



# The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 112 No. 4

<https://carmelpinecone.com>

January 23-29, 2026

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## Electrical upgrades will cut outages in half, PG&E says

By KELLY NIX

PG&E OFFICIALS said last week that the company is close to completing a “modernization” of its Monterey substation, which the utility maintained would increase electrical capacity and cut power outages on the Peninsula by an impressive 50 percent.

On Jan. 14, representatives with PG&E told journalists

that the upgrades to the substation on Del Monte Avenue, which began last fall, should be completed in a few months. They include a 30-megavolt-ampere transformer to replace one with a capacity of 10-megavolt-amperes, the installation of 3,800 feet of new underground cable, and other work.

“It will ultimately be a \$40 million project to upgrade the substation and surrounding areas,” PG&E spokesman Mike McCarty told reporters.

### Like new

While PG&E’s intent was to upgrade the substation, McCarty said it’s more like a new facility because crews are also converting its output from 4 kilovolts to 21 kilovolts, which will bring it in line with modern distribution standards and make it easier to maintain.

“The end result is an increase in the electrical distribution capacity in the area and an increase in reliability to both our distribution and transmission systems,” he said. “On the capacity side, a project like this is the equivalent of powering 7,500 homes.”

The added capacity is expected to support electric vehicle charging infrastructure and make it easier for new developments to connect to the grid.

The facility will allow for growth and decrease power outages by 50 percent. Pacific Grove residents will be pleased to

See **OUTAGES** page 13A

## Appeal board stymied by cost of Mad Dogs’ restrooms, sprinklers

By MARY SCHLEY

IN A rare meeting of the Carmel Building Code Board of Appeals Friday, the panel stopped short of forcing Mad Dogs & Englishmen owner Jennifer Blevins to bring her Ocean Avenue coffee shop into compliance with codes requiring an accessible restroom and fire sprinklers.

Instead, they voted to put off a decision while she tries to find a solution that doesn’t involve installing fire sprinklers and a public bathroom, since she said doing so would force the closure of her business.

Blevins and her husband, Martin, opened their bike shop in a space on Mission near Ocean in 2018, and a few years later took over the storefront above, expanding into it and then getting approval to sell coffee drinks as a small part of the business.

They received permits for minor electrical and plumbing work to accommodate the coffee bar in February 2024. In December of that year, after someone noted the purported ancillary use had become the dominant activity, they received a unanimous OK from the planning commission to officially operate as a coffee shop.

### Changing type of business triggers new requirements

### Boxes unchecked

Conditions of that approval included amending the business license to show the new use, receiving a certificate of occupancy from the building department, and making at least one restroom “available for use by all persons within, or conveniently adjacent to, the specific business premises and on the same property on which the use is located.” When the planning commission considered the application, senior planner Evan Kort noted, “As described by the applicant, there is one unisex ADA-compliant employee restroom that will be available for customers to use during operating hours.”

But the owners have not amended the business license or obtained a certificate of occupancy, and the restroom remains available only to employees. In addition, building official Jermel Laurie and Monterey Fire Division Chief Justin Cooper said changing the type of business triggered

See **PERMITS** page 19A

## VALLEY ‘ROCKED’ BY PLAN FOR 90 NEW HOMES

By CHRIS COUNTS

IN CARMEL Valley — where major housing projects are few and far between, but where state mandates have opened the door for previously unheard-of levels of development — a plan to build 90 homes at the site of the former Carmel Valley Airport has been submitted to Monterey County for review, planning official Craig Spencer confirmed.

“We have received a preliminary application, which is a step before a full application, for a 90-unit housing

development at 65 El Caminito in Carmel Valley,” Spencer said.

While he identified the property owner as 27380 Schulte Road LLC, a 2022 Carmel Pine Cone article indicated the owner is Ken Griggs of Griggs Nursery, who bought it from the Del Fino family in 2020. Griggs was contacted for this article but didn’t respond.

### Builder’s remedy

According to county records, the site is 17.44 acres, and the project includes “an additional 6.36 acres of street improvements and 5.5 acres of improved open space.”

It’s uncertain what the breakdown of homes vs. townhouses vs. apartments might be. County records note that the developer plans to use the builder’s remedy, which

See **HOUSES** page 12A

## As refineries shut down, state turns to Asia for fuel

WHILE GOV. Gavin Newsom was campaigning in Switzerland this week, bragging about his climate leadership, one detail he failed to mention is the increase in global emissions the world can thank him for this year. “California didn’t reach 2.5 million zero-emission

## Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

vehicles by accident — we invested in this future when others said it was impossible,” said Newsom at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

True, zero-emission vehicle sales in California have surpassed 2.55 million, an achievement that definitely wasn’t an accident. The state’s lofty climate goals — including a questionable legal ban on sales of new gas-powered cars by 2035 — have gotten more people into

See **FUEL** page 24A

## County praises employee for aiding stranded horse

By CHRIS COUNTS

A QUICK-thinking Monterey County employee was recognized last week for the efforts he took to avert disaster after a truck transporting a horse broke down in traffic.

Micah Beardsall — an administrative operations manager for Monterey County Parks — was driving behind Charlie Sammut along Highway 68 Oct. 30 when he watched the latter attempt to make a left turn onto Olmstead off the highway. Sammut’s truck was pulling a trailer carrying “a newly adopted 4-year-old horse for the first time.”

“Sammut’s truck suddenly lost all clutch hydraulics, leaving the truck and horse trailer stranded in the turn lane,” Monterey County reported in its January newsletter.

### Precarious situation

As a result, Sammut found himself “in a precarious situation, unable to move the rig and concerned for the safety of the young horse inside the trailer.”

“Quickly recognizing the seriousness of the situation,”

See **HORSE** page 13A



PHOTO/MONTEREY COUNTY

Monterey Zoo founder Charlie Sammut and his horse, Captain Crunch, were recently aided by a Good Samaritan.

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# Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

## Healing hearts

Something about the gratitude lighting the eyes in the earnest little face of a rescued dog causes the woman to lean into that pursuit when it comes time to bring a new pet into the household. Yet she'd had her most recent rescue for merely two months when the little pup suddenly died. Although devastated, she decided the process of looking for another dog to bring into her home would hasten her healing.

"Scrolling through rescue sites lifted me out of my grief," she said, "especially as I imagined giving one of these little dogs a loving home. I wondered if my senior age might be limiting until I encountered a little dog at Peace of Mind Dog Rescue in Pacific Grove meant for me."

Sydney is a 4-year-old Maltese and Yorkie mix – a Morkie – who, at 10 pounds, was just the right size for another family. Yet, when that adoption fell through, the woman responded to the call by rushing right over to bring the pup she renamed Tinkerbear to her forever home a few blocks south of Ocean.

"I've been lucky twice to have such lovely dogs," she said. "Tinkerbear is a sweet, soft little dog with gorgeous, silky fur. You think you can't ever find a dog who will come into your heart the way your last dog



did, but the bonding was instant for both of us."

Tinkerbear seems to love strolling along the coastal path on Scenic Road. Her person said that's mostly because she's very social and appreciates attention from people passing by.

So does her person, who believes senior citizens are more visible when they have dogs.

Because it's hard for her person to navigate the sand, Tinkerbear is relegated to the path until her person's daughter comes to town. Then the two romp with abandon along the shoreline.

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# Lawsuit over police shooting settled

By MARY SCHLEY

THE LAWSUIT filed by a Monte Verde Street resident after police fatally shot her son during an altercation in October 2024 has been settled, according to federal court documents. The terms of the settlement were not available.

Ellen Barrett's complaint, filed last July in the U.S. District Court's Northern District, accused police officers, including former Chief Paul Tomasi, of violating state and federal laws by using "excessive and unreasonable force" in the shooting of her son, 27-year-old James Marshall, near the Golden Bough Theater on Oct. 25, 2024.

That morning, Marshall was seen carrying an assault-rifle-style BB gun and a crowbar in the area near the Monte Verde Street home he shared with his mother, and he reportedly threatened people before retreating to the backyard, where he was eventually shot.

### Highly documented

Bodycam footage shows many of the events leading up to the shooting, including the final moments in which Marshall was hitting objects with the crowbar, using a door ripped off its hinges as a sort of barricade, and then advancing toward officers with the crowbar in hand. It also shows Tomasi and the two other officers pleading with him to stop.

But Barrett claimed her son "was not verbally or physically threatening any person, including defendants, and decedent never verbally threatened any person, including defendants," nor was he "attempting, willing or threatening to

inflict harm on anyone."

Nonetheless, she said, officers "unreasonably used force against decedent, including when they repeatedly shot decedent without justification," according to the lawsuit filed by Woodland Hills lawyer Dale Galipo, who has made a career



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

The moments leading up to the fatal shooting of James Marshall in October 2024 were caught on police officers' bodycams.

of suing law enforcement agencies and claims to have won more than 30 multimillion-dollar verdicts.

A Monterey County District Attorney's review of the entire incident, released four months after the shooting, cleared the officers of wrongdoing.

The report stated a neighbor had called 911 to report Marshall was on his roof with a rifle, and the alleged gunman also confronted workers at the nearby Golden Bough Playhouse, causing at least one to fear for his life. He reportedly told a passerby, "There's gonna be blood in the streets. Blood is gonna be spilled," and threatened to shoot the person in the head, the DA said.

Officers set up a perimeter, told Marshall to drop his weapons, and tried to

See SETTLED page 27A



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**Police & Sheriff's Log**

**It was destroyed, not missing**

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, JANUARY 5

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** A 20-year-old male was cited at Carpenter and First for driving on a suspended license and probation violation. His vehicle was impounded.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** A non-injury accident occurred at Mountain View and Vizcaino where a driver backed into another vehicle.

**Pacific Grove:** Child Protective Services report regarding a Sinex resident was reviewed. Information only.

**Carmel Valley:** Adult Protective Services report on Cachagua Road alleging financial abuse.

**Pacific Grove:** Subject on Forest Avenue was admonished for trespassing.

**Pacific Grove:** Found property on 14th Street.

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

**Carmel area:** Family dispute on Fern Canyon Road.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Loose dog captured at Rio and Ladera with the help of observers was returned to the owner in the field.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Found purse and wallet at Ocean and Dolores. Owner contacted.

**Pacific Grove:** Found dog at Fountain and Gibson turned in to the department.

**Pacific Grove:** Vehicle on Monarch Lane marked for 72-hour parking.



**The gavel falls**

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

**Dec. 30** — Angel Sylvestre Martinez, 34, a resident of Monterey, was sentenced to serve 12 years in prison after pleading no contest to first-degree burglary. Martinez also admitted that he has a prior strike conviction within the meaning of California's three strikes law.

On Sept.10, 2025, Monterey Police Department officers responded to an in-progress burglary of a residence in Monterey. A witness reported that a male entered their neighbors' house through the front window. The witness knew the neighbors were not home. The witness took pictures of the male and showed the officers. Officers found there were signs that a person had just entered the home and learned that there was cash missing from inside the residence. Shown the photos taken by the witness, employees from a

nearby sober living facility where Martinez resided told police that they recognized the clothing he was wearing as well as his face. A short time later, dispatch received a 911 call from Martinez, in which he stated that he fell down a ravine near the burglarized residence. Officers responded and placed him under arrest.

This case was investigated by Monterey Police officers Alfredo Sabino, David Vasalech and Andrew Bernal.

**Jan. 9** — Judge Mark. E Hood sentenced Miguel Rubio, 42, a resident of Greenfield, to 25 years in prison for committing three counts of forcible lewd acts upon a child under 14. These offenses are serious and violent felonies and considered strikes under

See **GAVEL** page 43A

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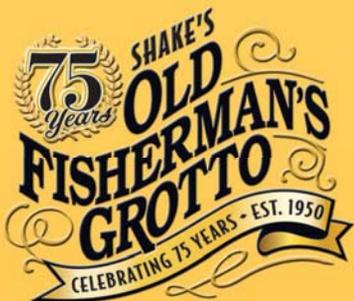
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# Father killed in Marina during traffic stop

By KELLY NIX

MARINA POLICE last weekend shot and killed a local rapper after pulling him over for a traffic stop. The fatal encounter, which is being investigated by the Monterey County District Attorney's Office, prompted the city to cancel its Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration.

On Jan. 18 at about 4:55 p.m., Marina P.D. officers conducted a traffic stop near Bluffs Drive in the Marina Heights area, where they pulled over driver Richard Chyron Tinsley, 31.

"During the contact, an officer-involved shooting occurred, and the driver was injured and subsequently pronounced deceased at the scene," according to a statement from Marina police that added a "firearm was seized during the incident."

The brief press release did not specify where the gun was found, or if it belonged to Tinsley or was in his possession, and if Tinsley was holding the firearm or pointing it at officers when he was shot. It also didn't specify if more than one officer shot at Tinsley.

The Monterey County District Attorney's Office, police said, is investigating "to ensure an

independent review of this incident. Due to the active investigative process, information that can be shared is limited at this time."

The shooting compelled Marina to cancel its annual MLK Day celebration "out of respect for everyone impacted."

Marina Police Chief Randy Hopkins said his department is "committed to a transparent process that ensures the integrity of the investigation."



Richard Chyron Tinsley

### 'Respectful'

Tinsley, a father, was also a rapper who went by the moniker Ceeza Baby on social media. Tributes poured in on his page, including one person who called him "super respectful, easygoing and kind."

Tinsley had his share of run-ins with the law, including with Marina police. In December 2025, he was arrested and charged with felony corporal injury to a spouse and false imprisonment. In September 2025, he was charged with misdemeanor resisting, delaying or obstructing a Marina police officer, and in June he was charged with being a felon in possession of ammunition, a felony. Court records show that he pleaded not guilty in the three cases, which were still open.

# ALLEGED SHOOTER TURNS SELF IN

By MARY SCHLEY

THE 23-YEAR-OLD accused of shooting a man outside a marijuana dispensary Jan. 5 in a gang-related incident gave himself up Jan. 10, according to Seaside P.D.

"Today around noon, Luis Canseco, the individual sought in connection with the recent shooting, voluntarily surrendered at the Seaside Police station," the agency reported. "Accompanying him was a 17-year-old minor linked to the incident who was also arrested. At this point, we believe we have apprehended all individuals involved in this isolated act of violence."

### Pleas made

The shooting, which wounded but did not kill the victim, Ignacio Blanco, occurred outside Reef dispensary in the 1900 block of Fremont Boulevard at around 8:20 p.m., and police immediately noted it appeared to be gang-related.

Not long after, officers identified the suspect, and on Jan. 8, they entreated him to turn himself in.

"We have information that Mr. Canseco not only knows he is wanted by police, but that he and people who associate with him are likely monitoring our social media updates," Seaside Police Chief Nick Borges posted online, and he warned Canseco that the hunt for him wouldn't stop until his arrest.

"Like everyone, you are presumed innocent in the court of law unless proved otherwise. We are currently following up on leads of where you may be and have been since the incident," Borges wrote. "We won't stop our efforts to seek accountability in this case. We are asking you to turn yourself in to the Seaside Police Department. We will ensure you are treated with dignity and respect as is our standard."

The plea was an unusual one for Seaside P.D.

"We have never directed a post to a person in this way, but if it can help resolve this in a safe manner for everyone, that is more important than anything else," the chief said.

Two days later, police said the

See SURRENDER page 16A



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# San Antonio undergrounding inches along

By MARY SCHLEY

FOLLOWING YET another round of storms that plunged all of Carmel into darkness, a plan to underground power lines for several homes on San Antonio north of Ocean is proceeding, according to Mayor Dale Byrne, who has been involved in the project since before he was elected in November 2024.

Byrne said the plans call for removing six poles and 800 feet of overhead lines, adding two poles, and digging a quarter-mile trench along San Antonio to convert seven homes to underground power. A handful of other houses on the street are already served by subterranean service. The latest project is expected to cost in excess of \$1.2 million.

“There have been a few things we bumped into along the way. PG&E wanted us to connect the new system to some infrastructure on Carmel Way, but we worked around it,” Byrne said this week. “Then we discovered there is a Flock camera on one of the poles, so we had to engineer a way to move the camera near the Pebble Beach Gate and work with Comcast to get an internet connection to it.”

### Good partners

Byrne said that while power and other utility lines will run under the street, additional infrastructure will be in pedestals similar to those seen along parts of 17-Mile Drive in Pebble Beach.

“PG&E no longer uses underground vaults for a number of reasons,” he said. “That caused some delays in our project due to required design changes.”

EMC Planning prepared the necessary archaeological report, and the project is being managed by Erik Rutherford from Wallace Group.

“PG&E has been very good partners with us, and we had biweekly status meetings with their project team and ours during the critical formative stages,” Byrne said. “We now meet only when it is necessary.”

The city’s planning and building department is on the verge of approving the encroachment permit — which is required for the installation of equipment on public property — according to Byrne.

Sullivan Carey-Lang confirmed the application is in process but said the city needs more information before it can be approved.

“Plans were submitted to our office that showed elements which were unapprovable as presented,” he said Wednesday. “The designer is looking to address the review comments we provided to them and provide a revised plan that meets the approvable standards.”

Once secured, Rutherford will take the documents to PG&E to get the utility company’s final design and estimate. “With that in hand, Erik will put together the bid documents, and we will select a qualified contractor,” Byrne said. “Meanwhile, the citizen group will execute the plan for funding the project with private funds.”

The \$1.2 million-plus price is “not nothing!” Byrne noted. “But they are confident that they will be successful. I’ll have a better handle on it when we get the bids in.”

The mayor added that his role in the project is being handed off to Katie Jordan, a Carmel Cares board member. Byrne’s wife, Margaret, took over as executive director of the nonprofit last month “and is doing a great job.”

If all goes according to plan, the undergrounding could be completed this year. “This is an exciting pilot project but also a business model that has some promise to accelerate more projects around town,” he said.

**Seven houses cost \$1.2 million and the work is taking years**



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# State demands changes to revised plan for affordable housing

By MARY SCHLEY

**AFTER SPENDING** more than a year preparing the way for affordable housing in Carmel by converting hotel rooms and commercial spaces into living quarters and encouraging churches to build apartments, the Carmel City Council last November sent its revised housing plan to the California Department of Housing and Community Development for review. Last week, the state said changes are needed if the proposed programs are going to replace the city-owned affordable-housing sites listed in an earlier version of the housing plan approved last year.

In a five-page letter sent to the city Jan. 13, Paul McDougall, senior program manager of the state housing department, complimented the city for the creativity and ingenuity reflected in the proposed update, but gave the city more homework.

“The housing department appreciates the hard work and diligence of the city in the housing element update and acknowledges and appreciates the extensive collaboration and innovative approaches employed during the entirety of this process,” he wrote. “Significant progress has been achieved in developing community-driven solutions that meet housing needs, the unique circumstances and conditions of the city and statutory requirements.”

### The alternatives

California law requires the city to identify sites for 349 potential new residences,

including 149 affordable units. The housing element — which is part of the general plan — that was approved in April 2024 identified city-owned property at Sunset Center and Vista Lobos as affordable-housing sites, over many residents’ objections. As a result, group of community members, public officials and city staff got together



PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

In 2024, the city issued building permits for 22 new market-rate residential units. The vast majority were for ADUs, like this one.

and hired a consultant to help them come up with alternatives for satisfying the state’s requirements.

After 17 months of work, the result was a plan that aims to meet the state’s demands via the construction of accessory dwelling units, creating a commercially viable program for converting underperforming hotel rooms into affordable apartments, working with churches to build housing on their land, developing live/work spaces in lower-rent and underutilized commercial spaces, and providing

See **PLAN** page 14A



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# Perfect storm of traffic hits Big Sur

By CHRIS COUNTS

WITH THE reopening of Highway 1 through Big Sur coinciding with a three-day weekend and nice weather, many locals found themselves stuck in traffic over the Martin Luther King holiday — and were not happy about it.

A video shared on Facebook by the group Big Sur Wild shows a seemingly endless line of cars slowly snaking its way along Highway 1 through Carmel Highlands this past weekend.

“Now that Highway 1 has reopened, what do you think should be done to better manage the area so everyone can enjoy a scenic drive through Big Sur, locals commuting can get to their jobs on time and residents don’t have to sit in traffic trying to get home?” the group asked.

A Monterey woman who drove down the coast Sunday described Highway 1 as a “parking lot.”

“I’m glad we ate breakfast at Deetjen’s and were out of there by noon,” she reported. Upon the return trip, “there were solid cars from Point Lobos State Reserve up to Carpenter Street,” she added.

### Worst ever?

With people pouring down the coast from near and far, another woman described the traffic as “the worst I’ve ever seen.”

Not surprisingly, one of the most congested spots was Bixby Bridge, where backups are common as tourists vie for parking spots and vantage points for photos. As is often the case there, motorists held up traffic while they waited for parking spots to become available, and pedestrians played the dangerous sport of dodging cars as they darted across the pavement.

One man reported on Facebook that

motorists “were parking like idiots,” while another suggested that “the circus has returned.” Several said more enforcement is needed. “They need to sit there with a tow truck or just have a cop there full-time handing out tickets for the dummies that don’t get it,” one man said.

The quagmire at Bixby Bridge came just days after volunteers organized by Keep Big Sur Wild spruced up the site by cleaning up trash and painting K-rails to better match the surroundings.

### The price we pay

Along Carmel Valley Road near Laureles Grade, roundabout construction caused lengthy delays early this week as the project moved into its third phase, and workers

moved K-rails.

Numerous motorists went on social media to sound off on the traffic. “Today was brutal,” said one woman, while another suggested that traffic like this “is the price we pay for living in paradise.”

Monterey County 5th District Supervisor Kate Daniels said Tuesday she

was sorry for the delays residents have experienced and urged them to be patient.

“I know that today’s traffic at Laureles Grade and Carmel Valley Road was untenable and caused excessively long delays for many of you,” she said. “I know today was very difficult, and I am hopeful tomorrow will be much improved. As your representative for the county, please accept my apologies for this extremely difficult day.”

One local noted that traffic was so bad she had to “break into her kid’s snack bag” while she was stuck. But another urged others to stop complaining. “One day it’ll be a very smooth ride” through the intersection, she insisted.

The roundabout is set to be completed by the end of March.

## Big PR about Highway 1 reopening fueled traffic jams

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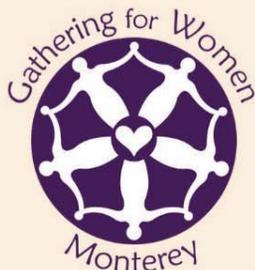
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# Cleanup progresses at battery site one year after massive fire

By KELLY NIX

CREWS ARE making progress in removing damaged batteries from the Vistra Moss Landing Energy Storage Facility, which caught fire a year ago. But a Monterey County supervisor for the area said the cause of the blaze, possible long-term environmental and health impacts and other questions remain unanswered.

The large fire at the Vistra facility on Jan. 16, 2025, broke out in a building that housed about 100,000 battery modules. It prompted a 24-hour evacuation of about 1,200 people, reports of health problems and environmental concerns, and forced local officials to rethink the use of such batteries to store energy for California's power grid.

On Sept. 29, 2025, workers began removing more than 55,000 damaged batteries from the Moss Landing building. Crews practiced safe removal procedures for weeks before starting the process.

"To date, approximately 16,900 batteries have been de-energized and 15,000 have been de-energized and transported off-site for recycling," Mikayla Rumph with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which is overseeing the cleanup,

told The Pine Cone this week.

