HOLIDAY GUIDE

What time's the tree lighting? Where's Santa?
What do you buy a friend who has everything?
... inside this week!

The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 111 No. 48 https://carmelpinecone.com November 28-December 4, 2025

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Harigae sets Spanish Bay record, takes TaylorMade

PHOTO/SHERMAN CHU

Stevenson School alumna Mina Harigae set a new women's record at Spanish Bay when she shot a 64 during the TaylorMade Pebble Beach Invitational.

By MARY SCHLEY

A HOMETOWN star won the TaylorMade Pebble Beach Invitational held Nov. 20-23, making history not just as the second woman to land the trophy since the tournament's founding in 1972, but as a record-setter at the Spanish Bay Golf Links.

Monterey native Mina Harigae, who turned 36 Nov. 1, shot a blistering 64 Friday at Spanish Bay, setting a new women's record at the course. Her 69 at Pebble Beach in the first round and 68 at Spyglass Hill in the third, as well as her 1-over-par 73 at Pebble Beach during the final round, gave Harigae a gross total of 274 and an overall 14 under par, three shots better than second-place finisher Cameron Sisk.

A Pirate

Harigae is a Stevenson School graduate who made history when she won the California State Women's Amateur in 2001 at the age of 12, making her the youngest to ever achieve that feat. The daughter of Yasunori and Mafumi Harigae, longtime owners of Pacific Grove's now-closed Takara Sushi restaurant, she went on to win it three more years in a row, competed at Duke University, and subsequently found success on the world stage.

She placed second in the 2022 U.S. Women's Open at Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club in North Carolina, netting $1,080,000 in winnings, "the most ever for a runner-up in women's golf history" at the time, according to the USGA. Harigae married Travis Kreiter, her caddie,

See **HARIGAE** *page 23A*

Supes pass ADU rules for county

■ 'One step' to create more housing

By CHRIS COUNTS

TO MAKE it easier for property owners to add housing in Big Sur and other unincorporated parts of the county, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 Nov. 18 to approve a set of policies and regulations allowing accessory dwelling units in the Coastal Zone.

The measures envision standalone units of up to 1,000 square feet in Big Sur and 1,200 square feet in other unincorporated areas, along with junior accessory dwelling units, which can be a maximum of 500 square feet but must be "fully contained within the walls of a single-family home." None of the new units can be rented short term.

Unlimited units, but none of them can be rented out short term

Cap vs. no cap

Several speakers urged supervisors to put a cap on the number of new ADUs, including Christina McGinnis of Keep Big Sur Wild, who suggested that no more than 50 be permitted in Big Sur. Another Keep Big Sur Wild member, Marcus Foster, also endorsed the cap of 50 units and expressed concerns about how the streamlined approval process for ADUs will sidestep a hearing before the land use advisory committee, and how the units will impact the viewshed.

Foster also predicted the new units won't provide as much housing as advertised, with some ending up as yoga studios for wealthy homeowners who don't need the rental income.

But Rachel Goldberger of the Community Association of Big Sur urged supervisors to back the rules. Goldberger also asked them to consider allowing alternative structures like yurts, modular homes and tiny homes.

Goldberger said the rules "should not open the door

See **ADUs** *page 20A*

Couple sues city, PG&E over house fire

By MARY SCHLEY

THE OWNERS of a home that caught fire in February after a tree branch fell on a power line are suing the City of Carmel and PG&E for the damage, which they say exceeded $800,000. John and Elise Nai are blaming the city for the pine branch that broke and the utility company for letting the damage to their power connection cause a major fire.

The Nais, who live in Massachusetts, bought the house on the southeast corner of Torres and 10th in June 2016 for $1,175,000, per Monterey County property records. According to their lawsuit, on Feb. 13 at 5:30 a.m., "a large limb from a tree on city property fell on a PG&E power line," which in turn damaged the wires bringing power to their home.

When city forester Justin Ono and a tree crew responded around 11:15 a.m. that day to remove the broken branches, they determined that the power line was still live, according to the, which was filed in Monterey County Superior Court for the Nais on Nov. 13 by the Salinas firm

See **FIRE** *page 17A*

DLI STUDENT IS LATEST VICTIM OF DEADLY SURF

By CHRIS COUNTS

JUST DAYS after heavy surf at Garrapata Beach in Big Sur took two lives, a U.S. Army soldier who was a student at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey drowned Saturday after he was swept out to sea by powerful waves. The incident happened about 2 miles to north of Garrapata, near Soberanes Point.

The victim was identified as Amanpreet Thind, a 35-year-old U.S. Army specialist from New Jersey. Four days after the accident, his body hadn't been recovered, and search efforts are still ongoing, the Monterey County Sheriff's Office reported.

"We offer our deepest condolences to the Thind family during this difficult time," a spokesperson for DLI said. "We are providing those impacted with every resource and support service available and extend our heartfelt gratitude to local, state and national first responders working tirelessly to locate Spc. Thind."

Two others are safe

Thind was one of three people who were "swept off the rocks" and pulled into the surf, according to the sheriff's office. "Two women were able to self-rescue and were transported to a local hospital where they were treated and released for minor injuries," the report continued.

A search effort by the sheriff's office and five other agencies was slowed by heavy surf and high winds, and didn't yield any results before sundown. It resumed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday without success.

Meanwhile, people were urged to stay clear of the storm-driven surf until it settles down.

See **DROWNED** *page 14A*

What are your kids up to on those school laptops?

THE CHROMEBOOK has replaced the textbook in California classrooms, and teachers are reporting that the move to laptop-based learning has become a major problem — so big it has some returning to pen and paper.

Over the last decade, schools in the Golden State have bought in wholesale to the idea that a 1-to-1

Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

student-to-device ratio will improve academic performance and get children ready for a high-tech world. But those results haven't materialized. Instead, test scores have fallen and students are showing up at college less ready than they were 10 years ago.

Part of the problem is kids are not using their school-issued computers solely for learning. Instead, hours of class

See **LAPTOPS** *page 21A*

The gift of smooth roads

PHOTO/CITY OF CARMEL

Locals will be thrilled to see progress is being made on the $2.8 million worth of roadwork authorized by the Carmel City Council in a contract with Coastal Paving & Excavation in September. See story on page 3A.

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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Worth the wait

Having moved to Pacific Grove, she was wandering the shore along Carmel Beach when she looked around the canine capital of the country and thought, "This is ridiculous. Why don't I have a dog walking beside me?"

Her breed choice was inspired by her daughter, whose son had gone off to college, so she'd decided she needed a little companion to fill the void. Having fallen for a Havanese, she'd brought home Lily.

"Every time I visited my daughter, I spent time with Lily and fell in love with her," the Pagrovian said. "But when I contacted a breeder, I was told I'd have to wait more than two years to get a Havanese puppy."

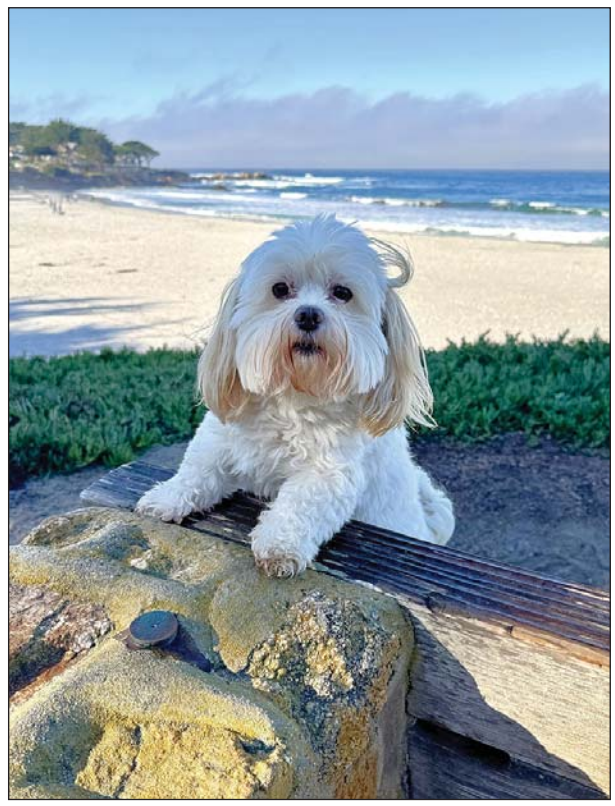
She knew it would be worth the wait.

"I picked up my puppy when she was 8 weeks," her person said. "She sat on my lap, and I held her the whole way home. I named her 'Sauci,' after the way my daughter, Lisa, had pronounced her own name when she was little."

Turns out her Havanese, now 8, truly is a saucy little thing.

The first time she brought Sauci to Carmel Beach, she brought a little pink ball and started throwing it to her. Even as a puppy, she said, Sauci was fetching and playing in the sand, as if she'd always belonged here.

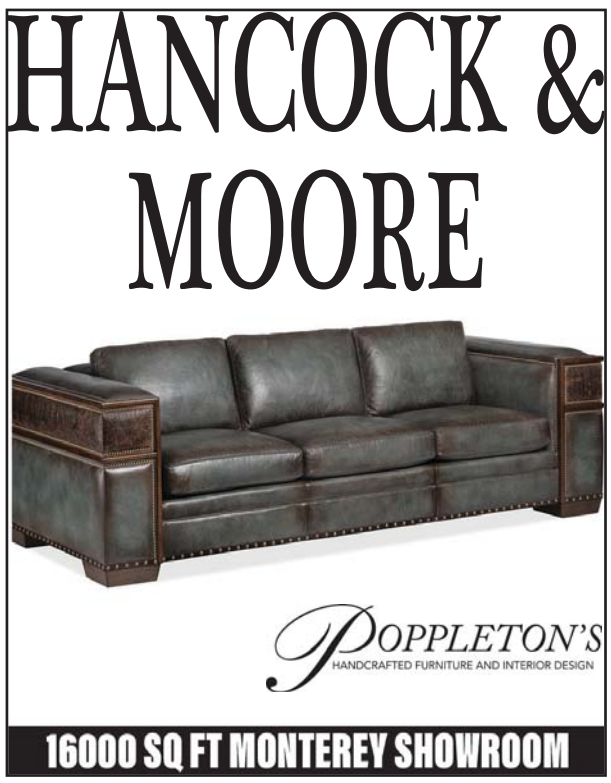
"Sauci doesn't know she's a 10-pound pup," her person said. "She's 'large and in charge.' She'll approach any dog on the beach and act like she runs the place."



Turns out the breed originated in 11th century France, where they were trained to herd sheep. "Sauci's got that down," her person said.

They are also irresistibly loving, happy dogs.

"She's been a wonderful addition to my life," she said. "She's living happily ever after, and so am I."



Rain Gauge

Last 7 days	Since Oct. 1	Since Oct. 1 avg.
.05 in.	6.85 in.	2.27 in.

Measured by MPWMD at Los Padres Dam
Average is for previous 5 years

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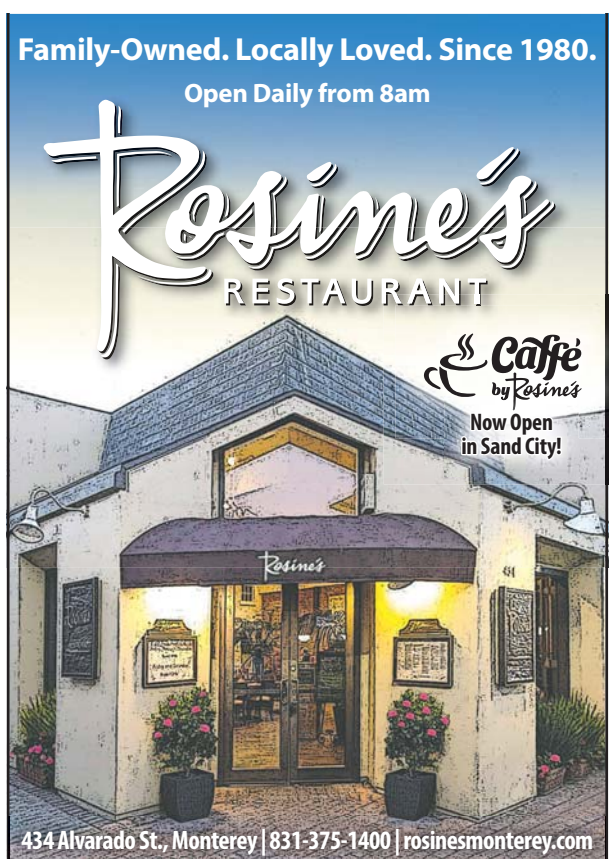


Huge street repaving effort underway

By MARY SCHLEY

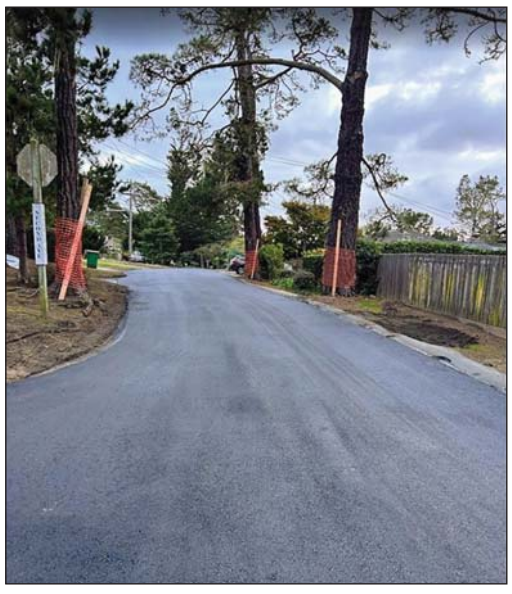
CARMEL'S $2.8 million "conglomerate paving project" got underway Nov. 12, with crews from Coastal Paving & Excavation laying new asphalt on 10th Avenue between Mission and Junipero and on Sixth between Guadalupe and Carpenter, and working on Torres between Second and Fourth last week.

The project, which includes street paving, sidewalk fixes and berm repairs, is expected to run through March 2026, and the public works department is providing regular updates on the city's website.

This week — the first few days of it, anyway, since Thanksgiving has everything grinding to a halt — included pavement patching, and sections of several streets are being dug out in advance of the micro-surfacing scheduled in the coming months.

On the work list are:

- Monterey Street (north end to Second),
- Santa Fe Street between Third and Fourth,
- Santa Rita (north city limit to Second),
- Third from Dolores to Mission,
- Monte Verde from Second to Fourth,
- Perry Newberry Way between Fourth and Sixth,
- Guadalupe between Second and Third and between Fifth and Sixth,
- Lobos Street (First to Second),
- Forest between Ocean and Seventh, and
- Pine Ridge Way from Forest to the turnaround.



PHOTO/CITY OF CARMEL

This stretch of Torres between Second and Fourth is shiny and new, thanks to a major repaving project.

Ocean Ave. hooray

But the most important piece of the project — or at least the one on most people's minds — is the greatly anticipated resurfacing of pothole-ridden and bumpy Ocean Avenue between Carpenter Street and Highway 1. That section of road has long garnered complaints, but it's outside the municipal limits, so fixing it is not the city's obligation. However, officials at city hall also acknowledged the road is the main entrance to town and decided to push the issue with Monterey County officials.

As a result, the county and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County will reimburse Carmel for that segment of work, according to a cost-sharing agreement signed in June. The county committed to chipping in $400,000, with the balance of $243,705 coming from TAMC in a deal approved by its board of directors Aug. 27

Weather permitting, the Ocean Avenue overlay is scheduled for Dec. 2-12, according to the public works department.

See **PAVING** *page 31A*

RYAN MELCHER PROPERTIES

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

NEW PRICE - $2,095,000
140 Terrace Way, Carmel Valley
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2:00-5:00 pm

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FEATURED INNS
(as pictured)
Pine Inn
Cypress Inn
Lincoln Green Inn
Lobos Lodge
Carmel Beach Hotel
Maude

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Cypress Grove Winery
Galante Vineyards
Dawn's Dream
Silvestri Vineyards
Windy Oaks

AND DELICIOUS FOOD FROM
Il Fornaio
Terry's Lounge
Flaherty's
Village Corner

And more to be announced soon!
Tickets are available on our website:
carmelheritage.org
or over the phone **(831) 624-4447**
Ticket pricing is $45 for CHS members
$50 for non-members and
$60 day-of on December 7th

Christine Gustafson

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- **Best Family Doctor** – The Lebanon Reporter, Boone County, Indiana 2016
- **Favorite Family Physician** – Sonoma Family Life Magazine, Sonoma County 2012

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Police & Sheriff's Log

It wasn't a gesture of good will

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.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Subject at Monte Verde and Ocean was causing a disturbance at 0731 hours. Trespass report regarding an intoxicated male subject who entered a hotel. The individual urinated on furniture and subsequently attempted to access areas of the premises that were not open to the general public. The business requested that the subject be warned about trespassing.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Subject on Torres reported a sexual assault involving forcible sodomy that occurred in 2022. Investigation continues.

Pacific Grove: Welfare check on a subject on Bishop Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle towed from Short and Bentley for expired registration over six months.

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

Carmel area: Runaway juvenile on Santa Rita Street.

Carmel area: Report of assault on 15th Street.

Carmel area: Deputies responded to a report of a suspicious circumstance on 15th Street involving an unknown perpetrator and an 8-year-old female victim.

Carmel area: A male wrote a non-sufficient funds check for jewelry at a Crossroads business.

Carmel area: Carmel Rancho Boulevard resident reported a telephone scam using the son-in-jail ploy to have the resident buy crypto via a supermarket machine.

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

The gavel falls

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

Oct. 20 — Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine Pacioni announced a settlement with the Monterey-based injection clinic Injected Artistry Inc., as well as the owners, Kenneth Glenn Starr and Jamie Johnstone Slovenski. The settlement resolves the People's allegations that Injected Artistry falsely advertised purported benefits of their injection treatments and that they failed to adequately examine patients prior to treatment.

Starr is a doctor who oversees several clinics in and around the Central Coast and bay area which he has a whole or partial ownership in. Slovenski, a registered nurse, in cooperation with Starr, incorporated Injected Artistry Inc., a medical corporation, and opened locations in Monterey and Pacific Grove offering intravenous injections of various medications, alongside cosmetic and other medical treatments. The Monterey location is at 261 Webster St. The Pacific Grove location was at 1149 Forest Ave. but closed in June 2024.

IV clinics are a growing industry which offer to provide an intravenous injection of various medications. California, in tandem with federal law, requires any medical claims to be substantiated with competent and reliable scientific evidence, and for medical treatments to be safe.

Some treatments offered by Injected Artistry included exosome therapy, a kind of stem cell treatment that is not approved by the FDA for any use, as well as various peptide treatments, many of which the FDA

See **GAVEL** *page 29A*

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Car Week listening session set

By MARY SCHLEY

Is CARMEL really going to see a major change in its Car Week events and how the city deals with the hordes of visitors and locals who turn out for them every August? What do residents and business owners think should happen in town during that time? Carmel Police Chief Todd Trayer will host the first of two Car Week listening sessions Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9 to 11 a.m., at the Carmel Youth Center to try to find out.

Trayer said he's hoping locals will pop in to share their thoughts on past Car Weeks and how they could be improved.

"I didn't want to wait past the end of the year for the first one, because there are a couple of people who are pretty passionate about it," he said, including residents and business owners who have come to his office to talk to him directly.

On the complaining side, the issue of excessive noise is often raised, and Trayer said he's researching new technology that might help his officers better enforce decibel limits.

He admitted that devices used for sound detection have seen little use in the United States, and many of those that are have been ineffective or inaccurate, but he's also found enforcement-level devices that seem promising.

"I'm looking at awesome technologies," he said. "Some are enforcement technologies that will allow us to make a dent that way."

'Direct line'

He said the Dec. 6 session will "start with a welcome and framing what the meeting will look like, with a quick overview of Car Week from my perspective and some of the data we shared at the council meeting," regarding traffic stops, citations, arrests and other details.

The duration will be spent listening to people's comments and suggestions, and answering questions. Depending on the attendance level, break-out sessions could be used, or the group will chat as a whole.

"I want to hear their experiences, how it affected quality of life, traffic, safety — those kinds of things," he said. "Then I will put it all together and report out what I heard and give them a direct line of communication to me afterward."

The youth center is located on Torres between Junipero and Fourth next to the police department.

Accused vandal may be incompetent

By MARY SCHLEY

The 31-YEAR-OLD Pacific Grove man accused of smashing the windshields of two expensive British sportscars in Carmel during Car Week may not be mentally fit to stand trial, according to a filing in Monterey County Superior Court, but Samuel Shaffer can remain out of custody on his own recognizance until the next hearing, which is scheduled for February 2026.

Samuel Shaffer

Shaffer was arrested by Carmel Police at his home on Presidio Boulevard Aug. 19 for vandalizing two McLarens that were parked near the Pine Inn early the morning of Aug. 15. The cars can command prices over $1 million.

Investigating officers tracked Shaffer down through video provided by a witness and by identifying his vehicle through Carmel's and Pacific Grove's license-plate-reading cameras, according to Police Chief Todd Trayer. Shaffer was booked into Monterey County Jail but was released without having to provide bail.

In the complaint filed against him by the Monterey County District Attorney's Office Sept. 2, Shaffer has been charged with two counts of felony vandalism for "willfully and unlawfully and maliciously" damaging the cars, which are owned by James Lin of Cupertino and Stephen Rohrer, who, according to online sources, lives in San Diego.

In a Nov. 20 hearing in Superior Court Judge Mark Hood's courtroom in Salinas, prosecutor Matthew Johnson and defense attorney Negin Yamini discussed scheduling a preliminary hearing, during which the DA's office would present the evidence against Shaffer and the judge would determine whether there's enough cause to proceed with the case.

But Shaffer's mental health was questioned, according to court records, so Hood set a Feb. 5, 2026, date for a "mental health diversion motion or preliminary examination setting," with "Zoom authorized if in residential treatment."

The mental competence of a Pacific Grove resident accused of smashing the windshield of this McLaren and another on Aug. 15 is being questioned.

PHOTO/PC FILE

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Reclaiming your financial footing after the shutdown

Now that the government has reopened, over a million people are watching for their backpay. After weeks of stress and frugality, it may feel like a windfall — but it's really just catching up. Use your money wisely.

Start by tackling past-due bills, new debt, or drained savings. Then, treat yourself — within reason — for making it through. Order a pizza, see a movie, or host a snack-filled night.

Next, focus on recovery. Pay down high-interest debt quickly. Consider transferring balances to a lower-interest-rate card or even one with 0% interest for 12 months. You might also pick up part-time work to rebuild savings.

If you don't have an emergency fund, start one. Work toward three to six months' worth of expenses, and keep it in an easily accessible, interest-bearing account.

Finally, carry forward any budgeting habits you learned to strengthen your financial life long-term.

Your backpay is a reset — for your finances and your mindset.

This content was provided by Edward Jones. Member SIPC

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AT&T Pebble Beach PRO-AM
Temporary Special Event

JOB FAIR

Thursday, December 11, 2025
3p.m. - 7p.m.

Friday, December 12, 2025
8a.m. - 12p.m.

Lodge Conference Center
1700 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach

Interviews on the spot
These opportunities are for the period of February 9 - February 15, with most shifts February 12 - February 15.

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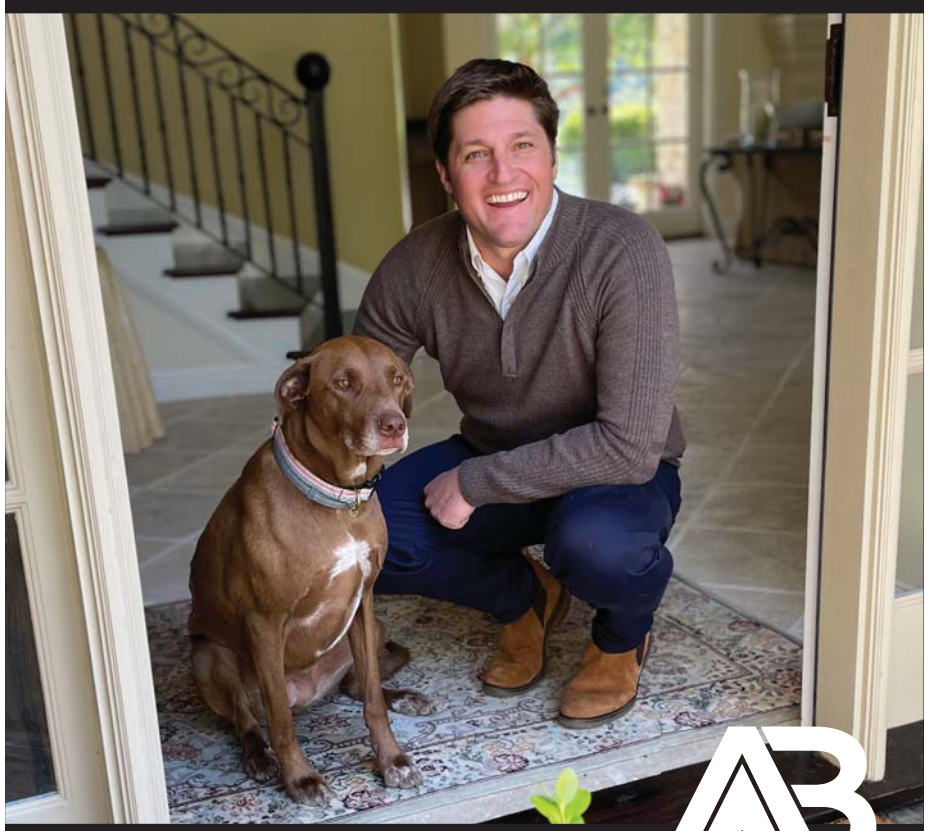

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Overgrown Big Sur campground gets makeover from volunteers

By CHRIS COUNTS

A GROUP of volunteers is breathing new life into an old dirt road that leads to a distant but idyllic campground in the Big Sur backcountry.

Known as Sycamore Camp, the primitive site is located 3.6 miles from Highway 1, and it's inaccessible — at least for now.

But one day soon, it could host free camping like other primitive campsites in the area.

In September, volunteers organized by a pair of local groups, Los Burros Mining & Historical Society and the Silver Peak Wilderness Conservancy, spent a weekend clearing a path to the site along the road, which was choked with dense vegetation.

"It was in really bad shape," David Gleffe, executive director of the conservancy, told The Pine Cone. "It was completely overgrown."

'Crazy poison oak'

By the end of the weekend, it was possible to drive halfway along the troubled section of road, and it was possible to walk all the way to the campground. Along the way, Gleffe reported that he and his colleagues removed "a crazy amount of poison oak."

Besides clearing the road, the volunteers want to spruce up the campground.

"It's completely overgrown by genista," Gleffe said "We want to finish clearing that out."

The volunteers had hoped to get back to work Oct. 14-16, but they were rained out.

Now, they have tentative plans for returning in early December — and they welcome the public's help.

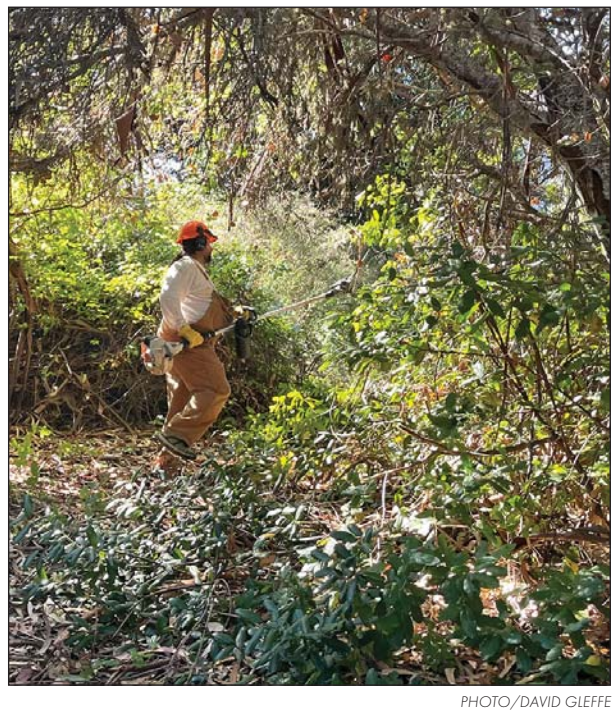
"Let's come together to preserve the trails and roads of Big Sur's South Coast," Gleffe said.

"Join us for a weekend of camping, camaraderie and hands-on trail restoration in Los Burros Mining District."

The work will include removing litter and abandoned gear, dismantling illegal fire rings and clearing invasive plants.

A long-term objective at the camp is

See **OVERGROWN** *page 14A*



PHOTO/DAVID GLEFFE

A volunteer clears brush along an old dirt road that leads to a remote campground in Big Sur.

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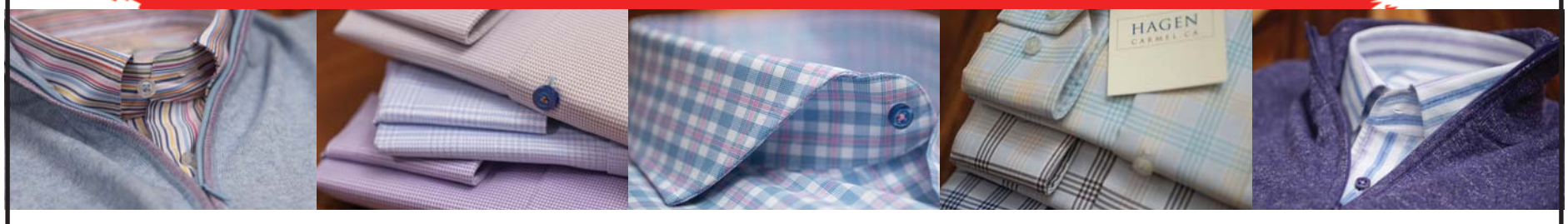

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Insurers net more $$$ from CUSD

By LILY PATTERSON

EMPLOYERS THROUGHOUT the county are buckling under the weight of record-high healthcare premiums, and Carmel Unified School District is coughing up its share. Last week, the Board of Education approved a $2,035 annual increase in CUSD's annual contributions for single employee, single-plus-one and family plans, following negotiations with the district, the Association of Carmel Teachers and the California School Employees Association. The district said premiums for most of those plans inflated by an astounding 15 percent since last year, news that brought CUSD and the two unions to the table earlier this fall. The district estimates the settlement has added $360,203 to next year's $17.1 million tab for employee benefits, accounting for 20 percent of its operating budget.

