

The Carmel Pine Cone

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January 5-11, 2024

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Tree vs. garage dilemma frustrates homeowners

By MARY SCHLEY

IT SEEMED like a good compromise at the time: Rather than move the wall and foundation of their garage 3 feet to accommodate a nearby pine tree, Junipero Street residents Alan and Jean Hewer suggested notching the

roof to make room for a limb growing toward it. But more than 20 years later, the tree, which leans over the property line from a neighbor's land, is damaging the building, and the Hewers, now in their mid-80s, are at a loss regarding what to do about it.

In an April 2001 letter to the planning commission, Alan Hewer noted that since the 30-to-40-year-old Torrey pine was healthy, cutting a segment out of the roof of their garage — which at the time was being converted to living space for their disabled son — to allow space for the limb to grow would be “a realistic solution that will last for at least 20 years and will provide an excellent compromise that satisfies the objectives of all parties.”

A common dilemma

“We have at least 20 years to prepare and budget for the inevitable future problem of pine versus garage,” he observed then. The planning commission agreed, allowing the Hewers to convert their garage into living space without moving any walls.

As has happened with other homeowners in town, more than two decades later the tree's growth has exceeded what then-city forester Mike Branson and the Hewers anticipated. The couple paid to have it pruned as much as possible in 2012 after a child was injured by a falling pine cone, but the tree is now damaging the house, and the property owner on whose land it grows has been unresponsive to the Hewers' requests to do something about it.

“There are now several large, menacing trunks, one of which is touching the rear wall — definitely a safety

See **TREE** page 21A

County sued by hundreds of Pajaro flood victims

By KELLY NIX

HUNDREDS OF Pajaro-area residents who were displaced when floodwaters inundated their homes in early 2023 have filed a massive lawsuit against Monterey and Santa Cruz counties, the State of California and other entities, alleging they are responsible for the devastation because they failed to prevent the flooding.

The lawsuit names nearly 800 plaintiffs, including individuals and their children, businesses, such as restaurants and auto shops, and trusts. It alleges the two counties and the state failed to properly maintain, repair and operate the Pajaro River flood control project, which was built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1949 and includes a levee system. It is maintained jointly by public agencies in Monterey County and Santa Cruz.

‘Well aware of danger’

The lawsuit claims that the county and state failed in managing and maintaining the project, despite being well aware of the historic flooding in the region.

Damages aren't specified in the suit, but it seems likely they could reach into the hundreds of millions. At time of



PHOTO/COURTESY JEAN HEWER

A large pine leans into the roof of a second unit at the home of Alan and Jean Hewer on Junipero Street.

Craig Rose, citing slow business, closes gallery

■ One of four on Dolores to shut doors

By CHRIS COUNTS

CRAIG ROSE, who made headlines in October when he got into an altercation with city administrator Chip Rerig outside his gallery on Dolores Street, closed the business last week — one of four galleries along Dolores between Fifth and Sixth that were shuttered at the end of the year, or are about to be.

Rose, who campaigned to have Rerig fired and promised to run for mayor, said he closed Nematic Gallery, which offered digital art, because it lost money during each of the seven months it was open.

For now, Rose said he plans to focus his attention on another business located nearby. He called the new venture “a fusion of art, vintage clothing, and events.”

“In response to the changing dynamics in Carmel,” he and his wife Daisy “have joined forces to rebrand the Daisy Rose Gallery into the Dos Rosas Gallery,” which Rose describe as an 800-square-foot space in the back of where Nematic once stood that will be “a collaborative offering that reflects our shared passion for art and

community.”

Rose said he is also pursuing an array of business ideas, including operating a local cannabis dispensary. He still plans to run for mayor, although he's hoping a better candidate steps up so he can focus on his business ventures. But he said the town needs a change in leadership.

‘Out in two days’

Just steps away from Rose's gallery, the Mary Titus Gallery is also closed.

“Will be out in two days. Landlords raised my rent,” painter and gallery owner Mary Titus said on social media in late December.

Titus told The Pine Cone that she had been thinking about closing the gallery before the rent increase, partly because of the sputtering economy.

“I was willing to stay for another year or two,” Titus said. But now that's she's closed the doors of her gallery, she's looking forward to what's coming next.

“They made it easy,” she said of her landlords. “I'm as free as a bird now.”

Titus said she plans to “paint at home” in the Carmel

See **GALLERIES** page 20A



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Repairs underway on the Pajaro River levee in March. A new lawsuit blames Monterey County and the state, among others, for failing to prevent the flooding of the Pajaro region.

the floods, damages to property was estimated to be \$300 million by the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency.

“Rather than performing their duties, the defendants allowed and/or encouraged vegetation to develop; water to escape from channels; the levees to deteriorate; the free flow of water to be impeded; and otherwise allowed an unreasonable and dangerous condition of public property,”

See **LAWSUIT** page 24A

Monterey's mandatory rental registry goes live

By MARY SCHLEY

ALL OWNERS of rentals in Monterey must either register them in the city's new inventory or file for exemptions by March 1, and failure to comply with the new law could mean fines and citations.

“The City of Monterey is rolling out the new rental inventory program, and participation is required,” officials announced this week. “All residential rental property owners must register or claim an exemption.”

Adopted by the city council last year despite widespread opposition from owners who said they believe the inventory will lead to rent control and otherwise hinder the market rather than help it, the ordinance requires landlords to provide extensive information about their units.

Multiple requirements

In addition to contact information, including that of property managers, owners must provide the street addresses or APNs of their rentals, the years they were built, how many units there are, and the number of bedrooms, bathrooms and square footage each rental contains.

Occupancy status and the reasons for vacancy must be given, too, along with the amount and date of monthly rent and whether the total includes utilities or fees. HOA dues and other assessments must be listed, if applicable, and landlords must disclose whether their tenants receive housing vouchers or other subsidies.

The community development director could require additional information, according to the ordinance. Changes in ownership or management, rents and occupancy status must be reported within 30 days.

Who is exempt?

Those who have fewer than four rental units are exempt from the registry and its \$50-per-unit fee, while owners of subsidized units, ADUs, mobile homes and owner-occupied homes containing rooms for rent are exempt from the fees. All claims of exemption must be filed with the city.

Proponents of the new inventory say it can benefit property owners by providing “a platform to demonstrate compliance with regulations,” maintaining a record of

See **REGISTRY** page 20A



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Craig Rose (right) during an October 2023 confrontation outside his gallery with city administrator Chip Rerig (left).

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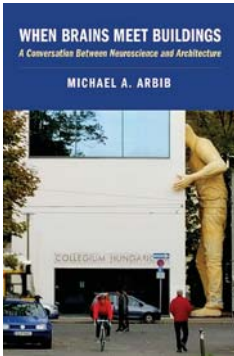
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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Rescue remedy

Jasper, a 10-pound corgi-Chihuahua mix, was 2 years old when he came from the SPCA to his forever home, where he was raised by two really big dogs. Now 13, he's outlived his buddies, so his people brought home Estrella, also from the SPCA, an Italian greyhound-cavalier King Charles spaniel mix, or so she seems.

Jasper had been wandering the streets when he was rescued and delivered to the SPCA. He hung out there for some time and was more than ready to go home and start his new life when his person rescued him.

There he was, at an SPCA adoption event at Pet Smart, wearing his little "Adopt Me" vest when his person, who'd stopped in to buy dog food, picked him up and couldn't put him down.

"I rescued Jasper a few more times," his person said. "Twice when he was walking close beside me, a stealthy coyote slipped in and grabbed him. I yelled and charged after her. To my surprise, she dropped him. Both times."



Jasper's final rescue came in the form of Estrella, from whom he is inseparable.

"Estrella actually cues off Jasper," her person said. "When we first got her, she was attacked by a dog that flipped her over and bit her belly. Now she relies on Jasper, who teaches her how to be in the world, as he wags his tail and remains calm and confident in the presence of other dogs."

Jasper and Estrella live at the south end of town, making it easy to access Mission Trails for a morning constitutional before heading down to Carmel Beach.

"Both dogs love to be outdoors, love to go camping, and have been on long hikes with us, including granite hiking at Lake Tahoe," said their person. "They're like having two strong, giant dogs in tiny bodies."

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Judge issues stay-away order to protect P.G. High principal

■ ‘Credible threat of violence or stalking’

By KELLY NIX

A JUDGE has granted Pacific Grove Unified School District a restraining order against a mentally unstable man charged with threatening to kill P.G. High’s principal in November.

Riley Elvin is in Monterey County Jail on multiple charges, but school administrators said they fear Elvin could try to make good on his threats when he is eventually released.

On Nov. 21 at 10:45 a.m., Elvin, 28, trespassed on the P.G. High School campus, entered the library and asked the librarian for a student ID card. After she escorted Elvin to the main office, principal Lito Garcia and assistant principal Lawrence Haggquist intercepted him.

When the administrators tried escorting Elvin away from the school, Elvin responded aggressively and threatened to kill Garcia, according to the restraining order petition PGUSD filed in late December in Monterey County Superior Court. The petition sought to stop Elvin from returning to any school or the school district office.

On Tuesday, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Murat A. Ozgur granted PGUSD the order “based on a credible threat of violence or stalking,” according to documents reviewed by The Pine Cone. It names Garcia and Haggquist as the people in need of protection.

‘Lucifer’s my name’

Included in the court documents is a declaration from Garcia, who offers a chilling, first-person account of the morning Elvin entered the P.G. High campus.

“When I asked [Elvin] his name, he told me that his name was ‘Ryan Lucifer,’” according to Garcia. “I then asked him if he had been on this campus before. He said ‘yes.’ Elvin appeared agitated and mentally unstable.”

Garcia asked Elvin to leave and said if he went onto campus again he would have him cited for trespassing. In response, Elvin threatened to punch Garcia before making the death threat and walking toward the middle school. Garcia and Haggquist followed him before Pacific Grove police officer Andrea Hill arrived and arrested him minutes later. He was booked into Monterey County Jail, where he’s been held since then, and charged with several crimes, including the death threat against Garcia.

Deeply concerned

The high school principal said he fears for his safety and that of others when Elvin is eventually released from jail. Meanwhile, the district said it “anticipates” he “will try to return” to P.G. High.

“The foregoing has increased my concerns that Elvin’s threats to kill me and harm others may result in actual violence at PGHS or other schools in the district where I may be present, especially given that he has trespassed on district campuses multiple times,” Garcia said.

Garcia went on to say that, “I understand that Elvin is currently in jail, but I am deeply concerned that he could make good on his threats if he is released.”

After the death threat, Garcia said he learned that Elvin had been “violent toward other inmates while incarcerated.”

“Specifically, I learned that Elvin had to be isolated from younger inmates, as he allegedly attempted to cause them sexual

See **THREAT** page 26A



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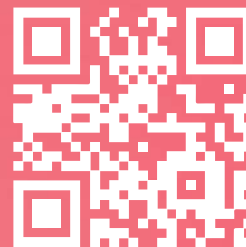
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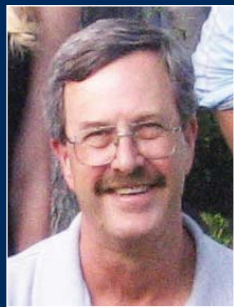
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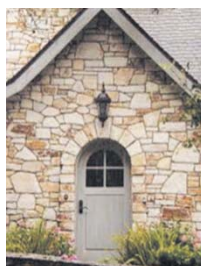
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Police & Sheriff's Log

Traffic stop ends in drug arrest

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.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Male claimed \$1.5 million was taken out of his bank account a year ago. He was calling from a mental health institution out of the area and wanted a report to be sent to the district attorney.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report taken of a lost wallet at Ocean and Mission.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Wallet and phone found at Sunset Center turned in.

Pacific Grove: Voluntary missing person from Lighthouse Avenue. Ongoing investigation.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

Carmel Valley: Burglary reported on Carmel Valley Road.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Trespassing at Lobos and First.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Reports taken at Lincoln and Ninth and San Carlos and Eighth for lost purses.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A resident on San Carlos Street found an unauthorized tracking device inside her vehicle. She believed her ex-boyfriend may have placed it there. Officers interviewed her ex-boyfriend but were not able to determine if he placed it. The device was seized and the case was suspended.

Pacific Grove: Officers dispatched to a residence on Crest Avenue regarding a found dead body.

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

Pacific Grove: Voluntary missing person from a Lighthouse Avenue residence. Ongoing investigation.

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



The gavel falls

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

Dec. 1 — The Hon. Mark E. Hood sentenced Francisco Zapotecas-Ruiz, 62, a resident of Monterey, to 30 years in prison for committing three counts of forcible lewd acts upon a child under 14 years of age. These offenses are serious and violent felonies and are considered strikes under California's three strikes law. Zapotecas will also be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

Jane Doe reported that Zapotecas, a family member, had molested her beginning when she was 5 years old. Doe reported several incidents of molestation by Zapotecas. During the molestations, Doe would try to get away from Zapotecas but he would hold her tightly, so she was unable to escape.

Doe delayed reporting the molestation for many years because she was afraid of Zapotecas.

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 Monterey Police Detective Mike Garcia as well as other Monterey Police officers. Jane Doe was

assisted by victim witness program manager Alma Sanchez.

Dec. 6 — Luis Zamudio, 77 and a resident of Royal Oaks, was sentenced to 15 years in state prison by Judge Pamela Butler.

On Dec. 5, 2022, Monterey County Sheriff's Deputies were called to the defendant's residence, due to a complaint that the defendant had sexually assaulted two girls — aged 12 and 13 — who resided at his residence.

After deputies spoke with the girls, the defendant was arrested. He told officers that he feels a "temptation" to touch young girls that he cannot explain.

During the investigation, it was discovered that he had also sexually molested two other girls who resided with him in the past.

The defendant entered pleas of no contest to two counts of forcible lewd acts on a child and three counts of lewd act on a child under 14. The charges constitute five strikes under California's three strikes law.

The defendant will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

This case was investigated by Monterey County Sheriff's deputies Edgar Fuentes and Max Iles, sergeant David Gonzalez and detective Christian Zarate.

The Carmel Pine Cone

Press Release guidelines

Press releases about newsworthy events should go to the following Pine Cone reporters:

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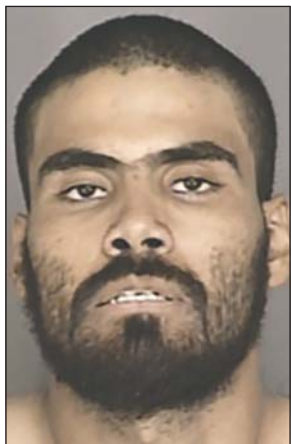
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Letters to the editor are only accepted by email and should be sent to
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Carjacker pleads guilty, gets 11 years

By MARY SCHLEY

A SALINAS man who yanked a woman out of the taxi she was driving and then led police on a high-speed chase on Highway 101 before crashing head-on into a car last October pleaded guilty this week to carjacking, assault with a deadly weapon, DUI causing great bodily injury and evading police, Monterey County deputy district attorney Matthew Johnson said Thursday.



Adrian Gonzalez

Johnson. Afraid, she pulled over and asked him to get out.

He exited the taxi but then pulled the driver out of her seat, punched her in the face, threw her to the ground and stole the car.

The woman, who was not identified by the DA's office, immediately called police, and almost two hours later, officers spotted Gonzalez — still driving the stolen taxi — entering Highway 101 southbound at Boronda Road, according to Johnson. As he quickly accelerated

101 southbound at Boronda Road, according to Johnson. As he quickly accelerated

See TAXI page 26A

LAWSUIT OVER ROOFTOP CONDO

By MARY SCHLEY

A CONTRACTOR is suing a local hotelier for failing to pay just under \$54,000 of a nearly \$1.2 million construction job on a downtown condo, but the owner is countering that the work was never completed.

Draper Construction Inc., based in Pacific Grove, filed suit in Monterey County Superior Court Dec. 12 against David Fink for unpaid bills on work on a condo above Cantinetta Luca on Dolores south of Ocean.

The two entered a contract in July 2019 totaling \$1,192,289.06 for "labor, services, equipment and materials" for improvements on the property south of Piccadilly Park. The project involved construction of a condo above the Italian restaurant Fink

owned at the time but has since sold to chef Jason Balestrieri.

Fink, however, failed to pay the full balance, withholding \$53,952, and Draper sued him to get the final check. The suit alleges breach of contract and other allegations, and seeks payment of the balance due, as well as filing fees for a mechanics lien claim, legal fees and other relief.

Sprinkler system

Fink, however, claims Draper failed to fulfill the terms of the contract.

"I filed an arbitration claim against the general contractor that built my house, and the claim relates to errors made by the general contractor regarding the design and specifications of the fire sprinkler system," Fink said. He did not want to elaborate further.

TA



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Schwab gets restraining order against ‘unhinged and dangerous’ customer

By MARY SCHLEY

CARMEL HIGHLANDS resident Bruce Lion’s “increasingly unhinged and dangerous” behavior prompted his longtime brokerage firm, Charles Schwab & Co., to seek a restraining order barring him from contacting nine employees at the company’s Clock Tower Place offices, according to a complaint filed in Monterey County Superior Court Dec. 27.

A client since March 2000, Lion — whose family has owned and operated Lion Raisin company in the Fresno Area for 120 years — has run afoul of law enforcement numerous times during the last few months, most notably for blocking Highway 1 in the Highlands, throwing rocks at cars and attacking construction workers in the area in September, garnering several felony charges. Since then, he has been arrested on various misdemeanors, and a judge issued a restraining order against him in November at the request of a Carmel Valley woman.

A week of terror

The complaint filed on behalf of Schwab and its employees by San Francisco attorney Simon Levy details an escalation that began Dec. 6, when Lion called the firm’s Carmel branch to find out how to access his accounts. “He repeatedly cursed and yelled on the phone, claiming his wife is stealing his money and that his home was wire-tapped, among other strange claims,” according to the suit.

After the call ended, Lion went to the office where he yelled, cursed and harassed employees, and refused to leave until 30 minutes after the branch closed. He returned and did the same the next day. The day after that,

he harassed a financial consultant, though employees still helped Lion place a fraud hold on his accounts, according to Schwab’s suit against him.

On Dec. 12, Lion called a customer service line because he was having difficulty accessing his accounts online and ended up repeatedly using racial slurs during the 25-minute conversation, which was recorded. He also detailed a conspiracy theory that Elon Musk is a spy for the Chinese government and said his brother had been murdered by other family members, according to court documents. Lion also said he has been arrested multiple times, including for an incident that involved company founder Charles Schwab, who owns a home in Pebble Beach.

Later that day, when Lion again appeared at the Clock Tower office and “continued his pattern of aggressive and menacing behavior,” the branch manager told him to leave and not come back, according to the complaint. She also contacted the branch manager “who was primarily responsible for respondent’s sizable relationship with Schwab to ask for his assistance” in managing Lion.

In a call Dec. 13, that manager told Lion he would have to behave if he wanted to keep his assets at Schwab, but the conversation degenerated, and the employee decided to terminate the relationship, court documents indicate. A subsequent email ordered Lion to transfer his funds elsewhere.

‘Panic button’

However, despite instructions to not contact any Schwab personnel, Lion called the branch numerous times, saying he “was going to kill Hillary Clinton and other Democrats,” that everyone is trying to steal his money, and that

Pebble Beach security officers had assaulted him. “At this point, Schwab retained an armed security guard to protect the branch,” the court document says.

The following day, he showed up again, despite orders to stay away, and faced off with an employee who prevented him from entering the building while the security guard was on a break, according to the lawsuit. During the altercation, Lion “yelled and cursed loudly, frightening all employees inside the branch,” and he “screamed that everyone would be fired,” that Gov. Gavin Newsom had paid local police to beat him up, and that “Charles Schwab himself would be put in prison.”

“The employees were understandably terrified,” the court document continues. “Amidst the chaos that was unfolding, the employees pushed the ‘panic button’ and called the police.” That button had never been pressed before.

Monterey County Sheriff’s deputies arrived, restrained Lion — who had stormed off into another business nearby — and interviewed employees for several hours. They told them as soon as they heard the dispatcher say Lion’s name, “they got to the branch as soon as they could,” the lawsuit says.

In a sworn declaration accompanying the complaint, branch manager Cassandra Bartlett said her team is terrified of what Lion might do next and that the office now keeps its front door locked and lists a number for clients to call when they’re there for a meeting.

The court issued a temporary workplace restraining order Dec. 28, and a hearing is set for Jan. 16.



Bruce Lion



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BIG SUR CHAMBER HEAD STEPS DOWN AFTER LONG TENURE

By CHRIS COUNTS

AFTER LEADING the Big Sur Chamber of Commerce for 25 years — and playing a key role in creating the Big Sur business community's strong online presence — Stan Russell announced Dec. 29 he would be stepping down at the end of the year as executive director and board member.

Russell said the chamber has come a long way since the early days of the internet.

"What started last century to bring the chamber of com-

merce into the digital age began in a converted chicken coop with a leaky roof and a bad rat problem, heated by a wood-burning stove on Partington Ridge," he recalled.

"Like everyone at the time, we used a dial-up modem with a roaring 56 kbps," he added.

Search prominence

Later, he moved the chamber's operations to Beach Boy Alan Jardine's recording studio near Pfeiffer Beach, where he lived and worked.

Over the past quarter-century, the chamber's website has helped provide travel information to countless thousands of visitors. In fact, if you type "Big Sur" into Google, the chamber website is the first thing that pops up.

Russell also established well-visited accounts on Facebook and Twitter.

Besides creating and managing the chamber's website, Russell has done the same for many Big Sur businesses. "At one time, I had seven out of the top 10 websites ranked in the Google listing for Big Sur in my catalog," he explained.

Through his work with the chamber, Russell edited the Big Sur Guide for 20 years. Large quantities of the guide were distributed in Big Sur and elsewhere during his tenure.

Russell also served an important conduit for the media and the public during emergencies, which included devastating wildfires and highway closures due to mudslides.

"We've been through a few public disasters together, to say the least," he said. "I've had the honor of and did my best to get accurate information out to the community."

Russell is living in Orange County and pursuing other projects. He isn't ruling out a return to Big Sur.

Besides his work for the chamber, Russell has been a familiar face in Big Sur for decades. He co-fronted his own band, the Stanimals, and played for Esalen Institute in the local softball league.

In the early days, a converted chicken coop with a leaky roof

Council's first meetings of the year focus on police station, Car Week, Scout House

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL City Council will kick off 2024 with back-to-back meetings Jan. 8-9 slated to include conceptual discussions on relocating the police station to the Vista Lobos site, the possibility of having a ticketed Car Week event on Ocean Avenue, and what to do with the aging and unused Scout House.

At Monday's meeting, after receiving reports on the emergency operations plan, the city's relationship with the nonprofit Carmel Public Library Foundation, and last year's Third Thursday events in Devendorf Park, the council will hear from the ad hoc committee appointed to develop new ideas for overhauling the police station — a project that's been repeatedly discussed by several generations of mayors and city councils.

Mayor Dave Potter and councilman Jeff Baron took on the task of researching the long-proposed remodel of the aging police station at Junipero and Fourth and developed several recommendations.