"There are approximately 110 personnel and contractors supporting battery removal operations onsite," the EPA said, adding that staff from the EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard's Pacific Strike Team are on the property daily to provide federal oversight. "Additional personnel are onsite during building stabilization and demolition work."

### Will cause be determined?

While cleanup is well underway and some residents affected by smoke continue to seek legal recourse, Monterey County Supervisor Glenn Church, who represents North Monterey County where the Moss Landing plant is located, said several issues remain unresolved.

Some experts believe the blaze started after one battery overheated and caught fire — a process known as thermal runaway — and then spread to others. But Church noted that the public has not been told how or why that occurred.

"The California Public Utilities Commission has told me they don't have a timeline to determine the cause," Church told The Pine Cone this week. "I question if we will ever know the root cause, but it

is important to know that so future mishaps can be prevented."

Hundreds of people reported health issues related to smoke from the fire and subsequent flare-ups, including breathing problems, eye and throat irritation, and coughing. Church said the full long-term health effects remain unclear.

"There remain many unanswered questions — about the environmental and health impacts for the long term," Church said. "The lack of meaningful options at the local level to determine how this facility fits into the county's development remains paramount. The state has the ultimate say, and removing local control removes the right of communities to have voices on their future."

### 'No health risks'

More information on environmental impacts has emerged recently. On Dec. 4, 2025, results of testing on sediment, surface water and pore water near the Moss Landing power plant were released, indicating no danger to the public.

"Concentrations of all contaminants of interest in sediment, surface water and groundwater were below human health risk-based screening levels — in many cases by several orders of magnitude," according to Oakland-based Terraphase Engineering, which conducted the testing.

Samples were taken from five nearby areas to test for lead, pH, hydrocarbons and metals associated with battery modules, including aluminum, cobalt, copper and lithium, the company said.

"Where metal concentrations were above ecological screening levels, the data indicate the observed concentrations reflect natural background conditions and marsh geochemistry rather than fire-related contamination," the consultant said.

Toxicologists with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control who reviewed the Terraphase report similarly concluded that the levels of chemicals of "potential concern" are not expected to cause human health risks from chronic exposure.

The scientists noted that the sampling "is primarily for ecological risk

assessment" and that the locations "may not represent areas" humans frequent.

### Hearing in March

Brad Masek, Vistra's renewable operations director, touted the results of tests near the Moss Landing power plant.

"The health and safety of our community have guided every decision we've made in our response, and we are pleased to report that air, water and soil testing by multiple agencies over many months have found no risks to public health or agriculture related to the fire," Masek said Jan. 15.

Additional monitoring and testing of the property continue under EPA supervision onsite and in the community by the Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau.

Rumph said that before battery removal began, the EPA provided technical assistance and oversight to Vistra to create more than 30 plans covering all aspects of the work.

"These plans included battery removal and processing logistics, water management onsite, including rainwater, air moni-



PHOTO/EPA

Officials from the Environmental Protection Agency in August 2025 assess the damage at the Vistra Energy battery storage facility.

toring and air sampling, community safety measures, emergency response, etc.," the agency said. "The goal of this planning process was to ensure that the removal could be done as quickly but as safely as possible."

Demolition of the burned Vistra building is expected sometime this year after all batteries have been removed.

Church said that on March 17, a panel of toxicologists and others will answer questions related to sampling and field concerns.

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# Stiff competition for P.G. pot permit

By LILY PATTERSON

GETTING A license to sell cannabis in the City of Pacific Grove is not unlike winning the lottery: The more applications you buy, the better your odds.

P.G. voters approved Measure M in November 2022, greenlighting a single marijuana dispensary within city limits. It was estimated that one shop would net the city \$300,000 in annual sales tax revenue, and even before the ribbon-cutting, the city could expect thousands of dollars in application fees as competitors jockeyed for the single permit.

Last October, city officials announced 10 applications had been submitted for its cannabis retail license lottery. Beginning Sept. 15, 2025, applicants were given a month to supply the city with their business, security, hiring and “neighborhood compatibility” plans. They also had to lock down a location, with proof of an active lease within a “green zone” — where the city permits commercial cannabis businesses to operate — or at least a letter of intent, co-signed by a landlord.

One of those locations is 1157 Forest Ave., directly across the street from Trader Joe’s. Nine of the 10 applicants listed Units B and C as their proposed site. It’s become a site of controversy, since it was revealed that eight of those applications were submitted by one company — Off The Charts, which operates a cannabis shop just over the hill on Lighthouse Avenue.

Anthony Davi Jr., who owns the building, said that the large cannabis franchise was forthright about its plans for the lottery, including boosting its odds by listing his property on several applications.

“And other retailers were interested in doing the same thing,” he told The Pine Cone.

## \$9K application fee

The Southern California-based company filed eight nearly identical applications under different owners, according to public records, including Norman Yousif — Off The Charts’ founder and CEO — Yousif’s wife and sons, three of their employees, and their legal representative, Sean Maddocks of Green Consulting Partners. Yousif applied under the name OTC Pacific Grove, and the others under various limited liability corporations: OTC, ADM Biz Dev, Marogy RE, MRJE, PG Retail, Rawy Rogers, and Robbinhood.

Davi said there were a number of other cannabis companies initially interested in his building, but most backed out once they realized how much it cost just to apply for the city’s lottery.

“I spoke to a lot of people interested in this use for the property, but once they looked at the total cost, they all just went away toward the end,” Davi said.

Pacific Grove charged \$9,272 per application, not including background-check and zoning-verification fees.

“The companies that are vying for this are bigger companies, trying to open up a lot of stores. For them, it’s like buying lottery tickets,” Davi said.

Off The Charts has 31 retail locations throughout the state. Embarc Dispensaries — which applied as Pacific Grove Responsible and Compliant Retail LLC, and also listed Davi’s property on its application — hopes to open its 17th location in P.G. Davi said both are approved to use the space, with a conditional agreement that the lottery winner will take precedence over other, non-cannabis businesses he is also considering for the lease.

After an announcement Jan. 5 that all applicants would be moving on to the lottery, city manager Matt Mogensen said a consultant and staff “found all 10 applications compliant with the requirements of the municipal code and state law,” the city having paid \$26,000 to HdL Companies to assist with the review. Mogensen told The Pine Cone that the city contracted with the consultant “based on its expertise and experience in complex cannabis permitting, inspection and related regulations and requirements.”

## Stacking the odds

Immediately, opposition to Off The Charts’ tactics cropped up right next door, at 1169 Forest Ave. Owned by Munir-Yonan Properties, it’s the site proposed by Nug LLC, the remaining contender in the lottery whose owner, Nico Enea, filed only one application.

“We and Nug have a shared, vested interest in participating in a transparent, fair and equitable process — something we believed was the city’s stated goal in the awarding of the single cannabis license,” building owner Christine Yonan told The Pine Cone.

The State of California leaves much up to local governments to determine how they will issue their coveted cannabis licenses. Some cities, like Monterey, review applications in multiple phases and appoint a special selection committee. Others, like Pacific Grove, establish a lottery system. The state’s Department of Cannabis Control helps to regulate those processes, but cities have a surprising amount of leeway — including whether to allow a single company to submit multiple applications under various owners or legal aliases. And while Monterey prohibits the practice, the P.G.’s cannabis ordinance has no such rule.

Nonetheless, on Jan. 8 a formal objection was filed with the city manager’s office by Amara Morrison, a legal

representative with Fennemore LLP, on behalf of Nug and Munir-Yonan, requesting “investigation and corrective action.”

“Permit stacking,” Morrison wrote, is “the submission of multiple non-independent applications by a single economic enterprise” and Off The Charts is “significantly increasing its odds of securing the city’s single available license.”

In a Jan. 15 reply, Mogensen effectively shut down the

objection.

“The city will not conduct the requested investigation into ‘permit stacking’ as what you have alleged does not violate the city’s licensing regulations and, as a result, no corrective actions are required,” Mogensen wrote.

Maddocks, Off The Charts’ legal representative, did not respond to The Pine Cone’s request for comment. On behalf of the city, Mogensen confirmed the lottery process will move forward, though a date has not been set.

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# HOUSES

From page 1A

could make it possible for the project to bypass some local zoning and general plan requirements.

“In order to qualify as a builder’s remedy application, a certain percentage of units must be affordable,” Spencer said.

On Thursday morning, the Carmel Valley Association sent out its weekly bulletin and expressed astonishment at the proposed housing.

“Our Carmel Valley community was rocked this week not by an earthquake, but by a new proposal to develop 90 residential units on the former Carmel Valley airfield,” the association said. “Local residents are understandably alarmed about how this large-scale development would upend their quiet neighborhood. The former airfield has served not only as valued open space, but as an important staging area for firefighting crews.”

As the news of the development plan spreads, the association added, “alarm may spread as well over its potential

impacts on the wider community, such as greater difficulty of fire evacuation and increased traffic on Carmel Valley Road as well as neighborhood streets.”

While the group concedes the Carmel Valley Master Plan does allow for development on the airfield parcels, they say it must be done at a much lower density, with a total of 24 units.

### Resistance anticipated

Eric Sand, a realtor, said the plan would draw “a lot of local resistance.”

At the top of Sand’s list of concerns about the project is the traffic it would create, which he warned could lead to dangerous gridlock during an emergency such as a wild-fire — something Carmel Valley is vulnerable to with its steep slopes and dense vegetation.

“There are going to be a lot of fatalities if there’s a big fire in Carmel Valley,” he said. “It’s going to happen if we keep piling people into Carmel Valley.”

Sand described the current state of Carmel Valley’s traffic as “horrendous.”

“The infrastructure can’t handle what we have,” he added. “There’s a three-mile line of traffic waiting to get

past the roundabout construction right now.”

Resident Sarah Castillo also said news of the proposed development came as a shock. “Regardless of the fact the ground is not suitable for building on, the added population density considered of this size in a somewhat rural village is wrong,” said Castillo, who lives “in close proximity” to the former airfield.

“We have for years depended on and used this land for emergencies, life-flight landing and space to set up encampment for firefighters,” Castillo said. “Roads leading in and out of the village are limited to single lanes in each direction to Highway 1 or to Highway 68. The only other exit is to the east ending up at Greenfield.”

### Save Santa’s Fly-In

While some locals worry the development will interfere with emergency responses, resident Joe Hertlein said advances in emergency equipment have made the airport property obsolete for such purposes. “The equipment is bigger now and you need a lot more resources to service it,” said Hertlein, who helped lead an effort to buy the airport land and turn it into open space.

Whatever becomes of the property, there’s one thing Hertlein is determined to save. “I want to see a spot preserved for Santa Claus to fly in by helicopter,” he said.

Just because a plan has been submitted to build the homes doesn’t mean they’re coming soon.

The last two projects of this size that were proposed in Carmel Valley still haven’t been completed — decades after they first made headlines. At September Ranch, a plan to build 73 luxury homes and 22 affordable units dates back to 1995, while at the former Rancho Cañada golf course, a plan to construct 93 single-family homes, 40 workforce/inclusionary units and 12 townhouses has been in the works since 2004. In the years since, however, state restrictions on new development have been drastically curtailed.

The airport was built by Byington Ford, who envisioned a neighborhood where residents flew small planes to work. But the timing of the venture’s grand opening — on Dec. 7, 1941 — couldn’t have been worse. Ford’s dream never came to fruition, and he sold it to the Del Fino family in 1952, which closed it in 2002. The Del Finos sold the property to Griggs in 2020. At the time, Griggs said he had no plans to build homes on the land.



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# HORSE

From page 1A

Beardsall pulled over to the side of the road," according to the county. "Without hesitation, Micah offered support, resources, and steady guidance. Micah provided safety cones to redirect traffic on the busy highway and stayed with the visitors throughout the ordeal."

There was still one more hurdle to overcome.

"When a second truck arrived to transport the horse home, a new challenge emerged — how to safely separate the disabled truck from the trailer," the report continued. "Micah produced a tow strap from his vehicle, enabling the visitors to pull the inoperable truck away and complete the transfer. Once the tow truck arrived and the situation was fully resolved, Micah quietly collected the equipment he had loaned and returned to work."

Sammut — a wild animal trainer who founded Monterey Zoo in Salinas more

than three decades ago — expressed his gratitude for Beardsall's "extraordinary" efforts, along with his "professional demeanor and kindness."

"To say the least, I was extremely stressed and alone," he said. "That's when help arrived unexpectedly, and at exactly the right moment — the stress of this event was minimized very largely in part due to his presence, advice and help in keeping all concerned safe."

### Calm, patient

As for the horse, Sammut told The Pine Cone his name is Captain Crunch. The two enjoy taking rides together on local trails.

"He's a 4-year-old quarter horse we recently brought in to the family," he said. "We're still getting to know each other."

Sammut adopted Captain Crunch in part because of his calm temperament. That assessment proved accurate when the horse stayed mellow throughout the ordeal along busy Highway 68. "He showed us he was patient enough to stand along the side of the road," he added. "He taught us that he was patient and understanding."

# OUTAGES

From page 1A

know that it will also improve grid reliability in that city and on Cannery Row, including the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

McCarty explained that the remodeled substation will spread the power distribution among three Peninsula substations, which will result in fewer customers on each circuit and therefore fewer homes without power during outages.

Peninsula residents have come to expect power outages several times each winter — including ones where the power is off for days, causing major headaches for residents, particularly if they use medical

equipment at home. And businesses can suffer significant losses, not only when they can be forced to shut down during outages, but because refrigerated food can spoil.

On Christmas Eve 2025, high winds and rain prompted an outage that affected thousands of people, many in Carmel, Pebble Beach and Pacific Grove.

It was reminiscent of December 2024, when thousands of Peninsula residents also lost power after a major storm came through.

There have also been major power failures that have nothing to do with storms. In October 2015, more than 56,000 people in Monterey County were without power for almost a day after a tower collapsed in Moss Landing.

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garlic herb yukon gold potatoes, sautéed broccolini, lemon-herb butter sauce

#### GRILLED SALMON OSCAR

dungeness crab, wild mushroom & toasted fregola, béarnaise sauce

#### 8oz. GREATER OMAHA 50-DAYS AGED FILET MIGNON

#### A LA PÉRIGOURDINE

potato pavé, grilled artichoke, sautéed asparagus (add 7 oz. lobster tail 20)

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# PLAN

From page 8A

incentives to developers to build mixed-income complexes.

The proposal needs work, McDougall said, but city officials said they don't find his feedback daunting.

"As a result of the extensive collaboration between the city and the state housing department throughout the amendment process, the comments are minimal," the planning department said.

In addition to providing an inventory of land that's suitable and available for residential development, including vacant lots — of which there are few — and "sites having realistic and demonstrated potential for redevelopment," the plan needs to include "an analysis of the relationship of zoning and public facilities and services to these sites," and to say how zoning, development standards, services and facilities will accommodate housing at all income levels, McDougall said.

For example, among other properties, it counts on Patrice Pastor's two largest projects — Ulrika Plaza (aka The Pit) at

Dolores and Fifth, where work is underway, and the JB Pastor Building at Dolores and Seventh, which, after six years of public hearings, appeals and redesigns, still hasn't been approved.

"The element should discuss which portions were upheld and what direction was provided by the city council, then demonstrate the likelihood of the project being permitted in the planning period," he said.

Regarding the proposal to incentivize churches to build affordable housing, he said the city has to demonstrate the Church of the Wayfarer on Lincoln south of Ocean is a realistic site for housing and address land-use controls and the availability of utilities, "or adjust calculations, as appropriate."

## Obstructions?

Due to the paucity of vacant land in Carmel, the plan relies largely on redevelopment, and McDougall said the document must analyze various factors, including "the extent to which existing uses may constitute an impediment to additional residential development, the city's past experience with converting existing uses to higher-density residential development, the current market demand for the existing use, an analysis of any existing leases or other contracts that would perpetuate the existing use or prevent redevelopment of the site for additional residential

development, development trends, market conditions, and regulatory or other incentives or standards to encourage additional residential development on these sites."

Also, the reliance on developed areas requires "substantial evidence that the existing use is not an impediment and will likely discontinue in the planning period." Without that, they can't be considered an adequate means of meeting the housing requirement. "The element does not include a complete site analysis; therefore, the adequacy of sites and zoning was not established," he wrote.

The city has to monitor the number of accessory dwelling units built each year and track their occupancy and affordability, according to McDougall, and modify development standards, such as maximum heights, to facilitate more housing and maximum densities.

Further, the deadlines for implementing programs should be earlier, some by 2027 rather than 2028, and unlicensed residential care facilities, which the plan says are allowed in all residential areas but still require a more rigorous approval process, should simply be a permitted use that does not have to undergo extensive review.

Public feedback at all levels is critical, according to the letter, so the city must make "a diligent effort" to involve "all

*Continues next page*

## RAYMOND TRUK MAGSALAY

Feb. 18, 1939 ❖ Dec. 20, 2025

It is with a heavy heart the family of Raymond Truk Magsalay announce his peaceful passing at home on Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025, at the age of 86.

Ray was resident of Pacific Grove for 63 years. Ray was a dedicated city employee who retired as a park supervisor after 38 years with the City of Monterey. During his time with the city, Raymond was incredibly passionate about setting up the city baseball fields for games. Whether it was the precise drag of the dirt or the crisp, white lines of the chalk, Raymond took immense pride in ensuring that every player stepped on the perfect field.



You knew Raymond by one unmistakable feature: his cowboy hat. He graduated high school from Amador High in Pleasanton, California where he famously scored 15 touchdowns in four games in 1956. Beyond his athletic and professional achievements, Ray was a passionate artist and a master of bonsai. His passion for bonsai started in 1965 and he has tended some of the oldest trees on the Monterey Peninsula. Ray was a man of profound inner peace, his calm spirit was a gift to all

who knew him. One of his famous quotes was "If it's to be, it's up to me."

Ray is survived by his high school sweetheart of 63 years, Carol Magsalay; his daughter, Shantel Rae; his son, Steve (Shelia); four granddaughters and one great-grandson. He also leaves behind his sisters, Alvina Steele and Ella Corona, and many nieces and nephews.

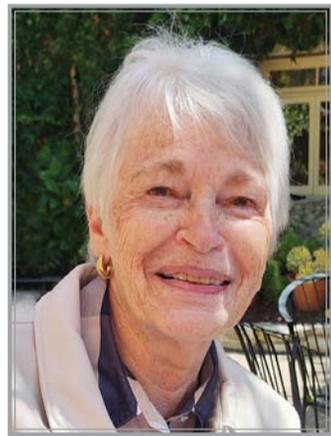
As per Raymond's wishes there will be a private family service.

**Rest in Peace  
Until we meet again  
Magsalay Family**

## Judith Ann Werner Robinson

Judith Ann Werner Robinson, age 85, passed away peacefully on Jan. 11, 2026, in Del Rey Oaks, California surrounded by family and friends. Born on May 18, 1940, in Easton, Pennsylvania, Judy lived a life rooted in faith, family and compassion.

Judy was the cherished daughter of Marion and Jackson Werner. She grew up in Easton and graduated from Wilson High School, where she began forming the values that would guide her throughout her life. In the early 1970s, she and her beloved husband, Rob, built a home together in the Poconos — a place filled with warmth and memories. They later moved to Florida in the early 1980s, embracing a new chapter of life under sunnier skies. In 2019, Judy relocated to Seaside, California to be closer to her daughter, Kim.



A devoted wife, mother and friend, Judy found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She was an avid reader who could often

be found with a book in hand and had a remarkable talent for cooking. Her meals were not only delicious but also expressions of love and care. Her kitchen was a gathering place where stories were shared and bonds were strengthened.

Judy's deep faith was central to her life. She attended Lighthouse Baptist Church where she enjoyed her community of friends and continued to grow in her relationship with God. She lived by example, giving generously of herself and placing others before her. Her kindness touched everyone who knew her; she was truly loved by all.

She is survived by her three children, Jim Collins (WA), Kim Ventimiglia (CA) and David Robinson (FL); and her grandson, Blake Edwards (CA). Judy looked forward to being reunited with her late husband and her parents.

Judy will be remembered for her independence, her relentless strength and her sense of humor. Her legacy lives on through the lives she touched with her unwavering love and selflessness. May her memory bring comfort to those who knew her and continue to inspire acts of kindness for generations to come.

**In lieu of flowers or gifts, please kindly consider donating in memory of Judy Robinson to Lighthouse Baptist Church at 1030 Hilby Ave., Seaside CA 93955.**



## MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM

Michael Cunningham died at his home in San Rafael, California on New Year's Day, at the age of 84.

Born in San Francisco, Michael was deeply rooted in Northern California where he received two degrees from Stanford University, raised a family and built a life defined by professional excellence, physical discipline and civic responsibility.

Michael had a long and distinguished career at Hewlett-Packard, both in Palo Alto and Edinburgh, Scotland. Beginning as an engineer in 1962, he rose through the organization into leadership roles within several business units and was known for his intelligence, dedication and integrity across decades of rapid technological change. He retired from HP in 1998 and he and his wife relocated to Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA.

Michael was a dedicated runner who completed several marathons including San Francisco, New York and Boston. He enjoyed biking, golf, tennis and avidly followed Bay Area sports teams. In addition, Michael was passionate about home improvement projects of all shapes and sizes, woodworking, reading biographies and learning the piano.

Michael was also committed to public service. During his retirement years in Carmel, he served as a community volunteer at the Sunset Center, on the City Planning Commission and as an elected member of the City Council. He approached civic life with generosity, pragmatism and a passion for leadership.

Above all, Michael was a devoted husband, brother, father and grandfather. He is survived by his loving wife of over 60 years, Judith; sister, Arleen and brother-in-law, John; daughter, Julie and her husband, Vasilis; son, Timothy and his wife, Tracy and his three beloved grandchildren.

**A private service will be held. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Parkinson's Foundation Center of Excellence at Stanford University [neurologyfund.stanford.edu](https://neurologyfund.stanford.edu).**

**From previous page**

economic segments of the community” in developing the housing element, including employing “additional methods for public outreach, particularly including lower-income and special-needs households.”

“Public participation in the development, adoption and implementation of the housing element is essential to effective housing planning,” he said.

At the Jan. 21 planning commission meeting, planning director Anna Ginette described the requested modifications and clarifications as “minor.”

“Overall, our staff and consultant found there weren’t any big issues with the comments, and we’re working on a response to resubmit to the state,” she said.

Ginette also told the commission that in 2024, building permits were issued for 22 “above-moderate units” — in other words, market-rate houses — in the city.

Nineteen of them were ADUs.

**MARY CHAMBERLIN**

Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> 1934 · Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 2025

**C**hef, caterer, entrepreneur and beloved friend to many, Mary Chamberlin lived fully and loved deeply in her 91 years.

Mary, the oldest of seven children, and a twin, began life on a farm in Illinois. She worked in their family’s truck garden, played in the river and cared for injured animals. From the age of 7, Mary helped prepare meals and family celebrations. As she grew, visits to her aunt in Chicago introduced her to elegant table settings, high tea, theater, cinema and city life.

In high school, Mary’s family moved to Castro Valley, California. Mary babysat, cleaned houses, taught Sunday School and visited her cousins, the Morses, in Pebble Beach. She spent summers as a camp counselor and wrote scripts for camper performances and plays.

After marrying and moving to Arkansas, Mary started a family and became an executive secretary for the State Department. It was there her culinary talent first gained recognition when she won the River Valley Cooking Contest with her “Oven-Baked Chicken,” later known as her signature “Parmesan Chicken.” When the local Restaurant Owners Association requested samples, Mary used her oven, plus four of her neighbors, to prepare more than 2,000 samples for the conventioners to taste!

