

TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

## Lone diver continues search for missing man

By CHRIS COUNTS

WHILE THE official search for the body of Defense Language Institute student Amanpreet Thind ended Nov. 26, volunteer rescue diver Juan Heredia hasn't given up hope.

Thind was swept off rocks by a wave near Soberanes Point in Big Sur Nov. 22. A multi-agency search was called off four days later, but Heredia is continuing his own effort to find the body.

A volunteer who founded a group called the Angels Recovery Dive Team, Heredia recovered the body of a 7-year-old girl Nov. 16 nearby at Garrapata Beach — two days after she and her father were pulled into the ocean by heavy surf. Now he's focused on finding Thind's remains.

"I've covered every single part from Amanpreet's point of entry all the way to the cove where all the professionals believe he would end up," he said on Facebook. "I checked everything — slowly and carefully, but no luck yet."

### Can't let go

Heredia said Monday that he's employing technology to widen his search.

"I was able to cover more ground, faster and deeper, using an underwater scooter — basically a turbine that pulls me through the water," he said.

While searching in shallow water, Heredia

has been using snorkeling gear, but he suggested that the body could be found in deep water, which means he'll have to switch to SCUBA gear.

"Out there I realized something important — the soldier may be deeper inside the canyons," he said. "I can't let it go yet. I still have hope that he will be found."

Thind was one of three soldiers swept off rocks near

See MISSING page 28A



PHOTOS/FACEBOOK

With Amanpreet Thind (above) missing since Nov. 22 and presumed dead, volunteer diver Juan Heredia (right) continues to search for his remains.



## Street addresses are on the way

### ■ Implementation in May, city says

By MARY SCHLEY

IF ALL goes according to plan, every house and business in Carmel-by-the-Sea will have a verifiable numbered street address by the end of May 2026, the Carmel City Council learned Tuesday.

The council took a significant step in that direction when it approved the first reading of an ordinance officially ending the city's long-held practice of using directional addresses, such as "Lincoln 2 SW of Third."

When it was settled nearly 110 years ago, Carmel was sparsely populated, and poetic names on its cottages sufficed for finding a neighbor's house or having milk delivered.

**Coming soon:  
301 Lincoln  
Street, Carmel  
CA 93921**

### Long-held tradition ends

The quirky tradition persisted as the city grew, and it was eventually codified, with the Carmel Municipal Code stating, "Buildings and parcels shall be identified by a description of parcel location relative to the nearest cross-street intersection as determined by the community planning and building department."

And for decades, residents argued — often strenuously — over whether to hold onto that unique practice or change with the times, especially as demands for verification of physical addresses and the use of technology to do

See ADDRESSES page 20A

## Council sticks to guns in pickleball dispute

### ■ Impassioned opposition from fans

By MARY SCHLEY

CARMEL IS "a national embarrassment," and the residents who oppose pickleball on the tennis courts at Forest Hill Park are "entitled" and "relentless," according to some members of the public who offered comments Tuesday, as the city council considered banning the game in the park.

Pickleball, which has become especially popular among retirees and grew significantly during the Covid pandemic, has been played at Forest Hill for 14 years, but objections escalated in 2021 after the forest and beach commission

See PICKLEBALL page 22A

## FIVE CHARGED AFTER HOME INVASION IN BIG SUR

By CHRIS COUNTS

SHORTLY BEFORE dawn Saturday, a man was awakened in his Big Sur home by the terrifying sounds of as many as five people trying to break in. Hiding in a bathroom and fearing for his safety, the resident called 911 at 5:21 a.m. to report that at least two people were inside the home. It's unknown if they were armed.

"They broke through a window and started ransacking my house," the resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, later told The Pine Cone. "It was an unbelievably traumatizing experience."

Law-enforcement and medical personnel responded to the 911 call. "The dispatcher believed the victim was having a medical emergency and requested a medical response in addition to law enforcement response," the Monterey County Sheriff's Office reported.

While police and an ambulance were in route, five men who were involved in the break-in tried to flee but didn't

get very far. As they drove along a private road, their vehicle got stuck in a ditch.

"As deputies arrived, they were informed that a responding firefighter observed a vehicle that appeared to have gotten stuck in a ditch near the burglarized residence," the sheriff's report indicated. "There were multiple subjects standing next to the vehicle."

Deputies detained the five men and questioned each of them. "An investigation confirmed that the five subjects detained were involved in the residential burglary," the report continued. "All five were arrested."

### Bail at \$100,000

The suspects were identified as Monte Lee Laws, 26, Cooper Ervin Regier, 18, and Kenneth Bucud, 20, of Sea-side, along with Jeremiah John Gutierrez, 22, of Fresno, and Michael Jahiem Brison, 20, of Monterey.

While the sheriff office indicated that the resident had experienced a medical emergency, he turned out to be OK, but one of the alleged robbers, Brison, ended up suffering some kind of medical problem, and was transported to a hospital and treated before he was released back to the sheriff's office.

See INVASION page 24A

## Young Dems seek to unseat aging incumbents

CALIFORNIA REPUBLICANS are not the only ones worried about the 2026 midterm elections — aging Democratic incumbents are facing serious challenges from within their own party.

In the reliably blue Golden State, Democrats

Waters, who has represented California in Congress since 1991, said she's not ready to call it a day.

"I love the work that I am doing, I am very good at it, and I think that I have more to do," said Waters, 87, in an interview with CNN's Elex Michaelson, "I am not opposed to younger people running for office. I am not opposed to them running against me, but they gotta be better than me."

### Hats in the ring

Two relative unknowns are challenging Waters from the left, and in other California House races, half of older Democratic incumbents are set to face off against serious intraparty challengers next year.

In September, Sacramento City Councilmember Mai Vang, 40, launched a campaign against long-serving Rep. Doris Matsui, 81.

The octogenarian has held her seat since 2005,

See DEMS page 24A

## Pit demolition commences



PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

Saw-cutting concrete and other measures to demolish the partially constructed garage in The Pit at Dolores and Fifth got underway this week and are expected to take two months. See story page 17A.

## Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

elected to Congress have essentially had lifetime gigs if they wanted them. But aspiring young politicians are getting tired of waiting their turn.

Twelve of California's 52-member congressional delegation are in their 70s and 80s, many of them holding their seats for decades. Some of those aging incumbents, like 85-year-old Nancy Pelosi, have announced plans to retire rather than face their young Democratic challengers. Others are reluctant to let go.

Just last week, the oldest of the bunch, Maxine



J. LAWRENCE

**KHAKI'S**

MEN'S CLOTHIER OF CARMEL

*new holiday arrivals*



made in italy

sweaters

sport coats

soft coats

outerwear

shirting

*Carmel Plaza*

carmel-by-the-sea

# Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

## Quite the character

Thor is a little shih tsu who was born in Belgium yet is living his best life in Modesto. Some might consider him a rescue since he was rehomed at 5 months.

"We think we were rescued," his person said. "We were losing our son to college and thought, what better than a shih tsu to fill the hole in the household? Turns out it was a really good trade. Thor came with no smelly football pads and doesn't leave dirty dishes in his room."

Thor, now 13, was so named because his father was called Odin, after the chief god in Norse mythology. Revered for his wisdom in life and in war, the reference might have been a bit much to lay on a little shih tsu, but his people recognize a kind of quiet wisdom in their pup.

Besides, the ancient Odin was said to have had just one eye, and little Thor is blind in both.

"Thor's blindness is the result of early accidents which scratched his corneas," his person said. "At this point, he's deaf, as well, which is why he always travels with us."

When Thor's family came to Carmel to participate in the annual Poodle Day parade, his people tried to gently break it to him that he was not going to make the cut. They were good-natured about is as they readied



the standard poodle they'd also brought to town for the festivities.

"Thor has had his own moment in lights," his person said. "For three weeks, he played Toto in the 'Wizard of Oz' in a Belgian theater. But he wasn't great. At one point, not feeling it, he took his own curtain call and departed the stage to join the audience. The Tin Man had to make his way into the audience to collect him."

VNA

Visiting Nurse Association

Delivering Compassionate,  
Trusted, Team-Driven Care

DONATE TODAY!

MONTEREY COUNTY **GIVES!**




Questions?

831-375-9882

www.ccvna.com



THAYER  
COGGIN




POPPLETON'S  
HANDCRAFTED FURNITURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN

16,000 SQ FT SHOWROOM | MONTEREY, CA

JUST SOLD!

Panoramic Views & Privacy on Three Acres




245 VISTA VERDE, CARMEL VALLEY

3 Beds, 3 Baths ■ 3,220 Sq. Ft. ■ SP: \$2,400,000

Buyer Representation by The Arnold Team

MARKET KNOWLEDGE | ETHICS & INTEGRITY | COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY



A Collaborative Approach to Real Estate

THE ARNOLD TEAM

Arnold-Team.com

Arnold-Team@CarmelRealtyCompany.com

Geoff 831.297.3890


Rebecca 831.241.2600

REALTOR\* | DRE#02036451

REALTOR\* | DRE#01706104


Danielle Germain 303.502.6477

REALTOR\* | Monterey Coast Realty DRE#02154598





CARMEL REALTY COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1913





REGENTS

MONTEREY COAST REALTY



Rain Gauge



Last 7 days	Since Oct. 1	Since Oct. 1 avg.
0 in.	6.85 in.	2.82 in.

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



Shell  
Shades

.com

831/747-7482

Viau Estate Jewelry

FINE ESTATE JEWELRY

BOUGHT AND SOLD

Serving Carmel Since 1982

831-624-5991

Mission St. Between Ocean and 7<sup>th</sup>

www.viauestatejewelry.com

Moon Goddess

Well, yes, many cats demand worship, but not Luna. This stunning 7-year-old gray and white long-haired girl who was rescued from a dumpster as a kitten is now a serene, loyal companion. Luna isn't a lap cat, she's a heart cat: quietly present, deeply devoted, and happiest curled near you while you work or garden. Sadly, poor Luna has lost her only person and needs someone with a big heart who will give her a new, safe, loving adult-only home she deserves. Will you be that someone?



Learn more about sweet Luna at [www.gocatrescue.org](http://www.gocatrescue.org) and fill out an adoption form while you are there.

Would you like to sponsor our next ad?

Please call us at 831-200-9232 or email [info@gocatrescue.org](mailto:info@gocatrescue.org)



Golden Oldies

Cat Rescue

Older Cats

New Beginnings

[www.gocatrescue.org](http://www.gocatrescue.org)

PO Box 683, Monterey, CA 93942





# CAO fined \$800 for free tickets

By KELLY NIX

MONTEREY COUNTY’S top official has been fined by a state enforcement agency for accepting two free tickets to the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance.

The nonpartisan Fair Political Practices Commission, which administers and enforces the state’s Political Reform Act, announced Nov. 20 that it had fined county administrative officer Sonia De La Rosa \$800 for accepting two tickets for the Aug. 18, 2024, event. It’s against the law for most state and local officials to accept gifts over a certain amount, which was \$590 when De La Rosa took the tickets, valued at \$1,290.

The administrative officer of Monterey County “accepted a gift in excess of the applicable annual gift limit, in violation of Government Code Section 89503,” according to the FPPC’s decision.

After someone informed the FPPC of the violation, officials from the agency contacted De La Rosa in May, noting that in March she reported the \$1,290 on a state-required statement of economic interest. While it appears that De La Rosa was not aware of the gift limit, the FPPC made it clear that ignorance of the law is no excuse.

“Please be advised, however, that the

fact that you might not have been aware of the gift limitation does not relieve you of your legal obligations,” FPPC official Vanessa Greer told the CAO in a May 5 letter. “If we determine that you violated the gift limit, we will notify you of the determination and we may seek a penalty of up to \$5,000 for each violation.”

### ‘Honest oversight’

De La Rosa — who was paid more than \$400,000 in salary and benefits last year — signed an FPPC stipulation, decision and order. The FPPC gift limit has since been increased from \$590 to \$630.

De La Rosa told The Pine Cone that she reported the tickets to the FPPC, as required by law, but wasn’t aware of the state’s gift limit.

“When I was informed about the limit, I made the appropriate remedy as required by the FPPC,” she said Thursday. “This was an honest oversight, from which I’ve learned a great deal.”

De La Rosa added that she’s taken steps to avoid a similar situation, including a policy proposal that’s set to go before county supervisors next week.

The CAO started the job in January 2023.



Sonia De La Rosa

### We pay for news photos!

The Carmel Pine Cone will pay up to \$50 for photos of newsworthy events around the Monterey Peninsula. Submit yours to [news@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:news@carmelpinecone.com). Payment made for photos accepted for publication.



# KRIS KRINGLE

## FRESH CUT TREES

### FROM OUR OREGON FAMILY FARM TO YOU

Come pick your perfect tree and leave the rest to us! We'll give it a fresh cut and load it on your car



- Grand Fir
- Noble Fir
- Nordmann Fir
- Wreaths & Garlands

9AM - 8PM EVERYDAY  
NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 24  
3731 RIO ROAD, CARMEL



Free hot cocoa

Trees ranging from one foot to fourteen feet. We deliver!  
Mention this ad for \$5 off.

# Discover All Saints



Preschool - Grade 8

## Saturday, January 10 - 10 am

Join us for the All Saints Open House!  
Tour our beautiful campus, meet our community, and learn what makes an All Saints education exceptional.  
9:45 am –12:00 pm – Tours, speaker panel & Science of Reading presentation.  
Prospective families and children welcome!



### RSVP @ [ASDS.ORG/OPENHOUSE](https://asds.org/openhouse)

8060 Carmel Valley Road | Carmel, CA 93923 | 831.624.9171 | [www.asds.org](https://www.asds.org)



## RYAN MELCHER

PROPERTIES



**JUST SOLD - \$5,537,000**

4 SW Camino Real, Carmel-by-the-Sea  
4 Bed | 3 Bath | 1,950 Sq. Ft. | 5,998 Sq. Ft. Lot  
*Buyer Represented*





**NEW PRICE - \$2,095,000**

140 Terrace Way, Carmel Valley  
4 Bed | 4.5 Bath | 2,786 Sq. Ft. | 29,621 Sq. Ft. Lot  
**Open House:** Saturday 1-3pm





### #1 SOTHEBY'S AGENT IN CARMEL

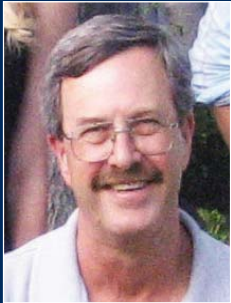
Sold over **\$93 Million & 32 Transactions** YTD in 2025  
*The Peninsula's Trusted Name in Real Estate*

**Ryan Melcher**  
831.521.5024  
[ryan@ryanmelcher.com](mailto:ryan@ryanmelcher.com)  
[RyanMelcher.com](https://ryanmelcher.com)  
DRE: 01897036

## Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY





A trusted name on the Monterey Peninsula for nearly 50 years!

Terry McGowan 831.236.7251

TerryMcGowan.com  
terry.mcgowan@sothebyshomes.com

GRI, CRS, ABR, SRS, e-Pro, SRES DRE: 01126129

Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Helping you reach your real estate goals since 1991!

# Clark's Carmel Stone



(831) 385-4000  
100 Airport Drive,  
King City  
Delivery Available

www.clarktruckinginc.com clarkscarmelstone@yahoo.com

## HELP IS ON THE WAY!

AlphaAbacus Learning Center: Established 2003  
Rachel Phillips M. A. Education  
"Gracie"

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT TUTORING CENTER  
"Where Learning Is Fun"  
READING - MATH - WRITING - ACADEMIC SUBJECTS  
STUDY SKILLS - HOMEWORK HELP - TEST PREP  
[WWW.ALPHAABACUSLEARNINGCENTER.COM](http://WWW.ALPHAABACUSLEARNINGCENTER.COM)

831-596-9394 | 831-625-6053

200 Clock Tower Place, Suite A204, Carmel  
Home Schooling Support AlphaAbacuslearningcenter@gmail.com



With Great Pleasure,  
Dr. Susan Kubica Welcomes

## KELLY L. REED, MD

Dr. Reed is a Board-Certified Internal Medicine Physician, who trained at UCSF, with professional experience in Radiation Oncology from the University of Washington.

She is **Accepting New Patients** into her **Concierge Medicine Practice.**

Off Site & Home Visits • Meet & Greet Visits welcome

She has been recognized as an exceptional physician with the following **Awards and Acknowledgements:**

- Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society
- Patients Top Choice – Press Ganey Patient Satisfaction Scores (Florida)
- Best Family Doctor – The Lebanon Reporter, Boone County, Indiana 2016
- Favorite Family Physician – Sonoma Family Life Magazine, Sonoma County 2012

Contact the Office of

Susan M. Kubica, MD, P.C., Concierge Internal Medicine  
1000 8th St, Suite 101, Monterey, CA 93940

(831) 372-1188 phone or [Office@kubicamedicine.com](mailto:Office@kubicamedicine.com) for an Appointment



73 YEARS SERVING YOUR ROOFING NEEDS

Residential and Commercial Roofing	Foundation Waterproofing
New Roof Construction	Walkout Decks
Re-Roofing	Real Estate Roof Inspections
Solar Panel Installation	Sheet Metal Fabrication Shop
Roof Repairs	Gutters

Call Today for Experienced Roofing and Solar Installation since 1950

DIAMOND CERTIFIED • FREE ESTIMATES • LICENSED & INSURED • WARRANTIES AVAILABLE

[ROSSROOFING1950.COM](http://ROSSROOFING1950.COM)

831-394-8581



# Police & Sheriff's Log

## Very bad man vs. very good dog

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.

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Injury collision on San Carlos Street.

**Pacific Grove:** Report of a runaway juvenile. Ongoing issue.

**Carmel Valley:** Adult Protective Services report of possible financial abuse involving Center Street residents and a resident at Hacienda Carmel.

**Carmel Valley:** Child Protective Services report of possible neglect at a residence on El Potrero.

**Big Sur:** Suspicious circumstances on Highway 1.

**Carmel Valley:** Child Protective Services report alleging sexual abuse at a residence on

Village Drive.

**Pebble Beach:** Deputies responded to a welfare check at a residence on Spanish Bay Road. Welfare check resulted in a Welfare and Institutions Code section 5150 hold [danger to self or others] for two subjects, a 76-year-old female and a 32-year-old female.

**Big Sur:** Ocean incident resulted in a death and a missing child at Garrapata Beach.

**Carmel Valley:** Online report regarding stolen property from a vehicle on Carmel Valley Road.

**Carmel area:** Verbal altercation among citizens at the Barnyard shopping center.

**Carmel area:** Deputies investigated shoplifting on Carmel Rancho Boulevard. A 50-year-old male was arrested.

**Carmel area:** Deputies investigated a reported mail theft at a residence on Val Verde Drive.

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



## The gavel falls

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

**Oct. 31** — Ilda Sanchez, 53, of Greenfield, was sentenced and placed on a two-year felony probation and was ordered to serve 180 days in county jail as part of her felony probation for committing welfare fraud.

From September 2021 through May 2023, Ilda Sanchez obtained a total of \$13,092 for CalFresh benefits (formerly known as Food Stamps) and CalWorks (cash aid), from the department of social services, falsely claiming that she had physical custody and care of her minor daughter in the same residence. During this time, however, the daughter was living and attending high school in Sonoma County under the care of her relative. Ilda Sanchez would not be eligible to receive \$13,092 in welfare benefits if she truthfully

reported her daughter's whereabouts.

Ilda Sanchez was criminally prosecuted for her fraudulent conduct, and she pled to and was convicted of commercial burglary, a felony. Ilda Sanchez was ordered to pay full restitution back to the Department of Social Services. Ilda Sanchez will be supervised by Monterey County Adult Probation for the next two years.

The case was investigated by district attorney investigator Nancy Bruno and the Monterey County Welfare Fraud Special Investigations Unit. The Monterey County District Attorney's Office remains committed to identifying and prosecuting individuals who fraudulently obtain public assistance and defraud the People of the State of California.

HOLIDAY SALE  
SAVE 10% ON FURNITURE  
NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 8TH



Some exclusions apply.  
See a sales associate  
for more details.  
Financing available  
upon approval.

AMERICAN LEATHER



mum's place

246 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove | 831-372-6250  
Mon-Sat 10am-5:30pm | [www.mumsfurniture.com](http://www.mumsfurniture.com)





# FOURTANÉ 75

C A R M E L - B Y - T H E - S E A

*Fine Estate Jewelry*



CAROLINA BUCCI

GEOFFREY GOOD

JBSTAR

MESSIKA

MIKIMOTO

ROBERTO COIN

VHERNIER

fourtane.com

3 Ocean Avenue SW of Dolores Street

831.624.4684



# VOLVO CARS MONTEREY

LEASE FOR  
**\$489**  
/MONTH FOR  
36 MONTHS  
Plus taxes  
and license

**NEW 2026  
VOLVO XC60  
B5 PLUS AWD**



**1711 DEL MONTE BLVD SEASIDE, CA 93955  
(831) 899-8800 VolvoCarsMonterey.com**

Closed-end lease for 2026 Volvo XC60 B5 Plus AWD when financed through Volvo Car Financial Services. Not all lessees will qualify for lowest payment through Volvo Car Financial Services. On approval of credit for well-qualified buyers. Some payments may vary based on residency and other factors. \$48,553.07 lease price. \$8,990 total due at lease inception (\$5,990 Rebate + \$3,000 Customer Cash) plus tax and license, \$0 security deposit. Lessee responsible at lease end for mileage in excess of 7,500 miles per year at \$0.20 per mile. Must take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 12/31/25. See Volvo Cars Monterey for details. 1 at this lease vin#T1317809

# Officers honored for saving local’s life

By MARY SCHLEY

FRED BOLOGNA, former president of the Carmel Residents Association’s board of directors, nearly died in his Mission Street home one October afternoon. But the two police officers who got there first and decided to start CPR likely saved his life.

Officers Joe Martis and Ricardo Mendoza were presented with a proclamation at Tuesday’s Carmel City Council meeting extolling their efforts.

“It is an honor to work with these two — they honestly brought a person back to life,” said Police Chief Todd Trayer. “They demonstrated the highest standard of professionalism during this call.”

Trayer said he teared up watching the officers’ bodycam videos and hearing them find Bologna, who is 75, and make the decision to start chest compressions in an effort to save him.

## ‘Unclear address’

“They went into a home where someone was unconscious, not breathing and had no pulse,” Trayer said. “There was a minute where they both said, ‘Let’s try,’ and it paid off.”

The proclamation read aloud by councilman Bob Delves details the rescue, noting that the officers “responded to a medical emergency in the northern part of the village, quickly identifying the correct location despite receiving an initially unclear address.”

After locating Bologna and determining he “was still warm and potentially viable,” they “swiftly moved the patient to a larger area of the home, where officer Martis, a certified CPR instructor for the police department and surrounding agencies, initiated CPR.”

Martis did chest compressions, and paramedics arrived and were being briefed by the officers as “the patient gasped his first breath, demonstrating a successful

resuscitation captured on the officers’ body cameras,” the proclamation continues.

In conclusion, Martis and Mendoza “acted with extraordinary skill, composure and dedication, providing immediate and decisive lifesaving medical care that directly contributed to the patient’s sur-



PHOTO/COURTESY TODD TRAYER

Carmel Police Chief Todd Trayer (center) honored officers Ricardo Mendoza (left) and Joe Martis (right) for saving a man’s life.

vival and chance at recovery,” and “their actions reflect the highest standards of public service and embody the true spirit of what it means to be a first responder in the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea.”

The proclamation recognizes and commends them “for their exemplary life-saving actions, professionalism and dedicated service to the residents and visitors of our village.”

After Delves finished reading the proclamation, he shook hands with both officers, as did Trayer, at which point Bologna approached to thank them.

“He said, ‘Thank you for not stopping,’” Trayer told the audience.

Crafting  
**Exquisite  
Homes**

**BAKKER**  
CONSTRUCTION

831.998.7113 + [www.bakkerconstruction.com](http://www.bakkerconstruction.com)





# SABU SHAKE SR. MEMORIAL FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT THE SALVATION ARMY MONTEREY PENINSULA CORPS

Our Family will be kicking off our annual Christmas Drive today, December 5<sup>th</sup> 2025 in remembrance of Sabu Shake Sr., marking the 27th anniversary of his passing. We will continue our drive throughout the Holiday Season with all proceeds to benefit The Salvation Army–Monterey Peninsula Corps. It is our hope and goal to raise \$200,000. In order to do this, we need your help and support.  
Would you please consider donating to our Christmas Drive?



**Sabu Shake embraced the values of compassion and generosity. Your donation will be a very wonderful way to remember such a giving and caring man.**



**SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF OUR 2024 CHRISTMAS  
FUND CONTRIBUTORS WHO DONATED \$182,435  
WE HOPE WE CAN COUNT ON YOU AGAIN!**

- Emerald Sponsor**  
Dr. Ronald Weitzman  
Ms. Morley Brown  
Sherry DeBoer  
Barbara Swain  
Bruce & Joanne Crist
- Diamond Sponsor**  
Dan & Lori Hightower  
Steve & Mona Marshall  
Stephen H. Meyer  
Mel Fortes  
Hildegard Von Dehn  
Dr. Gerald Brown  
Nancy Stacey  
Sunbay Suites & Apartments  
Grotto Hot Chocolate Stand
- Platinum Sponsor**  
Bill & Melanie Winchester  
Thomas & Jewell Halwachs  
Chuck & Alina Hurd  
Bart & Dianne Bruno  
Chuck & Carol Keller  
Mitchell J. McCarthy  
Shirley Garner  
Stan McKee  
Phyllis Maiorana & Family  
*in Memory of Michael Maiorana*  
Pacific Seafood
- Gold Sponsor**  
Barney & Margaret Belleci  
Flo Snyder Speck  
El Estero Car Wash  
Bert & Bella Cutino  
Rod & Pauline Riggs  
Waleska & John Lavorato  
Gary & Carolyn Pybas

- Silver Sponsor**  
George & Miriam Harter  
Fred & Phyllis Meurer  
Robert McIntyre  
George Pysor  
Russell & Vivian Auria  
Monterey Fish Company, Inc.  
Monterey Ski & Social Club  
The Leavenworth Family  
Elizabeth Spadaro *in loving memory of Giuseppe V. Spadaro*  
Ken & Judy Johnson  
Alan Hulanicki  
Phyllis Rodrigues  
Big Sur River Inn  
Roderic & Peggy McMahan  
Chris' Fishing Trips  
John & Josie Villapando  
John Fleige  
Ray & Kathryn Miller  
Ward Accountancy, Inc.  
Jerilynn Smith-Crivello  
Robert & Shirley Jensen  
Frank & Kelly Saunders  
Brenda Orr  
Tom & Lynn Scanlon  
Sabu Shake Jr *in Memory of Tom DiMaggio, Mark & Christine Pollaci, Benny Enea,*

- Dominic Mineo, James Smith and Tom Bruno*  
Performance Foods  
Coast Paper & Supply
- Bronze Sponsor**  
Alex & Karen Rodriguez  
Raquel LaLuz  
Jesse & Andrea Paredes  
Tony & Connie Salmeri  
Arlene Shake  
DeAnna & Bob Crannell  
Robert & Taye Suzuki  
Joe Chudy  
Bonnie Daniel  
Dave & Debbie Fortune  
Kris & Susan Toscano  
Richard & Anita Travers  
American Supply Company  
Dr. Jerry & Shirley Parker  
The Pasta Palate  
Douglas C. Lee  
Carl & Diana Miller  
Bob & Millie House



William Booth  
*Founder*  
Lyndon Buckingham  
*General*  
Commissioner Doug Riley  
*Territorial Commander*  
Major Michael Zielinski  
Major Janene Zielinski  
*Divisional Leaders*  
Captain J Koebel  
Captain Ashley Koebel  
*Corps Officers*

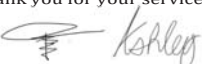
RE: Sabu Shake, Sr. Memorial Fund 2025

Thank you for your continuing support of those in need this Holiday Season. The legacy of giving on behalf of your father has reached so many people over the years and continues to transform lives today.

Your generosity helps so many. You will see that in the statistics below, but we also want to paint a picture of your impact in a couple of examples here. Because of your generosity, a child will be able to sleep soundly with a roof over their head in our emergency apartments. A woman who is rebuilding her life will gain confidence through our Pathway of Hope program. Men and women living in their cars, or on the street, will have access to free showers, laundry and hot meals as they try to put the pieces of their lives back together. Your giving make a great impact for many people, yes, but it also makes a great impact in individuals lives. On their behalf, we are truly grateful.

- Here are some numbers from this past year:
- Meals provided: 35,769
  - 14,656 nights of shelter for families
  - 8,696 food boxes distributed
  - 7,528 showers/laundry assistance
  - 1,361 gas vouchers for seniors
  - 3,080 articles of clothing provided to needy
  - 581 children received toys last Christmas

Thank you for your service. May God bless you richly.

