



A Special Section inside today's Carmel Pine Cone — Tournament changes, schedules, ticket info, how to get there & more ...

# The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 110 No. 4 www.carmelpinecone.com January 26-February 1, 2024

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## Homeowners told to remove brand new foundation, framing

Demolition triggered setback rule

By MARY SCHLEY

A HOUSE on Carmelo Street that ended up being dismantled and rebuilt far beyond what its permits allowed will have to be at least partially demolished again and redesigned, the Carmel Planning Commission unanimously decided Wednesday, because part of the home doesn't conform with current codes.

Jim and Marion Melani, who own a residence on Carmelo fourth southwest of Second, received approval in October 2021 for various exterior modifications, including new windows and doors, a new roof, lighting, paving and siding.

After the project was OK'd and before they started work, the property owners and their architect and contractor "were made aware in person and in writing" that certain parts of the home that didn't conform to existing law because they were too close to the property lines "must remain in place," planning director Brandon Swanson said in his Jan. 24 report for the commission. "The applicant

See WALLS page 10A



PHOTO/CITY OF CARMEL

Much of the foundation and framing shown in this picture at a home on Carmelo Street will have to be removed, according to a decision Wednesday by the city planning commission.

## And now for something completely different ...



PHOTO/MICHAEL TROUTMAN, DMT IMAGING

Despite major changes in the format of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am this year, some things have stayed the same, including the course prep, the grandstands, the excitement — and the amazing scenery. For complete details of the tournament, which starts Thursday, see our special section inside.

## Kaiser to open medical facility in Salinas

By KELLY NIX

HEALTHCARE giant Kaiser Permanente plans to start selling its medical services and open a facility in Monterey County, probably within a year, the company and other sources told The Pine Cone Wednesday morning.

It's long been rumored that Oakland-based Kaiser Permanente would make a move into Monterey County, which has four hospitals, including Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula and the county-run Natividad Medical Center.

In response to questions from The Pine Cone Tuesday, Kaiser first declined to confirm it was opening in Monterey County. On Wednesday, however, a spokesperson said it was indeed doing so and offered a revised statement.

Docs R Us

"We are very pleased to confirm that, pending regulatory approval, Kaiser Permanente is preparing to serve the residents of northern Monterey County, bringing our high-quality, integrated health plan and medical services to the community," Kaiser said.

A nearly 31,000-square-foot building on N. Davis Road in Salinas is already being renovated for what will be the

See KAISER page 12A

## SUPERVISORS VOTE 3-2 TO BEEF UP COUNTY'S NOISE LAWS

By CHRIS COUNTS

DESPITE CONCERNS by Monterey County Supervisor Luis Alejo that family gatherings could be targeted by enforcements efforts, the board of supervisors voted 3-2 Tuesday to approve an ordinance that strengthens noise regulations in unincorporated areas of the county — including Big Sur, where there have been numerous complaints in recent years.

The ordinance also directs the supervisors to create an ad hoc committee to address Alejo's concerns and make modifications, if necessary, along with the idea of measuring noise at the site of the person who makes the complaint, not near the source of the noise.

The ordinance lowers the threshold for what qualifies as excessive noise — previously, regulations prohibited making noise greater than 85 decibels. The new rules lower the threshold to 70 decibels.

Within 50 feet

Currently, noise measurements must be done within 50 feet of the source of the sound. The new ordinance makes it possible to take those readings from a distance greater than 50 feet.

Also, the new rules allow an enforcement officer to issue a citation with 72 hours of a warning. Previously,

See NOISE page 20A

## They probably won't let them bury the sofa on the 15th Fairway

By DENNIS TAYLOR

DEARLY BELOVED, we gather here today to celebrate the life and times of two local legends — both loud, raucous, and hilarious entities that left their unapologetic imprints on the world's stodgiest sport.

Over the past 20 years, the rowdies of Club 15 showed up in droves at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and bent the PGA's rigid rules of decorum at the very top of their lungs — as respectfully as they could. They cheered creatively for an all-star cast of celebrities playing alongside those deadly serious, usually stone-faced PGA Tour players who were trying to make a living.

But "all things must pass," according to an apostle named Matthew and a George Harrison album, and, most recently, the PGA, the all-powerful god that rules professional golf in the United States.

Elite field

The 87-year-old tournament at Pebble — still the Crosby Clambake to many old-timers — is now a "Signature Event" on the PGA Tour, with an eye-popping \$20 million purse that will attract the best players in the world, as opposed to that smaller group of pros who didn't mind Crosby weather and playful partners who were performing

yo-yo tricks (Tommy Smothers), hurling insults at autograph seekers (Don Rickles), sipping cocktails between shots (Dean Martin) and wrestling elderly women into sand traps (Bill Murray).

The wildly popular four-day spectacle — a charity fundraiser — attracted massive crowds, and a huge

percentage of them showed up to watch the celebs. Last year, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, which stages the tournament, donated almost \$18 million to more than 200 local nonprofits.

See EULOGY page 16A



PHOTOS/PINE CONE FILE

Comedian George Lopez body surfs the crowd at Club 15 — and that's not the craziest thing that went on during 20 years of gatherings in Pebble Beach during the Pro-Am. Because who brings a couch to a golf tournament?





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# Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

## Constant companion

The intelligence she finds in the eyes of an Australian shepherd is so intense, it's almost overwhelming. Yet this, paired with the dog's eagerness to please and affectionate nature, is what attracts her to the breed and is why she's always had Aussies.

After her last dog died, and her husband fell ill, she wanted to bring the comfort of an Aussie back into the household. Her husband didn't feel they could handle an animal at the time, particularly one known for its active, energetic nature.

"But he was so wrong," she said. "After my husband passed, I got right online to search for an Australian Shepherd — one that was at least 5 and already settled into herself. After all, I was in my 80s then."

She found a woman in Richmond, Va., who had



"Montana," a 5-year-old "couch potato." Not the kind that looks at her person with that, "I want to go out and find something to herd," expression, but the one who, when her person takes a nap, crawls up next to her and goes to sleep.

"Everyone here at the Park Lane knows Montana," her person said. "Even the lady who doesn't know her own husband's name knows Montana."

Montana has never been to the beach, but she knows every bit of the Park Lane property, which she confidently strolls with her person on the daily.

"The Park Lane feels very familiar to Montana, who's not afraid of anything, except a little bitty Chihuahua named Precious, who growls at Montana, which sends her running behind me," her person said. "She's glued to me throughout the day. If I move from one chair to another, she moves with me."

