

# The Carmel Pine Cone

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January 16-22, 2026

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## After 3-year wait, Highway 1 finally reopens

■ Do we hear angels singing?

By MARY SCHLEY and KELLY NIX

TWO YEARS since it sent many cubic tons of rocks, dirt and debris cascading onto Highway 1 in Big Sur, the Regent's Slide was cleared and the highway reopened Wednesday to great celebration, with Gov. Gavin Newsom heralding the moment. The event marked three years

to the day since drivers were last able to travel the expanse between Carmel and Cambria.

"This reopening will bring much-needed relief to small businesses and families in Big Sur and the surrounding communities who have shown remarkable resilience and strength," Newsom said, considering slides in various locations have kept the highway impassible since Jan. 15, 2023, making the closure of the Big Sur coastal route the longest in the road's history.



PHOTO/CALTRANS

An aerial view of the newly reopened section of Highway 1 in Big Sur. For the first time in three years, motorists can drive the world-famous through route from Carmel to Cambria. The closure is the longest in the road's history.

### Ahead of schedule

"I'm grateful to Caltrans crews for delivering Highway 1 ahead of schedule — deploying remotely controlled heavy equipment, stabilizing slopes with thousands of steel reinforcements drilled up to 60 feet deep, and using cutting-edge monitoring systems to overcome extraordinary geological challenges," Newsom continued. "This vital corridor is the gateway to California's coast and the lifeblood of the Big Sur economy — and today it's restored."

Since Regent's Slide occurred during heavy winter rains on Feb. 9, 2024, crews hired by Caltrans had worked during daylight hours seven days a week as weather and site conditions allowed, spokesman Kevin Drabinski said this week, facing increasingly challenging conditions as the land above the original slide began to shift. For safety

See HIGHWAY page 22A

## Council says let there be water

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL City Council unanimously voted Monday to join local government agencies in calling for an end to the state's moratorium on new Cal Am water hookups.

An order issued years ago by the State Water Resources Control Board forbids the installation of water meters on undeveloped lots, "which limits new development in the region, including affordable housing," acting city administrator Brandon Swanson told the council in his Jan. 12 report. But with Monterey One Water and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District proclaiming there's ample supply from the expansion of their Pure Water Monterey recycling project — and committing allocations to Peninsula cities as a result — the hookup moratorium should end, according to Swanson and other officials.

**Call for end to ban on new water meters**

"The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District is actively working to rescind the moratorium on setting new water meters," Swanson explained, adding that water district GM Dave Stoldt "has requested that the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea provide a formal letter of support for this effort."

### For housing

Addressed to Juliet Christian-Smith, deputy director of water rights for the state water board, the letter signed by Swanson and Mayor Dale Byrne asks officials "to allow the Monterey Peninsula to increase its much-needed housing requirements and experience modest economic development" by lifting the moratorium.

"The Pure Water Monterey project, which came online in 2021, coupled with the Monterey Peninsula's longstanding commitment to water-wise conservation strategies for both commercial and residential water consumption, have resulted in California American Water not exceeding the legal amount of water available from the Carmel River for the past four years," the letter says. "With the addition of the Pure Water Monterey Expansion project coming online, there is no threat of Cal Am exceeding legal limits in the foreseeable future."

The letter states the California Public Utilities Commission confirmed as much in an Aug. 14, 2025, decision,

See WATER page 16A

## CHP NAMES DRIVER IN P.B. CYCLIST'S DEATH

By MARY SCHLEY

THE WOMAN involved in the Dec. 5, 2025, crash on 17 Mile Drive that killed avid cyclist and Cal State University Monterey Bay professor Seth Pollack has been identified as 62-year-old Pebble Beach resident Dana Lauchlan, the California Highway Patrol revealed this week. In earlier reports, the agency had withheld the driver's name.

The CHP, which is responsible for traffic enforcement in Del Monte Forest and is investigating the fatal crash at 17 Mile Drive and Crespi Lane, originally blamed Pollack for the accident. According to a report provided by CHP officer Jaskaran Bhauria soon after the crash, Pollack, 66, was cycling westbound on Crespi Lane as Lauchlan was

turning left onto the street from southbound 17 Mile Drive in her 2011 Toyota SUV, and "for reasons still under investigation, the rider of the bicycle crossed into the eastbound lane and crashed into the Toyota SUV."

### Surveillance footage

But footage from a camera on a nearby house shows that is not what happened. While grainy, the video depicts the driver approaching Pollack on 17 Mile Drive and then turning left onto Crespi, directly into the path of the cyclist, who was riding straight ahead and had the right of way. The car strikes him, his bicycle flies up in the air, and Pollack lands on top of Lauchlan's SUV.

The highway patrol reported Pollack was declared dead at the scene and that Lauchlan was transported to the hospital "for suspected possible injuries." The officer also

See DRIVER page 17A

## Newsom's rosy outlook at odds with budget analyst's view

■ Revving economy boosting revenue

GOV. GAVIN Newsom and his administration donned their rose-colored glasses Friday and presented a 2026-2027 budget with a much more sanguine outlook than the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office is projecting.

Unlike in years past, Newsom didn't present the budget himself. Instead, he sent his finance director, Joe

IN THE march toward implementing a standardized address system — ending the city's tradition of using cute, directional addresses that are not recognized by the U.S. Postal Services, utility companies and other entities — Carmel city officials this week launched an interactive map showing how a numbering system would work. The exercise allows residents to see what a standardized system could look like and invites them to provide feedback on glitches and other issues.

### Subject to revision

"This draft map represents the addressing system proposed to the city council. The publishing of this draft map is meant to be used as a tool to familiarize the community with the proposed numbered addresses system," the city announced Tuesday. "The address numbers shown on the map have not been finalized or implemented and are still subject to final approval by the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea City Council, the County of Monterey, and USPS Address Management System. None of the draft address number assignments should be used for providing your location officially or unofficially."

Based on a system developed principally by resident Kevin Ruess — a member of the city's committee on street addresses alongside councilman Bob Delves, administrative analyst Emily Garay and residents Nancy Twomey and Paula Hazdovac — the proposed address numbers run from north to south and from west to east, increasing by

## Map shows what everybody's address will be

By MARY SCHLEY

increments of 100 on the longer north-south blocks and by 50 on the shorter west-east blocks, more or less. The U.S. Postal Service, which oversees the address management system that validates physical addresses, gave a cursory nod to the plan before it was rolled out in draft form.

The interactive map shows numbered addresses based on assessor's parcel numbers, but also identifies a few areas where the system has been unable to assign addresses, including some multifamily residences and other random parcels, which are indicated in brown. Annexed areas of

See ADDRESSES page 15A



MAP/CITY OF CARMEL

The online map links APNs — indicated by the six-digit number on each parcel — to potential street addresses.

## Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

Stephenshaw, to do the job, and the draft \$349 billion budget he outlined shows the state receiving an additional \$42.3 billion in tax revenue over the next three years, thanks to the economy doing better than expected.

### Erasing the deficit

The projected increase in revenue would almost erase the state's deficit, covering all but \$2.9 billion of the administration's new spending plan while shoring up the state's reserves with \$23 billion in the bank. Quite the turnaround from legislative analyst Gabe Petek's

See BUDGET page 22A

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# Sandy Claws

## Good dog Carl

Having recently lost her "best friend" Daisy, she didn't know if she'd ever be open to loving another dog. That is, until she learned her nephew's family was moving to a large piece of land in the Midwest and worried their West Highland terrier-miniature schnauzer, Carl, would get lost on the prairie. And they asked if she would keep him.

"I hadn't even met Carl," she said. But she answered with her heart and said, "Yes."

After moving here, Carl, who lives in Hatton Fields, quickly became a Carmel canine. Yet his person believed his socialization would not be complete until he'd been to the beach. The first time his little paws hit the sand, he jumped into his person's arms, shaking.

"It took him until he saw other dogs racing around in the sand to understand this was a safe place where dogs play," she said. "Now he runs around like he owns the place."

But he has yet to venture into the water.

"Carl is more comfortable in town," his person said. "When he sees someone carrying a small, white bag, he assumes it's from Sweet Reba's Bakery, and he'll

By Lisa Crawford Watson



rise up on his hind legs to ask if it's for him."

In all fairness, Sweet Reba's does bake a special "pupcake" for members of the canine community.

Carl's person would buy him "every toy in the world" if he wanted them, but he truly prefers treats.

"I love Carl so much. He's a gift from God," his person said. "Never in a million years did I think I'd adopt another dog. It wasn't in my plans, but it was The Plan."

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# McLaren: Rental suit should be tossed

By KELLY NIX

**MCLAREN AUTOMOTIVE** has fired back at the owners of a \$6.5 million Carmel Valley home who filed suit against the supercar giant over an illegal event during Car Week last year.

In August 2025, Scarlett Road homeowners Fidji Simo and Remy Miralles rented their house to McLaren Automotive for eight days for \$225,000. During the Aug. 11-18 event, though, Monterey County officials found that no one had obtained a short-term rental permit, and county officials fined the couple an astonishing \$762,875. That led Simo and Miralles to sue the luxury automotive manufacturer and its promotional agency, BMF Media Group, claiming they were responsible for getting permits for the event and should, therefore, also be liable for the fine.

## Supercar company says property owner needed permit

"The defendants failed to do something the contract required them to do; namely, to obtain any and all necessary permits before the event," the November, 2025 lawsuit by Simo and Miralles says.

### 'Audacious assertions'

But last month, McLaren filed an 18-page response in U.S. District Court Northern District suggesting that Miralles and Simo — who is the CEO of applications at tech company OpenAI, which owns ChatGPT — were responsible for getting permits before they rented the property. The company is requesting that the suit be dismissed.

"Contrary to plaintiffs' audacious assertions," McLaren said in the Dec. 10 court filing, "the citations and relevant county regulations clearly reflect that nearly all the penalties assessed by the county originate from their failure to secure the required short-term rental permit prior to

licensing the property for use by McLaren Automotive."

The claim by Simo and Miralles that McLaren breached the contract for the rental falls short since the couple "lacked any lawful authorization to rent the property, rendering the contract with McLaren Automotive void and unenforceable," the response said.

"Similarly, the other claims based on McLaren Automotive's alleged failure to secure a permit are unsupported and insufficient," the British company, which is owned by the government of Abu Dhabi, said.

The response said Monterey County's rules make it clear that operators of short-term rentals, not tenants, are responsible for securing permits.

"Given the plain language of these regulations, there is no question that the renewable annual license must be obtained by the operator of a vacation rental property, rather than a renter who does not own the property and cannot obtain such a license," McLaren said.

The other causes of action in the couple's lawsuit, which include fraud, negligence and trespass, should be dismissed because "none of the claims have merit," the company maintains.

"The claims are all based on the flawed, implausible assertion that McLaren Automotive was responsible for obtaining a short-term rental permit for the property."

When the case was transferred from Monterey County Superior Court to federal court, Simo and Miralles added Carmel-based vacation rental property manager Peninsula Luxe as a defendant. They claim Peninsula Luxe negotiated the contract in which McLaren agreed to be "responsible for obtaining any and all permits necessary to conduct the event." Peninsula Luxe did not respond to The Pine Cone.



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# WEDDING & Special Occasions

It's the time of year Pine Cone readers are planning their weddings and special occasions for 2026...

Let us help you reach them in our **January 23** Wedding & Special Occasion Section



Jan. 23, 2026

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# Police & Sheriff's Log

## Dog stolen on New Year's Eve

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.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** No calls to report.

**Pacific Grove:** A 32-year-old male was arrested at Central and Monterey avenues for an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for failure to appear in court.

**Pacific Grove:** Officers were dispatched to a deceased person found at the Country Club Gate Center. Monterey County Coroner responded.

**Pacific Grove:** Vehicles on Lighthouse Avenue, Congress Avenue and Pico Avenue were marked for 72-hour parking.

**Carmel area:** Theft reported at the Cross-roads shopping center.

**Carmel area:** Human remains located on a property on Viejo Road.

**Carmel area:** Child Protective Services report at a residence on Upper Trail.

See **POLICE LOG** page 8RE in the Real Estate Section

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

**Carmel Valley:** Deputies investigated a restraining order violation on Carmel Valley Road involving a 33-year-old female victim and a 38-year-old male suspect.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Lost ring in the area of Del Mar and Scenic.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Hit-and-run on Seventh Avenue.

**Pacific Grove:** A 21-year-old male driver was arrested on Ocean View Boulevard for numerous vehicle code violations, including having a modified steering wheel and obstruction of the driver's view.

**Big Sur:** An assault was reported on Highway 1. Victim was uncooperative.



## The gavel falls

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

**Dec. 18** — A jury convicted defendant Paul Chavez Ramirez, 61, an inmate serving a life sentence in California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. In a bifurcated trial, the jury also found that the defendant had previously been convicted of four strike offenses under California's three strikes law. The Honorable Judge Stephanie E. Hulseley presided over both proceedings.

On the morning of Aug. 21, 2024, correctional officers at the Salinas Valley State Prison observed the defendant in possession of a weapon. A subsequent search revealed that the defendant had concealed an 18-inch piece of rebar beneath his clothing. One end of the rebar was sharpened, and the other was modified with a rope-based handle made of a white cord to provide a firm hold. As configured, it could readily inflict great bodily

injury or death. Correctional officers confiscated the weapon and prevented any further incident.

Ramirez is scheduled to be sentenced by Hulseley on Feb. 10. He faces an additional two years in state prison in addition to his life sentence.

**Dec. 22** — Carmel resident Michael Selig, 62, pled guilty to three felony counts of sexual battery by fraud pursuant to Penal Code section 243.4(c) and one misdemeanor count of sexual battery pursuant to Penal Code section 243.4(e)(1). Selig could be sentenced to up to six years in state prison by Judge Mark Hood at the sentencing hearing on Feb. 17. Selig will also be required to register as a sex offender. Sex offender registration will pre-

See **GAVEL** page 20A

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## P.B. CONCOURS NAMES NEW LEADERSHIP

By MARY SCHLEY

A LONGTIME attorney and third-generation car guy will take the reins at the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance later this year, when chairman Sandra Button — who has run the world-renowned event for 40 years — steps into a new role as “brand ambassador and strategic advisor.”

“For quite some time, we have been in the process of planning for a transition to new leadership here at the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance, so we are pleased to announce that Vince Finaldi is joining the Concours leadership team today as our new president,” Button said in a statement Thursday.

Button and Finaldi, who moved to the Carmel Highlands with his wife and two daughters in 2022, will collaborate on the 75th Concours set for August, and on Oct. 1, he’ll take over as chairman.

“We want this transition to be smooth, and we know it will take more than a few months, so I will continue to serve in that role until at least January of 2029,” Button said, referring to the ambassador/advisor position.



Vince Finaldi

### Distinguished law career

Finaldi served in the U.S. Marines in the 1990s, earned his B.A. from UC Berkeley in 2002 and graduated from UCLA’s law school in 2005. He started his legal career in 2004 as a clerk and rose through the ranks to partner at Newport Beach-based Manly, Stewart & Finaldi, specializing in litigation of civil actions involving sexual harassment, exploitation, molestation and abuse in educational, familial, recreational, employment, religious and other settings. Finaldi garnered nationwide media coverage

See **FINALDI** page 21A



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# 'Whistleblower' doc sues, claims CHOMP put profits over patients

By KELLY NIX

A LONGTIME Monterey physician has filed a shocking lawsuit against Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, alleging he was threatened, harassed and eventually fired after raising concerns about patient care and safety, which he said took a back seat to the nonprofit hospital's "profit margin."

But a CHOMP spokeswoman said this week that there was "no validity" to any of the doctor's claims and defended the hospital's patient safety record.

In a Jan. 7 civil complaint, Dr. Bradley Tamler, 65, said that he was a physician in radiation oncology at CHOMP and at his own clinic for nearly 30 years, making extensive contributions, including bringing cutting-edge cancer treatment technologies and services to the hospital.