  
J. and Ashley Koebel, Captains  
Corps Officers, Monterey Peninsula Corps

1491 Contra Costa Street • Seaside, CA 93955 • montereypeninsula.salvationarmy.org • 831.899.4911

- Jeanne Nakagawa  
Susan & Keith Slocum  
Josephine Favazza  
Fred & Linda Wurster  
Louis M. Canepa  
Michael Kissell  
Ed Whitaker  
Tom & Rosemary Rowley  
Robert Mize  
Robert Calcagno  
John & Denise Kuehl  
Onorina Nichols  
Patricia Cal  
Ann Prego  
Andy Gonzalez  
E. "Tod" & Jean Sanchez  
Antoinette Saylor  
Del's Fresh Produce LLC  
Kathy Roper  
Ann Ferrante  
John & Bonnie Molinari  
Nancy L. Holtrop  
Linda D. Brandewie  
Elizabeth P. Brown  
Sal & Joanie Lozano  
Sara Edwards  
Ellen & Lane Scarisbrick  
Kevin & Monique Kaldy  
Paul M. Silkowski  
Gary Cursio  
David L. Potter  
John Favazza  
The Paul Davis Partnership  
Tom & Nancy Pesce  
The Spowart Family  
Duke & Patt Quinones  
Angelo & Leslie Anastasia  
Nancy & Byron Washburn  
Anna Apostrofe  
Jan L. Houser  
Ruthann Currence  
Robert Alvarado *in Memory of Michele Ikuta-Alvarado*  
Curt & Fay Hays  
Dennis & Paula O'Connor  
Tim & Wendy Cunningham  
Joseph & Sharon Crescente  
Maryon Alvarado  
Jeanne Colletto  
Gustavo Carvalho  
Sharon J. Larson  
Lois Colletto  
Ed & Valerie Davis  
David Armanasco  
Anna Jones Rubrecht  
Gracie Rubio  
Nancie Ferguson  
Reverend Peter Crivello  
Carmel Host Lions Club  
Karen Enea  
John C. Oglesby  
Xavier K. Maruyama  
Robert McIntyre *in Memory of Frank Donangelo*  
Ronald Pollacci  
Marie & Armando DiCarlo  
Suzanne Saunders Shaw  
Gary Huskey, III

## WE NEED YOUR HELP TO RAISE \$200,000

By donating at the Sponsor Level, you will be assisting the following Salvation Army Programs:  
**Sponsor Levels:**

- EMERALD – \$10,000.00 – Provides daily childcare and two meals for 1 child for an entire year**  
**DIAMOND – \$5,000.00 – Provides emergency rental assistance to 8 families**  
**PLATINUM – \$2,500.00 – Provides 60 food boxes to the needy**  
**GOLD – \$1,500.00 – Provides 300 meals for the homeless**  
**SILVER – \$1,000.00 – Provides emergency shelter for two families for 10 nights**  
**BRONZE – \$500.00 – Provides utility assistance to two families**

You can drop off your donation check at any of the Shake Family Restaurants or you may mail your donation to the Salvation Army c/o Old Fisherman's Grotto, P.O. Box 2289, Monterey, CA 93942-2289. **Please make all checks payable to the Salvation Army.**

Your gift will be acknowledged in the Monterey County Herald, and a receipt will be returned for your tax records.  
For more information, please contact Karen Rodriguez at (831) 645-9124.

**WISHING YOU A BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON – THE SHAKE FAMILY**



# PORTOLA HOTEL STRESSED OUT OVER SPA

By LILY PATTERSON

PORTOLA HOTEL & Spa has had it with its other half, according to a lawsuit filed in Monterey County Superior Court, which alleges that the owners of Spa on the Plaza have dodged 18 months of rent payments and

failed to report their earnings. They also used the rented spa facility as collateral for a Small Business Administration loan, unbeknownst to the hotel’s owners — who claim that the undisclosed sum was used for “his, her, or their personal purposes,” the suit says.  
“By this action, Portola seeks to recover possession of

the Premises, recover monetary damages caused by Spa on the Plaza’s breach of the Lease, including reasonable costs and attorney fees, and that the Lease is immediately terminated and forfeited,” the Nov. 12 complaint says.  
The Portola Hotel is owned by Custom House Hotel L.P., which entered its once mutually beneficial partnership with Spa on the Plaza in 1997, when owners Roy Malcolm and his then-wife, Camille Shaw, signed a commercial lease for the property at 201 Alvarado St. in downtown Monterey, according to the lawsuit and other sources.  
“A haven for those seeking relaxation, rejuvenation, and self-care,” the day spa has since offered treatment packages, memberships, and pool facilities enjoyed by hotel guests and locals, according to online information.

### Their ‘alter ego’

Since 2020, Malcolm and co-defendant Nancy Shaw have been using the spa as financial cover, the lawsuit claims. “Portola believes that defendants are treating Spa on the Plaza as their own ‘alter ego’ to perpetuate fraud or injustice, including undercapitalization, comingling of assets and operations, failure to adhere to corporate formalities, all resulting in injustice to Portola and the public,” the lawsuit says.  
Per the latest version of its lease, signed in 2018, Spa on the Plaza is required to pay a base rent of \$9,085 per month with annual increases of up to 15 percent, depending on changes in the consumer price index, according to the suit, and the Spa is also responsible for paying Portola 2 percent of its “gross receipts for each calendar quarter.”  
But 18 months ago, the lawsuit says, Malcolm and Shaw stopped paying the latter percentage and have repeatedly refused to share their financial books. The hotel has demanded a jury trial set for March 17, 2026, when, represented by attorney Marco Lucido with Fenton & Keller, Portola will seek to terminate its lease with the spa, evict the spa from the premises and receive payment for back rent, attorney fees and “damages in an amount to be proven,” the suit says.  
Malcolm is also the owner-operator of The Spa at the InterContinental hotel on Cannery Row, as well as co-proprietor of a luxury vacation rental in Vermont with Shaw, “a five-star property refurbishment specialist and lifestyle-wellness consultant,” according to that website.

Help protect The Pine Cone’s future!  
**Subscribe • Read • Advertise**

# North Pole AT THE BARNYARD



## Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

11AM SANTA ARRIVES ON A FIRETRUCK !!

\*NEAR PATRICK JAMES / ALLEGRO'S\*

NOON-3PM VISIT WITH SANTA, HOLIDAY CRAFTS,  
+ PICK UP A GAME CARD FOR A CHANCE TO WIN PRIZES !!

# HAGEN

C A R M E L , C A

## MENS LUXURY CLOTHING

# WAREHOUSE SALE

DECEMBER 5, 6 & 7

FRI - SAT - SUN | 10AM - 5PM



## OUR SEMI-ANNUAL SALE IS BACK!

SPORT & DRESS SHIRTS \$29<sup>&UP</sup>

ORIGINALLY UP TO \$325

SWEATERS & KNITS \$49<sup>&UP</sup>

ORIGINALLY UP TO \$495

SPORT COATS \$199<sup>&UP</sup>

ORIGINALLY UP TO \$995

OUTERWEAR 75% OFF

ORIGINALLY UP TO \$1995

DIRECTIONS



ADDRESS

73 W CV Road #E19  
east of the community park  
just before the Village

portion of proceeds go to  
Meals on Wheels

BENEFITTING



MEALS ON WHEELS  
OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA



# Man who lived in treatment center gets prison for taking food stamps

By KELLY NIX

A SALINAS man who was fed three meals per day in a drug treatment facility has pleaded guilty to receiving more than \$10,000 in food stamps and other welfare benefits. He faces up to six years in prison when sentenced early next year.

On Nov. 19 in Salinas, Robert Carmona, 54, pleaded guilty to welfare fraud and perjury for obtaining public assistance benefits for which he was not eligible. The crimes are felonies.

Carmona “stole \$12,079 from the public by fraudulently obtaining welfare benefits, to wit, \$9,524 for CalWorks [cash aid for caring for minors] and \$2,555 for CalFresh [food stamps] from January 2024 through January 2025,” according to a criminal complaint filed against him in Monterey County Superior Court.

### ‘Repeatedly lied’

Carmona, who has been a driver for Goodwill since March 2024 and earned about \$1,400 every two weeks, was not eligible to receive benefits because he was getting room and board at Salinas drug centers Sun Street Centers and Turning Point of Central California, where he was fed three meals daily.

“This arrangement made him ineligible for CalFresh benefits,” prosecutors

said last week. “In addition, because these facilities did not permit him to live with his minor son, he was also ineligible for CalWorks benefits on behalf of his son.”

Despite being ineligible, Carmona applied for the benefits numerous times, falsely claiming he was homeless and living in a vehicle with his son, despite being employed by Goodwill, according to the case, which was investigated by district attorney investigator Isabelle Rhodes and the Monterey County Welfare Fraud Special Investigations Unit.

He will receive two years in prison for fraud and another four years and eight months behind bars for violating his terms of probation in

other criminal cases, including having illegal drugs while in possession of a loaded firearm and being a felon in possession of a firearm, court documents show.

Carmona is set to be sentenced Jan. 9, 2026. Monterey County Superior Court Judge Andrew G. Liu will preside over the hearing.

The district attorney’s office said it’s “committed to identifying and prosecuting individuals who defraud” the public.

To report suspected fraud to the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office, call (831) 755-3224 or email reportfraud@countyofmonterey.gov.



Robert Carmona

# ROOMS WITH VIEWS



4 Beds ■ 3.5 Baths ■ 2,600 Sq. Ft. ■ 9,400 Sq. Ft. Lot  
\$5,998,000 | [www.1209OceanView.com](http://www.1209OceanView.com)



J. Profeta  
*Pro is in My DNA*

JUDIE PROFETA 831.601.3207

Managing Director & Broker Associate | DRE#00703550  
[Judie@TheProfetaTeam.com](mailto:Judie@TheProfetaTeam.com) ■ [www.TheProfetaTeam.com](http://www.TheProfetaTeam.com)



CARMEL REALTY COMPANY  
ESTABLISHED 1913

BOARD OF REGENTS  
WHO'S WHO IN LUXURY REAL ESTATE

The Pine Cone has been a member of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce for more than 100 years.



# HAPPY Holidays

To show our appreciation to our clients and the communities we serve, Pinnacle Bank is proud to support local nonprofit organizations and help spread holiday joy to those in need.

Serving Monterey, San Benito and Santa Clara Counties.

Member FDIC SBA Preferred Provider

## PINNACLE BANK

PREMIER BUSINESS BANKING VALLEY TO VALLEY

(888) 485-7050 • [www.pinnacle.bank](http://www.pinnacle.bank)





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.

Hiring for all areas

Bartenders, bussers, cashiers, cooks, housekeepers,  
servers, shuttle drivers, stewards, retail sales,  
valets, and many more!

Please apply to the AT&T Job Fair Application at  
[pebblebeach.com/careers](http://pebblebeach.com/careers)

*Please come prepared to provide proof  
of employment eligibility.*

Questions: (831) 649-7657

Panetta calls Trump administration  
‘pathetic’ over talk of sedition

By CHRIS COUNTS

THERE’S A debate raging over what constitutes sedition in the United States, and after President Donald Trump called six Democrat lawmakers “traitors” for asking service members to “refuse illegal orders,” Congressman Jimmy Panetta blasted the administration Nov. 25.

“This is pathetic and demonstrates this administration’s insecurities and corruption,” said Panetta, a former U.S. Navy intelligence officer who completed a tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2007. “One cannot and should not be charged for reiterating what every service member is taught in the Uniform Code of Military Justice.”

The controversy began when six Democrat lawmakers — Sens. Elissa Slotkin and Mark Kelly, and Reps. Maggie Goodlander, Jason Crow, Chris Deluzio and Chrissy Houlahan — posted an 89-second video on X Nov. 16 urging service members to defy “illegal” orders, although none

gave details about the illegal orders they might be given. They also didn’t cite any that the Trump administration has issued. Each previously served in the military or worked for an intelligence agency.

“Our laws are clear,” Kelly said. “You can refuse illegal orders.”

The video ends with all six urging service members and members of the intelligence community to “not give up the ship,” a rallying cry made famous by Capt. James Lawrence during the War of 1812.

Was it a crime?

Trump responded with a post on Truth Social Nov. 22, arguing that the “traitors” who appeared in the video “should be in jail right now, not roaming the fake news networks trying to explain what they said was OK.”

“It was sedition at the highest level, and sedition is a major crime,” the president

See **PATHETIC** page 28A

Shoulder-tapping sting nets three

By MARY SCHLEY

THE MONTEREY County Sheriff’s Office and California Alcoholic Beverage Control collaborated Sunday on an effort to catch adults buying alcohol for underage drinkers, ultimately arresting three people in Salinas, according to Cmdr. Andy Rosas.

He explained how such an operation works.

“A minor under the direct supervision of law enforcement stands outside of a liquor or convenience store and asks customers to buy them alcohol,” Rosas said. “The minor also indicates they are underage and cannot purchase the alcohol.”

The Nov. 30 operation resulted in three arrests: 31-year-old Albaro Politron, 29-year-old Ramon Reina Hernandez, and Michael Robert Benabides, age 55, all of Salinas.

According to the sheriff’s office records department, they were not booked into county jail but were issued citations to appear in court on a certain date. An adult who agrees to buy liquor, beer, wine or whatever for the decoy can be arrested and cited under the California Penal Code, and conviction mandates a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

See **ALCOHOL** page 30A

“Are there still cardiologists out there who  
talk to you instead of their computers?”



Before we listen to your heart, we listen to you.

We created Golden State Heart & Vascular to deliver the personalized care patients deserve. We offer the advanced, comprehensive services you might expect from a major medical center — close to home — and without the red tape and long wait.

Our experts make sure you don’t feel rushed or go home with more questions than you had coming in. You can count on us for the gold standard in cardiovascular care, including:

- Experts at the top of their field
- Hassle-free scheduling without the typical wait
- Innovative treatments, some of which were pioneered by our physicians

Learn more at [gshav.com](http://gshav.com) or call for an appointment.



Golden State  
HEART & VASCULAR

MONTEREY  
831-717-4687  
2 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 160

SALINAS  
831-646-8346  
1260 S. Main Street, Suite 202

Additional offices in  
BURLINGAME  
LOS GATOS  
MOUNTAIN VIEW  
WATSONVILLE



Joy to



the World

SPREAD HOLIDAY JOY

*The*  
**CROSSROADS**  
CARMEL



THECROSSROADSCARMEL.COM

HWY 1 @ RIO RD, CARMEL, CA 93923 831.625.4106





SHE

•CLOTHING

•HANDBAGS

•ACCESSORIES

•JEWELRY

•SHOES

•GIFTS



110 CROSSROADS BLVD, CARMEL

COME VISIT OUR SECOND LOCATION AT

224 CROSSROADS BLVD, CARMEL

(831) 626-4686

TAKE PHOTOS  
WITH MRS. CLAUS



Please join us for

YAPPY  
HOUR

& pop-up Dog Bar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

4 PM TO 6 PM

LIVE MUSIC • COSTUME CONTEST

BEER • WINE • TEQUILA TASTING • LIGHT BITES

DOGS  
ROCK!!



236 Crossroads Boulevard. Carmel

650-823-3315 • [www.dogmafit.com](http://www.dogmafit.com)

HOME | ALCHEMY

Carmel Ca

120 Crossroads Blvd | Carmel CA 93923

831|574|8467

@ home.alchemy.carmel



Unique Gifts | Home Accents | Candles | Seasonal Decor

Jewelry | Children's Gifts | Body Care

Salon

Now offering  
MEN'S BARBERING.

All fade varieties and  
beard trimming.

HAIR BOTOX

A new formaldehyde-free hair  
smoothing system leaving hair  
more manageable.

BELLA MI HAIR  
EXTENSIONS.

Offering all varieties.  
Custom color and  
texture matching.

EVENT UPDOS  
AND STYLING.

Book your holiday looks now.

Gift Cards  
Available

112 CROSSROADS BOULEVARD, CARMEL | 831-620-0288

The

CROSSROADS

CARMEL

HWY 1 @ RIO RD, CARMEL, CA 93923 831.625.4106



# MOPANE at the Crossroads



## NURTURING BONDS, EXPANDING OUR REACH

**Join us for a Special Silent Auction Fundraising Event!**

**Saturday, December 13th • 1-4pm**

Harmony at Home strives to end the cycle of violence and abuse by empowering children, young adults, and their families with the skills and confidence to lead healthy, productive lives.

**Come support this local non-profit.**

*Enjoy delicious treats from Sama Delights, wine from Morgan Winery and enter a Special Raffle.*

**Mopane.org**

200 Crossroads Blvd, Carmel





# PEACE OF MIND DELIVERED ON TIME

→ Money back guarantee\* at no extra cost

→ UPS® Air shipping anywhere in the U.S.

→ Exclusively at The UPS Store® retail locations

**831-266-4200**

Carmel • Mid Valley • Monterey • Pacific Grove • Seaside



# THE UPS STORE®

\*Visit theupsstore.com/airguarantee for full details.  
Copyright © 2025 The UPS Store, Inc. All rights reserved.



Your taste buds will sing joyful carols in gratitude.  
visit our store at The Crossroads Carmel or online at lulas.com

store hours:  
Mon-Sat:10-5 Sun:11-5

831.655.8527  
www.lulas.com

The Crossroads Carmel  
244 Crossroads Blvd.

Give the gift  
...of mystery



RIVER  
HOUSE  
BOOKS



208 Crossroad Blvd, Carmel | 831-626-2665

extraordinary.

Find something **WONDERFUL** and so much more!

  [THECROSSROADSCARMEL.COM](https://www.thecrossroadscarmel.com)



# IT’S NOT YOUR USUAL KIND OF HOLIDAY CRAWL

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

**PUB CRAWLS** are common. Santa-themed pub crawls are even more common this time of year. But a crawl to places selling used books? Who’d have thought that was a thing?

Turns out, it is. The Holiday Used Book Crawl set for Dec. 4-7 will offer bibliophiles plenty of chances to find the right gifts for their kind at venues in Carmel, Monterey, Marina and Pacific Grove. The event benefits local public libraries.

“Shop gently used books in popular genres for adults and children,” organizers said. “Enjoy seasonal nibbles

and pick up gift certificates — perfect for holiday giving.”

On Dec. 4 from 3 to 5 p.m. and Dec. 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Sunset Center book room, which is run by the nonprofit Friends of Harrison Memorial Library and is located at San Carlos and 10th, will be open for shopping, and the Friends of the Marina Library will hold its sale in the library at 190 Seaside Circle, Dec. 5-6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

On Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the community room in Monterey Public Library at 625 Pacific St. will have books for sale, and Pacific Grove Library’s supporters will set up shop in St. Mary’s by-the-Sea at 146 12th St., Dec. 4-5 from 10 a.m. to noon and Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



- **CARPET**
- **AREA RUGS**
- **HARDWOOD/ LVP**
- **VINYL**
- **CORK**

- **UPHOLSTERY**
- **SAND & REFINISH**
- **MOTORIZED SHADES**
- **FABRIC**
- **VALANCES**

**GRAND AVENUE FLOORING & INTERIORS**  
314 GRAND AVE, PACIFIC GROVE

**831-372-0521**

Support The Pine Cone by supporting our advertisers!

# P.G. hires outside firm to find ways to make \$\$

By KELLY NIX

**THE PACIFIC** Grove City Council has approved paying a consultant more than \$140,000 of taxpayers’ money to come up with ways to collect more from taxpayers.

Pacific Grove is seeking to boost its funds and reduce expenses due to what it says are lower-than-expected revenues and projected deficit spending. The city and council are eyeing ideas, including a ballot measure, to make up for the shortfalls.

On Nov. 19, the council hired consultant Props & Measures to poll P.G. residents and conduct a “feasibility study” to determine citizens’ “tax tolerance,” their priorities for public funding, and how the economy might affect the city’s chances of passing a ballot measure seeking more tax money.

If the study and polling show that a revenue-generating ballot measure is a good idea, Props & Measures, with help from subconsultant True North, would “build broad community consensus” for the measure and “mount a strategic advocacy campaign to secure the votes needed to win on Election Day,” Props & Measures promised.

The consultant will also find out how the “projects” the council wants to fund — including infrastructure and public safety — “stack up versus residents’ priorities.”

## ‘Especially concerning’

In a report to the council, city finance analyst Nick Cina pointed to polling — similar to the type Props & Measures will undertake — that Pacific Grove conducted in 2007 and 2016.

“That information was very valuable in understanding what residents value and view as needed in P.G.,” Cina said. “The input was used when the city council considered later efforts to allocate budget funds and seek additional revenue opportunities to meet the community’s desires.”

The consulting services will cost taxpayers \$141,530.

Props & Measures also promised to ask citizens about raising the pay for the city council. But after councilmembers in May gave themselves a 130 percent pay hike to significant public criticism, the group Transparent Pacific Grove led a successful citizen referendum to challenge the raise — something noted by former city councilman and group leader Luke Coletti in a Nov. 29 letter to the city.

“As you know, Pacific Grove voters recently rejected

See **MONEY** page 29A



Put your trust in the local Doctor who specializes in "All Laser" LASIK

**SEEING IS BELIEVING**

"ALL LASER" LASIK is one of the most popular eye correction surgeries in the world, designed to correct nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism using a combination of two different lasers. Selecting the right eye care professional for your eyes is an important task especially when it comes to surgery. **DR. PHILIP PENROSE** at Eye M.D. Monterey is the most experienced local

doctor to perform "All Laser" LASIK surgeries. He will do a complete assessment of your eye health to determine your vision needs and if you are a good candidate for this procedure. **EYE M.D. MONTEREY** provides an intimate setting, providing compassionate, high quality eye care. We also carry a large selection of designer eyewear and sunglasses. [Come see for yourself.](#)

**Committed to the Health of Your Eyes**

**EYE M.D. MONTEREY** at Ryan Ranch  
21 Upper Ragsdale Dr. / Suite 201  
Monterey, CA 93940  
831.324.4730



**EYE M.D. MONTEREY** on Cass  
880 Cass St. / Suite 105  
Monterey, CA 93940  
831.373.0183



eyemdmonterey.com

EYE EXAMS | REFRACTIVE CATARACT SURGERY | LASIK | PRK | GLAUCOMA TREATMENT | COUTURE VISION OPTICAL

**Private Caregiver/CNA**

10 years experience  
Former career in Neurology, Oncology, Pain Management  
Alzheimer/Dementia Certification from Alzheimer’s Association  
College Educated  
CPR/First Aid Training

**Linda Hindemit**, CF member  
**920-840-1395**  
**Monterey**

**Welcoming New Customers**



- **No Long Waiting Time**
- **Prescriptions Filled in 15 minutes\***
- **Accepting Most Medicare Part D Plans**
- **Same Day Delivery • Accepts Tricare**
- **Pet Prescriptions**

Over 100 Years of Service  
Still Locally Owned & Operated

**CARMEL DRUG STORE**  
Ocean Ave. & San Carlos, Carmel  
**831.624.3819**  
**www.CarmelDrugStoreRX.com**  
Pharmacy Hours: 9am-6pm Mon-Fri  
Store Hours: 8am-10pm • 7 Days a Week



# SURPASS EXPECTATIONS

Paragons of performance and style, Sub-Zero, Wolf and Cove appliances surpass even the most elevated expectations. Please visit your nearest Built-In Distributor's showroom located in either Seaside or Santa Cruz to build your dream kitchen.

*Happy Holidays*



**Built-In Distributors**  
[www.bidappliance.com](http://www.bidappliance.com)

Seaside: 2024 Fremont Blvd. Seaside, CA 93955  
Santa Cruz: 1521 Soquel Ave. Santa Cruz, CA 95062





# Cuddles can make finals more tolerable

By ELAINE HESSER

**FINAL EXAMS.** Even people who haven’t had to take one in decades may have that nightmare where they show up for a test only to realize they haven’t attended a single class.

Exam week can be nerve-wracking — and what students need is a moment of zen to shrug off the weight of responsibility and embrace simple joys, like the warmth of a sunbeam. Ideally, this would come with guidance from a sagacious elder like Deacon, River or Beau. After all, who rises above stress better than a cat?

And these fellows are more experienced than most — Beau and Deacon are 14, and River is 10. They live with adoptive parents Gail, Judith and Michael, and Arlene, and they came to their homes via Golden Oldies Cat Rescue. The trio’s arrival to see students at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey on Dec. 4 may have made finals hairier, but in the best possible way.

The nonprofit’s founder and executive director, Margaret Slaby, said this will be the fourth time Golden Oldies will go to MIIS. “We first visited in December 2024 to de-stress students during finals week,” she said, and they returned this year in May and November.

### Prioritizing purrs

Golden Oldies, founded in 2016, helps cats 6 years and older who are in shelters or whose guardians can no longer care for them. Many come to the organization after an elderly owner has become incapacitated or died. Among its other programs are “Seniors Saving Seniors,” which matches older cats to similarly aging humans.

For visits to MIIS, each cat gets his own room, and they hang out for a couple of hours with their human housemates while students come by to meet them. They share a space where warm hearts are more important than well-crafted essays, and a soft purr and some lap kneading temporarily supersede the quest for a stellar transcript.

### Equanimity, dedication

River has a lot to communicate about serenity under pressure. Found abandoned under a bridge in Greenfield, he had damaged eyes and broken teeth. Eventually, both eyes and the bad teeth were removed, and he was nursed back to health by a foster parent. Even though he’s blind, River’s pretty “chill,” as Slaby put it. He made his first visit to MIIS less than a month after his adoption, attends the nonprofit’s board meetings, and, showing his more refined and elegant side, recently attended the group’s Mad Catter fundraising tea party.

Beau and Deacon are also repeat guests at MIIS. “It’s often hard for us to find any of our cats who are OK with this level of interaction. These three adopted cats do very well,” said Slaby.

Having felines express gratitude for human love isn’t unheard of, but you don’t often see them giving back to a community like these gentlemen. To learn

more and see adoptable cats or make a donation, visit [gocatrescue.org](http://gocatrescue.org).



Clockwise from top left: River, age 10, and Beau and Deacon, 14, provide a special exam-week service to students at MIIS, who say the chill felines help take the edge off the pressure of finals.

PHOTO/COURTESY GOLDEN OLDIES CAT RESCUE





THE  
**DEBBY BECK**  
GROUP

BROKER ASSOCIATE  
831.915.9710  
DEBBYBECKREALTOR@GMAIL.COM  
DRE 01747647

**COMPASS**

**520 LIGHTHOUSE AVENUE UNIT 301 | PACIFIC GROVE**



PENTHOUSE | 2 BEDROOM | 2.5 BATH | 2,408 SQ FT | \$3,999,000

**114 HACIENDA CARMEL | CARMEL**



2 BEDROOM | 2 BATH | 910 SQ FT | \$899,000

**THEDEBBYBECKGROUP.COM**





powered by **honor**

**Your goal is to stay at home. We can help.**

**Turn to us for more than caregiving.**

- 24-Hour Care and Companionship
- Bathing/Dressing/Grooming Assistance
- Incontinence Care
- Transportation/Shopping Services
- Meal Preparation/Light Housekeeping

- Assistance with Cognitive Changes
- Medication Reminders
- Geriatric Care Management
- Community Resources Assistance
- Pet Care Assistance, and much more...

**Call us at 831 | 649-3363**

**[www.centralcoastseniorservices.com](http://www.centralcoastseniorservices.com)**

CA License #274700016



**Tickets are on sale now.**

Visit our website to purchase

The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual

**CHRISTMAS IN THE ADOBES**

**December 12-13, 2025 | 5 - 9pm**

For two enchanting nights, the city’s historic adobes glow with the warmth of brightly lit luminarias, adding holiday décor, festive music and refreshments to the mix. Guests will stroll through over twenty historic sites, many of which are open exclusively for this event, and experience the stories of California’s earliest days.

Info & tickets available at [www.MSHPA.org](http://www.MSHPA.org)

Monterey State Historic Park Association and California State Parks invite community members and visitors alike to step back in time for a beloved holiday tradition.



Angel Image Courtesy City of Monterey - Erica Franke, 1957





# Demolition of Pit parking garage begins

By MARY SCHLEY

WITH THE Carmel Foundation’s work at Dolores and Fifth completed, Ausonio Construction moved out, and a major firm, Swenson Builders, moved in this week to begin demolishing the partially built parking garage that’s created an eyesore since the property’s former owners ran out of money and stopped construction in 2019.

The 16,000-square-foot property bordered by the foundation’s Hazeltine Court apartment building to the west and the Carmel Art Association to the south earned the name, “The Pit,” after Leidig/Draper Properties stopped work in March 2019, leaving a big hole that was supposed to become the garage for their large mixed-use project. Later that year, foundation and art association representatives said the digging had damaged their buildings, including making one of the Hazeltine apartments unsafe.

Leidig/Draper ended up selling to Patrice Pastor in 2020 for \$9 million, and, after numerous hearings and redesigns, his local firm, Esperanza Carmel, received approval from the planning commission for the mixed-use Ulrika Plaza project in August 2023. A demolition permit was finally issued in August, but that process couldn’t begin until the foundation’s repairs, including installing piers to support its sagging complex, were finished.

### Insurance \$\$\$

“The shoring-up is done, now we are getting architectural drawings for the stairs to the upstairs apartment that was red-tagged,” the foundation’s executive director, Kim Stemler, said Tuesday. “But it should all be done within the month — fingers crossed.”

She also said the nonprofit — which used its own funds to pay for the work — has “yet to receive any settlement monies from Leidig/Draper’s insurance company, but we have a mediation set up in January, so hopefully this will all be done soon.”

Meanwhile, the neighbor to the south, the Carmel Art Association, is also in the process of raising money to repair the damage to its property and has similarly been contending with the former owners and their insurance company.

Last week, the city’s planning department issued permits allowing the contractor to install new fencing and block parking spaces on Fifth Avenue for a construction trailer and portable toilet, and work began this week.

### Dump trucks

According to the construction management plan submitted by Esperanza and approved in August, demolition will involve cutting and removing the concrete slab, columns and perimeter concrete walls, with trucks hauling debris out along a prescribed path that mostly follows the truck route but includes parts of Fifth. Sixth, Dolores and San Carlos. The process is expected to take up to two months and will include removing several trees and shrubs that have sprung up and grown on the site over the past six years.

Future phases that will be addressed in a separate construction management plan submitted with the full building permit application include construction of the complex’ superstructure (estimated at four to six months), exterior construction (two to four months), interior build-out (two to four months) and landscaping and site paving (one to two months), the document notes.

According to the plans approved by the planning commission more than two years ago, at its tallest point, the complex reaches the 30-foot height limit imposed by the code, and the buildings have a total of 22,443 square feet

See **THE PIT** page 25A





Nic + Zoe    Habitat  
MARBLE    JAG  
HOB0    Lysse  
INSIGHT    NYDJ

Jewelry, accessories,  
local artisans and more!

VICTORIUS offers a thoughtful, diverse selection of leading ladies fashions and accessories to enhance a woman’s unique style in a friendly, comfortable environment.

Come in and be delightfully surprised and receive 10% OFF your purchase by mentioning this ad!



