

Second round of Oscar buzz for CHS alum

By DENNIS TAYLOR

FOR THE second time in three years, Carmel Valley resident Conall Jones is waiting to learn whether a film he helped create will be named as a contender for an Academy Award.

The 43-year-old Carmel High graduate (Class of 2001) was one of the producers of “All The Empty Rooms,” a 33-minute documentary streaming on Netflix.

Jones, director Joshua Seftel and eight others on the production team will learn on Tuesday whether their film is one of 15 out of more than 100 candidates for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences’ “short list.”

“All The Empty Rooms” follows CBS News correspondent Steve Hartman and photographer Lou Bopp into the untouched bedrooms of four of the 70 children who have died in school shootings since 2019 — a small fraction of the 200-plus killed in school shootings since the 1999 Columbine High School massacre.

Undisturbed memories

All of the bedrooms remain exactly as the four children left them on the days they were shot.

A clothes hamper still holds the unwashed laundry of Dominic Blackwell, who was 14 when he died in a shooting at Sausalito High School in Santa Clarita on Nov. 14, 2019.

“I don’t think we wanted to lose the smell in his room, because it is distinctly him,” his mother explained to Hartman.

Dominic’s bed is lined with SpongeBob SquarePants pillows, and a huge SpongeBob poster hangs above the headboard.

A close-up photograph of the teen, smiling in a football helmet, stares back from a bedroom shelf that also holds a childhood basketball trophy, a Dodgers cap and other

CSUMB professor killed in cycling crash

By MARY SCHLEY

A LONGTIME Cal State University Monterey Bay professor whose lifework focused on social justice education and community-building died in Pebble Beach Friday morning while riding his bicycle near 17 Mile Drive.

Shortly after 9:15 a.m. Dec. 5, Monterey resident Seth Pollack, 66, was cycling westbound on Crespi Lane as a 62-year-old Pebble Beach resident was turning left onto the street from southbound 17 Mile Drive in her Toyota SUV, according to California Highway Patrol officer Jaskaran Bhaurla.

“For reasons still under investigation, the rider of the bicycle crossed into the eastbound lane and crashed into the Toyota SUV,” Bhaurla said.



Seth Pollack

Driver hurt?

According to CHP dispatch traffic, the woman stopped her SUV on the hill and went back to the scene of the crash on foot. Emergency responders soon arrived, radioed for a medical helicopter to land on the nearby golf course to take Pollack to a trauma center, and began administering CPR. But their efforts were unsuccessful, and Pollack died at the scene.

Bhaurla said the driver of the Toyota “was transported to a local hospital for suspected possible injuries,” but

See FATAL CRASH page 28A



PHOTO/COURTESY CONALL JONES

Conall Jones (with laptop) is a producer on a school-shooting documentary that is being considered for an Academy Award. Jones was asked by CBS News’ Steve Hartman (right) to work on the film.

treasures.

A placard hangs on the wall above the desk of Jackie Cazares, who died May 24, 2022, at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. It reads, “We loved you even before you were born.”

Such intimate belongings are heart-wrenching to the

See OSCAR BUZZ page 28A

C.V. HOMEOWNERS TO FIGHT HUGE COUNTY FINE

By KELLY NIX

THE OWNERS of a property in Carmel Valley who were hit with a \$760,000 fine for allegedly violating Monterey County’s vacation rental ordinance during Car Week last summer are set to make their case against the penalty next week.

On Aug. 12, the county issued the citation that included the massive fine to Scarlett Road homeowners Remy Miralles and Fidji Simo for not obtaining a short-term-rental permit for supercar company McLaren’s use of their property, which spanned eight days and included events on three of them. The administrative fine amounted to \$761,975.

Dec. 16 hearing

Miralles and Simo, who is the CEO of applications for OpenAI, the company that owns ChatGPT, appealed the citation. They’re set to make their case before the county zoning administrator during a Dec. 16 hearing in Salinas.

“The property owners have appealed the notice of violation issued by the county,” a spokesman told The Pine

See HUGE FINE page 20A

Mayor: ‘We’re incentivizing gangs to arm juveniles’

SAN JOSE Mayor Matt Mahan, a Democrat, says the pendulum has swung too far left when it comes to criminal justice in California — specifically the state’s sentencing laws that apply to minors.

“I think we need to bring that pendulum back to the

Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

middle,” Mahan told a Los Angeles TV station this month.

The mayor’s remarks came in response to a gang shooting on Black Friday involving a 17-year-old suspect. According to police, the teen fired six shots in the crowded Valley Fair Mall in San Jose, injuring three people, including his intended target, a 28-year-old man, as well as an 18-year-old woman and a 16-year-old girl who

Former Stevenson head files \$20M suit

■ Claims he was fired illegally

By KELLY NIX

THE FORMER head of Stevenson School — who was put on leave in 2022 before being fired several months later — contends in a new lawsuit that a few disgruntled senior employees made up bogus claims about him, which led the school’s board of trustees to let him go so they wouldn’t have to give him about \$2 million in severance pay.

In August 2022, Stevenson’s trustees placed Kevin Hicks, who started the job in 2015, on leave before firing him four months later. The circumstances surrounding his termination had largely been kept secret from parents and the public until he filed a lawsuit in federal court against the school and its board last week.

‘Manufactured claims’

The Dec. 1 complaint contends that a small group of Stevenson employees who were upset with some of Hicks’ management decisions manufactured false claims “to serve their own nefarious purposes.” That prompted the school to hire an investigator.

“Though Dr. Hicks had been initially told that this investigation was about sexual harassment, discrimination and unethical behavior stemming from employee concerns, upon disclosure of this investigative agenda, it seemed that it was about something else altogether,” according to his lawsuit, filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

The members of the board of trustees, who are also named as defendants, eventually terminated Hicks “for cause,” meaning they maintained he violated his

See STEVENSON SUIT page 17A



PHOTO/FACEBOOK

Former Stevenson head Kevin Hicks, wife Cornelia and daughter Zuleika in 2015 when Hicks was hired to run the private school. Now he’s suing it.

were bystanders.

The shooting could have been a lot worse, considering the three victims survived and it was the busiest shopping day of the year. But the violent crime, allegedly committed by a teenager, has renewed the debate in California over whether its justice system is too lenient when it comes to minors.

“The pattern we see is disturbing. By shielding juveniles from real consequences, we seem to be incentivizing gangs to actively recruit and arm young people in our community,” said Mahan.

Lax sentencing laws

In California, juvenile sentencing laws are lax. Offenders are often sentenced to a few years in detention, with the requirement that many be released by their 21st birthdays. Even those committing the most heinous crimes, like

See GANGS page 21A



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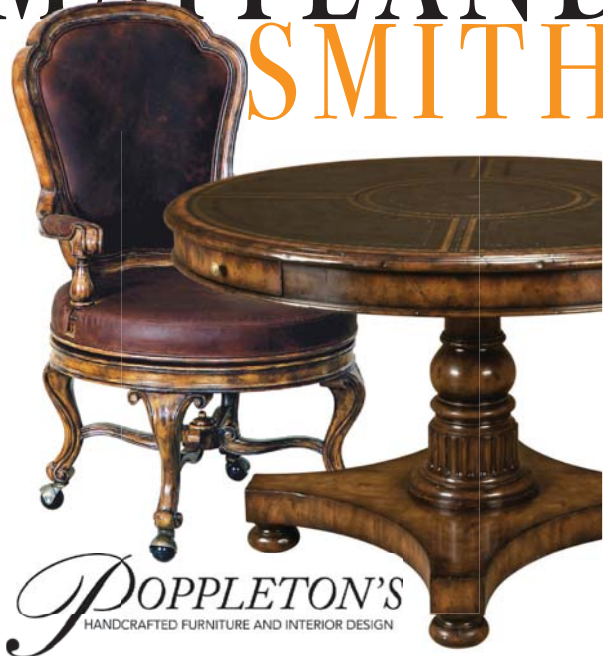
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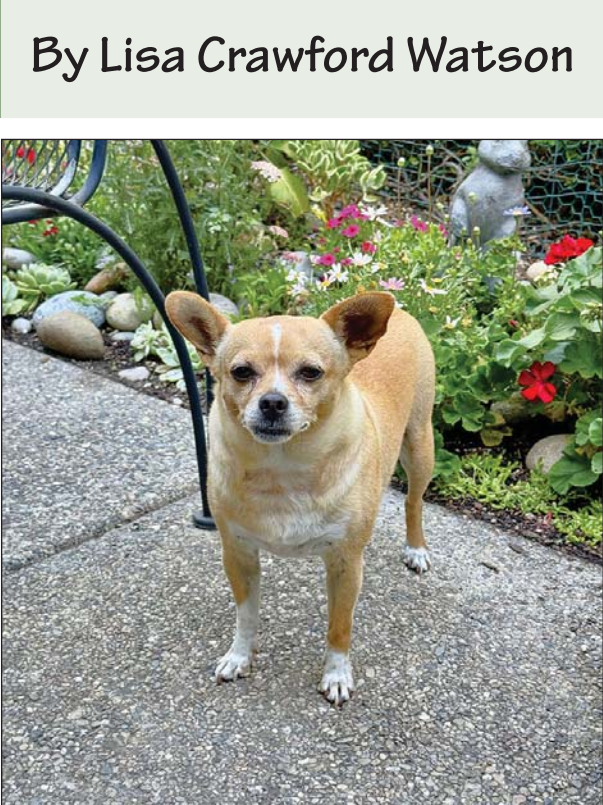
It's hard to imagine, in the canine capital of the world, that a 2-year-old Chihuahua-mix was found, cowering on the street as she nursed her two puppies. Yet it's quite believable that an English woman who spends six months of the year in Pebble Beach has made it a practice to find homes for local unsheltered dogs. Including this one.

She named the woebegone Chihuahua Poppit, a British endearment which refers to a "happy, cheerful person." Clearly, she was setting intention. Then she presented the pup to a nonagenarian at Carmel Valley Manor who couldn't imagine going through life without a pet but was.

"Poppit is such an adorable little dog," she said. "Can you imagine that little thing on the streets with those puppies? Fortunately, the puppies also were placed in homes."

Despite having started her life on the dark streets of town, and having been born a Chihuahua, an innately high-strung breed, Poppit, 3, has become a very calm, peaceful little pup.

"She's just a love. She's so sweet," her person said. "I think dogs who have been through a lot are so grateful. She's very loving and seems appreciative of my attention and care."



Poppit's person, who was raised as an only child, but who went on to raise six children of her own, always had a menagerie of dogs and cats in the household.

Today, she has adorable great-grandchildren who come to visit from their home in Germany, eager to reunite with little Poppit.

"She's still a little shy when we're out, and I'm her closest friend," she said. "But the other residents here know and enjoy her. I think it makes such a big difference to have a pet, particularly one like this little baby, Poppit."

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Cal Am work on Dolores rankles

■ Holiday week offers a break

By MARY SCHLEY

CALIFORNIA AMERICAN Water started cutting up Dolores Street in downtown Carmel the week of Thanksgiving, shutting down parts of the street and blocking parking for a project that’s expected to run into March. But the utility company says the work is critical, that it went to great lengths to keep the city apprised, and that construction will be suspended for Christmas and New Year’s.

“We’re replacing aging service lines and water mains, upgrading fire sprinkler services and upgrading commercial water service lines,” Cal Am spokesperson Josh Stratton explained Wednesday.

Stratton and project engineer David Pezzini described the plans and received approval from the Carmel City Council in July. The work includes replacing a 4-inch main with 900 feet of upgraded 8-inch PVC main, installing 47 1-inch and six 1.5-inch and 2-inch upgraded commercial connections and meters, a half-dozen new 4-inch and 6-inch commercial fire-sprinkler services, and new connections at the intersections.

The project “provides overall improvement of water infrastructure for resiliency and reliability of the water system,” Stratton and Pezzini said.

The permit includes 62 conditions of approval, “to minimize impacts to the community before, during and after construction,” according to the public works department, including \$5 million in liability insurance, public notices and a 24/7 hotline, ongoing coordination with public safety and other services, a traffic-control plan that accommodates one-way vehicle passage and deliveries, access for people who live on that street, environmental

regulations and mitigation measures, and the ability to shut work down and keep the street open during city events, as needed.

After the work is done, the street surface will be restored, according to Cal Am.

‘Flowing in’

City administrator Chip Rerig mentioned the project during his weekly video post with assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson Friday.

“The work on Dolores between Ocean and Eighth is not a city project, it’s Cal Am, and we are really apologetic about the impacts on businesses,” he said, acknowledging that “Cal Am did a lot of outreach and education.”

Because San Carlos is a concrete street, saw-cutting into it to dig trenches is a loud and lengthy process that also requires a lot of jackhammering, he observed, and the complaints “have been flowing in.”

There really isn’t a good time to do construction downtown, Rerig noted, but “it’s better than in our high-visitor season.”

And Swanson said the project is important for fire safety, since it includes upgrades to the main and connections to buildings’ fire-prevention systems that will increase water pressure.

The upside of all the disruption is better fire protection

On Wednesday, Stratton said the company put a lot of effort into ensuring everyone was aware of the work.

“If there have been any calls or complaints about the project, they haven’t been elevated to me,” he said. “We were really proactive in working with the city so they could be well-versed enough to respond to questions.”

Construction will be suspended for the period from Christmas through New Year’s, and the overhaul is set to be completed in March.

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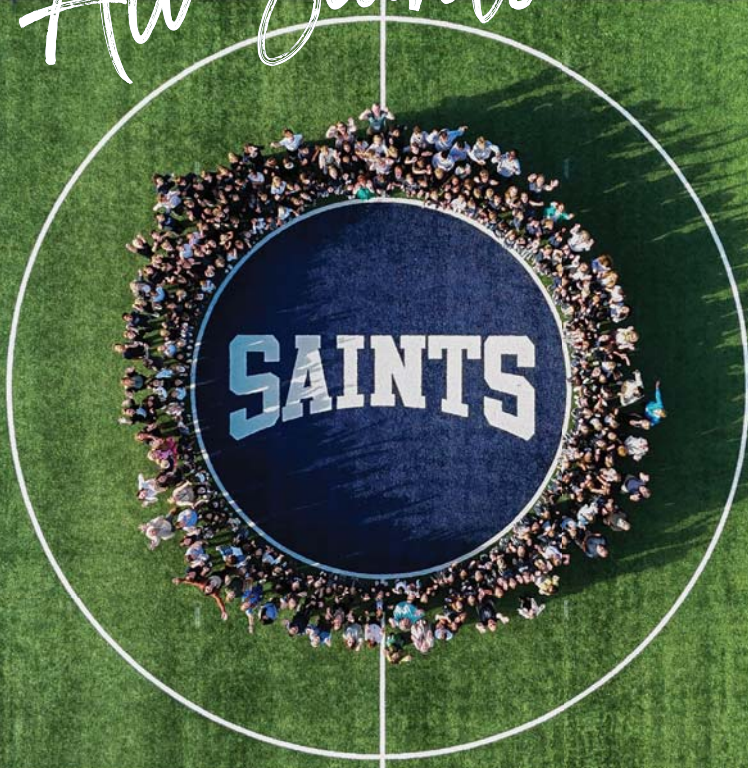
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Police & Sheriff's Log

Intoxicated female made too much noise

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 21

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Traffic stop at Junipero and 13th for CVC violations. Driver displayed false evidence of DMV registration. In-field cite and release of a 44-year-old male.

Pacific Grove: Child Protection Service cross report regarding a Forest Avenue residence.

Pacific Grove: Personal belongings stolen from a residence on Sinex Avenue. No suspect information.

Carmel area: Deputies conducted a bicycle stop on Carmel Rancho Boulevard which led to the arrest of a 59-year-old male.

Pacific Grove: At approximately 1323 hours, a vehicle check was conducted in the 800 block of Sunset Drive for a vehicle having a false registration sticker. Investigation continuing.

Pacific Grove: A 58-year-old male was cited and released at Sinex and Dennett for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Carmel Valley: Death report at an East Carmel Valley Road.

Big Sur: Deputies were dispatched to a trespassing incident on Highway 1.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Pacific Grove: Male on David Avenue reported an assault.

Big Sur: Deputies assisted with a water rescue on Highway 1 at Garrapata.

Carmel area: A male was reported missing from a residence on Via Madalena.

See **POLICE LOG** page 11RE in the Real Estate Section



The gavel falls

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

Nov. 17 — Mariano Botello, 60, and a resident of Marina, was convicted by a jury of 8 counts of Lewd Act on a Child Under 14 Years, in violation of Penal Code Section 288(a); 2 counts of Forcible Lewd Act on a Child Under 14 Years, in violation of Penal Code section 288(b); and 1 count of Sodomy with a Child 10 Years or Under, in violation of Penal Code section 288.7(a). Judge Stephanie Hulsey presided over the trial.

Jane Doe 1 testified at trial that the defendant sexually assaulted her beginning when she was 6 or 7 years old and continued to abuse her until she reached the age of 12. She told no one until she was 15 years old, when she confided in her older sister, Jane Doe 2.

Doe 2 believed her sister, because the defendant had sexually assaulted her as well,

when she was between the ages of 12 and 14. Doe 2 urged her younger sister to report the defendant to the police, providing her with the support that no one had provided her when she was a child seeking help.

Both victims testified at the defendant's trial and bravely faced their abuser, who had been a household member for many years. Doe 2 not only described her own abuse by the defendant but expressed her guilt for not speaking up sooner and possibly sparing her sister from also being abused.

The defendant faces a maximum sentence of 275 years to life in prison. These convictions constitute eleven strikes under California's three strikes law. The defendant will be required to register as a sex offender for the

See **GAVEL** page 51A



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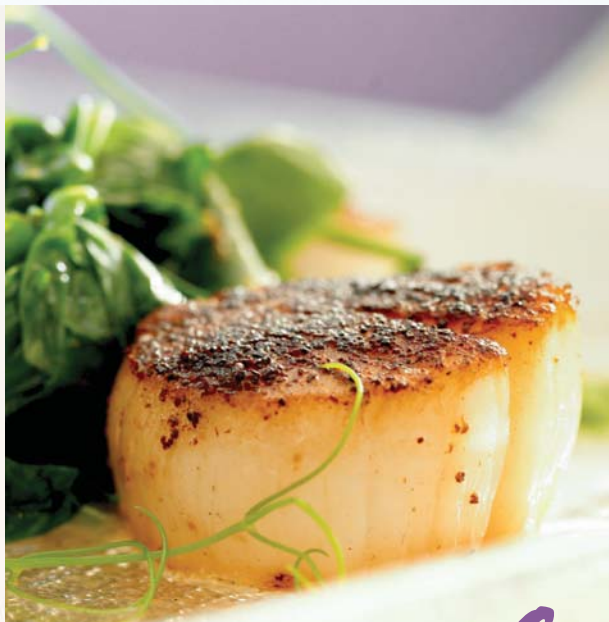
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Carmel Cares gets OK for new signs

By MARY SCHLEY

THROUGHOUT ITS years-long effort to overhaul and restore the formerly weed-plagued and bedraggled Scenic Road pathway, the nonprofit Carmel Cares has wanted to replace the mishmash of signs along the popular trail with dozens of new ones that would be uniform and clear. At its meeting last month, the forest and beach commission unanimously blessed the project.

Mary Bilse, environmental programs manager for the city, told commissioners the volunteer-led group proposed “installing new informational signposts at 12 locations along the pathway,” as well as additional signs at places where people tend to climb up and down the hillsides rather than using the stairs, and elsewhere.

“The signs would be constructed of high-pressure laminate material and are intended to provide clear, attractive and consistent messaging to pathway users regarding appropriate use and safety, while maintaining the natural aesthetic and material character of the area,” she said.

Posts, plaques

The plan calls for a dozen 8-by-8-inch, 43-inch-tall reclaimed redwood posts adorned with numerous messages, including “Pedestrians Only,” “Dogs on Pathway Must Be on

Leash,” “Pick Up After Your Dog,” “Please Do Not Feed Wildlife,” “No Smoking on Pathway or Beach,” and the locations of stairways and restrooms. They would be placed along the

See **PATHWAY** page 18A



RENDERING/SHIRLEY MOON

This rendering shows one of the sign-covered redwood posts that will be installed on the Scenic path.

WOMAN DEFRAUDED SAFETY NETS

By KELLY NIX

A SEASIDE woman last week admitted to fraudulently applying for and accepting public benefits. Her case is the latest effort by prosecutors to crack down on county residents who are criminally cheating the welfare system.

On Dec. 5, Jessica Michelle Castro, 40, pleaded guilty to perjury and welfare fraud, both felonies, for getting CalFresh (food stamps) and CalWorks (cash aid) benefits. Castro received more than \$15,000 in taxpayer-funded aid between March and July 2024.

While Castro was obligated to report to the Monterey County Department of Social Services all her household income, she failed to do that, which is fraudulent.

Castro did “willfully, unlawfully and knowingly with the intent to deceive by means of false statements, representations, impersonation, failure to disclose a material fact and other fraudulent device obtain” \$15,001 in financial aid she was not entitled to, according to Monterey County Superior Court records.

Prosecutors said that she submitted

a semi-annual eligibility status report to social services under penalty of perjury, falsely indicating that there was no income in her household. The truth, prosecutors said, was that her husband had started a job in early January 2024 and was receiving paychecks. She wouldn’t have been eligible for the benefits if she’d reported his income.

Probation


“As a result of these misrepresentations, Castro unlawfully received CalFresh and CalWorks benefits totaling \$15,001,” the DA’s office said.

She’s expected to receive felony probation and be ordered to pay back the full amount that she stole when she’s sentenced in March 2026 by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Andrew Liu in a Salinas courtroom.

This case was investigated by DA’s office investigator Kara Ells and the Monterey County Welfare Fraud Special Investigations Unit.

The public is asked to report suspected fraud by calling the DA’s Office fraud hotline at (831) 755-3224 or emailing reportfraud@countyofmonterey.gov.





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Youth league forced to cut roster

By MARY SCHLEY

CARMEL YOUTH Baseball has played games at Larson Field for years, with regular-season competition and fall tournaments held there and at its fields in Carmel Valley Village every year. But this year, the Carmel Mission, which owns Larson Field, said it would no longer allow the fall tournament to be held at the field. It also raised the rent for the regular season, according to Carmel Youth Baseball board president Melissa Anderson.

“They stated they wanted the grounds to be available for other income opportunities and that they want our agreement to be for the spring season only and to not extend into fall,” she said.

In 2023, the league paid a \$15,900 annual fee to use the ballfields in the spring and fall, and the following year, the Mission charged the same annual rate but added a \$1,500 fee for fall ball. This year, Carmel Youth Baseball paid a \$21,600 annual fee but was only allowed to use the facility in the spring.

30 percent drop

Due to the reduced field space, Anderson said, Carmel Youth Baseball had to cut its fall registration from 2024’s 147 players to 103 in 2025.

“It pains us to turn kids away from our program,” she said. Carmel Youth Baseball has served local children since its founding in Carmel Valley in 1958 and built the Dampierre fields in Carmel Valley Village in 1967, with an expansion following in 1980.

Anderson isn’t sure when Carmel Youth Baseball began using Larson Field, which opened in the mid-1980s. “Our books only go back to 2018 — when we paid the Mission \$1 to rent Larson for baseball — and we have found expenses we paid for Larson dating back to 2010,” she said.

Parent Kevin Cesario lamented the loss of use of the Carmel ballpark for fall tournaments.

“Many children throughout the community were forced to skip the season because there was no longer enough space to accommodate all that wanted to participate,” he said.

Cesario suggested the community is suffering as a result.

“Carmel baseball has been a staple of the community for decades. It is an avenue for children to get outside, exercise and get away from video games, while learning discipline and building confidence,” he said. “Culture has shifted away from kids

See CUTS page 18A



Playing baseball makes kids happy, but with Carmel Youth Baseball losing its use of Larson Field for the fall season, the organization had to limit sign-ups this year.

PHOTO/FACEBOOK

Is it Christmas decor or gun violence?

By KELLY NIX

Is A Christmastime display at a home in Pacific Grove’s Candy Cane Lane a lighthearted nod to a classic 80s movie or is it offensive and in poor taste? While the answer depends on who you talk to, the owners of the home say it’s meant to be in good fun.

Many residents of the popular P.G. neighborhood go all out this time of year, decorating their homes with elaborate holiday-themed displays and light shows, which draws thousands of visitors to the neighborhood.

But one rooftop exhibit, featuring a machine-gun toting character and a dead guy, was all the buzz this week on social media.

Offensive?

Pacific Grove Unified School District trustee Mike Wachs is behind the display, which features a wooden cutout of actor Bruce Willis’ character, John McClane, in the 1988 movie “Die Hard”. The McClane cartoon, done in the style of The Simpsons animated series, is covered with blood and holds a machine gun. Other nearby displays include an exploding building and a

dead man, both of which also depict scenes from the movie.

While the set-up is cartoonish, some residents believe it’s offensive, not only because children can see it, but because Wachs is on the school board.

See OFFENSIVE page 23A



PHOTO/SOCIAL MEDIA

A PGUSD school board member censored his home’s holiday display after online criticism.



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SCAN TO LEARN MORE

Work at Big Sur slide revs up, March reopening on target

By CHRIS COUNTS

AFTER HEAVY rain in mid-November postponed work at the remaining landslide blocking Highway 1 in Big Sur, Caltrans announced it has made “significant” progress on the project over the past two weeks.

“Taking advantage of clear weather, crews at Regent’s Slide continue to make cuts in the slope and remove debris material,” the state roads agency reported Dec. 10.

Photos from the site show workers on steep terrain. “Climbing crews are in full force above the roadway securing the mesh netting which will protect the traveling public from rockfall once the road is reopened,” according to the report.

Caltrans also said it has received encouraging data confirming that its strategy for stabilizing the steep slope above Highway 1 is working. In recent months, contractors have installed 4,443 steel dowels — each about 60 feet long — to help “anchor the slope and reduce movement.”

“No significant slide movement has been detected,” the report indicated.

Culvert to go in

Next week, contractors will begin installing a new and larger culvert under the northbound shoulder of the highway “to help convey water and debris under the roadway during storm conditions.”

Caltrans is optimistic that the weather will be favorable in the coming weeks.

“Despite several weather-related delays in November, the outlook has improved,” the agency said. “Forecasts indicate favorable conditions for the first half of December, providing an important opportunity to maintain momentum on this emergency project.”

A week earlier, Caltrans also gave The Pine Cone an optimistic progress report.

“Excavation productivity has increased, as the expanded bench now accommodates three conventional excavators and a bulldozer — this setup allows crews to remove material more efficiently and continue moving down the slope,” according to the agency.

Longest closure ever

Highway 1 at Regent’s Slide has been closed since Feb. 9, 2024, when tons of rocks, mud and debris buried a segment of pavement below it. Located 4.5 miles

See REOPENING page 29A



PHOTO/CALTRANS

After a wet November slowed the effort to clear Regent’s Slide, the weather has turned favorable and crews are making progress, Caltrans reported.

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Oceanfront Big Sur home gets OK

By CHRIS COUNTS

THERE ARE many ways the construction of a home along Highway 1 in Big Sur can run afoul of a tangled web of state and county land use regulations, but the Monterey County Planning Commission had no reservations about approving a large new residence at Kasler Point, approximately a half-mile south of Garra-pata Bridge. The plans were approved by a 10-0 vote.

The owners of the property, Naik Devang and Desai Rupa, want to tear down an existing 2,860-square-foot one-story single-family home and replace it with a 5,781-square-foot two-story home with an attached 775-square-foot garage and a detached 800-square-foot accessory dwelling unit.

The owners also plan to remove more than 25,000 square feet of non-native ground cover and replace it with native coastal scrub.

The property is 2.9 acres and is located at 36240 Highway 1.

Plans also call for removal of up to three cypress trees and developing on slopes greater than 30 percent. The builders also must contend with nearby rare plants and archaeological resources.

Changes made

The plan was reviewed by the Big Sur Land Use Advisory Committee in August 2024, but after a committee member pointed out that the proposed home would violate the Big Sur Land Use Plan’s critical viewshed policy, which requires most new development to be out of the Highway 1 viewshed, — architect Eric Miller, who was representing the property owners, agreed to come back with a new design. At

Wednesday’s hearing, a county planner said the revised design would not “add height or bulk to the public viewshed.”

Planning commissioner Martha Diehl complimented the applicants for their “spirit of cooperation” and “coming forward with a project I can feel enthusiastic about.”