But Tamler said the environment at CHOMP shifted from valuing his professional expertise to "one primarily driven by financial considerations." He suggests in the

lawsuit that his reports to administrators about the alleged decline in patient care were met with contempt.

"As hospital executives and leadership team members were enriching themselves at the expense of patient care and staffing needs, they expressed disdain for Dr. Tamler prioritizing patient care and terminated him" and his clinic from working at the hospital, the 44-page complaint, filed in Monterey County Superior Court, says.

## 'Campaign of reprisal'

The doctor said to cut costs, the hospital pressured him to stop employing a treatment for radiation therapy because it was "not profitable." It also hired a "less qualified" physician amid staffing shortages in the radiology department instead of his recommendation, which he said breached his contract.

While Tamler said follow-up care after cancer treatment was expected and very effective in detecting cancer recurrences in patients, administrators "openly and repeatedly

pressured and harassed" him to forgo the practice because it required the hospital to have employees work longer hours.

"Administrators were continuously pressuring Dr. Tamler to implement many policies that were not in the patients' best interests," his complaint alleges.

Tamler said his repeated complaints and his refusal to "sacrifice" patient care for the hospital's bottom line, led the hospital to wage a "campaign of reprisal" against him, including increasing his workload while minimizing the time he spent with each patient, mandating that he see every patient within five minutes of them being put into an exam room, something he said was "impossible" to follow, and ordering him to stop performing certain functions that he said were essential for the well-being of patients.

"His devotion to patient care collided with the hospital's increased emphasis on monetary profits at the expense of patient lives," Tamler said.

## 'Not valid'

In response to the civil complaint, CHOMP spokeswoman Mindy Maschmeyer said the hospital "strongly disagrees" with the allegations outlined by Tamler, whom she said was "an independent physician contracted" with the hospital until April 2025.

"Beyond saying that there is no validity to Dr. Tamler's claims, we cannot comment further on an active legal matter," she told The Pine Cone.

The hospital's priority, she said, is "always the safety and wellbeing of our patients. CHOMP is nationally recognized for the exceptional quality of its care, and our clinical teams demonstrate an unwavering commitment to putting patients first."

As a nonprofit organization, Montage Health — which includes Community Hospital — provides a variety of health services. But Maschmeyer explained that the organization operates "at a significant financial loss — totaling \$135.5 million in 2024."

Yet Montage continues to provide the services, she said, "because they are vital to the health of our region," "In 2024, Montage Health's system-wide net margin was less than 1 percent and every dollar of that was reinvested into our local community," Maschmeyer added.

## \$15 mil payout?

Tamler alleges that during a meeting on Jan. 15, 2025, meeting, hospital executives told attendees to "prioritize profits above patient care, and to refrain from evaluating patients for any condition other than the condition for which they had been admitted."

For example, he said that the insurance providers CHOMP has arrangements with, including Medicare, pay the hospital a flat rate for an ailment for which a patient is admitted. But if the hospital spends more money than the flat rate, the companies don't compensate CHOMP.

"The sentiment among the hospital's staff was that they must abide by the hospital's cost-cutting measures even at the patients' expense, or face reprisal and/or termination," Tamler alleges.

A few days after the meeting, CHOMP announced that "it was awarding a severance package of \$15 million to its departing CEO" Steven Packer, according to Tamler's lawsuit, who said the news drew "widespread outrage" among staff. Packer, who retired in spring 2025, is listed as a defendant in the suit.

See SUES page 21A

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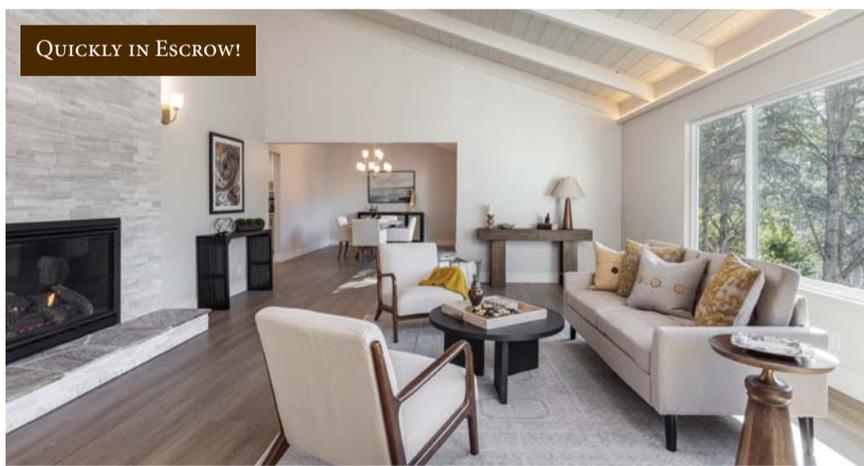


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# Cougars on camera in Pebble Beach

By KELLY NIX

**MOST MONTEREY** Peninsula residents are aware that mountain lions live among us. But it can be unnerving when the predators are captured on video skulking around neighborhoods.

That's what happened in Pebble Beach last month and this week when cameras on two homes near Spyglass Hill golf course captured the elusive predators on video. The most dramatic footage was from December, when a security camera recorded a cougar outside a home on Dunes Road. It walked by some patio furniture as dogs inside the home were heard barking.

Pebble Beach resident AJ Goelz, who knows the homeowners, uploaded the video to social media to warn residents.

"We live in a forest, so we see wildlife — deer, hawks, occasional bobcats in broad daylight, turkeys, etc. — and we know mountain lions pass through," Goelz told *The Pine Cone*. "But when there's video footage of a major predator like this from nearby neighbors, it's a reminder to be vigilant, especially at night — when taking out trash cans, letting pets out before bedtime, and such."

Goelz, who lives on Benbow Place, posted another video from Monday that depicts what appears to be a mountain lion a few doors down. Goelz contacted the Spyglass Hill pro shop and Stevenson School about the sighting, since some staff who live on campus have pets and don't have fenced properties. The sighting was also reported to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the

Monterey County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff's office spokesman Andy Rosas said the agency forwards reports of mountain lion sightings to fish and wildlife, unless it's a life-threatening emergency involving the animals, in which case deputies would respond immediately.

### Other sightings

Pebble Beach Community Services District general manager Nick Becker told *The Pine Cone* Thursday that he's heard of recent mountain lion sightings in the Huckleberry Hill Habitat Area, the large open space area popular with dog walkers and hikers west of Highway 68.

The encounters come after residents in San Benancio Canyon reported that attacks fatally injured numerous pets, including dogs, goats, cats and a miniature horse. While a mountain lion is suspected in many of those deaths, wildlife experts aren't sure if a single predator was responsible.

Although on Dec. 16, 2025, a driver in that area hit and killed a cougar that some believed could have been responsible, the attacks continued after its death, implying there's another mountain lion killing pets.



PHOTO/AJ GOELZ

This large kitten was caught on tape sneaking outside a Pebble Beach home. It's one of several cougars spotted on the Peninsula in the last month or so.

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# Council balks at metal roof policy — and colors are the sticking point

By MARY SCHLEY

**WOULD CARMEL'S** planning staff OK a yellow metal roof on a blue house, just because a shade of yellow shows up in the palette of "earth tones" that would be considered acceptable according to a revised policy on roofing materials? Should the planning commission be involved every time someone wants to change a roof from one material to another? The city council's discussion Tuesday of a proposed policy update that would streamline the approval process for various types of roofs ended with the council sending it back to the planning commission for further massaging.

Based on several discussions by the planning commission in 2025, associate planner Jake Olander drafted an update to a 2016 policy on acceptable roof materials that could be approved over the counter, as long as they fall within the range of acceptable colors. Because it calls for approval of metal roofs, the policy would depart from the residential design guideline that says, "metal, plastic and glass roofs are inappropriate in all neighborhoods."

Olander said some residents have pleaded with the city to streamline approval for metal and other fireproof materials, especially in light of the devastating Los Angeles-area fires a year ago, and he noted a local agent told him that roughly 80 percent of insurance carriers would not provide fire insurance for homes

with wood roofs, while the remaining 20 percent would do so if the wood shake is fire-treated regularly, but there is no guarantee of continued coverage.

"He stated that roofs with Class A assembly utilizing metal, composite shingle, terra cotta clay tiles, slate and membrane roofing are all insurable for approximately 20 to 25 years before a new roof would be required," Olander said.

## Streamlining

The revised policy "will allow all appropriate roofing materials to be approved administratively by staff, resulting in reducing review time, permit costs and restrictions for appropriate alternate roofing materials," Olander said, while materials still deemed "inappropriate" would have to undergo review by the planning commission.

Acting city administrator Brandon Swanson said the idea behind the revision is to give applicants a better understanding of the process they would follow based on the type of roof they want.

"It was a request from the planning commission to create a policy whereby people would understand if they choose a type of roof material, what path they would go down," he said.

Olander suggested like-for-like replacements, such as wood to wood, slate to slate, tile to tile, and other natural materials, could be OK'd by staff. Planners could also sign off on new roofs made of materials like slate, tile, tar and gravel, composite shingles, metal tiles, synthetics and vertical standing-seam metal roofs, as long as they fall within a range of acceptable colors.

Former councilwoman Karen Ferlito said the policy should contain more latitude for innovative products, including

Tesla solar tiles, especially since fire risk is likely to lead to the development of more roofing options.

Architect and historic resources board member Erik Dyar and Carmel Residents Association board member Nancy Twomey suggested the policy should mesh with the municipal code and other city documents to avoid confusion among applicants.

Resident Jill Petker said her home's gray comp shingle roof looks much better than any of the earth-tone options would, while resident Maria Ruess expressed doubt that her red metal roof — a color she described as "terra cotta" — would be allowed under the new guidelines.

## Light blue

Some councilmembers got hung up on the colors, too. Hans Buder showed slides of a typical Carmel-style stucco home with dormers and steeply pitched roofs superimposed with a variety of roof types and colors. A dark-hued option looked acceptable but wouldn't be allowed because it's not an earth tone, but a light blue option could be approved by staff. He suggested identifying some roof-wall "safe harbor" color combinations that would be acceptable.

"My fear is in trying to solve a problem, this policy opens another set of problems which might be worse," he said.

"I can't see how any of these would work with the rest of our design guidelines," agreed councilwoman Alissandra Dramov. "We need to refine the earth tones and some of the acceptable colors."

Councilman Bob Delves said he is "entirely supportive" of revising the policy but agreed with Dramov regarding acceptable colors, while councilman Jeff Baron

See **COLORS** page 15A

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# Students tackle clean water access

By LILY PATTERSON

IF YOU check into a hotel but your room doesn't have water, help is just a call down to the front desk. But in some parts of the world, there's no concierge waiting when precious resources fail to materialize.

The awareness dawned on Stevenson School senior Lauren Taylor last summer during a family trip to Washington D.C., when a brief inconvenience at her hotel changed the way she'd always thought about water. She said it sent her down a rabbit hole of online research.

"In the U.S., most people consider water an infinite resource, and we don't appreciate how necessary it is for so many things in our lives," said Taylor.

Returning to school last September, she and her sister Caroline, a junior, founded the RLS Water Club, a student-led initiative "creating real solutions for a water-secure future."

"Our club envisions a future where clean water is

abundantly accessible for all human needs and uses. We connect with innovators in water tech, leaders in conservation, and experts in the evolving water needs of Earth and the global population to help us teach, advocate and advance collective aims of clean water abundance," says the club's mission statement.

Its co-chairs have recruited 20 members,

See **CLUB** page 13A



PHOTO/COURTESY CAROLINE TAYLOR

Stevenson high schoolers Lauren and Caroline Taylor have interviewed experts and organized field trips, like a kayak tour of Elkhorn Slough, to raise awareness about water issues.

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## COMMUNITY

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Allocated water to cities for new housing & jobs.

## ENVIRONMENT

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Enhanced wildlife habitat on Carmel River.

## ADVOCACY

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DOUGLAS STEAKLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

# NEW MARINE MAMMAL FACILITY TESTED BY DEADLY SEA LION DISEASE

By CHRIS COUNTS

**J**UST AS the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito was celebrating the grand opening of its new 4,000-square-foot facility in Castroville in May 2025, its capacity for caring for sea mammals was challenged by the worst outbreak ever recorded of a deadly bacterial infection that periodically ravages sea lions.

Known as leptospirosis, the infection causes dehydration, lethargy and often kidney failure. A common sign is very tightly tucked front flippers. The outbreaks reappear every three to five years, typically for a couple of months in late summer and early fall. But last June, it struck with a vengeance and lasted until October, according to the center's Giancarlo Rulli.

### Collective shock

Rulli said marine mammal researchers were startled to see the infections breaking out so early in the year. He also noted that the center treated nearly 600 sea lions suffering from leptospirosis in 2025, roughly double the number it's previously seen in a single year. The outbreak finally subsided by mid-October.

"To have an outbreak last through an entire summer and a major chunk of fall was a collective shock," he said. "By early- to mid-July, the numbers had exploded."

The survival rate of infected sea lions is low, especially if the infection is advanced — which it often is by the time an ill sea lion is discovered. Rulli said they can survive, "but only if the infection is caught early enough."

"By the time they come ashore with leptospirosis, they are in significantly bad shape," he explained. "Sometimes

they don't even have enough strength to get up on the beach. It's a major veterinary challenge to turn them around. Historically, two-thirds of them either die in care or must be euthanized."

### Last breath

Often, the center's staff would respond to a report of a stranded sea lion on a local beach, only to watch it take its last breath. The scenes have been heartbreaking. "It's been an extremely difficult and emotionally challenging year," Rulli conceded.

If a sea lion with leptospirosis is found early enough, it is transported to the center's medical facilities in Sausalito, where it undergoes a series of tests, is treated with fluids and antibiotics, and can undergo a lengthy rehabilitation.

Rulli called the opening of the new facility last May "perfect timing" because its expanded capacity helped the center treat a record number of sick sea lions last year. The center also owns the facility, offering it a secure base on Monterey Bay for years to come.

The center previously operated a facility in Moss Landing on land owned by Vistra Corp., which didn't charge rent for the site. But eventually, the battery company wanted to expand, requiring the center to seek a new home.

The nonprofit spent \$3.1 million on the land and \$1.3 million to build the facility at 11125 Commercial Parkway



PHOTO/PAUL MILLER

Periodically sea lions and their pups fill San Carlos Beach in Monterey. The Marine Mammal Center is the go-to when they get sick.

in Castroville. It is not open to the public.

The facility is expected to play a key role in supporting the local population of sea mammals. Rulli reported that more than 40 percent of the center's patients come from Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. "They're hot spots for

See **OUTBREAK** page 16A



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# CLUB

From page 11A

organized educational field trips to coastal habitats like Elkhorn Slough, and started a podcast to interview water experts across the environmental and public health and technology industries.

They've also connected with Partners in Health, a global medical nonprofit, with a goal of eradicating podoconiosis, a debilitating swelling condition which can be prevented with proper footwear and daily washing with clean water. Despite affecting 4 million people worldwide, it's categorized as a "neglected tropical disease" because it afflicts poor, ill-equipped communities across central Africa, South America and southeast Asia.

"Podoconiosis has been eradicated in other places," including in northern Europe more than a century ago, said Lauren. "Learning about it lit a spark, and it aggravates me

to know that it can be prevented if communities only have the resources."

Lauren plans on a career in medicine, and Caroline said she has "always been interested in science and technology." When their research introduced them to Partners in Health, and its work to treat the disease in a rural district of northern Rwanda, they set up a Zoom call with the local medical team. One of several conversations with Abida Adnan, a local expert from the University of Global Health Equity in Butaro, features in an upcoming episode of the RLS Water Club's podcast, which they said will be uploaded to YouTube this month.

### Going deep

In kind, the Water Club hopes to have a profound impact over the next two years.

The Taylors' ultimate goal is to raise approximately \$50,000 to purchase footwear, soap, wash bins and pumps to supply clean water to communities across the region.