To cover basic medical services for teachers, staff and retirees in 2026, CUSD has agreed to contribute a maximum of $25,984 for family plans, $21,633 for employee-plus-one, and $15,612 annually for employee-only insurance coverage. The district will cover up to 100 percent of insurance costs for single employees and a minimum of 48 percent of costs for families on the priciest PPO option, one of several tiers available through Anthem Blue Shield, in addition to a low-cost HMO plan through Kaiser Permanente, which has a medical center in Salinas and a second coming soon to Marina.

'Profound lack of competition'

At the meeting, Bill Schrier, president of the teachers association, acknowledged how "smoothly" bargaining went between CUSD and union members. Unlike the typical rub of salary negotiations or class sizes, it doesn't take much for public school administrators and teachers to commiserate — albeit productively — about what the state calls the "extreme pricing" of healthcare on the Peninsula.

As reported last week, the California Office of Health Care Affordability said the three biggest medical groups in

See **PREMIUMS** *page 16A*

PANETTA BASHES TRUMP OVER DRILLING

By CHRIS COUNTS

REPRESENTING A district where many residents are vehemently opposed to offshore oil exploration, Congressman Jimmy Panetta is pushing back against plans by the Trump administration to authorize new leases for petroleum reserves off the California coast starting in 2027.

The Department of the Interior announced Nov. 20 that it was replacing a "restrictive" Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program put in place by the Biden administration with one that's more "expansive." The five-year plan also calls for oil and gas exploration in Florida, Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico — all part of the Trump administration's efforts to lower energy costs.

Panetta contends the relaxed rules pose a threat to the environment.

"Over the past 30 years, we have fought back against the federal government leasing our coastline for offshore oil drilling," Panetta posted on Facebook. "We put up a fight and won then, and we will continue to fight and win to protect our Monterey Bay."

Last month, when details of the administration's plan were leaked, Panetta went on the offensive.

"Our oceans and coastline represent far

See **DRILLING** *page 12A*

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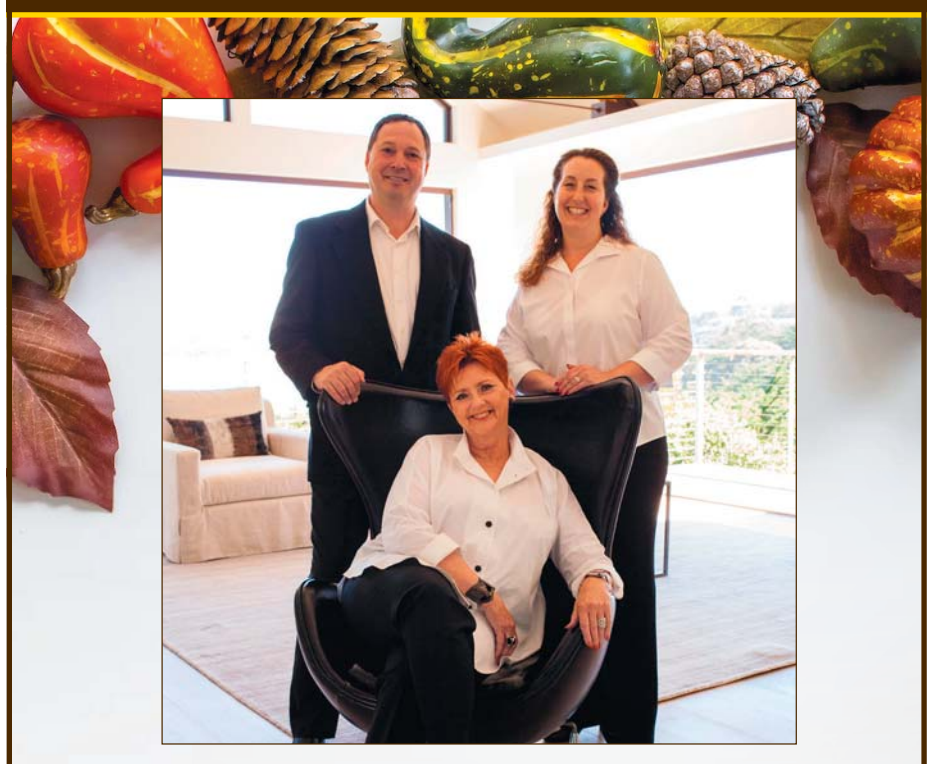

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It began as a run along the ocean with Mom

By ELAINE HESSER

SENIOR ATHLETES have been the stuff of many a Pine Cone story. You know — a nonagenarians who shoots below his age on the golf course, the 80-something woman who runs the Big Sur International Marathon, and the occasional tennis player who still remembers black-and-white television.

But what about the other end of the spectrum — young athletes midway between learning the alphabet and earning varsity letters? Mason Ayala of Pacific Grove is one of them. At age 10, this Stevenson School fifth-grader has just completed a goal he set in 2022 — finishing 10 races before he turns 11.

Ayala's mother, Chnar Ayala, keeps detailed records of her son's times and competitions, beginning when he was 7 and ran the Pacific Grove Lighthouse 3K in November 2022, finishing in 27 minutes, 5 seconds. Three kilometers is about 1.86 miles, and he finished 38th in the 1-to-8-year-old group. He ran with his mom, who had planned to do the 5K (just over 3 miles) but got a really bad cold and decided to do the shorter route instead.

From 38th to 1st

"Something clicked," for Mason, said Chnar, and he wanted to do more. Rudy Ayala, Mason's father, enjoys half marathons and agreed to train him.

"He taught me to keep my arms at a 90-degree angle, and when I'm going uphill to shorten my strides. When I go downhill, I let gravity do some of the work and take longer strides," explained the younger Ayala.

"Oh, and if I get a cramp, to breathe deeply," he added.

PHOTO/COURTESY AYALA FAMILY

Mason Ayala, then 9, ran a 5K in Oakland in 2024, one of 10 competitions he's completed before his 11th birthday.

It paid off. A year later, Ayala finished in 14:44 in the same race — cutting his first time by nearly half and winning his age group.

He said he works out on the tracks at P.G. Middle and high schools, mostly in the afternoons. He's not a morning person, he confided. On weekends, he and Rudy go from Lovers Point to Asilomar in the Last Hometown, enjoying the views.

In fact, Alaya said, he's sometimes as much a sightseer as a competitor. On March 17, 2024, he took more than 30 minutes to finish a 5K in Oakland because, "Dad and I just jogged and looked at the scenery," he recalled.

He's also completed two triathlons — the Menlo Park Kids Triathlon in June, and, two months later, the Silicon Valley Kids at De Anza College. Each involved a 100-yard swim, a 3- or 4-mile bike ride, and 1,200- or 1,500-meter runs. Ayala likes the variety, but he's not a fan of the bike

See **AYALA** *page 14A*

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SHOP SMALL

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Cannery Row kicks off holiday season

By MARY SCHLEY

IN THE traditional fashion, Cannery Row's tree-lighting marks the official start of the holiday season on the Monterey Peninsula, with the switch flipped on the tree in Steinbeck Plaza the day after Thanksgiving, and more festivities are planned for the weeks to come. (See our holiday calendar beginning on page 33A for details and to get the Peninsula's full rundown.)

The 31st annual tree lighting ceremony in the plaza at Cannery Row and Prescott on Nov. 28 will begin at 2 p.m. The tree will be lit at 5:45, and from then until 9, kids will be invited to visit Santa Claus in his toy factory for a festive photo op. Free visits with old St. Nick will continue on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 p.m. through Dec. 21.

The City of Carmel's Holidays in the Park will be held a week later, on Dec. 5 from 3 to 5:30 p.m., in Devendorf Park at Junipero and Ocean, with an open house across the street at Carmel Plaza to follow.

Santa Claus is expected to arrive around 3:30 p.m. via firetruck, with the Del Monte Brass adding to the festive atmosphere. Between 4 and 4:30, the official menorah will be lit, and the tree-lighting ceremony will run from 4:30 to 5:30.

From 5 to 7 p.m., the Plaza's Holiday Open House will offer "an evening filled with festive treats, small bites, holiday shopping, face painting, photos with Santa and so much more."

Christmas on the Corner at Carmel Presbyterian Church will follow the tree lighting, as well, with the church at Junipero and Mountain View hosting an open house with free hot cider and hot cocoa, Christmas cookies and grilled sausage appetizers. In addition to plenty of Christmas lights, the patio will have a photo booth, and the church choir will be singing carols in the sanctuary.

Inns tour

The Carmel Heritage Society at Lincoln and Sixth is hosting its 23rd Annual Inns of Distinction Tour Sunday, Dec. 7, from 2 to 5 p.m., with a half-dozen beautifully decorated spots open for tours, and a handful of local wineries and restaurants serving small bites and sips.

The self-guided walking tour includes stops at Lobos Lodge, Lincoln Green Inn, Carmel Beach Hotel, Cypress Inn and Edgemere Cottages. Participating purveyors are Scheid Vineyards, Cypress Grove Winery, Galante Vineyards, Dawn's Dream, Silvestri Vineyards, Windy Oaks, Il Fornaio, Terry's Lounge, Flaherty's and Village Corner.

"Whether you're a longtime resident or discovering Carmel for the first time, the holiday inns tour is a delightful way to explore hidden gems, support local businesses, celebrate with friends and neighbors, and make lasting holiday memories," according to the nonprofit.

Tickets are available via carmelheritage.org or over the phone at (831) 624-4447 and cost $45 for members, $50 for nonmembers, and $60 the day of the event.

PHOTO/CARMEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

After the city's tree lighting, kids (and adults) will find more fun and festiveness at Carmel Presbyterian Church's Christmas on the Corner.

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DRILLING

From page 9A

more than just beauty here on the central coast of California, as they're our economic engine, our legacy and our gift to the next generation," Panetta said Oct. 30 in a roundtable talk with local leaders in Santa Cruz.

"During the first Trump administration, we successfully fought to protect our home from offshore oil drilling, and this time won't be any different as long as we work together. Although there are certain protections already in place, we always must be ready to stand shoulder to shoulder so that we can go toe to toe with any administration or corporation that threatens our oceans, coastlines, and way of life."

Many people and groups spoke against the fed's plan, including the Monterey Bay Aquarium founder and executive director Julie Packard. "The science is clear," Packard said Nov. 20. "We're facing life-threatening impacts of climate change, and this ill conceived effort to open massive parts of our ocean to offshore oil and gas leasing is a major step backward in the nation's urgently needed transition away from fossil fuels."

Defending the administration's push to open the California coast to oil and gas exploration, Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum said the new rules will reverse moves by the Biden administration that "slammed the brakes on offshore oil and gas leasing and crippled the long-term pipeline of America's offshore production."

By moving forward with the development of a robust, forward-thinking leasing plan, we are ensuring that America's offshore industry stays strong, our workers stay employed, and our nation remains energy dominant for decades to come," Burgum said.

According to the U.S. Deptartment of the Interior, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management manages 2,073 active offshore oil and gas leases totaling about 11.2 million acres. Offshore production accounts for about 15 percent of domestic oil output.

The new proposal includes as many as 34 potential offshore lease sales covering about 1.27 billion acres — including six areas along the Pacific coast. "The Outer Continental Shelf is estimated to contain about 68.8 billion barrels of oil and 229 trillion cubic feet of natural gas yet to be discovered," the report indicates.

A 60-day public comment period starts Monday.

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Lighted boats on parade

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

NIGHTTIME VIEWS of the Monterey Harbor and the bay tend to be enthralling, but when many of the boats are adorned with the colorful lights and other decorations of the season, it's downright festive. The chance to see many of those boats on parade as they slowly move through the water along the coast just off shore comes Sunday, Dec. 7, with the 34th Annual Brighten the Harbor Lighted Boat Parade.

Sponsored by the Fisherman's Wharf Association, the event brings out the creative, along with the humorous and slightly off kilter, among the hundreds of people who keep their sailboats, motorboats and other vessels in Monterey's harbors.

The parade will run from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m. — depending on weather and ocean conditions — while the Christmas on the Wharf event is held on shore. A backup date of Dec. 14 has been set if the parade can't take place as scheduled.

While views of the lighted boats can be easily enjoyed from land, especially while comfortably seated at a seaside restaurant, those who'd like to take in the spectacle from the water can sign up for an evening excursion with one of the wharf's whale-watching or charter companies.

For more details, visit montereywharf.com.

PHOTO/COURTESY WENDY BRICKMAN

Festively decorated and lighted boats return for the Brighten the Harbor parade in Monterey Dec. 7.

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AYALA

From page 10A

ride. It's tough to get out of the water, change and dry off and then hit those pedals, he noted. Unlike in adult triathlons, the swims were done in pools, not open water.

His pre-race ritual does not include large plates of pasta, but Ayala does like an energy bar right before competing. A zingy hibiscus tea made by his grandmother is also part of the regimen. His "hype" song is "High Hopes" by Panic! At the Disco, with a driving beat and inspirational lyrics. When he runs, Ayala said, he sometimes gets a song stuck in his head and uses it to pace himself.

And the gear? Nothing fancy. He lifted one foot to display a weatherbeaten sneaker that was enough to make a 60-year-old's arches collapse just looking at it.

His medals are hung neatly on a rod in his bedroom closet — Chnar's doing — and even though Ayala's age sometimes bumps him onto the lowest rung of a much older group — 10-to-14-year-olds — he is undaunted.

He finished his 10th race, the P.G. Lighthouse 5K, a few weeks ago, placing 22nd out of 65 in his age group, with a time of 28:36. That made him 421st out of 2,351 registered runners who crossed the finish line. And that's not too shabby.

'Likes to win'

Up next is the Run Rudolph Run 5K in P.G. on Dec. 13. He placed third in his age group — 1 to 11 — in that one in 2023 and believes he can win it this time.

Among his other achievements is besting his own trainer. Said Rudy, "He took off and I just couldn't keep up." Mom reportedly instigated the incident and egged her son on.

Ayala's younger brother, Titan, also enjoys running and is even more competitive.

"He likes to win," observed Ayala.

The Pebble Beach Zombie 5K, San Jose Rock 'n' Roll 5K, and a 5K in El Paso, Texas, are also in Ayala's log book.

That last one was significant because Ayala's paternal grandparents live in El Paso, where his grandfather runs half marathons. Mason is three years too young to do the Monterey Bay Half Marathon, which is one of his objectives, and he hopes he and his father and grandfather can eventually complete a 13.1-miler together.

"That's the goal," said his mom.

OVERGROWN

From page 8A

removing an old camper shell that was abandoned and is now an eyesore.

The volunteers are also seeking to replace a picnic table with benches that's been shot full of holes. It's located beneath a towering redwood.

Once all the brush is cleared, the campground will be an enticing place. "It's gorgeous down there," Gleffe said.

But Gleffe reminded potential visitors that there are no amenities available.

"There are no bathroom facilities," he added. "It's not for everyone — it's for someone who's a little more adventurous."

Once the work is completed, the volunteers plan to redirect their efforts to rehabbing two other nearby primitive campgrounds, Alder Campground and Willow Campground.

If you're interested in volunteering, contact david.gleffe@silverpeakwilderness.org.

18th C.V. Art & Wine

If you're searching for just the right holiday gift, look no further than Saturday's 18th annual Carmel Valley Art & Wine Walk & Gift Faire, which showcases the many shops, galleries and tasting rooms of Carmel Valley Village. The event is free.

Among the galleries participating is the Carmel Valley Art Association, which represents more than three dozen local artists. Located at 8 Del Fino Place, the gallery will host an open house and will introduce its newest artist, potter Mark Muckenfuss. Plein air painters will also be on hand doing demonstrations, along with John Chappel, who will be turning pottery.

"There's plenty of easy parking on Del Fino Place," the CVAA's Shelley Aliotti said. "It's a perfect starting point and short stroll to see all that Carmel Valley Village has to offer in about a half-mile stretch. There are two dozen wine tasting rooms, retail shops and services, beautiful views and award-winning restaurants."

For more details, visit carmelvalleyartassociation.org.

DROWNED

From page 1A

"The sheriff's dive team has reported that conditions remain unsafe for entry into the water," the sheriff's office said. "Sneaker waves and strong rip currents with breaking waves of 13 to 18 feet are possible. We continue to ask the public to stay away from the Soberanes Point area as these search efforts continue."

Never turn your back

Saturday's drowning follows the death of Yuji Hu, 39, of Alberta, Canada, who died Nov. 14 at Garrapata Beach trying to save his 7-year-old daughter after she was knocked down and carried into the surf by a wave. Father and daughter died, while Hu's wife also jumped in but survived. A 2-year-old nearby was unharmed.

The incidents underscore the risks people face when they get too close to the ocean along the Monterey County coast, where numerous people, mostly visitors, have lost their lives in recent years.

County officials reacted to the news.

"Monterey County extends heartfelt condolences to all families who have lost loved ones along our coastline," a statement read. "These tragedies remind us how powerful and unpredictable the ocean can be."

Officials urged people to be cautious when approaching the surf — and issued a Coastal Safety Guide.

"Always stay aware of ocean conditions," the guide suggests. "Never turn your back on the ocean. Stay off rocks, jetties and outcroppings. Avoid hazardous trails and bluff edges. Respect posted warnings and barriers."

People are urged to call 911 if an emergency arises.

"Do not attempt a rescue yourself," according to the guide. "High surf conditions are perilous, and trained responders have specialized equipment for these situations."

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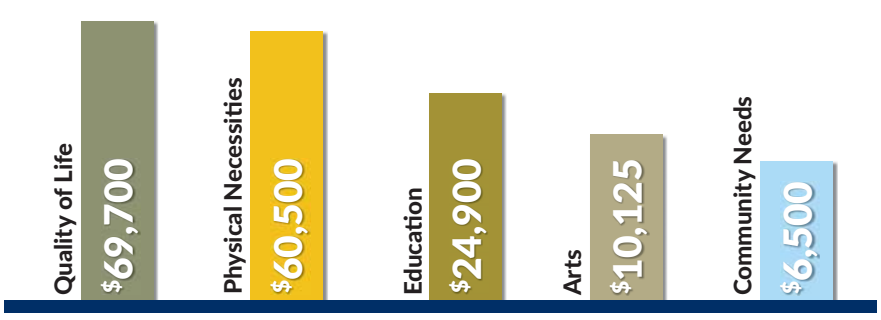

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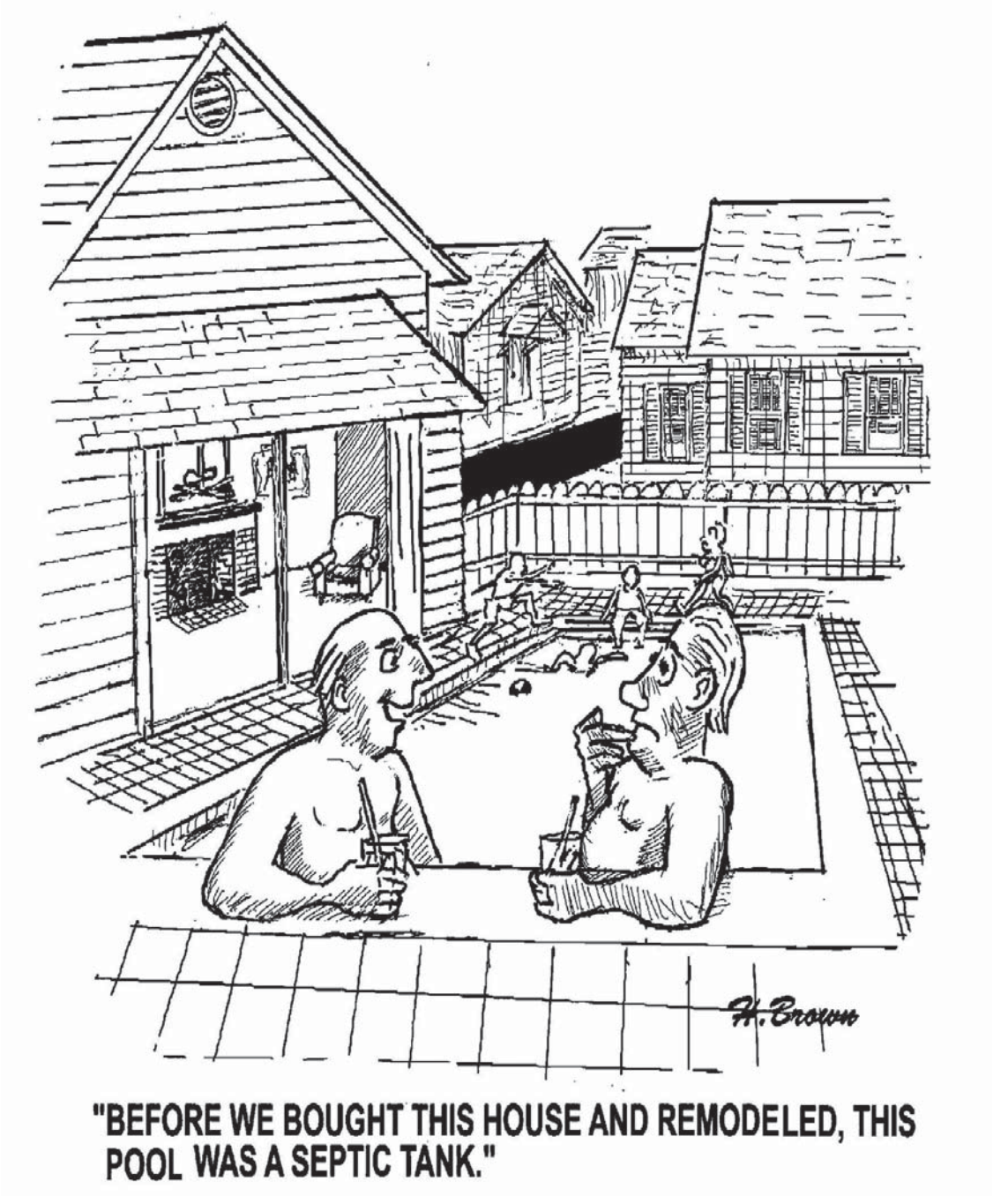

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PREMIUMS

From page 9A

Monterey County gouge patients for services without making up the difference in "superior quality of care." Because they have a "profound lack of competition" in their respective areas, Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (Montage Health), Salinas Valley Health Medical Center, and Natividad Medical Center wield "immense negotiating leverage" with insurers, the state agency said in its Nov. 13 report — a local situation that reflects a nationwide trend toward medical-industry mergers, resulting in very high costs for patients seeking essential services like natal and emergency care. To treat the 10 most common medical conditions, Monterey County hospitals have been charging 18 to 168 percent above prices in the San Francisco Bay area, for example, and the burden is being shifted onto payers like Carmel Unified.

"The convergence of these factors — geographic dominance, physician alignment, and unfavorable contract terms — has created a market environment where high prices can be sustained, placing a significant financial burden on the families and employers of Monterey County," the state agency said.

Even in terms of CUSD history, the 15 percent hike in contributions is significant. Just three years ago, between the 2022 and 2023 school years, costs increased by only 7.4 percent. In 2024, the district actually paid less than it had the year before, a reduction in insurance rates among the fleeting benefits of Covid recovery efforts.

Retirees, too

Pensions themselves are not up to the collective bargaining power of teachers unions, since those funds are administered by CalSTRS, the state pension system, but the Association of Carmel Teachers can advocate for health and dental benefits for retired teachers. In 2026, they will be eligible for the same Anthem and Blue Shield options as active employees — a boon to those of Medicare age, as many seniors increasingly choose to supplement that coverage with additional insurance.

Schools aren't required to supply vision and dental insurance, but CUSD offers those benefits anyway, as well as a $500-per-month subsidy to help cover co-pays and meet deductibles for employees who rely on a spouse's plan or other outside insurer.

Presented to the board by chief human resources officer Craig Chavez, the terms the unions negotiated with the district were approved unanimously by the board and will go into effect Jan. 1.

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FIRE

From page 1A

of Noland, Hammerly, Etienne & Hoss. But "for reasons unknown," the tree crew didn't advise PG&E of the problem and "left the scene with a live wire precariously dangling" while still connected to the house.

Didn't tell fire dept.

The next morning — at the time unaware of the extent of the damage — the Nais called PG&E to ask why the power was still out in their home, and a couple of hours later, an employee of the utility company responded to remove the damaged line and shut off the electricity and the gas. The worker advised the Nais to hire a contractor to repair the damaged power hookup so the line could be reconnected.

"PG&E did not contact the fire department regarding the fire risk and did not alert plaintiffs to the seriousness or urgency of the damage," their suit says, and by the time the contractor got there, the house was burning.

Upon arriving at 1:30 p.m., the contractor "observed smoke billowing over the roof of plaintiff's home, and the home was filled with smoke." He called the fire department "because the home was actively on fire."

At the scene, firefighters observed the cut limbs and "damage to the weatherhead above the main electrical panel noted to be consistent with a limb strike, and melting of the service drop from live wires," the complaint says. A weatherhead is a U-shaped pipe that allows utility lines to run into a house while keeping rain out.

The fire burned the garage wall and spread behind the fire wall to the main floor bathroom and upper-level master bedroom closet before reaching the exterior, causing significant damage, according to the complaint. Believing the city should cover the costs since the tree crew did nothing about the live wire, the couple filed a damage claim on March 26.

The Nais estimated the costs of rebuilding the "damaged frame structure, electrical, plumbing, including two of the bedrooms, all three bathrooms, hallway, cabinets, etc.," removing and replacing smoke-damaged sheetrock and insulation, and replacing damaged appliances and electronics, at more than $725,000, and sought an additional $200,000-plus "for contents and travel expenses."

The city never responded to the claim, which amounted to a rejection, and on April 3, the owners filed a similar claim with PG&E, which, in turn, sought records from the city. "We understand that trees at this property are city-owned," the public records act request submitted April 16 said. "As such, PG&E requests city maintenance records spanning five years for city trees bordering this parcel."

'Not responsible'

After receiving the documents and inspecting the site, the utility company denied the Nais' claim on May 15.

"Our position is that, had there not been a storm incident that caused the failed tree limb, there would be no electrical issue within your service panel equipment nor the subsequent fire," Salvador Ramirez, senior law-claims investigator for PG&E, said in the rejection letter.

He also noted that customers are required to keep limbs away from power lines on their properties, not the company, which is only responsible for pruning trees near lines conveying more than 750 volts.

"If we do something wrong or fail to do something that should have been done, we have an obligation to compensate for reasonable damages," he wrote. "In this case, negligence has not been established for the incident involved. PG&E is not responsible for maintaining vegetation clearance around residential service lines."

Negligence alleged

Because their claims were rejected, the Nais decided to sue. Their complaint makes no mention of any efforts to recover the costs from insurance.

"Following rejection of plaintiffs' claims, plaintiffs bring this suit directly against the city, Mr. Ono and PG&E to recover damages resulting from the fire, which plaintiffs estimate to exceed $800,000," the complaint says.

The suit accuses the city and the utility company of, in effect, taking their property due to faulty maintenance and planning. They also say the city and PG&E were negligent for failing to properly address the hazardous situation resulting from the damage and the live wire, allowing the trees near the residence "to become overgrown" and for failing "to operate and maintain" the power lines.

They also allege trespassing, since the Nais "did not give permission for the entry of the fire onto their property."

The suit accuses the city and PG&E of violations of the Health & Safety Code for allowing the fire to happen and the Government Code for failing to "adequately protect" them and their house "against any risk of injury."

"The overgrown trees and the downed power lines increased or intensified the risk of injury because it was foreseeable that overgrown trees increased the risk of falling tree limbs during high winds, and that falling tree limbs could cause interaction with PG&E power lines, causing them to come down, increasing a fire risk," the suit claims.

Therefore, taxpayers and ratepayers should be on the hook for "damages, attorneys' fees, appraisal, expert and other fees and costs according to proof," plus the costs of the suit and any other damages set by the court.

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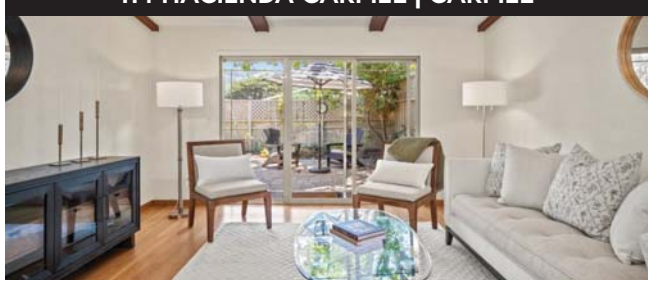

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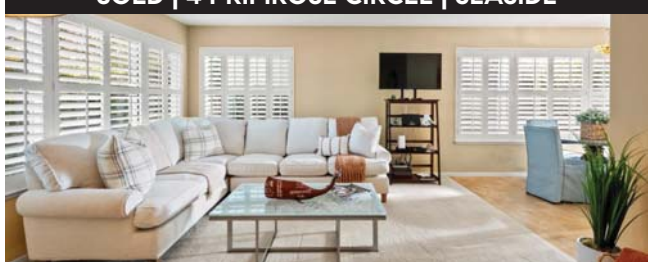

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WHO'S WHO IN LUXURY REAL ESTATE

ANTOINETTE MAY (ANGLE) GRAHAM

10/14/1937-11/17/2025

Antoinette May "Toni" (Angle) Graham, 87, of Carmel Highlands, was born in Bellflower, CA and raised in Ladera Park, CA and later Anaheim, CA, by her parents Dorothy I. Essenpreis and Robert L. Angle, whom she joined in peace on Nov. 17, 2025, after a multi-year struggle with Alzheimer's Disease.

Toni loved the outdoors and nature. As a teen she would ride her horse through the then-fields and orange groves of Orange County. At Valencia High School, she lettered in basketball and softball before graduating early to attend UC Berkeley where she majored in biology. She then moved to Carmel, CA – the greatest meeting of land and sea on Earth – where she was a science teacher at Carmel High School. There, she met fellow science teacher and her future husband, Albert Duane Graham.

After returning from a romantic European honeymoon, Toni and Duane built their own home overlooking the ocean in Carmel Highlands where they lived together in happiness until her passing. There they raised their two sons, Bret Graham and Curt Graham. She later returned to teaching as a substitute teacher at Carmel River School and Captain Cooper School in Big Sur. After retiring from teaching she shared her passion for local history with others while working at the Maritime Museum and Mayo Hayes O'Donnell research library in Monterey.

She enjoyed raising AKC champion old English sheepdogs, spending days in archaeological digs, photography, leatherwork, researching genealogy and ancestry. Toni was a rabid Oakland A's fan and most of all, she loved just driving around the majestic Monterey Peninsula relishing the fresh air and a peaceful, fulfilling life on the coast.

Toni is survived by her husband of 65 years, Duane Graham; her sons, Bret (Silvia) Graham of Los Angeles, CA and Curt (Melanie) Graham, of Mission Viejo, CA; and grandson; Kyle Graham, of Hagerstown, MD. She also leaves her brothers, Bob, Roy and Bill Angle, all of Pocatello, ID.