"After reviewing potential siting options, the ad hoc committee recommends that the initial siting of the new police department facility be designated as Vista Lobos Park for development of project schematic drawings, concept designs and environmental evaluation," they say in their report. Located a block up Junipero, the Vista Lobos site includes a public parking lot, an old building used for meetings, and city storage.

The duo recommends that work begin on the design concept immediately, that the council also examine options for the adjacent public works building, and that financing models be developed.

Ticketed events

At their Jan. 9 meeting, council members will delve into the "philosophy regarding ticketed events held in the public right of way during Car Week,"

which has never been done and could be complicated by the fact that many people live and work within the boundaries of the central commercial district.

Hotelier and property owner Denny Levett and resident and gallery owner Richard Kreitman are proposing a new event similar to the former Concours on the Avenue, in that it would take up Ocean Avenue between Junipero and Monte Verde and side streets to the north and south. But their concept includes charging admission, where Doug and Genie Freedman's former show was free. But before

he died unexpectedly in October 2021, Doug Freedman had considered making Concours on the Avenue a ticketed event, according to community activities director Ashlee Wright, who will ask the council for feedback on Levett and Kreitman's proposal.

New housing

Wright said her department has also received applications for the four events held downtown last year — Prancing Ponies, Acura in the Park, the Ferrari Owners Club Concours Carmel and the

show featuring electric vehicles that was arranged by farmers market organizer Good Roots — with few proposed changes for 2024.

The council will then receive a presentation regarding Scout House options, a topic that's been discussed since the historic building at Mission and Eighth was shut down two decades ago due to ADA issues, and provide direction to staff.

Finally, principal planner Marnie Waffle will update the council on the status of the draft housing element, which must describe how the city will accommodate 349 new housing units by 2031, and the city's response to the feedback provided by the state.

For more information, including full agendas and how to participate in the meetings online or in person, visit ci.carmel.ca.us. Both meetings are set to begin at 4:30 p.m. and will be held in city hall on Monte Verde south of Ocean Avenue.

One idea: Use Vista Lobos for the police HQ



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PRESENTED BY:

Panetta visits kibbutz, talks to hostage freed from Hamas

By KELLY NIX

REP. JIMMY Panetta visited a kibbutz in Israel Thursday and met with a woman who was taken hostage by the terrorist group Hamas Oct. 7 before she was released more than a month later.

The visit was part of a bipartisan trip

The Carmel Valley Democratic congressman joined Florida Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz and California Rep. Darrel Issa and others to meet with residents of Kibbutz Nir Oz, which was one of the hardest hit areas during Hamas' assault, which killed more than 1,200 people.

"As one of the first members of the United States Congress on the ground in Israel following the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas, it was important to show our continued concern by returning and meeting with former hostages and family members of hostages who are still being held in Gaza and visit scenes of the bloodthirsty attack," Panetta told The Pine Cone.

Hostage

Panetta spoke to Liat Beinon Atzili, a 49-year-old Israeli mother of three who was abducted by Hamas terrorists and released Nov. 29, and other residents of Nir Oz. Hamas killed Atzili's husband the day of the attack.

"What I heard and what I experienced in my visit to the tiny farming and garden kibbutz of Nir Oz, was literally and figuratively paradise lost," Panetta told The Pine Cone. "The damage left by the barbaric behavior of Hamas, the horrific stories from the hostages and victims, and the accounts of heroism from the kibbutzim families are as incredible as they are unimaginable."

The congressman said the group is also

See **KIBBUTZ** page 18A



PHOTO/JIMMY PANETTA

Rep. Jimmy Panetta visits a home in Israel that was attacked by the terrorist group Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023.

to the region to discuss issues related to Israel's war with Hamas, which abducted hundreds of Israeli civilians following its mass murder of Kibbutz residents near the Israel-Gaza border.

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Where creativity is hot, noisy work — and it’s immensely satisfying

By ELAINE HESSER

WE LIKE to think that Francis Whitaker, the Carmel blacksmith whose life spanned most of the 20th century, would approve of one of the recent undertakings at Hacienda Carmel Valley (formerly Hacienda Hay & Feed). Whitaker famously made decorative and useful wrought-iron works for many of the Peninsula’s

residences and public buildings, and his former workplace is now home to the Forge in the Forest restaurant.

Gregory Deaton, whose business is called Offgrid Anvil, has a forge at Hacienda where he plies his craft in much the same way Whitaker did. Instead of a coal-fired forge, however, he uses a propane-fueled version that provides consistent heat of up to 2,000 degrees. His two anvils are



Blacksmith Gregory Deaton assists a student in learning how to forge metal tools the old-fashioned way. Deaton offers blacksmithing classes every Saturday at Hacienda CV, formerly Hacienda Hay & Feed, in Carmel Valley.

PHOTO/BRIAN MACK



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positioned a few feet apart so that he can keep an eye on the work of students who sign up to learn the basics of the old-school art in two- or four-hour classes.

Deaton said that his dad was a metal artist who worked with copper and had a friend who was a blacksmith. That’s where Deaton learned the art 10 years ago. “I just fell in love. Eight or 10 hours goes by fast when I’m working.”

He’s never gotten into shoeing horses — those folks are called farriers — but he used to take his “small artistic pieces” to craft fairs. He’s mostly phased that out in favor of teaching others.

“It’s really cool to watch people pick it up,” he said. And it’s not just for young, muscly guys. “It takes some strength, but not a lot. Kids can do it.” Deaton’s two- and four-hour classes have a minimum age requirement of 12, although he mentioned that he’s taught a few younger children.

Iron anniversary

Classes are usually limited to six people, and Deaton said that depending on sign-ups, he occasionally ends up with just one student — who gets plenty of attention. In the two-hour class, each student makes at least one project, usually starting with a double-S hook suitable for hanging planters or wind chimes. In a four-hour class, students might progress to fireplace tools, like a poker. Or, imagine turning a steak on a grill with a big old fork you forged yourself. Handles can be twisted to add ornamental details, too.

The classes move quickly, and the metal items must be reinserted in the forge frequently to keep them at a malleable temperature. Deaton said it was a fun family activity — and a great gift. “One wife

bought the experience for her husband as a sixth anniversary gift,” he said, explaining that iron is the traditional present for that year of marriage.

Old World arts

Hacienda owner Nile Estep said that the blacksmith class is part of a “greater vision.” “We wanted something for locals,” he said, noting that there were already many activities available for tourists. “The keystone is teaching Old World arts.” He said he hoped to bring in a local glassblower, as well as someone to teach leatherworking. Classes in wheel-throwing (making things on a potter’s wheel) and traditional raku kiln firing, originally used in making ceremonial Japanese earthenware tea sets, are already available, along with “Progress Not Perfection” painting parties for budding artists.

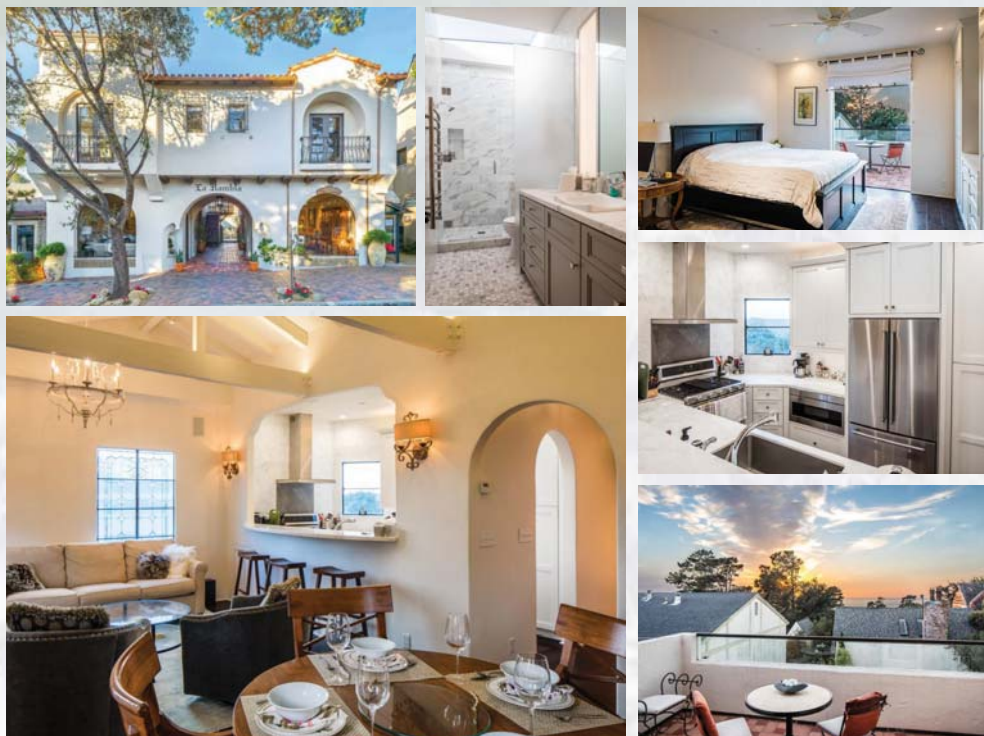
Estep said that Hacienda also offers field trips on its 3.5-acre farm, and that Carmel High School’s ninth-grade science class came in the fall to learn about how small organic farms operate, and the students plan to return in the spring. It’s all part of Estep’s plan to “build community space.”

In addition to revisiting Old World arts and crafts, Hacienda hosts line-dancing classes, weekly trivia contests and bingo, and Sunday afternoon Animal Experiences, where (for a small fee) anyone can pet and feed the goats, rabbits and chickens that call the place home. And of course, you can still shop for hay and feed and all sorts of locally made goods, from prepared foods to home and beauty products.

The business’ website is haciendacv.com, and you can check out Offgrid Anvil at offgridanvil.com.

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A letter to patients of Dr. Dragan Dimitrov, Neurosurgeon

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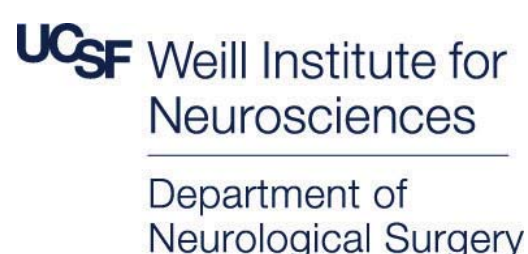
For patients with existing medical needs from Dr. Dimitrov, including post-operative care, please continue to communicate with his current office at (831) 648-7200 until he transfers to his new office in March.

We are happy to answer any questions you have about the new practice at (831) 242-3034.

We look forward to caring for you.

Sincerely,

Montage Health and University of California San Francisco Department of Neurological Surgery



State agency stocks lake with trout for the first time in four decades

By CHRIS COUNTS

FOR THE first time in nearly 40 years, California Department of Fish and Wildlife is stocking Lake San Antonio with rainbow trout. The initial delivery of 5,000 fish arrived by truck in December — and another 25,000 are soon expected to follow.

County spokesperson Maia Carroll called the arrival of the trout “great Christmas news for local fisherman,” and she said the trout “are making themselves at home” in their new surroundings.

According to county parks official Nathan Merkle, Fish and Wildlife recently determined conditions at the lake were

“perfect” to bring in the trout, which hasn’t always been the case.

Conditions improved

Merkle described trout as “a fantastic fish for anglers.” He noted that the state agency had previously tried to introduce them to the lake, but they were unable to compete against invasive striped bass at the time.

“The trout just ended up in the stripers’ bellies,” Merkle reported. “The last trout was planted around 1985.”

But Merkle said conditions in the lake have improved for trout.

“The stripers’ population in the lake has decreased enough so

that Fish and Wildlife is confident that the trout will take hold,” Merkle said. More trout will be added to the lake soon, he noted.

Merkle encouraged locals to check out the fishing at the lake. He recommended they start in the “shallower coves along the north shore.”

“If you’re looking for a quiet escape, now is the time to do it,” he suggested. “We’re hoping for an increase in visitation, especially during winter months.”

But the park official reminded enthusiasts that they need fishing licenses. “Anywhere you fish in California requires a fishing license if you’re above 16 years old,” he said.



The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stocked Lake San Antonio with 5,000 rainbow trout last month. Another 25,000 fish are expected to join them.

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10-year-old sailor takes first place in regatta

By CHRIS COUNTS

DESPITE ONLY recently taking up the sport — and being the youngest competitor in the water — Arabella Kolsch and her teammate took first place in a sailing regatta in Redwood City Dec. 2-3.

Just 10 years old, Kolsch is a homeschooled student who lives in downtown Carmel. While she has long enjoyed swimming and playing in the surf, she was introduced to sailing just months ago. “She took the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club’s summer program,” her father, Mathias, told The Pine Cone. “We had no idea what to expect — it was a completely different experience for us. But she loved it so much that we signed her up for their fall program.”

In the yacht club’s sailing program, she met another local youngster, 13-year-old Tommy O’Hara. The two were paired for the competition hosted in Redwood City by the Peninsula Youth Sailing Foundation. Together, they piloted a 13-foot boat.

Teaming up with another sailor, O’Hara had finished 11th place in the same race last year.

Proud parents

Kolsch’s father, Mathias, said he and his wife, Ishbel, attended the regatta and watched from the shore with other parents as the race got started. The conditions were relatively calm, and many of the parents watched their kids through binoculars or snapped photos with cameras with long lenses.

There were more than another dozen other teams of young sailors in the water — all striving to be the first to reach the finish line — but none was younger than Kolsch. The regatta was open to anyone under the age of 20 who had not yet enrolled in college courses.

Remarkably, Kolsch and O’Hara came in first place.

“We couldn’t believe it and she couldn’t believe it,” her dad said after attending an awards ceremony where the pair of youngsters received medals. “We were so stoked.”



PHOTO/ISHBEL KOLSCH

Arabella Kolsch, 10, and Tommy O’Hara, 13, took first place in a sailing contest Dec. 2-3 in Redwood City.

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Demolition begins for new airport terminal

By MARY SCHLEY

SHORTLY BEFORE Christmas, crews began tearing down the old hangars and fire station on the southeast side of the Monterey airport to make way for a new passenger terminal, executive director Mike La Pier said Thursday. And in late November, the airport district's board of directors chose one of four design ideas that will be fleshed out in more detail this spring.

Dubbed the "Treehouse" concept, the board's preferred terminal design would include a garden, a centralized waiting area rather than at each of the five gates, and pedestrian bridges for boarding aircraft, rather than the stairs used now.

Landscaped courtyard

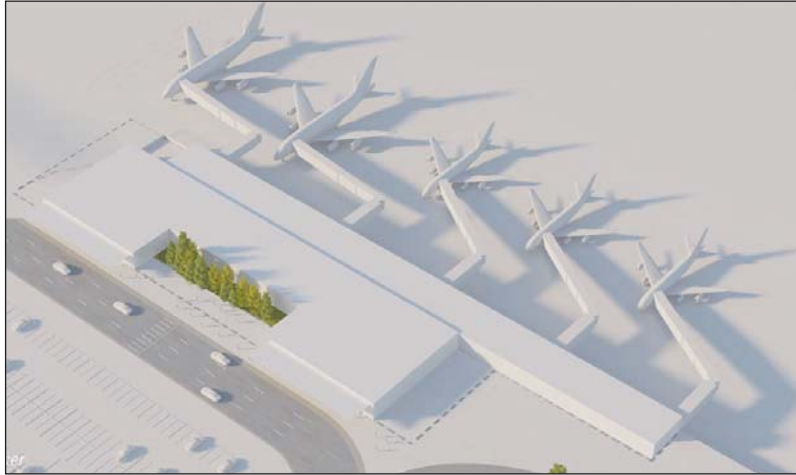
The concept's key features include centering the terminal's circulation "around nature," terraces on the side of the building that faces the aircraft, and a courtyard landscaped with native plants that "brings natural light into the building," according to La Pier's report to the board.

"It's kind of unique," La Pier said Thursday of the design, particularly because passengers would wait for their

flights in a centralized seating area and then be called to their gates when boarding begins.

"The general sense I got from the board is it gives us the opportunity to maybe consolidate some of our concessions in that area," he added. "It provides a different atmosphere than the typical terminal building. It's more like a

See AIRPORT page 21A



COURTESY MONTEREY REGIONAL AIRPORT

A rendering showing one option for the proposed new terminal at the Monterey airport — and, yes, it includes jetways.

P.G. asking for input on tricky intersection

By KELLY NIX

PACIFIC GROVE residents will have several chances this month to weigh in on a quirky five-way intersection that is being considered as a possible location for a roundabout.

In July 2023, the P.G. City Council approved spending \$797,574 in tax dollars on the first phase of what's called the Congress, Cedar, and Sunset Intersection Safety Improvement Project. Traffic consultant GHD has been retained to recommend the best way to make the intersection safer.

While some have said a roundabout would do that, others say that a roundabout is unnecessary and that the intersection is relatively safe. On Jan. 9 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Chautauqua Hall, citizens can tell officials what they think.

"The public's input will directly inform the design concept," public works director Daniel Gho told The Pine Cone this week.

The intersection is part of a broader long-term effort to improve California Highway 68, which runs through Pacific Grove.

How many accidents?

While it is sometimes a bit tricky to navigate, depending on the traffic flow and other factors, the city has not collected data on how many accidents involving vehicles and pedestrians have occurred at the intersection.

"We are still working with Caltrans to determine the best path forward to permit the project since this intersection is a state highway," Gho explained. "Once we determine the path forward and what documents need to be provided for implementation permits, we will then start to gather this type of information."

If the consultant determines that a roundabout is the best alternative for the intersection, and the council OKs the idea, it could cost more than \$10 million.

But because of a ballot measure sponsored by the Transportation Agency for Monterey County that voters passed in 2016, P.G. will have \$5 million to use toward the junction. The first phase is also being paid for by the measure.

The second community meeting this month is Jan. 22 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Pacific Grove High School's library. The city's traffic safety commission is also set to discuss the proposal on Jan. 23 at 4 p.m. in city council chambers, 300 Forest Ave. and citizens are welcome to comment.

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BALLOT INITIATIVES SEEK TO LEGALIZE GAMBLING, NUMEROUS PSYCHEDELICS

By MARY SCHLEY

PROPOSERS HAVE been cleared by the California Secretary of State to gather signatures for ballot initiatives that would legalize gambling and the recreational use of hallucinogenic drugs if approved by voters in the November election.

Proponents of the psychedelics measure — David Hodges, Tomas Garrett, Chelsea Candelaria and Carsten Fisher — must collect signatures of 546,651 registered voters, representing 5 percent of the total votes cast for governor in November 2022.

18 and up

Their proposed law would decriminalize personal possession, cultivation and use of psychedelic plants and chemicals, including psilocybin, LSD, mescaline, peyote and similar drugs for people 18 and older. The law would also allow medical professionals to recommend psychedelic treatments for mental health and various other disorders, and would encourage research of their use in therapeutic and medical applications. Commercial cultivation, manufacture and sale of psychedelics would be permitted as well.

Further, people who have been

convicted of using, possessing or selling psychedelics could seek resentencing, reduction or dismissal.

Gambling with caveats

Proponent Ryan Tyler Walz' initiative seeks to legalize online and in-person sports wagering in the state if offered by federally recognized Native American tribes. Gaming compacts would prohibit wagering by anyone under 21 and limit gambling to professional, collegiate and amateur sporting events (other than those involving children and animals other than horses). It would also require revenue sharing with non-gaming tribes and the state.

In addition, Walz is promoting an initiative to legalize online sports wagering statewide, as well as in-person sports betting, roulette and dice games on tribal lands if operated by federally recognized tribes under gaming compacts approved by the Legislature. Participating tribes would pay up to 25 percent of the profits to non-participating tribes and up to 1 percent to the state.

Walz must collect the signatures of 874,641 registered voters, representing 8 percent of the voters in the last gubernatorial election, for each initiative within 180 days.

Chamber mixer, ribbon cutting

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE CARMEL Chamber of Commerce will host its first mixer of the year Jan. 22, when Patisserie Boissiere on Mission south of Ocean opens its doors for members and nonmembers alike. More than a half-century ago, Elaine and Pierre Boissiere opened their patisserie, offering relaxed and comfortable European-inspired dining and a tempting pastry case filled with sweet and savory treats. It has since been sold, and Giuliano Costagliola is carrying on its traditions.

The mixer will offer the chance to sample some of the restaurant's latest dishes while mingling with other locals. The cost

is \$15 for chamber members and \$30 for everyone else, and the mixer will run from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

A few days later, from 5 to 7 p.m. Jan. 25, the new Chalone tasting room in Carmel Plaza will be the site of a ribbon cutting, with live music and wine. Chalone has the oldest vineyard in Monterey County — its diminutive but excellent plot of chenin blanc was planted during Prohibition and earned Historic Vineyard status several years ago under former winemaker Robert Cook — and is known for producing excellent wines in the Pinnacles foothills. The event is free.

For tickets to the mixer and other information, visit carmelchamber.org.

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It may not be real, but some people enjoy believing in it anyway

Medium brings 'magic' to Monterey

By CHRIS COUNTS

IT IS perfectly understandable why anyone would be skeptical of someone doing séances in the 21st century. Yet when medium Chris Herren conducts one at Zucchini's Tricks & Things in Monterey, some of his clients believe they are experiencing something that's more than just a trick — despite his attempts to dissuade them.

"I'm not trying to fool anybody," Herren told The Pine Cone. "But no matter how many times I tell people that what they're seeing is an illusion, some will still believe it's real."

A description on Herren's website portrays the scene at one of his séances.

"This ethereal experience delves into the haunting secrets and apparitions that have long plagued this historic waterfront district," Herren writes. "As dusk settles, the atmosphere becomes charged with anticipation, as participants gather in a dimly lit room adorned with antique trinkets and flickering candles. The air is heavy with a mix of curiosity and trepidation — as the séance commences, and the veil between the living and the spirit world begins to thin."

Drawn to the supernatural

Known as a "spirit medium," Herren says he was drawn to the supernatural as a youngster.

"I've always had a fascination with magic," he told The Pine Cone. "I grew up hearing folktales from the Philippines from my grandmother about elves and giants and people with special powers."

As Herren learned more about magic — often from books he found in libraries — he became fascinated with the idea of leading séances. He learned that they were very popular and quite accepted in the late 19th century, they often took place in parlor rooms, and sometimes didn't feature participants sitting around a table. He also learned that contacting a spirit was only a small part of a séance.

According to Herren, who has headlined magic shows in Hollywood, Chicago and Las Vegas, the focus of a séance is telling stories about someone who has recently died, with the idea of enticing the spirit to visit. The storytelling is cathartic in much the same way as a therapy session — people get a chance to share details and memories about their lost loved ones.

Entertaining lesson

At Zucchini's, Herren recreates a séance from a historical perspective, taking his audience back in time, and infusing a colorful dose of Cannery Row history into the session. But it's more than just a history lesson — it's also a performance, which he tries to make entertaining.

"Whether you believe in séances or not, I want people to relive the experience of a true 19th-century séance," he

explained. "I want them to see and feel what people would see and feel back then."

You will have to decide for yourself if any part of the show is real.

"I'm not here to change your beliefs," he added. "I'll leave that to you."

Founded in 1979 and now located at 711 Cannery Row in Monterey, Zucchini's Tricks & Things is billed as the oldest magic shop in California.