The rest of the money will support the construction of a local medical center to help treat those with the disease, which can be managed with topical medicines and other non-invasive remedies.

The Taylors transferred from a Menlo Park high school to Stevenson in 2024, and Lauren said the school's unique location may have planted the seed even before the hotel faucet incident.

"Water is so central to this area, between what's used to irrigate the golf courses, and the ocean," Lauren said, adding that she and her sister often participate in beach cleanups for community service.

"When we presented at a school fair, we had people coming up and asking 'Water Club? What's this all about?' We have students from all different backgrounds and interests, because water is such a prevalent issue here," according to Caroline, who said the club is reaching out to local businesses and nonprofits to better understand the issues close to home.

## Council urges public to weigh in on work list

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

IS PARKING at the top of the list of issues you'd like to see the Carmel City Council tackle? Economic development? Public artwork? Higher taxes? The council will hold a "strategic priorities workshop" Jan. 22 to help set goals and identify items of greatest importance to elected officials and the public. The session will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., offering ample time for constituents to drop in and share their thoughts, and will take place in the Carmel Woman's Club across from Sunset Center at San Carlos and Ninth.

"This workshop will provide an opportunity for the city council to discuss and receive input on the city's strategic priorities," the announcement reads. "Community participation is strongly encouraged!"

The meeting will be held in a hybrid format, with participation available in person and via Zoom, and lunch will be provided for those in attendance. The Zoom link will be posted on the agenda when it's published online at ci.carmel.ca.us — click on the "meetings" tab — and written comments can be sent to cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us, with "Priorities Workshop Comment" in the subject line.



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# It pops up, goes around in circles and needs a new home

By KELLY NIX

THE OWNERS of a pop-up skating rink in Monterey — which attracts hundreds of skaters every weekend — are seeking a new spot for the business.

Since mid-2025, Max Troyer and business partner Morgan Goyette have operated Monterey Skates, a temporary rink in a large room at the Monterey Fairgrounds which offers skating for all ages two weekends per month.

“I’ve had people say, ‘I used to skate when I was a kid and can’t wait to bring my own kids to the rink,’” Troyer said. “We are getting a great response from the community.”

At the end of March, however, Monterey Skates is losing its spot in the fairgrounds’ King City Room. It’s

seeking another temporary or permanent venue from which to operate, something Troyer has long tried to find on the Peninsula.

“We have a van with about 400 pairs of rental skates in it,” he explained. “We can bring the party to you. All we need is a floor to set up shop. We have a snack bar with plenty of drinks and snacks.”

### Diverse clientele

Troyer said they’d like a building that has room for a 150-foot by 65-foot skating surface, with additional space for seating, a snack bar, rental skate counter, and bathrooms.

“This would require a building at least 15,000 square feet,” ideally with no columns, “which is why it’s so

challenging to find a suitable space.”

He said people of all ages go to Monterey Skates, from little ones to older folk. It offers family skate days, high school and college nights on Saturdays, 18-and-over nights on Sundays, and other events, including lessons and birthday parties. Troyer said that skaters from South Monterey County drive up to the rink.

The rink’s soft opening was attended by Keith Burchell, the owner of the former Del Monte Gardens, a Monterey roller skating venue that closed in 2011, and the owner of Water City, a rink in Marina that closed in 2020.

Prices range from \$12 to \$15 for a session, which lasts several hours. It costs \$5 to rent skates, but skaters can bring their own pair.

For tickets and information, go to [montereyskates.com](http://montereyskates.com).

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# ADDRESSES

From page 1A

the city are also shown in brown, since their numbers will not change. Parcels with numbers assigned are in blue, and zooming in shows the last six digits of the attached APN — 191006 for the lot where Carmel City Hall is located, for instance.

The map represents a trial run and is therefore imperfect. For example, it misses multiple houses on a single lot. A property on the south side of Fifth Avenue west of Lincoln Street is assigned an address of 332 Fifth Ave., while the adjacent property to the west is assigned 502 Monte Verde St. Those numbers are based on the orientation of the homes' front doors, but the system entirely misses a small house on Fifth between the two, because it's on the Monte Verde Street lot. And a corner lot at northeast Camino Real and Ninth inexplicably has no number assigned.

When the draft was released, officials warned against considering its numbers to be set in stone.

## Point of entry

In addition to posting the map at [ci.carmel.ca.us/street-addresses](http://ci.carmel.ca.us/street-addresses), the city offers a five-step guide to using and understanding it. It specifically addresses corner lots, which have addresses assigned based on their most obvious points of access.

"Following a review of best practices implemented by other cities, County of Monterey, and guidance provided by public safety officials, the city determined that corner lot addresses will be assigned based on the safest and most

effective point of entry for emergency responders and public safety," the guide explains.

Police Chief Todd Trayer and now-retired Fire Chief Andrew Miller "advised that while some residences may have more than one entryway, the widest and most accessible door is designated as the primary point of entry for emergency response purposes. This approach accounts for the size, volume, training, operational requirements, and best practices for public safety."

The map also requires users to acknowledge a

disclaimer regarding its content and use.

To field questions and receive feedback, the street address group will host a walk-in session at city hall in council chambers on Monte Verde south of Ocean — theoretically, 662 Monte Verde St. — Jan. 23 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Community members are invited to stop by to discuss the proposed addressing system and other aspects of the changeover, which is expected to be completed in May. To use the map, visit [ci.carmel.ca.us/street-addresses](http://ci.carmel.ca.us/street-addresses). Questions can be sent to [askstreetaddresses@ci.carmel.ca.us](mailto:askstreetaddresses@ci.carmel.ca.us).

# COLORS

From page 10A

questioned the point of the policy and the council's role in it.

"I'm wondering how we can even legally do this," he said. "We're talking about providing alternative pathways for dozens of projects. This is not appropriate, this is something that planning has to do, or the historic resources board has to do, or the planning commission has to do. This is just not our job."

Baron also suggested the planning commission review "all roof conversions," such as a change from wood to composite shingles.

"Someone at the planning commission should have the responsibility of looking and saying, 'This is good,' or 'not

good,'" he said.

Delves countered that planners, not commissioners, are better equipped to decide on roofing applications, considering they have more experience and institutional knowledge.

"I don't think I can regulate staff and their judgment," argued Delves, a former planning commissioner. "We need this path sooner than later, and this is not getting us there. I don't think we're making progress."

Swanson suggested removing the color palette and sticking with the "earth tones" description.

He also agreed with Buder's suggestion for safe-harbor combinations and recommended making changes to the policy and running it past the planning commission before bringing it back to the city council for another go.

After Mayor Dale Byrne observed that doing so would add another couple of months to the process, the council decided to do as Swanson recommended.

## ANNE MARGARET BELL

Jan. 28, 1931 ❖ Jan. 10, 2026

Anne Margaret Bell passed away peacefully at Carmel Valley Manor on January 10th, less than three weeks before her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.

She is survived by her loving family members including her four children and their spouses: Peggy Anne Bell (Mark) Platt of Pacific Grove, Patricia Alice Bell Selbicky of Pacific Grove, Paula Theresa Bell (Antonio) Ramirez of Rancho Murieta and Lawrence James (Pamela) Bell of Salinas. She also leaves behind two siblings: Margaret Rigdon de Rivera and Jonathan Rigdon, as well as 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Anne, the oldest daughter of Col. Jonathan M. Rigdon and Alice Godsey Rigdon, was born on Jan. 28, 1931, at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC. She is preceded in death by her parents; brother, Tommy Rigdon and sister Edith Rigdon Ursino; as well as her son-in-law, Michael John Selbicky and grandson, Matthew Vincent Selbicky, and her former husband, Robert John Bell.

Anne grew up an Army brat in the 1930s and throughout World War II. The Rigdon family was stationed all over the United States as well as Panama and in Japan during the aftermath of World War II. As a child, her family was stationed in Fort Ord where she attended Sunset School in Carmel as well as Carmel High School from 1945-1947. In 1947 the Rigdon family transferred to Chicago, where Anne graduated from high school. After high school graduation, Anne returned to her beloved Carmel where she attended Monterey Peninsula College and obtained her AA degree. She eventually married Robert Bell, an old Carmel High School sweetheart.

Anne and Bob had four children and raised them in Carmel and then in Carmel Valley. The family eventually moved to Corral de Tierra where Anne became a school secretary for the Washington Union School District. She also had the distinct honor of becoming the first woman bus driver in the district. She was known all over Corral de Tierra and San Benancio as the minibus driver!

Anne was always up for adventure and friends! Her passions included music, tennis and travel!

Anne's passion for music was evident! She played the piano and the cello. She later became a member of the Monterey Symphony Choir where she and other choir members were able to travel to St. Petersburg, Russia and perform. One of her greatest joys was to be able to participate as an audience member in the many wonderful Monterey Symphony concerts as well as the annual Carmel Bach Festival.

Anne was a tennis ICON on the Monterey Peninsula! She was one of the first members of The Carmel Valley Racquet Club, now known as CVAC. She could be found playing doubles or singles in any given competition around the peninsula as well as the state. At one point she was ranked No. 8 in Northern California in the Women's 50s Category. She was a fierce competitor on the courts but always a good friend afterward!

In her many travels, Anne has journeyed to such locations as Africa, Cuba, Greece, Italy, Russia and the UK. Her most unforgettable travel adventures included visiting the African plains and seeing the wildlife, as well as journeying with her favorite traveling companion, her oldest daughter, Peggy, as they toured Paris and completed a cross-country trip throughout the United States.

Carmel has always held a special place in her heart. She became politically and civically active at a local level, serving on several committees which included The Cherry Foundation, The Carmel Residents Association, The Flanders Foundation, The Alliance on Aging and, at the request of then Mayor Ken White, The Carmel Historical Preservation Committee and The Recreation Commission. Other political-based organizations included The League of Women Voters.

Even after being active both civically and politically, Anne wanted to finish college. She obtained a bachelor's degree from San Jose State University in liberal studies in 1982 while working at the Pebble Beach Company. She eventually pursued a career in real estate where she worked with The Mitchell Group in Carmel.

Anne was always a friend to all. Her sense of humor and friendly personality will be sorely missed by her loved ones. The family would like to thank all the staff at Carmel Valley Manor, as well as Central Coast Home Health and Hospice for their loving care. There will be a private family graveside service soon.

In lieu of flowers, the family would ask you to kindly consider a donation in Anne's memory to the SPCA Monterey County — [www.spcamc.org](http://www.spcamc.org)

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

God is good.



## TINKER LEE DERANIAN

Tinker Lee Deranian passed away peacefully on Jan. 4, 2026, after living with Alzheimer's disease for 10 years. Born in Tonopah, Nevada, on Jan. 1, 1943, to Harold and Virginia Ollenberger, Tinker grew up in Fresno, CA with three siblings. Throughout her childhood she reveled in sports of all kinds, an interest she pursued with pleasure throughout her life, and was an avid tennis player at Central High School. Tinker also met her beloved husband of 45 years, Paul Deranian, in Fresno.

Tinker and Paul initially lived in San Jose. Weekend skiing trips were her passion after Paul introduced her to the slopes. After moving to the Monterey Peninsula, Tinker quickly became a "golfaholic" and a member of Carmel Valley Ranch for 15 years, and was Ladies Club Champion for several of those years. She was also a superb tennis player and loved biking, hiking and any other adventure Paul could offer.

Fondly called a "pioneer woman," Tinker was also a gifted cook and loved to knit, bake, sew, plan and work in her glorious gardens.

In addition to her devoted husband, Paul, Tinker is survived by her daughters, Jamie Hodoian (Larry) of Morro Bay, Shelly Lindahl (Linden) of Fresno; grandson, Joshua Lindahl; brother, Harold Ollenberger of Brookings, Oregon and sister, Debra Sievers of Sun Valley, Idaho. She was preceded in death by her parents and elder sister, Patricia Snapp.

Tinker spent the last two years at Vista Harden Ranch in Salinas, CA, where she received excellent care from a compassionate staff of caregivers.

**A Celebration of Life for Tinker will be held at a later date this spring. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the Alzheimer's Association, 2 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 150, Monterey, CA 93940.**



# WATER

From page 1A

and Swanson and Byrne argue that getting rid of the meter ban will allow the city to begin fulfilling some of the promises made in its housing element to facilitate the addition of 349 residential units over an eight-year period.

“Our communities are eager to start fulfilling the regional housing needs allocation in order to have more affordable housing options for local workforce employees,” the letter says. “Working to align business and housing interests for the benefit of our members is a win for all communities on the Monterey Peninsula.”

Modifying the order, they say, would “allow our area the opportunity to have some independence in developing projects that work for our residents and businesses.”

### 5.4 million gallons

In November 2025, the city council decided how the new water should be allocated. The incoming 14 acre-feet will boost the city’s share to 16.661 acre-feet, or 5.4 million gallons, per year. The council voted to earmark 3 acre-feet for low- and very-low-income housing and 6 acre-feet for all types of residential uses, including accessory dwelling units, but with the proviso that, “No water shall be allocated to a project that would both increase the floor area on a parcel and result in a floor area for the parcel greater than that specified” in the Carmel Municipal Code. The remaining 2 acre-feet will go for commercial uses, with no additional restrictions, and 3 acre-feet for municipal projects.

Without much discussion, the council unanimously voted to send the letter.

# OUTBREAK

From page 12A

stranded sea lions,” he observed.

While the center relies on people to alert them to sick marine mammals — and encourages them to do so — Rulli urged them to keep their distance and call (415) 289-SEAL.

“It’s an extremely virulent disease that can be fatal to dogs as well,” he noted. “Call the experts.”

Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the center bills itself as the world’s largest marine mammal hospital. It has rescued 27,000 sea mammals since its inception. It’s funded by a mix of private donations — 88 percent — and taxpayer-funded grants, 12 percent. In 2025 alone, its hotline received 22,000 calls.

Rulli called the move of the facility to Castroville “a resounding success” during a “difficult and challenging year.” He also noted that “hundreds of marine mammals have been brought through its doors.”

“Through it all, we remain hopeful and we know our work matters,” Rulli added. “We are incredibly thankful for the public support we receive.”

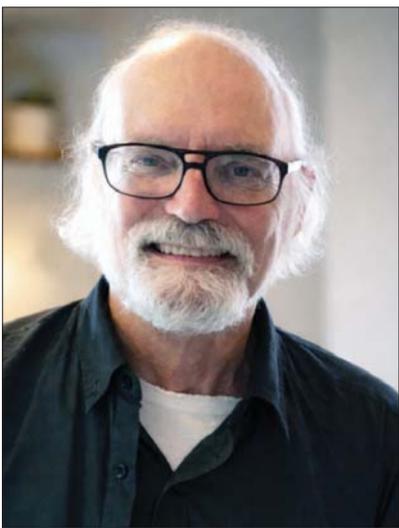


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### CHRISTOPHER LOUIS DURNEY

Sept. 29, 1949 – Nov. 20, 2025

Chris Durney, 76, passed away on Nov. 20, 2025. A beloved brother, favorite uncle and loyal friend, Chris was a member of a long-established California family with roots dating back to the early 1900s in both the Monterey, Carmel and Petaluma areas. Chris graduated from Monterey High School in 1967 and spent many of his early years surfing off Lovers Point in Pacific Grove where he was nicknamed Thrasher for his unique surfing style.

A lover of history, Chris devoted himself to preserving his family’s legacy, researching and documenting generations of ancestry. He cherished time with friends and family and enjoyed travel, hiking and being in nature. Despite living for years with chronic heart failure, Chris faced his illness with grace and good humor. Just the night before his passing, he was enjoying live music and cocktails with friends happily anticipating the holidays.

Chris devoted his career to the California state hospital system, caring for patients, working primarily the night shift and often joking that he was one of the few who truly stayed awake all night. A proud alumnus of San Francisco State University, he was the only member of his family to earn a master’s degree and was a devoted advocate for education, generously helping his niece complete college.

