



PENINSULA BUSINESSES

How did Bruno's become an institution? Why do architects care about furniture? Does chowder need potatoes? ... Inside this week!



The Carmel Pine Cone

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November 14-20, 2025

TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

Council gives up, bans pickleball

By MARY SCHLEY

TIRED OF trying to come up with rules that would make pickleball acceptable to those living near the Forest Hill Park courts and figuring out how to enforce them, the Carmel City Council voted last week to permanently ban the game, essentially putting to rest a now years-old battle between residents and fans.

When they discussed the pickleball issue in October and imposed a temporary ban, councilmembers Hans Buder and Jeff Baron advocated for researching the potential of using soft equipment to help deaden the game's much-maligned noise. At the Nov. 4 meeting, city attorney Brian Pierik presented two potential ordinances to regulate pickleball, including mandating the use of that equipment, which would be provided by the city, but those options failed to garner enthusiasm from the council or the public. The ordinances also limited the days and hours of play beyond the allowed hours for tennis at Forest Hill.

'Very frustrating'

Pickleball player Barbara Lang, who competes nationally, said she no longer plays in Carmel and questioned whether the game could even be called by the same name if quiet equipment were used, since it changes almost every aspect of the sport. She also asked why, if people are playing "librarian ball" and the noise issues are resolved, hours of play should be limited.

Nonetheless, she acknowledged that those who choose to play at Forest Hill under the proposed rules would at least be getting some exercise.

Another resident who plays just for fun said she would no longer bother to do so at Forest Hill, either, if required to use a soft ball. "I don't think you'll have anybody playing there," she said. "I'm a social player, and we're not going to play there. It's very frustrating for us, because we are the only city on the Monterey Peninsula that does not provide free public access for pickleball."

See PICKLEBALL page 13A

Newsom explores 'pro-male' agenda

GOV. GAVIN Newsom is onto something: Boys and young men are struggling, and Democrats have been ignoring it.

In California, men are nearly four times more likely to die by suicide than women, and since 2010, there's been a stark rise in the number of young men taking their own lives. They're also lonely, with nearly 25 percent of men under 30 reporting they have no close friends, a fivefold increase since 1990.

Our boys are also falling behind in school. Males are

Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

three times as likely as females to be expelled, and girls are outperforming boys in nearly every metric of educational outcomes, including grade point averages and graduation rates.

All-girl campuses?

As a result, 60 percent of the college campus landscape in America is female, with women now earning more bachelor's and advanced degrees than their male counterparts.

Women are also out-earning all but the highest echelon of men, with 40 percent of women bringing home more than the male median. Some men are failing to enter the labor market at all. There are 500,000 young Californians ages 16 to 24 who are neither working nor in

See MEN page 14A

Verizon comes out swinging in test of wireless rules

By MARY SCHLEY

FOR THE first time since Carmel adopted new rules for the installation of cell towers, Verizon Wireless last month submitted plans to place new equipment on a utility



RENDERING/VERIZON

A rendering shows the unobtrusive equipment Verizon proposes to mount on top of a power pole on Carmelo Street.

pole on Carmelo Street.

The proposed location is a little more than two blocks from the site over which the city and the telecom giant sued each other in a case that's languishing in federal appeals court.

Working for Verizon, Pete Shubin of Sequoia Deployment Services submitted a description of the planned installation, which calls for a "canister-style antenna" mounted to the top of the pole on the east side of Carmelo south of 10th Avenue "and an equipment shroud to screen the radios and other equipment from view."

Other items mounted lower down would be painted dark brown to match the wood.

"The project is needed to improve network service and fill a service gap in western Carmel-by-the-Sea on the Verizon Wireless network due to rapidly increasing demand for quality wireless telecommunication services," Shubin said in the application.

Must approve?

In an Oct. 14 letter accompanying the documents, attorney Paul Albritton almost immediately launched into why the city must approve the application even though it doesn't comply with requirements to locate the equipment out of the public right of way, outside the single-family-residential district, and at least 5 feet from a home's doors and windows.

"The city must approve these special exceptions because denial of the application would constitute an effective prohibition of service in violation of the federal Telecommunications Act," he wrote. "Further, denial

See VERIZON page 12A

PANETTA NOT HAPPY ABOUT VOTE TO REOPEN GOV'T

By KELLY NIX

WHEN THE House of Representatives voted 222-209 Wednesday night to reopen the government, Carmel Valley Democratic Rep. Jimmy Panetta wasn't one of the "yes" votes. Instead, he joined all but six of his party colleagues in voting to continue the shutdown.

"Even with some positive funding provisions and protections for federal workers in the bill, there were no negotiations, no agreements and no deals with any members of the House of Representatives on this continuing resolution," Panetta said on social media site X.

Most Democrats opposed funding the government

in hopes the GOP would agree to extend Covid-era Obamacare tax credits, which are set to expire at the end of the year. Republicans wanted to reopen the government first, so federal workers could get to work and indigent people wouldn't have an interruption in their food benefits, and try to reach an agreement on the federal budget later.

No promises

Panetta suggested that Republicans won't make good on an assurance to Senate Democrats that they'll hold a subsequent vote on Affordable Care Act tax credits.

There were "absolutely no promises" made by Speaker Mike Johnson about extending the tax credits or protecting healthcare for working families, Panetta said.

See PANETTA page 17A

CLEARANCE ZONES COULD DRAMATICALLY ALTER CARMEL LANDSCAPE

By MARY SCHLEY

WHEN THE state begins requiring property owners in the areas of highest wildfire risk to create 5-foot "ember-resistant" buffers around their homes and buildings, the fundamental look and feel of some parts of Carmel will be significantly altered. California insurance commissioner Ricardo Lara is pushing the board of forestry and fire protection to finish drafting and implement the rules for the area known as "Zone Zero" — and strip local jurisdictions of the ability to bypass the rules — sooner than later.

"Current regulations establish a baseline for wildfire safety, allowing local governments to impose additional requirements based on specific needs," he wrote in an Oct. 15 letter to Terrence O'Brien, chair of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's board. "Allowing local exceptions or misaligned policies undermines our overall goal of wildfire safety by creating

See FIRE SAFETY page 20A

Pfeiffer Beach in prize-winning photo



Captured by Brian Filoteo of Ventura, this striking image of a surfer at Pfeiffer Beach in Big Sur was one of five top prize winners in the 2025 California State Parks Foundation Photo Contest. See page 10A.

Mom says CUSD failed to act on threat against son

By KELLY NIX

THE CARMEL school district is looking into an allegation that one of its varsity football players offered to pay someone to injure a Pacific Grove player ahead of last week’s Shoe Game between the schools,



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Carmel celebrates a 34-24 win over Pacific Grove Saturday in the annual Shoe Game, which was marred this year by an alleged threat against a P.G. player.

the superintendent told The Pine Cone this week.

On Nov. 9, the mother of the P.G. High football player notified Carmel Unified Superintendent Sharon Ofek, head football coach Golden Anderson and principal Elizabeth Duethman of a social media post purportedly made by a Carmel High teenager offering “\$80 to anyone who hurts” the P.G. teen. The Pine Cone is not identifying the students.

“This was not a case of poor sportsmanship,” the mother of the P.G. High student wrote to the CUSD officials. “It was a direct act of targeted harassment and a potential incitement of violence.”

The mom said that that despite a message about the post and a screenshot of it that P.G. High principal Greg O’Meara sent to Carmel Unified officials about two weeks before the Nov. 8 Shoe Game, the Carmel player participated in the game.

“It is shocking and appalling that your administration, after being made aware of this threat, allowed this student athlete to participate in the remainder of the football season,” she wrote.

The screenshot of the post included a photo of the Carmel High student’s face, she added.

The Shoe Game, which was held at the P.G. High stadium last weekend, is a nearly eight-decade-long rivalry between Carmel and P.G. varsity football teams in which the victor takes home a coveted bronze shoe. The game is an exhibition match since Carmel is in a different competing division and is much higher

in statewide rankings than Pacific Grove. Carmel usually wins the annual contest, as it did this year by a score of 34-24.

‘Looking into it’

The Pine Cone asked Ofek Monday if the district had authenticated the Instagram post, what the Carmel football player has said about it, and why, if the teen made the threat, the district allowed him to play in the Shoe Game. Ofek did not address most of the questions but said CUSD is aware of the mother’s concerns and “understands the seriousness of the allegation the

See **THREAT** page 29A



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Police & Sheriff's Log

Thank you for not smoking

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.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to a report of an assault on Nason Road.

Pebble Beach: A water fountain was knocked over in a residential backyard on Ocean Road.

Pebble Beach: Theft of multiple golf carts on Drake Road.

Seaside: Seaside PD received a call about a suspicious person in a parked car on the 1700 block of Mingo Avenue. Officers arrived to find a handgun in plain view. The occupant, a 28-year-old male and a convicted felon, was arrested for the loaded handgun and was found to be in possession of fentanyl during booking at the Seaside jail. He was

later booked at Monterey County Jail.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Peace disturbance at Ocean and Lincoln. This incident involved two subjects who were engaged in a verbal altercation concerning cigarette smoke.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Mental-health commitment for an elderly female at Monte Verde and Fourth.

Pacific Grove: Verbal altercation between two residents on Pine Avenue.

Pacific Grove: A wallet found at Mermaid Avenue and Ocean View Boulevard was turned in to the police department and is being held for safekeeping.

Pacific Grove: Report of a missing juvenile from David Avenue. Juvenile later returned home.

See **POLICE LOG** page 9*RE*
in the Real Estate Section



The gavel falls

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

Oct. 6 — A jury found Salinas resident Jaime Hernandez Pompa, 31, guilty of assault with a deadly weapon, resisting an executive officer with force or violence, willfully harming a police animal, and resisting, obstructing, or delaying a peace officer. The Hon. Judge Rafael Vazquez presided over the five-day trial.

On July 21, 2025, Pompa entered the 7-Eleven store on Sanborn Road in Salinas. He selected a beer from the refrigerator and began drinking it in the store without paying. A cashier attempted to eject Pompa from the store, at which time Pompa swung his closed fist, nearly striking the cashier's face. The cashier retrieved a 2-foot wooden dowel in self-defense. Pompa disarmed the cashier and struck him multiple times in the head with the wooden dowel, knocking him un-

conscious and inflicting a 1-inch laceration to his scalp that required three staples. Pompa then fled the store.

Multiple officers from the Salinas Police Department, including K9 Officer Eric Rodriguez and his K9, Draco, were quickly dispatched to the area to locate and arrest Pompa. Pompa refused to peacefully surrender and challenged the officers to a fight. Rodriguez was forced to release Draco to effectuate Pompa's arrest. Pompa kicked and punched Draco multiple times when he was released. Pompa fought with several officers for multiple minutes before finally surrendering.

The case was investigated by officers Eric Rodriguez, Samantha Garcia, Jared Reyes

See **GAVEL** page 20A

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FPPC probing official’s disclosures

By KELLY NIX

A STATE regulator has opened an investigation into a Pacific Grove City Council member over allegations she failed to report her financial interests, as she’s required to do by law, which includes a property on Forest Avenue that she rents to a popular music venue.

On Oct. 7, the California Fair Political Practices Commission opened a case on businesswoman and council member Tina Rau following several complaints from residents that she did not recuse herself from a March council discussion to consider allowing louder amplified entertainment at downtown establishments, despite owning a building at 215 Forest Ave. that she leases to Pop & Hiss, which regularly hosts live and recorded music. The ordinance passed 4-2.

The FPPC lists the type of violation it’s investigating Rau for as “statements of economic interest non-reporter.” The agency’s examination is likely related to Rau’s declaration on an FPPC transparency form in January that she had “no reportable interests” — meaning, no property, income or investments that could conflict with official decisions she makes on the council.

Violation?

After The Pine Cone covered the reporting lapse, Rau in late March submitted a new FPPC filing conceding her ownership of 215 Forest, which is worth more than \$1 million, and annual rental income from Pop & Hiss of more than \$100,000. She also listed a \$100,000 loan she got from a Pebble Beach resident, her \$1 million-plus home on 19th Street, and various investments.

Rau did not respond to a message Thursday seeking comment, and she was absent at a special closed session council meeting Wednesday night that was set to include discussion of “anticipated litigation.”

The FPPC — which enforces the state’s

Political Reform Act to ensure fair and transparent political practices — opens cases against public officials after determining there is “sufficient evidence” to suggest a violation may have occurred. If the agency finds a violation, it can issue a warning letter, impose a fine, pursue legal action or close a case without any action.

‘Direct financial interests’

An attorney for the city said in July that Rau “is not, and never has been, involved with the operations of the Pop & Hiss business.”

However, a recent anonymous complaint sent to the FPPC claims the city’s portrayal of Rau’s connection to Pop & Hiss contradicts official paperwork for a limited liability company, Lovers Point Properties, Rau established in 2023.

According to documents on file with the California Secretary of State, Rau was the company’s CEO, while her spouse Mary Walker and Pop & Hiss owner Michaela Kuenster were listed as “managers or members” of the LLC.

“This management structure establishes that council member Rau, her spouse and the business operator shared direct financial and decision-making interests in the same entity that owned the property housing Pop & Hiss,” according to the anonymous complaint sent to The Pine Cone.

Kuenster previously told a Pine Cone reporter that Rau is her landlord and is not involved in the business nor would benefit financially from the amplified entertainment ordinance.

The complaint cites Government Code 87103, which states a public official has a “financial interest in any decision that foreseeably affects the official, a member of the official’s immediate family, or a business entity in which the official has an ownership or management role.”

In 2024, Rau amended the LLC document, removing Walker and Kuenster as members of the company.



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The engine’s too big so it’s time to get busy

■ City signs off on fire station contract

By MARY SCHLEY

A FIRE engine set for delivery early next year is too large to fit in the historic Carmel Fire Station, so an architect was hired to draw plans for enlarging it — from the inside — and last week, the city council OK’d a \$164,835 contract with Avila Construction to get the work done.

The vote might feel a bit like déjà vu for those who watched the council’s October meeting, when it approved a \$149,804 agreement with Moya & Sons Builders for the job, because the firm was the lowest bidder. But Moya & Sons failed to sign the contract and submit all the required paperwork within 15 days, according to administrative analyst Tom Ford, rendering the deal void.

“The necessity for prompt action remains critical,” he told the council in his Nov. 4 staff report. “Completing this project prior to the new fire engine delivery in January 2026 is essential to ensure the city can house the new vehicle safely and maintain uninterrupted, accessible and responsive public safety services.”

‘An emergency’

Under the state law, the council can forego formal bidding “when prompt action is required to address a clear and imminent threat to public safety or essential services,” Ford explained, and making the station big enough to accommodate the new rig fits the bill.

Ford said he reached out to Avila after Moya & Sons

See STATION page 20A

MONTEREY NAMES NEW FIRE CHIEF

By MARY SCHLEY

WITH FIRE Chief Andrew Miller’s recent announcement that he’ll retire (again) at the end of the year, the City of Monterey announced he’s being replaced by a department veteran, Assistant Chief Patrick Moore, whose first day in the top job will be Jan. 1, 2026.

Moore, a longtime Pacific Grove resident who holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Sacramento State, joined Monterey Fire in 1997 as a part-time



PHOTO/CITY OF MONTEREY

Patrick Moore, who started his career at Monterey Fire as a part-time inspector in 1997, will become its new chief.

fire inspector and became a full-time firefighter three years later. During the quarter-century that followed, he rose through the ranks of engineer, captain and division chief to become assistant fire chief in 2024.

‘Homegrown leadership’

Moore “has been instrumental in advancing the department’s operational readiness, training programs and community safety initiatives,” according to the city, and his appointment marks the first time since 1980 that the chief’s post is being filled by someone who started his career at Monterey F.D., “marking a return to a longstanding tradition of homegrown leadership.”

See MOORE page 29A



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Suit filed against tasting room landlord

By KELLY NIX

THE OWNER of a Carmel Valley winery alleges in a new court filing that a competing winery operating on the same property is trying to “strangle” her operation to boost its business.

In 2019, Blue Fox Cellars owner Julia Keller leased a space for a tasting room at 25 Pilot Road from then-landlord Walter Georis, who operated Cowgirl Winery. The two businesses shared the property, which Georis was responsible for maintaining.

When Georis retired in 2021, he sold the Pilot Road property to Pelio Estate Wines, started by Les Pelio of Saratoga. A new company, Pilot Road LLC, was established to become the landlord. The new company, Keller claims, was supposed to maintain the lease that Blue Fox Cellars had with Georis.

Sour grapes

But that didn’t happen, and the relationship between Blue Fox and Pelio wines — which is operated by Lindsey and Shelby Pelio — quickly soured, according to a lawsuit Keller filed Oct. 22 in Monterey County Superior Court.

“Whereas Cowgirl Winery had been a helpful and supportive co-tenant to plaintiffs,” according to Keller and her co-plaintiff DrJChardonnay Inc., “defendants quickly began treating plaintiffs’ winery as a threat and a competitor rather than a tenant, to be disadvantaged and reduced in favor of Pelio’s own winery operation.”

Keller contends that the landlord has repeatedly acted to segregate and block her business from using portions of the property she leases.

The landlord tried to “strangle plaintiffs’ business for their own benefit,” according

to the suit, filed for Keller by Watsonville attorney Brian Liddicoat.

She names Pilot Road LLC, Pelio Vineyard and Pelio & Associates as defendants.

However, Les Pelio denied the allegations this week, telling The Pine Cone Wednesday that his attorney is preparing to file a countersuit against Blue Fox Cellars. He called the allegations “patently false.”

“Any accusation that Pelio Estate Vineyards has attempted to adversely impact the business of Blue Fox Cellars is especially misleading,” he said. “We love being part of the Carmel Valley winemaking community and celebrate the successes of all other wineries in the area. Unfortunately, Blue Fox Cellars

does not share our community-based outlook and never wanted Pelio Estate Vineyards to open in the first place.”

He said Blue Fox Cellars has been “disruptive” “and made life as difficult as possible for the landlord and Pelio Estate Vineyards.”

“We have always sought a collaborative and harmonious relationship with Blue Fox Cellars, but that approach has been a one-way street,” Pelio went on to say. “We reject all claims being made by Blue Fox Cellars and will protect the good name that Pelio Estate Vineyards has established in the community.”

‘Dead landscaping’

Keller also maintains that construction by Pelio Vineyards intruded on and caused damage to the property it leases, obstructed vehicular access, parking and deliveries, and interfered with mail delivery.

Pelio has “further refused to conduct basic common-area maintenance to the point that the landscaping died, so as to

See WINERIES page 23A



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Hofsas remodel permits extended

By MARY SCHLEY

WITHOUT DISCUSSION and absent any objections from the public, the Carmel Planning Commission on Wednesday gave the owners of the Hofsas House hotel until July 2027 to get started on their plans to tear it down and replace it.

In July 2024, the Carmel City Council unanimously upheld the planning commission's April 2024 approval of

former councilwoman Carrie Theis' plans to demolish the family's 75-plus-year-old, Bavarian-inspired hotel on San Carlos Street property and build a more contemporary, Craftsman-inspired hotel designed by Eric Miller in its place. The new complex will contain the same number of rooms — 38, plus two apartments — while having fewer stories on the steeply sloping, 36,000-square-foot property, and the plans protect Theis' historic home there.

But work has yet to begin, and in September, attorney Anthony Lombardo sent a letter to the city requesting an extension of the project's various permits "to allow for the completion of several required investigations and pre-construction tasks."

Money and dirt

"Since the project approval, they have continued to make steady progress, including core sampling, geotechnical investigations, preliminary foundation and shoring engineering, completion of the Phase I environmental site assessment, and completion of the pre-demolition asbestos and lead survey," he wrote.

"In parallel with this technical work, the applicant is engaged in the standard process of securing project financing to support the commencement of construction."

Because of all that, Theis wouldn't be able to pull the building permit

See **HOFAS** page 28A



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE, RENDERING (TOP)/ERIC MILLER ARCHITECTS

The Bavarian-inspired Hofsas House (above) is slated to be replaced with a contemporary-style hotel (rendering, top).

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Carmel Point inn seeks rezoning

By CHRIS COUNTS

SURROUNDED BY single-family homes in a residential neighborhood near Carmel Point, Lincoln Green Inn has been hosting guests for 99 years, but somehow, the two lots it's located on are zoned for homes. The inn's owners want to change that designation to "visitor-serving commercial" to reflect the nature of the business, but the task is proving difficult.

The Monterey County Planning Commission discussed ways to accomplish the change at its Nov. 12 meeting. But the commissioners couldn't agree on how to do it, so they continued the hearing to an undetermined date.

No big plans

At the hearing, co-owner Joe Walter told the commission that he and his wife, Kathy Mares, have no major plans to expand the inn — a concern expressed by a neighbor if the zoning is changed. They bought the property in 2012.

"We're honored to have this wonderful asset in the community, and we enjoy maintaining the history it has," Walter told the planning commission. "Our idea is to keep it as it is, with low-rise cottages. We really have no desire to intensify the property other than the possibility of adding a fifth unit into one of the existing structures."

A woman who lives across the street, Lauren Mast, expressed her concerns about the zoning change in a letter to the planning commission. Mast said she appreciates the care the current owners have given the inn, which she called "a valued and attractive part of our neighborhood."

But she's concerned about what might come next.

"A change to a commercial zoning designation could potentially allow expansion of the existing use, an increase in the number of guests, greater parking demand, or future construction that may not fit within the scale and residential feel of our community," she said.

Tangled history

The inn opened in 1926, and there was no zoning in the neighborhood until 1963, when it was zoned for residential use. When the Carmel Area Land Use Plan was adopted in 1982, the property received its first land-use designation, visitor-serving commercial, to reflect its historical and ongoing use as a hotel, but its zoning was deemed density residential.

While county staff is recommending changing the designation to visitor-serving commercial, planning commissioner Martha Diehl responded that the inn "is so far distant from other commercial units that zoning it commercial concerns me."

See REZONING page 23A



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Lincoln Green Inn has been hosting guests since 1926, but it's never been zoned for them.

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Certification for massage practitioners in limbo

By CHRIS COUNTS

FOR DECADES, massage practitioners working in Big Sur and Carmel Valley had their work permits renewed yearly by the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office. But the sheriff’s office hasn’t renewed licenses since June, and several practitioners in recent weeks have told The Pine Cone they are stuck in limbo and worried that they might not be able to keep working. The issue not only affects potentially dozens of employees, but also the resorts or spas that employ them.

Two options weighed

Supervisor Kate Daniels’ chief of staff Kimbley Craig told The Pine Cone that the sheriff’s office has concerns about liability, and in response, county officials are trying to find a solution.

Craig said two options are being weighed. The county could develop an ordinance that satisfies the sheriff’s

concerns about liability, or it could rely on guidelines established by the California Massage Therapy Council, which oversees massage school curriculum throughout the state.

Either choice could create problems for many practitioners. The council requires that all have at least 500 hours of training from an accredited massage school, while for decades, the county has only required that they have 100 hours of training.

If 500 hours of training are required, many practitioners could find themselves out of compliance.

Daniels’ office is trying to craft a solution that makes it possible for practitioners to keep working while they pursue more training.

“Kate’s perspective is, ‘Let’s find some middle ground where we’re not shuttering the doors of local spas and creating chaos.’” said Craig, who learned about the issue

See **MESSAGE** page 12A

PRIZE-WINNING SURF SHOT AT PFEIFFER BEACH

By CHRIS COUNTS

A STUNNING image capturing a surfer against the backdrop of the arch-shaped rock at Pfeiffer Beach in Big Sur was one of five top prize winners in the 2025 California State Parks Foundation Photo Contest. The winners were announced Nov. 6.

