said, adding

See CRASH page 16A



Jamie Tabscott, Steve Clatterbuck and James Vincent Jr. were returning to the Monterey Peninsula from a trip to Cuba when Vincent’s small plane crashed into the ocean, killing them.

Panetta conducts ‘oversight tour’ at ICE detention center

By KELLY NIX

REP. JIMMY Panetta last week visited California’s largest detention facility for undocumented immigrants to witness firsthand how the 1,600 prisoners are being treated. There, he spoke to ACLU attorneys to ensure detainees were being afforded due process, sat in on a court hearing for a Central American citizen, and was shown where inmates live and what they’re fed. He made no complaints about conditions.

On July 25, the Democratic representative for the 19th Congressional District, which includes the Monterey Peninsula, traveled to the Adelanto ICE Processing Center in San Bernardino County, which is owned and operated by a private company, the GEO Group, under a contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

‘Many of the detainees prison cells had plenty of snacks’

“This is my seventh trip to a detention or border facility during my time in Congress,” Panetta, who was first elected in 2016, told The Pine Cone. “I take these types of visits very seriously as part of my oversight duties.”

His visit comes as President Donald Trump — who campaigned on widespread deportation of illegal immigrants — has started a \$170 billion expansion of enforcement, including \$45 billion to detain people who are in the country illegally. The effort is expected to more than double the nation’s capacity to lock them up.

Similar to jail

GEO Group employees and ICE agents led Panetta on an extensive, two-hour tour through the facility where he saw medical and mental health areas, recreation yards,

See PANETTA page 20A

Staff: Complaints about Pastor project unwarranted

By MARY SCHLEY

IN AN 18-page report, senior planner Evan Kort systematically dismantles each of the arguments made by a group of nearly a dozen residents who filed objections to the Carmel Planning Commission’s April approval of Patrice Pastor’s residential/commercial complex on Dolores south of Seventh.

The city council is set to consider the appeal and render a verdict during a special meeting Aug. 4, with a tour of inspection taking place a few days earlier.

The opponents of the project — a 12,971-square-foot, two-story complex that includes eight upstairs apartments, roughly 5,100 square feet of ground-floor

retail space, and an 852-square-foot basement containing a dozen parking spaces — include former planning commissioners and city council members and a couple of neighbors, among others.

What ‘structure’ means

They contend the JB Pastor Project, named for the owner’s father, is not categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act and that the approval was based on “improper applications of the terms, ‘structure’ and ‘interaccessibility,’” leading to a building with more than 10,000 square feet of floor area, Kort summarizes in

his staff report. They also allege “improper landscaping, parking and open space requirements,” object to allowing Pastor to pay in-lieu fees to compensate for some of the required parking, and say the plans don’t meet demands made by a prior city council regarding preservation of a building and decorative wall behind the Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse.

Kort’s report contains a detailed timeline of the project since Pastor first proposed a residential/commercial

See PASTOR page 18A

Notthoff reappointed to coastal commission

■ Promises ‘housing opportunities for all’

By CHRIS COUNTS

ONE OF two local residents who serve on the California Coastal Commission, Ann Notthoff of Carmel Valley was reappointed to a four-year term July 16.

“Commissioner Notthoff has dedicated her life to protecting California’s vast natural resources, and she has been a devoted and hardworking member of the commission,” Senate President pro tem Mike McGuire said. “California’s coast is one of our most prized possessions — culturally, economically and socially. It’s in good hands with Ann, who has proved to be a trusted leader.”

Notthoff was first appointed to the coastal commission in March 2023.

“Serving on the California Coastal Commission has

been an honor and I’m excited about the work we have in front of us,” Notthoff said.

Her comments also echoed the state’s new emphasis on building housing — something the state agency largely blocked along the coast for decades.

Complete reversal

“I’m grateful that pro tem McGuire and the rules committee have given me the opportunity to continue the important work of preserving our beautiful coast and growing coastal economic and housing opportunities for all.”

Notthoff is serving on the commission at a time when its stance on housing bears little resemblance to what it was just a decade ago. Once firmly committed to resource

See COASTAL page 25A

MENTAL HEALTH IN QUESTION FOR MAN ACCUSED OF STABBING WIFE TO DEATH

By MARY SCHLEY

THE MAN who told a 911 operator early last Thursday morning that he’d just killed his wife of 58 years — and who had apparently tried to commit suicide by stabbing himself — may not be mentally fit to stand trial, a defense attorney argued during 79-year-old Donel Geisen’s arraignment Tuesday.

According to Monterey County Sheriff’s Cmdr. Andy Rosas, Geisen called 911 at 4:20 a.m. July 24 and said he believed he had stabbed his wife to death. Deputies and medics arrived at the couple’s home on Raymond Way in the High Meadows neighborhood off Carpenter Street east of Highway 1 to find the victim, 78-year-old Barbara Lynn Geisen, and her husband in their bedroom. The woman died at

the scene from multiple stab wounds, while her confessed attacker was transported to the hospital for treatment of “life-threatening injuries.”

Rosas said it appeared the man stabbed himself in an apparent suicide attempt. After a few days in medical care, Geisen was booked into Monterey County Jail July 27 on a charge of first-degree premeditated murder with an enhancement for using a knife.

A shocking shift

Less than a year ago, the Geisens were featured in a sports column by Pine Cone writer Dennis Taylor, who focused on Donel Geisen’s ability to shoot his age in golf in an amazing 221 rounds during the course of his life.



Donel Geisen in a police mugshot (left) and pictured with his wife, Barbara, in a photo taken last summer for a Pine Cone story about his excellent golf game.

See GEISEN page 25A



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Black Jack is an 8-month-old Havanese whose ebony coat is interrupted by, white paws, white eyebrows, and a Van Dyke mustache. His person preferred the name “Jack Black,” but her husband didn’t want to be reminded of the actor.

Black Jack is the couple’s fourth Havanese. Their first, Fred Astaire, was named for his white chest and feet, which gave him a tuxedo look, harkening to the late actor. After his sudden passing in an accident, the couple returned to the breeder, where they met a red-and-white pup they named Rowdy Yeats in homage to Clint Eastwood’s character in “Rawhide.”

“While admiring Rowdy, we met a prancing little guy we couldn’t leave behind, so we brought him home and named him Rascal,” his person said. “

Two years ago, the couple planned to move — with Rowdy and Rascal — to Canterbury Woods in Pacific Grove. Yet three days before the move, Rascal succumbed to cancer. In January, Rowdy reunited with him in doggie heaven, paving the way for Black Jack’s entrance.

“Black Jack is smarter than both of us, and funny,” his person said. “And he plays well with others. Every Saturday he joins a puppy party, scampering around with other small dogs. We turn them loose in the rose garden at Canterbury Woods and sit back to enjoy the show.”

Black Jack has not yet been to the beach. “He’s so smart and already has learned lots of commands,” his person said, “but ‘come’ is not one of

By Lisa Crawford Watson



them. We thought about taking him to Asilomar or Carmel Beach, but if we did, an hour-and-a-half later I’d still be screaming his name.”

At bedtime, Black Jack climbs into his crate and rests his head on his paws, waiting for his “Goodnight” and two graham crackers.



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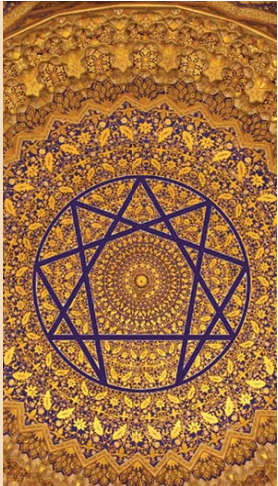
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Tiny events added to Car Week

By MARY SCHLEY

A BLOCK-LONG display of Rivian electric trucks and SUVs, and a plan to shut down Monte Verde Street for an evening event at L’Auberge Carmel hotel are new additions to Car Week events in Carmel, community activities director Ashlee Wright told the recently reconstituted community activities commission during a special meeting Tuesday morning.

She also said Mayor Dale Byrne is working on resurrecting a short-lived and unsuccessful shuttle service that ran between downtown and Larson Field by Carmel Mission during the former Concours on the Avenue more than a decade ago, with the hope it will alleviate some of the congestion the busiest week of the year brings.

Concours for a Cause, organized by the group that runs the weekly farmers market in downtown Carmel, is expanding again this year to showcase 250 vehicles on Ocean Avenue and side streets between Mission and Lincoln, including Devendorf Park. It’s set for Aug. 12, and setup will start at midnight, Wright said, with breakdown beginning at 5 p.m. after awards have been given.

More Astons coming

Artist Simon Bull is also growing his Aston Martin show, which began informally in front of his gallery on Ocean at Monte Verde a few years back and was formalized last year. The layout for this year’s event on Aug. 13 includes Lincoln between Sixth and Seventh avenues, and setup will begin at 6 a.m., with breakdown at 5 p.m.

“We had some traffic issues last year,” Wright said, since Lincoln wasn’t closed but Ocean was, which confused drivers and created “a mess.” So if Bull wanted

to expand the display this year, she asked that he take the blocks of Lincoln north and south of Ocean rather than extending farther up the main drag.

That same day, Rivian electric vehicles will occupy the block of Mission between Ocean and Sixth avenues from 10 a.m. to 5



PHOTO/FERRARI OWNERS CLUB

Concorso Carmel will again feature Italian cars and motorcycles, but this year, it will be held on Ocean Ave., too.

p.m., with setup beginning at 6 a.m. “There will be ice cream,” Wright said — a top selling point.

Chanterria McGilbra’s Prancing Ponies show, which celebrates women in the automotive world, will occupy its usual space on Ocean Avenue and side streets between Junipero and San Carlos, with setup starting at midnight Aug. 14 and breakdown commencing at 4 p.m.

Adjacent to the Prancing Ponies, the Ferrari Owners Club’s Concorso Carmel will display Italian cars and motorcycles

See CARS page 27A



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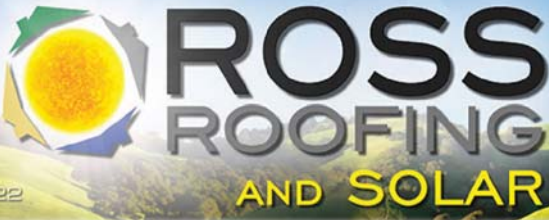
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Police & Sheriff’s Log

Waking up to damaged cars

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, JULY 8

Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to a report of theft at Mid-Valley Center. Thief still at large.

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

Carmel Valley: Deputies took an informational report regarding suspicious circumstances on Quail Court.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found phone at Del Mar and Scenic.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Grand theft from a vehicle at Dolores and Seventh.

Pacific Grove: Vehicles on Short Street marked for 72-hour parking.

Carmel Valley: Child Protectives Servies report alleging abuse at a Via Milpitas residence beyond the statute of limitations.

Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to a report of a vandalism on Laguna Robles Drive.

Carmel area: Trespasser reported on Carmel Rancho Boulevard.

THURSDAY, JULY 10

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Traffic collision at San Carlos and Seventh.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Trespass warning to a subject at an Ocean Avenue business.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Harassing messages with unsolicited videos of genitalia reported at Second and Carpenter.

See **POLICE LOG** page 4RE in the Real Estate Section



The gavel falls

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

May 20 — A jury found Daniel Garcia Alarcon, 49, of Watsonville, guilty of possession of a controlled substance in the Monterey County Jail, possession of drug paraphernalia, and public intoxication after a two-day trial.

On Feb. 10, a Salinas Police Department officer was dispatched to a report of a possible prowler. He conducted an area check and found Alarcon, who matched the description of the prowler. The officer conducted a pat search of Alarcon and found two glass methamphetamine pipes on him.

On Feb. 12, another Salinas Police Department officer responded to the Pub restaurant on Monterey Street in Salinas to a report of an intoxicated male refusing to leave. The officer conducted an area check and found Alarcon urinating in the parking lot nearby.

Though the officer urged him to go to the navigation center in Chinatown for resources and told him not to return to the Pub, Alarcon instead walked back towards the Pub restaurant. The officer arrested Alarcon, searched him, and found a glass methamphetamine pipe on him. Once Alarcon was transported to the Monterey County Jail, and after he was warned that possession of controlled substances in the jail is a felony, a black plastic bindle was found in his shoe. There was a white crystalline substance in the bindle that tested positive for methamphetamine.

The Honorable Andrew G. Liu presided over Alarcon’s trial.

May 23 — A scheme to sell and distribute unpermitted and unrefrigerated food, run

See **GAVEL** page 27A

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Man guilty of trying to kill mother

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL Valley resident who tried to kill his mother in their Del Mesa Carmel home in January pleaded guilty in a Salinas courtroom July 16 and is set to be sentenced next month.

William Darpinian, 34, admitted to attempted voluntary manslaughter and assault with a deadly weapon, while the more serious charge of attempted premeditated murder and several enhancements, which could have meant more jail time, are being dropped.

In the Jan. 25 attack in one of the units in the Carmel Valley retirement community, Darpinian repeatedly stabbed his mother while they were in the kitchen and dining room of the unit they shared, according to earlier court testimony. She tried to escape after playing dead and finally got out of the house, where neighbors rushed to her and dialed 911.

While Monterey County Sheriff's deputies locked down the complex for several hours as they searched unsuccessfully for Darpinian, his 60-year-old mother was taken to Natividad Medical Center for treatment of multiple stab wounds, including deep lacerations to her neck and to her hands — the result of her attempts to fend off his attacks.

Lots of evidence

In a preliminary hearing in court May 30, investigators described the scene and shared the information they'd obtained from the victim. She told authorities she'd been sitting in their kitchen and was waiting for her son to come in for coffee — as he typically did in the morning — when he

finally walked in carrying a serrated hunting knife.

When he attacked her, she told the detective at the time, she pleaded with Darpinian to stop and tried to fend him off, grabbing the knife, but he didn't relent until he apparently thought she was dead and went into the bathroom to wash off the blood. He subsequently caught her trying to flee through a sliding glass door and began stabbing her again, but after he retreated to the bathroom once more, she was finally able to escape and seek help.

She told authorities he had seemed mentally off in the days leading up to the attack, and his competency was called into question not long after he turned himself in early the morning of Jan. 26. The judge suspended the criminal proceedings, ordered an evaluation and initially committed him to up to two years of residential psychiatric treatment, but after he received treatment in jail, she found him competent to stand trial.

Trial was planned

At the preliminary hearing, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Pamela Butler concluded the prosecution had presented sufficient evidence to proceed with the case against Darpinian, who was charged with attempted willful, deliberate and premeditated murder, with enhancements for using a knife and causing great bodily injury, attempted voluntary manslaughter, with the same enhancements, and assault with a deadly weapon.

According to paperwork filed with the court July 16 — the date of his most recent

See GUILTY page 19A



William Darpinian



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Homeowners to get water refunds

By KELLY NIX

PENINSULA PROPERTY owners were notified last week that they’ll receive a cash payment as part of the resolution of a lawsuit filed by a taxpayer advocacy group against the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District.

The Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association sued the district in 2021 over its “water supply charge,” which was included on property tax bills. In March 2023, Monterey Superior Court Judge Carrie Panetta ruled that the charge was invalid, and an appeals court in September 2024 agreed with her. The district stopped collecting the charge, which on average was about \$55 per year, after the appellate court decision.

A settlement has been proposed in the case, and the water district agreed to the creation of a fund of \$3,353,245, a portion of which will be distributed to homeowners who paid the charge.

‘Cash payment’

“For a typical residential customer with a 1,200- to 1,999-square-foot home, the estimated refund amount is \$43.41,” according to a notice from the court. “Individual refunds will vary based on actual water supply charges.”

Property owners were mailed notices about the proposal last week.

“The settlement provides for a cash payment,” the one-page letter said. “You do not need to do anything to receive this payment.”

Once \$553,285 in attorneys’ fees, \$147,077 in administrative costs, \$7,500 in lawyers’ expenses and a \$5,000 award to taxpayer association head Rick Heuer — who brought the lawsuit — are paid, the water district will pay a net amount of \$2,613,383 to customers, based on a pro

rata basis as determined by the total of the charges they paid during the class period, according to the agreement.

However, Panetta set a Dec. 19 court hearing to allow the parties to decide if the compensation amounts should be approved and the settlement is fair. That means it will probably be sometime in 2026 before homeowners will receive the cash.

Property owners can opt out of the settlement to pursue their own claims against the water district, but they’ll have to hire their own attorneys to challenge the agency. They must request to be excluded by Oct. 14.

The settlement follows the Monterey County tax collector’s notice to property owners that the water district would no longer be collecting the charge.

‘Double dipping’

The dispute started after the state’s public utilities commission in 2009 told the district it could no longer collect an 8.325 percent “user fee” that utility California American Water added to customers’ bills, and which was remitted to the water district. The fee generated about \$3.7 million for the district, covering a substantial part of its annual expenses.

When that fee was canceled, to make up for the revenue loss, the district began collecting the water supply charge. In 2016, however, the state Supreme Court overruled the public utilities commission and allowed the old user fee to go back into effect.

But instead of stopping the water supply charge — which was spelled out in the sunset provision — the district continued to collect both fees, which the taxpayers’ association argued violated the district ordinance and amounted to “double dipping.”

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Source: workers drank, had stripper

By KELLY NIX

A PARTY at a Caltrans office in Monterey earlier this month in which a stripper purportedly entertained on-the-clock workers, who also drank alcohol before departing in official vehicles, was condemned by an agency spokesman Monday.

Employees allegedly held the party July 10 for an unidentified employee at the 2111 Garden Road office, according to KSBW, which was tipped off about the party by an unnamed source.

“It involved open consumption of alcohol, the presence of a hired stripper and employees participating while on the clock and being paid with taxpayer dollars,” according to the source.