Although Montana has her own bed, she prefers her person's. "When she creeps toward me, I tell her to get on her own side."

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# LAWSUIT SEEKS REIMBURSEMENT FROM SCHOOL BOARD FOR KNIGHT PAYOUT

By MARY SCHLEY

MONTEREY CITY attorney Christine Davi revised her personal lawsuit against the Carmel Unified School District over former superintendent Ted Knight's \$770,000 payout to demand that the three school board members who approved the agreement replenish the district's coffers.

Davi's original suit, filed in Monterey County Superior Court Sept. 28, 2023, argues the settlement with Knight — who was paid the huge sum in exchange for tendering his resignation and dropping his own legal complaints against the district — was illegal and should be invalidated.

Davi, who is also a district parent, says the board violated the Brown Act governing public meetings when it approved the agreement in closed session last August without proper notice. She also claims the deal exceeds state limits on severance.

Knight, who was hired as superintendent in July 2021, had been on paid leave since March 31, 2023, pending an investigation into his handling of several personnel matters, and his contract was set to expire June 30 of this year. The Government Code requires all public employment contracts to include a provision that

“regardless of the term of the contract, if the contract is terminated, the maximum cash settlement that an employee may receive shall be an amount equal to the monthly salary of the employee multiplied by the number of months left on the unexpired term of the contract,” up to a maximum of 12 months, Davi says.

### \$524,480 overpayment

But a slim board majority — Sara Hinds, Karl Pallastrini and Jason Remyse — OK'd a much larger payout, \$770,000, based on “the value of two years of his contractual compensation, including benefits and retirement,” even though his contract would expire in 10 months and 19 days.

He had been earning \$270,000 per year, plus benefits, and in June 2022 was given a \$12,000 bonus by the board. Davi says the payoff should have maxed out at \$245,520.

“CUSD's overpayment to the superintendent in the amount of \$524,480 constitutes an illegal expenditure of public funds, and renders the agreement void,” she argues in her complaint.

After the 3-2 vote approving the deal, Davi sent letters alleging the district failed

See **KNIGHT** page 15A

# Board makes Ofek superintendent

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

SHARON OFEK, who was hired as deputy superintendent of Carmel Unified School District in 2022 and was appointed to fill the top job on an interim basis after former superintendent Ted Knight was paid \$770,000 to resign last August, has been given the permanent job, board chair Jason Remyse announced late Wednesday night

after the board came out of closed session. He said details of the contract will be negotiated and submitted for a board vote at a public meeting.

Ofek, who most recently worked for the Palo Alto Unified School District, has spent three decades in public education, including stints as a teacher, instructional

See **OFEK** page 18A

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# Police & Sheriff's Log

## Bedroom had highs and lows

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.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

**Pacific Grove:** A domestic battery occurred on Walnut Street. The suspect was arrested and transported to Monterey County Jail.

**Pacific Grove:** Broken window in a building on Piedmont Avenue.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Non-injury traffic accident on Sixth Avenue.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** A report of a hearing aid lost in the area of San Carlos and Seventh.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Traffic collision on Dolores Street. Vehicle drivable.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Subject at Junipero and Ocean lost a wallet while shopping in town. Wasn't sure exact location he last saw it.

**Carmel Valley:** APS report of financial abuse on Carmel Valley Road.

**Carmel area:** APS referral to an Oak Court residence.

**Carmel Valley:** Report of alleged physical abuse on Grey Goose Gulch.

**Carmel Valley:** APS report of alleged financial abuse on Laurel Drive.

**Pebble Beach:** APS report of alleged financial abuse on Mission Road.

**Pebble Beach:** Report of violation of the noise ordinance on Hacienda.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Burglary investigated at a residence at Crespi and Mountain View at 0235 hours. A 62-year-old local resident was arrested and booked into Monterey County Jail.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Fraud reported by a jewelry store at Ocean and Dolores.

**Carmel Valley:** Burglary of an establishment on East Carmel Valley Road by an unknown subject.

**Pacific Grove:** Electric bicycle stolen from Presidio Boulevard.

**Pacific Grove:** Vehicle on 10th Street was marked as abandoned.

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

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## The gavel falls

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

**Dec. 15** — A jury convicted Jimmy Torres Rodriguez, 51, of Visalia, of first-degree murder for the 1999 cold-case murder of Elias Diaz. The jury also found true a special allegation that Rodriguez personally and intentionally discharged a firearm resulting in death.

Diaz, 39, was a father of seven children and the owner of a Salinas car dealership at the time of his murder. On Nov. 19, 1999, Diaz was shot and killed by a person pretending to be a customer interested in purchasing a vehicle. The shooter fled the scene and abandoned the murder weapon and the distinctive clothing he was wearing in a trash can a few blocks away.

Subsequent DNA testing on the clothing items, along with corroborating witness testimony, linked Rodriguez, then 27, to the murder.

The Hon. Rafael Vazquez presided over the 11-day jury trial. Rodriguez faces a maximum sentence of 50 years to life in prison.

The case was investigated by Salinas Police Department Sgt. Ruben Sanchez and district attorney investigator Kris Hunsaker, with the assistance of many current and retired Salinas Police Department officers and

the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Forensic Services Crime Laboratories in Watsonville and Richmond. The victim's family was supported by victim assistance advocate Susana Reyes.

**Dec. 20** — Alexie Lepe Buenrostro, 49, a resident of Salinas, was sentenced to five years in state prison by Judge Stephanie Hulsey.

Buenrostro was convicted of one felony count of lewd act on a child under 14 years and two felony counts of sexual battery, for an agreed-upon five-year prison sentence. The charges constitute one strike under California's three strikes law. Buenrostro will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

On April 15, 2023, Buenrostro inappropriately touched Jane Doe, a 13-year-old female relative. She immediately asked to go home and, noticing her daughter's unusual behavior, Doe's mother questioned her, and Doe disclosed what Buenrostro had done that day.

This case was investigated by Marina Police Department officers Francisco Tapia and K'Shante Dela Cuadra, and detectives Michael Ball and Richard Moreno.

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# Executive arrested for breaking into ex-girlfriend's home

By MARY SCHLEY

CARMEL HIGHLANDS resident Jeffrey Ottoboni, who was chief operating officer for Folktale Winery before starting his own consulting business four months ago, was arrested at around 2:30 a.m. Jan. 10 for breaking into his ex-girlfriend's home at Crespi and Mountain View, according to Carmel Police Sgt. Michael Bruno.



Jeffrey Ottoboni

The victim was not home at the time but saw via a Ring camera that Ottoboni was at her house, according to Bruno, and called 911 "to report her ex-boyfriend kicked in her front door and was inside her home."