The photo, which was taken by Brian Filoteo of Ventura, was the winner of the contest’s Recreation & Activities category. For his efforts, Filoteo will take home a California Explorer Vehicle Day Use Annual Pass, which is valued at nearly \$200. The image will also be featured in California State Parks Foundation’s 2027 calendar.

Filoteo poetically described the scene at Pfeiffer Beach when he snapped the winning image shortly before the sun sank beneath the surf.

“The ocean carves its own doorway through stone, the courage finds a way to slip through,” he wrote. “Each wave crashes like applause for the soul that dares to chase light through chaos and to my lens. At sunset in Big Sur’s keyhole rock, vast nature and spirit collide — wild, fearless and free.”

Thousands submitted

Filoteo’s photo was one of more than 3,600 submitted by “park visitors and photography enthusiasts of all ages.” Other categories included Scenic Landscapes, Wildlife & Nature, People in Parks, and California History. Each photographer was required to submit no more than three photos by Sept. 30, and the work was evaluated for “creativity and originality, technical quality, relevance to the category, emotional impact, storytelling and aesthetic appeal.”

For details about an upcoming photo contest sponsored by California State Parks, visit [photocontest.parks.ca.gov/contest1](http://photocontest.parks.ca.gov/).

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Marina inclusive playground revealed

By CHRIS COUNTS

LESS THAN a year after Tatum’s Treehouse playground opened in Carmel Valley Community Park, the city of Marina unveiled plans Nov. 8 for a 38,000-square-foot “inclusive playground” at Second Avenue and Eighth Street.

Backers say the playground will be one of the largest in the state that welcomes kids with mobility limitations, sensory processing conditions, visual and auditory impairments, developmental and cognitive

delays and other conditions.

“The completion of this playground design marks a major milestone for our city and a proud moment for everyone who helped make it possible,” Marina Mayor Bruce Delgado said.

Before moving forward with a design, city officials reached out to about 1,300 students at three schools in town — Marina Vista, JC Crumpton and Ione Olson — and asked each of them to draw their “dream

See **PLAYGROUND** page 23A



RENDERING/PLAYGROUNDS BY LEATHERS

The City of Marina wants to build an all-inclusive playground at Second Avenue and Eighth Street, and officials shared details of the design at a Reveal Day event Nov. 8.



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VERIZON

From page 1A

would contradict California Public Utilities Code Section 7901, which grants telephone corporations a statewide franchise right to place their equipment along any right of way.”

He said Verizon Wireless can challenge “the requirements to request special exceptions to preempted or excessive standards” and state a “general preference to place wireless facilities in the right of way, regardless of any availability of private property.”

In addition, he argued that the city’s demand for undergrounding equipment is “infeasible,” so the tower and its shroud must be allowed to top the PG&E pole.

‘Effective prohibition’

“A local government’s denial of a personal wireless facility is an ‘effective prohibition’ if the wireless provider can show two things: (1) that it has a ‘significant gap’ in service, and (2) that a proposed facility is the ‘least intrusive means,’ in relation to the land use values embodied in local regulations, to address the gap,” he continued. “If a provider proves both elements, the local government must approve the

facility, even if there is substantial evidence to deny the permit under local land use provisions, which there is not in this case.”

In a recent Friday video, assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson noted the application is the city’s first since its ordinance took effect and said the attorney who helped draft the law has already been retained.

As soon as the paperwork was submitted, the federal government’s “shot clock” was tripped — meaning the city would have 90 days to act or the installation would automatically be approved — but associate planner Jacob Olander sent Shubin a letter declaring the application incomplete and requesting several clarifications and additions.

“That stops the shot clock and resets it, as long as you get that letter out within the first 10 days,” assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson explained. “Alarms go off in this building when we get a wireless application.”

Among other demands, Olander sought payment of a \$10,000 deposit for consultant fees, a better photo simulation, a more thorough radio frequency compliance analysis, updated volume calculations, existing and proposed site plans, and clarification whether a draft form of Albritton’s letter that was also submitted was included in

error or deliberately.

He also asked Shubin to “explain clearly the basis for Verizon’s allegation that a city denial of this small wireless facility application would materially inhibit Verizon’s ability to compete in a fair and balanced legal and regulatory environment.”

On Thursday, Olander said he has not received a response.

Feds at it again

Meanwhile, city administrator Chip Rerig said in his Nov. 7 video that the Federal Communications Commission is reopening rulemaking regarding wireless communications and the rights providers have.

“They are not big fans of local government,” he said, describing the federal agency as a “sycophant” to the telecom industry.

“We joined a conglomerate of all sized cities to help combat that and help with the rulemaking,” he said, and while the

FCC essentially writes its own regulations, “we’re going to be involved in retaining local control over the siting and appearance of wireless facilities” as much as possible.

In July, the agency issued a notice of proposed rulemaking seeking comment on “deregulatory options to encourage providers to build, maintain and upgrade their networks so all consumers and businesses can benefit from technological strides in the communications marketplace, while safeguarding consumers’ access to critical emergency services.”

The proposal includes efforts “to reduce regulatory barriers that prevent much-needed investment in and deployment of next-generation broadband networks,” and seeks “ways to further speed the transition to modern, all-IP networks delivering a plethora of advanced communications services to consumers, while protecting public safety.”

“There are a lot of people who are interested in this,” Rerig said.

MASSAGE

From page 10A

when it came up the Oct. 24 Big Sur Multi-Agency meeting. “A staggered or phased-in approach would be ideal,” Craig said. “We obviously don’t want to cause financial hardship.”

Esalen impacted

No resort is more impacted by the permitting issue than Esalen Institute in Big Sur, which just canceled a fall training course that had 20 students paying as much as \$3,500 apiece.

A pioneer in the therapeutic massage industry, Esalen opened its school in 1983 — the year the sheriff started issuing

massage permits. It’s the only one currently operating in the county.

“One of our students just graduated yesterday,” said Brita Ostrom, the director of Esalen’s massage school. “He’s out of luck — he won’t be able to get a permit. Esalen will have to cancel scheduled trainings until this is resolved.”

The lack of communication over the issue has been frustrating. “I wish the sheriff would make a clear statement,” said Ostrom, who noted that Esalen hires more massage workers than any other business in the county. But she observed that the permitting issue could impact many resorts in Carmel Valley and Big Sur that offers massage.

Ostrom said she agrees with a phased-in approach. “Let’s give people enough time to get their permits,” she added.

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PICKLEBALL

From page 1A

Residents who oppose pickleball were not pleased, either, with reopening the door to the game and potential problems enforcing the rules.

“I wish we could stop kicking this can down the road once and for all and protect the neighbors,” commented Kimberly Edwards. “Your job is not to placate these pickleball enthusiasts. I’m concerned it’s going to reopen the door and we’re going to take 50 steps backward. Can we just stop? And find other places for them to play?”

Former councilwoman Karen Ferlito referred to a recent Washington Post story about the game and its negative effects on living conditions and property values for those nearby.

“I really feel for people who are putting up with this,” she said.

Buder said what Pierik presented wasn’t what he had in mind, so he asked him to rewrite the ordinance to reflect the trial period for soft equipment.

Over it

But councilman Bob Delves was over it. “We need to focus on doing fewer things well,” he said. “Pickleball has created a distraction for the five of us and for the city and expended resources, and we need to just stop.”

“I feel like we’re trying too hard to create a compromise,” agreed councilwoman Alissandra Dramov. “Hats off to Hans for trying to find a way, but I think there are just too many concerns,” and planning yet more meetings on the topic “is just too much.”

“Leave the ordinance in place and

accept that this is not a good location for pickleball,” she said, referring to the temporary ban.

Baron conceded their efforts to find a compromise hadn’t worked.

Rather than leaving the temporary ban in place for an undetermined amount of time, he said, “I would ask that next month



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

The Forest Hill courts were once a busy pickleball spot, but the game’s popularity has resulted in its being banned there.

we bring back an ordinance to prohibit it and be done with it.”

Mayor Dale Byrne said going in that direction makes him “really sad,” but he could see no alternative.

Still passing a law to ban pickleball doesn’t mean that’s the end of it, he said.

“I don’t think we’re giving up as a council,” he said. “We’ll continue to think about it,” including the possibility of building courts somewhere else or installing “pickleball glass” around the Forest Hill courts to help deaden the sound.

Delves made a motion to direct Pierik to return with a pickleball-prohibition ordinance, and it passed unanimously. The approval process will give the game’s defenders a couple more chances to plead their case, since it will require at least two hearings and then another 30 days to take effect. In the meantime, however, the temporary ban remains.



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MEN

From page 1A

school, and most of them are men.

While some may view these as signs of progress in the gender equality movement, the trends also show that something is going wrong for boys.

The fact that so many are giving up shouldn't come as a surprise. For years, the male gender has been indoctrinated with terms like "toxic masculinity" and reminded not to "mansplain" — rather than being shown positive examples of modern masculinity. Up until now, Democrats have left [catering to young men up to Republicans] and are, disinclined to admit gender inequalities can run in both directions.

"We have a crisis in this country of men and boys, and for decades, candidly, we've neglected it, because some of us have been scared to enter into the fray, because somehow we felt it was a zero-sum game," said Newsom in September during the announcement of his California Men's Service Challenge.

Newsom gets involved

The remark came a month after the governor officially "entered the fray" at the end of July, when he issued an executive order to support young men and address rising rates of suicide in California.

The order acknowledges that it is not too late to turn things around. It targets mental health, education and job training, calling on various state agencies to use funding from bonds and other sources to develop programs to improve outcomes for boys.

Many things are happening as a result. A big one is the California's Men's Service Challenge, a call for 10,000 men to serve as role models to boys, as tutors, coaches, teachers and mentors.

"Within organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters, there are now long waiting lists of young boys looking for mentors, and there are not enough men stepping up to serve those roles," said Josh Fryday, who heads up the governor's office of service and community engagement.

When asked how the challenge will be tracked, Fryday said groups like Big Brothers, Mentor California and others will report on increases in numbers of men signing up to serve.

The governor's executive order also aims to get more male teachers in the classroom by directing the California State Board of Education to recruit more of them.

"We are just stuck in this cycle right now where, because there is a lack of men in the classroom, boys then don't see role models that make them think that education is a profession that they can go into, and then they don't go into it," said Fryday.

Seventy-two percent of California's teachers were female in 2024, a number that's been steadily rising for decades.

When asked how the board of education would get more men in the classroom, its deputy policy director provided a vague answer.

"We will be connecting with experts to inform outreach, supports for teacher and counselor candidates and retention strategies for male educators," wrote Rigel Mas-saro in an email.

More male teachers may not be the silver bullet for improved academic outcomes for boys, but having role models in the classroom could be key to improving mental health and encouraging teaching as a career option for boys.

Keeping men engaged

Men have long been struggling in the labor market because of an economic shift away from traditionally male jobs. Labor force participation among men without a college degree is at historic lows, with 1 in 9 men aged 25-54 neither working nor looking for work.

The longer young men stay out of the workforce and school, the worse their economic outcomes. A 2018 Measure of America Study found when teens and young adults [stay engaged with work or school] they earn \$31,000 more per year, are 45 percent more likely to own a home and 42 percent more likely to be employed

in their 30s than those who were disconnected as young people.

So what are the boys doing if they're not working or in school? They're spending a lot of their time online. One 2017 study reported the average non-working man spent 520 hours a year on recreational computer time, most of it playing video games.

But if traditionally male jobs, like manufacturing, have gone away, what should boys be doing? Author and founder of the American Institute of Boys and Men Richard Reeves would like to see a national effort to get men to move into jobs that have historically been female-dominated. He calls them HEAL jobs: health, education, administration, and literacy. It's a catchy acronym that means more men should become nurses, teachers, psychologists and social workers.

In order to get more boys moving on those career paths, they'll need role models and some really good marketing. "If we can do for HEAL what we did for women in STEM, put the same kind of effort in, that would be a huge win," said Reeves.

The social scientist was speaking the podcast, "This is Gavin Newsom," during an episode coordinated to drop the same day Newsom announced his executive order.

Newsom's order is focused on the here

See **STRUGGLE** next page



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Surviving the holidays while grieving

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE LOSS of a loved one is always difficult and profound, and no matter how much time has passed, the holiday season seems to intensify feelings of grief. The nonprofit Carmel Foundation, which serves members age 55 and older, will offer a free talk Nov. 19 on strategies for navigating this sometimes challenging time of year.

“Healing and Moving Through Grief During the Holidays” will take place in Diment Hall at Lincoln and Eighth at 2:30 p.m. and is open to all. It will be presented by the Hospice Giving Foundation and will focus on teaching “ways to heal and move through grief during the holiday season.”

“In this session, experts will talk about grief and loss, focusing on how to manage emotions during this time of year,” organizers said. “The program will also include a therapeutic music session and an arts and craft activity to guide you in remembering the loved ones you are missing.”

The foundation offers low-cost meals and housing, free medical equipment loans, and dozens of social and learning opportunities, including Saturday movies, classes and activities. For more information, visit carmelfoundation.org or call (831) 620-8701.

STRUGGLE

From previous page

and now, and hopefully it helps. It will be interesting to see how he crafts his message to young men when he launches his bid for the presidency in 2028, especially since Democrats’ failure to reach that demographic may be what cost them the 2024 election. That year, White men and men of color under 20 supported President Trump at rates greater than 50 percent.

In the wake of that defeat, Newsom has been doing some soul searching. His first podcast guest was the late conservative activist Charlie Kirk, who told him the failure of liberals to acknowledge the crisis young people, especially young men, were experiencing was a boon for conservatives. “The message that was largely being fed to a lot of young people was, ‘lower your expectations, you’re not going to have the same American Dream that your parents had,’ and we saw this as an opportunity, especially with young men — and again this got ridiculed a lot by the press that, ‘Oh, they are creating this manosphere thing.’ Look they’re half the population and necessary for any society and civilization to succeed,” the 31-year-old father told Newsom in March, six months before he was assassinated.

Kirk was right. American society needs strong men and strong women. Now that Newsom has decided to tackle the issue, it will behoove him to deliver some tangible results before he asks young men for their vote.

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AGENCIES CALLING ON OWNERS TO REGISTER WELLS

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

IN ORDER to “better understand and protect groundwater resources in the Salinas Valley,” the Monterey County Water Resources Agency and Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency have launched a new well registration program.

The program, approved by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors earlier this year, is part of a statewide requirement under California’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which calls for all basins to be monitored to ensure long-term sustainability for all users.

“The new registration effort focuses on smaller residential wells, which are often the most vulnerable during periods of declining groundwater levels,” the Salinas

agency said. “However, all types of wells are encouraged to register.”

Monterey County Water Resources Agency general manager Ara Azhderian said registration will help protect well owners. “By registering wells and understanding their characteristics, we can make sure local management decisions protect these wells and the people who depend on them,” he said.

Residential wells are typically more shallow than agricultural or municipal wells, making them more susceptible to drying up when groundwater levels fall.

The state’s groundwater monitoring program includes well registration, along with groundwater level, pumping and quality monitoring for seawater intrusion.

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Continues on next page

Police Log: March 11, 13

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He wanted it documented.

PANETTA

From page 1A

The congressman went on to say that Democrats cannot rely on stopgap funding resolutions in the Senate without agreements in the House, considering what he called President Donald Trump’s previous attempts to undermine the Affordable Care Act. In 2017, as part of Trump’s Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the House eliminated the financial penalty called for in Obamacare for people without health insurance. The Trump administration also stopped paying subsidies to insurers that helped lower costs for poor enrollees.

“In my limited time in Congress, there have been 29 continuing resolutions for the federal budget, all of which have been the result of direct negotiations, agreements or deals by the Republican and Democratic leadership of the House and the Senate,” Panetta said.

He blasted a provision in the resolution that would give eight GOP senators the power to sue after the Biden administration spied on their phone records following the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol. The move by then-federal

prosecutor Jack Smith outraged Republicans.

“Without any negotiations, agreements, or deals with the House of Representatives, with the provision for a select few senators to line their own pockets with taxpayer funds over litigation on the investigations into the Jan. 6 attack, and without any efforts to protect healthcare or reduce costs for working families, I oppose the continuing resolution,” Panetta said.

Johnson said Wednesday that the House would hold a standalone vote next week to remove the provision, which allows the targeted senators to sue for up to a half-million dollars.

‘Bipartisan solutions’

Last week, Panetta introduced a bill that would prevent future government shutdowns by compelling Congress to stay in Washington D.C. until members reach an agreement on a budget. Companion legislation was introduced in the Senate by GOP Sen. James Lankford.

The congressman also offered a somewhat conciliatory tone.

“Together, we can work to negotiate bipartisan solutions for a responsible federal budget, ensure affordable

and accessible healthcare, stop the tariffs imposed by this administration — which are increasing inflation and hurting our economy — and increase affordable housing so that Congress can reduce costs for working families in California’s 19th Congressional District and across our country.”

While Democrats got some wins in the shutdown, including the guarantee that federal workers who were laid off would be rehired and get back pay, many party bigwigs, including Gov. Gavin Newsom, a likely 2028 presidential hopeful who’s talking tough these days, said Democratic senators joining Republicans amounted to “surrender.”

Have something important to say about a local controversy?

Pine Cone readers would like to hear from you!

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Continues from previous page

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Dia de Los Muertos inspires ‘November Skulls’ exhibit

BY CHRIS COUNTS

PRESENTING A “celebration of life, death and creative expression,” and featuring art inspired by Dia de Los Muertos, Headdress Salon in Monterey presents its 8th annual November Skulls pop-up show Sunday from 2-6 p.m.

“This year’s show promises an immersive experience with new works in reimagined photography, digital illustration and handcrafted shadow boxes,” the salon said. “It builds on the tradition of storytelling, cultural reverence and creative fusion.”

The pieces in the show were created by three locals — Lili Jorge, Michelle Robertson and Rory Glass — and will be for sale. Jorge makes “intricate, sugar-skull-inspired shadow boxes using vintage cigar boxes, multimedia and recycled materials,” while Robertson is a photographer who explores composite photography

and digital storytelling. Glass is a graphic designer and illustrator whose work brings together “digital tools, generative AI, hand lettering and vintage ephemera.”

Besides art, a pop-up vendor, the Side Kitchen, will serve its quesabirrias, tacos,

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

and “crunch wraps.”

Dia de Los Muertos — also known as the Day of the Dead — is a holiday celebrated in Mexico in early November that honors loved ones who have died.

The salon is located at 883 Lighthouse Ave.

■ Painter’s talk set for Dec. 4

A free talk at the Carmel Woman’s Club by painter David Ligare, originally scheduled for November, has been postponed to Dec. 4.

A Carmel Valley resident who loves history, Ligare honors the past by infusing his work with symbols, ideas and meanings that date back thousands of years.

Yet somehow, he also keeps his art fresh and modern.

A show of his work, titled “On Using History,” is on display at Winfield Gallery through Dec. 7.

The Carmel Women’s Club is on San Carlos at Ninth, while Winfield Gallery is on Dolores between Ocean and Seventh.



Titled, “On Using History,” an exhibit of David Ligare’s paintings at Winfield Gallery has been extended through Dec. 7.

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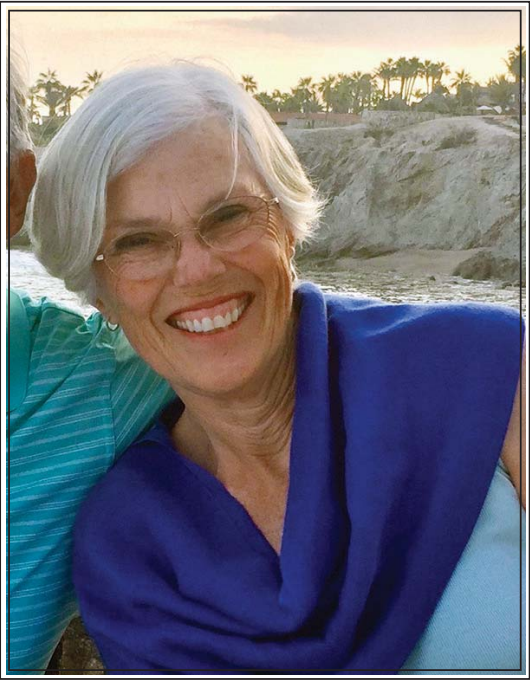
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MARGARET ‘PEGGY’ RYAN

Margaret “Peggy” Ryan, a loving mother, grandmother, wife and friend, passed away peacefully on November 9th at the age of 82. Surrounded by her family, she faced her battle with acute myeloid leukemia with grace and courage.

Born on September 2, 1943, in Los Angeles, Peggy was raised to be selfless and strong. After the early loss of her mother, she and her older siblings helped their father care for the family, an experience that created strong ties among them and instilled a deep sense of compassion. After graduating from the University of California at Santa Barbara, Peggy longed to see the world, becoming a flight attendant for United Airlines. Her kind heart and big smile made friends of strangers. It was at that time she met her husband Don in Chicago to whom she was devoted for 55 years. Being a devout Catholic, the heart of her family and a faithful friend, she never shied away from tough times and always made time to visit sick friends and others in need.

Peggy’s special gift was her genuine love for people. She made lifelong friends while living in Laguna Beach, CA, Farmington Hills, MI and Ridgefield, CT. It was in Ridgefield where she lived for more than 20 years with her husband and their three children. She enjoyed the company of friends and strangers alike, often embarrassing her children by asking for directions or stopping by the side of the road to dig up interesting plants. During her time in Pebble Beach, Peggy enjoyed the companionship of her book club friends and wished she had been able to spend more time with the hiking group that graciously welcomed her in.

She found joy in serving others by volunteering with Nancy’s Project and helping at the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen. Peggy found peace and purpose gardening in her yard and picking strawberries or exploring her worm farm with her grandchildren. She was a proud member of her local garden club and volunteered at the Carmel Mission.

Above all, her family was the center of her universe. She dedicated her life to raising her children, always encouraging and supporting their interests and caring for her husband in his final years. She made their home a gathering place for kids in the neighborhood whether it was for CCD, children’s plays, sledding in wintertime, or playing kick the can during summers. She sacrificed many weekends driving back and forth to Vermont, so her son could pursue his love of skiing. She is survived by her children, Christy, Brent and Kim; six cherished grandchildren, Chloe, Johan, Saskia, Sabrina, Sebastian and Alexander; and her brother and sisters, Ken, Cathy and Irene. She joins her husband Don, her parents, Richard and Margaret, her stepmother Alice, her sisters Mary Helen and Anita.

**A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m.
November 24th at Carmel Mission Basilica.**

**In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation
to Nancy’s Project.**

FIRE SAFETY

From page 1A

confusion for homeowners and a fragmented set of rules that complicate the work of our firefighters. Wildfires do not recognize city or county boundaries; our strength lies in our unity.”

The requirements for Zone Zero called for in a 2020 Assembly Bill were supposed to be drafted to take effect by Jan. 1, 2023, but they weren’t. After the Los Angeles fires earlier this year, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order directing the state fire board to expedite the adoption of Zone Zero regulations for “the elimination of materials in the ember-resistant zone that would likely be ignited by embers,” in order to have the rules in place by the end of the year.