Private family services will be held at El Toro Memorial Park, Lake Forest, CA.

We will miss your smile, laughter and clever sense of humor.

VINCENT 'DUCCI' BARNEY RUCCELLO

Sept. 19, 1936 — Nov. 10, 2025

Vincent "Ducci" Barney Ruccello was born on Sept. 19, 1936, in Monterey, California to Barney and Lucy Ruccello. He was raised by his loving grandmother, Jennie Davi of Monterey, until the age of 7. Vince passed away at 4:15 p.m. on Nov. 10, 2025, at CHOMP, following complications from a fall he suffered on the evening of Oct. 23, 2025, at his residence at Ivy Park Assisted Living in Monterey. After falling and fracturing five ribs, he developed a prolonged case of pneumonia. He was surrounded by hospital staff and family at the time of his passing.

Vince is survived by his two daughters, Lucinda Ruccello Rogers (Ron) of Coto De Caza and Bonny Ruccello Stewart of Hollister and was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 54 years, Yvonne B. Hansen Ruccello, who passed March 21, 2014. He also leaves behind his siblings, "Jay Jay" Ruccello (Antonia) of Monterey and Joanne Ruccello Page of Seaside.

A lifelong resident of the Monterey Peninsula, Vince's roots ran deep in the community. He fondly referred to everyone in town as family, often claiming to be related to nearly everyone he met. The nickname "Ducci" was given to him by his grandmother as a child. Short, for "sweet" in Italian, it's a fitting tribute to his warm and generous nature.

Vince discovered his love for art at a early age, often gazing out the windows of Thomas Larkin Elementary School to draw fishing boats, when he wasn't playing at the wharf. His artistic talents continued to blossom through his years in Walter Colton Junior High and Monterey High School, from which he graduated in 1956. Vince went on to attend Monterey Peninsula College and earn a A.A. degree in painting and jewelry making.

In 1956 Vince enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served aboard the U.S.S. Wisconsin (BB-64) as the ship photographer. He often described his Navy years as the highlight of his life, traveling the world and meeting influential people in the entertainment industry. After receiving an honorable discharge, he continued to serve for six additional years in the Navel Reserve.

Upon returning to Monterey, Vince met the woman who would become his wife, and soon Vince and Yvonne began their family. Vince spent 45 years working as a delivery driver for the Del Mar French Laundry, retiring in 2005. Many friends and neighbors fondly remember Vince honking the horn of his work truck, waving, laughing and joking as he made his daily rounds through the peninsula. Vince also had a security clearance and worked for Wackenhut Security as a security officer for special events on the peninsula.

Vince was an avid painter and loved carving boats and toys for his five grandchildren: Ashley Rogers Pastel (Scott) of Newport Beach, Shane Vincent Stewart (Jennifer) of Spring, Texas, Lauren Victoria Stewart Parco (Andrew) of Kansas City, Missouri, Taylor Rogers Wheeler (Nathan) of Rancho Santa Margarita and Cole Rogers of Coto De Caza.

He also was blessed with five great-grandchildren: Landon Wheeler, Harper Wheeler, Michael Christian Stewart, Preston Pastel and Gianna Pastel and many cherished nieces, nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

Vince was active in the community, being a proud member of several organizations which included The Carmel Gun Club, Moose Lodge, Elks Lodge, Gumbati Club of Monterey and the Italian Catholic Federation where he served as president for a year.

After the passing of his wife, Vince could be found at the Paris Bakery in Monterey enjoying morning coffee and gossiping with his friends, as Italians often do. A true character, Vince was known for his remarkable ability to remember the intricate details of family histories across the peninsula, often claiming that every Italian in Monterey was somehow related to him. His larger-than-life personality and deep connection to his community earned him a place in the hearts of all who knew him.

Vince"Ducci" Ruccello will be greatly missed by his family, friends and all those fortunate enough to have crossed paths with him in life. His, legacy, shaped by his love for his family, his community and his passions will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. He often told us as children growing up, "All little ships always come back to the harbor" ... the Monterey Bay's Harbor. To Vince there was never a more pristine place in this whole world than Monterey, California, his permanent home he was so proud to be a part of.

His services will begin at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 2, 2025, at San Carlos Cemetery. A celebration of life reception will follow at the Moose Lodge in Del Rey Oaks.

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

HAROLD EDMUNDS WAKE AND WANDA JEANNE (GLICK) WAKE

1-6-1925 — 2-10-2025 ❖ 7-2-1929 — 6-4-2025

TOGETHER IN LIFE AND REST

Harold Edmunds Wake, 100, and Wanda Jeanne (Glick) Wake, 95, passed away peacefully at their home in Carmel, California, surrounded by family and devoted caretakers earlier this year — Harold on Feb. 10 and Wanda on June 4, 2025. They are lovingly remembered by their children, Melinda Wake Oliver (Larry Oliver), Melissa Ann Michiels (John Michiels) and George Harold Wake (Tina Nelson), along with their grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family and dear friends.

Harold was born Jan. 6, 1925, in Fredonia, New York, to Grace Caroline and Harry Harold Wake. Weighing just over four pounds, he was carried home in a shoebox and kept warm by the family furnace. He grew up in Sherman, New York, with his sister Ruth Elena, spending summers boating and swimming on Chautauqua Lake and winters ice fishing. Summer jobs included working as a bellman at the Chautauqua Athenaeum Hotel and as a ranch hand on a maple syrup and dairy ranch — Pleasant View Dairy Farms, just outside the Village of Sherman. He sang in the Sherman Community Church choir and later helped to replace its steeple, build a local park, contribute to the purchase of a community fire truck and other needed equipment in gratitude for the community that shaped him.

After graduating from Sherman High School in 1943, Harold was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Corps, serving as a navigator on a B-25 bomber and training as an accountant — skills that guided his later career. While stationed in Porterville, California, he fell in love with the state's climate, lifestyle and people — and never returned to live in New York.

In 1948, following his honorable discharge, Harold began his business career as a controller/accountant at Perma Rain Irrigation in Lindsay, California. He later earned his pilot's license and flew Cessna airplanes to expedite his travels around California and surrounding states. He traveled internationally — including to Mexico and Saudi Arabia to introduce modern drip irrigation technology into their farming practices.

Wanda Jeanne Glick, born July 2, 1929, in Lindsay, California to Helen and Carl Glick, the tenth of 14 children. Raised on a working farm, Wanda began each morning gathering eggs and feeding the animals before school yet still found time for

sports and served as a majorette at Lindsay High School alongside her sister Barbara. Even in her 90s, she could still deliver her childhood pig call — "Sooieeeee Sooieeeee! Here Pig Pig Piggy!" with the most unique tone and confidence — to the delight of her family. Then, after school and sports, it was back home to feed the animals. She cherished simple joys: helping her mom in the kitchen, horseback rides into town, Saturday movies, and the aroma of her mother's fresh--baked bread as neighborhood children lined up for a slice.

During World War II, Wanda remembered the lookout tower on the family property, which had to be staffed around the clock to watch for enemy planes. The post was largely staffed by women and teenage girls — including Wanda and her sisters — as well as men too old for the draft, while her brothers were away serving in the military — a duty they all carried out faithfully. As Wanda liked to say with quiet pride, "They all came home."

Wanda later worked for Dr. Elmer Mead, V.R. Smith of Mt. Whitney Olive Co., and the Edison Company before joining Perma Rain, where her father drove her to the interview—and where she met Harold. What began as a chance meeting grew into a deep and lasting bond — a partnership that would endure for nearly 70 years.

They married on Feb. 19, 1955, at Wanda's brother Bill's home in Fresno, California. Wanda's oldest brother Paris gave her away. Together, Harold and Wanda built a life centered on family and community.

The couple built their home on Chrysoprase Hill (later Strain Hill) in Lindsay, where they raised their three children. Their home became a gathering place for family, friends and neighbors — especially during the holidays — when the table was always open to one more, a quiet reflection of the generosity that defined their lives.

Harold later bought Perma Rain, expanding it steadily and founding a sister company that manufactured PVC pipe ranging in size from three-quarter to 12 inches. Together, the two enterprises helped modernize irrigation across California's agricultural valleys. His inventive mind led him to secure U.S. Patent No. 3,885,743, titled "Flow Control Device for Providing Low Flow Rates," which advanced the design of drip and mist irrigation systems and laid the foundation for his later Misty Maid company. He led both Perma Rain and the PVC pipe company with integrity and foresight until 1977, when he sold them to the Apache Corporation, becoming part of Apache Plastics.

Retirement offered Harold and Wanda the freedom to channel their creativity and energy into the pursuits they loved most. Harold continued to refine his ideas, developing the Misty Maid drip-mist irrigation system later sold in nurseries and home-improvement stores throughout California. He served on the Lindsay Hospital Board where he brought his knowledge of finance and management to the hospital. Wanda remained his steadfast partner and confidante, guiding the family with grace while sharing in every new venture and adventure. A gifted cook and gracious host, she took joy in passing her love of cooking to her children — culinary traditions that will be cherished for generations to come. Together, they embraced travel, tennis and golf, building lasting friendships wherever they went.

After years divided between Lindsay and Palm Desert, Harold and Wanda eventually made Carmel their permanent home — a place that embraced them in the winter of their lives. Living only a few doors away, Melissa and her family provided the daily closeness, care and companionship they were blessed to share. There they continued to live fully, surrounded by the beauty of the coast, their circle of friends and visits from children and grandchildren.

Harold kept his sense of adventure alive through his annual fishing trips — traditions that began in the 1960s and carried on for more than six decades. Each year he planned excursions to Alaska, Mexico, or Canada with friends and family, treasuring the laughter, the stories and the chance to share the experience with his son George.

Harold and Wanda's greatest joy was always the happiness and accomplishments of their three children, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. They were loving and supportive parents and grandparents, always present with encouragement and care. Proponents of lifelong learning, they expanded their philanthropic reach through their family foundation, inviting their children and grandchildren, spouses to take part. In doing so, they shared both the privilege and the lessons of giving — imparting to future generations the value of giving back and the joy of community service.

Though they are gone, the warmth, generosity and love that filled their home, lives on in the family and friends who were shaped by it. They will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Together, Harold and Wanda are survived by their children: Melinda Wake Oliver (Larry), Melissa Ann Michiels (John) and George Harold Wake (Tina); their grandchildren: Lindsay (Guillaume), Ryan (Ashley), Lauren (Zack), and Katherine (Bryce); and their great-grandchildren: Benjamin, Harley, Graham, William, Philippe, Scott, Grace, and an eighth grandson eagerly awaited. They are also survived by Wanda's dear sister, Barbara Zike Stark, and by many nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

They were preceded in death by their parents — Harry and Grace Wake, and Carl and Helen Glick — by Harold's sister, Ruth, and by Wanda's 12 brothers and sisters — Charlotte, Norman, Paris, Bill, Doris, Louis, Charles, Robert, Judy, Danny and two babies lost in infancy.

Honoring their shared wish, knowing their time apart would be brief, a joint service was held on Sept. 15, 2025, at the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery, where they were celebrated and laid to rest together, with immediate family in attendance.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Alzheimer's Association, in remembrance of Harold and Wanda Wake and in tribute to their enduring spirit of generosity and care.

Though they are gone, the warmth, generosity and love that filled their home, lives on in the family and friends who were shaped by it. They will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

ANDY H. COMINOS

Andy H. Cominos was born in Salinas, California on July 1, 1932, and passed away at his home on Yankee Point, south of Carmel, California on Oct. 24, 2025. He is survived by his wife, Marilee, and a small clan of nieces and nephews

Andy's parents, Harry and Helen Cominos, emigrated from Greece, eventually settling in Salinas. After years of work in the hotel business, Andy's father, along with his brothers, was able to acquire the Abbott House Hotel, which they renamed The Hotel Cominos and ran as a family business for more than 40 years. The Hotel Cominos was a landmark during Salinas' years as the hub of Central California and was famed for its stream of dignitaries and celebrities. Andy's parents modeled and instilled in him and his siblings a dedication to hard work, fair play, education and generosity.

Andy left Salinas and joined the Coast Guard in 1950. His stint included trips to U.S. ocean stations in the North Pacific as part of the Coast Guard's support operations for the U.S. military's role in the Korean War. On his return to civilian life, he began work as a media editor and cameraman for MGM, Paramount and Desilu studios in Los Angeles, contributing to films such as "True Grit" and "Catch 22" and television shows including "Here's Lucy," "Mission Impossible" and "Hogan's Heroes." During this time in the early 1960s, he also studied his craft at USC, UCLA and UC Berkeley. Andy's skills with the camera, both still and movie, blossomed into a vocation that took him to many interesting places and events: Vietnam twice as part of Bob Hope's USO tour, the Sahara desert. the Amazon, expeditions into the Grand Canyon and Death Valley, the International land sailing speed championship on Ivanpah Dry Lake and others. While Andy had literally traveled around the world as a young man, his most passionate stories as an older man were about the many ultra-light backpacking trips he took in the Sonora and Mojave deserts. Andy was an expert at traveling light and smart. His 20-pound pack was made up of two parts water and iodine, two parts calories, one part sleeping gear and first-aid, one part cook kit and one part camera, the lone extravagance in a pack of pure necessity.

Andy met Marilee Pitman in Los Angeles in 1965. They shared each other's interests and eventually married. They moved to the home that Andy built (yes, he could do that, too) on Yankee Point in 1980. Andy and Marilee enjoyed countless camping trips and kayaking forays up and down the coasts of California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, including the piece of coast a stone's throw and a stairway away from their house. For 60 years, they exemplified a remarkable interplay of independence and interdependence.

One of Andy's great joys over the last decade was exploring the trails of Big Sur with the Haasis Hikers, a group of 70- to 90-plus-year-old endurance athletes. Andy loved the challenge and the camaraderie of those treks. Fellow hikers admired Andy for his ability to match any pace, to bring insight to any discussion and to somehow capture the spirit of each sojourn with stunning photos taken from multiple vantage points. He had the artistic ability to simultaneously be part of an event and also its documentarian.

Andy loved cooking, reading, digital editing and printing, landscaping and staying current on world and local events. He was generous and lighthearted, enthusiastic, civic-minded, family- and friend-focused, detail-oriented and aesthetic-inspired. His passing is a great loss to the many people whose lives he touched.

ADUs

From page 1A

to unchecked development," and she told the board she's confident county staff "will uphold Big Sur's longstanding protections through the streamlined permitting process."

Before the vote, 5th District Supervisor Kate Daniels, who represents Big Sur and Carmel Valley, signaled her support for the measure.

"Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good," suggested Daniels, who made the motion to pass the measure. "We need to create some opportunities for our local workforce and local residents to live in all of our coastal communities — this is just one step in a larger picture."

District 2 Supervisor Glenn Church also spoke in favor of the new rules.

"This has been a long time coming," added Church, who seconded Daniels' motion. "I've heard from a lot of people in my district who have adult children living with them because they can't find a home. These are not things that can be used for short-term rentals — they're going to have to be for long-term use."

The California Coastal Commission approved Monterey County's amendment for accessory dwelling units Oct. 10, sending it back to the county board of supervisors for the Nov. 18 hearing.

Remembering

CHRISTINE MARIE HALLAS

Feb. 18, 1945 – May 5, 2024

"Her heart and her generosity were as big as her 12 foot Christmas tree — her home, a holiday fairyland welcoming all to see! Always surrounded by adoring pets and those who knew her well — Chris — my great pal and confidant — I miss you so. A hui hou, my friend. Me Ke Aloha, *Mary*

Chris Hallas was a good friend for many years. She was kind and generous. She loved jewelry. Chris always presented herself well, like she was going to a photo shoot. I was in a book club with her for several years until she dropped out after we read a book by a Democratic president. Chris loved animals and all their causes. I was in a weekly dinner group with her for 17 years. She is deeply missed! *Cynthia Hall*

Chris Hallas was my neighbor and dear friend up on the Hidden Road. Her love of family was the center of her life. But another side of Chris was brought out in our trip to the rain forest of Costa Rica. She was fearless on the zip-line with not a hair out of place, so the locals called her "Hollywood." And this is how she left us on her final journey. *Lynn Sakasegawa*

Chris Hallas graciously hosted vibrant Christmas parties which celebrated family, friendship and community. She is missed. *Debbie Hutchings*

Family meant everything to Chris and that included her beloved dogs. Chris was very proud of her children and grandchildren. I was always overwhelmed by her yearly Christmas letter. She expressed such delight in her family's accomplishments. Christmas was her holiday. She turned her home into a Christmas wonderland — and what a holiday party she could throw. Miss you, *Jane Consani*

I loved the energy Chris brought to celebrations, especially Christmas, and her generosity towards a large group of friends. She also possessed deep understanding and compassion towards the less fortunate, especially children. Her career in social work opened her mind and heart to the tough parts of life, and she was boundlessly supportive of those who tried to make a difference. *Beth Wilbur*

How can I not think of Chris at this time of year? Christmas was her favorite holiday! She had the best decorated house and food galore should you have the opportunity to be invited to her home. Chris was always perfectly coiffed and beautifully dressed. She wasn't afraid to tell you how she felt or how she was feeling about anything. The best of Chris though, was in her children and grandchildren. I miss that moxie lady. xo *Rochelle*

Chris became a widow when her husband Nick died in 2008. She seemed quite lost at first, naturally, in mourning, a deer in the headlights (she denied this assessment, btw). But she got busy with learning and taking on the management of her property, her assets, herself. Over the subsequent years she seemed to reinvent herself, blooming to such a degree that she became quite outspoken, self-collected and also one of the handsomest women of my acquaintance. And her Christmas parties … remember the bacon strips and melted cheese bar in front of the lighted ceramic holiday tree collection? Heaven! *Desiree Gillingham*

Chris Hallas wanted everyone to have happiness in her life. She was the warmest, most caring person ever. At Christmas she decorated her home passionately and invited her friends and neighbors to enjoy the festivities she provided. We miss her tremendously!! *Linda Law*

Chris … I miss you terribly. Thank you for giving me 14 years of love and affection. I love you. *Tom* PS… and for the best Christmases ever!"

"Born in Janesville, Wisconsin, Chris was adopted at the age of six months by Gladys and Robert Moen. She grew up with an older brother, Chuck. Throughout her life she was galvanized by a search for the identity of her birth family and successfully sought out her birth mother at the age of 32. Her later determination to be a source of strength, love and security to her own children was a core part of her values.

This yearning influenced her choice of education and career and she had a life-long commitment to helping people heal. She received her B.A. in social work from the University of Missouri in St. Louis and her master's in social work from Columbia University in New York. She worked for several years at an extended care facility for alcoholic women and was a trained psychotherapist. She deeply connected with clients and felt honored to share their journeys.

Chris moved to New York City where she met and married Nicholas Hallas in 1966 in what she described as a "big fat Greek wedding." Following his career path, they lived in Connecticut, Missouri, California and New York, moving every four or five years while raising their two children, Cathy and Nick. They settled in Carmel Valley in 1991.

There they enjoyed a large group of close friends. Nick joined the "Bocce Boys" and played every Wednesday for many years, and after his death Chris was supported by a dear group of women with whom she had a hand in creating the infamously rowdy Women on Wednesday gathering, which meets to this day.

Christine Hallas leaves behind her late life partner, Tom Rowland; her brother, Chuck Moen (Gretchen) and their sons, Rob and David; along with her two children, Cathy (Bill) and Nick (Janine) and five grandchildren. Plus the Wisconsin half-siblings she discovered and grew close to in adulthood: Kathy, Diane, Pam and Richard. She was proceeded in death by Nicholas, her husband of 41 years, in 2008, and her half-siblings, Carolyn and Phil." — *Christine Marie Hallas*

LAPTOPS

From page 1A

time are whiled away on YouTube, gaming sites and even pornography.

In May, Edweek Research Center reported more than half of the 1,268 educators it surveyed said "off-task behavior" on school-issued devices was the biggest source of distraction in the classroom — even bigger than phones. Half a year later, the New York Times polled another 350 teachers who said they regularly find students using school laptops to game, watch videos and shop. In 2022, San Francisco-based Common Sense Media reported 11 percent of teens in one survey said they had viewed pornography on a school device while on campus.

Educators have, of course, employed monitoring software to try to prevent these time-sucks, but when sites like YouTube are approved, it's hard to know when students are doing legitimate research and when they're goofing off. Teachers can use the software to click through screen-by-screen to see what students are up to, but most didn't sign up to be IT monitors.

"Back in the day, if you didn't want to do an assignment, you were bored and your head was down, but that was it — you didn't have the option to play video games, or go on Instagram or do any of those things," said William Heuisler, an ethnic studies teacher in Los Angeles. "I just feel that now we're making it to the point where the teacher is going to be in front of a screen and all the kids in front of a screen, and you're losing the art of teaching."

Twoyears ago, Heuisler decided he'd had enough and returned to pen and paper for all reading and writing assignments, rather than relying on monitoring software.

Describing the computer situation as "absurd," Heuisler said he realized that if the students were doing something on paper, he could walk around and see what it was.

How the Chromebook became the textbook

Millions of California's K-12 students use Chromebooks, mainly because of their low price point, but iPads and other school-issued devices have created a 1-to-1 computing environment that is ubiquitous statewide.

The switch to device-based learning started pre-pandemic, but Covid school closures only accelerated the change. In 2020, Google, which makes the software that runs on Chromebooks, donated thousands of laptops to California schools, and the Department of Education spent $5.3 billion to purchase devices for online learning.

Despite signs of significant learning loss during the pandemic, teachers kept using Chromebooks and Google Classroom for assignments when schools re-opened in person.

When asked how the pandemic affected education at Carmel Unified School District, Superintendent Sharon Ofek, sent this response via email:

"It led to increased use of digital tools, new approaches to instruction, and a deeper emphasis on meeting students' academic and social-emotional needs."

Students at Carmel schools are given access to Chromebooks in kindergarten and by second grade each child is issued their own device. Yes, some exposure to devices is needed as state testing is all done online, but what other academic work a 7-year-old needs to learn via a network device is questionable.

What's even more concerning than the rapid-fire distribution of laptops is the lack of direction given to teachers on how to use them. Ofek did not answer The Pine Cone's question regarding guidance on technology use, but she said teachers use an app called Hapara to keep students on task.

Alix Gallagher, with Stanford's Policy Analysis for California Education, said districts need to do a better job training teachers to use technology advantageously.

"There's a risk that 1-to-1 devices can mean that, instead of having classrooms full of rich conversations giving kids the social aspect of learning, they are instead sitting by themselves working in isolation on a device," said Gallagher.

Lackluster results

Quantifying the negative impacts of school-issued devices on academic performance is nigh on impossible, partly because so many other bad things happened to kids' educational careers at the same time, including the pandemic and the smartphone.

Data from California schools show that last year's scores lag behind pre-pandemic outcomes, while universities are reporting that college readiness is pitiful. According to a UC San Diego report detailing the decline in academic preparation, five years ago, only 30 incoming freshmen at UC San Diego arrived with math skills below high-school level, while this year, the school reported that more than 900 showed up not fully meeting middle-school math standards.

It's hard to pinpoint why this is the case, but some professors suggest the rise of smartphones and 1-to-1 device learning as culprits.

"I've noticed a decrease in attention span and focus from networked devices that is impacting all of us," said Jeremy Goldbogen, an associate professor of oceans at Stanford. "Sometimes when the laptops are out or the phones are out, the ability to get into deep thought or a deeper conversation just isn't there."

Goldbogen, like Heuisler, has returned to the basics. He uses a chalkboard for lectures and requires students to use pen and paper to complete assignments. The professor notes his best pupils are the ones taking notes by hand and keeping devices off the desk.

"We might also benefit if we revisit tech use in school and ask fundamental questions like, do we really need phones, networked laptops and artificial intelligence in K-12? I think if we invest in our teachers and educate first, then tech use can follow later with purpose," said Goldbogen.

You've probably been wondering when we'd address the other technology wreaking havoc in the classroom — artificial intelligence.

A recent nationwide survey from the Center for Democracy and Technology found that, thanks to AI, more than 70 percent of teachers question whether the work students complete is their own. Nearly 75 percent of those educators also worry students are not learning critical skills like writing and reading comprehension because of the technology.

If all your assignments are typed and turned in via Google Classroom, why not just let the computer do them for you?

"Once they use the Chromebook to type something, it may not be their words anymore. It is so easy using AI,

See **AI** *page 23A*

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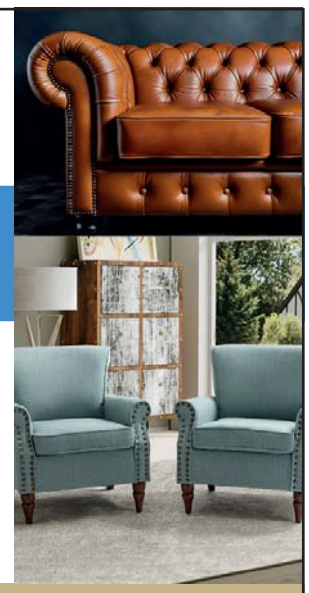

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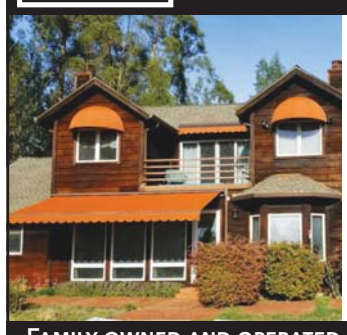

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AI

From page 21A

or whatever else, to tell them what to type, and you know this immaculate response that is not their writing," said Heuisler about what he's seen in his classroom.

We are in the Wild-Wild West days of AI in the classroom, with no regulation from the Department of Education and little guidance from most districts, including Carmel Unified.

"The district is in the process of assessing districtwide AI use, with the possibility of developing formal guidelines. Our students use AI tools; however, we are working with staff to support appropriate use and alignment with instructional goals," said Ofek.

Will the state step in?

Monterey Peninsula Assemblywoman Dawn Addis, a former teacher, said it is hard to pass any AI regulation in Sacramento these days. She said Gov. Gavin Newsom is hesitant to seem anti-innovation, and points to his axing of AI regulation in recent years as proof.

Newsom did sign several AI regulation bills in October, but he also vetoed three, including the Leading Ethical AI Development for Kids Act, which Addis supported. The bill would have outlawed companion chatbots from engaging in harmful interaction with minors. Newsom's veto cited the legislation risked a total ban on chatbot use by kids — which doesn't really seem like a bad idea.

Addis said she believes it will take the backing of a major union, like the California Teachers Association, to rein in AI use in the classroom.

Teachers, however, may be hesitant to regulate a tool they, too, have found useful. A 2023 Walton Family Foundation study indicated teachers used ChatGPT more than students, asking AI to do everything, from grading papers, to writing lesson plans.

Families should expect public schools to help their children develop critical thinking skills and master core concepts; however, those outcomes are becoming more and more unlikely if kids continue to let AI do the work while they surf the web. Educating children to use technology is important — dust off the computer lab and teach them to code there — but bring notebooks back to the classroom.

HARIGAE

From page 1A

in March 2023, and also competes under the name Mina Kreiter.

Unique contest

The TaylorMade Pebble Beach Invitational is the only tournament in the world that pits players from the PGA, LPGA, Champions and Korn Ferry Tours against each other, and it uses tee placements to see players hitting the same clubs into every green.

The pros play from different tees but compete for the same $300,000 purse, and throughout the competition, they rotate through teams of amateurs each day. The top 40 pros and ties make the cut after 54 holes to compete in the final round.

With her victory, Harigae became the first woman to win the event since World Golf Hall of Fame member Juli Inkster did so in 1990. Since joining the LPGA in 2010, she's earned $4.5 million in winnings, finished 20 times in the top 10 and had 62 top-25 finishes.

PHOTO/SHERMAN CHU

Mina Harigae became the second woman in tournament history to hoist the TaylorMade Pebble Beach Invitational trophy.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA,
CALIFORNIA

NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS

For: ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE NEW POLICE AND PUBLIC WORKS FACILITIES PROJECT

Notice is hereby given that the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea requests proposals from qualified persons/organizations for the purpose of providing professional architectural services for the complete demolition and new construction of the Police and Public Works facilities. Proposals shall be submitted to:

City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
ATTN: Nova Romero
City Clerk
P.O. Box CC, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921

Proposals must be postmarked no later than Thursday, January 22, 2026.

The RFP packet can be obtained at: ci.carmel.ca.us/requests-bids-and-rfps OR ci.carmel.ca.us (under the tab "I Want to Submit a Bid or Proposal")

The City will conduct a **MANDATORY** pre-proposal meeting and tour of the Police and Public Works buildings on **Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 11:00 AM** .

Final selection/non-selection of a firm will not be solely based upon cost. Firms/Proposals will be evaluated by the City and determinations/selection will be made based upon a wide range of factors, and selection of a most qualified firm will be based upon a total review and analysis of each proposal.

The City reserves the right to waive any minor irregularity, to negotiate for the modification of any proposal with mutual consent of the Proposer, to re-advertise for proposals if desired, and to accept the proposal, which in the judgment of the City, even though it does not offer the lowest cost, is nevertheless deemed the best value for the public and City. Any proposal which is incomplete, conditional, or obscure, or which contains irregularities of any kind, may be cause for rejection. This solicitation of proposals does not commit the City to enter into a Contractor or to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of responses to the request. The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Documents required after Award of the Contract: The successful Proposer will be required to execute a Contract furnished by the City, along with all certificates of insurance within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of the Notice of Award issued by the City. Should the successful Proposer fail or refuse to execute the Contract, the City reserves the right to accept the proposal of the Proposer offering the next best value to the City.

Publication dates: Nov. 21, 28, 2025 (PC1138)

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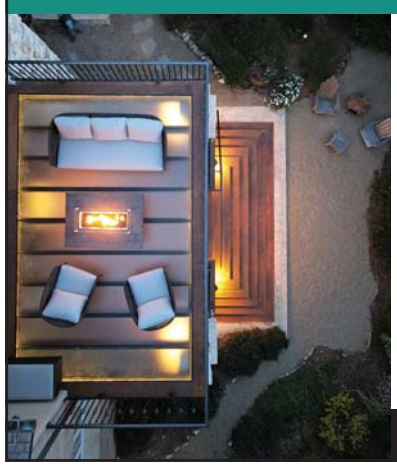

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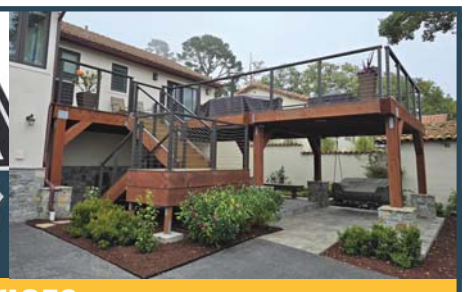

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Pirates weigh anchor after solid showings on land and in the water

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

ATHLETIC TALENT ebbs and flows at the high school level. Sometimes it comes in ripples. Other times, the swells get gnarly. Once in a while, there's a perfect storm.