It was also during this time Mary served as a representative for COSERVE, hosting foreign dignitaries. A natural connector, Mary hosted her guests for dinner in her home, thoughtfully aligning meals and activities to their interests and purpose in the United States. Mary always asked departing guests, “What is your favorite dish from your home country?” and she would add these culinary favorites to her own repertoire. Her curiosity and love of international cuisine were already apparent.

Mary traveled to France for her brother’s wedding to Charles de Gaulle’s goddaughter and survived a life-threatening car accident that left her hand severely injured. After three months in a French hospital, she returned home. Unable to continue secretarial work, she faced an uncertain future. She realized that cooking, which she loved and excelled at, would become her life’s work. Inspired by Julia Child, whom she later befriended, she got a formal culinary education at West Valley College and she never looked back.

In 1972, Mary turned adversity into opportunity by founding Mission Gourmet Catering, Deli & Cooking School in Fremont, California. The business thrived, serving weddings, corporate events and private clients while welcoming international chefs to showcase their cuisines. Her deli became a beloved gathering place known for exceptional food and a pioneering gourmet market. True to her generous spirit, Mary always offered a \$1 student special. For 20 years, she also taught at Ohlone College, sharing her passion for Cantonese, European and American cuisines with the Bay Area community.

In 1975, Mary met her second husband and great love, Roy Chamberlin. Mary thought she was meeting a friend for lunch, but instead, was set up on a blind date with Roy at the San Francisco Airport, where he worked as chief pilot for TWA. Though nervous at first, Mary was quickly charmed by Roy’s humor, gentlemanly nature and dashing good looks. These two were a match made in heaven and it was love from the start.

Mary later studied at Le Cordon Bleu and La Varenne in Paris. When she returned, Roy greeted her wearing a shirt that read, “Marry Me and Fly Free!” From then on Mary and Roy were inseparable and blended their families and lives completely.

While traveling in Wales, Mary received a call from the president of the James Beard Foundation inviting her to an event the following evening in New York with Michel Escoffier, great-grandson of legendary chef Auguste Escoffier. Mary’s response: “I’m already packed!” She and Roy became exceptionally close to Michel, and Mary would not only collaborate with him on many legacy projects, but they would become the closest of personal friends.

Mary sold Mission Deli and Catering and moved full-time to Carmel, though she never truly retired. She founded the Disciples Escoffier International of Monterey, chaired the Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Institute of Wine & Food and served as the national vice chair from 2008 to 2012. She founded the Monterey Chapter of Les Dames d’Escoffier International and was the first person selected to the Auguste Escoffier Schools International Advisory Committee, also serving as U.S. agent and manager for the Escoffier Foundation and Museum in France. She generously donated her time and her famed “Dining Theatrics” dinners to charity. In 2016, she was named Meals on Wheels “Women Who Care” Woman of the Year and served on the advisory board of the Drummond Culinary Academy at Rancho Cielo. In 2024, Mary was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Chefs and in 2025, was honored with the John Spadaro Lifetime Achievement Award for her service on the Peninsula. To the end, Mary was involved in numerous charitable endeavors, worthy causes and committees.

In 2011, Mary published “The Traveling Soup Pot,” featuring 129 recipes from 28 countries, followed by “The Traveling Cookbook.” After Roy’s death in 2013, she helped complete his book, “Vortices.”

Mary will be remembered for her style, enthusiasm, humor, generosity, love and, of course, her extraordinary food. She will be missed by her daughter, Deborah; sons, Marshall and Wic and three stepchildren, Craig, Debbie and Ross. Raise a glass to Mary as she is reunited with her beloved Roy.

**In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to Rancho Cielo or Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula.**

**Friends of Mary’s are invited to Woody’s at the Airport from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> for a Celebration of Life.**

**ROCCO A. BROWN**

March 21, 1939 - Jan. 8, 2026

**R**occo A. Brown, a Monterey native with saltwater in his veins, paint on his hands and 1950s music in his heart, left this world on Jan. 8, 2026, at age 86 — leaving behind a coastline of memories and a community that loved him dearly.

Born on 2nd Street in Oak Grove to Jimmy and Mary “Babe” Brown, Rocco grew up in a tiny home bursting with family, friends and neighborhood spirit that shaped his love for Monterey. He began working at age 9 rolling newspapers and later delivering them across the Peninsula, already known for his strong work ethic and easy smile.

Rocco attended San Carlos Elementary, Junípero Serra Memorial High School, then transferred to Monterey High School for the thrill of playing football. After high school, he served in the U.S. Army, completing basic training at Fort Ord, earning recognition as a sharpshooter, and later working in logistics at Fort Eustis, Virginia.

In 1969, Rocco returned home to Monterey, picked up a paintbrush, and built a 50-year career painting homes across the Peninsula. For years, he was the dependable painter for the famed Doris Day, regularly painting her home and kennels, often telling stories of the wonderful life her rescued animals found with her.

In the 1980s, Rocco met the love of his life, Cynthia. They married at St. John’s Chapel and shared almost 50 years together. Rocco warmly embraced Cynthia’s daughter Jennifer and son Matthew, along with two dogs, two cats and a turtle.

One of Rocco’s proudest accomplishments was helping restore San Carlos Cathedral with his friend and partner, John Quaglia. A devoted Catholic, Rocco donated countless hours to San Carlos. Between St. Angela’s, where he was baptized, and his beloved San Carlos, Rocco attended Mass several times a week and faithfully cared for Renew, the San Carlos resident church kitty.

When not painting or at church, Rocco could be found on the water chasing salmon with a close-knit crew of friends: Don Snyder, Bert Saunders, Elliott Booker, Tommy Bruno, Richard Radley and occasionally master fillet-er Mel Snyder. Rocco loved his boats, from his first little dinghy with an outboard engine to his 26-foot Bayliner with a slip in the Monterey Marina, thanks to his friend Tom Scardina.

When he wasn’t on the water, Rocco was happily “stuck in the ’50s,” enjoying his music and his love for his ’58 Chevy Impala, reminiscing about dragging Alvarado Main Street, going to El Patio, and attending events like Monterey’s Cherry’s Jubilee.

Rocco’s life was filled with faith, family, friendship, hard work and joy. His laughter, generosity, and warm heart will be deeply missed.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Cynthia; daughter, Jennifer Bliss (Gregg Bliss); son, Matthew Durney; godson, Joseph Quaglia; brother-in-law, Jeff Scofield; niece, Sherry Brown; nephews, Ron and Steve Prieto and many dear friends.

**A celebration of Rocco’s life will begin at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 23, at San Carlos Cathedral, followed by a reception at St. John’s Chapel where he and Cynthia were married.**

**In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to San Carlos Cathedral or the SPCA Monterey County. Rocco never met an animal he didn’t love.**

# SURRENDER

From page 6A

effort was successful and Canseco, 23, and his teen accomplice were in custody.

“We extend our gratitude to the attorney who collaborated with Chief Borges to facilitate a peaceful surrender, as well as to Mr. Canseco for making the commendable choice to come forward,” the police department posted. “A heartfelt, ‘Thank you,’ goes out to the community for your invaluable support through sharing information,

commenting and providing numerous tips.”

Canseco was booked into Monterey County Jail on charges of shooting at an inhabited building, attempted murder, carrying a loaded firearm in public, vandalism and violation of the terms of his post-release community supervision following a prior criminal conviction.

The Monterey County District Attorney’s Office filed charges against him Jan. 13 for conspiracy to commit murder and assault with a semi-automatic firearm. He was arraigned and is being held in Monterey County Jail on \$1 million bail.

According to Monterey County Superior Court records, Canseco — who also goes by Luis Brian Canseco and Luis

Brian Sanchez — has been convicted of violent crimes in the past and violated probation.

In April 2025, he was arrested by Seaside P.D. for vandalism and exhibiting a deadly weapon, which the DA’s office said was a knife or chisel. He pleaded guilty that month and was given a year of probation with terms that included obeying all laws, not possessing any firearms, staying away from the victims, using a neutral third party to arrange child custody and visitation, completing 80 hours of community service and taking anger management classes. He was also sentenced to 180 days in jail, with the sentence stayed as long as he didn’t violate the probation rules.

### ‘Alternative to violence’

In December 2025, he petitioned the court to reduce the jail sentence to 90 days based on his participation in 29 alternative to violence classes — “demonstrating meaningful growth in communication and emotional regulation” — completing 90 hours of community service, and maintaining steady employment “as the sole financial provider for his household, continuing to fulfill his responsibilities as a father to his infant twins who depend on his stability, presence and support,” according to a letter sent to the court by an organization called the Village Project.

One of his landscaping employers also sent a glowing letter of support.

The judge agreed and reduced the sentence to 90 days, with credit for 17 days served, and said Canseco could satisfy the remaining jail time of 73 days by completing 584 hours of community service through a nonprofit.

Four years earlier, he was arrested for negligent discharge of a firearm and possession of a controlled substance, charges to which he pleaded guilty in July 2021. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail and probation.

*Mother. Wife. Educator. Mentor. Aunt. Sister. Friend. Oma.*

*Celebrating the life of*

## Judy Parsons Gaughf

Please join us to remember and celebrate our beloved Judy.

**February 21, 2026**

**2 p.m.**

**Reception to follow**

Chartwell School  
2511 Numa Watson Road, Seaside

RSVP by February 15 to Shannon at  
SLGaughf@gmail.com

Share your memories of Judy at  
[www.newlywords.com/judygaughf](http://www.newlywords.com/judygaughf)



Nov. 16, 1954 — Oct. 7, 2025

“The Pine Cone. Not the only great paper. Not the only free paper. But the only great free paper.”  
— *unsolicited reader comment*



### SOPHIA GASSER

Aug. 18, 1918 – Jan. 10, 2026

CARMEL — Even in the midst of our grief, there is a sense of celebration in a life well led. On Jan. 10, 2026, our beloved mother passed into Heaven at the age of 107.

Sophia Gasser was born in Anaconda, Montana, to Nicholas and Angela Trbovich. She called Glassport, PA and Bakersfield, Larkspur and Sonoma, CA home before moving to Carmel in 2003 to be near her family. She thought Carmel was the greatest place in the world to live.

For 44 years she was married to our Dad, James, with whom she had four children. Her joy was her family, and she cherished many home-cooked meals with them (especially her pot roast and cabbage rolls!). Some of her recipes will be passed on for generations to come.

For many years, you could find her in San Francisco doing medical insurance billing work. She was devoted to her exercise, healthy eating and loved her game of bridge. Volunteering at the Rose, a resale shop at Carmel Valley Manor, gave her great purpose. She loved the thrill of a good sale.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James; and two sons, James William (Ruth) Gasser and Jon Wayne Gasser. She is survived by two children, David (Nancy) Gasser and Karen (Richard) Curtis; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; one brother and many nieces and nephews.

Her spirit was inspirational. Her joy was infectious. Her stubbornness was legendary. She will be missed by all who knew her.

The family would be honored if any memorial gifts were sent to The Arthritis Research Coalition. As per her wishes, there will be no memorial service.

Visit [www.struveandlaporte.com](http://www.struveandlaporte.com) to offer online condolences.



### PATRICIA ‘JEANNE’ SABET

Patricia “Jeanne” Sabet (née Haberl), also known as Jeanne Gomez, Davis and Johnston, passed away peacefully on Nov. 8th, at Carmel Hills Care Center. She was 98 years old. She is survived by four of her eight children, 14 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren (too many to mention!) She is also survived by one of her four sisters, Gloria Turnquist.

Born in Pennsylvania, Jeanne grew up in Larkspur, CA with her parents and four sisters. She attended Dominican School in San Rafael. She and her first husband, Ralph P. Gomez, raised eight children in San Francisco and had a summer home in Pebble Beach, where she later moved.

Jeanne has strong roots in both San Francisco and Pebble Beach/Carmel. She and her sister, Toni Glaser, were very active in the community, organizing wonderful parties at The Lodge at Pebble Beach back in the ‘80s. She was a member of the The Beach & Tennis Club and Casa Abrego Club. Jeanne was also an active member of San Francisco society, fundraising for several boards she served on including the San Francisco Ballet, Opera and San Dominico School in Fairfax.

Jeanne was a magnificent human, full of life and love with a great sense of adventure. She loved to travel and did so, all over the world. She was genuine and generous in every way. Her sister, Gloria, remembers that when she had an after-school job, she spent her earnings on her friends. She loved entertaining and loved, above all, her family. What an epic life she had! She will be missed.

# Cornerstones, a celebrity disappearance, and a bootlegging mayor

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE ARRIVAL of 2026 marks the centennial of many important local institutions — along with the golden anniversary of a variety of events that passed for headlines back in the day and continue to shape life on the Monterey Peninsula.

Unlike today — when builders are subjected to a grueling approval process that offers no certainty of success — 1926 saw a whirlwind of development in Carmel, Monterey and Pacific Grove with the construction of Sunset School, Golden State Theatre, Forest Hill Manor and many other enduring landmarks.

And that's not all — 1926 was also a peak year for Hollywood filming locally, the year when artist Jo Mora's first pictorial map came out, and the year Carmel had a big kidnapping scandal that captured the attention of newspaper readers everywhere.

## School expands

Replacing a two-room school at San Carlos and Ninth that had become too small for its increasing enrollment, the people of Carmel approved a \$50,000 bond to fund the construction of a new one. The work was completed in January 1926, and the school soon welcomed its first generation of students. Those classrooms are now part of Sunset Center, which thrives as a performing arts hub.

Featuring 1,600 seats at a time when Monterey's population was just 6,000, the Golden State Theatre celebrated its grand

opening Aug. 6, 1926. Designed by the San Francisco architectural firm Reid & Reid, it was made to look like an open-air courtyard, with chandeliers, tapestries and interior walls inspired by a Castilian castle. A few years later, it became the first venue on the Monterey Peninsula to screen films with sound. One hundred years later, the theater anchors the downtown Monterey business district, and its stage welcomes a busy lineup of musical acts and live comedy.

## Hammers, nails needed

Also built in 1926 were the Percy Parkes Building, the Ross E. Bonham House, the Hildreth Hare Cottage, the John Neikirk Cottage, the George Whitcomb House and



PHOTO/ZAN STARK

The distinctive and beloved Tuck Box was built in 1926 or 1927, according to conflicting sources.

the Ethel P. Young House — all of which are considered historic. In fact, Carmel's database of historical buildings includes 32 homes completed that year.

While the Tuck Box's website contends it was designed and erected by Hugh

Comstock in 1927, city and state documents say it was constructed in 1926. Before it was called the Tuck Box, it was known as Sally's Tea Room.

Still a hub of activity, American Legion Post 512 also dates to 1926.

There are claims the Harrison Memorial Library reaches 100 this year. However, according to historians Kathryn Gualtieri and Lynn Momboisse, the city hosted a contest for the library's design that year, but none of the entries were selected. Architect Bernard Maybeck's plans and builder M.J. Murphy's bid for construction

were accepted by the city the following year. The library opened in 1928.

## Growth spurt

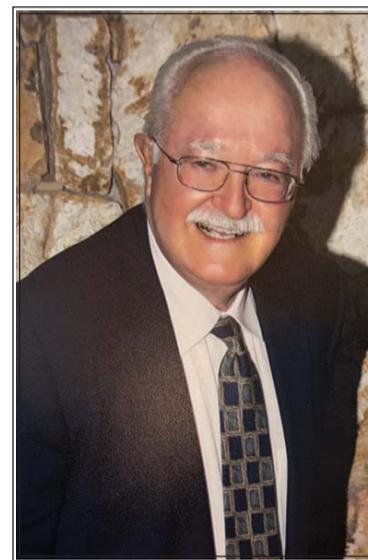
While much of Pacific Grove's development preceded the 1920s, one of the town's most visible landmarks, the five-story, 98-room Forest Hill Manor building opened as a hotel in July 2026. Designed by architect George Rushforth in a Mediterranean Revival style and constructed by Samuel S. Parsons at a cost of more

See **MEMORABLE** page 45A

## SAMUEL 'SAM' KOBRINSKY

Samuel "Sam" Kobrinsky, 96, died in January 2026 in Monterey County, California, after a long and full life devoted to family, service, dentistry and friendship. He will be remembered for his sharp mind, generous spirit, and love of cards, conversation and the California coast.

### Early life and education



Born in August 1929 in Chicago to Myer Kobrinsky and Jeane (Giulietti) Kobrinsky, Sam spent his early years surrounded by the warmth and stories of the extended Kobrinsky family in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. His upbringing in that close-knit community shaped his strong sense of responsibility, humor and resilience.

Sam earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg; a Doctor of Dental Surgery from Loyola University Chicago College of Dental Surgery; Diplomate, American Board of Periodontology from Tufts University in Boston with a Residency at Walter Reed General Hospital. His education was the foundation for a long and respected career in dental medicine.

### Military service and family life

As a young dentist, Sam joined the United States Army Medical Corps. While on assignment in Yakima, Washington, he met the love of his life, Marguerite "Denny" Multz. They married in 1957 and shared 70 years together. Their life in the military was a chapter of service that would take them and their growing family across the United States and twice to Germany. When Sam was stationed at Fort Ord in 1969 they decided to call Monterey County their permanent home.

Sam and Denny raised four children — Catherine, Julia, Michae and Chuck — while building a life centered on love, loyalty and a sense of adventure. The moves, new towns and new friends only deepened their bond and created a rich store of family memories.

### Professional life and business ventures

Sam retired from the Army in 1975 as a colonel. He subsequently opened his private periodontal practice in Salinas, California, where he cared for patients with a blend of technical excellence and genuine kindness. He was deeply committed to his profession and to the well-being of those who trusted him with their care.

During these years, Sam also developed a lifelong fascination with real estate investment and development. What began as an interest grew into a significant second career with projects in Salinas and San Antonio, eventually involving his son Michael and daughter Catherine, with whom he took great pride in working side by side.

### Passions, personality, and community

Sam and Denny built a wonderful life on the central coast of California, surrounded by good friends, cherished neighbors and the beauty of Monterey County. They traveled widely, but always returned with gratitude to the place they called home.

Sam loved cards — both the game and the camaraderie. He spent countless hours around card tables in private homes, at Vegas venues and at Bankers Casino, relishing the strategy, the banter and the friendships. In June 2024, at age 94, he notably placed 97th out of 8,000 players in the Seniors No-Limit Hold'em Championship at the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas, a feat that delighted his family and friends and perfectly captured his competitive spirit and sharp mind.

### Family and legacy

Sam is survived by his wife, Denny; daughters, Catherine Kobrinsky (Lee) Evans and Julia (Peter) Murphy; son, Michael Kobrinsky; grandchildren, Louisa and Asher Solarz, Meredith Bell, Blair Williams and Valin Kobrinsky; and great-grandchildren, Taylor and Avery Bell and Reese Williams. He was predeceased by his son, Chuck Kobrinsky, whose memory he carried with him always.

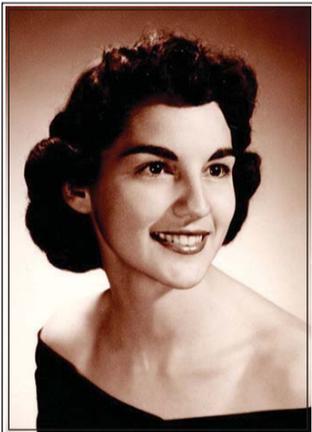
Those who knew Sam will remember his quick wit, his steady presence, his love of a good game and his deep devotion to the people he loved. His legacy lives on in the family he nurtured, the patients he cared for, the communities he helped shape, and the many lives brightened by his kindness and humor.

Funeral arrangements by **Struve and Laporte Funeral Home**.  
Online condolences to [www.struveandlaporte.com](http://www.struveandlaporte.com)

## MARLENE BARBARA AIELLO

July 26, 1933 - Jan. 6, 2026

Marlene Barbara Aiello, 92, passed away at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, of natural causes after a brief illness. A lifelong resident of Monterey, she was born to Ernest Perry and Kathryn Mercurio in 1933, the second of three daughters.



Marlene grew up on old Oliver Street and graduated from Monterey High School in 1951. It was there she first encountered her future husband and love of her life, Neno Richard Aiello. Marlene loved to tell the story of seeing Neno crossing the quad in high school and thinking that is the man she would marry. Little did either of them know that 10 years later, while Marlene was walking home from church in the rain, Neno would stop to offer her a ride. They married in 1958 and would settle into a house by the Monterey Fairgrounds where they raised three children.

Marlene's first job in high school was at JC Penney on Alvarado Street as a salesgirl. (Always a beauty, she even did some modeling for them). She also worked at John Hancock Insurance. In addition to raising her children, she worked for the Monterey Unified School District at Ord Terrace Elementary and at Santa Catalina School from 1977 to her retirement in 1998.

She loved gardening and was passionate about genealogy and researching her family history. In the days before the internet, Marlene traced her family tree back to the 18th century and discovered relatives from the Basque region of France and Spain. Getting to actually connect and meet with her new family was one of the delights of her life.

Marlene was preceded in death by her husband, Neno, in 2007; sister, Doreen Palencia and half-brother, Donald Perry. She leaves behind her daughter, Mary Stewart (David) of Monterey and sons, Mark Aiello (Gwendalena) of Seaside and Matthew Aiello (Kimberly) of Torrance. Marlene is also survived by her sister, Shirley Campo of San Mateo and nieces, Diane Hendrix and Karen Moore; half-sisters, Linda Natale and Tina Albrecht, sisters-in-law, Donna Aiello and Jill Aiello, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Our family would like to acknowledge and thank her dear friends Sam Tarantino, Annette Brown and Hope Cardinali, and her nephew Rick Russo. We are immensely grateful for the love and help you gave our mother over the years.

To honor her life, the family kindly suggests a donation in Marlene's name to your favorite charity.

Arrangements are pending with Mission Mortuary.

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20252159 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: RH PAINTING, 1493 Lassen Ave., Salinas, California 93906.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20252266 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: PROGRAMMATIO PARTNERS, 3088 Redwood Drive, Marina, CA 93933.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20252284 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MONTEREY LIQUOR & MART, 898 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, CA 93940.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20252284 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MONTEREY LIQUOR & MART, 898 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, CA 93940.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260003 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BELTRANBLENDZ, 1276 N. Main St., Salinas, CA 93906.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260003 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BELTRANBLENDZ, 1276 N. Main St., Salinas, CA 93906.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20252225 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: FERGUSON HOME, 1144 FREMONT BLVD. SEASIDE, CA 93955.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20252225 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: FERGUSON HOME, 1144 FREMONT BLVD. SEASIDE, CA 93955.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260006 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SIMPLE TAX SERVICES, 10200 Tambladerra St., Castroville, CA 95012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260027 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SP TAXES, 635 Front St., Soledad, CA 93960.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260027 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SP TAXES, 635 Front St., Soledad, CA 93960.

