

The Carmel Pine Cone

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January 12-18, 2024

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Some doubt value of Highway 68 roundabouts

By CHRIS COUNTS

TO REDUCE commute times and increase safety on a road that gets heavily congested during rush hour, Caltrans and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County are considering a plan to install nine roundabouts along Highway 68 between Monterey and Salinas. The work could cost more than \$200 million, including about \$40 million in land acquisition costs.

A similar roundabout, built seven years ago near Community Hospital, has worked, eliminating the formerly notorious traffic jams on that stretch of 68.

But Dwight Stump, who lives in Corral de Tierra, contends the new Highway 68 roundabout project will do little to speed up traffic. Stump called it “a huge waste of taxpayer money” and “a runaway train” that won’t do much to improve commute times.

Worth it?

“The roundabouts are going to decrease afternoon commutes by about five minutes,” Stump told The Pine Cone. “They’re taking a 36-minute commute and decreasing it to 31 minutes, and just for two hours a day.”

Meanwhile, during non-peak driving hours, the commute would take longer because “everybody would slow down to about 15 mph nine times,” Stump said.

An alternative to roundabouts that is being considered by Caltrans and TAMC includes modifying the nine intersections “with adaptive signal control technology

Five minutes faster during rush hour, but slower the rest of the time

and enhanced lane channelization.” The price tag for that option could exceed \$250 million, including more than \$60 million for land.

Cheaper alternative?

Both plans include the installation of five underground culverts “for wildlife to use to cross under the highway,” along with safety improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Instead of either pricey plan, Stump suggests that Caltrans and TAMC should simply upgrade the signal

Big Sur: Two helicopter rescues in 24 hours



PHOTO/MCSO SEARCH AND RESCUE

This is what falling down a steep hill or seriously hurting your knee while hiking in the Big Sur backcountry will get you: A hoist into a chopper. See page 5A.

controllers at each intersection with artificial intelligence. He said the technology has proved successful in other parts of the country — reducing traffic jams by as much as 40 percent — and would be a fraction of the expense of roundabouts.

“It will cost less than \$500,000,” he said. “It will produce better congestion reduction than roundabouts.”

Stump created a website — 9roundabouts.com — to help convince residents and officials that his plan should be considered as a viable and less expensive alternative to roundabouts.

See **HIGHWAY** page 15A

Experts say police station is so decrepit it can’t be fixed

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL police station is so run down and obsolete that there’s no way to salvage it, the city council was told Monday, when committee members and consultants suggested the best path forward is to build a new station a block away at Vista Lobos at an estimated cost of \$20-plus million and repurpose the current station for an additional \$10.9 million.

“The building is worn out,” project manager Fred Meurer told the council Jan. 8. “You have been able to squeeze just about all of the life out of the building that you’re going to be able to squeeze out of it.”

Even a total remodel would result in an inadequate facility because police work has changed so significantly since the complex, which includes public works facilities, was constructed in the 1960s, he said.

A year ago, the council appointed an ad hoc committee of Mayor Dave Potter and councilman Jeff Baron to do a deep dive on options for the aging police station, which has been the subject of various proposed remodels and expansions for at least a decade.

Thorough review

Last June, the council approved a \$300,000 contract with an architect that specializes in police stations to fully assess the building’s condition, determine the facility requirements of a modern department — which has much

See **DECREPIT** page 17A



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

There is no way to renovate the Carmel Police Department’s Junipero Street station that will make it adequate for the force. A consultant and a council committee recommend moving it to Vista Lobos.

Council not impressed with \$\$\$ Car Week idea

By MARY SCHLEY

IN THE vacuum created by the loss of the Pebble Beach Tour d’Elegance and the Concours on the Avenue in downtown Carmel during Car Week, hotelier and property owner Denny Levett and resident and gallery owner Richard Kreitman proposed a similarly large event. But while the previous shows were free and open to everyone, their show would require tickets for admission — a concept that didn’t go over well with the city council Tuesday.

Yea or nay

Community activities director Ashlee Wright explained at the Jan. 9 meeting that selling tickets to a large downtown car show would create revenue for organizers, since hosting such events can be very expensive, and would provide a means of controlling the size of the crowd. The downsides might be access challenges for those who live and work inside the show’s boundaries, and slow business for restaurants and stores there.

Kreitman said the council’s feedback Tuesday would determine “whether we continue with the event we

See **CARS** page 16A

Family-owned Riverside Campground sells for \$12M

Do big prices portend big plans?

By CHRIS COUNTS

TWO YEARS after one private campground in Big Sur was sold for \$28 million, another one next door, Riverside Campground and Cabins, was bought for \$12 million.

According to county records, the Rideout family sold the resort to Big Sur CG South Owners LLC.

The Rideouts, who owned the campground for nearly half a century, confirmed the sale in a social media post last month.

“With mixed emotions, we now share our family’s next

chapter with you,” the post reads. “We have decided to retire and sell the campground — it has been a joy and privilege to host and share our special piece of Big Sur with all of you.”

Many memories

Located at 47020 Highway 1 in the heart of Big Sur Valley on 16 acres and surrounded by towering redwoods, the pet-friendly resort is home to 34 campsites with fire rings and picnic tables, 11 cabins and rooms, a bathhouse, laundromat and camp store. Offering easy access to the Big Sur River, it is particularly popular with visitors with kids.

The family thanked the many guests who made memories at the campground.

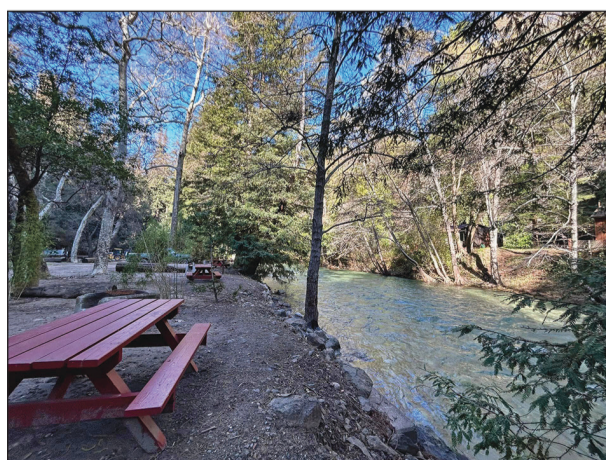
“It is hard to believe that it has been nearly 50 years and three generations since our parents embarked on the family adventure known to you all as Riverside Campground and Cabins,” the family posted on Facebook. “Our goal has always been to provide a safe and happy place for vacations, and we hope that over the years we have succeeded in that and in creating a friendly ambiance and positive experience for you all during your stays with us. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm over the years and for allowing us to be part of your countless stories of amazing camping and adventures along the coast.”

Hard work, loyalty

The family also thanked those who worked at the resort. “We could not hope to have achieved that without the hard work and loyalty of our family members and staff over the years,” the post added.

Riverside Campground and Cabins was bought by the

See **CAMP** page 18A



PHOTO/RIVERSIDE CAMPGROUND

Riverside Campgrounds and Cabins in Big Sur was sold Dec. 27 for \$12 million, two years after another campground along the Big Sur River closed escrow for \$28 million.

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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Easy to spot

She had a sense that if she moved to the Canine Capital of the Country, residents would understand her devotion to Dalmatians Charlotte and Dandelion Whine. Two years later, she realizes she was right. And she's not surprised that her dogs are better known in town than she is.

That's particularly true at Carmel Beach and the Cypress Inn, both a nice walk from their home near the Carl Cherry Center. The most common greeting she receives is, "Where are the other 99?"

Although she's enjoyed a menagerie of pets over the years — other dogs, cats, parrots, newts — Dalmatians are where her soul resides. That has inspired her to have five of the spotted dogs over the years.

"As an adult," she said, "I've never had dogs oth-



er than Dalmatians. I love all the dogs on the beach, but these are my people. They're beautiful. When people see me with my Dalmatians, I imagine they think, 'There's a rich lady with fancy pedigreed dogs.' It's not like that. It's a love affair that goes so much deeper than show."

Dalmatians, she said, are sensitive and smart and so fine-tuned, which doesn't mean hyper or high strung, but functioning on a very high level.

"They're also known as jokesters, very funny comedians," she said. "I'm constantly entertained by these characters."

Charlotte, now 12, is the queen of the cottage, the diva Dalmatian. Plus, said her person, as her soulmate, she's a Velcro dog who flanks her, following her from room to room.

Dandelion Whine, 7, was first named Dandelion after the Rolling Stones song. His person later added Whine because he does. So now his name conjures Ray Bradbury's 1957 novel, "Dandelion Wine."

Which is perfect, since his person is a Bradbury scholar.

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Pastor purchases historic La Rambla

■ Offers STRs for long-term lease

By MARY SCHLEY

PATRICE PASTOR, who has amassed considerable residential and commercial properties throughout Carmel — and a bit beyond, with Rocky Point — during the past nine years, last week bought the historic La Rambla building on Lincoln south of Ocean for \$7.5 million, according to Monterey County records. He also owns the complex to the south.

Renovated several years ago, La Rambla had been purchased in December 2017 by Ted Balestreri under a limited partnership called PHI McKee for \$6,722,000. Four years earlier, it had changed hands for \$1,425,000.

Balestreri, a partner in the Cannery Row Co., rented out its two upstairs apartments for vacation stays. Short-term rentals had been unregulated in the commercial districts until the council banned them in 2020 but grandfathered in those that existed.

In late 2020, realtor Tim Allen listed La Rambla for sale for \$9 million. He described the transaction as “a great sale” involving two well-respected developers that made the transaction “enjoyable and seamless.”

Built in 1929

The Mediterranean-style complex was built in 1929 for Carmel resident Josephine Baber by local designer Guy Koepf as apartments, with an arched arcade leading into a courtyard and garden. It now has ground-floor retail space below the two upstairs apartments, as well as storage units, according to Christopher Mitchell, managing director of Pastor’s local company, Esperanza Carmel. He said the firm

is “very pleased to add this beautiful building, with its idyllic courtyard, to our property portfolio in Carmel.”

For rent

“The purchase aligns perfectly with our goal to develop and own beautiful, characterful properties in the village,” he said. “We don’t have any immediate plans for the property other than letting out the two apartments on long-term leases, as well as the courtyard commercial unit and two



PHOTO/COURTESY TIM ALLEN

Patrice Pastor last week purchased La Rambla on Lincoln Street and is offering its two upstairs apartments for long-term lease.

vacant storage units. We have been pleased with the level of interest so far.”

The two apartments, one 686 square feet and the other 824 square feet, are being advertised for monthly rents of \$3,150 and \$3,700, respectively. Each has a roof terrace to the rear, with views of the ocean, separate storage units and a shared laundry.

“We have good interest in the courtyard unit and a number of inquiries with regard to the apartments,” Mitchell said Wednesday. “Luxury apartments like this are so rarely available for long-term lease in Carmel.”

“It’s comforting to know that it’s in good hands,” Allen commented.

RM

RYAN MELCHER
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Police & Sheriff's Log

Things lost, found and towed

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.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Medical emergency on Lincoln south of Eighth for an elderly man with dementia who was acting aggressively. Fire and ambulance personnel assessed subject, who was stable and no longer aggressive. No transport needed.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost purse reported at San Carlos and Seventh.

Pacific Grove: Stolen bicycle from a location on David Avenue.

Pacific Grove: A found pocket watch on Sloat was turned in to the police department. No owner information is known, and the item will be held for safekeeping.

Pacific Grove: A handicap placard was found in the parking lot of Grove Market. Item will be held for safekeeping until the owner can pick it up.

Pacific Grove: Fake currency was turned in to the police department. Item booked for safekeeping.

Pacific Grove: Vandalism of a vehicle on Ocean View Boulevard.

Carmel Valley: Citizen reported an abandoned vehicle at a county park on West Carmel Valley Road. Vehicle was located and towed for expired registration over six months. Vehicle also displayed a false registration tab.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

Pacific Grove: Abandoned vehicle complaint on Lighthouse Avenue.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost cell phone and wallet reported at Dolores and Fifth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost wallet at Junipero and Ocean.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost phone at Ocean and Scenic.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Guest was moved around from room to room in a hotel at Camino Real and Eighth. Hotel lost his garment bag and suits.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost cell phone at Carmelo and Third.

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



The gavel falls

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

Dec. 8 — A jury convicted Miguel Alejandro Flores, 41, a resident of Salinas, of felony child abuse, forcible rape of a child over 14, forcible sodomy of a child over 14, forcible oral copulation of a child over 14, sexual battery by restraint, and forcible lewd and lascivious acts upon a child under age 14. These constitute the first felony convictions for Miguel Alejandro Flores, and 10 of the 11 charges are strikes pursuant to California's three strikes law. Judge Pamela L. Butler presided over the jury trial. Miguel Alejandro Flores faces a maximum sentence of 103 years in state prison. He will be sentenced on Feb. 2, 2024.

On Aug. 19, 2022, 17-year-old Jane Doe was attending school online when she disclosed to her teacher that she was being physically abused and had bruises. Salinas Police responded with a social worker from the department of social services and investigated the beating of Jane Doe with a belt by Flores and Anitra Perez. The case was then assigned to Salinas Police Detective Jared Dominici who, through diligent investigation, discovered the extent to which Doe had been repeatedly sexually abused by Flores.

This case was investigated by Dominici, with assistance from Officer Oscar Solis Jr. and former Officer Daniel Martinez. District attorney investigator Alicia Cox assisted in this prosecution. The victim and juvenile witnesses in this case were assisted by victim witness advocate Estella Sanchez, and victim witness program manager Alma Sanchez.

Dec. 11 — Christopher Witherspoon, 25, a U.S. Navy serviceman and student at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, was sentenced to six years in state prison today for the May 6, 2023, collision that resulted in the death of victim Luis Hernandez, 69, of Seaside. The victim's wife, children and grandchildren gave impact statements to the court explaining how the victim's death had devastated their family.

On June 6, 2023, at approximately 3:45 a.m., Witherspoon was driving a Toyota Camry sedan northbound on Highway 1 in the southbound lanes, just north of the interchange with Highway 68 in Monterey. At the same time, victim Luis Hernandez was driving southbound in the southbound lanes. Due

See **GAVEL** page 22A

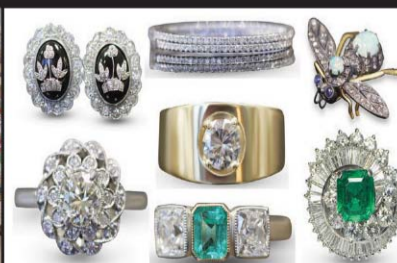
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Injured hikers need helicopter rescues

By CHRIS COUNTS

OVER A 24-hour span last week along the Pine Ridge Trail in Big Sur, rescue workers used helicopters to bring two injured hikers to safety — at nearly the same site.

The first rescue effort began Jan. 4 in the late afternoon shortly after a 19-year-old male from Atascadero fell about 250 feet down a cliff and “sustained major injuries.”

A fellow hiker was able to call 911, and rescue workers from sheriff’s search and rescue team and Big Sur Fire responded. “The team hiked in approximately 6 miles and contacted the injured man during the night,” the sheriff’s office reported.

According to the sheriff’s office, he sustained “major, non-life-threatening injuries” and “was unable to extricate himself.” Rescue workers determined that a helicopter would be needed to transport the man to a hospital, but the effort would need to wait for daylight.

Shortly after dawn

“A helicopter from the CHP’s Coastal Division Air Operations Unit, H-70, responded and performed a hoist rescue of

the hiker shortly after dawn,” the sheriff’s office explained.

“He was flown to a nearby landing zone to meet with ground rescuers from California State Parks and American Medical Response,” the sheriff said.

The man was flown to Natividad Hospital in Salinas and treated for his injuries.

Another injury

At about 3:45 p.m. the following day, Jan. 5, the word went out that a hiker had sustained a knee injury and was unable to place any weight on her leg. Like the last incident, this one happened along the Pine Ridge Trail about 6 miles east of Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park.

After state park rangers arrived on scene to assess the woman’s injuries, a helicopter was sent to bring her to a medical facility. A short time later, she was hoisted from the trail “and delivered to an awaiting ambulance at a nearby landing zone,” the report added.

Running about 23 miles from China Camp on Chews Ridge to Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, the Pine Ridge Trail is by far the most popular backcountry hiking route in Monterey County — and, as a result, the site of many trail rescues by helicopter.

POLICE SEEK HELP WITH MISSING MAN

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

PACIFIC GROVE Police are asking the public about information on a man who went missing from the city five months ago.

Police last week informed the media Wednesday that Frederick Murray Sr., 67, has been missing since July 25, 2023. His vehicle was found in Big Sur the next day.



Frederick Murray

“The investigation determined that Frederick Murray Sr. was missing from the City of Pacific Grove, and the events surrounding his disappearance placed him at risk” because of his age, PGPD said.

Pacific Grove Police Chief Cathy Madalone said Murray, who is Black, is 5 feet, 11 inches tall and weighs 280 pounds.

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FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!

Candidate series kicks off Tuesday

By CHRIS COUNTS

MAKING HER case to be the next supervisor for Monterey County's Fifth District, candidate Kate Daniels will be featured at a town hall forum Tuesday, at 3:30 p.m. at Wellspring Church in Pacific Grove.

The first in a series, the discussion is presented by Leadership Pacific Grove, which describes itself as "a local non partisan civic education group." One of the group's founders, Mike Gibbs, will moderate the discussion.

Daniels is a county planning commissioner who represents unincorporated areas of the 5th District, including Carmel Highlands, Carmel Valley and Big Sur. She is a policy advisor for Sen. John Laird, a trustee for the Monterey College of Law, and a former president of the Democratic Women of Monterey County. She's also a Carmel High School graduate who served as her class president.

In 2018, Daniels unsuccessfully ran for a seat on Monterey Peninsula Water Management District board.

In 2020, current 5th District Supervisor Mary Adams chose Daniels to replace longtime county planning commissioner Keith Vandevere, who stepped down after serving for 16 years.

Daniels lives in Carmel Valley with her husband Dan, their sons Daniel and Nicolas and their dogs Sal and Poppi.

Any questions?

According to Leadership Pacific Grove, the talk with Daniels will focus on topics critical to the "growth and development" of P.G., and residents are encouraged to join the discussion.

"Ask questions about her stance on important issues that affect our community and our county," the group suggested. "Learn more about her background, what

she's done for our community and her vision and plans for the county over the next four years."

The forum comes less than two months before Monterey County hosts primary elections for 5th District supervisor March 5. Running against Daniels are Monterey city councilmember Alan Haffa and businessman Bill Lipe. If no candidate receives at least 50 percent of the vote, the top two vote-getters will



Kate Daniels

face off again in November.

The church is located at 141 14th St.

Visit Carmel gets restaurant tax

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE NONPROFIT tourism group Visit Carmel will continue receiving and spending the small Carmel Restaurant Improvement District tax tacked onto restaurant tabs, the city council decided Tuesday. In 2019, the city's restaurant owners voted "to organize their collective efforts to increase restaurant sales" by raising money for marketing. The five-year .25 percent tax on food and drink sales was renewed last year, and city administrator Chip Rerig recommended Visit Carmel continue to receive and manage the funds. The tax now runs through June 30, 2033.



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CALBRE#s 00584641, 01069022, 01749833, 10988208, 02080988

Chamber, heritage society ask council to let them share First Murphy

By MARY SCHLEY

BEFORE CITY council members went into closed session Monday night to discuss the future of the First Murphy House, Sygale Lomas, past chair of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce, asked them to support a proposal to jointly lease the historic building to the chamber and the Carmel Heritage Society, which already uses it as its headquarters.

Located on the edge of the city park at Lincoln and Sixth, the little wood house was constructed in 1902 by 17-year-old Michael J. Murphy for his mother and sisters. It became the first of many projects he designed and built during his decades here, and his work had a significant influence on the character and architecture of Carmel. In 1990, when the cottage was in danger of being demolished, the First Murphy House Committee was formed under the auspices of the Carmel Heritage Society to relocate and renovate it.

"You received a letter from the Carmel

Heritage Society and the Carmel Chamber of Commerce outlining the proposal requesting the city to allow the two organizations to share the historic Murphy House as their joint office and second location for a visitor center," Lomas told the council Jan. 8. "It is our belief this will preserve the city's rich history and enhance the overall experience for visitors to Carmel-by-the-Sea."

Open seven days

As the heritage society's headquarters, the First Murphy House serves as an office and small museum that's open to the public at limited times. Lomas said it "has tremendous educational and cultural value," and could be open seven days a week.