Easy approval after being sent back to the drawing board

How to spot elder abuse in the works

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE CARMEL Foundation will host an expert speaker Dec. 17 to explain how to recognize and respond to financial elder abuse. Marc Eisenhart will present a free talk in Diment Hall at Dolores and Eighth at 2:30 p.m. on “Spotting the Signs: Recognizing and Responding to Financial Elder Abuse — An Attorney’s Perspective.”

Eisenhart will give “an engaging and informative PowerPoint presentation on one of his legal specialties, financial elder abuse,” according to the nonprofit

foundation, which serves members 55 and older. “He will discuss common red flags of financial elder abuse, legal definitions and protections, role of attorneys in detection and prevention, steps to take when abuse is suspected and preventative strategies.”

As a founding partner of Gates Eisenhart Dawson, he has tried dozens of cases, litigating civil and probate matters involving financial elder abuse, fraud, commercial and consumer contract and real estate disputes, and breach of fiduciary duty, including close familial transactions, internal corporate and partnership disputes.

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Marina takes ownership of park after price balloons to \$6.8 million

By CAITLIN CONRAD

MARINA’S CITY council voted unanimously last week to take over construction of Sea Haven Park after the price tag for recreation facilities there ballooned to \$6.8 million. The move brings to a close a lengthy back and forth between the city and Sea Haven subdivision developers that has yet to result in a park.

In 2004, the city entered into an agreement with the developer which, at the time, was called Cypress Marina Heights LLC. The agreement called for Cypress to spend \$1.5 million to build a park on 18 acres of city-owned land. Turning the parcel, nestled alongside the subdivision, into a park was an attractive idea to the city and the homebuilder, the latter of which was looking to sell market-rate homes to families.

More than a decade after the deal was struck, no park had been built, and in 2018, the agreement was amended to update the subdivision’s new owner to Wathen Castanos Peterson Homes Inc., and to increase the developer’s financial obligation to \$2.1 million.

The new price tag took into account inflation, and at the time, Marina told the public construction was set to start in 2019. But it never did.

Changing hands

In 2023, the Sea Haven development changed hands once again, with Trumark Companies taking over. In the years since the 2004 agreement, hundreds of homes have been built and sold in the development, and a selling point for many homebuyers has been the park that was supposed

to be built alongside Imjin Parkway. Instead, the undeveloped land between third Avenue and Denali Drive has sat vacant, and the price to build play structures, bathrooms and the rest has gone up and up.

“This thing has been going on forever, and we went from \$2 million to almost \$7 million, which is just mind-boggling to me,” said city council member Kathy Biala.

The obstacle in getting the park built has been a series of disagreements between the city and the developer over the design.

Trumark proposed to “value engineer” the park — in other words, build it more cheaply — by reducing amenities and parking. But the city wanted to add more features, like additional pickleball courts and another restroom.

Increasing costs

The city worked to find ways to cover increasing costs, like reimbursing the developer via California Department of Fish and Wildlife habitat mitigation funds and from city coffers. The two parties couldn’t find common ground.

Under the deal, Trumark isn’t obligated to pay more than the \$2.1 million agreed to in 2018 — \$150,000 of which has been spent on design fees.

To make up the difference between \$1,950,000 and the estimated \$6.7 million needed to complete the project, Marina plans to use money from the city’s public facility impact fee fund. But as the discussion over the park’s big price tag continued, councilmember Liesbeth Visscher

See **PARK** page 23A



Happy Jolly-days!

Your local Pacific Grove dental office is in FULL holiday swing. We are saying goodbye to our beyond-loved Dr. Adriana Lalinde this week and sending her off to enjoy retirement and her family in Uruguay without any more bite adjustments in sight. We all completed our biennial refresh of CPR training and recertification and are ready to chest compress and abdominal thrust in the event of an emergency. We are ALSO thankful and excited to be down the street from our local Pacific Grove Fire Station if said emergency does arise! (Thank you for your service).

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Amid debate over pros and cons, officials seek input on dam removal

By CHRIS COUNTS

IN THE latest step being taken to determine whether it’s worth tearing down Los Padres Dam on the Carmel River, officials hosted a public hearing Wednesday evening at Palo Corona Regional Park to answer questions from residents and get feedback. Everybody who has a 93923 or 93924 zip code received an invitation, and about 20 residents showed up.

Josh Stratton of Cal Am told The Pine Cone that the gathering gave officials a chance to “engage with, and receive input from, the community on important questions for further study of the Los Padres Dam as we launch studies related to flood control and cultural resources.” Stratton said the dialogue will shape the “ongoing discussion” over the dam’s future.

Help or harm?

Some say removing the dam and restoring the river to its natural state will benefit steelhead, while others are concerned the fish could be vulnerable to droughts if water can’t be released from the reservoir during the dry months — which only happens because of the dam. Others, meanwhile, warn that the loss of the reservoir will make it more difficult for firefighters to get water — a concern expressed by some residents in the Cachagua area, Stratton said.

The two studies that are in the works will impact any decision that is made about tearing down the dam. The first study deals with the impacts upstream or downstream caused by the dam’s removal, while the second is investigating the impact

such work would have on Native American sites in the area. The studies are being paid for by Cal Am and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District.

The studies are expected to take about a year to complete. Once they are done, there will be yet more opportunities for public comment before any decision is made — in part because officials are taking a cautious approach.

According to estimates, removing the dam is expected to cost \$94.7 million, while fixing would cost \$183.4 million, along with \$82.1 million for fish passage improvements. Water customers and taxpayers will be on the hook for that money.

While Cal Am is taking a neutral stance on whether to remove or fix the dam, the water company will decide its fate.

One resident who attended the meeting, Brian LeNeve, said he hasn’t made up his mind one way or another about removing the dam, but he said he has concerns about what might happen downstream if

See **DAM** page 16A



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Los Padres Dam once held back more than 3,000 acre-feet of water, but by 2008, nearly half of that capacity was gone.

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Plan for new housing doesn’t sit well

By LILY PATTERSON

UPZONING A single-family neighborhood near Asilomar will open the door for a “conservative” estimate of 67 new residences in the 3-acre block bordered by Dennett Street, Grove Acre and Sinex Avenues, according to a proposal approved by the Pacific Grove Planning Commission. That and other recommendations are outlined in a sweeping update to the city’s housing plan, a 400-page behemoth the P.G. City Council will vote to approve or revise next Wednesday. It was originally slated for the council’s Dec. 3 meeting, which was canceled due to insufficient public notice and rescheduled for Dec. 17.

State affordable housing mandates have forced every city in the Monterey Peninsula, notably Carmel, to forgo longstanding resistance to new development while devising solutions capable of satisfying environmentalists and defenders of neighborhood charm. Thus, P.G.’s planning commission is recommending that the council “adopt the Housing Element, Health and Safety Element,” as well as “amendments to certain sections and chapters of the Pacific Grove Municipal Code and the Zoning Map.”

The plan identifies a 3-acre block near the Asilomar Hotel and Conference

Grounds that is currently zoned for 8.7 units per acre but would be rezoned for up to 29 units per acre under the updated housing plan — a suggestion that’s sparked opposition from homeowners in the neighborhood. They say the city will better serve residents, businesses and the “semi-wild” character of their neighborhood by putting new housing in “areas like Forest Hill, downtown, and the Sunset/Presidio commercial and industrial corridors,” according to a petition drawn up by residents Drew and Andy Miller. They also advised that “upzoning alone does not guarantee that permanently affordable homes will actually be built,” and want the city to seek “inclusionary requirements” to that end.

350 signatures

The father and son have sought support via a petition, which they say has garnered around 350 signatures so far, and are asking P.G. citizens to turn out to the upcoming council meeting. Among those supporters is Melissa Walker, a resident of the area, who reached out to The Pine Cone with concerns that the rezoning “would change the whole character of our neighborhood.”

The special meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Dec. 17 at P.G. City Hall, 300 Forest Ave.

P.G. commission wants more development near Asilomar



Sandra and Truffles

Eighth of January, 1943, Brighton by the Sea
Twelfth of December, 2024, Carmel-by-the-Sea

The life that I have is all that I have
And the life that I have is yours.
The love that I have of the life that I have
Is yours and yours and yours —

The sleep I shall have, the rest I shall have
Yet death shall be but a pause
And the peace of my years in the long
green grass

Shall be yours and yours and yours —

A note from her husband, Louis: While I was gathering Sandra’s personal papers, I found this poem hand written on a piece of saved hotel stationery from a business trip made shortly after we were married in 1967. The poem “Yours” quoted by Sandra was penned by Leo Marks in 1943 — the year Sandra was born in war-torn England. The original poem was composed on Christmas Eve.

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Carmel High sophomore raises money for disabled children in India

By ELAINE HESSER

“MY NAME is Aditi Desai. I am 16 years old and currently a 10th-grade student at Carmel High School.” That’s how an email that arrived in a Pine Cone email box a few weeks ago began, and the story that unfolded by the end of a few short paragraphs was remarkable and heartwarming.

Desai lives with her family near the mouth of Carmel Valley and has been traveling to India regularly to see her father’s family for as long as she can remember. This year, what she saw moved her to help some children she met in Surat, a port city on the Arabian Sea in the western Indian state of Gujarat.

Bringing hope

Many high school students have moments when they believe society is perfectible, that they could change the world if only someone would help them get started. It’s the sort of optimism that well-meaning adults often call

“starry-eyed” or “naïve,” smiling indulgently and trying not to say things like, “When I was your age, I thought that, too.”

Desai is thoughtful, a careful listener who weighs her words before speaking, and, most importantly, she still has that positive outlook. Her mother, Nilam Desai,

encourages it. During the two weeks they spent in India this summer, Aditi’s grandfather — who makes an effort to expose her to all aspects of life there — took her and her mother to a school run by The Disable Welfare Trust

See **KINDNESS** next page



PHOTO/ARIJUN KC PHOTOGRAPHY

Sixteen-year-old Aditi Desai was so moved by the students she met at a school for disabled children in Surat, India, that she put on a fundraising concert at Folktale Winery with her family’s help.



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KINDNESS

From previous page

of India. It provides education, vocational training, health-care and social services for children with disabilities.

They spent a half-day there, and it was quite emotional for Desai, who loves her occasional work with young children at her mother’s preschool here.

“When I saw the babies, it was heartbreaking,” she said, followed by a long pause as she recalled the visit. “Tears were coming to my eyes and my feelings grew,” she remembered.

The youngsters were divided into classes from pre-school to 12th grade, and they live with disabilities ranging from the physical, like missing limbs, to mental or learning difficulties, including autism.

“Serving them food and watching them live their life grounded me and helped me be thankful for all the things that I can physically do,” she said.

It was inspirational, too. “It was uplifting to see what those teachers were able to do for them,” Desai noted, smiling.

Afterward, in the car, she told her mom, “I really want to do something,” to help the children. They decided to move whatever that “something” was along so it could be finished before they return to India on Dec. 16.

Doing something

The idea for some kind of performance came naturally to Desai. “I love expressing myself through creativity and movement, especially through singing and dancing. These passions help me build confidence, share my emotions and connect with the people around me,” she said, and added that she’s been taking voice lessons since she was 10.

That led to producing and singing in a kid-friendly fundraising concert on Nov. 11 at Folktales Winery in Carmel Valley. Her mother is a friend of Madigan Ahn, one of the owners of the venue.

“It has outdoor seating and it’s a good place for little kids,” Desai noted.

With help from her extended family, she put together

a two-hour event featuring games for the kids, time to share homemade samosas (pastries with savory filling) and other snacks, and five Disney songs with five costume changes, including a few wigs. Desai credited her aunts with helping her create her looks for the various characters whose songs she performed, making the food, and putting up decorations. The songs came from popular animated films including “Frozen” and “The Little Mermaid.”

Word of mouth and her family’s networking efforts brought in 105 people. Nilam said of Folktales’ largesse that the location “was a dream come true” and staff were supportive and helpful.

The event raised more than \$2,300, which Desai said “will help provide the students with important resources like books, supplies, and classroom improvements.”

She is looking forward to bringing the check to the school, saying, “I believe that even small acts of kindness can create big change, and I hope to continue making a positive impact on others through my talents, hard work, and compassion.”

Christmas WORSHIP 2025

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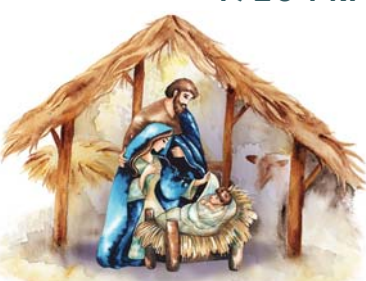
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Flying from the North Pole to C.V. Village, Santa set to arrive Saturday

By CHRIS COUNTS

JUST AS he does every year around this time, jolly old St. Nick and his wife are expected arrive by helicopter at the former Carmel Valley Airport Saturday at 11 a.m. “Santa and Mrs. Claus are coming to town for the 68th annual Santa’s Fly-In,” announced the Carmel Valley Community Youth Center, which hosts the event.

Starting at 11:15 a.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus will lead a parade through the streets of Carmel Valley Village before arriving at the youth center for a free meet and greet with

the famous couple. A party at the same starts at noon, with food, games and an assortment of family-friendly activities, including a petting zoo and bounce house.

Community effort

Besides the youth center, the Carmel Valley Kiwanis Club, the Carmel Valley Rotary Club and the Monterey Peninsula Park District have a hand in making the yearly event possible. Single-activity tickets are available for \$2 each, while an unlimited-activity wristband sells for \$20.

After its lengthy journey, the helicopter will land on

the east end of the former airport between Lilac Lane and Poppy Road, while the youth center is at 25 Ford Road. No parking is available along Poppy Road because it’s being used as a staging area.

Also, volunteers are still needed to help with setting up the event, decorating, taking photographs, face-painting, attending the petting zoo, bounce house and parking lot, selling tickets, taking down the event and other tasks. “This event cannot happen without the support of community volunteers,” organizers added on Facebook. For more details, visit cvcyc.org.

Christmas

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Wednesday, December 24 Masses on Christmas Eve 4 p.m. — with Children’s Nativity 8 p.m. — Mass at Night	Thursday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary Mass at 9 a.m.

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7pm - Blue Christmas Service

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GRILLED GULF PRAWNS, ARUGULA PESTO
wild mushrooms & tomatoes, garlic, smoked trout roe,
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GREATER OMAHA 50-DAY AGED FILET MIGNON, DEMI SAUCE
truffle potato pavé, truffle pearls, asparagus, fried shallots,
red wine veal demi-glaze

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OUR FAMOUS CLASSIC CHERRIES JUBILEE
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cinnamon, Kirshwasser

GODIVA CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE
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flourless chocolate crust

THE PHOENIX'S KISS
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Chamber crowns champions

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE CARMEL Chamber of Commerce anointed its 2025 Awards of Excellence recipients at a gala dinner at Quail Lodge last Wednesday night, with Mad Dogs & Englishmen beating out more than a dozen other 2024 category winners to take Business of the Year.

Chosen by chamber members from among the top three nominees selected by voters at large for each category, those to take home prizes at the Dec. 3 event were:

- Accommodations (Small) — Pine Inn
- Accommodations (Large) — Cypress Inn
- Art — Monterey Museum of Art
- Beverages — Folktale Winery & Vineyard
- Food/Market/Specialty (Small) — Bruno's Market and Deli
- Food/Market/Specialty (Large) — Grasing's
- Health & Wellness — Carmel Valley Athletic Club
- Financial/Legal — Monterey County Bank

- Music/Performance — Sunset Cultural Center
- Nonprofit — The Carmel Foundation
- Professional Services (Small) — KAZU NPR
- Professional Services (Large) — Monterey County Weekly
- Real Estate/Property Management (Small) — San Carlos Agency
- Real Estate/Property Management (Large) — David Lyng Real Estate
- Retail (Small) — Yellow Brick Road
- Retail (Large) — The Crossroads Carmel
- Tourism (Small) — Monterey Bay Whale Watch
- Tourism (Large) — Carmel Mission Basilica

The results stemmed from online ballots submitted in October in which anyone could choose the best three businesses in each category from among the chamber's members. After the top three vote-getters were identified, chamber members were given the opportunity to select their favorites.

DAM

From page 11A

it is taken down. He said data provided by a consultant that removing the dam could raise the downstream riverbed by two feet, increasing the flood risk for Carmel Valley neighborhoods. "There's some real concerns about what it would do in future floodings," LeNeve said.

Besides Cal Am, agencies represented at the hearing included the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

Two local groups with a big stake in

the river have previously weighed in on the dam's removal, including Carmel River Watershed Council, which wants it removed, and the Carmel River Steelhead Association, which hasn't taken a stance.

Nine years ago, the much-smaller San Clemente Dam, also on the Carmel River, was removed at a cost of about \$83 million — setting the stage for the discussion over whether to tear down the much-larger and newer Los Padres Dam.

A feasibility study for the removal of Los Padres Dam was done in 2023, at a cost to ratepayers of more than \$1 million. Built in 1948 with "mules and one bulldozer," the dam and the reservoir it created once held 3,030 acre-feet of water, but by 2008, nearly half its capacity was gone.

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Nancy Baker Jacobs

Dec. 9, 1944 - May 5, 2025

Nancy Baker Jacobs died suddenly on May 5 after a fall in her home in Pacific Grove, California, at 80.

Nancy entered the world in Wisconsin during World War II. Her father’s work kept the family on the move until they finally put down roots in the Twin Cities region of Minnesota. The oldest of three, she excelled in school as an honors student and National Merit Scholar, and she threw herself into high school theater. She went on to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees in journalism and mass communication from the University of Minnesota, followed by an MFA in writing from the University of Southern California.

Nancy built a trailblazing career at a time when few women held her roles. She stepped into male-dominated newsrooms and classrooms and set new expectations simply by being there. She wrote six nonfiction books and 13 crime novels, winning national recognition. She taught journalism, edited newspapers, reported stories from the field, administered college programs, and even worked as a private detective. Nancy preferred simply doing the work over talking about it. She rarely spoke about her achievements; others had to draw them into the light.

Her devotion to the people she loved never wavered. She lovingly championed her late husband, Jerry Jacobs — an acclaimed broadcast journalism producer and professor — and guided her mother through a long neurological illness with fierce compassion. She supported her son, Bradley Baker of Oakland, through every chapter of life. Nancy tended friendships across decades and distance, and she welcomed new ones generously. She and Jerry regularly opened their home for holidays and gatherings, making a joyful community of the people they cherished. Direct and discerning, she gave her time to what mattered and to whom mattered.

Nancy applied her intellect and curiosity to confront social injustice. Her writing exposed the harms of racial and religious bigotry, attacks on women’s rights, child abuse, greed, and the stakes of illnesses such as breast cancer. Even in retirement, she kept contributing her voice and her skills to causes she valued, including writing for the League of Women Voters of Monterey County. Nancy was an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula where she led the Women’s Discussion Group for many years.

According to her wishes, Nancy’s ashes will be scattered in the sea she loved in a private family gathering.

If you wish to make a donation in Nancy’s memory, she was a longtime supporter of The Food Bank for Monterey County: <https://foodbankformontereycounty.org/>.

Nancy leaves behind a far-reaching circle of people grateful for her presence in their lives: former students, colleagues, readers of her many books and dear friends. She is also survived by her son, sister, brother, two granddaughters, extended family and beloved chosen family. The term “survivors” may imply her absence, yet Nancy continues to live vividly in the conversations, stories, humor, and integrity she inspired.



JUDITH ECKELS DERRICK

Judith Eckels Derrick, 69, of Wallingford, CT and formerly of Carmel, CA passed away peacefully surrounded by her family at LiveWell of Southington, CT on Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2025. She was the daughter of Doris (MacKenzie) Eckels and the late Roger Eckels of Wallingford and the beloved wife of Kenneth Derrick, originally from West Hartford, CT. Judy was raised in Wallingford, CT and graduated from Boston University School of Nursing.



After graduation, Judy relocated to the beautiful town of Carmel-by-the-Sea in California. She began a lifelong nursing career at Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula, specializing in labor and delivery alongside her dear friend, Debra. She would meet Ken in Carmel, marry him in 1986, and together build their dream home in the Carmel Highlands overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Judy had a wonderful life which included many Duke Basketball Final Four tournaments, Boston Red Sox games at Fenway Park, Broadway shows, tennis with her friends at the Carmel Athletic Club, The Concours d’Elegance at Pebble Beach each year, autumns in Connecticut, exotic travels to include Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Paris, Hong Kong, Austria and Germany, yearly trips to their timeshare in Tortola and Good Morning Carmel gatherings through the years. She valued all her friendships throughout her life and her time in Connecticut with family gatherings and the magic of their cottage on Hartland Pond.

Judy returned to her home in Wallingford a few years ago where she had the support of family and devoted private caregivers to provide the quality of life and loving care she deserved. Judy faced all her healthcare issues with grace, dignity, a sense of humor, strength, resiliency and almost always maintained a smile, lighting up all those around. Her love of music and singing were enjoyed up until her final days, providing her with comfort, peace and serenity.

Judy is survived her mother, Doris Eckels of Wallingford, CT; her brother and sister-in-law, Stephen and Mary Ellen Eckels of Wallingford, CT; her sister, Karen Eckels Moore of Durham CT; her nieces and their spouses, Alecia and Branden Bohan and Erika and Robert Brady; her nephews, Christopher and Jonathan Eckels; her goddaughters, Amanda Daly of Berkeley, CA and Mackenzie Daly of San Diego, CA and seven grandnieces and grandnephews.

Judy was preceded in death by her father, Roger Eckels; her husband of 24 years, Kenneth Derrick of Carmel; her dear friend, Dr. Jim Pretzer of Carmel; and her beloved brother-in-law, Walter Moore of Durham, CT.

Judy’s family celebrated her life in Connecticut on Saturday, Dec. 6th at the Yalesville Funeral Home.

The family would like to express sincere gratitude to all of Judy’s caregivers at LiveWell and Bristol Hospice the last few weeks and months, along with her private caregivers that, through the years, had kept her home to include Kathy, Ann, Dolly and Rose. You were all angels in her life.

Gifts in Judy’s memory may be made to Memory Care at Wallingford Senior Center, 238 Washington St., Wallingford, CT 06492 or Carmel Cares Mission, 225 Crossroads Blvd., Suite 285, Carmel, CA 93923.

CUTS

From page 7A

on bikes roaming the neighborhoods, and with this, parents depend on youth sports like baseball to keep their kids active and engaged.”

Money lost

It also means a financial hit for the league, according to Anderson, not just from registration fees — which dropped from \$29,115 last fall to \$21,844 this fall — but from the loss in concessions sales.

“If we had access to Larson, we could have entered another potential 12 teams in our tournaments at \$650 per team, which totals \$7,800,” she explained. After paying for umpires and equipment, which would cost roughly \$3,800, the organization would have netted \$4,000.

“We make a significant amount of money from our snack bar sales, so that would be another significant loss of income,” Anderson continued. “It would be hard to come up with a specific amount, but for reference, our snack bar at our Carmel Valley fields — Dampierre Park — made \$9,325.97 this past fall.”

Anderson said the organization is searching for a new venue for the 2026 fall season so it doesn’t have to continue to turn kids away, but she acknowledged that will mean more costs for the league, since it will have to rent that facility, too.

PATHWAY

From page 6A

path in areas where they wouldn’t impede foot traffic.

As many as 10 8-by-8-inch bluff-area signs mounted on redwood posts would advise, “Walking on Slopes Prohibited — Please Use Stairs,” in an effort to convince people not to use the rocks and bluffs to get between the road and the sand, while eight 8-by-8-inch signs would be posted at the four walkways connecting San Antonio and Scenic at Ninth, 10th, 11th and 12th.

And as many as 15 “No Smoking” signs will be “mounted on existing vertical fence posts near benches where smoking activity has been observed.” The pathway contains 36 benches, and the installation will start with those south of 13th.

Finally, one 12-by-6.5-inch sign will advise people of the recycling bin located at Scenic and Eighth.

Shirley Moon, a longtime Carmel Cares volunteer who has led the Scenic pathway restoration effort, presented a slideshow to the commission detailing the history since its creation in the 1980s and the work the group has done over the past five years.

“I’m delighted to finally be able to present a proposal for signage on the pathway — we’ve looked forward to replacing the signage for years,” she said. “I think it will be a huge change and a refresh for that pathway.”

RAY A. MARCH



Ray A. March, a 25-year resident of Cedarville, California died Thursday, Nov. 13 following a lengthy illness. Born in Port Angeles, Washington Aug. 18, 1934, Ray’s journalism career spanned seven decades starting as a student reporting high school sports on the Monterey Peninsula.

March wrote for the Overseas Weekly Post WWII and after returning to the states wrote for the Salinas Californian and Monterey Herald. He was the editor-in-chief of The Carmel Pine Cone newspaper in the early 1990s and after moving to Modoc County in 2000 co-founded, edited and wrote for the Modoc Independent News.

His articles and essays appeared in Time, San Francisco Chronicle, Los Angeles Herald Examiner and elsewhere.

Ray authored several books including *Alabama Bound: Forty-Five Years inside a Prison System*, *River in Ruin*, *The Story of the Carmel River* and *Mass Murder in California’s Empty Quarter*, *A Tale of Tribal Treachery at the Cedarville Rancheria*.

Ray is survived by his wife, Barbara; his daughters, Melissa Bailey and Michelle Kirk and grandchildren, Royce Kirk and Melanie Kirk.

The family has established a journalism scholarship in Ray’s name at his alma mater, Carmel High School. To contribute and for more information email Ray.a.marchscholarship@gmail.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. Directly after the burial there will be a celebration of life luncheon at the Moose Lodge, 555 Canyon Del Rey Blvd., Del Rey Oaks. A memorial service will be conducted by Cal Poly and its graduate program in San Luis Obispo in January 2026.

In lieu of flowers, cash donations may be made to the Cal Poly Food Pantry, Campus Health & Well-being, Building 27 (Ground Level), 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA 93407.

KATHLEEN ‘KAY’ ANN RUSSO

Kathleen “Kay” Ann Russo, beloved daughter, sister, aunt and community leader, passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, on Nov. 23, 2025, at the age of 83. Just a week earlier, she joyfully celebrated her birthday at a party with family and friends, a testament to the love and community she nurtured throughout her life.



She was born on Nov. 14, 1942, in Monterey, California, to Anne and Joseph “Allie” Russo. Raised in the heart of Spaghetti Hill, Kay grew up surrounded by her Sicilian heritage, a large extended family and a deep sense of tradition. Known affectionately as “Auntie Kay,” she cherished her role within her family and community.

Kay’s lifelong passion for recreation began in childhood and blossomed into a distinguished career. After earning her degree in Parks and Recreation Administration from San Jose State University, she joined the City of Monterey, where she rose to become Recreation and Community Services Director. Over decades of service, she created and developed beloved programs, while also spearheading the development of recreational spaces and the Monterey Sports Center, her proudest achievement.

A mentor to thousands of teens and a champion for children with special needs, Kay received national recognition, including the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation award, for her innovative and inclusive programs. Her devotion extended beyond work: she co-founded the Splusso Golf Tournament, which for more than three decades raised funds to make camp accessible to children in need. Guided by her Catholic faith, Kay lived with integrity, generosity and love.

A proud member of the Italian Catholic Federation, in 2022, Kay was honored with the prestigious Italian Heritage Society Award, recognizing her deep contributions to the culture and spirit of Monterey.

Kay is survived by her brother, Anthony; sister-in-law Donna; their children, Joey (Zaundra), Matteo and Amy (Mark); her great-grandnephews and nieces, Matthew, Ashley, Ryan, and Kody Gallagher, J.P., and Mila Russo along with her many cousins with whom she shared lifelong bonds and deep family ties. She leaves behind a legacy of joy, service and family pride that will continue through the generations she inspired.

The family would like to extend their thanks to her caregivers, Myra, Vivian, Thess, Angel and Oliver.

The funeral services will begin at 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 15th, at San Carlos Cathedral.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in memory of Kay to Gateway Center, Pacific Grove, or to San Carlos Cathedral.

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

FRANK BRUNO

January 23, 1957 ❖ December 7, 2025

Frank Bruno passed away peacefully on December 7, 2025, surrounded by his family. He was born on January 23, 1957, in Monterey, to Frank “Stoney” and Anna Bruno. The Monterey Peninsula would remain his lifelong home.

Frank graduated from Monterey High School in 1975. In 1978, he married the love of his life, Cindi, and together they built a family that was the center of his world. They raised four children and later welcomed nine grandchildren. Nothing was more important to Frank than his family, and he found his greatest joy when they were all gathered under one roof.