Once they take effect, they’ll apply to new construction immediately, while other properties will have three years to comply. According to the Cal Fire map adopted by the Carmel City Council in June, the city contains 278 acres of very high fire-hazard severity zone, where Zone Zero rules will apply.

Stories of homeowners in Carmel and other parts of the Monterey Peninsula losing their insurance coverage have grown increasingly common. Lara and Newsom argue that forcing people to clear buffers around their buildings will encourage companies to do more business in the state.

In his Feb. 6 order, Newsom wrote, “Assembly Bill No. 3074 requires promulgation of regulations to establish an ember-resistant ‘Zone Zero’ within 5 feet of structures in

certain fire severity zones, and insurance companies may factor wildfire mitigations, such as Zone Zero clearance, into insurance rates.”

He mandated the state fire board to hold workshops and gather information in advance of the Dec. 31 deadline, and last month, Lara applied further pressure.

“Finalizing consistent statewide ‘Zone Zero’ regulations will bolster my efforts to ensure property insurance remains available throughout the state while qualifying more individuals for insurance discounts,” he said in his letter to the board. “With an increasing number of insurance companies returning to the market under my Sustainable Insurance Strategy, we need a ‘whole-of-government’ approach to continue our progress.”

Healthy plants

In a Nov. 3 story questioning the wisdom of the directive, the L.A. Times reported the only workshop to be held in Southern California garnered more than five hours of public comment — including from officials representing cities in the area — with much of it objecting to the provisions of Zone Zero. The paper also reported the state fire board has received more than 4,000 comment letters, many of them opposed to the new rules.

While many property owners might be OK with moving stacks of wood, wood chips, mulch and combustible patio furniture 5 feet away from their homes to reduce the risk of a wildfire spreading to structures, the anticipated requirement to remove green, well-irrigated plants has provoked pushback.

“Some fire officials and experts argue residents should remove all vegetation in the zone, citing examples of

homes burning after plants ignited,” staff writer Noah Haggerty wrote. “Others say the board should continue to allow well-watered vegetation in Zone Zero, pointing to counterexamples where plants seemed to block embers from reaching a home or the water stored within them seemed to reduce the intensity of a burn.”

The state’s Zone Zero committee has been holding workshops monthly since March, with its most recent taking place last week, and presented options for regulating

Continues next page

STATION

From page 6A

failed to respond, and the contractor confirmed it could get the job done in time. The firm will be executing plans prepared by WRD Architects to downsize office space, remove partition walls to create a room for firefighters’ gear, improve framing and siding, and adjust mechanical, electrical and heating systems, as well as finish ceiling, drywall and other interior surfaces. The scope of work includes using the WRD plans, hazard abatement as described by a consultant, and paying prevailing wages.

“They’re really good,” Ford told the council “We’ve worked with them before.”

The agreement includes Avila’s bid of \$143,335.26 plus a 15 percent contingency. No one from the public commented on the contract, and the council didn’t discuss it much, either, before unanimously approving it.

GAVEL

From page 4A

and Felipe Davila. Vazquez will sentence Pompa on Dec. 4. He faces up to five years and eight months in prison.

Oct. 10 — Hon. Stephanie Hulseby sentenced John Lydon, 52, to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the murder of Son Kim Tran.

On May 16, 2025, John Lydon pleaded to the murder of Tran and admitted a special allegation that he had previously been convicted of murder.

On Jan. 6, 2024, Lydon entered and remained in Tran’s cell for over an hour before exiting. Shortly thereafter, Tran was discovered deceased, suffering from more than 70 stab wounds. Prior to this homicide, Lydon had been convicted of murdering two other inmates, in 2004 and 2010.

This case was investigated by the Investigative Services Unit at Salinas Valley State Prison.



Peggy "DeeDee" Etherton Jonas Baronian

November 27, 1928 – October 22, 2025

Peggy "DeeDee" Etherton Jonas Baronian, 96, passed away peacefully on October 22, 2025, at her Carmel Valley home, surrounded by family and love.

Born in Oakland, California, on November 27, 1928, to Margaret "Mimi" Knoff Etherton and Ernest "Papa" Andrew Etherton, DeeDee grew up in Alameda and graduated as valedictorian of Alameda High School's Class of 1947. She attended San Jose State College and later earned her degree from California State University, Hayward (East Bay). A proud member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, she formed lifelong friendships and was known for her grace, humor, and curiosity.

In 1950, DeeDee married Leslie "Les" Jonas. Together, they raised five children: Mark, Pamela, James, Suzanne, and Paul, in the Bay Area. She created a loving home filled with laughter, encouragement, and compassion. Les passed away in their Arizona home after 43 wonderful years of marriage. DeeDee then returned to California, settling in Carmel Valley, where she enjoyed spending time with her children, parents, and sister, freely enjoying the beauty of her coastal surroundings.

In 2003, she married her childhood classmate and kindergarten friend, Robert "Bob" Baronian, 67 years after they first met. Their minister joked, "The Bible says love is patient, but this is ridiculous."

DeeDee was preceded in death by her parents, Mimi and Papa; her husbands, Les and Bob; her children, Pamela (1971) and Mark (2024). She is survived by her children, James Adam Jonas, Suzanne Marie Jonas, and Paul Andrew Jonas, as well as her grandchildren and great grandchildren, extended family, and dear friends, all of whom will remember her for her kindness, humor, and the wisdom she shared so freely. A gathering of family and close friends will celebrate her life at her Carmel Valley home on December 6, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Peggy "DeeDee" Etherton Jonas Baronian lived a life guided by love; patient, enduring, and eternal.



SALLY EASTHAM

1947 - 2025

Sally Eastham (formerly Sally McCarthy) of Monterey, California, a devoted mother, grandmother, teacher and ocean lover, passed away surrounded by family and friends on Nov. 6, 2025. Born in Marysville, California, she lived a life defined by curiosity, compassion and courage.



A graduate of UC Davis, she began her life of purpose in Oroville, California, where she married, raised her two children, Stewart Eastham and Abbey Eastham, and discovered her calling as a teacher. For more than 30 years, she shaped young minds in classrooms throughout Oroville and Monterey County, leaving behind generations of students inspired by her kindness, patience and belief in their potential.

Her greatest pride and joy was her family, and her beloved grandson, Joe Eastham. She poured her heart into motherhood and grandmotherhood, showing up with gentleness, kindness and unwavering support.

A passionate lover of the ocean, she followed her dream and relocated to Monterey where she built a life grounded in service and community. For decades, she volunteered at the Monterey Bay Aquarium as well as several other local organizations, sharing her love for marine life, conservation and nature.

Her adventurous spirit was legendary. She skydived for her 50th birthday, climbed the cables up Half Dome at 60, and white-water rafted for her 70th. She traveled to Antarctica to watch whales, journeyed across Africa on a safari, dove into family roots in Ireland, completed the Big Sur 21-miler race, and road-tripped/camped across the United States to Eastern Canada with her grandson. She believed life was meant to be lived fully, and she did so with courage, joy and wonder.

At home, she was equally extraordinary. She was a listener and a quiet hero in her family and community, known for her selflessness, humility and the way she always made time for others. She leaves behind a legacy of kindness, adventure and compassion. She will be forever missed by her children Stewart and Abbey, and Abbey's wife Cara Dinote, her grandson Joe, her sister Merle Nunes, her extended family, dear friends, former students, and all whose lives were brightened by her grace. She is preceded in death by her parents, Kempton and Lorraine McCarthy.

Per her request, no service will be held, but in her memory, we hope you take time to pause by the ocean, lend a hand to someone who needs it, and say yes to the adventure life offers. That is how she lived, and that is how she would want us to carry her forward.



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From previous page

plants in the buffer area that ranged from a near ban — with a few plants allowed — to more lenient measures. Trees, meanwhile, might have to be pruned so no part comes within the 5-foot zone, or they could be restricted only within 10 feet of chimneys, as is already required.

It also presented a revised timeline that includes putting emergency measures in place. The committee would direct state staff to prepare documents at its Dec. 10 meeting, with the full board voting on the “emergency rulemaking package” Jan. 14, 2026. The emergency rules would take effect in early February following a comment period, while



MARY ANN SMITH

Nov. 16, 1931 ♦ Oct. 29, 2025

Mary Ann Smith (Marie), 93, of Monterey, California, passed away on Oct. 29, 2025, surrounded by her family.

Born on Nov. 16, 1931, and raised in Monterey, Marie devoted herself to her family and her many passions, taking pride in anything she did. She loved cooking and baking — her cannolis were a true masterpiece. She also enjoyed fishing the Monterey Bay and working on her home with her own two hands. Her family will also forever cherish her skill for sewing. She made each of their beautiful Christmas stockings by hand. Some of her creativity was expressed through her clothing and jewelry shop — Don Marie’s Fashions — owned and operated by her for several years following her years working as a waitress.

Marie had a sharp wit and a gift for one-liners that could fill a room with laughter. Her humor, quick comebacks and playful spirit made every family gathering brighter. She also loved to dance, and even in her last days could still be found busting a move.

Christmas was Marie’s favorite time of year, and no one celebrated it quite like she did. Her Christmas tree was always a masterpiece — every ornament perfectly placed, thousands of lights sparkling bright. She decorated her home so beautifully that people would pause just to take it all in.

She is survived by her six children — Marie Elena Evans (David, deceased), Sally Balesteri, Linda Balesteri Davis, Peter Balesteri (Kelly), Teri Carpenter, and John Balesteri — as well as 10 grandchildren — Toby Garcia, Sidra Davi (Peter), Jacob Evans (Kimmie), Leah Haag (Tim), Jenni Thompson (Lance), Amanda Legare, Brittany Judkins (Pablo), Madison Peregrina (Tobin), Courtney Carpenter, and Auburn Carpenter. She is also survived by her brother, Frank Conte, many great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Marie is preceded in death by her parents — Sergio and Jennie Conte — and her brother — Fred Conte. The family takes comfort in knowing she is now reunited with loved ones.

In her later years, Marie struggled with dementia and her family would like to express their gratitude to her devoted caregivers and hospice nurses.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Nov. 21, 2025, at San Carlos Cathedral in Monterey.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

the state board would continue with the more time-intensive process of making the regulations permanent.

Complicating matters further in Carmel, the standard side-yard setback is 3 feet, and wood fences separate many of the residences. Discussions of the impending rules during the past six months have had public officials and residents decrying heavy-handed state mandates and demanding the right to local control — and predicting that the regulations will have the town looking more like Phoenix than Carmel. In June, the council discussed forming a task force to somehow tailor the rules to fit the city.

“In my own case, strict enforcement could require removing much of my wooden grape-stake fencing and custom wood gates,” Mayor Dale Byrne said. “While my home is stucco, my neighbor’s house has wood siding — a common situation in Carmel. Since board-and-batten construction has been a defining element of our town’s character from the start, these rules could have a real aesthetic impact on the village.”

Nonetheless, depending on how Zone Zero is enforced and its efficacy, he speculated “there will be broad support for compliance within two to three years.”

Beverly Reeves Politzer

1927-2025

Beverly Reeves Politzer died Saturday, October 18, 2025 at the age of 98. She was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Wiley Reeves; the wife of the Reverend Jerome F. Politzer, Sr; the mother of Ann Politzer, Jerome F. Politzer, Jr, and Mary Politzer Pradier and the grandmother of Amelia and William Rosenberg, Jerome F. Politzer III and Paul, Jean and Thomas Pradier.

Private funeral services were held at San Carlos Cemetery, Monterey, California.

Any memorial contributions may be made to St. John’s Chapel, Monterey or the Salvation Army, Salinas.



ELIZABETH MEYERINK “LIZ” LORD

Pebble Beach, CA

October 24, 1937 - October 25, 2025

Elizabeth Meyerink Lord, known to her many friends as “Liz”, passed away one day after her 88th birthday following a brief illness. Liz was a globe-trotter from the start. She was born in the city of Baguio on the island of Luzon in the Philippines as her parents fled the Japanese invasion of Shanghai. Following World War II, Liz returned to Shanghai as her father resumed his import/export business. She lived there until the Communist takeover in 1949 when they left for good and returned to San Francisco where Liz attended and graduated from the Katherine Delmar Burke School. She then went to Sweet Briar College in Virginia (her mother was a proud Southerner from nearby Richmond) where she graduated in 1959 with a degree in Art History. While in college Liz went to a Stanford summer school session in Guadalajara, Mexico where she met a young Charles “Skip” Lord. Coincidentally, Skip’s sister was two years behind Liz at Sweet Briar and the two California girls were paired by the school as “big sister/little sister”. This seems to have helped nourish the relationship with Skip because they were married June 11, 1960 at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in San Mateo.



Liz and Skip spent their first four years in Hollister, California where Skip began his career as an aerospace engineer and their two children, Kathy and Chris, were born in 1962 and 1963. However, every possible weekend included a trip to the beautiful Monterey Peninsula and in 1964 they bought a house on Highway 1 near Carmel High School. Skip’s work then took them to Corona del Mar for two years and Los Altos for a year before allowing them the opportunity to move back to the Monterey Peninsula in 1969 and they never left. Liz was an active and devoted wife and mother but also a talented artist so she continued taking art classes, becoming quite proficient. When Kathy and Chris left the nest she decided that her next calling was Interior Design and attended all available classes at Monterey Peninsula College (MPC), graduating in 1983. She gained valuable experience working with local designers and in 1989 was recognized by MPC for outstanding professional achievement by a former student. The California Council for Interior Design awarded her the status of Certified Interior Designer #1664 in 1993 and that same year she won the Monterey Bay Magazine Design ‘93 award for Best Residential Bedroom. She became a professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) in 1994 and began thirty years as House of Lords Interiors, which included a wide variety of local homes plus one in Paris, France.

She was a charter member (1987) of the Church In The Forest in Pebble Beach and a staunch supporter of the Monterey Symphony. She belonged to the Casa Abrego Club, the Beach and Tennis Club, the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, the Junior League of the Monterey Peninsula, the Carmel Woman’s Club, the Carmel Foundation and the Stillwater Yacht Club. She was also a long-time bell-ringer for the Salvation Army and for many years sponsored a table at their annual Red Kettle Kickoff.

She loved family gatherings (especially Christmas), dogs, walks on Carmel Beach and Stillwater Cove, Haagen-Dazs coffee chip ice cream, tennis, good books and movies, skiing, mushrooms, lattes at Carmel Belle and The Bookworks, animal documentaries (Big Cats most recently), traveling anywhere and window shopping everywhere.

A stranger was simply a friend she hadn’t yet met. She was a vibrant, active part of the Monterey Peninsula for sixty years and will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her. She is survived by her devoted husband of sixty-five years Charles “Skip” Lord of Pebble Beach, her daughter and son-in-law Kathryn and Kurt Mahosky of Silverton, Oregon, her son and daughter-in-law Christopher and Stephanie Lord of Honolulu, Hawaii, plus grandsons Robert Perry, Kai Lord and Asher Lord.

There will be a celebration of life Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 11:00 AM in the Church In The Forest at Stevenson School in Pebble Beach followed by a reception in Douglas Hall, also at the school.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Operation Smile or Salvation Army of the Monterey Peninsula.

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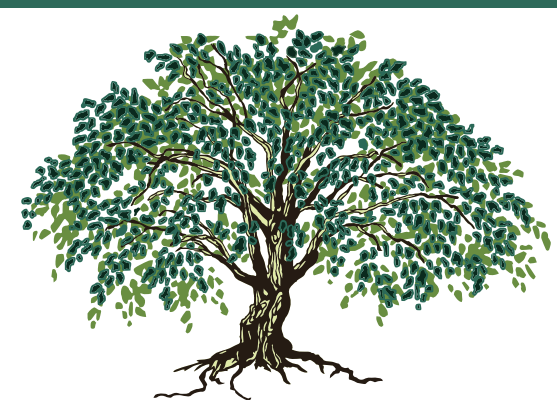


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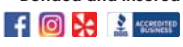
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WINERIES

From page 7A

make plaintiff’s customer areas and entranceways appear derelict and dirty and induce walk-in customers to come to defendants’ winery instead,” the suit says.

She said Pelio’s actions and inactions have interfered with her right to use the leased space.

“The effects of their substantial interference were beyond mere annoyance and significantly diminished plaintiffs’ use of enjoyment of its leasehold,” the lawsuit said.

Keller accuses Pelio of breach of contract, trespass, private nuisance, negligence, unlawful business practices and other causes of action.

She’s seeking monetary damages of no less than \$250,000, a court order compelling Pelio to carry out its obligations per the lease and to cease interfering with its rights, and for punitive damages, which can be awarded in cases involving malice or fraud.

The case is set for a February 2026 court hearing in a Monterey courtroom.

REZONING

From page 9A

Diehl suggested creating a special treatment area instead. She asked staff to come up with “a more nuanced site-specific approach that would be along the lines of a special treatment area” that would “allow the owners a reasonable array of options to use the property, but which doesn’t introduce more incompatible use than it already does.”

No punting

Diehl urged her colleagues to find a solution rather than “punting” the issue up to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. “I believe it’s our job to do the heavy lifting,” she added.

Commissioner Christine Shaw agreed. “I would rather have any loose ends or potential cracks closed at this level,” Shaw said. “Future owners might not have the same vision for that property.”

A bed and breakfast known for its English gardens, the inn is located at 26208 Carmelo St. Four of its five luxury

cottages are named after characters in Robin Hood, from English folklore.

The planning commission voted 9-0 to approve the continuation, with planning commissioner Paul Getzelman absent.

PLAYGROUND

From page 11A

playground.” The results helped shape the design that was revealed last Saturday.

“The children created imaginative and inspiring drawings that reflected their hopes for a space where everyone can play together,” the city reported.

Plans for the playground were previously approved by the Marina City Council and the Marina recreation & Cultural Services Commission. Construction is set to start in 2026 and will require a small army of volunteers.

“Under the supervision of construction consultants, hundreds of volunteers will work side by side to build the playground from the ground up,” the city added.

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Padres and Pirates make postseason, could collide in semifinal round

THE CARMEL Padres graduated 17 players from a football team that achieved perfection in 2024 — a 15-0 record that included championships in the Pacific Coast Athletic League Gabilan Division, Division 3 of the Central Coast Section and Division 5AA of Northern California and the state.

This year’s squad, heavy with first-year starters, qualified for the postseason for the third straight year — and

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

for the fifth time in seven seasons — despite a gauntlet that included five other playoff-bound opponents, and a strength-of-schedule ranking that was 13th among 94 CCS football schools.

The Stevenson Pirates, runners-up in the Mission Division South, are in CCS for the third time in five years, and the second year in a row, on the strength of a record-shattering passing game that has produced 4,660 yards, 55 touchdowns, and only nine interceptions in the past two seasons.

Despite playing in two dramatically different PCAL divisions during the regular season, both teams landed in



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Carmel quarterback Kaleb Herro looks for a receiver during the Padres’ victory over Pacific Grove in the Shoe Game. Carmel will play Sacred Heart at 7 p.m. Friday in their CCS opener at Monterey Peninsula College.

the CCS Division 3 bracket for the playoffs.

Carmel (6-4), seeded No. 2, will open against seventh-seeded Sacred Heart Prep (5-5) at 7 p.m. on Friday at Monterey Peninsula College. Stevenson (9-1), seeded No. 6, will travel Friday to play No. 3 Menlo-Atherton (4-6), also a 7 p.m. kickoff.

If both win, they’ll collide in the semifinal round on Nov. 21 or 22 at a site to be determined — either MPC or Carmel High. The Division 3 championship game will be played Nov. 28 or 29, hosted by the highest-seeded team.

On the opposite side of the bracket, No. 1 Woodside (10-0), plays at home against No. 8 San Mateo (7-3), and No. 4 Live Oak (8-2) hosts No. 5 King City (9-1), the Mission South champ — also Friday night games.

Padres met the challenge

“If somebody had predicted we’d finish the regular season as one of the top four teams in the Gabilan Division and be an automatic qualifier for the playoffs, I would have said that sounds like a pretty good deal,” said Carmel coach Golden Anderson.

“We took on an extremely tough division with a lot of new faces this year. We were the only team in the league that had to play weeks in a row without a bye,” Anderson said. “To withstand all of that, and come out of it pretty healthy was a pretty great thing to be a part of, and I’m really proud of these guys.”

The Padres’ first five weeks included a 49-0 loss to Soquel (9-1), ranked No. 4 in CCS on Aug. 30, a disappointing 49-26 setback at North Salinas the following week, and a 57-21 beating from Gabilan champ Palma (10-0, No. 5 in CCS) on Oct. 4. Their other defeat, 49-24 at Salinas (No. 8 in CCS) was two weeks ago.

The Gabilan’s top three teams landed together in the Open/D1 bracket: No. 4 Palma (10-0) hosts No. 5 Soquel (9-1) at 7 p.m. Friday at Rabobank Stadium in Salinas, and No. 8 Salinas (7-3) travels to play No. 1 Archbishop Riordan (10-0) at 1 p.m. Saturday.

The CHS offense was keyed by senior quarterback Kaleb Herro, who passed for 1,695 yards and 18 TDs as a first-year starter, with receivers Dean Briant (600 yards) and Matt Maxon (496 yards) catching 40 passes apiece, each scoring six TDs.

The centerpiece of the ground attack was Connor Reilly, who ran for 557 yards in an offense that averaged



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

A record-setting year by quarterback Fin Mink and solid performances by players like running back Tono Borgomini led Stevenson to a 9-1 season and Friday’s CCS D3 playoff opener at Menlo-Atherton.

more than 350 yards per game behind center Jack Benson, guards Simon Papazian and Carl Weigel, and tackles Robert Beverly and Don Desai.

Defensive luminaries have included Kanan Seeklander and Skyler Brown, both of whom played multiple positions.

Briant, the kicker, has been perfect on 35 extra points this year and had three successful onside kicks in Carmel’s 42-28 win over Alisal.

Stevenson’s offense produced 358 points (35.8 per game) this year, the most of any non-Gabilan Division school, and allowed just 129 (12.9), fewer than any PCAL team except Mission South rival King City, which surrendered 96.

2,407 yards passing

Senior quarterback Fin Mink rewrote the Pirates’ record book, accounting for 198 points with 33 touchdown passes, completing 163 of 220 passes (74.1 percent) for 2,407 yards. He was intercepted just four times.

His primary receivers were Caden Olson, who scored 13 TDs on 70 receptions, amassing 1,066 yards, and Grady Roth, who caught 35 for 530 yards, seven for TDs.

I’m been blown away by Fin’s development over four years,” said Coach Kyle Cassamas of his two-year starter,

Continues next page

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From previous page

who threw for 2,260 yards and 21 TDs with five interceptions as a junior.

“It’s been amazing to watch all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes — the Zoom meetings, the texts, the FaceTimes, just going over something we see,” said the coach. “He’s really a special, unique talent, and he really wants to play college football next year.”

Fellow seniors Olson and Roth, who caught 13 passes for 130 yards and two TDs in the season finale at King City, also have made leaps, both physically and as team leaders, Cassamas said.

Talented offensive line

Strong pass protection has been provided by tackles Tucker Biggs and Alex Wang, guards Tucker Green, Jacob Wall and Ben Sacrament, and center Hunter Guerrero, along with running back Tono Borgomini, who also ran for more than 700 yards.

Standouts in an ensemble defense included defensive end Cody Thacher, outside linebacker Brooks Andrade, defensive back Barak De La Rosa, and versatile senior Logan Lund, who triple-dipped this season as a cornerback, wide receiver, and special teams player.