The séances take place at the shop, and the next two are set for Jan. 6 at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25.



Chris Herren of Zucchini's Tricks & Things in Monterey not only knows his way around a magic trick or two, he can take you on an "etheral experience."

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OK sought for a second Pajaro farmworkers facility, opponent speaks out

By CHRIS COUNTS

A YEAR after the Monterey County Board of Supervisors approved a project to build housing for 360 farmworkers in Pajaro, the county planning commission will host a special meeting Jan. 18 on another plan to build 250 similar units nearby.

According to the county, a Salinas business, Anthony Nicola Inc., proposes to demolish an existing single-family home at 124 Gonda St. and replace it with two three-story buildings — each with 34 two-bedroom units — along with a one-bedroom unit and office. There would also be an outdoor recreation area and parking for 56 vehicles.

Totaling about 36,200 square feet, the three buildings could accommodate up to 250 noncitizen agricultural workers hired under the federal government’s H-2A VISA program for temporary workers.

The workers would live in the complex during the Salinas Valley planting/harvesting season from March through November each year. Most workers come from Mexico.

According to a 2018 study, an additional 45,500 units of farmworker housing are needed to address overcrowding across the Pajaro and Salinas valleys.

If it looks familiar

The new project resembles another farmworker housing complex that was approved in the same neighborhood by supervisors in December 2022. Located on 3.4 acres at the end of Susan Street, which is adjacent to Gonda Street, it will one day provide housing for 360 farmworkers. The builder, Rio Vista Group LLC, had at first sought to build housing for 500 farmworkers, but the project was scaled back after the county planning commission turned it down in September 2022.

The proposal generated controversy for several reasons, including its impacts on a nearby residential community along Gonda and Susan streets, the significant risk of flooding, and the fact that no new housing would be created for people who already live full time in the area. Today, the development has nearly been completed.

A lifelong resident of Susan Street and the newest member of the Monterey County Planning Commission, Christine Shaw testified against the 360-unit project before supervisors approved it in 2022. Now she’s speaking out against the second project, not as a planning commissioner, but as a resident who lives close by.

Shaw said the three-story complexes will “loom” over the homes in her neighborhood. She also suggested the new units will look “out of place with what’s already there.”

“It’s just too many people,” she said. “It doesn’t matter who they are.”

Shaw said that the low-lying community “absolutely”

faces a significant flood risk. She wonders how so many people living in the farmworkers complex could escape during an emergency, especially considering that few will have cars. “There will be no way to evacuate these people,” she warned.

The risk of flooding in the community was made evident when heavy rain last March caused the Pajaro River to breach its banks, forcing nearly 3,500 residents to flee their homes. The flooding, according to the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency, caused more than \$300 million in damages in the area, although homes on Gonda and Susan streets were left unscathed. But Shaw noted that her neighborhood experienced flooding in 1995.

Last year’s flood came just three months after supervisors approved the Rio Vista LLC project — and it was

at least the sixth major such event in the area since 1955.

Shaw said “nobody who lives here” supports the new housing project. But she said residents have little faith in the political process and many don’t speak English. “We don’t have a voice,” she suggested.

Residents who live along Gonda and Susan streets will be significantly impacted by the development, said Shaw, who noted that bus traffic from the housing site will create traffic in her neighborhood throughout the day. “Both of our streets are being turned into driveways,” she complained.

The Pine Cone reached out to the Anthony Nicola company for comment, but didn’t receive a response.

The Jan. 18 hearing starts at 5:30 p.m. It will be streamed via Zoom.

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Pine Cone publisher to speak at CRA event

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

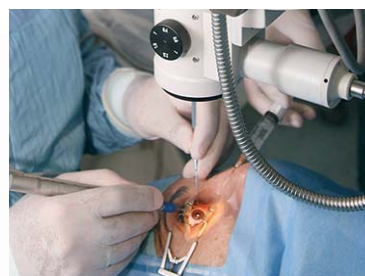
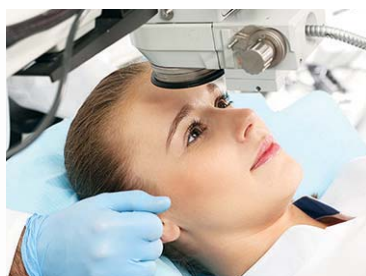
CARMEL PINE Cone publisher Paul Miller will present “The Carmel Pine Cone Inside/Out,” at a Carmel Residents Association event Jan. 23 at the Carmel Woman’s Club, which is located at San Carlos and Ninth, across from Sunset Center. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for a period of mingling and enjoying a glass of wine, with the program starting at 7 p.m.

Miller “will share behind-the-curtain views into what makes our village weekly a ‘must read’ — with time for your questions, too,” according to the CRA.

The talk is open to the public, with details available at carmelresidents.org. Questions can be submitted to info@carmelresidents.org.

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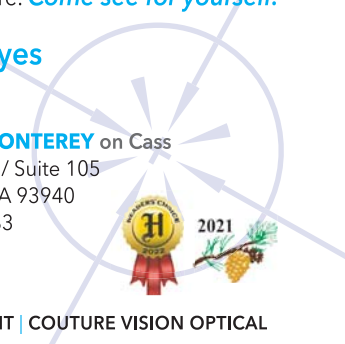
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Does it take a village to read a book?

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE NONPROFIT Friends of the Carmel Valley Library want residents to start 2024 with a good book — as it turns out, the same good book. In an effort they're calling One Book One Village, the group is purchasing 75 copies of local author Meredith May's memoir, "Loving Edie," for the library and is urging readers to check them out any time after Wednesday, Jan. 10, said board member Maria Roden.

In March, there will be a series of events related to the book, which details May's experiences raising a dog with

extreme anxiety.

Planned activities include "Paint Your Puppy Portraits" with the help of artists from the Carmel Valley Art Association, a panel discussion with representatives from the SPCA, Peace of Mind Dog Rescue, a local veterinary hospital and dog trainer Barbara de Groodt, a puppy parade, family movie night, book club discussion, and a book talk and Q&A with Meredith May at the library.

Roden said that the Friends hope readers will share in "the benefits and fun that come from bringing people together in a community through a shared experience of reading the same book."

KIBBUTZ

From page 9A

meeting with leaders in Israel and Arab countries "in order to help secure the release of the remaining hostages and discuss any possible strategy that would lead to a potential truce, minimize further civilian casualties of peaceful Palestinians and allow humanitarian aid to flow into Gaza."

They planned to depart Israel Friday for additional meetings and talks in the region.

This is the second Israel trip for Panetta within a year. He joined 17 other congressional members last May to celebrate and mark 75 years of that country's independence. He also met with Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to discuss regional security and Israel's partnership with the United States, and visited the Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Center to honor those killed in the Holocaust as part of a wreath-laying ceremony.

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Suhaila (Susie) Jo Awamleh
August 8, 1963 – November 2, 2023

Susie was born in San Jose, California where she lived until her family moved to Carmel Valley in the summer of 1972. After attending Carmel High School she lived throughout the Monterey Bay Area — including Santa Cruz and Hollister, before moving back to Carmel.

She was known for her sweet, kind, generous spirit — be it directed to friends or local causes. Her passion for art was diverse — meticulously working on a pointillism drawing, sculpting in wood and stone or late nights spent working on

her inventive and breath-taking "bubble photographs." Susie always had a project at hand and her cravings for new ways of creating art were unending. She was always seeking ways to express her vision.

Creativity wasn't limited to artistic endeavors as "Sparky" will be remembered fondly by her friends for her elaborate parties and get-togethers at her home in Carmel. She enjoyed playing good-natured pranks with extensive artistic accents.

Despite failing health, she always found joy in her home, her cats, her garden, and was a loyal friend to those she loved.

Susie is predeceased by her mothers, Sandra Williams and Patricia (Pat) Wathen; her father, Munzir (Monte) Awamleh; grandparents, Roger and Dodie Williams; and wife, Kathleen (Kat) Kennon. She is survived by her sister, Jamilla (Jamie) Awamleh; brothers, Michael Topham, Roger (Rhet) Topham and David Awamleh; as well as her uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, great-niece, and her dear friend, Diane Uselman.



IRENE MARY DAY

Irene Mary Day was born on November 14, 1919, and passed away on December 25, 2023, in Monterey, California. She is survived by her daughters, Mary Louise McGirr and Helene Dale Carlozzi.

Irene was a woman ahead of her time.

Irene came from very humble beginnings. She was born and raised in San Luis Obispo, CA. She wasn't able to attend high school, but always had an inquisitive mind. She



went to cosmetology school in San Francisco and after graduation opened her own beauty shop in Carmel, called Charm Cottage. After several years in business she decided to go to night school in Pacific Grove and obtain her GED. After getting her high school diploma she was interested in continuing her education and decided to go to Gavilan Junior College for an AA degree. She continued working at her business in Carmel and drove to Gilroy where she graduated in three years. She wanted more education and decided to enroll at San Jose State College where she graduated with honors. She was recommended for the master's degree program and decided to transfer to the University of San Francisco. There, she once again graduated with honors and was recommended for the Ph.D. program. By this time she had sold her business in Carmel and was teaching full time at Gavilan Junior College. She taught for over 30 years. She developed the accredited cosmetology program at Gavilan which is still operating today. While teaching her classes at Gavilan she pursued her Ph.D. at the University of San Francisco and once again graduated with honors. Her résumé as a business person and educator is exemplary. While at Gavilan she was asked to teach her cosmetology theory for a year in Australia, and a year in Europe. She has taught with the best in cosmetology leaders, including both Paul Mitchell and Vidal Sassoon.

She provided her students an opportunity to succeed as she had.

Irene Day pursued business and education opportunities during a time when there were few women at that level. She is certainly a woman to be looked upon as a trailblazer, wife, mother, business person, educator, innovator, Christian and impeccable dresser, just a few of her qualities.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to the Carmelite Monastery, 27601 Highway I, Carmel, California 93923

CORA LEE ERICKSON TUCKER

Cora Lee Erickson Tucker died December 6, 2023, in her home overlooking the beautiful Pacific Ocean with family members at her side, after 93 incredible years. Cora Lee was born at home, delivered by her father, February 26, 1930, in Windom, Minnesota. In the early '30s, Cora Lee's family traveled cross-country in a Ford Model T and settled in Southern California. Just a few years after the move Cora Lee's mother,

Violet, became a widow with six children, the youngest just 2 years of age.

Through their hard work and tenacious spirit, the family was able to stick together through The Great Depression and World War II, working the family land to make ends meet. While on leave from the Marine Corps, Cora Lee's oldest brother brought his buddy William George Tucker home with him one weekend and Cora Lee and Bill's romance began.

After Bill's commitment to the Marine Corps, they were quickly married. Bill was able to go to college while growing their family at the same time, thanks to the GI Bill. By their fifth child, Bill had passed the California Bar and immediately started an incredible career as a trial lawyer, specializing in aviation and public utilities.

Cora Lee took an active role running their law firm and once the children got a little older, Cora Lee participated in almost every jury selection. Our father knew the law and our mother knew people. During this time Cora Lee participated in all seven of her children's lives along with all 15 of her grandchildren's lives, making each and every one of them feel as if they were the special one. Bill and Cora Lee retired in 1998 and made their Big Sur cabin their permanent home. Sadly, a few years after retirement, Bill passed away in 2000. Not wanting to live alone on top of a mountain at the end of a dirt road, Cora Lee built her dream home on Decatur Island in the San Juans where she would spend her summers hosting many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Winters were spent in the Carmel Highlands spending time with her two sons and their families with many great parties at her home, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. She traveled to Europe, the Mediterranean, South America and Oaxaca. Cora Lee was a regular fixture at CUSD functions and at



the California International Airshow Salinas.

Cora Lee was preceded in death by her husband, Bill Tucker Sr.; and daughter, Mary Tucker. Survived by her children Sharon Tucker, Sean (Colleen) Tucker, Coralee Linder, Lyndi (Bob) Taylor, Carol (Casey) Mollett, Bill (Marianne) Tucker; 15 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren, and her sister, Carol Carmer.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in her honor to the Bob Hoover Academy, Salinas, California.

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MACKENZIE 'MAC' LYNN DYKSTRA

Sept. 3, 2007 ❖ Dec. 24, 2023

Carmel, California



"I'll always remember Mackenzie as a fun and inquisitive kindergartner! I loved her spirit! She touched my life in such a special way. She would always stop in to say hello – never too old to say hi to her Kindergarten teacher! Her kindness will always be remembered! She will forever be a bright light!"

– Theresa Todd, Junipero Serra School



"She taught me so much about life and the kind of person I want to be. She will always be my first true love. I will live every day to the fullest because that's what Mac would do."

– Nico



"My sweet child, Mackenzie. I watched you grow and explore the world, finding peace in nature. From clear, high alpine lakes, to our beautiful ocean, we found the best adventures together. I will always cherish those moments with my baby girl."

– Dad



Mackenzie –

From the moment you were born, your inner joy and light shined on us all. Your radiant smile and beautiful soul would light up anyone who was lucky enough to be in your presence. Mackenzie, you made me a better human. You were true perfection. Beautiful inside and out. Pure gold – that was your heart. You were the best daughter, compassionate, caring and loving. Always thinking of others first. Being your mom will always be the best honor of my life. Forever I will be your mom. We love you to the moon and back. **Love, Mom**

Mackenzie was an avid scholar and loved school. Attending CCLC Preschool, Junipero Serra School, San Carlos School and Carmel High School, Mackenzie expressed a deep love for learning and her pursuit of knowledge knew no bounds. A problem solver and critical thinker, Mackenzie loved her auto body shop and engineering classes. Mackenzie's scholarship was not only demonstrated by her accomplishments on the Honor Roll but also by the wonderful relationships with many of her teachers.

Mackenzie was also an enthusiastic athlete both competitively and recreationally. An amazing volleyball player, Mackenzie played travel volleyball as part of the Sand City Volleyball Club and Carmel High School Volleyball as a libero. Mackenzie loved to be outside where her activities included paddleboarding, mountain bike riding and Junior Lifeguards.

Mackenzie lived life to the fullest. She enjoyed the beach, music, gaming and sports cars. A true foodie, Mackenzie loved exceptional dishes, her favorite being sushi. She was a proud big sister and loved spending time with her pets. Mac is a light that will never dim.

Mackenzie passed away at the age of 16 on the morning of Christmas Eve in the serenity of and surrounded by her close family. Her passing was sudden, and a huge loss for her family and community. Over the past seven months, Mackenzie courageously battled aggressive stage 4 glioma brain cancer, but Mackenzie fought with equal vigor. Mackenzie will be forever remembered by her mother Christine Kelso and bonus dad Michael Sardina; her father Michael Dkystra, bonus mom Ashley Dahlem, and siblings Gunnar and Dellanie Dkystra; as well as countless grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, bonus siblings, teammates, friends and family.

Service Information

Please join us to honor and celebrate Mackenzie's life at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at the Carmel Mission Basilica, 3080 Rio Road Carmel, CA 93923.

Thank You

We want to take a moment to thank all of the champions of Mackenzie's life. #teamMAC, we will be forever grateful for your never-ending support for Mackenzie. To the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Pediatric Oncology Team at Stanford, the Stanford Radiation Team, and the Coastal Care for Kids team, we thank you for your compassion and love throughout all of Mackenzie's treatment. You become our family over the past seven months (including Margie the emotional support dog).

Honoring Mackenzie's Legacy

Mackenzie lit up around children and loved to make them smile. Donations can be made to the Crayon Initiative in Mackenzie's honor:

<https://give.thecrayoninitiative.org/mac>



"She was an amazing young girl who touched so many people. I am so grateful I got the chance to know her and experience her positivity and love. She seriously was the most beautiful and positive girl I have ever coached and was always so hardworking."

– Kaylie Honberger, Coach,
Sand City Volleyball Club



"It's hard to believe that a young child could teach you so much but Mac taught me more than I could ever put into words. I will love you forever Mackenzie and I will miss you so much."

– Michael Sardina



"I'll cherish the moments watching Mac become a big sissy, from the genuine look of love to the pride in her eyes. You could see how much she loved and cared for her siblings. For this, I'm forever grateful."

– Ashley Dahlem

REGISTRY

From page 1A

property ownership, creating a level playing field in the rental market, and providing resources including a website dedicated to services and resources, a dispute hotline for tenant-landlord issues, and referrals for mediation and legal services, according to a FAQ posted by the city online.

Much of the inventory's information will be available to the public. An accessible database will include the addresses and APNs of units for rent or lease along with their occupancy status, square footage and accommodations, prices and exemptions.

"The rental inventory will foster a fair and transparent rental market that benefits all stakeholders," according to the city, and the public database will "ensure that market and compliance information for rental properties in the City of Monterey is as transparent as possible and equally available to all."

Despite denying the inventory will lead to rent control, officials have stated that the city "has a substantial

government interest in regulating the relationship between property owners and tenants to increase certainty, stability and fairness within the rental market," according to the FAQ.

To that end, the registry will allow employees to collect, monitor and analyze the characteristics of rentals and rates, and to "make informed decisions regarding affordability and legal protections in the future."

Following rules

The ordinance will also help ensure property owners are following safety regulations and keeping their business licenses active, and are not operating illegal vacation rentals or providing substandard housing.

Further, officials say it will provide up-to-date information on market trends and will keep them "informed on legal disputes between property owners and tenants."

"A rental inventory generally provides greater transparency with local authorities, fewer unfair rental practices and fewer non-compliant properties," the city says online.

All owners of rentals must register or apply for an exemption at monterey.org/rentalinventory by March 1. Failing to comply will result in fines and possibly a misdemeanor citation.

GALLERIES

From page 1A

Highlands and display her work "in more galleries and in other parts of the country. "

Bennett, too

A frequent Golden Pine Cone winner for Best Sculpture Gallery, Bennett Sculpture Carmel announced in late November that it was closing. The gallery was owned by the mother-daughter team of Debi Bennett and painter and jeweler Ashley Bennett-Stoddard.

After carrying on a legacy that was started decades ago by her late husband and sculptor, Bob Bennett, and his brother Tom, "Debi has retired and is now enjoying a wonderful life golfing and spending time with her family," the gallery said. Ashley, meanwhile, "will be focusing on her artwork."

Both women thanked their clients and friends. "We are excited about the new chapter in our lives and look forward to what the future holds," the two added. "The legacy will continue, though it may look different. Thank you for being a part of our journey."

And James Rieser, owner of Rieser Fine Art, said he would be retiring from the gallery business and told The Pine Cone he would move to Ohio, where he has family, and where he recently bought a house near the state capital of Columbus. He opened his Carmel gallery in 1997.

"My wife retired last year, and she's been bugging me since to do the same thing," he said. "I decided I've had a good run, and enough was enough."

Support The Pine Cone by supporting our advertisers!

PATRICIA LANE GIFFORD KELLEY

September 23, 1945 - November 23, 2023

Pebble Beach, California

Patricia (Patty) Kelley, a long-time resident of the Monterey Peninsula, passed peacefully in her sleep on November 23, 2023, in Olympia, Washington after a night surrounded by three generations of

family whom she helped raise, teach right from wrong, and chew bubble gum. The eldest of two, Patty was born in Portland, Oregon on September 23, 1945, to Richard and Joan Gifford, and moved to Pacific Grove in 1962 where she would graduate a proud PGHS Breaker after serving as vice president of the student body. In 1967 she graduated from Fresno State as a third generation Theta, receiving a bachelor's degree and achieving a lifetime teaching credential. In September of 1969, while teaching second grade at Monte Vista Elementary School, she was introduced by a college friend to 2nd LT Woodrow (Woody) Kelley who had recently been assigned to Fort Ord. Woody and Patty fell in love and married 13 months later on October 10, 1970.



Patty continued teaching at Monte Vista while Woody was serving in Vietnam. When he returned from Vietnam in 1972 he began a lifetime career in banking, and Patty left teaching to begin her new career as a homemaker, raising their two young children. Creative and clever, Patty spent her days putting together projects for her children and finding fun things for them to do, from berry picking and jam making to critter catching during walks along the lake behind their home (no spiders or snakes allowed!). Once her kids went off to college, Patty returned to her calling and took a position with Olson Elementary School in Marina teaching primarily first and second grade. While there she enjoyed being with her students and seeing them inspired by learning.

With her teaching background and strong faith in the Lord, Patty was asked to serve as the Sunday school coordinator for St. Mary's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Pacific Grove. Because of that, her family soon found themselves as back-up Sunday school teachers or babysitters at any given moment. Patty served as a member of the St. Mary's Altar Guild for many years where she and her friends brought additional beauty to Sunday services. She also enjoyed her role on the annual Antiques Show committee where she helped curate and organize the beautiful items that came into the event. When her daughter Katie was president of the senior class at PG High, Patty was instrumental in bringing the very first Sober Grad Night Party to Pacific Grove High School. Patty was a volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula for many years where she delivered meals and much-needed friendship to seniors around the peninsula. Talented in "handwork," Patty always had several projects going. Her quilts warmed each of her grandchildren and her holiday themed accents bring joy every season. She loved to knit, and spent many an hour poking through knit shops around the peninsula with dear friends where she would find her next project — which would serve as either a blessing or a curse.

Patty found joy in many things, but mostly loved her family, her friends and her dogs. Her Aussies brought her much pleasure and she looked forward to their morning walks to the beach. She and Woody enjoyed traveling throughout the world, and for the past 20 years have made annual trips to Kauai with their children and grandchildren — a tradition that has made the island almost a second home. A born nurturer, Patty took care of everyone she came in contact with. She was the undeniable head of our family, chronicler of family history and keeper of traditions. She was a born teacher and whether it was the generations of littles she taught formally or her own children and grandchildren, Patty was a never-ending source of patience, love and wise counsel.

Patty Kelley was bright, talented and strong, with a wonderful sense of humor. We will miss her friendship and unconditional love. Patty is survived by her husband and best friend for 53 years, Woodrow (Woody) Kelley of Pebble Beach; children, Kathleen Selfridge (Travis) of Pebble Beach, and Danny Kelley (Jennifer) of Olympia WA; her beloved grandchildren, William (17) and Molly (14) Selfridge, Dylan (8) and Finnegan (5) Kelley, and her brother, Tom Gifford, of Monrovia. A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring. Our family wishes that any memorial donations be made to Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula or Hospice of the Central Coast, or to a charity of your choice.

And did you get what
you wanted from this life, even so?
I did.

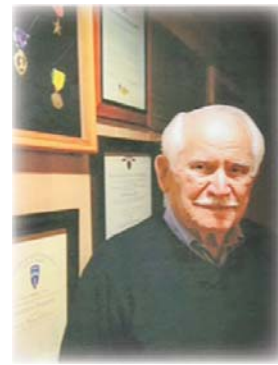
And what did you want?
To call myself beloved, to feel myself
beloved on the earth.

~ Raymond Carver

She was.

HENRY 'HANK' KLAPUT

With deep regrets we announce the death of Henry "Hank" Klaput who passed away on November 14, 2023, at the age of 93. Hank was born in Chicago, Illinois on



January 25, 1930, to Andrew and Rosaline Klaput. Hank was one of nine children, all of whom preceded him in death — Anna, Joseph, Stella, William, Walter, Jessie, Bruno and Geraldine.