"By using it as a destination for visitors and opening it up to locals, we can offer guided tours, exhibitions and educational programs that will allow people to connect with Carmel-by-the-Sea's rich history in a meaningful way," she said. "By joining forces, we can create a synergy that will benefit both organizations. We are so excited by the endless possibilities of this great public partnership."

She asked the council to back the organizations' proposal to share the lease.

Resident Cindy Lloyd, however, objected.

"At first blush, I'm completely opposed to the chamber of commerce taking over the First Murphy House," she said. "I was there when that house was moved from its original location to the current location, and the tremendous



The Carmel Chamber of Commerce and the Carmel Heritage Society want to share the historic First Murphy House, but they need the city council to approve the deal.

See **MURPHY** page 18A



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GULLO TO LEAVE CITY FOR MOUNTAIN VIEW AS SWANSON STEPS IN

By MARY SCHLEY

HIRE D EIGHT years ago as the city’s human resources director and promoted to assistant city administrator in 2017, Maxine Gullo is leaving for a much more lucrative and challenging post as human resources director for the City of Mountain View, where she’s set to start work Feb. 5.

Planning director Brandon Swanson will be stepping in as acting assistant city administrator while retaining his responsibilities in community planning and building.

‘Presence, leadership’

City administrator Chip Rerig said he’ll miss Gullo’s presence, leadership and camaraderie.

“She really has been my right hand,” he said. “We’ve had a really exceptional professional relationship over the past eight years.”

In her role, Gullo oversaw human resources, IT, finance, risk management, city clerk services and other administrative tasks. Her salary range was equal to that of the police chief — \$186,300.52 to \$226,449.24, plus benefits, as of Jan. 1.

In Mountain View, she’ll support more than 880 employees by overseeing “all aspects of human resources, including recruitment, retention and succession planning, classification and compensation management, benefit administration, employee and labor relations, performance management, leave management, employee training and development, and coordination of employee engagement and

wellness initiatives,” according to the City of Mountain View, which announced her hiring Jan. 8. Gullo’s salary will start at \$265,000 plus benefits.

“She’s going to have a team of 13 to 15 people,” Rerig said. “It’s a great professional development opportunity. I’m



Maxine Gullo



Brandon Swanson

happy for her and I’m proud of her, despite the fact that I’ll miss her.”

Tough competition

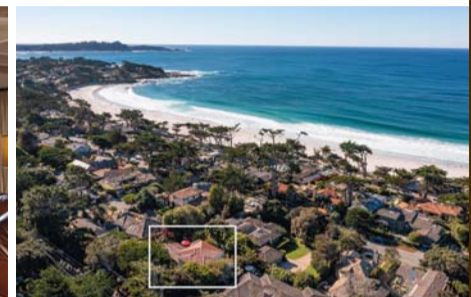
Rerig said the change also points to the fact that it’s tough to recruit people for high-level positions when competing with larger cities with huge budgets, especially those funded by tax dollars from tech giants.

“We can’t touch their salaries, we can’t touch their benefits,” he said. “When I post executive-level positions, I’m conscious that I’m competing with San Francisco Bay area employers.”

Swanson, who became planning director three years ago, is already training for

See **GULLO** page 19A

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Ex-Peninsula resident filed fake income tax returns, got big refunds

■ Could serve 10 years

By KELLY NIX

A FORMER Pacific Grove man who purchased more than \$360,000 in new vehicles and gold bars after filing bogus tax returns and receiving nearly \$900,000 in tax “refunds” admitted to the crimes in federal court last week and faces up to a decade in prison when he’s sentenced in April, according to prosecutors.

On Jan. 4, Richard Jason Mountford, 44, pleaded guilty to conspiring to file false claims against the United States, according

to the U.S. Attorney’s Office Eastern District of California.

From 2016 to 2020, Mountford conspired with another person — who prosecutors do not identify — to submit false income tax returns claiming refunds to which they were not entitled, according to prosecutors.

“Mountford and his co-conspirator filed income tax returns in their own names, as well as in the names of two other unwitting individuals, that falsely reported they were employed by a company, received wages from that company, and had federal taxes withheld from those wages, fraudulently

claiming a refund was due,” U.S. attorney Phillip A. Talbert and acting deputy assistant attorney general Stuart M. Goldberg of the Justice Department’s tax division said Jan. 4.

Most of the returns filed as part of the scheme, prosecutors said, also falsely reported alimony payments “in an effort to increase the refund amount.”

New cars

The Justice Department said Mountford was a former Monterey County resident. An online database indicates Mountford is 44 years old and lived in Pacific Grove from Sept 2020 to July 2023.

The bogus returns led the IRS to issue \$873,723 in supposed refunds to Mountford. In turn, he deposited \$757,075 into his bank accounts and purchased about \$360,000 in new cars, prosecutors contend.

“He also distributed to his co-conspirator

about \$170,000 in cash and gold bars for his role in the scheme,” the court said.

The charges were a result of a criminal investigation by the Internal Revenue Service. Attorneys John C. Gerardi and Charles A. O’Reilly of the tax division and Assistant U.S. Attorney Dhruv M. Sharma are prosecuting the case.

U.S. District Judge Troy L. Nunley is scheduled to sentence Mountford on April 11. Though Mountford faces up to 10 years in prison, his actual sentence “will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory factors and the federal sentencing guidelines,” which take into consideration a number of variables, the Justice Department said.

“Fraudulent tax preparation schemes utilizing false and inflated deductions cost the government millions of dollars each year,” Talbert explained.

Prosecutors take aim at ‘for rent’ crooks

By KELLY NIX

THE DISTRICT attorney for Monterey County is warning those looking for a place to live to be aware of rental scams, which she said have meant thousands of dollars in losses for some victims.

Jeannine Pacioni said last week that while the sophistication level of the scams varies, they share the same core method: fraudsters pose as property owners or representatives from leasing companies to collect rent and security deposits from unsuspecting would-be tenants.

“The victim suffers the double blow of losing a housing opportunity and losing thousands of dollars,” she said.

The swindlers usually advertise a house for rent based on a legitimate listing. To make it appear that their scheme is real, they sometimes send tenants lease agreements and applications and request processing fees for credit checks.

Verify

One local woman posted on social media last September that she lost thousands of dollars after falling prey to a rent thief on Facebook Marketplace. The swindler took her deposit for a rental house via payment apps Zelle and Cash App.

“When you visit the rental location, try to make contact with the current residents, see if the landlord left a physical rental

sign with a phone number to call, or look up the location yourself and call the owner/leasing office to verify they have placed an apartment/house up for rent,” Pacioni recommended.

‘Difficult to trace’

Most of the fraudsters are not local, and deputy district attorney Mirco Haag told The Pine Cone Tuesday that those overseas often employ so-called money mules, who are “either tricked or paid to assist in moving the money from the U.S. victims to the overseas perpetrators.”

Like legitimate property managers and landlords, rental shysters use various payment systems to accept money, which makes it difficult to distinguish whether a rental is bogus based on a payment type alone.

“That being said, most scammers prefer methods that are fast, difficult to trace and difficult to reverse,” such as retailer gift cards, wire transfers, MoneyGram and Western Union transfers, Haag said.

The county’s real estate fraud unit in 2023 received referrals for 22 cases, with four of them involving fake rental arrangements. In the previous year, there were 30 referrals to the real estate fraud unit but those cases involved mostly deed forgeries, timeshare fraud and cases where people

See SCAM page 22A



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Miller returns as fire chief, announces Jaws of Life money

By MARY SCHLEY

ANDREW MILLER, who retired as the fire chief in Monterey in 2013 after more than 34 years in the service — and who has been collecting a sizable state pension since then — is back in charge of the department. With the abrupt retirement of Fire Chief Gaudenz Panholzer in late 2023, the Monterey City Council last month approved a contract with Miller to take over as interim chief through Jan. 1, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$115.45.

Because Miller is collecting state taxpayer-funded retirement to the tune of around \$178,000 annually, he can only work 960 hours over the course of a year, according to law.

The Monterey City Council

unanimously approved his contract at a Dec. 15, 2023, special meeting. According to the council, Miller “has the special skills and knowledge required to perform this work of limited duration.”

Miller, a lifelong Pacific Grove resident and brother of architect Eric Miller, started his career as a seasonal firefighter with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in South Monterey County. He went on to run Pacific Grove’s fire department and then became chief in

Monterey, retiring with a total of 14 years in the position between the two agencies.

The City of Monterey provides fire service for Pacific Grove, Carmel, Monterey Regional Airport, Sand City, the Naval Postgraduate School and La Mesa Village near the Monterey courthouse.



Andrew Miller

Administration to buy new extrication equipment — commonly referred to as the Jaws of Life. The equipment will be installed on more of the department’s engines.

“This will allow first responders to begin rescue measures as soon as possible without having to wait for tools to arrive from another engine, which is critical for the care of those injured in crashes,” he said.

Delays in providing care to crash victims impact the “golden hour” of survival, a core principle in the emergency medical services industry, according to Miller. Getting to the scene, freeing the victim if necessary, and beginning treatment and transport as quickly as possible all contribute to the person’s chance for survival.

\$50K grant

On Jan. 8, Miller announced MFD received a \$50,257 taxpayer-funded grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety

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Agency sues housing developer who defaulted on homeless projects

■ Pacific Grove ‘dodged a bullet,’ councilman says

By KELLY NIX

THE STATE attorney general Monday took legal action against Southern California developer Shangri-La Industries for alleged violations related to seven homeless housing projects in the state — including four in Monterey County. The lawsuit also names as defendants Salinas and King City, which had agreements with the company to convert motels into permanent housing for the indigent.

Between 2020 and 2022, Los Angeles for-profit developer Shangri-La received more than \$114 million in state funds from the Department of Housing and Community Development — as part of the agency’s Project Homekey program — to purchase and fix up seven California motels as permanent housing for homeless. Nonprofit company

Step Up was chosen to be the on-site property managers for Shangri-La’s housing, which included two projects in Salinas and one in King City. In 2022, the City of Pacific Grove considered partnering with Shangri-La to house the homeless.

However, a 35-page complaint filed by California Attorney General Rob Bonta at the behest of the state housing agency, accuses Shangri-La — which defaulted on all seven housing projects — and Step Up with breach of contract, fraud and other allegations related to Project Homekey.

Foreclosures

Among the accusations facing Shangri-La, whose CEO is named Andy Meyers, is that it granted and recorded deeds of trust to secure loans from third-party lenders without getting the state housing department’s approval, as the company was supposed to do.

“Shangri-La then failed to notify the department — as each of the” Project Homekey “agreements required — that it defaulted on those loans, which caused private lenders to record notices of foreclosures,” the complaint says.

The lawsuit also notes that the seven properties that Shangri-La purchased in Monterey County, Thousand Oaks, Redlands and San Bernardino County “are at risk of imminent foreclosure.”

For six of the seven properties, the developer failed to place restrictions so the Homekey properties would be used only to support housing for homeless people for a set time, the AG’s office said.

The civil complaint seeks, among other things, an appointment of a receiver for each property to ensure they’re run according to the Homekey agreements, monetary damages “in the total amount of funds” paid to Shangri-La by the state, and the recording of the use restrictions on the properties.

Ryan Seeley, general counsel for the housing and development department, said the agency is making every effort to ensure that Project Homekey funds are used for homeless housing and not to enrich developers.

“The state is taking legal action, as Shangri-La has misrepresented multiple financial considerations and has yet to cure a number of breached contractual obligations to the state and the Homekey program,” Seeley told the Pine Cone Tuesday. “The difficulties [Shangri-La] find themselves in are of their own making.”

King City officials had planned to convert a Days Inn at 1130 Broadway to 45 apartments, a project the rural city of roughly 14,000 people hoped would help it contend with its homeless population. The roughly \$12 million project was supposed to be completed last year, but that didn’t

happen.

In Salinas, Project Homekey provided more than \$36 million to renovate motels and buildings on three different properties to house more than 200 homeless people, including two residences that were also supposed to open in 2023.

For a project on Work Street in Salinas and other properties, the AG’s office accuses Shangri-La of not paying debt on the property, which caused the court to appoint a receiver, and failing to pay contractors hired to renovate the motel, which resulted in a mechanics lien, according to the complaint.

Salinas Mayor Kimbley Craig told The Pine Cone that many of the subcontractors working on the Salinas Homekey projects are local, and that Shangri-La’s alleged “serious breaches of their contractual obligations have created challenges for us and many other cities across the state.”

“We want to ensure projects we do in the city are successful, particularly when local businesses are contracted,” Craig said. “Shangri-La’s failures have affected the cities, the state, the residents of those facilities as well as the many contractors who have done work on these projects but have not been paid by Shangri-La.”

Step Up president Tod Lipka told the San Bernardino Sun in late December that it was shaken by the news regarding the financial issues with the seven Homekey projects, and said Step Up also had not been paid by Shangri-La for some of its services, including in Salinas, for the last two years.

The newspaper reported Lipka as saying that the responsibility for all finances and property acquisitions falls on Shangri-La, whereas Step Up handles the property management and homeless services side of the operations.

“We were really surprised and devastated to see it had gotten to that level of breach of contract,” Lipka said, adding that Step Up had completed several previous projects with Shangri-La.

Violations

The housing department announced in December that it was investigating Shangri-La over the seven motel conversion projects. It pointed to what it called “numerous failures” and “serious violations.” And several lawsuits naming Shangri-La were filed in Monterey County Superior Court late last year over the unfinished projects.

King City city manager Steve Adams told The Pine Cone this week that it’s been in frequent contact with the state housing and development agency and is complying with its request for information about the project there.

See DEVELOPER page 19A

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Leon Panetta to speak at lunch later this month

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

FORMER SECRETARY of Defense Leon Panetta will be the featured speaker at the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce annual membership luncheon later this month, the group announced.

The event is Jan. 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Monterey Marriott, 350 Calle Principal, and is open to the public. The cost to attend is \$85 for members and \$100 for prospective members. It includes lunch, with a choice of grilled steak salad or vegetarian mushroom ravioli. RSVP is required.

The event will begin with an “informative and

engaging” presentation from Secretary Panetta on the topic, “2024 — The Challenges to Democracy at Home and Abroad,” according to the chamber.

Following the presentation, MPCC leadership will introduce the 2024 board of directors and honor the membership milestones of more than 600 businesses.

There will be several breaks during the luncheon, giving attendees the opportunity to network with fellow members, potential customers, and community leaders, the chamber said.

For information about sponsorship opportunities for the event or to register to attend, go to montereychamber.com or call (831) 648-5350.

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NEW YEAR'S EVE FIGHT ENDS WITH MAN'S ARREST FOR SPOUSAL ABUSE

By MARY SCHLEY

A SEASIDE man accused of repeated spousal abuse and violation of a criminal protective order was arrested again by Carmel Police Sgt. Jacob Clifford late on New Year's Eve following a "domestic violence incident" on San Carlos north of Seventh that resulted in injuries to the victim, identified as Jane Doe.

Rigoberto Lopez, 31, was transported to Monterey County Jail and booked on charges of felony spousal abuse, misdemeanor violation of a domestic violence restraining order, and committing a felony while out on bail.

According to Monterey County Superior Court records, Lopez has two other pending cases against him, a misdemeanor and a felony,

for domestic violence and violating a criminal protective order barring him from going anywhere near the victim.

On Jan. 1, 2023, he was charged with misdemeanor domestic abuse after being arrested by Seaside Police officers, and on Aug. 23, 2023, court records indicate Lopez was arrested again in Seaside for felony spousal battery and misdemeanor obstruction of a police officer, Chas Brown, who recently joined the force.

Still free

On Sept. 8, 2023, Judge Rafael Vazquez issued a restraining barring Lopez from going anywhere near the woman he had allegedly abused and set his bail at \$20,000.



Rigoberto Lopez

But two months later, Lopez reportedly violated the order again. He pleaded not guilty in front of Judge Jennifer O'Keefe and was released on \$7,500 bail Nov. 17. On Nov. 30, Monterey County deputy district attorney Robin Duffy asked O'Keefe to remand Lopez into custody because he violated the order, but O'Keefe denied her request and ordered Jane Doe to return to court Feb. 1 for Lopez' preliminary hearing.

He was still out on bail when police were called to the area of San Carlos and Seventh shortly after 10:45 p.m. Dec. 31, 2023, on report of a physical fight between Lopez and Doe in which she was injured. The district attorney's office has not yet filed a new case against him, however, and he was released from jail.

Solar panels at Monterey school to save 10 percent

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A MONTEREY graduate school announced it will generate more than half the electricity it needs due to newly installed solar panels.

The Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey announced last week that about 60 percent of the campus' power will be generated through the installation of solar panels on eight campus buildings. The school expects it will save more than 10 percent on its utility costs.

"We want to be as energy efficient and sustainable as possible," facilities director Andrew Hernandez, who spearheaded the project, said. "This is a significant step forward in our climate action plan."

Former students help

The design and installation of the solar project was done by MYNT Systems, a Santa Cruz energy company that employs several Middlebury alumni, including Annie Otfinoski, who graduated with a master's degree in environmental policy in 2021.

"What took the longest was developing the project and the decision-making process," Otfinoski said. "There are a lot of things to consider when financing a large solar project, but the next steps were the quickest and easiest, as our engineers did all the design; then we got all the necessary permits and got to building."

The solar project targets the largest buildings with the most significant energy usage, including the Samson

Student Center, Holland Center, the library, Center for Nonproliferation, and the Casa Fuente, Morse, McGowan, and McCone buildings.

The systems on Morse and Holland are operating and the others will be online soon.

"The Institute is going to save over 10 percent on their utility costs and reduce their emissions," said Otfinoski. "Most of the power on campus is being offset with the solar system, which is a huge sustainability effort."

Middlebury's solar project was made possible through a 20-year power purchase agreement with Wunder Power, which financed the project and will own and operate the solar arrays. Middlebury did not specify the cost of the project in a media release.

"The agreement provides Middlebury a cost-effective source of on-campus renewable energy," the school said.

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Council favors moving Scout House

Would sell or develop vacant land

By MARY SCHLEY

IN ONE of the city's tales as old as time, the Carmel City Council decided Tuesday that the Scout House — the historic building at Mission and Eighth that's been shut for two decades due to ADA concerns — should be moved onto another city property so the land underlying it can be put to better use.

Built by Michael J. Murphy in 1931, the house was acquired by the city in 1971, and it was added to the historic inventory in 2002, the year before it was closed.

In the subsequent years, minor repairs were made — and an Eagle Scout candidate led some restoration efforts there — but despite the city council's repeated efforts to figure out what to do with it, little has transpired.

Last April, seeking someone to take

hazardous materials, and figuring out how to do all that in an area with very little parking and staging areas. A 10-year lease and a 10-year operations and management agreement would have covered everything from insurance, liability and business licenses, to paying fair market rent and covering maintenance expenses and other ongoing costs. That rent could be offset by sponsorships, renovation costs, fundraising, and subleasing the property.

Not surprisingly, the city had no takers.

Here we are, again

At the council meeting Tuesday, public works director Bob Harary noted the house remains in disrepair, with a long list of issues. Exterior improvements are also needed, and the structure must be brought into code.

He provided several options to proceed, including renovating it, selling it, trying again to get someone else to take it on, relocating and rehabilitating it a la First

Murphy House at Lincoln and Sixth, or leaving it as is, again.

Resident Richard Kreitman, who has a longtime affiliation with the Boy Scouts and has made proposals in the past to renovate the Scout House, suggested moving it at an estimated cost of \$300,000, renovating the historic building for another \$500,000 to \$750,000, and selling the property at Mission and Eighth for development, ideally at a profit.

Carmel Cares founder Dale Byrne expressed his frustration in trying to take on the Scout House.

He was willing to invest \$1 million in it, he said, but was thwarted by an unwieldy liability waiver no one on his team was willing to sign.

"I said, 'There's going to come a day when you're going to be begging people like me to do projects like this,'" Byrne recounted, but the city wouldn't budge. "Nobody is going to sign that document."

He urged the council to sell the Scout House.

"The whole thing is really sad," Byrne added.

"I love the building, but I'm not going

See SCOUT page 22A



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

The 93-year-old Scout House has sat empty and unused for more than 20 years due to ADA issues. Now it might be relocated.