Stevenson golfers win Norcals

Stevenson brought home the first Northern California girls golf championship in Monterey County history Monday, besting second-place Granite Bay by 9 strokes at Berkeley Country Club in El Cerrito.

The resounding victory qualified the Pirates as a team for Monday’s CIF State Championships, which will be played at Poppy Hills Golf Course in Pebble Beach.

Lucinda Wu led the Pirates’ ensemble effort, carding a 2-over-par score of 74 to tie for eighth place in the 86-player field, six behind individual champion Lily Peng

of Carondelet, who came in with 4-under-par 68 — one shot better than runner-up Erin Lee of Dougherty Valley.

The next-best Monterey County finisher, Santa Catalina’s Candy Liu, qualified for the state meet as an individual with a plus-3 75.

The Pirates’ 380-stroke team effort (plus-20) also included a plus-3 75 by Isabella Sun (who tied for 11th), plus-4 76 by Ashley Gettleman (T-16), plus-5 77 by Allison Chan (T-20), plus-6 78 by Coco He (T-24) and plus-13 85 by Melinda Ma (T-36).

Stevenson won Monterey County’s first boys state championship last spring at Poppy Hills.

CCS Updates

Boys water polo: Fifth-seeded Stevenson defeated PCAL champion Carmel 15-9, Nov. 8 in the D2 quarterfinals at Aptos High on the strength of a seven-goal eruption by freshman Brooks Honegger, exceptional defense by senior Laird Welch, and 13 saves, three steals, and two assists from goalie Ze’ Franz.

The triumph sent the Pirates into a semifinal showdown with top-seeded Har-ker on Thursday.

Girls water polo: No. 2 Stevenson routed No. 7 Saratoga 22-3 in its CCS D2 opener, led by 10 goals from junior Charlotte Morrow.

The Pirates, NorCal finalists a year ago, played No. 3 St. Ignatius in Wednesday’s semifinals, while No. 1 Santa Cruz battled No. 4 Willow Glen on the other side of the bracket. The championship game will be played Saturday at Sacred Heart Prep.

Flag football: No. 2 Carmel was eliminated from the D3 semifinals on Nov. 5 with a 21-13 loss to No. 3 Woodside Priory School at Carmel High. Highlights for the Padres (12-6) included a 60-yard touch-down reception for Delilah Herro and a 30-yarder for Anna Rasmussen.

Priory defeated No. 1 Presentation 21-20 in the championship game on Nov. 8.

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CLASSIC ROMANCE IN A MODERN AGE

NOT ONLY had Cheryl Sharp left the dating pool, but after 30 years, it was a miracle she even remembered how to swim in it. When an early marriage went the way of many a union between high school sweethearts, Sharp became a working single mother with two daughters to raise. And that, she said, was her whole identity.

Once the kids were grown, and follow-



PHOTO/MANNY ESPINOZA

Dating coach and strategist Cheryl Sharp has taken what she’s learned from years of business ownership to the dating world.

ing a decades-long successful real estate career, however, Sharp was ready to take another chance on love. At first, she said, “I didn’t want to get married, but I didn’t want to go into a nunnery, either.”

Applying the interpersonal skills she’d learned in real estate to potential dating partners, Sharp discovered many similarities. More to the point, properly adapted, the approaches worked. She’s been married for five years and has shared her insights via a book, speaking engagements and personal consulting, reinventing herself as a dating coach and strategist.

Country life

A resident of Monterey, Sharp moved to Monterey County at age 12, enjoying a fairly typical baby boomer childhood of the 1960s and ’70s.

Her father — who ran a roofing business — wanted his kids to experience “country life” with animals and wide open spaces. Sharp said she loved the annual California Rodeo Salinas, where she competed in barrel racing and other events and was selected as a rodeo princess. (Her memories of the Colmo del Rodeo Parade, once

Sharp attended seminars and classes, worked diligently and was bolstered by a seemingly hardwired inclination to create personal networks. “My brain was always constructing, building, connecting,” she said.

ERA Real Estate approached her about opening a local office, and she took the opportunity to build a thriving enterprise.

Over more than 30 years, the multi-award-winning professional developed boldness, self-confidence and terrific communication skills. Sharp listens carefully, thinks before she responds and chooses words with the precision of an artist selecting exactly the right colors.

Yes, but...

For example, Sharp’s “Back in the Game: For Women Ready to Love Again — On Their Terms,” takes an empathetic approach that will resonate with her target audience. It came straight from her heart, she said.

“You raised kids... you’ve got friends, a career and hobbies you love. People look at you and think, ‘She’s got it together,’” she wrote.

But “the house feels too quiet, and the bed is still too cold,” and “deep down you wonder, ‘Is this it? Is this how it’s going to be from here on out?’”

Spoiler: No, it’s not.

At least, it doesn’t have to be, as Sharp learned on her own journey. “Back in the Game” harnessed her years of expertise working with people who have different backgrounds, experiences and communication styles. Then, she added a dash of advice that a 50-something woman won’t find in Cosmo.

“Most of us started dating when we were insecure teenagers trying to define ourselves,” Sharp wrote. “Too often I hear women say, ‘I hate dating,’ or ‘I feel like I’m 19 again,’” and not in a good way.

‘Impossible ask’

Although her granddaughter, a student at UC Santa Barbara, pronounced the book, “good for my generation,” too, Sharp’s coaching is tailored for older women. She teaches them to let go of the past, learn who they are now — what she calls “the solid self” — and build a mature sense of self-confidence so they can move forward.

“I know many smart, fabulous women who can run a Fortune 500 company but are lost when it comes to finding a date,” Sharp said.

She offers help with common pitfalls, like seeking “the impossible ask” — “I want a yoga instructor who makes \$500k a year,” for instance — or hoping for a ready-made “Prince Charming/Cinderella” scenario, as well as being too quick

See **LIVES** next page

Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

“the largest night-lighted parade west of the Mississippi,” according to its history, led her to become a founder and president of the popular Salinas Holiday Parade of Lights.)

Later, when she divorced and needed a good job as a single mom without a college education, several people said, “You’re local, you know a lot about the area,” and suggested she go into real estate.

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Passing an ancient art from one generation to the next

PRACTITIONERS OF the ancient Japanese art of ikebana speak of an intimacy they share with the flowers and plant life they aesthetically arrange. Many say they feel a spirituality, a communication, sometimes a catharsis.

“You talk to the flowers, and the flowers talk to you,” said Ikiko Minami, first vice president of the Monterey Bay chapter of

and respite to the patients, doctors, medical staff and volunteers there. Whenever they go past our space, they take time to stop and admire.”

Ikebana arrangements vary in style, influenced by the diverse teachings of multiple schools, each espousing its own philosophy.

The Ikenobo school, founded in 1462 by monks in Kyoto, emphasizes reverence for nature, viewing each stage of a flower — from buds, to full blooms, to withered — as beautiful and possessing a life of its own.

Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Ikebana International and a 30-year devotee of a deeply philosophical art form that is so old, it predates the coming of Buddhism to Japan.

“It’s a kind of therapy — just the flowers and myself,” said Kozue Knowles, a two-time president and, at three decades, the longest-term member of the local organization.

The group was chartered in 1989 by co-founders Jean and Chuck Chapman, Yoshi Chung, Carol Marchette, Joanne Nishi and Eunice Shiffman.

“Arranging the flowers allows me to forget everything else,” Knowles said.

“It takes me away from the maddening crowd, gives me some comfort, some respite.”

A fresh gift every five days

For 32 years, ikebana arrangements have been a regular gift from the Monterey Bay artisans to patients and staff of West-



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

The ancient practice of ikebana, or Japanese flower arranging, is practiced locally by 54 members of Ikebana Monterey Bay.

land House Monterey, which opened as a hospice in November 1993 and has since expanded to provide skilled nursing rehabilitation services along with end-of-life care for clients.

“This has been a signature project for us — our civic duty,” said Knowles, chair of the chapter’s Westland House committee, which has delivered a fresh ikebana arrangement there every five days since the facility opened.

“The wonderful part is that our entire membership is very supportive of our commitment and very anxious to display their works of art for the people of Westland House, she said.

“This really provides comfort, and joy,

while they’re watching someone at a presentation and say, ‘This is so Zen-like. I feel so calm right now.’”

Zen and the Japanese philosophy of wabi sabi — accepting and finding beauty in imperfection, impermanence and incompleteness — have their place in ikebana, said Sachiko Yokota.

“It helps us have some calm, like a monk. Ikebana is like a moving meditation,” said Yokota, a Seaside restaurateur and former travel journalist.

Wabi sabi

While tradition and rules are important

See **ARTIST** page 31A



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LIVES

From previous page

to judge, dating while kids are still living at home, and approaching sex and intimacy after being “off the market” for a while.

She also offers some common profiles, softened by gentle good humor, of the people you might meet out there and how to talk with them — like “Mr. Still Waters Run Deep” — and of the women themselves, who might be “Miss High Maintenance,” for example. She said that many, if not all, of the profiles can apply to either gender.

Despite the descriptions, there’s no judgment — all have attributes that can be positive or negative. It’s usually not that someone’s “wrong,” she said, it’s just that they’re wrong for you — although she does point out red flags that require more serious attention.

Sharp says we can improve ourselves at any age, but she doesn’t demand anyone try to change their personalities. Instead, she encourages self-understanding and learning how to reach out to others.

And, she gives tips on how to move beyond “Mr. Interesting-for-Now” and find “Mr. Interesting-Forever.”

Changing times?

Although she’s kept pace with the times, Sharp’s common-sense recommendations have echoes of “Dear Abby,” the advice columnist who unfailingly recommended seeking a mate in church, community groups or recreational activities. Sharp dislikes online dating, believing it to be a usually discouraging waste of time that would be better spent getting to know real people.

Finally, she wants older women to enjoy the experience of looking for love. She advocates going on dates with several prospective partners at a time, relishing new experiences but going slowly before settling into an exclusive

relationship.

As she builds her new business (datingcoachcheryl.com), with a book launch last week and a speaking gig at the Carmel Woman’s Club scheduled for February, she said she’s hoping to spend more time “on the stage,” with audiences of women and men, helping them get the most from their next phase of life. She believes that learning new ways of relating can also be good for married couples facing an empty nest, or for that moment when one spouse retires and is suddenly at home (and perhaps a little underfoot) all the time.

“My mission is to build a sustainable business by helping people see their value, that they do have options, that it is OK to move forward, and that everyone deserves a comeback,” she said.

HOF S A S

From page 8A

before the approvals expire on Jan. 9, 2026, so Lombardo asked the commission to grant the 18-month extension allowed by the Carmel Municipal Code.

Planning director Anna Ginette summarized the request for the commission at its Nov. 12 meeting.

“Soils analysis and engineering for stability and an assessment to identify proper mediation of any soil contamination are underway,” she said. “However, these technical reports and findings will not be completed to finalize the construction plans and obtain a building permit prior to the expiration date.”

No grumbling

And while it was the city council that OK’d the permits after the planning commission’s approval was challenged by Carmel Preservation Association founder and avowed anti-contemporary activist Neal Kruse, Ginette said the municipal code authorizes the commission to grant the extension.

“There have been no pertinent changes to the general plan, municipal code or local coastal program since this project was approved by the city council on July 9, 2024, that would require the project to be reevaluated,” she said. “Staff recommends that the commission grant the time extension, extending the project’s expiration date to July 9, 2027.”

While opponents still grumble about last year’s approval, no one objected, and the extension was granted.



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THREAT

From page 3A

parent raised.”

“We assure you that the district takes such matters very seriously, is in the process of looking into the situation further and will take appropriate action as needed,” Ofek explained.

Anderson and Duethman did not respond to the questions.

An online threat like the one alleged to have been made by the student could be considered solicitation to commit a crime and could be prosecuted as a misdemeanor or

MOORE

From page 6A

City manager Hans Uslar said Moore “has earned the trust of our entire fire department,” and Miller — who previously retired as chief in 2013 after more than 34 years in the fire service but returned to the job in December 2023 following the abrupt departure of Fire Chief Gaudenz Panholzer — said Moore’s deep knowledge and proven leadership “make him the perfect choice to guide the department into its next chapter.”

“I’ve spent my entire career growing alongside this department and this community, and I’m deeply proud of the people who make our mission possible every day,” Moore said in the city’s announcement. “Together, we’ll continue to build on the strong foundation of teamwork, service and integrity that defines the Monterey Fire Department.”

According to the City of Monterey’s 2025-2026 salary schedule, the assistant chief’s position pays between \$206,136 and \$250,488 per year, plus various benefits and retirement contributions, while the chief’s salary range is from \$216,432 to \$263,088.

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felony, depending on the circumstances. It also could have been a tasteless, teenage joke.

“The fact that this player was permitted to continue to play demonstrates a complete disregard for student safety, sportsmanship and ethical conduct,” the P.G. mom said.

She demanded that Carmel Unified investigate the “player’s conduct and school’s response,” implement stricter oversight and accountability measures “to ensure that such conduct is never tolerated again,” and outline the steps that will be taken to address the online threat.

The mother also claimed that during the Shoe Game, Carmel players “were allowed to repeatedly yell ‘kill him’” every time her son had the ball.

“As a parent, I should never have to worry that my child’s safety is being jeopardized by the inaction of school officials,” she said.

Many cops

Photos of last weekend’s Shoe Game show numerous Pacific Grove and Carmel police officers. However, the seemingly excessive law enforcement presence, which included P.G.’s police chief and a sergeant, was not related to the online threat, PGUSD superintendent Linda

Adamson said.

“The safety of our students is always our highest priority,” Adamson said Monday. “Please be assured that if we had any reason to believe a student-athlete was in any credible danger leading up to the Shoe Game, we would have taken every necessary precaution to ensure their protection.”

Adamson said the district is working closely with Carmel Unified in reviewing the matter.

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LETTERS

From page 26A

Corregidor and in prison camps, gave his life for his country. It was largely their magnificent courage and sacrifices which stopped the enemy in the Philippines and gave us the time to arm ourselves for our return to the Philippines and the final defeat of Japan. Their names will be enshrined in our country's glory forever.

Very faithfully, Douglas MacArthur

If you find a quiet moment this week,

please turn your thoughts to Pete and all the other veterans who have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Hans Buder,
Carmel City Council

Loss of employees

Dear Editor,

I write this letter as a 60-year resident of Carmel-by-the-Sea, not as a representative of any organization with which I am affiliated.

Judging from his "From the Mayor's Desk" column in last week's Pine Cone, it appears that the mayor has a difficult time acknowledging the incredible loss of

senior leadership in city hall. While a variety of factors influence someone's decision to move on, the fact is that all of these senior-level departures have occurred since the mayor took office 11 months ago. We should all be asking ourselves the same question: why?

The attendant instability will have significant negative consequences for Carmel, including delays, reduced interdepartmental coordination, damage to employee morale, and higher recruitment and training costs, to name a few. Most concerning, however, is the loss of institutional memory. We do things differently here in Carmel, and that unique way of doing things has contributed greatly to the quality of life that we all enjoy in the village today. With the loss of so many senior leaders at once, we risk losing the quiet continuity that has set us apart for over 109 years.

Perhaps a clue to the exodus can be found in the fact that in 500 words, last week's column did not include any words of gratitude for our departing city leaders. I would like to thank outgoing city community administrator Chip Rerig, former library and community activities director Ashlee Wright, former director of public works Bob Harary and former Police Chief Paul Tomasi for all their years of service and for their dedication to Carmel. You exemplified what it means to be true stewards of our town — protecting its character, traditions and sense of community with care and integrity.

Graeme Robertson,
Carmel

Water for ADUs

Dear Editor,

I read with concern the article last week, "Council Limits Water Allocations for ADUs." Of specific concern is that adult children are not being allowed to construct granny units to assist the care of their elderly parents. In a way, this represents another attempt of government to disrupt families, especially to disrupt the deeply engaged and loving interactions within the family. Care for our parents is

not only kindness but a God-given responsibility and some within our community are attempting to step up into that role and are being persecuted for doing so.

This said, I fully appreciate that limits need be placed on excessive construction for just any reason. (I will not delve into the short-term rental issue here.) That is not what is being requested here, however. Instead, the request is to provide housing for someone in need to whom the owners would provide loving care. That could be an elderly parent, a sibling or a friend with special needs, etc. Currently, the door appears to be shut on these crucial acts of love.

A certification process could certainly be put into place to ensure that these units are truly housing those with a well defined need. That process could include provisions for steps that the city could take if the units are not meeting the stipulations of the signed certification. This would require some work to construct, but ours is a community of many gifted and talented people.

The question is this: Do those within our community with such gifts have the heart to take part in constructing this process? Let me be the first to step forward to do so. Please join me.

Tyson Holmes,
Carmel

A week with no cars?

Dear Editor,

Carmel is my hometown and I am one of the people who avoid the Car Week spectacle whenever possible. I have watched the town evolve since the '50s. With so many alluring qualities built into this town, perhaps car worship doesn't need to reign supreme, despite the obvious influx of what the merchants need. I know there are huge challenges to the idea of rethinking this event, but I wonder if Carmel could support a Car-Free Week, which would appeal to many — not just to residents, but to anyone who might appreciate the many intrinsic features of our

See **MORE LETTERS** next page

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From previous page

unique town. It would be a logistical nightmare and require much creative problem solving, but doesn't Car Week?

Melissa Lofton,
Carmel

‘Making a difference’

Dear Editor,

As a longtime racer and rabid car guy, I heard there were some challenges with this year's Concours for a Cause. I thought the event was MEGA. It had a great selection of cars, including old MG's, Triumphs, Healeys and Harleys, plus some nice daily drivers. There were bands, drummers, dancers and a lot of old and new friendships being made talking about cars.

As to the delays in tear-down, I'm sure Nile Estep already has enhancements in place to make sure this doesn't happen again. And as far as some of the letters complaining about the excesses of the rich yada yada, just remember that Car Week brings gazillions of dollars into the area, showcases area businesses, and on the vocational school side of things, Rancho Cielo of Salinas has been so successful with their autoshop/welding/fabrication division, they are now starting a two year auto restoration school. Car Week isn't about class warfare, it's about fun with a cause to help society, not divide it.

So, on balance, while I'm sorry for the way you feel, I hope you can participate in next year's event by volunteering for one of your favorite charities. Have some fun, meet some people, and know you're making a difference. Besides, there are 51 other weeks to complain about.

Riley Hopkins,
Carmel

ARTIST

From page 27A

to the art form, the beauty of human imperfection — wabi sabi — is embraced.

"Ikebana is your own translation of nature," emphasized Carriveau, who remembers feeling unworthy of creating an arrangement for Westland House until her husband offered a lesson in wabi sabi.

“He said, ‘The good news is it isn’t an Ikebana competition,’” Carriveau recounted.

“You’re here to create an arrangement for the patients, the staff and the visitors to appreciate.”

Teachings from 15th century

Ikebana's knowledge, techniques, and styles have been passed down through generations since the 15th century.

That tradition continues, as evidenced by many older and quite active members.

A San Francisco-based instructor, Kayoko Suiyo Fujimoto, is teaching and presenting at age 99. June Matsuoko, 93, still drives from her Sunnyvale home to teach classes on the Monterey Peninsula. Monterey Bay chapter elder Rimiko Ogura, a former executive secretary, has reached her 50th year as an ikebana teacher at age 82.

Members of the Monterey Bay chapter range in age from their 40s to 80s, and the organization is actively recruiting a younger demographic.

Information about future meetings and demonstrations is posted online at ikebanamontereybay.weebly.com. To learn more, contact club president Jean Masunaga Hively at jeanhively@comcast.net.

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

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PENINSULA BUSINESSES

Where every customer is special — and one got a statue

By ELAINE HESSER

“**THE HOUSE I Live In,**” a paean to mid-20th-century Americana crooned by Frank Sinatra, is a reminder of a time when the grocer, the newsstand and the butcher were beloved local institutions.

Although many of those have been replaced by faceless corporate behemoths, Bruno’s Market & Deli at Sixth and Junipero relentlessly bucks that trend. The full-service grocery store still delivers, a butcher cuts meat to order, and you can always get your Pine Cone there. Established in 1953 and previously known as Pilot’s and Morton’s, Fermin Sanchez’s clan took it over from Vince Bruno in 1981.

Outside the store, a bench with Stephen Whyte’s life-size sculpture of the late John Madden memorializes the football icon’s frequent visits, when he’d sit there to have coffee and read his paper. Family lore says he was trying to find a good poker game when he was pointed in Fermin’s direction, leading to their lifelong friendship.

Madden attended Carmel High School basketball games to watch a young Ryan Sanchez, Fermin’s son, play basketball. They often chatted, said Ryan, with Madden frequently dispensing helpful guidance. More wisdom would come from other business owners, friends, and sometimes, painful experience.

Long, bumpy road

Although a Carmel without Bruno’s seems unthinkable, it nearly happened. More than once.

Fermin, a Monterey native whose resume includes caddying, washing dishes,

and managing a household “for a wealthy couple,” plus working in grocery stores, was once employed by Tom Sweeney, who was in the retail food and beverage business.

Vince Bruno offered to sell his name-sake store to Sweeney, who then sought investors. Fermin’s father, Alex Sanchez, and two other parties ended up supplying the money. “My dad was fearless,” said Fermin, who added that Alex also owned Al’s Drapery Service, which sold specialty drapes, furniture and fabric.

The year the Sanchez family took over, their union employees began an eight-month strike. Commented Fermin, “We came very close to losing the store.”

The Pine Cone reported in December 1981 that six union employees were striking, and the shop’s butchers wouldn’t cross their picket line. A dispute between picketers and management made the police log, and in January 1982, Bruno’s new owners took out an artfully worded ad urging Carmelites to continue shopping there. Readers weren’t uniformly sympathetic, as evidenced by some back-and-forth among letters to the editor.

Within seven months, other investors pulled out, and Alex Sanchez was Bruno’s sole owner, the paper reported. According to Fermin, his family supplied much of the labor to keep the store running.

On July 26, 1982, after Alex had restarted negotiations and a federal arbitrator got involved, the issue was settled and union employees returned to work.

Recovery and growth were slow. One



PHOTO/MANNY ESPINOZA

(Left to right) Ryan Sanchez, Virginia Madden, and Fermin and Kerry Sanchez with Steven Whyte’s statue of the late John Madden.

thing that helped, Ryan said, was that his dad got the first permit to make those now-famous deli sandwiches to order, and the store still sells 20 to 30 a day.

Another bright spot was the addition of the indoor mural that runs the length of the store’s perimeter. The artist — a Mr. Kim, Ryan recalled — started with a depiction of produce. Fermin liked the result and told him to keep going.

“My grandmother and grandfather’s house is in the mural,” said Ryan, and near the dairy section, the two girls are his sisters, shown with the family dog.

Exploration

Ryan graduated from Carmel High School in 1996 with a reputation as a

BRUNO’S *cont. page 44A*

**CHARLES GRUWELL
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Charles Gruwell is a national award-winning interior designer who has had a 45-year design career filled with prestigious design mentorships, 40 boutique hotels, luxury residential projects and extensive international world travel. Charles returned to his hometown on the Monterey Peninsula in 2020 and has reestablished himself as the Premier Luxury Residential & Hospitality Designer for Carmel, Pebble Beach and surrounding areas. He was mentored by some of the best designers in the world and has worked on projects in San Francisco, Bali Indonesia, Disney Resorts in Orlando Florida, Seattle Washington, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Hawaii, Sun Valley, Puerto Rico, and Hotels and Luxury homes here on the Peninsula and throughout California.