The event was “interrupted by another supervisor who arrived unexpectedly and witnesses the situation firsthand,” according to the news station.

“Everyone returned to work as if nothing had happened,” the source claimed.

Caltrans spokesman Matt Rocco told The Pine Cone that the "behavior described has absolutely no place in our department

and stands in direct opposition to our values and ethical standards.”

“Caltrans takes these allegations with the utmost seriousness and is unwavering in holding those involved accountable,” Rocco said. “We quickly launched an investigation and have taken immediate disciplinary action.”

The source also alleged that “some supervisors were seen consuming alcohol and then driving away from the yard in official state-issued Caltrans vehicles while under the influence.”

Fired

While Caltrans would not provide the confidential email nor respond to specific questions about the party, including how many workers were involved, 10 workers reportedly lost their jobs and two were suspended. One employee traveled from a Caltrans office in King City office to attend the celebration.

The Caltrans Monterey Peninsula office is part of the agency's District 5, which also includes San Luis Obispo, Salinas, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz.

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CPD architects, stop signs and worker parking on council agenda

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL City Council will be asked at a meeting Tuesday to formalize its earlier support for a smaller redo of the aging police station and the addition of stop signs downtown, according to the agenda released this week, and will consider a more detailed plan for getting workers to stop taking up downtown parking spaces when they're on the job.

Following a report delivered last month, the majority of the council spoke in favor of a scaled-down rebuild of the police station and adjacent public works facility based on a committee's review of how much space the departments actually need to run effectively and efficiently. At the Aug. 5 meeting, public works director Ken Wysocki and CPD Cmdr. Todd Trayer will ask councilmembers to approve those recommendations and authorize staff to seek proposals from architects interested in designing the project.

Over the course of the eight-year effort to develop a viable plan to address the station's substandard and failing infrastructure and numerous other problems, the city has employed a number of architects. The most recent firm, Indigo, specializes in police stations and was given a \$300,000 contract in summer 2023, but the council decided last month to terminate the agreement and find another.

Demo and rebuild

"The request for proposals will seek a qualified firm to evaluate and cost out one primary project scenario: Complete demolition and new construction" of the police and public works buildings, according to

Wysocki and Trayer's report. "Architectural teams must demonstrate experience in municipal facility design, including recent work on public safety buildings, and the ability to assess and recommend temporary 'swing space' solutions during construction."

That item is expected to take an hour, the agenda indicates.

The council will next be asked to adopt a resolution "approving the installation of additional stop signs at intersections within the commercial district, including two new signs at Fifth Avenue and San Carlos Street, and directing a six-month traffic impact report from the police department to evaluate their effectiveness."

At their July 1 meeting, councilmembers received a presentation from the traffic safety committee calling for the addition of 16 stop signs at seven downtown intersections and generally liked the idea, though they worried about the impacts of a four-way stop at San Carlos and Fifth. As a result, the resolution calls for a six-month review of that particularly tricky intersection.

That item is expected to run 30 minutes.

Finally, the council will receive a detailed update on "employee parking solutions," including getting workers to park in the residential areas where they can leave their cars all day long, and parking in Sunset Center's north lot and potential off-site locations like Rio Park.

"To maximize space utilization at both locations, the city is considering the use of on-site parking attendants," the staff report says. "This approach would allow for more

Parking in neighborhoods to free up spots downtown?

See AGENDA page 27A

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Caltrans to locals: 25 mph speed limit at Garrapata just temporary

By CHRIS COUNTS

AFTER MONTEREY County leaders rejected designs by Caltrans for upgraded safety railings on Garrapata Bridge in Big Sur because they don't look enough like the railings from the 1930s, the state roads agency recently installed a slew of black and orange signs near the bridge to warn motorists to slow down to 25 mph. But the signs sparked outrage from locals who contend there's never been a safety issue with the bridge — and hence, there's no need for the railings to be improved or for the signs.

In response, Caltrans spokesperson John Olejnik told The Pine Cone that the signs, along with the 25 mph speed limit, won't be there for long. Olejnik said that because the site is still a work zone, the signs need to stay up for at least a few more weeks. He said they are an "interim measure created out of a need for safety." But soon, they will go away, and new black and white 45 mph signs will be posted.

"We're trying to get out there before

Car Week, but if we can't, we'll do it after Car Week," he said, referring to the dozens of car-related events that begin around the Monterey Peninsula on Aug. 8, leading up to the 74th annual Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance.

'Flickering views'

Caltrans has signaled its intent to upgrade the railings on other bridges in the area, but a group, Keep Big Sur Wild, says the new railings should look like the old ones and should even offer the same "flickering views" motorists get as they drive by. County leaders seem to agree with them — as evidenced by the fact that Caltrans' plan for the new railings has been rejected by the county planning commission and board of supervisors.

But Caltrans says the old ones need to be made stronger because vehicles are bigger and faster than they were nine decades ago. "They were built for another era," Olejnik said.

See BRIDGE page 24A



Garrapata Bridge in Big Sur has aging railings that Caltrans contends are now unsafe. But the new ones they want to install, which are beefier and have smaller portals, have been rejected by both county leaders and residents.

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Fiesta brings fun to Carmel Valley

FBBy CHRIS COUNTS

FEATURING THREE days of food, music, art and family-friendly fun — and raising thousands of dollars for worthy local causes — the annual Carmel Valley Fiesta kicks off Friday at 5 p.m. with the Hoopla BBQ at the Trail and Saddle Club at 85 E. Garzas Road.

The evening will feature a dinner of tri-tip steak, BBQ chicken, corn and chili, said the Carmel Valley Kiwanis Club, which organizes the event.

The BBQ also offers live music from

the Money Band and a silent auction. Tickets are \$60 for adults and \$30 for kids under 12, and they’re available at Kathy’s Little Kitchen, Kasey’s and Carmel Valley Chevron.

On Saturday and Sunday, Carmel Valley Community Park (25 Ford Road) comes alive with the energy of a bustling street fair.

There will be a pancake breakfast each day at 8 a.m., live music, vendors, a car show, a horseshoe tournament, a dog show

See **FIESTA** page 15A

CYC, First Tee send golfers to China

By CHRIS COUNTS

FOUR LOCAL kids are visiting China for summer golf camp, thanks the generosity of donors and a coordinated effort between two groups that help youngsters, the Carmel Youth Center and the First Tee Monterey County.

The children left July 28 for a 10-day journey that is taking them to the Hillview Golf Resort in Guangdong, China. The province is located about 70 miles north-west of Hong Kong.

Helping to coordinate the effort was Eric Thain, a board member for Carmel Youth Center. Thain told The Pine Cone

that a lot of planning went in to making the trip happen. “It took a lot to get to this point,” he said.

Thain is accompanying the four youngsters on their trip, along with youth center board members Pam Neiman and Ruya Chen, and First Tee board member Nick Nelson.

Besides attending golf clinics and competing in tournaments against local kids, the youngsters are experiencing a cultural dramatically different from their own.

“I’m a global traveler,” Thain said. “It has really broadened my horizons about

See **CHINA** page 26A

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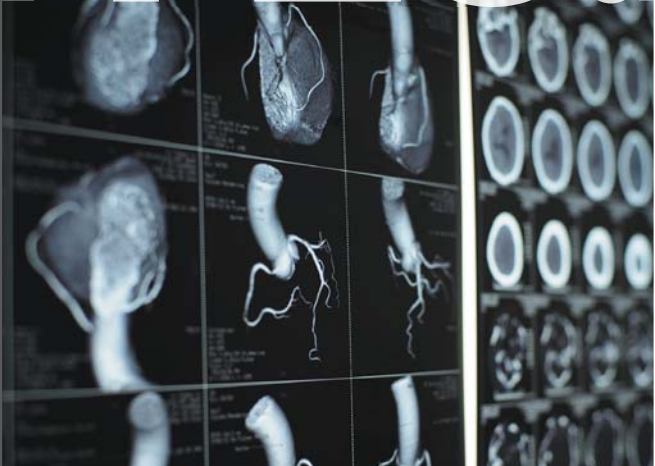
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FUNDRAISER FOR YOUNG WELDERS, MECHANICS

By LILY PATTERSON

GRIEVING THEIR 25-year-old grandson, Brad and Rosemary Tarp did as many family members do and created a memorial fund in his honor. Their plan wasn't to cover funeral costs, buy a bench in a public park or make a one-time charitable donation, but to support young people who share Ross's thrill-seeking, fix-anything spirit.

Since 2022, Live for Ross — “a fund for safety awareness and vocational education” — has donated hundreds of dollars in safety gear and awarded more than \$15,000 to aspiring tradesmen and women throughout South Monterey County.

Live for Ross

When he died in an off-road accident on April 16, 2022, Ross Tarp-Braasch was 25, already a talented and prolific welder and mechanic. Yet his family had no idea what he was capable of — not until they organized a celebration of his life weeks after the fatal crash.

“Three hundred people showed up and shared stories we didn't even know about. We found out Ross would go and help people late at night, after work. He was always tired, so that explained a lot,” said Rosemary of her grandson, who grew up

dirt-biking and off-roading with friends on the same property he helped his family maintain, Pine Canyon Ranch in Salinas.

Live for Ross earned 501(c)(3) non-profit status last fall, making contributions to the organization tax-deductible. One hundred percent of the funds it raises go to kids like Tarp — motorsport enthusiasts, students of skilled trades and young Salinas Valley residents who could use a financial boost. A dozen local leaders in agriculture and heavy industry are active sponsors, including Tarp's former employer, Don Chapin Company, and Taylor Farms, Community Foundation for Monterey County and Nepenthe Restaurant.

“Ross was up and down the valley, repairing water lines, fences, tractors. He was always handy, since he was little,” said Brad, who worked as a driver of concrete mixer trucks. His grandson was certified to drive them, too — and that was after he'd helped design a new kind of harvesting machine for row crops, working for an ag tech company in Gonzales.

Gifted as he was, Tarp got his official start as a Salinas Union High School student, graduating from the welding program at Mission Trails Regional Occupational Program, or ROP. With support from Tarp's former instructor, Thomas Lamar, Mission Trails is one of several schools where the

Tarp family annually recognizes graduating seniors in welding and agricultural mechanics.

Welding supplies

Recipients are awarded a \$500 certificate to Barnes Welding Supply in Salinas to purchase safety gear and tools of the trade. Last year, there were 16 awardees, two of them young women from Rancho Cielo Youth Campus, which “invests in young people facing challenges for success through diploma education, vocational training, counseling and life skills development,” according to the school's website.

“These kids don't have a lot, and they don't get a lot of recognition,” said Rosemary.

“It's so great to see their peers cheering them on as we hand them out,” added Brad.

Applicants need only submit a statement describing themselves and their career goals, and a letter of recommendation. The Tarps review submissions, with



PHOTO/ROSEMARY TARP

On Pine Canyon Ranch in Salinas, Ross Tarp got the best views from the driver's seat of two- and four-wheelers he fixed up himself.

input from the students' program directors.

Next year, Live for Ross will accept applications from auto tech programs at the same schools, including King City High. The Tarps are working on partnerships with technical schools throughout the county — calling back to the reach their grandson had in his short lifetime.

See FUND page 26A





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STIFF FINES FOR ILLEGAL CAMPFIRES

By CHRIS COUNTS

A WEEK after The Pine Cone reported on the efforts of volunteers on Big Sur's South Coast to educate visitors on the dangers of campfires during the dry season, county officials issued an "urgent advisory" to campers that they could face stiff fines for ignoring the law.

"All campfires not in approved campgrounds are strictly prohibited in the Monterey District of Los Padres National Forest — including on both public lands and private properties — due to extreme wildfire danger," according to an announcement the county sent out Wednesday. "Failure to comply may result in fines up to \$5,000 or a six-month imprisonment."

The campfire prohibition order "remains in effect until further notice."

County officials agree with locals that there are too many campfires in places where they are banned.

"Despite prominent signage at area entrances and ongoing fire patrols, illegal campfires continue to pose an immediate and serious threat to life, property and natural resources in the backcountry," the county said.

According to the county, there have been "10 documented campfire incidents, with fire rings dismantled or flagged by the U.S. Forest Service and volunteers from the Big Sur South Coast Fire Foundation" since June 20.

Conditions severe

Current wildfire conditions are particularly severe.

"This year is one of the driest on record," the county said. "Wildfires in steep, remote terrain are especially difficult to contain and can spread rapidly with limited evacuation routes. If you light a

See **CAMPFIRE** page 17A

Palo Colorado fire quickly put out

By CHRIS COUNTS

A FIRE broke out on Long Ridge off Palo Colorado Road in Big Sur early Tuesday afternoon and was soon extinguished — but not before it destroyed a mobile home.

After a 911 call, multiple agencies responded to the blaze, according to Cal Fire Battalion Chief Josh Silveira, which was extinguished by 4:45 p.m. after it had burned the mobile home and about a quarter-acre of wooded land. It's uncertain what started it.

The end of the threat was great news for residents in a community that lost 57 homes during the 2016 Soberanes Fire. Thankfully, the conditions favored the firefighters.

"There wasn't much wind," Silveira told The Pine Cone. "The fog layer hadn't

broken — the fire didn't have a ton of heat on it."

"My house almost burned down yesterday," resident Sean Whelan said. "We lost a trailer and one structure, and I want to give a shout-out to all the neighbors in the whole community about how helpful they were. We don't always get along, but it's good to see that we always come together."

Black smoke rising

A photo by one neighbor shows a plume of black smoke rising from the heavily wooded ridge, while another image, taken from the Chews Ridge Fire Lookout 15 miles to the east, shows a faraway perspective of the smoke.

The property where the fire ignited is located off a steep dirt road that bisects Palo Colorado Road, a little less than 4 miles southeast of Highway 1.

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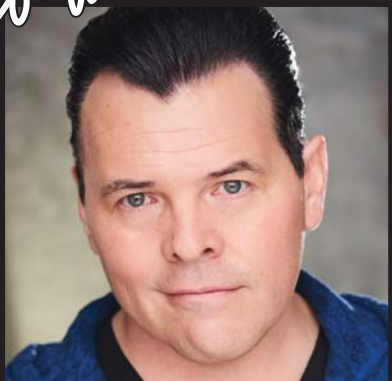
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Neglected P.G. park revitalized

By KELLY NIX

A GROUP devoted to improving the City of Pacific Grove’s neglected green spaces celebrated the completion of its first project — a small oceanfront area a stone’s throw from Lovers Point.

On July 22, with supporters in attendance, nonprofit Pacific Grove Cares unveiled the transformed Chase Park West, which for many years was overgrown with weeds and had generally been ignored. While the park is under the City of Pacific Grove’s purview, and maintenance would otherwise be paid for by taxpayers’ dollars, the group funded the redo through donations.

P.G. Cares founder Peggy Gibbs credited the donors, the most generous of whom were realtor Debby Beck and restaurateur Kevin Phillips. Carmel Cares, a group headed by Dale Byrne, that city’s mayor who was at the ribbon cutting at the park last week, also contributed to the project.

“It’s really a great celebration about bringing people together and creating

friendships and beauty together,” Gibbs said of the landscaping redo.

Two Memorial benches will also be placed at the park in the coming days, she said.

Mayor Nick Smith called park’s renovation “positive” and “beautiful.”

“The Chase Park West project is a great example of what a partnership between volunteer organizations, community members and the city can accomplish,” Smith told The Pine Cone.

Maintenance plan

The nonprofit hired Inca Landscape Management, a local business, to do the work, which took 10 days to complete. Ongoing maintenance will be handled by volunteers.

The P.G. City Council approved the project March 19, and among the attendees at the ribbon cutting were Councilmembers Cynthia Garfield, Tina Rau and Councilman Paul Walkingstick and his wife Christine, who is on the city’s beautification and natural resources commission.

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FIESTA

From page 11A

and a raffle with a grand prize of a week’s stay in Costa Rica. Admission is free.

Saturday’s music lineup features the Anne Burleigh Singers (10 a.m.), The Desert Marigolds (11 a.m.), The Bubba Pickens Band (1 p.m.) and 60 East (3:30 p.m.). Sunday’s music includes performances by Greasy Peaceful (10 a.m.), Smoke and Mirrors (11:30 a.m.) and Scarlet.

All proceeds from the Fiesta “support youth activities, senior organizations, and high school scholarships in the Carmel Valley community.” “Over the past 47 years, we’ve awarded more than \$450,000 in scholarships to 371 high school graduates from Carmel Valley, and we look forward to continuing this meaningful tradition with the Class of 2026,” the Kiwanis Club added.

For more details, visit cvkiwanis.org/fiesta-week.



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Looking for some fun in the sun this weekend? The Carmel Valley Fiesta is the place to be.

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The Carmel Foundation Celebrates 75 Years of Community



This article is part of The Carmel Foundation's new monthly column in the Carmel Pine Cone, highlighting stories, resources, and reflections to support successful aging.

Celebrate 75 Years of The Carmel Foundation & the Grand Opening of the Wellness Studio!
Open House – Saturday, August 23, 10am–2pm
Carmel Foundation Campus – Corner of 8th Street between Dolores & Lincoln

You’re invited to a special celebration! The Carmel Foundation is marking 75 years of connection, care, and community—and we’re opening our doors for friends of all ages to experience what makes this place so special at our Open House on Saturday, August 23. The entire community is welcome. Come explore our beautiful campus, take part in sample classes, and discover the wide range of programs we offer.

A highlight of the day is the grand opening of the Jill Sheffield Wellness Studio, located in the former Red Cross building. As the first completed space in our new Wellness Center, the Studio will host sample classes including yoga, qigong, and Tools for Peace—a meditation and breathing practice. Special thanks to former

CEO Jill Sheffield for her generous sponsorship and to Leadership Carmel Class of 2025 for their design expertise and coordination.