Ottoboni, 62, stole the woman's computer and put it in his truck, Bruno said, but he wasn't able to get away before officers arrived. They arrested him at the scene and took him to Monterey County Jail, where he was booked for first-degree burglary, a felony. "He was intoxicated when we arrested him, and we believe he was trying to track her down or identify people she had been talking to," Bruno said.

Ottoboni was held on \$50,000 bail but has since been released, and a case has been filed against him by the Monterey

County District Attorney's Office for misdemeanor theft. His arraignment is set for Jan. 26.

Bruno said it's not uncommon for the DA's office to file lesser charges than the crime seems to warrant, perhaps to better ensure they can be proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

"She did get an emergency protective order against him," Bruno said of the victim, "and we were able to serve it the day he got out of jail."

### Law degree

According to Ottoboni's LinkedIn profile, he was also chief executive officer of North Coast Brewing Co. for nearly two years and chief financial officer of Paul Hobbs Winery for nearly three. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from Notre Dame and a law degree from UCLA.

"I am an experienced professional with a broad range of managerial skills, encompassing virtually all business operations and companies large and small. I'm an attorney and Certified Public Accountant with CEO/COO/CFO experience as well as years of participation at the board level," he says in his profile. "I believe that every company in which I have worked has been better because of my involvement, not just financially but from an overall business health standpoint."

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

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## Hotels report slower bookings in advance of reimagined AT&T Pro-Am

By MARY SCHLEY

IT MAY have been transformed into a much higher-level golf competition, but with movie stars and other celebrities no longer playing in the AT&T Pro-Am, hotels are reporting slower bookings than in past years.

Last fall, the PGA Tour and the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, which organizes the tournament and distributes the considerable funds it raises to local charities, announced that the pro-am would be reconfigured to make it a PGA Signature Event. In doing so, the field dropped from 156 pros and 156 amateurs competing on three courses to 80 pros and 80 amateurs playing on two. At the same time, the purse has more than doubled, from \$9 million last year to \$20 million this year, including \$3.6 million for the winner.

The idea is to draw a higher-caliber professional field, which has certainly been the case, and fans have responded positively. But the lack of celebrities is dulling some interest, particularly early in the week when the traditional parties, fundraisers and other side events were held during the decades of the Crosby and later the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

### A transition year

Brett Bird, general manager of La Playa Hotel and sister property Hotel Carmel, said last week that the latter was almost full for the Thursday through Sunday of tournament week and that La Playa was about half booked. Many of the reservations were made by corporate groups.

"Early-week bookings are way down since the tournament no longer has the celebrity element," he said.

Janine Chicourrat, managing director of the Portola Hotel in Monterey, said she believes demand for the AT&T has been

declining for several years. She also noted that her property, which is quite large, is not in the same situation as others because the CBS Sports team stays there.

"They do not fill up the hotel, but it helps," she said.

She noted that tournament organizers'



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Kevin Costner signs autographs for fans during the 2008 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

decision to double the number of grandstands and do away with corporate chalets, sky boxes and other hospitality suites intended for corporate groups has affected some hotels.

"Most of the corporate chalets are gone this year, so that is having an impact on

See **HOTELS** page 19A

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# Supervisor candidate kicks off series, talks about \$\$, housing & homelessness

By CHRIS COUNTS

ONE OF three candidates running for supervisor of Monterey County's 5th District, Kate Daniels took questions from voters Jan. 16 at a town hall meeting at Wellspring Church in Pacific Grove and said that "big, bold strategies" are needed to address the toughest challenges county residents are facing today — including homelessness and rising rents.

A Carmel Valley resident who is a policy advisor for Sen. John Laird and a county planning commissioner, Daniels suggested the county should explore ways of "helping people pay their rent."

"How can we come up with a robust rental assistance program similar to what we were able to pull together during the pandemic?" she asked.

The candidate said her role as an interim executive director for the group Gathering for Women gave her an up-close look at the grim reality of the county's crisis of homelessness — and helped shaped her views on the topic. "The crisis is way beyond what any person in this room can imagine," she said.

### Breaking the cycle

To stop homelessness from increasing, Daniels said it's critical to keep people from losing the roofs over their heads. "Once someone is out of their home, the cycle of homelessness is much harder to get out of," she said.

During her tenure with Gathering for Women, Daniel worked mostly with older women and discovered how vulnerable many are to losing their housing.

"If you saw these folks on the street, you wouldn't know they were homeless," she explained. "The only difference between them and myself is luck — I am certain of that."

The candidate noted that it's not just the elderly who are struggling with having nowhere to live. "There are about 10,000

kids in the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, and 2,000 of those kids qualify as homeless," she observed.

According to the federal law, children are considered homeless if they "lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence," if they are living in "cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations," or "have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings."

In other words, they don't have to be living on the street to be considered homeless.

Even critical workers struggle to find housing. "I have a brother-in-law who is a firefighter for Cal Fire," Daniels said. "When he first moved here, he was living between a storage locker in Pacific Grove and a campsite in Big Sur."

### Devil in the details

The candidate didn't say how such a rental assistance program would be paid for, but she suggested one option would be to explore a vacancy tax on empty homes. She also said that as supervisor, she would like to see her colleagues on the board take a closer look at how the county is spending money — which in some cases may "not be being allocated well," or even needed.

"As a supervisor, I'd really like to look at the discretionary funding and really look at where there's an opportunity," she said.

The chronic need for new housing came up, with Daniels noting it's tied to the need for a new water supply.

"Until the State Water Resources Control Board determines we have actually come up with a sustainable replacement supply and lifts the cease-and-desist order, we can't go from commercial to residential zoning," she said. "We can't add any new meters and we can't have any intensification of use, which means we can't build any more housing."

If or when the water dilemma is solved, Daniels said she believes there's property in the 5th District that could be rezoned from commercial to residential to accommodate housing, such as underutilized office space.

"We have commercially zoned locations in the 5th District that can become apartment buildings," she explained. "None of this can happen until we lift the cease-and-desist order."

On a related topic, Daniels suggested that the county's inclusionary housing ordinance isn't helping to solve the housing crunch. "The ordinance states that for every development, you have to have 20 percent affordable units," she said. "But the system doesn't work — what it has produced for us are developments that

have to be so expensive for the affordable units to pencil out."

According to Daniels, such projects create a "domino effect" that increases the cost of housing elsewhere, "making it harder and harder for residents to stay here and buy a home."