211 Forest Ave. | Pacific Grove, CA 93950 | (831) 655-2422  
www.victoriuspacificgrove.com



Just Sold



Open Saturday | 11-1

38 Country Club Gate, Pacific Grove

2 BD | 2 BA | 1,567 SF | \$1,495,000 | Represented Sellers



Open Saturday | 1-3



Just Reduced

8 & 9 Palou NW of Casanova, Carmel

2 homes, 2 Lots | 9,663 Total Lot Sq Ft | \$5,850,000

461 Dela Vina Ave #209, Monterey

2 BD | 1 BA | 970 SF | \$615,000



**Staples Gannaway Team**

Boutique Service. Local Experts. Compass Technology.

<b>Charlotte Gannaway</b>	<b>Dillon Staples</b>	<b>Nicollette Eason Trottier</b>
831.297.2388	831.915.8030	831.595.0009
DRE 01880765	DRE 02127946	DRE 02074629

staplesgannaway.com

\*Per M.S. data for Monterey County 09/03/2025. Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01827235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawn may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

COMPASS





Downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea



Carmel Plaza's  
**HOLIDAY  
OPEN HOUSE**  
Following the City of Carmel's  
Tree Lighting Ceremony

**Friday, December 5th**  
5:00 - 7:00 PM

- ★ Live Music & Entertainment
- ★ Delectable Treats
- ★ Visit with Santa
- ★ Children's Activities
- ★ And More!



Ocean Ave & Mission St | Carmel-by-the-Sea | 831.624.0138 | CarmelPlaza.com

 facebook.com/shopcarmelplaza  @carmelplaza

The Pine Cone’s email edition: Complete local news without pop-ups, click bait, pay walls or banner ads — and we don’t even harvest your data.

Subscribe at <https://carmelpinecone.com/subscribe.html>



# Rerig feted at final council meeting

## ■ Council OKs contract with interim

By MARY SCHLEY

CHIP RERIG participated in his final Carmel City Council meeting Tuesday, when he was showered with praise and accolades from community leaders, residents and colleagues. Rerig, who came to lead the city nearly a decade ago, is leaving at the end of the month to move to Bologna, Italy, with his wife and daughter, who is attending school there.

At the end of the five-and-a-half-hour meeting, the council also OK'd a contract with assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson to replace Rerig on an acting basis starting Dec. 23 at an annual salary of \$254,392, plus benefits. The rate marks a \$9,464.51 increase in Swanson's pay.

Mayor Dale Byrne read a proclamation from the council acknowledging Rerig's contributions to the city over the past several decades, when he worked in the planning department, left to serve in Monterey, and then returned in 2016 in the wake of former Carmel city administrator Jason Stilwell's tumultuous reign.

"As city administrator, Chip has led with

steadiness, professionalism, humor and genuine care for everyone, guiding Carmel-by-the-Sea through extraordinary challenges while protecting the city's finances, stabilizing operations, and rebuilding staff capacity," the proclamation reads.

**'Deeply grateful'**

Carmel has been close to Rerig's heart since he arrived on the Monterey Peninsula after obtaining his master's degree in environmental land use planning from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1997. Previously, he worked for The Nature Conservancy in Washington D.C., from 1988 to 1993, and had a small environmental consulting firm in Santa Barbara from 1993 to 1995.

He worked in Carmel's planning department from 1997 to 2003, rising to the rank of department head, before leaving to be principal planner, and then chief of planning, engineering and environmental compliance, for the City of Monterey.

"The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea is deeply grateful for Chip's extraordinary service, his calm and thoughtful leadership, his commitment to strengthening city hall, and the lasting positive impact he has made on the city," the proclamation says.

Similar sentiments from numerous

community leaders followed.

Amy Herzog, executive director of the city's tourism agency, Visit Carmel, kicked off the deluge, acknowledging his "invaluable service as a member of the Visit Carmel board for the past seven years."

"Chip is deeply respected by our board, not only for his experience, but for the steady, thoughtful balance he always brings to our conversations," she said at the Dec. 2 meeting. "He has an exceptional ability to represent the full breadth of our community — businesses and residents, alike — always grounding his recommendations in what would best serve the whole of Carmel-by-the-Sea."

She praised his leadership, morale boosting, understanding, and calm and clear decision-making.

"Chip has always understood the importance of the city's voice in shaping our destination marketing strategy, and he championed that partnership with consistency and care.

"We often joked about his lack of enthusiasm for social media — or his outsized reaction whenever a travel writer falsely insisted we have 'cobblestone streets' — but Chip knows this town better than anyone," she said. "He understands its culture, its character, its values and its heart."

And on a personal level, Herzog said she would miss her advisor, her colleague and her dear friend.

Carmel Chamber of Commerce board member Sygale Lomas said the business



PHOTO/COURTESY NANCY TWOMEY

Mayor Dale Byrne (left) presents a proclamation to city administrator Chip Rerig, who is retiring.

organization is grateful for Rerig's "exceptional leadership, steadfast partnership and unwavering commitment."

She said his "guidance, collaboration and dedication have strengthened our city and enriched the work of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce."

Representatives of Carmel-by-the-Sea Rotary, Sunset Center and Carmel Unified School District, as well as former Mayor Ken White and lifelong resident Cindy

See **RERIG** page 29A



## WE PICKED THE WORST TIME OF YEAR TO HAVE A FLOORING SALE.

You're welcome.

We know your mind is on turkey, tinsel, and travel plans — not new floors. But that's exactly why we're doing this now. Fewer crowds, better deals, and more one-on-one help from our flooring pros. Premium hardwood, carpet, vinyl, laminate, and more — all marked down for a limited time. It might not be the season for flooring, but it's definitely the season for savings.

414 Adams Street | 831.394.2700



## Need a Tech Pro? I Can Help!

Computer/Phone/TV/Printer troubleshooting & setup, subscription management, website development, negotiating & lowering internet & TV bills, anti-virus, password recovery & more!



- On-site
- References available

Contact Michael at (831) 204-9812

Ladyfingers JEWELRY

an award winning gallery of fine designer jewelry • since 1977

presents

marcel roelofs

Abracadabra --- it is that easy!

Transform your pearls from ordinary to extraordinary. Discover the detachable and "interchangeable" clasps by Marcel Roelofs.



personal appearance & trunk show  
DEC. 12 & 13, 2025: 11:00 to 5:00

Ladyfingers Jewelry

on Dolores near Ocean • Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA • 831.624.2327

www.ladyfingersjewelry.com







MONTEREY SPORTS CENTER

# GIVE THE GIFT OF FITNESS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



# 20% OFF MEMBERSHIPS

NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 31

GIVE THE GIFT OF FITNESS TO YOURSELF AND  
YOUR LOVED ONES THIS YEAR! 20% OFF  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS AND NEW MONTHLY  
AUTOPAY SUBSCRIPTIONS.  
(FIRST MONTH ONLY)

SCAN TO PURCHASE





# ADDRESSES

From page 1A

so have increased.

In October, the council instigated the historic shift following a committee’s exhaustive six-month effort to research how a new system could be developed and implemented, and the Dec. 2 vote marked the first legislative step. The revised ordinance states, “Buildings and parcels shall be identified by the address identification requirements of the California Building Standards Code,” including having legible “Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters” visible from the street.

Councilman Bob Delves, who headed the address committee, said the group conferred with law enforcement, the U.S. Postal Service and numerous county agencies on a

potential addressing system, which he described.

Buildings on the west and north sides of streets will have odd numbers, while those on the east and south sides will have even numbers.

Numbers would start at the north end and the west side of the city, increasing each block as they head south and east.

Because the blocks running north-south tend to be longer — typically containing 10 lots apiece — their numbers would increase by 100. For instance, houses between Fourth and Fifth avenues would have three-digit addresses starting with 4. After the 900s, the addresses would shift to four digits.

Heading from the ocean inland, blocks would increase by increments of 50, since they are shorter. “We just don’t need that many numbers,” Delves explained.

Diagonal streets like Mountain View will be assigned north-south or east-west orientations based on various

factors, and corner houses will have addresses based on where their front doors are located.

In addition, all the addresses along each side of a street will end in the same number, such as on Monte Verde, where each will end in 1 on the west side and 2 on the east side.

“The postal service wants us to do something like that to reduce the number of identical numbers on adjacent streets,” he said. Further, assigning numbers in such an orderly fashion could help someone identify a building that lacks a posted address by looking at the numbers on either side.

It would not affect people in the annexed areas of the city that already have house numbers and are not in the 93921 Zip Code. Each assessor’s parcel number, of which there are around 3,300, will be assigned one number.

“It would be our strong recommendation that this is the system we should implement,” Delves said.



# Celebrate Together



- Property Management
- Vacation Rental Management
- Small Event Properties
- Sales

Andy Nygard | 831-915-2863  
hauteshelter.com  
Haute Shelter Property Management Inc.  
DRE # 02065719

## County feedback

Delves and Kevin Ruess, a committee member who had a key hand in developing the numbering system, acknowledged it won’t be perfect but said corrections can be made based on feedback from Monterey County officials.

“Building a street address program from scratch is not easy,” commented administrative analyst Emily Garay, the city staffer who worked with the committee and has become a subject-matter expert. “It takes a lot of work, coordination and finding out what we don’t know.”

She described the timeline for getting the system approved and implemented, starting with community outreach and education efforts that will run through January 2026. The city is also planning to create an interactive online map so people can better understand how the numbers are being assigned.

She said the committee set a Dec. 31 target date to complete the process of assigning a number to each APN and differentiating business addresses from residential, and providing the data to Monterey County. The county will take three months to review the information and update its systems at the assessor’s office, emergency communications, elections and elsewhere.

After that, the city will transmit the data to the U.S. Postal Service Address Management System manager, which will perform a batch update that should take a week at most, according to Garay. When that’s done, each property will have a verifiable physical address.

Utility companies will then update their account records, and Google and Apple maps will reflect the new addresses, too. Garay’s timeline estimates the whole process will be complete by May 2026.

She said the city will also go to great lengths to keep

See **NUMBERS** next page



# You're Invited

## HOLIDAY SIP & SHOP PARTY

THURSDAY, DEC. 11TH -AND- THURSDAY, DEC. 18TH  
4-7PM

### AT THE VAGUE COLLECTION

Come shop over a dozen locally-owned businesses, wine tastings, treats & holiday fun for the whole family.

705 LIGHTHOUSE AVE. PACIFIC GROVE

@THEVAGUECOLLECTION



## The Carmel Foundation Celebrates 75 Years of Community

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



As we move into this season of light, community, and reflection, all of us at The Carmel Foundation wish you a loving and magical holiday season. This time of year reminds us how much connection matters—especially for older adults who may be living alone or far from family.

If you’re looking for meaningful ways to support healthy aging on the Monterey Peninsula, there are two wonderful opportunities this month. Giving to The Carmel Foundation through MC Gives! directly strengthens the programs and services that thousands of older adults rely on each year. You can also brighten the holidays for a low-income senior by participating in our Adopt-a-Senior Program. Details for both are available at Carmel-Foundation.org.

A member recently shared,

“It’s a lot more fun being here than it is at home!” That spirit is exactly why we exist. If you’re 55 or better, no matter where you live, you’re invited to join our community. Membership is \$60 a year and opens the door to meals, a variety of programs, camaraderie, support services, and a warm, welcoming place to belong.

We also have two festive celebrations coming up for members: our Christmas Day Prime Rib Dinner and our New Year’s Eve Party featuring the always-wonderful Lee Durley and Joe Indence. Tickets for Christmas are nearly sold out, so sign up soon by calling 831-624-1588 or stopping by for a visit.

From our family to yours, may your holidays be filled with joy, connection, and community.

**carmelfoundation.org | 831-624-1588**  
**SE Corner 8th & Lincoln, Carmel**



# NUMBERS

From previous page

people apprised of the change via ads, legal notices, mailers, workshops, the interactive map and other means.

“There is a need to communicate aggressively and thoroughly, but you can start too soon,” Delves cautioned, because people might try to start using their numbers before they’re actually in effect.

A handful of people spoke at the meeting, none of whom objected to the historic change or the proposed means of bringing it about. Many cheered it.

“I’m on Team Address for all the various reasons,” councilman Hans Buder said, adding that he favors over-communicating.

Councilman Jeff Baron also suggested getting the messages out sooner than later and keeping them going.

“This is such an incredible example of staff working with council members working with commissioners working with residents,” Mayor Dale Byrne commented, and he complimented Garay for all her hard work.

“She owns this subject,” he said.

Pierik advised the council that if the ordinance receives final approval next month, it will take effect in mid-February. If the system isn’t ready for implementation by then, he said, the council can adopt a resolution to avoid any conflict with the new law.

Baron moved approval, Buder offered the second, and the council unanimously voted to adopt the ordinance.

## Treatment center focus of meeting

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A MEETING on a proposed mental health center in Salinas will be held Saturday.

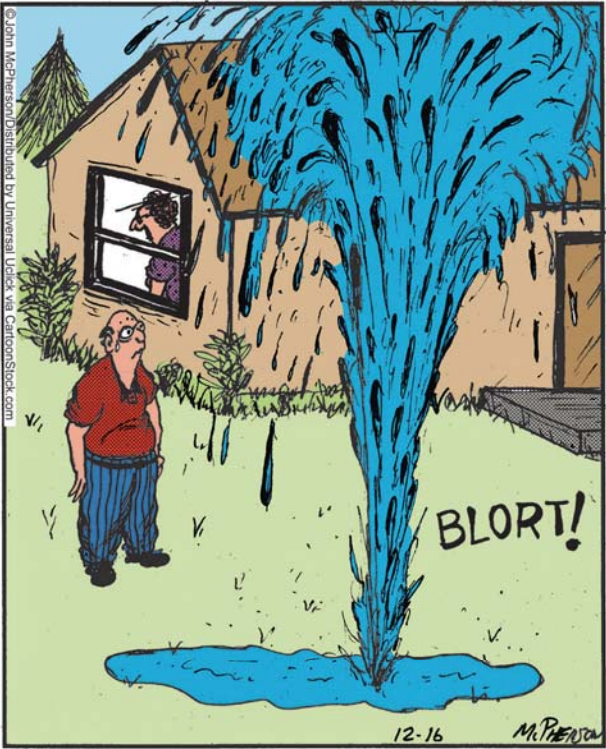
The in-person and virtual “listening session” on Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. in the Whitney Room at the Health Department offices at 1270 Natividad Road, Salinas, will allow

the public to hear about the proposed Mental Health Rehabilitation Center.

“Attendees will learn more about this project, be given an opportunity to ask questions, and share their thoughts,” the Monterey County Health Department explained. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors is expected to discuss the idea next week.



The Holiday's are coming...  
don't let this happen!



“Rick, I think something is wrong with the septic system.  
The toilet is flusing kind of slowly.”

Call PSTS to schedule your maintenance pumping  
MONTEREY PENINSULA  
**831-659-2465**

Use code **HOLIDAY** for \$25.00 off

[www.psts.net](http://www.psts.net)

73 W. Carmel Valley Rd. Unit #28  
Carmel Valley, 93924

St. Contr. Lic. # 494738



Senior, military & 1st responder discounts available

VOTED BEST RESTAURANT IN MONTEREY COUNTY  
BY MONTEREY COUNTY WEEKLY READERS

# Celebrate

## THE NEW YEAR

SERVED BOTH NEW YEAR'S EVE AND NEW YEAR'S DAY  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2025 & THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026  
SERVING FROM 4:30 PM

### Four-Course Prix Fixe

#### SOUP

##### LOBSTER BISQUE

cognac & sherry, crème fraîche, chives

#### SALAD

##### WINTER CAPRESE SALAD

golden beets, mozzarella di bufala, fresh basil leaves, Big Sur sea salt, cracked pepper, Tonda Iblea olive oil, white balsamic pearls

#### CHOICE OF ENTRÉE

##### 14 OZ. ROASTED MAINE LOBSTER TAIL, CLARIFIED BUTTER

garlic-herb roasted Yukon Gold potatoes, sweet corn succotash (add 19)

##### GRILLED GULF PRAWNS, ARUGULA PESTO

wild mushrooms & tomatoes, garlic, smoked trout roe, white wine butter sauce on capellini pasta

##### GREATER OMAHA 50-DAY AGED FILET MIGNON, DEMI SAUCE

truffle potato pavé, truffle pearls, asparagus, fried shallots, red wine veal demi-glace

#### CHOICE OF DESSERT

##### OUR FAMOUS CLASSIC CHERRIES JUBILEE

rich vanilla bean ice cream, flamed warm black cherries, cinnamon, Kirshwasser

##### GODIVA CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE

layers of chocolate cream cheese, chocolate mousse, cocoa & flourless chocolate crust

##### THE PHOENIX'S KISS

chocolate cake, raspberry mousse, white chocolate raspberry glaze, toasted meringue, pistachio streusel, fresh berries, edible flowers

~ \$135 PER PERSON ~

WE WILL ALSO BE SERVING LIMITED A LA CARTE & CHILDREN'S MENUS  
Reservations are recommended

THE SARDINE FACTORY | 701 WAVE STREET, MONTEREY  
FREE PARKING | [sardinefactory.com](http://sardinefactory.com) | 831.373.3775



# PICKLEBALL

From page 1A

allowed additional striping on the courts at the north end of town so more people could play.

Since then, residents near the park have complained of the constant pop-pop sounds and the yelling and cheering of the players, while fans of the game argue that it’s fun, healthy, social — and a perfectly appropriate activity in a park.

### Rules tried

The forest and beach commission grappled with the issue, taking sound measurements and researching ways to reduce the noise, including acoustic fencing. Commissioners a year ago established specific hours and days of play, but some violated those rules, which had no legal enforcement mechanism. When the city council was asked to add them to the code, it instead passed an interim ordinance to temporarily ban the game at the park while further research was done, including visiting other courts with acoustic fencing.

As an alternative to an outright ban, some argued for requiring players to use city-provided soft equipment to reduce noise, but the council decided last month to proceed with the prohibition instead and to find other options for players.

Based on that direction, at the Dec. 2 meeting, city attorney Brian Pierik recommended amending the Carmel Municipal Code to state, “Playing of pickleball and other paddle sports in Forest Hill Park is hereby prohibited. This prohibition does not apply to playing tennis in Forest Hill Park.”

Under the sections that authorize enforcement of the code’s numerous provisions, violators could be cited administratively, or for an infraction or a misdemeanor, with fines up to \$1,000.

After Pierik gave his presentation, Mayor Dale Byrne took stock of the number of people planning to comment and said he would impose a one-minute limit, which evoked protest from the crowd. He ended up agreeing to the standard three-minute cap but asked speakers not to repeat each other. He repeatedly had to ask the group not to applaud and cheer after each comment in support of the sport.

‘Looking stupid’

Not surprisingly, the impending ban evoked vitriol among fans of the game. Brandon Gesicki, a former Carmel resident who attended public schools here and works as a political consultant, issued a press release representing a group calling itself “Pickleball is Not a Crime,” headed by Cara Franklin.

“Carmel’s done a lot of crazy things, but to ban a game, you are a national

embarrassment,” he said at the meeting. Gesicki said whoever is in charge of the city’s public relations “should be fired” and suggested councilmembers are ill-equipped to make such a decision since “a lot of you are not from here.”

If they were, he said, “you would understand our culture.”

“A park has park activities, so before you take this vote, know this is going to go international,” he said, asking if the council’s goal was “to be an international embarrassment.”

And the group he represents is willing to lawyer up. “You’re going to lose in court, and you’re going to end up looking stupid,” Gesicki predicted.

### ‘Be embarrassed’

Santa Fe Street resident Loren Hughes said he’s lived in Monterey County for more than 50 years and in Carmel for 14 — “which I think is more than most of you.”

“Now we move to the fact that each of you individually should be embarrassed for caving to the demands of four or five entitled, relentless people to take a public resource away from the population,” he said. “We’re embarrassed as a city as well, we’re on local news, national news,” for being the first community in the state to ban the game.

Other fans argued the city should provide more data about noise and alleged rules violations, and should again turn to acoustic fencing, limited hours and other solutions, as similar communities have done. Several pickleballers said they’ve compromised and that the council should, too.

Monta Potter, former CEO of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce, said she started playing the game in retirement and has enjoyed the physical fitness and meeting people.

“I can’t understand why you can’t come up with a compromise,” she said.

“There are lots of Carmel-by-the-Sea residents who play pickleball, and there are a lot of people who want to play with their friends.”

Several residents defended their desire to see the game prohibited in the park and complained the noise is intrusive even when their windows and doors are closed.

Joe DiNucci, who lives in town but not near the courts, pointed out that “Carmel did not ban pickleball — it only banned it in one place.” He also said the idea that only five residents have brought on the prohibition is inaccurate.

“I hope you will work with the pickleball fans to find a place for pickleball which is somewhere other than Forest Hill Park,” he said.

### Get off my lawn

Councilmembers were sympathetic but were not inclined to change course.

“It does have a little bit of a, ‘Get off my lawn,’ flavor to it,” councilman Hans Buder acknowledged, adding that he’s

considered installing a basketball hoop in his driveway, but worries his neighbors will object to the noise.

And while he’d still like to see quiet equipment as an option, “If someone can’t write an email or read a book in their living room without getting an intrusive ‘pop,’ I have to do something about that as a councilmember,” he said.

Councilman Jeff Baron remarked that the city has received evidence of people breaking the rules — including a group that played after dark by using car headlights to illuminate the court — and said acoustic fencing is ineffective and “looks nasty.”

Further, “people said they would not use quiet balls,” he said. “It didn’t seem like there was support for that.”

Councilwoman Alissandra Dramov said the evening’s testimony had not changed her mind.

“This is not the right location for it,” she said. “We have done research showing there are other locations where it’s free to play,” including Carmel Unified School District campuses and Monterey Peninsula College.

“It really comes down to, the residents of Carmel-by-the-Sea come first,” she said. “We have to respect their wishes and their quality of life.”

### ‘Stopped talking to me’

As an avid pickleball player, councilman Bob Delves said the choice was hard.

“I know a lot of you and have played with a lot of you, and unfortunately, some of you have stopped talking to me,” he said, adding that, “pickleball is synonymous with conflict,” and the debate around it has led to insults and aspersions.

“For those of us who play pickleball, there’s no conflict — it’s this joyful gathering of strangers who have become friends. I get it and I understand it,” he continued. “But if you live next to a pickleball court, it’s just ‘pop, pop, pop, pop,’ and whether its 24/7 or three days a week, it’s still there.”

He resented being threatened with legal action and insulted.

“We’ve been called ‘a national embarrassment’ and ‘stupid,’” he said. “I don’t think that’s what this community is about. I don’t think this conflict is going to stop.”

Byrne said everyone on the council works hard, comes prepared and maintains an open mind, but that the only solution to the Forest Hill problem is to find an alternative place for pickleball.

“We’re all sad we’re at this point, but we’re at this point,” he said. “It’s not just the noise, it’s the traffic and congestion. It’s just a very poor location for tennis and pickleball courts, really.”

The council unanimously voted to approve the ban, and after the amended ordinance survives a second reading next month, it will take effect 30 days later. In the meantime, the temporary prohibition remains in effect.

## KATHLEEN ANN DOWNS

April 4, 1955 - November 18, 2025

Kathleen “Acacia” Downs, age 70, passed away surrounded by loved ones at her family home in Carmel Valley, CA.

Kathy was born in San Francisco to parents Julianne and Robert Downs. Their family relocated to Carmel-by-the-sea in 1955, where she was raised alongside her sister Carol. Graduating from Carmel High School in 1973, she traveled and fell in love with Horticulture & Gardening.

Kathy soon met Alan Chadwick, an important early mentor and master biodynamic French intensive method gardener. She studied with him and was his caretaker until his passing at Green Gulch Farm Zen Center in California. Kathy took these teachings with her throughout everything she did in life, sculpting many beautiful gardens around Carmel for over 35 years.

She leaves behind a son, Gabriel Joseph Downs, her sister Carol (Matt) Allaire, nieces Danielle (Bart) Bruno, Larissa (Robert) MacLean and five grand nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held 11AM on Dec 6th, 2025 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1 Forest Knoll Rd. Monterey, CA 93940



## JEAN-CLAUDE MOUTON

Feb. 10, 1941 - Nov. 24, 2025



Thank you to all the people I loved and who made my life complete. My world was big, but this area was part of me, and I was part of it. My wife, Birgit Mouton; my children, Tina Henderson (Jason) and Christopher Mouton (Tiffany); my grandchildren, Aidan Henderson, Alexis Henderson, Tristan Henderson, Tanner Henderson, Mason Mouton, Ian Mouton, and Nora Mouton; and my whole family were my pride and joy.

My latest favorite song was “The Older I Get” by Alan Jackson. It says it all.

# Obituary Notices

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

*You'll be surprised at how low our rates are.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**  
**Anne Papineau (831) 274-8654**  
**anne@carmelpinecone.com**



# Seaside, LandWatch go to court

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE CITY of Seaside wants to use 600 acres of the former Fort Ord known as Seaside East for a residential and commercial development, but even with Sacramento pushing for new housing to meet a dire shortage in the state, two environmental groups contend Seaside should be blocked because it will harm the environment. Attorneys for both side are set to meet in Monterey County Superior Court Dec. 8 at 8:30 a.m.

The Center for Biological Diversity and LandWatch Monterey County sued Seaside in June 2024, alleging the city violated the California Environmental Quality Act “by planning a development on sensitive wildlife habitat and without considering available water supply and the climate crisis,” according to LandWatch.

The Seaside City Council approved a general plan update in May 2024 to allow the development. In response, the lawsuit argues that the project potentially harms an assortment of “imperiled and special status plant and animal species,” including the California tiger salamander and the California red-legged frog. The lawsuit contends the city “failed to disclose or

adequately analyze these impacts, failed to identify and adopt feasible mitigation measures to reduce them, and failed to consider reasonable alternatives to the project.” “The lawsuit also alleges the city did not adequately analyze the greenhouse gas emissions associated with this development,” LandWatch said.

**Is it sprawl?**

LandWatch suggests the general plan update “lays the groundwork for massive sprawl development” and doesn’t evaluate impacts on biological resources, water supply issues, and the climate. The group said the city relied on outdated data for a baseline of the biological conditions.

“In approving the general plan, which lays out Seaside’s vision for development through 2040, the city failed to adequately assess and mitigate the harms of developing this sensitive site,” the group said.

LandWatch executive director Mike Delapa said there’s no justification for developing the land. “Seaside’s own analysis shows that it does not need to develop the Seaside East property to meet its housing and employment needs,” he said.

The City of Seaside was contacted but didn’t respond.

## ROBERT ‘BOB’ CHARLES GRABOWSKI

Robert “Bob” Charles Grabowski, 92, passed away peacefully on Nov. 15, 2025. He was born to Clara and Hans Grabowski on Dec. 20, 1932, in Saginaw, Michigan. A creative child, Bob enjoyed music, art, and spending time with his sister, Ruth, and his many friends.

In high school, Bob worked at a local clothing store, paving the way for a lifelong love of style. Ever the snappy dresser, he believed that life, like fashion, was meant to be embraced with flair.

He graduated from Michigan State University with a B.A. in industrial design. True to form, Bob made the most of his time at Michigan State, joining the Psi Upsilon fraternity and several choirs. Notably, in one weekend, he sang all four vocal parts — countertenor, tenor, baritone and bass — in separate performances.

Following college, Bob was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army and stationed in Washington, D.C. His years there were defined by bold firsts: earning his pilot’s license, discovering the transformative craft of jewelry-making and purchasing the first of many sports cars — a British Triumph TR-3. These passions fueled a string of creative ventures, including acclaimed art galleries spanning Monterey, Ojai and Santa Fe.

In 1960, Bob set out for the California coast, where he opened the first of his galleries on the Monterey Peninsula. There, he also applied his design talents to real estate, restoring more than two dozen homes throughout Monterey, Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach — all guided by his trusty rule to never pay more than \$5,000 for a property.

Of all his artistic endeavors, perhaps none were as personal or beloved as his custom jewelry — especially the rings he fashioned using the lost wax method and shaped in collaboration with each client. Every piece was a tribute to the uniqueness of others and to Bob’s enduring desire to create beauty in the small moments of everyday life.

Meeting Barbara in 1969 — his soulmate and co-adventurer — marked the start of a new and profound journey. Their Ojai home became a haven for friends, artists and seekers, each gathering infused with laughter, inspiration and the magic of creative possibility. Yet perhaps the most enduring chapter of Bob and Barbara’s shared story was their spiritual odyssey. Inspired by their search for deeper meaning, Bob undertook ministerial studies, immersing himself in philosophy and the universal principles that would shape his later work. He journeyed widely, gathering spiritual insights from around the world, which he and Barbara channeled into founding a beloved spiritual community: the Light on the Mountains Spiritual Center in Sun Valley, Idaho. Their vision was not merely a congregation, but a home for anyone seeking belonging, healing and inner light.

For his extraordinary spiritual leadership, Bob was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Centers for Spiritual Living — an honor that recognized his wisdom, compassion and the many lives he touched through teaching, guidance and example.

Above all, Bob’s life was marked by warmth, generosity and the belief that possibility lives everywhere and in everyone. He inspired those around him to travel boldly, live creatively and belong wholeheartedly. His laughter, love of beauty, and “right place, right time” optimism live on in the many lives he touched and in the art, stories and memories he leaves behind.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife, Barbara; and was loved as a father by Thad, Melia, Betsy, Andy and Dinah.



In lieu of flowers, please honor Bob by making a donation to Light on the Mountains Spiritual Center at [www.lightonthemountains.org](http://www.lightonthemountains.org). Arrangements are under the care of Wilks Magic Valley Funeral Home. [www.magicvalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.magicvalleyfuneralhome.com)

## CORTLAND SILVERIO RODRIGUEZ

Cortland Silverio Rodriguez, a resident of Marina, was born Dec. 16, 1997, in Monterey.