On the main campus, enjoy interactive arts and crafts experiences (like painting and woodcarving), line dancing, and the chance to try bridge, chess, ping pong—or have your oracle cards read.

And of course—great food! Enjoy fresh-baked treats and complimentary tacos from Taquitos Nayarit.

This event is free and open to all. Bring a friend, bring your curiosity, and come celebrate 75 years of service to older adults and the community.

The Carmel Foundation—helping older adults thrive.

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SE Corner 8th & Lincoln, Carmel

Diver not ready for repeat encounter with shark

By CHRIS COUNTS

A DIVER reported July 23 that he had a startling encounter with a great white shark while he and a diving partner were spearfishing near Carmel River Beach.

The diver, Trip Loverro, made his comments on the Monterey County Dive Reports page on Facebook. He said the incident happened “a week or so ago,” and he described the shark’s size as “massive.”

“We saw an 18-foot great white shark two times while spearfishing at Carmel River Beach,” he said. “It was right next to us — I yelled to my buddy, and we swam for shore.” The divers watched the shark from the beach. “She made a pass by the rocks and kelp, then again in the open part parallel to shore,” Loverro said.

The diver speculated the shark was near because he’d speared “a few fish,” which bled. “It makes sense,” he said.

Back safe on land, Loverro said he’s in no hurry to meet such a creature again. “I was lucky to have seen such a massive white, but I never want to be that close again,” he added. “Be careful, everyone... they’re out there.”

Not surprisingly, many people commented on Facebook about the shark sighting, including one man who brushed off the risk of being bitten by one. “Coconuts kill more people than sharks do,” he claimed.

A woman who lives nearby reported that she saw a large fin in the water near the beach on the same day.

Another woman, meanwhile, pointed out that there are sharks pretty much wherever saltwater is found — although perhaps not as big as the one Loverro saw.

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or call **831-596-8725.**

CRASH

From page 1A

that Vincent recently climbed Mount Shasta. “James only ever thought of other people. He cared about and cared for every single person around him.”

After flying from Cuba to SFO, the men got into the private plane at San Carlos Airport in the San Francisco Bay area Saturday night and were en route to Monterey Regional Airport when the accident occurred.

A witness to the crash, P.G. resident Linda Decker, told reporters that she heard the “loud roar of an airplane” engine before witnessing the 1974 six-passenger Beechcraft plummet into the Pacific Ocean just off the coast.

“I watched it fly across the sky and all of a sudden it just went straight down at a 90-degree angle into the water,” Decker said.

A nearby resident said there was an overwhelming smell of aviation fuel just after the crash, while another said he was inside his home when he and his wife heard the plane hit the water.

The next morning, a rescue team composed of numerous divers, including friends and family of Clatterbuck, Tabscott and Vincent, along with the U.S. Coast

Guard and the Monterey County Sheriff’s Dive Team, searched for their bodies, finding them hours later.

A helicopter Tuesday recovered remnants of the airplane, including its two engines, and National Transportation Safety Board investigator Eric Gutierrez said Tuesday in Pacific Grove that the agency would examine all the components of the airplane in hopes of determining the cause of the crash.

Family man, larger than life

Christian Ternus — who was on the Cuban dive excursion with the men — also shared fond memories about them. He said Clatterbuck talked about putting in hours at Aquarius Dive Shop so he could go on more dive trips.

Clatterbuck “had a larger-than-life personality, amazing smile, joked about anything and everything, and had a laugh you could hear clear across the boat,” Ternus said. “He had a girlfriend named Monica and frequently talked about getting back to her, since we had no internet or cell service on the Cuba boat. He told stories about scuba instructing, and it was clear how much he cared about being kind and understanding with his students.”

Vincent led the July 19-26 dive trip to Cuba, which consisted of seven nights aboard the Jardines Aggressor II and up to 22 dives over six days, according to an

online description for the vacation.

“Filled with sharks, beautiful reefs, turtles, caves, canyons and schools of fish, the abundant marine life and well-preserved coral reefs make it a scuba divers’ paradise,” Aquarius Dive Shop said about the \$4,200 trip.

Friends of Tabscott, who was Vincent’s brother-in-law and his close friend, said he always had a calm demeanor and a smile. Together, they purchased Any Water Dive Center in San Jose and it became a successful business.

“Jamie was a brilliant, kind, warm person whom we always looked forward to diving with,” Ternus recounted. “He’d go out of his way to help me and other divers out on our trips and was someone we all trusted immensely. As much as he loved his work and the ocean, his true love was his family, and he spoke of them often with



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Shown at the time James Vincent acquired the plane, this is the Beechcraft Baron in which Vincent, Steve Clatterbuck and Jamie Tabscott died in a crash into the ocean off Pacific Grove Saturday.

adoration and pride.”

When Tabscott was not working, he volunteered as a coach for Monterey Pony Baseball.

“The loss of Jamie will be felt across the Monterey community, and we extend our love to his family he left behind too soon,” another friend said.

‘LOCAL AUTHOR FAIRE’ DEBUTS

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

LOOKING FOR something to do Saturday? Writer Kirsten Tarman has organized the first “Local Author Faire” to be held at Carmel Plaza from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The free event is sponsored by Carmel Gives and Ami Carmel, and it will feature more than 20 authors from Monterey County, spanning genres from historical fiction to children’s books.

Attendees can meet local writers, buy signed copies, and hear the stories behind the books. The lineup includes authors such as photographer Randy Tunnell, who wrote “Carmel and Big Sur Painters: Bohemian Legacy,” Lisa Crawford Watson and her recent release, “What We Wished

For,” Marlo Faulkner with “The Second Mrs. London,” and Tarman, who has written the children’s book, “Olly and Lucille’s Adventure in Carmel,” along with writers of thrillers, family and local tales, and historical fiction.

Pets are welcome.

Organizers say the event aims to give authors, who often work in solitude, a rare chance to connect with the public and each other. “When I realized there was no author event of this scope locally, I decided to create one,” said Tarman. “It’s an opportunity for fellow authors to connect with each other, their readers and the community. For the public, this is a chance to meet them in person, learn about their process and inspiration and support their efforts.”

THOMAS MORRIS MANCINI

July 9, 1938 – June 30, 2025

Captain (ret.) Thomas Morris Mancini (aka Joker) of Seaside passed away on June 30, 2025, in Monterey, California with his family by his side. He was 86. He had a wonderful sense of humor and left his family with a legacy of love and laughter. He will be greatly missed by all who loved him. He was born on July 9, 1938, in Providence, Rhode Island. The oldest child of Erasmo and Mary (Morris) Mancini, he had two siblings, Mary (deceased) and Paul. He graduated from Colt Memorial High School in 1955 and attended University of Rhode Island where he met Marilyn Joyce Stamp. They married in 1957 and had five children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



He enlisted in the US Army in 1957. His enlisted assignments included tours of duty at Fort Dix (NJ), Camp Zama Japan, and Fort Rucker (AL), followed by graduation from Infantry Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon graduation from Airborne and Heavy Weapons Platoon Leader schools, he was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division in the Republic of South Vietnam. From 1966-67, he was Infantry Rifle Platoon Leader with the 1st Cavalry and from 1969-1970 he was a Tactics Advisor with the Republic of Vietnam at Thu Duc near Saigon. After graduation from the Infantry Officers’ Advanced Course at Fort Benning in 1971, he was assigned to Fort Ord, California until his retirement from the Army in 1978. His military honors included a Purple Heart, the Bronze Star with Valor Medal, the Presidential Valorous Unit Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

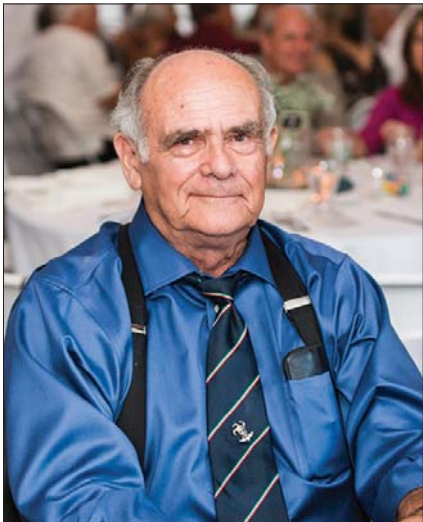
He received a BA in political science (1975) and an MA degree in public administration (1978) from Golden Gate University. After his military retirement, he sold insurance, managed an auto transmission shop, worked as a civilian contractor with the Saudi Arabian National Guard, worked in the City of Marina’s Public Works Department and was City Manager of San Juan Bautista (1988-1992). He was a substitute and independent study teacher for Monterey Peninsula Unified School District from 1992-2003.

Thomas proudly served on the Seaside City Council from 1994 to 2010 and was Mayor Pro Tempore from 1999 to 2001. He also enjoyed traveling with his wife to Italy to reconnect with his extended family there. He was a polyglot who spoke at least five languages.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; his brother, Paul (Joann) Mancini of Rhode Island; children, Christine (James) Wood, Robin Mancini, Linda Null, Michael (Danica) Mancini, Mark (Suzanne) Mancini and adopted niece, Penny Stamp; grandchildren, Shealynn (Darryl) Kriner, Shelby Wood, Eric Null, Jennie (Aaron) Kiefer, Madison (Adam) Stiles, Matt and Ryan Rockwell, Brittney and Jady Mancini; great-grandchildren, Brixton, Nolan, Cora and Juniper; brother-in-law, Paul (Jacqueline) Stamp and many nieces and nephews. The family wishes to thank the staff of Cypress Ridge Care Center for their love and kindness in caring for Thomas in his final days.

A service with military honors will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, August 22, 2025, at the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery in Seaside, CA. A Celebration of Life will follow at noon at Park Lane, 200 Glenwood Circle, Monterey, CA.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Thomas’s memory to Veterans Transition Center of California (vtcofcalifornia.org) or any Veterans’ organization.



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Former official fielding complaints

By KELLY NIX

PACIFIC GROVE’S former city manager, who resigned in July 2023 after the city agreed to a \$438,000 payout, is contending with several complaints against the City of Ojai, including from an ex-employee who claims she was fired for alleging officials were engaged in “illegal activity.”

Ben Harvey resigned from his Pacific Grove post in July 2023 after the city council voted 6-0 to OK a separation agreement with him. Harvey later took on the same role with the City of Ojai.

Multiple gripes

However, in the past month or so, three former Ojai workers filed complaints against the Ventura County city.

In a July 15 government claim, former finance director Pamela Greer said that in early 2024, about a month after Harvey began working for the city, he requested to be reimbursed for unspecified expenses. When Greer asked to see his employment agreement to confirm the expenses were authorized, she claims Harvey said, “Why can’t you just process the reimbursement?”

Greer, who is seeking at least \$1 million in damages, accuses Harvey of disrespecting “basic financial procedures from the start,” and says he and others engaged in illegal activity, including paying vendors based on estimates rather than invoices, carrying over unspent funds from one fiscal year to the next, misusing grant funds, and requesting that she advise Harvey on his personal taxes.

Greer claims Harvey and other city officials fired her in March for reporting the alleged wrongdoing.

She said Harvey also informed the city council that he found \$8 million missing in the city’s budget, “casting aspersions of financial fraud and lack of transparency on Greer and the previous city

administration.”

A Pine Cone reporter Wednesday night sent a message to Harvey via email asking if he’d like to comment on the allegations or make a general statement, but the city manager did not respond.

‘Retaliation’

On July 16, former Ojai recreation manager Matthew Davis alleges in a lawsuit that Harvey asked him to identify “operational issues that raised alarm.” However, after reporting what he said was “misuse of public resources and municipal ordinance violations,” he says he faced retaliation from colleagues before resigning in November 2024.

Renee Mora, a former recreation leader for Ojai, filed suit against the city on June 23, alleging among other things that she faced discrimination, retaliation and wrongful termination after being fired for “standing up against workplace safety violations.” She also claims Harvey failed to “take corrective action” when a softball player assaulted her during a game.

CAMPFIRE

From page 13A

campfire in prohibited areas, you are risking lives, property, and our wildlands — there are no safe campfires in these conditions,” the county said.

The problem of campfires in Big Sur is greatest on its South Coast, where dozens of miles of U.S. Forest Service dirt roads intersect Highway 1 near the county line. Some people camp in cars, while others set up tents in nearby grasslands, and some start campfires, despite the seasonal ban. The forest service, meanwhile, patrols the area infrequently, which led to the start of volunteer resident patrols.

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MONTEREY RECREATION

PASTOR

From page 1A

development on the southernmost lot in 2019 after purchasing it in October 2018 for \$2.4 million under the name of his local company, Esperanza Carmel.

He bought the two lots north of it, including a small building behind the steakhouse, in 2020 for \$4 million after the city concluded the property was not historic, and submitted plans by architect Jun Sillano calling for the demolition of all buildings on the three lots and construction



CAMILLA DOE MAY

Camilla Doe May, age 91, passed away peacefully at her home in Carmel, CA on June 15, 2025, with family by her side and her compassionate caretaker, Mary, close at hand.

Camilla was born in 1933 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the beloved daughter of Major Gen. Jens Doe and Elizabeth Doe. Her father, a decorated Army officer, commanded the 41st Infantry Division in the South Pacific during World War II. During those years of separation, her mother, Elizabeth, raised Camilla with strength and care — instilling in her lifelong values and lessons she would carry forward with grace.

After attending college in Boston, Camilla spent a year in Taiwan teaching art to young students at the Taipei American School. Though not an artist herself, she had a creative spirit that shone through in her love of entertaining. She especially enjoyed hosting foreign officers through the Defense Resources Management Institute at the Naval Postgraduate School, bringing people together with warmth, charm and humor. A socialite by nature, she loved planning her Easter, 4th of July and Christmas parties months in advance, making those celebrations a treasured tradition for all who attended.

She had an undeniable love for all things purple, from her wardrobe to her decorations, which always brought a touch of joy and vibrancy wherever she went. She had a particular fondness for lamb chops, Chinese dishes, pizza and ginger ale. Her weekend entertainment included Saturday cartoons, Sunday funnies, westerns and old movies. A hand model in her earlier years, she continued to make sure her manicure was impeccable.

Camilla lived in the beloved home her parents purchased in 1940 when she was 6 years young. She traveled the world throughout her life, always embracing new experiences with a curious and open heart. She supported many local organizations, including The Salvation Army and Sons of Norway, and was a kind, steady presence in her community.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 29 years, Tom E. May. Though they had no children, Camilla was a beloved aunt to her nephew Grant and nieces Cindy, Kathy and Lisa, who cherished her generosity, wit, and the many meaningful moments shared over the last 40 years.

Camilla's life was marked by strength, grace, and connection. She will be remembered with deep affection and lasting admiration by all who knew and loved her.

Camilla's wishes were honored when she was laid to rest in San Angelo, Texas with her maternal grandparents.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to a charity of your choice in memory of Camilla's remarkable life.

of a 16,898-square-foot, two-story, mixed-use development with a 11,371-square-foot basement garage.

But the HRB decided again that the former savings and loan complex is historic and said the plans didn't comply with preservation standards. After Pastor appealed, the city council sided with the historic resources board in August 2021, even though the complex wasn't yet 50 years old.

Throughout 2022, Sillano submitted revised plans that included relocating the community room rather than demolishing it, but in 2023, the HRB formally added the whole complex to the list of buildings that must be preserved.

A May 2023 appeal of that decision failed, and Sillano filed new plans for a mixed-use project that would leave the community room in place. The historic resources board signed off on them in July 2023, but two members of the city council objected and requested a "right of review" that led to the council imposing its own conditions that mostly focused on leaving a decorative wall next to the community room intact.

With the historic aspect of the project addressed based on the council's ruling, the planning commission considered the plans in July 2024, requested changes, and subsequently approved them on April 9.

That victory was short-lived as lawyer Krista Ostoich filed an appeal on behalf of Mike Brown, Mike Cate, Don Goodhue, Steve Hillyard, Vinz Koller, Courtney Kramer, Cindy Lloyd, Ian Martin, Rich Pepe, Kristi Reimers and Julie Wendt on April 23.

Point by point

In the event of an appeal, staff will always recommend backing the decision made by the lower body, as Kort does in his Aug. 4 report, where he outlines why the council should uphold the commission's approvals of the design, use permit and lot merger and again determine the project is categorically exempt from further environmental review.

Because the city's codes prohibit individual buildings larger than 10,000 square feet, the layout includes two new structures of 9,544 square feet and 3,427 square feet, in addition to the community room's 692 square feet. The two larger buildings would have a breezeway between them at ground level and an exterior bridge, which Kort describes as an "egress balcony," connecting them on the second floor.



RENDERING/INTERNATIONAL DESIGN GRO

A still from a fly-through video of the JB Pastor project provides a glimpse of a breezeway and an elevated walkway between the buildings.

But Hillyard and the others argue the elevated walkway doesn't count as "open space" between them and that they should therefore be considered a single building that exceeds the maximum square footage.

"Whether on the ground floor or second floor, a person would first exit to an area of open space before entering into the other building," Kort counters, and having to go outside to pass from one building to another means they are separate.

Regardless, the planning commission "has the power and responsibility to interpret the meaning and intent of the city's land use code," and has for decades interpreted it in similar ways for various projects containing "exterior walkways connecting multiple buildings," Kort adds.

The JB Pastor design includes rooftop gardens, but the opponents say plants, trees and other greenery that are not on the ground floor don't count toward the amount of landscaping the code requires — a contention with which Kort also disagrees.