Chris was preceded in death by his parents, Janice and Alfred Durney; and his aunt, Dr. Mary Heyes, who encouraged his career in medicine. He is survived by his brother, Joseph Durney; niece, Jennifer Bliss (Gregg Bliss) and nephew Matthew Durney.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to Hospice of Petaluma and Springfield Place for their compassionate care. In keeping with his lifelong dedication to learning, Chris donated his remains to UC Davis. A memorial plaque will be placed at the White Family plot at Cypress Hill Memorial Park.

Chris leaves behind a legacy of curiosity, compassion and proof that staying up late, helping others and enjoying good music and company is a life well lived.

**Those wishing to honor Chris are invited to make a donation in his name to Hospice of Petaluma or the American Heart Association — causes close to his heart in every way.**



### Ernestine Eaton Saunders

Mrs. Ernestine Eaton Saunders, born in Tupelo, Mississippi on July 8, 1934, to Mattie B. and William Steen Eaton, passed away at home at age 91 surrounded by family on Jan. 6, 2026. She was known to her friends as Ernie and to her nieces and nephews as “Aunt Teenie.”

She married her high school sweetheart, Ret. CDR Richard Edward Saunders, on Oct. 6, 1956, in Memphis, Tennessee. In 1969 they settled on the Monterey Peninsula, after a nomadic Navy adventure. She managed her duties as a Navy officer’s wife with grace and raised three children lovingly. A fine athlete, she bowled a perfect game at the NPS bowling alley. But her first love was tennis. She was known at CVAC as “queen of the court.” She played until her mid-80s. She loved watching her San Francisco Giants, Forty-Niners and Warriors. When the games were on, she was not shy to give her coaching advice!

She was preceded in death by her mother, father, two younger sisters and daughter-in-law, Lynne Saunders.

Ernie leaves behind her husband of more than 69 years and three children: Michael Saunders, Michelle Rudolph and Sandra Wickline (Anthony). She also leaves five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren: Tyler, William, Matthew, Spencer, Madeline, Anderson and Jazmine. She is loved by many and will be missed by all who knew her.

### Obituary Notices

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

**Anne Papineau (831) 274-8654**



### SUSANNE SHARPE TYLER

Jan. 9, 1937 – Jan. 11, 2026

**Pebble Beach, California** — Susanne passed away peacefully in Pebble Beach, California, on Jan. 11, 2026, with family by her side. She was a beloved wife and mother, known for her elegance, intelligence and curiosity.

Susanne was an avid reader, bird watcher, inspired cook, trivia buff, British detective series devotee and well-informed on all current events. Her home was always filled with fresh orchids, succulents and seasonal blooms, reflecting her love and care of flowers.

Raised in Riverside, California, Susanne attended the University of California, Berkeley, where she was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority. It was there that she met the love of her life, Bill, at a sorority picnic. Married for 67 years, their connection was profound. She relocated many times with her family as her husband completed flight training school and later pursued a career in insurance and real estate.

Two major influences in her life were her father, Dr. Walter E. Sharpe, and her maternal grandmother, Amy Vickery Bright, known as “Tiny Grandmother.” Amy helped raise Susanne while her own mother worked as a radio and newspaper journalist.

Susanne is predeceased by her husband, Bill. She leaves behind her daughters, Kathleen Wood (Charles), Marlene Ciatti (John) and Amy Tyler; as well as eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Susanne was a member of the Junior League, Colonial Dames and the Casa Abrego Club in Monterey, California.

The family would like to deeply thank Dr. Richard King and Dr. Thomas Kehl as well as Shannon (Hospice of the Central Coast) and Ileini (Ileini’s Care Inc.), for their loving care.

There will be a private service for family.

# DRIVER

From page 1A

said alcohol was not believed to be a factor in the crash.

Because the investigation remains open, the CHP has not cited Lauchlan.

“Officers are working diligently to conduct a thorough investigation,” Bhaurla said Tuesday. “The CHP takes crashes seriously, and fatal crashes can be very complex. However, officers are working to complete this crash, and we will have answers for you as soon as they become



Monterey resident and longtime CSUMB professor Seth Pollack was hit and killed by a car while bicycling in Pebble Beach last month.

available.”

The investigating officer is encouraging anyone with information about the accident to contact the CHP Monterey Area office at (831) 770-8000 or email montereychp-tips@chp.ca.gov.

## PATRICIA K. ISHIZUKA

It is with sadness that the family shares that Patricia K. Ishizuka, 73, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 29, 2025. An admired daughter, sister and friend, Trisha, as her family and friends called her, was defined by determination, independence, generosity, kindness, quick wit and strength. She left an unforgettable impact on all she met. Her passing has left a deep void in many hearts.



Born on Oct. 2, 1952, Trisha grew up in Pacific Grove, California, as the eldest of four. Trisha enjoyed gardening, new adventures (kayaking to dog sledding to name a few), traveling, meeting new people and spending time with friends and family.

She is survived by her cats, Maurice and Pumpkin; her brother, David (Christy); her sisters, Terri (Stan) and Kathi; numerous nieces; a nephew and a large diverse group of friends. Trisha was preceded in death by her parents, John and Momoyo Ishizuka.

Trisha was lucky to have a large scope of friends greater than her family knowledge. In lieu of a service her family asks you to privately celebrate Trisha's memory in your own way.



## HAROLD BLAKE FIRSTMAN

Harold Blake Firstman, 88, of Pacific Grove, passed away peacefully at home on May 7, 2025.

Born in 1936, Harold spent his early years in Monterey climbing trees along Shell Avenue, making kites and learning to oil paint the ocean just one block from his home.

At age 10, he moved with his family to Southern California, where he attended school, worked in the family shoe store, and devoted himself to golf. By 13, his talent earned him a role portraying a young Ben Hogan in the 1951 film “Follow the Sun,” where he spent a month on set with his childhood golf hero. Though he appeared in a few other small acting roles, Harold always chose golf over Hollywood.

In 1953, Harold earned a full golf scholarship to Lamar University in Texas. He majored in business with a minor in studio art and competed with his team, winning several national championships. He later said the lifelong friendships formed during those years mattered far more than any trophies. While living in the South, he witnessed racial segregation firsthand, an experience that deeply shaped his values. Years later, a private club he managed became the first in Southern California to welcome non-white members.

Harold returned to California and met his future wife, Nancy, on a last-minute blind date. He knew after one evening that she was the one, and they married in 1960. The couple settled in San Diego, where Harold worked as a teaching professional before joining the PGA Tour full time. Traveling with two young children proved challenging, and after two years, when an opportunity arose in Monterey, Harold and Nancy jumped at the chance to return to the Peninsula. As head professional at Laguna Seca, Harold continued to compete, earning multiple wins and being named Northern California PGA Player of the Year in 1974. From then on, his oldest son Jeff affectionately referred to him as “the '74 Pro.”

Around that time, Harold founded his own golf tournament, inviting PGA Tour friends to the Peninsula. The event quickly gained national television coverage and drew further attention when he introduced a groundbreaking format pairing male and female professionals in direct competition, described by Sports Illustrated as the first of its kind. The tournament later became the Callaway Pebble Beach Invitational.

Harold went on to enjoy a lifelong career directing professional golf events around the world, including the first Skins Game, which brought together Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Tom Watson and Gary Player.

In the words of Harold's grandchildren, “Grandpa lived a truly extraordinary life.” He will be remembered most for his warmth, humor, and kindness, and for the joy he found in time spent with family. Harold is survived by his wife, Nancy; his children, Jeff and Blake; his daughter-in-law, Jill; and his grandchildren, Hailey and Owen.

## Judith 'Judy' Joan Borah Kenyon

Judith Joan Borah Kenyon (Judy) passed away peacefully at 96 years old in Los Angeles on Tuesday, Jan. 6.

Judy was born in South Bend, Indiana during the Great Depression and came from a hardworking Czechoslovakian immigrant family. Judy attended Mishawaka High School and graduated in 1947. During those years Judy developed a lifelong love for joining clubs and community groups as a way to share her interests, build friendships and give purpose to her life. She remained close with many of the friends she met during that time throughout her life.



Judy was defined by her love of learning, her high standards for herself, and her constant desire for a better future. Upon graduating from high school, she was honored as salutatorian and received the Daughters of the American Revolution United States History Award. These achievements led to acceptance at Northwestern University on a full scholarship, an uncommon opportunity for women and the time, and one she often said she never could have imagined as a young girl in a small town during that era.

Perseverance and independence were among Judy's greatest strengths. While at Northwestern, she pursued business and accounting courses at a time when women were actively discouraged from doing so, once being told that she was taking the place of a male student who would “actually use these skills.” She refused to let that deter her. Although she did not pursue a formal business career, her studies sparked a lifelong passion for finance and investing. She could often be found reading The Wall Street Journal and Barron's from cover to cover, and

faithfully watching her favorite financial advisor on television, Jim Cramer from “Mad Money.”

She was blessed to meet her husband, David H. Kenyon, one day in an accounting class at Northwestern. They fell in love and were married for 60 years. They moved to California and raised two children, Darryl D. Kenyon of Carmel and Laura B. Rosenwald of Encino. They lived in San Mateo, California and enjoyed the beautiful Baywood area of the city. During that time Judy worked at the Mills-Peninsula Medical Center in Burlingame and the San Mateo Medical Center.

Judy devoted much of her free time to community service and advocacy. She was active in the Sierra Club, Planned Parenthood and the League of Women Voters, and had a strong interest in land conservation and wildlife protection when the Bay Area was experiencing a period of expansion and building in the 1970s and 1980s.

After retiring, Judy and David moved to Carmel Valley, where they built deep friendships and spent many happy afternoons in the pool and hot tub at the Carmel Valley Athletic Club. Judy also held a leadership role at the Carmel-by-the-Sea Chapter of the American Red Cross and was an active member of The Carmel Foundation and the Carmel Woman's Club.

Even in her later years, Judy's curiosity and love of the world never faded. She especially liked walking along Carmel Beach, spending time at the Carmel library, and exploring Big Sur, finding deep enjoyment in the beach, books and the beauty of the California coast.

Judy taught her family many lessons and often expressed her belief that “each day is a blessing.” She valued an elegantly simple life centered around learning, family and community. In addition to her children, Darryl and Laura, she is survived by her grandchildren, Colin Kenyon, Alissa Mahoney and Natalie Doyle and Brent and Brooke Rosenwald and her six great-grandchildren.

Her life was marked by deep curiosity, lasting generosity and the warmth she showed others.

A Celebration of Judy's life for friends and family will be held at Darryl and Geri Kenyon's home at 7523 Fawn Court, Carmel today, Friday, Jan. 16 from 5 to 7 p.m. Judy will be buried next to her husband in Monterey after a family service at St. John's Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorial and tribute contributions may be made on behalf of Judith to The Carmel Foundation by calling Laurel at (831) 624-1588.

# Editorial

## The voice of the people

IT'S HARD to imagine today, but 120 years ago, when Carmel was in its early stages of development, nobody had electricity.

By the time the city was incorporated in 1916, wires had been strung over the hill from Monterey and a few houses had electric service, but as late as 1925, local purveyor Coast Valleys Gas and Electric Company was bragging that it had "extended electric service to 800 new customers" in Salinas, Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel and running ads in The Pine Cone advising property owners to plan ahead.

"The time to lay out your electric wiring installation is in the blueprint stage," the company warned. "Don't wait until the house is nearly finished."

Once you had electricity in your home, Coast Valleys went on, you'd enjoy the comforts of, "abundant hot water, convenient electric cookery, clean dependable heat and labor-saving equipment in the laundry."

We're sure that Carmel was a charming, rustic haven before all that arrived. But here's the kicker: A search of our archives reveals no opposition to the implementation of universal electric service. No one rallied before the city council or penned letters to the editor crying, "Keep Carmel dark!" Some innovations are so vital that even the most reactionary activists embrace them, it seems.

The same couldn't be said for street addresses. In January 1926, as the city council debated an ordinance mandating house numbers "to facilitate the delivery of telegrams and special letters," they learned that "a number of residents would refuse to display them," according to a front-page story in The Pine Cone. The council set a stiff penalty: \$50 or 25 days in jail. But just months later, they backtracked, making the system optional, and as the years went by, almost everyone declined to have one.

Fast-forward a century, and those 1926 house numbers are finally rolling out citywide. What shifted? Public necessity — and opinion.

Needless to say, the opposition is still there.

In 2006, the late former councilmember Barbara Livingston told another resident that if she didn't like the idea of having to go to the post office to pick up her mail, "Well, there are other places to live." And in this week's edition, a letter to the editor from a frequent visitor says it's "shocking" to see Carmel lose its "uniqueness" by implementing street numbers. "It's as though a few who complain outweigh all the others and force changes for things that otherwise endured for a century as a treasured part of the city," the letter says.

But the frequent visitor misses the point. Street addresses are becoming a reality not because of a loudmouthed few, but because the majority wants them. Over time, having a number on your house has become just as much of a necessity as having electricity. What was once an occasional convenience for the delivery of "telegrams and special mail" is now an essential part of 21st century living, not only for packages and utilities, but for emergency services. People are living much longer now than they did in the 1920s, and they want to stay healthier longer, too.

Representative democracy was invented for the purpose of settling civic disputes, and, "Should we have house numbers?" is a perfect example of one suitable for a small-town city council. Carmel's council voted 5-0 for addresses, and the majority of people undoubtedly agree.

## BEST of BATES



"God put me on earth to do a certain number of things, and I'm so far behind I'll never die."

## Letters to the Editor

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

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

### Flowers not towers

Dear Editor,

For the past few years, I have been part of a resident group that has worked diligently to get a wireless (cell tower) ordinance that protects our neighborhoods. We have had unprecedented support in keeping cell tower proliferation out of our charming, historic neighborhoods, with more than 800 residents sending postcards in support of our efforts.

Unfortunately, Verizon has decided to ignore the wishes of Carmel residents and test our wireless ordinance by applying for a cell site in an R-1 (single-family) residential zone. The proposed site is on Carmelo between 10th and 11th. They want to put it in front of a beautifully restored historic home. It would be very close to their window, their front door, and their driveway. If we allow this to happen, I fear it will open the door to proliferation in Carmel neighborhoods and negate the purpose

of our wireless ordinance.

I don't believe anyone is opposed to Verizon providing service to our community if they can show a significant gap. Our community would like telecom companies to show respect for the historic, charming nature of our town and place sites, using the least intrusive locations as required by law. We don't want the cheapest solution; we want the most thoughtful and aesthetically pleasing solution.

Please stand with your neighbors on Jan. 21, for the planning commission meeting at 4 p.m. at city hall. Please wear a flower in support of protecting our R-1 zones from cell tower proliferation. We want flowers, not towers, in our neighborhoods.

Christy Hollenbeck, Carmel

### Watch out

Dear Editor,

On Wednesday at 4 p.m. Carmel faces a defining moment. The planning commission will decide whether to permit 5G wireless infrastructure in a single-family neighborhood on Carmelo Street between 10th and 11th — a decision that could shape how cell towers are sited throughout our city.

I want better service too, but it's important to note that wireless carriers can often improve coverage and capacity by upgrading existing 4G/LTE infrastructure, optimizing their networks, or using less intrusive solutions — without introducing new 5G sites in residential neighborhoods.

Why this matters:

See LETTERS page 28A

- Publisher ..... Paul Miller
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## The classroom was too noisy, but the bank was just right

IN 1978, Patti Hughes was a 5-mile-a-day runner and a fourth-year high school guidance counselor on Long Island, N.Y. On summer vacation in San Francisco, she was spellbound watching the sun come up over the city on her daily run to the Golden Gate Bridge and back. "This is the most beautiful place in the world," she said to herself. "I want to live here."

While she was still there, she called the school where she was a counselor and told them she was moving to California and wouldn't be back in September. Their response was, "Are you crazy?"