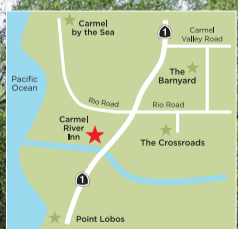
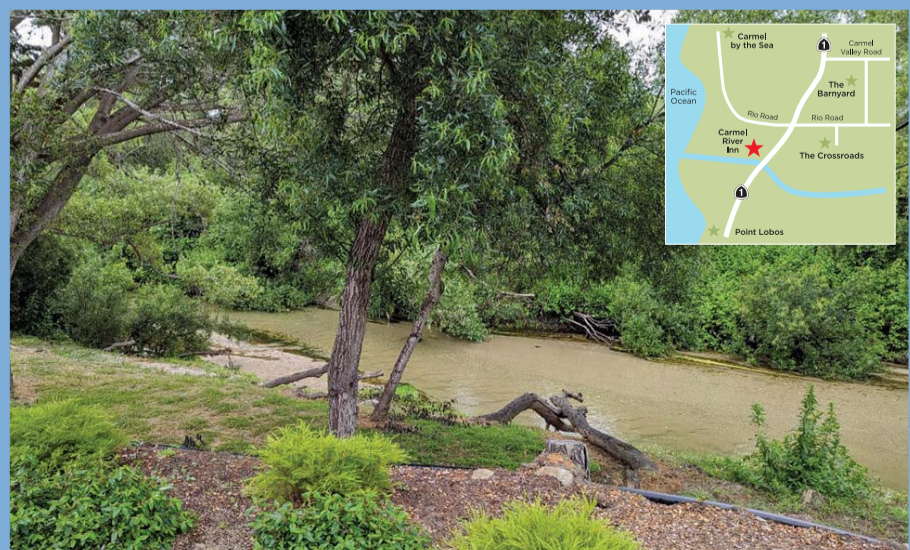
over the property, the council voted to publish a 124-page document outlining what would be needed from any entity willing to step up and rehabilitate the 93-year-old building at an estimated cost of at least \$400,000 to \$500,000, along with an operations and maintenance agreement and a site lease.

The renovation would include installing at least one, and possibly two, elevators to meet ADA requirements, renovating the bottom level so it's habitable — perhaps triggering a requirement for seismic upgrades — replacing electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems, remediating



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Pebble Beach, CSUMB partner to offer scholars program

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

CAL STATE Monterey Bay and the Pebble Beach Company have joined together for a new \$1.4 million hospitality-centered program for young people.

The Pebble Beach Scholars program, the university said, builds on an existing partnership that has connected students from CSUMB in the Sustainable Hospitality Management program with internships at Pebble Beach restaurants and hotels.

The relationship has also allowed students to participate in prestigious events including the U.S. Men's and Women's Opens, the Concours d'Elegance and the AT&T

Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

It will offer students up to \$5,000 per year for tuition, books and other costs related to their education for up to four years, and continued campus housing during academic breaks.

"More importantly, it will allow them the opportunity to learn from top industry experts at one of the most prestigious resorts in the world as they continue their studies, and to receive help with job placement after graduation," CSUMB said.

CSUMB president Vanya Quiñones said the partnership with the P.B. Co. is unique and said the program would be successful.

"I am so appreciative of Pebble Beach Company for being a pioneer with Cal State Monterey Bay with the launch of our first-ever scholars program that provides financial support, internships and career development for students along with housing and potential career advancement after graduation," she said.

Pebble Beach Company CEO David Stivers said this week that CSUMB graduates already fill many important roles in the company and the program would build on the



PHOTO/COURTESY CSUMB

CSUMB president Vanya Quiñones joined Pebble Beach Company CEO David Stivers Thursday morning for an event announcing a new scholars program.

company's strong bond with the university.

"The commitment of our employees and the special service they provide is what makes Pebble Beach Resorts a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our guests," Stivers said.

Paige Viren, professor and executive director of the university's sustainable hospitality management program, said the program "uniquely intertwines rigor with valuable industry insights" and is a "gateway to unprecedented opportunities in a flourishing sector."

"Working with Pebble Beach Company is a unique and distinguished privilege for our program," Viren said. "Our students have the extraordinary opportunity to acquire practical experience with a trailblazing organization that sets the benchmark for others to follow."

Scholar applications for Fall 2024 are currently being accepted. For more information on the program and how to apply, email pviren@csumb.edu.

eliminate all the serious accidents at that intersection. Safety is our end game and our No. 1 goal."

One thing that Caltrans and TAMC are not considering is widening Highway 68.

Responding to concerns that the roundabouts would slow traffic, Bilse said that's the point.

"They're designed to slow down traffic," he explained. "That's how they save lives."

Taking concerns seriously

Responding to comments expressed by Sargenti that roundabouts could slow response times by emergency vehicles, Bilse said his agency plans to "work with him" to find a solution. He also suggested that roundabouts will reduce collisions, thereby reducing emergencies.

"We are taking his concerns very seriously," Bilse said. "We're trying to find the right balance."

If the roundabouts are approved, the work would start on the east end of Highway 68. No more than a couple roundabouts would be constructed at any given time.

While plans call for one lane channels that enter the roundabout, Bilse said planners will also consider two-lane channels, like the ones installed on the roundabout at Highway 1 and Highway 68.

The public comment period for the project's environmental impact report ended Jan. 8. The project's environmental impact report is anticipated to be certified by October 2024. Some land still needs to be acquired to make the project possible, and that's expected to be done by May 2027. The design of the work should be ready by June 2027, with construction starting in February 2028. Whichever project is selected is expected to be completed — pending no delays — by November 2030.

Safety is a priority

TAMC project manager Doug Bilse said Stump's idea has merit, and it's possible such technology could be incorporated into the second alternative. But he noted that it won't make Highway 68 safer. He said the two projects that are being considered improve safety for motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians and wildlife.

Bilse conceded the roundabouts could slow down traffic during non-peak hours, but the extra time spent on the road between Salinas and Monterey won't amount to more than a minute or two. And with that comes increased safety for motorists.

"Roundabouts are safer," Bilse reported. "Every time someone runs a red light, you have a chance of a major injury. Roundabouts reduce the severity of collisions and



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CARS

From page 1A

propose or drop it.”

He pledged their event, as should any that takes place in the public right of way, would benefit the community through local charitable efforts.

“As a resident and a business owner, I wouldn’t want to see any event taking over the streets of Carmel during Car Week or any other time — unless it’s for the benefit of our community through our nonprofits and charities,” he said. “I think the same standard should even apply to un-ticketed, free events that take up the right of way. We shouldn’t put up with the inconvenience of such events unless they benefit

our community.”

Doug and Genie Freedman, who founded the Concours on the Avenue and ran it until his sudden death in October 2021, said it always operated at a loss, though it raised considerable money for The Carmel Foundation. According to Wright, they were contemplating converting it to a ticketed event in hopes of making it profitable, since sponsorships and entrant fees weren’t providing enough money to cover the costs.

Kreitman and Levett proposed a Concours-by-the-Sea in the same footprint as the Concours on the Avenue and said the Carmel Chamber Foundation would get a quarter of the proceeds, with more going to other charities based on the number of volunteer hours their supporters worked.

Knowing the costs of hosting Concours

on the Avenue, Kreitman said their event wouldn’t require more than \$500,000 to organize, and 5,000 tickets would be sold at \$250 apiece, with an additional 500 free tickets available to Carmel-by-the-Sea residents. Car entrant fees would bring in another \$250,000, and sponsors would kick in more cash, he speculated, netting an estimated \$1 million.

Kreitman also said the sidewalks and intersections would be open to the public, not closed to non-ticketholders, so they could still see the cars and access businesses and residences.

‘Not who we are’

Nancy Twomey, representing the Carmel Residents Association, told the council at the Jan. 9 meeting that her organization does not support the concept.

“We do not recommend further consideration at today’s city council meeting, based upon the lack of details and planning time available” this year, she said, because it would be too much of a rush.

“The CRA recommends compiling specifics for our community to fully understand the proposed ticketed Car Week logistics, stakeholders and financial components.”

Mayor Dave Potter agreed the timeline is too short.

“There’s not enough time to get this done this year, that’s for sure,” he said,

adding that he’d prefer a smaller footprint.

Councilwoman Karen Ferlito said the beauty of the Concours on the Avenue “was that it was a free and open event that everyman could enjoy,” including casual visitors who had no idea the show was going on.

“I’m not in favor of a ticketed event,” she said.

Councilwoman Alissandra Dramov agreed. “There’s just something to be said about having it be egalitarian, free and open to everyone, and there are other very exclusive events that are very expensive to get into,” she said. “That’s not really who we are as Carmel.”

Similarly, councilman Jeff Baron said he is not comfortable with the concept, particularly with regard to the security it would require.

“I don’t think we have the wherewithal to do this in this town,” he said. Baron additionally doesn’t want to see 19 blocks of the city closed for 300 display cars during such a busy time.

Councilman Bobby Richards said he feels residents need a break from large Car Week events.

“They need as few cumbersome things in the way as possible to get around town,” he said. “That would be just one more street they can’t get down. On behalf of the residents, I can’t support a ticketed event that week.”

ALEXANDER BROOKS NEEL

It is with fond remembrance to herald that Alex Neel has slipped his earthly bonds and is outward bound on a journey to uncharted territory, presumably where fishing trips, reptiles and archaeological expeditions abound.

Alex was born in Carmel, CA on August 29th, 1951, to Valerie and Del Neel and attended local Carmel schools. The family moved briefly to Malibu, CA in 1965 where he graduated cum laude in surfing and beach bumming, returning home to Carmel in 1967 and later Carmel Valley to his grandmother’s house in 1968. There he thrived and developed life-long friendships with many of the more colorful characters and classmates residing locally. Graduating from Carmel High School in 1969 he then attended MPC before moving to Chico, CA in 1973 to attend California State University, Chico and complete his B.S. in archeology. His Chico home became “Walden’s Pit” and he filled it with other displaced Carmelites while he completed his degree. After graduating he went to work at various lumber yards, did a stint working for himself and a friend doing general contracting, then tried his hand as an orchard arborist at Cana Ranch before finally returning to a specialist position at the (then) environmental engineering firm he had helped to found years before. There he worked full and later part-time for more than 20 years up until his recent retirement.

During these years he married Kathy Spanutius and sired two children, Alden and Emily, both of whom shared his love of the natural world and specifically all things related to Native Americans, snakes and stream fishing, leading them (and friends) on many outings into less traveled areas of Butte County and the wilderness spaces throughout Northern California. Teaching each child how to stand on their own two feet and then pushing them out of the nest, some years later he met and wed his second wife, Robin Gray, with whom he shared the remaining years of his life. His two children also remained an integral part of his life, as did Robin’s children.

Alex was a unique amalgamation of a colorful upbringing, the multitude of artists and bohemian characters his mother inured to him, as well as a wide group of interesting cohorts from Carmel, the Valley and Big Sur. By adding select gleanings contributed by each into his melting pot of ideas then simmering those inclinations in his brew, it became the stew that was uniquely “Aben.” A slice of life: In Chico he was a founder of the “Shad Derby”, an annual Memorial Day event wherein many friends from Carmel and the Valley would journey to Chico to camp along the Sacramento River and fish for the shad migrating up the river. Spanning more than 35 years, this annual pilgrimage became a “burning man” rite of passage before “Burning Man,” and shared the common vision of combining nature, art, humor, irreverence, cynicism and unbridled humanity with the pervasive bacchanalia of that epoch. Alex was a visionary and instrumental leader in this pursuit and was widely acclaimed as the master fisherman, or “messiah,” over the span of the event, hands-down. Undisputed. None even close.

Alex was of firm belief in his middle years he would never make it to 30, and his passing at 72 years is a testament that his bon vivant lifestyle of indulgence and excess need not be cause for concern, his passing due only in part to the complications of a life well-lived. However, in later years came the realization that he had in fact surpassed the 30-year mark, and so casting off his wanton ways he resolved to become a better person, husband and father by swearing off excess, joining AA and becoming a mentor (he had just received his six year chip) along with helping Robin in her business of selling curios and collectibles while also continuing work at the environmental firm. In this way, he found happiness, contentment and livelihood in his later years.

Alex is survived by his wife, Robin, and her two children, Brian and Danielle; his children, Alden (wife Sarah Neel), Emily (husband Derrik Ehlers); his granddaughters, Jocelyn, Piper and Alana; and his sister, Valda Neel.

Truly a life force difficult to distill and render to page, his philosophy was shall we say “ethereal” yet also primal. And so, with tender regret, suffice to say you will be missed evermore Alex, and thanks for your friendship, humor, memories and mostly for just being you! “Happy trails to you” Alex ... wherever they may lead.

A celebration of his life is planned for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 20 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 285 E. 5th St., Chico. This will be followed by a celebration (and BYO buffet) in Carmel beginning 2:30 p.m. Jan. 21 at Curt & Fay’s home at 26277 Atherton Drive.



JANICE L. SEAVEY BRADNER

JANICE L. SEAVEY BRADNER PASSED AWAY ON DECEMBER 27TH, 2023, IN CARMEL, CALIFORNIA AT THE AGE OF 66.

JANICE WAS BORN IN SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA TO JAMES AND MARLENE SEAVEY. SHE IS SURVIVED BY HER CHILDREN, ERIN, ASHLEIGH AND TOM; AS WELL AS GRANDCHILDREN, AMELIA AND OWEN SALVO.

JANICE IS ALSO SURVIVED BY HER MOTHER, MARLENE SEAVEY; AND SIBLINGS, DALE, KEITH AND ALLISON SEAVEY. IN ADDITION, JANICE IS ALSO SURVIVED BY HER STEPDAUGHTER AND HER HUSBAND, KANDACE AND MATTHEW MAJOROS, AND STEP-GRANDCHILDREN SAM AND DREW MAJOROS.

JANICE IS PRECEDED IN DEATH BY HER FIRST HUSBAND, ROBERT D. BRADNER (BOB). HER BROTHER, DREW, AND HER FATHER, JAMES SEAVEY, PREDECEASED JANICE.

JANICE AND BOB LOVED CARMEL. JANICE ACTIVELY VOLUNTEERED IN CIVIC GROUPS (CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, CARMEL CARES). SHE ENJOYED TIME WITH MANY OF HER CARMEL FRIENDS AND HER DOC, GRACIE.

SHE WILL FOREVER BE REMEMBERED WITH LOVE
BY HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

DECREPIT

From page 1A

more equipment and deals with a lot more hazardous materials and social issues than those of five or six decades ago — prepare basic schematics for potential facilities on other sites, and provide cost estimates and schedules.

The group, called Indigo, concluded the station at Junipero and Fourth is unsalvageable, that all of its major systems — electrical, HVAC, plumbing and other infrastructure — need to be overhauled immediately, and that the department has outgrown it.

Officers have nowhere secure to unload prisoners from their cars, since the back parking lot is tiny and not fenced. Victims — including those of serious, traumatic crimes — are interviewed in the station's lobby.

Officers dealing with toxic evidence like highly fatal fentanyl and other biohazards have nowhere safe to do so, due to lack of ventilation. No rooms are soundproof. The locker room is not ventilated, either. The building is not ADA accessible. It lacks security. The emergency operations center is in a basement space built as a bomb shelter. The list goes on and on.

Indigo's analysis revealed a new station needs to be at least 15,900 square feet on two-thirds of an acre, and ideally 18,500 square feet on a 1-acre property — both significantly larger than the current facility. The consultant estimated the cost of a new or remodeled and expanded station at \$19 million to \$22.2 million — far beyond the \$3,239,000 allocated to the project so far, of which \$2.6 million remains. In addition, bringing the city buildings at Junipero and Fourth up to code, regardless of their future use, will cost another \$11 million.

The consultant and the committee evaluated several options, including building a new station elsewhere,

rehabilitating and expanding the police station and moving the public works office to another property — since both couldn't coexist at Junipero and Fourth — and demolishing everything and rebuilding the police station or public works where they are.

"There is insufficient space for both public works and police on the current site," said Meurer, former city manager of Monterey.

Best use?

The committee favored relocating the police department and refurbishing the buildings at Junipero and Fourth to accommodate other uses. It evaluated sites in the north lot at Sunset Center and at Vista Lobos.

Potter and Baron recommended the council direct staff to research the possibility of building a new police station at Vista Lobos, given the constraints of the site, a restriction on building height to preserve views, geotechnical conditions and other issues.

They also said staff should "develop the planning process that would assist in determining the best city uses, programming needs of those uses, design parameters and rehabilitation strategy for the building," at Junipero and Fourth, and should come up with ways to pay for everything.

Former Mayor Ken White observed that three iterations of the city council have struggled with this issue, and he suggested CPD stay put and figure out how to expand the building to accommodate its needs.

"Take a deep look at remodeling the existing station with additional square footage," he said.

Former councilwoman Carrie Theis said the city needs to consider the income potential of its properties. Vista Lobos, which has a parking lot, some rundown city buildings, a small park and storage space, has stunning views and might better be used for a hotel, she suggested. It has also been identified in the city's housing plan as a potential site for development.

She urged the council to consider what a new hotel on one of the prime properties in town could generate in transient occupancy taxes and suggested paid parking could be a component.

"We need the best use of the property," she said.

Big project

Architect Eric Miller, who is working with Theis on a new hotel to replace her family's inn on San Carlos north of Fourth, agreed.

"There needs to be income from that property," he said, suggesting it could be developed with a 200-room hotel and 600-spot underground parking garage. Miller also said

the developer could be required to build a new police station somewhere else.

Nearby resident James Ardaiz speculated the cost estimates are low and questioned the assumptions supporting the Vista Lobos site. He said additional analysis is needed.

"These are just oral recommendations that have huge ramifications," he said.

Meurer countered that without further study, it's impossible to know what's possible. The committee identified Vista Lobos as its preferred location, and the next step is to evaluate the conditions to see what's feasible there.

Councilwoman Karen Ferlito raised the idea of evicting the Carmel Youth Center from the city-owned building just east of the police station and expanding onto that property — a concept also supported by councilwoman Alissandra Dramov. Ferlito said she also doesn't want to give up a potential housing site.

Baron said the committee is simply "asking for the opportunity to take a half-step forward" by evaluating the property, which is located on Third between Torres and Junipero. He also said predictions that the costs will far exceed the estimated \$30 million are premature.

"I don't have any idea how much this is going to cost," he said. "We've asked professionals to come up with numbers, and this is the ballpark."

And getting a police station that meets current standards is urgent, according to Baron.

"Time is not on our side," he said. "We do not want to leave the police department in that building."

Many questions

Councilman Bobby Richards agreed Vista Lobos seems to have the most potential for a new station, with a new mixed-use development on the site of the current CPD facilities.

Following the protracted discussion, city administrator Chip Rerig told The Pine Cone that he believes his staff "got the green light from the council to do an analysis of the Vista Lobos site as the potential location."

"How could it be sited? How could we ensure there won't be impacts to adjacent property owners? How do we preserve the viewshed that is codified?" he asked. The next level of analysis would address those questions, along with whether the property could accommodate housing, too.

"We need some more information before identifying it as the preferred alternative," he said, adding that there will be plenty of opportunity for the public to weigh in on the proposal and the process.

The council is set to formalize its direction to staff at next month's meeting or in March.

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BONNIE JEAN BALDWIN

November 8, 1933 - December 18, 2023

Bonnie was born to Marion and Morrison Chalmers in Bellflower, CA in 1933. As an only child to two beach-lovers, Bonnie spent warm summers in Southern California on the sand and in the waves; her early love for the ocean would stay with her the rest of her life.



She first met Vance as a freshman at Excelsior Union High School where they had adjoining lockers, and they started dating their senior year. They both attended Fullerton Junior College. Bonnie left her sophomore year when she was appointed Grand Worthy Advisor of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls and began traveling throughout the state of California for official visits to the many Rainbow chapters. In 1953 Vance and Bonnie married and moved to San Luis Obispo where they both worked to put Vance through Cal Poly. They raised their three children in Gilroy where Bonnie was known for her hospitality and welcoming nature — holiday gatherings, Sunday watch parties for countless 49er games, and simple family dinners for Vance's colleagues. Everyone who entered her home was made to feel safe and welcome, greeted with a smile and good food.

Bonnie and Vance moved to St. Helena in 1977, where they continued to meet people who would become lifelong friends, before finally settling in Monterey in 1985 where they reconnected with many people, making new friends while keeping the old.

As her children grew, Bonnie went back to work. One of her favorite experiences was her time working in the licensing office for Peanuts artist Charles Schultz, where she would help Snoopy and friends make their way to lunchboxes across the world.

Bonnie was an avid reader, enjoyed being a member of her church book club, and received enough history and archeology magazines each month to fill a special shelf reserved just for them; she always had a stack of novels on her bedside table.

After Bonnie and Vance moved to Monterey, they would take frequent morning walks along the trail, usually ending with a stop for coffee. They visited the Monterey Bay Aquarium with their eight grandchildren, built and nourished a stunning backyard garden, continued to host loud and happy family parties, and were active members of their community at church and various charity organizations. Bonnie was a docent at Casa Serrano, organized the Octopus group at their church for many years and volunteered with I-HELP.