"The appellant's assertion that only ground-level landscaping may qualify is based on a misreading of the code and fails to acknowledge the absence of such a restriction," he writes. "The project meets and exceeds the required landscaping threshold, and the appellant's argument does

See **COMPLAINTS** next page

VICTOR 'VIC' MADDEN

August 8, 1938 – July 16, 2025

Victor "Vic" Madden, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend, passed away peacefully at home on July 16, 2025, just weeks before his 87th birthday.

Born in Dayton, Ohio, Vic moved to San Jose, California, as a child and was raised by his devoted mother, Hazel, who instilled in him a strong work ethic and keen sense of humor. He graduated from San Jose High School, where he was known as both a gifted athlete and student.



After time at San Jose State, Vic joined the U.S. Air Force in 1957, proudly serving as a Russian linguist after training here at DLI. He went on to a distinguished 30-year career at IBM, rising through the leadership ranks. His intelligence, kindness and humor shaped his leadership style and earned the respect of all who worked with him. After retiring, he founded Madden Relocation Services to help corporate relocating families — a reflection of his thoughtfulness and entrepreneurial spirit.

Vic was deeply devoted to his family and treasured every moment spent with them. He especially loved family gatherings — where laughter flowed freely, and his favorite meal, BBQ ribs, always made an appearance. He found great joy in simply being surrounded by those he loved, whether telling stories or watching a game together.

Vic's children — Cindy, Vic Jr., and Kelly — are from his first marriage to Margorette Spencer, with whom he remained friends throughout his life.

What made Vic unforgettable was his humor. His wit was sharp, his timing impeccable and his stories unforgettable. He brought laughter wherever he went and kept his family and friends smiling until the very end.

A lifelong fan of the Giants, 49ers and Warriors, Vic was rarely seen without a team jacket. Baseball was his lifelong passion — he played competitively into his 80s, earning 13 state and world senior softball championships, and continued in the Fun League until the last year of his life. He was also a true music lover of all genres. He had a special fondness for country music and choreographed dozens of original country line dances.

He shared 37 wonderful years with his wife and best friend, Sheila, and their canine children. Together they created a beautiful marriage grounded in deep love, mutual respect and an endless supply of laughter. Their music nights — Vic on the piano, surrounded by their favorite songs — were some of their most cherished times together.

Vic gave his time generously as a Meals on Wheels volunteer, delivering not just meals but warmth and joy to everyone he met.

Vic is survived by his wife, Sheila Madden; children, Cindy Leeper (Mike), Vic Madden Jr. (Suzanne) and Kelly Curtis; grandchildren, Shaun, Steven, Abbey and Quinten; great-grandchildren, Connor, Reese and Kamden; and a large extended family, including Sheila's family who adored him.

A celebration of Vic's extraordinary life will be held at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Vic's honor may be made to organizations close to his heart:

- Meals on Wheels of Monterey County
- Hospice of the Central Coast
- Peace of Mind Dog Rescue

In his honor, wear your favorite team jacket, play a little country music, share a story and bring a smile to someone's day — just as Vic always did.

COMPLAINTS

From previous page

not present substantial evidence to support a contrary interpretation.”

On parking, Pepe says in-lieu fees, which developers pay when they can’t include the number of parking spaces the code requires, can only be an option when providing them “is technically or practically infeasible,” which Pastor hadn’t proved.

But Pepe is misrepresenting the requirement, according to Kort, as it only needs to be found to be “not practical” to include all of the mandated parking — such as because the property is too small, doing so would require a driveway that would take away too many on-street spaces, or the site conditions are too constraining. And while earlier plans included a full-sized subterranean garage with plenty of space, once Pastor was told he couldn’t demolish or relocate the community room and had to provide a “preservation buffer” between his complex and the decorative pebbled wall next to it, that was no longer an option.

A letter from Martin says the project must also accommodate the restaurant parking that will be lost because Pastor is building on its former lot, as the planning director stated in 2019, but that requirement was reconsidered and abandoned in 2021, according to Kort. “The parking compliance of the adjacent restaurant, or the associated

GUILTY

From page 6A

hearing — Darpinian pleaded guilty to the lesser charges of attempted voluntary manslaughter and assault with a deadly weapon.

In his “advisement of rights, waiver and plea form” filed with the court, Darpinian admitted those two charges and the aggravating factors that “the victim was particularly vulnerable” and that he “took advantage of a position of trust or confidence to commit the offense.”

His stipulated sentence calls for 10 years and six months in state prison, followed by a minimum period of parole or post-release community supervision, and after he acknowledged he was waiving numerous rights, such as to appeals and to his right to remain silent, the prosecutor and the judge signed the plea agreement.

Darpinian is being held in Monterey County Jail on \$1,015,000 bail, and his sentencing is set for Aug. 20. In addition to the stipulated sentence, he could be required to pay restitution and court fees.

HEAD AND NECK PAIN

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

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

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use permit, is not part of this application and is not before the council for discussion,” he adds.

Finally, opponents have repeatedly argued that the JB Pastor project has to undergo a comprehensive environmental review, but Kort says it is, in fact, categorically exempt from further study.

‘Detailed analysis’

“Based on the detailed analysis prepared by staff in the CEQA exemption memo and prepared for and relied upon by the planning commission, substantial evidence demonstrates that the project falls under the Class 32 categorical exemption for in-fill development projects,” he says. And “none of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions apply to negate the project’s CEQA exempt status.”

Further, he says, because the plans were deemed consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the

Treatment of Historic Properties due to its accommodating the community room and wall, it’s also exempt under CEQA’s rules for the preservation of historic resources, and none of the additional allegations of CEQA violations, such as failing to consider impacts on air quality, “have merit.”

Therefore, Kort says in his report, the city council should dismiss the opponents’ appeal and reaffirm the planning commission’s approvals.

The council will tour the site Aug. 1 at 3 p.m., according to a notice issued Wednesday, and Monday’s meeting is set to start at 3 p.m. — rather than the usual time of 4:30 — with consideration of the month’s consent agenda, which includes items of routine business. The Esperanza Carmel appeal is the only public hearing on the schedule. For more information, including the full agenda and how to participate in the meeting, visit ci.carmel.ca.us.

THE REV. GERALD ‘JERRY’ LEO MCCORMICK

April 3, 1939 ❖ July 18, 2025

In the care of The Paul Mortuary

Fr. Gerald “Jerry” McCormick of Pacific Grove, CA, passed peacefully into eternal rest on the evening of Friday, July 18, 2025, at the age of 86.

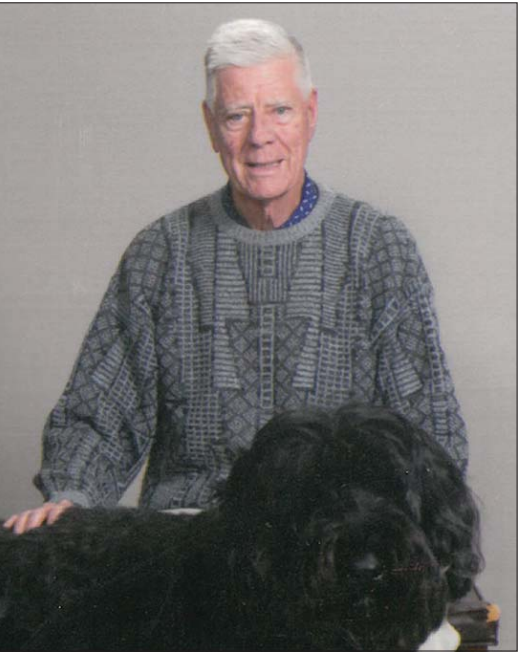
Fr. Jerry, the fourth of five children, was born in Detroit, Michigan, on April 3, 1939, to John and Mary (Devine) McCormick. A sweet, kind, and faith-filled child from the start, Jerry was known to organize Good Friday prayer services in the living room, assigning parts to his three older brothers, younger sister, and even his mom. His calling to serve God was evident early, and it was no surprise to his family when he pursued the priesthood.

His childhood bedroom walls were covered with images of saints and — naturally — dogs. That deep love for animals would stay with him all his life. Fr. Jerry often said, “Dog is God spelled backwards,” and his dogs were not just companions — they were part of his ministry. Parishioners will fondly remember his dogs quietly processing to the altar with him for Mass, and resting beside him throughout the liturgy. After high school, Jerry joined the Brothers of the Holy Cross and studied at St. Edward’s University in Austin, Texas. He returned to teach in a Catholic school in Detroit and spent time with the Paraclete Brothers in Vermont while continuing to discern his vocation. Eventually, encouraged by his dear priest friend whose mantra was, “Go West, young man,”—Jerry applied to St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park and the Diocese of Monterey.

He was ordained a priest on June 23, 1973, at the Carmel Mission Basilica by Bishop Harry A. Clinch, becoming the first priest ordained for the newly formed Diocese of Monterey at that holy location.

Fr. Jerry served faithfully in parishes across the diocese, including as associate pastor at Our Lady of the Assumption (Pajaro/Watsonville), Holy Cross (Santa Cruz), and as pastor at St. Francis Xavier (Seaside) and St. Angela Merici (Pacific Grove). His early years of priesthood were especially shaped by his time in Holy Cross and the Newman Center at UC Santa Cruz, where he formed lifelong friendships and deep pastoral roots. He loved every parish he was assigned to and carried each community in his heart. He remained a devoted member of the St. Angela community in his retirement. Those later years were marked by the companionship of wonderful friends and neighbors who watched over him and supported him with great love and loyalty.

He also served the diocese in numerous leadership roles — Assistant Superintendent for Catholic Schools, Vicar for Clergy, Dean of the Monterey Deanery, Presbyteral Council member, and Diocesan Consultor — and was a strong advocate for social justice. He was a founding member of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Monterey, always lifting up the voices of the poor and marginalized.



Fr. Jerry was always on the move — energetic, engaged, and ready to go wherever he was needed. He was thoughtful and kind, with a sense of humor that was gentle, joyful, and full of childlike wonder. He had a pastoral heart and a priestly mind, but never got lost in formality. He followed what mattered and let go of what didn’t. He saw the person in front of him, not just the rulebook, and always made time for those in need — whether it meant dropping everything to visit someone in the hospital or offering comfort with his signature mix of wisdom, warmth, and wit. One of his proudest local moments came when his beloved dog Lulu was featured in The Pine Cone’s weekly pet column — a moment he delighted in and remembered fondly.

He is survived by his siblings, Jack, Jim and Irene; his sister-in-law, Connie; many nieces and nephews and countless loving friends. He is joyfully reunited in heaven with his parents, John and Mary; his brother, Larry; his sisters-in-law, Janet and Marilyn; his brother-in-law, Joseph; his nephew, Daniel; and his

beloved dogs — Fuzzy, Trep, Maia, Leo, Louie, Lulu and Willy 1 and cats Luke and Larry — who no doubt ran to greet him.

Guided by the example of St. Joseph and the servant heart of Christ, Fr. Jerry lived to love, serve, and lift others.

His visitation is set for 3 to 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 4, 2025, at St. Angela Merici Catholic Church, 362 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove. Vigil service will begin at 4 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025, at St. Angela Merici Catholic Church.

The Celebration of Life Reception is set for 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5 at the San Carlos Cathedral Hall, 550 Church St., Monterey, CA 93940.

In lieu of flowers, Fr. Jerry requested remembrance through donations to the charities closest to his heart: Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey, 922 Hilby Ave., Suite C, Seaside, CA 93955; www.catholiccharities.org or St. Angela Merici Church.

PANETTA

From page 1A

lawyer meeting rooms, a library, family visitation areas and housing units, including those reserved for violent detainees.

Officials told him that 58 percent of the immigrant detainees have felony criminal records, Panetta said, while the remainder have convictions for misdemeanors or have no criminal records.

The facility was a state prison from 1991 to 2010 until it was purchased by the GEO Group in 2010 to be used to detain immigrants.

“I saw a facility that reminded me how inmates are treated in a county jail,” Panetta said, adding he did not see any inmates being mistreated or held in poor conditions.

The day he was there, lunch included a breaded chicken patty, vegetables, beans and a bread roll, he said. The meals were put into Styrofoam containers and delivered to inmates.

“I noticed that many of the detainees’ prison cells had plenty of snacks,” Panetta added.

‘Broken system’

The representative said he pressed ICE officials and facility managers for information about the detainees, including their criminal histories, gang affiliations, where they were arrested, how ICE ensures they can visit with attorneys and family members, access to medical treatment, and other questions.

He also visited five on-site courtrooms operated by the U.S. Department of Justice and sat in on a hearing for a detainee from Central America.



Rep. Jimmy Panetta was led on an extensive tour of Adelanto ICE Detention Center last week. Panetta, who said he did so as part of his congressional oversight responsibilities, spoke to officials and ACLU attorneys to ensure detainees were being treated fairly.

PHOTO/KQED

Christine Agel

Christine Agel passed away on Friday, July 18, at age 75, after a 21-year battle with cancer.



A beloved wife and fierce friend, Chris was an artist and a nurse. She attended art school in Manhattan and graduated from Boston College School of Nursing. The majority of her professional career was spent at Boston Children’s Hospital, where she provided postoperative care for children and teens following major orthopedic surgery.

She poured her passion into her artistic endeavors. With an eye for design, she excelled at painting, photography, calligraphy and crewel work, as well as book and movie making. Among her friends, her pies were legendary.

In 1984, she married Peter Gerbino, II. Together they raised three dogs: Ginger, Digby and Augie. During Peter’s medical training and Navy service, they lived in nine locations and traveled extensively, leaving friends scattered around the country and the world. They moved to Monterey in 2005 to spend more time together in a place they both loved.

Chris was the second of four children of Charles James Agel and Julia Agel. She is survived by her sister, Andrea Agel Orwick; her brother, Charles Agel and his daughter, Nicole and Nicole’s daughter, Nya. Her sister, Juliana, predeceased her.

An online celebration of Chris’s life will be held at a later date. Her favorite charity was the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Marjorie Ann McClure

Marjorie Ann McClure (Margie), age 82, of Monterey, California, passed away peacefully on July 16, 2025, after a several-month battle with cancer.

Margie was born on April 7, 1943, on a farm in Hugo, Minnesota to Manuel Peloquin and Lucille LaValle. She was the youngest of three children and attended school in a one-room schoolhouse.



Margie was raised on a farm and moved to California at the age of 18 with her two childhood friends. She was an adventurous person and was the only one from her entire extended family to move out of Minnesota. She met and married Phil McClure and they settled in King City where Chris and Darren were born before moving to Monterey.

She worked as a legal secretary. She later became a paralegal in Monterey and worked for two successful attorneys for nearly five decades

Margie raised Chris and Darren as a single mother and instilled in them the value of hard work, caring for others and the value of positivity. She was very active in St.

Angela Merici parish in Pacific Grove, helping with the Italian Catholic Federation, fund raising for the golf tournament and other events and was still a member of one of the original Small Christian Communities. She loved traveling to Maui. She would take her two sons to Hawaii every year or two when they were children to visit her best friends who lived in Maui.

The brightest spots in Margie’s life were her four grandsons. She loved spending time with them and always had an uplifting, sweet demeanor with the boys.

She is survived by her brother, Gordon Peloquin of Vadrais Heights, Minnesota; her sons, Chris (Colleen) and Darren McClure and her grandsons, Phillip, Todd and Matthew McClure (Chris’ sons) and Dylan McClure (Darren’s son). She was predeceased by her brother, Donald Peloquin.

Visitation will be held 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6 at The Paul Mortuary in Pacific Grove with recitation of the Rosary at 6 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 7 at St. Angela Merici Church.

IN LOVING MEMORY LADONNA MARIE VALENTI

JANUARY 7, 1938 - JULY 12, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the peaceful passing of our matriarch, LaDonna Marie Valenti, on Saturday, July 12th, at her Pebble Beach home, surrounded by her loving family.

Donna was born on January 7th, 1938, in Lebanon, Oregon to Raymond and Frances Anderson. She was raised with her two beloved sisters, Alice Ditzenberger and Peggy Pettis, both of whom preceded her in death.



In the late 1950s, Donna moved to California, where she met the love of her life, John “Jack” Valenti, in Paso Robles. They were married on June 28th, 1967, and soon made their home on the Monterey Peninsula, where they built a beautiful life and partnership that spanned more than 55 years until Jack’s passing in November of 2022.

Donna had a deep passion for the arts, particularly fiber arts, which she pursued throughout her life. An accomplished seamstress, quilter, knitter and crocheter, she created countless cherished works of art, from intricate quilts to one-of-a-kind wearable art pieces. She was an active member of the Monterey Peninsula Quilting Guild and a devoted participant in Tea Timers, a local group of kindred spirits who shared her love of textile art. Her varied and beautiful works would often be displayed at quilt/fabric art shows where she was recognized for her talent and creativity.

A lifelong learner and curious spirit, Donna also had a great love for mystery novels and was rarely seen without a book nearby. Donna and Jack were avid travelers, exploring locations worldwide, meeting people, making new friends and seeing the wonders of many beautiful countries. By far her favorite destination was Hawaii, a place that brought her peace, joy and inspiration.

Donna also dedicated herself to community service. For more than 25 years, she was a proud member of the local Lions Club, serving others with compassion and enthusiasm.

Donna is survived by her four children, Brad (Liz) Valenti, Andrea Valenti, Petrina (Bill) Riso and Nicholas (Lupe) Valenti; eight grandchildren, as well as three great-grandchildren, each of whom brought her immense joy.

A celebration of life will take place noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, August 5th at Mission Mortuary in Monterey, followed by inurnment at San Carlos Cemetery at 1:30 p.m. A reception in her honor will be held at the function hall of the Blind and Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County at 225 Laurel Ave. in Pacific Grove at 2 p.m. All are welcome. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Donna’s memory to the Blind and Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County.