Hughes grew up on Long Island. She went to the State University of New York at New Paltz and graduated in 1972 with degrees in psychology and elementary education. At Hofstra University, she completed a master's in counseling education. She knew the classroom wasn't for her after student-teaching a semester of second graders.

"I don't like noise. The chatter was constant. I used to put a pillow over my head for an hour to calm myself when I got home," she confessed.

Hofstra's dean of students said, "You're really good with people. You should give counseling a try." She took a class in the subject and became absorbed in it. "I really cared about counseling and realized how much I enjoyed helping kids. I loved every minute," she offered.

### Murphy bed

Hughes arrived in San Francisco in August 1978 with no job. She unhitched her tiny U-Haul trailer in the Safeway parking lot in the Marina District and drove around in search of a place to live. "I found a little studio with a Murphy bed, nearby for \$275 a month, and it was three blocks from the water. I thought I'd died and gone to heaven," she said.

She discovered California wouldn't accept her New York counseling credential and took a job selling calculators from

the decency to let me discharge that?"

They met in downtown San Francisco for coffee. After a long conversation, she said, he told her he thought she'd be great at Wells Fargo, where they were looking for someone to design a performance planning and review system. She interviewed



PHOTO/COURTESY PATTY HUGHES

Patti Hughes can look back on a successful banking career as she shares a quiet moment with her newest four-legged friend, Reba.

and was hired as a consultant at \$80 a day. When she finished, Hughes became a full-time employee tasked with training regional managers statewide in its use.

"They didn't like my New York accent, so they hired a speech consultant to rid me of it. It took a long time," she admitted.

When her new friend from Stanford Business School knew her contract was about to expire, he told her what to ask for when negotiating a new one. "I can't ask for that. They wouldn't pay it," she objected.

"They would," he insisted, and he wouldn't let her leave until she could say, "I want \$250 a day and I'll work three days a week." To her surprise, they agreed.

### Time to move on

Hughes became an assistant vice president, then vice president and head of employee relations for Wells Fargo retail banking, helping bring branch managers together and successfully steering them through bank deregulation in the early 1980s.

Wanting a change, she took a position in the company marketing 401(k) retirement plans. "I had to learn about investments. It was mentally challenging and stimulating and I loved it," Hughes professed. At one time, she managed more than 100 people

See **LIVES** next page

## Great Lives

By **CARLIN JARDINE**

September to December, barely making enough to pay the rent. A friend asked a director at Stanford Business School to call her and help her find a way into the financial world.

"When he called, I said 'Thank you, but I don't need any help. I'm going to do this on my own.' He replied, 'I owe a responsibility to my friend. Would you at least have

Don't miss "Scenic Views" by Jerry Gervase — every week in the Real Estate Section.

## DO NOT ADJUST YOUR TELEVISION — IT REALLY IS FULL OF LIVE FISH

THE COZY studio space Abby Rose Bettencourt shares with another artist at Pacific Grove Art Center overlooks a world she doesn't take for granted. Beyond the second-floor window is a magical place, brimming with inspiration, possibilities, and a future waiting to be explored.

When she was 19, Bettencourt endured a craniotomy to remove a brain tumor — benign, thankfully — followed by more than a year of recovery and rehabilitation.

semester, I'll be teaching a specialty course — metalsmithing — which I've never taught. So, all of a sudden, I have to scramble and create that curriculum, which will be an interesting experience."

Teaching Monday and Wednesday classes, plus lab hours, takes up about eight hours each week. The rest of her time waits to be allocated.

As an artist, she follows her heart, pursuing multiple disciplines: expressionist/impressionist-style paintings and digital illustrations, colorful jewelry, quirky sculptures, and repurposing nostalgic found items.

## Carmel's Artists

By **DENNIS TAYLOR**

Today, at 34, she wakes up each morning to the thrill of another day to be seized.

"People ask why I don't do more art about that experience. The answer is that it doesn't really define me," she said of the medical ordeal. "But it changed my perspective and my heart. I think it taught me that life is limited — you never know what's going to happen, so you might as well strive for what you want and what you love."

She just finished her seventh semester as an adjunct art instructor at Monterey Peninsula College, where her students range in age from 17 to 70-plus.

"I love it. I like being able to shepherd these students through the creative process," said Bettencourt, who also teaches workshops through MPC's continuing education program.

### 'Learning in hyperdrive'

"And learning things myself in hyperdrive has been great," she said. "Next

1950s-vintage television sets that I've collected," Bettencourt laughed. She replaced the original screen from a Packard-Bell TV with an antique 18-gallon aquarium she filled with water and live fish.

"I'd love to make a series of those for a future exhibition," she said. "I've also thought about approaching dentists' offices or maybe therapeutic offices about renting a TV-aquarium for their waiting rooms."

### Slumped glass

"Abby's Playhouse" — another repurposed vintage aquarium with live fish — stands 5 1/2 feet tall. It's inside a cabinet, giving it an arcade-game appearance.

"It's fun, because it has this big, bulbous front, which has a magnifying effect on the fish, giving them a surreal look," she said.

A mineral-oil fountain, cast from one of her grandmother's cooking pots, rains down on a mountain of slumped glass. The piece sits on her grandparents' old coffee table.

Selling her work isn't a priority, but Bettencourt does market some custom-made jewelry — colorful, ornate pendants, rings, necklaces, and other wearable ornaments.

"I attribute my abilities with small-metal arts to the fact that I have an organized mind, and that kind of art is very process-oriented," said Bettencourt, who sits on the board of the Monterey Bay Metal Arts Guild. "It starts on the computer, then goes through a ton of different stages before a piece is finished."

Her original plan after graduating from San Juan Bautista's Anzar High School was neither art nor education.

"I bounced around at three different junior colleges, trying to figure out what I wanted to do," she said. "Originally, I was considering animal science, taking chemistry and

See **ARTIST** next page



PHOTO/KEITHLY BETTENCOURT

MPC art instructor Abby Bettencourt, has a diverse body of work, but enjoys creating metalwork jewelry and large sculptures like Abby's Playhouse, an aquarium with live fish.

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# LIVES

From previous page

in offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego. In 1986, after eight years with Wells Fargo and just after its merger with Crocker Bank, Hughes decided it was time to leave.

At a 1987 convention in Las Vegas, Hughes met the CEO of Dodge & Cox, a highly regarded San Francisco investment firm — one of the oldest in the country — who was impressed with Hughes' handling of a thorny issue the company had with Wells Fargo. He asked if she would consider working for them. She explained that she couldn't because Wells Fargo was going through a merger at the time, but took his card.

After the merger was finalized, she interviewed with numerous members of Dodge & Cox. Three months later, they made an offer. She began a 26-year career with the firm that ended with her retirement

**'I loved working there because of the ethics and the values'**

in 2013. When she started, the company's mutual fund business accounted for 10 percent of the \$2 billion the firm had under management.

By the time Hughes retired, that total had grown to \$240 billion, with \$200 billion in mutual funds, a significant result of her understanding of 401(k) plans.

"It was very difficult to leave that place. I loved working there because of the ethics and the values of the people I worked with. It's made a huge difference in my life," she said.

### Many loves

Hughes and her husband, John, a leasing agent for Bank of America, were married in 1993, and in 2007, they bought a second home in Carmel Woods. He died a year later after a fall in the Grand Canyon, and Hughes moved here in 2019.

In 2016, she met and became best friends with retired lawyer Bob Lanzone and his wife, Barbara.

A year after Barbara passed, Hughes and Lanzone began spending time together, dated, and vacationed in Paris, where Bob proposed. They married in December

sages to fraudulently make them believe the contact was a legitimate part of the massage.

A masseur or masseuse should not touch a person's breasts or genitals during a massage. The Massage Therapy Act codified in California Business and Professions Code section 4609 states it is a violation of the act for a masseur or masseuse to massage the genitals or anal region of any person, or to massage female breasts without both the written consent of the person receiving the massage and a referral from a licensed California health-care provider.

In addition to Monterey County Sheriff's deputy Worden and then-deputy Guevera, the prosecution was assisted by district attorney investigator Rachel Maldonado. The Does were assisted by the district attorney's office victim advocate Kristin Peterson.

# GAVEL

From page 4A

clude Selig from holding a massage license or certificate in California.

During 2022, Jane Does 1, 2, 3, and 4 each received massages from Selig. During the massages of Does 1 and 4, Selig touched both women's breasts and vaginas, making skin-to-skin contact. During Doe 3's massage, Selig touched her breasts, also making skin-to-skin contact. Selig began to touch Doe 2's breasts, but she was able to stop him once she realized his fraudulent intent. No penetration or forcible restraint occurred during any of the incidents. When Selig touched the victims, he did so during the course of the mas-



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2025. That same year she was asked to be on the board of Animal Friends Rescue Project in Pacific Grove. Along with financial expertise, Hughes brings a deep love and passion for animals to the organization.

"A number of people have told me they would love to come back as one of my dogs," she said, "I cook for my dogs every day without fail and walk them twice every day. I carry them if they're tired or too old to keep up."

Two of her companions, Sophie and Jazzy, were with her for most of their lives until they died. In the October 2021 Pine Cone, Hughes saw a picture of Aspen,

a blind shih tzu at Peace of Mind Dog Rescue.

"I thought I might be able to have her eyes fixed, so I picked her up and brought her home. She was with me for two years before she passed. Sadly, her eyes couldn't be helped," she explained.

Reba, a Havanese/shih tzu mix, and her husband's Duffy — a Havanese — are the most recent beneficiaries of her largesse.

At Dodge & Cox, it was always about honesty and doing a good job, taking care of their clients as well as their employees. It's a philosophy that runs deep in Hughes' dealings with work, people and the animals she shares her life with.

# ARTIST

From previous page

organic chemistry, which were a little bit over my head."

In 2014, Bettencourt took a metal arts class at MPC from Therese Lovering-Brown, and a spark was ignited.

### Fireworks

"As soon as I touched three-dimensional metal sculpture, it was like ... fireworks," she said.

She transferred to San Jose State, earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2018 in spatial arts, then enhanced her education by working as an art preparator — someone who handles artworks for museums and exhibitions — for the Institute of Contemporary Art in San Francisco and Santa Clara's Triton Museum, and as a director and curator for a Gilroy gallery.

"I grew up in Gilroy, then became a kind of tumbleweed in the 831 area code, living in Santa Cruz, Aptos, San Juan Bautista — then all the way down to Santa Maria — before circling back to Monterey," she said.

"This place is a bit slower — much more attuned to my energy level than the hustle and bustle of San Jose. I tried to find my tribe up there, but it never really clicked."

That tribe, it turns out, was waiting for her at the Monterey Bay Metal Arts Guild

and among the students she's met as a teacher at MPC.

"I feel like I'm home," she said.

After her harrowing episode with the brain tumor, she doesn't believe in wasting time.

She aspires to open a local space complete with tools and equipment — and affordable monthly rental fees — for working artists.

Ideally, it would also provide a storefront and a gallery for subletters.

"I'm pretty driven and determined, so I think I'll always have tenacity when it comes to my art," said Bettencourt, who was recommended for the MPC teaching job by Lovering-Brown (now retired).

"I don't have a master's, so I'm incredibly proud of how far I've gotten with just a bachelor's degree," she said. "A lot of people don't do much with that."

Bettencourt will teach a glass-enamel pendant workshop at Pacific Grove Art Center (568 Lighthouse Ave.) Jan. 24 from 1 to 4 p.m. It's limited to 10 students, from beginners to advanced. The cost is \$75.

"We'll use fine glass powders, sift them onto copper, then put them in a kiln at 1,400-1,500 degrees," she said. "It's a really fun process, with immediate gratification."

To register for the workshop and see images of or purchase Bettencourt's art, visit [abbyrose.art](http://abbyrose.art).

*Dennis Taylor is a professional freelance writer in Monterey County. Contact him at [scribelaureate@gmail.com](mailto:scribelaureate@gmail.com).*



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# FINALDI

From page 6A

while successfully litigating claims against large religious entities, municipalities and Fortune 500 companies at the trial, appellate and Supreme Court levels.

But he's also been a lifelong car guy. Finaldi's grandfather moved from Italy to the United States and worked for General Motors in the 1920s before returning to his native country to open an auto shop and put his sons to work alongside him. Those men, including Finaldi's father, subsequently immigrated to the United States and opened their own automotive businesses.

"From a very young age, Vince was steeped in all aspects of the car hobby, from purchase and sale, to preservation and repair," Concours officials said when they announced Thursday he has assumed the role of president. "Over time, he became an ardent collector of significant historical automobiles, auto books and automobilia."

After retiring from practicing law full time and relocating to the Monterey Peninsula, he opened Finaldi, Inc., in Del Rey Oaks, to focus on the restoration, service and sale of European collector cars. His personal collection of more than 50 vehicles has included a Ferrari 500 Mondial and a 365 GTB/4 Daytona, a Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Gullwing, a Porsche 356 Speedster, and several Lamborghini Miuras.

According to the Concours, Finaldi, Inc., will be "put on hold as he takes on the responsibility of overseeing the world's leading collector car competition."

### The legacy

During her decades in charge, Button — who "is often cited as one of the most influential people in the collector car world" — strengthened the Concours' leadership team by instituting a selection committee and an advisory board, increased the range of show cars, added events like RetroAuto, the Tour d'Elegance and the Classic Car Forum, and expanded the Concours' reach globally. Under her guidance, it has consistently ranked as the top event of its kind in the world.

And she said she has no doubt Finaldi is well-equipped to take over.

"Vince is a car guy through and through, and I know he has both a passion and a heart for this event," Button said. "He also has a willingness to ask important

**'A car guy with a passion and a heart for this event'**

questions and listen, to think deeply and work collegially, so I have every confidence that he will continue to build successfully on the great legacy of this event."

Finaldi said he's committed to maintaining the Concours' place at the top and expanding its charitable giving. The event achieved a record \$4 million in donations in 2025 — which brought its total distributions since inception to more than \$45 million — and is aiming for the \$5 million mark this year.

### No major changes

"I don't foresee major changes," he said in the announcement. "That said, the Concours is not a static event. It evolves constantly because cars are always changing, tastes change, and new events spring up, and Sandra has done a masterful job at anticipating and supporting important changes to keep the Concours at the forefront of motoring events while honoring its storied past."

The Concours features some 200 rare vehicles, by invitation only, from all over the globe, and in honor of its racing roots, the 75th celebration will include "Pebble Beach Road Racing greats that showcase the evolution of sporting cars in the early 1950s." The collection will be curated by selection committee member Ken Gross and Del Monte Trophy Race Group steward Rob Manson. The event will also feature "iconic groups of cars that were first brought together at the Pebble Beach Concours" when it debuted alongside the P.B. Road Races in 1950.

# SUES

From page 8A

Maschmeyer said Packer received no "severance package," but that his final paycheck included a "cash-out of his accrued paid time off and the balance of his defined benefit plan." She refused to specify the amount Packer received upon his departure.

The state Office of Healthcare Affordability last year designated CHOMP as one of seven "high cost" hospitals in the state and ordered it to restrict spending growth to 1.8 percent this year, 1.7 percent in 2027 and 2028 and 1.6 percent in 2029.

Tamler alleges breach of contract, violation of state Health and Safety Code 1278.5 — which prohibits a health facility from discriminating or retaliating against whistleblowers — and other causes of action. He's seeking an undisclosed amount in monetary damages, including for past and future pay, emotional distress and consequential damages for harm to his reputation and ability to earn a living.



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COMPASS

# BUDGET

From page 1A

assessment in November 2025 that forecasted an \$18 billion funding gap that would balloon to \$35 billion in subsequent years if not closed. On Monday, Petek released a biting response warning the governor's budget could put California in an "alarming" financial position.

"Several historically reliable signs suggest the stock market is overheated and at high risk of reversing course into a downturn in the next year or so," the report reads. "Should a stock market downturn occur, income tax revenues would fall considerably. These risks are severe enough that not incorporating them into this year's budget, as the governor proposes, would put the state on precarious footing."