Bonnie and Vance loved to travel together, venturing to Honduras and China as well as traveling across Europe and a good part of the United States. They also took their grandchildren, two at a time, on "Mission Trips" which were focused on fun, with a bit of California history thrown into the mix.

Bonnie passed away peacefully on December 18th, 2023.

She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Vance; three children, Jeannine (Steve), Greg (Denise), and Janice; eight grandchildren, Matthew (Adrienne), Jillian, Rory (Shannon), Ryan (Emma), Marissa (Sean), Natalie, Alexandra, Dominic (Amberly); and three great-grandchildren.

Donations can be made in her name to the First Presbyterian Church of Monterey or the Monterey Public Library.

Services will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday, January 20th at First Presbyterian Church of Monterey.



BRENDA KAY (ESLINGER) SHAKAL

Brenda Kay (Eslinger) Shakal, 78, of Carmel Valley, California, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 28, 2023.

Brenda was born on March 22, 1945, to Howard and Dorothy Eslinger in Stanley, Wisconsin, the second of eight children. Her father was the first of five and her mother the 14th of 15 children. Between the two families, Brenda had 102 first cousins. She came from a large and loving family.

She grew up on the family dairy farm carrying milk buckets and throwing bales of hay, and was fondly referred to as "Moose Juice" for her arm wrestle hustling at the hometown tavern. Born with natural ingenuity, she "borrowed" the family tractor to drive into town to get to work at the Tastee Freeze.

After graduating from Stanley-Boyd High School in 1963, her parents gifted her with a set of luggage and "Get-to-Go Brenda" caught the first plane to Los Angeles to join her cousin Barbara Endvick in a West Coast dream.

Soon after she met the love of her life and husband of 58 years, James Walter Shakal. They shared a ride home to Wisconsin for Christmas and their life-long romance began. They were married June 12, 1965, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Edson, Wisconsin. Once back in California they started a family of their own and raised three boys: Trampas, Joey and Kurt. They welcomed a bonus daughter, Cori, a little bit later in life.

After having her first son, Brenda became a stay-at-home mom and daycare provider to the kids of Schulte Road/Carmel Valley, many of whom remember her fondly. Once the kids were old enough, she joined her husband at All Automotive in Seaside providing bookkeeping duties.

Although she would never admit it, Brenda was an amazing cook and when she wasn't home hosting visitors from all around the world, she could be found at Chamisal or Meadowbrook playing tennis or collecting treasures at any local garage sale/thrift store. A skilled skier, both on water and snow, many weekends were spent on the deltas and/or slopes.

Get-to-Go Brenda traveled the world: Plays in Europe, concerts in Australia, beaches in Hawaii and tennis tournaments in Palm Desert and New York.

Brenda was predeceased by her parents, Howard Eslinger and Dorothy (Gerrits) Eslinger; brother, Bruce Eslinger; sister, Pamela (Eslinger) Luck and brother-in-law Shane Swope. She is survived by her husband, James Walter Shakal; children, James Trampas (Jeanne) Shakal, Joseph Howard Shakal, Kurt Charles Shakal, Corinne Dunn and grandchildren Samantha Tannarome (Johnny), Megan Beaston (Shane), Jimmy Dunn, Jack Dunn, Aiden Shakal, Jay Dunn and Wesley Shakal; as well as brothers, David Eslinger (Arlene), Jon Eslinger (Terri), and Mark Eslinger (Lorraine); sisters, Janice (Eslinger) Rostvold (Neil) and Heidi (Eslinger) Swope and brother-in-law, Ron Luck.

The family requests that all flowers and notes are sent to 53 La Rancheria, Carmel Valley. There will be a funeral service at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, with a celebration of life immediately following. The family invites anyone who knew Brenda to attend and if available to bring a favorite photo to share.

Derrick Wells

Derrick Wells, Monterey County's premier Victorian house painter, passed away on Sept. 30, 2023, at age 70. Known professionally for his perfectionism, Derrick meticulously restored countless homes during his decades-long career. Most of his efforts were dedicated to no fewer than 16 homes on 16th Street in Pacific Grove, a street he not only beautified but lived on for 20 years.



Derrick was born in Evansville, Indiana to June and Robert Wells on Nov. 13, 1952. He was the youngest of four children. In his early 20s, Derrick went looking for community and connection in Monterey. He found Calvary Chapel in

1981, became a disciple of Jesus for the rest of his earthly life, and served as a youth Bible school teacher.

Derrick invested in his children, Dr. Ame Wells and Ryan Wells. The three took trips to the mountains, lakes, rivers and deserts. Derrick was keen to share historical facts through physical travel knowing these trips had the power to shape and serve his children's perspectives for a lifetime, particularly about the importance of respecting the wild and the development of self-reliance. Despite a modest family budget for such endeavors, Derrick prioritized his children's learning above his own life comforts. Personal sacrifice in the service of one's family was one of Derrick's most important imparted life lessons.

Generous to a fault, Derrick was known as a friendly, honest, loyal, warm, loquacious man who enjoyed chats with friends and strangers alike. His list of life interests was wide and deep, which lent well to conversation. He was an avid reader and collector of knowledge, especially on the subject of American history. He loved camping and time spent within natural landscapes. He loved and cared for his tailless cat, Bobbie, for 20 years. Derrick loved to play his bongo drums for hours into the night in what can only be described as a trance-like state. He also loved the San Francisco Giants and, as a long-standing fan, he especially relished their three most recent World Series championships.

After moving to the Arizona desert in 2017, Derrick pursued art. Many of his creations were displayed on the walls of his home in Bouse alongside family photos of happy times. Derrick continued to camp, play his drums, read and entertain all and sundry during his desert years. He is greatly missed.

MURPHY

From page 8A

support and pride it had from the Carmel Heritage group that was very active at the time."

She said she is disconcerted that the 122-year-old building hasn't been open more often, and "even more so that the Carmel Heritage Society is not really an active group that includes members of the public and residents."

The intent of moving and restoring the First Murphy House was not to benefit the chamber, she argued.

Afterward, the council went into closed session with city administrator Chip Rerig and city attorney Brian Pierik to negotiate lease amounts and terms with representatives of the two nonprofits, according to the agenda. At the regular council meeting the following day, Pierik said he had nothing to announce to the public regarding the closed session.

CAMP

From page 1A

same group that acquired Big Sur Campground and Cabins in 2021, a representative, Big Sur attorney Mike Linder, told The Pine Cone.

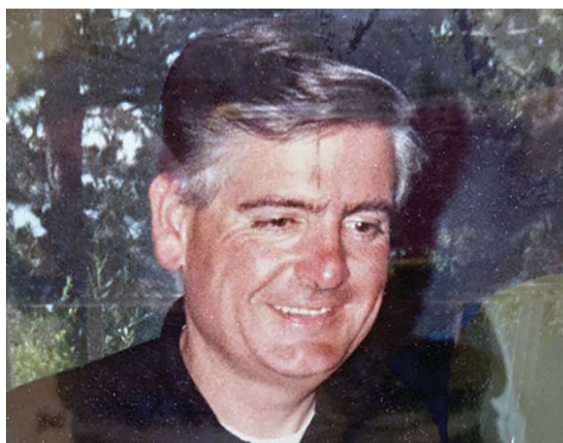
It's unclear what plans the group has for Riverside Campground and Cabins. But last month Linder said the group has no intention of turning any of Big Sur Campground and Cabins' campsites into more expensive glamping units, although a project has been proposed to make major upgrades, including replacing its septic system.

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RICHARD FREDERICK SPAULDING

Richard Frederick Spaulding passed away on Dec. 16th, 2023, at his home in Prunedale, CA. He was born May 14th, 1941, in Palo Alto, CA, the son of Clarence Arthur and Katharine Hilsdale Spaulding. Dick grew up in Carmel where he attended Sunset School and Robert Louis Stevenson. After attending high school at the Thacher School, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served in Vietnam.



Upon returning from overseas, he spent a season fighting fires with the U.S. Forest Service before attending UC Santa Barbara and earning a bachelor's degree in history.

In 1971 he moved to the Bay Area and pursued a law degree from Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco.

Dick was an accomplished guitar player, avid rock hound and astronomer. He was an active member of MIRA and enjoyed taking field trips to explore the heavens from atop Chews Ridge and Fremont Peak. He loved sports cars, most notably bug-eyed Sprites and Alfa

Romeos, and took delight in long drives through the mountains to explore ghost towns and old mining claims.

He is survived by his four sisters, Carole Marks, Judy Hooper, Shayala Diamond and Anne Basile; and his brother, Steve Spaulding. Family services are pending.

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GULLO

From page 9A

his new acting role, even though he's still overseeing his own department.

"It's the worst time for Max to be leaving, because we are just entering budget season, but it's also the best time, because Brandon can be intimately involved in the development of the 2024-2025 budget," Rerig said.

Happy to learn

Swanson said Thursday he's excited about his new role and the opportunities it presents. "I'll be doing both roles for now," he said. "My team will have to lift a little bit more because I'll be spread between the two."

As planning director, he's participated in the budget process over the past three years but will be more deeply involved on a global level, now, since he'll be looking

at other departments' numbers.

"The assistant city administrator has oversight on finance, HR and payroll — those are things I'm not unaware of, but they're things I'm going to get more exposure to, which I'm excited about," he said. "I'm excited to learn new things."

Swanson said he's grateful to be able to learn from Gullo, who has worked in government for 26 years, before she leaves. "We're fortunate that Maxine has given us some extra time with her here so there doesn't seem to be any break in service or break in coverage," he said.

He lauded her for upping the professionalism in city hall and setting up the administrative side for success. "Maxine has done a great job here," he said.

Swanson said he's excited to serve and have a positive impact on the community. "I'm honored they're giving me the opportunity," he said.

Details of Swanson's compensation as acting city administrator have yet to be worked out, he said.

DEVELOPER

From page 12A

"We are working with a number of partnering agencies on strategies to continue to move forward with this important project despite the challenges of this unfortunate setback," Adams said.

Mayor Mike LeBarre said the city's hope is that the setback King City is experiencing "doesn't stop other communities from finding solutions that work for them."

'Bullet dodged'

The City of Pacific Grove came close to partnering with Shangri-La. In early 2022, then-P.G. housing manager Anastacia Wyatt proposed putting chronically homeless people with very low incomes at the Monarch Resort at 1111 Lighthouse Ave. Per the proposal, Shangri-La would have purchased the motel for \$15 million and

hired Step Up to manage it.

In March 2022, the P.G. City Council approved applying to the state for the program, but the idea crumbled after the Monarch's owners claimed that while they had been approached by officials to sell the hotel, they were not told it would be converted into homeless housing. They refused to sell.

Several months later, upon a motion by Luke Coletti, the councilman and four of his colleagues voted against pursuing state funding for another Homekey project. Only councilman Joe Amelio voted in favor of applying for the funds. Councilman Chaps Poduri was absent from the meeting.

Coletti commented on the state attorney general's new lawsuit Wednesday.

"Public vigilance and council inquiry were essential in investigating Shangri-La back in early 2022," Coletti told The Pine Cone. "Pacific Grove was wise not to proceed with the proposed Homekey project. We dodged a bullet."

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Editorial

How to kill wealth

THE STATE of California already relies on high-income residents for a very big share of its revenue. According to columnist Dan Walters, about 70 percent of the state's general fund comes from the personal income tax, and about half of that amount — or 35 percent — comes from the top 1 percent of taxpayers.

Meanwhile, as the Wall Street Journal notes, the state's top personal income tax rate has just been raised to 14.4 percent, up from 13.3 percent last year. Add in the highest federal income tax rate of 37 percent and the Medicare tax rate of 2.35 percent on high wage earners, and any Californian lucky enough to have very well paying job is now subject to a marginal income tax rate of 53.75 percent. Is that the famous "fair share" you're always hearing about?

Quite a few people in Sacramento don't think so, apparently, because once again this year there's a big push to create a "wealth tax" that would apply not to people's incomes, but their assets. How the heck would that work, you may ask?

If you're Tom Cruise, Stephen Curry, Taylor Swift or anyone else with an earned income in the hundred-million-plus-per-year range, after paying your tens of millions in income taxes, you've probably managed to acquire some pricey investments and assets. According to a bill making its way through the state Legislature, if you're also lucky enough to live in California, you should have to hand over a portion of the value of those assets every year — even the ones that aren't anywhere near this state.

The bill, AB 259, would impose an annual tax of 1 percent on wealth that exceeds \$50 million, with an additional .5 percent tax on assets valued at more than \$1 billion.

This wealth tax would apply to nearly all assets, including cash, stocks, shares in private businesses, artwork, jewelry and financial assets held in other countries. And how would all that be valued? The Franchise Tax Board, not exactly a disinterested party, will do it, according to the bill.

A proponent of the bill, Democratic Assemblymember Alex Lee of San Jose, says the new tax is needed to help close the state's \$68 billion budget shortfall. He says the wealth tax would generate about \$10.6 billion in the first year, rising to \$20 billion-plus in later years.

"Taking out the entire rainy day reserve, or just cutting out everything we love, like our transit systems, our schools, our climate-change programs, nothing alone will solve this," Lee said of the budget deficit, according to the Sacramento Bee. "So you have to have a mix of solutions. That's responsible budgeting."

The problem with the wealth tax, however, is that neither Lee, nor anybody else, has figured out a way to make rich people who live in California stay here. All those wealthy athletes who live in zero-income-tax Florida aren't there for the weather. Even the Legislature's other brilliant idea, the so-called exit tax — to be enforced against people who decide to move elsewhere — won't be enough to make them stay.

Some politicians seem to think the economy runs on its own and that taxes can be imposed willy-nilly, with no consequences for productivity, employment or the value of money. Sure, the government has a role fostering a vibrant economy, but for the most part, the wealth of California, and the whole country, is the product of private effort, ingenuity and investment. But all that is fragile, and the best way to impede it, if not kill it, is to tax it too much.

BEST of BATES



"The economy's improving.
I've got two jobs."

Letters to the Editor

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

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

Questions for consent Dear Editor,

The Jan. 9 Carmel City Council meeting opened my eyes to a possible improvement in the way the consent agenda is handled. It is used to get formalities like minutes, standard reports, and the check register quickly out of the way. But in seconds Tuesday night, five items for a total of over \$593,000 in contractor and professional fees were also approved. Mayor Dave Potter kindly allowed me to question an item for \$390,000 after it was approved. A back and forth then took place that uncovered a significant percentage of that item was no longer needed. Surprisingly, it was still approved for the full amount. Further questioning uncovered that "change orders" would be used to account for it later but there was no explanation as to what happens to the extra funds.

Given the large sums being spent on consultants, maybe we should more clearly

expose nontrivial consent items to the city council and public. For example, line items with spending approvals greater than \$20,000, changes in personnel, or approval of consequential documents could be clearly read, one at a time, and the council and public asked if there are any questions. If so, they are discussed. This would better involve the council and public than quickly asking for many complex items all at once. I imagine the few extra minutes would help educate those who hadn't read the document, didn't have it in front of them or just didn't understand the process. With a \$40 million budget, it is worth paying attention.

Dale Byrne, Carmel

Convert short-term rentals Dear Editor,

At the Tuesday night Carmel City Council meeting, someone suggested converting the 41 short-term rentals downtown back to long-term residential housing. It's not a bad idea, considering it could immediately cover 10 percent of our state-mandated housing goal without building anything new. And the neighbors would appreciate a return to normalcy.

F.L. Blair, Carmel

Not just 'favored few' Dear Editor,

I hope the mayor of Pacific Grove will consider putting the DEI Task Force on hiatus. I attended every meeting in 2023, and so far, it has accomplished nothing. No social justice or racial healing.

See LETTERS page 22A

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Transforming a Monterey magician into a working actor

LONG BEFORE there was a big aquarium with frolicking penguins and otters, Edgewater Packing Company was one of Cannery Row's biggest family attractions. An indoor carousel whirled to the tune of a calliope, arcade games buzzed and chirped, and you could match wits with a chicken at tic-tac-toe.

There were novelty and souvenir shops, too, including Zucchini's Tricks & Things (soon to be Zucchini's Magic Wand shop), the oldest magic shop in California, according to actor Will Roberts, who owns

years. The block of daytime programming interspersed cartoons with on-air birthday wishes to local children, mentions of family-friendly events, and art-and-craft projects the little ones could work on at home.

Roberts worked professionally in local theater, including musicals. He's classically trained in ballet, and can also do jazz and hip-hop — something he demonstrated on Ellen DeGeneres' show a few years back. He explained that he and another actor were brought in for a segment called "Do You Think They Can Dance," to surprise Ellen and her house DJ, the late Stephen "Twitch" Boss. Boss and DeGeneres would predict whether selected audience members could dance, then give them a chance to show off their moves. Dressed in corduroy slacks and a beige sweater, Roberts pretended to be a shy, unassuming IT guy. While DeGeneres said she thought he'd surprise them, Boss was less certain. Once the music started, Roberts showed he was up to the challenge, and the stars were delighted.

Folksy philosopher

His career took a major turn when he starred in "The Will Rogers Follies" at Hartnell Junior College's Western Stage in Salinas in the late 1990s. "I had something like 11 songs and 15 monologues," he recalled. "I just fell in love with the philosophy of Will Rogers."

Not only did he take his stage name from the folksy philosopher, but Roberts has reprised aspects of the Rogers' onstage performance as a lasso-twirling commentator on current events — always "without

See LIVES page 35A

Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

and runs it with his business partner, Chris Herren. Although Roberts has a home with his family in Temecula, he says he's up here frequently to check on the shop and does a monthly show there called "The Honest Huckster," in which he performs magic and "Wild West arts."

Zucchini's holds a special place in his heart. More than 40 years before he played Gen. George Marshall in the Golden Globe-winning movie, "Oppenheimer," Roberts, 59, was a Monterey High School student who wanted to learn to do magic.

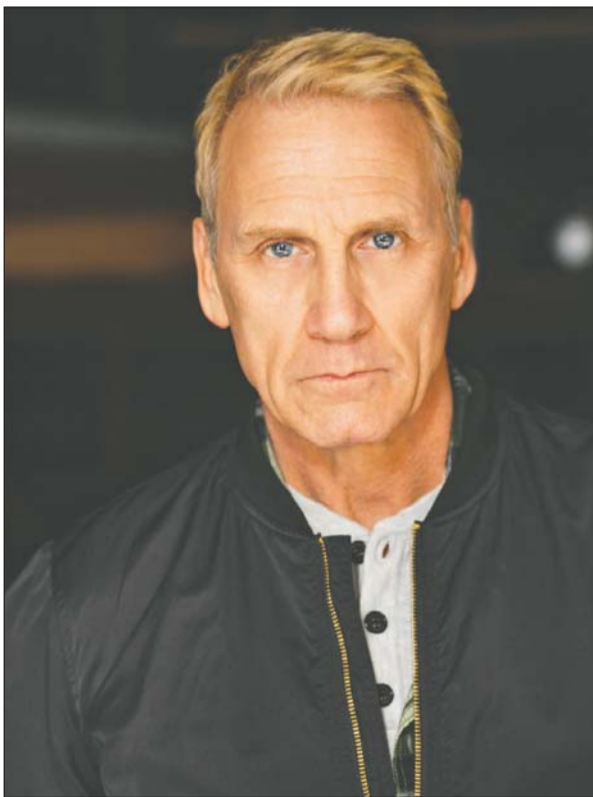
He said he spent so much time at the shop that the owner, Bryan Whitehead, approached him and said, "You're here all the time anyway. Do you want a job?" Roberts accepted, and started working toward becoming a paid performer — the only career he's ever considered.

Magic Castle

Early on, a professional magician told Roberts, "You're really good, but you should learn to act. All magicians are really actors." Roberts did just that, beginning with high school musicals. Magic tricks became the first of many skills he acquired to maximize his opportunities.

He did some local television commercials and worked as a magician, clown and balloon artist. In 1985, he decided to spend \$850 — a considerable amount at the time — to join the actors' union. It was a commitment: "I am a professional actor now," he remembered thinking. He later became part of the Magic Castle, an elite society of U.S. magicians, and its U.K. counterpart, the Magic Circle. Both require auditions for membership.

As Buzzie D'Klown, Roberts was invited to do a television spot about Halloween safety on KCBA and eventually became host of the station's Kids' Klub, where he remained for seven



PHOTO/KNOPHOTO.COM

Will Roberts began his TV and film career in Monterey. He owns and performs at Zucchini's Magic Wand shop on Cannery Row.