### Recycle more water

As for the county's longtime water woes, Daniels suggested more can be done to collect high flows from the Carmel and Salinas rivers and inject the water into over-drafted basins where it could eventually be recycled.

"We need to do more recycling of water," she said. "The reality is that we

See SUPERVISOR page 18A

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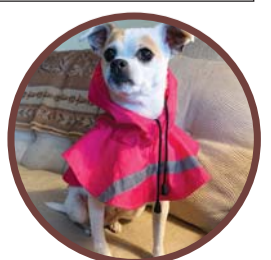


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# King City takes aim at SoCal developer over homeless housing

By KELLY NIX

A LOS Angeles developer already in hot water with the state attorney general's office for defaulting on loans related to numerous homeless housing projects is facing a new lawsuit from a South Monterey County city over its plans to transform an old motel into housing for unhoused people there.

In late 2021, King City signed an agreement with Shangri-La Industries, a for-profit developer, in which the company promised to purchase and renovate a Days Inn at 1130 Broadway for homeless people as part of the state's Project Homekey. The company received about \$12 million from the State Department of Housing and Community Development for the motel.

## Foreclosure

Earlier this month, however, the state attorney general's office announced it was suing Shangri-La for defaulting on tens of millions of dollars in loans related to seven motel conversion projects in the state, including King City's. Now, King City is suing Shangri-La, alleging breach

of contract related to its agreement for the Days Inn.

"Despite the grant funding, the project experienced months of delays, and the property is now in foreclosure proceedings after the developer defaulted on loans they acquired without any required approvals," city manager Steve Adams told The Pine Cone.

In the Jan. 18 complaint filed in Monterey County Superior Court, King City alleges that Shangri-La breached its contract with the city by failing to renovate the Days Inn and also failed to pay tens of thousands of dollars for its share of leasing a temporary shelter at another King City motel before the permanent housing project was completed.

"As of the date of this complaint, Shangri-La has yet to make any payment toward the \$45,000 owed as its share for the homeless shelter agreement, and has yet to rehabilitate or make any improvements" to the Days Inn, the lawsuit says. "And none of the 44 units of the permanent housing program have been completed."

See **DEVELOPER** page 20A

# NEW B&B COULD BE COMING TO PACIFIC GROVE AFTER PANEL OKS IT

## Coastal commission will get appeal

By KELLY NIX

PACIFIC GROVE'S first new bed and breakfast in nearly 30 years was OK'd by the city council last week after the council rejected an opponent's appeal to stop it.

The city's planning commission approved the B&B last December. About a week later, though, resident Tony Ciani asked the city council to overturn that decision. On Jan. 17, council members rejected

of original and non-original windows and accessibility upgrades.

A bed and breakfast — the use of a residential property for commercial lodging — is defined in Pacific Grove as having at least eight rooms for guests, and where primary buildings were built at least 75 years prior to an application date for such a use. Food has to be served, too.

## 'Defacto STR'

But Ciani — who told The Pine Cone Wednesday that he appealed the council's decision to the California Coastal Commission — argued before council members that the bed and breakfast was a "de facto short-term rental." And because the property is not on the city's map of approved rentals, the proposal, he maintained, does not "comply with the definition of an STR or the land use plan."

Ciani, an architect, also believes the proposal is inconsistent with the city's zoning code and Local Coastal Program, and that replacing all the windows would run afoul of its zoning laws.

"I believe this is an inadequate review" by city staff "regarding the condition of the original windows," Ciani said. Building official John Kuehl made the window determination, finding that the windows were "too deteriorated to repair."

He showed council members photographs he took of some of the home's windows, which he said were in good

See **B&B** page 18A



PHOTO/KELLY NIX

This old home could soon be a bed and breakfast if the city prevails in a dispute against a citizen who opposes the proposal.

Ciani's appeal and approved a permit to allow the conversion of an eight-unit multifamily home built in the late 1920s to an eight-unit bed and breakfast at 270 Central Ave.

Improvements to the home, which is in the coastal zone and is on the city's historic resources list, include replacement

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## New Year's financial resolutions

Now that we've reached 2024, you might be thinking about some New Year's resolutions, such as volunteering or learning a new language. But why not make some *financial* resolutions, too?

Here are a few to consider:

For starters, if you can afford it, try to contribute more to your IRA, 401(k) or other retirement account.

Next, think about ways you might be able to reduce your debts — it's not always easy, but the less you owe, the greater your cash flow.

Here's another financial resolution: Try to build an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. You can use your emergency

fund to pay unexpected costs, such as home or car repairs.

You might also want to avoid making emotional decisions, such as selling quality investments just because their price has dropped.

And finally, review your financial goals and estate plans, especially if you've experienced changes in your family situation.

You may not be able to tackle all these resolutions at one time, but if you can work at them throughout the year, you can potentially brighten your financial outlook in 2024 — and beyond.

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# Supes discuss traffic at Bixby Bridge, Adams says some visitors act ‘insane’

By CHRIS COUNTS

GIVEN AN opportunity to describe the severity of the ongoing traffic quagmire at Bixby Bridge in Big Sur at a Monterey County Board of Supervisors hearing Tuesday, resident Rachel Goldberger didn't hold back as she reported watching numerous motorists risk life and limb to cross a busy Highway 1 to capture photographs.

"I'm really surprised I haven't seen anyone get hit by a car," testified Goldberger, who is a member of the Community Association of Big Sur.

Through her work with the group, Goldberger has taken a closer look than most at what is happening at the busy site, where traffic routinely backs up, especially on weekends on holidays.

"I've spent many hours at the bridge picking up trash and collecting data to assess what's going on," she reported. "I've witnessed all sorts of interesting behavior, but what I found most striking was the sheer number of visitors crossing the highway. People don't know where to cross, and they often cross unsafely — I saw lots of close calls between visitors and cars."

### Jaywalking epidemic

Goldberger recounted a couple of the more harrowing things she watched.

"Parents hoist their children over a guardrail along the highway to try to cross quickly as southbound cars approach at rapid speeds," she said. "I watched a visitor dart in front of the southbound traffic and try to clear the guardrail, only to injure his knee trying to hop over the rail."

She said every instance of jaywalking across Highway 1 represents "a safety challenge" — and she saw lots of them.

"I counted an average of 113 people crossing the highway per hour, and then

they cross again to return to their cars," she reported. "That's 226 crossings an hour."

Goldberger described motorists at the scene as "stressed, confused and lacking proper direction on how to behave."

"The atmosphere at the bridge is so hectic, folks rarely read the signs," she explained. "They just do what the car in front of them does — if one car double parks and blocks the Old Coast Road, the next car follows suit, and so on."