Hank proudly served his country gallantly in the U.S. Army in Korea and Vietnam. He heroically earned a Purple Heart and several Bronze Stars for bravery in combat. He was a graduate of the Defense Language Institute where he mastered the difficult Russian language. As a first sergeant he was sent to East Germany when the Soviets erected the Berlin Wall in 1961. There he held the esteemed position of interpreting for the provost marshal. Hank also served as a convoy leader from West Berlin to Soviet-occupied East Berlin.

His passion for patriotism and civic duty ran deep, having entered the Monterey County Sheriff's Department upon his discharge from the Army at Fort Ord. He retired as a deputy sheriff in 1985.

After retiring from the sheriff's department, he joined his wife and ran Maxine Klaput's Antiques in downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea. They met many friends and were deeply missed by their loyal customers after their retirement.

He is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Maxine; his son, Peter Klaput (Judy); daughter, Catherine Leininger (Bruce); stepson, Leslie Abell of Los Angeles (Nancy); and several step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Special thanks to Jerry Dratva and Hank's other caretakers of The Hospice of the Central Coast who tended to Hank lovingly.

His interment ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. January 12, 2024, at the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery in Seaside. Father Thomas Collins will be officiating. In lieu of flowers please make donations to Hospice of the Central Coast.

AIRPORT

From page 14A

hotel lobby.”

The new terminal would total 95,325 square feet and cost an estimated \$78.2 million — though that number will likely climb due to the escalating expense of construction.

The project will be partially funded by bonds and possibly by a federal Department of Transportation program that allows borrowing at a lower rate, according to La

Pier.

HOK, the design firm hired to handle the terminal project — which will also bring the airport in line with federal safety standards for runways and taxiways — is expected to present schematics and more detailed drawings to the airport district board in March or April.

Demolition

“We’re going to be done with the design by the end of the year,” he said. “So I don’t think it’s unrealistic we could have it out for bid by 2025,” with an 18-to-24-month construction period to follow. Because the

would require major work to fix, and conditions only worsened on New Year’s Day.

“Following the recent rain, the walls in the cottage bedroom are wet, and the floors have water coming up through the tiles, soaking the rug,” she said. “I am more than ready to go down the rabbit hole with Alice.”

Rerig said this week that he’s been in touch with her during the last six to nine months and has visited the neighbor’s house “to inquire whether they would be willing to apply for a tree removal or trimming permit.”

“It really is a matter for the two property owners,” to resolve, he said, since the city can’t do much more than inquire of Raphael on the Hewers’ behalf.

He also noted the Torrey pine is healthy, “and we’re constantly having this increased debate in the community about the removal of otherwise healthy trees,” though he understands the Hewers are concerned about it and the damage to their house.

“We’re stuck,” he said. “I’ve done what Mrs. Hewer asked by reaching out to the property owner and have tried that twice. I have not connected with him, but in the past, he’s been unwilling.”

airport is governed by a special district with its own board, the work there doesn’t require approval from the county or other local jurisdictions, according to La Pier.

Meanwhile, demolition of the old hangars and fire station north and east of the long-term parking lots began just before Christmas.

“What will start happening now is the

earth-moving,” La Pier said. “We’ll start to compress the area so we can start building the ramp on the same elevation as the airfield. We have to take some of that dirt out and make sure the elevations are the same.”

All of the soil will remain on the airport property, with surplus hauled to the north side near the new fire station.

TREE

From page 1A

concern,” Jean Hewer told The Pine Cone. “Currently, the owner has not responded to a registered letter from us, plus two visits from the city administrator.”

Hewer had emailed city administrator Chip Rerig about the issue in October and asked him to see if the city attorney would help when the neighbor, Ridgewood Road resident Howard Raphael, did not respond to queries from her or the city.

“You leave me no choice but to engage an attorney to represent me in a lawsuit” against the neighbor and the city, she said.

Problems worse

Last month, Hewer reported that “a huge trunk” is pushing against the back of the guest cottage, and “the roots are breaking the tiles on the floor.”

“I have just been diagnosed with a gastric ulcer, and I am not in any doubt the stress of this ridiculous saga is responsible,” added Hewer, who is 84.

She is worried that the tree’s roots are also damaging the foundation, which

Everybody reads The Pine Cone

David George Huey

David was born in Reno, Nevada on Dec. 12, 1946, to George Newton Huey and Martha Norma Frost Huey. He passed away unexpectedly, on Dec. 19, 2023, in Monterey, California. His death is attributed to exposure to Agent Orange while stationed in Thailand during the Vietnam War.

He is survived by his wife, his partner, the love of his life and soulmate, Carla S. Hudson. They had been together for 45 years. He is also survived by his son, David (wife Irina) and daughter, Tricia Cepeda; and his sisters, Martha Peterson, Diane Hagood and Janice Huey; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. His sister, Connie Hopper, preceded him in death.

David lived throughout the Southwest, following his father’s career with the Southern Pacific Railroad, ultimately moving to San Jose, California, where he graduated from Pioneer High School.

He attended San Jose City College, transferred to and graduated from San Jose State University with a BS in accounting. His education was interrupted by the draft. David served in the US Army in New Jersey, Ethiopia and Thailand, where he was fatally exposed to Agent Orange. He worked in crypto analytic intelligence.

He enjoyed watching and participating in sports. He was a California Junior Bowling Champion, a golfer, a skier, a hiker, a hunter and a marksman. His love of the outdoors was evident in his choice of activities. David also loved to travel. He and Carla enjoyed vacationing in Cabo San Lucas each year for 40-plus years. They created many family vacations in Cabo.

David loved his home. He and Carla loved entertaining their large family and groups of friends and created Christmas memories for his siblings, children, nieces, nephews and grandchildren. David enjoyed working in the garden with Carla and helping harvest fruits and vegetables. More than that, he enjoyed her wonderful cooking.

He was a past president of the Monterey Peninsula Sunrise Rotary Club and practiced the principles of the Rotary Four-Way Test in his daily life — is it the truth, is it fair to all concerned, will it build goodwill and will it be beneficial to all. He was treasurer of the City of Seaside from 1983 to 1987, an adjunct professor of auditing at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey and served on the board of the Monterey College of Law.

David and Carla were founding partners of Huey and Hudson, CPAs for 27 years. They merged their practice with Bob Bianchi and subsequently with Kasavan and Pope. David was currently a partner in the firm of Bianchi, Kasavan & Pope. He was also actively involved as the CFO of an international manufacturing company.

In lieu of flowers please send a donation to:

Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County, 1332 La Salle Ave.,
Seaside, CA 93955

OR

Tunnels to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Blvd., Staten Island NY 10306



DR. GLENN HUDGENS

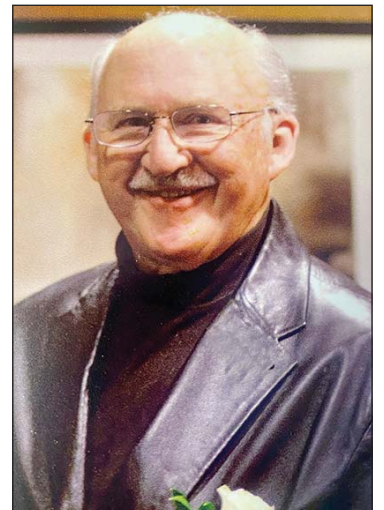
Dr. Glenn Hudgens, a beloved healer, devoted family man, and community stalwart, peacefully passed away on December 20, 2023, in Carmel, California. The oldest of four boys, he was born on August 22, 1934, in Anna, Illinois and was 89 years old. Glenn’s life was a testament to love, dedication and a commitment to the well-being of others. He was the cherished husband of Mary (MC) Hudgens, his high school sweetheart, with whom he recently celebrated an incredible 63rd wedding anniversary.

A scholar and a compassionate physician, Glenn completed his undergraduate studies at Southern Illinois University before graduating from the University of Illinois-Chicago Medical School in 1961. He completed his residency the following year at Resurrection Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois. The year after, at the age of 28, his journey in medicine continued to Fairbury, Illinois, where he initially opened his practice. After 10 years of developing his medical practice in Fairbury, Glenn and MC made a significant move that marked a new chapter in their lives. In 1972, they relocated to the scenic shores of Carmel, California where he continued his medical practice, quickly becoming an integral part of the local healthcare landscape. Affiliated with the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, Glenn became a beloved figure in the medical community, earning the trust and admiration of his patients, nurses, and fellow physicians for an impressive 58 years. Glenn identified as a country doctor, which is reflected in his practice of making house calls early on in his career. His early career also saw him joyfully bringing new lives into the world, a role he cherished until the evolving landscape of medical specialization.

Beyond his contributions to healthcare, Glenn had a vibrant and multifaceted life. An avid golfer with a flair for colorful attire, he boasted an impressive record of eight holes-in-one. Glenn was able to fulfill life beyond the confines of his medical profession as he had the opportunity to golf at courses in various countries, including Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Wales and Australia, to name a few. Being from southern Illinois, he was a devoted St. Louis Cardinals baseball fan. Glenn’s love for life extended to his unique sense of style, as he could often be seen driving through town in any one of the three yellow Corvettes he owned throughout his lifetime. Glenn shared his love for music as a member of the of the Monterey Cypressaires barbershop chorus. Another notable chapter of Glenn’s legacy is his enduring involvement with the AT&T golf tournament. What began as a voluntary contribution evolved into a remarkable 43-year tenure as the medical director for the prestigious event.

Glenn and MC were blessed with four children, Tom (North Carolina), Mark (deceased), Laura (San Diego) and Brian (Monterey), along with seven grandchildren. His legacy of love, warmth, and dedication lives on in his family and the countless lives he touched throughout his distinguished career.

A memorial service will begin at 3 p.m. Saturday, January 13, at the Carmel Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Carmel Presbyterian Church in Glenn’s honor. May he rest in peace, knowing that his impact on the community and the lives he touched will endure for generations to come.



13 WEEKS BEGINNING JANUARY 21

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SUNDAYS 2:00-4:00 PM

Register at www.shoreline.church/griefshare

SHORELINE CHURCH 2500 Garden Road, Monterey



Editorial

What are we, saps?

JANUARY 1 was another red-letter day for California’s extremely generous programs to help the poor. As you may know, one-third of the state’s residents are enrolled in Medi-Cal, which means they get free or very low-cost access not only to doctors, pharmacies and hospitals for primary medical services, but also specialty and emergency treatment, behavioral health, dental, vision and long-term care.

According to the California Health Care Foundation, in 2021, Medi-Cal provided healthcare for “four in 10 children, one in five nonelderly adults and two million seniors and people with disabilities” and paid for 50 percent of the state’s births and 55 percent of all “patient days” in long-term care facilities, all at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$125 billion a year.

But the beginning of this year was something different. As of Jan. 1, new state legislation made Medi-Cal available to all undocumented immigrants — a group which, according to Pew Research Center, includes almost two million people in California, and is growing by more than 200,000 per year, especially during the current massive influx of immigrants under the Biden administration’s open border policies. In other words, nobody knows how many undocumented immigrants will avail themselves of California’s free medical care programs. The United States may be rife with racism, but immigrants are certainly finding California to be a very attractive place.

It’s hard just to wrap your mind around the idea of offering an extremely valuable and expensive public benefit to every poor person in the world who can find his or her way to this state, but that’s what we’re doing.

Nothing to worry about, says Gov. Gavin Newsom, who not only signed the legislation creating the new benefit, he called it a “a transformative step towards strengthening the health care system for all Californians.”

And one of his key allies, State Senator Maria Elena Durazo of Los Angeles, called the Medi-Cal expansion no less than a “historic achievement that speaks to California’s commitment to health care as a human right.”

She said the latest expansion of the program would cost \$2.6 billion a year, but the truth is that nobody knows what it will cost because nobody knows how many people will participate. Hundreds of millions, if not billions, around the world are eligible, if they can just get here.

While we were thinking about these issues, we got our premium notice for next year for The Pine Cone’s employee health plan, which is administered by Blue Shield. Ten of our full-time employees and seven dependents are covered by the plan, which a decade ago cost \$66,000 a year. Since then, our premiums, which are shared by the company and the employees who participate, have been rising steadily and rapidly. In 2023, the Pine Cone’s total premium had ascended to \$189,000, and next year, we just learned, it’ll be \$215,000. And that doesn’t include vision or dental or deductibles and co-pays. Needless to say, paying all those bills is a struggle.

In our country’s founding documents, it says that the purpose of our government is to “establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.” Since then, all that has changed, and the primary purpose today seems to be to redistribute income. But does that have to include everybody on the planet?

Being told you’ll have to pay for the Medi-Cal expansion, even as your own healthcare becomes more uncertain and much more costly, makes you feel like a sap.

BEST of BATES



Letters to the Editor

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

School board resignations

Dear Editor,

The Pine Cone’s Dec. 29 article, “School board weighs wish list for next superintendent,” was well done. It thoroughly reviews the presentation made by consultant Valerie Pitts of HYA Associates at the Dec. 13 school board meeting.

Unfortunately, the consultant’s presentation omitted some very important facts which were not presented at the public meeting and about which the school board would not allow public questions.

Upon reading the details of the consultant’s report (go to carmelunified.org/Page/6370), one notices on page 6, Appendix 1, State of the District Analysis, that overall, only 7 percent of the 364 respondents to the survey thought “the district is heading in the right direction.”

Only one of the eight administrators responding to the survey thought the district was headed in the right direction. Not a single person of the nine community members responding thought the district was headed in the right direction.

That is a huge vote of “no confidence” in the current school board. The current school board should not attempt to hire a

new superintendent. Some of them would be wise to resign and let new people take their place who have the support of the community and will take the school district in a better direction.

Joseph Hertlein, Carmel Valley

Stealing a beach

Dear Editor,

I was pleased to see The Pine Cone give a fairly unbiased reporting of my arrest on Carmel Beach. There were a few things mentioned in the article, however, that were incorrect and need to be addressed.

Firstly, that I was “arrested for being on the beach unlawfully while it was shut down.” I thought I had made it clear that there is no such thing as standing on a California beach unlawfully. Even forwarding her Article X, Section 4 of the California Constitution which reads in part “... so that access to the navigable waters of this State shall be always attainable for the people thereof.” Secondly, nowhere in my communication did I claim “the health director and the department of health have the authority to order police to arrest violators under those circumstances.” I also made this clear, no government agent has the authority to lay hands on us when we’re accessing or standing near the ocean, never mind throw the cuffs and drag us off to a cage for doing so. Mary Schley was correct, though, in writing the federal judge had criticized my complaints because they “did not contain a short and plain statement.” Well, I listened to the judge and learned my lesson.

See LETTERS page 26A

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A sanctuary with a healing view

SHARON REGAN of Sea Star Horse Sanctuary recalled her first encounter with Carmel Valley's Ray Berta, a master horseman. She met him at a conference put on by Buck Brannaman, who works with horses and riders in the vaquero tradition of understanding and respecting the nature of the animal.

As Regan and Berta worked together, she said she felt a strong connection to the horse and to Berta, with his kind eyes and calm voice and demeanor. She explained that he fosters a relationship between horses and people that allows them to move and act together, almost as one. After working with him for more than 30 years, Regan, too, has mastered the art of natural horsemanship, particularly for those — horses and people — in need of healing.

"I still remember the first time Ray had

haul a load, or perform for show.

Regan didn't grow up riding horses, yet she had been living on a ranch and rescuing them for some 30 years before she established Sea Star (named after a horse she adopted from the SPCA) in 2017 on 8.5 acres on the former Riley Ranch. Regan and the devoted volunteers at her nonprofit are dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and provision of lifetime sanctuary to horses that are old, injured or abandoned and left at risk of slaughter.

Overcoming fear

Some of the horses are related by birth, others by circumstance, but all seem to find family somewhere in the herd. The first thing Regan does when assimilating a horse into the sanctuary is give him or her a new name, a symbol and reminder of their renewed life and, as she said, "to rid them of any bad juju they may carry with them."

"I really felt I wanted — needed, actually — to create this sanctuary," Regan said.

"Having rescued horses for a long time, I wanted to establish a place where they could live the rest of their lives, never to be abandoned again. I wanted to give them love and the best care possible. I wanted to share them with others to enhance people's lives, as well."

Regan remembers the first time an autistic boy came to the sanctuary, accompanied by his father and grandmother. He stood there, silent, his body quaking. He was unwilling to look a horse in the face, touching her only from an arm's length when encouraged.

"Yet, within two hours, the boy suddenly hugged the horse and began walking alongside her," said Regan. "Then he sat down quietly as the horse grazed beside him, ultimately pressing himself into the arch of her neck. There wasn't a dry eye

See LIVES page 25A

Great Lives

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

me get on one of my rescue horses with no saddle and no reins to hold and had us trotting around the pasture," said Regan. "He had me close my eyes and feel our connection. I was the horse, and the horse was me. I just broke down and started wailing. And Ray said, 'Now you've got it.' And I've never lost it."

A pretty picture

These days, due east of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, on a verdant rise of pastureland overlooking a cerulean sea, there's a small herd of horses. The bucolic scene, framed by Monterey pines, cypress, and chaparral, inspires folks to pause and, perhaps, sense peace.

The panorama belies the cruelty, abandonment, abuse or neglect these horses have endured before finding their forever home at Regan's Sea Star Horse Sanctuary, where they will never again bear a saddle,



PHOTO/COURTESY SHARON REGAN

Sharon Regan, who founded Sea Star Horse Sanctuary and serves as its president and CEO, loves seeing horses and humans find healing together. The sanctuary is just south of town, near Point Lobos.

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

Godzilla, Fisher-Price and Clooney — creative reflections from 2023

Creative people famously tend to be quirky, eclectic and eccentric: Here are some random things we learned about our talented local artists in 2023, Part 1. The publication date of the full artist profile in The Pine Cone is in parentheses.

Carolyn Kleefeld (Aug. 11, 2023), prolific painter and author in Big Sur, has enjoyed a circle of friends that included Timothy Leary, Laura Huxley, Dr. John Lilly, Alan Ginsberg, Leonard Cohen, Wayne Dyer and the DiCaprio family.

Dorothy, watching tornadoes blow past her house. Oddly, her dog (a Labradoodle) is named Waldo, not Toto.

Paul Ventura (April 28, 2023), known for the glowing, whimsical cityscapes he shows at Old Masters Gallery, is a former Hollywood casting agent who frequently hired George Clooney to do voiceovers, Brad Pitt for commercials, and helped convince a model named Cameron Diaz to try acting.

Martha Casanave (Nov. 3, 2023), one of the Peninsula's best-known photographers, claims she "never really liked cameras much." Her 2023 show at Monterey Museum of Art was photographed entirely with a 4-by-5-inch pinhole camera.

The weird and colorful renderings of Marina artist **Linda Lay** (July 21, 2023) began as a child, when cartoons and her father's obsession with horror movies inspired her to start drawing the monsters that are her specialty today. A highlight of her life was meeting Haruo Nakajima, the actor who wore the monster costume in the "Godzilla" movies.

Carmel painter **Kirstine Reiner Hansen** (June 16, 2023), a native of Denmark, saw changes in her art after spending 2011 to 2014 exploring New York City's vibrantly competitive art scene, where she met artists doing enormous, imaginative pieces in high-ceiling lofts and "every gallery seemed like a museum," she said.

Career change

Big Sur sculptor/painter **Greg Hawthorne** (Aug. 18, 2023) earned a pre-med degree, then abruptly changed course, painting 16 hours a day, seven days a week, producing 200-300 paintings in a year to launch the art career that paid for the world-famous gallery he owns today.

After a long career in engineering, abstract artist **Jim Wagoner** (Sept. 29, 2023) recently fell in love with what he calls "fluid art," using his science background to chemically alter the viscosity and opacity of the paint he pours onto his canvas.

Jessica Bovert (July 7, 2023), a fine-art

See ARTIST page 34A

Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Carmel Art Association member **Jerry Van Megert** (Nov. 10, 2023) was 6 when he began painting in Salem, Oregon, but established a comfortable career with commissioned landscapes and seascapes in Pebble Beach, where, at 85, he's still behind the easel.

No coincidence

Sofanya White (April 21, 2023) creates her surrealistic paintings in a 2,340-square-foot geodesic home that is locally famous as The Dome House. It's halfway between Carmel and Big Sur amid 10 acres of towering redwoods, where she frequently hosts art workshops and retreats.

Plein-air specialist **Victoria Galitzine** (Oct. 6, 2023), a native of East Sussex, England, was 4 years old when she created a series of cartoon drawings of Fisher-Price's Little People characters — renderings that won a contest sponsored by the toy company. Her prize was a full set of Fisher-Price children's books.

Fine-art photographer **Scott Campbell** (Jan. 6, 2023) specializes in underwater photography — no surprise, considering he spent 15 years as a member of the U.S. Freediving Team and once held the U.S. record in a category called static apnea: 6 minutes, 47 seconds, holding his breath underwater while floating on the surface.

Venture Gallery painter **Sarah Leonard** (July 14, 2023) grew up on a bleak landscape in Kansas with a mother named



PHOTO/COURTESY OF MONTEREY BAY PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

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LAWSUIT

From page 1A

according to the complaint, which was filed for the plaintiffs by Los Angeles-based law firm Kabateck LLP and Greenburg and El Segundo-based Ruby Injury Attorneys. More than 3,000 people lived in Pajaro before the March flood.

The suit also contends that the defendants were responsible for other “public improvement failures” from Dec. 31, 2022, through March 11, 2023, a timeframe when Monterey and Santa Cruz counties were experiencing severe storms, flooding and property damage, including complete loss of agricultural crops.

Widespread flooding caused by Corralitos Creek occurred Dec. 31, 2022, and properties and homes were inundated with floodwaters, mud, silt and debris, “which caused significant stress to plaintiffs, and damage to their real and personal property,” the lawsuit says.

From Jan. 9-16, 2023, flooding also occurred when a storm made landfall in the already rain-drenched Watsonville, Pajaro and other nearby areas.

‘Should have known’

When the levee failed about midnight on March 10, 2023, it initially occurred within a 100-foot break in the levee’s bank on the Monterey County side that quickly grew to 400 feet.

“The massive flooding prompted dozens of water rescues and evacuation orders covering hundreds of residents,” the lawsuit says. No one was reported killed.

Besides causing the \$300 million in damage, hundreds of residents have been displaced and rehoused, some of

them in hotels in Monterey County, including in the City of Marina.

Pajaro Valley is a historic floodplain, and the lawsuit notes that it has flooded numerous times since the levee project was completed. By the early 1990s, the Pajaro Flood Control Project “had reached an unprecedented state of disrepair, creating an unreasonable risk of flooding and flood damage to the surrounding area,” the plaintiffs say.

The defendants “should have known” that “vast quantities of water would be released onto plaintiffs’ properties, thereby causing injuries and damages to their property and persons” and “interfering with plaintiffs’ comfortable enjoyment of their lives and real and personal property,” the complaint says.

It also offers a timeline of the flooding and what it contends were myriad failures by the state and county to properly maintain the Pajaro River levee system.