In case the administration does have it wrong, the draft budget is careful to note that it is just that — a draft. "A downturn in the market is one of the top risks," acknowledged Stephenshaw.

Typically, the Legislature would spend the next four months going through the details, and in May the governor will release his revision in time for the two parties to finalize a version by the June 15 constitutional deadline.

### Plenty of new spending

Aside from his differing view on where the market is headed, Petek's bone to pick with Newsom's budget is the proposal to spend more without adding new taxes.

"There are no additional taxes in this budget and no big fee increases that are part of the budget proposal at this point," said Stephenshaw on Friday. When it comes to new spending, the administration is largely limiting increases to those driven by law and inflation, but that still means an additional 8.7 percent out the door. No other revenue sources are offered to cover the additional \$600 million in expenditures, and that's a red flag for Petek, who argues California is already spending too

much.

The legislative analyst noted the \$18 billion funding gap it predicted last November was based, in part, on the state going over budget the last six months. The report went on to point out that shortfalls have become a chronic problem and reminded readers that the office's earlier forecast was "the most negative one since the Covid pandemic."

### Show me the money

Newsom's economic boon — if it pans out — would be a great way for him to end his governorship and take the leap to presidential candidate, and he'd be well advised to thank California's uber-wealthy on his way out.

The Golden State's budget relies heavily on its golden geese, with the top 1 percent of earners providing approximately 45 percent of the personal income tax revenue in the state. According to Stephenshaw, \$36.7 billion of Newsom's projected \$42.3 billion revenue increase is expected to come from personal income tax.

Zeroing in on the 2026-2027 forecast, Newsom's team is estimating \$9 billion more in revenue than anticipated based on the current strength of the economy. Actual numbers won't be known until more revenue data come in, specifically tax returns in April. For years, California's progressive tax schedule has resulted in fluctuating revenues that are almost entirely dependent on the state of the economy.

"We know that building a strong foundation for the future requires responsible budgeting that brings stability to California's naturally volatile revenue system," said Monterey Peninsula representative and Senate Budget Committee Chair John Laird. "We are pleased that under this proposal, state budget reserves would increase to \$23 billion, which will provide an important buffer against future uncertainty."

Laird said the Legislature has its work cut out for it and would be spending the next few months going through the fine print — hopefully with their rose-colored

glasses off.

The governor's optimistic outlook relies heavily on the AI-driven economy staying strong and continued investor enthusiasm in the new technology. In his State of the State address, Newsom was careful to warn lawmakers about overregulating the AI industry this year, while also praising the guardrails legislators put on the technology last session.

"The bottom line is the tech genie is out of the bottle. The question is not whether change is happening, it's what values will guide us into this new frontier," said Newsom.

The governor also said the industry represents the greatest peril or the greatest promise to jobs, the economy and our way of life. Based on his budget proposal, Newsom is leaning toward promise.

### Past promises

Those inclined to accept Newsom's optimistic view would do well to remember the last time he painted a picture of California in the gravy. In 2022, as the state's economy began to recover from the pandemic recession and state coffers were flush with federal stimulus dollars, Newsom touted a \$97.5 billion surplus.

# HIGHWAY

From page 1A

and effectiveness, they developed and deployed a top-down method that involved excavating from above the slide, removing debris and stabilizing the slope. Crews used excavators and bulldozers, spyder drills and remote-controlled equipment, and surveyed the site from the ground and with drones.

Drabinski confirmed Thursday that the repairs are on track to cost taxpayers \$82 million.

### Millions lost

Shortly before the Jan. 15 reopening, Caltrans notified tourism groups in Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties.

"Reopening Highway 1 reconnects travelers with an extraordinary coastal journey," said See Monterey President and CEO Rob O'Keefe. "Now more than ever, it's part of our collective role to protect and preserve this coastline by traveling safely and responsibly, with care for the land, the road and the communities that make it so special."

Highway 1 is a significant tourism

Thinking the revenue was permanent, lawmakers codified new spending into law, in the form of healthcare and income support services. As it turned out, the windfall wasn't lasting, and year-over-year overspending led to the chronic deficit Petek is so worried about.

The progressive wing of Newsom's party and several key unions would like to keep those services and pave over any funding gaps with new taxes. The one getting the most attention is the National Union of Health Care Workers' wealth tax. The proposed measure has yet to qualify for the ballot but would impose a one-time 5 percent tax on the assets — not income — of California's billionaires. Newsom is vehemently opposed to the idea, saying it will cause the very rich to flee the state.

The scheme has been in the political sphere since Elizabeth Warren first made a run at the White House, but apparently that's not the type of presidential candidate Newsom plans to be. If Petek's analysis holds, the rubber will meet the road for Newsom's budget in May, and the governor will have to offer up something to solve the deficit. Otherwise, the budget will join homelessness and housing shortages on the list of things Newsom won't want to talk about on the campaign trail.

driver for the state, and the prolonged closure had major economic impacts on regions to the north and south and on the businesses that rely on people taking the scenic drive. Tourism officials estimated the closure resulted in \$438 million in lost visitor spending across San Luis Obispo and Monterey counties and the State of California.

"The highway's full reopening to travel between Cambria and Carmel revives a vital economic lifeline for local business owners and residents," Caltrans said Wednesday.

"It feels like a success on three levels," Drabinski told The Pine Cone Thursday morning. "One, that the work was accomplished safely. Two, that we left behind a stable slope above the roadway. And three, this reopens the vital economic lifeline for residents and businesses along the coast."

Kirk Gafill, Big Sur Chamber of Commerce president and owner of Nepenthe, said it's hard to overstate the costs and challenges associated with a closure of such a long duration.

"The impact of Highway 1 reopening will be most significant, in relative terms for the businesses south of Regent's Slide

See **REOPENING** next page

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# REOPENING

From previous page

in Monterey County and northern San Luis Obispo County — Treebones, Gorda, Ragged Point Inn and the San Simon business community — as they saw their business levels reduced by 50 percent or more due to the closure,” Gafill told The Pine Cone.

Treebones Resort, which offers a “premier glamping experience” about two hours south of Carmel, called the reopening “exciting news.” The resort is 14 miles south

## Library community night

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE CARMEL Public Library Foundation’s next session of Community Night with the Library will feature journalist, author and Columbia University professor emeritus Samuel Freedman and former USA Today correspondent Marco della Cava discussing “Journalism, Truth, and the Free Press.”

The duo “will explore the power of language in journalism and its essential role in protecting democracy, promoting truth and giving voice to the unheard,” according to the library foundation. “In an age of misinformation and media saturation, professor Freedman, also a former New York Times columnist, will share insights from his decades-long career in academia and journalism, offering a profound look at how the words we choose, and the truths we tell, can shape public consciousness and civic life.”

### Award winners

Freedman, a finalist for the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize, is the author of 10 books, including “Into the Bright Sunshine: Young Hubert Humphrey and the Fight for Civil Rights.” He taught at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism for nearly 30 years.

Della Cava is a retired USA Today correspondent who reported across continents, helped launch the paper’s first European bureau in London and had his work submitted twice for Pulitzer Prize consideration.

The event will be held at 7 p.m. Jan. 21 in Carpenter Hall in Sunset Center at Mission and Ninth. Registration is required, with a suggested \$10 donation to benefit the Carmel Public Library. For more information and to sign up, visit [carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org](http://carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org).

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

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of the slide.

“The closure of Highway 1 has been a three-year ordeal for residents and businesses on the South Coast of Big Sur,” said John Handy, owner of Treebones. “We are incredibly relieved and grateful that our lifeline to the north is being restored. The closure disrupted supply chains, mail delivery, trash service, jobs and schools, and resulted in a 30-to-35 percent loss in business. For our family and 32 employees, welcoming back guests from the north and receiving supplies regularly will feel like a miracle.”

### Homes and livelihoods

Each protracted closure of the South Big Sur Coast over the last 43 years, starting with the 1983-1984 El Niño winter closure at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, brought its own unique challenges, Gafill noted.

“But a constant has been an immediate reduction in about 30-to-35 percent of visitation to the Big Sur Coast north of the closure point and up to 100 percent if the closure was north of the Big Sur business community, such as the Hurricane Point closures in 1983 and 1998, the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge failure in 2017 and the Rocky Creek south lane slip-out in 2024,” he explained.

Diane Ramey, co-owner of Ragged Point Inn and Resort, said the business is thrilled with the long-awaited reopening.

“Visitors from the north and south can once again experience one of the world’s most spectacular scenic drives,” Ramey said. “As a family-owned business, we stayed committed through this challenge and are excited to welcome travelers back and look ahead to the future.”

State Sen. John Laird said the closure at Regent’s Slide “created real and lasting hardship, cutting off access and threatening the economic stability of an entire region.” The reopening of the highway “means restoring jobs, reviving local businesses, and reconnecting people to their homes and livelihoods.”

Amid the celebrations, Drabinski added some words of caution.

While the reopening took place under sunny skies, more winter rains are likely ahead, “so at Regent’s Slide and other locations along the coast, we can expect to clean debris after seasonal weather events,” he said.

“We’re excited that travelers will be able to make the full trip from Cambria to Carmel, and we ask drivers to adjust their driving to the winding and curvy conditions,” Drabinski added.

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# 4Q 2025 | Market Update

## Pebble Beach



“In the 4th quarter, the Pebble Beach marketplace outperformed seasonally adjusted averages with 31 sales for a total of \$102M. Worth noting there were 5 off-market sales in Q4 as razor thin inventory levels were outpaced by demand – especially in the MPCC sub-market. On a broader scale, 2025 recorded 112 total sales, exceeding 2024’s totals by 22% - underscoring consistent demand despite a more selective Buyer environment.

As anticipated, the majority of buyers came from the Bay Area (31%), followed closely by locals relocating (28%). The other key buyer markets included Southern California (14%), San Joaquin Valley and Texas (both at 10%). This mix continues to reflect Pebble’s dual appeal as both a primary residence market as well as a lifestyle investment for out-of-area Buyers.

Active inventory declined 32% quarter-over-quarter, a typical fourth-quarter pattern, as homes are pulled from the market during the holidays. In practice, this creates a more focused environment where serious buyers are watching closely, even if activity appears muted on the surface.

One trend that appeared consistent throughout this quarter was how quickly well-positioned properties captured attention—even in a quieter season. As we move into 2026, early indicators suggest a similar dynamic: limited inventory, patient buyers, and opportunities emerging for sellers who prepare thoughtfully ahead of the spring market rather than reacting to it.”

Nic Canning  
Pebble Beach Specialist



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# The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

## CHS, Stevenson, Catalina anticipate success in postseason hoops

THE PRESENT is aglow for girls basketball teams at Carmel, Stevenson and Santa Catalina, but the future looks brilliant for all three schools, who head into their division games with good reason to believe they'll still be in it when the playoffs arrive — even with rosters overpopulated with underclassmen.

Stevenson was third in 2025 in the Pacific Coast Athletic League's second-highest circuit — the Mission



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

(Above) Stevenson guard Kobie Crutcher, the Mission Division's Offensive Player of the Year in 2025, can expect to be double- and triple-teamed at times this season in the Gabilan Division. Sophomore Morgan Varney (left), Carmel's fastest player, excels at defending the passing lanes and can play either guard position for the youthful Padres.

### Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Division — and 20-6 overall, including a Central Coast Section playoff victory. That success was “rewarded” this year with a promotion to the big-school Gabilan Division, despite a roster that includes seven players who are sophomores or freshmen.

Carmel High has depth, with at least 10 athletic players who figure to see good playing time. Only a handful were on the team that went 8-14 overall in a rebuilding season.

And after enduring a 1-18 season a year ago, Santa Catalina opened the current year with a 4-1 record — 3-1 in the Santa Lucia Division, where the Cougars are a first-year team. Their nine-player rotation features two freshmen, two sophomores, four juniors and a senior.

#### Key Pirate is injured

Stevenson prepared for its move into PCAL's toughest division with 10 preseason games that resulted in a 6-4 start. As of Wednesday, the Pirates had an 8-5 overall record, 2-1 in the division.

“We’re young, but I really like our group. They compete, they play hard, and they like each other,” said Pirates coach Justin Clymo.

The bad news is that 6-foot junior Peyton Sanchez — All-Mission a year ago with 8.1 points, 6 rebounds, and 2

assists per game — will miss the season with a knee injury, a major loss.

But the new roster includes nine letter-winners, among them the Mission Division's Offensive Player of the Year, Kobie Crutcher, who averaged 16.2 points, 4.8 rebounds, 3.8 assists, and 3.1 steals as a freshman.

“She’s better this year in a lot of ways, particularly in what I’ll call her ‘attitudinal fitness,’” said the coach. “I’m really proud of the growth she’s made in that space.”

Crutcher, frequently double- or triple-teamed by opposing defenses, returned to the team with more poise, maturity, consistency, and positivity, “even when things are going sideways,” Clymo said.

All-Mission point guard Jessie Chen (10 points, 2

assists, and 1.7 steals as a junior) stabilizes the attack as a reliable ballhandler and tenacious defender and is a top scoring threat.

“She’s our silent assassin,” Clymo said of the Stanford-bound Shanghai native, who also plays tennis, runs track, and hosts a podcast called “Asian American Voices.”

Third-year varsity player Ashley Dalhamer, a junior, is a 5-9 forward whose strengths are rebounding, defense, and 3-point shooting.

Freshman Kamora Winfield, a boarder from Chicago, is an all-around talent whose 2026 statistics include 7.2 points, 61 percent field goal accuracy, 8.6 rebounds, and

*Continues next page*



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From previous page

2.5 steals. At 5-10, she's also emerging as a shot-blocker.

Point guards for the Pirates have been Crutcher (3.6 assists) and Chen (2.0), but freshman Anna Bates (1.9), junior Audrina Malate, and sophomore Maria Hall (1.4 each) also handle the ball well.

"Maria Hall is a Division I softball prospect who moonlights as a basketball player," Clymo said. "Her competitiveness

out Molly McAfee ("one of our best shooters when she gets hot"), Amaya Chadha ("brings positivity and energy"), basketball newcomer Lucy Aiello, who plays soccer, field hockey and lacrosse, and Jannah Sow ("great teammate, fourth year in the program").

"We've got 16 players — 13 are three-sport athletes, three are two-sport kids," Clymo said. "Ten of them are in our rotation, and we're still experimenting with our starting lineup."

Similarly, Carmel coach Alan Shipnuck says he has 11 girls capable of making significant contributions — all have seen action in every game so far — and he's still tweaking his starting five.

Freshman field general

The Padres were 5-9 overall, 1-3 in the Cypress Division through Wednesday.

The most challenging position on the floor — point guard — is in the hands of talented freshman Ella Cleary, "a really special player," Shipnuck said. "She has incredible court vision. Nothing brings her more joy than making a beautiful pass to a teammate, and she lives for basketball."

Varsity newcomer Creedence Stiebel, a senior co-captain, has emerged as an all-around offensive threat who can attack the basket or pop from 3-point range.

"We created optional open gyms in spring and fall, and Creedence almost never missed an opportunity," Shipnuck said of Stiebel, a power forward at just 5-5. "She really wants to make her senior season count."

Senior co-captain Rainn Nachbar, the team's tallest veteran at 5-10, is a formidable inside force.

The sophomore class includes Morgan Varney ("always the fastest kid on the floor"), who drives hard to the basket, excels at defending the passing lanes and plays both guard positions, 5-7 power forward Grace Grahl ("strong rebounder, likes contact, best on our team in blocking out"), and flag football quarterback Keal-



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Senior guard Jessie Chen, Stevenson's "silent assassin," is a stellar defender, playmaker, and double-digit scorer for the Pirates, who will play in the rugged Gabilan Division this season.

and her presence as a stabilizer really show up."

Other talented 10th graders include varsity veterans Caroline Bufkin ("a vocal leader") and Periyanna Lockett, a "defensive pest" who can shoot from long distance, plus JV promotee Raina Patel ("loves competing ... sticks her nose in there"). Clare Brandler, who built her basketball IQ with two JV seasons, is an athletic junior vying for playing time.