From a young age, Frank was known for his strong work ethic. He began his career working in the restaurant industry and then for California American Water before finding his calling in construction. In 1981, he founded Frank Bruno Builder, a company he proudly owned and operated for more than 35 years. Frank built and improved homes throughout the Monterey Peninsula, with a special talent for creating charming, timeless homes in Carmel-by-the-Sea. While he took great pride in his craftsmanship, what mattered most to him were the lasting relationships he formed with his clients along the way.

Frank’s generosity extended far beyond his home and work. He was greatly committed to giving back to his community, especially through youth sports. For more than 25 years, he coached baseball and softball, becoming a beloved mentor to countless players. He was instrumental in bringing the Bronco World Series to Monterey and worked tirelessly for more than 20 years to ensure its success— fundraising, facilitating and hosting teams of 11- and 12-year-olds from around the world. Whether coaching on the field or manning the barbecue pit with his buddies, Frank’s presence was felt everywhere the game was played.

In his later years, Frank embraced a slower pace and found happiness in life’s simple pleasures — cooking, walking his dog, having coffee with his Mom, basking in the sun, enjoying lunch with friends, watching his grandchildren’s sporting events, fine tuning their baseball swings and spending quality time with his family.



He was preceded in death by his son, Frank Michael; his brother, Stevie and his father, Stoney.

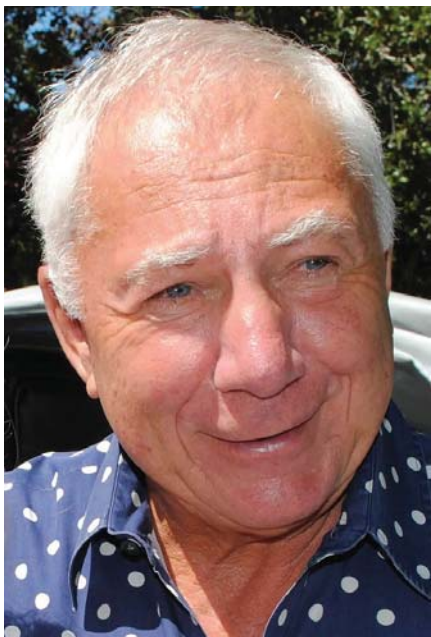
Frank is survived by his wife of 47 years, Cindi; his daughters, Alyssa (Daniel) Runnoe, Nicole (Giuseppe) Manuguerra and Lindsey (David) Woodward; his most prized possessions, his grandchildren: Bella, Frankie Rae, Danny, Caterina, Michael, Serafina, Arianna, Gabriella and Frankie. He is also survived by his mother, Anna Bruno; his brother, Mike (Tina) Bruno; his sister, Paula (Bobby) Brown; mother-in-law, Mary Ann Cato; Sam (Zoe) Phillips; countless nieces and nephews and his loyal dog, Posey.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the compassionate staff at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula and Stanford Hospital for their exceptional care.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at San Carlos Cathedral.

In lieu of flowers and in honor of his love for youth baseball, donations in his memory may be made to Monterey PONY Baseball or a local baseball league of your choice.

Frank will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, dedication and unwavering love for his family and for his community.



KENNETH JORGEN MADSEN

Kenneth Jorgen Madsen, beloved husband, brother, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle and immeasurable friend, passed away at age 88 on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025, in Newport Beach, CA where he lived with his dear wife, Susan. The loved ones left holding his memory close are his wife, Susan; sister, Bobbe (Al); children, Cheryl, Katrina (Liz), Kristian (Lois) and Elizabeth; Susan's daughters, Joanne (Bill), Aliyah (Doug); 13 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren, friends and the people he mentored. Ken was born Oct. 16, 1937, in Oakland, CA. He grew up in San Mateo, CA with parents, Julius and Viola.

At 23 he married Bonny and had four children. From their home in Cupertino, they moved to Saratoga. Ken's entrepreneurial drive was apparent, and his trucking career started with delivering freight from a station wagon and filling a need to get shipments transported to and from the airport. The first incarnation of his business was P.A.D. (Peninsula Air Delivery). He shipped for the Wall Street Journal and Burlington Northern for 30 years, along with USA Today, LA Times, and the New York Times. As Silicon Valley heated up with tech development, so did Ken's company. In '79, Ken bought and restored Strawberry Lodge in Tahoe, a business that was very different from trucking. In 1983, Ken met and partnered in business with his second wife to run Encore Trucking which shipped for Cisco Systems, Expeditors and more. Ken was known as a tenacious businessman and someone people could trust to get a job done.

It was in Carmel-by-the-Sea that he met Susan. Ever the romantic, he proposed on a ship as they cruised beneath the Golden Gate Bridge and then married in 2002. An integral part of the community, they procured connections with countless friends during early morning walks as well as visits to Bruno's Market.

Ken's story wouldn't be complete without his relationship to cars, travel, trains, boats, food, dogs, sports, his mom and the Masonic Lodge. He loved, collected and restored cars and was well-known in Carmel for driving around town in his 1940s classic Buick convertible, with Susan and his faithful dog, Fiddles by his side. Ken's travel adventures grew over time with Ken, Bonny and kids caravanning in their RV as well as spending summers at their Tahoe cabin. Later in life, he adventured the world with Susan, touring the UK by railway as Ken never met a train he didn't like. He had sailboats for pleasure and adventure in Tahoe and the San Francisco Bay. His Danish heritage bestowed a love of chocolate and good food from an omelet named after him at Dinah's of Palo Alto to the recent naming of "Meatloaf Monday" for him at Vivante. Ken's love for dogs ran deep, but Fiddles, his Australian Shepherd dug profoundly into his heart and preceded Ken in his passing. His connection with the dogs of Carmel continued as he carried and offered treats to them on his daily walks. Ken stayed athletic throughout his life, running 10Ks and marathons. He played tennis at Pebble Beach, Carmel Valley and Los Gatos, and handball at the Elks Club. Ken was a 49ers and Warriors fan and would call his sister, Bobbe, to discuss exciting games. A devoted son, he regularly visited his mom — whether delivering peanut butter M&M's or making sure she was comfortably provided for. In the '70s, Ken became a member of the Masonic Lodge which remained an important part of his life and connection to his father, Julius.

An eternally positive guy, Ken would look for the good in people and refused to dwell on past foibles or flaws. Ken's legacy is not only his innovation in airfreight, it is the family he loved, the community he built, and the countless lives he touched. Ken was a working man who also loved to share and enjoy every aspect of what his extraordinary life brought him. Surely he would get your jokes, see your pain, or tell you to just get up when you're down. Ken Madsen's full and remarkable life will carry on in those who knew him.

Ken's wish was to have a celebration of his life in his beloved Carmel-by-the-Sea. The event will take place Feb. 14, 2026 at Carmel Valley Ranch, One Old Ranch Road, Carmel, CA 93923. In lieu of flowers, the family invites those wishing to honor him to share a memory, extend kindness to someone in need, or send donations to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

HUGE FINE
From page 1A

Cone. "The hearing is open to the public and is in front of an independent administrative hearing officer."

The county's chief of building services, Josh Bowling, said last week that the fine is the largest the county has ever imposed.

300 attendees

Meanwhile, the citation obtained by The Pine Cone reveals more information about the McLaren event on the 9-acre property, which the couple rented to the company for \$225,000, which amounts to \$28,125 per day from Aug. 11 to 18. McLaren's Car Week event hosted hundreds of people.

Monterey County code compliance inspector Michael Braasch said he received multiple complaints about the gathering and went to the property to investigate. He met with an event manager who described to him in detail what would be taking place on the property.

"The daytime events were to include amplified sound with a vehicle reveal," Braasch's citation said. "Friday night was said to have approximately 300 people on the property with a live DJ that was to be scheduled to stop playing amplified music at 10 p.m."

Guests parked at a church on Carmel Valley Road while staff parked next door to the home. Food and a full bar were provided by a Los Angeles-area outfit.

Braasch said there were two tents, including one he was told was 400 square feet.

"During my inspection of the inside of the tents, it was found that both tents contained appliances being powered by

electricity supplied from the house, and the larger tent also contained stoves, fryers, and other food-warming appliances," he wrote.

After the inspection, Braasch said he did some research to determine if there were permits for the event. When he couldn't find any, he issued a citation.

The fine included \$500 for holding the event without a permit and \$1,000 for the unpermitted tents for three days. The big penalties, though, were related to operating a short-term rental without permits.

Steep increases

Simo and Miralles were charged \$49,218.75 the first day, which represented 175 percent of the daily \$28,125 rental fee. The were subsequently charged 275 percent the second day and 375 percent for the six subsequent days.

There was also a \$900 charge for administrative costs, including travel time to and from the property, which was billed at \$180 per hour.

San Francisco attorney Ron Fisher requested the administrative hearing on behalf of Simo and Miralles.

The excessive fine came to light after the couple filed a lawsuit in November claiming McLaren and its media agent, BMF Media, "intentionally concealed" the Aug. 12 citation.

The owners, who were not present at the event, contend that BMF and McLaren promised that they would handle the permits for the event and be responsible for any fines, penalties and damages. The defendants have not responded to questions from The Pine Cone.

Simo and Miralles said in their Monterey County Superior Court lawsuit that the ordeal caused them to suffer "annoyance, distress and mental anguish."

Jean Littig Artz



Jean Littig Artz passed away peacefully in her home at Hacienda Carmel on July 12, 2025. Jean was born in Evanston Illinois on December 7, 1923 to Grace and Charles Ross Littig. After attending Barat College in Illinois, she earned a teaching credential and especially liked teaching mathematics. On February 7, 1948 she married George Artz and the newlyweds moved out west to Sacramento, and raised a family of seven children.

Jean was reserved but engaging. Her many dear friends loved her for her quick wit, keen insight, and understated sense of humor. When she once heard of a movie character who traveled across the world "to find themselves," she quipped, "You can find yourself in your living room."

She was a gracious hostess whose gatherings were enlivened by her fun, inclusive spirit which attracted unique friends from the neighborhood and colorful characters from her extended family and beyond.

An avid reader, Jean especially enjoyed poetry. She named her Carmel Point home "Still Point" after TS Elliot's poem where she experienced her "still point of the turning world." She and George traveled the world, collected art and instilled in the family a lifelong appreciation of history, culture and creativity.

A devout Catholic with a feminist spirit, Jean was deeply spiritual and interested in the intersections of psychology and religion.

Unique in personality, Jean was a wonderfully unconventional mother. Her eldest son George Jr. relates a childhood experience when his friends asked if his mom was a good cook or if she did alot of sewing? George replied "No" to these talents and instead said "everybody likes her."

Jean was predeceased by her husband George, brother Charles, and sister Grace. She is survived by her seven children Deborah, George, Mary Gail, Steve, Joan, Jerry, and Ann, and by her four grandchildren: Alexandra, Grace, Reesa, and Julia.

Your family loves you Mom.

We welcome you to honor Jean with a donation to her favorite non-profit: The Carmel Public Library Foundation. www.carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org



GANGS

From page 1A

murder, must be let go when they turn 25 if they’re tried in juvenile court.

The Valley Fair shooting is not the only violent gang incident involving a minor suspect in San Jose. In fact, it’s not even the only one at a mall this year. On Valentine’s Day a 15-year-old was stabbed to death while on a date at Santana Row. The boy accused of his murder is a 13-year-old gang member.

According to Mahan, 28 percent of gang-related incidents in his city this year, including aggravated assaults, were committed by people under the age of 18.

The murder trial involving the 13-year-old is set for Feb. 3 in juvenile court. Even if convicted, the teen may face as little as six months in custody due California’s lenient sentencing laws.

“When our juvenile laws are so weak, young offenders feel almost no fear of consequences,” said San Jose Police Chief Joseph at a news conference after the Valley Fair shooting.

The idea that lax sentencing is resulting in more minors committing crimes is something many in law enforcement agree on.

“You could probably talk to a hundred officers from a hundred different jurisdictions, and you will be hearing the same thing from, I would venture to say, 100 percent of them,” said Zach Dunagan, a sergeant with Salinas Police Department.

Salinas cops are no strangers to juvenile gang violence. Dubbed California’s youth homicide capital a decade ago, the city’s officers are familiar with tactics employed by gangs when it comes to minors.

“They know that if they’re rolling around with a gun, or if they are going to go do a shooting, juveniles do not get anywhere near the same ramifications as adults,” said Dunagan, “So a lot of times the juvenile will take the fall.”

State youth prisons shuttered

In addition to shorter sentences, facilities housing juvenile offenders have become more hospitable. While youth were never housed in adult prisons, they served sentences in state youth prisons up until 2023, when a law signed by Gov.

Gavin Newsom required all state juvenile detention facilities closed.

Young offenders are housed in their home counties, or nearby, in what are called secure youth treatment facilities. The facilities are under county jurisdiction, and the 2020 law requires they provide the “least restrictive appropriate environment.”

California’s criminal justice reform advocates say all of this is a move in the right direction. Advocates in support of closing state youth prisons decried the old facilities as inhumane and ineffective in rehabilitating youth.

“Decades of research make clear we cannot punish our way out of tragic, but rare, instances of violent acts by our youth,” Santa Clara County Public Defender Damon Silver told The Mercury News. “True public safety comes from investing in young people and communities that are struggling, not messaging they deserve to be thrown away.”

Silver’s office is representing the Valley Fair shooting suspect. The 17-year-old is charged with attempted murder for the benefit of a criminal street gang, among other counts. The district attorney has petitioned to transfer his case to adult court, where he could face tougher penalties.

Harsher sentencing

Harsher sentencing is sometimes exactly what victim families and even the public want in the wake of murder or violent crime.

One day after the Valley Fair shooting, three children and one adult were murdered in a mass shooting at a child’s birthday party in Stockton. No one has been arrested, but the city’s mayor is already hoping whoever did it rots in jail.

“They are going to find this suspect, apprehend them, bring them to justice, and our DA will make sure that they — hopefully — never see the light of day,” said Christine Fugazi on California Politics 360 this week.

But if the suspect or suspects in the Stockton shooting are minors, California’s criminal justice laws won’t allow them to be locked up for the rest of their lives.

The San Joaquin County Sheriff’s Office is looking for as many as five people responsible for the Stockton killings. The masked shooters fired 50 rounds from five guns and injured 13 people in addition to the four they killed. The sheriff won’t

say if the mass murder was gang related, but the San Joaquin District Attorney says it was, and both have acknowledged gang members were at the party.

Minors play an outsized role in gangs. A 2011 National Youth Gang Survey found 35 percent of gang members were under 18, and that percentage goes way up — we’re talking nearly two-thirds — for smaller cities and rural areas.

Authorities don’t know who committed the atrocities in Stockton, but Fugazi requested help from the governor’s office in reaching young people before gangs can recruit them.

Newsom did not visit Stockton following the killings — he was too busy making

a campaign speech in New York and seeking federal wildfire aid in D.C. — but he sent the leader of his Office of Service and Community Engagement, Josh Fryday. The mayor said she requested funding, services and direct collaboration for youth outreach from the state.

“We have to reach these young people before they decide to go down the wrong path,” said Fugazi on Politics 360.

Could tougher consequences for juvenile offenders also help deter violence? Mahan thinks. He doesn’t want to see murderers released after a few years without their showing true remorse and some sort of evidence they’re ready to change. Now he’s hoping Sacramento will agree.



JUDITH (JUDEE) KISH BUCKERFIELD RICHEY

Judee was born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1941 to Amber Dolph Kish and Ivan John Kish. She passed away peacefully on December 9, 2025, at home with her family by her side. Hospice of Central Coast had been caring for her since February.

When she was nine years old, her father, who was a dentist, relocated the family to Montebello, California. His dental practice was in that city. Ten years later it was moved to a larger building in La Habra, CA. Wayne Richey was a patient in that practice. When Wayne became a dentist, Dr. Kish turned over his practice to him with the command that Wayne would take care of Judee the rest of her life. Her bachelor’s degree in education was from Cal State Long Beach where she was a member of Delta Gamma sorority. Following a number of years of early marriage to Richard Buckerfield, both Judee and Wayne learned that they had become divorcees, and after a while, they married. They blended the two boys and two girls together to become one family.



Together, they joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and became active in different responsibilities. Judee, over the years, has been the Young Women’s President, and the Relief Society President, two very large roles. Together they moved to Monterey. Judee became a volunteer docent at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. She worked with the penguins for many years as she was among the first people to bring the penguins to this aquarium. Also, she joined the volunteer staff for the Big Sur Marathon. She spent many years organizing and operating successfully the Sweats program as part of its races. Later she worked in transportation, organizing bus transportation for the runners.

Judee was small in height, but big in spirit. Everyone just loved her and enjoyed being around her. She had a lot of energy and spirit and was fun to be around. Her enjoyment at home was cooking, homemaking and knitting. As a couple, they traveled often. Judee loved the Hawaiian culture. She became very good at Hula and danced with a local Halau in Monterey for years. She learned to sing properly in the Hawaiian language. She became very proficient in ukulele. The Monterey Ukulele Club was her group for performances. She was a faithful member of that group for many years. In her travels, she particularly enjoyed Europe and Hawaii.

Judee was predeceased by her parents, John Kish and Amber Kish. She is survived by husband, Wayne; and the four children of the family, John Buckerfield, Laura Buckerfield Sakamoto, Amber Richey Trzcinski and Dr. Matthew Richey. There are six grandchildren: Gavin Sakamoto, Kylie Sakamoto, Will Buckerfield, Jackson Trzcinski, Samuel Richey and Miles Richey.

Per Judee’s request no services will be held. The family is so grateful to the Tongan community, who are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who have given so much love and care to Judee over many years. Thank you.



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OFFENSIVE

From page 7A

“This might be from a movie, but it’s in poor taste,” one person said, while mentioning Wachs’ vote in June to defund a school resource officer from P.G. schools.

However, calls to take it down were met with those who argued the display is based on a Christmas movie.

Censored

Wachs — who said he’s received many positive comments about his Christmas decor — noted that other homes in Candy Cane Lane show a toy soldier and a Star Wars Stormtrooper, both of which have guns.

“This display is certainly not an endorsement of violence,” Wachs told The Pine Cone. “It is a celebration of

PARK

From page 10A

said the city would not object if Trumark upped its contribution.

“I know the developer might be watching online, if the developer would choose to send a little bit more money, or just forget about subtracting the fees for the design, I think nobody would protest,” said Visscher.

She suggested \$2.7 million might be a more appropriate amount, if one were to calculate the inflation since 2018.

Only one person spoke during public comment, and she, too, bemoaned the delays.

“It’s been a while, let’s get going,” said Denise Turley, who also asked the council to clarify that the park being built is for the public, not just for residents of the Sea Haven development. Visscher agreed and added the park will be getting a new name.

Now that the city has approved transferring construction responsibilities to itself, the project can go out to bid. The council also voted that the park’s environmental impact report is consistent with the Marina Heights Specific Plan.

Public works head Ismael Hernandez said the schedule is to put the project out to bid in January, with construction starting in May and completion in summer 2027.

a fairytale about a man overcoming the odds without even a pair of shoes on his feet to defeat an international group of terrorists in order to reunite with his wife and family for Christmas.”

In any event, Wachs’ wife, Stephanie, this week apologized for the “graphic portrayal” of the John McClane character and said the gun would be covered. The couple

made good on the plan, hiding the rifle with a wooden banner stating, “Yippee Ki-Yay,” a phrase used by Willis’ character in the movie.

“Just like the Elvis house or the house with the incredible LED display on Candy Cane Lane, maybe people will come next year to see the ‘Die Hard’ house,” Mike Wachs said.

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Coach works on rebuilding powerhouse, electrifying new varsity lineup

A CONSTRUCTION project is underway at Carmel High, where the boys varsity basketball squad is being reassembled after graduating virtually every moving part from a powerhouse team that won the Pacific Coast Athletic League’s Gabilan Division the past two seasons and finished second in 2023-2024.

With a core lineup composed of seven seniors plus one junior in his final year of athletic eligibility, the Padres captured the Gabilan crown outright last year with a 12-2 record and went 20-8 overall, losing a thrilling CCS Division 4 championship game 66-63 to Kings Academy. They also reached the second round of the NorCal Division 3 playoffs.

The previous season was even better — Gabilan co-champs with an 11-1 record, 25-4 overall, a campaign that included the CCS D-4 crown, Carmel’s third in five years, and another second-round NorCal appearance.

Carmel’s sophomore-dominated 2023-2024 team was second in the Gabilan (8-4) and reached the CCS semifinals (18-8).

The architect of that amazing three-year run, coach Kurt Grahl, makes no pretense that Simeon Brown, Warren Blut, Hudson Rutherford, Brooklyn Ashe, Sean Carr, Marcus Togneri and Dylan Hinds are replaceable.

Dearth of experience

“A couple of this year’s kids might have played in 10 or so varsity games last season, but all of that action was in blowout-type situations,” he said. “We don’t have a single guy on our roster who was on the floor when the outcome was hanging in the balance, and I don’t think anybody



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

Sebastian Rieser (left), a 6-1 junior guard, scored 23 points twice, and 19 the other time, in his first three games as a varsity starter at Carmel High. Kanan Seeklander, an aggressive and physical junior, figures to be one of the Padres’ best perimeter defenders.

The absence of varsity veterans presents a challenge Grahl hasn’t faced during his nine-year head-coaching tenure at Carmel High.

“A lot of teams teach their half-court offense and their half-court defense, and that’s it — they’re done,” he said. “The difficulty our system presents is that we press all the time. If you’re not good at pressing — if you don’t rotate well — you leave big holes in your defense, which looks really bad.

“Our approach is to play faster but under control,” Grahl said. “We’re speeding up our opponents by speeding up ourselves, which, with a young group, is a tremendous learning curve.”

The Padres’ elementary education — and their potential — were evident in the first three preseason games.

Rieser emerges as a scorer

They crushed Scotts Valley 78-59 in their Nov. 29 opener, got spanked 71-52 by Marina three nights later, then traveled on Dec. 5 to play Aptos (10-0, 25-6, CCS and NorCal semifinalist last year) and edged the Mariners 51-47.

Rieser, a 6-foot-1 shooting guard, introduced himself to Carmel fans by scoring 23 points in each of the victories and 19 in the loss at Marina.

“Sebastian is a kid who loves basketball, plays hard and really understands the game. I think he’ll really be good when he gets to full varsity speed,” Grahl said. “He shoots, he drives, and he’s one of our best 3-point shooters.”

Junior Don Desai, a 6-foot-3 post player, is a physical presence (an offensive lineman on the football team) who debuted with 11 points, 15 rebounds against Scott Valley.

Haag’s 13 varsity appearances bring value, making him a player who is familiar with the Padres’ systems and strategies.

“He didn’t get a lot of minutes, but he absorbed a lot by being around it all year,” Grahl said of Haag, a left-hander who can play wing or inside. “Mason has a good basketball IQ.”

Riddolls is a hard worker with a veteran presence who excels in Carmel’s pressure defense and organizes the offense as the backup point guard. He contributed five

See **SPORTS** next page

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

played in a game for more than four minutes.”

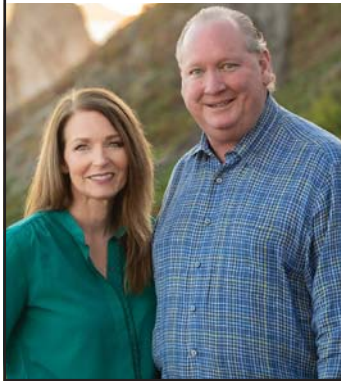
Mason Haag, a 6-foot-2 wing, got into 13 varsity games in 2024-2025, and Liam Riddolls, the Padres’ backup point guard, saw action in 10. They are the only seniors on the roster.

Three others — Sebastian Rieser, Evan Gaily and Liam Morgan — were promoted from JVs for the postseason.



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SPORTS

From previous page

rebounds and five assists to the Scotts Valley victory.

Gaily, a 5-foot-10 guard, brings court intelligence, shooting accuracy and strong basketball skills, and he is expected to emerge into a contributor as he adjusts to the speed and physicality of the varsity level.

Carter Lloyd, another junior, is 6-foot-4, 220 pounds, bringing more muscle and athleticism into the paint.

“He also has a good basketball IQ and some touch around the basket,” the coach said of the younger brother of Jackson Lloyd, a freshman tackle at the University of Alabama. “When he works himself into basketball shape, he’ll definitely make an impact for us.”

Athletic junior Ethan Haas, a football cornerback, is 6-foot-2 and a good jumper who will play a wing position.

Sophomore point guard

Tanner Henderson, who played freshman basketball in 2024-2025, is the first sophomore Grahl has entrusted with the starting point guard position at Carmel High.

“He’s trying to figure out all of those things he needs to know to lead the team — a tough thing for a sophomore — but he’s a tremendous worker, so he’ll get there,” Grahl said. “He’s speedy, a good ball-handler, strong passer, and is learning how to make decisions on the fly. That’s the next step.”

The other sophomore on the roster, David Spencer, is a mobile 6-foot-2, 200-pounder who has impressed Grahl with his physicality and full-court defense.

Kanan Seeklander, another aggressive defensive back in football, is a 5-foot-10 inch guard, strong and athletic, who is emerging as one of the team’s best

perimeter defenders, the coach said.

Bear Langmann, a junior who transferred from Palma — 6-foot-2 and nearly 200 pounds — is an athletic guard and wing with a high activity level who likes to drive to the basket.

Morgan emerges as surprise

Liam Morgan, a 6-foot-1 junior guard, has been “a pleasant surprise” who scraps for loose balls, enjoys contact, draws fouls, and finishes well around the basket. His



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Bear Langmann, who transferred from Palma, could emerge as a key player in an all-new Carmel lineup.

nine points were second best on the team against Marina.

The strongest team in the typically rugged Gabilan Division might be Palma, which graduated just one key player from a squad that went 10-4 in league, 22-8 overall, and reached the CCS finals and NorCal

semifinals last March.

Others battling Carmel for postseason berths include Pacific Grove, Monterey, Oakwood, Salinas and Watsonville.

“I can promise that we’ll get better as the season goes on,” Grahl said. “We’ll see what this year brings, but I’m basically looking at this as a two-year process, targeting the spring of 2027 as the time when

we’ll be playing our best basketball.”

Carmel plays this weekend in the Pacific Grove Breaker Classic, facing Sequoia, from Redwood City, at 8 p.m. Friday and Christopher, from Gilroy, at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

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

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Editorial

Why they need an expert

LOCAL READERS of the Wall Street Journal had to be surprised when they saw the words “Pacific Grove” in a headline on page A15 of Monday’s edition. Among its many virtues, P.G. is one of the last places you expect to see covered in the big city news media.

In this Wall Street Journal piece, economist David Henderson criticizes the city council’s recent move to raise taxes.

“I live in this city of around 15,000. Locals call it ‘America’s Last Hometown,’ and there’s something to that term. People are neighborly and our crime rate is very low. It isn’t quite Andy Griffith’s Mayberry, but it isn’t far off,” Henderson wrote. “Last month, though, Pacific Grove’s City Council passed a shocking measure that undercuts the warm-and-fuzzy hometown feeling. The majority approved an expenditure of up to \$141,530 for a political consulting firm to help it figure out how to raise taxes.”

Doing that isn’t right, Henderson argues, because it forces taxpayers to fund efforts against their own interests.

The only fair way to pursue a tax increase, he says, would be for proponents of the increase to pay for the attempt.

“But the city council is making us pay for their effort to figure out how to make us pay more. That isn’t only unfair, it’s corrupt,” Henderson concludes.

Pacific Grove isn’t the only place to bring in a consultant to help it raise taxes. In September, the City of Vacaville voted to hire a consultant to help organize and strategize three possible tax increase measures, likely for placement on future ballots.

And in 2022, the Orange County city of La Palma also hired a consultant to assess the viability of a Transient Occupancy Tax increase from 8 percent to 10 percent.

According to the website for consultant Props & Measures, the company hired by Pacific Grove, the firm has done similar work for other California cities, including Santa Fe Springs, Downey, Laguna Beach, Santa Monica and Palm Springs. It boasts of passing more than 430 successful bond and tax measures and generating more than \$20 billion in voter-approved funding for facility improvements, infrastructure and quality public services. The firm says its experience includes 500 successful revenue measures and claims a success rate of over 90 percent, even in the face of challenging supermajority requirements, such as are common in California.