During flooding in 1995, two people died and hundreds of residents were displaced with flood damage estimated at more than \$95 million. Lawsuits ensued and Santa Cruz and Monterey counties “were found liable” for failing to keep the channels of the project clear, which caused the levee to fail that year, the lawsuit alleges. The state and its road agency Caltrans were also found liable for building systems too small to drain floodwaters.

A 2016 U.S. Army analysis indicated that the levee project provided a mere “five-year protection along the Pajaro River and a seven-year protection along Corralitos and Salsipuedes creeks.”

“More recently, levees nearly broke again in the federally declared storm disasters of January-February 2017, and a 1,600-foot-long seepage berm was needed to buttress” the flood control system.

“In violation of their express authority, legal and mandatory duties, the defendants over a period of years

allowed the flood control works of the lower Pajaro River watershed to remain in a state of complete disrepair,” the lawsuit says.

The suit also takes aim at the state for its 1967 reroute of Highway 1, which required a new bridge over the Pajaro River, elevation of the road at the south end of the bridge, and a new drainage system.

“Before construction, the state knew the proposed Highway 1 relocation would traverse the Pajaro River floodplain and acknowledged that substantial flood damage was likely. Despite that knowledge, the state designed and constructed Highway 1 contrary to its own design planning manual by constructing drainage culverts that were too small to accommodate floodwaters.”

Highway 152, which begins near Highway 1 as a series of streets that run through downtown Watsonville, was also poorly designed, the plaintiffs say, because drainage is “inadequate” and “unsafe,” and could not accommodate floodwaters.

Continued growth

Court documents list Alejandro, Camila, Katherine and Roberto Abundez as lead plaintiffs in the case.

The complaint alleges nuisance, negligence, trespass, dangerous condition of public property, and other causes of action. Apart from Monterey and Santa Cruz counties and the state, the suit names as defendants Caltrans, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, City of Watsonville and the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency.

Among the 3,000 people who live in Pajaro are a substantial number in poverty, unemployed and undocumented, many of whom don’t speak English, according to the lawsuit, which also notes that “despite the continued risk of inevitable major flood damage, the lower Pajaro River watershed continues to see population growth and development.”

Five months before the 2023 flooding in Pajaro, state Sen. John Laird announced that Gov. Gavin Newsom had signed a bill authorizing the advancement of funds for a \$400 million project aimed at rebuilding the Pajaro River’s levee system.

The senate bill “is my commitment to prevent disaster in the communities surrounding the Pajaro before it strikes again,” Laird said Sept. 29, 2022.

Susan Blich from the county counsel’s office told The Pine Cone that Monterey County has not been served with the complaint and it doesn’t comment on active litigation.

The lawsuit was filed as a “mass tort,” which means that the defendants must individually prove to the court how they were damaged, as opposed to a class action suit.



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Felicidad Laragan Caoili

May 1931 - December 2023

Our beloved Felicidad (Fely) Caoili, age 92, passed away peacefully at her home on December 24, 2023. She was born May 12, 1931, in Pamplona, Cagayan Philippines. Fely married the love of her life, Silvestre (Romeo) Caoili. Together they had eight children and the family moved to Seaside, California in 1974.

Fely was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, who was generous, kind and spiritual. She gave so much of herself to her family, friends and to the community. Fely was a passionate floral artist for more than 70 years. She loved flowers and owned a floral shop in Baguio, Philippines. She continued her floral career working at Blossom Floral of Monterey. She then owned her business, The Flower Market in Monterey, where she taught and mentored her children: Marilyn, Benny and Dhezrae, showing them her special touch to making amazing floral arrangements.

In 1987, Fely was part of the floral decorators to prepare the Mass of Pope John Paul II in Laguna Seca, Monterey. She received an award, certified by Pope Francis on behalf of the Diocese of Monterey at St. Francis Xavier Church, Seaside in February 2019 for her outstanding contributions to the Catholic Church. Fely was a member of the Young Ladies Institute (YLI), Filipino-American Community of Monterey and the Cordillera provinces: Benquet, Ifugao, Bontoc, Apayao, Kiangon (BIBAK) of Northern California.

Fely is preceded in death by her husband, Silvestre (Romie) Caoili (2002); sons, Glenn (1988) and Michael (2015); daughter, Lydia Caoili Pedrey (2021) and grandson, Thomas (2002).

Fely is survived by her children, Marilyn & Kevin Huston, Patrick & Becki Caoili, Dhezrae & Kelly Herauf, Benny & Janice Caoili and Dominic Caoili; as well as her grandchildren, Candice, Miles, Amy and Kris Herauf, Grayson Huston, Rachel, Nicole and Danielle Caoili; and great-granddaughters Dylan and Alani.

Fely will be dearly missed by her family, friends, customers, and the community she served.

The family requests that any memorial contributions to be sent to your choice of:

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- St Francis Xavier Church, 1475 La Salle Ave., Seaside, CA 93955
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LIVES

From page 23A

among us adults. This brings such joy to me.”

The boy has since returned every other week to groom and spend time with the horses, each of whom he knows by name. His teachers report that he is now getting up and speaking in class, sharing his equine experiences with other students.

Healing arts

Sea Star Horse Sanctuary regularly welcomes other human guests, among them artists, writers, musicians and healers seeking inspiration. Others come to work with the horses, promoting trust and healing through medical qigong, equine massage, healing touch, applied herbs and oils.

Zoo pharmacognosy is another interesting form of animal treatment used at the sanctuary. It’s a process through which animals self-medicate by selecting and eating or inhaling soothing natural elements. It’s been studied by scientists who hope to find treatments for human ailments, too, but at Sea Star, it’s all about the horses.

For example, purebred Polish Arabians Caroline No and Strawberry Fields had been warmly greeted by friendly tourists parading by their pasture along Sycamore Canyon Road en route to Pfeiffer State Beach for 22 years. That was until summer 2020, when an attacker purposely splashed them with a caustic mix of chemicals. Caroline No was euthanized, but her sister was remanded to Sea Star, where she was renamed Starberry and found her way back to health, largely through zoo

pharmacognosy, Regan said.

Regan grew up in a military family, following her father’s Air Force career around the world. Yet she has since spent some 60 years on the Monterey Peninsula, now on those 8.5 acres she acquired through hard work and, she said, the kindness of friends she considers family.

“There is a peacefulness and sense of purpose among my chosen family out on the ranch as there is among the horses,” she said.

“People recognize that when they visit us, always telling me they experience a shift in their being as they come through the gate, feeling an energetic peacefulness. There seems to be a healing vortex here, and everyone finds their own space in it.”

Similarly, from the moment a horse arrives at the sanctuary, said Regan, the Sea Star staff work with the whole horse — mind, body, heart and soul — to allow and help each animal find its true essence. And it is different for each one.

Purpose, calm

“I am not better than nor less than, but equal to these magnificent beings, our trust and best teachers,” Regan said. “They don’t manipulate. They have clear boundaries and give their love freely. By understanding this, we know where we fit into their world at that moment. When we are present with a horse, they tell us exactly what they want, letting us know in advance what they’re thinking and what they’re going to do. Spending time with horses every day brings purpose, calmness, and peace to my life, our lives.”

For more information about Sea Star Horse Sanctuary, visit seastarhorsesanctuary.org.

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Old World Design Stands the Test of Time

By Susana DeFatima Silva, MA, Co-Founder/Proprietor/Managing Partner Test of Tyme, LLC, #1022805 and Wendy Brickman, MA/MBA, Brickman Marketing

Exploring the grandeur of Pebble Beach and Carmel’s beautiful estates reveals a popular trend—the incorporation of custom-built “Old World Design” elements that grace every corner of many of these luxurious abodes. From kitchens to wine cellars, the meticulous infusion of Old World-inspired features imbues these residences with a timeless allure and a unique livability seldom found in other decor styles. These sprawling homes, often serving as venues for sophisticated gatherings

and cherished family moments, reflect a commitment to a superior quality of living.

Don Whitaker, a partner at Test of Tyme, a renowned Pacific Grove-based firm specializing in estate transformations in Pebble Beach and Carmel, underscores the enduring appeal of Old World design. He notes, “We truly appreciate the high quality of Old World design, and so do our clients. We meet with them to craft distinctive, enduring items meant to be cherished for generations to come.”

But what defines “Old World Design”? According to HGTV, it embraces a comfortable, weathered aesthetic, celebrating the patina of use. Textured walls, hand-rawled windows, and tumbled marble epitomize this style, favoring distressed, matte, and honed finishes over glossy surfaces. Colors typically seen in an Old World room include burgundy, navy, forest green, ocher and cream. Fabrics play a pivotal role,

featuring damasks with oversized scrolls, intricate tapestry designs, and muted hues of lustrous silks. Architecture in Old World homes embraces rough-hewn beams, arched doorways, and windows, striking a balance between sophistication and rusticity.

Old World Woodworking, characterized by distressed wood and antique-style furniture, creates an atmosphere reminiscent of a bygone era. Kitchens, a focal point, feature arches, hidden appliances, and bold, oversized hardware, contributing to the overall rustic appeal.

In essence, Old World Design transcends mere aesthetics; it is a commitment to enduring elegance that grows more attractive with time. So, when contemplating a home remodel, consider infusing the timeless allure of Old World design elements—watch your home evolve into a sanctuary that only gets better with age. Embrace the charm of the past while living in the lap of comfortable luxury!



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LETTERS

From page 22A

In Carmel's most recent motion to dismiss, we are now, finally, arguing the law ... and the battle is on. We

the People cannot allow politicians to lay claim to entire swaths of nature — like conquerors. And who they tried to conquer was the people that pay their fat salaries, you know, their bosses.

If my neighbors want to see a summary of city council's theft on the weekend when the country celebrated its liberation from tyranny, they can go to my channel and

watch, "How an Unelected Politician Stole a Beach from God's Children."

Theresa Buccola, Carmel

Wind and solar

Dear Editor,

I strongly disagree with your Dec. 29 "Clean Energy Solution" editorial. First, after noting that U.S. policies to pivot from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources to power our economy are still a work in progress, you note that China and India continue to build and operate coal-fired power plants. From that, you remarkably imply that America is on the wrong energy path.

But coal is the single most polluting source of greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. Should we blindly follow China's and India's misguided reliance on coal or instead work as rapidly and effectively as possible to save our planet by relying on clean, renewable energy sources? The answer is obvious. Second, you advocate a "completely new" energy strategy: nuclear power. But that technology is not new; it's been around for nearly

Continues next page

TAXI

From page 5A

to speeds exceeding 100 mph, Salinas Police chased Gonzalez southbound until California Highway Patrol officers took over the pursuit.

"As they followed Gonzalez, officers observed him repeatedly strike other vehicles on the roadway in what appeared to be attempts to cause accidents," Johnson said. "Due to the dangerous nature of the driving, the pursuit was called off as Gonzalez passed through Chualar."

But officers kept watching and saw him exit the highway north of Soledad, only to turn around and get back on the freeway traveling in the wrong direction. He drove against traffic for several miles before hitting a Ford Focus head on, causing serious injuries to the driver and passenger, according to Johnson.

Gonzalez was arrested at the scene of the crash and found to be under the influence of methamphetamine, morphine and marijuana. Based on his guilty plea in front of Monterey County Superior Court Judge Pamela Butler this week, Gonzalez will be sentenced to 11 years and eight months in state prison, Johnson said.

Gonzalez has been incarcerated in Monterey County jail since Oct. 15, 2022.

THREAT

From page 3A

and physical harm," he said.

Elvin — who is homeless and is known to frequent a local park and an abandoned building across the street from the high school, Garcia said — has a lengthy criminal record and has been charged with dozens of crimes, including, battery, assault, drug possession, lewd conduct and numerous instances of shoplifting.

In his own declaration submitted to the court, Haggquist said Elvin "glared menacingly" at him "with a very angry look on his face" when he was arrested. The assistant principal said he's worried he also "may be a target of violent conduct" by Elvin.

Superintendent Linda Adamson said police suggested the district obtain the stay away order.

"It was recommended to us by PGPD to file a restraining order against Mr. Elvin, given the threat he made to principal Garcia, as a means of doing everything on our end to keep our employees, students and campuses safe and secure," Adamson told The Pine Cone Wednesday.

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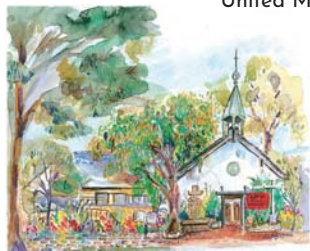
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From previous page

a century. And its history is marked with huge cost overruns that ratepayers have been forced to subsidize, and deadly power plant disasters (think Chernobyl in Russia, Fukushima in Japan, and Three Mile Island here in the U.S.).

Perhaps most importantly, generation of electricity in nuclear reactors creates substantial quantities of high-level radioactive waste (including plutonium) that remain toxic for over 1,000 years. Incredibly, the utility industry and government regulators have still not been able to devise a system to safely and permanently store or reprocess nuclear waste. Instead, those toxic materials remain scattered around the country at poorly secured utility sites, presenting a public health hazard and an easy target for terrorists seeking to fashion crude nuclear weapons.

To be sure, technological advances may bring the possibility of smaller, cheaper and safer modular nuclear power plants. And they may indeed wind up playing a modest role in moving from reliance on fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. But the best way to avoid a global climate change disaster is to focus on wind, solar and other renewable energy resources to power America's — and the world's — economy.

Richard Frank, Pacific Grove

Nuclear is cheaper, safer

Dear Editor,

I have long felt that nuclear energy was the natural successor to fossil fuels because its "efficiency" transcended fossil fuels. Solar and wind power do not supersede fossil fuels in this regard.

Nuclear energy got a bad name from Three Mile Island's near failure many years ago. It was Hollywood that made nuclear energy a pariah.

Old nuclear plants often cost upward of \$10 billion. This level of capital expenditure represented too large a percentage of utilities' equity bases. A national approach to funding and offsetting risk never was in place. As such, it was easy to scare off investment in nuclear energy.

Over the last two decades, submarine nuclear technology has been used to produce small-scale plants that are off the drawing board (Nuscale — 65 percent owned by Fluor). It is ready to go now. Small-scale nuclear plants are safer, less costly (about \$1 billion, plus or minus).

Another scare was spent uranium and the need to have large places to store it, such as Yucca Flats in Nevada. However, the United States, unlike other nations, decided not to reprocess spent nuclear fuel.

If it had done this, the amount of nuclear waste would be reduced dramatically. The fact that reprocessing itself produces a very small amount of weapons-grade plutonium was enough in highly charged times to table reprocessing. France gets 70 percent of its energy needs from nuclear. I assume the country has found a way to deal with the plutonium produced.

Today, we produce only 5 percent of the uranium we need domestically. The Uranium One transaction under the Clinton administration sold off a significant amount of our production.

Work with thorium might allow it to complement/replace uranium, but this is off in the future.

I always enjoy your editorials. They are educational. I continue to be amazed by how many high-IQ people don't seem to have the facts where important issues of the day are concerned.

John Goode, Carmel

Destructive mandates

Dear Editor,

This New Year, 2024 has made it clear that our neighborhoods are under attack — whether from the coming tsunami of the so called "builders remedy" projects that help developers push through massive projects, or by the one-size-fits-all mandates imposed by Sacramento that don't help make housing more affordable.

The Pacific Grove City Council is not voicing opposition nor properly informing residents of the destructive ramifications. Our quality of life, schools, and right to control local zoning are threatened. Our council must be urged to inform residents about the details of these unreasonable construction mandates

Vince Tuminello, Pacific Grove

Cottages' fun names

Dear Editor,

My name is Oliver and I am 14 years old. My family and I have a place here in Carmel-by-the-Sea.

I wanted to share my opinion on the proposed use of physical addresses in Carmel. I believe if we don't have address numbers, it adds to the charm of an old little town. I also like how they have different fun ideas for the different names of cottages.

Although the absence of a physical address makes finding an address more difficult the first time, finding a cottage becomes easier after one gets used to the concept. I also enjoyed choosing the name of our cottage

I also want to thank you for writing The Pine Cone newspaper articles. I enjoy reading the crime stories in it. Thank you for listening to me, too.

Oliver Furuta, Carmel

Costly lawsuit

Dear Editor,

How disappointing. Another costly lawsuit against the county and its taxpayers filed by a serial litigant because race cars "make too much noise." As Kelly Nix points out, Laguna Seca is a "storied" racetrack and is considered a historically significant facility by race drivers and fans worldwide. With the recent capital improvements managed by John Narigi and team, I believe the track's never been

better, at least since 1978 when I attended my first event. The community should be celebrating Laguna Seca and push back on a litigant who uses the judicial system to attempt a solve for his pet peeves. I find it ironic the lawsuit claims Laguna is a public nuisance, while annually delivering tens of millions of dollars in economic benefit to the community. In my opinion, the public nuisance rests with those who serially file frivolous lawsuits.

Martin Beaulieu, Carmel

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

Stevenson girls' speed gives them edge in highly competitive league

DURING HIS stint as head coach of the Stevenson Pirates boys varsity basketball team, Justin Clymo probably could have evaluated his team's success with a tongue depressor: Their wins and losses could have been measured by how far their opponents' tongues were hanging out of their mouths at any given point in a game.

When they were playing well, the Pirates' frequently resembled a jailbreak — they ran hard and fast when they had the ball. When they didn't, they swarmed like hyenas, trying to disrupt, disorganize and dismantle the opposing offense with full-court pressure.

After guiding the boys to a 113-71 overall record, seven Central Coast Section tournaments and one NorCal appearance between 2025-16 and 2022-23, Clymo has moved over this season to introduce his racehorse strategies to Stevenson's varsity girls.

So far, the learning curve is evident for a youthful roster of girls who are adjusting to a new style and different strategies. The Pirates had a 3-8 record in nonleague games in November and December, playing a challenging schedule. Five of those games were decided by seven or fewer points.

"The approach is the same we've used for years," he said. "We're asking them to play hard up and down the court, pressure our opponents and hopefully get them to turn the ball over so we wind up with as many possessions as we can."

Theoretically, opponents will feel uncomfortable with



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

Three-sport athlete Sarah Vanoli (left) has good court vision and decision-making abilities, thanks largely to her experience as a lacrosse and field hockey player. Emma Hall, a senior guard (above), leads the Pirates in scoring this season, highlighted by a 17-point game against Monterey, and a 15-point performance against Salinas.

Emma Hall, a senior guard, averaged 7.5 points per game in 2022-23 — second best on a team that went 8-14 overall and tied for fourth place in the Pacific Coast Athletic League's six-team Mission Division, where they went 4-6.

'She never quits'

And Grace Ishii, a junior guard, had a scoring average of 4.1 per game, but established herself as a quality player on the defensive end as a 10th grader for the Pirates.

"Emma is one of our best shooters, if not the best, and she's probably our most seasoned athlete, in terms of understanding what we're asking our players to do," Clymo said of Hall, who returned from Stevenson's holiday break with 15 points, six rebounds, and four steals in a non-league loss to an unbeaten Salinas team, and tallied 17 against Monterey.

"Gracie is a kid with boundless energy — she never,

ever quits on a play," he said. "Her motor is a huge part of what we're trying to accomplish with our style of play, and she's a big part of the defense with the way she flies around out there."

Ishii proved as a sophomore that she also can be threat from beyond the 3-point line, draining six long-distance bombs (on her way to a season-best 20 point outburst) in a game against Notre Dame last year.

Those two players are valuable leaders to a youthful roster, setting strong examples with energetic effort and positive attitudes.

Big improvements

Sarah Vanoli is a forward/wing who saw limited playing time on last year's squad but returned for her senior year as a much-improved basketball player, Clymo said,

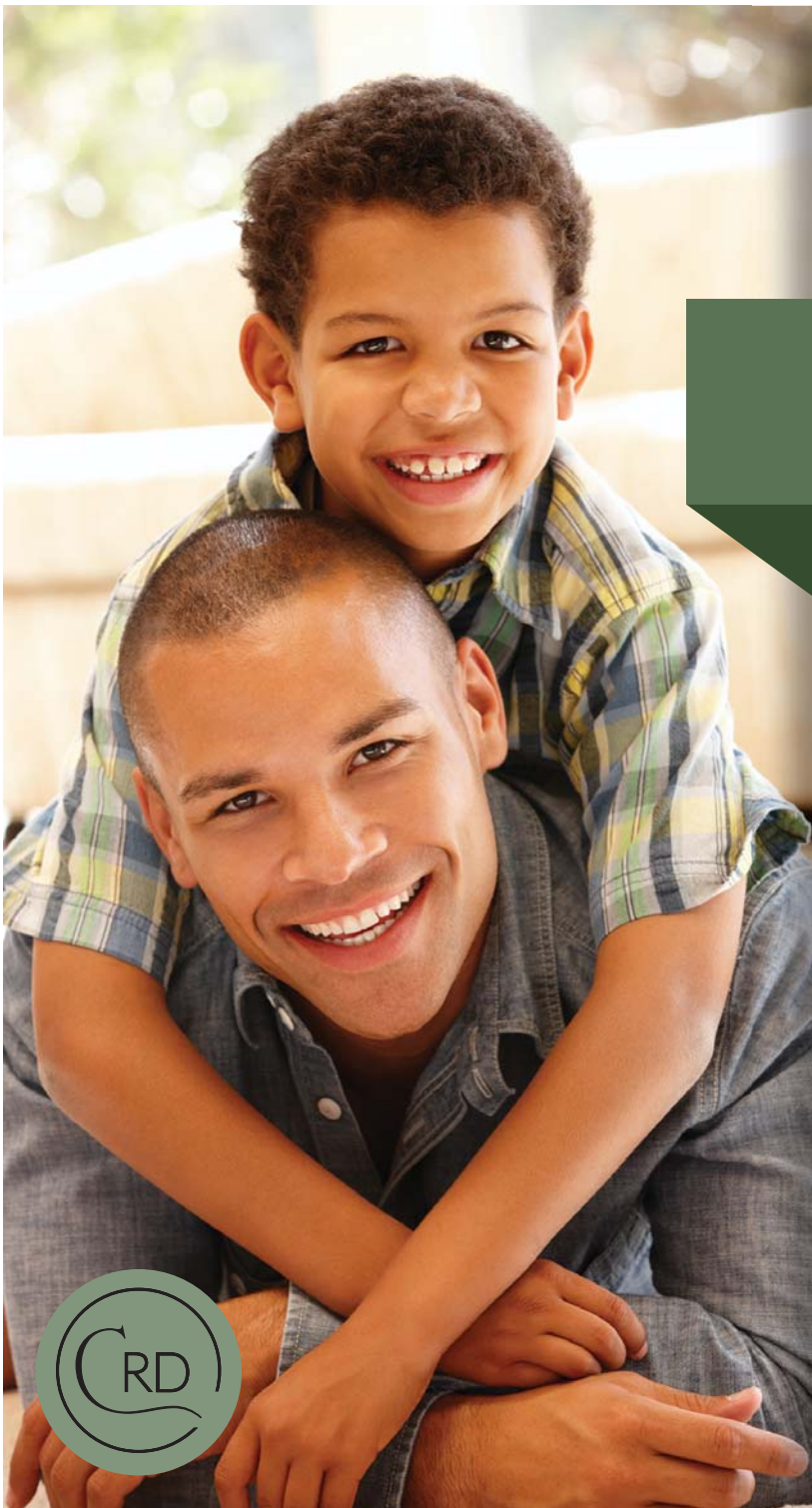
See **SPORTS** next page

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

the speed of the game the Pirates are playing, but the high-velocity style is an ongoing education for a roster full of inexperienced players.