### 'I've seen this myself'

Fifth District Supervisor Mary Adams confirmed what Goldberger witnessed.

"I've seen this myself," Adams said. "People stop in the middle of the bridge, they get out, they leave their door open, and they take a selfie on the bridge — this is absolutely insane behavior."

Adams urged all parties involved to work together and "come forward with some real solutions."

"We have to have county leadership at the table," she added. "We need to continue to work with first responders and stakeholders to find a solution to this really dangerous situation we're in."

Comments by Adams and others at Tuesday's hearing followed a report by county official Randy Ishii on what the county is planning to do to reduce the hazards that the traffic mess at Bixby Bridge poses.

Ishii told supervisors that there's been a rise in "health and safety concerns" at the site. "We unfortunately have a lack of proper infrastructure, a lack of parking ordinances, a lack of enforcement personnel, a lack of geographic space — all of which are resulting in the area becoming an unsafe bottleneck with visitors stopping and parking directly on Highway 1, which

See **BIXBY** page 11A

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# WALLS

From page 1A

team was further informed that if these non-conforming portions of the home were demolished, they would have to be brought back into compliance.”

The city defines demolition as removal of more than 50 percent of the walls. Doing that would trigger the requirement that nonconforming parts of the home be rebuilt to meet current codes — in this case, setbacks.

### Red tag

During months of construction, however, many of the walls were torn down and rebuilt where they were, in part because of damage from dry rot, water intrusion and termites. “Subsequently, during a later building inspection, it was discovered that the scope of construction had far exceeded what was approved in the building plans, as nearly all of the framing in the entire house, including the floor joists, had been demolished and replaced, along with some additional foundation work that was not previously approved,” Swanson said.

The building inspector issued a stop-work order, and

the planning department advised the Melanis and their architect, Adam Jeselnick, that the walls that violate rules on setbacks would have to be torn down and rebuilt in compliance with the code.

The couple and their building team asked the city to forego that requirement, considering the damage they discovered during construction, but Swanson said the code contains no provisions for such exceptions. He advised they could try their luck with the planning commission, which could determine that the demolition and reconstruction were necessary repairs and might be interpreted as legal.

The commission first grappled with the issue last month but delayed a decision so Jeselnick could better demonstrate which walls were torn down because they were damaged.

“We asked the applicant to show that more than 50 percent of the walls taken down had rot, termite or structural damage, because if more than 50 percent of the walls needed some sort of repairs, then the planning commission could consider that a repair, and it wouldn’t technically be demolition,” Swanson said.

At the Jan. 24 meeting, Jeselnick said the code is hazy on what constitutes demolition vs. alteration vs. repair, and he argued that since cinder block retaining walls remained



PHOTO/CITY OF CARMEL

This section of a house on Carmelo Street is too close to the neighbor’s property, according to current codes, so it must be removed.

in place even though the framing above them was torn down, they should count as being retained.

The Melanis’ attorney, Krista Ostoich, said the rules could be interpreted to allow for rebuilding nonconformities in cases like theirs. She also pointed out that in general, city planners “want property owners to retain the uniqueness, charm, and as much as they can, the character of Carmel” by rehabilitating cottages rather than demolishing them and building new, larger homes.

She additionally noted that the building inspector was on the property several times before the unpermitted work was stopped but never said anything. “Nobody was trying to hide anything,” she said.

Swanson resented Ostoich’s implying that “somehow since we didn’t catch them doing something without a permit for eight months, that’s a failure of the city.” He noted that when building inspectors visit a building site, they’re looking for specific items.

Swanson reiterated that “half the framing going away is

See DEMO next page



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*Fair winds and following seas, Bodie.*

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# DEMO

From previous page

a demolition,” but Jeselnick countered that “the code is unclear.”

“It doesn’t provide any clarification or direction to me as an architect,” regarding what, exactly, constitutes demolition of a wall, he said.

Planning commissioners, however, were unified in their support of Swanson’s take on the issues.

“I tend to support the staff position on this,” said commissioner Stephanie Locke. “I look at this as requesting forgiveness after the fact, and I’m always concerned when that happens.”

### Forgiveness v. permission

Because more than 50 percent of the house was torn down and rebuilt, she continued, it should be considered demolished. “That demolition triggers the correction of a nonconformity,” she said. “That’s really the key thing, here.”

She also said the damage isn’t an adequate excuse for not complying with the municipal code. “I don’t think this can be considered a minor repair,” she said.

“When the 50 percent threshold came

up, and the enormity of the unpermitted work that had been done became clear, it began to change my perspective on this,” said commissioner Robert Delves. “I’m convinced this was unpermitted work.”

Chair Michael LePage lamented having to make such a ruling, considering the costs, delays and other ramifications for the Melanis and their architectural team.

“I really don’t like making these kinds of decisions, but I’m going to agree with staff,” he said. “It was incumbent upon the architect and builder to come back into the planning department” as soon as they discovered they would need to tear down more than half the walls.

“I don’t want to make a decision that’s going to cause people a lot of hardship, but we don’t have a way to make a finding here” that would allow the project to proceed as is, he said. “Communication with planning and building should have happened sooner. It was obvious which way this was going during construction.”

As a result, Locke made the motion finding the work constituted demolition of more than 50 percent of the walls in the house, triggering the requirement that non-conformities be corrected, and the rest of the commission agreed. The Melanis can appeal the commission’s decision to the city council if they want to fight it.

Everybody reads The Pine Cone

# BIXBY

From page 9A

barricades access points.”

Ishii mentioned that a number of ideas have been proposed for the site, including paving Old Coast Road to create more parking, banning parking along Old Coast Road, installing more signage, putting up a gate across Old Coast Road, and clearly marking parking spaces.

To come up with solutions, Ishii said

county staff have had meetings with Caltrans, the California Coastal Commission, the Big Sur Byway Organization, See Monterey, the United States Forest Service, California State Parks and others — and will continue to do so.

Ishii also reported that staff time from local, state and federal agencies to address the challenges at Bixby Bridge could cost as little as \$10,000 — or more than \$100,000.

The county official also said that plans call for the supervisors to revisit the issue in July.



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# KAISER

From page 1A

Kaiser clinic, according to documents at Salinas City Hall. The building, the former site of a Babies R Us store, is two doors down from a Montage Wellness Center.