Robledo Drive, Soledad, CA 93960. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 6, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260040 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BRIGHTFIRE ARTWORKS, 2860 Ransford Ave., Pacific Grove, California 93950.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260056 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CENTRAL COAST SURVEILLANCE, 1450 Nogal Dr., Salinas, CA 93905.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20252292 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: TANDEM EDGE SOLUTIONS, 26105 S. Carmel Hills Drive, Carmel, CA 93923.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260021 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1. SAKE COLLECTIVE 2. SAKE COLLECTIVE ADVENTURES 25317 Carmel Knolls Drive, Carmel, CA 93923.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260088 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CARMEL VALLEY BUSINESS CENTER, 13766 Center St., Ste. G5, Carmel Valley, California 93924.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260088 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CARMEL VALLEY BUSINESS CENTER, 13766 Center St., Ste. G5, Carmel Valley, California 93924.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260048 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: HEART AND HOME NURSING SERVICES, 850 Cactus Court, Salinas, CA 93905.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260048 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: HEART AND HOME NURSING SERVICES, 850 Cactus Court, Salinas, CA 93905.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260006 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SIMPLE TAX SERVICES, 10200 Tambladerra St., Castroville, CA 95012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260027 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SP TAXES, 635 Front St., Soledad, CA 93960.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260027 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SP TAXES, 635 Front St., Soledad, CA 93960.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260007 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: GREEN HOME SOLUTIONS, 288 Pearl Street #076, Monterey, CA 93940.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260056 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CENTRAL COAST SURVEILLANCE, 1450 Nogal Dr., Salinas, CA 93905.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260064 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CENTRAL COAST SIGN AND DESIGN, 1311-B Dayton St., Salinas, CA 93901.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260064 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CENTRAL COAST SIGN AND DESIGN, 1311-B Dayton St., Salinas, CA 93901.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260088 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CARMEL VALLEY BUSINESS CENTER, 13766 Center St., Ste. G5, Carmel Valley, California 93924.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260088 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CARMEL VALLEY BUSINESS CENTER, 13766 Center St., Ste. G5, Carmel Valley, California 93924.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260001 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DRIVE 1 AUTO SALES, 326 Reservation Rd., F1, Marina, CA 93933.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260001 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DRIVE 1 AUTO SALES, 326 Reservation Rd., F1, Marina, CA 93933.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20252241 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Restore Home Health, 5005 Texas Street, 4th Floor, San Diego, CA 92108.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260081 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ETHOS-BIOTA, 65 Norman Way, Salinas, CA 93906.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260081 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ETHOS-BIOTA, 65 Norman Way, Salinas, CA 93906.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260081 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ETHOS-BIOTA, 65 Norman Way, Salinas, CA 93906.

listed above on Jan. 12, 2026. S/Enrique Garcia Date signed: Jan. 12, 2026 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 12, 2026.

Lien Sale Auction Advertisement

Notice is hereby given that, Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act (B&P Code 21700 et. Seq.), the undersigned will sell at public auction personal property including but not limited to furniture, clothing, tools, and /or other misc. items.

Lien Sale Auction Advertisement

Notice is hereby given that, Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act (B&P Code 21700 et. Seq.), the undersigned will sell at public auction personal property, including but not limited to furniture, clothing, tools, and /or other misc. items.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26CV000079 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, BRYANT MUNOZ ALVARA & CINTHIA LISSETH RAMIREZ CENTENO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250014 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Jumpstart Finance and Accounting, 27136 Prestancia Way, Salinas, CA 93908

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260092 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: FRI CONSTRUCTION, 277 Tapadero St., Salinas, CA 93906.

Lien Sale Auction Advertisement

Notice is hereby given that Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act, (B&P Code 21700 et. Seq.), the undersigned will sell at public auction; personal property including but not limited to furniture, tools, and /or other misc. items.

Lien Sale Auction Advertisement

Notice is hereby given that, Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act (B&P Code 21700 et. Seq.), the undersigned will sell at public auction personal property, including but not limited to furniture, clothing, tools, and /or other misc. items.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260024 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BMTS MOBILITY GROUP, 415 Hall Rd., Royal Oaks, CA 95076.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250014 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Jumpstart Finance and Accounting, 27136 Prestancia Way, Salinas, CA 93908

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260092 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: FRI CONSTRUCTION, 277 Tapadero St., Salinas, CA 93906.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260087 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SERAPHIM'S TOUCH, 1011 Cass Street, Ste. 203-E, Monterey, CA 93940.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20252253 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1. INKED OCTOPUS BOOKS 2. THE INKED OCTOPUS BOOKSTORE 3. INKED OCTOPUS BOOKSTORE 4. THE INKED OCTOPUS BOOKSTORE AND COFFEEHOUSE 5. INKED OCTOPUS BOOKSTORE AND COFFEEHOUSE

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20252253 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1. INKED OCTOPUS BOOKS 2. THE INKED OCTOPUS BOOKSTORE 3. INKED OCTOPUS BOOKSTORE 4. THE INKED OCTOPUS BOOKSTORE AND COFFEEHOUSE 5. INKED OCTOPUS BOOKSTORE AND COFFEEHOUSE

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File No. 20260092 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: FRI CONSTRUCTION, 277 Tapadero St., Salinas, CA 93906.

T.S. No.: 250903748 Notice of Trustee's Sale Loan No.: 20230917 Order No. 95532256 APN: 006-026-011-000 Property Address: 1046 Balboa Avenue Pacific Grove, CA 93950 You Are In Default Under A Deed Of Trust Dated 9/8/2023. Unless You Take Action To Protect Your Property, It May Be Sold At A Public Sale. If You Need An Explanation Of The Nature Of The Proceeding Against You, You Should Contact A Lawyer. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. No cashier's checks older than 60 days from the day of sale will be accepted. Trustor: AMAM, LLC, A California Limited Liability Company Duly Appointed Trustee: Yeva, Inc. dba Saxe Mortgage Company Recorded 9/27/2023 as Instrument No. 2023029868 in book, page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Monterey County, California, Date of Sale: 2/10/2026 at 10:00 AM Place of Sale: main entrance County Administration Building, 168 West Alisal Street, Salinas, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$1,908,060.38 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 1046 Balboa Avenue Pacific Grove, CA 93950 Legal Description: Please See Attached Exhibit "A" The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. Notice To Potential Bidders: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. Notice To Property Owner: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (877) 440-4460 or visit this Internet website www.mkconsultantsinc.com, using the file number assigned to this case 250903748. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Notice To Tenant: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (877) 440-4460, or visit this internet website www.mkconsultantsinc.com, using the file number assigned to this case 250903748 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. When submitting funds for a bid subject to Section 2924m, please make the funds payable to "Total Lender Solutions, Inc. Holding Account". If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 1/8/2026 Yeva, Inc. dba Saxe Mortgage Company by Mortgage Lender Services, as agent 10505 Sorrento Valley Road, Suite 125 San Diego, CA 92121 Phone: 866-535-3736 Sale Line: (877) 440-4460 By: Rachel Seropian, Trustee Sale Officer Exhibit "A" Legal Description Parcel 1: Lot 7, In Block 260, As Shown On The "Map Of Pacific Grove Beach, City Of Pacific Grove, Monterey County, California", Filed August 7, 1916 In The Office Of The County Recorder Of The County Of Monterey, State Of California, And Now On File In Said Office In Map Book 3, "Cities And Towns", At Page 6 Therein. Parcel 2: Together With A Right Of Way For Sewer Purposes Over The Easterly 47 Feet On The Southerly 5 Feet And Over The Easterly 5 Feet Of Lot 8, In Block 260, As Shown On The Map Entitled "Map Of Pacific Grove Beach, City Of Pacific Grove, Monterey County, California", Filed August 7, 1916, In The Office Of The County Recorder Of The County Of Monterey, State Of California, And Now On File In Said Office In Map Book 3, Cities And Towns, At Page 6 Therein. Publication dates: Jan. 16, 23, 30, 2026 (PC121)

# PERMITS

From page 1A

sections of state fire and building codes.

On Nov. 13, 2025, Laurie issued a notice of violation to the building's owner, Alan Porter, saying that although the planning commission in December 2024 approved the couple's application to turn the space into a coffee shop, "all required conditions of approval have not been complied with, and therefore the use is not vested."

Specifically, because the type of business changed and the maximum occupancy increased, the California Existing Building

block away.

"I'm not here to avoid safety or compliance," Blevins said at the Jan. 16 hearing. "I'm here because I believe the city's order functions as a de facto closure order for my small business."

Blevins said that throughout the permitting process, she was never informed the change to a full-blown coffee shop would require a new bathroom onsite and fire sprinklers. In correspondence she provided to the city, she said her landlord did not want to sign off on the business license application due to his concerns about the conditions of the use permit, and she said the couple that owns the clothing shop next door told her restricting the bathroom use to employees only is part of their lease.

She also argued it would be unfair to force those requirements on her when many other properties don't meet them, and she noted that several other coffee shops send their customers to public restrooms.

The owners of the Grill on Ocean, which is in the same building, said they have accommodated Mad Dogs customers who asked to use their restroom, and they asked the board to make Blevins follow the rules.

Another business owner who appeared on Zoom as Sara said fairness dictates that

the coffee shop comply. Otherwise, she suggested, those that make the effort to do so are put at a financial and competitive disadvantage.

"Our business was required to make modifications to operate," she said. "If another business is allowed to continue operating without meeting the same requirements, it creates an uneven playing field."

### No 'special treatment'

Blevins fired back at the commenters, saying they don't know the facts and implying they are simply jealous because her business is doing better than theirs.

"We're not trying to operate outside the law and are not asking for any special treatment," she said.

Responding to Blevins' argument

that other similar businesses don't have restrooms or sprinklers, Laurie acknowledged "there are existing nonconforming businesses in the city." He explained that the requirements are triggered when a change of use occurs, as happened when Blevins' retail space was turned into a "specialty restaurant."

### 'Not willing'

And regarding building manager John Plastini's statement that the water system in the building can't support automatic sprinklers, Laurie said, the onus is on the property owner to address that.

"There are multiple properties in town that have met the same requirement, going up to three blocks away to get the necessary water for the fire system," he said.

"The Fire Code is what I live and breathe every day," Cooper added, and clearly the change of use at Mad Dogs "would require the building to be sprinklered."

"We want to protect occupants if there's a fire in there," he explained.

Laurie recommended the board deny Blevins' appeal and "uphold the building official's requirement to construct a public restroom and install a fire sprinkler

system."

Board member Ron Brown sympathized with Blevins but said he couldn't support her appeal. He suggested she work with the landlord to try to resolve the issues and speculated installing a sprinkler system could add value to the property and reduce insurance costs.

The codes are dense and lengthy, board member Adam Jeselnick said, and plans should be closely analyzed with them in mind, which apparently wasn't done for Mad Dogs.

Brown encouraged Blevins to submit a new application to "address some of these issues."

"It has been made very clear to me that the owner of the building is not willing to spend \$500,000 on a sprinkler system for my coffee shop," Blevins responded.

Jeselnick said he didn't feel he could vote as Laurie recommended, given the additional information Blevins provided, much of it the day before and the day of the hearing, and city attorney Brian Pierik said the board could put off a decision to give everyone more time.

Brown and Jeselnick voted to continue the appeal to a date uncertain.



PHOTO/YEPL

The popular coffee shop at Ocean and Mission can continue operating as-is, for now.

Code and the California Fire Code require it to have an accessible public restroom, as well as fire sprinklers throughout the building, which contains a restaurant, a clothing store and other tenants.

"As the owner of the property, you must initiate the following corrective action by Dec. 13, 2025," Laurie wrote, which could include reverting "the space back to the previously approved use as a mercantile occupancy," or complying with the conditions of approval for the use permit and applying for permits to install a bathroom and fire sprinklers.

Blevins filed an appeal on Nov. 20, 2025, arguing that the codes on fire sprinklers don't apply, and that the requirement for "conveniently adjacent" restrooms can be satisfied by sending customers to the public bathrooms in Devendorf Park a

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BOARD OF REGENTS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260041  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**JDS ESTATE JEWELRY, 959 Portola Dr., Monterey, CA 93940.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:  
**JDS ESTATE JEWELRY LLC, P.O. Box 4833, Carmel, CA 93921.**  
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA  
This business is conducted by a limited liability company  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 1, 2016.  
S/Juan Da Silva, CEO  
Date: Jan. 7, 2026  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 7, 2026.  
Publication Dates: Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 140)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260057  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**AXOLOT T-SHIRT, 499 Calle Principal, Suite A, Monterey, CA 93940.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): DANIEL MORALES.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 23, 2025.  
S/Daniel Morales  
Date signed: Jan. 8, 2026  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 8, 2026.  
Publication Dates: Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 142)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260124  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**TOP NAILS, 915 Playa Ave. #C, Sand City, CA 93955.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): SUSAN TRINH LE, 915 Playa Ave. #C, Sand City, CA 93933.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 20, 2026.  
S/Susan Le

Date signed: Jan. 20, 2026  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 20, 2026.  
Publication Dates: Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 145)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260131  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**RGR, LLC, 2814 Raccoon Trail, Pebble Beach, CA 93953.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:  
**ROOTED GROWING RESILIENT, LLC, 680 Lighthouse Avenue, #52055, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.**  
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA  
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 5, 2026.  
S/Jean Cheng Gorman, Manager  
Date: Jan. 20, 2026  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 20, 2026.  
Publication Dates: Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 146)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260067  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**BAUTISTA'S TILE & STONE, 1755 San Pablo Ave., Seaside, CA 93955.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): JURIAS BAUTISTA LUIZ.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.  
S/Jurias Bautista  
Date signed: Jan. 9, 2026  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 9, 2026.  
Publication Dates: Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 147)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260126  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**WILDER ELECTRIC, 222 Ramona, Ste. A, Monterey, CA 93940.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): ANDREW CASEY CRAFT, P.O. Box 22147, Carmel, CA 93922.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.  
S/Andrew Craft  
Date signed: Jan. 20, 2026  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 20, 2026.  
Publication Dates: Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 148)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260147  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**SONRISAS Y COLORES DAY-CARE, 78 Magnolia Dr., Salinas, CA 93905.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): KAREN GUADALUPE GOMEZ LLAMAS, 78 Magnolia Dr., Salinas, CA 93905.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 21, 2026.  
S/Karen Guadalupe Gomez Llamas  
Date signed: Jan. 21, 2026  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 21, 2026.  
Publication Dates: Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 149)

listed above on Jan. 21, 2026.  
S/Karen Guadalupe Gomez Llamas  
Date signed: Jan. 21, 2026  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 21, 2026.  
Publication Dates: Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 149)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260142  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**MONTEREY TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT, 351 Watson Street, Monterey, CA 93940.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): EDREES ROHINA, 351 Watson Street, Monterey, CA 93940.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on July 1, 2025.  
S/Edrees Rohina  
Date signed: Jan. 21, 2026  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 21, 2026.  
Publication Dates: Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 2026 (PC 150)



Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the District Board, Carmel Area Wastewater District, at the District office, 3945 Rio Road, Carmel, CA. 93923, until

**10:00 A.M. Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026**

at which time they will be publicly opened and read for performing the work as follows:

### CARMEL MEADOWS EASEMENT SEWER PIPELINE REPAIR

The results of the bidding will be reported to the District Board within sixty (60) days of the date of the bid opening at which time if bids are found to be acceptable by the District Board, written notice of award will be given to the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder. However, said District Board reserves its right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities of any bids or to re-advertise for all or any part of the work contemplated.

No bidder shall withdraw his bid for a period of sixty (60) calendar days after the date set by the Board for the opening thereof.

Drawings, Specifications, and proposal forms may be secured at no charge by emailing the District Engineer at [downstream@caawd.org](mailto:downstream@caawd.org) and requesting the documents or call (831) 624-1248.

Publication dates: Jan. 23 & 30, 2026 (PC138)

### CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA SUMMARY NOTICE OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at its meeting of Tuesday, December 2, 2025, the City Council conducted the introduction and first reading, and at its meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2025-005:

### AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA AMENDING ADDING CHAPTER 12.50 TO THE CITY MUNICIPAL CODE PROHIBITING PLAYING PICKLEBALL AND OTHER PADDLE SPORTS IN FOREST HILL PARK

AYES: Councilmembers Baron, Buder, Devles, Dramov, and Mayor Byrne. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. This Ordinance was enacted and will go into effect thirty (30) days from the date of its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available in the City Clerk's Office, Monte Verde, between Ocean and 7th Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA, 93921. If you wish to challenge the action of the City Council in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea City Hall at, or prior to, the public hearing.

/s/ Nova Romero, MMC, City Clerk  
Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA

Date: January 20, 2026

Publish Date: January 23, 2026

Publication dates:  
Jan 23, 2026  
(PC143)

### CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA SUMMARY NOTICE OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-006

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at its meeting of Tuesday, December 2, 2025, the City Council conducted the introduction and first reading, and at its meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2025-006:

### AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA AMENDING CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 15.55.100 FOR ADDRESS IDENTIFICATION PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS CODES

AYES: Councilmembers Baron, Buder, Devles, Dramov, and Mayor Byrne. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. This Ordinance was enacted and will go into effect thirty (30) days from the date of its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available in the City Clerk's Office, Monte Verde, between Ocean and 7th Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA, 93921. If you wish to challenge the action of the City Council in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea City Hall at, or prior to, the public hearing.

/s/ Nova Romero, MMC, City Clerk  
Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA

Date: January 20, 2026

Publish Date: January 23, 2026

Publication dates:  
Jan 23, 2026  
(PC144)

### LEGALS DEADLINE: Tuesday 3:00 pm

Call Irma (831) 274-8645 or email [legals@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:legals@carmelpinecone.com)  
Se Habla Espanol

# Padres wrestlers stay hungry on bruising path to championships

PRIDE ATTAINED from personal progress is the reward for most high school wrestlers, but glory is more elusive in a sport where technique — achieved through years of training and match experience — frequently beats pure athleticism and willpower.

Wrestling is an afterthought — if it's thought about at all — at Carmel High, where 27 options are on the fall,

fractures, concussions, lacerations and skin infections.

It's a tough sell and takes a special kind of kid to buy in, but second-year coach Shadd Madsen reports that 15 of the 18 boys (about twice as many as a year ago) who showed up for the first day of practice are still on the mats 10 weeks later.

"That's pretty darned good for us — better than last year," said Madsen, who, if everybody is healthy, on weight and available, might be able to fill all but two spots (106 and 113 pounds) in his lineup. "As a program, we're growing."

### New division for Padres

The Padres were dropped this year from the Pacific Coast Athletic League's Mission Division into the Cypress, a division primarily composed of schools with partial teams.

As a result, intradivision gatherings this season — six of them — are tournament-style events, as opposed to team vs. team, round-robin dual meets. Theoretically, the new format will reduce the number of wrestlers who find themselves without an opponent at their weight division on any given weekend.

The 2026 Padres made a significant statement Jan. 14 in their only home meet of the year, going 13-3 as a team in a Cypress Division tournament, recording a remarkable total of 11 pins and two technical falls.

Carmel's roster features two wrestlers with Central Coast Section tournament experience. Skyler Madsen qualified last season as a sophomore in the 150-pound weight division, and Alexander Noto-Hagan went to CCS two years ago as a 285-pound freshman.

### Madsen eyes state, scholarship

"Skyler has been wrestling since sixth grade, but he hasn't really gotten a full season in yet," said the coach of his son, who has been sidelined by injuries for part or all of his previous seasons. "But he's been working hard, and he's got aspirations of going to state this year."

Madsen's ultimate dream is to earn a wrestling scholarship to Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo before



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Junior Skyler Madsen, a CCS veteran, aspires to place at the state tournament next month at 150 pounds, and attract college wrestling scholarship offers.

## Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

winter, and spring menus for male and female student-athletes. What other sport asks a hungry teenager to avoid guilty pleasures in their diet to reach a target weight? What other sport shines such a glaring spotlight on a one-on-one, mano-a-mano competition in which the loser often winds up flat on their back?

Wrestling also ranks high on the list of amateur sports for injuries, including sprains, strains, dislocations,



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Carmel senior Martin Bahu, a varsity veteran, waits to have his arm hoisted after his victory at 165 pounds at Carmel High.

he graduates.

Noto-Hagan weighs 275 pounds, having trimmed more than 40 pounds during his junior season to ensure himself of competing in the heavyweight division, which has a 285-pound limit.

Neither advanced to state, but both are contenders again this year in the same weight classes.

Other varsity veterans include seniors Cody Tischio (174 pounds), Mason Bahu (165), and Graysen Adams (150), juniors Dominik Ranansky (215) and Emerson Knight (150), and sophomore Tenzin Baiata (175).

Newcomers in the wrestling room are senior Luca Gomez (132 or 138), junior Britesen Comello (132), sophomores Oliver Wilson (175), Kip Walbrun (144) and Lance Comello (175), and freshmen Sam Lopez (120), Charlie Guzzi (126) and Tino Montellese (144).

"Tino and Sam wrestled for me in middle school — they've both been doing that since the sixth grade," said Madsen, who coaches the program at Carmel Middle School. "The rest are first-year wrestlers, which is tough at the high school level, where some kids from the bigger

*Continues next page*

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**From previous page**

schools might have wrestled a thousand matches before they finish their senior year.”

**High-quality coaching**

Madsen has high-quality help in the wrestling room again this season, with former U.S. Naval Academy wrestler Josh Bailey as his assistant coach, and Bailey’s former Navy teammate, All-American Matt Miller, and Pete Devlaminck as volunteer coaches.

The Padres compete Friday and Saturday in the MidCals Classic, which starts at 9 a.m. at Gilroy High, then they’ll travel on Thursday to Watsonville for the Cypress Division Championships, which begin at 4:40 p.m. at St. Francis High.

The PCAL Championships are Feb. 7, the CCS Regionals are Feb. 14, and the CCS Masters Championships are Feb. 21 — all at Watsonville High.

Smith was a three-time NCAA Division I All-American at UC Berkeley, and a member of the U.S. Men’s National Team before coaching the Carmel Padres to Pacific Coast Athletic League championship in 2025 and back-to-back PCAL postseason tournament crowns in 2024 and 2025. He also is on the coaching staff of the Olympic Development Program’s Pacific Zone Cadet Team.

Klein earned All-America honors in swimming and water polo at Santa Rosa Junior College before earning a full-ride scholarship to CSU Northridge, where she earned NCAA Division I All-America honors. She has coached water polo on the collegiate level and was a program director for Pride Water Polo Academy, one of Southern California’s top youth clubs.

Smith will serve as director of the boys program of CWPC, and Klein will head the girls program.

“Kendra and I are aligned on how we

See **WRESTLE** page 45A

**Coaches launch water polo club**

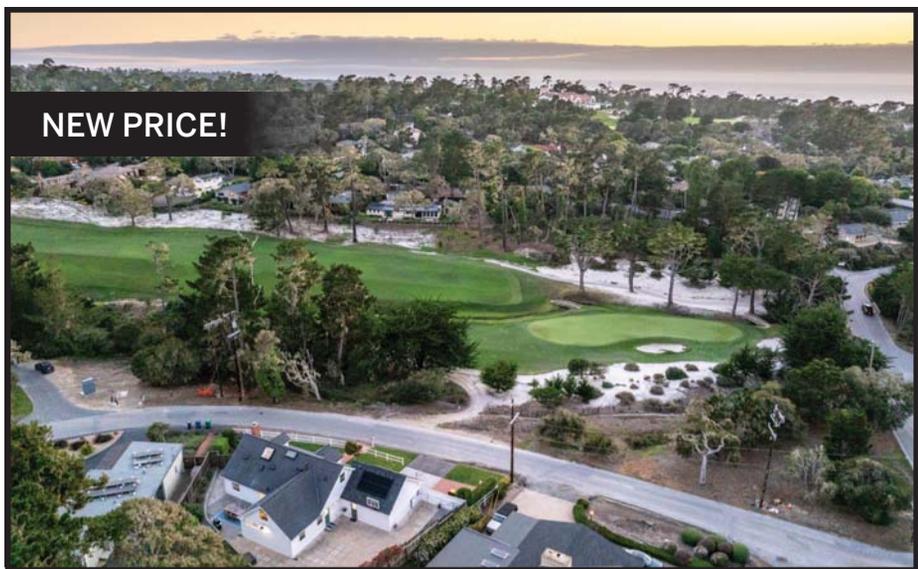
Two Monterey Peninsula coaches with big-time resumes are collaborating to build “a world-class water polo training environment” for local youth water polo players — a project they officially launched last week as the Carmel Water Polo Club.