Process to remove dangerous batteries OK’d

By KELLY NIX

THE ENERGY company responsible for a devastating fire at a battery storage facility in Moss Landing in January has reached an agreement with the EPA for cleanup at the site, the federal agency said last week.

The agreement, the Environmental Protection Agency said, formally establishes battery storage owner Vistra Energy’s obligations and clarifies the EPA’s expectations for removing the damaged lithium-ion batteries, a process the agency will oversee.

Specifically, it requires Vistra to submit detailed work plans for the cleanup process, implement safety measures to protect nearby residents and workers during the effort and participate in community involvement activities to “enable meaningful public engagement throughout the removal process.”

“We’ve arrived at a key milestone in the Moss Landing response: an agreement that allows our EPA experts to ensure the safe removal and proper disposal of these dangerous damaged batteries,” EPA Pacific Southwest Region Administrator Josh F.W. Cook said July 23. “Today’s announcement marks a major step toward protecting the community.”

100K modules

The Jan. 16 fire broke out at Vistra’s 300-megawatt battery energy storage off of Highway 1. The facility contained about 100,000 lithium-ion battery modules, which were damaged in the incident. Smoke caused evacuations of residents and businesses and people complained of a variety of health issues as a result. The fire lasted two days and flared up on Feb. 18.

Damaged lithium-ion batteries pose an ongoing risk of fire since they can produce hydrogen fluoride and other flammable or toxic gases, the EPA said.

“To reduce the risk of another fire, the batteries will be removed from the fire-damaged Moss Landing facility and treated for safe transport and disposal or recycling,” the agency explained.

Vistra is also required to conduct air monitoring and sampling near the property while the batteries are being removed. If a fire occurs during the process, the company will implement an EPA-approved emergency response plan. The company has round-the-clock firefighters on the property.



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

An overhead view of the Vistra battery storage facility (bottom right) in Moss Landing depicts the damage done in January from a big fire. Along the top of this photo is an undamaged battery storage area owned by PG&E.

DONNA JEAN (CREEKMORE) LEWELLEN

Donna Jean (Creekmore) Lewellen, a beloved wife, devoted mother, and cherished grandmother, passed away peacefully at her Carmel Valley home on July 22 after a long illness. She was 81.

Donna was born on October 25, 1943, in Sand Springs, Oklahoma, the third daughter of Virginia and Amon Creekmore. She was especially close to her older sisters, Barbara and Reba, and welcomed her youngest sister, Lola, four years later. Amon’s work as a dairy manager moved the family back and forth between the Tulsa area and Arizona, but their hearts always remained in Oklahoma. Life on the dairy farms was simple but sweet: There was always fresh milk and ice cream on hand, and Donna and her sisters spent endless carefree days playing with the animals that wandered the fields.

The family returned to Oklahoma for the final time when Donna was 13. Soon after, her father, whom she adored, was killed in a work accident. Not long after, her mother planned to move Donna and her younger sister to Seaside, California, where her oldest sister Barbara was living at the time. However, Donna was not pleased to have to leave Oklahoma mid school year. At 15, she decided to stay with a friend to finish out the year and then take the bus, alone, from Oklahoma to California.

In Seaside, Donna met Bill Lewellen at a church party on the beach in 1958. Bill and his friends heard there was a new girl in town and bet on who could take her out first. Bill won. Donna, a majorette at Monterey High school, graduated in 1961 and later attended Monterey Peninsula College. She and Bill married in November 1963 over the objections of their parents who thought they were too young.

Their daughter, Vikki, joined the family in 1969 and fulfilled Donna’s dream of becoming a mother. In 1974, they moved to Carmel Valley and a year later moved into a house Bill built for Donna. Their son, Paul, arrived in 1976 and completed the family. Donna loved being a mother and was always quick to volunteer in Vikki’s and Paul’s classrooms, for the Little League board, or as a Cub Scout leader.

In 1982, Donna began working at Tularcitos Elementary School as a teacher’s aide, a job she loved, and that allowed her to touch the lives of countless local kindergartners. Donna loved working with the youngest students. Even after her vision started to fail, she continued to volunteer at the school. In 2007, she was honored by the school district for her exceptional and distinguished service.

Donna’s joy was expanded when her grandchildren were born. Nothing made her happier than spending time with her kids and grandkids. They loved hearing all of Nana’s stories and having her read to them or work on arts and crafts together. Her patience was remarkable, and they knew that Nana would let them get away with almost anything. Even though her grandsons lived across the country, she was always available to talk on the phone when they called, and she was never behind in what was happening in their lives. Nana was always there to cheer for her grandkids’ successes and comfort them when they were sad.

She also adored the many pets she had over the years and will be missed very much by her miniature English bulldog, Molly.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents, Amon Creekmore and Virginia Creekmore Ballard; and her sisters, Lola Creekmore, Reba Crosswhite and Barbara Kersh.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Bill; daughter, Vikki Fordahl and her husband, Matthew, of Randolph, New Jersey; son, Paul Lewellen and his wife, Meena, of Carmel Valley; grandsons, Beckett and Dane Fordahl; granddaughter, Jean Lewellen; sister-in-law, Nancy Serrano; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A celebration of life for Donna will be scheduled at a later date. Donations in Donna’s memory are welcomed to any organization benefiting children or animals.



ALEXANDER T. HENSON

March 1, 1948 – December 1, 2024

Alexander “Zan” Henson has left his Carmel Valley eden for his next adventure. A steadfast believer in appreciating “another day in paradise,” Zan spent his 76 years certain that his best life is equal parts gratitude, principle, and (let’s be honest) a little chaos.

Born in Burbank, California — though he swore until his dying day that it was Glendale, debating even his own mother — Zan made it his first case to litigate reality itself. The truth was only just revealed upon his death, settling this long debate.

While earning his BA in psychology (Stanford, 1970) and JD (Stanford Law School, 1972), he briefly took his talents to Washington, D.C., where he was a Fellow at the Center for Law and Social Policy. From 1972–1979 Zan served as California’s Deputy Attorney General, battling forestry violations, protecting the state’s natural beauty, and in his most dazzling legal moment successfully representing California against Nevada before the U.S. Supreme Court. The legal brief for that case is rumored to have been filed, in sandals, between surfing sessions.

In 1980 he launched into private practice in Monterey County. He was proud of his early contributions to the Carmel Valley Master Plan: among them the requirement that all exterior lights be shaded to the ground to reduce light pollution in our beautiful night skies; another that he started three consecutive paragraphs of this important document with the letters “Z, A, N” (you can look this up). His career was driven by championing environmental protection, setting legal precedents that still shape California, and giving land developers everywhere sleepless nights.

A firm believer in the philosophy (incorrectly attributed to his favorite artist Picasso) that one should “learn the rules like a pro so you can break them like an artist,” Zan applied this principle to both his career and his life. He mastered the intricacies of the law so he could bend them in service of justice, and he approached life with the same irreverent creativity — dancing, laughing, and occasionally pushing boundaries just to see what would happen. He grew up surfing in Southern California and never quite outgrew the beach bum in his soul, though his surfboard recently gave way to a kayak. He was always in motion and always with friends — flying his plane out of the Carmel Valley airfield, backpacking the Ventana, fishing, dancing, biking Ft. Ord, or tubing down the Carmel River, often with a grin that suggested he’d thought of (or just pulled off) something. His love of theater stretched from high school, through all those legal trials, and into several recent roles with PacRep theater, and stints on the bench at Monterey County traffic court. And let’s not forget his wild costumes! On second thought, maybe we really should forget a few.

A hopeless romantic, Zan married and divorced five times, earning himself the affectionate title of “perpetual optimist.” But his truest and most enduring love was for his three daughters, Charlotte Henson Tolonen, Kate Hobson, and Erica Henson Reasoner, who adored him in return and inherited both his twinkling blue eyes and his love of travel. The girls now live all over the world and Zan showed up whenever two or more gathered. He was a delighted “Zandad” and “Papi Lala” to Sean, Kristen, Eric, Eddie, Claire, and Linnea — always thrilled to hear about their achievements and interests, and happiest when sharing his with them. In heaven he’s now reunited with his fourth granddaughter, Veronica. Zan is deeply missed by the families of his sister Aherne Del Pero, and brother Zac Henson.

Zan’s home in Carmel Valley was his sanctuary and playground, a place he called paradise, and his beloved garden was filled with laughter, good food, and dearly held friends. He’d be the first to tell you that life’s most important lesson is to take your work seriously but never yourself.

Taking a nonprofit back from the brink led to a lifelong career

WHEN ROBIN McCrae graduated from UC Davis with her bachelor’s degree in English with an emphasis in creative writing, followed by her master’s degree in creative writing with an emphasis in

poetry, she had no idea what she would do for a living. Fast-forward some 40 years to March 2026, when she will retire from her post as chief executive officer of Community Human Services after 34 years of service, 31 of them at the helm of the nonprofit dedicated to providing mental health, substance abuse, and homelessness services to Monterey County residents.

director. McCrae invested her initial efforts in personnel restructuring and preparing and rebuilding relationships with funding organizations to which she submitted grant applications as a way, she said, to restore the agency’s finances. “During this time, I realized my own family had problems with mental illness and substance abuse,”

she said. McCrae remembers when she began her career at Community Human Services, and that there was only Genesis House in Salinas, a residential substance abuse

See LIVES page 32A



Robin McCrae studied creative writing and poetry, then scripted a fruitful career as director of a nonprofit.

Great Lives

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

Big step “What I did know was that I wanted an enduring job where I could make a difference in the community, and I needed a job that had benefits,” McCrae said. “After a series of productive two-year positions, I learned my sister was leaving her job at Community Human Services, so I jumped out of the plane, opened my parachute, and landed there as an executive assistant.” Yet, she said, during her first two years on the job, the organization went through executive director changes that prompted its almost certain closure — until McCrae presented a financial plan. She also became Community Human Services’ executive

From the mayor’s desk — Changing, but staying the same

By DALE BYRNE

A COUPLE weeks ago, 260 of us gathered for a showing of “Don’t Pave Main Street” at the spectacular new Golden Bough Playhouse. It was a powerful experience to see Clint Eastwood narrating the history of our town, the foundational philosophy, the characters and the strong desire to protect “Old Carmel.” I was honored to give the kickoff speech highlighting that we’re living in new times with new challenges — but also extraordinary opportunities. While the soul of “Old Carmel” is still there, the question isn’t whether change is coming, but whether we’ll shape it with purpose to create a “New Old Carmel” for future generations. I believe we can, and we must.

■ The challenge we face

The changes didn’t happen overnight. We invited the world to discover us — and it did, at scale. A recent Sunday morning painted the picture: packed sidewalks, no open parking, cars circling Ocean Avenue, neighborhoods lined with vehicles. The stress was visible — on people

walking, behind windshields, and in the pressure many of us feel with our small town bursting at the seams. Preservation alone won’t solve these challenges. The Carmel many long to protect isn’t something we can freeze in time — but something we must boldly reimagine. Imagine a Carmel where innovation honors tradition: **Financial sustainability** built not only on tourism, but on diversified revenue, responsible redevelopment and smart infrastructure investment that creates lasting prosperity and public safety. **Character and charm** aren’t sacrificed but expressed in revolutionary new forms — architecture that respects our DNA while embracing the future, vibrant public spaces that spark joy, and events that celebrate history and innovation. **A thriving community** where we’ve solved housing for workers, artists and seniors, created thoughtful density, and nurtured neighborhood life that makes this more than a destination — it makes it home.

See MAYOR page 33A

Giving credit to Grandpa Ernie

A FAVORITE picture in the portfolio of fine-art photographer Clay Myers-Bowman is a ghostly image he captured 12 years ago in Iceland of the aurora borealis — a translucent-green banshee, dancing against a starry black sky. Bowman estimates he shot 2,000 frames to capture the image that hangs on a wall of his Marina home. Another eye-catching treasure is his photo of a towering, jagged lightning bolt striking the ground on a bright green Kansas horizon. Serendipity was his collaborator for that one, but Bowman takes credit for mounting his camera onto a tripod and holding his shutter open during that broad-daylight, split-second opportunity.

‘I feel absolutely giddy’ “I typically know pretty quickly if I got a shot that’s going to be iconic,” he said. “Then I feel absolutely giddy: ‘Wow, I got it ... I got it!’” Bowman specializes in landscapes and seascapes — photos he’s shot all over North America and Europe, including every country in Scandinavia. He shows his work at Reflections Elegante at 271 Alvarado St. in Monterey’s Portola Hotel and just down the street at Carlos Art Gallery (464 Alvarado St.). Although his journey toward fine-art photography serpentine down multiple roads, some of it feels like destiny for the 61-year-old Peninsula artist, who credits his grandfather as a major influence. Grandpa Ernie a was a big deal in the tiny rural Indiana township of Middlebury (pop. 3,200), 35 miles east of South Bend and 60 from Fort Wayne, where Clay Bowman grew up, attended high school and went to college. “My earliest memories of Grandpa Ernie are that he was never without his



Fine-art landscape photographer Clay Myers-Bowman poses in Iceland with his wife, Karen, who is dean of the College of Education at CSUMB.

Bowman gravitated toward speech and communication classes, reported news on the campus radio station and wrote a column for the college newspaper.

An ill-fated internship During his junior year, he landed an internship at a small Fort Wayne radio station that played big band jazz. “I was the news intern for what was supposed to be a three-week internship, and by the third day they had me recording stories for their newscast,” he said. “By Friday, I was doing one of the morning newscasts all by myself. “I went home that week-end and found out that some of my friends, who were working at a larger station in Fort Wayne, were listening to me to track the stories I was reporting.” A week later, when Bowman reported on a Monday for his 6 a.m. shift, he found the entire staff in a conference room. They exited in tears, learning that they’d all been fired. Bowman, the intern, was also gone, but got hired as a part-time news director at another local station and began freelancing for the Fort Wayne Sentinel. “Then, during my senior year, needing one more credit to graduate, I took my first and only photography class,” he said. “That’s where I learned about photo composition and how to do all the darkroom

See ARTIST page 25A

Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

camera or his 8 mm movie camera,” he said of the patriarch, who later became the first CEO of Coachman Industries, the RV company. “I just found all of his photos of me from the time I was a week old until I was about 36. I had never seen most of them.” **Mind-blowing** Bowman was 9 when his grandfather gave him his first camera and film in 1971. “I always knew he liked photography, but I didn’t realize until recently that he was a photographer. He actually worked in the photography department at Manchester College in Fort Wayne and did all his own developing and printing,” he said. Ernest Bowman was a descendent of generations of farmers but didn’t like farming, so he became a small-town minister



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LETTERS

From page 22A

in the country. As water costs increase, people use less. Statewide rules about outdoor watering and conservation efforts also play a role.

Thanks to Pure Water Monterey, Cal Am has been in compliance with the State Water Resources Control Board cease and desist order for the past three years, but the CDO, which forbids new water connections, remains in force.

When the Pure Water Monterey expansion comes online in a few months, our community, which used less than 9,000 acre-feet last year, will have more than 12,000 acre-feet per year of water available. This is more than enough water for 25 years of growth, so the SWRCB should lift the CDO and allow new housing construction and development to proceed.

Unfortunately, the California Public Utilities Commission ignored three expert 25-year water demand forecasts of about 11,000 AFY and based its decision on Cal Am’s incorrectly calculated inflated 2050 demand forecast. This could prevent lifting the CDO and justify a desal plant we don’t need, which would raise our water bills by 50 percent or more.

Those who favor economic growth and affordable water support lifting the CDO. Cal Am does not. The CPUC needs to revise its 2050 demand forecast to no more than 11,200 AFY, so we can start building.

You can comment on the CPUC website before Aug. 14.

Marli Melton, Carmel Valley

Firefighters to the rescue

Dear Editor,

Last week there was a water main break causing serious damage at a house I built in 2013 on Monte Verde Street. I experienced firsthand why Carmel’s firefighters are among our community’s greatest treasures. When this high-pressure water line burst, we called the fire department for help, not knowing what to expect. What I received was extraordinary. Our firefighters arrived quickly and didn’t just address the emergency, they rolled up their sleeves and helped me tackle the aftermath. They came equipped with squeegees and mops, working alongside me to minimize damage and get the power shut off to stop the massive waterfall coming out from underneath the garage door. Their genuine care and willingness to go above and beyond their basic duties were both touching and impressive. These men and women were there for us, full stop.

Maybe we should be there for them and as a city start supporting our firefighters and their families and supply state-mandated workforce housing.

These weren’t just public servants doing their job; these were neighbors helping a neighbor in need. Their professionalism, kindness and dedication reminded me how fortunate we are to have such exceptional people protecting and serving our community.

This experience reinforced something I’ve long believed: Our first responders deserve to be able to live

and raise their families right here in Carmel. These are the people who rush toward danger when we need them most, who know our streets and our community intimately, and who truly care about this place we all call home.

Yet all of them are forced to commute from far outside our area because housing costs make it impossible for them to live where they work. This isn’t just unfair — it’s shortsighted. When emergencies strike, we want our first responders close by, deeply invested in our community because it’s their community too.

As we discuss housing policies and community priorities, instead of finding ways around state mandates, let’s remember the people who serve us every day and find creative ways to support them. They don’t just deserve our gratitude — they deserve the opportunity to be full-time residents of the town they protect so devotedly.

Fred Kern, Carmel

White supports Panetta

Dear Editor,

I want to take a moment to recognize Congressman Jimmy Panetta for his steadfast commitment to the people of our community and the values we share. In these challenging times, it’s encouraging to have a representative who is leading the charge to support every member in his district.