According to the plans filed at Salinas City Hall, the clinic will include radiology and X-ray rooms, a mammography area, exam rooms, provider offices, staff lounge and reception areas, workstations and numerous other facilities. A pharmacy will also reportedly be in the building. Attractive green paint is in some of the common areas, and calming accent paintings adorn some of the spaces, according to renderings reviewed by The Pine Cone.

There will be improvements to the parking lot, including more ADA accessibility, and a new façade with a blue Kaiser Permanente sign on the front.

Kaiser hired Detroit-based SmithGroup, an architectural, planning and engineering firm, for the work. DPR Construction is the general contractor for the renovation, and on Thursday, construction crews were busy remodeling the inside of the former big box store.

Upon applying for the development permit in September of last year, Kaiser paid \$241,300.66 in fees to Salinas. The city issued the permit on Dec. 20, 2023 and the "valuation" of the project is \$16 million, records show.

Kaiser did not offer details of the move, including when the clinic would set up operations, but said it was "excited to respond to the calls from businesses and individuals who have long asked that we bring Kaiser Permanente to

the area."

"Meanwhile, we have proudly been getting to know and helping to support local organizations that share our goal of building healthy communities and look forward to continuing to serve the people of Monterey County," the company said.

Sources told The Pine Cone this week that Kaiser plans to open the clinic before expanding to Marina, and that it could happen as early as January 2025. The company has already started hiring people, some of them Monterey County residents, for the move.

Kaiser has medical offices in Watsonville and Scotts Valley.

### Lower costs?

For most Monterey County residents, including undocumented immigrants, free or low-cost health care is available via Medicare, Medi-Cal or Covered California.

But for private companies and their employees, people with no insurance, and higher-income individuals who buy their insurance on the open market, healthcare in the county can be very expensive.

A January article from CalMatters, which calls itself a "nonpartisan and nonprofit news organization," claimed that three of the county's four hospitals are in the top 10 percent of the highest priced in the state. And the article quoted Ivana Krajinovic, vice president of healthcare delivery for the union-affiliated Unite Here Health plan, as saying Monterey County hospitals were the priciest in its network.

But it's unclear if Kaiser's presence in the county will mean lower medical costs for uninsured and privately insured patients, at least initially.

Krajinovic told The Pine Cone that while the hope is



PHOTO/KELLY NIX

With a permit granted in December, construction crews Thursday were working hard to transform this old Babies R Us into a large Kaiser Permanente medical clinic.

that Kaiser Permanente would allow for "more competition," which should "help reduce costs, generally," there are factors that could prevent savings from being realized for some time.

"It's not clear what impact Kaiser's entrance would have on hospital prices, since there would still likely be a lack of competition in that sector of the market, assuming that Kaiser Permanente won't build its own hospital," she explained. "Moreover, it will take some time for Kaiser to get established in Monterey County, so its impact on prices, particularly the exorbitantly high hospital prices, won't happen anytime soon."

Kaiser accepts Medicare for those over 65 and state-operated Medi-Cal for indigent patients. However, at Kaiser, the number of such patients is disproportionately low compared to those at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas Valley Health.

Kaiser was tightlipped, and it would also not say what

See **HOSPITAL** next page

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For further information or to arrange a viewing please contact:

**Chris Mitchell**  
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[chris.mitchell@esperanzacarmel.com](mailto:chris.mitchell@esperanzacarmel.com)  
[www.esperanzacarmel.com](http://www.esperanzacarmel.com)





# HOSPITAL

From previous page

percentage of its patients are covered by Medicare and Medi-Cal.

Some people who read The Pine Cone's news bulletin Wednesday about Kaiser's move were excited about the possibility of a new healthcare provider in the county. Also likely pleased with Kaiser's announcement is the union that represents Monterey Peninsula Unified School District teachers, which asked its members earlier this month to sign a petition to encourage Natividad Medical Center "to help bring Kaiser into our local area."

The union said it issued the petition, which asked for 500 signatures, in hopes of increasing "access and competition within our healthcare system." Natividad did not respond to The Pine Cone's inquiry about any possible arrangement.

### Positive PR

For nearly a year, Kaiser Permanente has made numerous public relations moves with the goal of introducing itself to Monterey County residents.

In January, for example, the company donated \$450,000 to numerous charities, including \$100,000 to the Monterey County Family Justice Center, \$50,000 each to First 5 Monterey County, and \$25,000 to Community Human Services, a nonprofit that provides services for the homeless.

"Part of Kaiser Permanente's mission is

to improve the health of the communities we serve, and these investments will provide access to much-needed services for some of our most vulnerable residents in Monterey County," Irene Chavez, senior vice president and area manager for Kaiser Permanente Central Coast, was quoted in an online news article last February that was written by a company spokesman.

You may have assumed Kaiser was already established in the county based on the local advertisements it placed in 2023, including a county-specific ad in the January edition of the Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce's Business Journal, that touted Kaiser's self-described "hassle-free" healthcare system.

"The care you need, the way you want it," a portion of the advert said. "For all that is Monterey County. For all that is you."

It also purchased 15 banner ads for a total of \$27,300 that appeared on Monterey-Salinas Transit buses, MST general manager Carl Sedoryk told The Pine Cone. The 30-by-144-inch advertisements — which are in the process of being removed due to the end of Kaiser's six-month contract that ended last December — said, "Primary care for all that is you."

Regarding Kaiser's regulatory hurdles, Kaiser must get a license from the state to operate in Monterey County. It also must meet the state's "network adequacy" requirements, which include demonstrating that its health plan has the capacity to contain a network of healthcare providers, including at least one full-time physician per 1,200 patients, and other requirements.

"The Pine Cone. Not the only great paper. Not the only free paper. But the only great free paper."  
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# Entry Level and Luxury End Pressure Leads to a Slow Q4 2023, While 2024 Looks to Rebound

Carmel-by-the-Sea, and the rest of the Monterey Peninsula, was lively and full of holiday spirit during the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas, with shops and restaurants full and the outdoor lifestyle we are so accustomed to in full swing. In terms of real estate, Carmel-by-the-Sea and Pacific Grove posted healthy fourth quarters, while the market was a bit quieter across the remainder of the Peninsula, slightly underperforming as a whole when looking back at the same quarter last year. For the entire year, 2023 experienced a meaningful reduction in both the number of homes sold and in total dollar volume compared to 2022.