Photo Credit: Robert Miller Photography



Photo Credit: John Vaughn



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He is a Master in the Art of Design with a passion for Coastal Contemporary, Classical European, Rustic Ranch Style Elegance and Asian inspired projects. Charles has a DIVERSITY of Style and Flair that is second to none and has developed a Curated Home Furnishings Collection called CHARLESTYLE. He is known for his artistic prowess, meticulous attention to detail and exceptional design eye. He is available to collaborate with you on your next Luxury Residential or Hospitality commission.

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P E N I N S U L A B U S I N E S S E S

Expertise and exceptional people skills set up a nice, long ride

By LILY PATTERSON

LOCATED IN one of the world’s most desirable seaside cities, On the Beach Surf Shop is the only game in town. As a matter of fact, the Monterey fixture is the only full-service surf, skate, and snowboard shop between Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo.

Whether you’re graceful on a surfboard, a SCUBA expert, or prefer to stay dry on the rec trail, On the Beach has everything you need, and the friendly employees who sell the store’s wide variety of recreational gear are helpful without trying too hard. They’re often multitasking, chatting as they tighten axles on a new skateboard or patiently field questions about wet suits. Even the high schoolers working for their first paychecks are on it. When the boss is on the floor — as he usually is — everyone seems genuinely relaxed, as if meditating on the mantra, “Best Service, Best Selection.”

It’s one of many trade secrets Kelly Sorensen isn’t so secretive about after 40 years in the business.

“You have to know how to talk to anyone. Our backbone is customer service and relationships, because 95 percent of what you see here, you can buy online,” he said.

Personality goes a long way, too, and this place has it. On the Beach is a tropical-themed paradise on Lighthouse Avenue, open seven days a week. Parking isn’t bad, and who can resist a tiki hut?

They’re palm-thatched and piled high with soft goods — the ubiquitous T-shirts and hoodies worn by droves of locals, who have adopted the curling-wave logo as a badge of Monterey Bay area pride. Behind them is a stock room up to its gills in skate shoes, flip flops, and Uggs boots is a closet-sized office where Sorensen presumably spends as little of the day as possible

behind the computer.

On the Beach may look like a permanent vacation, but after 40 years, Sorensen is still servicing the dream, arriving before 6 a.m. most days to wax surfboards for clients and doctor the shop’s few dozen rental boards. The winter shift took place Nov. 1, when he started taking appointments for ski and snowboard tune-ups.

“I’m the bookkeeper, the tech, I just do the job,” he said, with a chuckle. “I have an open-door policy. Any kid can give me an idea, and the least I can do is say, ‘Been there, done that — and here’s why it worked or didn’t,’” he said.

He can be intimidating, a straight shooter and a salt-dried comic. Locally, his reputation is that of a diehard friend and family guy, a husband and dad of five, and the proof is hung in bamboo frames around the shop.

Tucked humbly away in one of the store’s bathrooms is a photo of Sorensen at 13, riding the first wave that “clobbered” him, as seen by his parents from the beach off Turtle Bay, Hawaii.

Above the surfboard racks is a snapshot of the late Mike Locatelli, a big-brother figure whose Portola Surf Shop in Capitola was Sorensen’s introduction to the trade. Legends like Kelly Slater are framed up there with the Sorensen clan — his twin sons, freshmen at P.G. High, are the surfers in the family, and maybe you’ll see them behind the counter some day — along with snapshots of Sorensen’s original surfing crew from way back when.

Among them is Noah Greenberg of



It’s hard to be a cynical weatherman where summer never ends — take it from Bill Murray, a fan of Kelly Sorensen’s “surf village” in Monterey.

Carmel Surf Lessons, who founded the longest-running surf school on the Peninsula in 1986, the same year Sorensen opened his first shop on Ocean and Mission.

Summer camp

Paddling into entrepreneurial waters at age 20, Sorensen had achieved the dream of a kid from dusty Mendota in Fresno County whose parents sold tractor tires and other farming equipment. Theirs was a successful retail business which at one point took up “nearly a city block,” according to Sorensen — a bit of foreshadowing

to the 6,000-square-foot mecca for surfers, skaters and snowboarders he opened in 1993 at Lighthouse and Prescott, less than two decades after he rode his first wave at summer camp in Soquel.

There was a brief stint on Cannery Row after closing the Carmel shop in 1999 — by then, its Monterey counterpart was doing double the business — while the building at 693 Lighthouse underwent seismic retrofitting. Finally, in 2004, Sorensen was able to drag his tiki huts out of storage and

SURF *cont. page 43A*

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PENINSULA BUSINESSES

In Boston, it's chow-dah

By SALLY BAHO

VIVOLO'S CHOWDER House is a staple on the Monterey Peninsula for seafood and New England-style clam chowder — and has been — for 35 years. Born in Boston, chef-owner Mark Davis began working in restaurants at age 14 and did so all over the East Coast before moving to Lake Tahoe in the late 1970s. There, he continued his career as a chef and began working on his clam chowder recipe. He also met Julie Vivolo-Davis, the woman he would marry, and they decided Monterey — her hometown — was the perfect place to raise their son and open their restaurant. “We called it Vivolo’s because of the local connection. Her family is a third or fourth generation Monterey family,” Davis said. In fact, Julie’s uncle, Sparky Enea, was on John Steinbeck’s boat, The Western Flyer, as documented in “The Log from the Sea of Cortez.” Befitting the family legacy, Enea was a crew member and cook.

Vivolo’s is managed by Ryan Davis, Mark and Julie’s only son, who is passionate about seafood and keeping the family legacy going. “Ryan has mostly taken over the restaurant,” Mark said. But Mark is still in the kitchen and Julie has a hand in advertising and other restaurant business.

The recipes are all Mark’s. His clam chowder doesn’t have any bacon or potatoes. It’s creamy with a decidedly clam-forward base. “People fill up their chowder with potatoes and no clams, and we fill it up with clams and no potatoes,” he said. Interestingly enough, clam chowder originated on the other side of the Atlantic, in Brittany, France, where it is said that the



Mark Davis and Julie Vivolo-Davis

community would “faire la chaudière” (prepare the cauldron) for when the fishermen came back from sea. Each family would contribute something, from herbs, to salted pork, and sometimes potatoes or milk. French settlers on the East Coast brought this tradition with them and the word was anglicized to chowder.

In addition to cups and bread bowls of the featured soup, Vivolo’s specializes in fresh local seafood and pasta. The rock cod Reuben, a coastal spin on a classic sandwich, is simply delightful — breaded rock cod with sauerkraut, Russian dressing and

CLAMS *cont. page 43A*



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PENINSULA

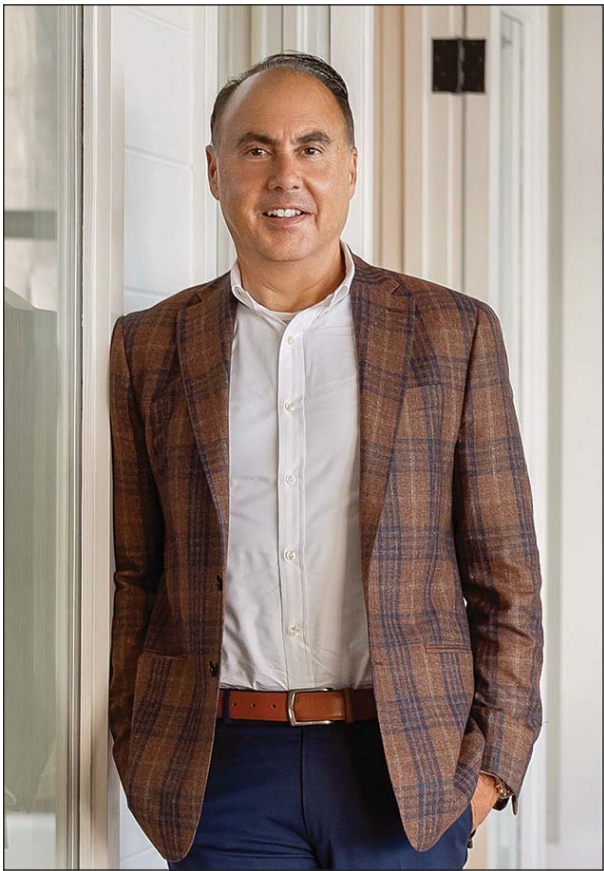
BUSINESSES

Making his way by helping others find a home

By ELAINE HESSER

IF YOU always rely on your phone for directions, do you ever really know where you are?

Realtor Jamal Noorzoy with Carmel Realty does. He’s one of those people who has an instant grasp of instructions like “go east for three blocks, then turn north on San Carlos.” He knows his place in time, too. He’s a third-generation realtor who’s ideally poised to be a mentor, something he’s done dozens of times over his three-plus decades in the business.



Carmel Realty’s Jamal Noorzoy believes in the power of local knowledge.

His father was a professor at the University of Alberta in Canada and taught international economics at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. His maternal grandfather and his uncle, however, handed down the real estate gene. They bought, sold and invested in residential properties, giving him an insight into remodeling and developing homes.

And, Noorzoy said, the business has given him “a unique opportunity to meet people and have freedom of movement and the ability to guide my own destiny.”

Hospitality influences

Noorzoy was raised here and in Canada and went to UC Berkeley, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in social sciences — a custom program that included business, psychology, social psychology and American social history. As a brand-new Cal grad, he worked at the Hyatt Regency Monterey as the assistant director of housekeeping.

It was not a desk job. “There were long hours and hard work,” he said, and it sometimes included pitching in with the cleaning “in my fancy Italian suits.”

“It’s a big responsibility,” he said of the housekeeping department, with a lot of “attention to details that matter.” He quickly grasped the advantages of having a routine when inspecting rooms — always starting in the same place and moving around to the exit. He teaches his proteges the same disciplined approach to showing and closing up a house. Doing it the same way every time helps avoid oversights.

Noorzoy worked his way up to assistant hotel manager before getting his real estate license in 1991. While he’s worked with other companies — notably Alain Pinel — he said that Carmel Realty is very well run, and he likes that it’s local. “It’s not just a cliché — they’re committed to true excellence in the community,” he said, adding that the firm is “very supportive.”

His Seventh Avenue office is in the old El Paseo building, and of course, he knows the history. “Since the 1920s, it’s been many things,” he said, including an Oriental rug shop, but the longest occupants have been real estate offices. Also, Noorzoy noted, that street is “one of the

highest traffic places” in town.

People don’t often walk in and buy a house, but the Dutch door is almost always open and visitors come in to ask for directions or just gaze at the photos in the window. Noorzoy is ready to welcome them in with a cold bottle of Perrier to discuss the market. And oh, what a market it is, as anyone who’s lived here for more than a half-hour knows.

While the properties are truly exceptional, realtors here endure the same kinds of fluctuations they do everywhere. Noorzoy rattles off the dot-com bust, the post-9/11 uncertainty, the downturn of 2008 and most recently, the Covid-19 pandemic, which he described as “a shock to the system.” Through each hill and valley, the hard work and perseverance he developed with his family and through his hospitality journey served him well.

Noorzoy said that the pandemic brought different challenges. First, there were all of the additional steps that needed to be taken to ensure a house was shown safely, along with the inability to hold open houses. On the plus side, he said, it greatly reduced the number of “window shoppers.” Ultimately the problem wasn’t with demand anyway — people discovered they could work from anywhere and left crowded cities for nicer digs — but with a really tight inventory.

He said he sold a few properties over the phone during the brief feeding frenzy, but only “with proper disclosure and presentation, with as much as information as possible,” to experienced buyers who already knew the community.

Finding the way

As the years since 2020 have passed, things have resumed a semblance of normalcy, and Noorzoy’s mentoring his son, Robert Noorzoy, who has previously been an intern with Carmel Realty.

One of the many things he’s already passed along is how to read a map, because Dad’s a self-described “geography buff.” With old maps high on his office walls and an honest-to-goodness globe — he thinks it’s circa the 1930s — settled atop a pile of books, Noorzoy said it’s important

REALTOR cont. page 42A

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There’s a tree in the living room. Now what?

By LILY PATTERSON

THE MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR Ream Companies, founded by a husband-and-wife team in Seaside, play a superheroic role in our community, helping people recover from all sorts of awful scenarios, including wildfires, floods and fallen trees.

With spouse Terry as her VP, Theresa Ream serves as CEO of four local restoration businesses, including Disaster Kleenup Specialists, Cypress Cabinets, Flooring America Monterey, and most recently, FRSTeam, which restores “soft” belongings, including textiles and electronics, in the aftermath of disasters. And you can add to her resume some business-centric volunteering and an entrepreneurial coaching service.

Disaster Kleenup is most likely to ring a bell. On the Monterey Peninsula, DKS trucks are hard to miss, representing California’s largest woman-owned restoration company, with 80 vehicles covering territory from Santa Clara County to the southern end of Monterey County.

Seven teams — fire, flood, wind damage, hazmat and so on — have their own project managers, who dispatch

24/7 responders to the site of each mess and communicate with insurance adjusters. Ninety percent of calls to Disaster Kleenup are responded to within the hour, according to its website says.

In a speech earlier this year to the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, Ream described her team, more than 80 employees, as “heroes with the heart to get out of bed at 3 a.m. and tarp a roof or suck water from broken pipes out of a hospital.”

Sprawling spaces

Some jobs are tremendous — literally, the size of the Northrop Grumman submarine component assembly plant in Sunnyvale.

“Buildings that size have weather of their own,” Ream recalled, wide-eyed. Ten years after the fact, she described how her team arrived at midnight and passed through a security checkpoint. Inside, she saw what looked like scaffolding for a skyscraper, along with an accumulation of grease and oil on the floor. A ruptured city main had



Theresa Ream

flooded the facility, effectively creating an oil spill that needed vacuuming up.

The Reams’ inventory of equipment is so comprehensive, the couple started a leasing service to help pay for the storage space. It’s all in several warehouses in the couple’s little-known empire, which occupies a few blocks of Sand City. Sandwiched between Contra Costa and Holly streets are sprawling retail space for Flooring America and Cypress Cabinets, office buildings, and multiple warehouses.

Ream can see a slice of it from her office, where everything on her desk is a spirit-lifting shade of lilac. She’s not opposed to wearing athletic clothes at work — she exercises daily — over which she can toss a jacket to watch her grandson’s evening football games in Watsonville. She and Terry have raised Cash since he was 6, after the sudden death of their daughter-in-law, who had worked for them as their marketing manager.

Cash isn’t the biggest or fastest kid, but he’s the hardest worker, said his coach. In fact, he’s learning multiple positions to serve his team.

Mom’s kennels

That work ethic is something Ream can relate to. It’s the same one handed down to her. She idolized her mother, Juanita, a child of migrant farm workers who graduated from Monterey High. A single mother, she also established a dog boarding and grooming business in Marina, Sabra Kennels, where Ream remembers helping her work — and the miniature cement mixer with which Juanita built all of her facilities by hand.

Ream became obsessed with a particular kind of building work around the age most kids start worrying about braces and acne, thanks to a helpful adult.

“Jack was this restoration contractor in Marina who helped people recover their homes after fires and other disasters. From the ages of 12 to 15, I wanted to learn all his tricks. He had this kindness and manner that I really admired, the way he’d hold someone’s hand and listen to them,” she remembered.

A teenaged Ream decided that someday, she would start “a business that served her community in a heroic way.”

How’s this for serendipity: In 1981, a drunk driver crashed through the Reams’ living room in Marina. An insurance adjuster came to assess the damage and asked what Terry and Theresa did for a living. Back then, they owned Ream Construction, which contracted with Seaside and Pacific Grove to rehabilitate homes for seniors. The adjuster asked if they’d be interested in bidding on restorations, too.

“I immediately said ‘OK, give us one of your bids,’” to see what kind of work he was talking about.

It paid off: Ream Construction had a new division on its hands, helping people like themselves to rebuild after disasters.

Up to that moment in 1981, Terry had managed their construction business while Theresa worked as a waitress and a hairdresser to fill in the financial gaps. Expanding the enterprise meant Terry would need full-time help, so Ream got her contractor’s license. Then, she enrolled in business law and accounting classes at Monterey Peninsula College, simultaneously managing Ream Construction’s bookkeeping from home while raising their

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A family brings Dad’s design expertise indoors

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

THE APPEAL of Old World architecture, with its meticulous craftsmanship and attention to detail, lies not merely in the aesthetic of the work but in the quality. Locally, the standard was set and influenced by legendary master builders like M.J. Murphy, Hugh Comstock, Francis Wynkoop, Mark Mills, John Thodos and, still at his drafting table after more than 50 years in Carmel, Al Saroyan.

Saroyan graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1970, after a five-year program yielded a bachelor’s degree in architecture. He worked for architects in Fresno until 1974, when he started his own practice, focused initially on family residences.

“I later designed larger commercial projects, among them hotels, office buildings, and retirement centers. In 1988, I moved to Carmel-by-the-Sea and shifted my aesthetic to mostly cottage architecture, with an Old World flair.” Per his website, one of his earliest projects, Liliput, “emulates the Hansel and Gretel cottages of Carmel of the 1930s” — a reference to two of Comstock’s early works.

In 2005, Saroyan added an interior design department to his firm, Saroyan Masterbuilder, enabling clients to engage him to craft a whole house, from concept to architecture, to interior design. He named the company Lenox Hill, a nod to the appeal of New York’s tony Upper East Side, with its elegant architecture and cultural icons like The Guggenheim.

More than a decade ago, Lenox Hill Design went dormant as Saroyan focused more on architectural design. Yet that was before he met Mica, who married his youngest son, William Edward (Eddie) Saroyan in 2022. Having developed what she called “a robust career in marketing with a deep investment in branding,” she approached her father-in-law with a proposal to reinvigorate Lenox Hill in Carmel as a luxury furniture store and interior design studio to complement his architectural design business.

“At Lenox Hill, our mission is to promote thoughtful design and intentional furniture choices,” she said. “We believe each piece of furniture should enhance a space and reflect the true identity of the architecture and the homeowner. Every piece in our curated selection features

world-renowned brands chosen for quality, craftsmanship, and its ability to represent the aesthetic of its owner, which often results in a complement of form and function.”

Urban in the village

While Mica, 32, lives in Pebble Beach, she hails from New Jersey, whose proximity to Lenox Hill made her a regular visitor to and devotee of the neighborhood, and she drew parallels between that area and the culture and architectural designs of Carmel.

“I think of the amazing art galleries in Carmel and the amazing art museums on the Upper East Side, and I appreciate the culture of both areas,” she said. “In coming here, I traded the seduction of Central Park for the allure of Carmel Bay. So we endeavor to be the bridge between New

York and Carmel.”

This may mean shifting from a seashore sensibility to furnishings that evoke the forested reaches of the community with natural materials and darker colors.

“Furniture is a love of mine and is the final touch for our creations,” said Al. “The interiors must complement the architecture and provide harmony. We started Lenox Hill Interiors initially to provide that service exclusively for our clients. Now we provide it to the public with our new showroom in Carmel-by-the-Sea.”

For clients who want to combine an urban perspective indoors with a Carmel architectural sensibility, Mica said Lenox Hill is the conduit between contemporary and

DESIGN cont. next page



Al Saroyan with his daughter-in-law, Mica, in their showroom on Lincoln Street in downtown Carmel.

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P E N I N S U L A B U S I N E S S E S

REALTOR from page 38A

“to know and understand where you are in the world.”

“Not everyone as a sense of where they are. I like dead reckoning. I like to know where I’m going.”

Noorzoy’s quick on the draw with a laser pointer, which he uses to show visitors where they are and where properties for sale can be found. Elevation and sun exposure come into the real estate picture as part of the “location, location, location,” mantra, so that geographic knowledge isn’t trivial.

For Noorzoy, success is about more than money. “I want to help the individual meet their goals. Real estate is a very human business, and takes in all facets of the human condition — goals, perceptions,” and helping people get a grasp on what living here is like. “It’s being able to

communicate effectively, listen and understand,” he said, to bridge “what the person wants, versus what physically exists.”

Popular portrayals of real estate deals, like those on HGTV, inspire varied responses among realtors. Noorzoy said they’re fine as long as people understand they’re seeing a “brief snapshot” of what the business is like. “You get more than three choices,” when buying a house, and there’s no pressure to close a sale in one day, he pointed out. He also noted that like fashion, home design follows trends — remember the Tuscan craze of the early 2000s, with earthy tones, dark wood and an “Old World” aesthetic?

When you’ve been around for a while, those are the kinds of things you pick up on. And when you’ve come to know who you are, how you got here and where you’re headed, it’s nice to share the wisdom — and always keep moving forward.



(From left to right) Kim Bartholomy, Robert Noorzoy, Jamal Noorzoy and Sharmaine Torrey are a real estate team within Carmel Realty.

DESIGN from previous page

classic, where some pieces have an antique feeling while others are more modern.

“We have the ability to work with traditional, classic, elegant styles, as well as looks that are fun and avant garde. Our ethos is to pair key pieces — we have access to the ‘Hermes’ of sofas — with very economical brands. How we curate the diverse looks is what brings it all together.”

Al Saroyan, 80, is working on a

17-Mile Drive “ground-up” project, which Lenox Hill will furnish. What makes this one special, he said, is that he and Mica have worked together to make it a true masterpiece.

“It’s hard to believe that I have touched more than 150 projects on the Monterey Peninsula,” he said, “most of them in Carmel-by-the-Sea. With my son, William Edward Saroyan, we plan to continue our services on the Peninsula for the next 50 years, designing, building and, now, furnishing each unique property.”

CLEANUP from page 40A

2-year-old daughter, Amanda, and newborn son, Casey.

By 1993, what was then known as Ream Construction and Disaster Cleaning had more than 30 employees and a proper office in Sand City, and there were more serendipitous encounters to come. Two industry veterans, one a cabinet-builder and the other a flooring expert, approached the Reams with business proposals. Both wanted to work there for the same reason.

“They came to us and basically said, ‘I heard you treat your employees like family,’” said Ream.

The insurance adjustor from way back when is their longest-standing employee. Amanda, “savvy” and “systems-oriented,” started filing paperwork at 18 and has become chief operations officer.

It’s not only her work family, but other

female entrepreneurs, that get Ream fired up. In 2020, she became president of the Professional Women’s Network of the Monterey Peninsula, which had previously, awarded her Woman of the Year. Ream coordinates speakers and networking events for the group.

“When the pandemic hit, I got my stalking self out,” she laughed. “I found all these amazing businesswomen on social media, from Erie, Pa., to Los Angeles, to join us and share their stories via Zoom.”

From that effort came her consulting service, Feminine W.I.L.E.S — Wisdom-Inspired Leadership Empowerment Services — which balances lifestyle coaching with practical business advice for female entrepreneurs. She often volunteers her services, remotely and in-person, and there’s a cheeky self-awareness to the name. “Iron sharpens iron. There’s nothing like a business girlfriend,” she said.



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P E N I N S U L A B U S I N E S S E S

CLAMS from page 36A

Swiss cheese on marbled rye. Sandwiches are served with fries or a salad with a nice selection of dressings, including all the classics — ranch, blue cheese, Thousand Island and a delightful house-made tomato vinaigrette. Mark’s favorite dish is the cioppino (a tomato-based fish stew with Italian origins). “We make it a little heartier than what you get most places,” he said. There’s something on the menu for everyone, including a venison burger. Even vegetarians will find something to enjoy. There are fried artichoke hearts served with garlic aioli and fettuccine alfredo. “We have all the classic items — fish and chips, linguine with seafood. Our newest item is local rock cod fish taco with coleslaw, homemade orange sauce and

homemade pico de gallo,” Ryan said. The fish and chips is served with a Vivolo’s special tartar sauce and checks the boxes, with crispy batter coating that doesn’t fall apart and moist flaky fish served right out of the fryer.