Senior leaders include defensive stand-

See SPORTS next page

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# SPORTS

From previous page

ani Sagin (“defensive stopper, nice 3-point shot, handles the ball like a point guard”), who has played four positions this season.

Standout juniors are co-captain Eliana Sogge (“great volleyball player who is learning how to get to the basket”), who scored 11 in Carmel’s first two division games, and Ella Grahl, a 5-2 guard (“probably the best rebounder in the county, pound-for-pound”) who grabbed nine rebounds against Monte Vista Christian.

Varsity newcomer Delilah Herro (“stud running back in flag football, one of the most inexhaustible athletes I’ve ever seen”) takes pride in her defense but has untapped



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

After a 1-18 season a year ago, key players in Santa Catalina’s 4-1 start this year include freshman Minh Vi Le, No. 21, senior Olivia Vasquez, 3, and junior Chloe Louie, 10.

scoring potential, Shipnuck said.

Juniors include Jenna Silveira, who can handle the ball and contribute as a 3-point threat, and 5-10 Maya Steinberg (“good rebounder, strong finisher around the basket”).

### A turnaround at Catalina

Second-year Catalina coach Carlos Ostos is marveling at the remarkable turnaround of a program that lost all but one game a year ago. The Cougars are off to a 4-1 start, 3-1 in the Santa Lucia Division through Wednesday.

His starting lineup features three captains — senior Olivia Vasquez, a 5-4 shooting guard (“good maturity, strong understanding of the game and her role on the team”), and juniors Chloe Louie, a first-year starter as a 5-2 point guard (“I love her adrenaline, decision-making, and leadership skills”), and 5-7 power forward Ryon Josh (“rebounds, scores points, very serious about her role as a leader”).

Sophomore Lydia Ostos, a second-year starter, is a scoring threat as a 5-7 shooting guard and is physically stronger this year, capable of defending bigger players and going under the basket for rebounds.

### Strength under the hoop

The center position is shared by freshman Minh Vi Le, a tough rebounder who also can play power forward, and 5-10 sophomore Chloe Wigdahl, who broke out with 8 points and 12 rebounds in Catalina’s second game of the year.

Junior Lydia Derbin, a third-year player, is a fast, strong, aggressive shooting guard.

Another junior, Christina Vogel, is a 5-5 point guard

from Germany with a good amount of experience, and freshman Khloe Koontz, 5-8, adds depth to the small forward spot.

“Our philosophy is more team oriented and we’re building more chemistry,” said Ostos, who has added Santa Catalina senior Dina Ding as a student coach. Ding, the starting center a year ago, is out of athletic eligibility but has a positive impact on the mindset of the team, Ostos said.

Santa Catalina plays at home against Trinity Christian at 5:30 on Tuesday. Carmel hosts Everett Alvarez at 7 p.m. Wednesday. Stevenson has road games Friday at Soledad and Tuesday at Salinas, then hosts at home at 7 p.m. Thursday against Watsonville.

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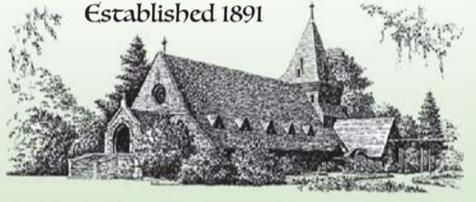
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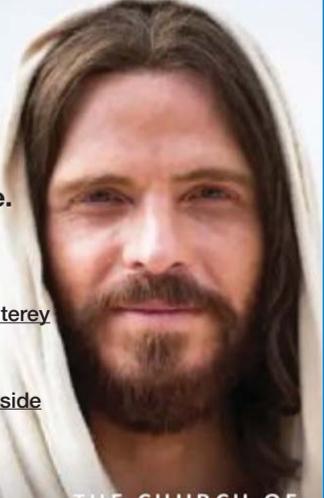
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## LETTERS

From page 18A

**Residential impact:** The proposed 5G site is in an R-1 single-family neighborhood — the least appropriate location for industrial wireless infrastructure.

**Proliferation risk:** 5G facilities often must be placed roughly 500 feet apart, meaning approval of one site can lead to many more, creating widespread visual clutter.

**Aesthetic blight:** Towers introduce bulky equipment, cabinets, antennas, and ongoing maintenance activity — potentially every block — in quiet residential streets.

**Property values:** Studies indicate that proximity to cell towers can negatively affect home values, an impact homeowners must disclose at the time of sale.

**Future co-location:** Once a tower is approved, additional carriers may add equipment over time, compounding noise and visual impacts and making future undergrounding of utilities more difficult — while increasing fire risk and power outages.

Federal law does not require cities to accept intrusive facilities wherever carriers propose them. Instead, carriers must:

Demonstrate a significant, location-specific gap in service.

Prove the proposal is the least intrusive means of addressing that gap, especially if alternatives — such as improving existing 4G service — are available.

The planning commission has broad authority to evaluate adverse aesthetic impacts, neighborhood compatibility, and effects on property values. These findings matter — because a precedent set here could affect installations throughout Carmel, including in front of your home.

Carmel-by-the-Sea is treasured for its beauty, scale, and residential charm. This decision deserves careful public attention.

Please attend the Jan. 21 meeting, join by Zoom, or submit written comments.

Reliable service matters. Protecting our neighborhoods matters too.

David O'Neil, Carmel

### Another 100 years

Dear Editor,

The Jan. 12 city council meeting spent a good chunk of time on the budget and made one thing crystal clear: We need a lot more revenue. Mayor Dale Byrne's piece in last week's Pine Cone correctly spells out the difference between thinking like a leader vs. like a manager. Some leaders in the past brought us Forest Theatre, Sunset Center and the rest of our treasures. Our 110-year-old city can last at least another 100 years, but it must be open to the future as well as reverent of the past. The mayor asks if this is the year we choose our future. Show up at the special city council meeting

on Jan. 22 and help us all to decide.

Joe DiNucci, Carmel

### The real minimum wage

Dear Editor,

Nearly half the states will celebrate minimum wage hikes in 2026. Advocates promote these as "living wages" necessary to reduce poverty. Those lucky enough to keep their jobs (and hours) win. However, many companies already dealing with inflation and tariff-related costs have less cushion to swallow wage hikes. Surveys suggest nearly 20 percent plan to increase their use of automation, AI, and other labor-saving technologies. Others will cut hours, reduce headcount, or outsource work.

Pizza Hut made headlines in California in 2024 after the fast-food minimum wage climbed to \$20 per hour. It laid off 1,200 drivers and switched deliveries to third-party apps like DoorDash and UberEats. A UC Berkeley study claims that by mid-2024, California's fast-food industry added 7,400 jobs. Sounds good, but what would job growth have been absent the 25 percent wage hike? An NBER/Cato report estimates a net loss of nearly 20,000 jobs.

Teenage unemployment in the Golden State is already about twice the national average, and studies find employers under pressure to cut costs mostly favor experienced (skilled) workers over younger, inexperienced workers. Since early joblessness predicts lower lifetime earnings and higher criminal activity, this is something California can ill afford.

The wage hikes aren't effective as an antipoverty tool either. Intended to reduce inequality, they may in fact widen it. Businesses often have the thinnest margins in disadvantaged communities. Where a higher minimum wage is intended to help low-income families, businesses must either raise prices or close, creating food and service deserts. So, with a slowing labor market and AI reducing entry-level jobs, why are states making it more expensive to hire workers?

Francois Melese,  
Pacific Grove

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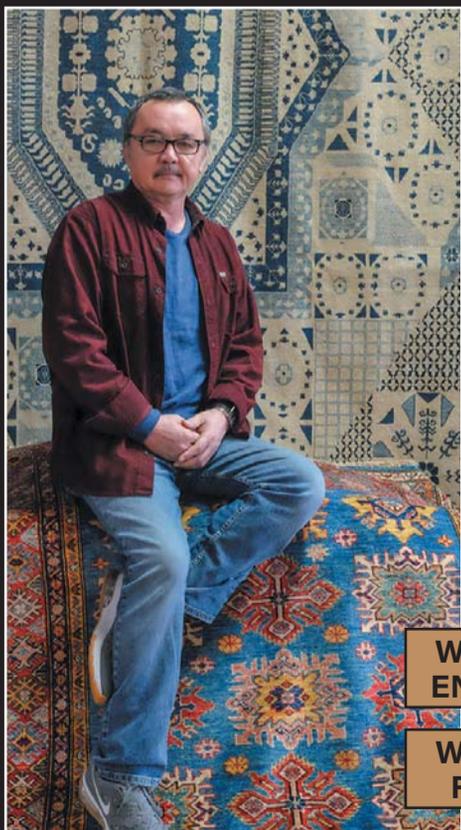
Dear Editor,

One of my favorite things about being a native Peninsulan/Pagrovian is keeping up with the activities from home. Living in West Hollywood for many years now, imagine my uncontrollable laughter when I read that the area where the new Kimpton hotel in Pacific Grove is being described as "a formerly derelict part of town." Derelict? If that was derelict, I think the author might describe parts of Los Angeles as Third World. God bless the Peninsula bubble!

Chris Lugo, Los Angeles

See MORE LETTERS next page

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# Artist finds beauty in everyday objects

TURNING OLD books into fresh and original art, multimedia artist Beth Miles shares her latest creations in “Everyday Objects,” an exhibit in Sunset Center’s Marjorie Evans Gallery through Feb. 28. There will be a public reception for the artist Jan. 22 at 5 p.m.

## ■ Almost true

The Carl Cherry Center welcomes its first art show of 2026 Saturday when it unveils “Almost True Stories,” which features new work by painters Donald Lee Andrews and Rick Soto. The center hosts a free public reception at 5 p.m.

“The exhibit will showcase a vibrant collection of new paintings that bridge the gap between individual identity and shared artistic brotherhood,” the Cherry Center said.

“Attendees can expect a diverse array of works that highlight Rick’s signature approach, alongside the distinct, evocative style of Donald’s.”

The show is on display through Feb. 21. The gallery is located at Fourth and Guadalupe.

## Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

“Layered over historical text, these subjects come into focus, highlighting the enduring nature of human experience — what changes and what remains the same,” she explained.

Miles’ display is the third in a series of five exhibits hosted by the gallery. The next one, which opens in March, showcases the talents of painter Elizabeth Murray.

The gallery is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and whenever Sunset Center is hosting a performance. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth.



Mixed-media artist Beth Miles, whose new show, “Everyday Objects,” is on display at Sunset Center’s Marjorie Evans Gallery

# MORE LETTERS

From previous page

## Big state woes

Dear Editor,

I appreciate your article on the tab for California’s Covid debt and your editorial on inflation. I appreciate that California employers are paying \$126 total in federal unemployment insurance payroll taxes per employee annually, compared to \$42 for employers in states with no insurance debt. But when you consider the great imbalances in our democracy it doesn’t seem like such a big deal.

Don’t get me wrong, I think California should have paid its Covid debt when it had the money. However, Los Angeles County alone has a larger population than 41 of the 50 states. Considering that every state gets only two votes in the U.S. Senate regardless of whether the population is more than 39 million or less than 1 million people, I’m willing to be a little more patient with the arguments about what causes inflation.

I liked what Caitlin Conrad had to say, it just seems to me that there are more variables to consider when comparing one state to another, especially when the state is California.

Tony Amarante, Seaside

## ‘Good will and decency’

Dear Editor,

I read a few weeks back that someone in leadership at Stevenson School intentionally excluded mentioning Christmas in the name of inclusivity. They were rightfully called out for their intentional slight and again for the hypocrisy of their ridiculous explanation.

It is sad and disturbing that a highly regarded educational institution charged

with imparting knowledge to our young generation instead caved to the cruelty of the woke. They sent a clear message to what is probably most of their families that they don’t matter because everyone may not share the same beliefs.

Whoever made this spiteful decision has most certainly lost their way. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Solstice or Holidays are all well wishes in the name of a season where love, peace and joy should abound. Any and every kindness offered to us, even if it is not “our holiday,” is a gift.

As a Jewish woman, I have spent my life being wished a Merry Christmas and I love it. I was raised to cherish and appreciate every thoughtful gesture. To do otherwise is ungracious, self-centered and entitled. I hope most would agree that those are not qualities a school should be modeling. Perhaps the administration at RLS should sit down and watch a few Christmas movies to remind themselves that come December 2026, good will and decency should be for everyone.

Lauren Cohen, Monterey

## ‘Shocking’

Dear Editor,

It’s shocking to see Carmel step by step lose its uniqueness — parking spaces painted in residential areas, no fires on the beach, and now street numbers. It’s as though a few who complain outweigh all the others and force changes for things that otherwise endured for a century as a treasured part of the city.

Regarding street numbers: I never had a problem with FedEx, UPS, Amazon, dropping off items, though I gather ambulance drivers on entering the city are instantly lost. Mind you, in candor, I don’t live there, though have rented so often it adds up to several years’ residence since 1965.

Lance Lee, Santa Monica

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# WEDDING & Special Occasions

It’s the time of year Pine Cone readers are planning their weddings and special occasions for 2026...



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Jan. 23, 2026



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# JANUARY SPECIAL

Food & Wine  
Galleries and Art

# This Week

Live Music,  
Clubs and Events

## Temptations return to Golden State, instrumental duo visits Sand Box

AN INDISPENSABLE component of Motown's hit-making machine during its heyday from the mid-1960s through the early 1970s, **The Temptations** take the stage Thursday, 7 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

Rollin' Stone" and many others. The group has received four Grammy Awards, including the first a Motown artist ever received when "Cloud Nine" earned one for Best Rhythm & Blues Group Performance in 1969.

Tickets start at \$55. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070. Visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

Also at Golden State, singer and guitarist **Billy Gibbons** plays Wednesday at 7 p.m. Best known the lead singer and a co-founder of ZZ Top, he will be backed by his longtime group, **The BFG Band**. Tickets start at \$53.



Otis Williams, the sole remaining original member of The Temptations, will perform with a modern version of the group Thursday at Monterey's Golden State Theatre.

### On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

Led by its last founding member, singer **Otis Williams**, the Temptations are best remembered today for timeless hits like "My Girl," "Just My Imagination," "Papa Was a



Mandolinist Tristan Scroggins and violinist Alisa Rose, a duo that's "uniquely exciting and fresh," will play Sunday in Sand City.

### ■ 'Thrillingly fresh'

An instrumental duo that can't be confined to a single musical genre, **Scroggins & Rose** performs Sunday, 3 p.m., at the Sand Box in Sand City.

The performance showcases the talents of mandolinist and violinist **Tristan Scroggins** and **Alisa Rose**. Sand Box founder and cellist **Michelle Djokic** and Rose played together in Quartet San Francisco, which was nominated for a Grammy Award. "I can tell you Alisa is remarkably versatile in being able to cross from classical, to jazz, to bluegrass, effortlessly," she said.

Scroggins, who comes from a long line of bluegrass musicians, "has embraced and embodied the challenges that Alisa's classical background has brought to the table." "These guys are uniquely exciting, both familiar and thrillingly fresh," Djokic added.

Tickets are \$40 for general admission, and \$25

for students and active military. The Sand Box is located at 440 Ortiz Ave. Visit sandboxsandcity.com.

### ■ Small and intense

Describing itself as a "small, intense orchestra," **Espressivo** plays Sunday, 4 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church of Monterey. **Alan Truong** of Salinas will be guest conductor.

"Espressivo specializes in music that falls between the orchestral and chamber repertoire, featuring works that rarely require more than fifteen musicians," according to the ensemble, which was founded 10 years ago. "The

See MUSIC page 33A

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# FOOD & WINE

## Professionals, students and hungry diners meet in all sorts of settings

WELL, IT'S happening again. Just like last year, Valentine's Day is on Presidents Day weekend, which also happens to coincide with the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. We'll try to give you as much information on V-Day happenings ahead of time so you can make your reservations.