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

A bunch of characters — Part 2

Creative people are famously quirky, eclectic and unconventional. Here are more random things we learned about local artists in 2023. Part 1 appeared in last week's Pine Cone. The publication date of the artist's full profile is in parentheses.

Multi-media artist **Ekaterina de la Torre** (Aug. 11, 2023) of the Carmel Valley Art Association was born in Ufa, Bashkortostan, Russia, where she began

Marina painter **Al Shamble** (Feb. 3, 2023) was 7 when he started watching Jon Gnagy, a self-taught artist from Pretty Prairie, Kan., whose syndicated TV show, "Learn to Draw," ran from 1950 to 1955.

Monterey's **Frank Sunseri** (Oct. 27, 2023), who turned to painting in 2012 after 30 years as a metal sculptor, served in the Air Force in 1970 and '71, loading bombs and rockets onto planes bound for Vietnam. After he returned, he sowed some wild oats on his Harley.

Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

studying drawing, dance, choreography and Solfeggio music at age 4. She became a professional ballerina and danced at the Kremlin in 2002.

From 2010 to 2013, iconic Carmel sculptor **Richard MacDonald** (May 5, 2023) created bronze renderings of dancers at the England's famed Royal Ballet School, where he also befriended the future King Charles III.

Chris Leib (March 3, 2023) has exhibited his paintings internationally and lives in a cottage near Sunset Center, but Carmel-by-the-Sea isn't his first prestigious zip code. In 1998, after a San Francisco building blew up and his apartment (two doors down) caught fire, he moved into a big house in the opulent Pacific Heights neighborhood — where he lived in a closet. He previously resided in his Toyota Celica for two months while studying at the San Francisco Academy of Art. Things are much better now.

Leaving a lot behind

Ukraine native **Kate Kondratieva** (Dec. 15, 2023) fled her home country after Russian bombs hit Kyiv in February 2022. She explored Europe, then made her way to Carmel, where she's enjoying success as a fine-art portrait photographer — a career she chose after dropping out of medical school in Ukraine after her third year.

Carmel's **Alison Dougherty** (June 30, 2023) has painted more than 100 murals in 21 years for Trader Joe's, her employer.

Amy Small (Dec. 29, 2023), an abstract painter in Monterey, was working as a telemarketer in an L.A. boiler room when she got her first major commission as an interior designer — her current career — working on the Community Health Innovations project in Ryan Ranch.

Saving mistakes

Carmel painter/author **Belle Yang** (May 19, 2023) was studying at the Academy of Traditional Chinese Painting, planning to live in China forever, when the Tiananmen Square Massacre forced her to flee.

Fine-art photographer and former Carmel City Attorney and Monterey County judge **Bill Burleigh** (July 28, 2023), who died in December at 89, ran five marathons and founded the Big Sur International Marathon.

Pacific Grove abstract artist **Grace Wodecki** (March 10, 2023) credits her grandmother, Carol (a watercolorist who teaches at the Carmel Foundation), with some sage advice she heeds to this day: "Find ways to incorporate your mistakes into your painting, rather than trying to fix them."

In 1970, her freshman year at Kansas University, expressionist painter **Branham Rendlen** (Sept. 22, 2023) found the campus reeling from a bombing of a university building (blamed on a radical leftist group called the Weathermen) that injured three students.

Yvonne Gorman

(March 31, 2023) of the Monterey Peninsula Art Foundation painted at Asilomar workshops alongside legendary outdoor artists Rex Brandt (1914-2000), Robert E. Wood (1926-1999), George Post (1906-1997), Harold Gretzner (1902-1977), Gerald Brommer (1927-2020), Morris Shubin (1920-2013), Vernon Nye (1915-2013) and Millard Sheets (1907-1989).

Windy City

Venture Gallery minimalist painter **Carole Klein** (March 24, 2023) was born at Little Company of Mary Hospital on the south side of Chicago, where she later gave birth to two of her four kids.

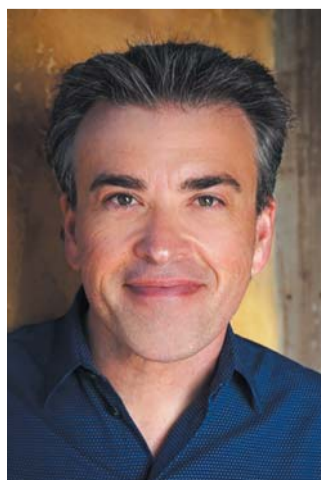
Peninsula native **Carolyn Southard** (Jan. 13, 2023), a landscape artist, learned to draw from her



PHOTO/COURTESY MBPAPA

The Monterey Bay Plein Air Painters Association hosts weekly paintouts for members and non-members at spectacular vistas like Rocky Point. This painting was done by Elaine Goldstone.

See ARTIST page 27A



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LETTERS

From page 20A

Some of the group's proposals (with no follow-through) included a DEI calendar of important DEI events, a list of the most "marginalized" persons in the city,

donation of tiles for the Walk of Remembrance on the Recreation Trail at Lovers Point, and hiring a consultant (Seed Collaborative) for \$356,256.50. No further action has been taken on any of these proposals, and there have been at least four resignations and three canceled meetings due to a lack of a quorum.

I suggest the mayor consider renaming

SCAM

From page 10A

posed as realtors, not fraudulent rentals.

"Most scams are reported directly to local law enforcement rather than our office," Haag explained. "Some fraction of those are then referred to our office for prosecution, meaning we see only a subset of cases."

Criminal charges

The Monterey County District Attorney's Office has prosecuted people for such crimes. In 2022, Victor Eduardo Undiano Quiroz pleaded guilty to grand theft after

he pretended to represent landlords renting apartments in Salinas and collected deposits from would-be tenants. The victims lost \$3,030 and \$1,000 respectively, said Haag, who added that Quiroz agreed to pay them back.

"The loss of even a thousand dollars can make a big difference for many families," he said.

In September of last year, the DA's office filed felony charges against a Salinas woman named Trixialini Sab Clapano for allegedly bilking another Salinas resident, Linda Rosales, out of \$3,200 by falsely claiming she had an apartment to rent on Schoch Road.

"That case is pending, and a warrant is out for Ms. Clapano's arrest," Haag said.

and repurposing this committee, which seems to exist primarily in order to favor one racial/gender/sexual orientation/socio-economic group over another, which is bad politics for our city in a bad political year on the national level, as well as on the local level.

Think of the poor beleaguered ex-president of Harvard University, and even the DEI ex-dean at Stanford.

I understand the DEI Task Force wants to include the homeless and people under the age of 18. Fine, but let's be inclusive of everyone in this town and not just the favored few.

Carol Marquart, Pacific Grove

Expensive chair

Dear Editor,

I ordered a chair from an East Coast company unfamiliar with the "charm" of Carmel not having street addresses. So, as instructed by the post office, we had the chair shipped to our P.O. box care of the post office street address.

When we went to pick it up, we were charged a \$100 "handling/storage fee" by the Carmel post office (which had the chair in their possession for less than 24 hours).

Even more frustrating was the counter person's reaction, which was, and I quote: "You should have had it shipped to your house." You're kidding me, right? To achieve this level of tone deafness about a decades-old issue is beyond comprehension.

When is the city council going to bring this issue to a close one way or another? It

continues to boggle my mind that in 2024, a community chooses to collectively spend a ridiculous number of hours on a basic issue: package delivery.

Lots of things might impact the character of this town, but putting aesthetically pleasing house numbers on the homes of those homeowners who choose to have them simply isn't one of them. When will this madness end?!

Chuck McKenzie, Carmel

Iconic house

Dear Editor,


The Frank Lloyd Wright House on Scenic Road in Carmel is not only historic, it is iconic. As Architectural Digest puts it, the architect "has long been admired for his ability to artfully integrate his iconic structures into the natural world." And it is the only Frank Lloyd Wright house built near the ocean.

If the Wright house doesn't qualify for historic status and a tax break so the owner can use that money to keep the house for people to enjoy (I walk by it every day while walking my dog, and stop and admire it each time), I don't know what house would qualify.

Why don't Carmel's officials cut their own ridiculous salaries to match the small tax break?

The house is fortunately going to be there longer than the idiotic city council members who voted against giving it historic status. Hopefully, they will get it "Wright" the next round.

Ron Kroll, Carmel



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SCOUT

From page 14A

to do this again," he said.

Councilman Jeff Baron favored relocating and renovating the Scout House.

"It seems to me like there's a possibility there," he said, suggesting the building could be moved to one of the city's undeveloped street easements, such as Ninth Avenue east of Sunset Center.

The city could then build housing on the resulting vacant lot, according to Baron.

Mayor Dave Potter also supported relocating the Scout House, and councilman Bobby Richards agreed.

Pipe dream?

Councilwoman Karen Ferlito suggested a developer might be convinced to move the house, lease the land and develop it with affordable housing.

"There are people who do these things because they're the right thing to do," she said.

Councilwoman Alissandra Dramov favored selling it, considering that so far, the city hasn't spent much on renovating the building.

"I think realistically we're not going to put money into it, and that's why selling it

would be the first option that I would take," she said.

City administrator Chip Rerig said his staff would look at potential sites, including undeveloped streets and parts of the Sunset Center grounds, to receive the Scout House, and will return to the council with suggestions.

"We do have a lot of items on our plate right now," he warned.

GAVEL

From page 4A

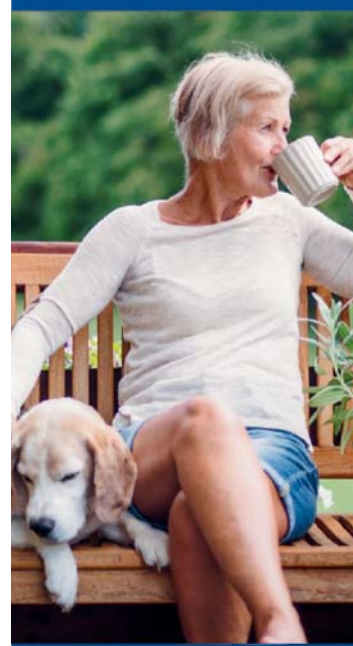
to his level of intoxication, Witherspoon failed to realize he was driving on the wrong side of the divided highway and crashed head-on into victim Luis Hernandez's Mitsubishi Mirage. Hernandez, who had been on his way to work at the time of the collision, was declared deceased at the scene.

Witherspoon remained at the scene and was contacted by law enforcement. Officers noted that he smelled like alcohol and appeared to be under the influence. A chemical test revealed that Witherspoon had a blood alcohol concentration of .191 percent, more than twice the legal limit.

The case was investigated by the California Highway Patrol and prosecuted by the Monterey County District Attorney's Office specialized DUI Prosecution Unit.

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Show celebrates photographer who captured faces of Great Depression

THREE EXHIBITS open this week at the Monterey Museum of Art, including one that features photographs by the late Dorothea Lange, who, more than anyone else,

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

captured iconic images of Americans struggling during the Great Depression.

During the late 1930s, Lange worked for the federal Farm Security Administration and traveled throughout the country photographing Dust Bowl migrants and Mexican laborers — including some in Monterey County. Her images helped bring attention to the plight of Americans who faced challenges to put food on the table or keep roofs over their heads during a time of great economic strife.

“This exhibition displays Lange’s seamless ability to capture the essence of human experience in times of profound hardship,” according to the museum. “Her ability to combine artistry with empathy made her one of the most significant photographers of the 20th century, leaving an indelible mark on the realm of documentary photography.”

Taken from 1935 to 1942, the photos in the show come from the Oakland Museum of California’s Dorothea Lange Archive and the U.S. Library of Congress. The exhibit continues through April 21.

Also new at the museum is a group show that explores the impact of agriculture on art (“Harvesting California”) and a solo show by painter Katie Herzog (“Currents”).

The museum is located at 559 Pacific St.

■ ‘Frame of Mind’ at Cherry

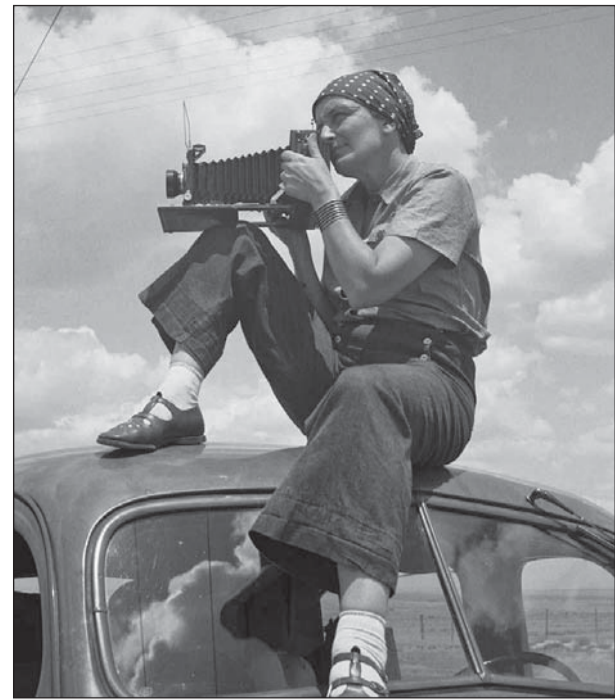
A local painting group, the Igemakers, unveils a group show, “Frame of Mind,” Friday at the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts, which will have an artists reception from 5 to 7 p.m.

The exhibit includes photographs by about three dozen members of the group, including Mark Overgaard, Craig Lovell, Jacqui Turner, Bob Sadler, Kenneth Parker, Steve Zmak and many others — most of whom are Monterey Peninsula residents.

According to Overgaard, the show offers “a vivid sample of the wide range of beautiful work” that the group’s members create.

Each of the images will be accompanied by a brief statement that captures the “frame of mind” of each photographer when it was taken.

“Just like the images, these statements show a wide range of motivations and perspectives on the work of each artist,” Overgaard explained. “The combination of compelling



The subject of a new show at the Monterey Museum of Art, photographer Dorothea Lange captured iconic images of people struggling to survive during the 1930s.

images and revelatory statements makes for a fascinating exhibit.”

The exhibit will be on display through Feb. 17. The Cherry Center is located at Fourth and Guadalupe.

■ Student art at P.G. library

Also new is a show of student artwork at the Pacific Grove Library’s Steve and Nancy Hauk Gallery, which will have a reception — public invited — for the student artists Friday at 5:30 p.m.

“At the high school, I teach classes in 2D and 3D art and design, so I challenged all my second- third- and fourth-year students to create works of art using 14-inch-by-14-inch wood panels,” P.G. High art teacher Matt Kelly said. “This exhibit is a physical manifestation of the talent, creativity, optimism and passion my art students have for sharing their individual artistic voices.” The library is located at 550 Central Ave.



Included in an exhibit that opens Friday at the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts is this striking image of Pfeiffer Beach at Sunset by David Gubernick.

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

CHS and Stevenson boys set high goals for soccer season, playoffs

CARMEL AND Stevenson, friendly rivals, have realistic aspirations toward the same goal this winter: Both suspect they have the talent, leadership, experience, attitude and work ethic they need to reach the Central Coast Section playoffs in boys soccer.

But here's the rub. The Padres and Pirates are co-inhabitants of the Pacific Coast Athletic League's Cypress Division, which, if past is prologue, is likely to qualify just one team — the division champ — for the postseason, leaving the other six schools to pack up the equipment and wait till next year.

Runner-up usually uninvited

Since the multi-division PCAL was founded in 2018-19, the Cypress Division has sent its second-place team to the playoffs just twice, most recently in 2019-20. Two years ago, when Carmel won the Cypress championship with a 6-1-3 record (11-3-4 overall), the Padres were ignored by the CCS selection committee.

"I would assume we'll either have to win the Cypress or have a very, very strong record as a runner-up to get to CCS," said Carmel coach Scott Hirschfield.

Bottom line, there's probably no room for error in the third-highest of the PCAL's five divisions, where Gonzales also harbors title hopes.

"I expect to contend, but I also think the league appears to be fairly strong, top to bottom," said Stevenson coach Toby Elmore of a division that also includes North Mon-



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

This season, Stevenson's Luke Brandler (above) returns to goalie, his natural position, after earning all-division honors in 2023 as a midfielder. (Right) Carmel co-captain Ryder Scheid, a senior, is a key component on a defense that has been nearly impenetrable so far this season.



any of these teams."

Anticipating a championship season and hoping for a deep run in the CCS playoffs, both coaches deliberately scheduled rugged opposition for their nonleague games and watched their teams grow exponentially during the first month of the season.

As the new year gets underway, Carmel holds a 3-3-2 overall record — after opening with consecutive 1-0 losses to Santa Cruz, Soquel and Monterey in the first nine days of the season. The Padres are 3-0-2 since then, including a 2-0 victory over Monte Vista Christian and a 0-0 draw at North County in Cypress Division games.

Stevenson spent the first nine days of December in the San Francisco Bay area, christening the season with losses to high-powered University High of San Francisco (4-0),

and formidable Seaside (5-0), sandwiched around a 0-0 tie against The Branson School, a college prep academy in Marin County.

Pirates surprised Sacred Heart

The Pirates followed that with a 2-1-1 performance at their own tournament, the second annual Tom Moore Invitational, where they scored 2-0 victories over Ather-ton's Sacred Heart Prep, a West Catholic League school, and KIPP Collegiate of San Jose. They played San Jose's Cindy Avitia to a scoreless draw and lost 2-0 to Laguna Creek of Elk Grove.

Stevenson improved to 4-3-2 overall after an 8-1 rout

Continues next page

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

terey County, Ceiba, Monte Vista Christian and Pacific Collegiate. "I imagine it'll largely come down to which teams get on a roll and get in sync sooner, rather than later. I think we'll need to play hard, intense, physical, against

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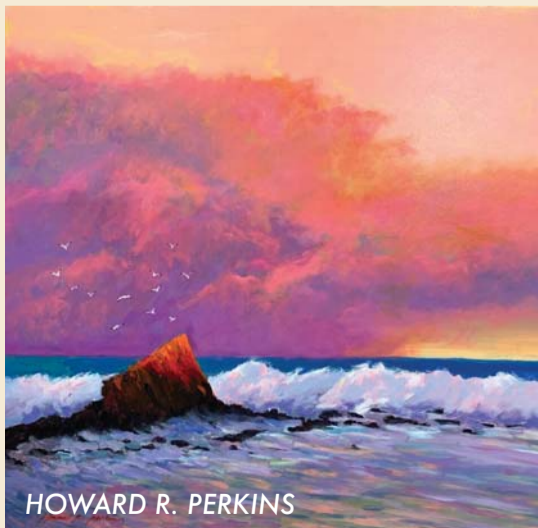
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From previous page

of Marina on Dec. 12 and a 3-0 conquest of Monte Vista Christian in the division opener on Jan. 4.

Results were unavailable at press time for two Wednesday afternoon games, including Stevenson's contest against North County and Carmel's showdown with Gonzales, both home games for the locals.

A strong indicator of Carmel's prowess is the fact that the Padres haven't surrendered more than a single goal in a game and have whitewashed their last three opponents.

Seniors lead Carmel defense

Three seniors start on Carmel's back line — co-captains Ryder Scheid and Isaac Martinez, plus Saul Garcia — along with sophomore Daniel Carrera, setting up a formidable wall in front of first-year goalie Tyler Hendrick, a junior.

"Tyler is a phenomenal athlete who is just starting to learn the position, but he's already a tremendous goalkeeper, with the potential to become a premier goalie," said Hirschfield, who was a defender in college, himself.

"Our defenders rely on communication, understanding their positions and knowing where to set themselves tactically. They're a talented group, and they've already been very impressive, including three clean sheets (shutouts) in a row."

Toby Schoone, a junior, also is strong defensively as a midfielder, where he is teamed with junior co-captain Alejandro Martinez and sophomores Bodhi Melton and Alex Castagna.

"Alejandro is one of the premier players in the league, a highly skilled kid who has the ability to play at the next level. He really can dominate, and our game flows through him," Hirschfield said. "All four are very technical players with great vision. They can transition forward or hustle back on defense."

Carmel's wings, senior Juanma Garcia and junior Bennett Foreman, have an ability to slip past opposing defenders to attack the goal.

The front line, a work in progress, features sophomores Sebastian Blessing and Liam Rodriguez and seniors Enzo Gomez and Jack Logan (just back from an injury).

Versatile utility players include junior Ollie Johnston and seniors Carlos Mora and Maarten Stomp, all capable of multiple positions.

Exceptional work ethic

"The hallmark of this team is that they're unbelievably competitive, and their work ethic is like nothing I've seen," Hirschfield said. "Our practices are as intense as the games."