He was a graduate of San Carlos School in Monterey, Monte Vista Christian School in Watsonville and Cal Poly, Pomona. At the time of his unexpected passing on Nov. 9, 2025, he was a graduate engineering student at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

Cortland is survived by his parents, Leigh Rodriguez of Marina and Kimberly Pisto of Monterey; an older brother, Ashton Rodriguez of Los Angeles; his maternal grandfather, John Pisto [Cheryl ‘Auntie C’] of Monterey and his maternal grandmother, Eileen Love of Brentwood.

He was predeceased by his paternal grandparents, Silverio and Eleuteria Rodriguez; and his uncle, Silverio Rodriguez, Jr.; and on his maternal side, his aunt, Tawni Neikirk.

Cortland leaves numerous uncles, aunts and cousins. The family would like to acknowledge and recognize those relatives to whom he was close growing up on the Monterey Peninsula: his cousins, Riley and Robbie Neikirk of Seaside; Lisa-Marie Rosado-Arango of Salinas, Kayla Rodriguez of Monterey and Jessica Kerchner of Orcutt; and his aunt, Ligaya Rosado of Salinas.



**Visitation will begin at 4 p.m. Dec. 17, 2025, at Bayside Community Mortuary, 1610 Noche Buena St., Seaside, followed by recitation of the rosary at 6 p.m. A Catholic service will begin at 10 a.m. on Dec. 18, 2025, at San Carlos Cathedral, 500 Church St., Monterey, with burial thereafter at San Carlos Catholic Cemetery in Monterey. Funeral arrangements are being coordinated by the Paul Mortuary in Pacific Grove.**

**A memorial service will conducted by Cal Poly and its graduate program in San Luis Obispo in January 2026.**

The Pine Cone has been a member of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce for more than 100 years.

## WESLEY ‘WES’ CARTER MCDANIEL

Wesley (“Wes”) Carter McDaniel, age 91, passed away peacefully on Nov. 9, 2025, in Carmel Valley surrounded by family. Wes was born in San Diego, California, and raised, along with his brother Bob and sister Meredy, in Bakersfield and San Bernardino.

While attending San Bernardino High School, Wes met the love of his life, Patricia “Patsy” Black. Wes and Patsy married in 1957 and remained committed to each other until his death, achieving 71 years of matrimony.

Wes earned his bachelor’s degree at UC Berkeley, where he served as senior class president in 1956. After graduating from Cal, Wes served in the U.S. Navy as an intelligence officer based in Honolulu, Hawaii with assignments that took him on the USS Midway to Hong Kong and Manila. Later, Wes earned his master’s degrees from Occidental and USC, though his collegiate athletics allegiances would always remain with his beloved Golden Bears.

Wes led an accomplished career in public service. Among his many professional accomplishments, he served as city manager for the City of Hermosa Beach and director of San Bernardino Associated Governments, where he was instrumental in the development of highways and transportation arteries in San Bernardino County, including the 210 Freeway. He was instrumental in bringing a Metrolink train line to San Bernardino’s Santa Fe Depot. Despite his numerous achievements, Wes had a quiet humility and was more interested in celebrating the successes of others than in speaking of his own.

Throughout his life, Wes comported himself with integrity, dignity and respect for others. He was an aviator, flying to the far reaches of San Bernardino County for meetings, and to locations like Catalina Island, Yellow Pine, Idaho and Loreto, Mexico. He loved sports, especially football, and he was an avid tennis player, but was always interested in whatever sport his grandkids and great-grandkids were playing. Wes, at 91 years, made a point of driving to the local sports field to watch his great-granddaughter Poppy play soccer.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Patsy; their four children, Karen (David) and daughters Karissa and Jessica and granddaughters Poppy and Kirby; Kristen (Ron), and sons Evan and Daniel; Jill, her son, Jack and daughter, Annie; and Michael (Julie) and sons Blake and Greyson.

Wes will be lovingly remembered for his life of service, kindness, curiosity and unfailingly good-natured spirit. He was a devoted husband, father and friend whose warmth and example will continue to inspire all who knew him.

**His family will gather at the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery near Monterey to lay him to rest on Dec. 12, 2025.**





# DEMS

From page 1A

following the death of her husband, who held the seat before she did and was first elected to Congress in 1979. To say the name Matsui is an important one in Sacramento is an understatement — there’s a federal courthouse with the moniker etched in stone — but that hasn’t stopped Vang from mounting a challenge.

“We need a new generation of leaders,” Vang said in an interview with CBS Sacramento.

The idea of electing a fighter is one many young Dems are latching onto.

“I’m running against Brad Sherman because it is time for a change. We need a new generation of leadership that will stand up and fight,” 41-year-old Jake Levine told Fox Los Angeles about his reason for challenging the 71-year-old incumbent who represents the San Fernando Valley.

Vang and Levine, alongside 34-year-old Eric Jones, who is challenging septuagenarian Mike Thompson in Napa, have also vowed not to take corporate PAC money as their incumbent opponents do.

“I’m running for Congress in California’s 4th District to usher in a new generation of leadership that will fight for people and not corporations,” said Jones on Tik

Tok, “people who will never take a dollar from a corporate PAC and never take a dime from a lobbyist, unlike my opponent. I’m not taking money from PG&E.”

It’s a relatively new strategy that gained popularity with the No Corporate PAC Pledge in 2018, decades after some of California’s house Democrats first took office.

**Frustration with the status quo**

Millennial candidates nationwide are feeling serious frustration with the gerontocracy controlling the Democratic party, arguing it paved the way for the return of President Donald Trump. Finger-pointing has been directed at those who allowed former President Joe Biden to seek a second term when his mental faculties were failing him. The deaths of Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg — while both were still in office — also didn’t help.

Even in San Francisco, where entrenched politicians have a long history of naming successors and picking who runs for what, Democrats are playing with the idea of imposing age limits. A proposal from the San Francisco Democratic Party in April was non-binding but encouraged the state party to explore a mandatory retirement age for elected officials.

The idea of age limits has bipartisan support as well. In 2023, the Pew Research Center found that 82 percent of

Republicans and 76 percent of Democrats support imposing an age limit for elected officials in Washington D.C.

In the state Legislature, unlike Congress, politicians are term-limited to a combined 12 years of service in the Assembly and the State Senate. The term limits were created when voters approved Proposition 28, which amended the California Constitution, when voters approved it in 2012. Even with term limits, Sacramento has its share of aging politicians, with 12 of the 120 members of the Legislature in their 70s and 80s.

**Youth campaigns could backfire**

Democrats have a lot riding on the 2026 midterms, framing the election as the best opportunity to block Trump’s agenda, which explains why Gov. Gavin Newsom pushed so hard to get his redistricting measure approved on the November ballot. But youthful candidates are being warned their campaigns could thwart the carefully laid plans to make gains in the House, as Dem-on-Dem hostilities mean less money to go around, opening the door for Republicans to hold on to a few precious seats.

The intraparty races will undoubtedly force incumbents in safe blue seats to spend more money at home, rather than giving campaigns in California’s swing districts or in battleground states.

Another potential ramification of electing younger leaders is a loss of insider connections. Old as they might be, incumbents

have spent years securing the best committee assignments, and making connections with interest groups. Chine, while newcomers will arrive as freshmen among hundreds of other representatives all vying for a piece of the federal budget for their state.

California’s young Democrats are using a changing media landscape to broaden the reach of their campaigns and fundraising efforts as they try to break through the career ceiling.

Jones, the young venture capitalist in Napa, posts content almost daily on Tik Tok, and the following he’s cultivated raised more than \$1 million for his campaign in 24 hours — all from donors giving \$200 or less. Thompson, the incumbent, launched an account in September, but his videos demonstrate he’s not sure how to use Tik Tok, and no one is following him yet. While it’s easy to knock viral videos, they did help little-known candidate Zohran Mamdani win over New York City.

That said, California’s young candidates will need to get their voters to the polls in the Golden State, where, like the rest of America, there is an age-related turnout gap. In the last presidential election, 75 percent of voters over 60 cast ballots, compared to 48 percent of voters aged 18 to 29 — a fact that gives older incumbents an edge at the ballot box, since people generally want to vote for politicians their own age, regardless of what’s being said on YouTube.

# INVASION

From page 1A

All five men were booked into Monterey County Jail and charged with burglary, felony vandalism and conspiracy to commit a crime. Bail was set at \$100,000 each.

While media reports suggest home invasions are on the rise throughout the

country, U.S. crime statistics show a steady decrease in burglaries nationally — down by more than 70 percent since 1990. But in recent years, California has ranked among the top 10 states for burglaries. In 2024, 306 out of every 100,000 state residents were victims of burglary, according to FBI data. Those same stats show that only 13 percent of home invaders are caught by police — and that burglaries go up by 25 percent during the holiday season.



## After 45 Wonderful Years... I'm Retiring!

Serving the Monterey Bay community has been one of the greatest joys of my life. I'm deeply grateful for all the friendships, memories, and support over the years.

Come say hello and find hundreds of fine handmade rugs — new and antique, in every size and color — now offered at huge retirement discounts.

NOMADS RETIREMENT SALE

All Rugs 50% OFF

Nomads Fine Rugs

486 Alvarado St., Monterey, California

(831) 373 1009

EUROPEAN JEWELER & GOLDSMITH

holiday SALE



Get all of your Holiday Shopping done early!

Enjoy extra discounts on top of already unbeatable prices.

 Friday, December 5th & Saturday December 6th

 From 11:00am – 4:00pm

205 Crossroads Blvd. Carmel, CA 831-624-3555



# Smuin brings its Christmas Ballet to Sunset Center

NEARLY TWO decades after the passing of groundbreaking choreographer Michael Smuin, the inventive dance company he founded, Smuin Ballet, makes its annual holiday visit to Sunset Center Friday and Saturday. This year’s Christmas Ballet program showcases new works by Smuin’s artistic director Amy Seiwert, choreographer Julia Adam and San Francisco Ballet soloist Myles Thatcher — along with favorites from past holiday programs. “Michael Smuin’s original vision is alive and well, adapting beautifully over time,” Seiwert said. “More than

a dozen guest choreographers have added contributions throughout the years. New commissions keep the ballet fresh, while beloved favorites evoke nostalgia. The past and future coexist in this celebration of the season.” Striving to “uplift the human spirit and shatter pre-conceptions of ballet through innovative artistry and

exceptional quality,” the San Francisco-based dance company was founded in 1994. After Smuin died in 2007, his dance company carried on, and today it continues to push the boundaries of ballet. Friday’s show starts at 7:30 p.m., while Saturday’s performance begins at 2 p.m., following a 1:15 p.m. talk. Tickets start at \$75. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 620-2048 or visit [sunsetcenter.org](http://sunsetcenter.org).

## THE PIT

From page 17A

of floor area, not including basement space. The garage will contain 28 parking spaces — one more than is required — and the development will have 9,000 square feet of retail space divided between 14 shops, and 12 one- and two-bedroom apartments ranging from 622 square feet to 1,863 square feet. The structures will be built in Contemporary, Craftsman, Spanish Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival styles, and the layout includes interblock walkways, interior courtyards and new sidewalks, curbs and gutters. The landscape plan calls for trees and plants on the property and in the public right of way, as well as green roofs.

### ‘Delighted to start’

“We are delighted to finally be starting construction on this important project for Esperanza Carmel. We have already received strong interest in both the residential apartments and the commercial units,” Esperanza Carmel managing director Chris Mitchell said. “We are confident this will be an important asset for the Carmel community providing long-needed apartments for long-term rental and a new and exciting retailing experience for both locals and visitors to the village.” Pastor expressed similar sentiments and acknowledged the patience of the community in enduring the presence of The Pit for so long. “I am, of course, very pleased to begin construction on this important project for Esperanza Carmel and for the Carmel community, which has patiently waited many years for work to begin,” Pastor said.



REALTOR®  
**CHRISTINE HANDEL**

*Authentically Local, Connected & Resourceful*

**RANKED IN THE TOP 4% OF AGENTS  
ON MONTEREY PENINSULA\***

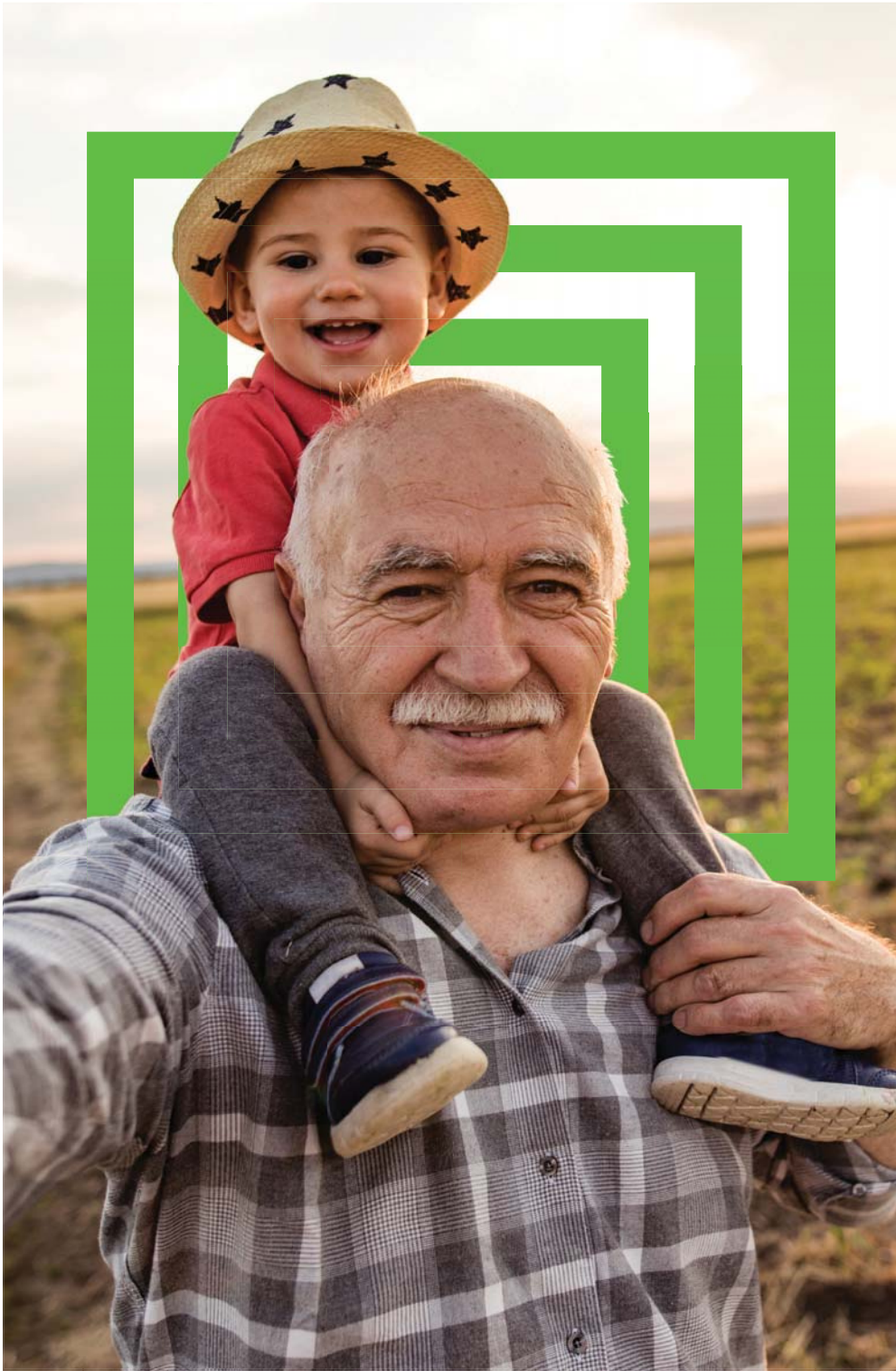
Please reach out if you, or your friends or family, are thinking about selling your current home or purchasing your dream home. I would love the opportunity to represent you!

831.915.8833 ♦ [www.TheCarmelLife.com](http://www.TheCarmelLife.com) ♦ [CHandel@CarmelRealtyCompany.com](mailto:CHandel@CarmelRealtyCompany.com)

\*Based on 2024 MLSListings Data | DRE#01375876



**CARMEL REALTY COMPANY**  
ESTABLISHED 1913



**We are rooted here.  
We just branched out.**

Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula created Montage Health to deliver exceptional care to more people, by expanding our services beyond the hospital. Today, we’re much more than a hospital. And as we’ve grown, we’ve remained true to our deep roots — nonprofit, independent, locally owned, and accountable only to the community we serve.



**MONTAGE**  
Health®

[montagehealth.org](http://montagehealth.org)



# Editorial

## Why we pay so much

U.S. SECRETARY of Energy Chris Wright was on television this week, bragging about all the money Americans are saving because the price of gasoline has fallen so much. According to the American Automobile Association, the national average price of a gallon of regular is down to \$2.99 — the first time it’s been below \$3 in more than four years. And that can have a big impact on the family budget.

“Every time you fill up your gas tank, you got more money in your pocket to buy your kids presents and pay your bills,” Wright said, attributing the drop to “common sense” leadership at the Department of Energy and in the Oval Office.

“President Trump is focused on the American consumer,” Wright said.

If that’s true, we’d like to know who they’re focused on in Sacramento, because while gas prices are below \$2.50 a gallon in many parts of the United States, we’re paying about double that in California. And gasoline isn’t the only thing that costs much more in what used to be called the Golden State.

In fact, according to World Population Review, California’s overall cost of living is roughly 45 percent higher than the rest of the country, driven largely by housing, energy policies, taxes and regulations.

■ A recent study by the California Legislative Analyst’s Office found that California home prices far exceed those in the rest of the country. Mid-tier homes, the report said, are more than twice as expensive as similar ones elsewhere in the United States. The study also found that the annual household income needed to qualify for a mortgage on a mid-tier California home in September was about \$221,000 — more than two times the median California household income.

■ Electricity and natural gas are about 34 percent higher in California, with average monthly electric bills running about \$145 and natural gas costs roughly double per unit than elsewhere in the country because of high rates and climate policies.

■ Groceries and food are about 14 percent more expensive in California than the national average.

■ Overall transportation costs in the Golden State are about 32 percent above national average, including not just gas but also vehicle registration fees, tolls and public transit fares in major cities.

■ Doctor visits, dentistry and general healthcare services are typically 10 percent higher than the U.S. average — and, as we have recently learned from the state Office of Healthcare Affordability, the situation on the Monterey Peninsula is even worse.

■ California also has among the highest taxes in the country, with a max rate of 13.3 percent, while many states have much lower rates, or no income tax at all.

Writing in CalMatters last week, Dan Walters observed that, “We Californians know, or should know, that while living in this state has many positive aspects, we are paying through the nose for the experience, and a flurry of recent studies drives home how deeply California residents must dig to meet costs of living that are either at or near the highest of any state.”

Walters also reported an inevitable and familiar consequence of all those big bills.

“Hundreds of thousands of California residents, unable to aspire to home ownership, have decamped for more affordable states, such as Texas, where home prices are a fraction of California’s,” Walters said.

Earlier this year, Sacramento legislators declared 2025 the “Year of Affordability.” But with December upon us, it’s time to ask whether they delivered.

“We went big,” Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas said in a summary of the legislature’s work. “We delivered historic progress — on housing, on energy, on climate, on healthcare, and on human rights. And that progress is something every one of us can be proud of.

“And while our work is not finished fixing California’s housing system, this year marked a turning point in California’s housing story,” Rivas continued. “We also advanced the most significant energy package in years. We passed measures that will deliver real relief for families on their electricity bills. We took action to stabilize gas supplies, to prevent price shocks — while keeping health and environmental protections in place.”

But prices don’t actually seem to be coming down, and Chris Wright said he knows where the blame lies.

“The high price of gasoline in California isn’t just an inconvenient fact,” he said on Fox Business Monday. “It’s a political choice.”

## BEST of BATES



1985

“We want three bedrooms, two baths, a family room and an ocean view. Money’s no object ... we’ll go up to \$40,000.”

## Letters to the Editor

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

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

### Library board Dear Editor,

This letter builds on the comments at prior city council meetings by Bobby Richards and Ken White on behalf of the CRA, and once again at this week’s council meeting by White, on the unfilled positions on Harrison Memorial Library Board of Trustees.

With the main library restoration project underway in partnership with the city and with the Carmel Public Library Foundation, it is essential to have a fully staffed and engaged Harrison Memorial Library Board of Trustees. There remain two open positions on this board, as has been the case since June. Leaving these board openings unassigned, especially at this time, is a significant omission. This nomination responsibility is in the hands of our mayor.

What will it take to break this apparent logjam? Why are these vacancies allowed to continue unfilled?

There is an increasing local concern to have a balanced board comparable to the CPLF that brings the full voices of the residents to the table as this critical project continues to move ahead. My participation in the library’s strategic planning cycle citizen group over this summer and participation in the restoration project’s three community workshops has elevated my concern for the critical need and value of a full board.

This two-board member gap cannot continue. As was reinforced by others previously and once again by White at this week’s council meeting, our mayor really must bring qualified nominees to the January city council meeting for approval.

**Sherry Williams, Carmel**

### An important corner Dear Editor,

As a long time resident of Carmel, I am deeply concerned about the condition of the southwest corner of Junipero and Fifth, long known as the home of the Forge in the Forest. This property has been part of Carmel’s character for generations: a blacksmith shop in the 1940s, an artist’s studio, a health food store and restaurant, and since the 1970’s, the beloved Forge in the Forest.

Today this prominent corner looks abandoned and neglected. Torn umbrellas, disrepair and an overall sense of deterioration now greet residents and visitors alike. It is heartbreaking to see such a beautiful and historically meaningful place left in this condition.

See **LETTERS** page 30A

- **Publisher** ..... Paul Miller
- **Production/Sales Manager** ..... Jackie Miller
- **Office Manager** ..... Irma Garcia
- **Reporters** ..... Mary Schley, Chris Counts
- ..... Kelly Nix, Lily Patterson
- **Features Editor** ..... Elaine Hesser
- **Editorial Layout** ..... Emilie Ruiz
- **Advertising Sales** ..... **Real Estate, Big Sur** - Jung Yi (274-8646)
- Carmel-by-the-Sea, Carmel Valley, Carmel & Pebble Beach**
- ..... Meena Lewellen (274-8655)
- Monterey, Pacific Grove, Seaside, Sand City** ..... Jessica Caird (274-8590)
- **Real estate classifieds** ..... Vanessa Jimenez (274-8652)
- **Legal Notices** ..... Irma Garcia (274-8645)
- **Ad Design** ..... Vanessa Jimenez (274-8652), Sharron Smith (274-2767)
- **Ad Design & Obituaries** ..... Anne Papineau (274-8654)
- **Office Assistant** ..... Alex Nicholson (274-8593)
- **Circulation Manager** ..... Scott MacDonald (261-6110)
- For complete contact info: [carmelpinecone.com/contact.html](http://carmelpinecone.com/contact.html)

# The Carmel Pine Cone

<https://carmelpinecone.com>

**PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY**

**Vol. 111 No. 49 • December 5, 2025**

©Copyright 2025 by Carmel Communications, Inc.  
A California Corporation

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

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

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

**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



# Is great style genetic after all?

WITHOUT THE lows, there would be no highs — as it goes in life and fashion. “I enjoy my life, but it’s always been a rollercoaster,” said Pari Payandehjoo. A master tailor who has owned her Pacific Grove business for more than 30 years, her

her daughter, Golnesa, share the opinion that the best materials come from a not-so-distant era, before “fast fashion” and Amazon Basics. Vintage lace, silk and wool, even furs and embroidered textiles can be mended and remade into something better-than-new, a concept Pari christened “re-couture.” “People have these incredible vintage pieces that may be too small, or not right for some reason, and my mom came up with the word to describe reworking those items to give them new life,” Golnesa said.

### A quality obsession

Modeled after a traditional fashion house, The Wear-House & Re-Couture Suite in Pacific Grove is where mother and daughter repair, redesign and consign high-end treasures that may otherwise be lost to time and trends. A stylist, Golnesa recently introduced a “wardrobe cleansing” service, helping people turn “a vault of old identities, forgotten impulse buys and nothing to wear” into “a sanctuary” of personal style.

Their services express a preoccupation with quality — a feeling greater than the sum of a garment’s texture, weight and color. It’s a generational obsession handed down from Pari’s mother, whose tailoring skills held her family together. “Her parents died very young, and she raised all of her sisters by sewing. She had one friend who taught her to sew fur coats, which have to be put together in

## Great Lives

By LILY PATTERSON

attitude is still that of a mother who spent many years in secondhand clothes so her daughter could one day afford a cashmere coat. If hard times hone self-reliance, they also sharpen a person’s instinct for quality, a draw to what is authentic, lasting and personally meaningful. In that view, Pari and



PHOTO/CARMEL WOMAN’S CLUB

Fashion is an unexpected tool for community service, but Pari and Golnesa Payandehjoo use their sartorial senses to lift others up.

See **LIVES** page 37A

## From the mayor’s desk — A night of milestones and momentum

By DALE BYRNE

SOME COUNCIL meetings feel routine. Others remind you why local government matters. Tuesday night was one of those rare evenings when everything came together: a community showing up in force to witness celebrations, help shape its future, and see clear decisions. It was, in every sense, an extraordinary night in Carmel-by-the-Sea.

### A life saved

The night began with report-outs from three remarkable Carmel High students, followed by an update from the architects on the Harrison Library Centennial Restoration Project. We heard the project is moving forward with strong public engagement, growing momentum and vision, and tremendous fundraising success to date on this projected \$17.5 million effort. The recognition continued with a moment that showed why our public safety team is so respected. Two police officers were honored for saving a life through fast action and CPR. The individual they

revived stood before the chamber to thank them publicly. Hearing him speak underscored the quiet heroism our officers demonstrate every day.

### Honoring Chip Rerig

After 10 years of thoughtful leadership, city administrator Chip Rerig is heading into retirement. Organizations, residents, and councilmembers stepped forward to thank him for his service and deep love for our village. He received proclamations, applause and some of the warmest comments I’ve heard on the dais. It was a fitting sendoff for a leader who guided our 1-square-mile city with professionalism and heart. Chip, who has been by my side my first year in office, promised he’ll keep reading The Pine Cone and stay in touch.

### Pickleball front and center

Pickleball supporters and concerned neighbors overflowed the chamber. The energy was high, the opinions strong, and

See **MAYOR** next page

# ‘Kinetic elements,’ muddy hands, and one man’s spin on zen

THE NEWEST artist at the Carmel Valley Art Association — a ceramicist — once spent a full weekend meditating at a monastery, where resident Buddhists flattered him with a compliment. “They told me that I really sit well. I got a lot out of that,” chuckled Mark Muckenfuss, who subsequently disclosed the following secret about his love for ceramics — and maybe his personal journey toward enlightenment. “For me, I don’t find anything quite as zen as throwing clay on a wheel,” he said. “The first thing you have to do with a piece of clay is center it on the wheel. That pro-

Others, like his teapots, are designed to be functional as well as beautiful. “My intent is to introduce some kind of kinetic element into the pieces I make,” Muckenfuss said. “That’s one of the inspirations behind the work.” He nods gratefully toward his 91-year-old father, Paul Muckenfuss, who taught drawing and painting for more than 40 years at Rialto’s Dwight D. Eisenhower High School and created his own artwork in several different media. “He did charcoal life drawings, watercolor, oil, and acrylic paintings ... later in life he moved into pastels,” Muckenfuss said. “My dad was still creating art as recently as five or six years ago.”

Muckenfuss’ mother, Joyce, who died two years ago, enjoyed and appreciated art, and his family home and early lifestyle were filled with inspiration that he came to appreciate later. “I got dragged through a whole bunch of museums and art shows as a kid, so I was exposed to a lot,” he said. As a student at Eisenhower High, Muckenfuss never took an art class from his dad — “I didn’t want to do that,” he said — but gravitated toward another teacher’s ceramics program, learning to shape clay on the wheel.

### ‘The sciences didn’t like me’

When he moved on to UC Davis, he enrolled as a pre-med student, but gradually recognized that he was out of his element. “The sciences didn’t like me very much,” Muckenfuss said. “I spent a year there, then transferred to UC Riverside, where I was doing very well in some of my electives — English and creative writing classes — and the advisor said, ‘Maybe you should consider doing what you’re good at.’ And that sounded nice.”

Muckenfuss earned his bachelor’s degree — in English with a literature emphasis — from UC Riverside, then a master’s in creative writing from CSU San Bernardino, with ideas of going into journalism. That plan began to solidify when he did an internship at Riverside’s daily newspaper, the Press Enterprise, and got hired in McFarland, 190 miles south, where the population was just over 7,000.

“There was a weekly there ... and I was it,” he remembered with a laugh. “I had an office manager, but the reporting, writing, photography, darkroom, layout and paste-up on production day was all mine ... I was the guy. So, yeah, it was an experience.” Muckenfuss parlayed that multipronged crash course into a six-year gig at L.A.-based “Swimming World,” a

## Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

cess kind of centers me — and centers my mind at the same time.” After spending most of his professional life as a newspaper reporter and columnist, an educator and a marketing and public information specialist, the Marina resident remains in the full-time workforce at 66 as deputy public information officer at CSU Monterey Bay. But he unwinds with a potter’s wheel and kiln, making the wildly creative vases, pots and teapots that are on exhibit in the gallery’s front window at 8 Del Fino Place in Carmel Valley Village.

### Ideas from a ‘strange brain’

“A lot of the process is very organic. But I also get a lot of enjoyment from seeing ideas spring from my strange brain, sketching out those ideas, then trying to make them real,” he said. Many of his pieces feature ... well, appendages that lunge or spill from the vessel, earning names like “Exploding Vase,” “Breathing Vase,” “Porous Vase,” “Overflowing Vase,” and “Heart Handled Jar.”



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

Marina ceramicist Mark Muckenfuss is a former professional journalist who shows his unusual vessels at the Carmel Valley Art Association.