The Stevenson Pirates are riding a tsunami right now in two fall-season sports, achieving heights destined to elicit awe in future generations.

On Nov. 19, Stevenson girls placed third as a team — second-best in school history — in the California Interscholastic Federation State Golf Championships at Poppy Hills Golf Course in Pebble Beach.

The following night, the girls water polo team, with five first-year starters in the lineup, came precariously close to pulling a third postseason upset in six days before their magical season came to an end in the semifinal round of the NorCal playoffs against a top-seeded powerhouse with a 30-2 record.

In both sports, the school is savoring an epoch of transcendent achievements.

The golf team won its league crown for the eighth consecutive year, but did so this year by a record 79-stroke margin over its nearest competitor, Carmel.

They captured the school's fourth Central Coast Section title and its first since 2007, routing defending champ Valley Christian by a whopping 15 strokes.

Then they brought home Stevenson's first NorCal championship trophy, burying second-place Granite Bay by 21 strokes.

At state, Pirates senior Ashley Gettleman, who shot a 3-under-par 68, was deprived of a chance to participate in a four-girl sudden-death playoff when Victoria Cui of Crystal Springs Upland birdied the final three holes, winning medalist honors outright with a 67.

Gettleman's state runner-up status equaled the 2006 finish of Stevenson alum Mina Harigae, who is now on the LPGA Tour.

Lucinda Wu, a junior, finished 2 strokes back, shooting a minus-2 69.

The best part, looking forward, is that two additional state participants, Isabella Sun and Allison Chan, are sophomores on a varsity roster that was talent-deep. There's good reason to believe the 2026 Pirates will be even better.

PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

A highly focused Ashley Gettleman of Stevenson came perilously close to winning individual medalist honors at last week's girls state golf championship. Her second-place finish tied Mina Harigae's 2006 effort as the best in school history.

PHOTO/STEVENSON SCHOOL

Stevenson's girls water polo team, coached by Jon Burke (right), celebrates an upset victory over Santa Cruz in the CCS finals, the school's third sectional crown in the past four years.

Redemption

The same forecast applies to Coach Jon Burke's water polo girls, who went undefeated in the PCAL Gabilan Division for the fifth straight year, won the title for the sixth year in a row, took the CCS crown for the third time in four seasons and reached the NorCal playoffs for the fourth straight time.

The Pirates won thrillers against higher-seeded opponents in the CCS championship game, 6-5 over Santa Cruz, and the NorCal quarterfinals, 12-11 over St. Mary's — teams that had beaten them in October.

That put them in the NorCal semis against No. 1 Merced, a game that was nearly as competitive: Stevenson was within a goal on two occasions, including once in the fourth quarter, before ultimately bowing 11-8.

All three of those postseason matchups were lengthy road trips for the Pirates.

Notable is that most of those players had previously received only limited game time in high-pressure, high-stakes situations. But this year's playoffs tested them, educated them and hardened them.

Among Stevenson's seven starters, six will return. The only graduate among the front-liners will be all-round standout Jacqui Powers, who led the team in steals with 54 and ranked second in goals (103) and shots (183).

Next year's veterans will include scoring leader Charlotte Morrow (125 goals, 15 assists, 45 steals as a junior), Kate Solomon (80 goals, 29 assists, 31 goals as a sophomore), Colette Duarte (51 goals, 28 assists, 53 steals as a junior), Anna Bates (48 goals, 29 assists, 38 steals as a freshman), Emily Lee (35 goals, 24 assists, 24 steals as a sophomore), and two goalies, sophomore Anna Smith (145 saves) and junior Makayla Schnitzer (86 saves).

■ CCS updates

Girls volleyball: No. 2 Harbor eliminated No. 7 Carmel in the D4 quarterfinal round, 25-19, 27-26, 25-21.

Continues next page

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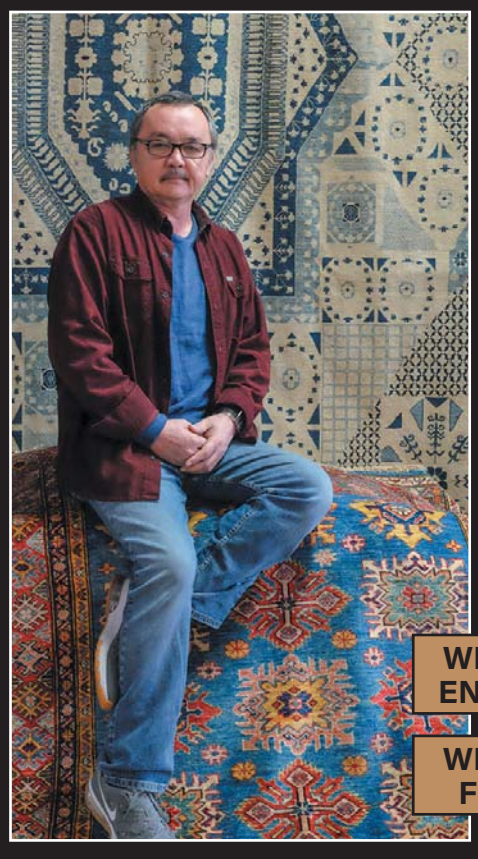

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From previous page

Highlights for the Padres included 12 kills, 12 assists and five aces for Bella Baoro, and 16 digs by Hallie Crabbe.

PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Carmel senior Jack Balas earned Most Valuable Player honors after scoring a league-high 114 goals and leading Carmel to first-place finishes in PCAL's regular season and the postseason tournament.

Harbor went on to defeat Menlo in the semis, then beat Scotts Valley in the finals on Nov. 8.

Girls tennis: The 2025 Carmel Padres became the school's first girls team in more than 15 years to advance past the opening round at the CCS Girls Team Tennis Championships on Monday, winning a 4-3 thriller over Aptos before falling 7-0 to top-seeded Menlo in the second round.

Carmel's victory came down to the final three matches of the day, all of which were decided by tiebreakers.

With the team score knotted at 2-2, the Padres' No. 2 singles player, Ruby Iranmanesh, lost her tiebreaker 10-4 after splitting the first two sets, 6-3 and 4-6.

Carmel's No. 3 doubles team, Alisa Babenko and Sophia Wetzel, tied the match again, winning a 10-2 tie breaker after posting a 6-3 victory in their first set, then falling 4-6 in the second.

That left all eyes on No. 3 singles player Hannah Heberger, who lost her opening set 6-7, won the second 7-5, and prevailed 10-8 in the tiebreaker to give Carmel the victory.

In other opening-round action, Santa Catalina was eliminated 4-3 by Palo Alto, and Stevenson lost 5-2 to Aragon.

Stevenson's Tereza Kostkova lost her first-round singles match 6-0, 6-1 to Harker's Kendra Zhao in the opening round of the CCS tournament.

Field hockey: Stevenson's best-ever postseason ended Nov. 8 in the D2 semifinals at San Jose, where the second-seeded Pirates played No. 3 Willow Glen to a 1-1 tie in regulation and overtime, then lost the tiebreaking shootout 2-1. Tatum LeTowt scored the regular-time goal for Stevenson.

Standouts in the defensive struggle included Iris Burch, Lucy Aiello, Sydney Holland, Molly McAfee, Mary Zewart, and goalie Zola Ducker.

■ Postseason honors

Football

Gabilan Division — Player of the Year: Eli Dukes, Palma. **MVP Offense:** Sam Whelan, Soquel. **MVP Defense:** Django Dailak, Soquel. **All-division offense:** Matt Maxon, Carmel. **Second team offense:** Dean Briant and Robert Beverly, Carmel. **All-division defense:** Skyler Brown, Carmel. **Second team defense:** Matt Maxon and David Spencer, Carmel. **Sportsmanship:** Kanan Seeklander, Carmel.

Mission Division South — Most Valuable Player: Carson Tidwell, King City. **MVP Offense:** Fin Mink, Stevenson. **MVP Defense:** Rocky Villanueva, King City. **All-division offense:** Fin Mink, Tono Borgomini, Caden Olson, Grady Roth,

See **SPORTS** *page 28A*

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Editorial

The mayor's promises

WHEN ZOHRAN Mamdani was a candidate for mayor of New York City, it was easy to dismiss some of his ideas as the fantasies of a child. Only someone who was raised in privilege and lacked experience in the real world could proclaim "seizing of the means of production" as a goal. You had to laugh at the absurd naivete behind his promises to freeze rents, offer free universal childcare and public transportation, open city-owned grocery stores — and pay for it all with massive tax increases.

But now that Mamdani has been elected, it behooves the country to take seriously his self-avowed intent to end capitalism and bring socialism, not only to New York, but to the whole country.

"I'm a Democratic socialist, and what socialism means to me is a state that provides whatever is necessary for its people to live a dignified life," he said in a CNN interview.

It's by no means a stretch to think that a "whatever is necessary to live a dignified life" might include not only free housing, healthcare, food, clothing and education, but things like free vacations and entertainment and being protected from anything that endangers your personal safety or makes you feel uncomfortable or humiliated.

Since the government is supposed to provide all these things, it better do a bangup job managing the economy after it gets through "seizing the means of production," i.e., the entire economy. And since nobody will need to work — why bother, when all of life's necessities are provided by the state? — Mamdani and his allies must have some magic up their sleeves.

They don't, of course. They have to deal with the same political realities as everybody else — realities that have created the great American compromise among the principles of personal liberty, a robust private economy, and a government that taxes private incomes to provide necessities to people who truly need them.

With a federal government that spends $6 trillion a year redistributing wealth through hundreds of programs, some people would argue we already don't live in a capitalist country. Yet the private economy thrives and continues to produce massive quantities of goods and services that can be sold at reasonable prices while also generating tremendous wealth that can be taxed.

In fact, the American system has already empirically answered the question, "Which is better, socialism or capitalism?" The answer is a hybrid system of private property, relatively free markets and the rule of law, along with aggressive government intervention in the form of Social Security, food stamps and the like when markets fail to provide basic necessities to people who cannot provide for themselves.

History proves that in their extreme forms, socialism and capitalism can cause catastrophic failures, and the real question is which mix of market mechanisms and government action produces the highest living standards, innovation, personal freedom and social stability.

Zohran Mamdani was elected on a set of promises that only na historically ignorant person would make. We just hope he doesn't do too much damage on his road to personal enlightenment.

BEST of BATES

"Carmel's going to the dogs."

Letters to the Editor

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

The Pine Cone only accepts letters to the editor by email. *Please submit your letters to mail@carmelpinecone.com*

STR problems

Dear Editor,

The county's newly adopted short-stay rental policy is final. Applications are already being submitted to the County of Monterey. All information, including who has applied, can be found at the county website. The approval is a simple over-the-counter permit, not going before any elected officials. I'm not sure what the appeal process is.

In one Carmel region, three applications have gone in for addresses 2525 Second Ave., 2505 Second Ave., and 2915 Alta Ave. The latter is most problematic, in my opinion, and neighbors should quickly send in letters to the county permit center.

The Alta home is on a narrow street, surrounded by many homes in close proximity. Driving and parking in this area are cramped. Already used for short-term stays, this locale has proved to be problematic with uplighting, noise, late nights, parties and many parked cars. Cars revving their engines as they leave at 2 a.m. have awoken the whole neighborhood more than a few times.

On a related note, to complain about code violations, residents are expected to call the Monterey County Sheriff's Office for parking issues, the code violation hotline number and noise, and in writing if there are lighting violations, etc. Some of the neighbors may not be computer fluent. It appears the scale is tipped in favor of the permit holders.

Christine Williams, *Carmel Valley*

'Pickleball is more than a game'

Dear Editor,

Last week, I had the joy of attending an 85th birthday celebration for a beautiful fellow pickleball player in Carmel — one of the original group who started the game at the Forest Hill courts 13 years ago. And she's still playing!

As I looked around the room, I realized that most of us met and bonded through pickleball. Over the years, this wonderful and ever-expanding group has supported one another through the loss of spouses, health challenges, and all of life's ups and downs. We've organized meal trains, shared laughter and potlucks, celebrated Cinco de Mayo, held tournaments for charity, and built friendships that extend far beyond the court.

Their passion and dedication helped grow the game beyond Carmel — to Via Paraiso Park in Monterey, Morris Dill

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The Carmel Pine Cone

https://carmelpinecone.com

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Vol. 111 No. 48 • November 28, 2025

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The Carmel Pine Cone was established in 1915 and is a legal newspaper for Carmel-by-the-Sea, Monterey County and the State of California, established by Superior Court Decree No. 35759, July 3, 1952

Sigmund Freud, Stanley Kubrick, and Hermann Göring's cousin

Great Lives

By CARLIN JARDINE

In 1985, "Psychotherapy in the Third Reich," published by Oxford University Press, became a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. It was the first one authored by Carmel Woods resident and retired college professor Geoffrey Cocks.

He was born in New Bedford, Mass., in 1948. The family moved to Detroit when he was 2, then to Los Angeles in 1958 and Carmel in 1961. "My parents were political progressives. They were readers and politically conscious, and I was schooled in that sort of critical attitude toward the status quo," Cocks noted.

While he was attending Carmel High School in the 1960s, folk music icon and activist Joan Baez spoke there about her Peace Institute in Carmel Valley. Naturally, Cocks asked about Vietnam. "Are the men in Washington who are running the war just mistaken, or do they know the degree of harm they are causing?" She answered, "They know exactly what they are doing."

"That response and the way it was delivered crystallized my awakening to how the world works," he declared.

Focus on history

During those years, he frequented Carmel Hobby on Ocean Avenue, a shop filled with model airplanes he could assemble and study, and he was especially fascinated by those of World War II. There were a number of bookstores he enjoyed, too. The Friar Tuck Book Shop on Mission Street was his favorite, and he had lots of books at home on history and both World Wars. That part of his Carmel education continued when Cocks enrolled as a history major at Occidental College in 1966. He got more than an education.

"In a German language class in a basement room of the new chapel on campus, I met Sarah. Our eyes locked, and that was it. We met in '68 and married in '71 after her graduation. It seems to have worked very well, even though her German was a lot better than mine," he said.

While at Occidental, Cocks was inspired by a seminar titled, "The Irrational in History," about Sigmund Freud, psychoanalysis, and how leaders and artists are driven by impulses from childhood. It motivated Cocks to begin his graduate studies at UCLA in 1970 under Peter Loewenberg, a psychoanalyst and acclaimed scholar of German history.

With Loewenberg as his advisor, Cocks found the subject of his doctoral thesis: the little-known existence of psychoanalysis and psychotherapy in Nazi Germany. He spent 1973 and '74 in Germany with Sarah, researching the topic and completing his degree in 1975.

That year, he started teaching at Albion College, a small liberal arts school in Albion, Mich. Cocks began as an assistant professor of history, rising to become one of the institution's youngest full professors. He used novels and films in his courses and was free to develop his growing interest in film and to conduct research.

"I loved the teaching, the acting, the performance, the 'you're-on-stage' kind of thing. It fit me very well," he mused, recalling time he'd spent in Carmel High's drama department and in the Studio Theatre on Dolores.

"I wasn't a great singer, actor or dancer," Cocks admitted, "but I was great at memorizing lines."

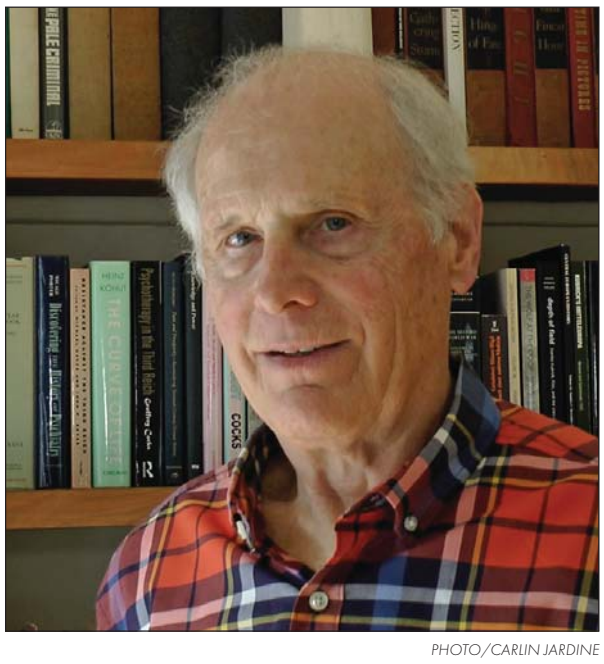
'Notable book'

He brought his family to Carmel in 1980 and saw Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining" at the Golden Bough Theatre. (The popular film starred Jack Nicholson and was based on Stephen King's novel of the same title.)

"That led me to a whole other major stream of research and a deeper interest in the film," related Cocks. His 2004 work, "The Wolf at the Door" — recognized as a "notable book" by the London Times, argues that "The Shining" contains an indirect discourse on the Holocaust. Film scholar Vincent Lo Brutto wrote that it "applies an astute understanding of geopolitics and psychology to the detailed facts of Kubrick's earthly existence."

"Psychotherapy in the Third Reich — The Göring Institute" tells the story of the Göring Institute under the leadership of Matthias Heinrich Göring, cousin of Hermann Göring, the second-most powerful

See **LIVES** *page 30A*



PHOTO/CARLIN JARDINE

Retired Carmel Woods history professor Geoffrey Cox has authored many books including a volume on psychotherapy in Nazi Germany.

A mosaic of some of this year's most interesting creators

Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Since 2017, this space has gone deep into the remarkable lives of more than 400 local artists. Here's a look at a few interesting things we learned about some of the talented people featured this year. (The date the artist's full profile appeared in The Pine Cone appears in parentheses.)

Raised in remote Arroyo Seco, **Lori Z. Bala** (Sept. 19, 2025) grew up surrounded by nature and creativity with her craft-loving, embroidery-skilled mother and a biker dad who shot photos and wrote for "Easyriders" magazine. Bala gravitated to mixed-media and multimedia art, creating emotional, mesmerizing pieces. "I want to inspire others to question, think, and feel," she said, often drawing inspiration from her own vulnerabilities. "I think art became a tool that allowed me to process hard-to-understand things, and make some sense out of the senseless."

Nikki Hoff (April 18, 2025) has a knack for making unseen spiders crawl up your spine, thanks to her intricately detailed charcoal drawings of shadowy rooms, foreboding hallways and creaky staircases that might be haunted. "All of my rooms are imaginary — I see them in my head before I make them," said Hoff, a self-taught artist who also paints soft-palette, impressionist-style village scenes, each with a hint of mystery.

Wayne Marien (Feb. 28, 2025), now a fine art photographer in Del Rey Oaks, spent decades in Hollywood working on movies like "Aliens" and the "Die Hard" series, as well as TV shows like "Twin Peaks," "Charlie's Angels," "Daniel Boone," and "The Fall Guy." He recalled interviewing surviving members of The Doors — Ray Manzarek, Robby Krieger and John Densmore — for the 1976 documentary "No One Here Gets Out Alive," which chronicles the iconic band's story and experience with legendary front man Jim Morrison. These days, Marien captures striking landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes and cloudscapes, often with a focus on the natural world.

Marcia McGinnis Shortt (March 28, 2025), a 1960 Carmel High alum, creates intricately detailed watercolors that reimagine vintage mail — one random person's handwritten letter to another — that she found at a flea market in Rome. Her art reflects her fascination with unique penmanship, old envelopes marked by time, and postmarks and stamps from long-ago eras. "I eventually decided that painting fruits and vegetables wasn't my thing. I wanted to go back to typography, and beautiful paper, and wonderful stamps," Shortt said. "And I still prefer sending handwritten letters and notes to people. That seems like a lost art."

A grand piano in **Eduardo Fujii's** (May 16, 2025) living room hints at another side of the Pebble Beach photographer. By age 5, Fujii was studying classical piano at a conservatory in São Paulo, Brazil, while also discovering a gift for painting. His talent was clear even as a teenager, when he sold an entire wall of cityscapes to a local art lover. At 71, he still plays piano, but his main focus in 2025 is exploring unusual ways to create original photographs.

At 34, **Eva Boynton** (Oct. 3, 2025) has trekked the Amazon, hiked the Himalayas, biked 3,000 miles from Monterey to Guatemala, and hitchhiked across New Zealand — often picking up work as a farm laborer. Boynton, a visual artist, uses charcoal and graphite pencils for sketches and pastels for her vivid paintings. Today she creates a range of work at Open Ground Studios in Seaside, while continuing to dream up future adventures.

Jacqui Turner (July 18, 2025) makes fine art photographs in which people's hands cradle their precious treasures. Turner asks people to share stories of the items and why they can't throw them away. For example, Doris, 102, holds a doll she bought in England with her high school class. John holds medals awarded to his great-grandfather by Queen Victoria for his military actions during the 1857 battle of Khushab, and Kathy displays a page from a 200-year-old family Bible. For Turner, gathering these stories is an ongoing project. Her own favorite keepsake — her first pair of ballet slippers, designed for dancing "en pointe" — on her toes. "I think I was in my first year of high school when I got those shoes," said Turner, now over 70, who danced from kindergarten until she

See **ARTIST** *page 29A*

PHOTO/COURTESY LORI Z. BALA

"Love in Life and Death" is a self-portrait by Seaside multimedia artist Lori Bala, who explores her own feelings and emotions in many of her pieces.

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SPORTS

From page 25A

Tucker Biggs and Alex Wang, Stevenson. **All-division defense:** Cody Thacher, Zryan Morgan and Logan Lunda, Stevenson. **Second team defense:** Anthony Perez and Brooks Andrade, Stevenson.

Boys water polo

Pacific Coast Athletic League — Most Valuable Player: Jack Balas, Carmel. **MVP Offense:** Laird Welch, Stevenson. **MVP Defense:** Ze' Franz, Stevenson. **All-league:** Jack Balas, Landon Onitsuka and Marc Kalman-Zulik, Carmel; Laird Welch, Ze' France and Brooks Honegger, Stevenson. **Second team:** Sam Balas, Hamish Forsythe and Callan Tescher, Carmel; Matias Higgins and Hezzy Horvath, Stevenson. **Sportsmanship:** August Hohman, Carmel; Finn Reilly, Stevenson.

Girls water polo

Pacific Coast Athletic League — Most Valuable Player: Quinn Connolly, Santa Catalina. **MVP Offense:** Charlotte Morrow, Stevenson. **MVP Defense:** Beatrice Woltman, Monterey. **All-league:** Charlotte Morrow and Jacqui Powers, Stevenson; Quinn Connolly and Emme Adamski, Santa Catalina. **Second team:** Colette Duarte, Kate Solomon and Emily Lee, Stevenson; Taylor Connolly, Santa Catalina; Ava Waroff, Carmel. **Sportsmanship:** Rainn Nachbar, Carmel; Violet Bradley, Santa Catalina; Makayla Schnitzer, Stevenson.

Girls volleyball

Gabilan Division — Most Valuable Player: Lizzie Descalzi, Carmel. **MVP Offense:** Daniela Orsetti, Hollister. **MVP Defense:** Adalina Dolowich, Pacific Grove. **All-division:** Lizzie Descalza, Carmel. **Second team:** Hallie Crabbe and Maddie Willoughby, Carmel; Evelyn Kim, Santa Catalina. **Sportsmanship:** Bella Baoro, Carmel; Chloe Wigdahl, Santa Catalina.

PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Cannon-armed Quinn Connolly of Santa Catalina, the league scoring champ with 145 goals, was voted PCAL Player of the Year in girls water polo.

Mission Division — Most Valuable Player: Sofia Custodio, Monterey. **MVP Offense:** Morgan Kristy, Monterey. **MVP Defense:** Elena Sofia Ruiz, Alisal. **All-Mission:** Katy Kimball, Stevenson. **Second team:** Gabi Tight, Stevenson. **Sportsmanship:** Olivia Rheim, Stevenson.

Flag football

Gabilan Division — Most Valuable Player: Liliana Whitmeyer, St. Francis. **MVP Offense:** Aubrey Jones, Alisal. **MVP Defense:** Taylor Alvez-Lopez, Watsonville. **All-Gabilan offense:** Delilah Herro and Anna Rasmussen, Carmel. **Second team offense:** Kealani Sagin, Carmel. **All-Gabilan defense:** Ava Staehle, Carmel. **Second team defense:** Josie Hanson and Bella Rodriguez, Carmel. **Sportsmanship:** Zana Balaman, Carmel.

Field hockey

Pacific Coast Athletic League — Goalie of the Year: Zola Ducker, Stevenson. **MVP Offense:** Ava Staehle, Carmel. **MVP Defense:** Lucy Aiello, Stevenson. **All-PCAL:** Georgia Bonifas, Lucy Aiello, Molly McAfee and Elle Moreo, Stevenson; Ava Staehle and Leah Sibley, Carmel; Delilah Fujita, Santa Catalina. **Second team:** Charlotte Schipper, Tatum LeTowt and Iris Burch, Stevenson; Cammie Roxas, Sidney Beverly and Emma Stiver, Carmel; Isabell Fujita and Paloma Reyes, Santa Catalina. **Sportsmanship:** Levan Chang, Stevenson; Claire Bonyage, Carmel; Ireland Harrington, Santa Catalina.

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

GAVEL

From page 4A

warns are potential significant health risks.

Additionally, California law requires good-faith examinations of patients receiving medical treatments, including injection therapies.

This requirement is in place so that medical treatments are prescribed by qualified medical professionals. Following this investigation, Injected Artistry retained a third-party telehealth service to provide good-faith exams prior to IV treatments.

The owners, Starr and Slovenski, on behalf of themselves and their corporate business, agreed to pay a total of $45,000 in civil penalties and costs to resolve this matter and are prohibited from making any false claims regarding their treatments and must ensure good-faith examinations are to the standards required under California law.

This case was investigated by Monterey County District Attorney investigator George Costa.

Oct. 20 — A Monterey County jury found Jenny Rebecca Lesch, 47, a former resident of Carmel Valley, guilty of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence, felony hit-and-run with injury or death, and assault with a deadly weapon.

On May 31, 2023, James Pack was driving home in his white VW Van. As he merged onto Highway 1 south from Fremont Street, he was tailgated by a dark gray SUV driven by Lesch.

Immediately after the merge, Lesch swerved into another lane, nearly hitting another car, and then hit her brakes to block the van as Pack tried to merge into the lane she was in. Around this time, Lesch and Pack flipped each other off. Pack then merged behind Lesch.

As the vehicles approached the Aguajito Road exit, Lesch repeatedly brake-checked Pack's van, which eventually caused him to lose control. As the van began to swerve, Lesch made an unsafe turn into another lane, nearly hitting a second vehicle, a silver Honda. The silver Honda swerved out of control to avoid Lesch's vehicle as well. As a result of the evasive maneuvers, the silver Honda collided with Pack's van on the shoulder of the highway, just south of the Aguajito Road exit offramp. The collision caused the van to roll multiple times, ejecting Pack from the vehicle. He died of his wounds from the collision later that day. He is survived by his partner/wife of 25 years, as well as multiple adult children and a brother.

Lesch and the silver Honda fled the scene after the collision. The driver of the silver Honda was later found and prosecuted for fleeing the scene of an accident causing death. When CHP officers contacted Lesch at her home that night, she denied any involvement in the accident. In her statement, she repeatedly lied to police by claiming that she wasn't able to call 911 because her phone wasn't working. However, forensic evidence later showed her phone was powered on and receiving a signal at the time the crash and afterward. Additionally, forensic evidence from the scene of the collision and dash camera footage capturing part of the road-rage incident contradicted what Lesch told police had happened.

In 2021, Lesch was prosecuted for vandalizing a Tesla in Newport Beach as a result of a separate road-rage incident. While walking in a parking lot, Lesch felt a Tesla cut her off and nearly hit her because it failed to yield while she was walking to her car. Lesch confronted the driver of the Tesla to yell at her. After the driver of the Tesla went into a store, Lesch was caught on video keying the Tesla. When first confronted about this a few days later, Lesch repeatedly lied to police and said she only spit on the car. After being told the police had her on video keying the car, Lesch eventually admitted to keying the vehicle in anger.

Judge Jennifer O'Keefe will preside over the sentencing. Lesch's maximum exposure is nine years in state prison.

The case was primarily investigated by district attorney investigator Sarah Jackson and CHP officer Nicholas Puck.

Everybody reads The Pine Cone

ARTIST

From page 27A

had her only child at 37. "Getting en pointe is your big step as a ballet dancer and the result of a lot of really hard work. And then you learn how painful it is."

Nearly 70 years ago, **Danny Vancas** (May 2, 2025) was smitten with an image of a blonde woman on a risqué deck of his father's playing cards. "I decided in my little-boy brain that she was the girl I would marry someday," said Vancas, nationally recognized for reviving classic pinup art through his colorful paintings. Fascinated by his parents' generation, Vancas describes his art and writing as happily stuck in the past. "I think the 1930s through the 1960s produced some of the greatest music, art, theater, writers and visual artists. That's what influenced my own art." At 72, he uses anywhere from 15 to over 200 layers of paint to create pinup girls, film-noir-style street scenes, pulp fiction covers, and illustrations for stories he's writing with hopes of turning them into a streaming TV series.

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

‘Rudolph’ returns to Forest Theater, PacRep debuts pair of one-act plays

By CHRIS COUNTS

EVERYBODY’S FAVORITE misfit reindeer is back, thanks to the return of Pac Rep’s “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” musical, which opens Saturday, 3 p.m., at the Forest Theater.

“This classic holiday extravaganza, adapted from the beloved 1960s animated film, is set to dazzle audiences,” PacRep said.

The animated 1964 Rankin/Bass TV special was based on a 1939 story by Robert L. May, and the musical tells the story of a young reindeer who saves Christmas Day with his bright red nose.

Directed and choreographed by Christiana Meeks, the musical stars Oliver Cordier as Rudolph, along with Everly Miller, Christopher Sullinger, Cody Moore, Caleb Eskenasy, Brady Hollis, Seaneen Sullinger and Amelia Eskenasy.

“Rudolph” continues Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 14. All shows start at 3 p.m.

The Forest Theater is located at Santa Rita and Mountain View. People are encouraged to dress warmly. Guests, picnic supplies, blankets and cushions can be dropped off prior to parking.

Tickets are $28 for general admission, $16 for students 13 and up, and $11 for kids 1 and under. For tickets, call (831) 622-0100 or visit pacrep.org.

■ ‘Chekhov or Not’

Showcasing the talents of local playwrights, directors, performers and producers, PacRep presents “Chekhov or Not,” which opens Monday, 7:30 p.m., at the Circle Theatre.