And that’s where the real need arises for expert help when it comes to raising taxes in California cities. Thanks to Prop 13, a two-thirds votes of the people is required for most such hikes.

While people who pay little or no taxes can usually be counted on to approve any increase, and usually provide enough support to pass a tax increase on a simple majority vote, the two-thirds rule means that quite a few of the people who actually pay taxes have to cast a ballot in favor of raising them, which many of them, quite understandably, are loathe to do. And only an expensive expert, it seems, can be counted on to convince them.

Pacific Grove’s Tax Dollars at Work

By David R. Henderson

Pacific Grove, Calif. live in this city of around 15,000. Locals call it “America’s Last Hometown,” and there’s something to that term. People are neighborly and our crime rate is very low. It isn’t quite Andy Griffith’s Mayberry, but it isn’t far off.

Last month, though, Pacific Grove’s City Council passed a shocking measure that undercuts the warm-and-fuzzy hometown feeling. The majority approved an expenditure of up to \$141,530 for a political consulting firm to help it figure out how to raise taxes.

The firm is called Props & Measures, and its proposal isn’t exactly subtle: “We work with our clients to identify shared community priorities and values to identify the elements of a successful revenue proposal. We have built com-

munity consensus for revenue measures in hundreds of communities throughout our home state of California and many communities across the country.”

It continues: “The partners and consultants at Props & Measures asks, ‘What are the general parameters (in dollars) of the tax tolerance among residents right now?’ In short, how likely are we taxpayers to resist further tax increases?”

The council is clearly looking for ways to tax us further. There are some legitimate ways to do that. One is for the members to spend their own funds on a campaign and get others who agree with them to spend their money. That’s what opponents of higher taxes must do. But the City Council is making us pay for their effort to figure out how to make us pay more. That isn’t only unfair, it’s corrupt.

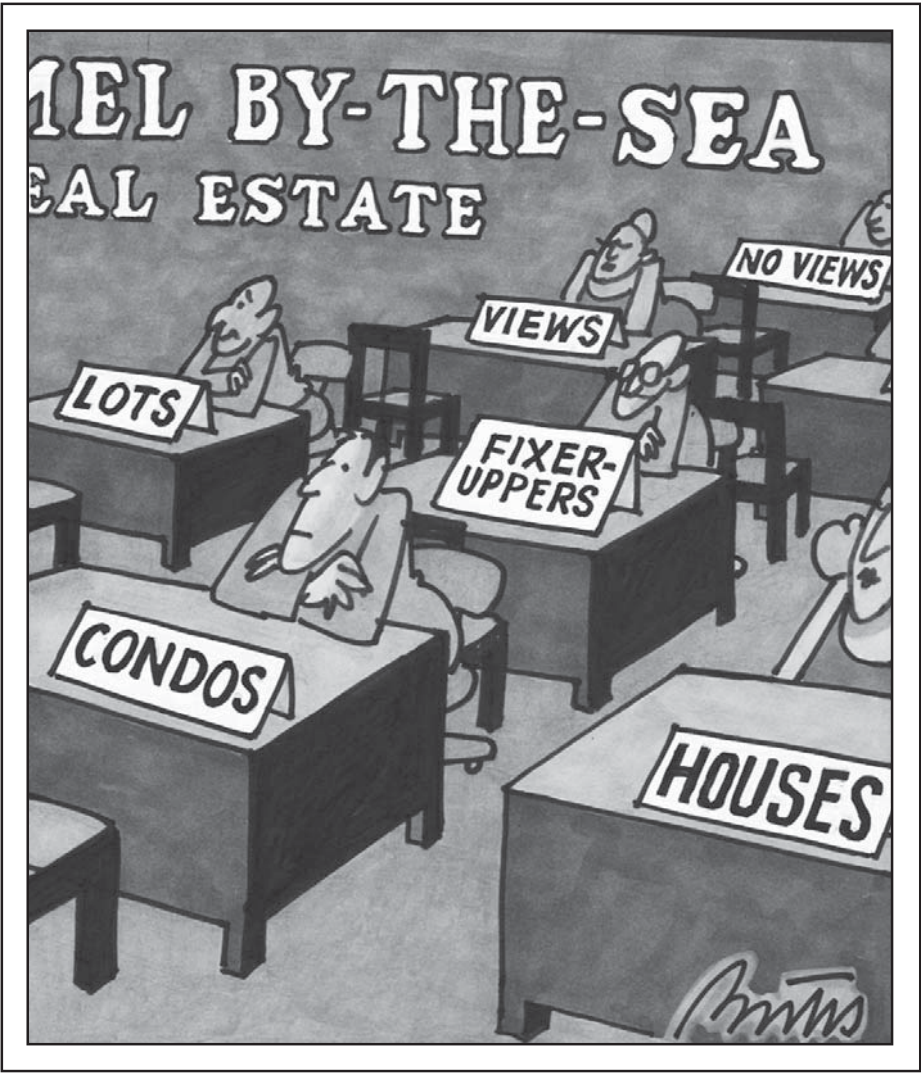
In a 1968 article in the *Journal of Law and Economics*, James R. Schlesinger—later defense secretary under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford and energy secretary under President Jimmy Carter—wrote: “The tool of politics (which frequently becomes its objective) is to extract resources from the general taxpayer with minimum offense and to distribute the proceeds among innumerable claimants in such a way as to maximize support at the polls. Politics, so far as mobilizing support is concerned, represents the art of calculated cheating—or more precisely how to cheat without being really caught.”

The good news is that the Pacific Grove residents who alerted me to this have caught the cheaters. Is it too late? Time will tell.

Mr. Henderson is an emeritus professor of economics at the Naval Postgraduate School, a research fellow with Stanford University’s Hoover Institution and editor of the Concise Encyclopedia of Economics.

The city council hires a consulting firm to help it figure out how to raise my taxes.

BEST of BATES



Letters to the Editor

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

‘Most allegations are false’ Dear Editor,

I was amazed to see my name cast as the villain in the Portola drama, which was recently the subject of an article in the Carmel Pine Cone.

Malcolm Enterprises has operated a spa at the Portola Hotel & Spa since 1997, and Portola recently filed litigation against Malcolm Enterprises, Roy Malcolm, and myself.

Sadly, most allegations in that litigation are false. Instead of basic validation, the allegations were reported as fact, then misquoted and embellished. Your article is riddled with salacious falsehoods.

Facts: Since 2015 until she retired in March 2025, Camille Malcolm — Mr. Malcolm’s former wife — was CEO of Malcolm Enterprises, signed the leases, managed the spa, was fully in charge of the spa’s books, responsible for making rent payments. I have never owned or operated the spa, and did not sign any of the leases at issue.

Camille Malcolm failed to make percentage rent payments after 2023, which is at the heart of Portola’s lawsuit. It was only after she retired in March 2025 Mr. Malcolm regained control of the spa and learned about missed percentage rents. Malcolm Enterprises has paid all rents due since he resumed management in April. Once Mr. Malcolm is able to accurately determine what rents are past due from

Ms. Malcolm’s tenure, those will be paid as well.

No funds have been used by anyone but Camille Malcolm for personal purposes “treating the Spa as their own ‘alter ego’” — as in the Complaint. Missing questions by the reporter: (1) why Camille Malcolm, owner/lease signer/guarantor/CEO, was not named as a defendant in the Litigation; and (2) how Portola would have knowledge about the inner workings / arguments of the Malcolm Enterprises owners regarding money, except through Roy Malcolm’s ex-wife Camille.

I have had a very successful career — privately, without fanfare. I have a reputation for the utmost integrity, extremely detail oriented analytics and a high success rate for helping my clients improve their business results. To be unfairly tried in the court of public opinion — in the spotlight I have avoided all my life — and to have my name and private property identified publicly in this context is absolutely egregious.

Running a story without noting the questionable veracity of information — which can only have been supplied by Mr. Malcolm’s ex-wife, who is the only one responsible for the missed rent payments prompting Portola’s lawsuit — is irresponsible.

The Pine Cone’s article was not based 100 percent on the contents of Portola’s lawsuit, but rather embellished. Either verify facts before publication, or make clear that you have not done so; otherwise anyone can have their reputation tarnished when the Pine Cone amplifies spurious allegations, lodged by an angry ex-spouse, with no fact checking.

Nancy Elizabeth Shaw, Monterey

Editor’s note: This letter refers to a story on page 8A of last week’s edition

See LETTERS page 30A

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‘Life keeps offering new beginnings if you’re brave enough to start again’

MODEL DONNA Sharp, who turned 69 at the end of November, looks forward to each birthday, to the opportunity to celebrate what she has achieved, who she’s met and what she learned from them and from the experiences of the previous year, plus the promise of the year ahead.

Born and raised in Los Altos, the Pebble Beach resident believes she came into the world with a keen sense of beauty and a deep desire to instill it in others. This was further influenced by her mother’s love of fashion and the role model she became for the relationship between looking good and feeling good. As a child, Sharp applied this by dressing up — not only herself, but other kids in the neighborhood, as well as their Barbie dolls — unwittingly honing skills she would use in her fashion career.

Beauty as medicine

“Yet my story is deeper than dress-up,” Sharp said. “As an adult, my purpose became about helping women — all women — feel confident and find that positive sense of self in the mirror. This led to my professional journey.” She said it began as a paramedical aesthetician — someone who works in healthcare to help patients with their skin — and noted that it included “working with a world-renowned plastic surgeon, providing skincare consultations and aftercare makeup for his patients.”

Sharp later worked alongside other surgeons who worked with diminishing the appearance of scars and with areola tattooing, which restores a more natural appearance for breast-cancer patients who have had reconstructive surgery.

Possessed of the stature, the bone structure and the poise to turn heads, Sharp went into modeling for, among others, luxury department store chains I. Magnin

and Joseph Magnin, a passion to which she later returned. She also embraced her childhood interest in styling — selecting clothing, hair and makeup for clients.

“Modeling is my first love,” she said. “Returning to modeling in later years has felt almost like coming home to me, but with a new sense of purpose. My modeling is now more about intention and showing women that our dreams don’t expire.”

Great Lives

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

Encouraged by close friends, she entered the national Fab Over 40 competition, a fundraiser for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Established in 1991, the group provides information, education and support services with a focus on early cancer detection. Sharp has become one of five finalists in a campaign devoted to celebrating accomplished women.

“I could never enter a competition that was just about me,” said Sharp. “But I can stand for a cause. My mother and grandmother had breast cancer, as have many friends, and my aunt died from the disease. So this campaign is near and dear to my heart. This contest gives me a platform from which to promote women’s confidence and empowerment, and I’m all about that.”

Looking forward

Sharp sees her life in a series of chapters, which have formed what she calls a “patchwork of intention.”

“Every chapter of my life, from working in aesthetics, interior design, healing work, to modeling, has followed the same thread: helping people feel their best,” she said. “Each chapter has taught me that beauty and confidence go hand in hand. One inspires the other.”

This is a deeply held belief she hopes to share and inspire in others during her participation in Fab Over 40 and by continuing her modeling career well into her seventh decade and beyond.

Look up images of women like 94-year-old Carmen Dell’Orefice, who claims the title of the world’s oldest working model, or Lauren Hutton, 82. Among senior models, at 69, Sharp is just warming up the runway.

“At this age,” she said, “I have discovered that life keeps offering new beginnings if you’re brave enough to start again, try something new. You can change direction at any age, follow your passions and open new doors. It’s never too late to reinvent yourself, to do what you love.”

Through Sharp’s volunteer work with the local chapter of the Look Good, Feel Better program — a



PHOTO/COURTESY DONNA SHARP

At 69, Pebble Beach resident Donna Sharp is a longtime working model competing in a fundraiser called “Fab Over 40.”

Don’t miss “Scenic Views” by Jerry Gervase — every week in the Real Estate Section.



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Mommy gets help with painting

LIFE IS an education, and creativity is a collaboration for Shaelah Perales, who typically paints 15 to 30 minutes at a stretch — an hour if she’s lucky — in the overcrowded studio of her Marina home.

She isn’t the only artist in the two-bedroom apartment she shares with her family.

Her husband, Danny, is a musician who uses the space to compose and play the pieces he creates as director of production at Shoreline Community Church in Monterey, and for his own projects.

Claire, age 4, and Catie Jo, 2, are painters, like their mom, and aren’t shy about interrupting Mommy’s artistic meditation or adding their own touches to her works.

Blossoms on Lighthouse

Perales paints fantastical, expressionist-style pieces, one of which is “Show Yourself,” a blossomy, 40-by-30-inch acrylic that debuted this month at 480 Lighthouse Gallery in Pacific Grove. Her abstract-realism renderings are luminous, aglow with the kinds of hues we might see in a Pixar animation, but inspired by whatever emotions Perales is feeling when her brush touches the canvas.

Claire and her baby sister frequently apply the first strokes to their mother’s work — they choose their colors and make whatever mark inspires them. Perales follows their lead and lets the magic happen.

“Their creativity, their freedom, has taught me to be more free, to imagine more ... they’ve definitely taught me to be in the present,” she said. “Growing up, it was always my job to please people — to present the version of Shaelah that other people wanted to see. I really didn’t want that for my daughters.”

Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

“I let them express themselves, and they’ve helped me learn how to express myself.”

Time spent at the easel is often cathartic, a way of relaxing her mind and lifting her spirits. “Unstoppable” is an acrylic, pastel and paint-pen rendering of swirling, colliding waves — multicolored — that sprang from a dark mood and splashed onto her canvas.

“For me, the world often feels hopeless these days — I’ve fallen in and out of hope, but I still have it,” she said.

‘Can I help you paint?’

“I was very close to finishing that wave painting when Catie walked in and said, ‘Can I help you paint?’”

Perales — pleased with the look of her art — reluctantly gave her toddler a brush and watched her mark up a corner of the painting.

“She totally messed it up,” Perales said. “And then I thought, ‘Oh my gosh ... that

needs to be a big wave!’ I painted the wave, and that absolutely made the composition — it made it magical.”

“Into the Unknown,” a large acrylic, is a soft-palette abstract expressionist piece, 40-by-30, suggesting a branch reaching



PHOTO/CLAIRE PERALES

Marina artist Shaelah Perales draws much of the inspiration for her vibrant acrylic paintings — and for day-to-day life — from her daughters, Claire, 4, and Caitie Jo, 2.

across a forest of colorful leaves and blossoms. Dabs of pink draw the viewer’s eye.

“The girls made the first pink marks on that canvas at a time when I never, ever used pink,” she said. “Their inquisitiveness, curiosity and love of rainbow colors inspired me.” Perales remembers being a shy, artistic child who kept to herself, loved playing sports and hated TV (and still does).

She was also obsessed with horses and sketched them endlessly, almost always in pencil “Color was terrible ... color was scary,” she said. She taught herself to create digital horse drawings using an application called Ponybox, and she sold some to other horse enthusiasts.

Perales was home-schooled until she was 17, then graduated from a private Christian school in Southern California.


Supportive parents

“My parents have supported everything I did in life,” Perales said, until she told her mom she wanted to go art school. “She said, ‘I don’t think you should do that,’ so I didn’t.”

“When she asked why I decided not to go, I said, ‘Because it’s the only thing in my life that you haven’t supported.’” In an era of crushing student-loan debt, she’s glad she took her mother’s advice.

Instead, she pursued her childhood dream of training horses for a living. At 18, she moved to Morgan Hill to learn from a horse trainer, but she discovered an industry that seemed “cutthroat,” she said. “People were always stealing clients from each other.”

See ARTIST page 53A



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FATAL CRASH

From page 1A

did not elaborate. Alcohol did not appear to be a factor in the crash, which remains under investigation by the CHP. In an unusual move, the agency refused to release the driver’s name.

A CSUMB professor since 1997, Pollack managed “the most comprehensive service-learning program in higher education,” led faculty development efforts in every department, and taught courses in service, social responsibility and social justice. He was also an adjunct professor

at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, where he led a three-week intensive certificate program, the Development Project Management Institute, and he reviewed grant applications for the Community Foundation for Monterey County.

Pollack, who had a wife of 35 years, Naomi, and two daughters, Maya and Alex, was also an active member of Congregation Beth Israel in Carmel Valley — where his funeral was held Wednesday — and recently retired rabbi Bruce Greenbaum recalled his dedication to making the world a better place.

“He was respected by all his colleagues because of all the work he did with the students, helping them understand what

it means to be part of society and how to benefit society by their presence,” he said. “They learned they had to make a difference by volunteering, by being active with organizations that need support and assistance — and he did it himself, he didn’t stand on the sidelines.”

Always inviting

Greenbaum said Pollack had an impressive ability to see people for their humanness, without paying any attention to their political views, ethnicities or other factors that might divide. “Everyone was equal in his eyes, completely,” he said. “He was passionate for all people.”

Pollack’s personality made him approachable and engaging, according to Greenbaum.

“If you sat down with him, you’d just want to visit and talk,” he said. “He always had a smile on his face — he always wanted

to invite you into the conversation.” Pollack also enjoyed traveling the country and the world, including a summertime cycling trip he took through some of the most mountainous areas of Italy.

“He embraced living life,” Greenbaum said. “He raised his two daughters to have the same approach to everyone around them, and his daughters follow his example of seeking justice for everyone.”

The Monterey Peace & Justice Center was one of many to mourn his unexpected passing.

“For 25 years, Seth helped shape a culture of service, mentorship and deep community engagement across the Monterey Bay,” the organization posted. “Thousands of students, faculty and community partners, including the Monterey Peace and Justice Center, were influenced by his generosity, vision and unwavering belief in the power of community.”

OSCAR BUZZ

From page 1A

viewer: A box of crayons lies in an open drawer, a doorknob is hugged by a collection of pink and purple hair ties, a collection of sneakers — some well-worn, others brand new — are neatly lined up, and a colorful figurine of a cheerleader shaking a pompom stands on a desk.

Gracie Muehlberger began writing “letters to my future self,” when she was 13. A sample:

“Dear future self, OMG, it’s high school. I’ve been waiting for this day for forever. Don’t be nervous. You will meet some of your lifelong friends and also some enemies. Don’t focus on the negativity. ... Wear something cute, obviously. I love you!! Good luck.”

The letter is signed, “Gracie from the past.”

She was 15 weeks into her freshman year at Saugus High when an armed student killed her and Dominic Blackwell.

For Jones, the father of a 6-year-old daughter and a 13-month-old son, the project was emotionally life-altering, but dwarfed by the grief of the four families who graciously agreed to participate in the movie.

“Walking into the bedrooms of those four children felt like walking underwater,” he said.

“You could feel the kid in the room. You didn’t want to touch anything, didn’t open any doors or drawer, didn’t want to disturb a single thing. It was a sacred space.”

Jones was present when Hartman interviewed the older brother of Hallie Scruggs, who was 9 when a shooter killed her at Covenant School in Nashville on March 27, 2023. Her sibling began to share a memory, but fell silent just a few words in, dropping his head and weeping briefly.

“When he started crying, everyone went silent,” Jones said. “Some of us were sobbing and had to remove ourselves from the house. That was a really emotional moment for all of us.”

See **ROOMS** next page



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LIVES

From page 27A

national movement that provides free workshops on managing appearance-related side effects of cancer treatment — and as fashion show chair for the Carmel Woman’s Club, she helps women boost their confidence and celebrate their unique beauty.

When a woman feels good in her own skin, she becomes unstoppable, Sharp said.

“It’s important to understand that we evolve and grow throughout our lives. We can rediscover parts of ourselves at any age. I feel more confident now than in my 20s because I understand myself better, particularly through the ways I contribute to the confidence of women in our community. This era feels aligned and purposeful and, therefore, joyful to me.”

Should Sharp win the Fab Over 40 competition, she plans to donate the \$40,000 prize to local organizations run by and/or for women. (Voting ended earlier this week.)

“This experience has been both powerful and meaningful for me,” Sharp said. “While I’m comfortable in front of the camera, this is not just focused on the surface, but on the opportunity to share a message, to speak to a cause and hear from women who feel uplifted by my story. If even one woman realizes it’s never too late to reinvent herself, this effort will have been worth it.”

REOPENING

From page 8A

south of Esalen Institute, the site experienced “new slide activity and surface cracking in the slope” in August 2024 — making the task of stabilizing the road even trickier.

As a result of the slide, and several others that preceded it, it’s been impossible to drive from Carmel to Cambria along the coast for more than three years — the longest closure since Highway 1 was built in the 1930s.

It’s likely nobody will be more thrilled to see Highway 1 reopen than the folks at Treebones Resort, which is located a mile north of Gorda and has been isolated due to various slides in recent years.

“They’re making great strides on the Regent’s Slide repair, with an official estimate for full reopening by March 2026,” the resort announced. “After three long years, we can’t wait to reconnect with our wider Big Sur community.”

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ROOMS

From previous page

“All The Empty Rooms” was the brainchild of Hartman, who had reported on all of the school shootings for CBS, starting with the 1999 Columbine High tragedy in Littleton, Colo.

Hartman picked Seftel, a former collaborator at CBS and the director who teamed with Jones on their Oscar-nominated short documentary, “Stranger at the Gate,” the story of a mentally scarred war veteran who scrapped his plan to bomb an Indiana mosque after he was warmly embraced by members of the Afghan community he intended to murder.

“I think I was the second phone call — Steve Hartman called Josh, then Josh called me,” said Jones, whose producer credits include Michael Moore’s “Fahrenheit 9/11,” Morgan Spurlock’s “Super Size Me 2: Holy Chicken,” and a 2021 TV docuseries called “Worn Stories.”

As a lead producer, Jones was responsible for hiring

the other “creatives” and reaching out to the families of the shooting victims. Even after communicating with the parents over the phone and via Zoom, that first knock on the door was always a nervous moment.

“We didn’t even really know what to say to them. ‘So sorry for your loss?’ That seems so trite,” he said.

Nominations Jan. 22

The emotional impact of the experience didn’t cease when the interviews were done — usually during two days of filming.

When that part wrapped, Jones helped guide the editors, watching the interviews again, reliving the emotions, experiencing new ones, and appreciating that his feelings were far less crippling than the grief each of the family members still feels.

“I didn’t talk a lot about the project to my wife,” he said. “I couldn’t do that.”

If Jones and his colleagues learn on Tuesday that their film is one of the 15 on the Oscar list, the tension will build until Jan. 22, 2026, when the nominations are announced, with the 98th Academy Awards set for March 15.



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LETTERS

From page 26A

about a lawsuit filed by Portola Hotel against Malcolm Enterprises, Spa on the Plaza, Roy Malcolm and Nancy Shaw. That story was only intended to report the existence of the lawsuit and briefly summarize its allegations. We also look forward to reporting the plaintiffs' response as soon as it is filed.

To download a copy of the Portola Hotel's lawsuit, use this link: carmelpinecone.com/portola111225.pdf.

Pickleball's horrors

Dear Editor,

Imagine my surprise when my son's girlfriend, who was visiting from New York, mentioned she read about Carmel banning pickleball in her newsfeed. As I explained to her: Why would anyone want to encourage a low-impact cardiovascular workout that promotes health, balance and strength? As seniors, we do not want sports that are easy on the joints, social, improve hand-eye coordination, mental health and overall agility.

And the noise from the ball! Don't get me started. Not that pickleball is played at night, but I can imagine how hard it must be to nap during the day or work in the garden in silence while someone is playing pickleball.

Yes, I was being sarcastic, and as I explained all of this to her, she suggested we take a look at the courts. As we looked at this park, we wondered if the neighbors don't like the sound of the ball, what must they think about barking dogs and kids playing on the playground? Maybe they should complain about this next. In fact, maybe the city council should close the park and get all the noise under control.

I am disappointed in the city council. It is really difficult to understand why a sport that encourages healthy living is banned because of a sound of a ball. What do people think parks are for?

Shame on you, city council, for not only banning pickleball, but making it a misdemeanor.

Katie Olsen, Carmel

Pickleball's impacts

Dear Editor,

Those tennis courts at Forest Hill Park are located in a "micro area" of Carmel, typically used by local tennis players. They add to the quaint, small, unique amenity of a local neighborhood park and are rarely overcrowded.

When pickleball came in, the neighborhood park "feeling" changed. This was exacerbated by the dramatic increase in people at the park. Additionally, most of the pickleball players were from Monterey, not Carmel — something I learned multiple times by overhearing players say they were telling all their friends to come over here to play instead of Monterey.

Other observations:

- Increased noise, as has been stated, not only from the paddles popping the plastic balls, but the loud voices and cars coming and going.
- Increased traffic and parking congestion, since each player typically drives alone. Thus, you have doubled the number of cars on the site, since pickleball is typically played with four people, and there are typically two pickleball courts per each tennis court.

The use of the park for pickleball has also created an "external depreciation" factor for the surrounding homes. Specifically, that external factor has gone from a neutral to positive factor to now a negative factor. Thus, it would be possible to calculate a negative \$\$ impact on the value and marketability of the surrounding homes due to the negative external factors with the advent of allowing the courts to be used for pickleball. This opens the potential for litigation by the surrounding homeowners independently or via some sort of class action. These observations are based on my 35 years as a real estate appraiser.

I very strongly support the town's maintaining the courts exclusively as tennis courts.

James Koch, Carmel

Tailgaters are dangerous

Dear Editor,

I drive over Laureles Grade with some frequency, including driving to church services on Sunday morning. I drive within the speed limits, but that often results in someone tailgating me. When this happens, I pull over safely and report the reckless driver through 911. This has happened multiple times. Recently, I contacted the Salinas office of the California Highway Patrol, which has jurisdiction on Laureles Grade, asking that patrols please be increased, but the tailgating continues and I have not seen CHP on Laureles Grade.

The 911 dispatchers have consistently been excellent, and I even pleaded with one to pass my concerns about the frequent tailgating forward to those who can address this. Laureles Grade is narrow, steep, and winding, so reckless drivers are especially hazardous.

Tyson Holmes, Carmel

Valuable land

Dear Editor,

For decades I've found it ridiculous that Pacific Grove

MORE LETTERS

From previous page

officials always seem to be looking for money when instead they should realize they’re sitting on a goldmine: their golf course acreage.

The 100 acres of prime land that make up the municipal golf course occupy 5 percent of the city’s area. When I reviewed the golf course’s finances in 2011, it cost around \$3 million per year to operate but netted well under \$100,000 in profits, not even enough to pay the consultant they just hired to figure out how to raise taxes.

There are already more than two dozen other golf courses in Monterey County. Pacific Grove should bulldoze the city course and put in housing, permanently owned by the city (because just selling the land to developers would kill the goose laying the golden egg). Build a mix of 50 high-end homes on half-acres, 150 medium homes on quarter-acres, and 500 affordable and/or subsidized apartments and small homes on the rest of the land (which all together should gross at least \$16,000,000 in rent every year), while keeping 10 acres of coastal open space near the lighthouse for the public, instead of wasting the whole thing on fairways, sand traps, and a tiny minority of golfers.

Pacific Grove’s money problems would be over.

Joe Snyder, Monterey

Defining fairness

Dear Editor,

When political pundits and politicians invoke the concept of fairness (as did your recent article on state finances in which someone was quoted asking “the wealthy” to “pay their fair share”), I simultaneously smile, cringe and groan. “Pay their fair share” is a terrific lightning-rod phrase, but what does it mean? Who defines “fair”?

The term is used by politicians as if it’s objective in nature and clearly defined. Which is ridiculous.

I’m not a billionaire, nor will I be one of those being asked to pony up at the margin to fund the state’s ever-bloating budget, so at best I have a very small financial horse in this race. But the tired, trite, overused “fair share” argument trotted out by those generally on one end of the political spectrum is rarely preceded by something along the lines of “let’s get to fair share only after we get our fiscal house in order, learn to live within reasonable budgetary constraints and stop funding nonsense.”

But “fair share” gets votes and is also the reason California, and likely soon New York City, is experiencing/will experience the exit of some affluent citizens. Which will then likely just result in the downward re-definition of “wealthy” while evocation of the “fairness” argument remains unabated. All of which will impact some not previously considered wealthy (math is math, after all, and the state budget beast needs to eat). And this insidious cycle will just keep repeating until it can’t. With inevitably dire results. That’s a pretty slippery longer-term slope for those using “fairness” for selfish short-term “wins.”

Chuck McKenzie, Carmel

The benefits of socialism

Dear Editor,

The recent letter insisting that “socialism has no place in federal governance” is emphatic, but it doesn’t align with our Constitution or with how the country actually functions.

The “general welfare” clause in the Constitution isn’t ornamental. Madison and Hamilton — who rarely agreed on anything — both affirmed that Congress may tax and spend for the public good, a view the Supreme Court has upheld for generations.