See **ARTIST** page 31A



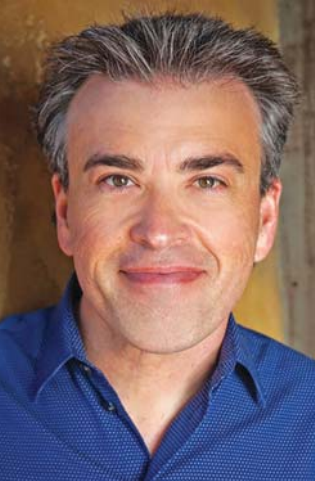
**BARKALOW**  
CHIROPRACTIC & PHYSICAL MEDICINE



**A Healthy Spine is the Foundation of a Healthy Life**  
*We offer comprehensive care & focused techniques.*

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS  
Medicare, Aspire Advantage and most major insurances,  
with special discounts for California Care.

DR. DEREK E. N. BARKALOW, MA, DC  
550 CAMINO EL ESTERO, SUITE 103 - MONTEREY, CA  
(P) 831.655.3232 (F) 831.655.3443  
WWW.DRBARKALOW.COM



**ADAM MONIZ**  
RESULTS FOR CARMEL

Assisting Sellers  
with Real Estate Sales

Adam Moniz, J.D., LL.M.  
Call/Text 831.601.3320  
AdamMoniz.com  
Real Estate Salesperson DRE# 01885594

**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



# MISSING

From page 1A

Soberanes Point Nov. 22. The other two safely made it back to shore. Thind was a 35-year-old U.S. Army specialist from New Jersey.

The Nov. 14 incident, meanwhile, took the lives of the girl Heredia found and her father, Yuji Hu of Alberta, Canada.

The three recent drownings are only the latest in a long line of ocean-related fatalities along the north Big Sur coast, where, despite the danger, visitors can’t resist getting close to the powerful and unpredictable surf.

### Family asks for help

Thind’s family put out word Tuesday that they are seeking help from the diving community to recover his body. A KSBW report Thursday said the family has organized a private search, hiring a dive team equipped with sonar and big wave search and rescue jet ski operators.

“We are desperately searching for experienced divers with strong equipment who may be willing to assist in the continued recovery efforts,” his sister, Navjeet Kaur, said.

“Conditions in Big Sur are challenging, so we understand this requires skill, proper gear, and caution — but any support or guidance would mean the world to our family. Amanpreet was a loving, genuine soul, and we are trying everything we can to bring him home.”



PHOTO/FACEBOOK

Just weeks ago, a multi-agency search (above) was launched in Big Sur to find the body of a 7-year-old girl who drowned.

A GoFundMe campaign — titled “Help Bring Amanpreet Singh Thind Home to his family” — has been launched by Thind’s family. So far, it’s raised more than \$22,000.

“We are raising funds to support ongoing rescue and recovery efforts, including dive teams, drones, and helicopter services,” according to the campaign.

“Every donation — no matter the amount — helps us continue the search. We are committed to searching until we bring him back.”

## P.G. council meeting axed

By KELLY NIX

THE CITY of Pacific Grove was forced to cancel its city council meeting Wednesday, hours before it was supposed to begin due to improper public noticing.

The snafu ,means city hall will hold a special meeting Dec. 17 to make up for the missed one. City officials will have to advertise the new meeting and re-notice it.

City manager Matt Mogensen said a procedural error forced the cancellation.

“Unfortunately, the agenda was not posted in the city hall kiosk 72 hours beforehand, as required,” Mogensen explained to The Pine Cone.

Not properly noticing public meetings can violate the open meetings law, the Brown Act, which requires public agencies to adhere to specific rules so government officials can’t meet in secret. The law applies to city councils, school boards, county boards of supervisors, special districts and other committees and agencies.

## PATHETIC

From page 10A

said. “This is really bad and dangerous for our country.”

The FBI has launched an inquiry into the six lawmakers who spoke in the video.

In addition, the Pentagon said it’s investigating allegations against Kelly, a former U.S. Navy captain, to determine whether he should be recalled to active duty to face a court-martial.

A group of Republican lawmakers released a video Nov. 26 that mimics the one their colleagues across the aisle put out — but calls for service members to follow orders.

## MAYOR

From previous page

the desire to be heard unmistakable. For more than two years, the city wrestled with how pickleball could coexist with the quiet neighborhood around Forest Hill Park. We commissioned studies, tried limited play, reviewed enforcement strategies, and considered quieter equipment. In the end, the evidence was clear: the sound and scale of pickleball overwhelmed the neighborhood.

After hearing public comment and a robust discussion, the council voted 5–0 to enact the site-specific ordinance. It reflected our responsibility to protect the peace and livability of residential areas while still supporting recreation elsewhere. We will continue working with the school district to expand access at Carmel Middle School and watch for other opportunities.

### ■ Street addresses after 100 years

The council then moved forward unanimously on a decision Carmel has debated for a century: implementing street addresses. Our “no addresses” tradition has charmed visitors but challenged emergency response, navigation, and daily functioning. After years of study and discussion, the council approved a detailed plan developed by an outstanding committee. It preserves our character while improving safety and usability for residents and businesses — truly a historic step.

We ended the night by approving an employment contract for acting city manager Brandon Swanson, capped by supportive comments. With an engaged community, multiple proclamations, and three more 5-0 decisions by a council working together with clarity and purpose, Carmel is moving forward with respect for its past and confidence in its future. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

To hear a podcast generated from this column go to [clire milestones](#).

Dale Byrne is Mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea. His email is [dbyrne@cbts.us](mailto:dbyrne@cbts.us)

### Strong Foundations Personal Connections

Our local Relationship Managers provide personalized service and trusted guidance, building strong foundations for your future.

Visit us or reach out today to experience banking that’s truly personal.

**Kathy Torres**  
SVP, SBA Manager  
831-233-7013

**Matt Brown**  
VP, Relationship Manager  
831-233-7005

[montereycountybank.com](http://montereycountybank.com)

Merry  
**Christmas**  
Cannery Row

**Visit With Santa  
In His Toy Factory!**

Saturdays & Sundays Through December 21<sup>st</sup>  
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Experience holiday joy and wonder on Cannery Row, where families and children of all ages can share their wish lists and pose for **free** photos with Santa in his toy factory located in the 700 Cannery Row building (enter from Steinbeck Plaza).

Be sure to take a photo by the Christmas tree before you set off to do some holiday shopping on Cannery Row!

Visit [CanneryRow.com](http://CanneryRow.com) for information.

### Join Point Sur Volunteers!

Preserve history, guide tours, and make a difference. Class of 2026 forming now!

Email [pointsurlisa@gmail.com](mailto:pointsurlisa@gmail.com)



# RERIG

From page 18A

Lloyd, similarly thanked Rerig, and Graeme Robertson, representing the Carmel Residents Association, praised his “collaborative, collegial and kind approach to both opportunities and challenges,” and noted his “keen eye to the future and deep respect for the past.”

“He has been the steady hand of reason during the pre- and post-pandemic periods, enabling us all to enjoy the quality of life we cherish today,” he said.

Personally, Robertson noted, he and Rerig have known each other for nearly three decades and have learned they can “agree to disagree, and still be friends.”

“Your leadership, not only here in Carmel-by-the-Sea, but in Monterey, is something for us all to be proud of.”

Many hugs and photos ensued, and back at the dais, Rerig said a person’s observation that his impending retirement and move “must be a little bit like walking a tightrope” didn’t resonate with him at the time but now rings true.

“It’s exhilarating and a little bit nauseating,” he said, especially when he’s awakened at 2 a.m. by the many thoughts running through his head. “I’m not as elated as I thought I would be — there’s a little bit of melancholy.”

He talked about the highs and lows of working for Carmel-by-the-Sea and likened it to raising his children.

# MONEY

From page 14A

[the pay raise] through the referendum process, clearly expressing opposition to increasing council compensation,” Coletti wrote. “This makes the inclusion of council stipends within a taxpayer-funded consulting contract especially concerning.”

A stipend increase — which councilmembers contend is necessary and reasonable because the part-time positions have not had one in more than two decades — would cost taxpayers more than \$50,000 annually.

Coletti said Props & Measures’ plan also contains elements “that fall into the category of prohibited campaign activities,” including “shaping the message, narrative, framing, or appearance of a ballot measure for the purpose of increasing voter support.”

“These are precisely the types of activities that [state law and a California Supreme Court ruling] prohibit public agencies from funding,” he said.

In a letter to the council a couple days before the November meeting, resident Andrew Kubica suggested that if the city is in such dire financial shape, it shouldn’t give city employees annual 3 percent raises nor spend “\$141,530 on a consultant.”

“If a survey is needed, have staff perform the work in-house,” Kubica said.

Among the things Kubica suggested doing to raise revenue was to raise the city’s 12 percent transient occupancy tax — the fee paid by visitors who stay in P.G. inns — to 14 percent.

“There’s joy, but also heartache,” he said. “I’ve learned through the heartache.”

Rerig, 59, said he “is going to miss this village very much.” And he offered these parting words: “Don’t be too fearful of incremental change and evolution.”

Because he’s been a public employee for so long, Rerig is eligible to receive state taxpayer-funded retirement for the rest of his life. He estimated the annual pay will begin at around \$170,000.

**Swanson contract**

With Rerig working his last day Dec. 22, Swanson — who came to the city as director of planning and building in 2021 and was promoted to assistant city administrator in February 2024 — will step into the top job the following day. For the first year as acting city administrator, Swanson worked in both capacities, as the search for a new planning director took far longer than anticipated.

After Rerig announced his plans to retire, Byrne appointed councilmembers Hans Buder and Bob Delves to negotiate the terms of Swanson’s contract, which city attorney Brian Pierik presented. He noted Swanson’s

qualifications and recommended the council approve it.

The 13-page agreement outlines Swanson’s base pay and other benefits, including deferred compensation totaling \$23,500 annually, health coverage, and vacation, sick, executive and bereavement leaves. The contract has a six-month term but notes, “Upon successful completion of the duties of this position during that six-month term, the city council will enter into good-faith negotiations to consider permanently appointing the acting administrator as city administrator.”

No one objected to the deal.

“I want to extol the virtues of Brandon in all of his collaboration with us residents,” Carmel Residents Association board member Nancy Twomey said, complimenting Swanson for his responsiveness and thoughtfulness. “He has been phenomenal in all of his work with us on the housing element. He has been amazing, and if that’s representative of where he will take his new acting role, he’s more than deserving of this.” She said putting him in the position “is the right thing for the community.”

Councilman Jeff Baron moved to approve the contract, Delves seconded, and it passed unanimously.



Fleurs du Soleil

You’re Invited to Our  
Holiday Open House

December5From 10am-4pm

598 FREMONT AVE.,  
MONTEREY CA 93940

Join us for a joyful  
celebration of the season!

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!



MODERNEYES  
OPTOMETRY

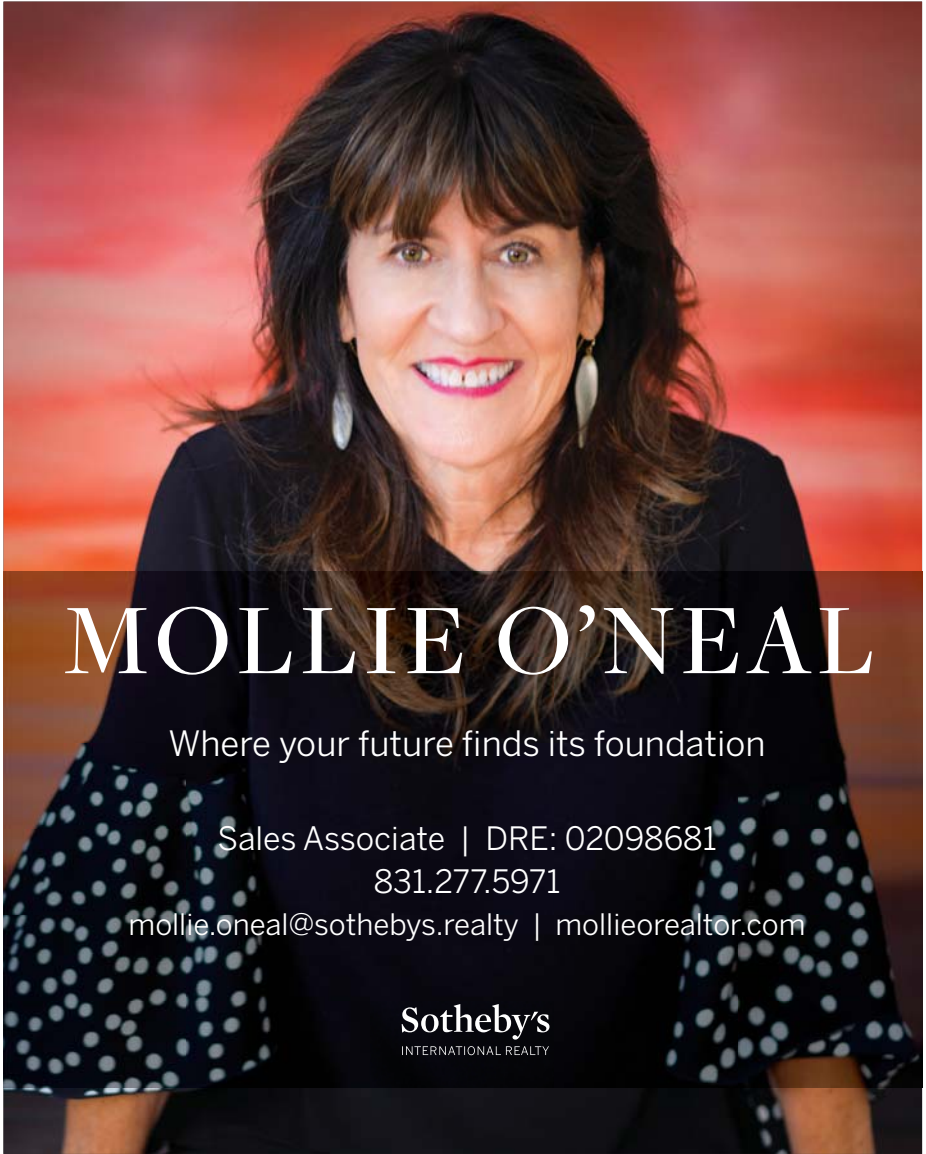
ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

At Modern Eyes Optometry,  
Dr. Maureen Hong, O.D.  
and her team is dedicated to  
providing high-quality eye care  
for the whole family.  
Personalized care with  
modern technology.

Proudly serving the Monterey  
Peninsula for 20 years

CONTACT US TODAY TO  
SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT  
(831) 641-7848  
www.moderneyesmonterey.com

550 Camino El Estero, Suite 205  
Monterey, CA 93940  
moderneyesmonterey



MOLLIE O’NEAL

Where your future finds its foundation

Sales Associate | DRE: 02098681  
831.277.5971  
mollie.oneal@sothebys.realty | mollieorealtor.com

Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



# LETTERS

From page 26A

Why would anyone purchase such a treasured piece of property only to allow it to fall into decay? The interior — the wood-carved tables, the warm bar, unique atmosphere — remains a reminder of what this place once meant to the community.

I urge the owner to restore and reopen the Forge as it was, welcoming to locals and visitors who have cherished it for decades. And I call on the people of Carmel to come together and voice their concern, just as we have successfully done in the past for the Village Corner in the 1980s. The SW corner of Junipero and Fifth deserves better.

**Karen Hoffman, Carmel**

## Car Week support

**Dear Editor,**

I am 72 years old and live in Pebble Beach. Car Week is great, and I look forward to it each year. It brings in great revenue for lodging, restaurants and shops. I enjoyed car activities in Carmel three days this year and two in Pacific Grove.

OK, there are a few obnoxious, young, spoiled rich kids driving too fast and revving their engines. Why can't the folks in Carmel stop complaining? Just go out of town for a week, visit family, friends or perhaps another of your homes. Be happy and stop whining — you live in paradise.

**Kimberly Vander Wall, Pebble Beach**

## Bar permits

**Dear Editor,**

If A.W. Shucks, a Carmel restaurant with a bar, decides to expand by moving to a new location, it can do so freely. Same for a dress shop and other businesses. The

permit to operate such a is held by the owner of the business, which means the business has value and can be moved, sold or absolved by the business owner.

Not so for a drinking establishment (bar). The permit to operate a bar attaches to the building. So, if Barmel or Sade's wanted to move to a new location, they couldn't unless a building owner had the special use permit to operate as a bar. The city only allows three bars to operate in Carmel. The locations are Barmel, Sade's and A.W. Shucks. The value of these businesses is mainly in the hands of the property owner, not the business owner. To be fair, the permit to operate as a bar should be held by the bar owner. If the owner has a successful business, it now has value that can be taken to a new location just as all other businesses. It's time for a change in the law.

**Michael Logan, Pebble Beach**

## Socialism has no place

**Dear Editor,**

The Pine Cone's Nov. 28 editorial on capitalism and socialism was very interesting but missed a few very pertinent facts. Nowhere in the United States Constitution can one find provenance for the monstrous grab-bag that the U.S. Treasury has become. Some will retort by mouth-ing the "promote the general welfare" clause in the document. But the Founders never intended for the government to be the main support of masses of people. The qualifiers in the Constitutional phrase are "promote" and "general." In other words, the intent was to create an infrastructure for the population to be unencumbered by tyrannical government, and to be able to fend for themselves. Sound cold-hearted and harsh? Not at all, they simply understood human nature. They knew that once opened to dispensing public largesse,

that the treasury would be subject to corruption, favoritism, and vote-buying on a massive scale.

One who knows what the military term "mission creep" means, can readily see that this is what has actually happened. Rep. David Crockett recognized this, as did President Grover Cleveland and 1964 presidential candidate Barry Goldwater. But the carrot was thrust out there by Franklin Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson, and a host of other power- and fame-seeking politicians.

Donald Trump, whereas not entirely of the caliber of others more responsible towards the trust of the public purse, surely recognizes the extreme danger we have perpetrated upon ourselves, hence his establishment of the DOGE office.

The Pilgrims were the first on this continent to discover that socialism does not work. That error caused starvation and resentment that nearly wiped out the colony. No, Mr. Editor, socialism has absolutely no place in the fabric of federal governance, that manner of dispensing public aid is reserved to the individual states. And even that needs a very hard look-over, as evidenced by California's over \$600 billion state debt.

An open government purse serves only to offer temporary relief and to increase governmental power. To see the lie of it all, one only need to recognize that our politicians have now fully opened that purse to foreign nationals, in actuality importing poverty into this nation for their own self-aggrandizement. Greed and self-interest are the carrot, slavery and economic collapse are the only rewards.

**Richard Hellam, Seaside**

## Community connections

**Dear Editor,**

What a thrill it is to feel a community come alive through theater. At a time when the world is full of heavy news and endless disagreements, sitting together in a darkened theater reminds us that — at our core — we feel the same emotions. Live performance has a way of restoring our sense of connection, and this past week in Carmel was a perfect example.

Few shows have lit up the Golden Bough quite like the opening night of "Gypsy." The energy was electric; the cheers were louder than I've ever heard in that space. From the orchestra to the performances to the staging, it was the kind of exhilarating night that stays with you long after the curtain falls.

Just as astonishing, in a completely different way, was the opening of "Chekhov or Not" in the Circle Theatre. This intimate double bill featured a deeply personal project by one of our town's greatest supporters, Paul Barber, whose performances moved with equal parts tenderness, power and humor. His emotional precision and wisdom were remarkable; my guests and I left wanting to see much more of him on our local stages.

If Carmel ever needed a reminder of how much joy, unity and inspiration live theater can provide, this is it. For anyone longing to feel a little more connected — or simply to enjoy something extraordinary

— both productions are well worth experiencing while they're here.

**David O'Neil, Carmel**

## Existential questions

**Dear Editor,**

What an invigorating pleasure to witness Paul Barber's magnificent performance of "Chekhov or Not" in the intimate setting of the Circle Theater in Carmel on Monday evening. I was transported back in time to London where I watched memorable performances at The Barbican, most notably Chekhov's "The Three Sisters." Paul's energy, eloquent diction and physicality was magnetic and fed off the packed house. I recommend the show to anyone looking for a good laugh (and who isn't these days?), as well as a reflection on life aspirations and the existential questions: "Am I loved? And how have I loved back?"

**Alison van Diggelen, Carmel**

## Thanksgiving volunteers

**Dear Editor,**

Kudos to the Carmel Valley Angel Project and the Carmel Valley Kiwanis Club for the amazing community Thanksgiving dinner they provided for some 450 people.

The Angel Project provided the funding. CV Kiwanis did most of the cooking along with help from chef Tim Wood, the Meatery, and Hacienda Hay & Feed. Because of their efforts, some 260 folks enjoyed a delicious meal at the Carmel Valley Community Center. Additional trays of food were provided to feed more than 70 residents at Rippling River; and more than 70 to-go boxes were prepared for residents at Pacific Meadows.

It was a wonderful Thanksgiving because of the efforts of many volunteers and the generosity of donors. Thanks to all of them.

**Joseph Hertlein, Carmel Valley**

# ALCOHOL

From page 10A

"If you purchase alcohol for someone and we trace it back to you, you are going to pay the consequences," Rosas said.

Statistics indicate that people under the age of 21 have a much higher risk of being involved in a crash than older drivers, according to Rosas, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that roughly a quarter of fatal crashes involve underage drinking.

He referred to the May 2023 fatal collision on Davis Road in Salinas in which a 16-year-old driver who had been served alcohol at Hacienda Grill lost control of a BMW, crossed into oncoming traffic and struck a Dodge Journey, killing 33-year-old Maria Viurquez-Benavidez. The underage driver and a passenger in the BMW were also injured.

The teen pleaded guilty to gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, and the restaurant's liquor license was later revoked as a consequence of providing the alcohol.



**RIVERA & SONS**  
• GENERAL CONSTRUCTION •

**SERVICES**

- » Kitchen Remodels
- » Bathroom Remodels
- » Additions
- » ADU
- » Much More.

- » New Construction
- » Driveways
- » Fences
- » Decks

**Contact us at: 831-272-1030 Daniel**  
**See our work: [riveraandsonsconstruction.com](http://riveraandsonsconstruction.com)**  
**[RNSGCINC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RNSGCINC@GMAIL.COM)**



Lic. 1058834  
Bonded and insured



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# Breakfast in Bethlehem

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

9AM · SATURDAY · DECEMBER 13

PANCAKE BREAKFAST + CRAFTS FOR KIDS + A CHRISTMAS PLAY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

RESERVE YOUR SEATS:





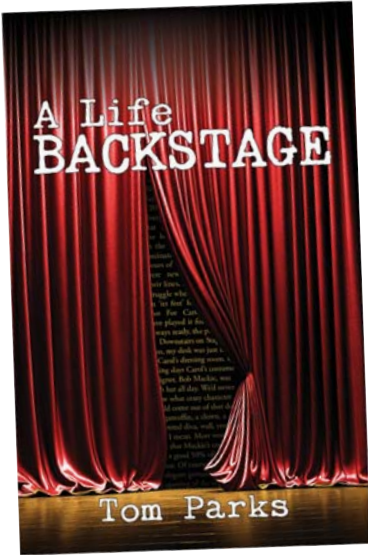
CARMEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

INFO@CARMELPRES.ORG • CARMELPRES.ORG

JUNIPERO & MOUNTAIN VIEW  
CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA, CA 93921

## A BOOK PARTY IN 3 ACTS

SUNDAY, DEC 14, 2-4 PM



**A Life BACKSTAGE**  
Tom Parks

**READINGS FROM A LIFE BACKSTAGE**

**ACT 1**

Grab a glass of wine and a copy of Tom's book

**ACT 2**

In the theater listen to a few of Tom's friends read from his book

**ACT 3**

Return to the gallery for a food and wine reception  
It's all free.

Reserve your seat for the reading, visit **[evenbrite.com](http://evenbrite.com)**

**THE CARL CHERRY CENTER • 4TH AND GUADALUPE, CARMEL**



# Watch out for poisonous shrooms

By KELLY NIX

COUNTY HEALTH officials are warning fungi foragers to be especially conscientious when picking and consuming wild mushrooms after some local hospitals reported an increase in people becoming ill from eating them.

The county health department said Tuesday that ingesting inedible mushrooms — which can be mistaken for the edible variety — can cause abdominal pain, cramping, vomiting, diarrhea and even liver damage and death.

“Only people with extensive training and experience should eat wild mushrooms that they have picked themselves,” Monterey County health officer Dr. Edward Moreno told the media.

Some hospitals have recently reported increases in illnesses resulting from eating poisonous wild mushrooms, though Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula said it’s not one of them.

“We have not seen an increase in

mushroom poisoning through our emergency department,” hospital spokeswoman Monica Sciuto told The Pine Cone this week.

Toxic wild mushrooms include amanita ocreata, known as death angel, amanita phalloides, or death cap, and amanita muscaria, known as fly amanita. The toxic fungi grow in parts of California year-round but are found mostly in fall, late winter and spring.

People who develop adverse symptoms from wild mushrooms should seek immediate medical attention. The health department said that they can also call California Poison Control at (800) 222-1222 for guidance on diagnosing and treating mushroom poisoning.

Local fungi groups, the county said, offer educational resources about mushroom identification and might be able to offer help to those interested in picking and eating wild shrooms. Visit the North American Mycological Association’s website at namyco.org/clubs for information.

## ARTIST

From page 27A

small-but-international sports publication that came with the excitement of travel. In 1999, he returned to the Press Enterprise, where he spent 18 years as a staff writer with beats that included higher education, military affairs, earthquake/seismic research issues, crime reporting, general features and international coverage, winning multiple national and regional awards. He also wrote a weekly column.

In later years, he also witnessed a deterioration of the industry. “There were almost 300 people in our editorial department when I hired on. When I left, we were down to about 35,” he said.

### The Caribbean calls

Figuring he was next in line to be laid off, Muckenfuss started shopping for another opportunity, getting a job offer from the Cayman Islands while still employed at the Riverside paper, he said.

“That was fortunate, because it was a months-long process to get the work permit. I was just about ready to tell them I was leaving when the Press Enterprise announced they were doing buyouts.”

He took that windfall. Starting in 2017,

Muckenfuss spent two-and-a-half years covering education and writing features for the independently owned Cayman Compass, but left in 2020 when the paper was sold and layoffs began.

For the next three years, he taught composition, literature and critical thinking at University College of the Cayman Islands, moonlighted as a community and marketing specialist, and became a freelance art instructor. He also went scuba diving, typically three days a week, in 79-to-86-degree waters, depending on the season.

“I’m a water person, but I haven’t had my whole body in the ocean since I moved here,” confessed Muckenfuss, who came here three years ago to accept the job at CSUMB.

He throws his clay and bakes his pottery in the ceramics department at Monterey Peninsula College.

“I’m constantly learning, still playing at it. If I ever get to the point where I’m not playing, I’m done,” he said.

“Being offered the front window at that gallery felt like a moment of validation for me,” said Muckenfuss. Visit his Instagram page @markmuckenfuss to see his work, or check it out Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at CVAA.

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



MB

MARY BELL

BROKER ASSOCIATE

I listen to *you*, I negotiate for *you*. I meet *your* needs.

Mary Bell 831.595.4999

MaryBellProperties.com

MaryBell@CarmelRealtyCompany.com

Broker Associate | DRE#00649274

CARMEL REALTY COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1913

BOARD OF REGENTS

WHO'S WHO IN LUXURY REAL ESTATE

KNOWLEDGE • SERVICE • CONVENIENCE

IS WHY YOU SHOULD CHOOSE MURPHY'S

Celebrating 121 Years!

Helping to Build Monterey Peninsula since 1904

STILL FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED.



Matt Clark

Truck Driver

Yard Specialist

Free Delivery Anywhere in Monterey County

831-659-2291

10 West Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley Village





MONTEREY BAY

POWER OVER PARKINSON'S

ENGAGE • MOVE • IMPROVE

Parkinson's is now the fastest growing neurological disease

A wellness program designed to slow disease progression in an environment embracing empowerment, motivation & social interaction. Classes are tailored to serve a range of challenges and promote a higher quality of life.

MONTEREY COUNTY

GIVES!

Power Over Parkinson's is honored to participate in the 2025 campaign. Every donation received will be partially matched: making your gift go even further.

Monterey Bay Power Over Parkinson's

2555 Garden Road, Suite B • Monterey, CA 93940

www.poweroverparkinsons.org

poweroverparkinsonsmonterey@gmail.com

831.920.1806

Power Over Parkinson's is a 501(c)3 California nonprofit public charity, Tax ID 83-4429882



ANTIQUE & ESTATE JEWELRY

SALE

30% OFF

NOW -

DEC 14TH



Jewel Boutique

3631 The Barnyard

(831) 625-1016

Restrictions may apply



# Build Your Legacy



TEHÁMA  
Design Your Dream Home  
42Tehama.com



Rolling Hills and Horizons  
7925Cinquenta.com



Find Your Quiet  
TehamaLot68.com

**Access the Unlisted**  
Some of the Peninsula's finest homes never hit the open market  
Scan the QR code to sign up for access to upcoming and off-market listings



- 4 LISTINGS IN PEBBLE BEACH
- 8 LISTINGS IN CARMEL
- 5 LISTINGS IN CARMEL VALLEY
- 3 LISTINGS IN PACIFIC GROVE
- 1 LISTINGS IN MONTEREY



## MARKET SNAPSHOT

# Activity Eases as Year-End Approaches

“The market usually calms down around the holidays, which is what we saw this week in our area. There was just one closed escrow at \$5.5M on Camino Real & 12th. Four houses went into escrow including one in Pebble listed for \$12.6M that had been on the market for about a year, and one in the Preserve that’s set to close in a couple of weeks that’s listed at \$5.95M. We did see 5 new listings come to the market, all listed between \$2.5-4.7M. Many listings are having to adjust price or reset in this market, with 6 listings dropping their price, one transaction falling out and 4 withdrawing from the market, most likely to reboot after the new year.”