Congressman Panetta has shown courage and integrity by voting against the partisan tax bill that does not fairly distribute funding to Americans in need. Congressman Panetta has opposed the reckless proposals to slash healthcare funding — cuts that would harm seniors, vulnerable families, and those who rely on affordable care. I also strongly oppose the reduction of funds to Head Start for children who need basic skills to enter schools, and downsizing the U.S. Department of Education.

Additionally, Congressman Panetta is fighting against cuts to programs like Medicare and Medicaid, both of which are essential to the well-being of our seniors.

I believe that Congressman Panetta will continue to stand up against this administration’s dangerous cuts, invest in affordable housing and protect our environment. His actions demonstrate a clear understanding that a strong community begins with supporting those who need it most.

In a time when we see so much chaos and carelessness in Washington, it is reassuring to know that Congressman Panetta continues to lead with responsibility and compassion. I’d like to take a moment to thank him for standing up for those who are most in need and working tirelessly on their behalf.

Ken White, Carmel

Effervescent centenarian

Dear Editor,

Thriving to 100, not just surviving. That’s my aunt, Liselotte Macziola. We all call her Tante Lisa.

She dresses to impress, has never dyed her hair, swims at the Wellness Center in Marina three times a week and loves to be taken out to lunch.

Tante Lisa and her husband, my Uncle Reinhold, immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1956. They moved into a small cottage next door to my mom and dad in Marina and never left. She worked in the billing department at Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula starting in the 1960s when CHOMP was over the hill toward Carmel. She retired 30 years later but still joins a group of “CHOMP Knitting Ladies” once a month to visit, lunch, and (occasionally) knit.

There was a fire behind her house recently. At 2 in the morning a young police officer knocked on her door and told me, “You have to evacuate!” So I woke Tante Lisa up, helped her into a robe and slippers, and off we drove into the night. About a mile down the road, she looks over at me and says, “It’s 2 in the morning and we’re cruising Marina. Should we find a bar?”

Everything ended well. Within the hour, we were given the all-clear and were able to return to her home. Tante Lisa went back to sleep without a care in the world.

Many ask Tante Lisa, “How do you stay so young and vibrant? What’s your secret?” She keeps it simple and replies, “Always look for the bright side of things, never focus on the negative.”

Vera Stone Williams, Kahuku, Hawaii

BRIDGE

From page 10A

Olejniak said his agency intends to continue working with local leaders and residents to find a solution to replacing the crumbling bridge railings with something everybody can agree on.

“We can’t compromise our safety standards,” he added. “We are going to balance that with the aesthetic needs.”

Keep Big Sur Wild insists there’s simply no evidence that upgraded railings are needed at Garrapata Bridge, which is located on a straightaway — unlike Little Sur Bridge, which curves along a winding stretch of highway. “There have been no fatal or severe accidents on Garrapata bridge over its 90-year history,” the group said.

So far, the California Coastal Commission hasn’t weighed in on the topic, but it seems likely the issue will come before it.



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ARTIST

From page 23A

stuff.”

It was also where he spotted freshman Karen Myers. She was center stage, performing the lead in “Carousel.” Bowman — a fellow theater major — reviewed the production for the college paper.

He panned the musical but wrote that Myers was worth the price of the ticket.

She first noticed him a couple of semesters later, when he played the lead in “Whose Life Is It Anyway,” a play for which she worked as props manager.

Motorcycle ride in the rain

“So I had seen her, she had seen me, but we didn’t meet until the next fall, when we were in ‘You Can’t Take It With You,’” he said. “We met onstage, became friendly

GEISEN

From page 1A

Born and raised on the Monterey Peninsula, Geisen met his future wife on a blind date when he was 21, and they married six months later in the summer of 1967 — the weekend of the Monterey Pops Festival — at St. John’s Chapel in Monterey.

She worked at the Bank of Carmel, then Crocker Bank, and then, after a stint as an administrator in the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office, became an insurance agent. Their son, Loch, was born 10 years after they were married. After spending time as a homemaker and mom, she went back to work, and for the past 26 years, she taught yoga on the Peninsula, including classes at Tehama.

COASTAL

From page 1A

protection along the state’s coastline and opposed to most development, the powerful watchdog agency now touts its pro-housing efforts.

“Since 2021, the agency has cleared the way for roughly 1,900 units of new housing in the coastal zone, including 476 units of affordable housing,” the coastal commission announced last month. “That includes about 1,000 units of housing approved directly by the commission, and another nearly 900 units made possible through authorized zoning and land-use changes. No multifamily housing projects were denied.”

The Pine Cone reached out to Notthoff this week and asked her to share her views on solving the housing crisis, but she didn’t respond.

The Carmel Valley resident worked for the Natural Resources Defense Council

backstage, and on the day we closed, I invited her to go for a motorcycle ride.”

They rode his Suzuki 750 through a national park in drizzling rain, married in 1986, raised sons Daniel and Cameron, and have a 6-year-old granddaughter, Luna.

Karen found her path after a child psychology class at Manchester College, where she earned her bachelor’s in psychology. She achieved her master’s and doctoral degrees from Purdue, where Clay photographed Big 10 Conference football games and President Jimmy Carter.

She spent four years on the faculty at North Dakota State — where Clay was media coordinator and photographer for a semi-pro basketball team — 19 at Kansas State and six at San Diego State, where she was a senior associate dean and interim dean for the school’s Global Campus.

In 2023, she came to CSU Monterey Bay as dean of the College of Education.

“We’ve had a really adventurous life

At his arraignment July 29 in front of Monterey County Superior Court Judge Jennifer O’Keefe, Geisen appeared without an attorney and was assigned one by the public defender’s office. His counsel requested an assessment of Geisen’s mental health, arguing he may not be competent to stand trial, and O’Keefe agreed.

“The court finds doubt has arisen as to the current mental competency of the defendant,” the minute order from the hearing reads.

O’Keefe referred Geisen to “a psychiatrist, psychologist or other expert” for review and possible treatment. While that evaluation and prognosis are underway, the criminal proceedings against him are suspended, and he’s next set to appear in court for a report on Aug. 13.

He remains in Monterey County Jail on \$1,015,000 bail.

for nearly four decades, according to her coastal commission biography. She was also a founding member of the California League for Coastal Protection, and served as a Senate Rules Committee appointee for the State Coastal Conservancy from 2005 until 2023.

“She led efforts to get many of California’s nationally significant environmental laws enacted, including the Marine Life Protection Act, the Clean Car Act, the Global Warming Solutions Act, the Sustainable Communities Act and water policy reforms,” her biography reads. “She started her career fighting offshore oil development off the California coast and advocating for strong Local Coastal Plans to comply with Coastal Act policies.”

Also serving on the coastal commission is Supervisor Chris Lopez, who represents Monterey County’s 3rd District. Lopez was appointed to a four-year term May 20.



Ann Notthoff

together,” said her husband, whose work history also is eclectic.

After graduation, he wrote a column for a newspaper in Elgin, Ill., Karen’s hometown. In Lafayette, Ind., while she was a postgraduate student, he became a community organizer for a resource center — the beginning of a 35-year career as a fundraiser for nonprofits.

His interest and skills in photography were honed through multiple side gigs. He worked as an associate producer on two documentaries about Swedish artists, filmed in Stockholm. That connected him with a U.S. playwright who hired him as managing director for a production in Oslo, Norway. Al Jazeera, which was filming a documentary in Kansas, hired him as a production assistant.

Friends all over the world

“I ended up being the still photographer for three feature films shot in Kansas — small, independent movies — which was a lot of fun,” Bowman said. “I’ve been blessed to go to a lot of places, and now I have friends and colleagues all over the world.”

Bowman moved from film to digital equipment and became more serious about fine-art landscape photography during a 2015 trip to Sweden and in 2016, when he accompanied Karen to Europe during her six-month sabbatical.

“I’ve found myself in places with

incredible vistas — landscapes, ocean-scapes and mountains where I shot thousands and thousands of photos. Those are all over my Instagram account,” he said. “Experiences like that are extremely energizing.”

The Bowmans have hosted 10 high school foreign-exchange students from multiple nations, one year each.

“They’s been an invigorating learning experience for us. I learned to speak Norwegian,” he said.

“In October, we’ll take our whole family to Iceland for our Icelandic son’s wedding,” Bowman said, referring to an exchange student who became “family” during his U.S. visit. “They already have two children together, so we’re excited about meeting our two ‘exchange grandkids.’”

The Bowmans collaborated on a research project, interviewing European exchange families who were sending their kids to study in the United States. They plan to return for follow-up interviews on the project’s 10th anniversary.

Bowman also does portrait and special-event photography.

For additional information and to view images of his photographs, visit myers-bowman.photos, or his Instagram account, @claybow.

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

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FUND
From page 12A

“He was always willing to help you, whether it was 2 a.m. or noon on a Saturday. He would tell you to ‘Come on out and we’ll fix it,’ and sometimes he’d even come to you. That mindset, being so open to work on whatever,

whenever has helped me throughout my career,” said Jack Freese, a professional racecar mechanic and one of Tarp’s childhood friends, who helped his family create a 40-minute safety documentary available on liveforross.org

Safety first

The documentary offered friends like Alex Martinez, who survived the accident that killed Tarp, a chance to find purpose in their grief, sharing moving tributes amid

hard-learned safety protocol.
Tarp and Martinez’s crash was as innocent and unexpected as a brake malfunction, which happened when they were driving one of the hillside trails on the Tarps’ Pine Canyon property. It was Ross’ favorite place to ride, all wheels and all terrain, almost always with friends.
To honor that passion, Live for Ross also donates safety gear to riders at the Marina Bicycle Pump Track, the Orchard Lane Park in Soledad, and the City of Soledad Police Department. Though it’s illegal for kids to ride their motorbikes in the Salinas Riverbed, they do it anyway, said Rosemary. As the Tarps see it, a stern warning should come with a proper helmet.
“I wish we knew more places to donate,” she said.
On Saturday, Sept. 13, from 1 to 5 p.m., Live for Ross will host its third annual barbecue fundraiser at the Monterey County Swiss Rifle Club, 34241 Gloria Road in Gonzales, which has donated its facilities for the event. The lineup includes “a steak entree and sides, wine and beer tasting, games, drinks, a dessert and a live auction, and music.”
Tickets are \$50 and are available at eventbrite.com.

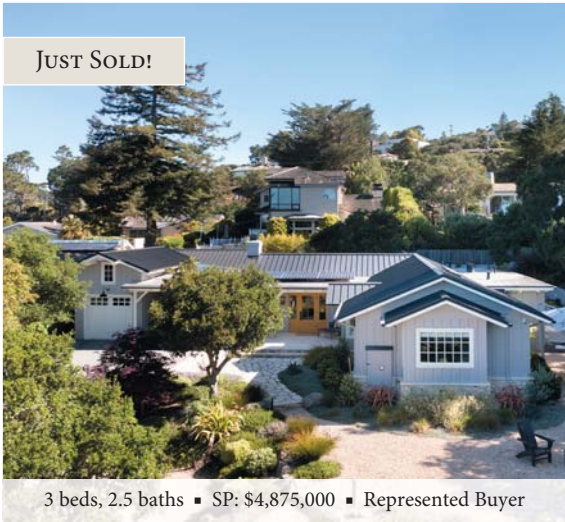
CHINA
From page 11A

what is possible to achieve in life. They will need to learn some diplomatic skills and learn about a foreign language — there’s a lot of positives there.”
Neiman called the journey “an incredible opportunity for youth to learn, grow, and connect with others in a meaningful way.”
“Golf is not just a sport; it’s a powerful tool for building character and community,” she said. “We believe that experiences like this can change lives and inspire the next generation.”
Nelson said his group is thrilled to partner with the youth center.
“This trip will not only enhance the participants’ golfing abilities, but also instill valuable life lessons that they can carry with them for years to come,” he said. “We’re proud to be part of a program that emphasizes both personal and athletic development.”
Thain added that he’s hopeful the program can be expanded so more youngsters can participate each year, and organizers are looking into Japan, Vietnam and Singapore as possible destinations. To donate, go to carmelyouth.org

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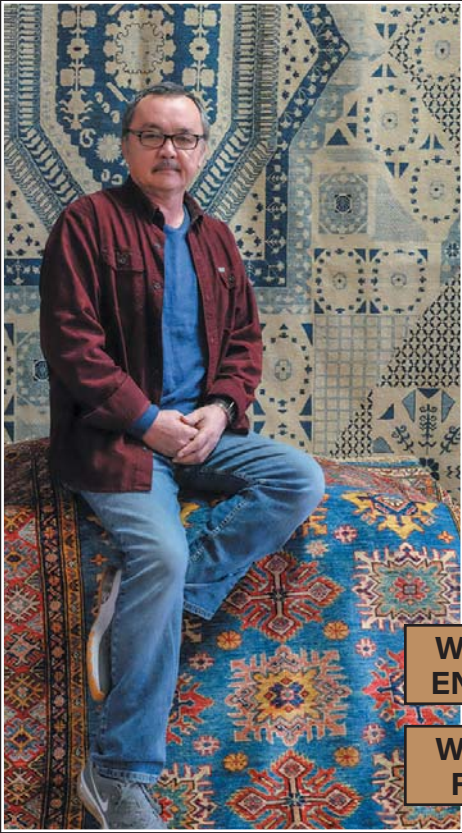


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CARS

From page 3A

in a juried event on Ocean Avenue and side streets between San Carlos and Monte Verde and will begin at 9 a.m., making it one of the earlier Car Week events, with setup starting at midnight. The show will run until 4:30 p.m.

Wright said Monte Verde will also be closed south of Ocean that afternoon to allow more space for ogling whatever stunning specimens are staged in front of L’Auberge Carmel, which usually attracts rare hypercars and supercars.

“Some years there were some jams in front of L’Auberge because they had very probably the most high-end cars I will ever see in my lifetime parked out there,” Wright said.

“So, for safety, as Concorso Carmel starts to break down, we’re going to close that half block on Monte Verde. You have people lying down in the street — an open street — to get a picture.”

She also reminded the commission that the police and public works departments will set up barricades at various Ocean Avenue intersections to prevent the nighttime

drag-racing and other exhibitions of speed that turned downtown Carmel into chaos several years back.

Parts of Sixth and Seventh avenues will be temporarily zoned no-parking to help with traffic flows, according to Wright.

“We’re working with the police department and public works to make sure traffic flow is good,” she said. “We don’t want to take parking spots away if we don’t have to, but we also don’t want traffic jams.”

Green light needed

Every year involves new tweaks to try to address those issues, she added, and “the mayor has been working very hard on bringing back the shuttle service between here and Larson Field. We’re waiting for the green light.”

If it’s running, anyone will be able to use the shuttle, whether to attend car shows or to go to work, she said, and community activities commissioner Kati Enea, who is also the CEO of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce, predicted the service will be a success.

“The encouragement is to try it, and I think it will be really well done once we get the thumbs up,” she said.

Wright said the city is posting Car Week information on its website.

GAVEL

From page 4A

out of Merced County, continues to operate in Monterey County in ways that risk public health and safety.

These unpermitted roadside food stands are easily recognizable by their blue and red tents covering tables, grills, and vertical rotisseries. Investigators have traced ownership of these stands to kingpins operating out of Merced County. Food sold at the stands in Monterey County is reportedly prepared in Merced and then transported over two hours all over the Central Coast, including Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Santa Clara. There is no refrigeration or coolers on the vans to maintain the meat and condiments at safe holding temperatures, creating prime conditions for the growth of dangerous pathogens like E. coli, salmonella, and listeria.

Prior enforcement actions by Merced authorities, beginning in September 2024, have uncovered large-scale unsanitary food preparation sites in warehouses and garages linked to these kingpins. They found vertical rotisseries with raw and partially cooked meat, some of which were unrefrigerated, as well as other perishable foods left uncovered and unrefrigerated. The equipment seized matches that used at Monterey stands, along with

the unsafe food.

In Monterey County, enforcement efforts targeting this scheme have been ongoing. Since late 2024, the environmental health department has seized unsafe food from stands set up in Pajaro, Royal Oaks, Castroville, North Salinas, Fort Ord, Soledad and Greenfield. On May 7, additional actions were taken in the Castroville area and the area north of Salinas. And most recently, on May 22, district attorney investigators and Environmental Health inspectors impounded food, equipment, and a vehicle from an unpermitted food stand near Highway 68 and Canyon Del Rey, near Del Rey Oaks and another at 348 San Juan Grade Road, Salinas. All these sites have been traced back to the Merced County operation. At these sites, health inspectors have found that the unpermitted vendors do not meet even the most basic food safety standards — meat is not kept at safe temperatures, no hand-washing stations are present, and cross-contamination risks are high.

Investigators estimate that this illicit network generates approximately \$100,000 in cash a month for the Merced kingpins. Despite these profits, it does not appear that the individuals recruited to work these stands are being paid even minimum wage. This unlawful operation unfairly competes with legitimate, permitted restaurants and food trucks that comply with food safety regulations and undergo regular health inspections.

AGENDA

From page 9A

efficient stacking, directional parking, and space optimization, particularly during peak demand periods.”

Other options include collaborating with Monterey-Salinas Transit on a shuttle service, and offering incentives to businesses and employees to do their part to reduce congestion downtown.

The parking discussion is estimated to run an hour, as well.

The agenda also contains a couple of presentations and three consent-agenda items proposed for adoption as a group: paid parental leave for employees, updated labor contracts and an amendment to Monterey Regional Stormwater Management Program agreement.

The meeting is set to begin at 4:30 p.m For more information, including a complete packet and how to participate, visit ci.carmel.ca.us.