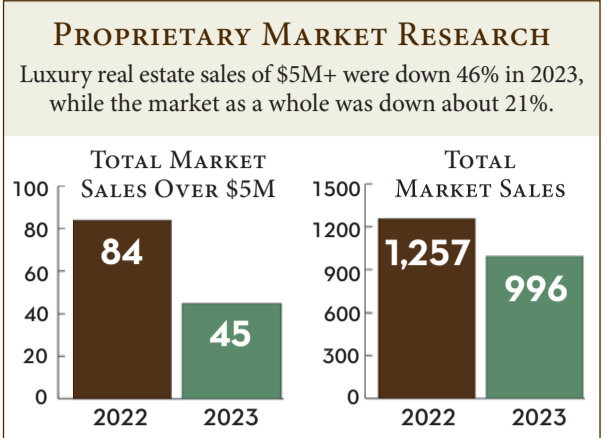
The number of sales for the entire year was down 21% and the total dollar volume was down 24.5% in 2023. The nine markets we track across the Peninsula experienced a lot of volatility, both quarter to quarter within the same market, as well as variance between each market here on The Peninsula. For example, when comparing 2023 versus 2022 in Carmel-by-the-Sea, the number of sales were almost equal during the two years and total dollar volume was up 8% in 2023. Conversely, during

the same timeframe, in 2023 the number of sales in Pebble Beach was off 20% and total dollar volume was down nearly 50%. Overall, while volume was down in 2023, it was comparable to the pre-COVID-19 market levels of 2019, which were undeniably strong.

The Peninsula experienced pressure on both the entry level and luxury ends of the market. The entry level market was slower largely because of interest rate pressure. The higher end of the market was significantly slower in 2023 due to macro-economic uncertainty, geopolitical concerns, and other distractions that kept affluent buyers on the sideline for much of the year. The \$5M+ home sales market was down 46% in transactions during 2023 versus 2022. This represented a decrease in total sales volume across the Peninsula of nearly \$800M.

The good news is demand in our market remains high. While new buyer activity was low in Q4 and into the holidays, it is picking up already in mid-January. We expect that by spring the number of sales will rebound as many of these intended buyers re-enter the market.

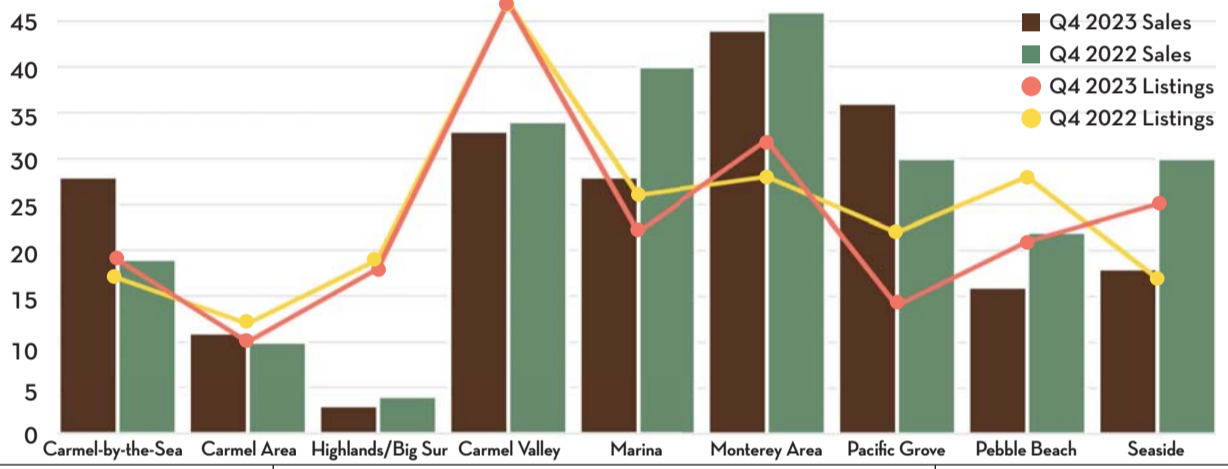
The rapid shifts in our market overall and the



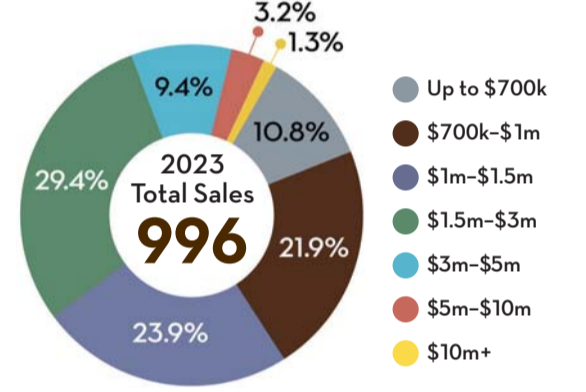
significant variances across the nine different areas we track, suggests that it is more important than ever to have experienced, local, expert representation when buying or selling a home. Expert local insight can make or break a deal and can add significant value when demand, product and pricing is changing rapidly. Please reach out to one of our full-time professional agents should you and any of your friends or family be considering a real estate transaction here on the Monterey Peninsula.

For additional information, please visit [carmelrealtycompany.com](http://carmelrealtycompany.com), contact us at (831) 622-1000, or visit us at any of our Carmel-by-the-Sea locations.

Q4 2023 CLOSED SALES VS. AVAILABLE LISTINGS YEAR OVER YEAR



ANNUAL 2023 SALES BY SEGMENT



|                          | SALES BY SEGMENT |             |             |             |           |            |           | TOTAL VOLUME SOLD    |                      |                      | AVAILABLE LISTINGS Q4 END |            |            |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|
|                          | Up to \$700K     | \$700k-\$1M | \$1M-\$1.5M | \$1.5M-\$3M | \$3M-\$5M | \$5M-\$10M | \$10M+    | Q4 2023              | Q3 2023              | Q4 2022              | Q4 2023                   | Q3 2023    | Q4 2022    |
| Carmel-by-the-Sea        | 0                | 0           | 6           | 49          | 40        | 15         | 6         | \$112,547,900        | \$184,973,000        | \$87,668,000         | 17                        | 27         | 19         |
| Carmel Area (93923)      | 0                | 3           | 19          | 22          | 4         | 1          | 0         | \$24,782,000         | \$27,444,125         | \$17,600,000         | 12                        | 14         | 10         |
| Carmel Highlands/Big Sur | 2                | 0           | 2           | 5           | 7         | 2          | 1         | \$6,925,000          | \$22,931,000         | \$14,350,000         | 19                        | 20         | 18         |
| Carmel Valley            | 21               | 29          | 35          | 63          | 16        | 3          | 1         | \$66,003,009         | \$79,565,788         | \$63,501,750         | 47                        | 55         | 47         |
| Marina & East Garrison   | 39               | 72          | 46          | 3           | 0         | 0          | 0         | \$27,352,647         | \$35,141,983         | \$36,159,819         | 26                        | 18         | 22         |
| Monterey Area            | 0                | 50          | 62          | 47          | 6         | 0          | 0         | \$61,831,499         | \$65,459,130         | \$52,076,068         | 28                        | 48         | 32         |
| Pacific Grove            | 0                | 15          | 49          | 56          | 7         | 1          | 0         | \$62,834,600         | \$53,375,342         | \$42,720,500         | 22                        | 18         | 14         |
| Pebble Beach             | 0                | 3           | 3           | 40          | 14        | 10         | 5         | \$57,000,000         | \$58,537,500         | \$111,526,310        | 28                        | 29         | 21         |
| Seaside                  | 37               | 46          | 16          | 8           | 0         | 0          | 0         | \$16,014,706         | \$34,784,394         | \$25,702,241         | 17                        | 20         | 25         |
| <b>Totals</b>            | <b>108</b>       | <b>218</b>  | <b>238</b>  | <b>293</b>  | <b>94</b> | <b>32</b>  | <b>13</b> | <b>\$435,291,361</b> | <b>\$562,212,262</b> | <b>\$451,304,688</b> | <b>216</b>                | <b>249</b> | <b>208</b> |