JESSICA CANNING  
CANNING PROPERTIES GROUP

Jess

The **#1 TEAM** in 2020, 2021, and 2022  
**TOP 10 TEAM** for Sotheby's International Realty Nationwide for 9 years

Mike Canning | Jessica Canning | Nic Canning | Nancy Canning | Ellen Armstrong | Anita Jones | Caroline Garcia | Anthony Garcia  
team@canningproperties.com | 831.241.4458 | CanningProperties.com

**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



# The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

## Excellence on the court is path to the Ivies for two CHS grads

THERE IS no manual detailing how a parent goes about building a kid like Riley Imamura or Sebastian Daste.

are very special places where cream goes when it rises.

The ex-Padres are also NCAA Division I volleyball players. Imamura (Carmel High '25) just finished her freshman season on the women's team at Dartmouth College, while Daste (CHS '24), also a freshman, is a month away from making his debut with the men's squad at Princeton University.

That reality still seems a bit surreal to both small-town kids as they wander the same halls and sit in the same classrooms as some of the people they've read about in their American history classes.

### The ghosts of giants

Dartmouth (founded in 1769) educated 170 members of Congress, eight presidential cabinet members, two U.S. Supreme Court Justices, three Nobel laureates, 13 Pulitzer Prize winners, 81 Rhodes Scholars and 51 Olympic medalists. Also, Daniel Webster, Robert Frost and Meryl Streep.

Princeton's student body has included presidents James Madison, Woodrow Wilson, John F. Kennedy and both Bushes, not to mention Aaron Burr, Jimmy Stewart and Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan.

"I went to a 'Great Gatsby'-themed party last week,

and sat on the exact same couch where F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote the book," marveled Daste, who "wasn't

really a big history buff" until he walked by Princeton's Nassau Hall (colloquially known as "Old Nassau"), which served as the U.S. Capitol building for four months in 1783, when it hosted the Congress of the Confederation, which honored George Washington for ending the Revolutionary War. (Fun fact: The scar left by a British cannonball is still visible on an exterior wall.)

"We have a bunch of buildings at Dartmouth honoring Dr. Seuss and his art," Imamura parried with a laugh.

Imamura left Carmel High with a 4.65 grade point average, a number only you can probably see from space.

For her academic prowess, she credits her parents — Alison is an engineer and Don is a personal trainer — and the precedent set by her older brother, Tyler, who's a civil engineering student in his junior year at Santa Clara.

"Riley was way better than me," genuflected Daste, who moved on the previous year with a mere 4.3 GPA, then spent part of a gap year playing semi-pro volleyball in Amsterdam.

Daste was also pushed to excel academically by his folks, Molly and Ferrell, but said his older siblings — Kieren, a George Washington University graduate student in Washington D.C., and Isabella, a recent UC Berkeley graduate in pre-med — were the guinea pigs.



PHOTO/COURTESY RILEY IMAMURA

Carmel High graduate Riley Imamura (above), a 5-11 middle blocker in club volleyball, is transitioning to an outside hitter role as a freshman at Dartmouth.

"They were always the test children, and my folks were super-hard on them," he said. "I just kind of followed in their footsteps."

Imamura, a 5-foot-11 middle blocker, was also a four-time All-Gabilan Division and all-county for the Padres, helping them to a 14-0 division record (19-3 overall) in her senior year.

She thanks two of her earliest coaches, David and Jung Crabbe, for helping her fall in love with the game, former Carmel High coach Israel Ricardez, and the coaches at San Jose-based Vision Volleyball, her club

Continues next page



PHOTO/COURTESY SEBASTIAN DASTE

At 6-foot-4, Princeton freshman Sebastian Daste (wearing Princeton jersey), is exceptionally tall for a setter, which also made him a formidable player at the net at

LadyfingersJEWELRY

an award winning gallery of fine designer jewelry • since 1977

Extraordinary Jewelry for  
Extraordinary People

Ladyfingers Jewelry  
on Dolores near Ocean • Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA • 831.624.2327  
www.ladyfingersjewelry.com

at the intersection  
of crisis and care.

Mental health, substance use, and homelessness often intersect. That's why Community Human Services delivers flexible care tailored to each person's unique journey.

community human services  
hope. help. here.

MONTEREY COUNTY GIVES!  
Joining Together for Big Ideas

Crisis doesn't wait. Donate now to support those navigating life's toughest crossroads.





#Tapas!  
*A Happy Hour Beyond Compare.*



DELIGHTFULLY ALFRESCO



TRY OUR **NEW**  
Tapas Happy Hour &  
Mid-Week Specials  
4:30 - 6:00pm daily

Adjacent to the Casa Munras Garden Hotel & Spa | 700 Munras Avenue, Monterey

Reservations Recommended | 831-375-0176 | [estebanrestaurant.com](http://estebanrestaurant.com)

From previous page

team, for accelerating her development.

“I really liked the small-school aspect of Carmel High — the relationships you build there — and wanted that in college, as well,” said Imamura, who sorted through a long list of NCAA suitors before choosing Dartmouth.

“The people I met there when I visited were so genuine,” she said. “I felt like they cared about the whole person, not just the athlete.

“I also loved that it’s kind of in the middle of nowhere (Hanover, N.H.), surrounded by a lot of natural beauty, and I wanted to experience college in a place where it snows and has seasons.”

‘Super cool’

Daste, a skyscraper of a setter at 6-4, led the Padres in both assists and kills as a senior. He was Gabilan Division MVP, and all-division as a junior and senior, and first-team All-PCAL as a sophomore (Covid wiped out his freshman season).

“Boys volleyball isn’t a big sport, but we managed to pack our gym anyway, which was super-cool,” he said.

Daste said his athletic development was strongly influenced by the Carmel Beach volleyball community, including the Crabbes, Mike DeLapa, Jerome Vandenbroucke, J.C. Myers, Jim Ariola, Matt Morgan and Dane Holmgren.

The Padres were Gabilan champs in his first two years, reaching the CCS and NorCal finals in ’22 and ’23, and were Gabilan runners-up in ’24.

“The recruiting part is a lot different for guys, because there are only about 35 NCAA Division I men’s volleyball programs,” he said.

Daste chose Princeton from a short list that included Penn State, UC San Diego, and UC Santa Barbara.

“I just had a recurring conversation with Princeton, and I also had a couple of friends there,” he said. “And my parents

knew a lot about the history of Princeton and the Ivies, so they encouraged me to keep the conversation going.”

College volleyball is a fall sport for women, winter for men, so Imamura just finished her season.

Dartmouth — known as “The Big Green” — went 7-17 overall, with Imamura seeing limited action while adjusting to a new position, moving from middle blocker (her main position as a club player) to outside hitter duties.



PHOTO/COURTESY SEBASTIAN DASTE

Former Carmel High volleyball sensations Sebastian Daste and Riley Imamura reconnected when he watched her play for Dartmouth at Princeton on Nov. 15. Daste makes his NCAA men’s volleyball debut Jan. 3 as a freshman for the Princeton Tigers.

“I got to watch Riley when Dartmouth came to Princeton, and I was impressed,” Daste said. “I wasn’t expecting her to play that well at a new position.”

Daste will be vying for court time on a Princeton team that just graduated its honorable-mention All-America setter, Ben Harrington.

Continues next page



One Old Ranch Road,  
Carmel, CA 93923  
TEL 831.275.1532  
WEB [carmelvalleyranch.com](http://carmelvalleyranch.com)

SAVOR THE SEASON  
AT VALLEY KITCHEN



LEAVE THE HOLIDAY  
COOKING TO US!

The Ranch’s culinary team—including new Executive Chef Ty Thaxton and Pastry Chef Molly Coen—is bringing fresh and festive energy this season.



SCAN TO  
LEARN  
MORE

Christmas Eve dinner

Breakfast with Santa on Christmas morning

New Year’s Eve dinner followed by a celebratory countdown



HAZARA  
RUG CLEANING & REPAIR



THE MOST  
PROFESSIONAL  
AREA RUG  
CLEANER ON THE  
CENTRAL COAST  
RUG PAD,  
RUG APPRAISAL,  
RUG REPAIR  
FREE PICKUP  
AND DELIVERY  
WE BUY SINGLE AND  
ENTIRE ESTATE RUGS  
WE PAY TOP DOLLAR  
FOR NAVAJO RUGS

Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

831-324-0706  
[hazararugcleaning.com](http://hazararugcleaning.com)

214 Fountain Ave • Pacific Grove



From previous page

His competition includes last year’s backup, Nolan Kelly, a junior from El Segundo who played 32 sets in 18 matches, and senior Kyle Gschwend, a New Hampshire native who played 21 sets in nine matches.

Last year’s Tigers went 15-12, 10-2 in their conference.

Princeton’s season opens Jan. 3 with a road trip that begins in Toronto, then comes to California for matches with UC Irvine (Jan. 14, 6 p.m.), USC (Jan. 16, 5 p.m.) and Irvine-based Concordia (Jan. 20, 5 p.m.). The Tigers will return to California in March to play UC San Diego and CSU Northridge.

**Family time**

Those closer-to-home matches are expected to be family reunion opportunities for the Dastes.

The Imamuras have already made a couple of East Coast visits to watch their daughter. “My grandparents came out for

a weekend, and everybody came for Parents Weekend,” she said. “I also got to see my cousin, and hang out with her a little bit, when we played at Penn. All of that definitely helped with my homesickness during my first college term.”

And the daunting challenge of Ivy League academics? Both are surprised to be coping well.

“It definitely was intimidating — like, ‘What am I going to do? I’m not prepared for this,’” said Imamura, who plans to major in neuroscience.

“I spent my gap year re-thinking my decision, wondering how a kid from a small, public school was going to survive at one of the top universities in the world,” said Daste, who is considering public and international affairs as a major, with thoughts of a business or finance career.

“But having a little bit of fear is always good,” he theorized. “Fear is what keeps you alive.”

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



**WITH OVER 65 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE  
IN THE SEPTIC INDUSTRY**

- Septic System Pumping, Maintenance, Service & Inspection
  - Sewer Drain Line Clearing & Hydro-Jetting
  - Grease Trap/Interceptor Service & Inspection
- Storm Drain and Culvert Hydro-Jetting & Clearing
  - Fully Licensed, Bonded and Insured

**We can take care of all your “dirty” work**

**www.tomsseptic.com**  
**831-633-2321**  
Lic.# 406512

*Book Your Holiday Party with Us*



*Amazing  
OCEAN VIEWS  
Holiday  
SPECIALTIES*

Prime Rib Dinner | Clambake Seafood Extravaganza  
Cioppino Feast | Parties of 10-150 are our specialty  
Customized Menus & Extensive Banquet Menu available

*Book Your Special Event Today!*

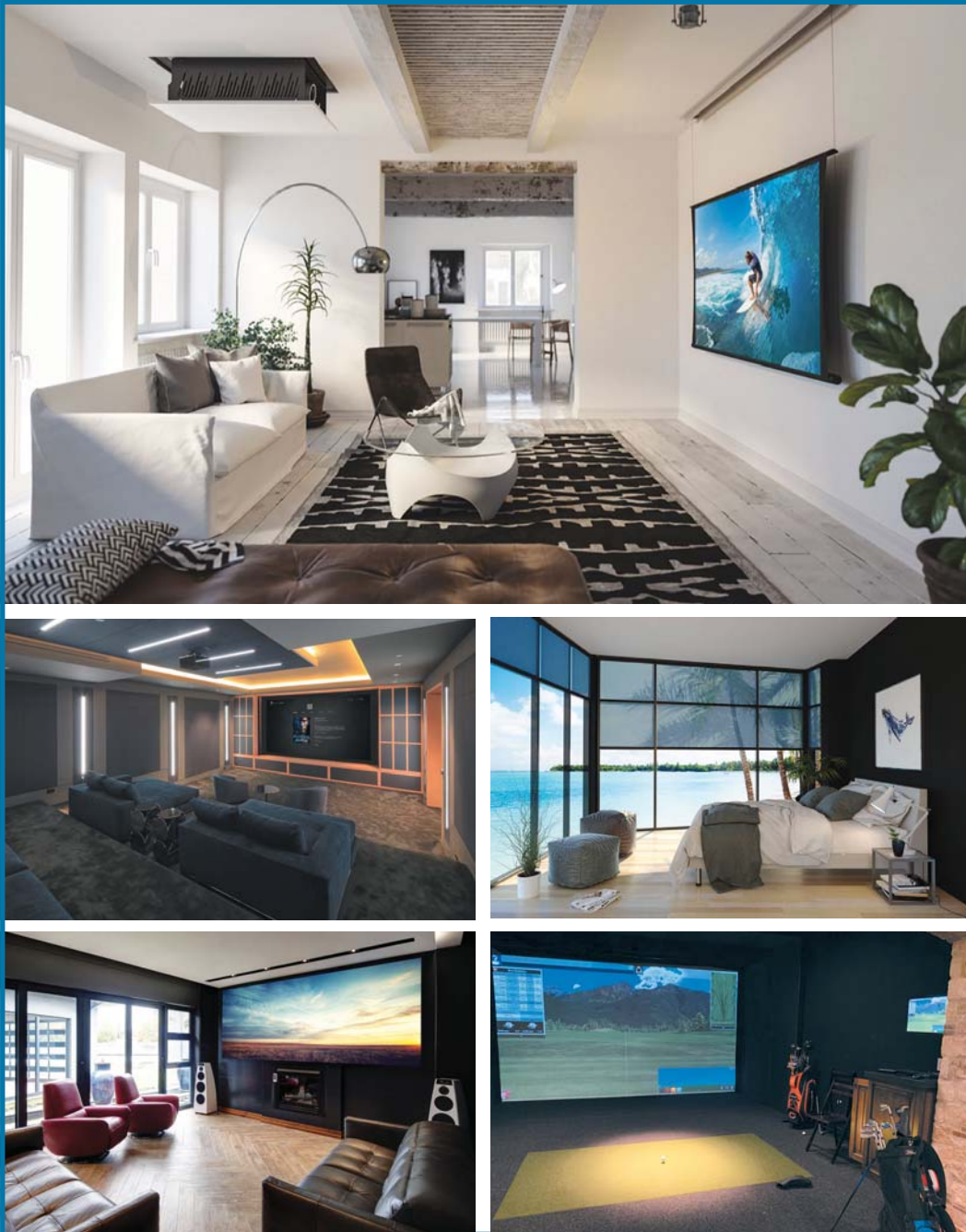
Contact Catering:  
events@fishhopper.com or 831.372.8543

VOTED BEST  
RESTAURANT ON  
CANNERY ROW 2025



**THE FISH HOPPER**  
SEAFOOD & STEAKS

FishHopper.com  
831 372-8543  
700 Cannery Row





**CUSTOM INNOVATIONS**  
AUDIO VIDEO DESIGN & INSTALLATION

LIGHTING CONTROL

SHADE CONTROL

NETWORK SOLUTIONS

HOME THEATER

WHOLE HOUSE MUSIC

HOME AUTOMATION

LANDSCAPE AUDIO

SECURITY CAMERAS

SERVICE AND SUPPORT

CONTROL4 SPECIALIST



# Carmel Chamber names award finalists

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

BY THE time you read this, the winners of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce’s Awards of Excellence — who will be revealed at a gala dinner at Quail Lodge in Carmel Valley Dec. 3 — will have been picked by the business group’s members. The chamber last week released the list of nominees, which were selected by the general public via online voting.

## Pacific Grove Advanced Chiropractic HEAD AND NECK PAIN

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

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

The NUCCA UPPER CERVICAL system of chiropractic can gently and specifically treat the Cranial-Cervical spine to be of help to all problems people can experience. This treatment can also correct full spine, pelvis and leg length imbalances.

The NUCCA chiropractic care entails a 3- dimensional x-ray evaluation and analysis to determine specific spinal misalignment measurements, so that the proper gentle adjustment can be given.

The goal of treatment is to offer relief from the problems many experience. Treatment can help a person be healthier and more active. This care should be part of any other care one receives for their health care.

**Steven N. MacDonald, D.C.**

**Board Certified \* NUCCA \***  
**831.375.9528**  
**718 Lighthouse Ave., Suite A,**  
**Pacific Grove**  
**www.drmacnucca.com**




Finalists in “Accommodations: Small” are the Pine Inn, the Stilwell Hotel and Tradewinds. “Accommodations: Large” includes Bernardus Lodge & Spa, Cypress Inn and The Lodge at Pebble Beach.

The “Art” category has four: Carmel Valley Art Association, Edi Matsumoto Art & Design, Monterey Museum of Art and Nicole Cromwell Art.

Finalists in “Beverages” are Carmel Valley Coffee Roasting Company, De Tierra Vineyards and Folktales Winery & Vineyard, while in “Food/Market/Specialty: Small,” they are Bruno’s, Carmel Belle and Dutch Door Donuts. Their compatriots in the “Large” category are Anton & Michel, Grasing’s and Rio Grill.

Top nominees in “Health & Wellness” are Big Sur Cannabotanicals, Big Sur International Marathon and the Carmel Valley Athletic Club, and top vote-getters in the “Financial/Legal” category are Monterey County Bank, Synergy One Lending and Wells Fargo.

For “Music/Performance,” the top nominees are I Cantori di Carmel, Pacific Repertory Theatre and Sunset Cultural Center, and for “Nonprofits,” The Carmel Foundation, Meals on Wheels and the Monterey Peninsula Ballet



**YOLANDA MOYA**  
Certified Nursing Assistant

Services Provided:  
Transportation • Medication Reminders  
Meal Preparations • Companionship  
Light Housekeeping • Hospice Care  
Personal Assistant Needs • and more

Over 31 Years of Experience  
24/7 Care • Excellent References  
**831-247-9646**



**New Image by Hilary**  
Permanent Make-Up Artist

*Need to freshen up your look?*



**BROWS, EYES & LIPS**

Before After

*If you don't look good, I don't look good.*

Look 10 years younger in just a couple of hours using the application of Permanent Make Up.

(831) 484-5400 | NEWIMAGEBYHILARY.COM

**Law Office of  
Sara Senger**

30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE  
IN MEDI-CAL ESTATE PLANNING

Elder Law  
Wills and Trusts  
Special Needs



*I will make home and hospital visits*

2511 Garden Rd., Suite A230 Monterey  
(831) 646-5424 | sgsenger@att.net

Theatre.

Finalists for “Professional Services: Small” are Elements of Carmel, KAZU NPR and Lemos 76, and for “Professional Services: Large,” Lewis Builders, Montage Health and Monterey County Weekly

In “Real Estate/Property Management: Small,” candidates are San Carlos Agency, Team Beesley/KW Coastal Realty, and Tim Allen Properties, and among the larger companies, David Lyng Real Estate, Sotheby’s International Realty and Santa Lucia Preserve.

For the expansive “Retail: Small” category, the top recipients are Carmel Dog Shop, Kocek Jeweler and Yellow Brick Road, and nominees in “Large” are The Barnyard, The Crossroads Carmel and the Doud Arcade.

For “Tourism: Small,” finalists are Adventures by the Sea, Monterey Bay Whale Watch and Monterey Touring Vehicles, and for “Tourism: Large,” they are Carmel Mission Basilica, Tehama Golf Club and WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca.

### The big winner

Business of the Year candidates, which are last year’s category winners, are 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 Bicycle 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 and Tickle Pink Inn.

**THE CARMEL PINE CONE'S 2025**

# HOLIDAY GUIDE

**PUBLICATION DATE:**  
*Friday, December 12*

**CALL OR EMAIL TO RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE TODAY!**

**MEENA (831) 274-8655**  
meena@carmelpinecone.com

**BEST House Cleaning 6 Years!**


## TWO GIRLS FROM CARMEL

**• Experienced  
• Professional**


Offering a personal and friendly touch for 30 years

**BONDED HOUSECLEANING SPECIALISTS**

*So Many Dust Bunnies, So Little Time* **831-626-4426**  
TwoGirlsFromCarmel.com




**SPCA Monterey County**  
*Changing Lives*



**Kiwi**  
7 mos. old

I’m a big sweetheart and I’m ready to join your family. You can meet me at the SPCA!



**Milo**  
7 years old

I love to cuddle - will you get cozy with me? I’m waiting for you at the SPCA!

**SPCA for Monterey County Veterinary clinic is taking appointments for spay/neuter!**

Go to [www.spcamc.org](http://www.spcamc.org) to make an appointment online.

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

Sponsored by Friends of All Cats

**www.SPCAmc.org**

**One Year Ago...**



**POMDR Benefit Shop**  
**First Anniversary Sale & Party!**  
**One Day Only - 75% Entire Store!**  
**Sip, Snack and Shop**

**SATURDAY DEC 13 4-7 PM 2025**

223 Grand Ave, Suite 1 Pacific Grove

**Peace of Mind DOG RESCUE BENEFIT SHOP**  
Helping Senior Dogs and Senior People  
© SINCE 2009



**Ad Sponsored by Judy LeRoy in Memory of Lasso**



# LIVES

From page 27A

very small pieces, very patiently” said Pari, who was born in Tehran in 1954.

As she came of age, so did Iran’s capital city. The 1960s were a time of experimentation, not just culturally but politically as the state pushed a seemingly liberal outline for a new Iranian society.

One of many newly enfranchised women in a city suddenly in vogue with progressive filmmakers, artists and bohemians, Pari’s mother became a master furrier and tailor. Pari remembers the first project her mother taught her to sew by hand, the cuff on a shirtsleeve.

“To sew, you have to learn passion. She taught me that you have to feel skill in your body, your mind and your emotions,” she said.

## A new year

Her childhood felt comfortable and creative, but the tone shifted in the 1970s. Backlash — to Westernization and an increasingly reactive authoritarian government — burst into violent protest and instability. In 1975, four years before the Iranian Revolution remade the country in the image of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Pari’s family fled the country.

Two weeks after her family arrived in the United States, winners of the green card lottery, a 21-year-old Pari met Foroud, a fellow member of the Iranian Students Association that helped organize a Nowruz celebration in San Francisco’s Balboa Park. The traditional Persian new year takes place in the spring, a time for “everybody to come together, forget sickness, all the bad things, and celebrate,” Pari explained.

The activist couple married a little over a year later and were sent to Chicago to help build another chapter of the students’ association — but her political life is “a whole other story” that Pari waved off with a smile.

Golnesa was born in 1978. It was a bit-tersweet year, as Foroud grew concerned for his family back home. The Payandehjoos briefly returned to Iran, but it became

clear that Pari, Golnesa and her newborn sister, Yasi, should return to the States.

They had “no money,” Pari recalled, and she hadn’t finished college. But she did have her mother, who began seriously educating her as a tailor. She also had her brother, who hired her at the small mens-wear shop he’d opened in Palo Alto. And one day, Pari’s sister called her to announce she’d rented a two-bedroom apartment in Saratoga, \$100 a month and two doors down from her mother’s place.

“It was heaven,” Pari recalled. It also became a workplace, once her mom insisted they splurge on a Singer sewing machine for \$350. (Pari uses it to this day.)

After his safe return from Iran, Foroud and Pari moved their daughters to Sacramento, where he had an opportunity to work as a real estate appraiser, and she spent nearly a decade mastering her skills at local tailoring shops. In 1994, when Foroud found a job in Pacific Grove, Pari was keen on the move and ready to take a risk of her own.

“At that point, I felt like a graduate of my school,” she said.

Soon, a sign she and her sister made by hand appeared on Grand Avenue, announcing Pari’s Boutique and Alterations. She specialized in men’s tailoring, furs and wedding gowns. For every bride, she said, she learned from her mother to pray as she works, “for peace, a great relationship, a great life” — and surely for strength, that each new couple have the resolve to ride their own rollercoaster.

**Big enough to share**

After 15 years, her own ride was smoothing out — prosperously, uneventfully — except for one noticeable turn. It was 2009, and websites like eBay and Etsy had cracked open a world of interest in vintage and one-of-a-kind clothing. In P.G., customers began to bring in items they’d found at estate sales or in the family attic, asking if Pari could tailor them, freshen them up a little. Or would she be willing to sell them?

That year, Golnesa — a graduate of P.G. High and CSUMB’s business school — decided to move home. She was burnt out after a decade in Silicon Valley, managing operations for a semiconductor company

whose chips powered the devices everyone was suddenly shopping on. In her mother’s enterprise, she recognized an opportunity big enough to be shared.

**Paying it forward**

In 2015, the duo took over Carmel’s Deja Vu Couture, whose retiring owners sensed Pari and Golnesa were the ideal buyers for their little consignment shop in The Barnyard. It’s since been brought into The Wear-House’s 4,000-square-foot consignment boutique, styling and tailoring suite at 2000 Sunset Drive.

With her styling clients, Golnesa’s approach to “closet therapy” is a little more involved than making piles of “Yes,” “No,” and “When I lose 5 pounds.” The underappreciated twin of retail therapy, closet therapy is an emotional process, she acknowledges, but the unburdening is necessary for the psyche and the budget. Maybe a sentimental item or a mistaken

purchase just needs a little “re-couture,” or can be consigned for cash, or donated to charity.

Running the books and business behind the scenes, the closet therapist is also The Wear-House’s chief philanthropist. Golnesa and Pari have mentored stylish young interns over the years, and careful consideration put them in touch with the Carmel Woman’s Club, the Alliance on Aging and Seneca Family Agencies, which manages the Kinship Center for foster children in Monterey. The Wear-House gives to all three organizations through direct donations and auction items.

It’s important to invest in quality, community and family. Love is a riskier investment, but they found luck in Foroud and Golnesa’s husband, Todd (who speaks Farsi). He’s a financial advisor she met on a business date (so they thought), to talk about the future of The Wear-House.

Their support is “priceless,” she said.



# STRETCHLAB

## 1-ON-1 ASSISTED STRETCHING STUDIO

*Looking for relief from tension, stiffness & stress?  
Concerned about falling and losing balance?*  
**IMPROVE SPORTS PERFORMANCE!**

**1st Visit Discount:**  
**Up to 50% Off Walk-In Price**

Helping people of all ages and lifestyles improve their mobility and flexibility, so they can live better.

Convenient parking. Near Cornucopia Market.  
26135 Carmel Rancho Bl., #E105, Carmel, CA  
**(831) 308-0906** Open M-F: 8-6, Sat.: 8-2  
[www.StretchLAB.com/location/carmelrancho](http://www.StretchLAB.com/location/carmelrancho)

## 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN *Christmas Market*

**Sat. Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 10AM-5PM**  
**Sun. Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 10AM-4PM**

**Spreckels Memorial Building,  
5<sup>th</sup> & Llano St., Spreckels**  
(Exit 21 off Hwy 68)

Sterling Silver jewelry, beadwork, native glass art, paintings, hand-made drums, T-shirts, arts and crafts plus many more items in a relaxed shopping environment.

**Buy Native American, by Native Americans**

Questions? (831) 601-3051      Donations at door appreciated



**Food Booth**  
**Fry Bread   Rez Dogs**  
**Indian Tacos**

**Benefits**  
**3 Rivers Indian Lodge, Manteca**

## MARINE LIFE STUDIES - BENEFIT GIFT SHOP

**8142 MOSS LANDING RD, MOSS LANDING, CA 95039**  
**Friday - Sunday Hours 10AM - 6PM**

We proudly feature local artists, showcasing and celebrating their creative talent. All proceeds support our research, education, and whale rescue programs. Our collection includes metal sculptures, handcrafted jewelry, greeting cards, books, plush toys, framed pressed seaweed art, and much more!



## MARINE LIFE STUDIES - CONFERENCE CENTER

Our conference rooms are the perfect setting for your next meeting, retreat, or special event - not only because of its functionality, but also its unbeatable location in Monterey County.

Small Room - 202 sq ft  
Large Room - 1032 sq ft

**Learn more at:**  
**MarineLifeStudies.org**





# CHRISTMAS EVE

## cioppino dinner

**Jacks Monterey**  
Wednesday, December 24, 2025  
4PM to 10PM

Fresh caught, halibut, calamari, mussels and more  
Served with fresh baked garlic bread

Holiday carolers from 5pm to 8pm

Jacks full dinner menu will be available  
Jacks children's menu is available on request

**RESERVATIONS**  
**CIOPPINO \$48.95** per person  
Price excludes tax and 20% gratuity  
Reservation recommended  
(831) 649-7870  
[jacks@portolahotel.com](mailto:jacks@portolahotel.com)



(831) 649-7830 | [JACKSATPORTOLA.COM](http://JACKSATPORTOLA.COM)





CARMEL • PEBBLE BEACH • CARMEL VALLEY & THE MONTEREY PENINSULA

Food & Wine  
Galleries and Art

This Week

Live Music,  
Clubs and Events

From Cuba to Canada — Sand Box welcomes award-winning singer, guitarist

PLAYING A mix of funk, jazz and pop, and infusing it with Latin and African influences, Grammy Award-winning singer and guitarist **Alex Cuba** performs Sunday, 3 p.m., at the Sand Box in Sand City.

Born in Cuba and now living in Canada, Cuba (the musician) earned a Grammy Award in 2022 when his record, “Mendo,” was named Best Latin Pop Album. Besides receiving three other nominations, the musician has four Latin Grammy Awards and two Juno Awards. The latter is Canada’s equivalent of a Grammy.

“To hear Alex Cuba in the warmth and clarity of the Sand Box’s acoustic embrace is a gift beyond measure,” owner **Michelle Djokic** said.

Tickets are \$50 for general admission and \$30 for students and active military. The Sand Box is located at 440 Ortiz Ave. Visit [sandboxsandcity.com](http://sandboxsandcity.com).

■ Powerful voices

Presenting “inspiring choral works” that resonate “with joy and spirit,” **The Camerata Singers** perform Saturday, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, 2:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church in Monterey.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

The singers are led by artistic director and conductor Mark Purcell. The program is titled “Gabriel’s Message.” “Audiences will be treated to the powerful voices of

the 40-member choir accompanied by instrumentalists on violin, cello and oboe,” the group said. “The concert will showcase a diverse blend of traditional, contemporary and international holiday music designed to appeal to a wide audience and evoke the warmth of the holiday season.”

While tickets start at \$20, students get in for free. The church is located at 501 El Dorado St. Visit [camerata-singers.org](http://camerata-singers.org).