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

Lessons in international friendship — and height — on a trip down under

CRIKEY, THEY grow 'em big in the land down under. And friendly.

That was a consensus among 18 Stevenson basketball players (nine girls, nine boys) and four coaches who spent two weeks this summer competing against top-drawer competition in Australia, a place where — who knew? — you can feed a 'roo and pet a koala, too!

For students and student-athletes, adventures like that are now part of the menu at Stevenson School, and it started in the Balkans.

Far-flung destinations

Last summer, 13 players from the girls water polo team traveled 6,000 miles to Croatia to participate in a 10-day water polo camp, where they tested themselves against elite opponents, including Croatia's under-16 national team, learned from world-class coaches, and got a history education about that part of the globe. The girls were able to swim through a pitch-black, deathly quiet, man-made tunnel where the Nazis hid their U-boats from Allied forces during World War II.

That odyssey was so exhilarating and educational that

In addition to the aforementioned athletic-centered journeys, Stevenson students have taken X-Term academic trips to Costa Rica, Belize and Japan.

7,800 miles

The Pirates — several of whom had never traveled internationally — left June 29, and when their direct flight was canceled, they wound up traveling 6,500 miles to New Zealand, where they changed planes for the additional 1,300-mile leg to Australia. The journey — one way — took more than 15 hours.

"That was the tough part," said Derek Diniz, one of four seniors on the boys team. "I think that flight to Auckland was about 12 hours, and it took another three hours to fly to Sydney.



PHOTO/STEVENSON SCHOOL

Stevenson's girls were dwarfed in their first game by the towering Australian team, which had players who stood 6-2, 6-3, and 6-4 under the basket.

lose to them all, considering the level of competition.

Australian players spend 10 months a year with club teams. School basketball programs are a low priority.

"Those guys and girls were about nine months into their season, while we were basically in pop-the-trunk-and-roll-out-the-balls mode," Clymo said. "They were all ridiculously skilled."

The Stevenson's boys coach tried to keep his jaw from hitting the gym floor when he got his first glimpse of the girls who would be playing Clymo's team.

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Stevenson's boys water polo team went to Croatia earlier this summer.

And last September, the Pirates' field hockey team took a road trip to Canada, playing two regular-season non-league games in British Columbia.

Last year's Croatia trip was unaffiliated with the school — financed through student fundraisers for liability reasons. The field hockey games in Canada, and both 2025 summer adventures, are a new part of Stevenson's X-Term program, which offers hands-on learning experiences outside the traditional classroom.

"But my first time outside the country was such an awesome experience, exploring the cities, sightseeing, meeting so many new people, including the guys on the teams we played. It was all just super-cool," he said.

First since Covid

The trip was organized by Stevenson athletic director and girls basketball coach Justin Clymo, in collaboration with Aussie Travelers Basketball, an organization that specializes in facilitating trips for teams traveling from Australia to the United States and vice versa.

"They bring teams to the United States every year, but we were the first high school to bring players to Australia since Covid, so that was exciting," Clymo said. "It's usually just college teams that go there."

The girls and boys played six opponents each — two in Sydney, four in Melbourne — and weren't surprised to

Towering, talented opponents

"I'm 6-foot-2, and their girls, across the board, were 6-3, 6-4," said Tyler Brown, who played collegiately at Humboldt State and Monterey Peninsula College. "Their

Continues next page

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From previous page

smallest player would've been our biggest player, and they were all super-sound from a basketball standpoint. Most of them have been playing the game since they were 8 or 9, and a lot of them have been playing together the whole time."

Molly McAfee, the lone senior on Stevenson's girls squad, said the physical disadvantage was significant.

"They were strong and physical," she recalled. "We tried our best, but we struggled to get the rebounds."

The Stevenson girls' tallest player was about 5-6, "so it was definitely intimidating, but we played as hard as we could, and I think it will make us better for when the season comes," McAfee added.

Like All-Americans

Stevenson's boys had their own giants to slay.

"They grow 'em different down there. Seems like every team we played had at least one guy who was 6-7 or 6-8," said sophomore Lincoln Clymo (Justin's son). "Our tallest guy, Cooper Olin, is about 6-4 — and he's our guard."

Said Brown, "The first team we played

is what they call 'state-level' players — probably comparable to our McDonald's All-Americans in the U.S."

And the Pirates were adjusting to a different style of basketball — Fédération Internationale de Basketball Amateur rules — on a much different floor.

The lane is 12 feet wide in the States, but 16 feet across on a FIBA court.

The international distance for a 3-point shot — 22.15 feet — is more than 2 feet farther than the U.S. high school arc.

That difference also means the out-of-bounds lines in the corners of the court are 26.5 inches closer on a FIBA floor.

"It was tough adjusting to that," Diniz said. "We stepped out of bounds a few times."

Another challenge for the Americans was adjusting to the Australian style of play.

"They were very fast-placed, really good on the transitions. They'd get ahead of us and quickly pass the ball down the court," McAfee observed. "Eventually, we started adapting, getting back on defense immediately after the shot went up."

For the Pirates, the cultural experience often was more memorable than the com-

Continues next page



PHOTO/STEVENSON SCHOOL

Postgame fellowship allowed Stevenson and the Aussies to learn more about each other's cultures and personalities.

The Great Law

(of cause and effect)

by Paul Martin

I believe there is a Great Law,
by which we reap what we have sown.
We create what we imagine,
although this truth is little known.

The Great Law is always working,
it's a mirror of our mind.
What we think and say and do,
is returned to us in kind.

The Great Law is our connection,
by which we mold our destiny.
It's the source of God's protection,
as we believe, so we will be.

The Great Law reacts precisely,
to the thoughts that we create.
To choose our thoughts more wisely,
we must have unwavering faith.

When we trust in God's protection,
He inspires the thoughts we choose.
When we know our thoughts have power,
the Great Law is ours to use.



We do not have to settle,
for merely neutralizing strife.
We can tip the scales in our favor
and enjoy a happy, healthy life.

The Great Law is our connection,
by which we mold our destiny.
It's the source of God's protection,
as we believe, so we will be.
as we believe, so we will be.

Musical version can be heard on Spotify, Apple, CDbaby, www.myprayers.net

Music Credits

(P) 2015 Lyrics and music written and performed by Paul Martin
Produced and arranged by Paul Martin and Daryl Kojak

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LIVES

From page 23A

program that included a perinatal program, plus a community counseling center in Monterey and a methadone program in Salinas, now known as “Off Main Clinic.” She knew the county needed more resources.

“Every other program that has since opened, we have developed during my tenure at Community Human Services,” she said. “Sometimes I have served as the principal person behind projects, sometimes with a team of people under my direction, and always with support of the board, who are instrumental in determining the direction of the needs and what roles we can play in filling gaps in service. We make collective decisions.”

Building community
McCrae and her team created a street outreach program on the Monterey Peninsula and in the Salinas Valley, as well as a new youth navigation center in Salinas — dedi-

cated to helping people regain stability and independence through personalized support — plus housing services for homeless youth. She also established Safe Passage, a transitional housing program for youth, including some outreach drug treatment programs, with Casa de Noche Buena in Seaside, Monterey’s Shuman HeartHouse for women and families with children, and Elm House and Sonoma House sober living environments for men and women in Seaside.

She added, “We have also established a new outpatient adolescent dug treatment program in Monterey, as well as the D.A.I.S.Y. — Drug and Alcohol Intervention Services for Youth — a dual-diagnosis program that provides intervention and education services for youth ages 13 to 18 who have substance and mental health issues.”

One of McCrae’s most recent projects was to assume operation of the SHARE — Salinas Housing Advancement, Resources & Education — Shelter, whose mission is to uplift individuals and families by providing the hope that comes with stable housing.

“My investment in the wider community is not something that happened overnight,” McCrae said. “It has taken more than 30 years, and there is still work to be done. As I contemplate my retirement, my hope is for continued financial and programmatic health, and continued growth to meet our community’s unmet needs.”

McCrae recognizes local communities face so much uncertainty, yet she understands we have weathered uncertain times in the past.

“I’m generally an optimist,” she said. “Plus, we have a very caring and savvy community that understands the issues and the interrelated nature of our service areas. We will make a difference as we address our issues together.”

Finish line?
Come March 2026, McCrae believes she will have a sense of crossing the finish line at the end of a long marathon, a little breathless and filled with a creeping sense of a sadness around the relationships she has developed during more than 30 years on the job.

“I will miss a lot of people, and I will miss my work,” she said. “But I also will be filled with a great sense of accomplishment. I feel really proud of the things we’ve been able to accomplish, all the programs that were developed or enhanced. It will be a mixed bag of emotions but, in general, a very good feeling.”

On the first day of retirement, McCrae plans to drink coffee to her heart’s content and do crossword puzzles. Suddenly not “on the clock,” she senses it will feel like a Saturday with no agenda.

“My husband and I also plan to travel, to go places and see things we’ve wanted to for a long time. And I will no longer just be a tacit participant in our garden, eating and enjoying the fruits of my husband’s labor. I’ll have time to do the things I’ve never had time to do.”

PacRep’s ‘Annie’ at Forest Theater

By CHRIS COUNTS

BRINGING TO the stage a family-friendly musical about a beloved orphan who was first made famous a century ago by a comic strip, PacRep Theatre presents a six-week run of “Annie” at Forest Theater, which hosts discounted preview performances Thursday and Friday, Aug. 7-8. Opening night is set for Aug. 9.

“With equal measures of pluck and positivity, little orphan Annie charms everyone’s hearts despite a next-to-nothing start in 1930s New York City,” according to PacRep. “The show is an explosion of optimism, catchy tunes, and unforgettable charm, and is sure to lift spirits and spread smiles.”

Gary Bolen is directing the musical, with choreography by Palmer Davis and vocal direction by Janice Perl. Caden Devlin plays Annie, and she’ll be joined by a cast that includes JT Holmstrom, Jen Newman, Kyle Richlin and Christiana Meeks.

For Holmstrom, the role is his latest in an impressive run of performances for PacRep. He will portray Oliver “Daddy” Warbucks — the same role he played in “Annie” for PacRep back in 2011. “His enduring presence on the PacRep stage is a living testament to the power of theatre to build legacy and community,” PacRep said.

Annie’s story got its start as a comic strip by Harold Lincoln Gray in 1924. A musical based on it opened on Broadway in 1977, running for nearly six years and receiving seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

“Annie” continues Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Sept. 21. All shows start at 7:30 p.m. except Sunday matinees, which begin at 4 p.m.

SPORTS

From previous page

Luckett and Samantha Mills, freshmen Anna Bates and Maddy Dalhamer, and coaches Justin Clymo and Ryan Sanchez.

The boys were seniors Derek Diniz, Cooper Olin, Logan Lund, and Jack Dalhamer, juniors Barak De La Rosa, Divij Anderson-Santibanez, and Sean Mathieson, sophomores Weston Bailey and Lincoln Clymo, and coaches Tyler Brown and Matt Bejsovec.

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



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MAYOR

From page 23A

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Most critically, a Carmel where we respond to state mandates that start with a noble goal but emerge as one-size-fits-all dictates. With creativity, we can turn those challenges into opportunities. It’s our job to be a role model in shaping those rules to enhance what makes Carmel extraordinary.

■ This is our moment

The original Bohemian spirit of Carmel came from visionaries asking, “Why do things have to be this way? Why not something bold and different?” Today’s version of that question might be: Why can’t we have both affordable housing and architectural charm? Why can’t tourism support our economy and enhance residents’ quality of life?

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By using our past as our launching pad, not our destination, we have a rare moment to shape a “New Old Carmel” future generations will cherish not just for what we saved, but for how we dared to make it even better.

Last week, a letter to the editor shared a vision for how to improve parking. I’d love to hear your bold ideas, your hopes, and your vision. I’ll be sharing some at an upcoming town hall.

In the meantime, take a walk, talk with your neighbors, and reflect on what this village means to you.

To hear a podcast based on this column go to: cli.re/newoldcarmel.

Dale Byrne is Mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea. His email is dbyrne@cbts.us.

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This Week

Live Music,
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Remembering Garcia in Big Sur, Golden State welcomes back Earle

JUST AS he does each year, mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** pays tribute Friday to the late Grateful Dead frontman Jerry Garcia at the Henry Miller Library in Big Sur. But this year, due to popular demand, he's added a second show on Saturday.

"Get ready for double the magic, fun, and celebration in tribute to the legacy of Jerry Garcia's music," Holodiloff said. "Each night will be broken up into two distinct sets of music — a bluegrass and folky acoustic set, followed by a space jam infused electric set."



Three-time Grammy Award-winning singer and guitarist Steve Earle takes the stage Saturday, 7 p.m., at Golden State Theatre.

He urged everyone not to miss "this once-a-year celebration of one of the greatest musicians of all time."

Holodiloff will be joined by bassist **Dan Robbins**, fiddler **Elijah McCullar**, singer and keyboardist **Juneau**

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

Rowe, singer and bassist **Bill Spencer**, singer **Alina Markina**, and percussionists **Will Bates** and **Shaun Elley**.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the passing of Garcia, a singer and guitarist who co-founded the Grateful Dead, which was inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in 1995.

Both concerts begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$40 and are available at daveholodiloff.com. The Henry Miller Library is at 48603 Highway 1.

■ Half-century of music

A three-time Grammy Award winner, singer and guitarist **Steve Earle** celebrates 50 years in the music business when he takes the stage Saturday, 7 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey. A songwriter's songwriter, Earle has penned hits for many luminaries, including Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson and Emmylou Harris. He's also recorded 22 studio albums, including his most recent, "Jerry Jeff," pays tribute the music of the late Jerry Jeff Walker.

Opening the concert for Earle will be singer and guitarist **Joelton Mayfield**, a Nashville-based alt-country musician.

Tickets start at \$49. The theater is at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070.



Singer and guitarist Jewel Adrianna plays Saturday at Tarpy's in Monterey. The music starts at noon.

■ Composers' forum set for Sunday

The Monterey County Composers' Forum presents new music by local songwriters Sunday, 3 p.m., at Hidden Valley Music Seminars in Carmel Valley.

"Composers presenting new works include **Steve Ettinger**, **Alejandro Gatica**, **Paula Kaiser**, **Carleton**

See MUSIC page 37A

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Sunday night fever at 7D, tours with wine, and news from Rosine’s

IS ANYONE else driven a little crazy by tourists on social media demanding intel on “locals’ secrets” and “hidden gems”? It seems there’s no shortage of foodies wandering like nomads in the desert, convinced that every city’s residents are conspiring to conceal some sort of culinary oasis.

But it would be difficult to hide anything in a place as small as Carmel. And unless one of them is obscured by a vintage VW bus or a giant Duesenberg, all of our

recommend you make those reservations now.

Meanwhile, there’s plenty going on in the local food scene to keep everyone around here well-fed — and that’s no secret.

■ Boogie night

Folktale Winery and Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse owner Greg Ahn will host a “Studio 54-inspired dinner” at his Carmel restaurant featuring multidisciplinary artist Latana on Sunday, Aug. 10, from 6 to 9 p.m., “blending culinary creativity with the bold spirit of disco-era glamour.”

“Guests will step into a world of shimmering lights, expressive fashion and creative freedom as they dine amid original

works by Latana, known for her vivid storytelling,” spokesman Steb Montez said. “Inspired by Latana’s early work, ‘Paris By Day,’ and ‘New York Night,’ as well as the legendary hedonism of Studio 54, the evening will feature a retro multi-course menu paired with signature wines, disco-era cocktails and a soundtrack of classic disco beats.”

Ahn described the night as “a celebration of artistry, individuality, and the joy of self-expression.”

Born in the United States and based in Singapore, Latana started her career as a fashion photographer in New York before becoming “internationally recognized for a multidisciplinary practice that weaves together photography, painting, sculpture, mixed media and digital art,” according to her bio. She also created a documentary series and has written three books.

Bell-bottoms

During the dinner at 7D, guests will enjoy a groovy menu created by chef Raymundo Jimenez Aquino that kicks off with a classic wedge salad paired with a Harvey Wallbanger cocktail — “a true Studio 54 staple” of vodka, Galliano and orange juice. Shrimp cocktail will be complemented by a Merry Widow Fizz, and beef Wellington and lobster tail will be served with mashed potatoes and peas and carrots alongside a Godfather cocktail (Scotch and amaretto). Dinner will wrap up with baked Alaska and piña coladas.



Happy Girl Kitchen in Pacific Grove has been teaching people old-school cooking skills like bread-baking and pickle-making for years. August and September class schedules are on the shop’s website, if you’re interested.

“Guests are encouraged to dress the part — think sequins, bell-bottoms, and high-voltage glam — to fully immerse themselves in the theme,” organizers said.

Tickets are \$150 plus tax and tip, with a discount offered to Folktale wine club members. Call (831) 309-9463 or visit theannexcarmel.com.

■ Vintages to drink or drive

You don’t have to wait for Car Week to see some classic autos. And unlike the shiny grownups’ toys that’ll start show-

See **FOOD** next page



PHOTO/MARLEY ANNE PHOTOGRAPHY LLC

Monterey Touring Vehicles is collaborating with local wineries, offering customers a private tasting tour in a classic vehicle driven by a wine-savvy chauffeur. Twisted Roots Vineyard has some picnic-food add-ons available to go with the package, too.



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Hamachi brokaw avocado, serrano, limoncello granita	Petaluma Bird Roulade agrodolce, castelvetroano olives	Caramelized Stone Fruits & Meyer Lemons feuilletine, white chocolate, sea salt
Stuffed Chicken Wing fennel, honey, piri piri sauce	Garganelli allium soffrito, artichokes	

8205 VALLEY GREENS DRIVE, CARMEL | 831.620.8860

FOOD & WINE

FOOD

From previous page

ing up next week, there are some you can actually take for a spin around the Monterey Peninsula. Monterey Touring Vehicles (2228 Del Monte Ave., Monterey) rents out all kinds of spiffy wheels — a 1964



CRU Winery in the Salinas Valley is gearing up for another clam chowder cook-off. The event's in October, but the deadline to enter is Aug. 19.