“Chekhov or Not” is described as a “mash-up of two one-act plays.” The first one, “Dr. Kheal,” is an absurdist comedy written by Cuban-American playwright María Irene Fornés. “The audience is compelled to delve into themes of identity, memory and the human psyche — a farcical mix of hilarity and deep thought,” according to PacRep.

The second play, “Swan Song,” was penned by 19th century Russian playwright Anton Chekhov. “This play reveals the true lives hidden beneath his characters’ outward poses,” PacRep said.

Both plays are directed by John Newkirk and features local actors Paul Barber and Howard Burnham.

“Chekhov or Not” continues Dec. 2-3, Dec. 6, Dec. 8-10 and Dec. 13. All shows start at 7:30 p.m. except the two Saturday shows (Dec. 6 and Dec. 13), which begin at 2 p.m.

Tickets are $36, with discounts available for seniors, students, teachers and active military. The theater is

PHOTO/STEPHEN MOORER

In PacPep’s “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” musical, Everly Miller (left) plays Hermey while Oliver Cordier (right) portrays Rudolph.

LIVES

From page 27A

official in Nazi Germany, and how psychotherapy survived the madness of the Hitler years. According to a synopsis on the book’s cover, although it was initially discredited as a “Jewish science,” psychotherapy found an unlikely ally in Matthias, a psychotherapist who used his leverage to establish the Göring Institute. That allowed the practice to continue while “exploiting Nazi demands for the psychological health and productivity of the ‘Master Race.’”

Always vigilant

At Albion in the late 1990s, Cocks helped create a Holocaust service-learning project that continues to this day. Students traveled to Germany and Poland to visit historic sites. In Poland, they placed a plaque they had purchased on the Krakow factory where owner Oskar Schindler shielded more than 1,000 Jewish workers from certain death in Nazi extermination camps. Students also did restoration work on a Jewish a cemetery in Wroclaw and concluded their study in Israel. “It was always a deeply moving experience, not only important for our students, but for my growing knowledge of the Holocaust,” said Cocks, who is strongly convinced that the information remains highly relevant.

“Ask any of my students what they’ve learned from me about German history, Nazi Germany, and specifically the Holocaust,” Cocks said. “They’ll tell you what terrible things occurred, what lessons can be derived from them and why we should always be vigilant.”

Cocks’ awards and achievements have included a Fulbright Scholarship, a National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship, and authoring a novel and numerous scholarly books. His most recent, “The State of Health — Illness in Nazi Germany,” was published by the Oxford Press in 2012. He is one of the commentators in “Room 237,” a documentary on Kubrick’s “The Shining.” Adding to those accomplishments is a career-long outpouring of essays and articles in his areas of expertise.

In 2016, after 41 years at Albion, Cocks retired. He and Sarah returned to Carmel, his “creative sweet spot.”

They lead weekly walking tours in and about town for The Carmel Foundation. “Most of the participants are Carmel regulars. We all know each other and we talk as much as we walk.” He added, “Sooner or later, it’ll become the Carmel ‘talk’ about the walking tour … without the walking.”

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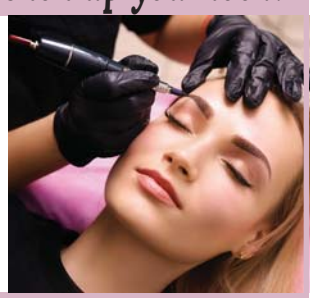

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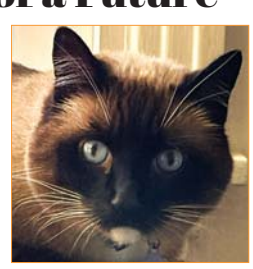

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LETTERS

From page 26A

courts in Pacific Grove, Wheeler Street in Seaside, and Meadowbrook.

Pickleball is more than just a sport. It's community at its best. One of our widowed players once said, "Pickleball saved my life." And that's because no matter what you're going through, you can show up on any given day, pick up your paddle, and find yourself surrounded by friends — to talk, to laugh, or simply to play — and remember that you're not alone.

Christie Italiano-Thomas, *Pacific Grove*

Rucker's caring

Dear Editor,

I must admit that I shed a tear reading the passing of former mayor pro tem of Seaside Helen Rucker. I had the opportunity to work closely with Mrs. Rucker during my stint with the City of Seaside.

You could not find a more compassionate and caring individual. It was during the time when Ft. Ord was being closed by the U.S. Department of the Army and emotions ran high on the reuse, creating a division among the Peninsula cities. Mrs. Rucker vehemently guarded Seaside's interest, but, more importantly, she worked hard to make sure that the interest of all people regardless of color would benefit from what is now CSU Monterey Bay. This was only one of many examples she taught me on equality.

Rich Guillen, *Monterey*

How to express thanks

Dear Editor,

Thursday is Thanksgiving Day. We of this community have so very much for which to give thanks. A stroll along Scenic Road will reveal this, as we look out over the brilliant white sands of Carmel Beach. Time spent within one of the many coffeehouses that dot our community, sitting quietly or in warm conversation with a friend in an all-embracing peace. Each and all of these things and so many more are, but what, the very manifestation of God's love. Can we but look upon these manifestations of His love for us and not fall ever more deeply in love with Him?

As we do, we can share that "love returning love" relationship with God by allowing His rich love to flow abundantly through us to those within our community who are lonely, sick, hungry, without a home, marginalized, weary, trapped in addiction, incarcerated, helpless. This goes far beyond the financial to include our talents and time, our hearts and minds.

As just one example of where we can allow God's love to flow through us to others is Victory Mission in Salinas' skid row. Victory Mission provides shelter, food, showers, laundry facilities for men, our neighbors, whose home is the streets.

Soon, the tree shall be lighted in Devendorf Park, for the Christmas season is arriving. That, and so very many other good things, remind us that, in another community, over 2,000 years ago, the very Son of God came into the world (John 3:16) bringing the Good News that a forever "love returning love" relationship with God is available through Him, Jesus, to anyone who chooses to disown love of self and, through humble prayer to God, ask that Jesus become his or her Savior forever.

My neighbors of our community, I say in love for you, may God bless you all.

Tyson Holmes, *Carmel*

PAVING

From page 3A

Locals familiar with Carmel's tricky sidewalks might also be glad to know some of them are on the overhaul list, too, like the west side of Junipero between Sixth and Ocean, the north side of Sixth between Lincoln and Dolores, the south side of Sixth between Mission and Junipero, and a couple of corners.

Concrete cutting

Speaking of sidewalks, earlier this month, the Carmel City Council approved a $173,804 contract with Precision Concrete Cutting to shave more than 1,400 trouble spots that were identified in a survey.

In June, the firm was hired for $12,420 to identify tripping hazards caused by ground settling, tree roots and other factors. The inspection was completed in August, with a total of 1,426 "concrete offsets" ranging from a quarter-inch to 2 inches equaling 6,572 linear feet.

At the Nov. 3 meeting, public works superintendent Rob Culver encouraged the council to approve the contract with the company to remove the bumps.

"PCC utilizes a horizontal saw-cutting method that removes vertical offsets between one-quarter inch and 2 inches while preserving the integrity of the concrete," he said.

"This approach is cleaner, more efficient and significantly more cost-effective than traditional remove-and-replace methods," he added.

"For this money, we're getting a lot of value in terms of solving the issues out there in a very short timeframe," Mayor Dale Byrne commented before the council voted to approve the agreement.

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MARKET SNAPSHOT

Activity on the Rise

"The market started to break loose again this week in our area, with 14 closed escrows, 7 new sales and 4 new listings. We usually see the sellers wait to bring their house to the market until after Thanksgiving, so we anticipate a little bump of activity next week. While all of the closed escrows this week are $3M or under, we did have one in Pebble, listed at $12.6M, go into escrow and are seeing a steady increase in showings at the top of the market.

We are deeply grateful for what this community has meant to all of our families over the years and hope you have a wonderful holiday weekend!"

Jess

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HOLIDAY GUIDE

A forest's worth of festive trees, a galaxy of colorful lights

By ELAINE HESSER

IN 1921, Robinson Jeffers — he of Tor House on Carmel Point — wrote a poem called "Christmas Fancies," which reads, in part, "When gloomy gray Decembers are roused to Christmas mirth, The dullest life remembers there once was joy on Earth."

Perhaps he'd already spent one too many winters here.

The lives of Pine Cone readers are anything but dull, we'd wager, and although our snow comes pre-thawed, it needn't wash away holiday joy. There's so much to do around here, so many reminders of love and gladness, that a mere sampling from the veritable feast that follows could keep anyone satisfied. In roughly chronological order, we have events free and otherwise, glowing with lights, ringing with song, and overflowing with food and holiday cheer.

Of trees and skates

For everyone who loves the magic of "Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates," the glamor of the old Ice Capades, and gravity-defying Olympians like Michelle Kwan or Johnny Weir, **Ice Skating by the Bay** at **Custom House Plaza** in Monterey is open through Jan. 4, including holidays. Hours are generally 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 8 p.m. Sundays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. From Dec. 1 through 4, and 8 through 11, however, the schedule's 1 to 10 p.m. Blocks of time are also set aside for private parties, so check iceskatingbythebay.com before you go. Adults pay $15, kids 12 and under are $13 and skate rental is $5. Season passes are $225, not including skate rental. Watching grownups who haven't been on skates for years try to stay upright is free.

Also already up and glittering is **Winter Wonderfest** at the **Monterey County Fairgrounds**. Open Friday through Sunday from 5 to 9 p.m. through Dec. 21 and then daily (except Christmas) through Dec. 28, the event features a walk-through holiday light show, a holiday market with more than 20 artisans and vendors, food for sale, the Jingle Bar in the Turf Club, and a variety of live entertainment. Tickets start at $20 for adults, $10 for kids 12 or under, and those 5 and younger get in free. Discounts are available at the gate for military, veterans and seniors, or those folks can email info@winterwonderfestmonterey.com for a promo code if purchasing in advance online.

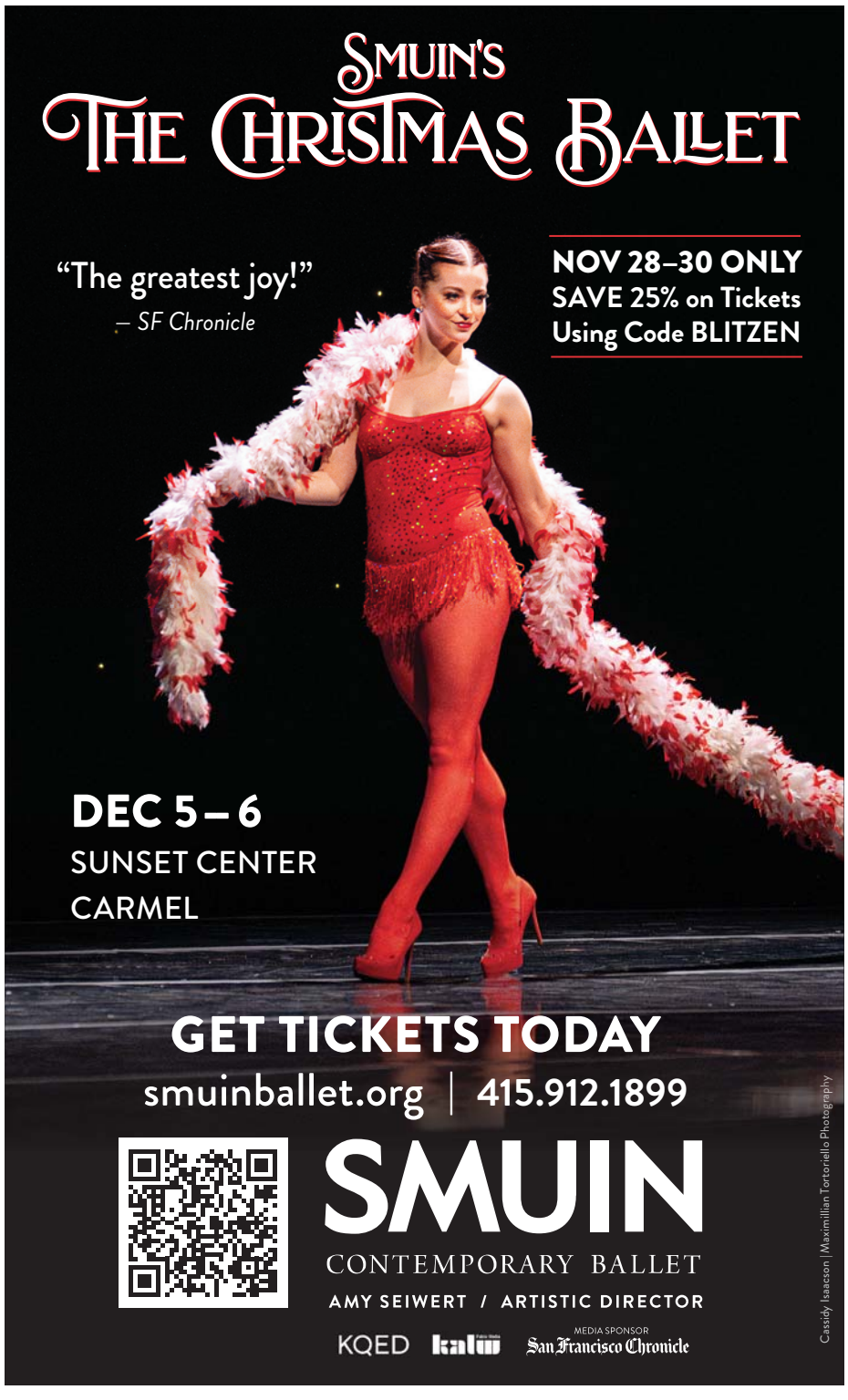
On Dec. 6 from 5 to 7 p.m., "Tinsel and Toast" at the Fairgrounds is for anyone who wants to "DIY decorate" their own tree to take home. Tickets are $100, and include Winter Wonderfest admission, appetizers and adult beverages. Perhaps a designated decorator is in order?

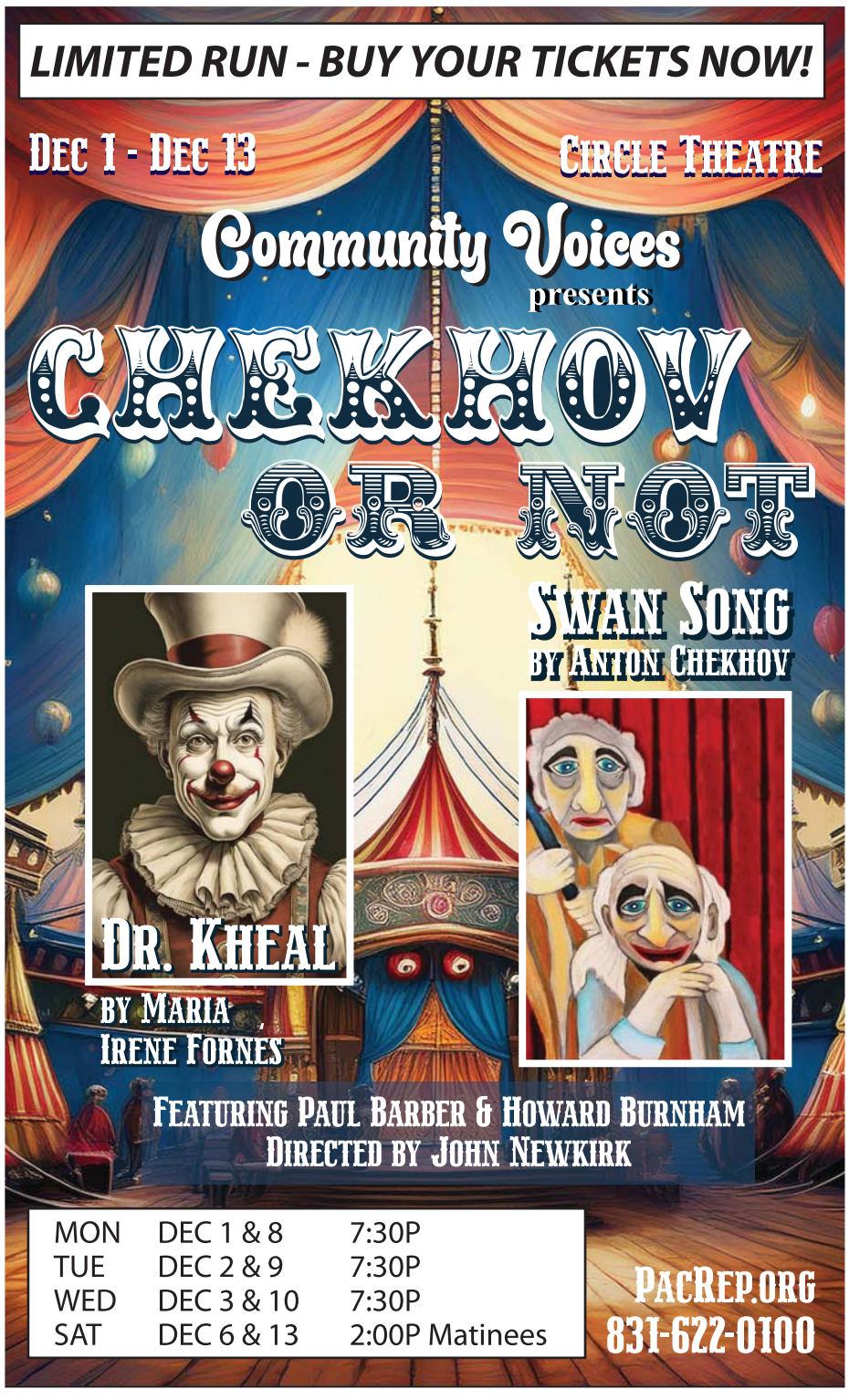
Friday, Nov. 28, **Cannery Row's annual Christmas Tree Lighting** will be in Steinbeck Plaza **near Cannery Row and Prescott** in **Monterey.** Family-friendly entertainment starts at 2 p.m., with carolers from I Cantori di Carmel taking the stage from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The tree will be illuminated at 5:45, and Santa will receive visitors in his temporary nearby digs from 6 to 9 p.m. He'll be back on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 p.m. through Dec. 21.

On Saturday, **Asilomar Hotel & Conference Grounds** is holding its first **Christmas tree lighting** with live music and a kids' craft table at 6 p.m. in the Phoe-

CALENDAR *con't. page 40A*

The Golden State Theatre presents Pyotor Tchaikovsky's "The Sleeping Beauty," featuring the International Ballet Stars.





HOLIDAY GUIDE

Wishes granted here

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

Editor's note: Each year, Lisa shares the tale of an "Everywoman" making early gift-shopping rounds downtown, carefully documenting her special finds to help you run down just the right presents, too.

SHE DID it again. By mid-November, our intrepid holiday shopper had made her list, checked each name twice and was heading out to buy gifts for the naughty as well as the nice. She decorated her tree the day after Halloween, and, per tradition, planned to check off each name on the list in a single day of shopping in Carmel.

She was confident as she headed out the door. She's done it before. And when the shopkeepers saw her coming, they were ready and waiting.

She started at **Big Little Boxes** on San Carlos, a specialty store whose owner, Linda Persall, carefully creates gift boxes to suit the tastes and temptations of anyone on a Christmas list. And then, bonus: Persall ships them for you. Our shopper didn't need to schlep anything to the car — or box, wrap, or send any gift.

Our shopper walked through the door and handed over her gift list. Persall peruses the notes and glanced around the room, her eyes suggesting a creative study of inventory. "Okay, I've got it."

"To help your best girlfriend find calm and chaos relief in this busy holiday season," she said, "we'll assemble our "Chaos and Spa Bliss" box. She can unwind with her 'mindful journal' and sip a cup of Spa Bliss Tea in her darling 'Chaos Coordinator' mug. She'll bliss out her body with Sea Mineral body polish, and breathe in relaxing aromatherapy with the eucalyptus spa candle."

"That sounds perfect," our shopper said. "But let's add this darling 'besties necklace' in the little wooden box as a reminder of our friendship."

Pick a Big Little Box for someone you love.

She also purchased a "Cheers to Friendship" box for another friend, with ocean-inspired crystal wine glasses, cabernet cheese, cheese-infused wine chips, California pecans, and sea salt crackers, plus a tea towel that says, "A true friend reaches for your hand and puts a wine glass in it." Perfect.

And, she had a feeling she might return to have a box of "Carmel Artisan Specialties" curated for a friend whose job recently relocated her to Poughkeepsie.

Next on the list

Checking her list, our shopper studied the windows and then wandered into **Lloyd's Shoes** on Ocean Avenue. "People don't tend to buy shoes for others," she thought, "but they should."

She does, understanding it must be a style that represents the relationship between giver and receiver, and the recipient's

SHOPPING *con't. page 44*

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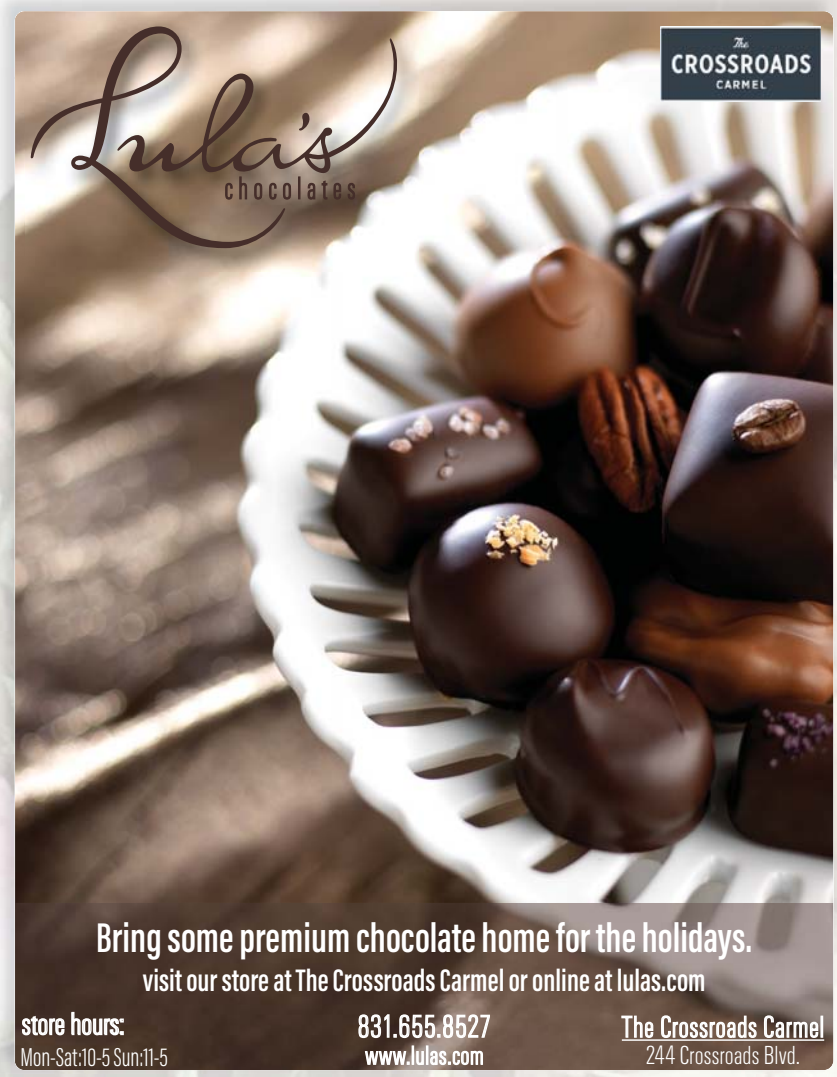

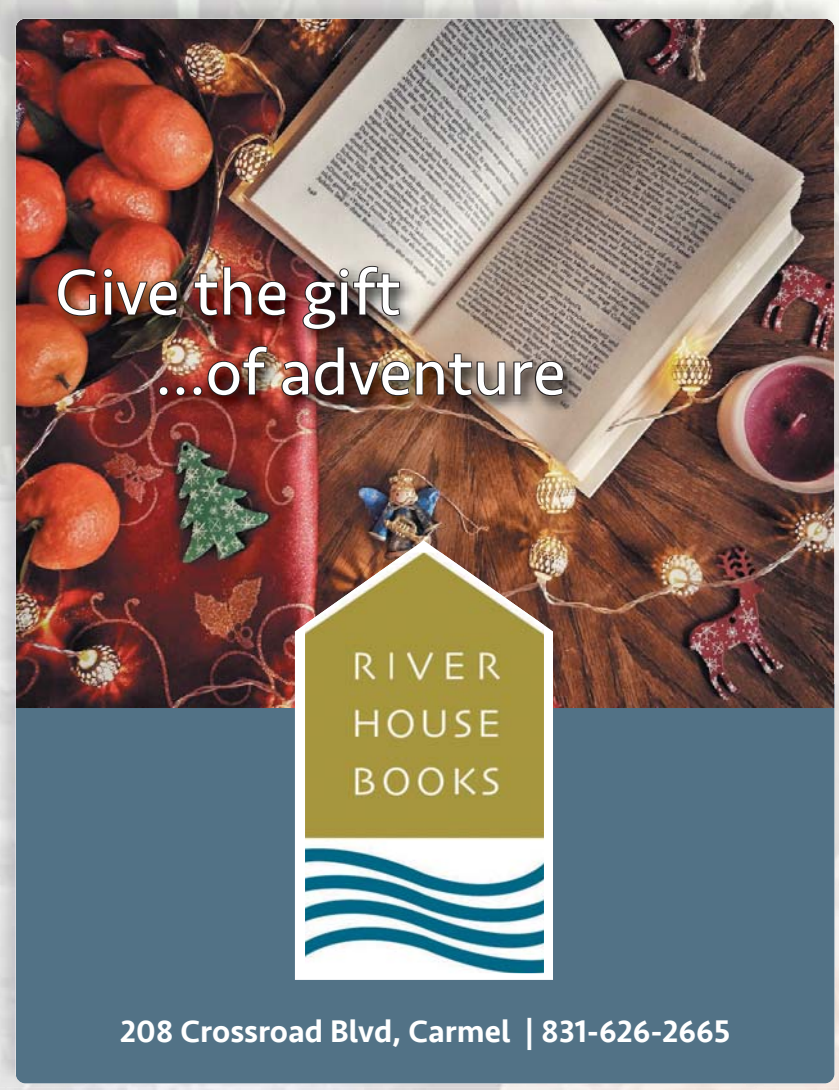

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HOLIDAY GUIDE

Living on the Peninsula is an amazing experience, meant to be shared

By LISA LAPIN

SOMETIMES, THE best gifts don't come wrapped in packages. A flurry of recent research has found that taking part in experiences tends to bring people more happiness than acquiring material things. Apply these findings to holiday presents, and you may bring great joy — and surprises — to everyone on your list.

Lucky for us, the Monterey Peninsula region is brimming with escapades to be shared. From cooking classes, to museum memberships and musical performances, you can purchase gift cards and certificates for something fun for every age and interest — and your present will support local businesses, art and culture, too.

Not all gifts come in boxes. Let your loved ones unwrap a different perspective on paradise or learn a brand-new skill.

Give an adventure

Locally owned Adventures By The Sea sells gift cards that can be redeemed for kayaking, paddleboarding lessons, e-bike rentals and more. With locations at Cannery Row and Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey, Lover's Point in Pacific Grove and Stillwater Cove in Pebble Beach, a broad range of activities is available. You can finish your purchase with a few clicks at AdventuresByTheSea.com, and recipients can choose their own adventure.

Try a whale-watching cruise, something visitors often do, but locals may overlook. Chris' Whale Watching, a Fisherman's Wharf institution, offers gift certificates in any amount or a $500 pass for a year of unlimited whale watching. A three-hour ticket costs $60 for adults and $40 for kids at Chriswhalewatching.com.

For something bolder, Specialized Aviation offers helicopter tours of the Monterey Peninsula and Big Sur. An hour-long Big Sur flight costs $450 per person from either Monterey or Watsonville airports. Parties of as many as six can be accommodated in a larger helicopter. To purchase, contact Specialized Aviation at (831) 285-7573 and see tour details at specializedheli.com.

Dirty hands, happy heart

Get muddy and creative at a pottery wheel at Clay + Kiln at the Hacienda in Carmel Valley. An array of classes is offered at $85 for a two-hour workshop. Gift certificates are available at haciendacv.store, or stop by Hacienda at 7180 Carmel Valley Road.

Surprise your loved one with a romantic gesture — ballroom dance lessons. Pacific Grove Dance offers beginner classes in foxtrot, tango, swing, salsa and "every style of dance you see in the movies." Gift certificates are available in any amount and most classes are $20 per person. Call (831) 393-4567 to buy.

Know someone who loves to cook? Check out the classes at Happy Girl Kitchen, which has three-hour evening workshops in how to make soups, jams, sourdough bread, fermented vegetables and more. Most are $125, and you can buy gift cards in the store and café at 173 Central Ave. in Pacific Grove. See the schedule at happygirlkitchen.com.

EXPERIENCES *con't. page 43A*

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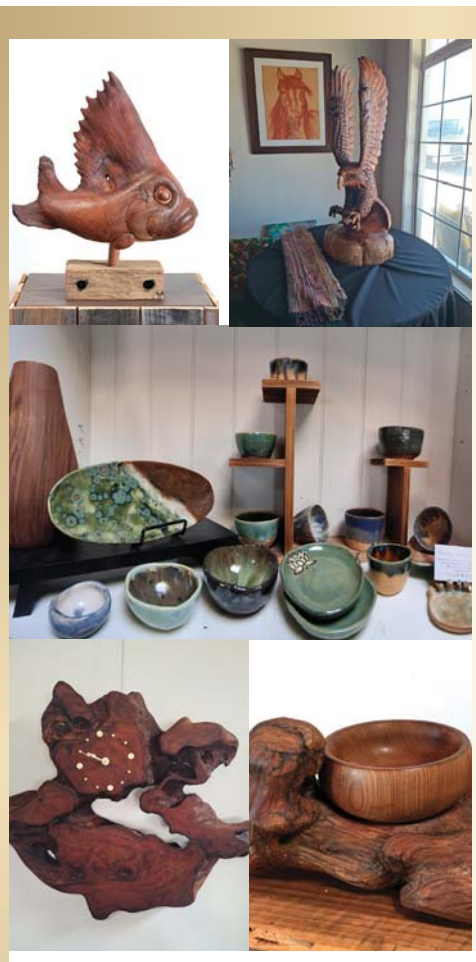

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AVERITT

HOLIDAY GUIDE

Faith, hope and charity — the best of all seasonal gifts

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

WE ARE often reminded that the winter holidays are a season of giving. Yet, leaning into that notion, what do we give loved ones who want for nothing? How about a way to give to those in need? What if, this year, we acknowledged our friends by donating to charitable organizations in their names?