More importantly, the idea that “socialism” only refers to welfare programs misses the reality of American life.

Publicly funded, collectively provided services are, by definition, forms of socialism. That includes police and fire departments, public schools, roads and bridges, the military, Social Security, Medicare, national parks, clean water systems, the FAA, and the FDIC protecting everyone’s bank deposits. These are not fringe giveaways — they are the basic civic infrastructure we all depend on.

The story that the Pilgrims proved socialism doesn’t work is more folklore than fact. Plymouth’s hardships came from disease, weather and scarcity, not just from a temporary cooperative farming experiment.

And while some object to safety-net programs, most federal benefits go to seniors, veterans, children and the disabled. Programs like SNAP are among the most efficient and fraud-resistant in the federal government, and they provide a strong economic return in healthier families and more stable communities. Many taxpayers would prefer that some of their tax dollars support struggling Americans rather than fund another round of multimillion-dollar Hellfire missiles fired at suspected drug-running boats far offshore.

America has always balanced markets with collective

public investment. That’s not a flaw — that’s the formula that built the country.

Geoff Johnston, Carmel

The perils of socialism

Dear Editor,

Anyone who praises socialism ignores history. The book, “Heaven on Earth,” by Joshua Muravchik, reveals that while many horrors have resulted from attempts to impose a socialist system, there has never been a successful one. A current example is the serious decline in the Western European countries, overburdened with entitlements, weak and overregulated economies, little innovation and the inability to provide for their own defense.

As for government-run grocery stores, mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani should check with the Soviet Union on that concept.

Socialism denies human nature. Edmund O. Wilson, the world-famous entomologist, was once asked if the system where ants work together so successfully could be applied to human nature, he replied, “Great idea, wrong species.”

David B. Goldenson, Carmel



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MARKET SNAPSHOT

Measured Activity Ahead of the Holidays

“Activity continued to move forward cautiously with 4 new listings in our area, 3 properties going into escrow and 2 deals that closed. This slower momentum is fairly standard for this time of year, but we do anticipate a few more listings to come to the market prior to the holiday, then another surge of new listings in mid-January. We’re also seeing sellers continue to adapt to the shifting market with 2 listings dropping their price and 2 more pulling the listing from the market. It’s also important to pay attention to off market options this month as some people prep listings but hold them until after the New Year.”

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HOLIDAY GUIDE

Sometimes, you gotta stop and smell the pine branches

By ELAINE HESSER

IT'S JUST about two weeks until Christmas, which means some of you are undoubtedly feeling the stress of all the last-minute shopping and meal planning you still have to do.

Happily, there are plenty opportunities to take a break — from ice skating, to concerts — and you'll find them all in our updated calendar. We've also added a few events that are a bit farther afield, in case you feel like exploring.

Ongoing exhibits and events

For everyone who loves the winter excitement of strapping on skates and taking to the ice, **Ice Skating by the Bay** at **Custom House Plaza** in Monterey is open through Jan. 4, including holidays. Hours are generally 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 8 p.m. Sundays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Blocks of time are also set aside for private parties, so check iceskatingbythebay.com before you go. Adults pay \$15, kids 12 and under are \$13, and skate rental is \$5. Season passes are \$225, not including skate rental. Watching grownups who haven't skated for years try to stay upright is free.

Also continuing to delight up to 2,000 visitors nightly, **Winter Wonderfest** at the **Monterey County Fairgrounds** is open Friday through Sunday from 5 to 9 p.m. through Dec. 21 and then daily (ex-

cept Christmas) through Dec. 28, the event features a walk-through light show, a holiday market with more than 20 artisans and vendors, food for sale, the Jingle Bar in the Turf Club, and a variety of live entertainment.

Tickets start at \$20 for adults, \$10 for kids 12 or under, and those 5 and younger get in free. Discounts are available at the gate for military, veterans and seniors, or those folks can email info@winterwonderfestmonterey.com for a promo code if purchasing in advance online.

P.G.'s Candy Cane Lane is on Morse Drive and adjacent streets (the well-marked entrance is a bit downhill from David on Forest). It's free, thanks to hard-working community members who have put on this neighborhood light display for decades. See angels on the wing, lighted stars and animated characters. Put on some carols, and stroll or cruise slowly through the neighborhood.

Music and adobes

From Dec. 12-14, **Sunset Center** has three scheduled performances of Tchaikovsky's **"The Nutcracker."** The holiday ballet features professional adult dancers as well as children from the Monterey Peninsula Ballet Theatre. Friday and Saturday's shows are at 7 p.m., and Sunday's is at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$65 for adults and \$40 for those 12 and under. Sunday's



He may not be quite as jolly as Santa, but at Monterey's Winter Wonderfest, you can get your photo taken with the Grinch who stole Christmas.

Kingdom of Sweets package (\$121 per person) includes a themed pre-performance party at noon and photo opportunities with costumed cast members.

YOSAL (Youth Orchestra Salinas) supporters can enjoy the group's only holiday

CALENDAR *con't. page 40A*

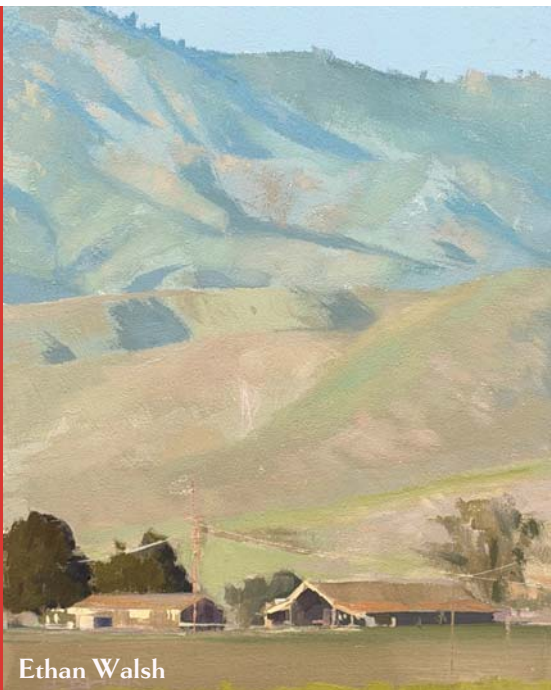
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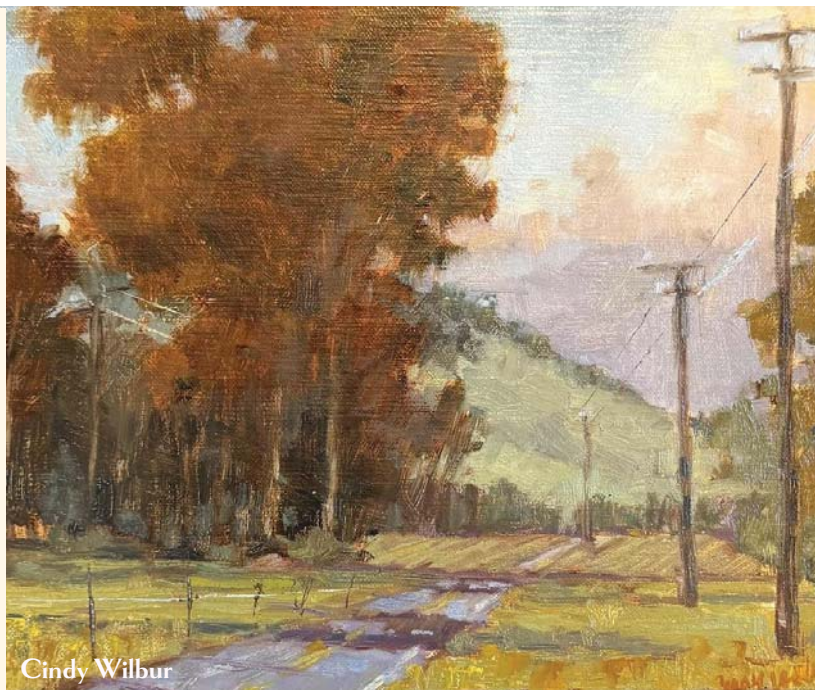
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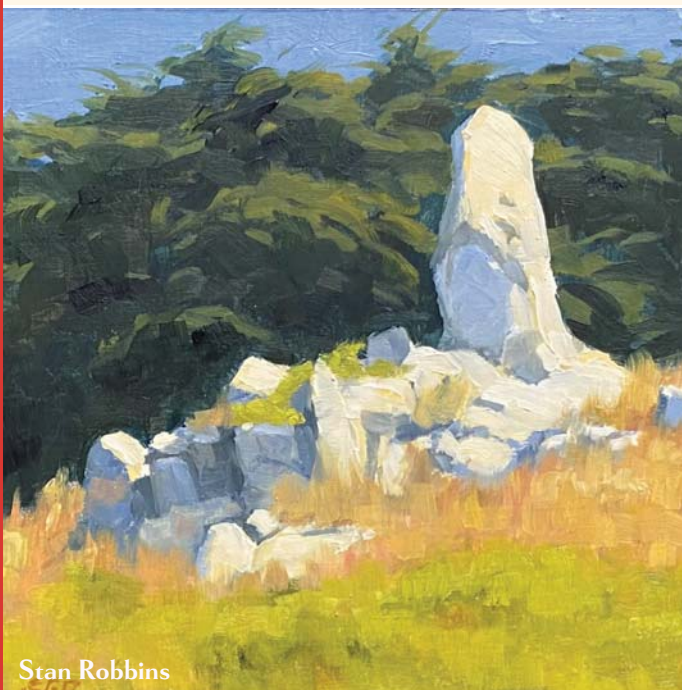
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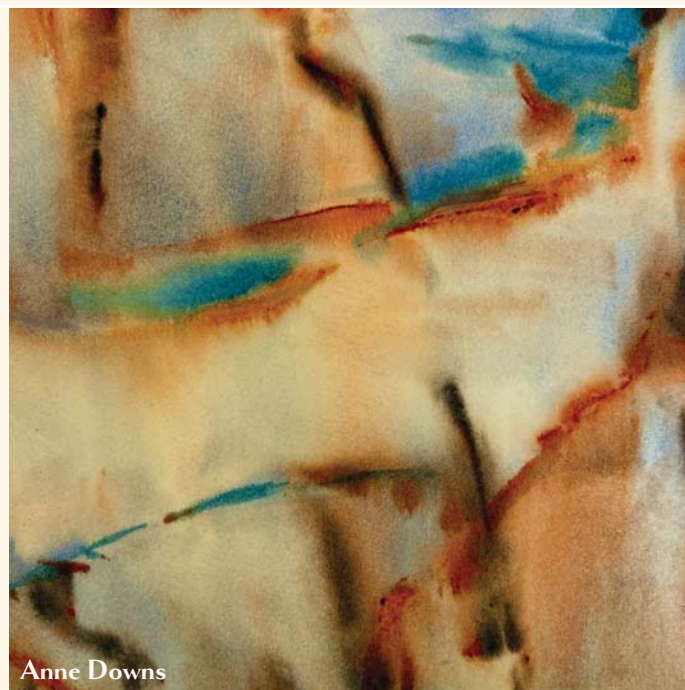
Ethan Walsh



Cindy Wilbur



Stan Robbins



Anne Downs

HOLIDAY GUIDE

When your profession doesn’t care what day it is

By MARY SCHLEY

WHILE MANY are accustomed to having time off to spend with friends and family on holidays, tens of thousands of Monterey County residents don’t have that luxury. They’re your Christmas Eve bartenders who lend an ear and a cocktail, the firefighters and paramedics who respond day or night — whether because the microwave popcorn caught fire or someone is in dire need — the police officers who arrive because something bad has happened, and the TV personalities who beam into your living room from wherever they are.

They are people who accept, and even embrace, the fact that they’re heading to work when everyone else is celebrating at home.

40 million friends

As a longtime CBS sports commentator, Jim Nantz has spent dozens of Thanksgivings, Christmases and other holidays on the road.

Just before Thanksgiving, he was preparing to leave his Nashville home to head to Dallas, where he’d be alongside Tony Romo calling the network’s traditional Thanksgiving NFL game, this year pitting the Cowboys against the Kansas City Chiefs, and then to Pittsburgh for the Sunday-afternoon bout between the Steelers and the Buffalo Bills.

“It’s a Thanksgiving tradition in my world now,” he said, while trying to figure out what to pack. “This will be the 22nd consecutive game I’ve called, but I was hosting in the studio before that — I’ve been on the road for the last 30 Thanksgivings, at least, and if Christmas falls on a weekend or we pick up a game on Christmas, I’m working on those holidays, too.”

Nantz’ family is used to the drill and even accompanies him at Thanksgiving. His daughter, Finley, 11, particularly enjoys the catering in the booth at the Dallas stadium, he said.

“They know no other way, so I pack up the family and take them with me,” he said. “My children have grown up thinking this is kind of the normal way. They’ve had plenty of Thanksgivings in the booth in Dallas.”

Being gone requires a lot of adapting, he noted. “I miss birthdays, holidays, school events, athletic events,” he said. “But it’s something I signed up for, and it’s constant juggling.”

When you’ve juggled for as long as he has, “you get a little bit numb to it,” but recalling childhood memories of holidays with family brings some perspective, and as someone who’s well-endowed with gratitude, Nantz appreciates the fact that millions of people choose to spend part of their Thanksgiving watching football. (This year’s viewership was nearly 28 million.)

“I’m in other people’s homes for Thanksgiving — I’m just coming through the television,” he said. “You live and exude the day, because the people at home watching this are in that holiday spirit, and you want to be aligned with that.”

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite days, because I believe so deeply in the word, ‘gratitude,’” he added. “It’s so pivotal and important.”

During Christmas games, he’s missed out on playing Santa at home. “I worked three or four Christmases in a row, and that’s difficult when you have young children,” he said. “It feels strange waking up in a hotel room and knowing what that day is supposed to be like, with the whole Santa experience for young kids.”

But he and Romo have become known for their Christmas Day antics. “Romo and I threw on some ugly Christmas sweaters,” for the 2022 game, and the following year, they donned CBS-themed sweaters.

And then they go home and try to recreate Christmas day with their families, he said.

Nowhere she’d rather be

Aja Gonzalez, who runs the bar at Brophy’s Tavern in Carmel, said she prefers working on holidays. The Pacific Grove resident has been in hospitality for 11 years — a profession she chose following nearly a decade in the medical field. She started at Dubber’s, a sports bar in Salinas, and discovered the industry was a good fit.

“I decided I’m really good at this, I like this — this is what I want to do,” she said. She left Dubber’s to work for



Jim Nantz and Tony Romo share their holidays — and sweaters — with millions of people during their NFL telecasts on CBS.

the Pebble Beach Company, which offered benefits, stability and growth, and then joined the Brophy’s team in 2017.

“I would say ever since I started working at Pebble Beach, I have worked every Thanksgiving and Christmas,” Gonzalez said. She never minds putting in extra hours, coming in earlier or staying later to make sure the other servers and bartenders aren’t overwhelmed and that customers are getting what they want.

“I actually prefer being here on holidays,” she said. “I am such a people-pleaser, and I like making people happy,” she said, especially since many other establishments are closed. Brophy’s, which is connected to Hotel Carmel, is open 365 days a year, as is Bud’s, which is in La Playa Hotel. Both are owned by Marc & Rose Hospitality, which has boutique properties in California and Arizona.

“We’re open, and that gives people an opportunity to come out and have a drink and something to eat,” she said. “People are really appreciative and very happy that we can provide that service to them.”

WORKING *con’t. page 41*

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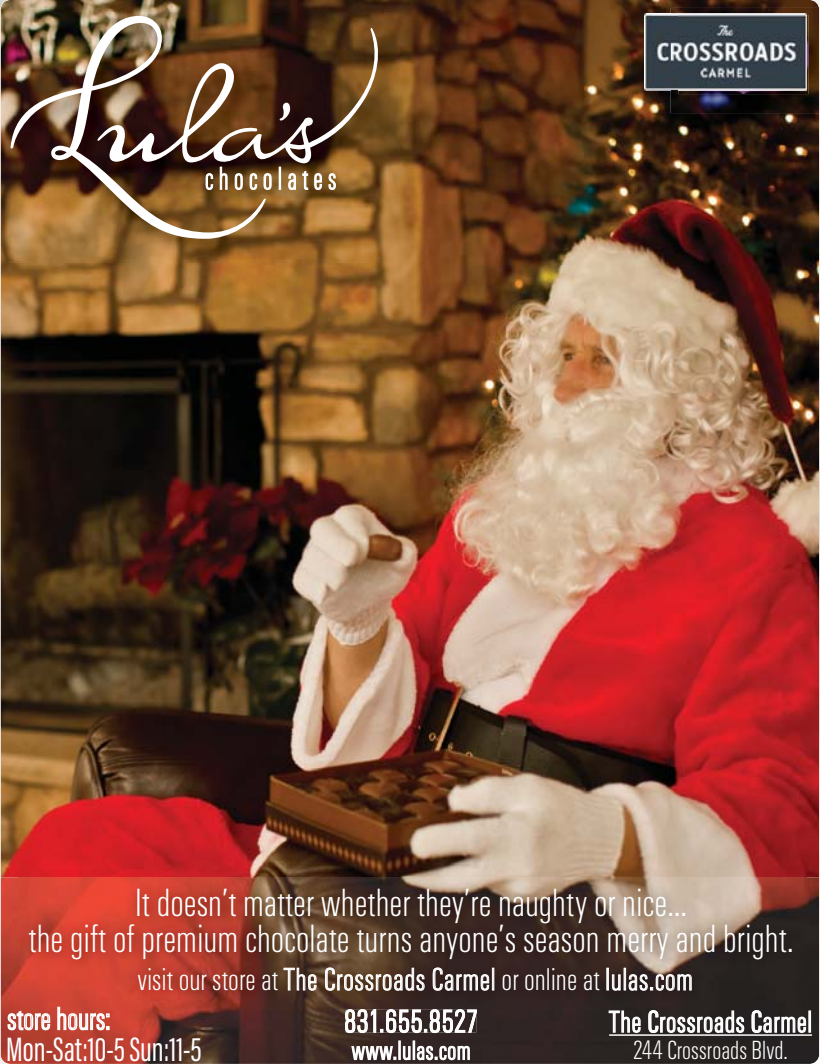
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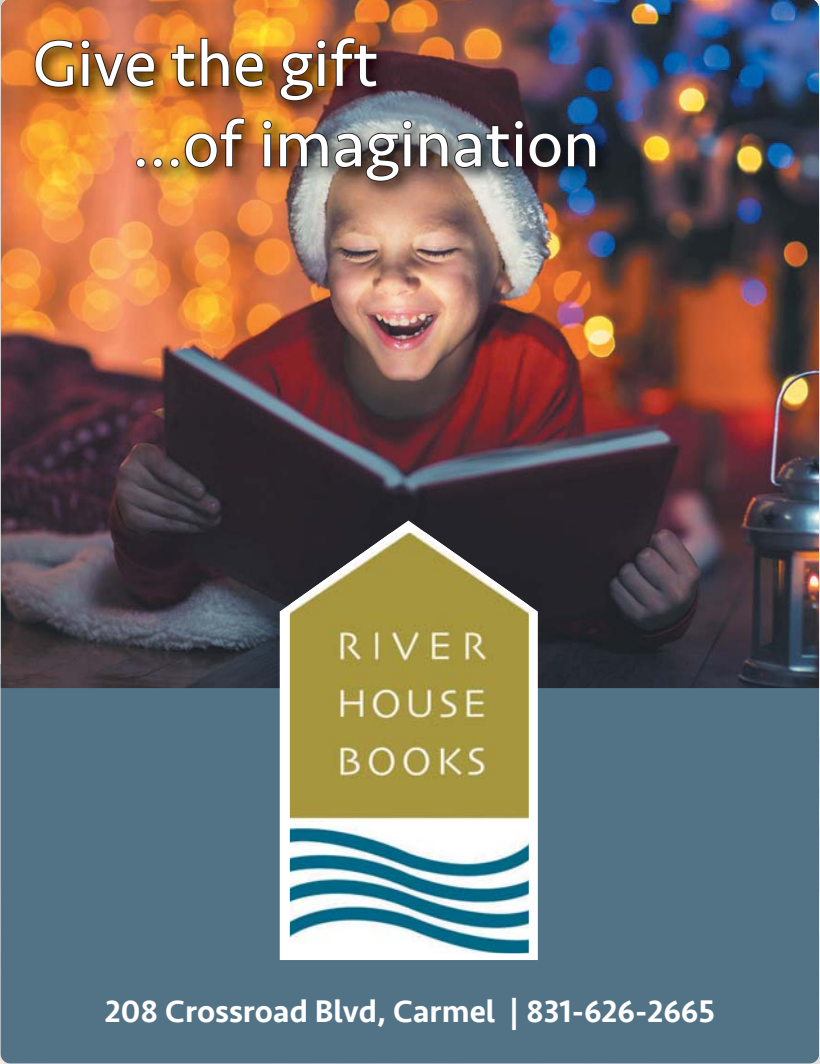
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H O L I D A Y G U I D E

Blessings, latkes and 'more light' make Hanukkah memorable

By LILY PATTERSON

‘PEOPLE SAY these are dark times, but as the old proverb goes, ‘Better to light one candle than curse the darkness,’” said Rabbi Jeffrey Glickman of Congregation Beth Israel in Carmel Valley, which will host its annual Sabbath potluck and community menorah lighting for Hanukkah Friday, Dec. 19, just after sunset.

“The central theme of Hanukkah is increasing light. Not waiting for the world to become perfect, not waiting for ideal circumstances, but starting with one flame and adding more light every single day. That is incredibly empowering for people who feel overwhelmed by the problems of the world,” said Rabbi Dovid Holtzberg of Chabad of Monterey in Pacific Grove. His congregation is the collective imagination behind the elaborate menorahs on display each year at Del Monte Center. (Previous versions have been created with LEGOs, balloons, and tiny toys.) This year’s floral creation — a fanciful take on the traditional candelabra, one candle for each of the eight days of Hanukkah plus the “helper” in the center used to light the rest — will be unveiled Sunday, Dec. 14, at a free community gathering presented by Chabad with music, games and sufganiyot (jelly donuts) from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

But we're getting ahead of ourselves. First, this year, Hanukkah goes from Sunday, Dec. 14 to Monday, Dec. 22. It may fall between late November and late December in any given year, depending on the ancient Hebrew calendar.

Next, the first rule of being a good Shabbat guest is never to show up empty-handed. Every family has slightly different customs to observe the traditional Friday night meal, which welcomes the Jewish day of rest with blessings and songs each week. Candles are also lit each Friday, and on Dec. 19, there will be a “beautiful double glow,” said Holtzberg, as Hanukkah candles and festive melodies are added. And always, there is plenty to eat.

Kugel two ways

If you're looking for inspiration for your own celebration — or you don't want to do all the cooking for eight days — the deli counter at Elroy's showcases chef David Hardie's menu, available as an 11-dish meal or a la carte beginning Sunday.

“My love for Jewish fare started at Wild Thyme Deli

in Salinas, where I learned the importance of making deli classics the right way, from pickling kosher dills to perfecting brisket,” said Hardie, whose iconic brisket, corned beef and pastrami were featured dishes at the Jewish Food Festival hosted by Beth Israel earlier this summer.

The Hanukkah spread includes his “Bubbie’s Beef Brisket”, along with braised cabbages stuffed with beef and rice and sweet & sour sauce, “Chloe’s Whitefish Salad” — which combines house-smoked fish with dill, lemon and chives — plus schmaltzy chopped chicken liver and two soups, a hearty chicken “Jewish Penicillin” and classic matzo ball. A traditional egg noodle dish akin to casserole, kugel goes two ways, one broccoli-cheddar and the other baked in sweet custard and dried fruit. Crispy potato latkes are served with sour cream and applesauce, and tzimmes, a stewed dish, plays to the sweet side of carrots, sweet potatoes and parsnips, cooking them with dried fruit and pineapple. There will also be sugar cookies.

“Not only are these dishes classic and delicious, they’re hard to find on the Peninsula. We’re thrilled to offer them for all eight days of Hanukkah this year,” said Hardie.

High-tech oil

And whether it's latkes or sufganiyot, it's all about the oil. The golden substance links a sweet and savory assortment of Hanukkah recipes and rekindles the story of the Maccabees, Jewish freedom fighters who liberated Jerusalem from Syrian-Greek occupation more than 2,000 years ago. Following the victory, they first reconsecrated the Temple, a ritual that involved lighting a golden menorah using specially consecrated oil. Throughout the city, only one usable jar was found, no more than a day's worth. Remarkably, it lasted for eight nights.

“When we gather as a community and light the menorah, I remind everyone that the message is not simply historical. The miracle did not end 2,000 years ago. It continues every time a person adds kindness, mitzvot — a good deed — or inspiration to their surroundings,” said Holtzberg.

Oil lamps were considered cutting-edge technology in the time of the Bible, Rabbi Glickman added, as they gave hours to the productive day and empowered people to accomplish more than ever. The lamp emerged as a prac-



Cozy, crowd-pleasing Hanukkah delicacies are available all week long at Elroy's.

tical symbol of “insight, intelligence, and hope.” Just as miraculously, oil made food taste so much better, giving friends and family good reason to linger over the table as gatherings stretched into long winter nights — which is exactly the spirit of Beth Israel and Chabad’s celebrations this year.

At 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19, Beth Israel will host its annual Hanukkah potluck. A festive service will follow a hearty Shabbat feast, and families are encouraged to bring their own chanukiah, another name for holiday menorahs. "Lights will be dimmed so we can experience the menorahs' flickering warmth and magic while singing Hanukkah songs. We will then light our Shabbat candles and welcome the Sabbath with more song, prayer and dancing with the Torah," the scroll with books of Jewish teachings, say organizers. It's fun for adults and children alike — and

HANUKKAH *con't. page 43A*

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HOLIDAY GUIDE

Rent yourself a merry little Christmas

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

HERE’S HOW it went: For years, every winter holiday season was the same — and very similar to your own upbringing. Grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins and often a few friends sat ’round the table for a traditional Christmas dinner, followed by wandering a neighborhood aglow with holiday lights, Christmas carols warming the hearts, all before settling into pews for a candlelit service.

You loved it, waited all year for the season of celebrations to return.

Yet over time, generations moved on. Kids flew the nest, formed their own families, established their own traditions. It’s the natural order of things, you know. But you’re still a bit haunted by last Christmas, when the two of you picked up your traditional dinner from a local restaurant, lit a fire, set up two TV tables and dined in front of a Hallmark movie. It was nice. Nice and lonely.

This year, you have vowed to gather the family at one table to rekindle the traditions that foster a sense of belonging among people who share the same stories and know all the “right” words to the songs.

Actually, everyone would love to come to your city by the sea, to wander the shoreline and shop in town, sit together, hold hands to give thanks for Christmas dinner and then convene over coffee and cocoa. But your cottage has one guest room, and your table seats four — six if you squish. How could you possibly host a dozen people for the holiday week?

Live trees

Sanctuary Vacation Rentals is way ahead of you. Picture it. You rent a four-bedroom house for a week at some picturesque local spot. By the time your



Let someone else trim the tree this year.

family arrives, Sanctuary has decorated rooms to make it a holiday home. Lights rim the roofline. A living tree, rented from Monica Hudson’s local “Rent a Living Christmas Tree” farm is fully decorated, its lights beckoning family members through the windows as they arrive. Or perhaps it is modestly waiting in its pot for the family to gather and trim it up with the heirloom ornaments you’ve saved.