Corvette Stingray, a '65 Mustang convertible, a Rolls Royce, several Porsches, and dozens more.

Now you can combine the fun of a vintage car with a wine-savvy chauffeur who'll drive to exclusive tastings downtown and in Carmel Valley. Monterey Touring Vehicles is partnering with Twisted Roots Vineyard — itself a classic, with roots dating to 1918 — as part of "The Scenic Sip Tour."

According to Monterey Touring, for \$650 per couple, customers can be picked up from their home, hotel or other location in the Monterey/Carmel area for an approximately four-hour wine-tasting trip that makes stops at De Tierra, Bernardus, Corral Wine Co., and Twisted Roots, with tasting fees included.

Connections

To add to the experience, Twisted Roots is offering optional charcuterie and cheese boards ranging in price from \$25 a mini-sampler of three cheeses, to \$45 for a picnic board with cheese from Carmel Valley Creamery and Schoch Dairy and crackers, honey and "seasonal accoutrements," and \$95 for the Central Coast Terroir option, "an expanded picnic board" that adds charcuterie, pickles, dried fruits, and nuts.

"Partnering with Monterey Touring Vehicles felt like a natural fit," said Julie Ruiz of Twisted



Rosine's Restaurant in Monterey is well known for its display cases stocked with mile-high cakes, plus cheesecakes and pies. If you can't decide on just one, they've introduced a mix-and-match sampler plate.

Roots Vineyard. "Their appreciation for craftsmanship and local history reflects what we care about most — connecting people to the land and creating meaningful experiences."

Picnic boards can be reserved at least 48 hours in advance through ExploreTock.com, by calling (831) 594-8282, or by emailing info@twistedrootsvineyard.com. For tour information, visit montereytouringvehicles.com/services/private-monterey-wine-tour, or call (831) 337-8800.

■ For the love of cake

This item is dedicated to everyone whose brain has been shorted out by the sheer number of options in the dessert cases at Rosine's Restaurant (434 Alvarado St., Monterey), and the news is so exciting, you might just want to sit down.

They've introduced a cake sampler! But it's not just cake. Jacob, one of the busy spot's assistant managers, said customers can choose 1/2 slice each of three pies, cakes or cheesecakes to make a combo for less than the cost of purchasing them separately.

The crew there is also working on opening a second location at 2160 California Ave. in Sand City. They're calling it Caffé by Rosine's. Set to welcome customers between the first and second week of September, it'll have coffee and espresso with plenty of desserts and lots of grab-and-go food. There will be minimal indoor and outdoor seating, as the idea is for people to take their goodies to go. To keep up with the latest developments, visit rosinesmonterey.com.

■ Get classy

Happy Girl Kitchen at 173 Central Ave. in Pacific Grove has a nifty roster of cooking workshops listed on its website for this month and September. The next one, "Pickling 3 Different Ways," is Aug. 6 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., including a light organic dinner. It features instruction in making fresh refrigerator pickles, fermented pickles, and shelf-stable vinegar-brined pickles that will be hot-water-bath canned. Grandma would be proud.

On Aug. 12, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., you can learn the basics of sourdough bread, from starter to 24-hour rise to baking. In addition to prepping some dough to take with you for the long rise, you'll get to help bake some loaves that were started the day before and take one of those home, as well. Finally, there will be instruction in making pizza, cinnamon rolls and chocolate rolls and even some doughnut holes to enjoy for dessert. A full dinner and dessert follow the class.

On Aug. 22, there will be a course on cooking with tomatoes, and there's a kombucha-making class on Aug. 26. September's workshops include farm-to-table cookery, preserved tomatoes and salsa, and the basics of making fresh cheese. Prices vary by class. For more info and to register, visit happygirlkitchen.com/collections/workshops.

■ Calling all chowderheads

CRU Winery in the Salinas Valley had a great time holding a chowder cook-off last year — so great that it'll be back on Saturday, Oct. 4. But you have to hurry if you want to enter to your recipe. The deadline to send it in is Aug. 19.

Participants must be at least 21 years old and there's a limit of one recipe per entrant. They must be original — no "borrowing" from James Beard or Howard Johnson's (which has a connection to the legendary Jacques Pépin, if you'd care to look it up).

"Chowder recipes will be judged on creativity, overall quality and how well they pair with CRU Winery's variety of charonnays. Two runners-up will be selected and receive a trip to Monterey, California. During their trip, the runners-up will participate in the Chowder Cook-Off at CRU Winery's Santa Lucia Highlands Tasting Room," says the winery's website.

The winners' packages, each valued at around \$2,000, include "a selection of prizes from CRU winery and Real Good Fish," a local fresh seafood company. Dig for more details and submit your recipe at cruwinery.com/contest/#link-popup.

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



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SUNDAY, JULY 27

Carmel Valley: Possession of wine with intent to enjoy: Officials were called to a mirthful scene at Folk Tale Winery on Sunday where a large party enjoying brunch began distributing their wine indiscriminately amongst other tables and bystanders. When asked about their generosity, the large table responded that they had all joined the Folk Tale Wine Club after touring the local vineyard, but did not realize that club benefits included two complimentary glasses *per visit* (after they had been tasting on the tour), so they wanted to "pay it forward." Apparently nervous onlookers were aware of the high-school-aged Monterey Jazz All-Star Band that perform weekly for Folk Tale's Sunday brunch and did not want the merriment to "spill over."

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found wallet at The Annex wine bar (near empty bottle of 2023 'Whole Cluster' Pinot Noir (clearly a first-degree Wine Enthusiast.)

MONDAY, JULY 28

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Officials responded to calls about a large white horse hoofing-it-up on the sidewalk outside Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse. Upon arrival, law enforcement encountered the horse attempting to enter the establishment where a rider was awaiting a photo shoot. An equestrian handler was available as Police investigated, citing Section 21050 of the California Motor Vehicle Code. Employees from Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse confessed that using the horse was to promote their 'Master Makers' dinner series. The Sun. Aug. 10th event features the artist LATANA, whose photographs from her early work 'Paris by Day' and 'New York Night' (including iconic Studio 54 shots) are displayed prominently at 7D. Local authorities were able to rein-in the mini disco stampede, but those interested in glitter, grooves, and glam (or channeling their inner-Bianca, sans-horse) should visit: 7dsteakhouse.com



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MUSIC

From page 34A

Macy, Douglas Ovens, Julie Roseman, Ealaph Tabbaa, Dale Victorine and Rick Yramategui, the group said. “Guest artists include soprano **Laura Schwingle**, dancer **Paula Monteith Haro** and **Youth Music Monterey’s** woodwind trio.”

Tickets are \$20. Hidden Valley is located at 104 West Carmel Valley Rd.

Hitting every note

Performing rock anthems with a classical twist, **The Monterey String Quartet** plays Saturday, 8 p.m., at Folktale Winery in Carmel Valley.

“Guests will step into a sonic experience that bridges centuries,” the winery said, promising a concert that “hits every note — elegant, epic and unexpected.”

Tickets start at \$30. Folktale is at 8940 Carmel Valley Road. folktalewinery.com

Live music July 1-7

Big Sur

Big Sur River Inn — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Saturday at 12:30 p.m.), saxophonist **Roger Eddy** and friends (jazz, Sunday at 1 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Victor Veysey** and bassist **Kemen Waddell** (funk, jazz and country, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 46800 Highway 1.

Fernwood Resort — **Guero** (indie rock, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

Carmel

Barmel — **Jazville** (jazz, Sunday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 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.), **David Morwood Jazz Band** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — 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 **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Tuesday at 5 p.m.). Camino Real and Eighth.

Links Club — **The Edge** (rock, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **Songwriters Showcase** (Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., sign-ups start at 6:30 p.m.), The Carolyn Sills Trio (swing, Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., with swing lessons offered at 6 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

Baja Cantina — **The Money Band** (pop and rock, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 7166 Carmel Valley Road.

Bernardus Lodge — pianist **Mathias Morris** (classical, Friday at 6 p.m.), pianist **TJ Kuenster** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Adrea Castiano** (Sunday at noon). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Edgar’s — **Andrea’s Fault** (jazz and pop, Friday at 5:30 p.m.). At Quail Lodge, 8205 Valley Greens Drive.

Folktale Winery — **The Transducers** (rock and funk, Friday at 4:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Adrea Castiano** (Saturday at 2 p.m. and Thursday at 5 p.m.), **Monterey Jazz Regional All-Star Combos** (Sunday at 11 a.m.), singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Tuesday at 5 p.m.), **Two Rivers** (pop and rock, Wednesday at 5 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

McIntyre Vineyards — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Tamas Marius** (jazz, Sunday at noon). 24 W. Carmel Valley Rd.

Monterey

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

See LIVE next page

Fiddler **Elijah McCullar**, mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** and keyboardist **Juneau Rowe** will all be at the Henry Miller Library in Big Sur this weekend to celebrate the late **Jerry Garcia’s** musical legacy.





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Singer and multi-instrumentalist **Alison Sharino** plays Saturday, 4 p.m. at Asilomar Conference Center’s **Phoebe Social** Hearst Hall in Pacific Grove.



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Photographers explore ‘Midwestern Nights,’ mixed media artist shares ‘Creative Flow’

ARTIST FRANCE Ruhnke unveils her latest creations in “Creative Flow,” which opens at Venture Gallery in Monterey Saturday with a reception at 3 p.m. The show will be on display through September.

The gallery’s Edi Matsumoto described Ruhnke’s work as “ethereal and uplifting, bringing joy and touching emotions.”



Three photographers from Chicago who have spent their careers documenting urban landscapes are featured in a new show at the Center for Photographic Art.

“The exhibit features a wide range of artworks, encompassing contour drawings, oil landscapes, abstract and sculptural shadow boxes showcasing gilded eggshells and vintage maps turned into flowers,” Matsumoto said. “Paper, canvas, fabric, gold leaf, paint, ink, natural flowers, feathers, eggshells, vintage French literature and maps and wire, are used to explore the delicate essence and elegance of nature’s flow, movement, colors, light and transparency.

The gallery is at 260 Alvarado St.

■ Light after dark

Opening with a reception Saturday at 4 p.m., The Center for Photographic Art will showcase three photographers — Robin Bailey, Jim Hill, and Dave Jordano — in a new show, “Midwestern Nights.”

All three come from Chicago and have “spent their careers documenting the urban landscapes of the Plains

States and the Rust Belt, finding beauty, strength, and resilience,” the center said. Each plans to be at the reception.

“This work explores the nocturnal world of Midwest cities and towns,” said executive director Ann Jastrab. “Each artist brings their unique vision to the project, from Jordano’s look at surviving structures in transitional neighborhoods of Detroit, to Hill’s capturing of the essence of small rural towns in Illinois and Iowa, and Bailey’s collection of vernacular scenes of the heartland.”

The show continues through Sept. 7. The gallery is at San Carlos and Ninth.

■ Free on Friday

August 1 will be a First Friday at the Monterey Museum of Art, which means there’s no entry fee.

There will also be free after-hours access at the Museum, offering a chance to “create art inspired by our current exhibitions, and listen to live music,” the museum said. Attendees will be able to enjoy “art, music and community gathering — along with local beverages from the Other Brother Beer Co. and Albatross Ridge, and an acoustic set by jazz guitarist Glenn Bell.”

The museum is located at 559 Pacific St.

It’s also First Friday in Pacific Grove, with downtown shops and galleries staying open until 9 p.m. The Pacific Grove Art Center (568 Lighthouse Ave.) has shows on display by Anastasiya Bachmanova (“Beneath Pacific Skies”) and the Monterey Bay Plein Air Painters Association (“Full Spectrum”) through Aug. 28, along

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

with its annual Tiny Treasures fundraising exhibit. Also, be sure to check out Artisana Gallery (612 Lighthouse Ave.), which represents many local artists, and where there’s always something new and interesting going on.

■ Meet our artists

The Carmel Valley Art Association hosts a meet-and-greet with a handful of its artists Saturday and Sunday — along with a silent auction. “Come out to the valley, meet our artists, see their art and see them create,” suggested the gallery, which is open at 11 a.m. each day.

Four of the gallery’s painters — Thomas Hawley, Judy Verlenden, Sam Johnston and Linda Elling — will share their creative techniques, while Didier Guedj is offering a class in mosaic art. The gallery is located at 8 Del Fino Place. carmelvalleyartassociation.org

LIVE

From previous page

Lighthouse Ave.

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

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

Estéban Restaurant — **The Monterey Jazz All Star Ensemble** (Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.), guitarist **Catherine Broz** (Spanish and classical, Thursday at 5 p.m.). Casa Munras Hotel, 700 Munras Ave.

Hyatt Regency Monterey — singer and guitarist **Fred McCarty** (Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Adrea Castiano** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.

InterContinental Hotel — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.), guitarist **Terrence Farrell** (Latin music, Sunday at 9 a.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 750 Cannery Row.

Melville Tavern — singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Tuesday at 6 p.m.). 484 Washington St.

Midici Pizza — keyboardist **Bill Spencer**, bassist **Tony Bianchini** and drummer **Patrick Tregenza** (Jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer and host **Janice Perl**, keyboardist **Gary Meek**, bassist **Steve Uccello** and drummer **Andy Weis** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

Monterey Plaza Hotel — singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

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

Peter B’s Brewpub — singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). At the Portola Hotel, 2 Portola Plaza.

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

Sly McFly’s — **Scarlet** (pop and rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **The Joint Chiefs** (r&b and funk, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

Tarpy’s Roadhouse — singer and guitarist **Jewel Arianna** (Friday at 5 p.m.). 2999 Highway 68.

■ Pacific Grove

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

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

Lucy’s on Lighthouse — **Kindred Soul** (classic rock, blues and country, Saturday at 2 p.m.), **The Rod Squad**

See TUNES next page

CALENDAR

Aug. 2 – Author Faire featuring 20 local writers set for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Carmel Plaza. Event sponsored by Ami Carmel and Carmel Gives.

Aug. 3 – The Monterey County Composer’s Forum presents “Endless Light” at 3 p.m. Hear new music by **Ettinger, Gatica, Kaiser, Macy, Ovens, Rosemann, Tabbaa, Victorine and Yramategui**. Guest artists include **Laura Schwingle**, soprano and **Paula Haro**, dancer. Hidden Valley Music, 104 West Carmel Valley Road. Admission \$20. Info: macy@macalester.edu

Aug. 5 – Zumba® Mornings in Pacific Grove. Start your day with joyful movement and music! Zumba classes begin Aug. 5 at N Space Dance Studio, 170 Central Ave., Pacific Grove, and continue at 8:30 a.m. every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. **Your first class is FREE when you mention this ad.** More info: ShakeltSenora.com or text Tracy at (919) 995-5574

Thursdays - Live jazz with The David Morwood Jazz Band, 6 to 9 p.m., at Terry’s Restaurant + Lounge, inside Cypress Inn, Lincoln and Seventh, Carmel-by-the-Sea. For more information, please contact Cypress Inn, (831) 624-3871.

Aug. 9 – Monterey Elks Lodge Rummage Sale, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 150 Mar Vista Drive, Monterey. Something for everyone, reusable and repurpose-able items! Open to all. Vendor fees go to charity.

Aug. 10 – 4:00. Cabaret by the Sea Presents “Love is in the Air! A Cabaret Show,” 4 p.m. at Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula (4590 Carmel Valley Road – mouth of Carmel Valley). For information call (831) 601-1462

Aug. 22 – Liz Longley New Life Tour is presented 7:30 p.m. at the Golden Bough Playhouse Founders Theatre, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Tickets available at www.PacRep.org or call (831) 221-0100.

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TUNES

From previous page

(rock and blues, Sunday at 2 p.m.). 1120 Lighthouse Ave.
Julia’s Vegetarian Restaurant — singer and guitarist **Rags Rosenberg** (Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Smith** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea’s Fault Duo** (“folky stuff mixed with surprises,” Monday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Holysea** (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1180 For-

est Ave.
PG’s Meetinghouse — singer and guitarist **Matt Masih** (Friday at 6:30 p.m.), guitarist **Elie Mabanza** (jazz, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), guitarist **Cat Broz** (classical and Spanish, Sunday at 11 a.m.), **Open Mic** (Tuesday at 6 p.m., sign up by 5 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.
Pop & Hiss — singer and guitarist **Cory Hanson** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 215 Forest Ave.

■ Pebble Beach

The Inn at Spanish Bay — **The Al James Duo** (r&b

and rock, Saturday at 2 p.m.). 2700 17 Mile Drive.

■ Seaside

Deja Blue — singer **Yellowman** (reggae, Saturday at 8 p.m.). Tickets start at \$30. 500 Broadway.
Laguna Grande Park — **The Laurie Morvan Band** (rock and blues, Sunday at 1 p.m.). 1249 Canyon Del Rey Blvd.

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

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Continues from previous page

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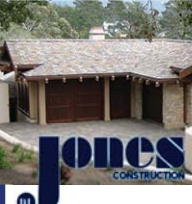
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Police Log: Carmel-by-the-Sea, Oct. 7

Torres St. resident reported a chicken in her yard.

The bird was captured and held at the department until it was returned to the owner.

Lincoln St. resident believes her neighbor is spitting on her car.

Editor—please don't use a disgusting image here this is a family newspaper.

D.D.—how about this? Editor—makes no sense but okay.



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