Of the 13 players on this year's roster, only two had notable varsity experience when the season began:



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SPORTS

From previous page

and has become a centerpiece for the 2024 Pirates.

“Sarah also plays field hockey and lacrosse, and her experience and abilities in

those sports are transitioning well onto the basketball court,” the coach said. “She’s showing us an ability to see and anticipate things, which enables her to adjust and cover up other people’s mistakes.

“Her development and growth from last year has been a really nice surprise — she’s another player who has stepped into a leadership role for us.”

Maya Chavez, a varsity returnee, and Jessie Chen, who split time between the varsity and JV teams, earned valuable playing time last fall that is paying dividends today.

Chavez, a senior wing, is a player with strong potential that she shows in flashes, and figures to play a larger role for the Pirates as the season progresses and she finds her niche. Chen, a sophomore guard, has emerged as Stevenson’s most reliable ball-handler so far and is another player with a high-ceiling, said Clymo: “Jessie is a kid who just doesn’t know yet how good she can be,” the coach said. “When she gains some confidence, she’s going to

an injury, but could emerge as a primary contributor when she returns.

And yet another ninth-grader, Audrina Malate, has shown strong potential as a ball handler with scoring potential.

“At this point, every player on our roster is part of our rotation — we’re just learning about their strengths, where they need to get better, and how we can use them to help this team,” said Clymo.

Contending for court time

Also contending for playing time are four juniors. Sabrina Hardin, a standout softball player, has made a significant jump with her basketball skills and is fighting for a starting role. Mina DuPont, said Clymo, is “our Energizer bunny, and a kid who impacts the entire culture of the team purely with her joy for life.” Lucy Ryan is “a good athlete who likes to battle — she’s not afraid of contact.” And Wonjin Eum “is trying to carve out a role for herself as she figures out the speed of the varsity level.”

Stevenson returns to the Mission Division, which figures to be exceptionally balanced this season, Clymo predicted.

“I think our league is going to be extremely competitive with a lot of parity. I don’t see anybody dominating,” he said of a formidable schedule of opponents that will include Carmel, Greenfield, Monte Vista Christian, Rancho San Juan and Soledad. “In fact, I think an 8-4 record probably will win the league title.”

Stevenson played its Mission Division opener at home on Thursday against Monte Vista Christian, travels to Seaside for a 7 p.m. game on Saturday, and returns home on Jan. 12 to play Rancho San Juan, also at 7 p.m.

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



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Junior guard Grace Ishii, a varsity veteran, can be trusted to dribble through traffic and ranks among Stevenson’s best defenders.

become really dangerous.”

Sophomore Molly McAfee, a guard, also played both JV and varsity basketball last year, and “has turned a corner this season” as defensive player, her coach said.

Three talented freshmen

Ashley Dalhamer, an athletic freshman, is a multi-talented player who ranks among Stevenson’s best defenders and can rebound and score. “We watched her knock in a couple of really important 3-pointers in our (37-35) loss at Notre Dame,” Clymo said.

Another freshman, Peyton Sanchez, missed the early portion of this season with

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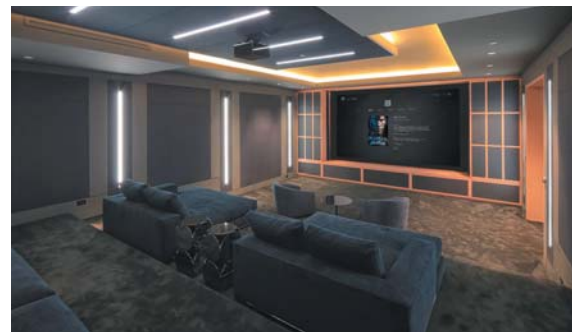
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This Week

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Cover band pays tribute to Tom Petty, Madregalia turns clock back to 1750

PAYING TRIBUTE to the late rocker Tom Petty — and making their debut at Golden State Theatre in Monterey — **Petty Theft** takes the stage Friday at 8 p.m.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

Led by singer, guitarist and co-founder **Dan Durkin**, the San Francisco-based band celebrated its 20th anniversary last year. They serve up a mix of music by Petty, including “American Girl,” “Free Fallin’,” “Mary Jane’s Last Dance,” “Don’t Come Around Here No More,” and many others. Petty died in 2017.



Led by singer and guitarist Dan Durkin (left), Petty Theft pays tribute to the music of the late Tom Petty Friday in Monterey.

Petty Theft has opened for Lynyrd Skynyrd and even captured the attention of a real-life Heartbreaker, Petty’s one-time drummer Steve Ferrone, who has sat in with them several times during shows.

Tickets start at \$20. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

Church celebrates early music

Dedicated to performing choral music that predates 1750, **Madregalia** presents a concert, “Ave Maria — Renaissance Music in Praise of the Virgin Mary,” Friday, 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, 2:30 p.m., at All Saints Episcopal Church.

The music includes compositions by George Frideric Handel, Michael Praetorius, Francisco Guerrero and many others. “Our program will consist of a variety of works in praise of the Virgin Mary over a 200-year period,” according to the singing group.

Madregalia will be accompanied by instrumentalists from **The Pastyme Consort**, which also specializes in early music.

Tickets are \$25 for general admission and free for students. The church is located at Dolores and Ninth in Carmel. For more details, visit pastymemusic.com.

Harpist plays at the Sand Box

In its first concert of the new year, the Sand Box in Sand City welcomes harpist **Katherine Siochi** Sunday at 4 p.m. “Katherine is in her first year as the principal harpist of the San Francisco Symphony after winning the audition for one of the mostly highly prized positions in the world,” said Sand Box founder **Michelle Djokic**.

Siochi will be joined on stage by Djokic, a cellist who was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2009, and flutist **Katrina Walter**.



Accompanied by cellist Michelle Djokic and flutist Katrina Walker, harpist Katherine Siochi performs Sunday at the Sand Box in Sand City.

The program, which Djokic called “transcending and evocative,” includes music by Maurice Ravel, Claude Debussy and many others.

Tickets are \$40 for general admission, \$25 for students and active military, and free for anyone 16 and under.

The Sand Box is located at 440 Ortiz Ave. sandbox-sandcity.com

Choral group honors composer

Led by director **Robin McKee Williams**, Choral Art-

See MUSIC page 37A

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FOOD & WINE

SAMPLING SPECIAL WINES, TOURING THE TOWN AND ORDERING PASTRAMI

ACCLAIMED WINEMAKER Paul Lato will share a half-dozen of his creations during a five-course prix fixe dinner at Grasing's restaurant Jan. 18 at 6 p.m. Lato's Santa Maria winery, which bears his name, pro-

Soup to Nuts

duces red, white and rosé wines using select fruit from more than a dozen vineyards he has selected for their superlative management and product.

"I strive to locate and source from not only the best vineyards, but the best blocks within each of these vineyards," he said.

Lato's winemaking philosophy is derived from his experiences tasting some of the finest wines from all over the world.

"All the greatest wines possess authenticity, harmony, and elegance," Lato said. "These are the qualities I con-

stantly try to capture in my wines."

Eric Ewers, wine director for the restaurant at Mission and Sixth, announced the dinner last month and is already seeing lots of demand. Executive chef Mario Garcia is creating the menu to pair with the Burgundian and Rhône-style wines Lato will be sharing, but the details have yet to be released.

"If you haven't experienced the wines of Paul Lato yet, please remember — you heard it here first," Ewers said in his announcement.

Dinner costs \$225 per person, including tax and tip. Online reservations are no longer available, but those interested in signing up can call (831) 624-6562.

Pop-up deli

Chabad of Monterey, an organization whose stated mission is "to strengthen the Jewish community through promoting Jewish pride, education and celebration," is hosting a pop-up kosher Jewish New York deli on Sunday, Jan. 14, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at its location at 620 Light-house Ave. in Pacific Grove.

On the menu are 1/2-pound corned beef or pastrami sandwiches on rye (with a pickle and 5 ounces of cole slaw, of course) for \$22 apiece, or try the 1/2-pound salami or turkey pastrami sammies for \$16 each. For \$8, you can get a 12-ounce cup of chicken matzo ball soup with carrots, and potato knishes are \$4 each. Assorted Dr. Brown's sodas are \$3.50 a pop. Desserts include chocolate or cinnamon babka for \$4 per slice and rugalach (if you know, you know) for \$2.50.

We boldly suggest pairing your food with your choice of movies that evoke scenes of New York — "When Harry Met Sally" has that iconic "I'll have what she's having" moment at Katz's Delicatessen, for example — or perhaps finding a video backdrop of the Brooklyn Bridge to put on the big screen while you dine. You



Paul Lato's Santa Maria winery produces red, white and rosé wines, a half-dozen of which will be featured during a special five-course prix fixe dinner at Grasing's restaurant on Jan. 18.

know, set a mood.

Pre-ordering is required by Jan. 7 at chabadofmonterey.com/deli. Call (831) 643-2770 for more information.

Chesebro's new sparkler

The father-and-son winemaking team of Mark and Will Chesebro of Chesebro Wines in Carmel Valley Village have released their first brut rosé, a dry, bright, pale pink sparkling wine made with pinot noir grapes harvested from the Mission Vineyard in 2015.

"We are so proud of this, and Will and Mark have been

See **FOOD** next page



Bon vivant and sommelier-about-town Toby Rowland-Jones leads tours of the village with Carmel Wine & Wandering. The three-hour tours include three stops at wine-tasting rooms and lots of local history.

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FOOD & WINE

FOOD

From previous page

working tirelessly to make this dream a reality," tasting room manager Alex Lалos told The Pine Cone.

Created using the same method applied to French Champagne, Chesebro's brut rosé has been seven years in the making. The Chesebros collaborated with sparkling-wine consultant Craig Roemer on the effort, which had hand-harvested grapes "carefully pressed and racked to used French oak barrels, where the wine underwent fermentation and nine months of barrel aging," Lалos said. The wine was bottled in late summer 2016, aged in the

bottle for seven years, and disgorged in June 2023.

The inaugural effort yielded 62 cases, the bubbly sells for \$50 per bottle, and customers are limited to a half-case maximum. "We are very, very proud of this wine and believe it ushers in a new era for Chesebro Wines," Lалos said.

Order online at chesebrowines.com or taste and purchase it in the tasting room at 19 E. Carmel Valley Road Thursday through Sunday. Call (831) 238-2618 or email alex@chesebrowines.com to make an appointment. Find more information at chesebrowines.com.

■ Carmel Wine & Wandering

Meandering through the passageways and streets of Carmel is always fun, but it can be even better with the right guide. Carmel Wine & Wandering, which includes a three-hour walk through the village with stops at local landmarks and three rotating wine-tasting rooms, is a new option for seeing the sights. The guide is Toby Rowland-Jones, a longtime sommelier who not only seems to know all the residents of Carmel-by-the-Sea, but also plenty of fun stories of the village's charming buildings and history, as well as the Monterey County wine scene.

Rowland-Jones, who's lived around here for more than 20 years, begins the tour by recounting the Spanish explorers' arrival in the area, the role of the Catholic church, and later, development by J. Frank Devendorf and Frank H. Powers. As the three-hour tour wanders

through the village, he regales the group with more interesting facts about Carmel's history, stops at parks to share local lore and shows his guests some hidden paths and walkways.

Interspersed throughout are stops at three wineries chosen to showcase wines from three distinct Monterey County AVAs (American Viticultural Areas). Tables in the tasting rooms are reserved for the tour, and on my visit, the tasting room staff were quite attentive to the group's needs. The winery's employees present their pours, and Rowland-Jones expands on their comments by going into as much wine detail as his guests would like. Tasting room fees are covered in the cost of the tour (\$139 per person less a locals discount of 15 percent if you use the code Happy2024 when reserving), and a discount on wine purchases is also part of the package. Tours run Monday through Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 11:30 a.m. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. For more information or to book, visit carmelwineandwandering.com.

■ BSWF gives back

The Big Sur Food & Wine Foundation's board of directors this week announced it has distributed grants to its charitable partners, thanks to the sponsors, donors, attendees, culinary talent, winemakers, volunteers and performance artists who made the group's three annual events — the Big Sur Fashion Show, the Ferrari Event at The Barnyard and the Big Sur Food & Wine Festival — come together.

Recipients include Big Sur Fiddle Camp's Weston Call Scholarship Fund (\$8,500), Big Sur Fire (\$52,000), Big Sur Grange (\$5,500), Big Sur Health Center (\$52,000), Big Sur Historical Society (\$5,000), Big Sur Park School (\$11,500), Big Sur Softball (\$3,000), Big Sur Stage Kids (\$5,000), Captain Cooper School Parents Club (\$11,500), Esselen Tribe of Monterey County for Big Sur land maintenance and cultural events (\$8,500), Keep Big Sur Wild (\$2,500), Mid Coast Fire Brigade

See WINE next page



Will and Mark Chesebro — the winemakers behind Chesebro Wines in Carmel Valley Village — have released their first brut rosé, a pink sparkler from pinot noir grapes harvested in 2015.

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WINE

From previous page

(\$16,000), Pacific Valley School (\$11,500), scholarships for Big Sur youth (\$1,000), The Big Share (\$10,000), the Henry Miller Memorial Library (\$17,000) and the Ventana Wildlife Society (\$4,500).

Foundation adjusts curbside menus

If you're a Carmel Foundation member who's been enjoying the takeaway lunches, you should be aware that the nonprofit's newsletter this week included a notice that beginning Jan. 22, curbside pickup will only include entrées — soup and dessert will no longer be included — and the cost will be \$6 per entrée.

There are a lot of great reasons to join the Foundation, and its upcoming Valentine's Day twilight supper is one of them. Members — who are 55 "or better," as the group says — can enjoy a prix-fixe meal of prime rib, potatoes, broccoli and glazed carrots, croissants, dessert, and a glass of wine or other beverage for \$18 per person. The meal will be served at 3 p.m. To learn more, visit carmelfoundation.org.

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

ARTIST

From page 23A

weaver, fell in love with textiles as a 20-year-old college student studying in Milan, Italy. At 34, she became one of the youngest people accepted into the 97-year-old Carmel Art Association. Her looms are in a studio she rents on a Carmel Valley alpaca farm.

'Didn't speak southern'

After establishing herself in Contra Costa County as a successful artist and gallery owner, **Jennifer Perlmutter** (Aug. 4, 2023) made a bold move to Carmel in spring 2020 amid the pandemic shutdown. In 2022, she opened the Jennifer Perlmutter Modern Art Gallery on Dolores Street, where she never grows tired of a frequently asked question from visitors: "Wow! What's it like to live here?"

Carmel painter/author **Janaka Stagnaro** (Nov. 24, 2023) was working a temp job at age 22 when he noticed a co-worker sketching a dragon in the next cubicle. "Wow, I wish I could do that!" he marveled to the colleague, who encouraged him to check an instructional drawing book out of the library. The rest is history.

Painter **Germain Hatcher** (Nov. 17, 2023), owner of Imagine Art Supplies in Pacific Grove, moved as a child from P.G. to Georgia, where she flunked a fourth-grade spelling test that was administered orally because she "didn't speak Southern." Her family returned to the Peninsula when she was 16, and she graduated from P.G. High.

Mark David Baer (May 26, 2023), a visual and performance artist, enjoyed a lengthy career as a Hollywood screenwriter, video producer and graphic artist. Baer also is the former executive director of the Museum of Monterey.

The art journey of **Lisa Handley** (April 14, 2023) began after her 2011 blood-cancer diagnosis and an introduction to Montage Health's cathartic Healing Art program. Her specialties include collage and papercraft.

Multi-talented **Lisa Bryan** (Sept. 1, 2023), whose gallery is a colorful gazebo on Mission between Ocean

and Seventh, is best known as the artist who created the famous souvenir Treasure Maps of Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Fine-art photographer **Jim Lambert** (Dec. 22, 2023) won first prize with the first photo he entered at the Monterey County Fair. He now has a room in his Seaside home that is adorned with dozens of ribbons and awards on every wall.

Marlene Cresci-Cohen (Sept. 8, 2023) traces her minimalist style of painting to her Buddhist learnings and embraces a nickname, "Sunyata" — meaning "the empty, full silence" in Buddhist philosophy — which she received from her meditation teacher.

Venture Gallery painter **Noriko Yoshikawa-Constant** (Jan. 27, 2023), a native of Japan, met her husband, Bob Constant, in 1975, when he stopped at her father's inn amid a 2,360-mile backpacking trip and asked permission to do his filthy laundry. When he pretended he didn't know how to use the machines, she washed the clothes for him. They've been an item ever since.

Her father's house

Besides being a Carmel Valley Art Association jewelry artist, **Pamela Forman** (March 24, 2023) sometimes sings with the bebop jazz and country-western band fronted by her husband, Bruce. Her stage moniker is Pinto Pammy.

Fabric artist **Emily Owens** (Dec. 1, 2023), co-owner of Pacific Grove's Tessuti Zoo with fellow artist **Barbara Clark**, had a shop in Topanga Canyon during her "hippie days." Her customers there included Barbra Streisand and Sissy Spacek, among other celebs. Clark is a painter whose dad was a professional musician in Chicago. He played with Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey and Lou Diamond, and was friends with Tony Bennett.

Jess Soriano (July 7, 2023) went to college as a pre-med major — her parents' plan, not hers — but couldn't be happier about her decision to pivot toward art. At 30, she's a painter, muralist, printmaker, science illustrator, filmmaker, and mentor at Monterey's Youth Art Collective.

Painter and fused-glass artist **Nancy Olaeta** (April 7, 2023) was with her sister one day when they serendipitously dropped into an open house in Pacific Grove. When the real estate agent excitedly told them, "An artist lived here!" the revelation was no surprise. The artist was **Joe Ataide**, their father, a celebrated early California modernist and former president of the Carmel Art Association.

Part 2 of this column will appear in next week's Carmel Pine Cone.

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

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BY MATT COX

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Carmel Art Association, P.G. art center welcome New Year

FIVE EXHIBITS open this weekend at the Pacific Grove Art Center, including “Back at It,” by David Hohmann. The gallery will have a reception for the artists Friday from 7 to 9 p.m.

A longtime local who has a studio in Marina, Hohmann uses watercolors, acrylics and pen & ink to explore surrealism in great detail. His creations are influenced by the art that adorned underground magazines in the 1960s and 1970s.

Hohmann’s artistic process involves little planning. Instead, he lets his creativity lead the way.

“Every drawing starts fresh, with no

mogonies: Creation Myths”) and Lee Cox (“Time Capsules”), and a collaboration between two Monterey High School students, illustrator Nantai Mendoza and photographer Montana Cota (“Urban Fantasies”).

The shows will be on display through Feb. 22. The art center is located at 568 Lighthouse Ave.

■ All-Members display

On display at the Carmel Art Association through the month of January is an All Member Show — which is exactly what it sounds like.

“To kick off the new year, all 80 of CAA’s current Artist Membership have come together to dazzle the gallery walls with fresh new artworks,” the gallery’s Lilia

iana Mendez said. “From stunning paintings to captivating sculptures, the versatile talents of our artist members are on display, reflecting their diverse and refreshing perspectives.”

A reception is set for Jan. 13 from 4-7

p.m., which will coincide with the town’s monthly Art Walk. “Join us as we celebrate 2024’s arrival with local art, live jazz, wine and refreshments,” Mendez added.

The gallery is located in Carmel on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth.

■ ‘Open Ground’ artists

Celebrating the creativity that’s fostered at Open Ground Studios, Sunset Center’s Marjorie Evans Gallery welcomes “Open Ground,” a two month-long show featuring art by Eva Boynton, Terese Garcia, Bernadette Renois, Denese Sanders, Carol

Diggery Shields, Diane Danvers Simmons, Jenny Webster and Anna Ylvisaker. All are members of the group.

Located in Seaside, Open Ground Studio provides studio space for “creative adults of all ages, backgrounds, and experience to explore and develop their art in a safe and collaborative community.” It was founded in 2013 by Sanders.

The Marjorie Evans Gallery will have a reception for the artists Jan. 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. It is also open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. while the theater is hosting performances. Sunset Center is located and San Carlos and Ninth in Carmel.

Everybody reads The Pine Cone

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

conceived plan, “ he explains. “I create as I draw — I let the artwork piece itself together.”

Also new at the P.G. art center are exhibits by painters Amy Small (“Soul Direction”), Helen MacKinlay (“Cos-



Painter David Hohmann uses watercolors, acrylics and pen & ink to explore surrealism in his work, which is on display at the Pacific Grove Art Center through late February.

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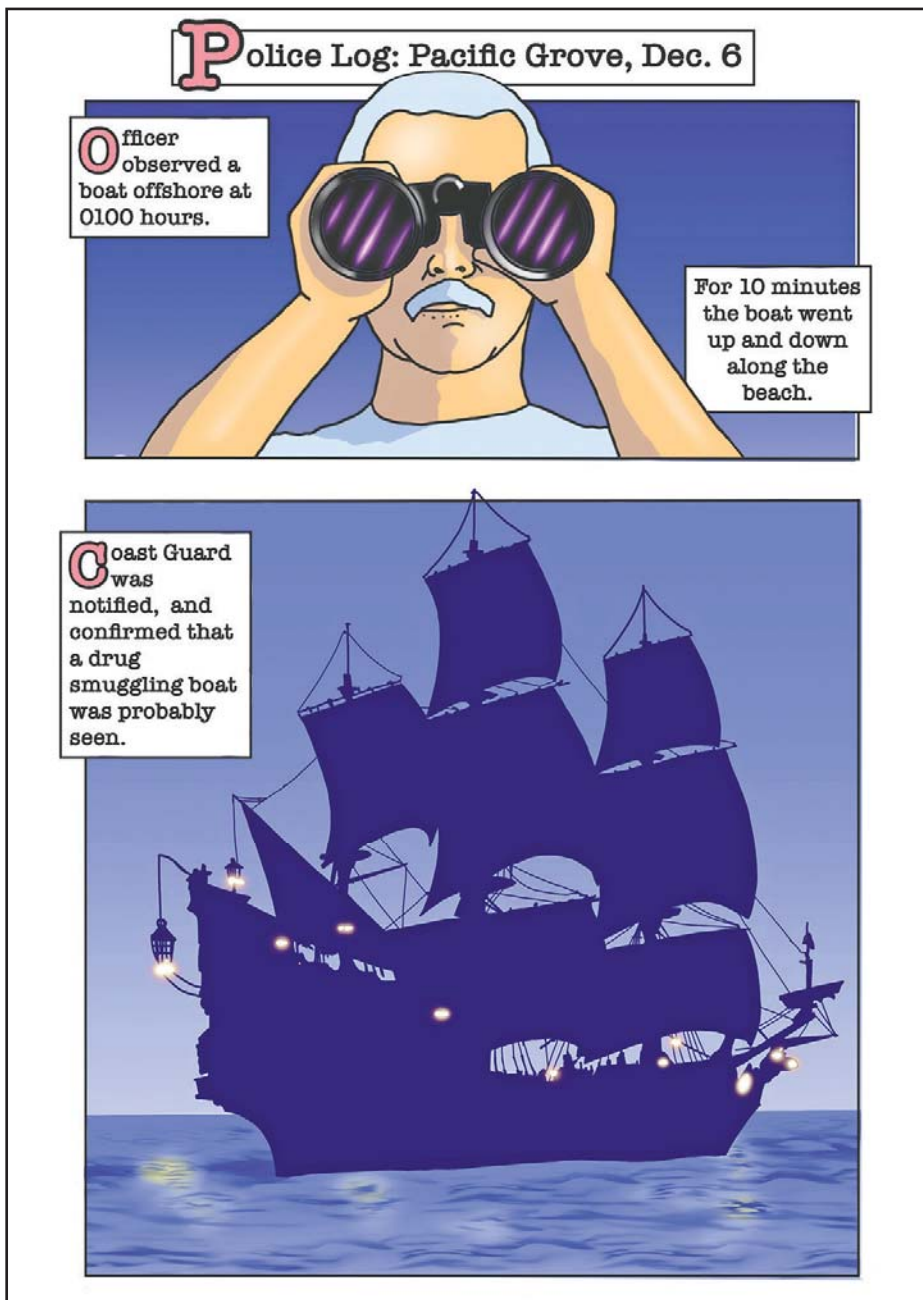
Service Directory continues on next page

Police Log: Pacific Grove, Dec. 6

Officer observed a boat offshore at 0100 hours.