Picture it: No parking problems, no battling throngs of holiday shoppers. No gift wrap, no standing in line at the post office. Just a gift that gives. Perhaps it comes accompanied by a story.

For example, my beautiful mother, who delivered and raised five children — including two sets of twins — who was elegant and educated and had a voice like a lullaby, disappeared into dementia. Whether you've has witnessed a loved one slipping down the rabbit hole of Alzheimer's disease or know someone who has, a donation can be made in their honor to the local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, a national nonprofit which estimates that more than 7 million Americans are living with the disease — and it's working hard to mitigate that.

After losing her father to dementia, Allison Balestreri of Corral de Tierra sought ways to support research to find a cure and to help other families and individuals make the journey easier. This led her to volunteer on the Monterey Walk to End Alzheimer's committee.

"Giving to your local Alzheimer's Association means giving the gift of knowledge, advocacy, and support to those in our community living with or who are caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease or dementia," said Balestreri. "It is the gift of hope and clarity in a difficult and heartbreaking situation."

Local compassion

Often, people are inspired to support organizations that address the causes that move them, like when those heartbreaking commercials for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals interrupt their streaming. In that moment, however, it's important to remember the many local groups also dedicated to animal welfare.

The irresistible face of local love.

"SPCA Monterey County is completely independent of the ASPCA," explained Beth Brookhauser, vice president of marketing and communications for the local organization. "We provide a wide variety of programs and services to pets and wildlife. Especially at this time of year, a donation to the SPCA is a heartfelt way to show our love for animals and the people who care for them."

"Giving to the SPCA is really easy online," continued Brookhauser, "and we offer cards we can send out on your behalf. Our SPCA 2026 calendar is available for purchase online and at our benefit shop in Carmel. We couldn't do what we do without community support."

Perhaps you're inclined to contribute to additional animal-centric organizations, among them Peace of Mind Dog Rescue, Golden Oldies Cat Rescue, Animal Friends Rescue Project, South County Animal Rescue, or Rescue Rabbits Rock.

Touching lives

And what of all the nonprofits raising money to improve human health? From St. Jude's Children's Hospital to the American Lung Association's Christmas Seals program to fight respiratory diseases, there are plenty of national groups you can support — and they're worthy of your attention. But just like "shopping local," "giving local" has special significance.

"Healthcare touches everyone in our community, at some point," said Kevin Causey, president, Montage Health Foundation. "Supporting your local nonprofit healthcare keeps high quality, life-saving care close to home and ensures that everyone in our community can get the help they need, when they need it most."

And let's not forget the foundations of a legendary art community, among them Arts Council for Monterey County, Carmel Art Association, Carmel Bach Festival, Center for Photographic Art, I Cantori di Carmel, Monterey Museum of Art, Monterey Peninsula Art Foundation, Open Ground Studios, Pacific Grove Art Center, Youth Arts Collective, and so many more.

'Tis the season to be generous. A donation to a local nonprofit extends the giving well beyond the recipients on our lists and in our hearts.

HOLIDAY GUIDE

CALENDAR *from page 33A*

be Hearst Social Hall. Parking and the event are free.

Join I Cantori di Carmel for a **community "Messiah" singalong** Nov. 30 at 3 p.m. at **Asilomar Conference Center** in **Pacific Grove**. Scores will be provided, or bring your own. There will be refreshments, and rumor has it Santa will make an appearance. It's $25 for adults and $10 for kids. Purchase at icantori.org.

Dreamers awake

With spiritual roots in Salinas' Colmo del Rodeo parade, recognized in 1913 as "the largest and greatest night-lighted parade west of the Mississippi," the annual **Holiday Parade of Lights** in the county seat is a tribute to the power of community. From 6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 30, **South Main Street** in **Salinas** will be filled with lighted marching bands, floats and vintage cars heading from Acacia Street to the Steinbeck Center. Thousands of people attend each year, many claiming prized viewing spots early in the day. Oldtown is bustling with shops and restaurants, too.

Speaking of community, the Last Hometown's **Holiday Tree Lighting** in Jewell Park (Forest & Grand in **Pacific Grove**) kicks off at 4:30 on Monday, Dec. 1, with school choruses and bands providing the music. The tree lights up at 6 p.m., and Santa will visit the P.G. Museum of Natural History, right across the street.

The **Golden State Theatre** in **Monterey** is already a bit of a magical venue with its ornate Art Deco interior, and on Dec. 3, it'll be host to Pyotor Tchaikovsky's **"The Sleeping Beauty,"** featuring the International Ballet Stars. The show starts at 7 p.m., tickets start at $38. Visit goldenstatetheatre.com to learn more.

Pacific Grove's annual Parade of Lights downtown along Lighthouse Avenue from starts at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, rain or shine. This year's theme is "Jingle and Glow," and marching bands, holiday floats, dance teams and animal groups will help celebrate the season.

Santa will arrive at 3:30 p.m. Dec. 5 for the **tree and menorah lighting** in **Devendorf Park**, where the Del Monte Brass band will perform. At 4 p.m., the city's residents break out the Hanukkah gelt and dreidels for a menorah lighting.

At 4:30 p.m., the tree-lighting ceremony will start, and around 5:30, the big tree, downtown median and park will come alive with colorful lights. **Carmel Plaza** hosts its annual open house from 5 to 7 p.m., with refreshments and live music.

Historic holiday

Hey, history buffs — we'll get to Christmas in the Adobes shortly, but you might want to check out the brand-new **Illumination at the Boronda Adobe** at 333 Boronda road in **Salinas** Dec. 5 from 3 to 7 p.m. The 1846 home of José Eusebio Boronda was part of Rancho Rincon de Sanjon, a 2,230-acre Mexican land grant, and it will "glow with Christmas décor, candlelight, and the sounds of Spanish Colonial and Mexican Republic-era music," said organizers. The free event includes complimentary pozole, butternut squash soup, artisan breads and Mexican hot cocoa, and the museum there will be showing off some new exhibits. Learn more at mchsmuseum.com.

Closer to home, **Colton Hall** in **Monterey** will hold its Dec. 5 tree lighting from 5 to 6 p.m. Enjoy caroling, cookies, cider and live music on the lawn of one of California's oldest seats of government — home to its 1849 California Constitutional Convention.

The tree at historic Colton Hall lights up on Dec. 5.

Do you fancy "city sidewalks dressed in holiday style," but more so? **P.G.'s Candy Cane Lane** is on Morse Drive and adjacent streets (the well-marked entrance is a bit downhill from David on Forest). It's free and usually ready for visitors in early December. Hardworking community members have put on the neighborhood light display for decades. See angels on the wing, lighted stars and animated displays. Bring some cookies and cocoa and stroll or put on some carols and cruise slowly through the neighborhood.

Salinas' First Baptist Church is preparing for **Streets of Bethlehem**. The free live re-enactment of the Nativity story, complete with music and a soaring angel, is repeated every 20 minutes between 6 and 8 p.m. Dec. 4-7. Walk through a recreation of a first-century village populated by craftsmen, Roman soldiers, live animals and an overbooked innkeeper. The church is at San Vincente & Blanco Road, but there will be free parking and shuttles at Park Row shopping center, just west of South Main Street between Romie Lane and Acacia. Details are at streetsofbethlehem.com.

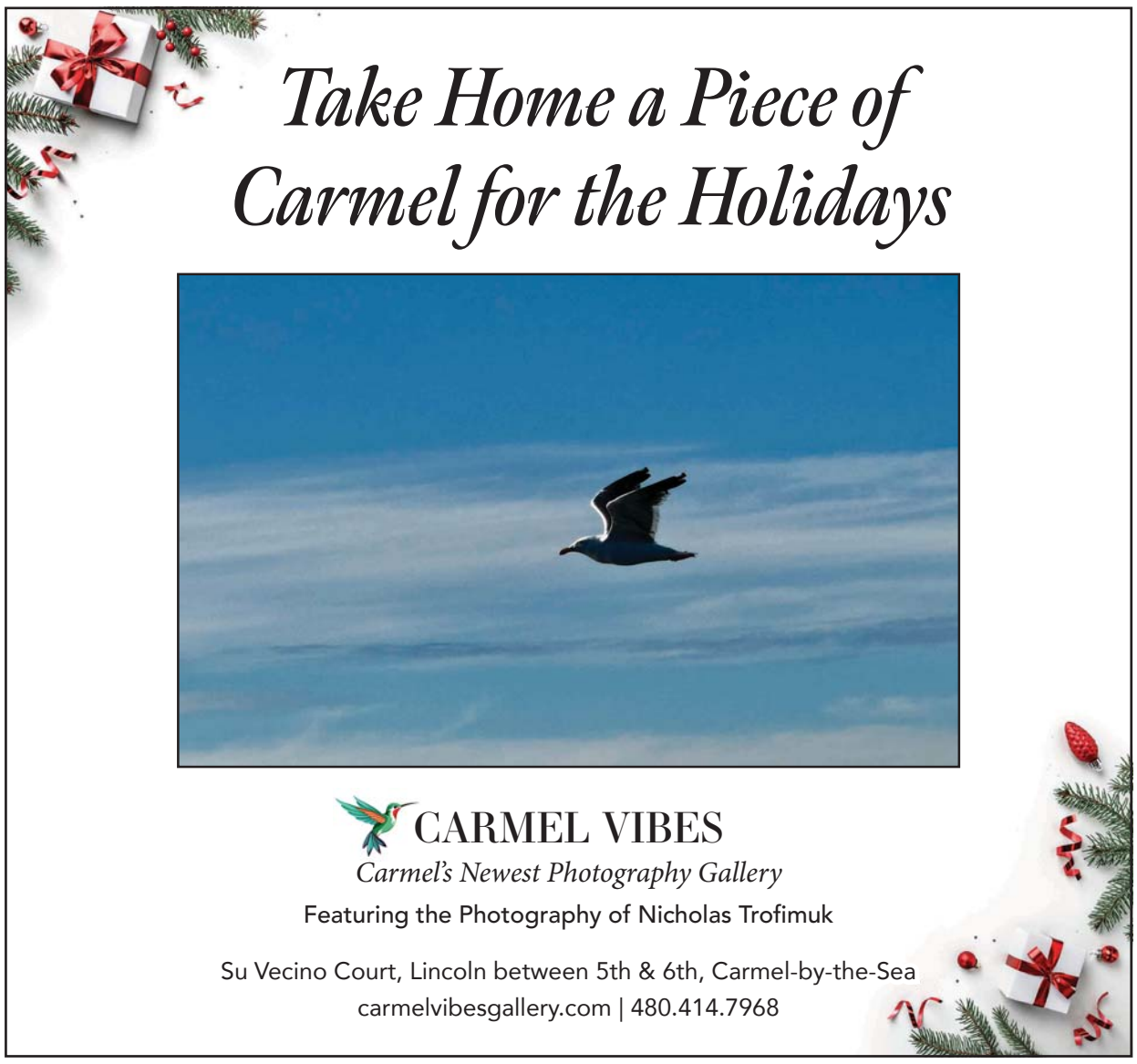
Where can you find an array of holiday performances that includes Carmel Presbyterian Church Choir, Pacific Pop n' Jazz, and the Jingle Jammers from U Jam Fitness? **Christmas on Old Fisherman's Wharf** in Monterey Dec. 5-21. On Fridays from 5 to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 6 p.m., take in the all the decorations, including a 23-foot Christmas tree surrounded by illuminated sea creatures. Visit with Santa, enjoy live music, and maybe get in some last-minute shopping or grab a bread bowl of clam chowder. The full schedule is posted on the Events page at MontereyWharf.com, and organizers say it's OK to bring your folding chairs for the performances, and dogs on Santa's "nice" list — and on leashes — are welcome (some restaurants have dog-friendly outdoor dining, too).

On Dec. 5-6, **Smuin Ballet's "The Christmas Ballet"** returns to **Sunset Center**. "From the classical first act to the 'Cool Yule' of the second, make your spirits bright with this big-hearted production," say organizers. Friday's performance is at 7:30 p.m., and there's a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. The performances run approximately two hours and tickets start at $75 per person.

Make a note to attend one of the **Camerata Singers'** holiday performances on Dec. 6 and 7. Led at Christmas for the first time by new-ish artistic director and conductor Mark Purcell, the group will be at **Compass Church** in **Salinas** Friday at 7:30 p.m. They'll be at **First Presbyterian Church** at **501 El Dorado St.** in **Monterey** on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets range from $20 to $25 for adults, and students get in free. Performances are followed by receptions with cookies and beverages. To buy tickets, visit camerata-singers.org.

On Dec. 6, join in the annual kid-centric party known

EVENTS *cont. page 42A*



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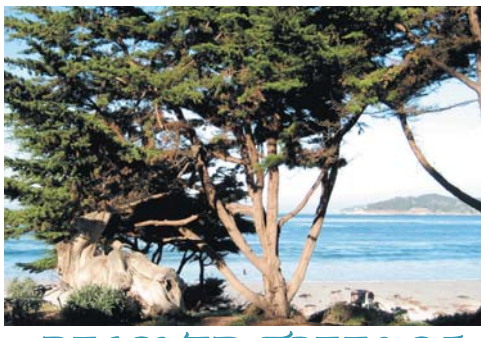

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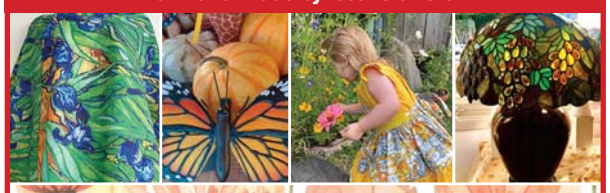

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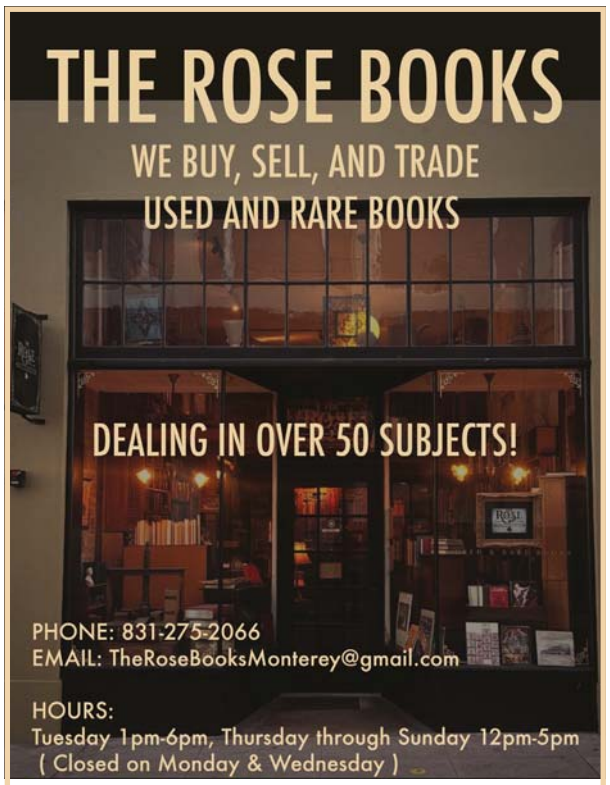

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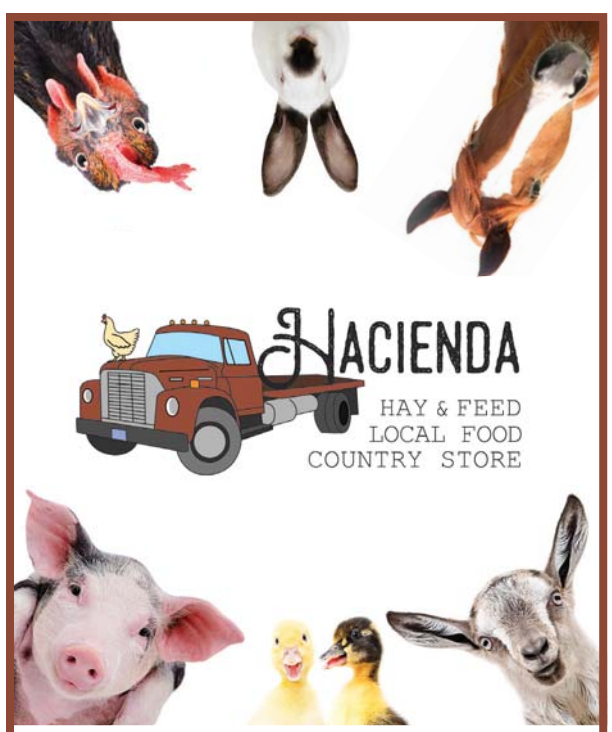

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HOLIDAY GUIDE

EVENTS *from page 40A*

as **Stillwell's Fun in the Park in Pacific Grove** from 11 a.m. till 4 p.m. in Caledonia Park, behind the post office. Santa arrives at noon on a fire truck, and there will be carriage rides and a petting zoo at this free event, too. On the same day, P.G. is also home to a fundraiser for AFRP — the **Ugly Sweater Poker Walk** — from noon to 6 p.m., and the **Museum of Natural History** is holding **wreath-making workshops** from 10 to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Visit business.pacificgrove.org/events for details and to register for any of these events (not required for Stillwell's Fun in the Park).

The **Brighten the Harbor Lighted Boat Parade**, presented by the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club and co-sponsored by the Fisherman's Wharf Association, is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 7, 5:15 to 7:00 p.m. Brightly lit boats will pass by **Old Fisherman's Wharf** at approximately 5:30 p.m. and again as they return. If sea conditions are unfavorable, the parade will take place on the 14th.

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Sip bubbly, savor light refreshments, and explore our curated collection of holiday treasures, home accents, and stunning floral design.
Draw for a special discount and discover gifts that sparkle with style and heart.
We can't wait to welcome you!

Santa flies in

Monterey Peninsula Voices, a countywide choir, presents "'Tis the Season" on Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. and Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. at **First United Methodist Church** in **Pacific Grove**. Tickets can be purchased at mpvoices.org and are $35 for general admission, $30 for seniors, active duty military, and students under 18, and $25 for children 12 and under. The group's website notes that there are discounts available from choir members and adds, "Come share the joy — and stay for our magical candlelight finale!"

Pacific Grove's Holiday at the Inns is set for Tuesday, Dec. 9, from 5 to 9 p.m. For $30 per person, take a self-guided tour of nine warm and lovingly decorated inns, including the Gosby House, Old St. Angela Inn, Seven Gables Inn, Centrella Hotel and The Charles, a new addition to the tour, owned and beautifully renovated by local designer Charles Gruwell. Learn more and register at pacificgrove.org or call (831) 373-3304.

From Dec. 12-14, **Sunset Center** has three scheduled performances of Tchaikovsky's **"The Nutcracker"** ballet. The holiday classic will feature professional adult dancers as well as children from the Monterey Peninsula Ballet Theatre. Snow is forecast inside the venue, and some trees will grow "right before your eyes." Friday and Saturday's shows are at 7 p.m., and Sunday's is at 2 p.m. Tickets are $65 for adults and $40 for those 12 and under. Sunday's Kingdom of Sweets package ($121 per person) includes a themed pre-performance party at noon and photo opportunities with costumed cast members.

YOSAL (Youth Orchestra Salinas) supporters can enjoy the group's only holiday concert — at no charge — at **Sherwood Hall** in **Salinas** on Friday, Dec. 12, from 7 to 9 p.m. Highlights will include selections from Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite," and "No Me Se Rajar" ("I Never Give Up") by José Carmen Frayle Castañon. The group serves more than 200 students from grades one through 12 from 39 local schools, five days a week with choir, instrument

PARTIES *cont. page 45A*

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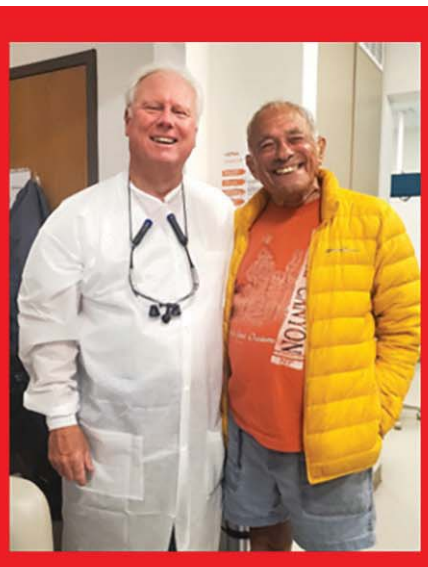

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HOLIDAY GUIDE

EXPERIENCES *from page 38A*

Even your pooch could learn a few new tricks. California Canine in Pacific Grove offers classes and workshops for dogs of all ages and abilities. Spice up your dog's routine with an agility class or brush up on obedience. Gift certificates can be had in any amount and a five-pack of classes costs $200 at californiacanine.us.

Guarantee family time

A California State Parks Golden Poppy Pass allows day-use admission to all local state parks, including those in Big Sur, the Santa Cruz mountains and Point Lobos. The Poppy Pass is good for one year at 112 parks in the northern part of the state and costs $125. It provides opportunities for family hikes and other interesting outdoor activities. You could venture farther from home with a California Explorer Day Use Pass for $195, which includes Southern California for a total of 134 parks.

Give your kids an unlimited ticket to fun, and you will be sure to spend quality time together. Annual family passes to the Monterey Zoo start at $390 and are available at the gift shop at the spot on 400 River Road in Salinas. Unlimited admission passes for the Monterey County Youth Museum in downtown Monterey start at $125 for a family of four, with gift options at sales.mymuseum.org.

A one-year family membership to the Pacific Grove Natural History Museum is also $125 for unlimited admission and can be purchased at pgmuseum.org. While you're at it, you can also "Adopt-a-Bird" to visit in the facility's bird room. A family membership to the Monterey Bay Aquarium is $295 for two adults and their children or grandchildren. Go to MontereyBayAquarium.org.

Indulge and dine

How about a gift certificate to a favorite local restaurant? Old Fisherman's Grotto on Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf is marking its 75th anniversary this year, and a trip there comes with the bonus of the wharf's local color and history. The restaurant sells gift cards — which never expire — in $25 denominations, mailed to your house. Visit OldFishermansGrotto.com.

For a special night out, try Aubergine, the two-starred Michelin restaurant in L'Auberge Carmel, available online at laubergecarmel.com. The eight-course dinner, served over three hours, is $285 per person. Longtime romantic favorite Casanova has customizable gift certificates at CasanovaCarmel.com, as does Passionfish in Pacific Grove at passionfish.net.

With multiple world-class spas in our neighborhood, there are many options for pampering. Pebble Beach Resorts offers gifts to its Spa at Pebble Beach at shop.pebblebeach.com, with massage and facial treatments starting at $275. The Refuge spa retreat in Carmel Valley, with its famed outdoor hot tubs, cold plunge pools and treasured silence, offers e-gift cards starting at $50 at refuge.com. The Spa on the Plaza at Monterey's Portola Hotel has gift certificates for treatments including its Riverstone Massage or Seasalt and Beach Sage Massage, starting at $185 at spaontheplaza.boomtime.com/gift.

Find tidings of comfort and zen at Refuge.

Adventure awaits just outside Salinas.

On stage

The Monterey Museum of Art offers various membership levels, starting at $95 for for two people, including early bird registration and discounts on events and at the museum store. Contact membership@montereyart.org to purchase.

Monterey Symphony has e-cards complete with special holiday designs. Tickets to a performance at Sunset Center range from $12 for rear balcony seats to $90 for front orchestra. Have your cards emailed or print them at home by going to montereysymphony.org/gift-cards. And they have no expiration dates.

Not certain what they enjoy? Sunset Center hosts international performers and programs that range from dance, to pop music, to circus acts and comedians. You can purchase gift certificates online and have them mailed or emailed to your home. See SunsetCenter.org for details.

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HOLIDAY GUIDE

SHOPPER *from page 34A*

style. Like those suede Western boots from Portugal she bought for her nieces last year.

Admittedly, she was thinking of herself when she saw the super-cute sparkly, heeled mule from Dolce Vita, a fun party shoe priced at an affordable $155. But she turned her attention to her twin sister, called out "size 8," and crossed her name off the list.

Next, she spotted a pair of cute houndstooth tights by Falke and thought of the leather pencil skirt she bought herself in January. She realized no one would say, "That's so last season," if she paired it with the tights. Especially if she introduced a pebbled-leather purse in chocolate brown. At $495, a bag like that made her grateful it is timeless.

She also knew that when she got home, she'd end up wrapping the purse for her older sister.

Our holiday shopper wasn't even winded after only a couple of stops. Nevertheless, she ducked into **Carmel Valley Coffee Roasting Company** on Ocean Avenue for a boost. After eyeing the white chocolate mocha, she opted for a double-shot of espresso and considered picking up some freshly roasted and ground beans for friends from the gym before continuing on her shopping spree.

Something for everyone

Having arrived early enough to score a parking place on Ocean Avenue, our shopper deposited her accumulated loot and headed north on Dolores Street to **Ami Carmel**. Winner of a recent Golden Pine Cone for Best Gift Shop, this boutique carries a curated collection of specialty gifts, home décor, and personal accessories. She paused to appreciate the extravagant holiday windows, complete with Santa's sleigh. And she knew they offer free gift wrap.

Our shopper was also aware that the store, owned by chef and author Annee Martin, offers warm chocolate-chip cookies plus coffee and premium hot chocolate served in a small garden patio. A sign says that in the New Year, Martin will release her book, "There's Nothing a Chocolate Chip Cookie Can't Fix," filled with recipes, photographs and stories.

Returning to her list, our heroine grabbed handfuls of Gry & Sif handmade rolled-felt animal ornaments. Designed in Denmark and made in Nepal using natural wool, these whimsical pieces inspired her to set a holiday table laden with creatures — teddy bears and woodland animals — and she plans to include a few in stockings.

Ami Carmel always has something special — and in good taste.

A welcome wake-up call. Chocolate is enough to make even Ebenezer Scrooge smile.

She couldn't resist buying the Beatriz Ball Ocean Oyster champagne bucket in pewter, not minding the $241 price tag because the gift was for her husband, so she knew she won't really have to part with it.

"This holiday season, in addition to a chocolate chip cookie and something to sip, everyone who walks into Ami Carmel will be offered the gift of a ceramic stone by Spinning Star Studio, embossed with an inspirational word," said Martin. "Additional stones, perfect for stocking stuffers or tablescapes, can be purchased for $3.50 each."

Needs a break

After our shopper ducked into **The Club** on Ocean Avenue, which presents sophisticated designer clothing for men and women, to see if their fall line includes a Robert Graham shirt she might add to her husband's collection, she was ready to call it a day.

She did, however, stop by **Carmel Plaza** to tuck into **Lula's Chocolates** for some premium truffles and silky smooth caramels made by Scott Lund. Trained by his grandmother, Lula Lund, who sold her chocolates in Salt Lake City, he took over production after her passing in 2000 and brought the treats to the Monterey Peninsula in 2002.

Our shopper firmly believes that giving them as hostess gifts throughout the holiday season increases the number of invitations she receives.

On her way home, she swung by **Spencer's Stationery** at The Crossroads Shopping Center to pick up a few bags of triple-dipped Belgian chocolate malt balls, a longtime tradition.

The bags are sealed with a twist tie, so she can sneak a few before securing each with a holiday ribbon. Plus, she picked up some beautiful gift wrap and a box of greeting cards.

And who is she kidding? She'll be back in the stores again soon.

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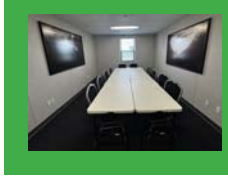
Learn more at:
MarineLifeStudies.org



HOLIDAY GUIDE

PARTIES *from page 42A*

instruction, and orchestra and mariachi bands. Donations are welcome.

I Cantori di Carmel opens its Christmas season at 8 p.m. on Dec. 13 and 14 at the **Carmel Mission Basilica** with performances from George Frideric Handel's beloved "Messiah," composed in London entirely between Aug. 22 and Sept. 14, 1741. Tickets are $55 and up, with discounts for students, teachers, active duty military, and those under 30 with valid I.D. Purchase at icantori.org.

For the 67th year, on Saturday, Dec. 13, Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive for their annual **Carmel Valley Fly-In**. After their expected 10:30 a.m. touchdown, the Clauses will lead the parade around the village, then make their way to Carmel Valley Community Youth Center for a meet-and-greet and photos. Supported by the Kiwanis, Carmel Valley Rotary Club, the youth center, the park district, and many hard-working volunteers, this event is a tradition in the Valley. If you'd like to be in the parade, volunteer, or purchase advance tickets for the petting zoo and bounce houses, visit cvcyc.org and follow the links on the home page.

Monterey State Historic Park Association and California State Parks 41st annual **Christmas in the Adobes** takes place Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12–13, from 5 to 9 p.m. in historic Old Monterey. More than a dozen seasonally decorated historic buildings, many of which are open exclusively for this event, will allow guests to return to some of California's earliest days. Some of the buildings include California's First Theatre, Casa Serrano, Colton Hall, Robert Louis Stevenson House, and many more.

"Christmas in the Adobes is more than just a holiday outing — it's a chance to walk through history, to step inside buildings that are rarely open to the public, and to experience Monterey as it was in Alta California," said park board president Nicollette Eason-Trottier.

Proceeds support educational programs and the restoration of California's First Theatre. Admission starts at $30 for adults and is free for those 17 and younger. You can purchase online or in person (with discounts for military personnel and MSHPA members) at several Old Monterey locations.

Enjoy the traditional sounds of Christmas in the Adobes.