For those who imbibe, the drink menu is curated to pair with seafood. There’s the Coronado Salty Crew blonde ale on draft, North Coast Old 38 stout, and a wide selection of wines from chardonnays to a sauvignon blanc, cabernet and pinot noir. And of course, a nice selection of nonalcoholic drinks for everyone to enjoy. Dessert is tiramisu, bread pudding or white chocolate cheesecake ... or all three.

The ambiance is cozy nautical and guests immediately feel comfortable. Vivolo’s welcomes locals and tourists alike. “We often get people coming in after

they’ve been to the Aquarium,” Ryan said. And the restaurant really is family friendly, the kind of place people would feel comfortable bringing kids and grandkids. It’s casual, but not at the expense of the quality of the food.

The walls are decorated with late Boston artist Jay Campbell’s artwork. “When I first opened, we had nothing on the walls. Jay used to come in, and once he said, ‘I’ve got some stuff I can put on your walls,’” Mark explained. The pieces range from abstract collages featuring the sea and food to Monterey-specific images of marine wildlife and coastal charm.

Mark said his vision for the restaurant was, “We just want people to come have a nice reasonably priced seafood meal and have some fun.” And that, Vivolo’s does beautifully.



Ryan Davis sometimes gets seafood right at the source.

SURF from page 34A

settle in for good. There, he created what locals can’t get for another 2,400 miles: a tropical paradise.

Sketching out the “surf village” required a major effort in make-believe, so Sorensen studied the work of a



Kelly (left) with his surfing crew, after opening Carmel Surf and Snow in 1986.

globally recognized expert in fantasy.

“Building this, Disney was the No. 1 inspiration. I took a lot of notes from the Pirates of the Caribbean ride, the Jungle Cruise, the Tiki Room,” he said.

Together, he and a contractor cut, nailed and lashed together bundles of bamboo and texturized the concrete floor with a layer of beach sand. There’s a moodily lit aquarium, and historically significant surfboards hang from the deep blue ceiling.

In its own corner is a busted board donated for posterity by surfer Todd Endris — a late friend of Sorensen’s who survived an attack off Marina Beach in 2007, as the artifact attests.

A half-life-size great white shark is suspended underneath it, looking like a prize fish.

They’re a hard-headed bunch, and some would say surfers and skateboarders are a little like cult members. Sorensen remembers the uneasy truce he forged, fresh off opening Carmel Surf and Snow, with the help of then-mayor Clint Eastwood.

The city’s first generation of skateboarders, had been taking their tricks to ramps and railings fronting local businesses. Sorensen and other peacemakers worked with Eastwood on a solution, which was to build a ramp at the Carmel Youth Center.

“He was youthful, he got where we were coming from and he really helped us smooth it out for the kids,” Sorensen said.

Forty years later, naturally, cult classics are on the menu for On the Beach’s big birthday. Sorensen has already reintroduced the shop’s original logo in homage to those formative Carmel days.

40-year anniversary

Next summer will see the revival of SK8 Jams, a skateboarding competition for kids, with DJs, food and drink, and prize packages. The shop will host a few screenings of surf films next spring and plans a blowout anniversary party, luau style.

What never gets old, Sorensen said, is “Seeing the generation of kids who grew up in the store coming back, realizing those kids are parents now.” Meeting their groms (kids, in surfer slang) and, of course, raising his own, he said he’s noticed a few things about this younger generation. Baggy pants are back, e-bikes and video games have exploded in popularity, and the kids are pretty multifaceted.

“You know, this group of core guys that was out there, the guys who only surfed, that doesn’t really exist anymore. Kids do a lot of things now, and surfing is just one of them,” he mused.



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PENINSULA BUSINESSES

BRUNO’S from page 33A

stellar basketball player. By then, his grandfather had had a stroke, from which he mostly recovered, but his grandmother had died. His uncle, AJ — Fermin’s brother — entered the picture while Ryan studied communication at UC Davis. After working various jobs at Bruno’s throughout his youth, Ryan wanted to “explore other things.”

Nevertheless, by 2003, he was back and soon took over Surf N Sand, which had been a drugstore with some general merchandise. After buying it from retiring owner Bob Abersold, the Sanchezes gutted it. According to The Pine Cone’s report of the 2004 reopening, they sold the pharmacy’s client list to Safeway. Wine and liquor became more prominent, and DVD rentals were added.

Ryan said, “People thought we were crazy taking out the VHS movies,” but he bought inexpensive DVD players from Costco and resold “20 or 30” of them to customers at his cost, delivered and installed them, and gave a tutorial on their use, along with a free DVD rental. Once they saw the benefits — superior picture and sound quality, “extras” and on-screen indexes — word spread and the rental business thrived.

Now Surf N Sand Liquors, it’s where Ryan introduced his El Jefe brand tequila. He also owned Corral Market and Deli along Highway 68 for several years.

Buckle up

The 2008 housing market crash and recession were followed by the death of Bruno’s longtime landlady, 103-year-old Virginia Evans, and the attorney for the estate decided to sell the property. He offered the Sanchez family the first option to purchase it as the lease required, Ryan recalled, but they couldn’t afford it. An eviction notice gave them six months to vacate the premises.

During the same period, Ryan said, a family conflict with his uncle, AJ, escalated to the point where AJ filed what became a protracted and contentious lawsuit involving the rest of the clan.

As things devolved, Ryan’s credit was ruined, and his financial situation deteriorated to the point where he,

his pregnant wife and 2-year-old daughter moved into his old bedroom in his father’s house.

His second daughter was born with a medical condition that required hospitalization in San Francisco, and Ryan’s life became a series of roundtrip drives to the city interspersed with work and wrangling help from and through friends and investors so his own family could move into a proper home. He took over the lease at Corral Market, renovated it and invited Charles Chrietzberg, then president of Monterey County Bank, to come and see his work so he could secure a loan to purchase the shop.

Meanwhile, the lease on Bruno’s was ultimately extended for two years, and Sweeney ended up purchasing the property, becoming Bruno’s landlord and effectively securing its long-term use for the Sanchezes. Then, in 2013, Alex, the family patriarch, died. “He was my hero,” said Ryan, whose stepfather also passed away that year, along with one of Bruno’s butchers and two of Ryan’s most influential business mentors, Greg Pickert and Scott McKay. He said Pickert taught him that “‘No’ is never an answer,” and McKay showed him the value of trusting yourself and taking action regardless of what others think.

The case with AJ was finally settled after a marathon mediation session in San Francisco, where the judge refused to let anyone leave until everything was ironed out.

Through all of it, said Ryan, basketball was a key to staying sane. “The world disappears when I’m playing. It’s been my escape and my identity for years. It’s something special, just for me.” He’s also coached boys and



Customers from near and far — like these folks from Florida — enjoy the food and service at Bruno’s.

girls teams.

As the Sanchez family looks to the future, they know they’re walking a tightrope, keeping longtime regulars — some of whom are great-grandchildren of customers Fermin served in the early days — happy while bringing in the next generation. Ryan noted that some folks use Bruno’s online ordering, but others prefer calling in their lists for delivery. The phone is answered by human beings, and the shop continues to offer in-house accounts for customers.

The Sanchezes credit their employees — many of whom have been there more than 20 years and at least one who’s past the 30-year mark — with their success. And the community, added Ryan.

“I don’t own the store, my customers do. Without them, there’s no us,” he said.

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This Week

Live Music,
Clubs and Events

Duo finds missing musical ingredient, U.S. Air Force quartet visits Sunset

KNOWN FOR their deep, vibrating hum, singing bowls have been used for thousands of years for meditation and religious rituals in Tibet, Nepal and India. But according to composer and multi-instrumentalist **Peter Gordon** — despite their remarkable musical qualities — they’ve never been used as an instrument in a contemporary ensemble — until now.

Gordon, a Carmel Valley musician who plays silver and Native American flutes, will join singing bowl master **Deva Munay** Saturday, 7 p.m., at Hidden Valley Music Seminars in Carmel Valley.

“The introduction of a new instrument in the musical vocabulary is exciting,” Gordon said. “It’s a new sonic

palette for us to play with.”

Gordon is former vice president of the Monterey Jazz Festival, a Grammy Award-nominated music producer and an accomplished flutist, while Munay teaches work-

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

shops at Esalen Institute in Big Sur on the healing power of sound. The pair have recorded an album together, and at Saturday’s concert, they plan to preview their next one, which features Gordon’s compositions.

The sound produced by singing bowls is often described as soothing and meditative, offering listeners a respite from an ever-increasingly stressful world.

“It’s music for mental health,” Gordon added. “If you fall asleep listening to our music, that’s a good thing.”

The concert is free, with a suggested donation. Hidden Valley is located at Carmel Valley and Ford roads.

■ T-Birds soar again

A blues-rock band that had its heyday in the mid-1980s, **The Fabulous Thunderbirds** take the stage Monday, 7:30 p.m., at the Golden Bough Playhouse.

Still led by singer **Kim Wilson**, the Thunderbirds are best known for their single, “Tuff Enuff,” which was a Top 10 pop hit in 1986. The group has released 15 albums, including their most recent, 2024’s “Struck Down,” which was nominated for a



A Scottish quintet, Braebach plays Celtic music Thursday, 7 p.m., at St. Mary’s by-the-Sea in Pacific Grove.



Singing bowl master Deva Munay and composer and flutist Peter Gordon perform Saturday in Carmel Valley.

Grammy Award for Best Traditional Blues Album. Tickets start at \$91. The Golden Bough is located on Monte Verde between Eight and Ninth. Call (831) 622-0100 or visit pacrep.org.

See MUSIC page 49A

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F O O D & W I N E

Turkey and pumpkin pie are good traditions — big messes aren’t

AS TIME continues its march toward Nov. 27, we have another bunch of ideas for your turkey feast. You can safely assume that all of these diners will fill up, so reserve early, be prepared to pay for a deposit or the entire meal, and make sure you read cancellation policies carefully. The first section of this week’s column is about dining out, while the end includes places to order and pick up goodies to eat at home. Next week, we’ll be hitting some of the spots in Monterey, too. But first, there’s a party Friday night ...

Harvest at Folktale

As vineyards turn from green to gold, Folktale Winery in Carmel Valley invites guests to join “a magical evening celebrating the close of the harvest season,” Friday from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

The \$130 cost (not including tax, fees and gratuity) includes a choice of a gluten-free Harvest Celebration Menu with wine-braised short ribs or the vegan, gluten-free Plant-Based Harvest Menu with caponata (a Sicilian take on ratatouille, with eggplant and tomatoes) and a layered dish of turnip and mushroom. Each course is paired with one of Folktale’s wines, and there will be live music, too. Purchase tickets at folktalewinery.com/upcoming-events. Wine club members receive a discount. Folktale is at 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

More turkey talk

La Playa Hotel at Camino Real and Eighth is having a Thanksgiving buffet from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fill your plate



The Monterey Peninsula has no shortage of places to find your Thanksgiving bliss. The venerable Cypress Inn (left) has a three-course prix-fixe meal with options beyond the bird, including prime rib, halibut or mushroom pasta. And the equally historic Hyatt Highlands Inn just south of town is holding a festive buffet with a side of exceptional views — perhaps even a spouting whale or two.

fillet, and a “grazing table” with artisanal cheese, cured meats and Ad Astra bread. Desserts include the usual suspects — apple, pecan and pumpkin pie — and mini cheesecakes and warm bread pudding for those who want to buck tradition.

The meal is \$135 for adults and \$75 for those 12 and younger. Visit laplayahotel.com/holidays for more details and to make the required reservations.

Ranch holiday

Carmel Valley Ranch’s holiday buffet features turkey, ham, various accompaniments and a traditional selection of desserts. Reservations can be made at exploretock.com. Adults pay \$155, children older than 5 are \$70, and those 5 and younger eat free. Bookings are available from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Feast with a view

For a front-row seat to stunning coastline and ocean vistas, try the festive holiday buffet at Pacific’s Edge Restaurant in the Hyatt Highlands Inn.

From 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., myriad options will tempt diners to try as many tasty treats as possible before the food coma sets in.

For the main dish, there’s roasted turkey with traditional cranberry sauce and gravy, slow-roasted beef brisket and house-made barbecue sauce, ham, roasted salmon, and a vegetarian pasta.

Poached prawns, smoked salmon with capers and onions, steamed mussels, and seared ahi tuna are some of the seafood options, and salads and sides round out the meal. The dessert station will offer pumpkin and pecan pies. Dinner is \$105 for those 12 and older, \$50 for those 3 to 11, and complimentary for kids younger than 3.

Reservations are required and can be made through OpenTable. Call (831) 622-5429 for more information.

Get jazzy at Terry’s

Terry’s Restaurant in the Cypress Inn is giving thanks

See **TURKEY** next page

Soup to Nuts

with herb-roasted turkey, butternut squash soup, salads, all the traditional sides — from stuffing, and green beans almondine, to a glorious array of mashed, au gratin and sweet potatoes, along with brussels sprouts and baked mac and cheese. Or, choose from honey-glazed ham, salmon

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FOOD & WINE

TURKEY

From previous page

during a three-course prix fixe dinner from 1 to 8 p.m., and The David Morwood Band will play from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Living Room.

For starters, there’s butternut squash bisque or an arugula and frisée salad, then it’s time to dig into the turkey, 12-ounce prime rib, macadamia-nut halibut, or wild mushroom pappardelle in basil pesto cream sauce. Dessert is apple pie with vanilla bean gelato, or pumpkin pie with fresh cinnamon whipped cream. The meal is priced at \$85 per person for adults and \$45 for kids under 12. Visit cypress-inn.com/terrys to make reservations.

Thursday drivers
Thanksgiving at Solstice (46840 Highway 1, Big Sur) looks to be worth the drive. The offerings for the three-course family-style dinner include an autumn salad, twice-baked sweet potato, brussels sprouts, turkey and a selection of seasonal pies and tarts with house-made ice cream for dessert.

Enjoy the sunset as you head south — the meal is offered between 4 and 9 p.m. and is \$120 for adults, \$60 for those under 12 and complimentary for wee ones under 3. Book at Exploretock.com.

■ From chef to you

If you’d like to wow your holiday guests with traditional pies produced by a two-Michelin-star restaurant, now’s your chance. Aubergine, which is located



Big Sur’s Solstice restaurant will serve Thanksgiving dinner family style from 4 to 9 p.m., with roast turkey, sides, and seasonal pies and tarts served with house-made ice cream.

in L’Auberge Carmel at Monte Verde and Seventh and run by executive chef Justin Cogley and business partner Janet Elarmo, is selling pumpkin, apple and pecan pies for \$45 apiece, with pickup available on Thanksgiving morning.

The pecan pie includes smoked pecans, maple and dark chocolate, while pumpkin calls for sugar pie pumpkin, brown sugar and candied pumpkin seeds. The apple pie features brown-butter-roasted apples. Heating instructions will be included with all orders.

Orders must be placed by noon Friday, Nov. 21, and pickup will be available from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 27. Tax and a 20 per-

See **TO GO** next page



THANKSGIVING BUFFET

Thursday, November 27 | 11am - 2:30pm

Delight your eyes and palate with a feast of traditional Thanksgiving favorites accented with Lucia’s signature cuisine and all the trimmings.

HOLIDAY RECEPTION & TREE LIGHTING

Thursday, December 4 | 5 - 6pm

Join us for an evening of good tidings, hors d’oeuvres, and wine. The lighting ceremony will mark the official start of the holiday season. Complimentary for community guests.

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

Wednesday, December 24 | 5 - 9pm

Revel in the holiday spirit and gather for an evening of celebration. Our innovative four-course menus highlights the holiday classics along with plenty of options to satisfy your cravings.

CHRISTMAS DAY BRUNCH AND LIVE MUSIC

Thursday, December 25 | 11am - 3pm

Delight your senses this Christmas morning with a festive feast featuring all of your holiday favorites, elevated with Lucia’s signature cuisine and seasonal touches.



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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025
1PM TO 8PM

menu highlights

THANKSGIVING DISPLAYS

California Cheeses, Cured Meats, Veggies, Shrimp, Local Baby Greens, Tortellini Salad, Beets with Feta

TRADITIONAL FARE

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Prime Rib, Free Range Turkey

DESSERTS

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pricing & reservations

Adults \$89.95 | Seniors \$79.95 (65 or older)

Children \$39.95 (ages 6-12) | Kids under 5 eat free

20% gratuity and tax will be added to all checks. Reservations required. Please call (831) 649-7870 or email lhenderson@portolahotel.com and reserve your table today!



PORTOLA HOTEL & SPA
AT MONTEREY BAY

(831) 649-4511 | Portolahotel.com

TO GO

From previous page

cent service charge will be added to all orders. Visit sorasea.formstack.com/forms/thanksgiving_2025 to purchase.

One stop at Bruno's

Order a Diestel turkey, all brined, seasoned and ready to roast, grab a mile-high Gizdich Ranch apple pie, some Otto's Bread from Salinas' trendy downtown bakery, Paris Bakery pastries, and Marianne's or Revival Ice Cream for your meal. While you're there, drop into Surf N Sand to pick up some wine and everything you need for cocktails, too. Bruno's has Thanksgiving hours from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., but you really shouldn't wait until the last minute.

Quail's takeaway

Reservations for Quail Lodge's prix

fixe menu, available from noon to 7 p.m. were going quickly at the beginning of this week — visit quailodge.com/dining-carmel to learn more — but even if the dining room fills up, you have until noon on Nov. 21 to order either a family-sized or single meal to go.

The big dinner, enough for six to eight people, is priced at \$286 plus tax and gratuity and comes with Mary's organic cider-and citrus-brined turkey, potatoes, stuffing, veggies, cranberry and candied orange preserves and either a whole apple or pumpkin pie. Optional items such as soup, succotash and salad can be included for an additional fee. Single meals are \$60 plus tax and gratuity. Order on [Exploretock.com](https://exploretock.com) and pick up at the clubhouse reception desk on Nov. 27 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Distinctive dining at home

Baum & Blume Catering in Carmel Valley is accepting orders for Thanksgiving dinner to go. They must be placed by Nov. 22, and all items are meant for groups of four or more. As usual, the folks out there are adding a few interesting touches to their meal, prepping appetizers like warm artichoke, spinach and asiago dip, and salt-and-pepper-roasted prawns. There's a carrot-potato soup with apples, and the vegetarian entrée is butternut squash stuffed with wild rice and poblano chiles.

You can also, of course, get roast turkey or pecan-crusted salmon and an assortment of sides, plus dessert options like pecan-cranberry crisp with spiced butter-oat topping. For the full menu and additional details, visit baumandblume.com, and call Diane at (831) 659-0400 for pricing and to order.

Elaine Hesser and Mary Schley contributed to this column.



Aubergine, the restaurant with two Michelin stars led by chef Justin Cogley and tucked away inside L'Auberge Carmel, is taking orders for apple, pumpkin and pecan pies to class up your holiday table.

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Thursday, Nov 27 | Noon - 8pm

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Including traditional Turkey Dinner, Prime NY Strip, Seared Seabass, Butternut Squash Ravioli and more.

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FOOD & WINE

MUSIC

From page 45A

Jazz tribute, softs seats

Grammy Award-winning singer **Tammy Hall** pays tribute to late jazz vocalist Shirley Horn Thursday and Friday, 7 p.m., at the Sand Box in Sand City.

The Sand Box’s **Michelle Djokic** said she was surprised by Hall’s talent when she first heard her sing.

“She doesn’t hit anybody over the head with what she creates,” Djokic said. “It’s subtle. You don’t see it coming — it’s unexpected.”

As for the Sand Box, the intimate venue just got a big upgrade — a gift of 104 seat cushions from local couple **Pierre** and **Susan Sokollski**.

“They came to me and said, ‘We love what you do, but your chairs are so unbearable,’” Djokic reported. “Now every chair has now a beautiful cushion on it, and nobody is squirming anymore.”

Hall will be joined at the Sand Box by contrabassist **Kevin Gold-**

berg (Thursday and Friday) and drummer **Jason Lewis** (Thursday) and **Leon Joyce Jr.** (Friday).

Tickets are \$40 for general admission and \$25 for students and active military. The Sand Box is located at 440 Ortiz Ave. sandboxsandcity.com

Four clarinets

Featuring four musicians who are

See **LIVE** next page



Best known for their hit single, “Tuff Enuff,” singer Kim Wilson and the Fabulous Thunderbirds rock Golden Bough Playhouse Monday at 7:30 p.m.

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DISCO

SATURDAY, DEC. 6, 7PM - 10PM

Enjoy a fun night with music and dinner. DJ Andy Uyeda will be spinning classic Disco and Motown tunes. Dine with us before, during or after, the full Shearwater dinner menu will be available.

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Thanksgiving Dinner

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Woody got you, so you can relax and get through it, with family!

Menu Sneak Peak:

Swank Farms Butternut Squash Soup Sip

Apple Cider Brined Diestel Turkey

Baked Brioche Stuffing

Double Whipped Mashed Potatoes

Cranberry Sauce

Pumpkin or Apple Pie

.... and MORE!

Seating Times:

12:00 pm

2:00 pm

4:00 pm

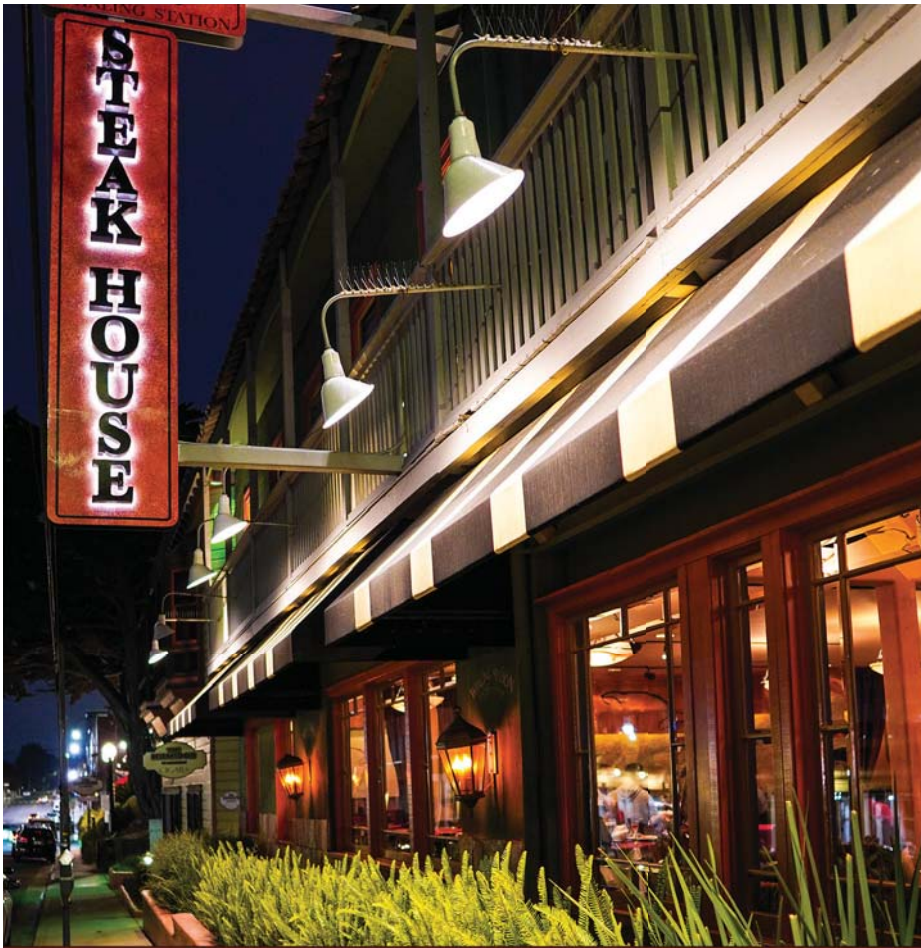
6:00 pm

Full Thanksgiving meal, see our website for more details!