For 10 minutes the boat went up and down along the beach.

Coast Guard was notified, and confirmed that a drug smuggling boat was probably seen.



MUSIC

From page 31A

ists of Carmel presents its Winter Concert Sunday, 3 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church in Monterey.

The group, which features more than a dozen members, will showcase the music of composer **Thomas LaVoy**, who will be on hand to talk about his creative process.

The concert will feature an array of soloists, including soprano **Aimee Puentes**, tenor **Arthur Wu**, baritone **Oliver Chiang**, cellist **Thomas Shoebottom** and violinist **Dave Dally**.

Tickets are \$30 and will be available at the door. The church is located at 501 El Dorado St.



Singer and guitarist Casey Frazier has a busy week to start off the New Year, with performances in Carmel, Camel Valley and Monterey.

■ Wintereise in Big Sur

Singer **Andrew Munn** and pianist **Peter Grunberg** perform composer Franz Schubert's song cycle, "Wintereise," Friday, 7 p.m., at the Henry Miller Library in Big Sur.

Known for his "warm and elegant" voice, Munn has also made a name for himself as an activist opposed to coal mining. A native of Australia, Grunberg has been featured as a soloist by the San Francisco Symphony. "Experience Schubert's epic meditation on winter," the library's **Magnus Toren** said.

The library is located at 48603 Highway 1. Visit henrymiller.org.

■ Live music Jan. 5-11

Bernardus Lodge & Spa in Carmel Valley — pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Saturday at noon), singer and pianist **John Harris** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Reija Massey** (pop, rock and country, Sunday at noon), singer and guitarist **Adrea Castiano** ("From Johnny Cash to Amy Winehouse," Thursday at 4 p.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

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

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

Cibo restaurant in Monterey — **The Dave Holodilloff Duo** (bluegrass and jazz, Sunday at 7 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and singer and pianist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Tuesday at 7 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam**

Astrup (jazz and swing, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St.

Cypress Inn — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Friday at 7 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Loktionov** and singer **Debbie Davis** (cabaret, Saturday at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday at 8 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Sunday at 11 a.m. and Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh, Carmel.

Estéban Restaurant in Monterey — guitarist **Catherine Broz** (Spanish music, Friday and Saturday at 5:30 p.m.). 700 Munras Ave.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m. and Thursday at 7 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.

Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel — **Andrea's Fault Duo** (jazz and blues, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), **The Gil Cadilli Jazz Duo** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.

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

Intercontinental Hotel in Monterey — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Terrence Farrell** (Latin music, Sunday at 9 a.m.), singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Monday at 6 p.m.). 750 Cannery Row.

Julia's Vegetarian Restaurant in Pacific Grove — singer and guitarist **Rags Rosenberg** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Smith** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave.

See LIVE page 39A



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Continues from previous page

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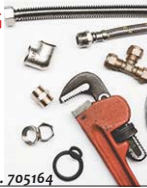
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2. MOOMPA Guadalupe 2 SW of 2nd, Carmel By The Sea, CA 93921. Mailing address: 568 5th Street, P.O. Box #2634, Carmel By The Sea, CA 93921.

business as: DIAZ LANDSCAPING, 1020 Trinity Ave., Apt. E, Seaside, CA 93955. Registered Owner(s): EMANUEL DIAZ LOPEZ, 1020 Trinity Ave., Apt. E, Seaside, CA 93955.

S/ Anthony Lombardo This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 12/18/2023. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232256

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 23CV003756 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, John Raymond Giordano III, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

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NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the residence address of a registered owner.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232264 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Val's Party Rentals Salinas, 822 West Acacia Street, Salinas, CA

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the residence address of a registered owner.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232165 The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: ANTHONY CELSO CONSULTING & LOGISTICS, 7912 WESTWOOD DR., APT. N 157 GILROY, CA 95020, County of MONTEREY

NOTICE OF HEARING: DATE: Jan. 19, 2024 TIME: 8:30 a.m. DEPT: 15 The address of the court is 1200 Agujaito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232253 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232257 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Monterey Bay Pirate Jerky, 11 Shady Lane, Monterey, CA 93940

Batch 31 Ref. No.: <SEE EXHIBIT "A"> Assessment No.: <SEE EXHIBIT "A"> NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER ASSESSMENT LIEN YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER ASSESSMENT LIEN. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232153 Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1. FLOWER FAIRY APOTHECARY

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20232253 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

APN: 012-335-014 TS No.: 23-05267CA TSG Order No.: 8781600 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED JUNE 26, 2008. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

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January 31 - February 4, 2024 AT&T PEBBLE BEACH PRO-AM Publications dates: Jan. 26 & Feb. 2 Meena Lewellen (831) 274-8655 - meena@carmelpinecone.com Jung Yi-Crabbe (831) 274-8646 - jung@carmelpinecone.com Jessica Caird (831) 274-8590 - jessica@carmelpinecone.com

LIVE

From page 37A

La Playa Hotel — **The David Morwood Band** (jazz, Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m., Sunday at 4 p.m.). Bud's Bar, Camino Real and Eighth, Carmel.

The Links Club — **The Imaginary Band** featuring singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (rock, Friday at 7 p.m.), **Blind Pass** (rock, Saturday at 7 p.m.), Singer-Songwriter

Showcase (Tuesday at 7 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (bluegrass and jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Dan Cortes** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), multi-instrumentalist **Gary Regina** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive.

Massa Tasting Room in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Sunday at noon). 69 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Melville Tavern in Monterey — singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Tuesday at 6 p.m.). 484 Washington St.

Midici Pizza in Monterey — **The Iban Lee Trio** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

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.

Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa — pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (pop and jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Martan Mann** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Peter Cor** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (originals, classics and "under-the-radar" gems in many styles, Monday at 6:30 p.m.), mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (bluegrass and jazz, Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Dan Cortes** (Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Adrea Castiano** ("From

Johnny Cash to Amy Winehouse," Thursday at 6:30 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

Pearl Hour in Monterey — **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz, Wednesday at 8 p.m.). 214 Lighthouse Ave.

The Sardine Factory in Monterey — singer and guitarist **David Conley** (pop and rock, Friday and Saturday, Tuesday through Thursday at 7:30 p.m.). 701 Wave St.

Salty Seal Pub in Monterey — **Vinyl Revival** (rock, Friday at 8 p.m.), **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Saturday at 8 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Dan Frechette** (Thursday at 8 p.m.). 653 Cannery Row.

Sly McFly's in Monterey — **Lost & Found** (rock and r&b, Friday at 9 p.m.), **INXSensation** (tribute to INXS, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

Trailside Cafe in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Dan Cioper** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **S.R. Laws** (rock, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

VIN Wine Bar + Bottle Boutique — singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Sunday at 3:30 p.m.). 237 Crossroads Blvd.

Wild Fish restaurant in Pacific Grove — **The Lighthouse Jazz Quartet** (Friday and Thursday at 6 p.m.). 545 Lighthouse Ave.

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CALENDAR

Jan. 11 - Community Night at the Library presents: When Brains Meet Buildings: A Conversation on the Intersection of Neuroscience and Architecture. Join professor, neuroscientist and author, Dr. Michael A. Arbib, for a thought-provoking presentation. 7 p.m. at Carpenter Hall, Sunset Center, Carmel, and online. Register on the website: www.carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org Hosted by the Carmel Public Library Foundation. Cost: free; \$10 suggested contribution. Questions? info@carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org or (831) 624-2811

Jan. 13 - Join the National Steinbeck Center for an artist's reception from 5:30-7 p.m. See our newest exhibition "Artists in Parallel: Griffith J. Davis and John Steinbeck", featuring a stunning collection of photography from renowned American Civil Rights photojournalist, diplomat and filmmaker, Griffith J. Davis. Tickets are \$10 each or \$5 for members. This event is



21+. Please visit www.steinbeck.org "events" for more information.

Jan. 13 - Enjoy a lighthearted evening of music from Yale University's The Whiffenpoofs, the oldest collegiate a cappella ensemble in the nation. You'll hear jazz standards and other hits from across the decades. Reception at 6 p.m., concert at 7 p.m. St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 28005 Robinson Canyon Road, Carmel Valley. \$35 adults, \$25 students/children, under 5 free. <https://whiffs.ticketbud.com/carmel-2024>

Jan. 15 - "Tasting Place: Exploring Monterey Wine Country." Kim Stemler, executive director, Monterey County Vintners and Growers Association, will share her knowledge about the unique and varied characteristics of Monterey County wines. Please join us at 2 p.m. Carmel Woman's Club. San Carlos and Ninth, Carmel-by-the-Sea. \$10 guest/members free.

Feb. 14 - Baum & Blume's Intimate Sweethearts Dinner! Surprise your "special someone" with an exquisite four-course Valentine dinner served in a cozy setting. The chefs have created a very special menu! Book a table ahead - space is limited! Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito, Carmel Valley. (831) 659-0400.

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Contact your rep today to reserve space in our next edition of *Healthy Lifestyles* — January 19, 2024

Meena Lewellen (831) 274-8655
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Jessica Caird (831) 274-8590
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January 31 - February 4, 2024

AT&T PEBBLE BEACH

PRO-AM

PUBLICATION DATES: JAN. 26 & FEB. 2

Focus shifts to best PGA pros and most exclusive celebrities!

THIS YEAR'S AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am promises all-new excitement with a smaller — and better — field of PGA Pros, a more select group of amateurs and celebrities, and a new format to make it even friendlier to the crowds that flock to the Monterey Peninsula every year to enjoy not only the competition and camaraderie on the golf courses, but the area's great shops and restaurants. And that means tens of thousands of visitors will be looking to the Peninsula's No. 1 source for local news — The Pine Cone — for our colorful coverage.

Don't miss your chance to be a part of it!

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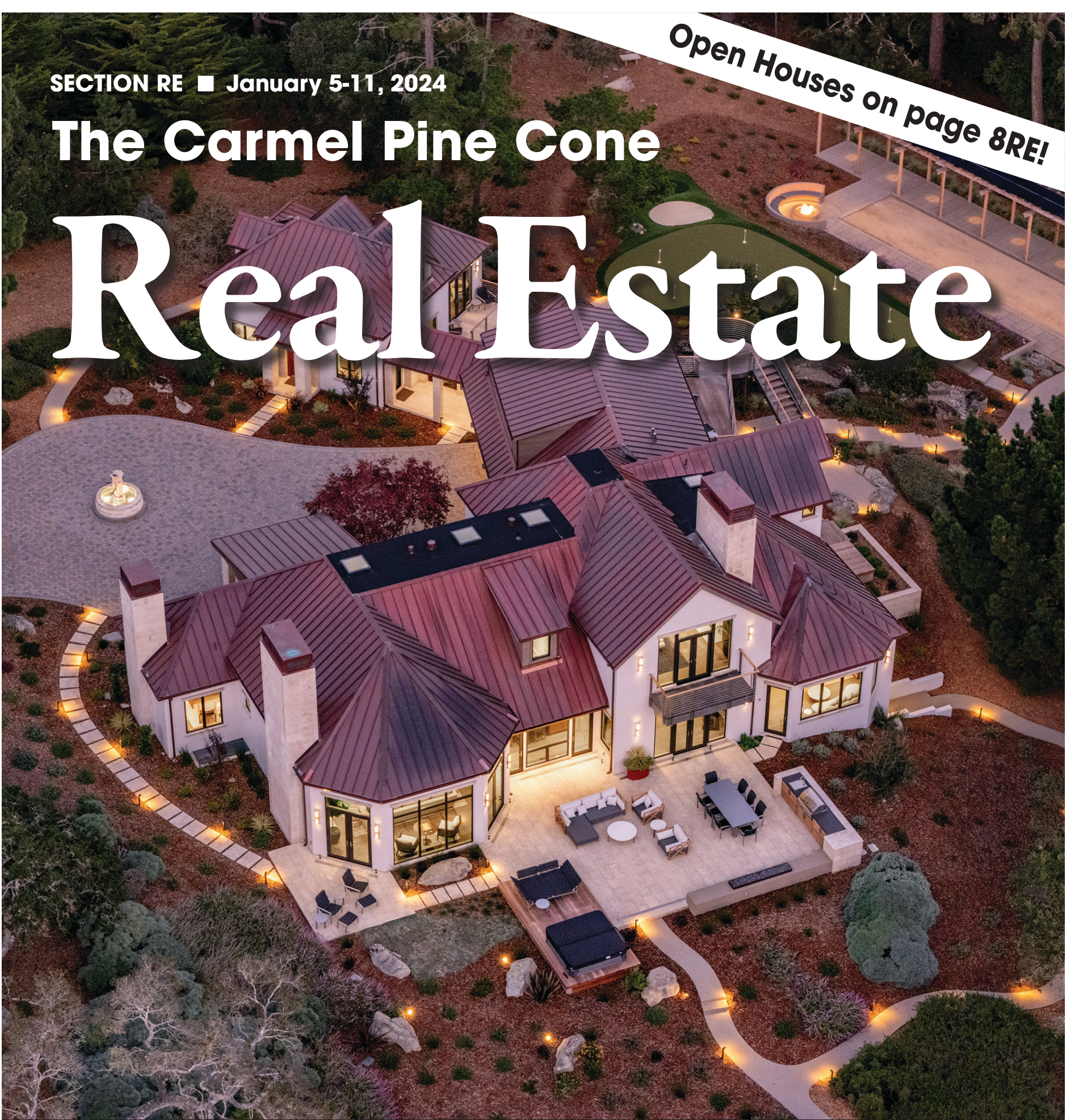
CIRCULATION: 42,000 (INCLUDED ONLINE AND IN PRINT)

SECTION RE ■ January 5-11, 2024

Open Houses on page 8RE!

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate



**COLDWELL
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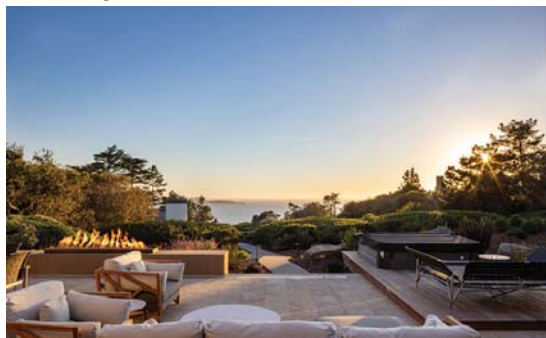
■ This week's cover property, located in Pebble Beach, is presented by Tim Allen of Coldwell Banker Global Luxury Realty. (See Page 2 RE)

TA

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate

January 5-11, 2024



3225 Macomber Drive, Pebble Beach
7 Bedrooms, 8 Full & 2 Half Bathrooms
7,455 Total Sq.Ft. | 3.16 Acre Lot
\$39,000,000

Located near the world-famous Pebble Beach Resorts, this architectural masterpiece is a testament to opulence, providing a lifestyle that seamlessly blends with the breathtaking natural surroundings. The property's comprehensive renovation was recently completed with meticulously landscaped grounds encompassing 3.16 acres with jaw-dropping views of Carmel Bay, Point Lobos, and the grand Pacific. The main and guest houses include ~7,500 square feet of living space with 7 bedrooms, 8 full/2 half bathrooms, and an incredible list of amenities to entertain friends and family, including a putting green, bocce ball court, and much more. All of these unique attributes combine to create an unmatched private oasis in proximity to renowned golf courses, exclusive clubs, and the quaint village of Carmel-by-the-Sea around the corner.

PebbleBeachMasterpiece.com

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Real Estate Sales Dec. 24 - 30

Escrows closed: 19
Total value: \$85,273,500

Big Sur

47020 Highway 1 — \$12,000,000
 Rideout Big Sur Properties LLC to
 Big Sur CG South Owners LLC
 APN: 419-211-003/004

Carmel

Junipero Street, NW corner of First Avenue — \$644,000
 Clare Heydman to Patricia Martin and Jeffrey Miller
 APN: 010-113-002

Lincoln Street, 3 SE of 11th Avenue — \$3,663,000
 Alan Adler to David and Dianne Rey
 APN: 010-159-011



25498 Hatton Road, Carmel — \$7,185,000

25498 Hatton Road — \$7,185,000
 Asher Seaton Homes LLC to Anthony Stratakos
 and Chryssa Maragos
 APN: 009-192-005

See **HOME SALES** page 4RE

24323 San Marcos Road, Carmel

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4 Beds, 4 Baths ■ 2,812 Sq. Ft. ■ \$3,795,000 ■ 24323SanMarcosRoad.com

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Scenic Road 5 SE of 9th Ave, Carmel
 SP: \$8,671,577 ■ Rep. Buyer



2633 16th Ave, Carmel
 SP: \$3,275,000 ■ Rep. Seller



Dolores 2 SW of 11th Ave, Carmel
 SP: \$3,155,000 ■ Rep. Seller



7075 Valley Greens Cir, Carmel
 SP: \$2,850,000 ■ Rep. Seller



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Carmel ■ 3 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$5,499,000 ■ www.ViewsOnSanJuan.com



OPEN SUN 11AM-2PM
25820 Hatton Road

Carmel ■ 4 beds, 4.5 baths ■ \$4,950,000 ■ www.25820HattonRoad.com



Carmel ■ 4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$4,750,000 ■ www.3334MartinRoad.com



Carmel Valley ■ 3 beds, 3 baths ■ \$2,950,000 ■ www.ElCaminitoCarmelValley.com



OPEN SAT 12PM-3PM
& SUN 11AM-1PM
3125 Hermitage Road

Pebble Beach ■ 4 beds, 4 baths ■ \$2,595,000 ■ www.3125HermitageRoad.com



Carmel ■ 3 beds, 2.5 baths ■ \$2,500,000 ■ www.10475FairwayLane.com



Salinas ■ 3 beds, 2 baths ■ \$1,799,000 ■ www.61CorraldeTierraRoad.com



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HOME SALES

From page 2RE

Richard Rammel to Eric Needleman
APN: 185-052-011

The Sea Haven LLC to Arturo and Patricia Vargas
APN: 031-277-073

See ESCROWS page 11RE

Carmel Valley

110 Del Mesa Carmel — \$1,050,000

George and Kathlee Myers to Barbara Vinje and Marcia McNally
APN: 015-447-021

9542 Maple Court — \$1,575,000

Bonnie Crocket to Sally and Jay Hudson
APN: 416-531-025

8023 River Place — \$3,000,000

Jennie Borden to Daniel and Jamie Huber
APN: 157-041-007

24 Rancho Fiesta Road — \$3,200,000

Gonzales

500 S. Alta Street — \$14,000,000

Dole Fresh Vegetables Inc. to RCM Lands LP
APN: 020-041-015

King City

50577 Wild Horse Road — \$6,425,000

Collins Vineyards Inc. to Jerry Rava
APN: 235-072-021

Marina

3084 Abrams Drive — \$500,000

The Sea Haven LLC to Elaine Perez
APN: 031-274-060

3004 Tyndall Way — \$564,000



24 Rancho Fiesta Road, Carmel Valley — \$3,200,000



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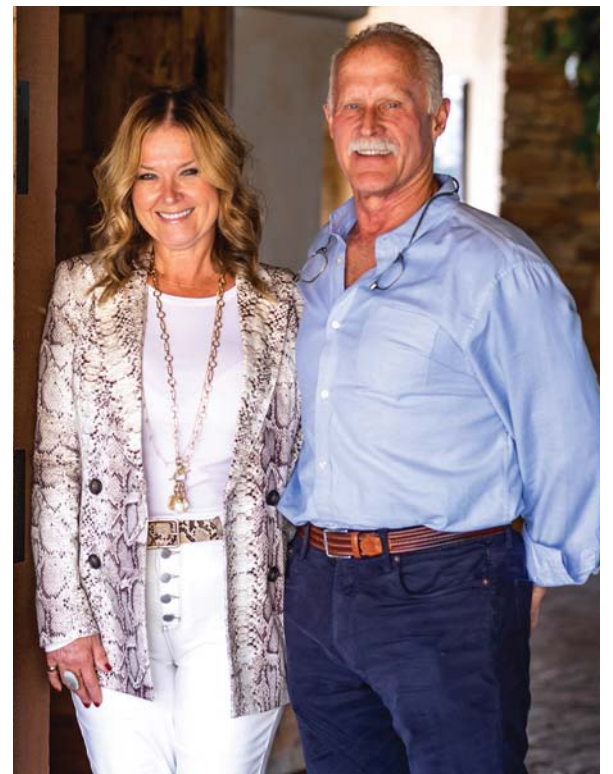
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A surprise gift rings in the New Year on an asphalt field of dreams

MY STANDARD reply to the question of what I want for Christmas is, "nothing."

It simplifies things. I get the perfect presents: gift cards. They always fit, don't go out of style, and you never have to exchange them. The downside is that you're never surprised because where you can use them is prominently displayed. Besides, it's hard to surprise someone who has decked the halls as many times as I have. This year was different. I received a gift that was so amazing, it sent me down a memory lane that was more than 50 years long. Hint: Suddenly I need neatsfoot oil.

I joined the old Burroughs Adding Machine Company in Detroit, Mich., right out of college. The company kindly sponsored a fast-pitch softball league. I played for the

alone as a salesman, often on the road. When my son, Tony, began playing T-ball and Little League baseball, I got it out to play catch with him. "How about a game of catch?" became a call to action we both cherished.

I coached his Little League team, so Big Daddy became useful showing the kids how to snag ground balls and catch pop-ups. Little League, high school, college, moving to California, Tony getting married — the years flew by speedier than a Nolan Ryan fastball.

Hopelessly damaged

I always brought the glove with me when we moved. As the decades piled up, merely thinking about playing catch threatened to trigger the need for Tommy John surgery.

I kept it in the storage unit of our carport. This past summer, the carport needed a new roof. I moved the car out and kept away from the storage unit while the work was being done. When I opened the storage unit, I found everything was soaked. The contractor had left the unit's ceiling uncovered while it rained. Big Daddy, was beyond reclamation.