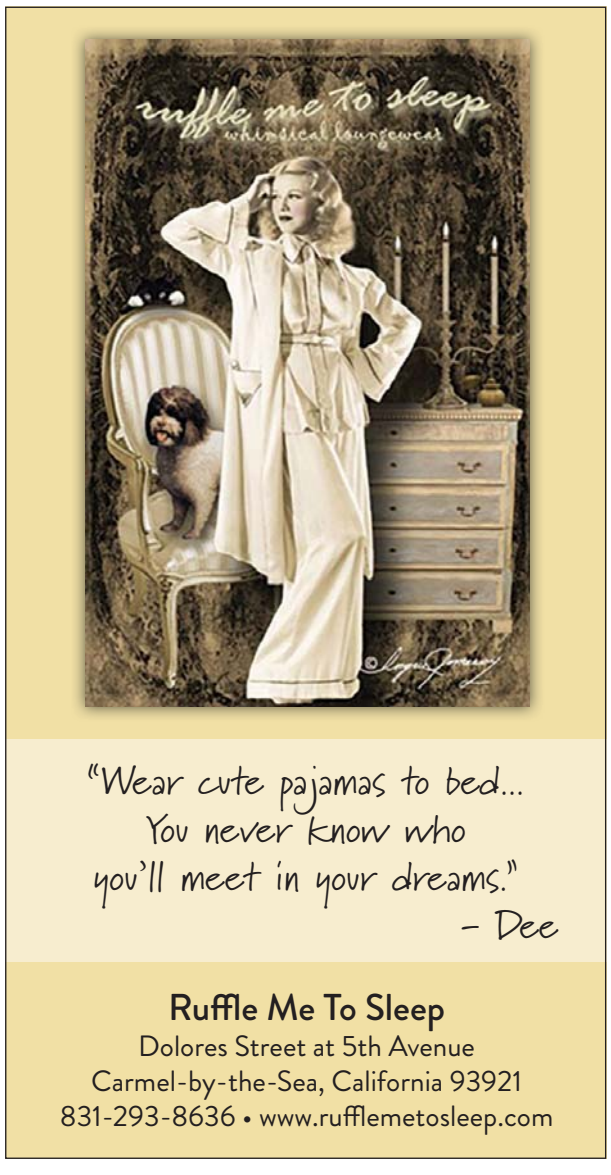
Organizers note that printouts of ticket receipts are not valid for entry — wristbands are required and can be picked up at designated will call locations on the nights of the event. Visit mshpa.org for details and to buy online.

The Arthritis Research Coalition's **Run Rudolph Run** 5K and 1K are scheduled from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 14, starting at Lovers Point. The **Pacific Grove** courses are pretty darned flat, and participants are encouraged to be there with bells and other holiday accoutrements on. Visit arthritisresearchcoalition.org/events to sign up, and run off some of those holiday treats while supporting a great cause.

Then, grab a post-run shower and head to **Church of the Wayfarer** for a concert by the **Monterey County Pops brass** and Hartnell College Choir starting at 3 p.m. It's free, but donations are welcome.

Finally, ring in 2026 at **First Night Monterey**. Rain or shine, for nine straight hours beginning at 3 p.m., this big old party expects to feature more than 50 performances at 15-plus walkable venues. This year's theme is "We've Got the Beat!" The full program isn't up yet, but a "sneak peek page" at firstnightmonterey.org — where you can also order admission buttons — shows a marimba band that will be playing dance music and trance music from Zimbabwe, a British folk-club-style band called Grumbling Ginger, Seaside's Al James Band and the exciting Flashpoint Fire Show.

In addition to music and other performances, there will be hands-on art stations, the traditional twilight procession down Alvarado Street, and a countdown-to-midnight finale. Admission buttons start at $15 for youth 6-15 and $30 for those 16 and older (with early bird pricing that ends Dec. 14). Kids 5 and under are free. Starting in December, you can also buy buttons at Monterey County Safeway stores. Proceeds support local youth art programs.



K-pop group visits Monterey, music festival 'haunts' Pacific Grove Art Center

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

ONE OF South Korea's biggest K-pop acts, **ARTMS** performs Friday, 7:30 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

The 11-member pop vocal group released its debut album, "Dall," in May 2024 before launching a world tour that has only briefly slowed down. The album, meanwhile, peaked at No. 7 on the Billboard world music charts and featured four singles, including "Virtual Angel," which rose to No. 9 on the list of top-selling songs in the world music category.

The group is riding the wave of the rising popularity of K-pop — a musical genre that's a fusion of pop, hip-hop, R&B and electronic dance music, with intricate choreography and high production values.

Tickets start at $59.65. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 659-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

Also at Golden State this week is **Pink Martini**, which serves up an effervescent mix of pop, jazz and Latin music Thursday at 7 p.m. The group presents a holiday-themed show with "old favorites and sweet new treats." Tickets start at $71.

Featuring several schoolteachers, the Bubba Pickens Band plays bluegrass Friday, 7 p.m., at the Links Club.

A K-pop group from South Korea, ARTMS takes the stage Friday, 7:30 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

■ Guitars United

A group dedicated to teaching kids how to play the guitar, **Guitars Not Guns Monterey County** has a new name — **Guitars United of Monterey County**. Once a part of larger group, the local chapter founded Guitars United earlier this month.

"We are the same dedicated local instructors, now operating as an independent Monterey County nonprofit offering free guitar lessons and guitars to people of all ages," the group announced.

The separation happened when the Monterey County Chapter of Guitars Not Guns was "directed by the national organization to cease operations after refusing to pay a retroactive 20 percent assessment on all funds raised in 2025," the group reported. "Shortly after, the local chapter's funds were depleted. Rather than end our mission, we chose to continue locally and independently as Guitars United."

Reflecting the many Spanish speakers it serves, the group will be alternatively known as Guitarras Unidas.

According to the group, it has served more than 2,800 kids since 2009 and donated more than 650 guitars to students and schools. For more, visit guitarsunited.org.

■ Ghostland spooks P.G.

Bringing live music and ghoulish fun to the Pacific Grove Art Center Friday and Saturday from 5 p.m. to

See **MUSIC** *page 51A*

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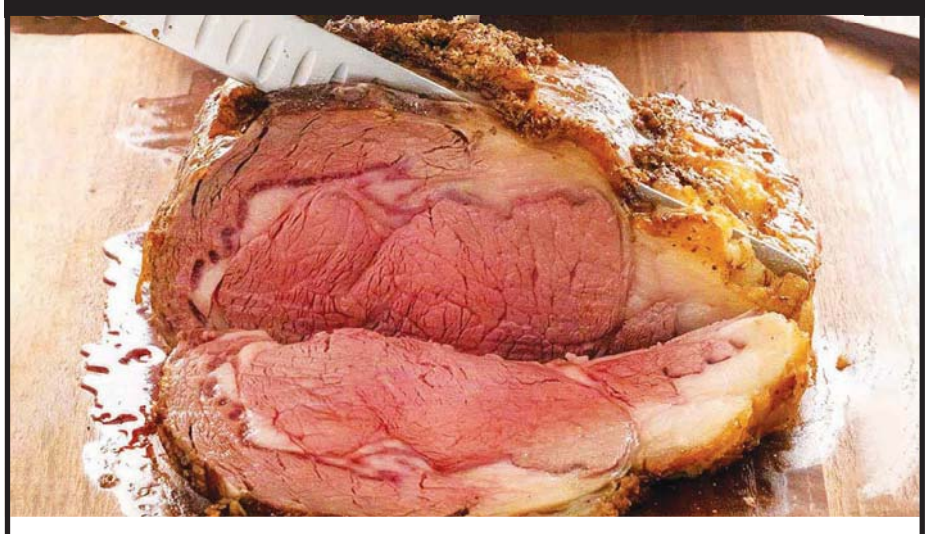

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FOOD & WINE

Take some time to savor the days

Soup to Nuts

WITH ANOTHER Thanksgiving in the books, why not pause for a big night out before you turn your attention to picking out your tree and putting the finishing touches your Christmas list? A new brunch has bubbled up on Dolores, there's a dinner featuring a lot of spirits, and those battling bartenders will be shaken, not stirred. For everyone who's wondered what the big deal about wagyu is, we've got some options, and holiday shopping's going to the dogs. It's Carmel, after all.

■ Bartender battle final rounds

The next-to-last round in this year's Battle of the Bartenders at the Links Club in Carmel Plaza is set for Dec. 1, when semifinalists Andrew Weld from The Salty Seal on Cannery Row and Haley Halkias from The Bench in The Lodge at Pebble Beach face off in a James Bond-inspired duel. Among their tests will be a classic Vesper Martini — a combination of vodka, gin and Lillet blanc named after Vesper Lynd in "Casino Royale."

Weld, a relative newcomer to competitive bartending, emerged victorious during earlier rounds, most recently beating Brandy Harrison from Hotel 1110 in October. Los Angeles-born Weld moved to Monterey in 2018 to pursue a degree in molecular biology at California State University Monterey Bay and has worked at the Cannery Row restaurant and bar for four years. He's bartended for half that time but has already developed a passion for the craft.

Earlier this month, Halkias — a talented member of the Pebble Beach Co. team and an accomplished bartender who briefly shared her skills at Bud's in La Playa hotel while her restaurant was closed during the remodel of The Lodge — triumphed over Kyle McCarty from Mezzaluna.

The winner of the Dec. 1 challenge will be pitted against Renee Balducci of Honey & Rose mobile bartending service Dec. 8 in the Grand Championship sponsored by Tin City Distillery from Paso Robles.

While judges score the cocktails, audience participation is essential, as well. Attendees will sample each of the six featured libations and will have the opportunity to vote for their favorites. Tickets are available at linksclubgolf.com for $35 in advance or for $45 at the door. The battle begins at 6:30 p.m. The Links Club is on the lower level of Carmel Plaza at Ocean and Mission.

See **FOOD** *next page*

"Dinner with Dickens and Three Spirits" at Estéban in the Casa Munras Garden Hotel combines whiskey and food for an evening of holiday fun. And don't worry, the spirits in this story are all benevolent.

FOOD

From previous page

Weekend brunch

VIN by the Sea on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth just launched Saturday and Sunday brunch. The newish outpost of the Crossroads wine bar is open Thursday through Monday and serves food created by culinary directory and local chef Paul Corsentino.

Brunch, which goes from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., features a menu that's creative without breaking a cardinal rule: Don't mess with breakfast. While many people enjoy a twist on the standards — say, the Forager's Omelet with maitake and trumpet mushrooms — Sunday morning is for relaxing, not wading through pages of text to find something recognizable. To that end, it's easy to locate the eggs Benedict or huevos rancheros with pinto beans, salsa and guacamole, along with a traditional two-egg breakfast featuring sausage or bacon, potatoes and toast. Heartier fare includes a quarter-pound burger made from dry-aged beef, and chicken and waffles with Louisiana flair. Prices for most items are in the $20-$26 range, but you can go upscale with a caviar board ($90-$140), a shellfish plate with mussels, prawns, oysters, and scallop ceviche for $65, or a four-course prix fixe menu with Champagne, lobster and caviar for $75.

To balance things out a bit, those who book online to eat between 10 and 11 a.m. can get 20 percent off bottles of bubbly. Visit vinbythesea.com for more info or to reserve.

Semifinalist Haley Halkias from the Bench at the Lodge in Pebble Beach (left) takes on Andrew Weld from The Salty Seal in Monterey in the ongoing Battle of the Bartenders. The winner moves on to the final round.

The fourth ghost

A standard trick question for trivia enthusiasts: How many ghosts are in "A Christmas Carol"? "Three" is the most common answer, but that ignores the chain-schlepping Jacob Marley, perennially upstaged by Christmases Past, Present and Future. Of course, Estéban in the Casa Munras Garden Hotel gets a pass for executive chef Steven Patlan's four-course "Dinner with Dickens & The Three Spirits" From 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 10, you can enjoy what the folks at Estéban are describing as "a magical evening filled with delightful food, exquisite whisk(e)y spirits, and the warmth of holiday cheer." Priced at $145 per person, including tax and tip, it begins with some bubbly and a "signature Dickens Cocktail, featuring a festive whisky punch" made from the author's own recipe and served with Pacific Oysters prepared with pomegranate granita and caviar blinis.

Christmas Past pairs two Japanese whiskies, Hibiki Harmony and Kikori Rice, with nori-crusted diver scallops, roasted Japanese sweet potato, smoked brown butter truffle honey, and marinated seaweed. Moving into the present, the restaurant's namesake Maker's Mark private reserve bourbon and Basil Hayden's Dark Rye will be poured alongside pan-seared duck breast.

Christmas Future? The "rich, indulgent, and complex profiles of Scotch whisky, featuring Speyburn Arranta Casks and a 12-year-old Bowmore Sherry Oak" complement Snake River Farms wagyu steak.

And the menu's "fourth spirit," (alas, poor Jacob, we hardly knew ye) served with dessert, is Nirvana Paul John Indian Whisky. It should go well with the caramelized pear, whisky butterscotch, caramel sea salt gelato, and spiced crispy phyllo.

This event is for those over 21 and is limited to 50 diners. Reserve at Eventbrite or through estebanrestaurant.com on the Seasonal Specials dining page. Casa Munras is at 700 Munras Ave. in Monterey. Call (831) 375-0176 for more info.

Monterey's Whaling Station Steakhouse near Cannery Row announced it's upgrading its prime rib by using aged American wagyu beef from Snake River Farms. Diners can choose 12- or 16-ounce portions, and an 8-ounce serving is being added for those with smaller appetites.

Beefy upgrade

The Whaling Station Steakhouse is upgrading its popular prime rib, offering aged American wagyu beef from

See **BEEFY** *next page*

FOOD & WINE

BEEFY

From previous page

family-owned Snake River Farms, based in Idaho. (They do get around.)

"Snake River Farms' American wagyu offers a flavor experience that's simply on another level," said Whaling Station owner and longtime P.G. resident and restaurateur Kevin Phillips.

"Our guests deserve the very best, and this is one more way we're raising the bar on what a great steakhouse experience should be."

The Whaling Station's prime rib will be served in 12- and 16-ounce portions, accompanied by roast beef au jus and house-made horseradish cream. An 8-ounce portion is being added for guests interested in a lighter option.

The restaurant's bar menu, which features prime rib egg rolls and other snacks, is available throughout the dining room.

For more information, visit TheWhalingStation.com or call (831) 373-3778.

■ Wagyu DIY

If you're beef-curious but would like to try wagyu for a little less lettuce, we humbly suggest you drop by The Meatery at 1534 Fremont Blvd. in Seaside (themeateryseaside.com) and talk with one of the knowledgeable butchers. The first thing they'll tell you is that a little of the richly marbled beef goes a long way — we're

See **WAGYU** *next page*

WINTER STILLNESS, NATURALLY

Step into the season with a renewed sense of calm. The Spa at Bernardus invites you to slow down, reconnect, and indulge in seasonal treatments inspired by the still beauty of Carmel Valley in winter. From aromatic herbal soaks to warming stone rituals, each experience is crafted to restore body and spirit. Celebrate the Winter Solstice with us or give the gift of wellness this holiday season — with Bernardus gift cards, joy is always in season.

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FOOD & WINE

WAGYU

From previous page

talking ounces, not pounds. The case usually displays several options, from the top-of-the-line imported A5 Wagyu New York strip from Japan, to smaller and less expensive cut-to-order options. If they've got the bavette cut from the bottom sirloin on hand, you'll find it's surprisingly wallet-friendly. And, just to make sure your investment doesn't go up in smoke, they'll tell you how to cook it, too.

■ Shop. Wrap. Heel.

Peace of Mind Dog Rescue invites people and their four-legged companions to an afternoon of shopping, dining and music at The Club at Pasadera on Sunday, Dec. 7.

"Paws and Presents" runs from 1 to 5 p.m., with proceeds going to help senior dogs and senior people through the nonprofit's programs. Organizers say 10 to 30 percent of purchases will be donated to Peace of Mind, thanks to partnerships with local vendors and boutiques.

DJ Central Coast Entertainment will provide holiday music, and Richard Green Photography will take a keepsake photo of guests and their pets for a $10 donation.

Shoppers can browse artisan collections at vendor booths, including Ami Carmel's holiday pop-up, handcrafted Chezze Jewelry, the Peace of Mind Dog Rescue Benefit Shop, the Pasadera Pro Shop and many more.

Food and beverage highlights include complimentary hot chocolate from Pasadera, plus coffee and espresso from Bean Brigade, freshly prepared paella from Paella LLC (that'll go quickly, if previous events are any indication), and wine from Twisted Roots. Gift packs and holiday treats will be available for purchase, and a portion of all food and drink sales also benefit homeless animals.

Admission is $25 for adults, $10 for children ages 12 and under, and free for children under 5. For more information and tickets, visit PawsandPresentsPOMDR2025.eventbrite.com.

Elaine Hesser and Mary Schley contributed to this column.

VIN by the Sea on Dolores recently launched a weekend brunch menu with (from top) huevos rancheros, a chicken-and-waffles dish and croissant French toast. Plenty of bubbly is available, too.

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MUSIC

From page 46A

midnight, the Ghostland Music Festival provides a stage for more than two dozen local musical acts playing on three stages, including **The Mystic Souls**, **Cement Ship**, **The Rumba Madre**, **The Microclouds** and many more. The music spans genres from rock and punk, to folk and Latin-fusion.

"Haunt the galleries of the Pacific Grove Art Center for two nights," organizers suggest. "Dressing in costume — especially taking cues from pulp-horror characters — is highly encouraged."

One-night tickets are $35 and two-night passes are $45. Wearing a costume will get you a $5 discount. The art center is located at 568 Lighthouse Ave.

■ Church hosts string concert

Led by conductor **David Dally**, **The Monterey Peninsula College String Ensemble** presents a concert Monday, 7:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church of Monterey.

Cellist **Olivia Bartle** will play Haydn's *Cello Concerto No. 1*, with the full orchestra joining in on Beethoven's *String Quartet in C Minor Opus 18 No. 4*, Max Bruch's "Serenade on Swedish Folk Melodies," and Alan Hebert's "The Orchestra and the Orchard."

Tickets are $10 for general admission and $5 for students and active military. The church is located at 501 El Dorado St.

Live music Nov. 28-Dec. 4

■ Big Sur

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

Fernwood Resort — Mike Beck & the Bohemian

Continues next page

SPCA Monterey County
Changing Lives

Jackson
1 year old

I'm a handsome, sweet boy and I can't wait to meet you! I'm at the SPCA!

Ari
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Call us at (831) 373-2631 for more information about adopting Jackson & Ari.

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CALENDAR

Nov. 28-30 – Big Sur Grange Harvest Fair – local artists coming together in a community fair fundraiser for the Big Sur Grange. Hours are 2 to 5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, at the Big Sur Grange, 26 miles south of Rio Road, one mile north of River Inn and south of Pfeiffer state park. For more information follow us: IG@bigsurcraftfair, FB@bigsurgrangeharvestcraftfair, bigsurgrangeharvestfair@gmail.com, https://bigsurgrange.org

Fridays and Saturdays – Soulful blues with Debbie Davis, 6:30 to 9:30 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.

Nov. 29 – It's Shop Small Saturday at Baum & Blume's Boutique! Get a jump on your holiday list and shop local! Holiday gifts and décor that will amaze you! A cozy, curated, feel-good experience! 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley. (831) 659-0400.

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

Dec. 1 – The Monterey Peninsula College String Ensemble, directed by David Dally, will present a concert at 7:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Monterey, 501 El Dorado St. Featuring Olivia Bartle performing the Haydn Cello Concerto #1. The full orchestra will also perform Beethoven's String Quartet in C Minor Opus 18 #4, Max Bruch's "Serenade on Swedish Folk Melodies," and Alan Hebert's "The Orchestra and the Orchard." Tickets at the door: $10 general, $5 students and military

Dec. 4-7 – Holiday Used Book Crawl – Big Book Sales by Four Libraries – Marina, Monterey, Pacific Grove (held at St. Mary's-by-the-Sea Church) and Carmel (held at Sunset Center Book Room) See www.investinmpl.org for specific times and days for each library.

Dec. 5-6 – Smuin's The Christmas Ballet returns to Carmel! Celebrate the holiday season with this joyful production, featuring classical ballet, tap, and contemporary numbers. www.suminballet.org or call (415) 912-1899

Dec. 5-7 – Camerata Singers Christmas concerts. Beautiful uplifting family friendly songs. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5 at Compass Church Salinas, 830 Padre Drive; 7:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at First Presbyterian Church, 501 El Dorado St., Monterey and 2:30 p.m. Dec. 7 at First Presbyterian Church, Monterey. Tickets www.camerata-singers.org or at the door. (831) 642-2701. Please join us! You won't be disappointed!

Dec. 5-21 – Don't miss the fun free 9th Annual Christmas on Fisherman's Wharf for three weekends, (Dec. 5-21) through the end of the year. Enjoy dazzling NEW decorations and a 23 -foot Christmas tree, free Santa visits at his Santa House, talented choirs, singers and other live musicians, dancers, a Salvation Army Toy Barrel plus a hot cocoa and cookies fundraiser for Salvation Army, and much more! Additional information and the entertainment schedule are on montereywharf.com.

Dec. 6 – Metamorphosis: A Showing of Art by Joe Platko, 6 to 9 p.m., at Bradley Gallery, 566 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove. Doors open at 6. Live music and refreshments. Free entry. For more information, please contact Bradley Print & Photo at (831) 884-5606.

Dec. 6 – Free showing of "The Fall and Rise of Vitalism" by Bruce Lipton, author of "The Biology of Belief," discussion afterward, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Center for Spiritual Living, 400 W. Franklin St., Monterey. For more information contact Bobbie Hall, 831-236-9081.

Dec. 6-14 – Peninsula Potters celebrates the season with our annual 20% off sale of all our gallery work. There's no better time to honor friends and family with unique, handmade works of art. The shelves are completely full and just waiting for you. We're ready when you are! 2078 Sunset Drive, Pacific Grove. Noon to 4 daily.

Dec. 7 – Carmel Heritage Society presents the 23rd Annual Inns of Distinction Tour, 2 to 5 p.m. Join us for an afternoon filled with food, wine and festive holiday decorations. Tickets to the self-guided tour are available at carmelheritage.org or call (831) 624-4447.

Dec. 25 – Celebrate Christmas Day with a prix-fixe holiday menu from 1 to 8 p.m. ($95 per person, $45 for children 12 and under). The David Morwood Band returns to the Living Room with live music from 6 to 9 p.m. For more information, please contact Cypress Inn, (831) 624-3871.

Jan. 10, 2026 – First Carmel-by-the-Sea 5K at 8:30 a.m. Breathtaking 3.1 mile course starts in downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea, winds its way through neighborhood streets to settle along the water's edge of Scenic Road for views of the coast you won't want to miss. Post-race celebration at the bottom of Ocean Ave. and the beach. USATF Certified course. All levels welcome. Proceeds generated will help the Carmel-based nonprofit, Girls on the Run Central Coast Inc. Register today and be part of this exciting new community event. See you in the new year! Please visit: www.carmel-by-the-sea-5k.com for more information.

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

From previous page

Saints (rock, Friday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

■ Carmel

American Legion Hall — **Mike Beck & the Bohemian Saints** (rock, Saturday at 7 p.m.). Dolores and Eighth, tickets are $20.

Barmel — singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Sunday at 6 p.m.). Carmel Square on San Carlos north of Seventh.

Carmel Mission Inn — singer and guitarist **Brett Freshour** (Animal Friends Rescue Project fundraiser, 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.

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

Links Club — **The Bubba Pickens Band** (bluegrass, Friday at 7 p.m.), **The Rod Wilson Band** (rock, Saturday at 7 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

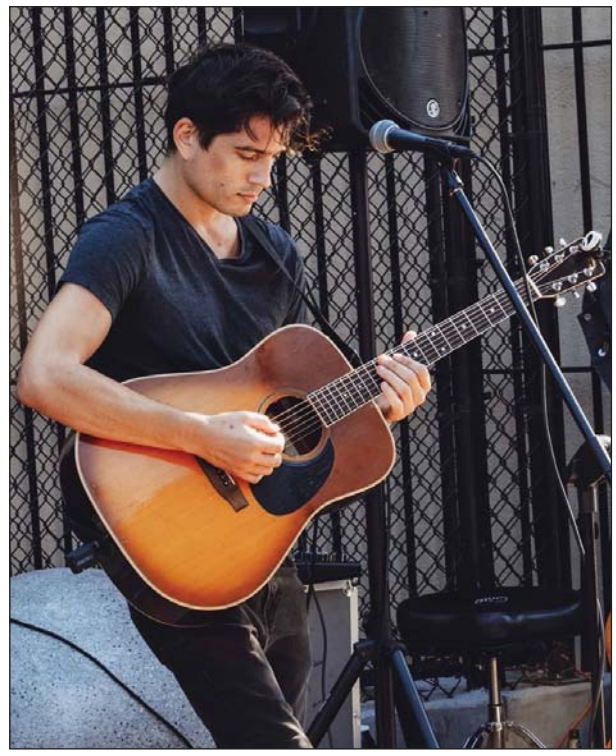
Mission Ranch — singer and pianist **Maddaline Edstrom** (jazz, Friday through Sunday at 5 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Loktionov** (jazz, Monday through Thursday at 5 p.m.). 26270 Dolores St.

■ Carmel Valley

Bernardus Lodge — pianist **Tom Gastineau** (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 Carmel Valley Road.

Edgar's Restaurant — guitarist **Daniel Cortes** (folk and Mexican, Friday at 5:30 p.m.). At Quail Lodge, 8205 Valley Greens Drive.

Folktale Winery — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Friday and Thursday at 4 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Sunday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Benny Bassett** (Monday at 4 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.


Singer and multi-instrumentalist Casey Wickstrom plays Friday at the Lodge at Pebble Beach.

Trailside Cafe — **Pattie Gilbert & Wanderlust** (acoustic rock, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

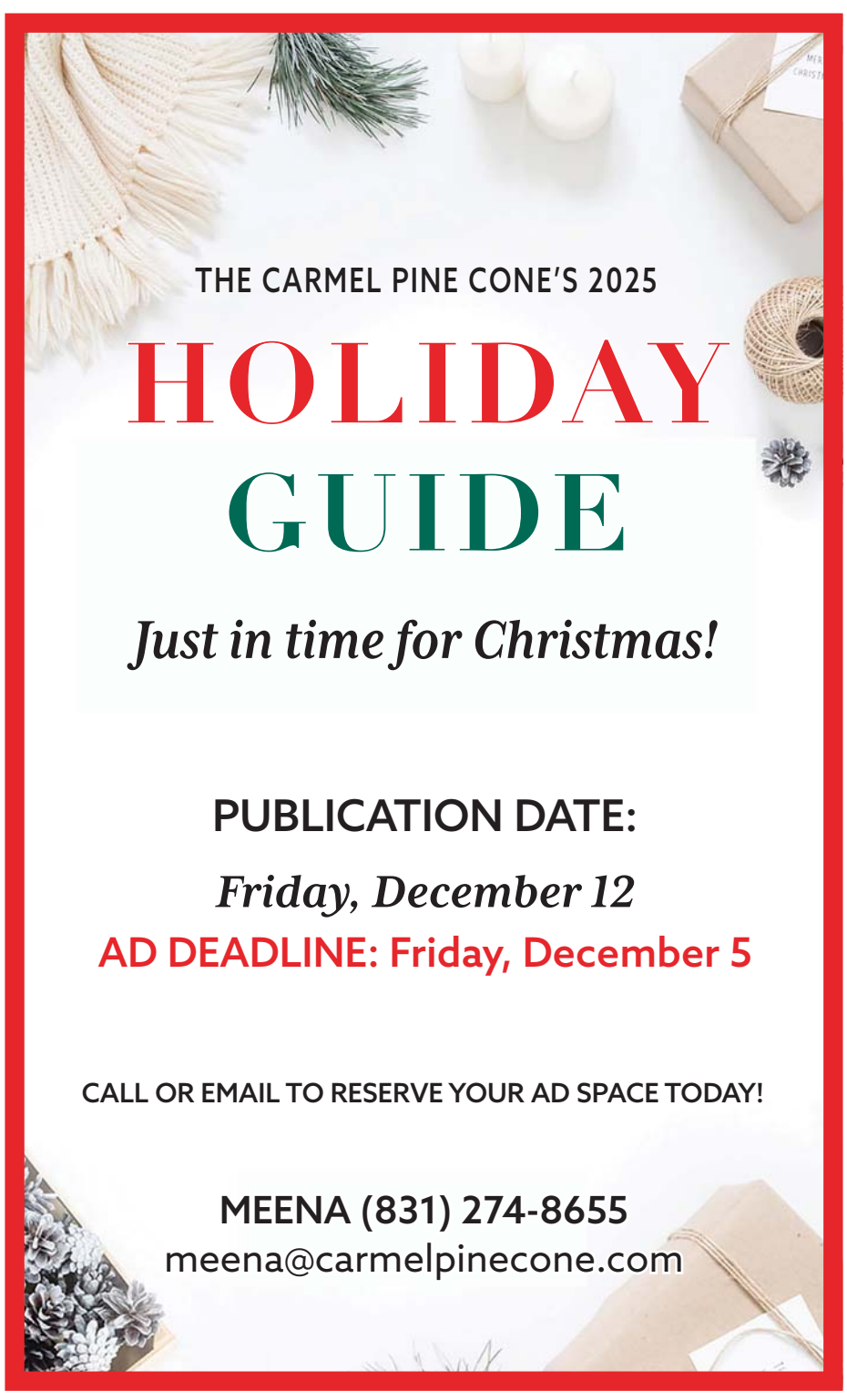
■ Monterey

Albatross Ridge Winery — singer and guitarist **Dan Cioper** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **RJ DeMarco** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Tim Brady** (Sunday at 4 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

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

Bulldog Sports Pub — **Tribe in the**

Continues next page



From previous page

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.

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.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 750 Cannery Row.

Midici Pizza — Janice's Jazz Jam with keyboardist **Gary Meek**, drummer **Andy Weis** and bassist **Joe Dolister** (Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer **Lauri Hofer-Romero** and pianist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

Monterey Plaza Hotel — pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Michael Culver** (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 — **The Landing Trio** (folk, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Talmon Owens** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Tim Brady** (Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

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 — **The Hack-**

See **LIVE** *page 55A*

The Rumba Madre plays at this weekend's Ghostland Music Festival.