Jerry Smith, head coach at Carmel High, and Kendra Klein, water polo coach and athletic director at Santa Catalina School, already have opened registration for CWPC’s spring session for youth currently in the elementary school, middle school, or high school age divisions.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Junior Alexander Noto-Hagan, a CCS qualifier for Carmel as a freshman, lost 40 pounds this season to return to the 285-pound division.



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

Status	Address	List Price	Sale Price	DOM
Llist Price Decreased	SE 4th & Torres St	\$1,395,000	---	103
Llist Price Decreased	Lincoln 3 SW of 10th	\$4,495,000	---	96
Sold	SW Camino Real & 4th	\$2,695,000	\$2,315,000	122

Your Neighborhood, Your Realtor.  
Please reach out for a Comparative Market Analysis.  
(Data from MLSListings Inc)



**DAVID M. CRABBE**  
DavidCrabbeRealEstate.com  
831.320.1109  
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# Editorial

## Whither Malibu?

**BACK IN** the day when the California Coastal Commission was at the peak of its power, the agency made life hell for anyone who tried to build near the coast.

Even in Carmel, Pebble Beach and Pacific Grove — places with amazing beaches and unobstructed views along 99 percent of their shorelines, and where local laws were more than adequate to protect these important resources — the coastal commission acted like rapacious barbarians were in charge at city halls and the county board of supervisors. Sure, the people who lived in the Monterey Peninsula may have run things just fine since the year zero, but starting in the 1970s, the thinking went, state “guidance” was required to stop them from blighting everything from Point Pinos to Point Lobos with mansions and expensive condos.

To understand why the coastal commission was so tough on Carmel — why it tried to control the style of homes, dictate parking regulations and decide what people could plant in their yards — all you had to do was visit Malibu. Although famous as a Hollywood playground, Malibu was actually the poster child for Development Gone Wrong.

In the days before a terrible fire burned much of it down, as you headed north out of Los Angeles on California’s most famous scenic highway, you’d expect to see a multitude of bikini-clad college girls lounging on the white sand while their golden boyfriends casually rode the waves just offshore.

But the reality was that, for long stretches, you couldn’t see the beach or the water at all. Instead, what you got was a solid wall of ugly homes, cheap motels and boring apartment buildings, all built cheek-by-jowl without any thought of leaving a bit of a view for passing motorists. This development run amok was the subtext to every coastal commission meeting, because the commission, for all its flaws, reflected the sentiments of many Californians — most of whom lived in cities or congested suburbs.

Carmel, on the other hand, grew with the deepest respect for its natural setting — perhaps more so than any other California town. The beach was long ago bought by the city, only a few homes were built between the ocean and the shore front road, trees are protected with very strict ordinances and wildlife is accommodated to the greatest possible extent.

In other words, while Malibu was being ruined, Carmel was being nurtured along by its residents to a nearly perfect existence.

The coastal commission’s obsession with nitpicking development in Carmel was like yelling at somebody for lighting a match and failing to notice that their own house was burning down.

Now that much of Malibu has been destroyed, will all those encroaching houses and apartments that blocked public access to Malibu beach be required to conform to the strictures of the Coastal Act?

The answer is a resounding “No.”

Under normal circumstances, any time a coastal home is more than 50 percent destroyed, it loses its “grandfathered” status and has to comply with current standards upon rebuilding, which means removing encroachments and redesigning to avoid blocking views. However, executive orders issued by Gov. Gavin Newsom in the wake of the Palisades Fire suspended these permitting requirements for properties in Malibu and surrounding areas.

According to Newsom’s orders, homeowners in Malibu can rebuild “like for like” (in substantially the same location and footprint) without any coastal commission approval, as long as the new structure doesn’t exceed 110 percent of its original size. Even homes that encroached on public beaches can be rebuilt just the way they were. And for beachfront properties, rebuilds can include replacement of seawalls and septic systems in their original locations.

We certainly don’t begrudge the people of Malibu their right to put their lives back together just as they were, and we hope they are able to rebuild quickly. But now, back here in Carmel, where the coastal commission’s idiocy inspired generations of local fussybudget wannabes, can people stop obsessing over things like “historic” rock walls, whether a walkway connecting two buildings makes them one, and the value of landscaping which isn’t on the ground?

## BEST of BATES



## 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

### ‘Without merit’

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to a story in last week’s edition of The Pine Cone relating to a so-called “whistleblower” lawsuit by a disgruntled physician who formerly practiced at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. Community Hospital has always been unwavering in its commitment to high-quality patient care. It has never — and would never — place any consideration above the well-being of its patients.

I was surprised and disappointed to see the reporter repeat patently untrue and inflammatory allegations made by the plaintiff, including a claim that Community Hospital publicly announced that I was awarded a \$15 million “severance package.” This is unequivocally false. The hospital never made such an announcement, and after 40 years of service at Community Hospital — including 26 years as

its CEO — I did not receive a severance package or exit package of any kind.

The lawsuit in whole, just like this particular claim, is entirely without merit or veracity.

Steve Packer, MD, CEO Emeritus, Montage Health

### ‘Everyone’s loss’

Dear Editor,

As a three-time cancer survivor and patient of Dr. Bradley Tamler, I was dismayed to read the Carmel Pine Cone article about him being fired from CHOMP. I can personally attest to his utmost care and concern for me, his patient. That personal attention is what I came to know and value about Dr. Tamler. When I had an important medical decision to be made, it was his opinion that I trusted. I owe my life to him and my other incredible practitioners. I didn’t know he was fired. His departure is my loss — and everyone’s, I think.

Jill Kleiss, Pacific Grove

### Protecting neighborhoods

Dear Editor,

Verizon Wireless wants to install a cell tower in a neighborhood near you. If this tower goes up, more cell towers will follow, and perhaps next time, it will be in front of your home.

Our ordinance explicitly empowers the city to reject facilities that fail to meet aesthetic and compatibility standards. We all need to stand together to preserve the integrity of our neighborhoods.

Besides being ugly, having a cell tower

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# The Carmel Pine Cone

https://carmelpinecone.com

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Vol. 112 No. 4 • January 23, 2026

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

# A talent for living, chronicling and eulogizing 'ordinary' life

OF THE eight books the author Phyllis Theroux has published, her favorite is the one she mostly didn't write. "The Book of Eulogies" comprises the eloquence of many authors, Theroux interrupting only to introduce each chapter. She chose her subjects — among them national heroes, artists, spiritual leaders and beloved children — according to the same criteria: "When they died, someone wrote about them uncommonly well."

The eulogy itself is a common art, she pointed out.

"It is practiced by amateurs. When

a spiritual movement called the Moral Re-Armament. It was functionally "a very high-end, very elegant cult" that attracted Bohemian types like her parents, Theroux recalled. As she sought characters for her first memoir, 1980's "California and Other States of Grace," she didn't have to look further than her own childhood.

## Cypress Point

Her mother's life could fill several books, she said. Some of it made "The Journal Keeper" (2010), which spans Theroux's 60s and the loss of a woman who "was larger than life," a Long Island expat from a Gilded Age family. Incidentally, Theroux's great-aunt, Marion Hollins, is Pebble Beach royalty. The U.S. Women's Amateur Champion in her time, Hollins bought property on Carmel Bay around 1920 and met S.F.B. Morse, who appointed her the athletic director of his new resort. One of the only female golf course developers in history, Hollins placed the call to legendary Scotsman Alister MacKenzie to commission Cypress Point.

Theroux grew up in the Presidio

See LIVES page 26A

## Great Lives

By LILY PATTERSON

someone dies, it is customary for a member of the family or a friend to 'say a few words,' composed under great duress," she wrote, inviting her readers to see the light.

### 'Ordinary' life

"One of the reasons for compiling the book was the conviction that learning how other souls had negotiated the trip between birth and death would be instructive to those of us striding toward the finish line."

At a glance, "Eulogies" is the funeral-black sheep of Theroux' writings, which are visual and vital and generally written in the first person. But there is an idea common to great eulogies — which prove there is no such thing as an ordinary life — and her notable essays, which treat "ordinary" life with extraordinary reverence.

Born in 1939, Theroux was raised by idealists. Her father was a third-generation San Franciscan whose family, particularly his two sisters down the street, were members of



PHOTO/WILL FURMAN

Phyllis Theroux, whose roots run deep in Carmel, visits the Big Sur property once owned by her great-aunt, the golfer Marion Hollins.

From the mayor's desk —

## The village we choose: a reality

By DALE BYRNE

IN MY last column, we talked about the village choosing its future. That conversation reminded me of 1991, when a group of residents gathered to imagine Carmel in the year 2016. Back then, Sunset Center hadn't been upgraded, Ocean Avenue was quieter, and the internet hadn't arrived. Like many previous times over the previous 100 years, residents sensed a crossroads. So, they formed the Carmel 2016 Committee. Their assignment was simple: Dream about the qualities so distinctive to Carmel that they must be protected and passed on to our grandchildren.

I revisit their 18-page report periodically. It is remarkable not just for its insights, but for its relevance. Many of the "disturbing trends" identified in 1991, including forest decline, loss of residential scale, and disappearing resident-serving

businesses, are the exact challenges we face today. Many of the committee's dreams still sit on the shelf.

The core message was that Carmel's identity is fragile. They believed a "Village in the Forest" only happens when a community actively chooses to preserve beauty, scale and character. They imagined traffic-calmed streets, peripheral parking, and a village that prioritized residents. In some cases, we have gone even further in the opposite direction than they feared.

### Integrated planning

What struck me most was the sheer scale of their ambition: a community-wide vision looking 25 years ahead. They tried to connect issues that remain scattered today across our Forest, General, Coastal,

See MAYOR page 25A

# Layers of paint reflect the density of complex emotions

PACIFIC GROVE landscape and seascape artist Claudette Gamache spent most of her professional life as a healer, a caregiver, a comforter — a registered nurse whose career included 10 years providing hospice care. She dedicated decades more to a philosophy that "nature is the great healer," she wrote on her website.

"I spent many years weaving the creative arts with modern medicine," said Gamache, who in her 40s earned a master's degree in expressive art therapies and holistic studies and became a registered art therapist.

Now, just 20 months after the death of Paul Gamache, her beloved husband of 59 years, the 84-year-old painter continues to educate herself.

### 'Taking care of myself'

"I find myself learning how to grieve," she said. "The thing is, I've never done any grieving — I'd always just pick up and move forward — but now I'm reflecting more, finding out who I am and how to best take care of myself."

"There's a lot to the process of grieving, of letting go," she said. "I'm going to take it slow."

Last June, Gamache moved to Pacific

■ She is a signature member of the Pastel Society of America, Pastel Painters of Maine, Pastel Society of Connecticut and the International Association of Pastel Societies, which added her to its Master Circle in 2011.

■ She was a contributor to International Artist Magazine's "100 Ways to Paint Landscapes."

■ She's taught workshops in the United States and France and held her first one in Pacific Grove last week, with plans to lead more.

### Monterey showing

On the Eastern Seaboard, she was well known and well established, with representation in five galleries. On the Peninsula, she is thrilled to be showing art at Venture Gallery, adjacent to the Monterey Conference Center in Portola Plaza.

"I'm starting all over on the other side of the United States," said Gamache, who shares her picturesque home with a big, friendly 10-year-old Moyen poodle named Poppy. Poppy loves romping in the garden while Gamache paints in her large, bright backyard studio — a converted guest house with its own address.

"I'm still near the ocean in a beautiful place. The weather here is so much better, there aren't any bugs, and thanks to my son, my social life has never been so good. I'm very happy," she said.

She's also vibrant and healthy; her doctor told her in December that her breast cancer is very unlikely to return. She still drives, except after dark, and takes lessons at the Carmel Foundation in the Chinese art of qigong, a system of coordinated body posture and movement, breathing and meditation.

Gamache plans to start exploring the breathtaking vistas of the Peninsula soon, scouting venues for her favorite activity — plein air painting.

### Brrrr

"People here say it's chilly. I say, 'No, not really,'" she said. "I miss my friends in Maine, but I don't miss the weather. Right now, they've got ice and snow."

"Where I lived, it was all dirt roads. When it was icy, I had to be very careful getting out of my car so I wouldn't slip down the hill, into the pond."

Point Lobos and Big Sur have hills, too, of course, but the plein air tribe is a hardy lot, and Gamache is eager to celebrate the majesty of the Central Coast. She recently framed her stunning pastel of the Lone Cypress.

"My feeling is that I can't paint anything that I'm not familiar with — and 'familiar' means I have to be there, have to see it, have to sense it," she said. "And I mostly paint for myself, but I also like to

See ARTIST page 44A

## Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Grove from her longtime home in Popham Beach, Maine, where her husband lost his battle with prostate cancer.

While he was in hospice care, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and decided in 2025 to relocate to the Monterey Peninsula, where Ray Gamache — one of her three sons — is a physics professor at the Naval Postgraduate School.

She brought with her more than 10,000 pastel pencils and a towering curriculum vitae:

■ She's listed in Marquis "Who's Who of American Art" and "Who's Who of American Women."

■ More than 1,000 of her paintings hang in private and corporate collections.

■ She's won more than 60 awards at dozens of juried shows around the United States since 1995.



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

Pacific Grove artist Claudette Gamache, 84, sometimes uses as many as 30 layers of paint in the pastel landscapes and seascapes she shows at Monterey's Venture Gallery.



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INTERNATIONAL REALTY

# FUEL

From page 1A

electric cars and will undoubtedly lower emissions in the state. But the march toward the clean energy future is also running refineries out of California, an exodus that will likely result in a greater global contribution to climate-warming emissions — at least in the short term.

California has eight refineries that produce the state's special blend of gasoline. Last year, it had nine, but in October, Phillips 66 shuttered its refinery in Southern California, and this year Valero is idling its refinery in Benicia. Together, the two refineries accounted for 17 percent of the state's fuel supply in 2025.

Gasoline consumption is on the decline in the Golden State thanks to all those EVs,

but it's not going to drop by 17 percent in 2026, leaving imported fuel as the only solution to make up the difference. Not very many places outside of California make the state's special blend of gasoline — mandated for air quality reasons — and almost all of it is refined overseas, mostly in South Korea but also in China, India and Japan.

### Good year in Asia

Real-time global data and analytics provider Kpler has been tracking refined fuel imports over the last year and has noticed an uptick since last spring. In 2026, Kpler refining and modeling analyst Sumit Ritolia is forecasting an even better year for refiners in Asia.

"As domestic production of CARB-compliant fuels contracts, California's structural import dependence deepens, positioning Asian refiners — particularly in

South Korea and India — to benefit from sustained trans-Pacific arbitrage opportunities," said Ritolia.

However, what is good news for South Korea and India is not great news for drivers of combustion-engine vehicles, or those worried about global warming. The Golden State has some of the most, if not the most, stringent air-quality regulations in the world when it comes to the petroleum refining process. But China? India? The rules are less strict. Even if we set aside the emissions produced during the refining process, there will still be greater emissions as a result of increased maritime traffic across the Pacific to bring fuel ashore on the West Coast.

"If we care about our climate goals, we must also care about where our gasoline comes from," wrote Michael Mische in a CalMatters piece last October. "Shipping finished fuel thousands of miles can mean using crude sourced from regimes with higher emissions and weaker oversight than California."

Mische serves as an associate professor at the University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business, and his predictions last May of California gasoline prices reaching \$8 a gallon in 2026 made headlines. Other experts have discounted the \$8 a gallon forecast — more than double what we're paying now at \$4.20 per gallon, the highest in the continental U.S. — as extreme.

### Valero's change of plans

The prediction was also made before Valero announced it would not shut down its Benicia refinery outright as it initially hinted. This month, the company announced it will instead continue refining gasoline as it works down its inventories and then import refined fuels once operations are fully idled in April. Newsom is spinning the updated idling plan as a "constructive development" that will stabilize prices thanks to its leadership.

"While others point fingers to spread fear and divide us, California is doing the actual work — collaborating with industry, using data and transparency to protect consumers, and building the all-of-the-above energy future America needs," said Newsom in a press release this month. But Mische questions if the shift to importing gasoline will be enough to stabilize prices

in a state that consumes more than 30 million gallons of gasoline a day, and only keeps roughly two weeks' supply on hand.

### Capacity issues

"The solution from Sacramento is, 'don't worry about it, we're going to import it,'" said Mische, speaking on California Insider this month. "But there are port capacity issues, there are tanker issues and then, of course, at the end of the day, if I am relying on India and China, it is quite possible that we'll have supply disruptions."

Ritolia said possible disruptions at the state's remaining refineries could also cause jumps at the pump this spring.

"Refinery closures reduce the state's supply buffer and tend to push gasoline



PHOTO/CALMATTERS  
Gavin Newsom speaking to the media at this week's World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

prices higher and make them more volatile, since fewer refineries are left to absorb shocks," said the analyst, "Any unplanned outage becomes more price-sensitive, while replacement barrels via imports take time and often carry higher logistics and compliance costs."

Valero won't just be importing more gasoline this year. The Benicia location also supplies Northern California with jet fuel, which arrives at the San Francisco, Oakland, and Sacramento international airports via pipelines, and it refines diesel, another critical commercial transportation fuel. The shift to importing over refining also means fewer workers will be needed at the site. In a regulatory letter filed this month with state and local officials, Valero said it expects to permanently lay off 237 of its 348 employees between March and July of this year.

The Texas-based company took a \$1.1

See **REFINERY** next page



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# MAYOR

From page 23A

and circulation plans. They wanted an integrated road-map so Carmel could grow with intention rather than by default. But here is the hard truth: That integrated plan never fully materialized.

Today, we spend years on piecemeal work. We have spent four years and held 36 meetings just trying to update our design guidelines. If we cannot finish a single document, a massive “2050 Committee” effort understandably feels out of reach. Perhaps instead of a new committee, we just need a new way of thinking?

We often say from the dais that we are “primarily a residential community.” But we must be honest: Is that still true? In my speech to Visit Carmel last week, I discussed how our reliance on tourism to fund our police, streets and forest suggests a more complex reality.

The town we inhabit is not the one our founders imagined. The financial sustainability of our future depends on facing reality with clarity, not denial. If we continue to chase an unattainable version of the past, we risk failing the future.

## ■ Setting sights on 2050

We need to adjust our sights. This does not mean giving up on our values; it means retaining our character while recognizing that 2050 requires goals that meet the town’s actual needs, not only its nostalgic wishes. But, instead of a 25-year work plan, maybe let’s start with a 25-year mindset? Let’s look at our challenges, from infrastructure to housing, with clear eyes. If we acknowledge we are a world-class destination that must also remain a livable home, we can move beyond the circular debates that stall our progress.

The 2016 Committee dreamed of a Carmel that would be beautiful and welcoming. Those dreams still matter. But this time, let’s be brave enough to admit what has changed. Our moment to imagine Carmel 2050 is now, not through more binders on shelves, but through a shared, honest understanding of the village we are and the village we still have the power to become.

To read the report from the Carmel 2016 Committee, go to [cli.re/2016Committee](http://cli.re/2016Committee). To read the CRA review of the 2016 report, go to [cli.re/2016Voice](http://cli.re/2016Voice). And a podcast of this column is available at [cli.re/2050Carmel](http://cli.re/2050Carmel).

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

# REFINERY

From previous page

billion hit in 2025 when it announced it would idle or close the Benicia location. The loss came in the form of a combined pretax impairment charge that was excluded from Valero’s 2025 adjusted earnings, a price Valero deemed was worth the cost of exiting California.

The company’s original notice of intent to close the San Francisco Bay area facility cited a record \$82 million fine from California air regulators over air pollution that was more than 360 times the legal limit as one reason it was leaving.

The exit of Valero in Benicia and Phillips 66 in Rodeo follows a trend of refineries closing or transitioning to alternative fuels in California as the regulatory climate has intensified and demand for gasoline declines. California’s

low-carbon fuel standard has also made it more profitable — in some cases — for petroleum refineries to convert to biofuel production.

## Shifting to biodiesel

To date, three refineries have made the shift as biodiesel has become big business. But biofuels have proved to be only quasi-effective in reducing greenhouse gases. Multiple studies show when bio-based diesel requires the dedicated use of land-grown crops, it displaces space for food, which, in turn — you guessed it — drives up emissions.

In 2024, bio-based diesel made up more than 70 percent of California’s overall diesel consumption, which is far more than in-state producers are refining, and for that fuel we’re again relying on overseas imports, in this case from Singapore. No state may be able to match California’s EV sales per capita, but they can’t match our fuel prices either. Newsom’s done an excellent job electrifying the car market, but at what cost?



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# LIVES

From page 23A

neighborhood, and around age 10 began tagging along to a friend's Catholic catechism classes, enraptured by the rituals, the devotion of martyrs, and the clarity of the commandments. She attended San Domenico, a private Catholic high school, where she won a writing prize at graduation, then enrolled in Manhattanville, a secluded Catholic college in upstate New York. Where Kennedy wives went, Theroux remembered thinking.

By then, she had converted to Catholicism. She was determined to become "a sainted mother" — convinced that "real life" would be revealed through marriage and motherhood and, ideally, very far from her old life.

Theroux found everything she hoped for outside of California. After college, she briefly volunteered as a Catholic missionary in Norman, Okla., where she met the man who became her first husband. They were married in Carmel — she'd been visiting with family since she was a child — and Theroux put her philosophy degree to work, teaching ethics to high schoolers at Santa Catalina School in Monterey.

Two years later, she and her husband moved to Washington D.C. He was a bright young lawyer and she had landed an important job as a researcher in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. (Those two years, documenting the aftermath of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, are the subject of her forthcoming memoir.)

### Getting the hang of it

However, cracks were beginning to show. Initially unable to conceive, Theroux adopted a boy in 1967. She quit her important job, as a sainted mother would. Two years later, she adopted a girl and, finally, gave birth to a boy in 1971. Her husband, absorbed in his law practice, was increasingly successful. He was also increasingly absent, and Theroux felt anything but holy.

"I didn't understand why things weren't working for me. I was following the script," she remembered. The only thing she could think to do was write about what was actually happening — her real life, not the scripted one.

"Getting the Hang of It" was published by the Ladies' Home Journal in 1974. She had chosen the magazine somewhat spontaneously off a drugstore rack, mailing off her first essay as a letter to the editor. Theroux had attended a few consciousness-raising groups, the sort popularized by feminists like Gloria Steinem, and felt certain that other young women could relate to her disillusionment.

A divorce came in 1977, but there was light on the other side. Three years earlier, the essay Theroux sent "like a note in a bottle" was received with a mixture of concern and enthusiasm by the editor, who offered \$500 for it.

More followed. Soon, she was juggling a book deal, a column for The Washington Post and assignments from The New York Times. She was making it work, somehow, renting a house in the D.C. area and supporting three children. And if buying congratulatory flowers at the local Safeway was going to bankrupt her — her youngest was turning out to be quite the performer with a local theater troupe — so be it.