Along those same lines, if you're still on the fence about the Jan. 23-25 Big Sur Foragers Festival benefit for the Big Sur Health Center, you don't have much time to make up your mind (bigsurforagersfestival.org), as the events have been filling up rapidly. There are a couple of upcoming fundraisers for Rancho Cielo Youth Campus, the alternative vocational high school near Salinas, too, including a partnership with The World Master Chefs Society this weekend.

Finally, tickets are on sale for the pinnacle of local foodie events, Pebble Beach Food & Wine. In addition to being a lavish celebration of wine, spirits and fanciful edibles, it's also a marvel of production. Somehow, organizers manage to coordinate truckloads of ingredients, bottles and gear, along with gaggles of volun-



Pebble Beach Food & Wine returns April 9-12, and tickets are on sale for events featuring more than 40 star chefs and numerous wineries and spirits purveyors from California and beyond. From themed sit-down lunches and lavish dinners, to expert-led tastings of spirits and fine wines, you can eat, imbibe and spend to your appetite's — and wallet's — limits. It all benefits the nonprofit Pebble Beach Company Foundation, so you can eat well and feel virtuous.



in 1947 and has chapters in 58 countries. The alternative high school founded by now-retired Monterey County Superior Court Judge John Phillips to give troubled youth a second chance is hosting the dinner at its campus at 710 Old Stage Road in Salinas. Among its vocational courses — which include agricultural technology,

auto and diesel repair, and welding and fabrication — is the Drummond Culinary Academy, created in cooperation with local restaurateurs to give students a

path into the culinary arts and hospitality industry. Fledgling kitchen wizards will assist eight visiting chefs as they prepare a dinner featuring foie gras mousse and satsuma marmalade on brioche, pan-seared shrimp Provençal with chardonnay butter, pork belly with parsnip potato puree, wagyu beef with carrot-ginger jam, and white chocolate pot de crème. Passed hors d'oeuvres start at 5 p.m., followed by dinner with wine pairings. Including tax, tickets are \$242.44 per person. Visit ranchocieloyc.org, where you'll find a link to the dinner about halfway down the home

page, under "upcoming events." That's also where you'll find some information on the 16th Annual Culinary Roundup at the Portola Hotel on Feb. 22 — and we'll have more on that for you soon.

### Valentine's greetings

Cory Harshman, the new executive chef at Carmel Mission Inn on Rio Road, will plate up a nice assortment of dishes for a two-day Valentine's Day menu that will be served in Shearwater Tavern Feb. 13-14. The evening starts with salads like roasted beets with petite greens, fromage blanc, pomegranate, pistachios and honey-lemon vinaigrette, or a classic Caesar with shaved parmesan, garlic dressing, and croutons. Grilled chicken, salmon or prawns can be added.

Appetizers and soups include house-

made Parker House rolls with honey butter, a selection of California cheeses and cured meats, French onion soup, a parsnip-and-apple bisque, shrimp croquettes, and calamari.

Entrées range from filet mignon, to seared seabass with black lentils and maitake mushrooms, prime rib, and grilled chicken with parsnip puree and prosciutto. Other choices include lobster ravioli in saffron cream and grilled salmon with cauliflower mash. An 18 percent gratuity will be added to all checks. Book your table at shearwatertavern.com.

### Or take a little drive...

Lucia Restaurant & Bar in Bernardus Lodge has a four-course prix fixe Valentine's Day menu from 5 to 9 p.m. High-

See **FOOD** next page

## Soup to Nuts

teers, chefs and purveyors, so that multiple meals, tastings and other events all happen on time — often simultaneously — and things are served at the appropriate temperatures, and everything looks relatively effortless. It's all for a good cause, too.

So, let's get to it.

### Rancho Cielo goes global

On Saturday night, Rancho Cielo presents a six-course dinner in partnership with The World Master Chefs Society, a London-based organization that was founded

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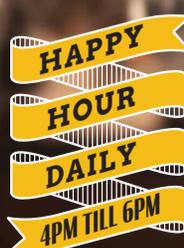
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# FOOD

From previous page

lights of chef Gus Trejo's menu will include lamb carpaccio, Dungeness crab, paella and a variety of locally sourced seafood. The dinner is priced at \$175 per person, plus tax and gratuity, and reservations are available at [exploretock.com](http://exploretock.com).

## Meanwhile, in Monterey

Jacks Restaurant in the Portola Hotel at the foot of Alvarado Street is offering a four-course prix fixe menu, which will be served from 4 to 10 p.m. The romantic dinner is priced at \$89.95 per person, plus tax and gratuity, with an optional \$40 wine pairing. The International Trio, featuring Mike Marotta Jr., will play starting at 5 p.m.

The evening starts with mango salad with pickled red onion, grilled halloumi (Greek cheese) with citrus vinaigrette, paired with a 2023 Illumination by Quintessa sauvignon blanc from Napa Valley. That's followed by fresh ahi tuna ceviche with spicy jalapeno and cilantro sauce alongside a 2023 Flowers pinot noir from Sonoma Coast.

For the entrée, guests can choose a 4-ounce bacon-wrapped filet mignon with potato, grilled asparagus and a sauce made with porcini wild mushrooms, or a 5-ounce serving of halibut with risotto, sautéed broccolini and lemon butter sauce. A 2023 Benton Lane pinot noir from Willamette Valley is suggested for either dish.

And what would Valentine's Day be without chocolate? A lava cake with chocolate ganache and strawberries provides a sweet finish with a 2020 Napa Valley cabernet sauvignon from Faust. The hotel also offers a "perfect date night" that starts with a 50-minute couples massage and ends with a prix fixe dinner for two, and a "dinner and show" discount of 20 percent on food with a same-day show ticket for Golden State Theatre. Visit [portolahotel.com](http://portolahotel.com), navigate to Jacks, and click on "Special Events" to learn more about those packages. For the Feb. 14 dinner, book at [tinyurl.com/yz3c2dxn](http://tinyurl.com/yz3c2dxn).

## ■ PBFW tix on sale

Oenophiles and foodies can choose from nearly 40 lunches, dinners, tastings, seminars and gatherings planned for Pebble Beach Food & Wine April 9-12, with 40 star chefs and numerous wineries and spirits purveyors taking over the Inn at Spanish Bay, the Beach & Tennis Club, Casa Palmero and the event field set up for the occasion.

Organized by an outside firm that specializes in events and benefiting the nonprofit Pebble Beach Company Foundation — which has a mission to "provide Monterey County's children with essential resources for success" and has contributed more than \$20 million to local charities over the past 50 years — the event kicks off with a golf tournament, a set of spirits tastings (the fabled Old Rip Van Winkle whiskeys and beloved Clase Azul tequilas) and its annual Opening Night party.

A half-dozen wine and spirits seminars are set for Fri-



Rancho Cielo is hosting a special dinner Saturday featuring students working alongside master chefs from across the country.



Thanks to the confluence of Presidents Day, the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, and Valentine's Day, it's not too early to make reservations for a Feb. 14 dinner. Lucia Restaurant in Bernardus Lodge (left) is offering a four-course prix fixe menu, while Shearwater Tavern's specials include a selection of California cheeses and cured meats.

day morning, followed by several lunches, among them Flavors of the Mediterranean hosted by celebrity chef Marc Murphy, Ayesha Nurdjaja and Zac Young, and A Journey Through Mexico hosted by Val M. Cantú, Ana Castro and Michael Diaz de Leon, plus two walk-around tastings and five dinners touching on French cuisine, coastal dishes, Jonathan Waxman's 75th birthday, and other themes. Chief among the evening events is The Foundation Table, a \$1,500-per-person affair hosted by restaurateurs and Food Network stars Antonia Lofaso and Geoffrey Zakarian.

## Wait, there's more

More seminars follow on Saturday, including a session focused on European food-and-wine pairings, with a couple of lunch options, two walk-around tastings — the large Tasting Pavilion runs for several hours that day — and several dinners. Elizabeth Falkner, Nancy Oakes and Philip Tessier will preside over a feast inspired by the 50th anniversary of the famed Judgment of Paris, in which California winemakers surprised the world by besting the best of France in a blind tasting.

The fest will wrap up Sunday with tasting seminars focused on Hennessy cognacs and the Hungarian wines of Royal Tokaji, after which participants can head to a special brunch or the Tasting Pavilion.

A la carte prices start at \$195, and packages are available for \$1,650 to \$7,500. Visit [pebblebeachfoodandwine.com](http://pebblebeachfoodandwine.com) for details.

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



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# MUSIC

From page 30A

result is an eclectic offering of compositions that are often overlooked. Some are novel discoveries, and some are masterpieces. All of them are intriguing.”

Tickets are \$45 for general admission, \$35 for seniors and \$18 for students. For more details, visit [espressoorch.org](http://espressoorch.org).

## Live music Jan. 16-22

### ■ Big Sur

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

### ■ Carmel

**Barmel** — singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Sunday 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.

**Hyatt Carmel Highlands** — singer and pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz, Friday at 4:45 p.m.), singer **Dino Vera**

5 p.m.). 26270 Dolores St.

### ■ Carmel Valley

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

**Edgar's Restaurant** — **Evergreen** (pop and folk, Friday at 5:30 p.m.). 8205 Valley Greens Drive.

**Folktale Winery** — singer and guitarist **Kris Angelis** (Friday at 4 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Saturday at 4 p.m.), **Jesse DeCarlo Funk Quartet** (Sunday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Monday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Thursday at 4 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

**Trailside Cafe** — singer and guitarist **Dan Cioper** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

### ■ Monterey

**Albatross Ridge Winery** — singer and guitarist **R.J. DeMarco** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

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

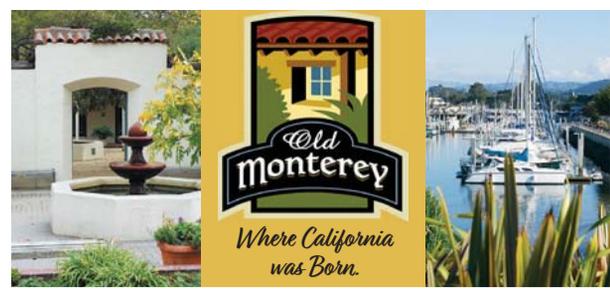
**Hyatt Regency Monterey** — singer and instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Saturday at 7 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.

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

**Midici Pizza** — singer **Janice Perl** and keyboardist **Evan Weideranders** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer **Akina Miyata** and keyboardist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

**Monterey Plaza Hotel** — pianist **Gary Meek** (jazz,

See LIVE page 35A



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The group Songbird Meadow offers “a sweet fusion of Latin, jazz, and pop,” Saturday, 5 p.m., at Puma Road Winery in Monterey.

(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** — **Vinyl Revival** (pop and rock, Friday at 6 p.m.), **Octane** (rock, Saturday at 6 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

## CALENDAR

**Sundays – Jazz brunch with the Andrea Carter Trio**, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Terry's Restaurant + Lounge, inside Cypress Inn, Lincoln and Seventh, Carmel-by-the-Sea. For more information, please contact Cypress Inn, (831) 624-3871.

**Jan. 17-18 – Espresso orchestra presents “Swan Song,”** featuring works by Françaix, Enescu and Wolf-Ferrari. Performances begin 4 p.m. Jan. 17 at Peace United Church of Christ, 900 High St., Santa Cruz; and 4 p.m. Jan. 18 at First Presbyterian Church of Monterey, 501 El Dorado St., Monterey. For tickets and details, visit [espressoorch.org](http://espressoorch.org)

**Jan. 19 – Meg Waite Clayton, NYT bestselling author of “Typewriter Beach,”** in conversation with **BBC journalist & CWC member, Alison van Diggelen, author of “The Love Project,”** 2 p.m. Carmel Woman's Club, San Carlos and Ninth. Open to the public. \$10/guests/members free.

**Jan. 20 – Demonstration of Ikebana, the art of traditional Japanese flower arrangement,** presented 12:30 p.m. at the Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple, 1155 Noche Buena St., Seaside. Guest fee is \$5. Refreshments served.

**Jan. 21 – Carmel Public Library Foundation presents Community Night with the Library, “Journalism, Truth, and the Free Press,”** with Columbia Professor Emeritus **Samuel G. Freedman** in conversation with former USA Today correspondent **Marco della Cava**, 7 p.m., Carpenter Hall, Sunset Center. Register on our website: [carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org](http://carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org). Questions: (831) 624-2811

**Jan. 27 – Join us 4:30 to 7 p.m. for a fun-filled evening supporting Project Healing Waters,** Monterey Program's work helping veterans and active-duty service members recover physically and emotionally through the therapeutic activity of fly fishing. Hog's Breath Inn, San Carlos between Fifth and Sixth, Carmel. Great food! Live and silent auctions! Complimentary parking and shuttle at public lot, Third and Torres. \$50/person. Contact Brian Steckler, (831) 402-1584, for more information or use the QR code to buy tickets.



**Jan 30 – The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB)** will present a luncheon lecture at the Monterey Marriott. **Dr. Jeff Dayton-Johnson**, vice president for academic affairs and dean of MIIS, will present “The Crisis in U.S.-Venezuela Relations: How Did We Get Here? Where Are We Headed?” Visit <http://www.wacmb.org> for event registration.

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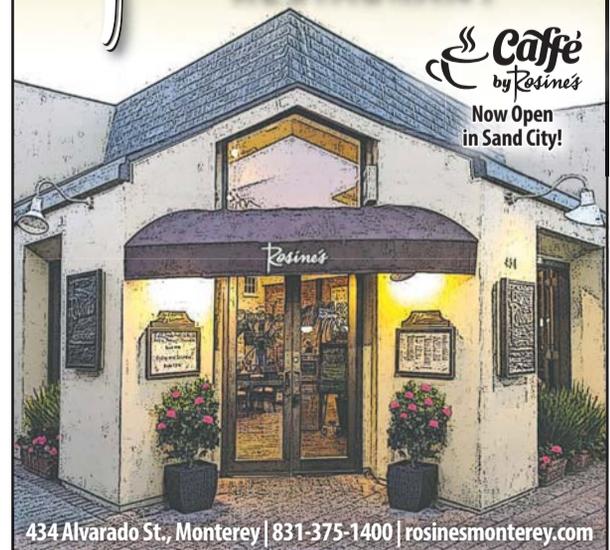
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Continues on next page

**Police Log: March 17, 18**

**P**erson found an unattended Bible in the post office.

Carmel-by-the-Sea

**R**eport of a fire on Arkrwright. Two subjects made their own fire pit to cook s'mores.

Pacific Grove

Subjects were advised bonfires are not allowed.

# LIVE

From page 33A

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.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Monday at 6 p.m.), mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Tuesday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Tamas Marius** (jazz, Wednesday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Thursday 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 Hotel — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Friday at 5 p.m.), **Songbird Meadow** (“A sweet fusion of Latin, jazz, and pop,” Saturday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

**Sardine Factory** — singer and guitarist **David Conley** (Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.). 701 Wave St.

## ■ Pacific Grove

**Il Vecchio Restaurant** — **The Cena Jazz Trio** (Thurs-

day at 6 p.m.). 110 Central Ave.

**Julia’s Vegetarian Restaurant** — singer and guitarist **Rags Rosenberg** (Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Smith** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea’s Fault Duo** (jazz and pop, Monday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Holysea** (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave.

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

**Pop ‘n’ Hiss** — **J.A.M. & the Buttered Biscuits** (“bluesy funk rock, Saturday at 7 p.m.). 215 Forest Ave.

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

## ■ Pebble Beach

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

**The Lodge at Pebble Beach** — mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kip Allert** (Saturday at 5 p.m.), guitarist **Richard DeVinck** (classical, Thursday at 5 p.m.) In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive.

To update these listings, email [chris@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:chris@carmelpinecone.com).



Alan Truong of Salinas will be guest conductor when Espresso plays Sunday, 4 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church of Monterey.

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Continues from previous page

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