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Santiago Esquino-Espejo, a sophomore, is a quick, energetic, heady and explosive center-midfielder for Stevenson.

See **SPORTS** next page

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ARTIST

From page 21A

father, Slim Southard, a country-western musician who played local clubs when she was a kid. “He bought me crayons and paper, and he’d always say, ‘Oh, that’s so good!’” she remembers.

Venture Gallery pottery artist **Sachiko Yokota** (Feb. 24, 2023), a native of Sendai, Japan, said “accidental imperfections” are not mistakes to Japanese ceramicists, who respect a concept called “wabi-sabi,” which teaches that nature is not perfect.

Fine-art photographer **Donald Kellogg** (Aug. 5, 2023) of Corral de Tierra was the only plastic surgeon in Salinas for about 20 years, during which he essentially was on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. His son, Matt, took over his practice when Kellogg retired after a 30-year career.

The art ambitions of Venture Gallery painter **Dorothy Stonely** (Feb. 10, 2023) began at age 4, when she opened a box of eight crayons that her mother brought home and broke them in half so she’d have twice as many.

Carmel painter **Emy Ledbetter** (June 2, 2023), who died just short of her 85th birthday in July 2022, was 17 when she landed a job working for the FBI.

From science to photography

Jason Bradley (Dec. 8, 2023) was a long-haired skateboarder who dropped out of high school in the San Fernando Valley, headed for the coast to become a marine biologist, then morphed into a fine-art wildlife and adventure photographer. He now owns Bradley Photographic in Pacific Grove.

Marie-Claude Joron (May 6, 2023), known as “Coco,” studied art at Montreal’s Concordia University under Russian abstract expressionist Leopold Plotek, whose encouragement gave her the confidence to become serious as a painter. She has her own gallery in Carmel.

The paintings and sculptures of **Rene Romero Schuler** (May 12, 2023) — always female, always faceless — are an homage to her troubled childhood, much of which she spent homeless, wandering the streets of Chicago alone.

Monterey native **Ruben Martin** (Feb. 17, 2023), a fine-art photographer, lives in a 120-year-old home where his dad, Peter, created calligraphy, drawings and paintings, and his mom, Sally, a professional flamenco dancer, left dents on the hardwood floor (still visible) as she performed for party guests.

Stephanie Baptista (Jan. 20, 2023) invested in cheap art supplies to pass the time while caring for her ailing

grandfather and never stopped painting. Her art adorns the walls of wineries, homes and Mee Memorial Hospital in King City, and she also sells a line of greeting cards at Spencer’s Stationery in the Crossroads.

Vanessa Cowdrey (Sept. 15, 2023), a ceramicist, says she’s humbled by the realization that the all of the materials she uses for her art were once something else, another physical form, altered for centuries by the forces of the

universe. “I approach my work through a scientific lens,” she said.

Plein-air artist **Ruth Carroll** (Oct. 13, 2023) is a fifth-generation Californian whose great-grandfather — who stood 6-foot-7 — was the original constable of what now is East Oakland. He didn’t need a gun.

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

SPORTS

From previous page

Stevenson’s defense is also a strength, beginning with goalkeeper Luke Brandler, who, after breaking a finger, earned first-team All-Mission Division honors last year as a field player — an unfamiliar position for him.

“When Luke broke his finger, we had to move him (from goalie) to the field, and he was remarkable out there, but we’re very grateful to have him back in goal,” Elmore said.

The Pirates’ center backs are Jonas Avernoeck Bolen, a senior from Germany, and freshman Zach DaSilva, who brings extensive experience after playing soccer for the Bay Area Surf, a MLS Next club. The left back, Harrison

Wilmot, is a returning starter who also has the ability to attack the goal. Gabriel Hao, a varsity veteran, is competing for a starting spot on the back line.

Tough midfield for Stevenson

Center midfielders Santiago Esquino Espejo and Charles Elmore have strong soccer IQs and the ability to be creative with the ball. Junior Henry Blaxter is energetic, aggressive and physically strong, qualities that make him one of Stevenson’s best attackers, and Pato Lagoretta, a sophomore, is adroit at connecting the midfielders with Stevenson’s attacking players.

The team’s leading scorers are senior Spencer Stornetta, a right-side forward with good size, strong instincts and an offensive mindset, and Nico Arias Jimenez, a talented and athletic freshman. Both have three goals each.

Ian Schindler, a senior, has scored twice, and is tied for the team lead in assists with Esquino Espejo, two each.

Pedro Velasquez, a sophomore from Mexico, is another strong attacker who is contending for a starting position on the right side of the offense.

“I set up a very challenging preseason schedule this year with an intent to deepen our understanding of what we need to do when things go a little bit sideways for whatever reason,” Elmore said. “I saw our team grow a lot against some strong opponents in those December games.”

Carmel travels Friday to Pacific Collegiate and hosts Ceiba College Prep on Wednesday, both 3:30 p.m. games.

Stevenson plays a crucial game at 5:45 p.m. Friday at Gonzales and returns home Wednesday for a 3:30 p.m. contest against Pacific Collegiate.

Stevenson hosts Carmel at 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 23, and travels to play the Padres on Feb. 12, the final day of the regular season.

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



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Junior midfielder Alejandro Jimenez, a co-captain for the Padres, ranks among the best players in the Pacific Coast Athletic League this season.

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Two-time Grammy Award winners, bluegrass quartet plays in Monterey

NOMINATED TWICE for a Grammy Award for Best Bluegrass Album, **The Special Consensus** plays a 7 p.m. concert Friday at Monterey United Methodist Church.

Founded by banjo master **Greg Cahill** and others in

during his tenure, the group has featured 18 guitarists, 18 mandolinists and 12 bassists.

Besides Cahill, the ensemble's current lineup includes bassist **Dan Eubanks**, guitarist **Greg Blake** and mandolinist **Michael Prewitt**.

"They are four talented vocalists and instrumentalists who follow their creative desires without straying too far from their bluegrass roots," according to the Otter Opry, which puts on bluegrass and Americana shows in the Monterey Bay region.

Last year, The Special Consensus released its 20th album, "Great Blue North." The record celebrates Canadian folk music. Two of their previous albums, 2012's "Scratch Gravel Road" and 2019's "Rivers and Roads," were nominated for Grammys. In 2016, their song, "Fireball," won an International Bluegrass Music Award for Instrumental Recorded Performance of the Year.

Tickets are \$35, with discounts available for California Bluegrass Association members and kids 15 and under. Pre-show dinners start at \$12.50. The church is located at 1 Soledad Dr. For more details, visit otteropry.com.

Live music Jan. 12-18

Albatross Ridge Winery and Kitchen in Monterey — **Magenta Spreen** with singer and guitarist **Talmon Owens** and singer **Kristen Gradwohl** ("dreamy soundscapes and vocal harmonies coupled with rich storytelling and mindful melodies," Saturday at 7 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

Bernardus Lodge & Spa in Carmel Valley — pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

1975, the ensemble has endured despite numerous lineup changes. Cahill has been the one constant member —



Singer and guitarist Adrea Castiano performs this week in Carmel Valley, Monterey and Pebble Beach.

Yale singers visit Carmel Valley

Billed as the country's oldest collegiate a cappella ensemble, **The Whiffenpoofs** of Yale University perform Saturday, 7 p.m., at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Carmel Valley.

Founded at Mory's Temple Bar in New Haven, Conn., in 1909, the singing group featured only men until 2018, when it became co-ed. At St. Dunstan's, the group will present a mix of old Yale tunes and jazz standards, along with a few surprises.

Tickets are \$35 for general admission, \$25 for students and children 5-12, and free for children 5 and under. The church is located at 28005 Robinson Canyon Rd.



A two-time Grammy Award nominee, the Special Consensus plays bluegrass Friday at Monterey United Methodist Church.

guitarist **Adrea Castiano** ("From Johnny Cash to Amy Winehouse," Saturday at noon), pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Sunday at noon). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

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

See MUSIC page 33A



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FOOD & WINE

Wine returns to Third Thursdays, P.G. gets brewery and Krug pops a cork

JUST AS it did a year ago, the Carmel City Council at a special meeting Monday narrowly voted to allow people to enjoy wine and other alcoholic beverages in Devendorf Park during the farmers market's Third Thursday events held from March to October. But they aren't allowed to BTOB (bring their own booze).

Organized by Good Roots Events,

tions," she told the council Jan. 8. "Both times, it was handled by the Carmel Youth Center as a fundraiser."

While some people were concerned that the presence of wine for sale by a nonprofit and consumed within a small, fenced area would turn Third Thursdays into a boozier event, that hasn't been the case.

Wine was served at the April event in 2023 by the youth center, and in May by the Carmel Residents Association.

"After that, we didn't have alcohol at the events, and it was fine," Wright said,

noting that nonprofits could have served it if they wanted to, but none expressed a desire to do so.

She recommended the council allow the practice to continue during this year's Third Thursday events, which are set for March through October, with the exception of August due to Car Week.

Councilwoman Karen Ferlito opposed the idea. "When there are a lot of children and people around, people should be taking care of their kids and watching over them, but sometimes they can be dis-

Soup to Nuts

which oversees the weekly market held on the blocks of Sixth and Mission bordering the park, Third Thursdays take place during the evening and include some market vendors, live music sponsored by Sunset Center, games and activities for kids, and art demonstrations. While the idea was first raised a decade ago, the monthly gatherings didn't take shape until fall of 2022, according to community activities director Ashlee Wright.

"We did have alcohol served at those events, in accordance with ABC regula-



The Carmel City Council voted this week to allow the consumption of wine and other alcoholic beverages at the Third Thursday farmers market events held from March to October at Devendorf Park.

tracted" when they drink, she said.

Councilwoman Alissandra Dramov agreed. "We're creating a kid-friendly and a family-friendly event, and I would just rather not have alcohol served," she said.

While Dramov said she also worries about enforcing the wine-drinking rules, Wright told the council her staff and Carmel P.D. volunteers have had more of a challenge dealing with people who insist on bringing their dogs to the farmers market — a violation of state health regulations — and into the park, where the city does not allow them.

Councilman Jeff Baron observed that serving wine hasn't created any problems. "A very small part of the event is the alcohol," he commented. "Sometimes it happens, and sometimes it doesn't. I'm completely OK with that. I support the status quo."

"I've often attended these and haven't seen alcohol as a problem," councilman Bobby Richards said before making the motion to adopt the resolution. Mayor Dave Potter was likeminded, and it passed 3-2.

■ P.G. to get Hops & Fog

Some new suds are coming to the former Wash & Dry space near Lighthouse Cinema in P.G. Longtime home brewer Mike Durrant and his local business partners, Ximena Waissbluth and John Papandreopoulos, hope to open Hops & Fog brewery and restaurant in time for The Good Old Days, May 6 and 7. The group bought the building just before Covid shut everything down in 2020, but they've been working in earnest to fulfill their frothy dreams.

In a refrain every homeowner who's started a remodel will recognize, Durrant said, "We have now been under construction since August, when the team came out to remove a little asbestos that was left in the building. We gutted the building and found quite a bit more damage and issues

than we originally expected."

After building up the foundation and replacing areas overtaken by extensive rot, they are in the last phases of construction. Durrant explained, "We are now on to the buildout, which includes adding on about 300 square feet, pouring an entirely new floor and framing in the restaurant and brewery."

Durrant, who's been brewing his own beer for more than 20 years, said he specializes in red beers and brown ales. He'll make an assortment of small-batch quaffs, and envisions customers bringing in refillable containers to take some home.

The restaurant will have a brick oven for "creative pizzas" and other food offerings. Durrant said he plans to work with vendors to create items that pair well with the beer — because in the end, that's what it's about, along with community. "We want people to come in here and have a place to hang out," he said.

■ Krug dinner for foragers fest

As you've probably heard, the Foragers Festival returns to Big Sur this year the weekend of Jan. 19-21, and the former Ventana Inn, now called the Alila Ventana Resort, is joining in the fun. The resort's chef, Alan Kwan, is already doing a series of "single-ingredient dinners" paired with Krug Champagne, and in honor of the Foragers Festival, the focus at the Jan. 19 meal will be on fungus.

The meal will start with a mushroom crostini appetizer, then progress to salad with roasted porcini, chowder with lobster mushrooms, chanterelle cannelloni, and a Wellington-style beef dish with wild mushrooms. Dessert is white truffle ice cream. Each course is paired with either Krug Brut Rosé or Krug Grande Cuvée.

If Champagne is not your wine of choice, Kwan has also paired most courses

Continues next page



Estéban, the restaurant in the Casa Munras Garden Hotel, recently added a pergola to its patio. The new seating area features a retractable roof and heaters to keep the cold away while customers enjoy tapas, wine, beer and cocktails al fresco.

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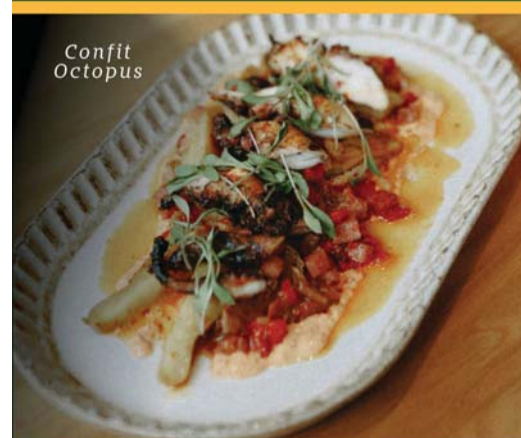
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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

with optional and exceptional still alternatives, including a lovely pinot blanc from Germany, an earthy pinot noir from Burgundy, a merlot-based Bordeaux from the Pomerol region and a heady dessert wine, royal Tokaji late harvest from Hungary.

According to Kwan, "This special Foragers Feast dinner celebrates Krug Champagne and the natural flavors of Big Sur. The unexpected harmony of flavors is a surprise and delight for guests, with the earthy, deep mushrooms paired perfectly with bright, crisp Champagne to cut the richness and allow for the distinct umami flavors to shine through."

Although not inexpensive at \$450 (plus tax and fees) per person, the dinner promises to be an exciting epicurean adventure. Like the rest of the festival, each ticket sale supports the Big Sur Health Center — and don't hesitate, as very few spots are available. Visit bit.ly/3RPFd7f for more information.

■ Brodie brings home honors

Longtime local chef Wendy Brodie, who hosts a Comcast cable and public television show called "Art of Food," celebrated a first-place win in the rice and noodle category at the 2023 World Food Championships in Dallas with a lamb dish that co-starred chanterelle ravioli with portobellas and truffles. The annual championship says it's "the largest competition in food sport," and is open to home cooks, professional chefs and teams.



Longtime local chef and TV host Wendy Brodie took first place in an international food competition as part of Team Purple Reign.

Brodie was part of Team Purple Reign, with entrepreneur Dan Reign and James R. Smith of Texas' Chateau Wright Winery.

■ Outdoor dining at Estéban

Estéban at the Casa Munras Garden Hotel in Monterey has a new pergola. The 18-by-32-foot Mediterranean-style structure on the restaurant's patio has seating for as many as 26 people and features a retractable roof and eight heaters. Fog, shmog! While you're there, check out some of Chef Ben Hillan's new winter tapas. Coca Catalan Flatbread, for example, includes squash and walnuts paired with flavors of pea tendrils, cheese, red onion and apple. Or try the Grilled Secreto de Iberico Pork, in which Hillan serves up dry-rubbed meat with apple and celery root purée, piquillo pepper relish, and rosemary chili oil. The extensive menu will satisfy a wide range of palates and includes vegetarian and gluten-free options. Casa Munras is at 700 Munras Ave. For hours and more information,



Alila Ventana Resort (formerly Ventana Inn) is hosting a feast on Jan. 19 in conjunction with the Big Sur Foragers Festival, pairing fungi-based dishes with Champagne from Krug, one of the oldest houses in France. Ticket sales for the dinner benefit the Big Sur Health Center.



visit estebanrestaurant.com or call (831) 375-0176. Reservations aren't required but are recommended, especially if you want pergola seating.

the spotlight should know that there are still openings for cooking demos on Saturday at 2 and 4 p.m. and on Sunday at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., and 4 p.m. Interested chefs should email info@thebuzzpr.net for more information or to claim a time.

■ Chefs wanted

The Artichoke Festival at the Monterey Fairgrounds on June 8 and 9 is still a long way off, but chefs who enjoy

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

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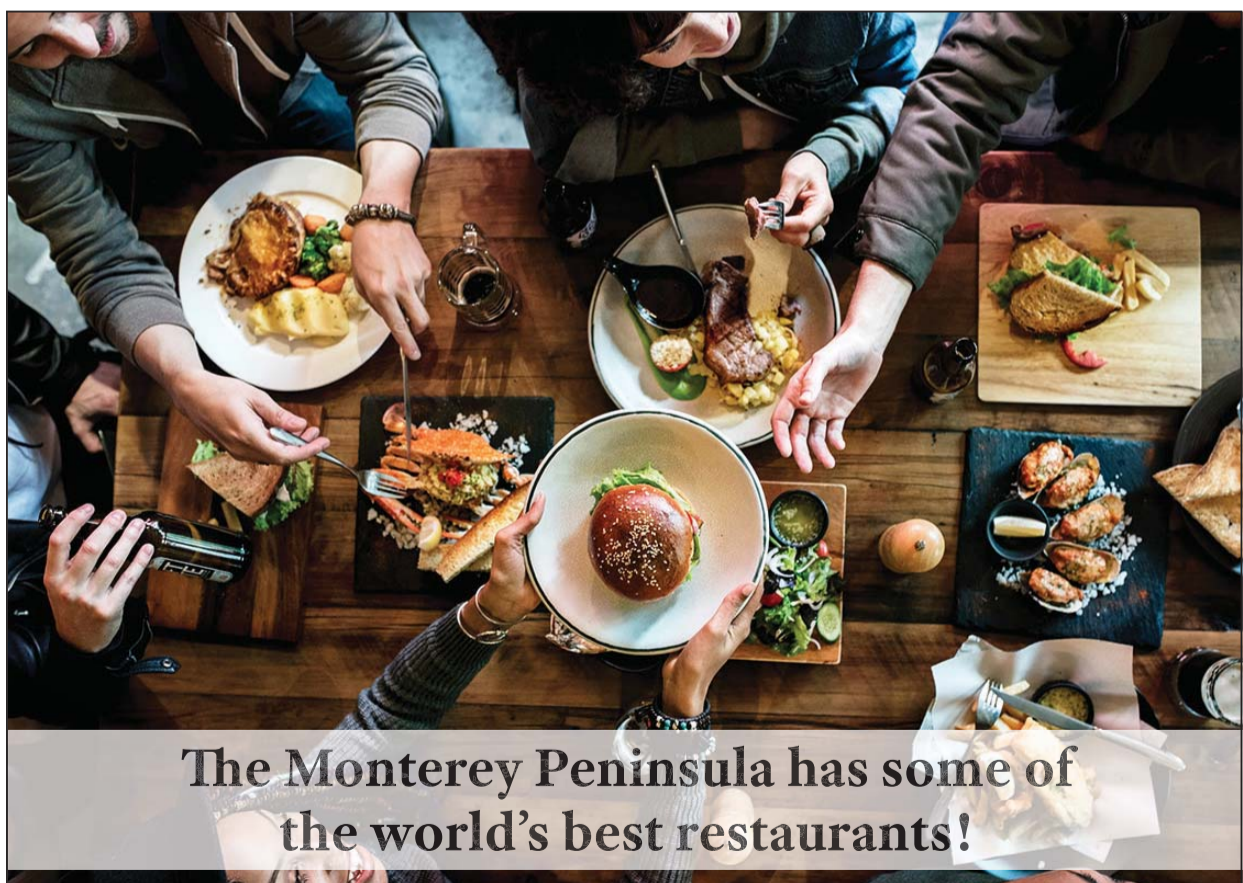


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Service Directory
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Police Log: Pacific Grove, Dec. 4

Man who lives on Syida reported his wife missing.

Wife was contacted, said they are not married and that she left him.

MUSIC

From page 29A

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 Holodiloff 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.), **Andrea's Fault Duo** (jazz and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.), guitarist **Richard Devinck** (classical, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh, Carmel.