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LIVE

From previous page

active-duty members of the U.S. Air Force, **The Band of the Golden West's Clarinet Quartet** performs a free concert Saturday, 3 p.m., at Sunset Center. The only active-duty Air Force band located west of the Rocky Mountains, its members — **Susan Govier, Randolph Palada, Clarissa Osborn** and **Louis Kim** — are stationed at Travis Air Force Base in Solano County.

Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. RSVP for reservations at (831) 620-2048.

Also at Sunset Center for music fans is the free screening Wednesday of "Once We Brothers," a documentary film about the Band. Showtime is 7 p.m.

Live music Nov. 14-20

■ Big Sur

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

Fernwood Resort — **Richard Tripps & the Shrouded Strangers** (rock, Friday at 10 p.m.), **Kolumbo** (funk, Caribbean, and lounge, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

■ Carmel

Barmel — singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Sunday at 7 p.m.), singer and

guitarist **Tony Burciaga** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). Carmel Square on San Carlos north of Seventh.

Carmel Mission Inn — singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Tuesday at 5 p.m.). In the Shearwater Tavern, 3665 Rio Road.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz, Friday at 5 p.m.), singer **Dino Vera** (jazz, r&b and dance music, Saturday and Thursday at 6 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.

Cypress Inn — singer **Dino Vera** (jazz, r&b and dance music, Friday at 6:30 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.), **The David Morwood Jazz Band** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh.

Links Club — **Dr. T & the Remedy** (rock, Friday at 7 p.m.), **Johnny Tsunami** (rock, Saturday at 7 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

Mission Ranch — singer and pianist **Maddaline Edstrom** (jazz, Friday through Sunday at 5 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Loktionov** (jazz, Monday through Thursday at 5 p.m.). 26270 Dolores St.

■ Carmel Valley

Bernardus Lodge — pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea's Fault** (jazz and pop, Saturday at noon), singer and pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at noon). 415 Car-

See **MORE MUSIC** page 53A



Featuring four musicians who serve in the United States Air Force, The Band of the Golden West's Clarinet Quartet presents a free concert Saturday, 3 p.m., at Sunset Center.

Celtic Music Series at St. Mary's

GET READY TO DANCE!

Breabach

Live in Pacific Grove



Fresh from The Royal Albert Hall, Scotland's award-winning **Breabach** is storming the Celtic music scene! Their name means "to kick" — and this show will be just that: a high-energy, foot-stomping night featuring **two bagpipes, a dancer, and the full folk experience.**

Ranked among Scotland's most skilled and imaginative contemporary folk acts, **Breabach** blends Highland roots with cutting-edge Glasgow style. With six acclaimed albums and collaborations from Cape Breton to Australia, their sound is pure magic.

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St. Mary's Bistro will be in full swing—come early and make it a party!

ST. MARY'S BY-THE-SEA • 146 12TH STREET • PACIFIC GROVE

The Lodge is fully reopened, P.B. Co. CEO says

By KELLY NIX

ABOUT TWO weeks after it reopened The Tap Room, the Pebble Beach Company has reopened the doors to a transformed Stillwater restaurant, marking the end of major renovations throughout the Lodge.

The “reimagined” Stillwater restaurant, which opened last week, features a wraparound dining room with floor-to-ceiling windows, central bar with ocean views, vaulted ceilings with soft brick arches and a glass-enclosed wine room, CEO David Stivers said. And patrons at the Stillwater bar will now face the ocean, instead of having their backs to it.

“The reopening of Stillwater is the culmination of The Lodge’s transformation, bringing a fresh identity to one of Pebble Beach’s most renowned settings,” Stivers said. “Alongside updates to guestrooms, public spaces, The Tap Room and The Bench, this reopening ushers in an inspired

new chapter in Pebble Beach hospitality.” Business customers, Stivers said, have been excited to try the two new private dining rooms, including one at Stillwater called the Lone Cypress, “and envision them as a great spot to entertain groups of 12 to 30 people,” while the expanded Terrace Patio “feels much more open and welcoming.”

Guest rooms and temporary restaurants at The Lodge were open throughout the remodel, which began after the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

“The Bench Restaurant reopened in the early summer, and the public spaces, such as the Terrace Lounge and Patio opened prior to the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance,” Stivers explained. “The Lodge Main Building is now fully reopened, and ‘back to normal.’”



Numerous improvements to The Lodge at Pebble Beach this year have culminated with the transformation of two of its restaurants.



A reimagined Stillwater restaurant at The Lodge in Pebble Beach overlooks the 18th Hole of its famous golf course.

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All items available to order for groups of 4 or more.

Our 2025 Menu

 Creamy Carrot-Potato Soup with Apples & Bayleaf
House-baked Rosemary Pull-Apart Rolls
Salad of Autumn Greens with Fresh Citrus,
Crumbled Feta, and Lemon-Honey Vinaigrette

 Chef Deric's Perfect Roast Turkey w/Madeira Gravy
Pecan-Crusted Salmon w/Bourbon-Maple Glaze
Butternut Squash Stuffed w/Wild Rice and Poblanos

 Country-Style Two-Bread Dressing with Roasted Pecans
Ciabatta Bread Dressing w/Wild Mushrooms and Spinach

 Lemon & Thyme Mashed Potatoes
Whipped Sweet Potatoes w/Pistachio Crumble
Orange and Stout-Glazed Brussels Sprouts
Sautéed Green Beans w/Caramelized Shallot Butter

Cranberry-Orange Compote with Port Wine
Country-Style Apple Chutney

 Di's Pumpkin Pie with Chantilly Crème
Cinnamon Cake Roll w/Sweet Crème Cheese Filling
Pecan-Cranberry Crisp w/Spiced Butter-Oat Topping

THE CARMEL PINE CONE'S 2025

HOLIDAY
GUIDE

PUBLICATION DATE:

Friday, November 28

AD DEADLINE: Friday, November 21

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Worship Every
Sunday 9:30 am

Meeting at:
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All Saints' Episcopal Church



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11:00am

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- 1 p.m. (Tongan)

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Email

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to be included in this directory

Craftapalooza promises day full of shopping

■ Toy drives kicking off, too

By MARY SCHLEY

AN ENJOYABLE day of searching for all the right gifts for all the right people presents itself Nov. 22, when Carmel becomes the craft fair capital of the Monterey Peninsula.

The city’s 54th annual Homecrafters’ Marketplace — the go-to for treasures made and sold by jewelers, sculptors, photographers, potters, artists, crafters, candy-makers and many other talented creators — will be held, as usual, in the north lot at Sunset Center at San Carlos and Eighth, with some 70 vendors expected.

The sellers from Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties applied for their spots and were vetted by a jury organized by the city’s community activities department, ensuring a proper mix of options, all of them locally produced and sold by the people who made them.

Because the popular city event has inspired other organizations in town to hold holiday sales, the Saturday before Thanksgiving is now officially known as Craftapalooza.

Just across the street from Sunset Center, the Carmel Woman’s Club’s Annual Artisan Event will showcase unique craft items, pumpkins decorated with succulents, and vintage Christmas decor and food. Visit carmelwomansclubca.org to learn more.

Two downtown churches will host sales, as well. The All Saints Arts & Crafts Fair will feature “beautifully handcrafted items, baked goods and succulents,” and the church will be selling hot Indian lunches in its community room at Dolores and Ninth (allsaintscarmel.org or (972) 567-3572). The Church of the Wayfarer Annual Holiday Faire will be held in its garden on Lincoln south of Ocean, with collectibles, jewelry, baked goods, and soups and fresh rolls on offer (office@churchofthewayfarer.com).

All are free and open to the public, and will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. rain or shine. For more information, contact the community activities department at (831) 620-2020 or communityactivities@ci.carmel.ca.us.

Braxton’s toy drive

The Braxton Stuntz Foundation is embarking on its seventh annual holiday toy drive, with Ruth Baltes and Mike Stuntz continuing to honor their late son, Braxton, by helping others. The foundation is setting up donation boxes at the Carmel Police Department at Junipero and Fourth, the Carmel Art Association on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth, and at Pure Bar in Carmel Plaza at Junipero and Ocean, Baltes said this week.

Braxton’s Toys, which seeks new, unwrapped toys to be distributed to homeless youth, was started in Braxton’s name after he died at Garrapata Beach in January 2019 when he was 18 years old. As a kid, he collected toys for children in need, and Baltes and Stuntz are continuing his legacy. More information, including additional drop-off locations, can be found at braxtonstuntzfoundation.org.

The Carmel Pine Cone

Email is the most efficient way to place the following listings and ads.

Service Directory:

email your ad copy and artwork to
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Legals:

Irma Garcia (831) 274-8645
legals@carmelpinecone.com

Obituaries:

Anne Papineau (831) 274-8654
anne@carmelpinecone.com

Calendar:

calendar@carmelpinecone.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS
TUESDAY AT 4:00 FOR
FRIDAY’S EDITION



MORE MUSIC

From page 50A

mel Valley Road.

Edgar’s Restaurant — singer and guitarist **Jewel Arianna** (Friday at 5:30 p.m.). At Quail Lodge, 8205 Valley Greens Drive.

Folktale Winery — **Two Rivers** (pop and rock, Friday at 3 p.m.), singer and guitarist **RJ DeMarco** (Saturday at 3 p.m.), **Jesse DeCarlo Funk Quartet** (Sunday at 11 a.m.), **Burnout** (indie rock and country, Sunday at 3 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church — organist **Emi Saeki** (classical, Sunday at 3 p.m.). Tickets are \$30 with



Ensemble Monterey kicks off its 2025-26 season with a concert, “Fresh Voices,” that’s set for Saturday, 7 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church in Monterey. For tickets, visit ensemblemonterey.org.

discounts for seniors, students and kids. stdcv.org

Trailside Cafe — **Mighty Maple** (“acoustic jams and cool grooves,” Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

Monterey

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

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

Estéban Restaurant — guitarist **Catherine Broz** (Spanish and classical, Thursday at 5 p.m.). Casa Munras Hotel, 700 Munras Ave.

First Presbyterian Church — **Ensemble Monterey** kicks off its 2025-26 season (classical, Saturday at 7 p.m.). For ticket info, visit ensemblemonterey.org.

Golden State Theatre — singer and **John Cragie** (Saturday at 7 p.m.). Tickets start at \$30, **The Coffis Brothers** open the show, visit goldenstatetheatre.com for details.

InterContinental Hotel — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.), guitarist **Terrence Farrell** (Spanish, classical and jazz, Sunday at 9 a.m.). 750 Cannery Row.

Midici Pizza — guitarist **Pablo Riviere** and flutist **Kenny Stahl** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer and bass-

ist **Dennis Murphy** and guitarist **Paul Magpusao** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

Monterey Plaza Hotel — pianist **Gary Meek** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Steve Mann** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

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

Puma Road at Portola Plaza — singers and guitarists **Sarah Canet** and **Casey Frazier** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Blaise DiGirolamo** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

Salty Seal Pub — singer and guitarist **Yvan Vucina** (rock and reggae, Friday at 7 p.m.), **Rachel Spung & The Soul Service** (r&b, Saturday at 7 p.m.), 653 Cannery Row.

Sardine Factory — singer and guitarist **David Conley** (Tuesday through Thursday at 6:30 p.m., and Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.). 701 Wave St.

Sly McFly’s — **Everyday People** (“classic Latin rock with an old-school twist,” Friday at 9 p.m.), **Phil ’n’ the Blanks** (classic rock, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

Pacific Grove

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

Julia’s Vegetarian Restaurant — singer and guitarist **Rags Rosenberg** (Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Smith** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave.

Pop & Hiss — **Ricketts’ Folly** (“danc-y-jazz,” Thursday at 7 p.m.). 215 Forest Ave.

St. Mary’s by the Sea — **Braebach** (Celtic, Thursday at 7 p.m.). 146 12th St., tickets are \$31.25 for adults and \$12.75 for kids. Visit celticsociety.org for details.

Wild Fish — **The Lighthouse Jazz Quartet** (Friday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m.). 545 Lighthouse Ave.

Pebble Beach

The Inn at Spanish Bay — **The Andy Weis Trio** (jazz, Friday, Saturday and Thursday at 7 p.m.). 2700 17 Mile Drive.

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Jewel Arianna** (Saturday at 5 p.m.) In the Terrace Lounge. 1700 17 Mile Drive.

Seaside

Palenke Arts — singer **Ronkalunga** (reggae, rock and funk, Saturday at 7 p.m.). 1713 Broadway. Tickets are \$30. Visit palenkearts.com.

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

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CALENDAR

Nov. 14 – Breabach in Concert – Scotland’s award-winning folk band brings high-energy Celtic music to Pacific Grove! Enjoy bagpipes, dance and vibrant tunes blending Highland roots with modern flair. 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary’s by-the-Sea, 146 12th St., Pacific Grove. Tickets: www.celticsociety.org

Sundays – Jazz brunch with the Andrea Carter Trio, 11 a.m. to 2 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.

Sundays – Live music 5 to 7 p.m. at Woody’s at Del Mesa. Musical guests **Brice and Nina** deliver an eclectic mix of jazz, rock and reggae, 500 Del Mesa Carmel. (831) 624-1854

Nov. 15 – Poetry reading and author party for Deborah Wenzler, 3 to 5 p.m. Launching Deborah’s third book of poetry, “Memories from My Future.” Book signing follows. Refreshments will be served. \$5 donation benefits the Carmel Valley Library. Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito, Carmel Valley. (831) 659-0400.

Nov. 16 – Music at St. Dunstan’s, presents **“Baroque to Modern” with Emi Saeki, organist.** Order tickets online at <https://square.link/u/WVvZ8Pix> or at the door: \$30, \$25 seniors/military, students and under 18 free. 28005 Robinson Canyon Road, Carmel Valley.

Nov. 16 – 17th Annual Celebration of Gratitude – Interfaith Outreach of Carmel & Joining Hands Benefit Shop invite you to a Celebration of Gratitude featuring the Carmel Mission Basilica Schola Cantorum and The Monterey Peninsula Gospel Community Choir. 3 p.m. at Carmel Mission Basilica, 3080 Rio Road, Carmel. Reception to follow. Everyone is welcome! InterfaithOutreachCarmel@gmail.com

Nov. 17 – “The Beauty of Glass,” Annie Morhauser, artist and owner of Annieglass, will share her 30 year love of glass blowing and the development of her own version of the ancient glass forming process, called slumping. 2 p.m. Carmel Woman’s Club, San Carlos and Ninth. Open to the public, \$10 guests/members free.

Nov. 18 – Join local photographer Douglas Steakley for a Pacific Grove slideshow at the Pacific Grove Library, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Known for stunning images in National Geographic and Outside Magazine, Steakley shares scenes from his books “Pacific Light” and “Big Sur

Revealed.” Part of the Fall Exhibition, “PG at 150.” www.pacificgrovelibrary.org

Nov. 18 – Orchids 101 Demonstration by Carmel Orchid Society members begins 12:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the PBCSD (Pebble Beach Community Services District) at 3101 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953. All guests are welcome with guest fee \$5. Light refreshments will be served. PB Gate fee will be waived by mentioning “Ikebana.”

Nov. 20 – Celtic Music Series with Scotland’s award-winning **Breabach**, featuring two bagpipes, a dancer, and the full folk experience. Show at 7 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m. St. Mary’s By-the-Sea, 146 12th St., Pacific Grove. Tickets: www.celticsociety.org

Nov. 21 – The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB) will present a dinner lecture at the Hilton Garden Inn. Speaker is **Dr. Sumit Ganguly of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University**, whose topic is “Inside India: how the economy, demography and politics of India are shaping its rising position in the global community.” For details and to register visit www.wacmb.org or call (831) 643-1855.

Nov. 22 – Order deadline for Baum & Blume’s “Good to Gather” take-home Thanksgiving! Shouldn’t your Thanksgiving meal be prepared with love and care? Well, that’s what B&B’s chefs will do for YOU! But don’t delay ~ order soon! View menu @ www.baumandblume.com. Baum & Blume Catering, 4 El Caminito, Carmel Valley. (831) 659-0400.

Nov. 22 – City of Carmel-by-the-Sea Craftapoolooza! Unique crafts, baked goods, vintage Christmas decor and more featured 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at four Carmel locations: All Saints’ Episcopal Church, Dolores and Ninth; Carmel Woman’s Club, San Carlos and Ninth; Church of the Wayfarer, Lincoln and Seventh; and the 54th Homecrafters Marketplace in the Sunset Center North Lot, San Carlos and Eighth.

Nov. 25 – Monica Graham Fine Art is the setting for **“Out West,” Diesel Ledbetter’s first solo show.** Ledbetter is known for his evocative creations that capture the essence of the American West. His works often include intricate details, mixed media, vibrant colors, drawing inspiration from nature, animals and the culture of the region. Reception hours are 5 to 7 p.m., Sixth Avenue between San Carlos and Dolores, Carmel-by-the-Sea.

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SECTION RE ■ November 14-20, 2025

Open Houses on page 8RE

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate



■ This week's cover property, located in Carmel,
is presented by Jamal Noorzoy
of Carmel Realty Company. (See Page 2RE)



CARMEL REALTY COMPANY
ESTABLISHED 1913

About the Cover

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate

November 14-20, 2025



24497 San Mateo Avenue, Carmel
3 Bed, 3 Bath | 2,596 Sq. Ft. | \$4,495,000
24497SanMateo.com

Originally an unassuming mid-century home on perhaps one of the best Carmel Woods view parcels facing Southwest, this home has been reconstructed, expanded and enhanced into a truly bespoke modern home of contemporary times. Designed by renowned Carmel architect Erik Dyar in collaboration with the client, the design focused on creating a great room of open living space connected to the forest and Carmel Bay beyond. Within the great room, the living, dining and kitchen interact as one where the kitchen cabinets and large island blend in like fine custom furniture. Upstairs, a primary suite with a luxurious appointed bath complete with separate view balcony and a den or 2nd bedroom. Downstairs, a peaceful family room, 3rd bedroom with a ground level deck and hot tub transform this property into a destination. Finished in fine stone counters, hardwood and stone floors this house is a delight to enjoy for more than just mesmerizing ocean and sunset views.

Jamal Noorzoy, Realtor®

831.277.5544 | Jamal@CarmelRealtyCompany.com
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JUST LISTED



113 14th Street, Pacific Grove
\$1,975,000

Historical Retreat with 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths with 1,299 sq ft with Ocean View and 2 Car Garage. Located only 3 homes from the ocean by Lovers Point and easy walk to the shops and restaurants downtown. A rare opportunity.



TOM BRUCE

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831.277.7200
LIC. #00804595

Real Estate Sales Nov. 2 - 8

Escrows closed: 31
Total value: \$53,132,682

Carmel Highlands

Crest Road — \$1,565,000
Karl and Michele Heisler to Gregory Biggs
APN: 241-231-010

Carmel Valley

16 Paso Cresta — \$749,000
Laura Anderson to Sky and Sandra Becker
APN: 189-232-016

See **HOME SALES** page 4RE

STORYBOOK CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA COTTAGE

2 beds, 2 baths ♦ \$2,695,000 ♦ SWCornerCaminoRealAnd4th.com



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MULTIPLE UNITS
CARMEL | 14 VIA CONTENTA
14VIACONTENTA.COM
OFFERED AT \$2,600,000



PRIVACY, VIEWS & LUXURY
CARMEL VALLEY | 13330 MIDDLE CANYON
13330MIDDLECANYONROAD.COM
OFFERED AT \$1,295,000



OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 12-2
CARMEL VALLEY | 5 BORONDA ROAD
5BORONDAROAD.COM
OFFERED AT \$1,795,000



ORIGINAL CARMEL VALLEY CHARM
CARMEL VALLEY | 51 EL POTRERO
51ELPOTRERO.COM
OFFERED AT \$675,000



STEINY FAMILY PROPERTIES

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doug@dougsteiny.com
Lisa 831.277.2070
lisa@dougsteiny.com
dougsteiny.com
DRE: 00681652 & 02009666



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Carmel ■ 5 beds, 5+ baths ■ \$10,750,000 ■ www.5466QuailWay.com



Carmel ■ 4 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$8,500,000 ■ www.53RileyRanch.com



Carmel ■ 4 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$4,580,000 ■ www.ViewsOnSanJuan.com



Carmel ■ 3 beds, 3 baths ■ \$4,495,000 ■ www.24497SanMateo.com



Carmel ■ 3 beds, 3 baths ■ \$3,795,000 ■ www.3493GreenfieldPlace.com



Carmel ■ 4 beds, 2 baths ■ \$2,695,000 ■ www.25905Junipero.com



Carmel ■ 2 beds, 2 baths ■ \$1,799,000 ■ www.25601CarmelKnolls.com



Pebble Beach ■ 2 beds, 2 baths ■ \$998,000 ■ www.22OceanPines.com



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HOME SALES

From page 2RE

Carmel Valley (cont'd)

High Meadow Drive unit 23 — \$850,000
Mark Jensen to DJANDBJ Investments LLC and 23 High Meadow Drive LLC
APN: 015-471-029

188 Del Mesa Carmel — \$1,050,000
Estate of Nancy Miner to Dan and Madeline Davis
APN: 015-512-019

238 Del Mesa Carmel — \$1,150,000
Carl and Beverly Mitchell to Melissa Wornack
APN: 015-515-006

5 Laurel Drive — \$1,220,000



6 Spray Avenue, Monterey — \$3,950,000



5 Laurel Drive, Carmel Valley — \$1,220,000

Robert Egli to Robert and Jennifer Block
APN: 187-411-003

Tiffany Scarborough and Heather Hall to Carmel Property Holdings LLC
APN: 015-522-012

24940 Outlook Drive — \$1,700,000

See **ESCROWS** page 10RE

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**Cachagua Road, Carmel Valley
Starlit Ridge Retreat in Cachagua
11± Acres Lot | \$275,000**



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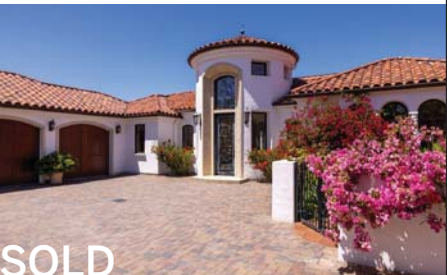


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OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY 11-1 & SUNDAY 11:30-1:30
1043 MISSION RD, PEBBLE BEACH

View of 8th hole of MPCC
Cape Cod-style home | 4-Bed, 2.5-Bath
Tesla solar & Powerwall battery
\$2,850,000



NEW LISTING

OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 2 - 4PM
642 CYPRESS STREET, MONTEREY

Charming 2 bed, 1 bath house
Across from Cypress Street Park
Listed with Denise Miotke, DRE: 01969480
\$950,000



Carmel-by-the-Sea Real Estate Activity This Week:

Status	Address	List Price	Sale Price	DOM
New Listing	11th 2 E of Torres Ave	\$2,300,000	---	1
Pending	SW Mountain View at Crespi Ave	\$1,850,000	---	62
Pending	Camino Real & 7th SWC	\$7,275,000	---	29

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Please reach out for a Comparative Market Anaylsis.