■ Grab your dancing shoes

It’s Salsa Night Saturday at Palenke Arts in Seaside, which hosts a concert and dance by **La Familia**, an ensemble with members from Colombia, Mexico, California and

See **MUSIC** page 44A



Singer and guitarist Alex Cuba (left) plays Sunday, 3 p.m., at the Sand Box in Sand City. Singer and guitarist Rags Rosenberg (center) performs Friday, 7 p.m., at Julia’s Vegetarian Restaurant in Pacific Grove. The Camerata Singers (right) present a holiday concert Friday and Saturday at First Presbyterian Church in Monterey.

LIMITED RUN - BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

DEC 1 - DEC 13

CIRCLE THEATRE

Community Voices  
presents

CHEKHOV  
OR NOT

SWAN SONG  
BY ANTON CHEKHOV

DR. KHEAL  
BY MARIA  
IRENE FORNES

FEATURING PAUL BARBER & HOWARD BURNHAM  
DIRECTED BY JOHN NEWKIRK

MON	DEC 1 & 8	7:30P
TUE	DEC 2 & 9	7:30P
WED	DEC 3 & 10	7:30P
SAT	DEC 6 & 13	2:00P Matinees

PACREP.ORG  
831-622-0100

WHERE MONTEREY COMES TO PLAY

The Marina Club Casino

JUST MINUTES FROM  
DOWNTOWN MONTEREY

1,500 SQ. FT. OF GAMING

3 CARD POKER

BLACKJACK

TEXAS HOLD'EM

PAI GOW

FULL BAR

Why travel when you can  
play in your own backyard.

THE MARINA CLUB CASINO ENSURES THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF ALL GUESTS AND TEAM MEMBERS AT ALL TIMES, WHILE PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE.

204 CARMEL AVENUE • MARINA, CA • 831-384-0925

WWW.CASINOMONTEREY.COM



FOOD & WINE

Be a bit naughty — no one will tell

IT'S OFFICIAL. For the next four-or-so weeks, nobody will bat an eye if you splurge on a jar of saffron and wedges of fancy imported cheese, buy some exceptional olive oil and invest in a 10-year-old

welcoming guests into the tavern following a 14-month overhaul that included revamping the interior and getting records in order. Established in 1937 by Al and Rose Segovia, the spot reopened Oct. 9.

“Segovia’s has been a gathering place for locals and travelers alike for generations,” said their great-grandson, Brandon Segovia, whose late grandfather, Larry, worked alongside Al and Rose at what was then called Al’s Place, on the other side of the street. In 1964, the

Continues next page

Soup to Nuts

cabernet to accompany a holiday meal. Right in these very pages, you’ll find oysters, vintage cocktails from a historic dive, and a party with a bunch of chefs. When you head out to the airport to pick up, drop off or board a plane, there are suggestions for sustenance, and the first couple of Christmas listings are ready for you to start pointing and clicking.

Oysters at Shearwater

Shearwater Tavern at Carmel Mission Inn is planning “Oyster Jams” for Thursday, Dec. 11, from 5 to 8 p.m. You can pay as you go for oysters, beer, wine or a beverage from the full bar. And since shellfish aren’t for everyone, the full Shearwater Tavern menu will also be available.

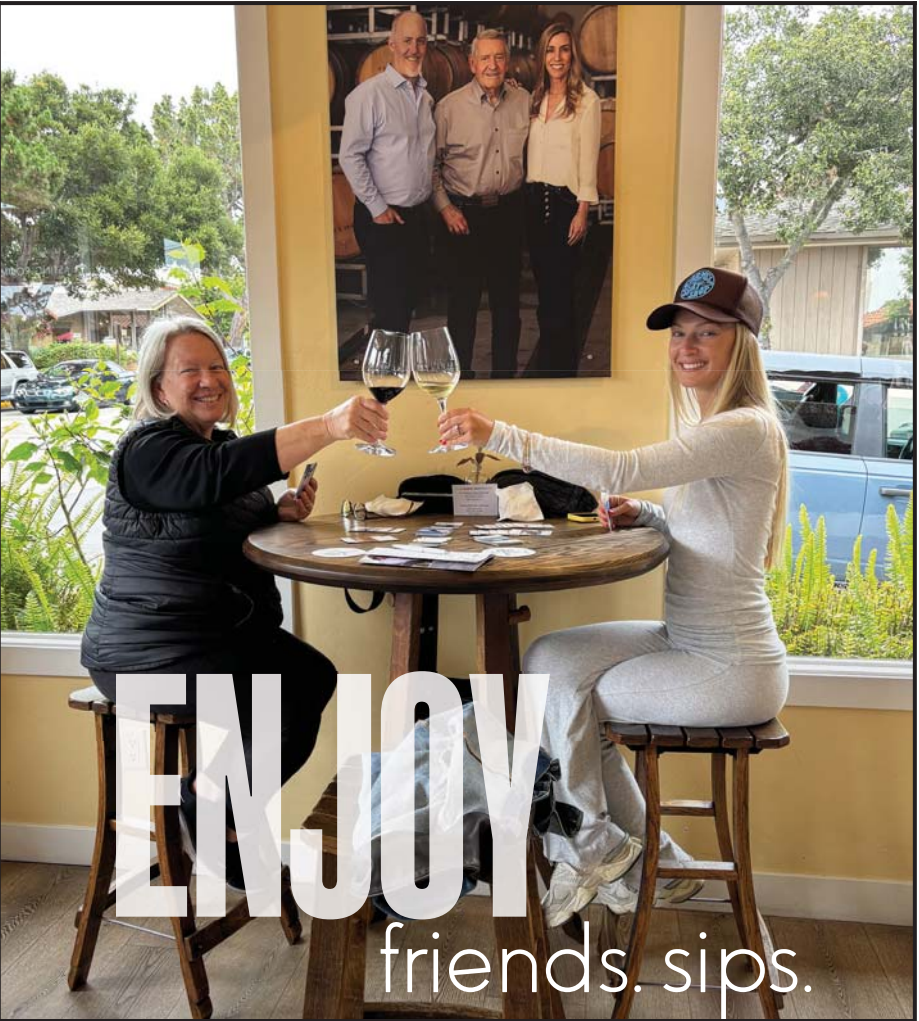
Live music will be provided by Meez, and the family- and dog-friendly event will take place around the outdoor fire pits, so dress accordingly. Carmel Mission Inn is at 3665 Rio Road, (831) 624-1841.

Segovia’s is back

The great-grandson of the founders of Segovia’s on Lighthouse Avenue in New Monterey has started



After a 14-month overhaul, Segovia’s, Monterey’s “up-scale dive bar” has reopened under the management of the founders’ great-grandson, Brandon Segovia. With new paint, flooring and more, it still offers classic cocktails and a convivial locals watering hole.



pouring daily from 12pm

CARMEL TASTING ROOM	ESTATE WINERY & TASTING ROOM
SAN CARLOS & 7TH	1972 HOBSON AVE., GREENFIELD
831.626.WINE (9463)	831.386.0316



SCHEID  
VINEYARDS



SCHEIDVINEYARDS.COM

TIME TO START PLANNING YOUR

Christmas Dinner

Order Your Specialty Cut Meats Now

Voted Best Meat Shop & Butchers in Monterey County

Standing Rib Roast • Filet Mignon Roast • English Pot Roast

Diestel Turkey & Bone-In Breast • Spiral Cut Ham

Crown Roast of Pork or Lamb • Local Seafood & more

Carrying Local Specialties

Fresh Gizdich Pies • Lula's Chocolates

Marianne's & Revival Ice Cream • Baker's Bacon

French Poodle Dressing • Jeffrey's Spiced Nuts

Otto's Bread Company • Paris Bakery Quiche

Franco's Italian Cookies • Little Napoli Sauces

Red's Donuts • Bruno's Fresh Squeezed OJ

Happy Holidays from The Sanchez Family & Staff

OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY 6:30AM - 2PM

BRUNO'S

MARKET & DELI

PRIME & USDA CHOICE MEATS

GOURMET DELI

FARM FRESH PRODUCE

Carmel's Largest Independent Liquor Store Since 1953

CARMEL-BY-THA-SEA

EST. 2003

SURF N SAND LIQUORS

WINE SPIRITS BEER CIGARS

831-624-3821   Ample Free Parking   831-624-1805

6<sup>th</sup> & Junipero, Carmel • Open Daily 6:30am - 8pm • Local Home & Hotel Delivery

VOTED BEST LOCALS MENU

SKIRT STEAK

3 COURSE MEALS STARTING AT \$20

CHOICE OF ENTRÉE, CLAM CHOWDER OR SALAD & CHEF'S DESSERT

~ FISH & CHIPS \$20

~ LINGUINI & CLAMS \$20

~ BUTTERNUT SQUASH RAVIOLI \$20

~ PRAWNS SCAMPI MONTEREY \$22

~ PARMESAN CRUSTED CHICKEN \$23

~ SKIRT STEAK \$23

~ BROILED SALMON \$23

~ GRILLED SANDDABS \$23

~ ASIAN STYLE BABY BACK RIBS \$23

~ MONTEREY BAY CIOPPINO \$25

~ MONDAYS-THURSDAYS ~

FOR MONTEREY COUNTY LOCALS & MILITARY

Must present Monterey County or Military ID.

Parties of 8 or less. Not valid holidays or during holiday periods.

THE FISH HOPPER

SEAFOOD & STEAKS

Proprietors Chris Shake and Sabu JR Shake

OPEN DAILY AT 10:30AM

Reservations:

FishHopper.com or

831 372-8543

700 Cannery Row



2025

Shop Sip Stroll

DOWNTOWN PACIFIC GROVE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

THURSDAYS

DECEMBER 11TH & 18TH

4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

LIGHTHOUSE AVENUE

PACIFIC GROVE

EXCLUSIVE SPECIAL OFFERS

LIVE MUSIC

GIFT WRAPPING BY

PG YOUTH AMBASSADORS

THE PERFECT REASON TO VISIT

DOWNTOWN PACIFIC GROVE!



PACIFICGROVE.ORG



CHRISTMAS

DINNER

AT COVEY GRILL

December 24 & 25 | 5:00 - 9:00pm

Three-Course Prix Fixe Menu

\$84<sup>++</sup> Per Person

Unwrap the magic of the season with our holiday menu carefully prepared by our exceptional culinary team.

Discover holiday specials like Chestnut Velouté, Beef Wellington, or Five Spice and Pistachio Dusted Duck Breast in a festive setting.

Reservations are required.

For more information please visit [quail lodge.com](http://quail lodge.com)

8205 VALLEY GREENS DRIVE, CARMEL | 831.620.8860

From previous page

bar moved to its 650 Lighthouse Ave. location, and Larry continued to preside over it until he died in October 2014 at the age of 81, when he passed it to another grandson, Christopher.

As CEO, Brandon Segovia said he’s been honored to take over and shepherd the bar into its next chapter.



Executive chef Gus Trejo at Bernardus Lodge is making hot cocoa from his personal recipe, which includes cinnamon, cardamom and other spices. It’s topped with homemade marshmallows and is available on Sunday evenings.

“After an exciting refresh, I am proud to have revived the tavern, preserving its classic character while breathing new life into the space for a new era,” he said. “It is a true honor to continue our family’s legacy and welcome the community back to this beloved local institution.”

New paint, fixtures, flooring, furniture and other touches bring Segovia’s more sophistication, but it retains its feel of a cozy hole-in-the-wall where locals share tall tales and adult beverages. In other words, it achieves the rare distinction of being an upscale dive bar.

The liquor selection is fairly standard but still has plenty of options for fans of all types of spirits. The cocktail menu includes a few classics — Manhattans, margaritas, Bee’s Knees — and three named for the family: El Jefe, a tribute to Al, contains Michter’s Bourbon, simple syrup and Angostura bitters; Pop’s Mule, for Larry, consists of Tito’s vodka, lime juice, house-made ginger syrup and ginger beer; and Rosie’s Martini is made with Tito’s, Chambord liqueur, simple syrup and lemon juice. Each is priced at \$17.

Segovia’s is open from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. daily. Call (831) 920-8076 for more information.

■ Hangin’ with the chefs

The Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Culinary Federation is having a night out with purveyors of fine food, and the public is invited. The shindig’s going

See **FOOD** next page

Shearwater

EST. 2021 TAVERN

CARMEL MISSION INN





NYE 2026

The Bond Ball

December 31 | 10pm - 1am

Join us for an exciting night

Dress to impress or as your favorite Bond character

(Best Dressed Contest)

Entertainment by

SCARLET

Themed Cocktails with Open Bar

(drinks included in price)

Casino Royale with Cheese Sliders and other delights, available all night

HENRY MILLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUNDRAISER

\$125 /PERSON FOR THE FIRST 150 | \$150/PERSON FOR THE NEXT 150

3665 RIO ROAD, CARMEL • SHEARWATERTAVERN.COM



TRAILSIDE CAFE

CARMEL VALLEY

Join us for our

MUG CLUB

CHRISTMAS PARTY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 6-9PM

FOOD • DRINK • FUN

For current, renewing and new members who want to join.

Book your next event with us.

We have a private room, the beer-garden or the bar area you can rent to make it a fun night.

PRAY FOR SNOW PARTY

Thurs, December 18th

6-9pm

Join us for ski movies and fun in the bar.

OPEN DAILY • 831-298-7453 • [trailsidecafecv.com](http://trailsidecafecv.com)

3 Del Fino Place, Carmel Valley Village





# FOOD & WINE

## FOOD

From previous page

to be at the Monterey County Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairground Road in Monterey, on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. Promising “12 action-packed food tables, festive drinks and holiday cheer,” organizers say tickets are \$85 per person, including food, drink and admission to the Winter Wonderland holiday light show and Christmas market at the Fairgrounds. Kids under 10 are \$10, and you can buy tickets at [acfmontereybaychefs.org](http://acfmontereybaychefs.org). Click on “Events” and follow the links to the party.

### Flying food

Whether you’re boarding a plane or picking up friends who’ve been subsisting on airline peanuts for hours, there are a couple of dining options not far from the flight path. First, Woody’s at the Airport — chef Tim Woods’ restaurant — is well known as a place not only for travelers, but locals. (Oldtimers remember the Golden Tee in that location, also a spot for Peninsula residents who wanted to watch the

planes while enjoying some signature sand dabs.)

Voted Best Airport Sit-Down Restaurant in the United States by USA Today readers in 2023 and 2024 and garnering second place in 2025, Woody’s is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., 365 days a year, and the folks there validate parking for up to two hours with a minimum \$15 purchase (not valid in the long-term lot). There’s indoor seating as well as a patio overlooking the runway and Monterey Bay, and, after going through security, you can grab something at Woody’s Cockpit to make your pretzel-crunching seatmates jealous somewhere over Kansas.

From breakfast and weekend brunch, to a collection of hearty lunchtime sandwiches, sharable appetizers, and full dinners featuring steak, salmon, pasta or, yes, sand dabs, you can have a reliably delicious meal at a cost similar to other local eateries. And not only can you tip your server, you can also order beer for the kitchen crew for \$4. Visit [woodysmontereyairport.com](http://woodysmontereyairport.com) for more info.

If you exit the airport, turn left on Highway 68 and drive down the hill, you’ll find

See **HOLIDAYS** next page



DAILY 12 NOON TO 10PM

#### EXPERIENCE THE ORIGINAL

Watch as your personal chef slices tender steak and juicy chicken. Take in the aroma of sizzling shrimp, lobster and savory vegetables. Or try our fresh nigiri, sashimi and specialty rolls, all prepared with the same flair that made Benihana a legend in Japanese cuisine.

136 Olivier St., Monterey  
Near Old Fisherman’s Wharf  
(831) 644-9007 [WWW.BENIHANA.COM](http://WWW.BENIHANA.COM)



## TAQUERIA DEL MAR

SINCE 1986

### FRESH MEXICAN SEAFOOD & GRILL IN NEW MONTEREY!

Fish & Shrimp Tacos – Soft tortilla, crisp cabbage, creamy dill sauce. Made to order, always fresh. Relax & enjoy!

Spice Up Your Holiday Gatherings – Let Us Do the Cooking!



MENTION THIS AD AND GET FREE CHIPS AND SALSA

530 LIGHTHOUSE AVE, MONTEREY, CA 93940 | 831-372-7887



## Shearwater

EST. TAVERN 2021

and Carmel Mission Inn present

### OYSTER JAMS

Thursday, December 11th • 5-8pm

Live Music 5:30 - 8:30pm

Enjoy the night with music by MEEZ and great Oysters.

Full Shearwater Tavern menu also available.

Pay as you go for oysters, beer, wine or full bar. Outside event around our beautiful open fire pits, dress accordingly. Children & dog friendly event and encouraged.

3665 RIO ROAD, CARMEL • [SHEARWATERTAVERN.COM](http://SHEARWATERTAVERN.COM)



## WINTER WONDERLAND

at PORTOLA HOTEL & SPA

LIVE PERFORMANCES

SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN

THE MEAN GREEN ONE IS BACK!

THREE CHRISTMAS DINNER OFFERINGS



VIEW MORE DETAILS

PORTOLA HOTEL & SPA  
AT MONTEREY BAY

(831) 649-4511 | [Portolahotel.com](http://Portolahotel.com)



# HOLIDAYS

From previous page

Tarpy’s Roadhouse. Prices are comparable to Woody’s, but you’re trading the convenience of being steps from your gate for a more relaxed ambiance, with a spacious garden courtyard for outdoor dining. (A note to the uninitiated: It’s still close enough to the runway that low-flying airplanes sometimes interrupt conversations.) Tarpy’s is open Sunday through Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

On a recent visit, the beef vegetable soup lived up to the server’s enticing description — melt-in-your-mouth beef and plenty of flavor. It’s a simple thing, but when it’s chilly outside, there’s nothing quite so comforting. The restaurant’s chili-crusted chicken was offered as a daily special served alongside an entrée-sized green salad instead of

its usual scalloped potatoes. The soft savory crust wasn’t overly spicy, and the breast meat was still juicy.

Other delightfully filling entrees include the shrimp and grits, and the ever-popular classic meat loaf. From the appetizer menu, we like the roasted, lightly charred Castroville artichoke with lemon-basil pesto, as well as spicy tuna tacos, a giant Bavarian pretzel, and deviled eggs. If you have room and it’s available, there’s a reason the peanut butter mousse chocolate cake has been served for as long as anyone can remember. Go to tarpys.com for the whole menu.

■ And speaking of the holidays

Yes, Christmas dining reservations are already available. Since Lucia Restaurant at Bernardus Lodge sold out so quickly at Thanksgiving it made our heads spin, let’s start there. First, you can stop by for homemade hot chocolate from executive chef Gus Trejo in the lobby or

fireside on Sundays from 6 to 9 p.m. It’s spiced with cinnamon, nutmeg, and cardamom and served with homemade marshmallows. And if you’ve never experienced the joy of those sweet little treasures (Lula’s Chocolates sells some



The Southern classic shrimp and grits is one of the many hearty entrees available at Tarpy’s Roadhouse — a great place to take folks who’ve just landed at Monterey Regional Airport.

great ones), be prepared — you won’t want to go back to the mass-produced version.

Reserve your seat on Christmas Eve from 5 to 9 p.m. for a four-course tasting menu with squash bisque, Monterey abalone, braised beef short rib, and profiteroles filled with eggnog ice cream. It’s \$165 per adult, plus tax and gratuity, and \$55 for children up to age 12. Christmas Day Brunch will be a la carte from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Christmas dinner will also be a la carte from a special holiday menu served from 5 to 9 p.m. Reservations for all are available at Exploretock.com, and you can learn more by

Continues next page

La Playa Hotel

Christmas Dinner

Celebrate Christmas at La Playa Hotel, where tradition meets coastal elegance.

Discover more at laplayahotel.com/christmas

CAMINO REAL & 8TH AVENUE  
CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA, CALIFORNIA 93921  
T. 831.293.6100 | LAPLAYAHOTEL.COM

Attention Savvy Holiday Shoppers! Searching for Unique, Well-Priced, High-Quality Gifts?

Wall Clocks Crafted from Upcycled LPs & CDs

Festive Sweaters

Parisién Soaps, Crèmes and Shower Gels

Cozy Pom-Pom Striped Slippers & Cashmere Socks

Upcycled Leather Bags from Italy

Gold-Trimmed Porcelain Tableware

Leather Wallets, Western Hats, Fun Gadgets for Guys

Organic Candles & Fragrance Oils

Kids’ Handknit Wool Animal Hats from Ecuador

French Glassware and Many More Treasures!

Dazzling Swarovski Crystal Art Deco Bracelets

Baum & Blume and The Carriage House  
4 El Caminito Rd, Carmel Valley (831) 659-0400

LEGAL SERVICES for Seniors

MONTEREY COUNTY **GIVES!**

Every senior deserves safety, stability, and peace of mind. Legal Services for Seniors provides quality legal counsel and representation at no charge to Monterey County residents 60 and older assisting with **housing, estate planning, elder abuse, and more.**

Your **Monterey County Gives!** donation empowers local seniors to stay independent, secure, and respected. **Our goal: \$100,000** to expand essential legal advocacy and outreach for older adults across Monterey County. Together we can ensure every senior has the support and protection they deserve.

(831) 899-0492

LSSMC.NET

DONATE TODAY!

SMUIN'S THE CHRISTMAS BAILLET

"The greatest joy!"  
— SF Chronicle

DEC 5–6  
SUNSET CENTER  
CARMEL

GET TICKETS TODAY  
smuinballet.org | 415.912.1899

SMUIN  
CONTEMPORARY BAILLET  
AMY SEIWERT / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
KQED San Francisco Chronicle



From previous page

going to [bernarduslodge.com](http://bernarduslodge.com) and selecting “Local Happenings” from the menu in the upper left corner of the home page.

The Sur House at Alila Ventana Big Sur is serving brunch and dinner on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Guests can enjoy mini orange cinnamon rolls with pecan streusel and whipped vanilla frosting. The brunch menu also features a latkes Benedict, pairing smoked Pacific salmon with dill hollandaise, and for something hearty, there’s a confit duck hash.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day dinners begin with cannoli filled with duck liver mousse and accompanied by port-fig jam and pecans. Fresh Pacific oysters will be served, and there’s also a crispy Brussels sprout salad, tossed with pork belly, poached pears and Manchego cheese. The main course is prime rib with farro risotto and vegetables.

To finish, guests can indulge in a slice of chestnut opera cake. For more information, pricing and to make reservations, contact Alila Ventana at (831) 667-2331.

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



The gorgeous views from Alila Ventana Big Sur’s Sur House restaurant are complemented by thoughtful and creative menu choices — and the spot is offering brunch and dinner on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

19TH ANNUAL

Winterdance

CELTIC CHRISTMAS

A BELOVED FAMILY TRADITION

DECEMBER 19, 2025, 7:30 P.M.  
DECEMBER 20, 2005, 3 P.M. MATINEE,  
ST. MARY’S BY-THE-SEA,  
146 12TH STREET, PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA  
TICKETS AT [WWW.CELTICSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.CELTICSOCIETY.ORG)

Christmas on the Wharf

Come Visit Santa on the Wharf and Join Us for Our Ninth Annual Celebration!

FRIDAYS • Dec 5, 12, 19 • 5 to 8PM  
SATURDAYS • Dec 6, 13, 20 • 11AM to 8PM  
SUNDAYS • Dec 7, 14, 21 • 11AM to 6PM

Presented by Fisherman’s Wharf Association | [montereywharf.com](http://montereywharf.com)

SHOP SMALL

COME SHOP SMALL WITH US

SHOP SMALL

BRINGING AUTHENTIC SWEDISH CANDY TO CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

Come pick up stocking stuffers, gift cards, and fun party boxes available for pickup or pre-order for the holidays—perfect for clients, teachers, neighbors, and friends.

Voted Best Candy Store on the Monterey Peninsula

[SeaShackCandyCo.com](http://SeaShackCandyCo.com) | (831) 620-2408  
Carmel Square, San Carlos Between Ocean & 7th, Carmel-by-the-Sea

@SEASHACKCANDYCO

THIS BOOK, LIKE CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA, IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL!

BELOVED TREES OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

EPIGRAMS FROM THE SHAMBHALA MASTER  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY L. M. McDERMOTT

A Beautiful, Hard Bound Gift Book with Twenty-Two Color, Photo Spreads of Carmel’s Beloved Trees. Each Photo is Creatively Paired with Inspiring Thoughts from The Shambhala Master.

Both the Author and the Photographer call Carmel-By-The-Sea Home.

Sold only at Pilgrim’s Way Community Bookstore  
\$24.95 ([www.pilgrimsway.com](http://www.pilgrimsway.com))

A most unique and the only bookstore in Carmel-By-The-Sea  
Located on Dolores St. between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> (831-624-4955)

While you’re there, make sure you visit their Secret Garden and find out why the San Francisco Chronicle named this bookstore one of the 5 Sacred Spaces to Seek Truth!

LOS LAURELES LODGE

25th Annual CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOW

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> • 10AM-4PM  
Lunch available from 11am – 3pm

Talented Crafters will showcase creativity in their handcrafted items.

• Candles	• Wreaths	• Jewelry
• Ornaments	• Knits	• Flowers
• Cards	• Jade	• Wood Bowls
• Recycled Accessories	• Natural Soaps	• Pressed Flower Bottles
	• Calligraphy	

313 West Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley • 831-659-2233



*From page 38A*

New Jersey. The Santa Cruz-based group serves up “a joyful dance party,” bringing together “old-school Afro-Latin rhythms, salsa, cumbia, bachata and reggaeton.”

If you’re new to salsa dancing, there will be a class for beginners at 7 p.m. The show starts at 8 p.m.

“Join us for an evening filled with lively music, vibrant energy, and of course, plenty of salsa dancing,” **Jessica Diaz-Martinez** of Palenque Arts said. “We invite the com-

Tickets are \$20. For more details, visit [palenkearts.com](http://palenkearts.com).

## ■ Rich and eclectic

One of the Monterey Peninsula's most beloved and enduring bands, **The Latin Jazz Collective** plays Friday, 7 p.m., at Wave Street Studios.

Led by percussionist **John Nava**, the ensemble also includes pianist **Kevin McCullough**, saxophonist **Stu Reynolds**, trumpeter **Brian Stock**, trombonist **Felix**

**Diaz**, bassist **Steve Uccello** and drummer **Martin Binder**. Together, they play “a rich and eclectic blend of original compositions and highly acclaimed standard jazz arrangements steeped in authentic Latin rhythms.”

Tickets are \$30. The venue is located at 774 Wave St. Visit [wavestreetlive774.com](http://wavestreetlive774.com).

**Live music Dec. 5-11**

## ■ Big Sur

**Big Sur River Inn** — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Saturday at 12:30 p.m.). 46800 Highway 1.  
**Fernwood Resort** — **Generifus** (alt-folk, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

■ Carmel

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

**Carmel Mission Inn** — Open Mic Night (Wednesday at 6 p.m.), **Meez** (rock, Thursday at 5:30 p.m.). In the Shearwater Tavern, 3665 Rio Road.

**Crossroads shopping center** — **The Peninsula Harmony Company** (strolling Christmas carols, Saturday at noon). Highway 1 and Rio Road.

**Hyatt Carmel Highlands** — singer and pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz, Friday at 4:45 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.),



Carmel Valley-based 60 East takes the stage Saturday, 7 p.m., at the Links Club in Carmel Plaza.

**The Andrea Carter Trio** (jazz and pop, Sunday at 11 a.m.), **The David Morwood Jazz Band** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh.

**Links Club — Mighty Maple** (“acoustic jams and cool grooves,” Friday at 7 p.m.), **60 East** (rock, Saturday at 7 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

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

## ■ Carmel Valley

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

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

**Folktale Winery** — singer and guitarist **RJ DeMarco** (Friday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Saturday at 4 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl-Astrup** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Sunday at 4 p.m.), singer and gui-

*See LIVE next page*

Help protect The Pine Cone's future!  
**Subscribe • Read • Advertise**

# Worship

CARMEL ~ CARMEL VALLEY ~ MONTEREY  
PACIFIC GROVE ~ PEBBLE BEACH ~ SEASIDE

Journey to the heart of Carmel ...  
where it all began

## CARMEL MISSION BASILICA



**SATURDAY VIGIL MASS**  
5:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY MASSES**  
9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

**Our streamed Mass is also available.**

[www.carmelmission.org](http://www.carmelmission.org)



## Church in the Forest

on the  
Stevenson School Campus



**Preaching this Sunday**  
**Rev. Dr. Mike Harbert**  
"The Peace Jesus Brings"

**Special Music 9:45 am**  
**Worship Service 10:00 am**  
Complimentary Pebble Beach Gate Entrance  
3152 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach  
[churchintheforest.org](http://churchintheforest.org)

## St. John's Chapel Del Monte

Established 1891



1490 Mark Thomas Drive, Monterey, CA 93940  
831-375-4463 • [stjohnschapel.com](http://stjohnschapel.com)  
The Rev. Dr. Richard Miles 1928 Book of Common Prayer  
HOLY COMMUNION AT 10 A.M. SUNDAYS

## All Saints' Episcopal Church



SUNDAYS 10 A.M.  
SW Corner of Dolores & 9th  
Carmel-by-the-Sea  
Centering Prayer - Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.  
(In-Person and Online)

831.624.3883 [info@allsaintscarmel.org](mailto:info@allsaintscarmel.org)

TO THOSE  
LEANING ON  
THE SUSTAINING  
INFINITE,  
TODAY IS BIG  
WITH BLESSINGS

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

SUNDAY 10 AM  
WEDNESDAY 7 PM  
LINCOLN BET 5TH & 6TH

[CHRISTIANSCECARMEL.ORG](http://CHRISTIANSCECARMEL.ORG)



## Carmel PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9:30am  
TRADITIONAL

11:00am  
CONTEMPORARY

Corner of Ocean & Junipero  
and [carmelpres.org](http://carmelpres.org)



## Church of the Wayfarer

United Methodist  
Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.



Sunday Worship  
10 a.m.