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

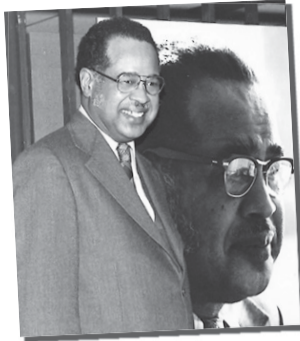
Fernwood Resort in Big Sur — **Flat Sun Society** (rock, Saturday at 10 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Jake Padorr** (new age, Sunday at 4 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

Folktale Winery in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Adrea Castiano** ("From Johnny Cash to Amy Winehouse," Friday at 4 p.m.), **Two Rivers** with singer **Richard Bryant** and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (pop and rock, Saturday at 2 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Lindsey Wall** (Sunday at 2 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

Gusto Pasta and Pizza in Seaside — singer and key-

Continues next page

CALENDAR



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.

Jan. 16 - Monterey Bay Chapter of Ikebana International presents a demonstration of Japanese flower arrangement, 12:30 p.m. at Pebble Beach Community Services District at 3101 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach. Gate fee waived by mentioning Ikebana at PBCSD. Guest fee \$5. Visit www.ikebanamontereybay.weebly.com for details.

Jan. 23 - Carmel Residents Association presents Paul Miller discussing "The Carmel Pine Cone Inside/Out." Paul the owner, publisher, editor of The Carmel Pine Cone, will share a behind-the-curtain view into what makes it our village weekly "must read." Held at the Carmel Woman's Club and open to the public, doors open at 6:30 p.m. with wine served. For details visit www.carmelresidents.org and submit questions you want asked to info@carmelresidents.org.

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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MONTEREY STAKE



New
video

From previous page

boardist **Carl Oser** and bassist **Tony Bianchini** (jazz, Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.). 1901 Fremont Blvd.

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 — singer **Pamela Forman** and guitarist **Bruce Forman** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** with violinist **Elijah McCullar** (bluegrass and jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, 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



A well known cappella ensemble from Yale University, the Whiff-enpoofs visit Carmel Valley Saturday.

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.

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 Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Friday at 7 p.m.), **The Joint Chiefs** (r&b and funk, Saturday at 7 p.m.), Singer-Songwriter Showcase (Tuesday at 7 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — singer and guitarist **Adrea Castiano** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Pfeiffer** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, 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 — singer **Chuck Brewer** and guitarist **Ernie Buck** (rock and blues, 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 **Steve Mann** (jazz and pop, Friday and Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Adrea Castiano** ("from Johnny Cash, to Amy Winehouse," Monday at 5 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Tuesday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Dan Cortes** (Wednesday and Thursday at 5 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

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

Puma Road at Portola Plaza in Monterey — singer and guitarist **Tim Brady** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kris Angelis** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), **The Smoky**

See TUNES next page



Featuring guitarist Talmon Owens and singer Kristen Gradwohl, Magenta Spreen plays Saturday in Monterey.

To advertise in The Carmel Pine Cone's

Real Estate section

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The Carmel Pine Cone

LIVES

From page 21A

malice," he noted — at venues from rodeos to corporate events.

He said he was honored to meet the Rogers family and to be invited to perform as the humorist at Will Rogers State Park in Pacific Palisades — a gig he has repeated, most recently in November. He's also been invited to the family home in Los Angeles and to Claremore, Okla., where Rogers is buried. The role led him to become an expert in cowboy skills like roping, gun work and whip artistry.

He held the world record in gun spinning, which means taking a pistol out of a holster, spinning it, re-holstering and releasing it, and then repeating the action as rapidly as possible — in Roberts' case, 44 times in one minute. In 2018, at the California Rodeo Salinas, where he's a regular performer, he set the world's record for the largest number of people inside a spinning lasso. He got 13 folks huddled inside the loop and twirled it for several seconds as a judge from the Guinness Book of World Records looked on. You can see the feat on YouTube at bit.ly/3vfPSeL.

Along with all that cowboying up, he appeared in Cirque du Soleil's "Viva Elvis" show in Las Vegas for 3 1/2 years and has been in national commercials for Total Wines, Applebee's, Geico, Verizon and many others, including a Super Bowl ad for Jack in the Box.

You may have seen Roberts in one of his movie, TV or streaming appearances — which include an uncredited

role as the groom in a comically disastrous wedding scene in the movie "Turner and Hooch" — but you might not be able to match him up with his publicity photos. He's good-looking, but with an everyman quality he's used to his advantage.

"I get a lot of cop and CIA agent calls," he laughed, but he's also played some pretty nasty villains. He described himself as a method actor, delving into his characters, learning their mannerisms and creating their "looks," complete with hair and makeup.

Being, not acting

For his role as Marshall in "Oppenheimer," he said he contacted the George C. Marshall Foundation for help in accurately portraying the historical figure. The foundation's website has an interview with its director of library and archives, Melissa Davis, about Roberts' work.

"When I saw Will in 'Oppenheimer' as Marshall, I said 'Oh, there's Marshall.' I feel like he wasn't acting as Marshall. He was being Marshall," Davis said. Although his appearance is brief, it's in a pivotal scene with all the major characters, which Roberts said has boosted his marketability.

He also has a recurring role in the Amazon series, "Studio City," as a less-than-savory studio executive.

Roberts' roots in magic have led him to amass a seemingly bottomless bag of skills and tricks. Now that he's the owner of Zucchini's — which offers a free "Magic Academy" — he's also ready to encourage a new generation of performers to take the stage. To see him in "The Honest Huckster" at 8 p.m. on Jan. 27, visit zucchinimagicshop.com. Tickets are \$25.

TUNES

From previous page

Vegas Project ("classic lounge," Sunday at 5 p.m.) 281 Alvarado St.

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 — **Lighthouse** (rock, country and blues at 8 p.m.), **The Edge** (rock, Saturday at 8 p.m.), singer **Chuck Brewer** and guitarist **Ernie Buck** (rock and blues, Thursday at 8 p.m.). 653 Cannery Row.

Sly McFly's in Monterey — **Everyday People** ("classic Latin rock with an old school funk twist," Friday at 9 p.m.), **The Bridget Marie Band** (r&b and funk, Saturday at 9 p.m.), **The Stingrays** (classic rock, Sunday at 8:30 p.m.), **The Long Distance Flyers** (classic rock, Monday at 8:30 p.m.), **The Pacific Jack Band** (classic rock, Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.), **5 Star** (rock and soul, Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.), **Blue Fire** (classic rock and modern funk, Thursday at 8:30 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

Trailside Cafe in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Brad Wilson** (rock and blues, Friday at 6 p.m.), **Boscoe's Brood** (rock, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

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

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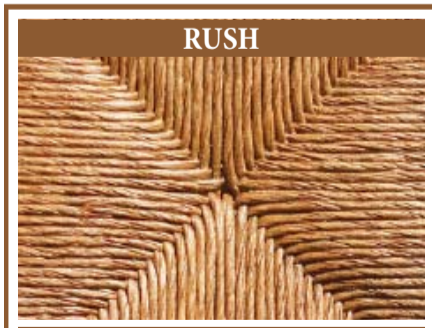




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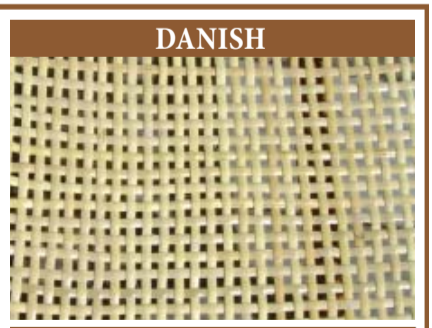
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SECTION RE ■ January 12-18, 2024

Open Houses on page 10RE

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate



■ This week's cover property, located in Carmel Valley, is presented by Rhonda Williams & Judy Tollner of Carmel Realty Company (See Page 2RE)

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About the Cover

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate

January 12-18, 2024



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Escrows closed: 20
Total value: \$37,932,000

Carmel

Casanova Street, 2 NE of 13th Avenue —
\$2,550,000

Anne McGowan to Curtis and Sarah Hodge
APN: 010-175-012

Lincoln Street, 2 SW of Ocean — **\$7,500,000**

Phi McKee LP to Esperanza Carmel LLC
APN: 010-201-002

See HOME SALES page 4RE

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SP: \$8,671,577 ■ Rep. Buyer



SP: \$3,275,000 ■ Rep. Seller

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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
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HOME SALES

From page 2RE

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9 Sonoma Lane — \$2,880,000

Troy, Ceara, Jared and Courtney Romney to James and Kelly Pyron
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Carmel Valley

230 Del Mesa Carmel — \$609,500

Paul Black and Esra Colduroglu to Mellow Puppet LLC
APN: 015-514-019

9500 Center Street unit 34 — \$660,000

Stephanie Murphy to Cynthia Herrera
APN: 169-237-034



515 Gibson Avenue, Pacific Grove — \$980,500



5 Sleepy Hollow Drive, Carmel Valley — \$4,100,000

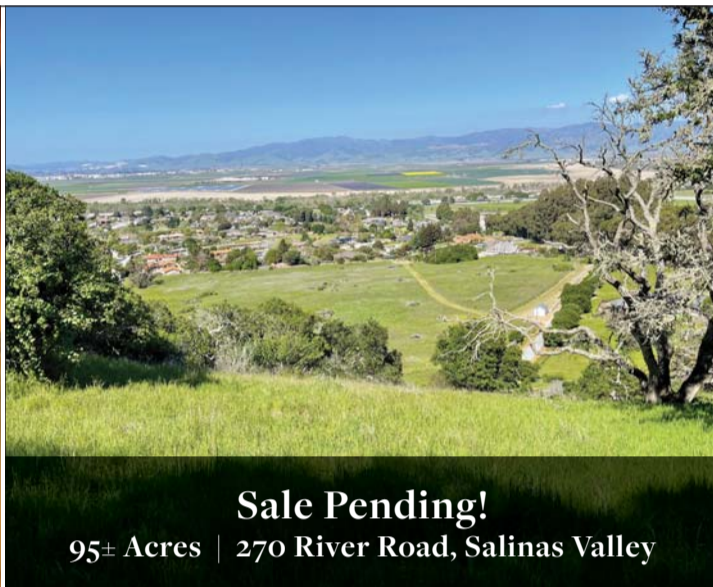
107 Del Mesa Carmel — \$850,000

Jayne Wilsey and Miller Trust to Michael and Patricia Evans
APN: 015-448-007

3850 Rio Road — \$1,300,000

Marilyn Borucki to Marvin Watts
APN: 015-532-026

See ESCROWS page 15RE



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newellranchbigsur.com



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Agent in
Monterey County*



jonathanspencerproperties.com

Sometimes, even our vegetating reps in Sacramento do something right

‘THERE OUGHTA Be a Law’ was a single-panel newspaper comic strip that illustrated the minor absurdities of life. It ran from 1944 to 1985. Our legislators seem to agree, since hundreds of new laws went into effect in California in 2024. Among them is AB 446, sponsored by Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva, a former school-teacher. The bill, signed into law by the governor, requires cursive instruction in elementary schools.

Cursive mostly disappeared from schools when California adopted the 2010 Common Core State Standards for English and math, which didn’t include the out-of-fashion script. A New York Times article from June 2, 2014, stated, “The Common Core standards, which have been adopted in most states, call for teaching legible writing, but only in kindergarten and first grade.

After that, the emphasis quickly shifts to proficiency on the keyboard. Smartphones and texting have further diminished the need for handwriting. Some of the reliance on fast messaging keeps at bay the intellectual process for insight and observation.”

Hand-eye coordination is a major developmental process. Sensory-motor coordination can always improve with

practice. “We see this when teaching a child how to throw and catch a ball,” said William R. Klemm in “Psychology Today,” Aug. 5, 2013. Klemm wrote, “Think about what is going on in the brain as such learning progresses. The

Scenic Views

By JERRY GERVASE

brain is creating new circuitry to evaluate what is seen, the speed of what is seen, the movements required, and the speed and timing of movements. This circuitry becomes a lasting part of the brain. This circuitry can be recruited for use in other hand-eye coordination tasks.”

‘Thinking element’

He goes on to say, “Learning to write by hand has these same features, plus there is a thinking element involved that does not occur with simple throw-and-catch movements. The thinking level is magnified in cursive because

the specific hand-eye coordination requirements are different for every letter in the alphabet.” He believes that through cursive writing, children may learn to read more easily, especially dyslexics.

Progressive educators give the backhand to longhand. With texting and keyboard mania, there is some truth to the notion that kids don’t need cursive. But, as adults, they will need to sign documents, contracts, applications and more. Cursive writing is an important way to take what you learn in the classroom out of the classroom.

These educators especially criticize the Palmer Method, which was once the most common way of teaching penmanship, arguing that time spent learning it is wasted. I learned the Palmer Method way back in the 20th century. I consider the hours I spent with a pen in my hand, copying the rhythmic motions of the Palmer method, as golden. It helped cultivate a cool hand and a keen eye.

I was fairly adept at cursive, but aging and arthritis in my fingers have diminished my proficiency. I still use it, though, especially when jotting down column ideas and writing grocery lists.

The problem is, when I get to the market I can’t make out whether I want soap or soup. Hint: I rarely buy tomato soap. Actually, I am amazed that I can write at all. My first writing instrument in school was a straight pen, a precursor to paper shredders because the dull, jagged tip often put a hole in the paper.

I still use cursive writing whenever I can, mostly with fountain pens. I own several. Years ago, in a little pen shop in Siena, Italy, the proprietor allowed me to hold a Montegrappa 1995 Silver Dragon Limited Edition worth about \$12,000. I knew I was holding a pen that was mightier than the sword. I had that same sense of connection to anyone who has ever achieved a purpose more effectively through communication with words than by violence with weapons.

Historic need

Children need to know how to read cursive too. When you get a pile of mail and see a handwritten envelope addressed to you, what’s the first piece of mail you open? Blessedly, my two younger grandchildren (probably with their mother hovering over them) send me handwritten thank-you notes that I cherish.

Imagine going to the National Archives in Washington D.C. and not being able to read the Constitution or the Bill of Rights because the founding fathers didn’t know how to type.

The Declaration of Independence, one of our most treasured documents, declared our freedom from tyranny. It was validated by the signatures (written in cursive) of men who put their lives on the line by signing. One of the signatures is so dazzling it became synonymous for the act of anybody signing anything.

We are individuals with personalities, desires, abilities, and experiences. How your handwriting differs from the “standard” handwriting is nothing but your individuality expressed on paper. It is a snapshot of your personality. Channel your inner John Hancock and express that personality in cursive.

Contact Jerry at jerry.gervase@yaho.com

TEHAMA

CARMEL

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\$3,750,000 | 18.18 Acres

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Two Luxury Apartments For Lease

La Rambla Building, Lincoln Avenue between Ocean & 7th Avenue



Two luxury 1 bedroom apartments available for long term leasing in the heart of downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Enjoy modern living within this beautiful and historic Carmel building, comprehensively refurbished in 2017. Both apartments have a roof terrace to the rear enjoying sea views. There is a shared laundry room and separate storage units available in the building and residents are welcomed to enjoy the idyllic private courtyard with its calming water fountain.

	<u>Apartment A</u>	<u>Apartment B</u>
Size:	686 square feet	824 square feet
Rent:	\$3,150 per month	\$3,700 per month

For further information or to arrange a viewing please contact:

Chris Mitchell
831-250-7669
contact@esperanzacarmel.com
www.esperanzacarmel.com



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2884 LASAUEEN ROAD, PEBBLE BEACH
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This new build in Pebble Beach, designed by Young Williams Art, maximizes privacy with 5 separate suites and 5.5 baths, each with its own theme. The home is expansive, nearly 3,600 Sq. Ft. with 22-foot ceilings, yet welcoming and cozy. This home combines beautiful finishes and high-quality appliances with innovative construction techniques, like a Tesla solar roof and double-insulated ceilings, to create a lasting legacy for generations.

5 beds, 5.5 baths ■ 3,589 Sq. Ft. ■ \$5,850,000
www.2884LasauenRoad.com

27465 LOMA DEL REY, CARMEL VALLEY

CHARMING VALLEY HOME WITH MOUNTAIN VIEWS

Nestled on over an acre with mountain range views, this charming home offers serenity and convenience to both town and mid-valley. With a chic yet cozy design in both finishes and furnishings, this sun-drenched south/west facing Carmel Valley retreat offers wonderful interior and exterior living spaces on an open and inviting parcel of land.

4 beds, 4 baths ■ 2,551 Sq. Ft. ■ \$2,790,000
www.27465LomaDelRey.com

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24620 LOWER TRAIL, CARMEL

MID-CENTURY MODERN CARMEL HOME

Ideally located in Carmel, this home allows for effortless access to the vibrant coastal lifestyle. Immerse yourself in the pinnacle of Carmel living in this John Thodos-designed masterpiece, where coastal elegance meets architectural brilliance.

2 beds, 2 baths ■ 1,500 Sq. Ft. ■ \$2,345,000
www.24620LowerTrail.com

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ViliaKakisGilles.com

VILIA KAKIS GILLES 831.760.7091

SALINAS VALLEY | NEW PRICE



30010 Chualar Canyon

4 BD | 4 BA | 56± ACRES | \$2,795,000

TheChualarHouse.com

LAURA & KENT CIUCCI 831.236.8571

CARMEL | OPEN SUNDAY 1-3



114 Del Mesa Carmel

2 BD | 2 BA | \$895,000

114DelMesaCarmel.com

NATALIE POLING 831.620.2468

WATSONVILLE



1630 West Beach

0.885± ACRES | \$2,900,000

YourHomeByTheBay.com

JEANNIE FROMM 831.277.3371

PACIFIC GROVE | OPEN SAT & SUN 1-3



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

PACIFIC GROVE | OPEN SAT 11-1



251 17 Mile Drive

3 BD | 2 BA | \$1,399,000

25117MileDr.com

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MATTHEW VELASQUEZ 831.254.3949