### The Nightwriters

"The invariable mark of wisdom is to see the miraculous in the common," said Ralph Waldo Emerson, whom Theroux is fond of quoting. To the Post and Times, she contributed book reviews and interviewed an array of D.C. heavyweights, including Amory Bradford, who created the Environmental Protection Agency, and Clark Clifford, personal counsel to several U.S. presidents. But she found her audience largely through autobiographical columns, documenting a mother's search for the miraculous in the mundane: football practice, paper routes, grocery shopping — all common things.

"Good writing is like good lighting. If it lights my path, it will light someone else's," Theroux likes to say. Sensing other people might need to do as she did — write light into a dark hour of their lives — she formed a group called the

Nightwriters that met in her living room, so she could keep an eye on the kids. At 49, when she moved to a charming small town farther south in Virginia, Theroux brought the workshops with her.

Thirty-five years in Ashland "gave me an understanding of community," she said. She was also introduced to her great love, whom she married in 2005. When Ragan died in 2020, something about Ashland died for her, too.

There was no script for moving on, but she had learned how to write through life's plotlessness. Armed with her copy of "The Book of Eulogies," she returned to California about two years ago and took up residence at Hacienda Carmel. Life, she feels, "is all brand new."

"I was always looking for the thing that would teach me how to live," said Theroux, who collects favorite quotes on slips of paper in a glass jar on her bookshelf — and has been quoting the great and the dead for as long as her three children can remember. Her youngest son, the actor Justin Theroux, said as much in a recent essay for The Wall Street Journal.

"A couple of years ago, when my mother turned 80, I threw her a dinner party. Mom always felt eulogies should be experienced when one is alive, so I asked guests to write tongue-in-cheek eulogies for her. My mother, who's sort of nutty in a wonderful way, loved the whole thing."

# LETTERS

From page 22A

located near your home can lead to a decrease in property value. Many buyers do not want to buy a home with a cell tower in front of it or near it.

It is crucial for all of us to voice our concerns and support measures that protect the character and value of our neighborhoods.

Carolyn White, Carmel

### 'Professionalism and enthusiasm'

Dear Editor,

I sat in on the budget updates this past week. The council's financial stewardship committee, councilmembers Hans Buder and Bob Delves specifically, have put into place some new disciplines and reporting processes that will improve transparency, accountability, and set administration on a path of improved productivity that would facilitate an increase in services to Carmel. Well needed, and well done!

It was clear that Brandon Swanson's team reporting out results against these new disciplines for the first four months of the 2025-2026 budget were both proficient and energized. Kudos to Jayme Fields, Carmel's finance

manager, and Dan Matusiewicz, a consultant reporting on pension liability, for their professionalism and their enthusiasm.

Jim Beck, Carmel

### Limiting spending

Dear Editor,

Regarding your article on California not having paid its Covid debt to federal government, I would like to add the following information:

From 2015 to 2025, California's population increased from 38.8 million to 39.4 million — a 1.5 percent increase. During the same period, inflation was 36 percent, but California's budget increased from \$160 billion to a whopping \$321 billion — a 100 percent increase.

California has a spending problem, and no amount of one-time special taxes will ever solve it.

We need a new proposition limiting state spending to the higher of inflation rate or population growth.

Rak Kumar, Pebble Beach

### President's military authority

Dear Editor,

Thank you for reminding us that President Donald Trump did not need congressional approval to capture Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela. I like how you pointed out that hundreds of similar military operations have been conducted by presidents from both parties ever since President Thomas Jefferson sent the Navy to intercede in the Mediterranean in 1801 without getting congressional approval, and that the last time the United States declared war was World War II.

I think that sometimes hatred blinds rationality.  
Vince Tuminello, Pacific Grove

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# SETTLED

From page 3A

subdue him with beanbag rounds fired from a shotgun. He dropped what was later determined to be a CO<sub>2</sub>-powered BB gun made to look like a rifle.

In the backyard, officers found Marshall using the crowbar to break a glass door in a guesthouse, and he advanced on them despite orders to stop and being hit with more beanbag rounds, bodycam footage shows. After he lunged at Sgt. Gerald Maldonado with a crowbar, officer Rene Guevara to fired six shots, one of which hit him.

Police provided first aid until medics arrived and transported Marshall to the trauma center at Natividad Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead. An autopsy revealed a bullet had entered through his right abdomen and right lung to lodge in his back. A drug screen showed Marshall had THC, the psychoactive chemical found in marijuana, and GHB, a drug similar to ecstasy, in his system.

In her suit, Barrett accused the officers and the city of using “negligent tactics” and “excessive and unreasonable force,” of failing to give him commands or warn him they would use force and not giving him a chance to comply, and of delaying or denying him medical care.

“The defendants failed to de-escalate the situation,

utilize, consider, and/or exhaust several reasonable less-intrusive alternatives available, safe, and feasible to the defendants prior to the use of force,” Barrett’s complaint said, and they exhibited “deliberate indifference and reckless disregard for decedent’s constitutional rights.”

Marshall “suffered serious bodily injury, pre-death pain and suffering, loss of enjoyment of life, and loss of life,” and she “suffered the life-long loss of her son as a direct and proximate result” of the officers’ actions.

She further accused the city of battery, negligence, and failure to adequately train police and claimed she was entitled to “exemplary and punitive damages from the individual officers,” compensation from taxpayers, and attorney fees and costs.

### Settled quickly

A little under six weeks after she filed the suit, attorneys for both sides submitted documents to the court indicating they were heading to mediation in December.

A notice filed by the lawyers Jan. 7 announced they

had “reached a settlement of all claims by plaintiff against defendants.”

“Upon finalization of the settlement, the entire case and all defendants shall be dismissed with prejudice,” the notice reads. “Finalization is expected to occur within 30 days.”

They asked that all hearing dates be vacated and proceedings stayed until the settlement was finalized, and U.S. District Judge Edward Davila agreed, setting a Feb. 19 date for a status update.

But last Tuesday, the attorneys told the judge that all parties “hereby stipulate to the complete dismissal of the above-captioned action,” and that each side “will bear its own attorney’s fees and costs incurred in this matter,” and Davila signed the order dismissing the case.

Requests for the details of the settlement — including any taxpayer-funded payouts — from the city’s lead counsel, Kimberly Sarmiento of Los Angeles-based Carpenter, Rothans & Dumont LLP, and city attorney Brian Pierik went unanswered.

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# 4Q 2025 | Market Update Teháma & Monterra



## Teháma:

“Teháma finished a strong year with 4 sales for a combined \$17.7M, which is up considerably from last year. We’re seeing movement across both land and home sales, which shows strong demand for both the short and long term for this community. The four sales included our sale of 15 Alta Madera, which closed for \$10.3 (including furniture). There were three lot sales, including 25600 Via Malpaso (\$4.5M), 51 Marguerite (\$1.75M) and 12 Alta Madera (\$1.65M). There is currently one home on the market in Tehama at 53 Marguerite listed for \$13.5M, which is a strong house with views and will help boost prices in Tehama in the near future.”

## Monterra:

“Monterra slowed substantially this year to just 2 sales for a total of \$7.299M. However, the sale at 8220 Manjares Road came in at \$6.45M, which is the highest priced sale in Monterra in over 10 years. The other sale in Monterra in 2025 was 7755 Paseo Venado which was a vacant lot that closed at \$849K. The Paseo Venado sale was also one of the highest land price sales that we’ve seen in Monterra in over a year and one of the highest on record. It took the market a little while to adjust to the new insurance and development environment, but it’s encouraging to see these strong sales continue to come through in Monterra.”

Anita Jones  
Teháma and Monterra Specialist



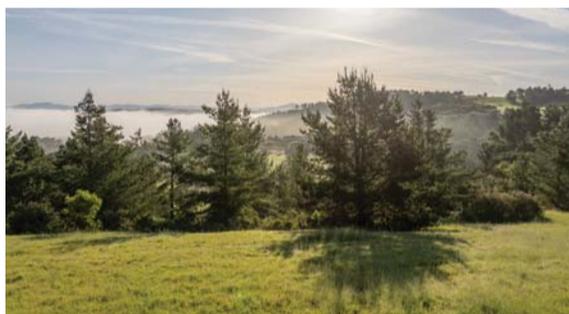
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# WEDDINGS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

## Jewelry that says you've been paying attention

By ELAINE HESSER

**TRAVIS KELCE** proposed to Taylor Swift last August with a custom-designed engagement ring created by New York jeweler Kindred Lubeck. It reportedly features a vintage 7- to 9-carat diamond set in yellow gold, estimated to have set Kelce back as much as \$5 million.

What seems to have impressed Swift most, however, was that Kelce remembered she'd shown him a video of Lubeck's work — simply because she liked it — 18 months before the proposal. On a podcast, she later gushed, "He listened to me. It was like, 'You really know me!'"

You, too, can show that kind of attentiveness — without spending enough to buy a Carmel cottage.

### Lab-grown v. mined

The Monterey Peninsula has an abundance of exceptional jewelers who will happily design a ring, pendant, bracelet or other meaningful piece for the object of your affection. We talked with some of them about the art of creating custom jewelry.

Mario Agacanian began studying his craft as an apprentice in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1958. A little more than 50 years ago, he opened La Renaissance Jewelry (Dolores between Seventh and Ocean), where he and jeweler Bryan Laschiver have worked together for 28 years. They love talking to clients about the ins and outs of engagement rings and other custom pieces.

"We do not push people," Agacanian said. "We explain things to them and educate them."

Once Swift's ring came up, the conversation turned to a resurgence of interest in vintage diamond styles like her "old mine cut," also called a cushion cut. It and others

like it hark to a time before modern cutting tools and processes. They tend to be less sparkly than more contemporary multifaceted looks but have a timeless, classic feel that many people enjoy.

People in the wedding industry report that the average natural diamond in an American engagement ring weighs 1 to 1.5 carats. One carat has the heft — if you can call it that — of a small paperclip. The cut and setting, however, can make a stone appear significantly larger or smaller.

Lab-grown diamonds can cost anywhere from 30 to 90 percent less than mined diamonds, depending on size, and buyers avoid concerns about purchasing "blood" or "conflict" diamonds used to finance warfare. Although safeguards, primarily something called the Kimberley Process, exist to prevent conflict diamonds from entering the market, the provenance of older stones can be murky.

Man-made diamonds take days or weeks to manufacture and have the same appearance and chemical makeup as natural stones. They're not without their downsides, though. There are environmental concerns associated with the manufacturing process, and, because of increasing supplies and price wars, their resale value has fallen by 80 to 90 percent over the past few decades.

"If it's in your budget, get a natural diamond," recommended Laschiver.

Over at Fourtané on Ocean Avenue, master jeweler Juan Da Silva — who began learning his craft in high school in his native Argentina — said he doesn't use lab-grown diamonds precisely because they don't hold their



Fourtané's Juan Da Silva designed this stunning opal pendant.

**JEWELRY** *cont. page 32A*

Every love story deserves  
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THE  
QUAIL

# WEDDINGS & SPECIAL OCCASIONS

## We shoot at sunrise: The people behind the hair, makeup and (yes) shaves

By LISA LAPIN

**THE DRAMATIC** natural landscapes of the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Valley and Big Sur are more than just highly desired wedding locations. They also inspire the wedding-day looks of brides and grooms getting married here.

“What we are seeing is that it’s all about looking natural, about effortless beauty that is soft and romantic,” said Veronica Dokie, owner of Mantra Salon in Carmel. “We’ve moved away from stiff, overly styled or traditional looks. One of the biggest trends here is soft, touchable texture — loose waves, relaxed curls and dreamy lived-in looks.”

“We definitely get more requests for the messy beach style, curls and waves, a messy bun,” said Jennifer Pomo, owner of Spa Bella on Location wedding beauty services. “Makeup is very natural. We rarely get requests for bold makeup. Because we live by the beach, and a lot of these weddings are on or near the beach, brides also don’t want a completely sleeked hairdo. It’s probably going to get windy, and they go for loose curls, or half up, half down.”

Lydia Ortiz, the owner of Blush, a bridal hair and makeup studio in downtown Monterey, concurred: “In our area, it’s all about soft glam. A strategic glow on the skin, but it’s not obvious — bronzes and taupes and natural colors, and a radiance that isn’t shimmery, it’s coming from within.”

### A small army

Hair and makeup are almost always done on location at the wedding venue, with full teams of local makeup artists and hair stylists bringing their portable studios down to Big Sur, up to Santa Cruz, and throughout Monterey, Carmel and Carmel Valley. And the styling isn’t just for the brides anymore. Grooms are increasingly seeking their own in-person, on-site attention for their wedding day, as are family members, such as the mother of the bride.

In some cases, a small army converges at the wedding venue to get everyone involved prepped in a timely way for photos.

“We’ve had wedding parties of 18 people, plus



**BEAUTIFUL** *cont. page 35A*

(Left) Lead hairstylist Marissa Martinez DeAlba and Blush owner Lydia Ortiz apply the finishing touches to a bride’s tresses and makeup.



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# WEDDINGS

## Not just another set of towels

By SALLY BAHO

**OUR LOVELY** Peninsula is the perfect place to find a romantic gift for your bride or groom, members of the wedding party, or friends and family who might be taking the big leap. In fact, they're kind of nice even if the occasion is just, "It's Tuesday." From locally made sparkling wines and chocolates to imported Old World goods — and everything in between — you're sure to find just the right thing.

For unique home and personal gifts, Brigitte Leplus, owner of Jan de Luz in downtown Carmel, can customize almost anything. "Table settings, napkins, placemats, tablecloths, his-and-her bathrobes, duvet covers," Leplus rattled off. And so

much more.

"We import the fabric by the yard, so anything is possible," she said. She also carries luxury soaps and lavender sachets to freshen any drawer or room. A personalized travel bag could be perfect for a mother of the bride from out of town. Visit Leplus' shop on Dolores Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues, and you'll hear the hum of her embroidery machine. You can browse her merchandise along with hundreds of font options for customization.

Or, explore her offerings at [jandeluzlinens.com](http://jandeluzlinens.com).

**GIFTS** *cont. page 36A*



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A little personalization from Jan de Luz makes a gift more distinctive (left), and Caraccioli Cellars brings the sparkle to a celebratory toast.



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## WEDDINGS

### JEWELRY from page 29A

value.

Some customers prefer colored gems, though jewelers advise discussing durability first as some softer stones, like opals, don't fare as well in a ring that gets banged around all day.

All three artisans discussed another contemporary innovation: social media.

Instagram, Da Silva said, is "like a library for images" and serves as a source of inspiration. Laschiver called it "a benefit and a terrible trap," noting that some of the rings depicted are not likely to last. For instance, he said, the combination of a "giant stone and a razor-thin ring" is "not at all functional." On the other hand, he said, the sites are a great way to find out what your future spouse likes.

Functionality matters. In ancient Rome, a woman might have had an iron wedding ring to wear around the house and a gold ring, symbolizing prosperity, for more formal occasions. During our visit, Laschiver slipped off what appeared to be a grey metal band and then flexed it — it was silicone, ideal for work. Durable and safe

silicone rings are also worn on the job by many first responders, medical professionals and members of the military.

### Tales to tell

Every custom piece has a story, and Da Silva has 37 years' worth of them. One design incorporated a capital letter J, the wearer's initial, in a back-to-back mirror design. Another repurposed a blue topaz from the first piece of jewelry a woman's husband had given her. There was a ring that mimicked unique designs from two watches for a couple who loved the timepieces. Lately, Da Silva has been employing a colored material like that used to make dental crowns in place of more fragile enamel.

Along with Laschiver and Agacanian, Da Silva has no objection to using modern technology. In addition to computer-assisted design, usually referred to as CAD, 3D printers have entered the jewelry business. Once a design is complete, a model can be printed and used to create a mold for the finished product. All of it adds to what

SPARKLE cont. page 34A



Juan Da Silva (right) designed this stunning snake ring with the colors of the flag from his native Argentina. The jeweler explained that it was made in three pieces that he joined to make the finished product.

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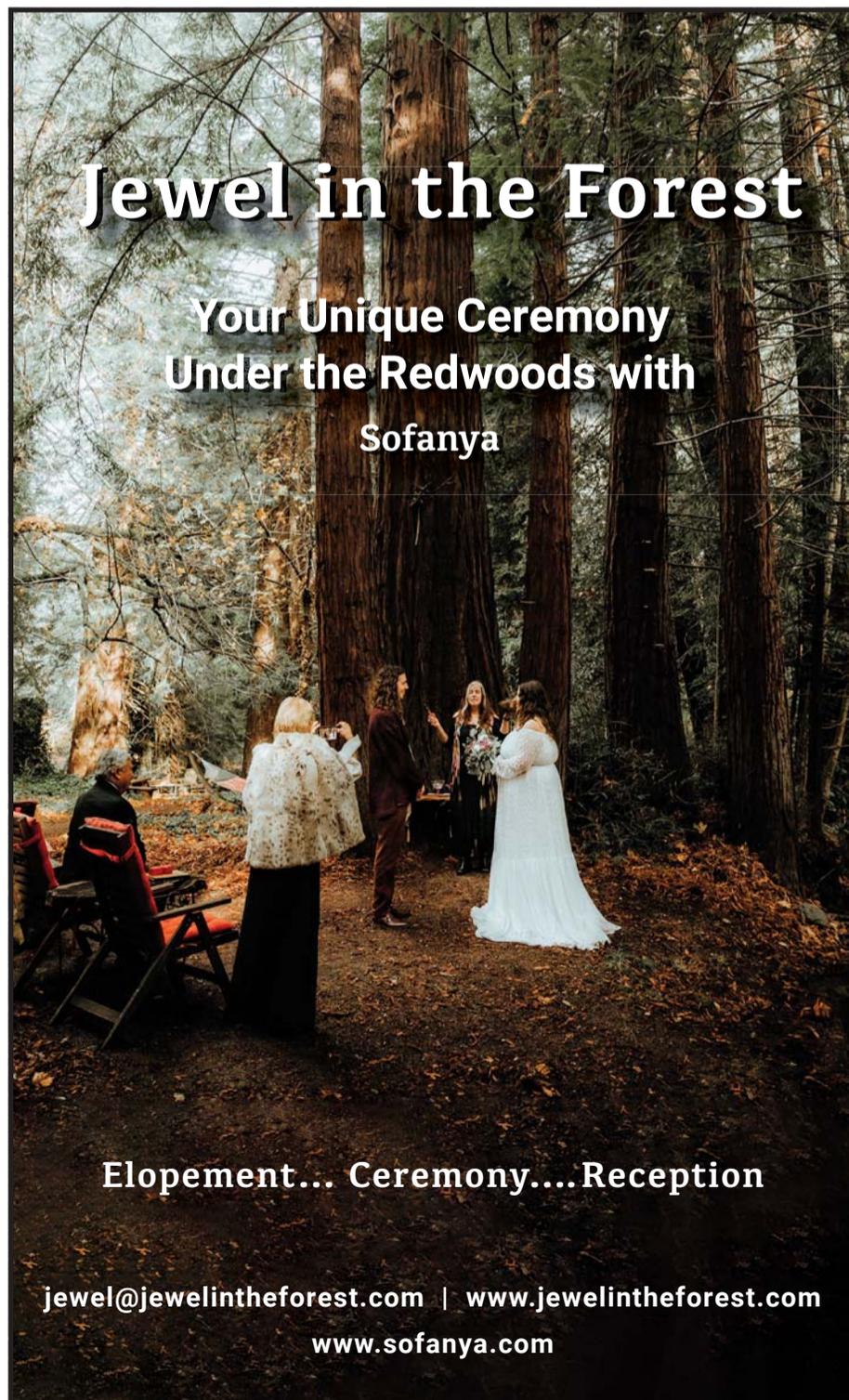
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# WEDDINGS & SPECIAL OCCASIONS

**SPARKLE** from page 32A

remains a personal, almost intimate, process.

“It’s still a form of art,” said Da Silva, noting that there’s no substitute for getting the “feel” of a piece. And Agacanian, a master engraver, still does exquisitely fine

work by hand. Laschiver described seeing jewelry with hand-wrought details so fine that individual horsehairs threaded through openings like dental floss were used to polish them.

It turns out that jewelers also have to be masters of tact when they must tell someone their idea just won’t work. If



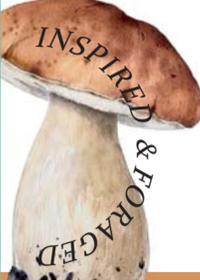
Mario Agacanian and Bryan Laschiver of La Renaissance Jewelry.

the customer’s dream setting won’t securely hold a stone, for example, Laschiver said they’ll guide them toward safer options.

Thankfully, those interactions are the exception. More often, these artisans are talking with happy couples or remaking an inherited ring into a pendant that can be worn daily as a reminder of someone’s love.

If you’re considering a custom piece, Da Silva recommends allowing at least four weeks, adding that it could take longer depending on the jeweler’s schedule.

Like Kelce and Swift, you can scroll Instagram for clues about your partner’s style, notice the colors and textures in their home, or pay attention to the jewelry they already wear. Do they lean contemporary, bohemian, Art Deco? Then find a local jeweler — we’ve only scratched the surface of Carmel’s exceptional talent — and collaborate on something that says not just, “it’s you,” but “it’s us.”





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La Renaissance Jewelry has beautiful rings like this cushion cut yellow diamond (top) and a more modern-feeling white diamond.



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# HEALTHY Lifestyles

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# WEDDINGS & SPECIAL OCCASIONS

## BEAUTIFUL *from page 30A*

sometimes the immediate family, so we bring a big team," said Pomo, who has been coordinating the action out of her home office off of Highway 68 near Corral de Tierra since 2010.

"And we are getting a lot more requests from men, so we've added barbers to our team and I've added men's styling to my price list. The guys want beard trims and hair styling the day of, on site, too."

At Blush, Ortiz is also getting more requests from men who want to have hair styled and skin blemishes touched up for

photos. For men who want a hot shave with a razor, a barber's license is required, so barbers are needed in addition to cosmetologists. "We are a destination styling company," Ortiz said. "No matter how big your party is, we will have the team needed to take the stress out of getting ready."

A native of Salinas, Ortiz started her business in 2014 after working for a major cosmetics company during the first part of her career. "We live in such a high-demand wedding area, I saw the opportunity to serve destination brides and pitched the idea to my husband, and here we are today."

### Wake-up call

Ortiz and her team of 25 independent contractors work an average of six to seven weddings a week. In the fall high season, which all the stylists said is late August to early November, they can have as many as 10 to 12 wedding bookings a week throughout the region.

Spa Bella on Location also dispatches groups of stylists to wedding venues as far away as Big Sur, where it has become common to take pre-ceremony wedding photos at sunrise. That means, in some cases, having the bride and groom photo-ready as early as 6 a.m.

The early-morning preparations have become an integral part of the wedding day, setting a celebratory tone from the outset. Stylists reported that the hair and makeup on location is usually conducted in a festive space, such as a hotel suite or Airbnb reserved for the occasion, where a tailored playlist is pulsing and the bubbly is flowing.

Plenty of advance planning is also involved.

"It's always ideal for clients to bring in or send us a lot of inspiration photos," said Hannah Zander, owner of the Positive Parlor salon in Pacific Grove. "It truly helps us understand a specific look they envision."

Mantra Salon and Blush recommended an in-person preview appointment in their salons. "I tell brides to choose two or three different inspirational styles before coming in," Dokie said. "We discuss the style of their gown and which hairstyle will look best, and we discuss perhaps adding hair extensions or accessories. I will also suggest advance treatments for hair health and shine leading up to the wedding day."