Tony visited at Christmas. We had lunch at Woody's at Del Mesa. He took me over to his car after lunch, opened the trunk and brought out a new Easton baseball glove with Flex-Action palm. Then he pulled out his own mitt and said, "How about a game of catch?"

There we were in the parking lot, tossing around a baseball. We were only 25 or 30 feet apart. My hand/eye coordination had deteriorated, but my errors were



PHOTO/KARLA GERVASE

Jerry Gervase, hand in glove with son Tony, asks, "How about a game of catch?"

overlooked. To anyone passing by, it looked like a casual game of catch, Tony and me tossing an official major league baseball, hearing it thwack into our soft leather mitts. Me imagining grounders and pop-ups, short hops, pegs to second, around the horn — the heater! I was Mays making "The Catch," Brooks going far to his right to snag a screaming grounder, Kaline firing a one-hopper to Freehan to nab the runner at the plate.

We were sharing a pleasure so simple poets and philosophers have struck out trying to measure it — as if a gift from God needs explaining. It was the spiritual connection of two generations coming together savoring one of life's sweet spots. It was endless giving and receiving, love and happiness pitched and caught, tossed back, caught once more, again and again, back and forth, across the parking lot, across the years, with each catch becoming a memory nesting in the webbing of my new glove.

Hours of smiles

Something magical happened. For a few brief moments the years faded away. Suddenly, I was the offspring of my own childhood. As an adult, I was enjoying something I loved as a young boy. I had not lost the joys of youth. They stayed with me all my life and were being replayed on an asphalt field of dreams.

My arm is just a little sore as I write this, even though I doubt my fastball exceeded Del Mesa's 25-mph speed limit. It took hours to get the smile off my face. I didn't sleep with the new mitt, but I thought about it.

I'm looking forward to the new baseball season with rejuvenated enthusiasm. I'll watch the Giants play on television. And I'll wear my mitt, often smacking my fist into the well-oiled deep pocket, ready to react, because as my youngest brother, Jim, told me, "You just never know when one will come whistling through the TV."

Contact Jerry at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.

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

Scenic Views

By JERRY GERVASE

advertising department's team. I needed a baseball glove, so, for about 10 bucks, I bought a Louisville Slugger Big Daddy leather glove with TRI-Action, premium cowhide palm, and rawhide lacing. It served me well, efficiently trapping baseballs in its deep pocket.

I didn't use it much after the first few years. Making a living and raising a family got in the way of recreational baseball. Plus, for more than 20 years, I was working

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COURTNEY STANLEY 831.293.3030

BIG SUR COAST



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LaPuestaBigSur.com
VILIA KAKIS GILLES 831.760.7091

MONTEREY/SALINAS HIGHWAY



24680 Avenida Principal
5 BD | 4.5 BA | \$5,000,000
GraceMerrittHomes.com
GRACE MERRITT 831.200.4334

PACIFIC GROVE | OPEN SAT & SUN 11-1



904 Del Monte Boulevard
3 BD | 3.5 BA | \$4,150,000
904DelMonteBlvd.com
J.R. ROUSE 831.277.3464
MATTHEW VELASQUEZ 831.254.3949

CARMEL



Casanova 3 NE of 7th
4 BD | 3.5 BA | \$3,588,000
RiddollsProperties.com
RIDDOLLS TAYLOR TEAM 831.236.4663

PEBBLE BEACH | OPEN SAT & SUN 1:30-3:30



3089 Hermitage Road
4 BD | 2 BA | \$2,500,000
3089HermitageRoad.com
PATRICK & KATIE RYAN 831.238.8116

MONTEREY



7855 Monterra Oaks Road
2.72 ACRES | \$1,895,000
MickPfaffProperties.com
MICK PFAFF 831.588.2154

PACIFIC GROVE



2505 David Avenue
5 BD | 3 BA | \$1,575,000
2505DavidAvenue.com
DEAN PROVENCE 831.277.8622

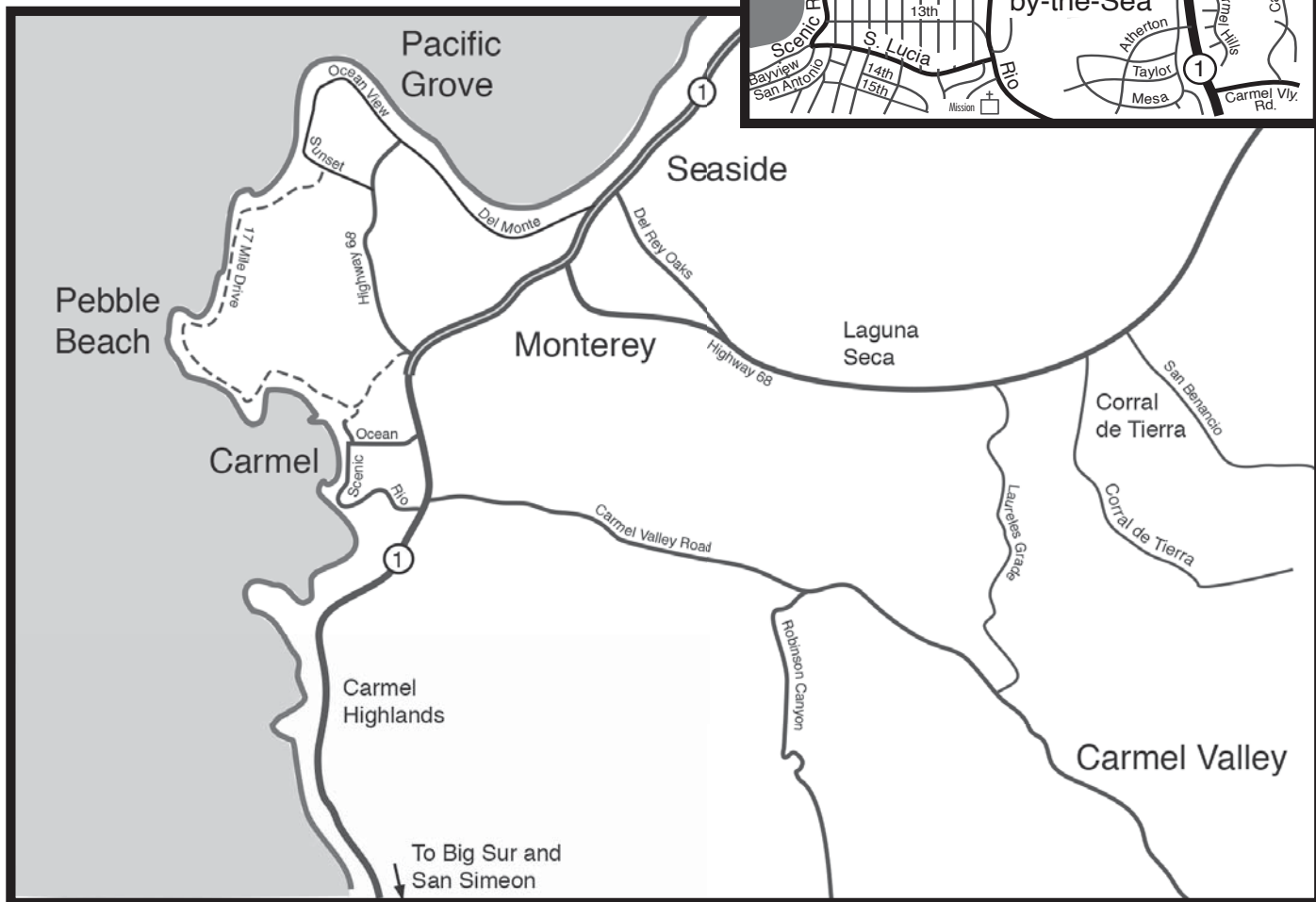
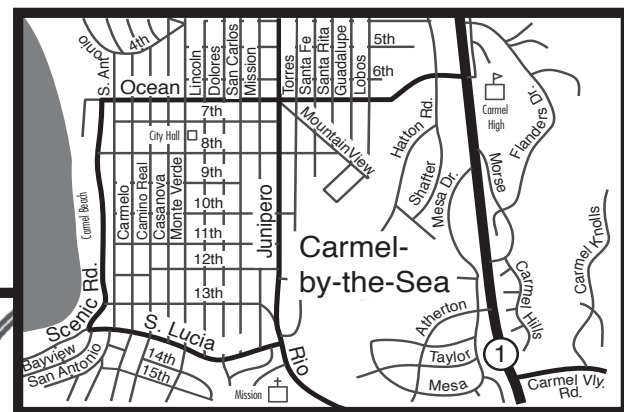
CARMEL | OPEN SAT 1-3



37 Del Mesa Carmel
2 BD | 2 BA | \$1,150,000
37DelMesaCarmel.com
CLAUDIA MCCOTTER 831.293.3391

MONTEREY REGION BROKERAGES | CAPITOLA | CARMEL | CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA | CARMEL VALLEY | PACIFIC GROVE

This Weekend's OPEN HOUSES January 5-7



CARMEL		
\$649,000	1bd 1ba	Su 1-3
251 Hacienda Carmel Carmel Pat Parrish		
\$895,000	2bd 2ba	Su 1-3
114 Del Mesa Carmel Carmel Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-8768		
\$960,000	2bd 2ba	Su 1-3
24501 Via Mar Monte #74 Carmel The Jones Group 917-4534		
\$1,070,000	2bd 2ba	Su 1-3
281 Del Mesa Carmel Carmel Sotheby's Int'l RE 293-3391		
\$1,150,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1-3
37 Del Mesa Carmel Carmel Sotheby's Int'l RE 293-3391		
\$1,150,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1-3 Su 12-2
163 Del Mesa Carmel Carmel Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-8768 / 404-401-8647		
\$3,095,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 1-4
24675 Outlook Drive Carmel Sotheby's Int'l RE 710-1655		
\$3,095,000	3 bd 2 ba	Sa 11-2 Su 12-3
24439 San Juan Rd Carmel The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Inc. 224-0020		
\$3,195,000	4bd 3.5ba	Su 12-3
27467 Schulte Road Carmel Coldwell Banker Del Monte 521-5401		
\$3,695,000	4bd 2.5ba	Sa 12-3
3462 Lazarro Dr Carmel Coldwell Banker Del Monte 206-0129		
\$3,695,000	4bd 2.5ba	Su 1:30-4:30
3462 Lazarro Dr Carmel Coldwell Banker Del Monte 206-0129		
\$3,795,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 11-1
24323 San Marcos Road Carmel Carmel Realty 238-1498		
\$3,950,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 1-3
0 Lincoln 3NW of 13th St Carmel Coldwell Banker Del Monte 596-6118		
\$3,950,000	3bd 2ba	Sa Su 1-3
0 San Carlos 5 SW of 12th Carmel Carmel Realty 574-0260		
\$4,950,000	4bd 4.5ba	Su 11-2
25820 Halton Road Carmel Carmel Realty 293-3668		

CARMEL VALLEY		
\$1,199,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 12-2
2 Laguna Robles Carmel Valley Sotheby's Int'l RE 601-6271		
\$1,250,000	3bd 2ba	Sa Su 12-3
184 Calle De La Ventana Carmel Valley Carmel Realty 333-6325		
\$2,195,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 11-1
28003 Mercurio Road Carmel Valley Coldwell Banker Del Monte 227-3914		

MONTEREY		
\$895,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa Su 2-4
1360 Josselyn Canyon Road 33 Monterey Monterey Coast Realty 717-7959		
\$1,685,000	3 bd 2ba	Fr 4-6 Sa Su 11-2
1190 7th St Monterey The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Inc. 877-3300		

PACIFIC GROVE		
\$1,140,000	3 bd 1 ba	Sa 11-2 Su 1-3
913 Syda Dr Pacific Grove The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Inc. 917-5388		

\$1,645,000	4bd 3.5ba	Sa 1-4 Su 12-2
150 18th Street Pacific Grove Sotheby's Int'l RE 293-4190 / 915-8217		
\$1,749,000	3bd 3.5ba	Sa 12-2 Su 11-1
501 Forest Avenue Pacific Grove Sotheby's Int'l RE 601-6453 / 925-216-0647		
\$1,925,000	4bd 3ba	Fri 1-3 Sa 2-4
138 3rd St Pacific Grove Coldwell Banker Del Monte 238-5793 / 236-8800		
\$1,925,000	4bd 3ba	Su 1:30-3:30
138 3rd St Pacific Grove Coldwell Banker Del Monte 402-9955		
\$2,300,000	4bd 3ba	Fr 3-5
403 Central Avenue Pacific Grove Sotheby's Int'l RE 293-4190		
\$2,300,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 12-2 Su 1-3
403 Central Avenue Pacific Grove Sotheby's Int'l RE 915-2800 / 917-9886		
\$2,476,000	Su 12-2	2bd 2.5ba
520 Lighthouse Avenue, Unit 203 Pacific Grove Platinum One Real Estate The Debby Beck Group 915-9710		
\$2,700,000	Su 12-2	2bd 2.5ba
520 Lighthouse Avenue, Unit 303 Pacific Grove Platinum One Real Estate The Debby Beck Group 915-9710		
\$2,950,000	Su 12-2	2bd 2.5ba
520 Lighthouse Avenue, Unit 204 Pacific Grove Platinum One Real Estate The Debby Beck Group 915-9710		

\$2,965,000	Su 12-2	3bd 2.5ba
520 Lighthouse Avenue, Unit 202 Pacific Grove Platinum One Real Estate The Debby Beck Group 915-9710		
\$3,335,000	Su 12-2	3bd 2.5ba
520 Lighthouse Avenue, Unit 302 Pacific Grove Platinum One Real Estate The Debby Beck Group 915-9710		
\$3,578,995	Su 12-2	3bd 2.5ba
520 Lighthouse Avenue, Unit 201 Pacific Grove Platinum One Real Estate The Debby Beck Group 915-9710		
\$4,150,000	3bd 3.5ba	Sa Su 11-1
904 Del Monte Boulevard Pacific Grove Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-3464		

Pacific Grove reads The Pine Cone

PEBBLE BEACH		
\$2,500,000	4bd 2ba	Sa Su 1:30-3:30
3089 Hermitage Road Pebble Beach Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-8116		
\$2,595,000	4bd 4ba	Sa 12-3 Su 11-1
3125 Hermitage Road Pebble Beach Carmel Realty 277-1224 / 320-4161		
\$3,995,000	4bd 4ba	Sa Su 11-1
2833 Paradise Park Road Pebble Beach Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-8116		

\$5,195,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 11-2 Su 2-4
1633 Sonado Road Pebble Beach Scherling Properties 238-8584		
\$5,975,000	5bd 5.5ba	Sa Su 1-4
1100 Arroyo Dr Pebble Beach Coldwell Banker Del Monte 356-8123		

SALINAS		
\$935,000	4bd 2.5ba	Sa 11-3 Su 1-3
11 New Britain Cir Salinas Coldwell Banker Del Monte 236-8800 / 238-5793		

SEASIDE		
\$860,000	2bd 1ba	Su 1-3
1129 Wanda Avenue Seaside Sotheby's Int'l RE 254-3949		

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POLICE LOG

From page 4A

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Carmel area: Law enforcement took a report of vandalism on Ocean Avenue.
Carmel Valley: Suspicious circumstances were reported on Old Ranch Road.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found camera at Del Mar was brought to the department for safekeeping.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Traffic stop on Ocean Avenue at 1236 hours resulted in the driver being arrested for narcotics and stolen property. Officer observed a dark GMC SUV with no front or rear license plate and conducted a traffic stop. The 39-year-old female driver from Salinas was found to be on probation, so a search of the vehicle was conducted. The officer located approximately 4 grams of methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia, and burglary tools. Also in the vehicle were stolen checks from the Salinas area. She was arrested and later released on a citation.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost cell phone reported on San Carlos Street.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury accident on Carpenter Street. Vehicle was towed.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 36-year-old female Paso Robles resident was arrested at Junipero and Seventh for DUI. She was released on a citation to appear in court.
Pacific Grove: Welfare check on dogs in a vehicle on Spruce.
Pacific Grove: Child protective services report about a Forest Avenue location.
Pacific Grove: A subject reported suspicious activity occurring at her apartment on Lighthouse Avenue.
Carmel Valley: Adult Protective Services report of financial abuse on Robinson Canyon Road.
Carmel Valley: Law enforcement responded to a verbal domestic dispute between a male and a female on Via Carmelita.
Big Sur: Daughter reported her mother suicidal in the Big Sur area.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found wallet on Junipero.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found camera on San Antonio Avenue.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: DUI investigation at Ocean and Del Mar at 2155 hours. A 61-year-old male from New Mexico was released on a citation to appear in court.
Pacific Grove: Fraudulent activity reported on Funston Avenue.
Pacific Grove: Officers dispatched to Monarch Lane on a report of suspicious circumstances. It was later determined no crime had occurred.
Pacific Grove: Dead body found at a residence on 11th Street.
Carmel area: A citizen at the Crossroads shopping center was placed on a 72-hour mental health hold.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Missing person report on Junipero.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found cell phone on Junipero.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost wallet on Santa Fe.
Pacific Grove: Female on Eighth Street was placed on a mental health hold.
Pacific Grove: Domestic dispute reported at an Eighth Street residence.
Carmel Valley: ID theft reported by a Del Mesa Carmel resident.

CHRISTMAS

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury accident on Junipero.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found jewelry on Ocean Avenue.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report taken for a lost purse on San Carlos Street.
Pacific Grove: Informational report regarding a domestic dispute on Lighthouse Avenue.
Pacific Grove: Domestic dispute on Funston Avenue. Information only.

Carmel area: Deputies arrested a 34-year-old female, a 37-year-old male and a 65-year-old male at the Crossroads shopping center for property-related crimes.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

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

Pacific Grove: Vehicle on Carmel Avenue was marked for 72-hour parking.
Pacific Grove: Fall on public property on Hillside Avenue.
Carmel Valley: A work truck's window was broken while it was parked in a lot on Quail Meadows Drive, likely from a rock thrown from another vehicle's tires.

THE ARNOLD TEAM 2023 SALES

Honored to have represented the Sellers & Buyers of these and other lovely homes in 2023!



San Antonio 3 SW of 12th SP: \$10,500,000 • Rep. Buyer
 700 Tesoro Road SP: \$3,880,000 • Rep. Buyer
 Santa Fe 3 SW of 8th SP: \$3,200,000 • Rep. Seller
 127 Las Brisas Drive SP: \$2,350,000 • Rep. Seller



14390 Mountain Quail Road SP: \$1,400,000 • Rep. Seller
 110 Del Mesa Carmel SP: \$1,050,000 • Rep. Seller
 110 Del Mesa Carmel SP: \$1,038,000 • Rep. Buyer
 952 Hellam Street SP: \$1,000,000 • Rep. Seller

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27560 Mooncrest Dr, CV	\$1,600,000	38 Calera Cyn, SAL	\$1,500,000	25429 Outlook Dr, CAR	\$1,950,000	911 Shell Ave, PG	\$1,818,000
923 Alameda MON	\$1,500,000	864 Del Monte Blvd, PG	\$1,225,000	662 Lighthouse Ave, PG	\$1,685,000	45 Del Mesa, CAR	\$1,255,000
1121 Presidio Blvd, PG	\$1,050,000	515 10th St, PG	\$979,000	1207 Presidio Blvd, PG	\$1,178,000	1107 Presidio Blvd, PG	\$1,050,000
698 Dickman Ave, MON	\$913,500	1221 Roosevelt St, MON	\$855,000	313 14th St, PG	\$980,000	519 7th St, PG	\$915,000
1232 Vallejo St, SEA	\$839,000	700 Briggs, #83 PG	\$710,000	219 Locust St, PG	\$795,000	3231 Vista Del Camino MA	\$760,000
1732 Luxton St, Seaside	\$672,000	300 Glenwood Cir, #265, MON	\$635,000	747 Las Coches Ave, SAL	\$650,000	Cnr Asilomar & Pico, PG	\$315,000

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■ “The Carmel Pine Cone is an informative, well written newspaper. Lots of hard work goes into this fine publication. Keep moving forward!”

■ “Last year wasn’t great for my family, but I have to let you know that when I turn on the computer on Friday morning or the weekend and see the Pine Cone, I smile.”

■ “Thank you for your weekly emails. Even though I’ve lived in France since 2008, I read the Carmel Pine Cone almost every week as I still have many friends and some family in the area.”

■ “I love receiving the Carmel Pine Cone through my email. Thanks for the intriguing and interesting information!”

■ “I have been a faithful reader of the Pine Cone (the email version as well as the paper one) ever since we moved to Pebble Beach from Woodside in 2001. You are very informative about whatever happens here. Thank you!”

■ “You have a wonderful publication. We read the online edition every week.”

■ “Tho’ I live 300 miles away and visit the Peninsula only once a year (for the last 35 years), I enjoy your newspaper from the first to the last page every week online and I thank you for that.”

■ “Keep up the great reporting! I like reading the truth without the spin unlike other local papers.”

■ “As a longtime reader of your paper, I want to thank you for the great job you and your team do in covering the area. And I especially like (agree with) your editorial page.”

■ “When in Tucson, I look forward to Friday mornings with great anticipation so I can download the week’s edition of the Pine Cone and read it cover to cover. This helps me feel connected to this very special community. When in our beloved Carmel, each Friday morning I jump in our electric car with our golden retriever, Daisy, by my side and race down to Ocean and Mission to get the newest edition. Daisy insists on carrying it in her mouth the entire way home. We have so much to be proud of in Carmel and the Pine Cone sits near the top of the list.”

■ “Thanks for the opportunity to read this wonderful little paper. It is much appreciated.”

■ “We’ve been email subscribers to the Pine Cone for a year now, ever since we bought a house in Carmel (we still live in Minnesota but will be retiring in a few years— can’t wait!) I really enjoy reading about our future home town.”

■ “I’m not asking that this be published, but I want to offer my thanks to you for the insights, intelligence and objectivity offered in your paper. What a contrast to most publications out there.”

■ “How refreshing to have direct, truthful, no nonsense editorials. Unfortunately, this style of writing has been lost in our feel good society. Keep at it.”

— *unsolicited reader comments*



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ESCROWS

From page 4RE

Marina

3002 Tyndall Way — \$601,000

The Sea Haven LLC to Tia and Michael Fechter
APN: 031-277-072

First Avenue — \$25,100,000

City of Marina to Marina Community Partners LLC
APN: 031-284-003

Monterey

500 Glenwood Circle unit 123 — \$475,000

Janet Neuroh to Jay Husher
APN: 001-773-014

636 Cypress Street — \$967,000

Kipra Heerman to Steve Betando
APN: 001-148-019



8023 River Place, Carmel Valley — \$3,000,000



1071 Morse Drive, Pacific Grove — \$1,500,000

Pacific Grove

1071 Morse Drive — \$1,500,000

Roger Schell to Matthew Tanzer
APN: 006-704-024

Seaside

1285 Trinity Avenue — \$675,000

SJS1321 LLC to Charles and Judith Gaughf

APN: 012-265-014

1869 Bunker Lane — \$2,149,500

Shea Homes LP to Peter Jason Partnership Companion
APN: 031-053-027

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