NOVEMBER 2025

CARMEL Chamber of Commerce

NEW MEMBERS

AUSTERN COHEN GALLERY
austerncohengallery.com

CARMEL TRU-CUTS
tru-cuts.com

CASA OF MONTEREY COUNTY
casaofmonterey.org

EB-5 INVESTORS MAGAZINE
eb5investors.com

GOLDEN OLDIES CAT RESCUE
gocatrescue.org

LEADERSHIP CARMEL
carmelchamber.org/leadership-carmel/

PORCH PERFECTED
porchperfected.com

SAVE THE DATES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3
Awards of Excellence – Rock the Boat
6:00pm-9:00pm
The Quail

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17
Annual Holiday Mixer at La Playa
5:00pm-7:00pm
Camino Real & 8th

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14
Women's Business Council
Morning Coffee Meet-up
9:00am – 10:00am
Big Sur Marathon Foundation
26617 Carmel Center Place.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
Putts for Paws Invitational
11:00am tee-off
Devendorf Park

CARMEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PO Box 4444, Carmel, CA 93921 (831) 624-3877

2025 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE
CARMEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PRESENTED BY MONTEREY COUNTY BANK

Rock THE Boat

2025 FINALISTS

ACCOMMODATIONS (SMALL)
PINE INN
STILWELL HOTEL
TRADEWINDS

ACCOMMODATIONS (LARGE)
BERNARDUS LODGE & SPA
CYPRESS INN
THE LODGE AT PEBBLE BEACH

ART
CARMEL VALLEY ART ASSOCIATION
EDI MATSUMOTO ART & DESIGN
MONTEREY MUSEUM OF ART
NICOLE CROMWELL ART

BEVERAGES
CARMEL VALLEY ROASTING COMPANY
DE TIERRA VINEYARDS
FOLKTALE WINERY & VINEYARD

FOOD (SMALL)
BRUNO'S MARKET AND DELI
CARMEL BELLE
DUTCH DOOR DONUTS

FOOD (LARGE)
ANTON & MICHEL RESTAURANT
GRASING'S
RIO GRILL

HEALTH & WELLNESS
BIG SUR CANNA+BOTANICALS
BIG SUR INTERNATIONAL MARATHON
CARMEL VALLEY ATHLETIC CLUB

FINANCIAL / LEGAL
MONTEREY COUNTY BANK
SYNERGY ONE LENDING
WELLS FARGO BANK

MUSIC / PERFORMANCE
I CANTORI DI CARMEL
PACIFIC REPERTORY THEATRE
SUNSET CULTURAL CENTER

NONPROFITS
MEALS ON WHEELS
MONTEREY PENINSULA BALLET THEATRE
THE CARMEL FOUNDATION

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (SMALL)
ELEMENTS OF CARMEL
KAZU NPR
LEMOS 76

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (LARGE)
LEWIS BUILDERS
MONTAGE HEALTH
MONTEREY COUNTY WEEKLY

REAL ESTATE / PROPERY MGMT (SMALL)
SAN CARLOS AGENCY
TEAM BEESLEY / KW COASTAL REALTY
TIM ALLEN PROPERTIES

REAL ESTATE / PROPERTY MGMT (LARGE)
DAVID LYNG REAL ESTATE
SANTA LUCIA PRESERVE
SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

RETAIL (SMALL)
CARMEL DOG SHOP
KOCEK JEWELER, INC.
YELLOW BRICK ROAD

RETAIL (LARGE)
DOUD ARCADE
THE BARNYARD
THE CROSSROADS CARMEL

TOURISM (SMALL)
ADVENTURES BY THE SEA
MONTEREY BAY WHALE WATCH
MONTEREY TOURING VEHICLES

TOURISM (LARGE)
CARMEL MISSION BASILICA
TEHAMA GOLF CLUB
WEATHERTECH RACEWAY LAGUNA SECA

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

ALVARADO STREET BREWERY & BISTRO
ANIMAL FRIENDS RESCUE PROJECT
CARMEL ART ASSOCIATION
CARMEL DRUG STORE
CARMEL PLAZA
CARMEL REALTY COMPANY
FOREST THEATRE GUILD &
FILMS IN THE FOREST
LA BICYCLETTE RESTAURANT
LA PLAYA HOTEL
MAD DOGS & ENGLISHMEN
MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM
MONTEREY CREDIT UNION
MONTEREY REGIONAL AIRPORT
REFUGE
SANCTUARY VACATION RENTALS
THE CARMEL PINE CONE
THE CHEESE SHOP
TICKLE PINK INN

@carmelchamber @carmelchamber carmelchamber.org

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251817
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Vista Point Apartments, 650 Jewell Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950
County of MONTEREY
Registrant(s):
Vista Point, LLC, 22645 Grand Street, Hayward, CA 94541
This business is conducted by a Limited Partnership
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/ Linda Mandolini, President of Vista Point, LLC (General Partner of Jewell Avenue Associates, a California Limited Partnership
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 10/03/2025.
11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/25
CNS-3981673#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025. (PC 1101)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251982
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CPAR WEBSITES, 9717 Trefoil Place, Salinas, CA 93907.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
CARL A. PARKER, 9717 Trefoil Place, Salinas, CA 93907.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Carl Parker
Date signed: Oct. 29, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 29, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025 (PC 1103)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251818
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Camphora Apartments, 32101 McCoy Road, Soledad, CA 93960
County of MONTEREY
Registrant(s):
Camphora, LLC, 22645 Grand Street, Hayward, CA 94541
This business is conducted by a Limited Partnership
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/ Linda Mandolini, President of Camphora, LLC (General Partner of Camphora Associates, LP)
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 10/03/2025.
11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/25
CNS-3981499#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025. (PC 1106)

HTTPS://CARMELPINECONE.COM

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251876
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **RELIABLE HOUSE CLEANINGS, 665 Amador Ave., Seaside, CA 93955.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
TANIA FUENTES, 665 Amador Ave., Seaside, CA 93955.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 27, 2025.
S/Tania Fuentes
Date signed: Oct. 14, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 14, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025 (PC 1108)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251987
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MONTEREY CUSTOM WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC, 1062 Cass Street #200, Monterey, CA 93940.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
WALKER DEERING LLC, 1062 Cass St., Ste. 200, Monterey, CA 93940.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 26, 2020.
S/Marian Deering, Manager
Date: Oct. 22, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 30, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025. (PC 1109)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20252010
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **PIECES OF HEAVEN, 3686 The Barnyard #F11, Carmel, CA 93923.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
BDS HOSPITALITY LLC, 3686 The Barnyard #F11, Carmel, CA 93923.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 4, 2020.
S/Bhupender Singh, Manager
Date: Nov. 4, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 4, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025. (PC 1110)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251885
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **BEAR BITEZ, 333 South Mildred Ave., King City, CA 93930.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
RIOS SYNDICATE LLC, 2108 N. St., Ste. N, Sacramento, CA 95816..
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Ezequiel Rios, Managing Member
Date: Oct. 15, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 15, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 2025. (PC 1112)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251969
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
MovingUp Coaching, 1754 Darwin St, Seaside, CA 93955, County of Monterey
Registered Owner(s):
Hye-Yeon Lim, 1754 Darwin St, Seaside, CA 93955
This business is conducted by an individual
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on not applicable
S/ Hye-Yeon Lim
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 10/28/2025
11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5/25
CNS-3984211#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 2025. (PC 1116)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251979
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
1. 831 MOBILE BAR
2. MOBILE BAR 831
708 Monterey Salinas Hwy., Salinas, CA 93908.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
SATOW CONSULTING LLC, P.O. Box 251, Monterey, CA 93942.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: WY
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 29, 2025.
S/Olivia Satow, Managing Member
Date: Oct. 29, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 29, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 2025. (PC 1117)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. 20252022
Filing type: ABANDONMENT:
County of Filing: Monterey
Date of Original Filing: April 16, 2024
File No.: 20240784
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
1. 831 Mobile Bar
2. Mobile Bar 831
3. LIV AND SIP
4. LIV & SIP
5. LIV N SIP
6. 831MOBILEBAR
7. MOBILEBAR831
3166 Vista Del Camino Cir., Marina, CA 93933.
Name of Corporation of as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: CRABILL FAMILY LLC., 3186 Melanie Dr., Marina, CA 93933.
County of Principal Place of Business: Monterey
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
S/David Crabill, Manager
Nov. 5, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 5, 2025.
Publication dates: Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 2025. (PC1118)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251859
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
MEJICREWS LLC, 404 Victoria Ave., Salinas, CA 93906.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
MEJICREWS LLC.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 10, 2025.
S/Sophia Crews, Manager
Date: Oct. 10, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 10, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 2025. (PC 1121)

LEGALS DEADLINE: Tuesday 3:00 pm

legals@carmelpinecone.com • *Se Habla Espanol*

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 4:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as possible. Immediately prior to the Public Hearing, the Commission will visit some or all the project sites in person as part of a Tour of Inspection. Interested members of the public are invited to attend both the Tour and the Hearing.

This meeting will be held via teleconference and in person in the City Council Chambers at City Hall located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues. To participate via teleconference, use this link: https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/85075274055?pwd=xjGuf1VHPManTYPLVc94aalwt24Tld.1. **To participate via phone, dial +1 (669) 444-9171**. Webinar ID: 850 7527 4055. Passcode: 001916.

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

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

Director Referral
Citywide
Continued from the October 8, 2025 Planning Commission hearing, discussion on the determination of the A.W. Shucks Use Permit.

SI 25276 (Halore)
Adam Hala, Business Owner
Carmel Plaza, between Ocean and 7th Avenues
Block 78; Lots 1 - 27
APN: 010-086-006-000
Consideration of a Sign Permit, SI 25276 (Halore), for three (3) hanging signs on existing brackets in the Carmel Plaza. One (1) sign is proposed to be located at the upper-level entrance, facing the main Carmel Plaza courtyard, and two (2) signs are proposed to be located at the lower-level entrances, facing Mission Street, located between Ocean and 7th Avenues in the Central Commercial (CC) District. APN: 010-086-006-000

DS 25139 (Kshire Property Investments LLC)
Eric Miller Architects, Architect
Monte Verde Street 4 southwest of 3rd Avenue
Block: II; Lots: 19, 21, 23
APN: 010-223-009-000
Consideration of a Concept Design Study, DS 25139 (Kshire Property Investments LLC), for the demolition of an existing 1,248-square-foot, one-story single-family residence and 192-square-foot shed, and the construction of a 3,292-square-foot, one-story single-family residence inclusive of a 449-square-foot attached garage located on Monte Verde Street 4 southwest of 3rd Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District and Archaeological Significance (AS) Overlay District. APN: 010-223-009. The project additionally includes a detached 800-square-foot accessory dwelling unit.

DS 25126 (Chroman)
Scott Hall, Landscape Architect
Mission Street 2 northwest of 2nd Avenue
Block 11, Lot 17
APN: 010-121-015-000
Consideration of a Track 1 Design Study referral, DS 25126 (Chroman), for the installation of an arbor, fence, and driveway gate in the front setback located at Mission Street 2 northwest of 2nd Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District, Park (P) Overlay, and Archaeological Significance (AS) Overlay District. APN: 010-121-015-000

APP 25328 (Coria)
Jerome and Rose Politzer, Appellants
Mission Street 3 northeast of 10th Avenue
Block 109, Lot 14
APN: 010-076-014-000
Consideration of an Appeal, APP 25328 (Coria), filed by Jerome and Rose Politzer for the approval of Landscape Plan Check, LD 24106 (Coria), for the approval of a fence and retaining wall on the southern property line and associated landscaping located at Mission Street 3 northeast of 10th Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-076-014-000

DS 25244 (Del Santo)
Samuel Pitnick, Architect
Northwest corner of Casanova and 8th Avenues
Block H, Lot 17 & 19
APN: 010-262-006-000
Consideration of a Track 1 Design Study Referral, DS 25244 (Del Santo), for the replacement of windows, reroof, repainting siding, adding a stone veneer, installation of new skylights, installing new tile, and replacement of a glass railing in kind on an existing single-family residence located on the northwest corner of Casanova and 8th Avenues in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-262-006-000

City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Anna Ginette, Director of Community Planning & Building

Publication dates: Nov. 28, 2025 (PC1146)

TS No: 138722-CA APN: 015-513-002-000

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, on 1/26/2011, a certain Mortgage Deed of Trust was executed by BARBARA BRUCE HEISEL, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN as trustor in favor of WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. as beneficiary, and was recorded on 2/1/2011, as Instrument No. 2011006540, in the Office of the Recorder of Monterey County, California; and WHEREAS, the Mortgage Deed of Trust was insured by the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (the Secretary) pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family house; and WHEREAS, the beneficial interest in the Mortgage Deed of Trust is now owned by the Secretary, pursuant to an assignment dated 7/27/2016, recorded on 7/29/2016, as instrument number 2016043420, in the office of Monterey County, California; and WHEREAS, a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of the Mortgage Deed of Trust in that the payment due upon the move out of the borrower(s) was not made and remains wholly unpaid as of the date of this notice, and no payment has been made sufficient to restore the loan to currency; and WHEREAS, the entire amount delinquent as of 11/13/2025 is $1,068,653.45; and WHEREAS, by virtue of this default, the Secretary has declared the entire amount of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage Deed of Trust to be immediately due and payable; NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to powers vested in me by the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR part 27, subpart B, and by the Secretary's designation of me as Foreclosure Commissioner, recorded 4/1/2025, as Instrument No. 2025009881, notice is hereby given that on 1/6/2026 at 10:00 AM local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described premises ("Property") will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder: Legal Description: PARCEL I: A 1/289TH INTEREST AS TENANTS IN COMMON, IN AND TO ALL THAT REAL PROPERTY EMBRACED IN THAT CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED, "TRACT NO. 558 RESUBDIVISION OF DEL MESA CARMEL", ACCORDING TO THE MAP FILED OCTOBER 18, 1967 IN VOLUME 9, CITIES AND TOWNS, ON PAGE 36, RECORDS OF THE COUNTY RECORDER, MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. EXCEPTING, HOWEVER, THEREFROM THE FOLLOWING; A. UNITS 1 THROUGH 150 INCLUSIVE, AS SHOWN ON THE MAP OF SAID TRACT NO. 558. B. PARCELS A-1, B & C-1, AS SHOWN ON THE MAP OF SAID TRACT NO. 558. C. THIRTY (30%) PERCENT OF ALL MINERALS, MINERAL DEPOSITS, MINERAL OILS AND NATURAL GASES OF EVERY KIND AND NATURE CONTAINED IN SAID LANDS BELOW FIVE HUNDRED (500) FEET BELOW THE LOWEST POINT OF THE SURFACE OF LAND HEREIN CONVEYED, WITHOUT, HOWEVER, ANY RIGHT OF RE-ENTRY UPON THE SURFACE OF SAID LANE, FOR ANY PURPOSES WHATSOEVER, AS EXCEPTED IN THE DEED FROM FLORENCE MCAULAY CADIGAN, ET AL TO PHILIP C. SMITH, ET UX DATED DECEMBER 31, 1953, RECORDED JANUARY 20, 1959 IN BOOK 1926 OF OFFICIAL RECORDS, ON PAGE 59. D. UNITS 151 THROUGH 205 INCLUSIVE, AS SHOWN ON THAT AMENDING MAP FILED DECEMBER 4, 1970 IN VOLUME 10 OF MAPS, CITIES AND TOWNS, ON PAGE 43, RECORDS OF THE COUNTY RECORDER, MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, BEING AN AMENDMENT TO THAT MAP OF TRACT NO. 604, RESUBDIVISION OF DEL MESA CARMEL UNIT NO. 2, FILED DECEMBER 17, 1969 IN VOLUME 10 OF MAPS, CITIES AND. TOWNS, ON PAGE 23, RECORDS OF THE COUNTY RECORDER, MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. E. UNITS 206 THROUGH 227 INCLUSIVE AND UNITS 229 THROUGH 242 INCLUSIVE AS SHOWN ON THE SECOND AMENDING MAP OF TRACT 604, FILED AUGUST 18 1971 IN VOLUME 11 OF MAPS, CITIES AND TOWNS, AT PAGE 12, RECORDS OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF MONTEREY COUNTY. F. UNIT 228 AND UNITS 243 THROUGH 289 INCLUSIVE AS SHOWN ON THE MAP OF TRACT NO. 671, BEING A RESUBDIVISION OF TRACT 604 DEL MESA CARMEL NO. 2 FILED AUGUST 9, 1972 IN VOLUME 11 OF MAPS, CITIES AND TOWNS, PAGE 49, RECORDS OF THE COUNTY RECORDER, MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. PARCEL II: TOGETHER WITH THE FEE TITLE TO UNIT NO. 162, DEL MESA CARMEL, AS SAID UNIT IS DESIGNATED ON THE ABOVE MENTIONED RESUBDIVISION MAP, OF SAID TRACT NO. 558. MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBED AS PARCEL I: A 1/289TH INTEREST AS TENANTS IN COMMON, IN AND TO ALL THAT REAL PROPERTY EMBRACED IN THAT CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED, "TRACT NO. 558 RESUBDIVISION OF DEL MESA CARMEL", ACCORDING TO THE MAP FILED OCTOBER 18, 1967 IN VOLUME 9, CITIES AND TOWNS, ON PAGE 36, RECORDS OF THE COUNTY RECORDER, MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. EXCEPTING, HOWEVER, THEREFROM THE FOLLOWING; A. UNITS 1 THROUGH 150 INCLUSIVE, AS SHOWN ON THE MAP OF SAID TRACT NO. 558. B. PARCELS A-1, B & C-1, AS SHOWN ON THE MAP OF SAID TRACT NO. 558. C. THIRTY (30%) PERCENT OF ALL MINERALS, MINERAL DEPOSITS, MINERAL OILS AND NATURAL GASES OF EVERY KIND AND NATURE CONTAINED IN SAID LANDS BELOW FIVE HUNDRED (500) FEET BELOW THE LOWEST POINT OF THE SURFACE OF LAND HEREIN CONVEYED, WITHOUT, HOWEVER, ANY RIGHT OF RE-ENTRY UPON THE SURFACE OF SAID LANE, FOR ANY PURPOSES WHATSOEVER, AS EXCEPTED IN THE DEED FROM FLORENCE MCAULAY CADIGAN, ET AL TO PHILIP C. SMITH, ET UX DATED DECEMBER 31, 1953, RECORDED JANUARY 20, 1959 IN BOOK 1926 OF OFFICIAL RECORDS, ON PAGE 59. D. UNITS 151 THROUGH 205 INCLUSIVE, AS SHOWN ON THAT AMENDING MAP FILED DECEMBER 4, 1970 IN VOLUME 10 OF MAPS, CITIES AND TOWNS, ON PAGE 43, RECORDS OF THE COUNTY RECORDER, MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, BEING AN AMENDMENT TO THAT MAP OF TRACT NO. 604, RESUBDIVISION OF DEL MESA CARMEL UNIT NO. 2, FILED DECEMBER 17, 1969 IN VOLUME 10 OF MAPS, CITIES AND, TOWNS, ON PAGE 23, RECORDS OF THE COUNTY RECORDER, MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. E. UNITS 206 THROUGH 227 INCLUSIVE AND UNITS 229 THROUGH 242 INCLUSIVE AS SHOWN ON THE SECOND AMENDING MAP OF TRACT 604, FILED AUGUST 18 1971 IN VOLUME 11 OF MAPS, CITIES AND TOWNS, AT PAGE 12, RECORDS OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF MONTEREY COUNTY. F. UNIT 228 AND UNITS 243 THROUGH 289 INCLUSIVE AS SHOWN ON THE MAP OF TRACT NO. 671, BEING A RESUBDIVISION OF TRACT 604 DEL MESA CARMEL NO. 2 FILED AUGUST 9, 1972 IN VOLUME 11 OF MAPS, CITIES AND TOWNS, PAGE 49, RECORDS OF THE COUNTY RECORDER, MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. PARCEL II: TOGETHER WITH THE FEE TITLE TO UNIT NO. 182, DEL MESA CARMEL, AS SAID UNIT IS DESIGNATED ON THE ABOVE MENTIONED RESUBDIVISION MAP, OF SAID TRACT NO. 558. Commonly known as: 182 DEL MESA CARMEL, CARMEL, CA 93923 The sale will be held at: OUTSIDE THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE MONTEREY COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING LOCATED AT 168 WEST ALISAL STREET, SALINAS, CA 93901 Per the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the estimated opening bid will be $1,082,791.09. There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before closing, his pro rata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale. When making their bids, the winning bidders with the exception of the Secretary must submit a deposit totaling ten percent (10%) of the Secretary's estimated bid amount in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made payable to the undersigned Foreclosure Commissioner. Ten percent of the estimated bid amount for this sale is $108,279.11. A deposit need not accompany each oral bid. If the successful bid is oral, a deposit of $108,279.11 must be presented before the bidding is closed. The deposit is nonrefundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within 30 days of the sale or at such other time as the Secretary may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified or cashier's check. If the Secretary is the highest bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveying fees, all real estate and other taxes that are due on or after the delivery date of the remainder of the payment and all other costs associated with the transfer of title. At the conclusion of the sale, the deposits of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to them. The Secretary may grant an extension of time within which to deliver the remainder of the payment. All extensions will be for 15 day increments for a fee of: $500.00, paid in advance. The extension fee shall be in the form of a certified or cashiers check made payable to the Secretary of HUD. If the high bidder closes the sale prior to the expiration of any extension period, the unused portion of the extension fee shall be applied toward the amount due. If the high bidder is unable to close the sale within the required period, or within any extensions of time granted by the Secretary, the high bidder may be required to forfeit the cash deposit or, at the election of the Foreclosure Commissioner after consultation with the HUD representative, will be liable to HUD for any costs incurred as a result of such failure. The Commissioner may, at the direction of the HUD representative, offer the property to the second highest bidder for an amount equal to the highest price offered by that bidder. There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant. The scheduled foreclosure sale shall be cancelled or adjourned if it is established, by documented written application of the mortgagor to the Foreclosure Commissioner not less than 3 days before the date of sale, or otherwise, that the default or defaults upon which the foreclosure is based did not exist at the time of service of this notice of default and foreclosure sale, or all amounts due under the mortgage agreement are tendered to the Foreclosure Commissioner, in the form of a certified or cashier's check payable to the Secretary of HUD, before public auction of the property is completed. The amount that must be paid if the Mortgage Deed of Trust is to be reinstated prior to the scheduled sale is based on the nature of the breach, this loan is not subject to reinstatement. A total payoff is required to cancel the foreclosure sale or the breach must be otherwise cured. A description of the default is as follows: FAILURE TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL BALANCE AND ANY OUTSTANDING FEES, COSTS, AND INTEREST WHICH BECAME ALL DUE AND PAYABLE BASED UPON THE MOVE-OUT BY ALL MORTGAGORS FROM THE PROPERTY, CEASING TO USE THE PROPERTY AS THE PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE. Tender of payment by certified or cashier's check or application for cancellation of the foreclosure sale shall be submitted to the address of the Foreclosure Commissioner provided below. Date: November 13, 2025 CLEAR RECON CORP Foreclosure Commissioner By: Hamsa Uchi Title: Foreclosure Supervisor 3333 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 225 San Diego, California 92108 Phone: (858) 750-7777 Fax No: (858) 412-2705

Publication dates: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025 (PC1127)

LIVE

From page 53A

jammers (classic rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **Scarlet** (pop and rock, Saturday at 9 p.m.), **Victory Lane** (classic rock, Monday at 8:30 p.m.), **Blue Fire** (classic rock and modern funk, Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.), **5 Star** (rock and soul, Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.), **Bobby & friends** ("a dance party of infectious grooves," Thursday at 8:30 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.), **Andrea's Fault Duo** ("folky stuff mixed with surprises," Monday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Holysea** (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave.

Pop & Hiss — **The Chuck Brewer Band** (blues, Saturday at 7 p.m.), **Sweet Thursday** (Dixieland jazz, Thursday at 7 p.m.). 215 Forest Ave.

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 **Casey Wickstrom** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Saturday at 5 p.m.) In the Terrace Lounge. 1700 17 Mile Drive.

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

The Hackjammers play classic rock Friday, 9 p.m., at Sly McFly's in Monterey.

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251799
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **VERO'S JANITORIAL SERVICES, 1005 N. Sanborn Rd., Apt. 2, Salinas, CA 93905.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
KASSANDRA DESIREE CENTENO-PARRA, 1005 Sanborn Rd., Apt. 2, Salinas, CA 93955.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 30, 2025.
S/Kassandra Centeno
Date signed: Sept. 30, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Sept. 30, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 2025 (PC 1122)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 4:30 PM**, the City Council of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will hold a Public Hearing via teleconference and in person at the City Hall Council Chambers located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea.

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING:

Roofing Materials
City wide
Discussion and direction from the City Council to staff on roofing materials, including but not limited to metal roofs.

Design Traditions 1.5
Citywide
Receive a presentation, including feedback from the Planning Commission's September 18th Special Meeting, on the current draft of the revised Design Guidelines (Design Traditions 1.5) and provide feedback on both the form and function of the documents as well as the overall Design Traditions project.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: This meeting will be held via teleconference and in person ("hybrid") in the City Council Chambers at City Hall located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea. The public is welcome to attend the meeting in person or remotely via Zoom, however, the meeting will proceed as normal even if there are technical difficulties accessing Zoom. The City will do its best to resolve any technical issues as quickly as possible. To participate via teleconference, click the following link to attend via Zoom (or copy and paste the link into your browser):

https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/86890317537
Webinar ID: 868 9031 7537
Passcode: 100836
Dial in: (253) 215-8782

The staff report and relevant documents will be available at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting on the City's website at http://www.ci.carmel.ca.us. The Council meeting will be televised live on the City's website and archived there after the meeting. For more information regarding City Council meetings, please contact the City Clerk's office at (831) 620-2016.

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

If you challenge the nature of the proposed action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the city council at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Nova Romero, MMC
City Clerk

Dated: 11/24/2025
Publish Date: 11/28/2025

Publication dates: Nov. 28, 2025 (PC1144)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 25CV005792
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, EMME NORDYKE, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
A. Present name:
EMME EVANS NORDYKE
Proposed name:
MONJA EVANS NORDYKE
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
DATE: Jan. 27, 2026
TIME: 11:00 a.m.
DEPT: 13A
The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
(s) Hon. Thomas W. Wills
Judge of the Superior Court
Date filed: Nov. 12, 2025
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025. (PC 1124)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20252076
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
SHINY DETAILZZ, 311 Quebrada Del Mar, Marina, CA 93933.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
ANTONIO CAZAAREZ, 311 Quebrada Del Mar, Marina, CA 93933.
AARON GONZALEZ MAGANA, 311 Quebrada Del Mar, Marina, CA 93933.
This business is conducted by co-partners.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 12, 2025.
S/Aaron Gonzalez Magana
Date signed: Nov. 13, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 13 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025 (PC 1126)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20252079
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
Carmel Valley Ranch, One Old Ranch Road Carmel, CA 93923, County of Monterey
Registered Owner(s):
Commune Hotels and Resorts, LLC, 150 N. Riverside Plaza, 14th Floor, Legal Department Chicago, IL 60606; DE
This business is conducted by a limited liability company
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/30/2018
S/ Tricia Grady, Vice President
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 11/14/2025
11/28, 12/5, 12/12, 12/19/25
CNS-3987327#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19 2025. (PC 1128)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20252067
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
SOFIA'S CLEANING SERVICES, 522 Santa Maria St., #A, Salinas, CA 93905.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
SOFIA LOPEZ RODRIGUEZ.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Aug. 1, 2025.
S/Sofia Lopez Rodriguez
Date signed: Nov. 12, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 12 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025 (PC 1129)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20252067
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
COASTAL EXOTICS, 101 Martella St., Salinas, CA 93901.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
NATHAN GUADALUPE PLASCENCIA, P.O. Box 221992, Carmel, California, 93922.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Nathan Guadalupe Plascencia
Date signed: Nov. 7, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 7 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025 (PC 1130)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20252017
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **SANTES M.E.X. ORGANIC FARMS, 28750 Corda Rd., Apt. 11, Gonzales, CA 93926.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
PAULO SANTOS GUERRERO, P.O. Box 2098, Gonzales, CA 93926.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 3, 2025.
S/Paulo Santos Guerrero
Date signed: Nov. 3, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 4, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025 (PC 1131)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20252091
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **FAITH WORKS AUTO DETAILING, 2006 San Miguel Canyon Rd., Salinas, CA 93907.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
MATHEW VIRAK, 2006 San Miguel Canyon Rd., Salinas, CA 93907.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Mathew Virak
Date signed: Nov. 17, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 17, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025 (PC 1132)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251849
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
LIVING WITH FIRE US, 12165 Carola Drive, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
CENTRAL COAST RX FIRE COUNCIL, P.O. Box 1715, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 9, 2025.
S/Stephen E. Davis, President
Date: Oct. 9, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 9, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025. (PC 1134)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251850
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
CENTRAL COAST RX FIRE COUNCIL, 12165 Carola Drive, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
CENTRAL COAST RX FIRE COUNCIL, P.O. Box 1715, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 9, 2025.
S/Stephen E. Davis, President
Date: Oct. 9, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 9, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025. (PC 1135)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. 20251858
Filing type: ABANDONMENT:
County of Filing: Monterey
Date of Original Filing: Sept. 9, 2025
File No.: 20251646
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **DFINE CULTURE, 1514 Moffet St. #J, Salinas, CA 93905.**
Registered Owner(s):
JESUS JAVIER CRUZ NARANJO
IVET MADAI LOPEZ CRUZ
This business is conducted by a general partnership.
S/Jesus Cruz
Oct. 10, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 10, 2025.
Publication dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025. (PC1136)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20251851
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
LIVING WITH FIRE FOUNDATION, 12165 Carola Drive, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
CENTRAL COAST RX FIRE COUNCIL, P.O. Box 1715, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 9, 2025.
S/Stephen E. Davis, President
Date: Oct. 9, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 9, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025. (PC 1137)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20252097
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **TRI COUNTY LANDSCAPE SUPPLY, 71 Elkhorn Rd., Watsonville, CA 95076.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
SANTA CRUZ COMPOST COMPANY INC., 71 Elkhorn Rd., Watsonville, CA 95076.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 16, 1981.
S/Juan Ramirez, Manager
Date: Nov. 18, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 18, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 2025. (PC 1139)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20252098
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **55 AG SUPPLY, 58153 Highway 198, San Lucas, CA 93954.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
WILLIAM JAMES TAYLOR, P.O. Box 224, San Lucas, CA 93954.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 18, 2025.
S/William Taylor
Date signed: Nov. 18, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 18, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 2025 (PC 1140)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20252032
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **M'S HOME HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, 570 Dolan Road Moss Landing 95039.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
MARIE HELEN BURROW, 570 Dolan Road Moss Landing 95039.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 6, 2025.
S/Marie Burrow
Date signed: Nov. 6, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 6, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 2025 (PC 1141)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20252095
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **1 2 3 LAUNDRY, 914 N Sanborn Rd., Salinas, CA 93905.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
DONNAMU LLC, 1585 N 4th St., Unit K, San Jose, CA 95112.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 18, 2025.
S/Taehyun Kim, Manager
Date: Nov. 18, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 18, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 2025. (PC 1142)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20252053
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **JAMESBURG JEWELRY, 38625 Oak Rd., Carmel Valley, CA 93924.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
PATRICIA MICHELLE GLASS, 38525 Oak Rd., Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 12, 2025.
S/Patricia Glass
Date signed: Nov. 6, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 10, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 2025 (PC 1143)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20252071
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MONTEREY CHIROPRACTIC CARE CENTER, 829 Cass St., Monterey, CA 93940.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
DEBORAH DIAZ KIMES.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Deborah Diaz Kimes
Date signed: Nov. 13, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 13, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 2025 (PC 1145)

LEGALS DEADLINE: Tuesday 3:00 pm
legals@carmelpinecone.com
Se Habla Espanol

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

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