“Anyone who wants to rent a living tree can go online to rentxmastree.com, where you can look at photographs of different

RENTALS *con’t. page 43A*



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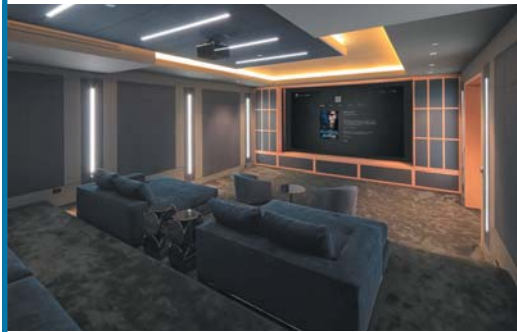
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H O L I D A Y G U I D E

CALENDAR from page 33A

concert — at no charge — at the **Fox Theater** in **Salinas** on Friday, Dec. 12, starting at 5 p.m. Highlights will include selections from Tchaikovsky’s “Nutcracker Suite,” and “No Me Se Rajar” (“I Never Give Up”) by José Car-

men Frayle Castañon. The group serves more than 200 students in grades one through 12 from 39 local schools, five days a week, with choir and instrument instruction. .
I Cantori di Carmel opens its Christmas season at 8 p.m. Dec. 13 and 14 at the **Carmel Mission Basilica** with performances from George Frideric Handel’s beloved

“Messiah,” composed in London entirely between Aug. 22 and Sept. 14, 1741. Tickets are \$55 and up, with discounts for students, teachers, active duty military, and those under 30 with valid I.D. Purchase at icantori.org.
On Saturday, for the 67th year, Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive for their annual **Carmel Valley Fly-In**. After an expected 11 a.m. touchdown, the Clauses lead the parade around the village, then head to Carmel Valley Community Youth Center for a meet-and-greet and photos. Leave your phone number to get a text when it’s your turn on Santa’s lap. There will also be train rides on “The Polar Express,” courtesy of the Carmel Valley Rotary Club. Supported by the Kiwanis, the Rotary Club, the youth center, the Park District, and many hardworking volunteers, this event is a Valley tradition. For more information and to purchase advance tickets for some of the activities, visit cvcyc.org and follow the links on the home page.
Monterey State Historic Park Association and California State Parks will host 41st annual **Christmas in the Adobes** Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12–13, from 5 to 9 p.m. in Old Monterey. More than a dozen seasonally decorated historic buildings, many of which are open exclusively for this event, will allow guests to return to some of California’s earliest days. Some of the sites include California’s First Theatre, Casa Serrano, Colton Hall, Robert Louis Stevenson House, and many more.
“Christmas in the Adobes is more than just a holiday outing — it’s a chance to walk through history, to step

EVENTS cont. page 42A

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HOLIDAY GUIDE

WORKING *from page 34A*

She noted that Carmel “runs on the service industry.” All year long, it draws people who are looking for a wonderful experience, particularly during the holidays, and she and others in the business take joy in providing that.

The impacts at home haven’t been as significant as for someone with younger kids. Hers are 21 and 26, so they were on the older side when she began missing holidays. Further, she was a single mom, so they were accustomed to spending some of those special times with their dad and other times with her.

And, she admitted, she wasn’t sad about working a long shift on Thanksgiving this year and arriving home to find a plate of food waiting for her.

“It was delicious,” she said.

Gonzalez also enjoys the hustle and bustle holidays bring. “We’re really busy, and it’s nice to be here when it’s busy,” she said. “I don’t think there’s anything wrong with working holidays, and people sometimes feel sorry for me, but I love it.”

Comes with the territory

Cops, firefighters, paramedics and everyone else in public safety are well aware of their commitment to protect and serve 24/7/365, Carmel Police Chief Todd Trayer observed.

“I worked so many holidays, but I never felt like I missed the holidays, because all of us cops and dispatchers adapt,” he said. “Like if I know I’m working Thanksgiving afternoon, I would meet everyone earlier or the day before. I feel like my whole family would adapt.”

He’s been in law enforcement for more than 30 years — including undercover stints and working in vice — during which he’s missed plenty of holidays. But being on the job on those days has a specialness all its own, partly because people on duty still find ways to celebrate, and partly be-

cause that celebration often involves helping others.

On Thanksgiving, for instance, Carmel P.D. helped a nonprofit deliver meals to residents who didn’t have the means to get out.

And, Trayer noted, the Carmel community expresses its gratitude by bringing food, baked goodies and other treats for people on shift.

“That means a lot to us,” he said. “Holidays don’t pause emergencies, and when things happen, we need to be here to step up for our community.”

He noted it’s not uncommon for officers without kids or whose children are grown to offer to cover holiday shifts for those who have young ones at home.

“We’re proud to do that, because we know we are allowing people to have those days with their families,” he said.

Trayer’s twins are adults now, but they grew up spending Christmas mornings at the station in San Jose, where he spent most of his career. “I would wake them up at 4:15 a.m., and they would go to the police department with me,” he said. An organization would serve holidays meals to those on the job, and “that was my kids’ life, because they didn’t know anything different.”

Then they’d celebrate later as a family.

“You see that a lot in law enforcement,” he said, with officers bringing family members to work.

This year marks Trayer’s first holiday season with Carmel P.D., and he said he’s been “super impressed.”

“Already I can see the gratefulness from the community,” he said. “People have come in to see me and the team. It’s not that I didn’t expect it, but I didn’t know it would be at this level.”

Work family

Matt Lumadue, fire prevention specialist for the Monterey County Regional Protection District, recalled spending Thanks-



Safety comes first for the Monterey County Sheriff's Office, shown keeping an eye on the Salinas Parade of Lights.

giving in a hotel room in Riverside when he was part of a strike team dispatched to the area several years ago due to extremely high fire risk.

While he couldn’t be with family and friends, the Monster energy drink and frozen burrito he had for dinner that night

were more than made up for when the local fire station invited all the out-of-towners for a holiday meal.

“They opened their doors for about 30 of us to go in and enjoy that with them,”

SERVING *cont. page 44A*

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H O L I D A Y G U I D E

EVENTS *from page 40A*

inside buildings that are rarely open to the public, and to experience Monterey as it was in Alta California,” said Nicollette Eason-Trottier.

Proceeds support educational programs and the restoration of California’s First Theatre. Admission starts at \$30 for adults and is free for those 17 and younger. Tickets are available online or in person (with discounts for military personnel and MSH-PA members) at several Old Monterey locations. Printouts of ticket receipts aren’t valid for entry, but required wristbands can be picked up at designated will call locations on the nights of the event. Visit msh-pa.org for more.

The Arthritis Research Coalition’s **Run**

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

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

Finally, ring in 2026 at **First Night Monterey**. Rain or shine, for nine straight hours beginning at 3 p.m., this big old party expects to feature more than 50 performances at 15-plus walkable venues.

This year’s theme is “We’ve Got the Beat!” The growing “sneak peek page” at firstnightmonterey.org — where you can also order admission buttons — shows a marimba band that will be playing dance music and trance music from Zimbabwe, a British folk-club-style band called Grumbling Ginger, the multicultural Di-Franco Dance Project, the Zack Freitas Band (“rock and pop with alt/indie leanings”), Shinsho Mugen Daiko drummers, Bad Machine (rock), Monterey Bay Lion Dance and Everyday People (classic Latin rock, Latin jazz, R&B, funk, “Old School”...).

In addition to music and other performances, there will be hands-on art stations, the traditional twilight procession down Alvarado Street and a countdown-to-midnight finale. Admission buttons start at \$15 for youth 6-15 and \$30 for those 16 and older (early bird pricing ends Dec. 14).



If all the local lights aren’t enough, try Gilroy Gardens.

Kids 5 and under are free. Starting in December, you can also buy buttons at Monterey County Safeway stores. Proceeds support local youth art programs.

Up the road a piece...

In **Santa Cruz County**, the historic **Roaring Camp Railroad** runs holiday excursions — some with lighted cars

CELEBRATE *cont. page 44A*



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HOLIDAY GUIDE

RENTALS from page 39A

trees — native California redwood, Douglas and Nordman firs and cedar — ranging from 2 to 10 feet,” said Hudson. She added that renters can “read about height, price, and how it all works to rent the tree. Customers can order their tree specific to the dates they have in mind, which can be a day — we will deliver the tree and come pick it up after the event — or a month.”

Since two of extended families wouldn’t feel at home without Margaret, a Maltipoo, and Fernando, a bichon frise, dog beds, dishes, and a toy or two await their arrival, all part of the rental company’s thoughtful planning.

Since you’ve brought the family to the Peninsula, you

HANUKKAH from page 39A

memorable.

“You can tell a child all about the importance of Hanukkah, how it’s a ritual blessed by every single generation and passed down to us. But when you light candles, they will retain that,” Glickman shared.

Community invited

Non-Jewish visitors are welcome, too. Anyone who wants to attend can RSVP at carmelbethisrael.org or call (831) 624-2015. They’re seeking volunteers to help make latkes. Aside from that, they ask that families with last names A-L bring mains and M-Z handle sides, and that everything should be vegetarian.

A rabbi can offer some thoughtful cooking instructions — use lots of oil, and be present to the ritual.

“Rituals remind us that life is not just about efficiency and productivity, but also about connection, sanctity, and soul. It might be lighting Shabbat candles, saying a blessing, journaling in the morning, or a family tradition like a weekly dinner. These acts create structure, meaning, and identity. They root us,” said Holtzberg, whose congregation will observe a more intimate Shabbat that night — and it’s a homecoming.

“We’ve never centered a Shabbat dinner around this kind of family milestone before, but it felt like a beautiful opportunity to bring everyone together in a warm, personal way,” said the rabbi. He and his wife, Rebbetzin Binie Holtzberg, invite their community and respectful visitors to welcome their newlywed son and daughter-in-law, Mendy and Leah, who live in New York and are visiting Monterey for the first time as a couple. You can RSVP to chabadofmonterey.com/dinner for the 5:30 p.m. service and meal (not a potluck) at 620 Lighthouse Ave.

To round out this year’s festival, head out to Carmel Valley on Sunday Dec. 21, where Congregation Beth Israel will host a celebration at Hacienda Hay & Feed, 7180 Carmel Valley Road, from 3 to 6 p.m. The free event will have plenty of tables for dreidel games (with the well-known spinning tops), hearty fare and beverages for purchase, a menorah lighting and music by the Dave Holodiloff Band. From 3 to 6 p.m., the entire community can share a little light — and a lot of jelly donuts.

might as well take the opportunity to play tourist with them, and the agency can help there, too.

“Sanctuary Vacation Rentals also can arrange for a wine-tasting event for adults at Lady Somm in Carmel’s Barnyard Shopping Village,” said owner Annee Martin. “We also can suggest babysitting services, both bonded and insured. And we can help families get Monterey Bay Aquarium tickets, and recommend family-friendly or adult restaurants.”

Cook, or don’t

Since you’re all together in the world’s most beautiful playground, you can go for walks on Carmel Beach or the rec trail together, check out the lights on P.G.’s Candy Cane Lane, visit Old Fisherman’s Wharf for its many holiday activities, locate one of Santa’s visits or even go ice skating by the Monterey Bay in Custom House Plaza. (Check out the holiday calendar in this section for more inspiration.) Having a rental home means you can cook up

Aunt Jean’s specially brined turkey, decorate cookies with the grandkids or make your cousin’s favorite bourbon pecan balls if you like.

Martin continued, “Or, after all the holiday activities, maybe the family would like to grab some hot cocoa and cookies and gather by the fire to share stories and reminisce, or watch a Christmas classic like ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’ together.”

As you look around the room at your little ones (all grown up) and their pajama-clad little ones — who put the “grand” in grandparents — bathed in the glow of colorful lights and all nestled in blankets with family dogs, your nest is full again, if only for a week.

It’s actually beginning to sound a lot like a Hallmark movie in the making. Only way, way better.



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HOLIDAY GUIDE

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SERVING from page 41A

he said.

At Monterey County Regional, fire personnel try to rotate shifts so people don't get stuck working every holiday, but sometimes, it just doesn't work out that way.

"Seniority can come into play, and people can choose, but everyone tries to be fair about it," he added. "There are a lot of sacrifices that are often made, and a lot of times, it does affect families."

Firefighters are a tightly knit group, and since they work consecutive 24-hour shifts, and "the station is a home away from home for most people," he said. "So, we will put on a special dinner, invite families, and they will come.

"But sometimes the alarm will go off just as they're getting ready to sit down."

And they roll with it. "Everyone who works this type of job understands and respects this is part of the career," he said.

Ride-alongs

Monterey County Sheriff's Cmdr. Andy Rosas, who has been in law enforcement for a little over 25 years, mostly with Marina P.D., said people know from the get-go that they'll have to make sacrifices.

"It's a great job, but you are going to be away from your loved ones — you're going to miss the Little League games, the ballet recitals, some of the holiday traditions — and that's one of those things that's very, very tough, especially when

you have little ones, like newborns or 1 or 2 years old," he said. "You're going to miss out on some of those first."

Often, deputies, dispatchers and others who are older will "work with the later generation to say, 'I'm willing to cover your shifts so you don't miss that,'" Rosas said. "With police and fire, it's your second family. We take care of each other, but you can't always guarantee that."

When helping deliver meals to shut-ins, he said, he'd bring his daughter.

"She would accompany me to these households, so she would see the people we were helping out during the holidays, and I would get to spend time with her," Rosas said. "The people I would visit and deliver food to loved the fact that I brought her, because a lot of times, they don't have family here and they don't have people who are visiting them. Having an officer come is one thing, but to have a little kid there — it can get emotional sometimes."

Rosas said those working in public safety will often organize a potluck so they can feast together, and at the sheriff's office, that includes the records and warrants departments, since they are operating 24 hours a day, too.

"The work doesn't stop," he said. "I'm very fortunate that I have a family that's understanding. They know who I am. When I got married, I was already in this profession, so my wife knew what she was getting into, and she supports it and continues to support it," 17 years in.

CELEBRATE from page 42A

— through downtown Santa Cruz to the Boardwalk as well as among the redwood groves, leaving from the station next door to Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. Tickets start in the mid-\$40-range, with discounts for kids. Take note of whether you'll be in an enclosed car or an open-air canopy car and dress accordingly. **Sparky's Holiday Lights** is a 3/4-mile drive-through display of Christmas lights at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, located at 2601 East Lake Ave. in **Watsonville**. Tickets for most vehicles are \$20 in advance and can be purchased at fair-

grounds-foundation.org/holiday-lights.

Gilroy Gardens, the arboreal wonderland off of Highway 101, has **North Pole Nights** from now through New Year's Eve, except for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Enjoy the "jolly characters, fun live shows, ice skating under the stars, festive food and drinks, Santa's Workshop, magical light displays and much, much more," says the park's website. You can save almost half off of an \$80 weekend ticket by purchasing at gilroygardens.org, or just go on a weeknight, when it's \$45. When buying tickets, note that there are several add-ons, including an option to pay for parking (\$25) in advance.



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This Week

Live Music,
Clubs and Events

Folksinger’s sharp wit at Sunset, never-ending summer at Golden Bough

ONE OF just two founding members of the Beach Boys who are still alive, singer **Al Jardine and his Endless Summer Band** play Tuesday and Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., at the Golden Bough Playhouse.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

A longtime Big Sur resident, Jardine is a singer, songwriter and guitarist who co-founded the Beach Boys in 1961. While he rarely sang lead vocals for the band, he did



Yoga Shala-by-the-Sea hosts a family-friendly celebration of drumming and dancing Friday with Steve Loebbs and others.

sing lead on “Help Me Rhonda” — which hit No. 1 on the pop charts in 1965.

The Endless Summer Band features Jardine’s son, Matt, whose voice has been compared to that of the late Beach Boys’ singer Brian Wilson.

The set list features a generous selection of Beach Boys’ favorites, including “Good Vibrations,” “Help Me, Rhonda,” “California Girls,” “Sloop John B,” “God Only Knows,” “Fun Fun Fun” and “Surfin’ USA.”

Tickets start at \$81. The Golden Bough is located on Monte Verde between Eighth and Ninth. For tickets, call (831) 622-0100 or visit pacrep.org.

■ Feeling Misty?

A Grammy Award-winning singer and guitarist with a sharp wit and a fresh perspective, **Father John Misty** plays Thursday and Friday, 7:30 p.m., at Sunset Center.

After getting his start with the Fleet Foxes, an indie folk group that garnered both critical acclaim and commercial success, Misty went solo in 2012. Since then, he’s released six albums, including his most recent, “Mahash-mashana,” which came out last year.

Misty earned a Grammy in 2018 when his album, “Pure Comedy,” was honored for its artwork. He had previously been nominated for Best Folk Album and Best Alternative Music Album.

Proceeds from the show benefit the Big Sur Park School, which offers a “progressive educational alternative” for children, with an emphasis on exploring the natural world.

Admission starts at \$75. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. For tickets, call (831) 620-2040 or visit sunsetcenter.org.



Grammy Award-winning singer and guitarist Father John Misty takes the stage Thursday and Friday at Sunset Center.

■ Lady Day lives again

Portraying legendary jazz singer Billie Holiday, **Stella Heath** and her group takes the stage Friday, 8 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey. “Stella’s quintet brings back the electric and intimate feeling of seeing ‘Lady Day’ live in a 1930’s jazz club,” according to Heath’s website.

Performing songs like “Blue Moon,” “Strange Fruit” and “Billie’s Blues,” Heath will be backed by “some of the Bay Area’s finest Jazz musicians,” including pianist **Neil Fontano**, multi-instrumentalist **Robby Elfman**, bassist

See MUSIC page 49A

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A cup of cheer, a snack — and check out P.B.’s restaurant redo

AFTER MONTHS of public shaking and straining, competitive spirits reached their zenith among local bartenders this week. And, we’ve got some more offerings for Christmas dinner, as well as a few suggestions if you need a break from shopping and a cold glass of something ... calming.

■ Weld is bartending champ

Links Club’s 2025 Battle of the Bartenders wrapped up Monday night, when Andrew Weld from The Salty Seal on Cannery Row prevailed over Renee Balducci of Honey & Rose mobile bartending in the final round.

The finalists bested others over the course of the competition, which included 23 local and regional bouts, all sponsored by Tin City Distillery out of Paso Robles. Their final challenges included The Brandy Brawl, Flash & Flair, Chocolate Love Clash using Tin City’s chocolate vodka, and the Panic & Pour Throwdown using a mystery spirit that turned out to be gin, along with mixers from Links Club’s pantry.

Vibrant talent

In the first, Weld created New School in the Old Square, “an updated take on the classic sidecar with New Orleans flair,” while Balducci’s Flirty Flag “captured the judges’ votes for the round with the only 10 score of the battle,” said April Montgomery, who owns the Carmel Plaza-based business.

Soup to Nuts

In the sweet round, Weld’s Going Bananas was inspired by Bananas Foster and earned him a victory. Balducci’s refined chocolate cocktail was inspired by her time in Italy, according to Montgomery, and “received strong praise from the judges,” even though it didn’t win.

In the throwdown, Balducci crafted It’s Kiwi Time, which featured gin, kiwi, passionfruit bitters and honey. Weld came up with “a personal cocktail dedicated to his



The Lodge at Pebble Beach has new kitchens for The Tap Room and Stillwater Bar & Grill. They’re turning out solid food and, perhaps just as important, making chefs happier. The restaurants got a refresh, too.



bride, McKenzie’s First Love, made with gin, blueberries, simple syrup, lime, lemon and basil — a crowd-pleasing final that helped secure his overall victory,” she said.

A relative newcomer to competitive bartending, Weld had beaten Brandy Harrison from Hotel 1110 and Haley Halkias from The Bench in The Lodge at Pebble Beach in the previous two rounds. He moved to Monterey from Los Angeles in 2018 to pursue a degree in molecular biology at California State University Monterey Bay and has worked at the Cannery Row restaurant and bar for four years, including two behind the bar.

With the win, he gets bragging rights and a cash prize. “The Battle of the Bartenders emphasizes camaraderie, creativity and the vibrant hospitality talent across the Monterey Peninsula,” Montgomery said.

Next year’s competition will begin on Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, 2026.

■ Iconic Noel

Reserve a seat at Terry’s Restaurant + Lounge’s Christmas feast, and you’ll be dining like a legend. After all, the Cypress Inn (corner of Seventh and Lincoln) is a piece of

Carmel history. Its late owners, screen legend Doris Day and local bon vivant Denny LeVett, made sure that every guest, whether two- or four-legged, felt like a celebrity. The restaurant and bar, named for Day’s late son, record producer Terry Melcher, has long been a gathering place for locals and visitors, with its classic cocktail menu and reliably delicious fare.

Christmas past

The folks there would love it if you celebrated Christmas with them — and the three-course prix-fixe meal sounds terrific. The starter choices are a roasted vegetable bisque with lump crab and garlic crostini or an arugula frisée salad with feta, almonds and dried cherries. For the main, guests can choose from surf-and-turf featuring wild prawns and a petite filet mignon, braised beef short ribs, pan-seared salmon or primavera pappardelle that combines wide pasta ribbons with homemade marinara, veggies and wild mushrooms. Finish with New York cheesecake, or Bûche de Noel with cherry cream filling and chocolate ganache. It’s \$95 for adults and \$45 for those

Continues next page



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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

12 and younger and goes from 1 to 8 p.m. Dave Morwood provides live music in the Living Room from 6 to 9 p.m. The only list anyone’s checking isn’t about naughty or nice, just whether you made a reservation. Call (831) 620-7454.

With its own proud history that dates to 1905, La Playa Hotel (Camino Real at Eighth) is another great spot to feel the spirit of Christmas Past. The “Grand Dame of Carmel” was originally a home built by artist Christian Jorgensen for his wife, a member of the Ghirardelli chocolate family.

The buffet there will feature a prime rib carving station and “chef-crafted comfort fare, seasonal sides, and decadent desserts,” according to the hotel’s staff. Terrace and indoor seatings are available between 2 and 4:30 p.m. through the hotel’s website at laplayahotel.com/Christmas. Questions? Call (800) 582-8900.

Shiny new P.B. kitchens

A significant part of the months-long refresh at The Lodge at Pebble Beach involved rethinking the operations of its restaurants. The landmark property contains three outlets — The Bench, The Tap Room and the Stillwater Bar & Grill — each with its own menus, culture and feel.

During the closure, which ran from early spring through early November, The Tap Room received an update to its bar and dining room, but the most significant

change was transforming a former staff workspace into additional dining space that can be closed off for private parties.

Behind the scenes, major effort went into building new kitchens for The Tap Room and Stillwater, which now contains a bar facing the stunning ocean views rather than having patrons seated with their backs to them. The kitchens that served those restaurants were long overdue for an overhaul, and the results are ample space, lots of organization, top-notch equipment — and happy chefs.

A few weeks ago, the crews were still getting the feel of their new routines and spaces, but the results are encouraging.

Face the sea

The Tap Room overall maintains its look and feel, as well as its primary identity as a steakhouse turning out excellent cuts of beef and sides. Those who recall the deeper tones and dark wood of the former bar might be a bit disappointed by its somewhat lighter look, but it remains inviting — especially after dark and when the weather is stormy. The menu retains the classics, even though the spectacular Reuben is no longer offered. A recent try of the French dip proved disappointing, but plenty of its fare is well worth ordering, including the burger, the Cobb salad and the prime rib chili. For cocktails, try one of the bar specialties or a classic, or go for a favorite spirit, wine, or beer.

While some diners might have eschewed the Stillwater Bar & Grill for

Continues next page



Bartender Andrew Weld (center) of The Salty Seal is flanked by supporters at the Links Club in Carmel Monday night, when he was named champion in the final round of the Battle of the Bartenders.

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From previous page

its high prices and broader appeal to business diners, its new iteration is well worth a visit — if for no other reason to enjoy a drink and a snack at the bar. The creme de Brie and mushroom toast is decadent, the oysters are fresh and briny, and the herbed milk bread is reminiscent of savory bread pudding. Even the Caesar salad is delicious — though, at \$24, it maintains expense-account status. But we are talking about Pebble Beach. The reopening brought with it a new line of cocktails, and Salt & The Sea is pleasure in a glass: Maestro Dobel PB Barrel, Cointreau, lime, agave and citrus sea foam.

If you’re interested in learning more, find menus, photos and the rest at pebblebeach.com/dining.

■ Why wait?

As the song says, “We need a little Christmas now!” Or maybe just a snack, or a light lunch or drink. For example,

Trailside Café in Carmel Valley (3 Del Fino Place) is having a “Pray for Snow” party Dec. 18 from 6 to 9 p.m., with ski movies and drinks in the bar.

Not far from Café Rustica and foodie Christmas shopping at The Quail & Olive, the café and beer garden’s tap list runs to 17 choices, and you can get breakfast, lunch nicely priced Happy Hour (4 to 6 p.m.) goodies, and full dinners complete with beer pairing suggestions. For full hours, menu and info about Trailside’s Mug Club with special events, discounts and other privileges, visit trailsidecafecv.com.

Happy at Rio

Meanwhile, Rio Grill is serving up a “newly refreshed Happy Hour menu” designed to be tasty and easy on those overheated credit cards. Every day from 3:30 to 6 p.m., you can choose from seven \$9 plates, like two salmon tacos or a couple of grilled prawns with cheesy mashed potatoes. A short list of cocktail specials — also \$9 each — includes the Happy Rio Rita, the Blackberry Smash with vodka, blackberry, lemon and soda,

and the Hibiscus Mule with vodka, hibiscus ginger beer, mint, and lime juice. The magic \$9 number applies to selected wines, while three beer selections and assorted sodas go for \$7.

By the sea

Crepes of Brittany (211 Alvarado St., Monterey) is celebrating its 15th anniversary. Through December and January, mention “Flavors of France” and get a free lemon sugar dessert crepe with the purchase of any crepe. The thin pancakes come with savory fillings — ham, eggs, turkey, smoked salmon, brie — that you can customize with add-ons like caramelized onions, pesto and spinach. Wrapped around Nutella, ice cream or bananas, they become dessert or a well-deserved afternoon pick-me-up. The menu also lists specialties like French onion soup, and quiche, with wine and espresso drinks. Read more at crepesofbrittany.com.

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



Crepes of Brittany serves up sweet and savory crepes, French pastries, soups and other specialties, and espresso drinks, hard cider, wine and beer. Next time you’re in Old Monterey, check it out.

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‘Nutcracker’ plays Dec. 12-13

By CHRIS COUNTS

RETELLING ONE of the most beloved of all Christmas stories — and showcasing a quartet of talented local dancers — Monterey Peninsula Ballet Theatre presents “The Nutcracker” this weekend at Sunset Center. Friday and Saturday shows start at 7 p.m., while Sunday’s matinee begins at 2 p.m.

The production keeps alive a “magical tradition” with a “family of 120 dancers, countless volunteers, and enthusiastic supporters, all of whom have been celebrating the Christmas season since August and are now proud to present a beautiful interpretation of ‘The Nutcracker,’” the dance group said. “Stunning tutus are fluffed, scenery is painted and props are getting an extra coat of glitter — all in anticipation of dazzling our audience.”

Based on a novella by E.T.A. Hoffman in 1816 and shaped by Alexander Dumas’ retelling of the same story in 1844, “The Nutcracker” was made into a ballet by Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky in 1892.

Set on Christmas Eve in Germany in the early 19th century, “The Nutcracker” tells the story of a girl named Clara who receives a Nutcracker as a gift. The doll soon comes to life — along with magical world filled with gingerbread soldiers who battle an army of mice led by a seven-headed Mouse King.

A holiday tradition

With its whimsical story and timeless music, “The Nutcracker” has become a staple of ballet companies. In fact, one estimate says that nearly half all of proceeds earned by ballet companies each year come from productions of “The Nutcracker.”

The Monterey Peninsula Ballet Theatre cast includes professional dancers Samuel Jones and Jameson Keating, along with local lead dancers Paige McDonald, Tes Laflan, Brooke Benson and Emory Bates. Tia Brown Rosenblum is artistic director.

Tickets are \$61 for adults and \$40 for children.

Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. For tickets, call (831) 620-2048 or visit sunsetcenter.org.

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MUSIC

From page 45A

Trevor Kinsel and drummer **Spike Klein**. Tickets start at \$25. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

■ Celebrating the beat

Offering a family-friendly celebration of drumming and dancing in a place where stretching is typically the focus, **Steve Loeb** and the **Living Drums** play Friday, 4 p.m., at Yoga Shala by the Sea. Other performers include percussionist **Shawn Elley** and dancer **Krystle K.**

The event will offer a “guided dance and breath warm-up,” Krystle K. said, along with the chance to “move, sweat and have fun.”

Tickets are \$30, and that covers admission for everyone in a family. The website is yogashalabythesea.com.

Live music Dec. 12-18

■ Big Sur

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



Cisco Jim plays Christmas cowboy music Saturday at the Trailside Cafe.

Fernwood Resort — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

■ Carmel

American Legion Post 512 — Slim Checkers featuring guitarist **Tom Ayres** and others (“dance- inspired Texas swing, New Orleans swamp music and feel-good honky tonk,” Friday at 7 p.m.). Dolores & Eighth.

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

Carmel Mission Inn — Open Mic Night (Wednesday at 6 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.

De Tierra Vineyards — singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Sunday at 3 p.m.). Mission and Fifth.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — guitarist **Daniel Cortes** (Latin and folk, 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.), **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 — guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Friday 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.