(Data from MLSListings Inc)



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24817 Santa Fe Street, Carmel
3 BD | 2.5 BA | 1,714± SQ. FT. | 3,776± SQ. FT. LOT
\$3,250,000
ButtercupCottageCarmel.com
Vilia Kakis Gilles 831.760.7091
License# 00883948

Santa Fe 4 SE of Ocean Avenue, Carmel
2 BD | 2 BA | 1,214± SQ. FT. | 3,920± SQ. FT. LOT
\$2,895,000
sothebysrealty.com/id/MGF9MJ
Ryan Melcher 831.521.5024
License# 01897036



OPEN SAT 11-2 PM



OPEN SAT 1-3 PM
11th 2 SE Torres, Carmel-by-the-Sea
2 BD | 1 BA | 1,319± SQ. FT. | 0.38± ACRE LOT
\$2,300,000
11th2EofTorres.com
Susan Cardinale 831.277.7600
License# 02045240



397 B Corral De Tierra Road
3 BD | 3 BA | 3,047± SQ. FT. | 1.95± ACRE LOT
\$1,350,000
397CorralDeTierraRd.com
Maria Betts & Pam Pantzis 831.214.6718
License# 00796167 & 01191464

146 Calle de la Ventana, Carmel Valley
3 BD | 2 BA | 1,222± SQ. FT. | 0.46± ACRE LOT
\$1,205,000
146CalleDeLaVentana.com
Joe Smith 831.372.7700
License# 01335794



OPEN SAT & SUN 1-3 PM
1109 McClellan Avenue, Monterey
3 BD | 2 BA | 1,178± SQ. FT. | 6,032± SQ. FT. LOT
\$1,150,000
1109McClellanAvenue.com
Patty Ross 831.236.4513
License# 01468703



OPEN SAT 1-3 PM
831 Arlington Place, Del Rey Oaks
4 BD | 2 BA | 1,784± SQ. FT. | 6,970± SQ. FT. LOT
\$1,100,000
sothebysrealty.com/id/CSR3TN
Jeannie Fromm 831.277.3371
License# 01348162

1 Surf Way, #122, Monterey
1 BD | 1 BA | 718± SQ. FT.
\$947,000
sothebysrealty.com/id/P2BEZM
Truszkowski Freedman & Associates 831.238.7449
License# 01240204



0 Cachagua Road, Carmel Valley
11± ACRE LOT | \$275,000
sothebysrealty.com/id/7FM9B5
Aisha Krechuniak & Sam Piffero 831.595.9291
License# 01186400

How Covid took away my word games but left my columns alone

FOR YEARS, I was a crossword puzzle junkie, awaiting the publication of the New York Times Sunday puzzle like some toddler craning his neck to see if Santa is coming down the chimney. Its size was intimidating to most puzzlers, but it wasn't all that difficult. It was the daily puzzles in the Times that grew progressively more difficult

as the week went on. The Friday edition was a challenge — but Saturday's grid taxed even the most avid puzzler. Then Wordle came along, and I jumped right in. Yet, it took only a week or two for the game to become too easy. Then I discovered Quordle, a game published in some of my favorite newspapers, using four words with the same

restrictions as Wordle, which made it more difficult, but eventually even that became routine. So I advanced to Octordle, solving for eight words with the same number of guesses. I didn't always solve that one, but coming close was an achievement. Then Covid happened. I had been inoculated and even had a booster when I was hit with the Perfect Storm — Covid and pneumonia. Excellent medical care and a pace-maker pulled me through, but the recovery was slow. Weeks later, I eagerly put the New York Times Sunday crossword puzzle in front of me. I got clues 1-across and 1-down immediately and then ... and then I had no desire

Scenic Views

By JERRY GERVASE

to go any further. I lost interest in something I looked forward to. There were other noticeable changes in my brain functions, too. It took longer to think through problems. I wasn't getting the same satisfaction or sense of accomplishment from completing word puzzles. It felt like work. I wasn't just "being lazy," I had actual changes in brain function that scientists are actively studying.

Lost in fog

Research found that 40 percent of Covid survivors later reported impairment they called brain fog. For many people, the symptoms improved, though the timeline varied considerably from person to person. Studies available on sciencedirect.com, in the scientific journal, Nature, and other sources, confirm that "Covid brain fog" is a legitimate neurological condition with measurable brain changes. The loss of interest in activities like word games aligns with these documented shifts. Then why didn't I lose my enthusiasm and desire to write a weekly newspaper column? Word games primarily require pattern recognition and vocabulary retrieval, along with the short-term memory required to keep letters and clues in mind. They involve finding a single answer through systematic problem-solving, rule-following and choosing from multiple possibilities. They're also more of

See GERVASE page 9RE



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Spacious English Country Estate with Ocean Views
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OPEN HOUSE
Sun 11am-1pm

A Single-Level Mid-Century Modern with Views
Pebble Beach ♦ \$3,095,000 ♦ [4171SunsetLane.com](#)



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4840 Cliff Dr	Capitola		
Coldwell Banker Realty		234-2612	

CARMEL			
\$897,000	2bd 2ba	Su 12-2	
64 Del Mesa Carmel	Carmel		
Carmel Realty		915-7415	
\$990,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1-3	
254 Del Mesa Carmel	Carmel		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		333-6060	
\$1,029,000	2bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-3 Su 12-2	
3850 Rio Road #7	Carmel		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		917-9886	
\$1,099,000	2bd 2ba	Fr 12-2 Su 1:30-3:30	
3600 High Meadow, #9	Carmel		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		277-9250 / 404-401-8647	
\$1,600,000	2bd 2ba	Fr 11-2	
NE Corner San Carlos & 8th St 1	Carmel		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		277-3371	
\$1,699,000	3bd 2ba	Su 1-3	
3610 Oliver Rd	Carmel		
Coldwell Banker Realty		917-3966	
\$2,300,000	2bd 1ba	Sa 1-3	
11th 2E of Torres Avenue	Carmel		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		277-7600	
\$2,495,000	3bd 3.5ba	Fr 2:30-5:30 Sa Su 11:30-2	
SE Corner of 4th Ave & Torres	Carmel		
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams		224-0020	
\$2,649,000	4bd 4ba	Fr Sa 12-3	
28069 Heron Ct	Carmel		
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams		261-6468	
\$2,695,000	4bd 2ba	Sa Su 1-3	
25905 Junipero Avenue	Carmel		
Carmel Realty		915-9726 / 392-7480	
\$2,895,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 11-2	
Santa Fe 4 SE of Ocean Ave	Carmel		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		277-9250	
\$3,250,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 1:30-3:30 Su 11-1	
24587 Castro Lane	Carmel		
Compass		236-5290	
\$3,250,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa Su 12-3	
24817 Santa Fe St	Carmel		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		760-7091 / 297-9805	
\$3,795,000	3bd 3ba	Sa Su 1-3	
2830 14th Ave	Carmel		
Compass		238-1380 / 238-2022	
\$4,500,000	4bd 4.5ba	Sa Su 1-3	
8044 Poplar Lane	Carmel		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		595-0797 / 241-4458	
\$4,845,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 12-2	
Mission 4 NE of 10th Avenue	Carmel		
Coldwell Banker Realty		917-5646	
\$5,850,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 1-3	
Palou 8 & 9 NW of Casanova	Carmel		
Staples Gannaway Team, Compass		297-2388	

CARMEL VALLEY

\$1,700,000	3bd 3ba	Sa Su 12-3	
150 Terrace Way	Carmel Valley		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		620-2468	
\$1,795,000	3bd 2.5+ba	Sa Su 12-2	
5 Boronda Road	Carmel Valley		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		402-4394	
\$1,898,000	5bd 4ba	Sa 12-3	
31420 Via La Naranga	Carmel Valley		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		277-3371	
\$1,900,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa Su 10-12	
26131 Laureles Grade	Carmel Valley		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		521-5682	
\$2,890,000	4bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-3	
31499 Via Las Rosas	Carmel Valley		
The Agency		293-4878	

CORRAL DE TIERRA

\$999,999	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 2-5 Su 1-4	
13500 Paseo Terrano	Corral de Tierra		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		238-6152	

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November 14 - 16

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\$1,050,000	4bd 2.5ba	Fr 3-5 Sa Su 11-1	
25 Los Encinos Drive	Del Rey Oaks		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		915-8989	
\$1,100,000	4bd 2ba	Sa 1-3	
831 Arlington PL	Del Rey Oaks		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		277-8622	

LOS GATOS

\$2,750,000	4bd 3.5+ba	Sa 11:30-2	
24101 Mountain Charlie Road	Los Gatos		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		915-6391	

MARINA

\$945,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 1-4 Su 2-4	
3141 Ocean Terrace	Marina		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		773-546-8045 / 277-9250	

\$996,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 1-3	
21610 Ord Ave	Marina		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		887-8022	
\$1,249,000	4bd 2.5ba	Sa Su 1-3	
2721 Parkview Way	Marina		
Monterey Coast Realty		238-0653	
\$1,269,900	3bd 2.5ba	Su 2-5	
2962 Bluffs Drive	Marina		
Monterey Coast Realty		206-295-6427	
\$1,100,000	4bd 3ba	Sa Su 2-4	
18599 McClellan Circle	Marina, East Garrison		
Monterey Coast Realty		277-6728	

MONTEREY

\$889,000	3bd 2.5ba	Su 1-3	
1360 Josselyn Canyon Road 40	Monterey		
Monterey Coast Realty		717-7959	
\$950,000	2bd 1ba	Sa Su 2-4	
642 Cypress St	Monterey		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		238-8029	
\$1,085,000	3bd 1ba	Su 1-4	
799 Grace Street	Monterey		
Carmel Realty		320-6801	
\$1,150,000	3bd 2ba	Sa Su 1-3	
1109 McClellan Avenue	Monterey		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		236-4513	
\$1,395,000	5bd 3ba	Sa 2-4 Su 11-1	
486 Van Buren St	Monterey		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		262-2301 / 277-9250	
\$1,650,000	4bd 3ba	Fr 3-5 Sa 12-4 Su 12-4	
981 Monterey Circle	Monterey		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		915-8688 / 262-2301	
\$1,795,000	6bd 4ba	Sa 1-3	
301 Euclid Avenue	Monterey		
Monterey Coast Realty		333-6325	
\$1,799,000	4bd 3.5ba	Sa 3-5 Su 1-3	
23 Cramden Drive	Monterey		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		915-8989 / 277-8622	
\$2,095,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 1:30-3:30	
799 Parcel St	Monterey		
Coldwell Banker Realty		320-6391	
\$2,250,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 2:30-4:30	
6 Huckleberry Ct	Monterey		
Coldwell Banker Realty		356-8123	
\$2,500,000	3bd 3ba	Su 12-2	
471 El Dorado Street	Monterey		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		277-2782	
\$3,500,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 11-1 Su 1:30-3:30	
502 Pierce Street	Monterey		
Compass		236-5290	

PACIFIC GROVE

\$860,000	1bd 1ba	Sa 12-3 Su 1-3	
139 Carmel Avenue	Pacific Grove		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		277-5971	

\$1,199,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 1-3	
964 Forest Ave	Pacific Grove		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		917-1631	
\$1,298,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 1-2 Su 12:30-1:30	
723 Eardley Avenue	Pacific Grove		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		238-8116	
\$1,598,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 1-3 Su 1-4	
311 Walnut Street	Pacific Grove		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		917-6080 / 510-589-6892	
\$3,199,000	3bd 4ba	Sa 1-3	
127 16th Street	Pacific Grove		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		318-3808	
\$3,988,000	4bd 2.5+ba	Sa 1-3	
131 7th Street	Pacific Grove		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		318-3808	

PEBBLE BEACH

\$895,000	2bd 2ba	Su 1-3	
54 Shepherds Knoll	Pebble Beach		
Compass		236-5290	
\$2,195,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 2-4	
4083 Sunset Lane	Pebble Beach		
Compass		220-4528	
\$2,850,000	4bd 2.5ba	Sa 11-1 Su 11:30-1:30	
1043 Mission Road	Pebble Beach		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		238-8029	
\$3,095,000	4bd 3.5ba	Su 11-1	
4171 Sunset Lane	Pebble Beach		
Carmel Realty		277-5544	
\$5,295,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 1-3	
3093 Hacienda Drive	Pebble Beach		
Carmel Realty		241-8900	
\$7,150,000	4bd 4.5ba	Sa 1-3	
3937 Ronda Road	Pebble Beach		
Carmel Realty		277-5544	

SALINAS

\$819,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 12:30-2:30 Su 1-3	
17602 Winding Creek Rd	Salinas		
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams		620-2243	
\$885,000	5bd 3ba	Sa 12-2:30 Su 1-3	
1690 Piazza Dr	Salinas		
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams		258-9150	
\$1,075,000	3bd 2ba	Sa Su 1-3	
22985 Guidotti Drive	Salinas		
Sotheby's Int'l RE		261-1120	

SEASIDE

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1148 San Lucas St	Seaside		
Compass		574-9470	

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Represented Sellers

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0 Junipero 2 SE of 10th Ave.

- Recently sold!

\$145k less than last price drop

Represented Buyers

Listing by Sotheby's International Realty

POLICE LOG

From page 4A

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Carmel Valley: Deputies documented an ongoing neighbor dispute on Village Drive.

Carmel Valley: Deputies received a report of battery on Village Drive involving a 66-year-old male suspect and a 63-year-old female victim.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A victim at Junipero and Fifth discovered their personal identifying information had been compromised through cyberspace.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Sex crimes against a child reported by the victim, who is now an adult.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fall on city property at Dolores and Seventh.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report taken for a found U.S. passport. Owner was contacted and requested it be destroyed.

Pacific Grove: Report of threats on Central Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Report of a battery on Sunset Drive. Subject was placed on a 5150 W&I mental-health hold.

Pacific Grove: Fall on public property on Pine Avenue.

Pebble Beach: Deputies responded to missing persons on Laurel Lane.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Attempted email extortion involving a resident at Lopez and 10th.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fall on city property on Mission south of Ocean.

Pacific Grove: Found property was turned in to the police department and is being held for safekeeping.

Pacific Grove: Report of graffiti to a public restroom on Forest Avenue.

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

Pacific Grove: Informational report on Chestnut Street regarding a possible internet scam.

Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to a report of a found firearm at Mid Valley Center. Incident was documented.

Big Sur: Mother wanted to report inappropriate sexual messages between her minor daughter, age 14, and an older male.

Carmel area: Online report of a property crime on Ribera.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Reckless driving resulted in vehicle impound at Ocean and Junipero at 2321 hours. A 19-year-old male was cited.

Pacific Grove: Report of a missing juvenile on David Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Report of a suspicious

male possibly breaking into a residence on Piedmont Avenue. Male contacted and released on a citation for an out-of-county warrant for failure to appear on a misdemeanor charge. Damage to reporting party’s window screen was located, but officers were unable to identify perpetrator.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle on Austin Avenue was reported to be repossessed by Active Auto Recovery. .

Carmel area: Deputies documented an incident of suspicious circumstances, post burglary alarm, on Edgefield Place.

Pebble Beach: Sheriff’s deputies responded to a verbal domestic on Raccoon Trail.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Adult Protective Services report on Junipero Street.

See **SHERIFF** next page

GERVASE

From page 6RE

a pure mental exercise without triggering any implications in real life.

Writing a column involves a different kind of thinking and creativity. There’s no single answer to, “What should I say today and how should I say it?” Self-expression and communication of my point of view are things I want to accomplish with purpose and meaning, connecting my words to readers and contributing to the public discourse.

“Covid brain fog is characterized mainly by episodic attention and memory problems, with planning and high-level brain function issues less commonly reported,” according to pub.med, another database, which might explain why the systematic, attention-intensive nature of puzzles feels particularly draining, while the more creative, purpose-driven work of writing remains rewarding.

The pips

Additionally, my motivation for writing comes from having ideas and wanting to share them, whereas puzzles require me to manufacture motivation for an abstract challenge. Since Covid, that seems to be harder for me to generate. It’s extremely reassuring that my column writing is still going strong, suggesting that my creative

thinking and ability to communicate ideas remain intact, even if the more mechanical cognitive tasks feel less appealing right now.

The answer to regaining those kinds of tasks may lie in the intriguing game of dominoes. I’ve written about the two local gentlemen, Lee Cox and Keith Antes, who have been playing dominoes several times a week at the Carmel Plaza for six years. For the past few months, they’ve been kind enough to let me sit and watch (without kibitzing).

Slowly I’ve picked up the basics of the game, which is far more complicated than I thought, and I’ve even played a few rounds, not up to their level, but without being defeated by the problem-solving and rule-following that are required.

After dominoes, I tried a crossword puzzle again. Zap! No desire to go beyond a few clues. I might as well have been trying to read “War and Peace” in Urdu.

Maybe crossword puzzles and Wordle are challenging because it’s me against me — the most aggressive conflict there is. I like to win at dominoes, but I don’t care if I lose.

The game requires skill, but I can only play the tiles I draw. And maybe the desire for word games and the cognitive skills involved will never come back. That’s OK with me. Because some day I may write a column about it.

Contact Jerry at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.

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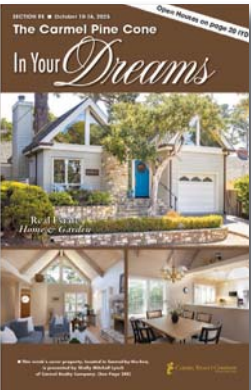
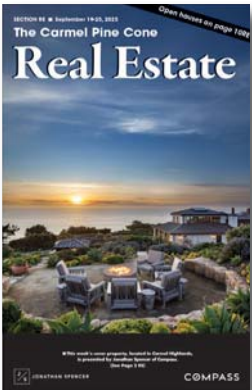
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CARMEL REALTY COMPANY
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ESCROWS

From page 4RE

Carmel Valley (cont'd)

27120 Los Arboles Drive — \$2,470,000
Robin and Christopher Sawyer to Northern California Congregational Retirement Homes Inc.
APN: 169-041-019

Greenfield

Canal Street — \$4,600,000
Premiere Partners IV LLC to MCP Perm LLC
APN: 109-312-005

Marina

3006 Minaret Way unit A — \$380,000
The Sea Haven LLC to Matthew Burke
APN: 031-293-036



24940 Outlook Drive, Carmel Valley — \$1,700,000

3038 King Circle — \$745,000
Craig and Emily Gaines to Jose Rangel and Sandra Cortez
APN: 032-391-061

246 Cosky Drive — \$775,000
Daniel and Alice Mei to Antonio Jennings and Madison Ferrante
APN: 032-011-026

2729 Ocean Bluff Avenue — \$1,033,000
Shea Homes LP to Thomas and Joan Maher
APN: 031-298-012

2715 Ocean Bluff Avenue — \$1,084,500
Shea Homes LP to Gail Chung
APN: 031-298-018

104 8th Street — \$1,225,500
Shea Homes LP to Tuong Huynh and Thanh Nguyen
APN: 031-284-015

2414 Sea Shell Avenue — \$1,600,000
Shea Homes LP to Susan Meyer
APN: 031-284-035

2713 Ocean Bluff Avenue — \$1,601,500
Shea Homes LP to Gerard Blank and Martha Kitchell
APN: 031-298-017

2727 Ocean Bluff Avenue — \$1,637,500
Shea Homes LP to KAPR LLC
APN: 031-298-011

2401 Sea Shell Avenue — \$1,841,000
Shea Homes LP to Manuel and Lorraine Martinez
APN: 031-284-001

2413 Ocean Bluff Avenue — \$1,841,500
Shea Homes LP to Andrew and Milagrosa Howey
APN: 031-284-066

Continues next page



OPEN HOUSE SAT 1-3

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Carmel Valley



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Katherine Hudson

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SHERIFF

From previous page

Pacific Grove: Domestic battery incident reported on Morland Avenue.

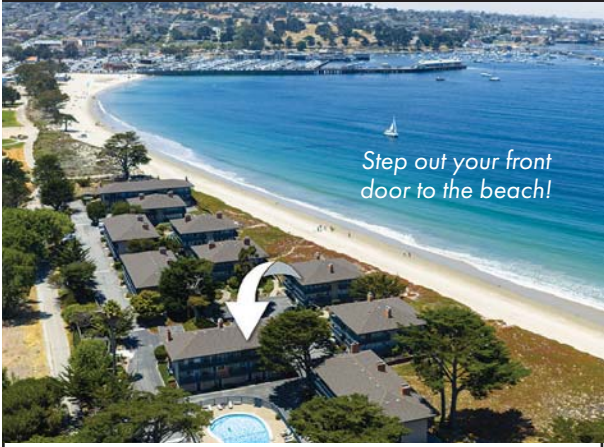
Pacific Grove: At approximately 1547 hours, a vehicle stop was conducted at David Avenue and Pine Street in the City of Monterey for vehicle code violations. It was determined the passenger had a warrant for his arrest and was in possession of suspected cocaine. The 39-year-old male subject was booked into Monterey County Jail for failure to appear on a misdemeanor warrant and possession of narcotics. He was held on \$15,000 bail.

Pebble Beach: Lost property on Forest Lake Road.

Pacific Grove: Found dog at large on Maple Street brought into the department. Returned to owner.

Pacific Grove: Report of vandalism on Sunset Drive.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

Carmel-by-the-Sea: No calls to report.

Pacific Grove: Domestic partners in verbal altercation inside a residence on Patterson Lane.

Pebble Beach: Resident reported the theft of a wallet on Cypress Drive.

Carmel area: Deputies respond to a dead body on Yankee Point Drive.

Carmel Valley: Deputies respond to a verbal domestic dispute on Old Ranch Road.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A male was reported to be causing a disturbance at Lincoln and Ocean at 0130 hours. He was subsequently arrested and later released in accordance with section 849(b) of the California Penal Code (in the interest of justice).

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 24-year-old male was cited and released at Carpenter and Fourth for traffic warrants from 2020 and 2021.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Business at Ocean and Mission reported a shoplifting incident.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 25-year-old female subject was arrested at Monte Verde and Ocean at 1524 hours for public intoxication, a probation violation warrant, resisting arrest and battery on peace officer. Female was booked into Monterey County Jail on \$10,000 bail.

Pacific Grove: A juvenile at Country Club Gate Center was cited for public intoxication and released to a sober adult.

Pacific Grove: Report of a missing juvenile from a residence on David Avenue who later returned home. Juvenile cited for curfew violation.

Pebble Beach: Fraud reported by an El Bosque Drive resident.

Carmel area: Civil issue between neighbors on Upper Walden Road.

Carmel Valley: Fraud reported on White Oaks Lane.

Pebble Beach: Suspicious circumstances reported on Pine Meadows Way.

Carmel area: Found property on Carmel Rancho Boulevard.

Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to reported theft from vehicle on Old Ranch Road.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Hit-and-run with a parked unoccupied vehicle at Mission and Ocean.

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