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

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CV120Acres.com

COURTNEY STANLEY 831.293.3030
SKIP MARQUARD 831.594.0643

PACIFIC GROVE | OPEN SAT 11-1 & SUN 1-4



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4 BD | 3 BA | \$2,300,000

BlakeRussellRealty.com

BLAKE RUSSELL 831.917.9886
SHANKLE TEAM 831.484.2712

CARMEL VALLEY



60 Toyon Way

3 BD | 3 BA | \$2,295,000

60ToyonWay.com

DOUG STEINY 831.236.7363

CARMEL VALLEY | OPEN SAT 11-1



201 Laureles Grade Road

4 BD | 3 BA | \$1,875,000

TrapinAndersonMyers.com

TRAPIN ANDERSON & MYERS 831.601.6271

MONTEREY | OPEN SAT & SUN 12-2:30



314 Del Robles Avenue

3 BD | 2 BA | \$1,165,000

MezaProperties.com

MIKE MEZA 831.578.4601

CARMEL | OPEN SAT & SUN 1-3



163 Del Mesa Carmel

2 BD | 2 BA | \$1,150,000

163DelMesaCarmel.com

CLAUDIA MCCOTTER 831.293.3391

CARMEL



281 Del Mesa Carmel

2 BD | 2 BA | \$1,070,000

281DelMesaCarmel.com

CLAUDIA MCCOTTER 831.293.3391

CARMEL



39 Arroyo Sequoia

13.32± ACRES | \$575,000

MickPfaffProperties.com

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SALINAS



12525 Antonio Place

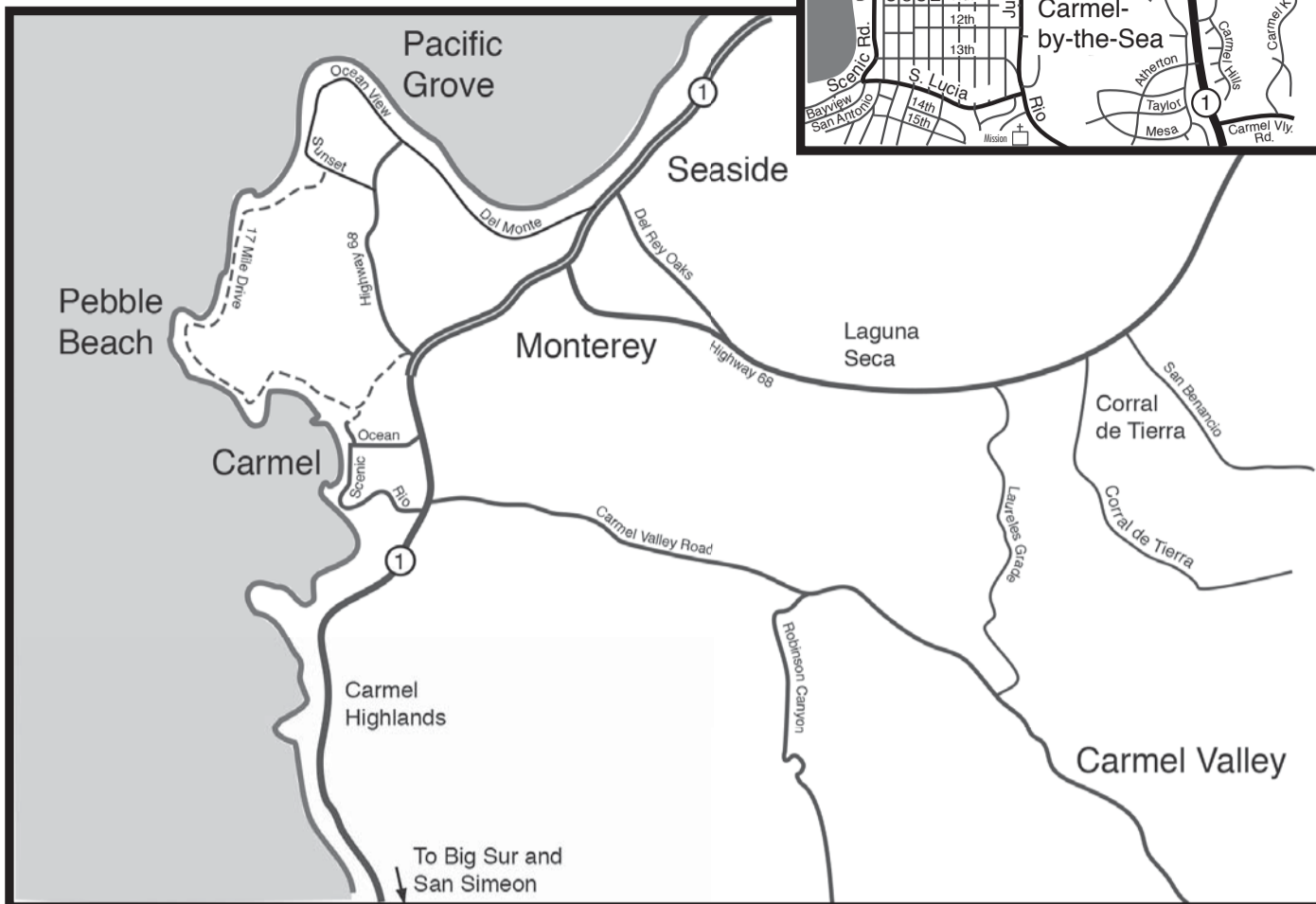
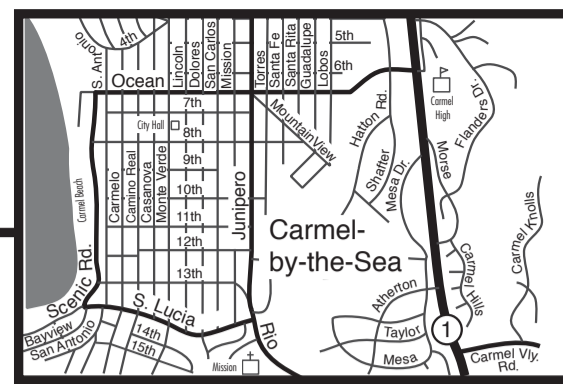
2.9± ACRES | \$350,000

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

This Weekend's OPEN HOUSES January 12-15



APTOS

\$9,950,000 5bd 4.5ba Sa 11-3 Su 1-3
888 Via Gaviota Aptos
Coldwell Banker Realty 298-9909 / 248-8248

CARMEL

\$895,000 2bd 2ba Sa Su 1-3
114 Del Mesa Carmel Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE 402-5877 / 620-2468

\$939,000 2bd 2ba Sa 12-2
24501 Via Mar Monte #74 Carmel
The Jones Group 917-4534

\$1,150,000 2bd 2ba Sa Su 1-3
163 Del Mesa Carmel Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE 620-2468 / 402-5877

\$2,345,000 2bd 2ba Sa Su 11-2
24620 Lower Trail Carmel
Carmel Realty 293-3668

\$2,395,000 3bd 2ba Sa 12-2 Su 12-4
3529 Mesa Court Carmel
Compass, Weather's Gannaway 594-4752

\$3,095,000 3bd 2ba Sa Su 12-3
24439 San Juan Rd Carmel
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Inc. 224-0020

\$3,095,000 3bd 3ba Sa Su 1-3
24675 Outlook Drive Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE 710-1655 / 277-7600

\$3,195,000 4bd 3.5ba Sa 1-3
27467 Schulte Rd Carmel
Coldwell Banker Realty 356-8123

\$3,695,000 4bd 2.5ba Fr 12:30-3 Sa 12-3 Su 1
3462 Lazzaro Dr Carmel
Coldwell Banker Realty 320-6391 / 206-0129

\$3,875,000 4bd 3ba Sa 11-2 Su 11-1:30
26345 Ladera Drive Carmel
Compass, Weather's Gannaway 277-9022

\$3,950,000 3bd 2ba Sa Su 1-3
San Carlos 5 SW of 12th Carmel
Carmel Realty 574-0260

\$3,950,000 3bd 2ba Sa 12-2
Lincoln 3 NW of 13th St Carmel
Coldwell Banker Realty 596-6118

\$4,095,000 2bd 2ba Fr 3-5 Sa 11-3 Su 1-3
San Antonio 2 SE of 10th Avenue Carmel
Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-8116 / 915-8688

\$4,750,000 4bd 3ba Sa 1-3
3334 Martin Road Carmel
Carmel Realty 238-1498

CARMEL VALLEY

\$1,250,000 3bd 2ba Sa 1-3
184 Calle De La Ventana Carmel Valley
Carmel Realty 277-5256

\$1,875,000 4bd 3ba Sa 11-1
201 Laureles Grade Road Carmel Valley
Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-7559

DEL REY OAKS

\$565,000 1bd 1ba Sa Su 12-2
230 Pheasant Ridge Road Del Rey Oaks
Sotheby's Int'l RE 596-9726

MARINA

\$1,225,000 4bd 2.5ba Su 1-3
2712 Sea Glass Avenue Marina
Monterey Coast Realty 238-0653

\$1,095,000 3bd 2.5ba Sa 1-3 Mo 10-12
14622 Lee Avenue Marina, East Garrison
Monterey Coast Realty 206-9969 / 233-4839

\$1,499,950 3bd 2.5ba Sa 1-3 Su 1-3
13730 Sherman Blvd Marina, East Garrison
Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-8768 / 277-1868

MONTEREY

\$749,000 3bd 1ba Sa 12-2
798 Alice St Monterey
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Inc. 392-6993

\$895,000 3bd 2.5ba Sa 12-4
1360 Josselyn Canyon Road 33 Monterey
Monterey Coast Realty 717-7959 / 596-2570

\$1,165,000 3bd 2ba Sa Su 12-2:30
314 Del Robles Avenue Monterey
Sotheby's Int'l RE 601-2080

\$1,685,000 3bd 2ba Fr 4-6 Sa Su 11-2
1190 7th St Monterey
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Inc. 261-6468

\$1,998,000 4bd 2.5ba Sa Su Mo 12-3
460 Dry Creek Road Monterey
Carmel Realty 915-3913

PACIFIC GROVE

\$1,140,000 3bd 1ba Fr 4-6 Sa 11-2 Su 11-1
913 Syda Dr Pacific Grove
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Inc. 917-4707

\$1,399,000 3bd 2ba Sa 11-1
251 17 Mile Drive Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-3464

\$1,575,000 5bd 3ba Sa 1-3
2505 David Avenue Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-1868

\$1,580,000 4bd 3.5ba Fr 3-5 Sa 1-3
150 18th Street Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE 293-4190 / 297-9805

\$1,749,000 3bd 3.5ba Sa Su 1-3
501 Forest Avenue Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE 915-7256 / 530-902-3226

\$2,300,000 4bd 3ba Fr 3-5 Sa 11-1 Su 1-4
403 Central Avenue Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE 917-9886 / 601-6453

\$2,476,000 2bd 2.5ba Su 12-2
520 Lighthouse Avenue, Unit 203 Pacific Grove
Platinum One Real Estate 915-9710

\$2,700,000 2bd 2.5ba Su 12-2
520 Lighthouse Avenue, Unit 303 Pacific Grove
Platinum One Real Estate 915-9710

\$2,950,000 2bd 2.5ba Su 12-2
520 Lighthouse Avenue, Unit 204 Pacific Grove
Platinum One Real Estate 915-9710

\$2,965,000 3bd 2.5ba Su 12-2
520 Lighthouse Avenue, Unit 202 Pacific Grove
Platinum One Real Estate 915-9710

\$3,335,000 3bd 2.5ba Su 12-2
520 Lighthouse Avenue, Unit 302 Pacific Grove
Platinum One Real Estate 915-9710

\$3,578,995 3bd 2.5ba Su 12-2
520 Lighthouse Avenue, Unit 201 Pacific Grove
Platinum One Real Estate 915-9710

\$4,150,000 3bd 3.5ba Sa Su 1-3
904 Del Monte Boulevard Pacific Grove
Sotheby's Int'l RE 254-3949

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

\$2,500,000 3bd 3.5ba Sa Su 12-3
3093 Stevenson Drive Pebble Beach
Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-8029

\$3,995,000 4bd 4ba Su 11-1
2833 Paradise Park Road Pebble Beach
Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-8116

\$5,975,000 5bd 5.5ba Sa 12-3 Su 1-4
1100 Arroyo Dr Pebble Beach
Coldwell Banker Realty 535-8264 / 206-0129

SALINAS

\$525,000 2bd 1ba Sa 11-1
30 W Joaquin Street Unit #2 Salinas
Sotheby's Int'l RE 262-2301

\$5,750,000 5bd 6ba Sa 1-3 Su 12-2
1014 Monterey Salinas Hwy Salinas
Compass, Weather's Gannaway 262-7768

SEASIDE

\$735,000 2bd 1ba Su 2-4
1466 Darwin Street Seaside
Monterey Coast Realty 596-2570

\$860,000 2bd 1ba Sa 2-4 Su 10-1
1129 Wanda Avenue Seaside
Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-3464 / 224-6759



COMING SOON

21 FOURTH STREET | SPRECKELS | \$675,000

Adorable home soon to come to market in quaint Spreckels! Located directly across from Spreckels Elementary and close to Central Park, this 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom property on an 8,000 sq. ft. lot is the perfect starter home.

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HOUSE OF THE WEEK



4 BEDS, 3 BATHS | 2,537 SQ. FT. | \$4,750,000
3334MARTINROAD.COM | CARMEL

Located in one of Carmel's coveted neighborhoods, Hatton Fields, this single level, Coastal Ranch style home is nestled on a huge 1 1/4 acre parcel of land adjacent to Mission Trail with astonishing privacy. Beautiful paver driveway, front gated courtyard, walking paths, rear courtyards, & patio decks encircle the home. Central area of the home has open floor plan with no walls between

kitchen, dining room, and living room. Custom designed exposed beam living room ceiling & beautifully remodeled kitchen with marble counters & high-end appliances. East wing has 4 beds & 2 full baths, all in custom colored paint, wood floors & on one level with no stairs. North wing has large family room with third bath, small office, fireplace, and two car garage.

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DRE#00904451



Mark Ryan
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MarkRyan@CarmelRealtyCompany.com
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DRE#01458945

POLICE LOG

From page 4A

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost wallet reported at Ocean and San Carlos on or around Dec. 24.

Pacific Grove: Officers were dispatched after report of battery/simple assault on David Avenue.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

Carmel-by-the-Sea: In-field cite and release at San Antonio and Seventh of a 34-year-old male for vehicle code and probation violations.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Subject was warned about trespassing at a business on Ocean west of San Carlos.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report taken for a lost wallet containing a credit card and international driver's license.

Pacific Grove: Dispatched to a investigate grand theft from a vehicle on Arkwright Court.

Pacific Grove: Information report only involving a Maple Street resident. Report will be forwarded to Adult Protective Services.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found wallet at San Carlos and Ocean turned in. Inside the wallet, illegal drugs were located.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Located missing person at Rio and Lasuen.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost key and key chain reported at Ocean and Junipero.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found cell phone at Ocean and San Antonio.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found debit card at Dolores and Seventh.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle towed for blocking a driveway at San Carlos and Sixth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Hit-and-run at San Carlos and Eighth. No suspect info.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Battery at Junipero and Fifth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Traffic collision on Seventh Avenue with complaint of pain.

Pacific Grove: Suspicious circumstance on Sage Court.

Pacific Grove: Officers were dispatched after report of vandalism at Country Club Gate center.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found cell phone at Junipero and Ocean.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found driver's license at Junipero and Fifth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Domestic violence incident between a male and a female on San Carlos north of Fourth resulted in injuries. The 34-year-old male aggressor, a resident of Seaside, was arrested and transported to Monterey County Jail for felony spousal abuse, misdemeanor violation of a domestic violence restraining order, and committing a felony while out on bail.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Border collie ran away from a residence on Crespi south of Mountain View.

Pacific Grove: Traffic stop on Congress Avenue resulted in the 41-year-old male being arrested for false registration tabs. Driver

was issued a notice to appear and released without incident.

Pacific Grove: Male on Forest Avenue was a victim of fraud.

Pacific Grove: Bicycle found on public property on Congress. Booked for safekeeping.

Pacific Grove: Subject on Central Avenue was admonished for trespassing.

Big Sur: A 26-year-old male subject refused to leave a business after being asked by staff and was subsequently arrested for trespassing.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost purse at San Carlos and Seventh.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost purse at Carmel Beach.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found driver's license at Carmel Beach.

Pacific Grove: Subject on Monarch Lane was placed on a 5150 W&I hold for being a danger to others, brandishing a weapon, and

See **SHERIFF** page 13RE

TRAPIN ANDERSON & MYERS TEAM



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DRE: 01233599

ROBIN ANDERSON
831.601.6271
DRE: 01518311

SARAH MYERS
831.238.7559
DRE: 02033114

NEW LISTING | OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 11 AM-1 PM



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Lincoln between Ocean & 7th Avenue



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Size: 307 square feet
Rent: \$1,500 per month + NNN
Available: Available now

Hogs Breath Building

San Carlos, between 4th & 5th



Unit: Ground Floor Shop
Size: 846 square feet
Rent: \$3,000 per month + NNN
Available: February 1st, 2024

Eastwood Building

San Carlos, between 4th & 5th



Unit: Ground Floor Shop
Size: 1,059 square feet
Rent: \$4,000 per month + NNN
Available: Available now

For further information or to arrange a viewing please contact:

Chris Mitchell
831-250-7669
chris.mitchell@esperanzacarmel.com
www.esperanzacarmel.com



PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20232194
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: ACC CONSTRUCTION, 1444 FREMONT BLVD. SEASIDE, CA 93955...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20232212
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LANGUAGE LEARNING AUDIO, 24537 Castro Ln., Carmel, CA 93923...

Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name...

address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name...

thousand dollars (\$1,000). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277)...

except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner...

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...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20240016
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: GM'S PROFESSIONAL TREE SERVICE, 635 Elm Ave., Seaside, California 93955...

LEGALS DEADLINE: Tuesday 3:00 PM

Contact Irma (831) 274-8645
legals@carmelpinecone.com

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: A. Present name: JOHN RAYMOND GIORDANO III...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20232253
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DIAZ LANDSCAPING, 1020 Trinity Ave., Apt. E, Seaside, CA 93955...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20232256
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SKYDIVE MONTEREY BAY, 721 Neeson Road, Marina, CA 93933...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20240028
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ZP GARDENING & MORE, 1744 Vallejo St., Seaside, CA 93955...

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 93901...

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 2. MOOMPA...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20232267
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 4 U 2, 5100 Coe Ave, Spc. 1, Seaside, CA 93955...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20232299
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SELCOUTH, 13766 Center St. G5, Carmel Valley, CA 93924...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20240054
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: PRECISION PLUMBING AND HEATING, 1738 Hickory Street, Suite C, Sand City, CA 93955...

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible...

This meeting will be held via teleconference and in person in the City Council Chambers at City Hall located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues. To participate via teleconference, use this link: https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/87694638519?pwd=K4w04362BlVw9VYsc-DIRIzBiBNpdQ9AkIccQubidQshp...

All interested people are invited to attend in person or via teleconference at the time and place specified above to give oral or written testimony concerning this matter. Written comments may be submitted to the Community Planning & Building Department at City Hall located on the east side of Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues...

The staff report and relevant documents will be available at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting on the City's website at http://www.ci.carmel.ca.us and found by clicking on "Government" and then "Meetings..."

DS 23-248 (Susko)
Holdren Lietzke Architecture, Architect
Dolores Street 2 southeast of 9th Avenue
Block 111; Lot 6
APN 010-156-018-000

DS 23-196 (Three Hounds Enterprises, LLC)
Carol Brock, Agent
San Antonio Avenue 2 northwest of 11th Avenue
Block A3; Lots 8, 9, & 10
APN 010-303-007-000

DS 22-279 (Garren)
Glenn Warner, Architect
Pine Ridge Way 3 northeast of Forest Avenue
Block 3; Lot 7
APN: 009-202-020-000

DS 23-108 (Chadwick)
Eric Miller Architects, Inc., Architect
Scenic Road 2 northwest of 8th Avenue
Block C2; Lots 10 & 11

City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Brandon Swanson, Director of Community Planning & Building
Publication dates: Jan. 12, 2024 (PC106)

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See Service Directory pages 32 & 33A

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SHERIFF

From page 11RE

criminal threats. Report will be forwarded to juvenile probation.

Pacific Grove: Report of a runaway juvenile on Monarch Lane. Juvenile returned home.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

Carmel area: Deputies documented a report of lost property in the Carmel Highlands.

Big Sur: Hit-and-run reported on Sycamore Canyon Road.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Subject on Junipero south of Seventh was contacted after making suicidal threats. Subject was transported to hospital for a mental health evaluation.

Pacific Grove: Peace disturbance in the 200 block of Grove Acre Avenue. Both parties were contacted, and it was determined that the two had a disagreement.

Pacific Grove: Male reported a verbal dispute on Arkwright Court. Information only.

Pacific Grove: A 75-year-old male at Congress and Forest Lodge was issued a citation for having an outstanding warrant.

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of Healthy Lifestyles — January 19, 2024**

Meena Lewellen (831) 274-8655
meena@carmelpinecone.com

Jessica Caird (831) 274-8590
jessica@carmelpinecone.com



**Circulation: 23,000 readers get their Pine Cone online and 18,500 print copies
are at more than 300 locations.**



9 Sonoma Lane, Carmel Highlands — \$2,880,000



145 15th Street, Pacific Grove — \$1,825,000



1053 Highlander Drive, Seaside — \$970,000



2869 Coyote Road, Pebble Beach — \$2,400,000

12 Primrose Circle — \$825,000
Linda Reed to Lissa and Timothy Montgomery
APN: 011-062-005

1053 Highlander Drive — \$970,000
Ronald and Sharon Corriveau to Carl Stevens and Kathleen Barton
APN: 012-453-021

The Pine Cone prints all Monterey Peninsula real estate sales shown on recorded deeds, and we do not omit sales for any reason. For more on our home sales policy, please go to pineconearchive.com/homesalespolicy.html.

ESCROWS

From page 4RE

Carmel Valley (con't.)

9809 Club Place Lane — \$1,650,000
John, Jack and Christine Oberti to 9909 Club Place Lane LLC
APN: 416-561-003

5 Sleepy Hollow Drive — \$4,100,000
Adele Margolis to David Ducommun
APN: 197-191-005

Monterey

421 Del Rosa Avenue — \$985,000
Jeremy Jorkovich to Sara and James Reid
APN: 013-105-028

801 Foam Street — \$3,300,000
Always Sunny LLC to Phi McKee LP
APN: 001-071-006

Pacific Grove

515 Gibson Avenue — \$980,500
Gennaro Passaro and WT Capital Lender to Matthew Deaugustinis

APN: 006-545-004

145 15th Street — \$1,825,000
Richard Barnard and Nancy Mayrose to Edward Aragon
APN: 006-175-015

310 Cypress Avenue/732 Pine Avenue — \$1,985,000
Tony and Marjorie Ayres Trust to HPJ Air LLC
APN: 006-307-004/007

Pebble Beach

41 Shepherds Knoll — \$1,000,000
Anneli Rosenthal to George Klaus
APN: 008-253-015

2869 Coyote Road — \$2,400,000
Anthony Marano Co. to Anton Marano
APN: 007-193-003

Seaside

967 Trinity Avenue — \$781,000
Eilene Lynch to Gail Hynding
APN: 012-274-040

1661 Mescal Court — \$781,000
Eric Beatty and Alejandra Arzadon to Faris Nemri
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