"We have a freestanding store just for bridal hair and makeup," Ortiz said of Blush. "We meet all of our brides, and some grooms, in our studio, so they see the face behind the brush. We can do previews and trials and really get to know each other. It's a really important day and the advance connection and conversation makes it less stressful."

### Hairpins and eyelashes

With a high number of out-of-area couples as well as elopements, not every bride can do an in-person trial. In that case, photos are exchanged, phone calls are arranged and Zoom meetings take place.

There are many details to be discussed: How to incorporate flowers into the hairdo. How to secure veils and headpieces. Skin



This bride is showing off a loose updo and makeup by Blush in Monterey.

and hair type. How many hair extensions and of what type need to be added for fullness. And whether eyelash extensions need to be applied, which takes more time.

Some brides even want different looks during the wedding day. "They want an

**GORGEOUS** *cont. page 37A*



PHOTO/JENNIFER WHALEN

"Messy" should always look as lovely as this style (and makeup) from Spa Bella on Location.

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# WEDDINGS & SPECIAL OCCASIONS

## GIFTS from page 31A

### Heirlooms

Tancredi & Morgen, down Carmel Valley Road, offers Old World imports as well as New World textiles and an exquisite



Silver Champagne bowls from Tancredi & Mor-

selection of custom gifts, from art to candles to books. They specialize in heirlooms — ideal for a couple building a new home or for someone who “has everything.” A popular item that’s almost always in stock is antique French Champagne bowls, said Gwenneth Alldis, creative partner and daughter of Roger and Marsha Alldis, who have owned the shop since 1987. These engraved bowls, imported from France, each feature the name of a Champagne house, hold four to six bottles plus plenty of ice, and are truly unusual. You’ll also find special housewares such as stoneware compotes — footed bowls perfect as centerpieces, fruit dishes, serving bowls or displays for pillar candles. Visit the brick-and-mortar store at 7174 Carmel Valley Road, or learn more at tancrediamorgen.com.

For the bright, color-loving giftee, House of Cardoon offers vibrant and distinctive homewares and presents. Located on San Carlos Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues, the shop is “creatively helmed” by owner Nora Cavallaro. Its website says it’s “a colorful concept shop with an artful and adventurous spirit.” Known for her whimsical aesthetic, Cavallaro blends global influences and historical references

to create a charming range of items that extends from tableware and tables, to candlesticks and cards. One standout piece is a bold lemon-yellow pitcher. Or, consider an antique Japanese pitcher — perfect for the party planner in your life. Discover more at [houseofcardoon.com](http://houseofcardoon.com).

If you’re seeking a gift for the soul, head to Pilgrim’s Way Community Bookstore on Dolores Street. This family-owned shop carries a wide selection of books, from poetry, to works by local authors, along with an elegant array of journals for the happy couple, maid of honor or best man to record thoughts and memories of the path to the altar. Learn more at [pilgrimsway.com](http://pilgrimsway.com).

### Chocolate and bubbles

No celebration is complete without bubbles, and some local wineries produce excellent sparkling wines from local grapes. Caraccioli Cellars offers several options, including brut cuvée, brut rosé, blanc de blancs, and blanc de noirs. Stop by the tasting room on Dolores Street between Ocean and Seventh to sample them all. Folktale Winery & Vineyards offers a sparkling rosé and a sparkling brut, too — ideal for celebratory needs. Visit 8940 Carmel Valley Road for a tasting or to pick up a few bottles.

For a chocolate lover, nothing says romance like an exquisite box of truffles. Lula’s, made in Monterey, specializes in chocolate truffles and sea salt caramels dipped in chocolate. And there’s a wonderful family story behind the sweets — Lula’s founder, Scott Lund, started with his grandmother’s recipes and named the company for her. His delicious candies were featured at events surrounding the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City,



Folktale bubbly (top), a vintage pitcher from House of Cardoon, or Lula’s chocolates are thoughtful expressions of affection.

**PRESENTS** *cont. next page*

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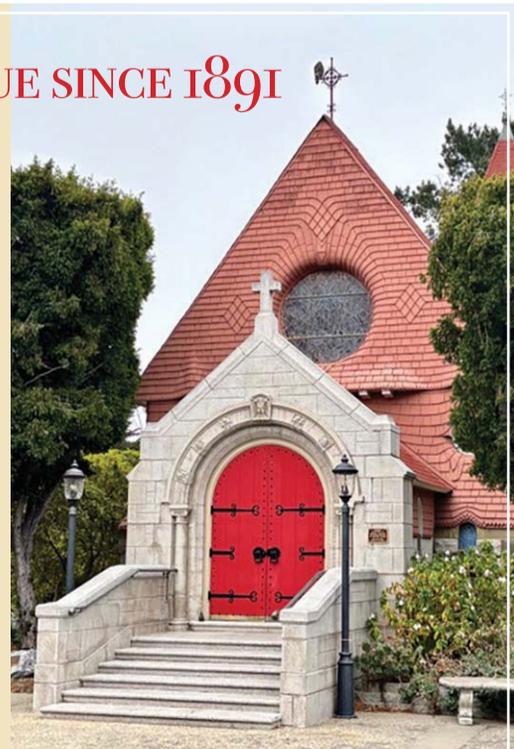
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# WEDDINGS

## PRESENTS from previous page

so you're getting a truly premium product.

Whether as a standalone gift or paired with sparkling wine, Lula's Chocolates are thoughtful tokens of affection. Find them at their retail locations in The Crossroads, Carmel Plaza, and their factory store at 2 Harris Court, Ste. B6, or order online at [lulaschocolates.com](http://lulaschocolates.com).

For a truly personal touch, consider creatively assembling a collection of items: a large Champagne bowl from Tancredi & Morgen filled with monogrammed organic cotton handkerchiefs from Jan de Luz, colorful taper candles and metallic-tipped matches from House of Cardoon, a gold-embossed journal from Pilgrim's Way, a box of chocolate truffles from Lula's, and a bottle of blanc de blancs from Caraccioli Cellars. Cheers!

## GORGEOUS from page 35A

updo for the ceremony, and then to take it down for dancing afterward. Or they want makeup changes or touch-ups during the wedding day. We'll be on site for that too," said Pomo, who is a licensed esthetician.

Our less-than-predictable local climate, combined with the preponderance of outdoor weddings, does present a challenge for beauty professionals.

"In this air, you have to be prepared for that mist," Ortiz said. "Come dusk, in this area, you are going to get that dew. Or in the afternoon, the sun can be hot. Your look needs to be long-lasting, weatherproof and sweatproof. It's all about the products you use to last through the elements, because you never know, and your curls are going to fall if you don't. We research the weather and humidity wherever we are going. Our brides love the assurance that we will be there, and we can stay for extra weather insurance just in case."

Prices for wedding hair and makeup vary with the complexity of the task, but range from \$400, to \$600 and up, for both bridal hair and makeup, and sometimes slightly less for each member of the wedding party.

No matter the size of the wedding, hair and makeup are usually involved. "Since Covid, we've been seeing more elopements and more small weddings," Pomo said. "But that doesn't affect our business. Brides and grooms still want the best and most romantic photos, and they still want to look gorgeous. We are as busy as ever."

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# This Week

Live Music,  
Clubs and Events

## Singer pays tribute to Taylor Swift at Sunset, opera star returns home

TAYLOR SWIFT is not performing at Sunset Center Friday at 7:30 p.m., but it will hardly matter when pop diva impersonator **Christina Shaw** takes the stage to pay tribute to the global superstar.

"Taylor Swift can't come to Sunset Center right now because she's busy," the venue said. "But Christina Shaw

can, and she'll be here Friday."

A versatile entertainer who also impersonates Lady Gaga and Britney Spears, Shaw recreates Swift's energy and excitement.

"From her early country hits to chart-topping pop anthems, this tribute captures the heart, soul and sparkle of Taylor Swift," Sunset Center said, adding that concert-goers can expect chart-topping songs like "Love Story," "Blank Space," "You Belong with Me," and "Anti-Hero," along with "pitch-perfect vocals and backed by a full band — plus a crowd to sing along with."

Tickets are \$75 for adults, \$45 for teens and \$25 for kids. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 620-2048 or visit [sunsetcenter.org](http://sunsetcenter.org).

### ■ Experience her magic

A native of Carmel, opera singer **Marielle Murphy** performs Sunday, 3 p.m., also at Sunset Center. She'll be joined by pianist **Alden Gatt**.

The duo will play music by Mozart, Rachmaninoff, Strauss and others. "Marielle and Alden have crafted a program that celebrates the expressive power of song



Vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Diana Gameros sings songs of "love, longing and hope" Saturday at Palenke Arts in Seaside.

(831) 625-9938 or visit [carmelmusic.org](http://carmelmusic.org).

Murphy also presents a free concert at the Sand Box, 400 Ortiz Ave., in Sand City Saturday at noon. To RSVP, visit [sandboxsandcity.com](http://sandboxsandcity.com).

### ■ Birthday bash for Django

Paying homage to a musician who pioneered gypsy jazz, mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** and friends present their third annual tribute to guitarist Django Reinhardt Saturday, 7 p.m., at the Stanton Center Theater in Monterey.

The event marks Reinhardt's 116th birthday. Only 43 when he died in 1953, he is widely considered one of the

See **MUSIC** page 41A



Singer Christina Shaw pays tribute to pop music superstar Taylor Swift Friday, 7:30 p.m., at Sunset Center.

## On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

across styles and cultures," according to the Carmel Music Society, which is presenting the concert.

The group described Murphy as a "breathtaking coloratura soprano" who has appeared on some of the most prestigious stages in the world. Tickets start at \$45. Call

FEBRUARY 14 | 4PM TO 10PM | FOUR COURSE DINNER



# Valentine's Day

### FIRST COURSE

mango salad with pickled red onion, grilled halloumi with citrus vinaigrette

♥ wine pairing illumination by quintessa sauvignon blanc, napa valley, 2023

### SECOND COURSE

fresh ahi tuna ceviche with spicy jalapeno & cilantro sauce

♥ wine pairing flowers pinot noir, sonoma coast, 2023

### THIRD COURSE

4oz classic bacon wrapped filet mignon, potato timbale, grilled asparagus & porcini wild mushroom demi-glaze or

5oz halibut with risotto, sautéed broccolini & passion lemon butter sauce

♥ wine pairing benton lane pinot noir, willamette valley, 2023

### FOURTH COURSE

chocolate lava cake with chocolate ganache & macerated strawberries

♥ wine pairing faust cabernet sauvignon, napa valley, 2020



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# FOOD & WINE

## Cake as canvas, sweetheart dinners, scholarships and a fundraiser

ALTHOUGH THIS part of January is usually a sleepy post-holiday lull for food and wine, there's still plenty for us to report. First, Paris Bakery and Café Carmel are offering novel twists on paint-and-sip events, where guests usually consume fine wine while creating fine art — or something approximating it — on canvas. There are more Valentine's Day events to consider, and, on a related romantic note, Paradise Catering has been sold to a local wedding planner. We've also got info on a gala benefiting Carmel Youth Center, and scholarships are available from Monterey County Hospitality Association. Grab your reading glasses and dig in.

### ■ Play with your food

Paris Bakery, at 271 Bonifacio Place in downtown Monterey, will host its first "Cake and Sip" event Feb. 6 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

"It's a new concept," explained Tabatha Crowley, the bakery's operations manager. In this sweeter version of "paint and sip," as many as 30 participants can choose a chocolate or vanilla "canvas" — a 6-by-6-inch slice of cake — to decorate with colorful buttercream frosting.

"It's a large piece of cake, probably three slices — two if you're me," said Crowley with a laugh. Tickets are \$50 plus a service fee and include all materials and your choice of two drinks — wine, beer, coffee or tea. Food can also be purchased from the bakery's menu.



For a classic Valentine's Day dining experience, look no further than the Sardine Factory in Monterey. Along with a variety of rooms and settings to choose from, the restaurant is offering a four-course prix fixe menu on Feb. 13 and 14.

Café Carmel on Ocean Avenue is offering another variation on the creative theme: Coffee Sip & Paint. Local artist Edi Matsumoto will lead the sessions on Feb. 11, March 11 and April 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the café. A \$30 fee includes all the supplies customers will need to complete their paintings as well as brewed coffee or tea and a cookie to fuel the artistic spirit. Other café items will also be available for purchase.

For details or to RSVP, visit [edimatsumoto.com](http://edimatsumoto.com) or call (831) 596-5157.

### ■ Valentines in Monterey

Estéban Restaurant in the Casa Munras Hotel at 700 Munras Ave. in Monterey will offer its regular menu alongside a special romantic dinner Feb. 13 and 14 from 4:30 to 9 p.m. and Feb. 15 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The three-course prix-fixe Valentine's menu includes a glass of cava (Spanish bubbly) by Blanchard Perez and starts with stracciatella and pear salad served with spiced cherries, huckleberry sauce and mustard greens, with a side of focaccia and whipped butter. (Stracciatella can mean different things in different dishes, but in this case,

it's burrata cheese.)

The second course is a Snake River Farms wagyu steak, and lobster tail with brown-butter parsnip puree and grilled mushrooms, and the meal ends with chocolate pot de crème served with whipped cream, posh Luxardo cherries, and cocoa nibs.

### Sardine Factory

The Sardine Factory at 701 Wave St. is offering a four-course prix fixe menu Feb. 13 and 14 from 4:30 to 10 p.m.

The meal begins with the restaurant's decadent lobster bisque featuring cognac, sherry and crème fraîche. Next comes a salad of butter lettuce and strawberries topped with crispy prosciutto, candied pecans and blue cheese dressing.

Diners can choose between grilled salmon with Dungeness crab, wild mushrooms and béarnaise sauce, or an 8-ounce aged filet mignon accompanied by potatoes, artichokes and asparagus, plus an available 7-ounce lobster tail for \$20 more. A 14-ounce Maine lobster tail entrée with potatoes and broccolini is available for an extra \$19.

See **FOOD** next page

## Soup to Nuts

Similar themed monthly events are being considered for Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day. Crowley is part of the new ownership team that took over Paris Bakery in 2024. They're keeping the same bakers and selections for longtime customers to enjoy while exploring new ideas. "We're always trying to find fun and interactive things to do with what we have," said Crowley. Learn more about the bakery at [parisbakery.us](http://parisbakery.us). Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite at [tinyurl.com/3wt2wuv4](http://tinyurl.com/3wt2wuv4).

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# FOOD

From previous page

For a sweet finish, there's a strawberry white chocolate bar with "huckleberry gel" and pistachio crumble, a classic cherries jubilee, or chocolate and raspberry "hearts of decadence."

The dinner is \$125 per person. Reservations can be made at [sardinefactory.com](http://sardinefactory.com) or by calling (831) 373-3775.

## High tea and bubbles

Rosemary and Thyme, the elegant tea catering service founded by Dorothy Findlater, will serve high tea with her melt-in-your-mouth freshly baked scones, petit fours, traditional tea sandwiches, "and

other refined delights" on Feb. 15 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at A Taste of Monterey, 700 Cannery Row. Tickets are \$99 per person and include one glass of sparkling wine, with additional wines available for purchase. To reserve, visit [atasteofmonterey.com/club-events](http://atasteofmonterey.com/club-events).

## Paradise Catering sold

Longtime Carmel Valley caterers Jon Kasky and Nancy Rohan have sold their Paradise Catering business to Heidi Sebok, owner of Coastside Couture wedding planners.

The businesses will remain separate, Sebok said. Kasky will continue working from time to time in a "soft retirement," and Rohan will stay on through the transition.

Gabe Villagrana, who has been with Paradise for more than a decade, will take over the kitchen, and Corine Hanamaikai — also a 10-plus-year veteran — will continue to lead the front of the house and service staff at events.

Sebok said her wedding clients will still be able to choose from multiple caterers, selecting one who best suits their tastes.

Paradise will continue to work with other wedding planners, as well. "Those relationships are so important to us," she said.

Sebok added that Kasky's 1-acre "farm" will continue to provide fresh flowers and ingredients for Paradise, along with other local suppliers.

Those who have experienced Kasky and Rohan's hospitality will no doubt miss their friendly faces and the joy they bring to the kitchen. But Sebok emphasized, "Having worked closely with them through Coastside Couture for 15 years, taking the reins feels like a natural transition, and I am excited to continue the legacy they built."



(From left) Owners Jon Kasky and Nancy Rohan announced they're selling their Paradise Catering business to Coastside Couture. Front of house manager Corine Hanamaikai and chef Gabe Villagrana will remain with the company.

## Youth Center hosts gala

The Carmel Youth Center's inaugural Inspirations Gala, set for March 7 at the Inn at Spanish Bay, will "celebrate the spark that changes everything — when a young person feels supported and inspired," by raising funds for ongoing efforts at the nonprofit, which was founded by Bing Crosby in 1949.

"As a youth development organization, the CYC provides services and leadership to meet the emerging needs of young people and their families in our community, so young people are able to acquire the skills, self-confidence, and opportunities to reach their full potential," the center's leadership said.

"When you become part of CYC, you're joining a rich legacy and proud movement of teachers, parents, community and business leaders with a shared goal to nurture, educate and encourage kids to be responsible, civically engaged and prepared for the future," they added.

## Inspiring kids

To garner support for those endeavors, the center is organizing its first gala at Spanish Bay. The event will include "curated performances throughout the evening," courses paired with local wines, kids' stories of inspiration and transformation, and an auction and raffle.

Sponsorship opportunities run from \$5,000 for a table of eight to 10 guests, to \$20,000 for three tables, plus other benefits, and some levels include perks like preferred seating, a hosted reception, valet parking and prominent mentions in marketing materials. Individual tickets are \$350 per person.

For more information and to reserve,

visit [carmelyouthcenter2026gala.org](http://carmelyouthcenter2026gala.org). To learn more about the center and its offerings, go to [carmelyouth.org](http://carmelyouth.org).

## Hospitality scholarships

The Monterey County Hospitality Association, a trade organization that "provides a unified voice for more than 27,000 local hospitality professionals," began accepting applications for its scholarship program Jan. 15.

The nonprofit offers financial support for education and career advancement as part of the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation scholarship network, which supports education, workforce development and professional growth across the hospitality industry nationwide.

Since 1995, MCHA has distributed more than \$80,000 in scholarships to students, and the funds given out each year may be applied to current or future coursework at educational institutions.

The program is open to students pursuing careers in hotel management, culinary and restaurant fields, tourism and destination management, event planning, business administration and wine hospitality.

Those interested can apply for financial assistance for the 2026-2027 school year at [chooserestaurants.org/programs/scholarships-grants/scholarships](http://chooserestaurants.org/programs/scholarships-grants/scholarships).

The application is used to match the student with numerous potential scholarships, and priority is given to Monterey County residents or students for the MCHA scholarship. The deadline to apply is March 16, with recipients announced in May.

Four students received MCHA scholarships in 2025.

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



Paris Bakery has scheduled a twist on the wine-tasting/painting combo. On Feb. 6, "cake-and-sip" invites people to paint on an edible canvas with buttercream frosting.

Edgar's

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# FOOD & WINE

## MUSIC

From page 38A

20th century's most influential guitarists, and Holodiloff calls the venue Monterey County's "best small theater."

"Professional sound, lighting, and limited VIP seating makes it a perfect spot for live music," he told The Pine Cone.

The theater is located at 5 Custom House Plaza. For tickets and more details, visit [daveholodiloff.com](http://daveholodiloff.com).

"We are thrilled to feature the incredible vocal stylings of singer **Julie Capili**, accompanied by consummate professionals **Bill Spencer** on keys, **Steve Uccello** on bass and **Jim Vanderzwaan** on drums," event co-host and singer **Lee Durley** said. "The afternoon begins with a performance by our guests of honor, followed by a jam session where all professional performers are welcome to sit in."

There's no cover charge. Embassy Suites is located at 1441 Canyon Del Rey Blvd.

### Love, longing and hope

Performing songs of "love, longing and hope," singer and multi-instrumentalist **Diana Gameros** plays Saturday, 7 p.m., at Palenke Arts in Seaside. "Diana creates inspiring music that reflects the 21st century experiences of a young indie artist at the borderlands between cultures, languages and genres," according to her biography. "Whether teasing every ounce of expression from her acoustic guitar or bringing people to their feet with her dynamic full band, Gameros transfixes listeners with her soaring vocals, impressive musicianship and captivating stage presence."

Tickets are \$30. The venue is located at 530 Elm Ave. For tickets, visit [palenkearts.org](http://palenkearts.org).

### Live music Jan. 23-29

#### 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 **Kyle Kovalik** (Sunday and Thursday at 6 p.m.). Carmel Square on San Carlos north of

Seventh.

**Carmel Mission Inn** — **Open Mic Night** (Wednesday at 6 p.m.). In the Shearwater Tavern, 3665 Rio Road.

**Hyatt Carmel Highlands** — singer and pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz, Friday at 4:45 p.m.), singer **Dino Vera** (jazz, r&b and dance music, Saturday and Thursday at 6 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.

**Cypress Inn** — singer **Dino Vera** (jazz, r&b and dance music, Friday at 6:30 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Loktionov** and singer **Debbie Davis** (cabaret, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), **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** — **The Edge Band** (rock, Friday at 6 p.m.), **Kid Dynamite** (rock, Saturday at 6 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

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

### Carmel Valley

**Bernardus Lodge** — pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea's Fault** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 4 p.m.), 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** — singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Friday at 5:30 p.m.). 8205 Valley Greens Drive.



Brice Albert (left) and singer Nina Hadzi-Antich (right) perform Thursday, 6 p.m., at Midici restaurant in downtown Monterey.

**Folktale Winery** — singer and guitarist **Lindsey Wall** (Friday at 4 p.m.), **Two Rivers** (pop and rock, Saturday at 4 p.m.), **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz, Sunday at 4 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Monday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Thursday at 4 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

**Trailside Cafe** — **The Better Together Duo** (Americana, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

### Monterey

**Albatross Ridge Winery** — singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Friday at 6 p.m.).

See LIVE page 44A



Singer and guitarist Rory Lynch presents shows this week in Carmel Valley and Pebble Beach.

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# Benefit shop's \$200K goes to churches

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

**I**NTERFAITH OUTREACH of Carmel — an organization of local churches and religious organizations — raised \$200,000 through its Joining Hands Benefit Shop and distributed the funds to 15 organizations that meet its mission of “reducing homelessness in Monterey County through collaborative, faith-based action.”

The grants support local organizations that provide “emergency, transitional, re-entry, temporary and permanent housing, as well as essential supportive services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness throughout Monterey County,” including The Bridge Resto-

ration Ministry, The Carmel Foundation, Catholic Charities, Community Homeless Solutions, Community Human Services, Franciscan Workers of Junipero Serra (dba Dorothy's Place), Housing Resource Center, I-HELP, Interim Inc., Monterey Sober Living for Women, Salvation Army, Set Free Monterey Bay, Sun Street Centers, Victory Mission Inc. and YWCA Monterey County.

Grant amounts were determined based on organizational need and impact, and IOC noted that many of the recipients also collaborate through the Coalition of Homeless Service Providers with the goal of providing long-term housing stability and coordinated solutions to homelessness.