O'Callaghan's — The Chuck Brewer Trio (rock and blues, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Saturday at 6:30 p.m.). The Barnyard shopping center.

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula — actor **Taelen Thomas** and singer **Shannon Wardo** present a Celtic Christmas celebration (Celtic music, Saturday at 2 p.m.). Tickets are \$20, with discounts for active military, students and children. 490 Aguajito Rd.

■ Carmel Valley

Bernardus Lodge — pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea's Fault** (jazz and pop, Saturday at noon), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at noon). 415 Carmel Valley Road.

Edgar's Restaurant — multi-instrumentalist **Alison** (play at 5:30 p.m.). At Quail Valley Greens Drive.

Folktale Winery — Two Rivers (pop and rock, Friday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **John Vicino** (Saturday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Sunday at 4 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

Trailside Cafe — singer and guitarist **Cisco Jim** presents “Christmas on the Range” (cowboy music, Saturday at 6



Singer and guitarist
Shannon Warto plays
Celtic music Saturday
at the Unitarian Uni-
versalist Church of the
Monterey Peninsula.

p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

■ Monterey

Albatross Ridge Winery — singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Friday at 6 p.m.), **The Landing Trio** (Americana, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

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

Lighthouse Ave.

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

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

See LIVE next page

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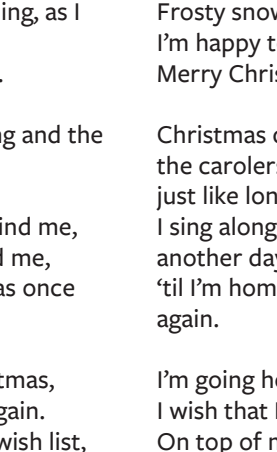
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I'm Going Home for Christmas



Paul Martin

Christmas day is coming, I am happy
and I'm humming,
Merry Christmas songs.
Frosty snowflakes are falling, as I
spend my time calling,
all my friends back home.

Christmas bells are ringing and the
happy children singing,
takes me way back when,
I'd count the days to remind me,
that another day's behind me,
'til I'm home for Christmas once
again.

I'm going home for Christmas,
I wish that I were there again.
On top of my Christmas wish list,
is my family and friends.

I know what I am missing, it's the
hugging and the kissing,
til I'm home again.
Anxiously I'm waiting, I can't help
anticipating,
being home for Christmas once
again.

Christmas trees are decorated, I'm
impatient and elated,
to be going home.
Frosty snowmen are appearing and
I'm happy to be hearing,
Merry Christmas songs.

Christmas cheer is abounding and
the carolers are sounding,
just like long lost friends.
I sing along to remind me, that
another day's behind me.
'til I'm home for Christmas once
again.

I'm going home for Christmas,
I wish that I were there again,
On top of my Christmas wish list,
is my family and friends.

Soon I will be sharing all the
happiness and caring,
when I'm home again.
Anxiously I am waiting, I can't help
anticipating,
being home for Christmas once
again.

By Paul Martin © 2012

I'm Going Home for Christmas www.MyPrayers.net

Music Credits

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Produced and arranged by Paul Martin and Daryl Kojak.



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CALENDAR

Dec. 13 – Customer Appreciation Day at Baum & Blume! 10% off EVERYTHING in the Boutique! Gifts for guys and kids, jewelry, bath goods, clothing, accessories, holiday décor, ornaments and more! Complimentary Shopper's Lunch and FREE gift wrapping! Shop 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley (831) 659-0400.

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

Dec. 14 – Wine & Chocolate Pairing: Join us 2 to 4 p.m. for a sweet treat pairing with wine. Santa called and shared he wanted more than just cookies this year, bring the wine! This pairing will reveal hidden flavors in the chocolate and wine when tasted together. Tickets are \$45 for general admission and \$35 for club members (call us to reserve a ticket). VERY limited seating. Ticket price includes a flight of four wines expertly paired with milk or dark chocolates. McIntyre Family Wines, 24 W. Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley Village (831) 574-3042

Through Dec. 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 to 4 daily.

Dec. 14-20 – I Cantori di Carmel performs Handel's Messiah at three venues. Performances are set for 8 p.m. Dec. 13 &14 at the Carmel Mission Basilica; 7:30 p.m. Dec. 19 at Holy Cross Church in Santa Cruz and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 20 at Salinas High School Performing Arts Center. For tickets and details, visit www.icantori.org

Dec. 13 – Holiday Kickoff with Live Music. Relax with live music from 2 to 5 p.m., and enjoy 50% off tastings and cheese plates all day. Shop wines by the glass or bottle, limited vintages and magnums, and enter our holiday giveaway! Taste Morgan | The Crossroads Shopping Center.

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.

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. 14 – Carmel Valley Lodge Wreath Making hosted by The Wylde Rose Flower Boutique. \$125 all supplies, food & beverage included 2-4 p.m. Come join us!


Dec. 14 – 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

Dec. 16 – Ikebana (Japanese Flower Arrangement) demonstration will begin 12:30 p.m. at Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple at 1155 Noche Buena St., Seaside, CA 93955. Light refreshments will be served. Guest fee \$5.

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

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

Jan. 10, 2026 – First Carmel-by-the-Sea 5K at 8:30 a.m. Breathtaking 3.1 mile course starts in downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea, winds its way through neighborhood streets to settle along 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. Visit: www.carmel-by-the-sea-5k.com for more information.



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LIVE

From previous page

Hyatt Regency Monterey — singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Saturday at 7 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.

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

Midici Pizza — singer **Miranda Perl-Astrup** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

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

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

Puma Road Winery at Portola Plaza — singer and guitarist **Sabelle** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Gin Fragonard** (Saturday at 5 p.m.), **The Smoky Vegas Project** (“classic Vegas lounge,” Sunday at 4 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

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

Sly McFly’s — **The 831 All-Star Band** (rock and r&b, Friday at 9 p.m.), **Phil ‘n’ the Blanks** (classic rock, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

■ Pacific Grove

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

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

PG’s Meetinghouse — **Open Mic** (Tuesday at 6 p.m., sign up by 5 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

Pop & Hiss — **Plan B** (“jazz organ trio,” Saturday at 7 p.m.), **Ricketts’ Folly** (“dancey jazz,” Thursday at 7 p.m.). 215 Forest Ave.

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

■ Pebble Beach

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

See **PERFORM** page 53A



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GAVEL

From page 4A

rest of his life. He will next be in court on Dec. 16, 2025 for sentencing.

This case was investigated by Marina Police Officer Gabriel Rose, Marina Police Detective Michael Ball; and Monterey County District Attorney Investigator Sabrina Currier. The victims were supported by victim advocate Mayra Sandoval. Court facility support dog Armani and victim advocate Kristen Peterson provided Jane Doe 1 with invaluable support during her trial testimony.

Nov. 17 — The district attorney’s environmental protection unit resolved a case against The Growers Company for violations of pesticide-related laws, which exposed its employees to pesticides.

Specifically, on Oct. 9, 2023, a supervisor for Growers ignored pesticide warning signs on a lettuce field and ordered his crew of 93 fieldworkers into a field that had been treated with various pesticides not 24 hours prior. One such pesticide, Sivanto Prime, had a 24-hour restricted entry interval during which no one was allowed to enter the field. Sixty-six of the fieldworkers developed symptoms consistent with exposure to pesticides, including nausea, dizziness, headache, and irritation to the throat, nose, eyes, and skin. Moreover, despite legal requirements to take all exposed employees to a physician for medical care, Growers only took 34 of the exposed employees to a physician for evaluation.

The judgment requires Growers to pay a \$125,194 in civil penalties and costs and includes injunctive terms prohibiting them from violating these requirements in the future.

A felony criminal charge was also filed against the Growers’ supervisor who ordered the employees into the field, but he has since passed away.

The Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office investigated this incident and referred the case to the district attorney’s Office as a “priority investigation” because the incident caused over five persons to become ill. District attorney investigator George Costa assisted in the investigation. The Growers Company cooperated with the agricultural commissioner’s office and the district attorney’s Office during its investigation.

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Dec. 21 at 2 pm: Christmas Carol
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ARTIST

From page 27A

At 20, she walked away. She met Danny — the first person she ever dated — at The Anchor, a Calvary Chapel church in Gilroy, where they bonded over music. He talked her into singing a song with his metal-rock band. She wore a black leather jacket, skinny jeans, and went onstage with fiery red hair — not her natural color.

“I can’t remember what song I sang, but, my gosh, it was so much fun! I was up there headbanging with neon-green strings in my bass guitar,” she remembered.

In 2017, she began a four-year stint at Pacific Point Christian Schools in Gilroy, where she taught music and physical education and was a chapel leader until 2021, the year she and Danny were married.

Nowadays, Perales is part of the worship team at Shoreline Community Church and an interim worship leader at her previous church, The Anchor.

“Singing and art go hand-in-hand for me,” said Perales, who sings and writes songs while she paints, and plans to create an album. Her younger sister, Kris Jeanne — also a singer — has already cut an album and a single.

As it is for most creative types, the business side of art is a challenge for Perales, who has worked with at least one interior designer and occasionally participates in local art events, like the West End Festival.

Paintings on shirts

Through her website, she makes herself available for commissions and offers T-shirts and sweatshirts emblazoned with her paintings.

“I’ve found that personal relationships and connections are more powerful for me,” she said. “You can have thousands of followers on Instagram, but it’s disheartening when nobody buys your work.”

For images of her art, the shirts, and to find her contact information, visit sperales.com. More images are posted on Instagram @shaelahperales.

“Show Yourself” can be seen in Pacific Grove at 480 Lighthouse Gallery, open Friday through Sunday, noon to 3 p.m.

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

PERFORM

From page 50A

Mile Drive.

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — singer and guitarist **Kip Allert** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Daniel Cortes** (Latin and folk, Saturday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Paul Behan** (Thursday at 5 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge. 1700 17 Mile Drive.

■ **Sand City**

The Sand Box — harpsichordist **Derek Tam** and cellist **Michelle Djokic** present a free concert (Handel, Vivaldi and others, Tuesday at 7 p.m.). 440 Ortiz Ave.

■ **Seaside**

Deja Blue — singer and guitarist **Al James** (r&b, Saturday at 3 p.m.), singer **Minor Williams** and others (r&b, Sunday at 3 p.m.) Tickets are \$39. 500 Broadway.

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



Singer and guitarist Kip Allert plays Friday, 5 p.m., in the Terrace Lounge at the Lodge at Pebble Beach.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONTEREY**

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME**
Case No. 25CV005792
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, EMMÉ NORDYKE, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
A. Present name:
EMME EVANS NORDYKE
Proposed name:
MONJIA EVANS NORDYKE
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition

should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
DATE: Jan. 27, 2026
TIME: 11:00 a.m.
DEPT: 13A
The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
(s) Hon. Thomas W. Wills
Judge of the Superior Court
Date filed: Nov. 12, 2025
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025. (PC 1124)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
File No. 20252076
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
SHINY DETAILZZ, 311 Quebrada Del Mar, Marina, CA 93933.
County of Principal Place of Business:

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
File No. 20252079
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
Carmel Valley Ranch, One Old Ranch

MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
ANTONIO CAZAAREZ, 311 Quebrada Del Mar, Marina, CA 93933.
AARON GONZALEZ MAGANA, 311 Quebrada Del Mar, Marina, CA 93933.
This business is conducted by co-partners.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 12, 2025.
S/Aaron Gonzalez Magana
Date signed: Nov. 13, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 13 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025 (PC 1126)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Road Carmel, CA 93923, County of Monterey
Registered Owner(s):
Commune Hotels and Resorts, LLC, 150 N. Riverside Plaza, 14th Floor, Legal Department Chicago, IL 60606; DE
This business is conducted by a limited liability company
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/30/2018
S/ Tricia Grady, Vice President
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 11/14/2025 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, 12/19/25
CNS-3987327#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19 2025. (PC 1128)

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

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

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

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

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

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 9, 2025.
Publication Dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025. (PC 1135)

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME**
File No. 20251858
Filing type: ABANDONMENT:
County of Filing: Monterey
Date of Original Filing: Sept. 9, 2025
File No.: 20251646
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **DFINE CULTURE, 1514 Moffet St. #J, Salinas, CA 93905.**
Registered Owner(s):
JESUS JAVIER CRUZ NARANJO
IVET MADAI LOPEZ CRUZ
This business is conducted by a general partnership.
S/Jesus Cruz
Oct. 10, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Oct. 10, 2025.
Publication dates: Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2025. (PC 1136)

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

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

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

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

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

**CHRISTMAS WEEK
LEGAL DEADLINE**
Legal notices must be submitted no later than 3 P.M. Thursday, December 19 (before Christmas week)

**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)

Lien Sale Auction Advertisement
Notice is hereby given that, Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act (B&P Code 21700 at Seq.), the undersigned will sell at public auction personal property, including
but not limited to furniture, clothing, tools, and/or other misc. items.
Auction to be held at 4:00 pm on December 26, 2025, at
www.selfstorageauction.com
The property is stored at:
Leonard's Lockers Self Storage,
816 Elvee Drive, Salinas, CA 93901
Tenant Name:
Desiray Davis

12/12/25
CNS-3990879#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Dec. 12, 2025 (PC 1202)

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONTEREY**
**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME**
Case No. 25CV006210
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, JASMINE NGWANYU PRINGLE, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
A. Present name:
JASMINE NGWANYU PRINGLE
Proposed name:
JASMINE WANYU NG
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
DATE: Feb. 3, 2026
TIME: 11:00 a.m.
DEPT: 13A
The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
(s) Hon. Thomas W. Wills
Judge of the Superior Court
Date filed: Dec. 3, 2025
Publication Dates: Dec. 12, 19, 26, 2025; Jan 3, 2026. (PC 1205)

Downtown gallery helps fit art into your holiday gift-giving budget

IF YOU'RE searching for a holiday gift for someone who loves art, the Carmel Art Association is making the task easy with its latest show, which features 100 paintings and sculptures — all priced at less than \$1,000. The exhibit opens Saturday with a public reception at 4 p.m. featuring live jazz by the Rick Forschino Combo.

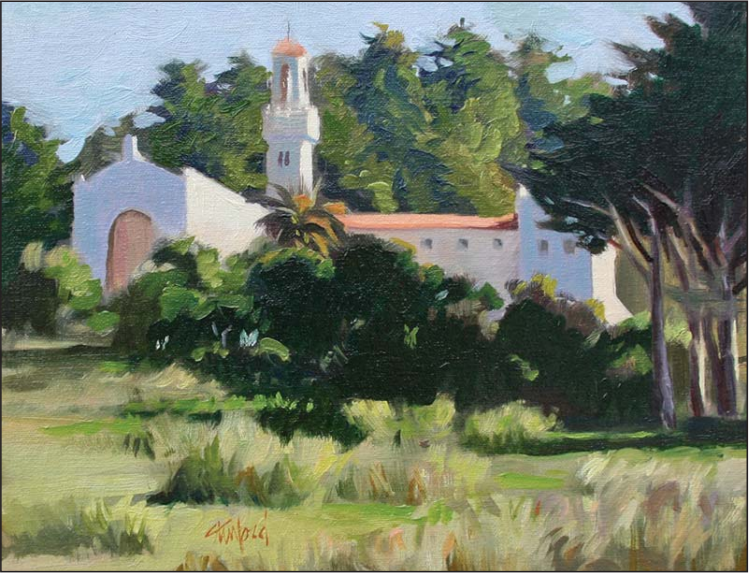
Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

The annual holiday show includes work by both living and late artist-members.

“This curated collection invites you to find the perfect gift for your loved ones or a special piece for yourself,” said the gallery’s Lili Mendez. “Designed with the spirit of the season in mind, the exhibition ensures that each day offers new options. Whether someone is a first-time buyer starting their art journey or a seasoned collector seeking a unique treasure, there’s something extraordinary waiting to be discovered.”

The show — titled “Art of Gifting: 100 Under \$1,000” — will be on display through the end of the month. For



Painter Dennis Stanford's "Carmelite Monastery" is included in a show that opens Saturday at Carmel Art Association.

more information, go to carmelart.org.

Located on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth, the Carmel Art Association is one of more than a dozen that are participating in this Saturday’s Carmel Art Walk from 4-7 p.m. The monthly event showcases downtown galleries owned by local artists. Look for green lanterns hanging in the windows of participating galleries.

■ Giving back

A new mural with a simple but powerful message will be unveiled at noon on Thursday at the Farmers Insurance building at 1350 Fremont Blvd. in Seaside.

Created by Hanif Panni, the mural “celebrates how mindful actions, like properly sorting food scraps into your green cart, can give back to the earth and feed local farms and gardens for generations to come.”

“Art has the power to capture a moment and celebrate who we are,” said Alexis Garcia-Arrazola of the Seaside City Council. “This mural reflects Seaside’s commitment to sustain-

ability, and it reminds us that every small action can help protect the place we call home. Seaside’s strength lies in its people, and together, we can build a city where creativity and care for the environment go hand in hand.”

The project received support from the Arts Council for Monterey County and ReGen Monterey.

■ Who’s next?

The Arts Council for Monterey County is seeking nominations through Jan. 20 for its annual Champions of the Arts awards.

“Arts4MC invites the entire community to recognize a Champion of the Arts,” the



Painter Cyndra Bradford's new piece, "Beautiful Day," captures an idyllic scene along the white sands of Carmel Beach.

group said. It invites anyone who knows an “individual, nonprofit organization or business that is making a profound and lasting impact on the arts in Monterey County” to nominate them for the award, “which celebrates those who inspire creativity, promote cultural engagement, and strengthen our community.”

The awards will be handed out April 17 during a breakfast in the Monterey Marriott’s Ferrante Room.

For more details, visit arts4mc.org.

■ Design’s soul

The author of the book, “The Soul of Design,” Lisa Staprans presents a talk and book signing Saturday, 2:30 p.m., at Carmel Modern gallery. She will also be part of a panel talk with Tracey Adams and Lucas Blok — two artists represented by the gallery, which is located on Sixth between Dolores and Lincoln.

Get your complete Pine Cone every Thursday night by email — Free and easy subscriptions at <https://carmelpinecone.com>

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20252152 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Coastal Post Acute, 348 Iris Drive, Salinas, CA 93906 County of MONTEREY Registrant(s): Windsor Skyline Care Center, LLC, 9526 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90035 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. Windsor Skyline Care Center, LLC S/ AVROHOIM TRESS, MANAGER, This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 11/26/2025. 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/25, 1/2/26 CNS-3982298# CARMEL PINE CONE Publication Dates: Dec. 12, 19, 26, 2025; Jan. 2, 2026. (PC 1206)	Publication Dates: Dec. 12, 19, 26, 2025; Jan. 2, 2026 (PC 1208)	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20252140 Filing type: RENEWAL FILING - filed within 40 days of the expiration date and no CHANGES(S) from the previous filing The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MONTEREY CHIROPRACTIC GROUP, 2511 Garden Rd., C-100, Monterey, CA 93940. County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: BRIAN PAUL RECTOR BRIAN P. RECTOR, CHIROPRACTIC, INC. State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA This business is conducted by a corporation. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Dec. 18, 2015. S/Brian P. Rector, CEO Date: Oct. 6, 2025 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Dec. 8, 2025. Publication Dates: Dec. 12, 19, 26, 2025; Jan. 2, 2026 (PC 1212)
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20252154 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: TEAM BOSS EXPRESS, 5 Mimbbrera Cir., Salinas, CA 93905. County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY Registered Owner(s): MARIA GUADALUPE DIAZ LOPEZ, 5 Mimbbrera Cir., Salinas, CA 93905.. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 20, 2025. S/Maria Guadalupe Diaz Lopez Date signed: Nov. 26, 2025 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 26, 2025. Publication Dates: Dec. 12, 19, 26, 2025; Jan. 2, 2026 (PC 1207)	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20252168 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: WAG & WASH BY ANNIE, 7620 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA 93923. County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY Registered Owner(s): ANNIE ELIZABETH HUDDLESON, 7620 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA 93923. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Aug. 16, 2025. S/Annie Huddleson Date signed: Dec. 2, 2025 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Dec. 2, 2025. Publication Dates: Dec. 12, 19, 26, 2025; Jan. 2, 2026 (PC 1209)	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20252192 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MINA'S CLEANING SERVICES, 516 Roosevelt St. #A, Salinas, CA 93905. County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY Registered Owner(s): GUILLERMINA SANCHEZ MORA. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 2017. S/GUILLERMINA SANCHEZ MORA Date signed: Dec. 8, 2025 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Dec. 8, 2025. Publication Dates: Dec. 12, 19, 26, 2025; Jan. 2, 2026 (PC 1210)
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20252167 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CALI MEATS ESTILO JALISCO, 2 Paloma Ave., Salinas, CA 93905. County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY Registered Owner(s): RAUL SANDOVAL CHAVEZ, 2 Paloma Ave., Salinas, CA 93905.. 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/Raul Sandoval Date signed: Dec. 2, 2025 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Dec. 2, 2025.	HTTPS://CARMELPINECONE.COM	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20252198 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CHRISTY ON THE VINE, 140 W. Franklin St., Ste 203 #117, Monterey, CA 93940. County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY Registered Owner(s): CHRISTINA NAKADA, 140 W. Franklin St., Ste 203 #117, Monterey, CA 93940. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Dec. 6, 2025. S/Christina Nakada Date signed: Dec. 9, 2025 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Dec. 9, 2025. Publication Dates: Dec. 12, 19, 26, 2025; Jan. 2, 2026 (PC 1213)

Notice to Creditors:
Notice of Dissolution:
Jardin Aquatique LLC, a California LLC, is dissolving.
All creditors must present claims in writing to within 120 days:
Jardin Aquatique LLC,
1062 Spyglass Woods Dr,
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

Publication dates: Dec. 12, 2025 (PC1211)

February 12-15, 2026

AT&T PEBBLE BEACH

PRO-AM

PUBLICATION DATES: FEB. 6 & 13

The Carmel Pine Cone

Meena Lewellen - (831) 274-8655 - meena@carmelpinecone.com

Jung Yi-Crabbe - (831) 274-8646 - jung@carmelpinecone.com

CIRCULATION: 42,500 (INCLUDED ONLINE AND IN PRINT)

Thinking of buying or selling a house in the Monterey Peninsula?
Be sure to use a realtor who advertises in The Pine Cone. They care about the community ... and they care about you!

SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.



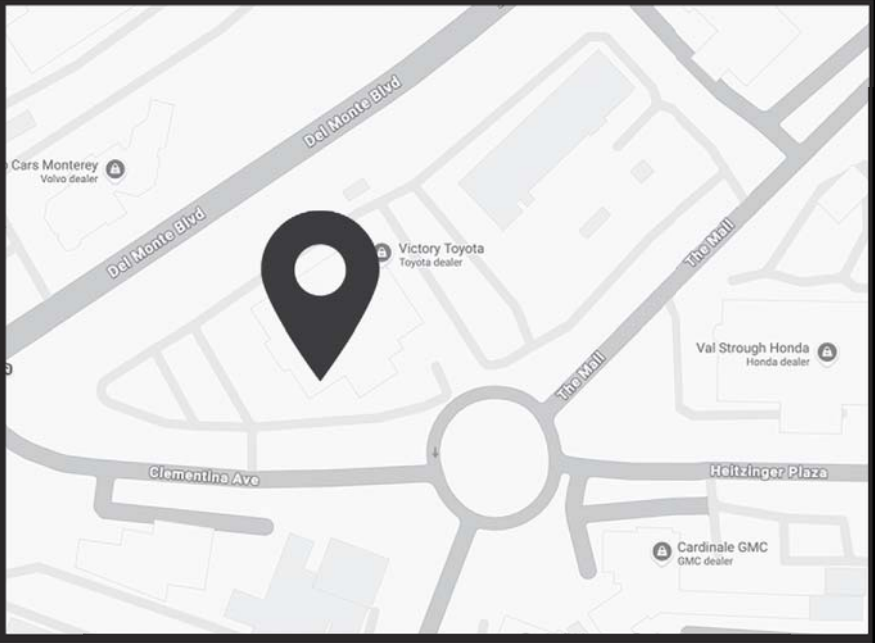
As we prepare for a major facility upgrade, Lexus Monterey Peninsula is making room for what’s next—with exceptional values during our Construction Reduction Event.

Great things take shape with vision, craftsmanship, and time. While our future home is being transformed, we’re pleased to offer exclusive opportunities on a carefully curated selection of new and pre-owned Lexus vehicles.

BEGINNING JANUARY 4, 2026, OUR SALES AND SERVICE DEPARTMENTS WILL TEMPORARILY RELOCATE ACROSS DEL MONTE BOULEVARD TO OUR SISTER DEALERSHIP, VICTORY TOYOTA, ENSURING A SEAMLESS AND FULLY SUPPORTED EXPERIENCE THROUGHOUT CONSTRUCTION.

Our Parts Department will continue to operate at our current Lexus Monterey Peninsula location during this time.

Thank you for your continued trust and for allowing us to serve Carmel, Monterey, and the Peninsula with the hospitality you expect from Lexus. We look forward to unveiling a space worthy of this remarkable community.




TEMPORARY RELOCATION EFFECTIVE JANUARY 4, 2026

- Sales & Service: Moving to Victory Toyota (across Del Monte Blvd)
- Parts: Remaining at Lexus Monterey Peninsula

THE FUTURE OF LUXURY IS UNDER WAY.



LEXUS
Monterey Peninsula

CALL. 831-661-9931 **TEXT.** 831-228-5534
CLICK. LexusMontereyPeninsula.com 
COME ON BY. 1721 Del Monte Blvd.
Seaside, CA 93955

SECTION RE ■ December 12-18, 2025

Open Houses on page 10RE!

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate



**COLDWELL
BANKER**

■ This week's cover property, located in Pebble Beach,
is presented by Tim Allen of Coldwell Banker
Global Luxury. (See Page 2 RE)

TA

Real Estate

December 12-18, 2025



31 Poppy Lane, Pebble Beach
4 Bedrooms | 5.5 Bathrooms | 6,726 SqFt | 1 acre

Located on prestigious Poppy Lane in the heart of Pebble Beach, 31 Poppy is a modern coastal masterpiece offering panoramic golf course views and a rare fusion of privacy, elegance, and proximity to world-renowned fairways and scenic drives. Designed with striking architectural lines, expansive glass, and a seamless indoor-outdoor flow, this residence exudes sophistication and comfort. Inside, curated finishes include natural quartzite countertops, a limestone feature wall, walnut-paneled Savaria elevator, and custom cabinetry, skylight, and veneers imported from Dubai. A chef's kitchen boasts premium Gatineau appliances, dual cooktops, and industrial hot-rolled steel hood. Luxury continues with a floating oak staircase, refrigerated wine wall, European windows, and a spa-like powder room with an invisible sink. Outdoor living is reimagined with IPE decking, a vanishing-edge spa for 12, firepit with LED mood lighting, and stone-clad patios, 12V landscape lighting, and a 6-car garage.