**ALL are WELCOME**

Lincoln Street and 7th Avenue • Carmel-by-the-Sea  
[churchofthewayfarer.com](http://churchofthewayfarer.com) • 831-624-3550

## BELONG TO A CARING COMMUNITY





video

**JOIN US THIS SUNDAY**

Email  
[Anne@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:Anne@carmelpinecone.com)  
to be included in this directory



### Chapels & Services

1 Skyline Forest Dr, Monterey

- 10 a.m.
- 1230 p.m.. (single adults)

1024 Noche Buena St, Seaside

- 10:30 a.m.
- 1 p.m. (Tongan)

### QUESTIONS?

(408) 708-8800  
[ComeUntoChrist.org](http://ComeUntoChrist.org)

**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**  
MONTEREY STAKE



# LIVE

*From previous page*

**Trailside Cafe** — singer and guitarist **Dave D'oh** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

## ■ Monterey

**Albatross Ridge Winery** — singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Tim Brady** (Sunday at 4 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

**Colton Hall** — mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** and violinist **Elijah McCullar** (jazz, Saturday at 4 p.m.). 570 Pacific St.

**Hyatt Regency Monterey** — singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Saturday at 7 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.

**InterContinental Hotel** — guitarist **John Sherry**



Singer and guitarist Melena Cadiz plays Thursday, 7 p.m., at Pop & Hiss in Pacific Grove.

**Jack's Monterey — The Peninsula Harmony Com-**  
**pany** (strolling Christmas carols, Sunday at 8:30 a.m.).  
Portola Hotel & Spa, 2 Portola Plaza.

**Midici Pizza** — singer **Janice Perl** and pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl-Astrup** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

**Pearl Hour** — saxophonist **Ben Herod** and friends pay tribute to the score that jazz great Vince Guaraldi composed for “A Charlie Brown Christmas” (Saturday at 8 p.m., \$10 cover). **The Zach Westfall Quartet** (jazz, Sunday at 8 p.m.), **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz, Wednesday at 8 p.m.). 214 Lighthouse Ave.

**Sly McFly's — The Joint Chiefs** (funk, acid jazz and classic r&b, Friday at 9 p.m.), **The New Wave Band** (rock, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

## ■ Pacific Grove

**First United Methodist Church of Pacific Grove —**  
**Monterey Peninsula Voices** presents its annual Winter

*See CONCERT page 47A*

**'25 RUN RUDOLPH RUN**

**5K/1K RUN/WALK FOR ARTHRITIS**

**LOVERS POINT, PACIFIC GROVE  
DEC. 13, 2025**

**JOIN US FOR FAMILY FRIENDLY FUN INCLUDING:**

- TIMED 5K
- KIDS ELF 1K
- COSTUME CONTESTS
- PET FRIENDLY
- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY:
- DJ WILLI
- RAWLEY FINGERS
- WHEELIE MOBILEE
- DAIKO DRUMS
- AND SANTA!

**THANK YOU SPONSORS!**

ROSSI FAMILY FOUNDATION  
THE FUQUA FAMILY FOUNDATION  
LOUIS AND ROBERTA HUNTINGTON

Salinas Valley HEALTH  
MONTAGE Health

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [ARTHRITISRESEARCHCOALITION.ORG/EVENTS](https://www.arthritisresearchcoalition.org/events)**

# CALENDAR

**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](http://www.suminballet.org) or call (415) 912-1899

**Through Dec. 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](http://www.investinmpl.org) for specific times and days for each library.

**Sundays – Jazz brunch with the Andrea Carter Trio,** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Terry's Restaurant + Lounge, inside Cypress Inn, Lincoln and Seventh, Carmel-by-the-Sea. For more information, please contact Cypress Inn, (831) 624-3871.

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

**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](http://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](http://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, hand-made 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



**December 6-24 - Baum & Blume's Boutique has THE BEST gifts!** French glassware & bathgoods, crème porcelain tableware, leather bags, sparkly jewelry, cozy mufflers,

gloves, sweaters! Wool animal caps for kids! Gifts for pets too! Shop Mon.-Sat. 11:30 -7. Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito Rd, Carmel Valley (831) 659-0400.

**December 6th- Carmel Valley Lodge Christmas Star Mosaic Class** hosted by Didier Guedj, Mosaic Master. \$80 all supplies, food & beverage included 4-7 pm. See you all there!

**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](http://carmelheritage.org) or call (831) 624-4447.

**Dec. 14 – Carols in the Forest concert** begins 3 p.m. at Church in the Forest, Stevenson Campus, 3152 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach. Jubal Joslyn, tenor, Sophia Gonzalez, mezzo, Amalia Diaz, violin, Janneke Hoogland, cello, Cathryn Wilkinson, piano. Suggested donation \$25 for adults, students free. To learn more contact (831) 624-1374 or [churchintheforest.org](http://churchintheforest.org).

**December 14th – Carmel Valley Lodge Wreath Making**  
hosted by The Wylde Rose Flower Boutique. \$125 all  
supplies, food & beverage included 2-4 pm. Come join us!

**December 14th – A Book Party In 3 Acts.** Readings from *A Life Backstage* by Tom Parks, 2-4 p.m., at The Carl Cherry Center, 4th and Guadalupe, Carmel. Reserve your seat for the reading, visit [evenbrite.com](http://evenbrite.com)

**Dec 16 – The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB)** will present a **dinner lecture** at the **Monterey Hilton Garden Inn**. The presenter is Dr. Ginger Chih, author and documentary photographer, whose topic is “The Dalai Lama / Leadership and the Power of Compassion”, a world view guided by the principles of the Buddhist faith. For event information and registration visit [www.wacmb.org](http://www.wacmb.org)

**Dec. 24** – A beloved Carmel tradition, **Christmas Eve at Terry's** features regular dinner service with festive touches, served from 5 to 8:30 p.m. **Debbie Davis** sets the mood with classic holiday music in the Living Room from 6 to 8 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](http://www.carmel-by-the-sea-5k.com) for more information.



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



# Photo center hands out awards, P.G gallery looks beneath the waves

AFTER RECEIVING more than 2,400 entries and narrowing the field to just 50 images, the Center for Photographic Art unveils its 2025 International Juried Exhibition Saturday — and hosts

## Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

a public reception at 4 p.m. in its Sunset Center gallery.

The images were submitted by photog-



Derek Slagle’s “Tallgrass Prairie” is a finalist in a contest hosted by the Center for Photographic Art.

raphers from near and far, with some coming from as far away as Japan and Scotland. The task of choosing the best photos fell on juror Cig Harvey, a fine art photographer who leaned on her intuition to make her choices.

“The pieces that called to me, ultimately, were quiet, appearing like small flashes of histories, some invented and others discovered,” said Harvey, who lives in Maine.

“From aging still lifes, to untouched landscapes, to portraits so rich in narrative that you can see a whole life pass before your eyes, these works stood out for their visual power and ability to hold the viewer in a memory not their own. Of thousands of submissions, I am delighted to share these selections and hope they resonate with the viewer as much as they did with me.”

The show will run through Jan. 4. The center is at San Carlos and Ninth. Visit [photography.org](http://photography.org).

“This is a must-see exhibition which includes the finest of contemporary photography, incredible landscapes, mixed media sculptures, documentary street photography, portraiture, and more, plus a quick lesson in the history and the possibilities of the medium,” said the center’s director, Ann Jastrab.

“You’ll see historic processes like platinum printing and cyanotypes, plus large-scale digital prints and collaged pieces,” she added.



Scott Offen’s “Grace in Petasites Japonicus” is included in a new show at the Center for Photographic Art.

### The fine art of kelp

Taking the viewer on a poetic journey through the Monterey Bay kelp forest, Marina photographer Joe Platko shares his work, “Metamorphosis,” in a show that opens Saturday at Bradley Gallery in Pacific Grove with a public reception at 6 p.m.

The painting, titled “Playa Grande,” is displayed in the front window of the gallery, which is at 566 Lighthouse Ave.

Platko’s images have been published by the BBC, National Geographic and the New York Times.

“I’ve watched his work deepen, refine, and transform-from raw documentation to images that feel like visual poetry,” the gallery’s Jason Bradley said. “In his photographs, kelp drifts like fabric. Light bends through water in ribbons and shadows. What might seem like chaos becomes calm

and balanced. His work feels like entering the dream state of the sea itself — it asks you to slow down, to look closely, and to feel rather than analyze.”

### For a good cause

Offering a striking piece of art for a good cause, 480 Lighthouse Gallery in Pacific Grove is auctioning off a painting by Pam Snyder, with all the proceeds benefiting the Community Foundation for Monterey County. Bids are accepted through Dec. 24.

“Anyone can make a bid by emailing their name, phone number, and bid amount to [help@480lighthouse.com](mailto:help@480lighthouse.com), or by visiting the gallery Friday through Sunday from noon to 3 p.m., or by calling (831) 915-7848 during those hours,” said the gallery, which is at 480 Lighthouse Ave. and represents more than 300 artists.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**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.

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)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20252092

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **RICHARD FONTANA DESIGN, 21012 Country Park Rd., Salinas, CA 93908.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): RICHARD P. FONTANA.


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/Richard Fontana  
Date signed: Nov. 17, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 17, 2025.  
Publication Dates: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 2025 (PC 1147)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20252140

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**1. TOTEM**  
**2. TOTEM HOLISTIC GROUP**  
**3. ODE2BLUE**  
**SW Corner Lincoln Ave. & 7th Ave., Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: PAWS AND PEDICURES LLC, P.O. Box 2102, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921.  
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/Heather McCandless, Manager  
Date: Nov. 25, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 25, 2025.  
Publication Dates: Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2025. (PC 1201)

**HTTPS://CARMELPINECONE.COM**



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA, CALIFORNIA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

for

FOREST THEATER STAGE REPAIRS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea is soliciting bids from qualified Contractors for work, including but not limited to: removing and replacing the existing plywood stage flooring, compromised T&G subfloor, and any compromised 2x6 framing members with pressure-treated lumber (including plywood). The stage measures approximately 4,000 sq. ft; Bidders should assume that 100% of the plywood decking and 20% (800 sq. ft) of the dimensional lumber substructure will require replacement. This theater is located in a public park, which will be open to public access during construction. The contractor shall be responsible for providing clean, safe public access to all areas of the park, including site protection to keep pedestrians out of the construction zone and contractor laydown area.

The contract and bidding documents are available at <http://ci.carmel.ca.us> (under the tab “I Want to Submit a Bid or Proposal”).

This project will be managed by Ausonio, Inc., Construction Management under contract with the City.

There will be a Mandatory Site Tour scheduled for 11:00 AM on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at the Outdoor Forest Theater, located on Mountain View Ave and Santa Rita St. The Pre-Bid Conference will allow bidders to receive an overview of the project and ask questions. Failure to attend and arrive on time may result in your bid being deemed non-responsive resulting in rejection of your bid.

Questions regarding this solicitation are to be directed to Gerardo A. Ramirez, Project Manager, at [gerardo@ausonio.com](mailto:gerardo@ausonio.com). All questions must be in writing, submitted via email by December 12, 2025, at 5:00 PM. Responses will be posted by Addendum on the City website at <http://ci.carmel.ca.us> by December 15, 2025.

**Bid may be hand delivered or mailed as follows:**

**US Post Office**  
City of Carmel-By-the-Sea  
City Clerk  
P.O. Box CC  
Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921


**OR**

**FedEx/UPS/ Courier Service or Hand Delivery**  
City of Carmel-By-the-Sea  
City Clerk  
Eastside of Monte Verde between Ocean & Seventh Avenues  
Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921

Bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall Council Chambers, located on the east side of Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, at 3:00 PM on Friday, December 19, 2025. Bids received after the stated deadline will be returned unopened. Bids must be accompanied by a ten percent (10%) bid bond, certified check, or cashier’s check payable to “City of Carmel-by-the-Sea.” Bid bonds shall be in original form and executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety. At the time of the Bid opening, the successful Bidder must be legally entitled to perform Contracts requiring a **Class B General Building Contractor’s License**.

Per Sections 1725.5, 1771.1, 1771.3, and 1771.4 of the Labor Code, this project is subject to prevailing hourly rate of per diem wages for this locality and project and compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. All Contractors and Subcontractors shall be listed in the bid proposal, subject to the requirements of Section 4104 of the Public Contract Code, and shall be currently registered to perform public work pursuant to Section 1725.5 of the Labor Code.

Publication date: Dec. 5, 2025 (PC1203)



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Historic Resources Board of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will conduct a Public Hearing on **Monday, December 15, 2025, at 4:00 PM**, or as soon thereafter as possible. Immediately prior to the Public Hearing, the Board 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 AT CITY HALL. 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 attend in person, visit the City Council Chambers at City Hall located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues. To view or listen to the meeting remotely, you may access the YouTube Live Stream at: <https://www.youtube.com/@CityofCarmelbytheSea/streams>, or use the following link to view or listen to the meeting via Zoom teleconference: <https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/88188362744?pwd=9H2DI5GuqQ2eCddEodDJusxbLVYlhX.1>. To listen to the meeting via telephone, dial +1 669-444-9171. Webinar ID: **881 8836 2744**. Passcode: 001916.

All interested people are invited to attend via teleconference or in person 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](mailto: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 Historic Resources Board 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 Historic Resources Board 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 Historic Resources Board meeting will be broadcast live on the City’s website at <https://carmelbythesea.ca.portal.civicclerk.com/> and archived there after the meeting. For more information regarding Historic Resources Board meetings, please contact the Community Planning & Building Department at (831) 620-2010.

**Introduction to the Harrison Memorial Library Project**  
Northeast Corner of Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Street  
Block: 72, Lot: All of 7, 8 & 9  
APN: 010-139-007-000  
Receive a presentation from Moore Ruble Yudell and provide feedback on the Harrison Memorial Library project, located at the northeast corner of Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Street in the Central Commercial (CC) District. APN: 010-139-007-000

**HE 25065 (Pine Terrace HOA)**  
Pine Terrace Home Owners Association  
Southwest corner of Mission and 3rd Avenues  
Block 35, Lot 8 & 9  
APN: 010-391-020-000  
Continued from November 17, 2025 Historic Resource Board meeting, consideration of the removal of the historic “Pine Terrace Apartments” from the Carmel Inventory of Historic Resources located at the southwest corner of Mission and 3rd Avenues in the Residential and Limited Commercial (RC) District. APN: 010-391-020-000

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

Publication dates: Dec. 5, 2025 (PC1204)



# CONCERT

From page 45A

Concert (Saturday at 4 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.). Tickets are \$35 for general admission, \$30 for seniors, students and active military, and \$25 for kids 12 & under. 915 Sunset Ave. For more details, visit mpvoices.org.

**Hops & Fog** — singer and guitarist **Brad Wilson** and drummer **Rod Wilson** (acoustic rock and blues, Friday at 7 p.m.). 511 Lighthouse Ave.

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

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

**Pop & Hiss** — **The Rod Squad** (rock, Saturday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Melina Cadiz** and others (folk,

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** — guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Saturday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Paul Behan** (Thursday at 5 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge. 1700 17 Mile Drive.

## ■ Seaside

**Deja Blue** — singer **Kaye Bohler** pays tribute to Etta James (r&b, Saturday at 7 p.m.). Tickets are \$39. 500 Broadway. For more, visit dejabluelive.com.

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



Led by percussionist John Nava, the Latin Jazz Collective plays Friday, 7 p.m., at Wave Street Studios in Monterey.

# SERVICE DIRECTORY

Continues from page 52A

## ▶ JUNK REMOVAL



(831)

586-5562

• Household Junk Removal • Yard Waste Removal • Estate Sale Clean-outs • Job Site Cleanup • Wood Chip/Mulch Delivery

Marcus McMillan  
spankysjunkremoval@gmail.com

## ▶ LOCKSMITH

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

MONTEREY LOCK & KEY

LOCKSMITH • FREE ESTIMATES


831-375-LOCK (5625)

www.MontereyLockKey.com

John Cardinalli • CA BSIS LIC. LC07195

## ▶ MASONRY

Retaining Walls • Foundations • Fireplaces  
Stone Veneer • Driveways • Patios • Pavers



Mahoney  
Masonry Inc.

831.659.0363

License 493213

mahoneymasonryinc@gmail.com  
www.MahoneyMasonryInc.com  
www.facebook.com/MahoneyMasonryInc

## ▶ MOVING

**J & M MOVING AND STORAGE, INC.**  
We can handle all your moving and storage needs, local or nationwide. Located in new 20,000 sf Castroville warehouse. We specialize in high-value household goods. Excellent references available. MTR 0190259, MC 486132. Call Jim Stracuzzi at (831) 633-5903 or (831) 901-5867. TF

## ▶ PAINTING



PARAGON PAINTING

Quality Craftsmanship for 26 Years

Lic#1062805



831-204-8877

ParagonPainting.us FREE ESTIMATES


Always Meticulous Preparation  
Expert Interiors & Exteriors  
Cabinets & Fine Finishes  
Faux Finishes & Stains  
Wallpaper Installation and Removal  
Maintenance & Protection

**WILL BULLOCK PAINTING & RESTORING**  
Complete Interior and Exterior Painting  
Always the Best Preparation and Paints  
Handyman Services / Best References  
Lic.#436767 — Since 1984

831.277.8952




INTERIOR  
EXTERIOR  
FAUX FINISHES



JOSEPH YOSCO

Painting  
Since 1988

POWER WASHING  
License # 710688



C-(831) 238-1095  
(831) 277-9747

P.O. Box 221242  
Carmel, CA 93922

## ▶ PAINTING



SURFACES

PAINTING & DECORATING, INC.

(831) 392-0441

www.surfacespainting.com

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL

• Interior/Exterior Painting • Waterproof Coatings

• Pressure Washing • Faux Finishes

• Spray Facility • Venetian Plaster

LICENSE #805057

YOUR LOCAL EXPERT FOR OVER 25 YEARS!



Brian Stock  
Painting

• Fast  
• Professional  
• Affordable

Residential • Commercial • Exteriors • Interiors

FREE ESTIMATES (831) 372-2629

## ▶ PEST CONTROL



RUSSELL AURIA

PEST CONTROL SERVICES

831/583-9155 RAPCS@RAPCS.NET

RODENTS

Rodent Inspection - Exclusion - Trapping - Repellents

PEST CONTROL

Residential - Commercial - Industrial  
Ants - Carpenter Ants - Spiders  
Pantry and Fabric Pest

TREES & ORNAMENTALS

Pest & Disease Control

Foliar, Soil, Systemic & Tree Injection Treatments

PLANT & TREE HEALTH

Organic Plant & Soil Products for Your Landscape

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Weed & Poison Oak Control

QUALITY WORK WITH 44 PLUS YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Insured and Bonded Since 1999

Structural Licence PR 7978 DPR Reg. 41398



PROTECT  
VEHICLE WIRES  
FROM RODENTS

831-233-9312

## ▶ PLUMBING

**BRETT'S PLUMBING**  
Service, repairs, installation  
VERY COMPETITIVE PRICES  
Specializing in: Radiant Floor Heating  
Whole House Water Filtration  
Sewer Scope Inspections • Reverse Osmosis  
(831) 646-2933



Lic. No. 705164

## ▶ ROOF & GUTTER CLEANING



GUTTER & ROOF CLEANING

MAKE SURE YOU  
CLEAN YOUR  
GUTTERS BEFORE  
THE STORM

Free estimates

CALL OR TEXT (831) 402 6729

Licensed and Insured Lic.#1013672

## ▶ ROOF & GUTTER CLEANING



ROOF MAXX

Think you need a new roof? THINK AGAIN!

100% SATISFACTION  
GUARANTEED



Extend Roof Life  
5-15 years  
for a fraction of the cost of replacement!

FREE

Asphalt/Comp Roof Assessments

RoofSoy.com - 831-224-7718

Certified Dealer My Soylutions LLC 93924

Free subscriptions at  
www.carmelpinecone.com

## ▶ ROOFING



DORITY ROOFING

SOLAR

Roofing & Solar Perfected

(831) 375-8158

www.dorityroofing.com

Lic. #728609



PREMIER  
ROOFING

15 Years Experience Lic. # 1129592

• Installation & Repair

• Decks

• Slate & Metal Roof

• Seamless Gutters

• Waterproofing

• Custom Metal Fabrication

Free Estimate: 831-594-9437

jhonpremierroofing@gmail.com



ROSS  
ROOFING  
AND SOLAR

831.394.8581

73 YEARS SERVING YOUR ROOFING NEEDS

Roof and ground mount systems

831-394-8581

BBB ROSSROOFING1950.COM

**NOTICE TO READERS:** In California, an unlicensed person can work on projects valued up to \$1,000, provided they don't hire employees and don't require a building permit. However, any project exceeding this threshold or involving permits or the use of hired workers must be completed by a licensed contractor. State law also requires that contractors include their license number on all advertising. You can check the status of your licensed contractor at [www2.cslb.ca.gov](http://www2.cslb.ca.gov) or (800) 321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed individuals can advertise construction work if the total contract price is under \$1,000, but the advertisement must clearly state that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board. The PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION requires household movers to include their PUC license number in their ads. Contact the PUC at [licensing@cpcc.ca.gov](http://licensing@cpcc.ca.gov)

## ▶ TREE SERVICE



OLIVERA'S  
TREE SERVICE

CSLB 1100089

All Types of Tree Pruning • Brush Clearing  
Yard Cleanup • Splitting Firewood • Fully Insured  
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL  
www.treeservicearomas.com

24/7 (831) 588-2585





John Ley Tree Service, LLC

CA Lic.#  
1118155

☐ Tree Trimming & Removal

☐ Stump Grinding & Removal

☐ Fire Prevention Clearing

☐ Emergency Tree Services

☐ Cabling & Bracing

CALL NOW FOR FREE ESTIMATE

(831) 373-6332

JLeyTree@gmail.com



IVERSON'S TREE SERVICE  
& STUMP REMOVAL

Complete Tree Service  
Fully Insured  
Lic. # 677370

Call (831) 625-5743

## ▶ TUTORING



WRITING & HOMEWORK SUPPORT

Leslie Patten, MFA

A compassionate tutor with over 20  
years of experience teaching writing

(831) 241-1156

www.lesliepattentutoring.com

## ▶ WINDOW CLEANING



CYPRESS  
WINDOW CLEANING

Serving Monterey County since 2010

• House washing

• Window cleaning

• Solar panel washing

• Gutter cleaning

• Pressure washing

FREE ESTIMATES. CALL, TEXT OR EMAIL

cypresswindowcleaning@yahoo.com

(831) 402-6729



# SERVICE DIRECTORY

Deadline: Monday, 1 p.m. • NOTICE: SERVICE DIRECTORY ADS ARE ACCEPTED ONLY BY EMAIL • Email [service@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:service@carmelpinecone.com)

## CAREGIVER

LUVIA CRUZ

PERSONAL CAREGIVER

*Providing compassionate, friendly & reliable care services*

Temporary or long-term, meal prep, hygiene assistance, errands, appointments

**Call: 831-262-0671**

Email: [lv\\_cruz14@yahoo.com](mailto:lv_cruz14@yahoo.com) No lic.

## CARPET & FLOOR CLEANING

**DIRTY FLOORS?**

*Professional Cleaning at Affordable Prices*

Stone • Tile & Grout • Vinyl

Call Steve today for a free estimate!

**(831) 899-5613**

## CASH FOR GOLD & SILVER

**MONTEREY**

Gold & Coin Exchange

We Buy It All!

**CASH FOR GOLD & SILVER**

**David: (831) 521-3897**

153 Country Club Gate Center

Pacific Grove | CA | 93950

## CONSTRUCTION/REMODEL

*Lifestyle Enhancements By*

**CARIBOU CONSTRUCTION Co.**

DESIGN - BUILD - REMODEL

Serving Carmel & the Entire Central Coast Since 1979

*Unparalleled Customer Service - Uncommon Professional Results*

A reputation built on customer satisfaction, where details matter

Custom Homes	Kitchens	Hardwood Floors	Fireplaces
Remodeling	Bathrooms	Cabinetry	Porches/Decks
Room Additions	Doors/Windows	Granite/Marble	Fences/Gates

Professional - Trustworthy - Punctual - Clean - Affordable

**624-1311** California State License # 385545

FREE ESTIMATE [www.caribouconstruction.com](http://www.caribouconstruction.com)

## DOOR INSTALLATION

**ZANE'S DOOR REPLACEMENT**

*Full service interior and exterior door installations*

**CALL: 831-760-9160**

• Lic#1039955

Shop locally!

## DRIVING SERVICE

**NEED A DRIVER?**

I can drive for you.

Errands, appts., airports.

References available.

**Laurie 831-601-4725**

## FENCES AND DECKS

**ON-LINE FENCE**

All Types & Styles

New & Repairs

Gates, Power Washing, Sealing

Call Jimmy (831) 915-3557

Lic. # 830762 [on-linefence.com](http://on-linefence.com)

## FIREWOOD

**OAK FIREWOOD**

Quality, well split dry oak, delivered

**831-601-9728**

**FIREWOOD**

Dry Oak: Well Seasoned

Split and Delivered

**(831) 262-8946**

**(831) 385-5371**

**MATIAS**

**DRY OAK WOOD FOR SALE**

Cord. Will sell smaller amounts

**831-800-6520**

## FLOORING

**Floors & More**

Install hardwoods, linoleum, tile. Sand and refinish. Tile/remodel kitchens, & bathrooms. Install countertops.

**John Quinn • 831 402 1638**

Lic. #821763 **Bonded**

## FURNITURE REFINISHING

**FURNITURE REFINISHING - FRENCH QUALITY**

**ON PREMISES WORK**

**MODERN TOUGH** \*Catalyzed\* **SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COATINGS**

**NO "FUMES" In Your HOME or BUSINESS**

\*Antiques- Dining Tables - Chairs - Kitchens - Libraries - Teak

\***PRO "CLASSIC CAR" DASH WOOD**

Call PAUL (831) 224-5172 Lic 1677932

## GARDEN • LANDSCAPE • IRRIGATION

**MATIAS GARDENING**

Full Tree Service • Poison Oak Removal

Garden Maintenance & Planting • Tree Pruning

Fence Construction/Repair • Hauling

20 Yrs. Experience • Excellent references

**(831) 800-6520** No Lic.

**OAK FIREWOOD FOR SALE • REASONABLE PRICES**

**CARMEL POINT LANDSCAPES**

DESIGN, INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

Specializing in Sustainable Landscapes using Native Plants and Locally Sourced Materials

[www.carmelpointlandscapes.com](http://www.carmelpointlandscapes.com)

**Call (831) 574-9837**

Contractor License #1068673 **FREE CONSULTATION**

**ADAN'S LANDSCAPE - MAINTENANCE**

*Residential/Commercial*

Automatic Sprinklers & Irrigation Systems

New Sod or Seed

New Fences & Repair • Retaining Walls • Hauling

Ornamental Trimming & Tree Pruning

Pavers & Stamped Concrete

General Yard Clean-up, and etc.

~ FREE ESTIMATES ~

Over 20 years exp. - References Proudly Given

Lic. # 949011 **Tel: (831) 601-9225**

## GROCERY DELIVERY

**BRUNO'S**

CARMEL MARKET & DELI

**GROCERY DELIVERY MONDAY - FRIDAY**

Orders taken over the phone

Call by 11am for same day delivery

**Delivering to the Peninsula**

**831-624-3821**

## HANDYMAN

**HONEY DO LIST?**

Carpentry, Painting, Interior/Exterior, Repairs, Doors & Windows, Fences, Gates, Posts, Pavers, Retaining Walls, Siding, Shelving, Cabinets, Carpentry, Roof Debris, Plumbing/Electrical Repairs, Drywall/Paint Repairs, Gutter/Roof Cleaning. **JOHN QUINN (831) 402-1638** Lic. #821763 / Bonded

**GREG'S HANDYMAN SERVICE**

Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing

Drywall Repair, Dry Rot Repair

Install Toilets, Light Fixtures, Heaters

INSURED • LOCAL REFERENCES

**831-333-6975** No Lic.

## HOUSE CLEANING

**GRACE'S CLEANING SERVICES**

Excellent References

25 Years Experience • Residential-Commercial

Move In/Move Out • Organization

Email: [ghernandz1975@icloud.com](mailto:ghernandz1975@icloud.com)

**831-241-4692**

**MARTHA HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES**

We use green products. Licensed & bonded. Homes/Offices. Move in move out.

**Call 831 402-2220**

**Lily's House Cleaning**

Excellent References Available.

20 Years Experience.

Reliable and Thorough Cleaning

**(831) 917-3937**

**TWO GIRLS FROM CARMEL**

SO MANY DUST BUNNIES, SO LITTLE TIME

**831.626.4426**

[WWW.TWOGIRLSFROMCARMEL.COM](http://WWW.TWOGIRLSFROMCARMEL.COM)

## HOUSE CLEANING

**Central Coast Cleaning, LLC**

We create **FREE TIME** for busy people! Providing professional cleaning services for Residential, Commercial, Vacation Homes and Special Events. Proudly serving all of Monterey County for 25 years. We are Bonded and Insured.

[www.centralcoastcleaning.com](http://www.centralcoastcleaning.com)

**FREE ESTIMATES**

**831.442.1965**

**MARCOS' HOUSE CLEANING SERVICE**

Residential/Commercial/Move-outs

Windows • Pressure Washing

Construction Cleaning • Vacation Homes

Offices • Floor Cleaning • Strip & Wax

**(831) 264-3697**

Free Estimates • Guaranteed Jobs • Lic. 342947

## INTERIOR DESIGN

**CHARLES GRUWELL DESIGN STUDIO**

**CHARLES GRUWELL**

*Design Consultant*

702-524-6222

[charles@cgdstudio.net](mailto:charles@cgdstudio.net)

[www.charlesgruwelldesign.com](http://www.charlesgruwelldesign.com)

Continues on page 51A

**Police Log: Pacific Grove, March 28**

**A**t an unknown time,

an unknown person

**went to a Lighthouse Ave. location under construction**

**A**nd took 40 door knobs.