## GAVEL

From page 4A

California's three strikes law. Rubio will also be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

Jane Doe 2 reported that Rubio, a family member, had been sexually assaulting her for many years. Doe 2 reported that Rubio touched her intimate areas over her clothing starting when she was in Seventh grade. Doe 2 disclosed that the sexual assaults continued until she left for college. Doe 2's brave disclosure to law enforcement resulted in Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 3 also reporting that Rubio had sexually assaulted them. Doe 1 reported that Rubio touched her intimate areas numerous times over the clothing while she was sleeping beginning when she was 12

years old. Doe 3 reported that Rubio touched her breasts over the clothing one time when she was a freshman or sophomore in high school. All of the victims reported being afraid of Rubio because he was physically and verbally abusive towards them and other family members. The victims stated they delayed reporting because they were afraid of Rubio and were worried about breaking up their family. According to research into sexual assault victim behavior, it is very common for victims to delay reporting the sexual abuse, especially when the victim is a minor and has a close relationship with the perpetrator.

This case was investigated by Greenfield Police Detective Maria Martinez and as well as other Greenfield police officers. The victims in this case were assisted by district attorney victim witness advocate Mayra Sandoval.

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# LIVE

From page 41A

singer and guitarist **Dan Cioper** (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.

**First Presbyterian Church of Monterey** — accompanied by **Monterey Strings** and pianist **Matt Bourne**, **Choral Artists of Carmel** presents its annual Winter Concert (classical, Sunday at 3 p.m.). For more details, visit caoc.us.

**Hyatt Regency Monterey** — singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Friday and Saturday at 6 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** — multi-instrumentalist **Paul Contos** and keyboardist **Martan** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer **Nina Hadzi-Antich** and guitarist **Brice Albert** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

**Monterey Plaza Hotel** — pianist **Steve Mann** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Tom Gastineau** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Jewel Arianna** (Monday and Wednesday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Daniel Cortes** (Tuesday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

**Pearl Hour** — **The Zach Westfall Quartet** (jazz, Sun-

day 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 guitarist **Blaise DiGirolamo** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Sarah Canet** (Saturday at 5 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (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** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 110 Central Ave.

**Julia's Vegetarian Restaurant** — singer and guitarist **Rags Rosenberg** (Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Smith** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea's Fault Duo** (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** — flutist **Kenny Stahl**, guitarist **Bruce Forman**, bassist **Dan Robbins** and drummer **Billy Jones** (jazz, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), **Open Mic** (Tuesday at 6 p.m., sign up by 5 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

**Pop 'n' Hiss** — **Slim Checkers** featuring guitarist **Tom Ayres** and others ("dance- inspired Texas swing, New Orleans swamp music and feel-good Honky Tonk, Saturday at 7 p.m.), **Ricketts' Folly** (jazz, Thursday at 7 p.m.). 215 Forest Ave.

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

## ■ Pebble Beach

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

**The Lodge at Pebble Beach** — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Saturday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Daniel Cortes** (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).



Singer Julie Capili joins the monthly Jazz Jam Sunday at Embassy Suites in Seaside. There's no cover, and pros are invited to join in.

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# CALENDAR

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

**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.

**Feb. 2 - "Driving into the Future," Recruitment and Outreach Manager Susan Elwood** will speak about the mission and breadth of **Meals on Wheels**. CWC will take this time to also celebrate the life of **Jackie Craighead** and her dedication to spearheading this program and so much more. Wear your favorite hat in Jackie's honor! 2 p.m. Carmel Woman's Club, San Carlos and Ninth, Carmel. Open to the public. \$10/guests/members free.

**Feb. 7 - Souper Bowl Saturday, a benefit for local homeless shelters.** Takeout meal for two includes 16 oz. clam chowder, sourdough bread, packaged salad and dessert. Select pickup window between 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Shuman HeartHouse. Enter at 300 Franklin St. and exit on Anthony Street, Monterey. Use QR code to pre-order by Jan. 30.



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

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# ARTIST

From page 23A

paint things that people want to buy."

Gamache was the only child of a father whose career as a government textile inspector took him south of the Mason-Dixon Line for most of the first 10 years of her life. Her mother, also in the workforce, dropped Claudette off at an aunt's home in the early hours of every workday.

"My mom was very controlling, but I wasn't really supported, so I became very independent," she remembered. "I was a very obedient child — I'd sit quietly in a chair at my aunt's house from 7 a.m. until they got up at 11.

"When I was 9, my aunt gave me a book and some pastel pencils — and painting immediately felt like second nature to me."

### 'Experience galore'

Thoughts of studying art at the college level were nixed by her father as a bad idea, so Claudette, an exceptional student, enrolled instead at St. Anne's Nursing School in Fall River, Massachusetts, where her aunt was a teacher. She earned a diploma in 1962 and quickly found work.

"The best way to become a nurse, in my opinion, was to get experience galore, so that's what I did," she said.

In May 1964, she married Paul Gamache, who parlayed his bachelor's degree in accounting and finance and a master's in industrial administration into a career in accounting and financial management. He worked for four major corporations, including Memorex, which in the 1970s brought the couple and their three sons to San Jose.



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They were a close family, enjoying travel, camping, cycling, hiking, running in road races, canoeing, tennis and boating. All three sons are accomplished adults: Daniel became a pilot, Christopher a software engineer, and Raymond is the NPS professor.

Gamache has three grandchildren who reside in Colorado, Massachusetts and Ohio.

### Back to school in the '80s

Paul Gamache's next career opportunity took them back to the East Coast, where, with her sons in high school, Claudette earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Hartford in 1984, then a master's from Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass., in 1985.

She worked as a registered nurse at Mount Sinai Hospital in Hartford from 1984 to 1986, as an expressive therapist at two facilities from 1986 to 1989, and as a hospice nurse and visiting nurse from 1989 to 1997.

From 1990 to 1997, Gamache became a sought-after speaker as an expert on hospice nursing.

Through those years, the creative process was a constant for Gamache, who painted with pastels and oils and also collaborated with a California friend to make wearable silk art. Painting became a catharsis when she and her husband battled their health issues.

Her art continues to evolve, sometimes including up to 30 layers of paint, because "layering adds depth," she said.

Multiple images of her landscapes and seascapes, and additional information, can be found at [claudettegamache.com](http://claudettegamache.com), on Instagram @gamacheclaudette, and at [venture-gallery.com](http://venture-gallery.com).

See her work on exhibit from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily at Venture Gallery (260 Alvarado St., Monterey).

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



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# MEMORABLE

From page 17A

than \$300,000 — more than \$5 million today — the Forest Hill Hotel was a big hit with visitors in its early days. Today, Forest Hill Manor is a retirement community offering both assisted living care and independent living options.

In a sign of changing times, Pacific Grove welcomed its last Chautauqua meeting in 1926. The town had been for decades the west coast hub of the Chautauqua Movement, which placed a great emphasis on adult education. The building at 16th Street and Central Avenue that hosted the group's meetings endured, and the Chautauqua Hall Dance Club was born in 1926.

## Golf club opens

Nearby in Pebble Beach, the Monterey Peninsula Country Club celebrated its grand opening in July 1926. The golf club was designed by architects Charles Macdonald and Seth Raynor, but the latter died before the project was completed and noted course designer Robert Hunter

oil, agriculture and film industries. The state had just 3 million residents in 1920 and added another 2.2 million people over the next decade. During the 1920s, Monterey County experienced its greatest growth ever — it had about 28,000 residents in 1920, and roughly 54,000 by 1930 — an increase of nearly 92 percent, and a far cry from the slow growth of the 21st century.

In Big Sur, where only a handful of homesteading families lived at the time, an effort was underway to extend Highway 1 between Carmel and Cambria. Construction started in 1921 but was halted for two years in 1926 due to a lack of funding. The work resumed in 1928, with convict laborers earning a little over \$2 a day for work that was often dangerous. The road was completed in 1937.

## Hollywood-by-the-Sea

By 1926, Hollywood had discovered the Monterey Peninsula's charms, and at least five films — all silent and black and white, of course — used Carmel, Monterey, Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach for backdrops, according to the Monterey County Film Commission. The films included "Married Alive," "Paid to Love," "Sandy," "Tin Gods" and "The Woman of the Sea." The latter, which was never released, was produced by comic genius Charlie Chaplin, who was one of the most popular figures in entertainment at the time.

Also new in 1926 were artist Jo Mora's charming pictorial maps. A native of Uruguay, Mora made vibrant, colorful and detailed maps that captured the spirit of many places. Known as the "Renaissance Man of the West," Mora was a cowboy, painter, sculptor, photographer and muralist. His first map depicts the Monterey Peninsula and he

was living in Carmel at the time.

## Famous faith healer

Perhaps not quite as famous as Chaplin, Aimee Semple McPherson was a genuine celebrity in 1926. A Canadian-born Pentecostal evangelist, she founded a church and became the country's most popular radio preacher and faith healer. A charismatic speaker, McPherson was at the height of her fame when she shocked the world in May 1926 by disappearing from Venice Beach after going for a swim.

While many believed McPherson had drowned, she turned up five weeks later in a small town in southeast Arizona with a wild story that she had been kidnapped, taken to Mexico, and escaped her captors before enlisting a local family for help.

Meanwhile, a rumor began circulating that the whole episode had been faked to cover up an affair McPherson had with a married man, a former employee named Kenneth Ormiston. According to the story, the two spent three weeks in Carmel in a house along Scenic Road that Ormiston had rented under a fake name. Soon, the alleged affair erupted in a full-blown media circus.

## Was she or wasn't she?

At least five witnesses testified before a grand jury that they had seen McPherson in Carmel during the time of her disappearance, but Ormiston insisted the woman they saw was someone else he was having an affair with.

The cottage was even checked for McPherson's fingerprints, but none were found.

The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office charged McPherson and others with "conspiracy to manufacture evidence, obstruction of justice, and perjury" and a jury trial was set, but the case unraveled due to unreliable testimony and suspicious evidence. Although all charges were dropped by early 1927, McPherson's reputation was left in tatters, and the media continued to hound her. She continued her ministry work, but fewer people attended her sermons. She died in 1944, due to a suspected overdose of sleeping pills.

## Bootlegging mayor busted

Competing with the McPherson story for headlines in 1926 were the court proceedings for the shocking Battle of Moss Landing, which had occurred late during the previous year.

While preparing to offload a shipment of liquor from a boat, a smuggling gang led by none other than the mayor of Sausalito, J. Herbert Madden, got into a gun battle with police in Moss Landing. One policeman died as a result, while another was injured.

Such violence was surprisingly commonplace throughout the country during Prohibition, when the production and sale of alcohol was banned, and bootleggers clashed with law enforcement (and each other) as they sought to distribute

their product. Madden eventually spent two years in jail and, somehow, was again elected mayor of the Marin County town after his release.

## A whole lotta shakin'

The devastating 1906 earthquake in San Francisco was still fresh on the minds of many residents two decades later, when a rare double earthquake struck the Monterey Peninsula Oct. 22, 1926. The earthquakes came just an hour apart and were



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Aimee Semple McPherson was a famous evangelist when she mysteriously disappeared in 1926 — before inexplicably reappearing hundreds of miles away. Some believe she spent the time hiding out in Carmel.

the biggest ones to hit the area since 1906.

A week later, a cover story in The Pine Cone reported that 50-foot waves were seen near Point Lobos, and the newspaper quoted several local "men of science" who declared that the massive waves were caused by the two earthquakes. Old-timers confirmed the waves were the largest they'd ever seen.

With radio and newspapers being the chief dispensers of news 100 years ago, people knew far less about what was going on halfway around the world than we do today — and far more about what was going on in their own neighborhoods.

But, like us, they were naturally curious about the people and ideas shaping their lives and enthusiastically followed the news. Then as now, who can resist a good story about a sensational crime or a sordid affair?



PHOTO/GOLDEN STATE THEATRE

World class musicians perform today at Golden State Theatre in Monterey, which was built in 1926.

stepped in to complete the work. Today, its course is considered among the best in the country.

In Monterey, the Japanese American Citizens League Hall was built in 1926, along with Municipal Wharf No. 2, which would come to play a key role in the local fishing industry in the coming decades.

The building boom on the Monterey Peninsula coincided with a massive state-wide influx of migrants from both the eastern United States and Mexico, fueled in part by the rising success of California's

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# WRESTLE

From page 21A

want to teach the sport, and in how we want to offer a supportive environment that builds character, independence, and a culture of connection among the players, teams, and the larger community," Smith said. "Monterey County has the potential for a strong aquatics culture, yet access to both competitive and organized water polo opportunities has been limited for many families," he said. "Our mission is to make the sport accessible, inclusive, and impactful, helping young athletes grow, not only as players, but as confident and disciplined individuals."

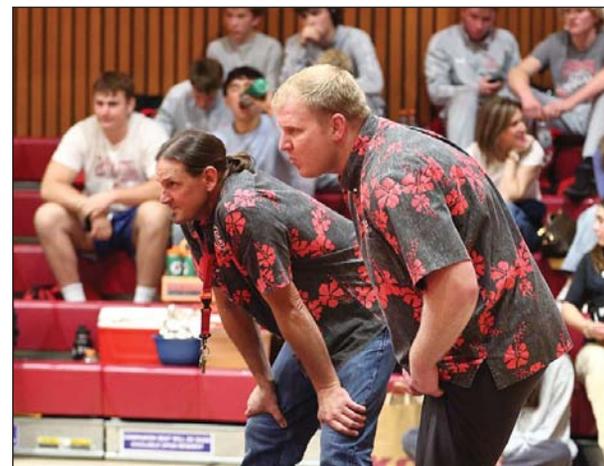
Klein's Santa Catalina teams have qualified for the Central Coast Section playoffs in each of her first three years as coach of the Cougars.

"California dominates the national stage in water polo, with an abundance of highly successful club programs at both ends of the state," she said. "The Peninsula is primed for a significant water polo presence, and we are looking forward to making that a reality."

CWPC plans to partner with local pools, schools, and community organizations to ensure broad access and minimize barriers to participation. The club expects to produce competitive teams across multiple age divisions. Programming will include introductory clinics, seasonal team training, league and tournament participation, and community-based outreach initiatives.

For additional information about the club and spring registration, visit [carmelwaterpolo.com](http://carmelwaterpolo.com), or contact Smith at [jerry@carmelwaterpolo.com](mailto:jerry@carmelwaterpolo.com) or (510) 290-9870.

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



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Carmel head coach Shadd Madsen, left, is assisted again this year by former U.S. Naval Academy wrestler Josh Bailey.

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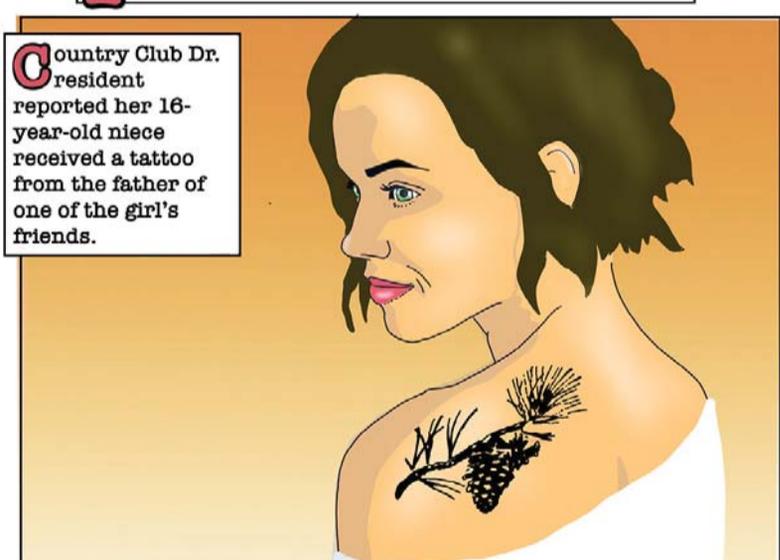


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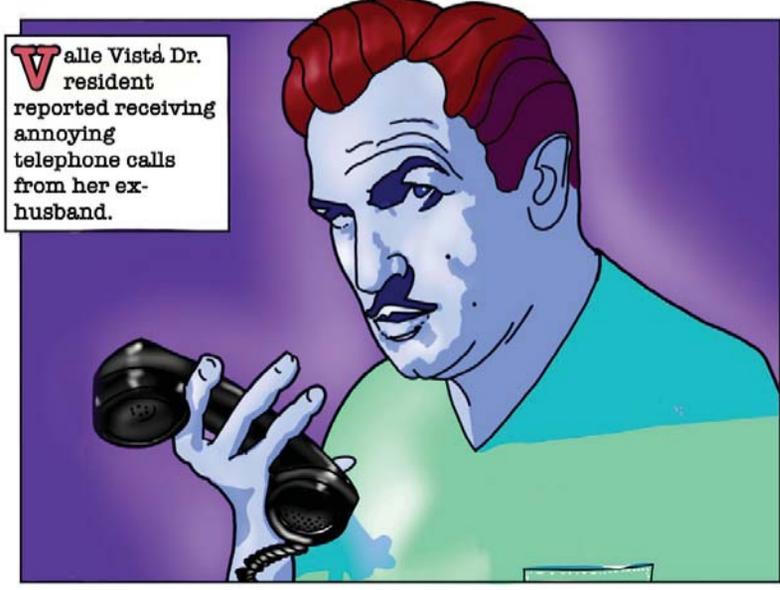
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**Police Log: Carmel Valley, Jan. 8**

**C**ountry Club Dr. resident reported her 16-year-old niece received a tattoo from the father of one of the girl's friends.



**V**alle Vista Dr. resident reported receiving annoying telephone calls from her ex-husband.



# After suffering unimaginable losses, local man finds magic in filmmaking

By CHRIS COUNTS

A LOCAL filmmaker who has faced extraordinary challenges — including losing both his life partner and his ability to walk — is making his first feature-length movie, and he's seeking a little financial help to bring it to the silver screen.

A one-time member of a U.S. Navy submarine crew and a graduate of CSUMB's cinematic arts program, Jackson Sherry is producing "The Sonder," a film that explores how our memories endure, but also how our perception of them changes over time. For Sherry, the subject is deeply personal — his fiancée, Lizzie, lost her battle with cancer in 2018, and his memories of her inspired the film.

"She remains the only person that close to me that I've lost, and I've watched my relationship to her change year after year," Sherry said. "She now exists only in memories, photographs and relationships — all things that have shifted as time goes by. That's the essence of the film I wanted to make."

Sherry wrote the script for the film, which explores a woman's search for her missing sister. Along the way, the woman

questions what she previously believed about their relationship.

"It is about loss, grief and memory, but it's also about perception," he said of the story. "It's about our ideas of the people we interact with and how wildly wrong they can be. The film is a constant overturning of stones."

Just two years before Lizzie passed away, Sherry was paralyzed from the chest down in a car accident in Big Sur. But, showing his resolve, he hasn't let that life-changing experience slow him down. In fact, since the accident, he's completed two triathlons in a wheelchair, published a memoir about his life and earned the previously mentioned degree from CSUMB.

### Friends help out

Set in Monterey, where Sherry grew up, the film relied on a small local cast and crew that he recruited among his friends. Despite the low budget, everybody got through the process and had a good time.

"Films at this scale rely on spirit, and seeing how much fun we all had consistently, for almost a month of shooting, really made the film," he said. "We're just a bunch of friends running around the

Monterey Peninsula with a camera and some words on a page, and the fact that that's becoming a movie is its own kind of magic."

The film will cost \$30,000 to make, Sherry estimated. So far, he's spent about \$10,000, leaving a balance of \$20,000 that still needs to be raised.

"That money will cover the complete post-production, which requires hiring a sound professional," he explained. "It will also cover film festival fees."

If all goes according to plan, the film will be completed by July. He's hoping it makes its debut at Osio Theater, which a group of locals is seeking to reopen by sometime this summer. The theater has been closed since Covid arrived in early 2020.

"I love that theater so much," he said. "It would be great to have it working again."

For Sherry, filmmaking

is far more than just a creative pursuit. "Filmmaking is therapeutic," he explained. "It helps me understand aspects of life I haven't fully processed yet."

Earlier this month, Sherry launched a fundraiser at seedandspark.com/fund/the-sonder#story to come up with the \$20,000 needed to finish the project. So far, he's raised more than \$12,000.



PHOTO/JACKSON SHERRY

Local filmmaker Jackson Sherry and friends shoot a scene from his first feature-length film, "The Sonder."

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Continues from previous page

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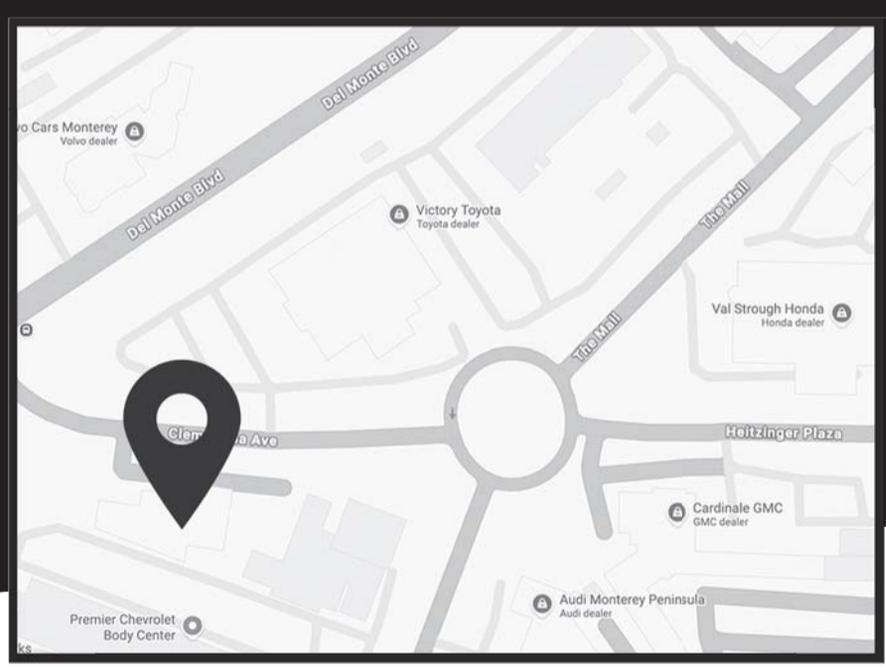
As we prepare for a major facility upgrade, Lexus Monterey Peninsula is making room for what's next—with exceptional values during our Construction Reduction Event.

Great things take shape with vision, craftsmanship, and time. While our future home is being transformed, we're pleased to offer exclusive opportunities on a carefully curated selection of new and pre-owned Lexus vehicles.

**OUR SALES AND SERVICE DEPARTMENTS WILL TEMPORARILY RELOCATE TO 4A HEITZINGER – FORMERLY PREMIER HYUNDAI – ENSURING A SEAMLESS AND FULLY SUPPORTED EXPERIENCE THROUGHOUT CONSTRUCTION.**

Our Parts Department will continue to operate at our current Lexus Monterey Peninsula location during this time.

Thank you for your continued trust and for allowing us to serve Carmel, Monterey, and the Peninsula with the hospitality you expect from Lexus. We look forward to unveiling a space worthy of this remarkable community.



## TEMPORARY RELOCATION

- Sales & Service: Moving to 4A Heitzinger Plaza (formerly Premier Hyundai)
- Parts: Remaining at Lexus Monterey Peninsula

THE FUTURE OF LUXURY IS UNDER WAY.



**CALL.** 831-661-9931    **TEXT.** 831-228-5534  
**CLICK.** [LexusMontereyPeninsula.com](https://www.LexusMontereyPeninsula.com)   
**COME ON BY.** 1721 Del Monte Blvd.  
 Seaside, CA 93955