TIMALLENPROPERTIES.COM



Tim Allen

REALTOR
DRE#00891159
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113 14th Street, Pacific Grove
\$1,975,000

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LIC. #00804595

Real Estate Sales
Nov. 30 - Dec. 6

Escrows closed: 41
Total value: \$55,072,455

Big Sur

46480 Clear Ridge Road — \$5,300,000
Michelle Mackay to Jesse Dorogusker and Jennifer Dibrienza
APN: 419-231-001

Carmel

3721 Raymond Way — \$1,665,000
Gary Gray and Geisen Trust to Lisa Davis
APN: 103-121-005

See HOME SALES page 4RE

CLASSIC CARMEL VALLEY CHARM

4 beds, 2.5 baths ♦ \$2,395,000 ♦ 929WCarmelValleyRoad.com

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3475 EDGEFIELD PLACE, CARMEL
4 Beds, 3 Bath | 2,999 Sq. Ft.
\$2,298,000



421 EARDLEY AVE, PACIFIC GROVE
2 Beds, 2 Bath | 1,749 Sq. Ft.
\$1,995,000



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Carmel-by-the-Sea ■ 4 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$5,950,000 ■ www.Casanova5NWofOcean.com



Carmel ■ 3 beds, 2.5 baths ■ \$3,100,000 ■ www.8022RiverPlace.com



Carmel ■ 3 beds, 3 baths ■ \$2,695,000 ■ www.9563OakCourt.com



Carmel-by-the-Sea ■ 2 beds, 2 baths ■ \$2,695,000 ■ www.SWCornerCaminoRealAnd4th.com



Pacific Grove ■ 4 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$1,950,000 ■ www.917FountainAve.com



Salinas ■ 7 beds, 5.5 baths ■ \$1,750,000 ■ www.KoiRanch.com



Carmel ■ 2 beds, 2 baths ■ \$1,285,000 ■ www.261DelMesaCarmel.com



Pacific Grove ■ 3 beds, 1.5 baths ■ \$1,225,000 ■ www.PacificGroveCottage.com



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HOME SALES

From page 2RE

Carmel (cont'd)

Guadalupe Street, 4 NW of First Avenue — \$3,250,000
Douglas and Diane Hockersmith to GKT 5 LLC and GKT 5 Carmel LLC
APN: 009-146-014

Carmel Highlands

226 Highway 1 — \$3,500,000
Hal and Alison Johnson to Bejul Somaia
APN: 241-182-003

Carmel Valley

44 Hacienda Carmel — \$750,000



25682 Carmel Knolls Drive, Carmel Valley — \$1,580,000

John and Rebecca Pollard to Lanaya Ballou
APN: 015-334-003

32 Southbank Road — \$815,000
James Derbyshire and Estate of Pamela Lawson to Tristan and Kristin Adams
APN: 189-501-007

27845 Berwick Drive — \$1,100,000
Sloat Bergwick and Sloat Berwick LLC to Chasing the Dream Development LLC
APN: 169-231-001

39 Del Mesa Carmel — \$1,120,000
Mark and Marcia Vanlerberghe to Katherine Newcomb
APN: 015-442-014

24520 Outlook Drive unit 16 — \$1,300,000
Mary Weiss to Lisa Czachor
APN: 015-551-016

See ESCROWS page 14RE

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Starlit Ridge Retreat in Cachagua
11± Acres Lot | \$275,000

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3 Beds, 2.5 Baths ■ 2,043 Sq. Ft. ■ \$3,100,000 ■ www.8022RiverPlace.com

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REALTOR* | DRE#01435699 REALTOR* | DRE#01453222

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1043 MISSION RD, PEBBLE BEACH
View of 8th hole of MPCC | Cape Cod-style home 4-Bed, 2.5-Bath
Tesla solar & Powerwall battery
\$2,850,000

OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 12 - 2 PM
642 CYPRESS STREET, MONTEREY
Charming 2 bed, 1 bath house
Across from Cypress Street Park
Listed with Denise Miotke, DRE: 01969480
\$950,000

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY THIS WEEK:

Status	Address	List Price	Sale Price	DOM
Pending	11th 2 SE of Torres	\$2,300,000	-	27
Sold	Guadalupe 4 NW of 1st	\$3,250,000	\$3,250,000	11

Your Neighborhood, Your Realtor.
Please reach out for a Comparative Market Analysis.
(Data from MLSListings Inc)

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Common Sense, trees, and and going toe to toe with the Tannenbaum Terror

I WANT to wake up on Christmas morning and find Thomas Paine under my Christmas tree. His essay “Common Sense,” published in 1776, was the first work to openly ask for independence from Great Britain for the American colonies, and he used plain language to do it. I want independence from convincing myself that I can

still do physical things the way I did when I was w-a-a-y younger. I need to be told, in Paine’s plain language, that I’m too old to do things I’m too old to do.
For almost 50 years, I trudged through inclement winters to buy Christmas trees. It was a fun project when combined with the anticipatory enthusiasm of children. One



Sweeping Mountain Views | Teháma

56 MARGUERITE (LOT 44) | 10.7 ACRES | 2.42 ACRE BUILDING ENVELOPE | \$3,200,000

Just listed: a rare 10.7-acre Teháma, Carmel homesite with privacy, sweeping Santa Lucia views, and Justin Pauly architectural plans for a 3,900 square foot main residence with an infinity pool and a detached ADU.

Bambace Peterson Team

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COMPASS



This tree may have made it’s way to Jerry’s house, but getting it there wasn’t as easy as the old days.

year, I even did my best Jeremiah Johnson imitation and went into the mountains to fell our own worthy Scotch pine. Well, maybe not the mountains, but to a Christmas

Scenic Views

By JERRY GERVASE

tree farm with a proprietor who looked like a grizzly bear. These days, shopping for a tree when temperatures are in the 70s, as they were last week when we hit the tree lot

See GERVASE page 8RE



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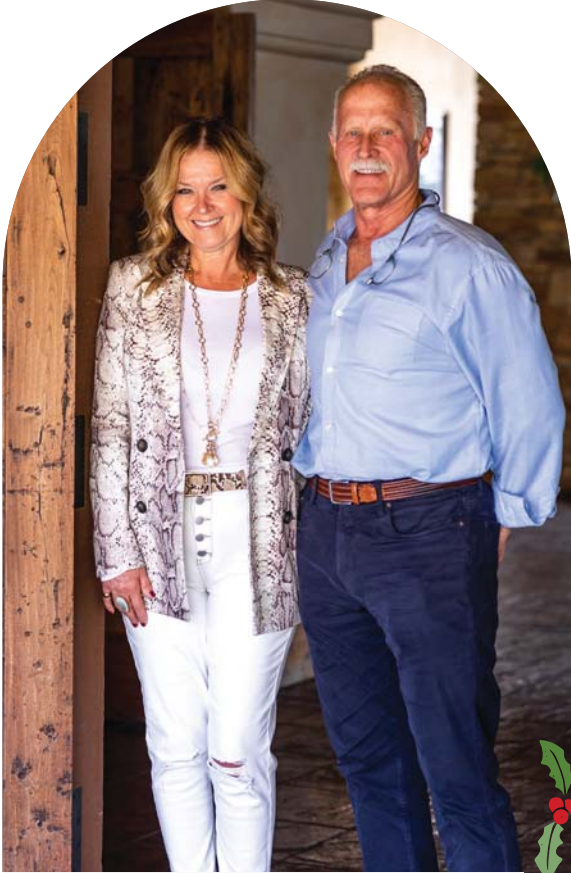
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5BORONDAROAD.COM
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CARMEL VALLEY | 13330 MIDDLE CANYON
13330MIDDLECANYONROAD.COM
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27415SCHULTEROAD.COM
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STEINY FAMILY PROPERTIES

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Lisa 831.277.2070
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OPEN SUN 1-3
131 7th Street, Pacific Grove

4 BD | 2/2 BA | 2,354± SQ. FT. | 5,691± SQ. FT. LOT
\$3,988,000
131-7thst.com
J,R. Rouse Properties Group 831.318.3808
License# 01299649, 1968946 & 01442211

50 La Rancheria, Carmel Valley
4 BD | 4.5 BA | 4,091± SQ. FT. | 1.23± ACRE LOT
\$3,300,000
50LaRancheria.com
Courtney Stanley 831.293.3030
License# 01958169



OPEN SAT 2:30-4:30



196 Laurel Drive, Carmel Valley
4 BD | 3.5 BA | 3,174± SQ. FT. | 3.36± ACRE LOT
\$3,290,000
196LaurelDrive.com
Courtney Stanley 831.293.3030
License# 01958169



5496 Quail Meadows Drive, Carmel
2.67± ACRE LOT
\$2,300,000
5496QuailMeadowsLot.com
Jeannie Fromm & Shelley Risko 831.277.3371
License# 01348162 & 01440339

25940 Colt Lane, Carmel Valley
4 BD | 2.5 BA | 3,597± SQ. FT. | 2.78± ACRE LOT
\$1,995,000
RyanMelcher.com
Ryan Melcher 831.521.5024
License# 01897036



OPEN SA 1:30-3:30 & SU 1-3
272 Clay Street, Monterey
3 BD | 1 BA | 1,198± SQ. FT. | 4,320± SQ. FT. LOT
\$1,795,000
272ClayStreet.com
Michele Altman 831.214.2545
License# 01310623



1107 Austin Avenue, Pacific Grove
3 BD | 2.5 BA | 2,103± SQ. FT. | 3,200± SQ. FT. LOT
\$1,775,800
1107AustinAvenue.com
Riddolls Taylor Team 831.236.4663
License# 02118720 & 01948389

810 Altura Place, Del Rey Oaks
4 BD | 2 BA | 2,486± SQ. FT. | 7,500± SQ. FT. LOT
\$1,495,000
810AlturaPlace.com
Joe Smith 831.238.1984
License# 01335794



OPEN SAT 11-2 & SUN 11-1



38225 Nason Road, Carmel Valley
2 BD | 1 BA | 1,355± SQ. FT. | 100± ACRE LOT
\$1,195,000
38225NasonRoad.com
Courtney Stanley 831.293.3030
License# 01958169

GERVASE

From page 6RE

on Rio Road, is a pleasant experience. But the “shopping” part is where my involvement needs to end.

There is no comparison between me and the young man who tied the chosen tree to the roof of my car. He was at least 65 years younger than I am, about 6 inches taller, and it seemed as if his legs were coming out of his shirt’s armholes. He handled that tree like he was tossing a few sticks up on the car’s roof.

I watched him secure the tree with the effortless confidence of youth — the kind of confidence I remember having once, back when my body did what I told it to without filing a harassment complaint.

Ten minutes after we bought the tree, I

was in the driveway eyeing the 30 yards I have to traverse to get the tree to my rear deck so it can acclimate itself to its new surroundings before we bring it inside. Thirty yards. That’s it. In my youth, I ran wind sprints longer than that. Now those 30 yards look like the Bataan Death March.

Overmatched

I can barely reach the roof of my 12-year-old Subaru Forrester. I look at the tree and realize I am overmatched. Suddenly, I am Rocky Balboa stepping into the ring against Apollo Tree, the Tannenbaum Terror, and reigning champ. It’s like staring across the ring during the referee’s instructions, and realizing Apollo is in fighting shape, while I forgot to train.

When I reach up to pull the tree from the car roof, I underestimate its weight. It’s coming at me like Apollo’s opening combination. I’m not dodging or blocking

— I’m just trying to survive. The branches slap my face like a flurry of jabs I never saw coming. Apollo wants to finish the fight with one devastating punch. The tree nearly succeeds. Every branch feels like a body blow. I’m eating pine needles. One arm of the X-shaped wooden stand lands squarely on my shin — a low blow the referee somehow misses. I know the shin is bleeding, but I’m alone in the driveway without a cut man. The branches prevent me from tying him up in clinches.

I’m bleeding from the shin, sweating in December and hearing the “Rocky” trumpet fanfare mocking me from somewhere inside my head. There’s no Mickey in my corner yelling, “Stay down!” because Mickey would know better than to let me enter the ring.

I can’t lift the tree to my shoulder, so I pick it up and run towards my front door like it’s a battering ram. Halfway there, I want to stop and rest — but I know that if I do I won’t be able to go on. When I finally cover those 30 yards to the deck, I feel like I’ve gone the distance. Apollo Tree won by TKO, but like Rocky, I stayed on my feet. My own loving Adrian ministered to my broken body and bruised ego. She tells me

I’m still her champion.

I may have lost, but suddenly I was heartened by the realization that in three or four weeks, there will be a rematch under different circumstances. Apollo Tree will celebrate his victory by living an unavoidably desultory life filled with bright lights, baubles, and well-wishers — burdened down by dozens of hangers-on pulling at his limbs.

I can see him slowly wasting away from a powerful heavyweight to a puny welterweight, shedding needles like a boxer dropping pounds before the weigh-in. His branches will droop. His needles will brown. He’ll become a shadow of the champion who defeated me in the driveway.

The return match is set for January. I’ll be ready for it. This time, I’ll knock that dried-out has-been to the curb, and I won’t need a training regimen to do it. I can hear the music already: “Gonna fly now, flying high now. Gonna fly, fly high.”

And next, year a little antique ceramic Christmas tree will show Santa the way to our house.

Contact Jerry at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.

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142 11th Street, Pacific Grove
2 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,655 sq.ft.
\$1,565,000

This charming residence offers 1,655 sf of living space on a 3,550 sf easy to maintain lot. Offering two spacious bedrooms & two full bathrooms plus an area for your office or enclose for a 3rd bedroom. The kitchen is a culinary delight-features a skylight, lots of cabinets & pantry space, “miles” of countertops, desk area for the chef & stainless appliances-ensuring all your cooking needs are met. The large

dining area also includes a breakfast bar for casual meals. Complete remodel approx. 17 years ago-looks like it was yesterday-bamboo floors, vaulted ceilings, gorgeous, updated bathrooms & kitchen. Enjoy the warmth of the forced air-gas furnace & the charming fireplace that invites relaxation in the living room. Located within the PG Unified School District, this home offers both style & practicality in a desirable location.

IN ESCROW-
1 DAY ON THE MARKET



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- Guest House



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\$470,000	1bd 1ba	Sa 1-3	
110 Hacienda Carmel		Carmel	
Windermere Real Estate		916-769-0512	
\$990,000	2bd 2ba	Su 1-3	
254 Del Mesa Carmel		Carmel	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		333-6060	
\$1,029,000	2bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-4	
3850 Rio Road #7		Carmel	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		917-9886	
\$1,295,000	2bd 3ba	Fr Sa 2-4 Su 11-3	
223 Del Mesa		Carmel	
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams		601-2080	
\$1,335,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1:30-3:30 Su 12-2	
129 Del Mesa Carmel		Carmel	
Coldwell Banker Realty		917-7029 / 277-3914	
\$1,475,000	2bd 2ba	Sa Su 12-2	
7026 Valley Greens Circle #21		Carmel	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		596-0573	
\$1,599,000	3bd 3.5ba	Sa 2-4	
9662 Willow Ct		Carmel	
Coldwell Banker Realty		596-6118	
\$1,600,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1-3	
NE Corner San Carlos & 8th ST 1		Carmel	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		277-3371	
\$2,250,000	4bd 4.5ba	Sa 12-2	
10511 Fairway Court		Carmel	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		236-4663	
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SE Corner of 4th Ave & Torres		Carmel	
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams		224-0020	
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8022 River Place		Carmel	
Carmel Realty Company		717-7156	
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24817 Santa Fe St		Carmel	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		297-9805	
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Compass		224-6353	
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Coldwell Banker Realty		206-0129	
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Coldwell Banker Realty		356-8123	
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Santa Fe 7 SW of 8th Avenue		Carmel	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		915-7814 / 236-4513	
\$4,849,950	3bd 2.5ba	Sa Su 1-4	
Lincoln 3 SW of 10th Avenue		Carmel	
Monterey Coast Realty		760-5572	
\$4,999,950	3bd 2ba	Su 1-4	
SE Corner of Monte Verde & 10th		Carmel	
Monterey Coast Realty		760-5572	
\$5,950,000	4bd 3.5ba	Sa Su 12-3	
Casanova 5 NW of Ocean Avenue		Carmel	
Carmel Realty Company		884-3868	
CARMEL VALLEY			
\$1,550,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 1-3 Su 2-4	
9805 Carmel Valley Road		Carmel Valley	
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\$1,745,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 12-2 Su 2-4	
42 Upper Circle		Carmel Valley	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		293-3030	
\$2,080,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 2-4	
760 Country Club Dr		Carmel Valley	
Compass		262-7768	
\$2,095,000	4bd 4.5ba	Su 1-4	
140 Terrace Way		Carmel Valley	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		917-9886	
\$2,395,000	4bd 2.5ba	Su 1-3	
929 W. Carmel Valley Road		Carmel Valley	
Carmel Realty Company		521-4855	
\$2,549,000	4bd 4ba	Sa 12-3	
28069 Heron Ct		Carmel Valley	
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams		261-6468	
\$2,795,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-3	
13369 Middle Canyon Road		Carmel Valley	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		238-7559	
\$2,890,000	4bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-3	
31499 Via Las Rosas		Carmel Valley	
The Agency		293-4878	
\$3,300,000	4bd 4.5ba	Sa 2:30-4:30	
50 La Rancheria		Carmel Valley	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		293-3030	
CORRAL DE TIERRA			
\$975,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-3 Su 2-4	
13500 Paseo Terrano		Corral de Tierra	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		238-6152	

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DEL REY OAKS			
\$998,500	4bd 2.5ba	Sa 12-2 Su 12-3	
25 Los Encinos Drive		Del Rey Oaks	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		238-8688 / 915-8989	
\$1,100,000	4bd 2ba	Sa Su 1-3	
831 Arlington Pl		Del Rey Oaks	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		404-401-8647 / 277-8622	
\$1,495,000	4bd 2ba	Sa 11-2 Su 11-1	
810 Altura Place		Del Rey Oaks	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		277-9250	
LA SELVA BEACH			
\$870,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1-3	
101 Shell Dr 45		La Selva Beach	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		227-9008	
MARINA			
\$999,900	4bd 2ba	Su 11-1	
3049 Sunrise Circle		Marina	
Monterey Coast Realty		596-2570	
\$1,015,000	4bd 3ba	Su 1-3	
3218 Tallmon St		Marina	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		521-0680	
\$1,199,000	4bd 2.5ba	Sa Su 1-3	
2721 Parkview Way		Marina	
Monterey Coast Realty		238-0653	
MONTEREY			
\$665,000	2bd 1ba	Su 1-3	
300 Glenwood Circle 265		Monterey	
Monterey Coast Realty		717-7959	
\$879,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 2-4 Su 11-1	
345 Sequoia Avenue		Monterey	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		915-2109	
\$950,000	2bd 1ba	Sa 12-2	
642 Cypress St		Monterey	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		238-8029	
\$1,085,000	3bd 1ba	Su 1-3	
799 Grace Street		Monterey	
Carmel Realty Company		320-6801	
\$1,119,000	3bd 2ba	Su 2-4	
140 John St		Monterey	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		915-0265	
\$1,299,000	3bd 3.5ba	Fr 1-3 Sa 12-4 Su 12-2	
1166 Josselyn Canyon Rd		Monterey	
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams		869-3992	

\$1,695,000	4bd 2.5ba	Sa Su 1-3	
1100 Castro Rd		Monterey	
Compass		238-1380 / 238-2022	
\$1,795,000	3bd 1ba	Sa 1:30-3:30 Su 1-3	
272 Clay Street		Monterey	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		214-2545	
\$2,250,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 11-1	
6 Huckleberry Ct		Monterey	
Coldwell Banker Realty		277-3914	
\$2,500,000	3bd 3ba	Su 12-2	
471 El Dorado Street		Monterey	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		521-4118	
\$3,500,000	3bd 2ba	Su 12-2	
502 Pierce Street		Monterey	
Compass		236-5290	

PACIFIC GROVE			
\$1,149,000	4bd 2ba	Sa 2-4 Su 1-3	
1113 Buena Vista Ave		Pacific Grove	
Coldwell Banker Realty		594-6158	
\$1,198,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 12-2 Su 1-3	
1321 David Avenue		Pacific Grove	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		925-216-0647 / 261-1120	
\$1,225,000	3bd 1.5ba	Sa Su 12-3	
218 14th Street		Pacific Grove	
Carmel Realty Company		277-1224	
\$1,429,000	3bd 3ba	Sa Su 2-4	
2896 Ransford Avenue		Pacific Grove	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		293-4190	
\$1,675,000	6bd 2ba	Sa 12-2	
206 Cypress Ave		Pacific Grove	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		521-4118	
\$3,199,000	3bd 4ba	Sa 1-3	
127 16th Street		Pacific Grove	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		402-2017	

\$3,275,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 12-4	
859 Balboa Ave		Pacific Grove	
The Jones Group		917-4534	
\$3,988,000	4bd 2.5+ba	Su 1-3	
131 7th Street		Pacific Grove	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		318-3808	

PEBBLE BEACH			
\$1,129,000	3bd 3ba	Sa Su 12-2	
16 Shepherds Knoll		Pebble Beach	
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams		718-7667	
\$2,995,000	4bd 3.5ba	Sa 1-3 Su 2-4	
4171 Sunset Lane		Pebble Beach	
Carmel Realty Company		277-5544	
\$5,295,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 1-3	
3093 Hacienda Drive		Pebble Beach	
Carmel Realty Company		241-8900	

SALINAS			
\$1,025,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 2:30-4:30	
22300 Capote Drive		Salinas	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		596-0573	
\$1,050,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 1-3	
22985 Guidotti Drive		Salinas	
Sotheby's Int'l RE		710-1655	
\$1,750,000	7bd 5.5ba	Su 11-1	
714 Monterey Salinas Hwy		Salinas	
Carmel Realty Company		601-4740	

SEASIDE			
\$895,000	4bd 2ba	Fr 3-5 Sa 12-3	
1809 Soto St		Seaside	
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams		998-2154	

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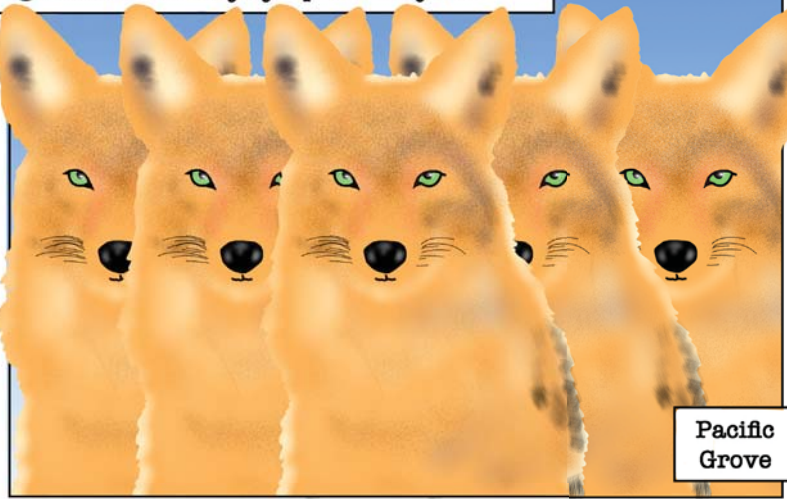
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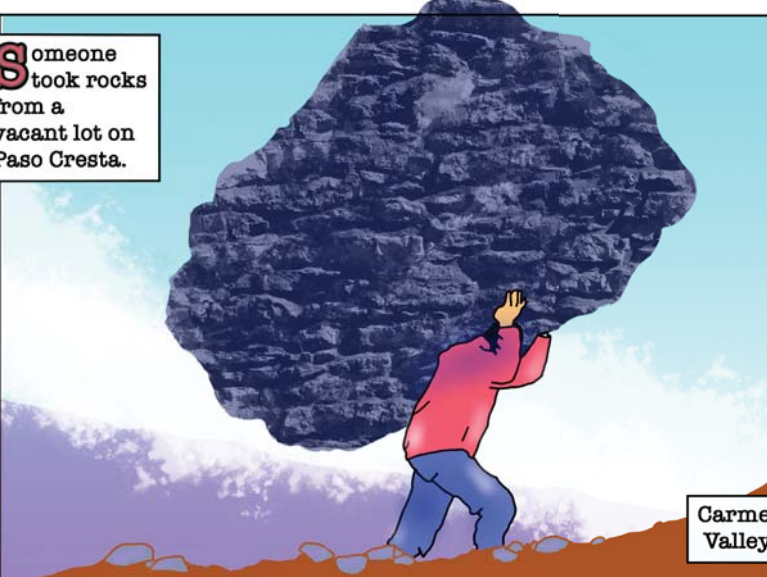
Police Log: March 27

Quarterdeck Way resident reported her cat
was carried away by a pack of coyotes.



Pacific Grove

Someone took rocks from a vacant lot on Paso Cresta.



Carmel Valley

SHERIFF

From page 11RE

pered-with package on Lighthouse.

THANKSGIVING

Pacific Grove: A 21-year-old male was arrested on Pine Avenue on a misdemeanor warrant for failure to appear in court. He was booked into Monterey County jail for DUI causing bodily injury and held on \$20,000 bail.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Misconduct reported at 0050 hours. No detail or location provided.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost wallet reported at Camino Real and Eighth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found cell phone at Ribera Beach was returned to its owner.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost cell phone reported on Scenic Road.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost wallet and contents at San Antonio and Ocean.

Pacific Grove: A 48-year-old male on

Ocean View Boulevard was cited and released for a warrant for failure to appear in court on a misdemeanor.

Pacific Grove: Subject on David Avenue placed on a mental health evaluation hold.

Pacific Grove: Report of a scam on Seventh Street. No suspect information.

Pacific Grove: Fall on public property at Ocean View Boulevard and Esplanade Street.

Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to El Caminito at 0105 hours. No details provided about the nature of this call.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Welfare check at Monte Verde and 13th resulted in a self-comittal.

Pacific Grove: Intoxicated subject on Central was released to a sober roommate.

Pacific Grove: Vandalism to a vehicle on Ocean View Boulevard.

Pacific Grove: Found bicycle on Forest Lodge Road.

Pacific Grove: Suspicious circumstances on Sinex involving an elderly person. No details provided about the nature of the suspicious circumstances.

Pacific Grove: Report of a runaway juvenile from a David Avenue residence. Ongoing issue.

Carmel Valley: Valley Greens Circle resident reported receiving a call from Apple alerting of an unauthorized charge, which was a scam. Scammers gained access to accounts and fraudulently wired money out of a bank account belonging to a 74-year-old victim.

Carmel area: Subject on Rio Road was aggressive to deputies investigating a report of aggressive panhandling. The 28-year-old male subject was placed in handcuffs and booked into Monterey County Jail.

Seaside: Seaside P.D. received several reports of fireworks being set off Thanksgiving night. Seaside P.D. would like to remind the community that the possession and use of fireworks is illegal and can result criminal charges and a fine of up to \$1,000. The City of Seaside has effectively enforced these regulations this year, successfully collecting fines.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle at Scenic

and Ninth was burglarized. Credit cards were taken and used to make several purchases before they were canceled.

Pacific Grove: Subject was reported missing from a Jewell Avenue residence. Was located a short while later.

Pacific Grove: Property found near Sunset Drive and 17 Mile Drive.

Pacific Grove: Subject on Central Avenue was placed on a mental health detention hold.

Big Sur: Deputies arrested five males ages 18, 20, 20, 22 and 26 for an in-progress residential burglary on Pfeiffer Ridge Road.

Carmel Valley: Person was discovered deceased at a Tierra Grande Drive residence.

Pebble Beach: A male was found deceased in a vehicle on Mestres Drive.

Carmel Valley: Deputies documented a suspicious circumstance on Carmel Valley Road. No details provided about the nature of the suspicious circumstance.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Catalytic converter stolen from a parked vehicle at Guadalupe and Second overnight.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Continues from previous page

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ESCROWS

From page 4RE

Carmel Valley (cont'd)

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Constance Weilenmann and Klee Trust to Richard and Lin Nevens
APN: 015-302-001

Highway 68

14075 Mountain Quail Road — \$1,047,000
Shomir Banerjee to Lauren Ames
APN: 161-631-008

13525 Paseo Terrano — \$1,160,000
Brian and Tiffany Allen to Andres Flores
APN: 161-371-002

15847 Pleasant Valley Lane — \$1,590,000
Diane Krebs to Mandeep Singh
APN: 416-311-017

Marina

1304 Patch Court — \$237,500
Kathleen Hanson to University Corporation Monterey Bay
APN: 031-181-028



226 Highway 1, Carmel Highlands — \$3,500,000

3019 Bayer Drive — \$780,000
Lolita and Erinaldo Baldonado to Glenda Hernandez and Marcos Salazar
APN: 032-372-004

2730 Sand Dune Avenue — \$995,000
Shea Homes LP to Inn Sugono
APN: 031-285-003

2810 Telegraph Blvd — \$1,075,000
Lee Dotson to Cao Bui
APN: 031-259-077

3080 Arroyo Drive — \$1,542,500
The Sea Haven LLC to Melissa Paddock
APN: 031-311-048



1976 Grandview Street, Seaside — \$1,172,727

2734 Sand Dune Avenue — \$1,546,500
Shea Homes LP to Bryan Yeh and Nicole Griffin
APN: 031-285-001

2418 Sea Shell Avenue — \$1,685,000
Shea Homes LP to Robert Dotson
APN: 031-284-033

Monterey

420 Dela Vina Avenue unit 7 — \$550,000
Estate of Lynnette Boughton to Alexander and David Holodiloff
APN: 013-112-055

Continues next page

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From previous page

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John and Heidi Haussermann to Nathaniel and Rena Blake
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1271 Fourth Street — \$1,155,000
Annette Pellinat and Andrew Peery to Julie Peter
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Valerie Storm, Alison Brown and Audrey Summers to Rober-
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Timothy and Allison Clemons to 38 Country Club Gate LLC
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1665 Military Avenue — \$925,000
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