|                          | MEDIAN SALES PRICES |             |             | AVERAGE SALES PRICES |             |             | DAYS ON MARKET |         |         | NUMBER OF SALES |            |            |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|---------|---------|-----------------|------------|------------|
|                          | Q4 2023             | Q3 2023     | Q4 2022     | Q4 2023              | Q3 2023     | Q4 2022     | Q4 2023        | Q3 2023 | Q4 2022 | Q4 2023         | Q3 2023    | Q4 2022    |
| Carmel-by-the-Sea        | \$2,725,000         | \$3,075,000 | \$3,500,000 | \$4,019,568          | \$4,203,932 | \$4,614,105 | 62             | 58      | 41      | 28              | 44         | 19         |
| Carmel Area (93923)      | \$1,700,000         | \$1,620,000 | \$1,625,000 | \$2,252,909          | \$2,111,087 | \$1,760,000 | 50             | 55      | 59      | 11              | 13         | 10         |
| Carmel Highlands/Big Sur | \$3,105,000         | \$3,775,000 | \$3,800,000 | \$2,308,333          | \$3,821,833 | \$3,587,500 | 65             | 56      | 189     | 3               | 6          | 4          |
| Carmel Valley            | \$1,575,000         | \$1,500,000 | \$1,308,000 | \$2,000,091          | \$1,850,367 | \$1,867,699 | 40             | 53      | 41      | 33              | 43         | 34         |
| Marina & East Garrison   | \$947,500           | \$835,000   | \$832,000   | \$976,880            | \$949,783   | \$903,995   | 49             | 27      | 39      | 28              | 37         | 40         |
| Monterey Area            | \$1,126,500         | \$1,187,500 | \$1,002,500 | \$1,405,261          | \$1,258,829 | \$1,132,088 | 33             | 35      | 35      | 44              | 52         | 46         |
| Pacific Grove            | \$1,400,000         | \$1,599,500 | \$1,150,000 | \$1,745,406          | \$1,779,178 | \$1,424,017 | 31             | 22      | 37      | 36              | 30         | 30         |
| Pebble Beach             | \$2,967,500         | \$2,607,500 | \$2,622,500 | \$3,562,500          | \$3,658,594 | \$5,069,378 | 70             | 58      | 60      | 16              | 16         | 22         |
| Seaside                  | \$713,500           | \$875,000   | \$702,500   | \$889,706            | \$993,840   | \$856,741   | 39             | 38      | 37      | 18              | 35         | 30         |
| <b>Totals</b>            |                     |             |             |                      |             |             |                |         |         | <b>217</b>      | <b>276</b> | <b>235</b> |

These charts are based on data supplied by the Monterey County Association of Realtors Multiple Listing Service. Neither the association nor the MLS guarantees or is responsible for their accuracy. The data may also not reflect all real estate activity in the market. For more information, go to [www.carmelrealtycompany.com](http://www.carmelrealtycompany.com).

|                          | TEN-YEAR MEDIAN SALES PRICE |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 1-Year Change | 10-Year Change |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
|                          | 2014                        | 2015        | 2016        | 2017        | 2018        | 2019        | 2020        | 2021        | 2022        | 2023 YTD    |               |                |
| Carmel-by-the-Sea        | \$1,650,000                 | \$1,550,000 | \$1,607,500 | \$1,700,000 | \$2,000,000 | \$1,875,000 | \$2,200,000 | \$2,750,000 | \$3,000,000 | \$3,007,500 | 0.3%          | 82.3%          |
| Carmel Area (93923)      | \$1,025,000                 | \$869,000   | \$1,065,000 | \$1,050,000 | \$1,297,500 | \$1,225,000 | \$1,450,000 | \$1,550,000 | \$1,700,000 | \$1,620,000 | -4.7%         | 58.0%          |
| Carmel Highlands/Big Sur | \$2,200,000                 | \$1,857,500 | \$1,685,000 | \$1,937,500 | \$1,597,500 | \$1,775,000 | \$2,645,000 | \$2,375,000 | \$3,709,000 | \$3,000,000 | -19.1%        | 36.4%          |
| Carmel Valley            | \$762,500                   | \$836,000   | \$950,313   | \$937,000   | \$1,000,000 | \$950,000   | \$1,300,000 | \$1,500,000 | \$1,500,000 | \$1,495,000 | -0.3%         | 96.1%          |
| Marina & East Garrison   | \$417,500                   | \$442,500   | \$490,000   | \$537,200   | \$599,000   | \$639,000   | \$675,000   | \$792,000   | \$849,000   | \$875,000   | 3.1%          | 109.6%         |
| Monterey Area            | \$595,000                   | \$610,250   | \$656,500   | \$722,500   | \$772,000   | \$740,000   | \$850,000   | \$930,000   | \$1,050,000 | \$1,074,000 | 2.3%          | 80.5%          |
| Pacific Grove            | \$700,000                   | \$780,000   | \$800,000   | \$886,500   | \$889,750   | \$958,000   | \$980,000   | \$1,300,000 | \$1,390,000 | \$1,497,500 | 7.7%          | 113.9%         |
| Pebble Beach             | \$1,420,000                 | \$1,378,750 | \$1,525,000 | \$1,575,000 | \$1,557,500 | \$1,767,950 | \$2,100,000 | \$2,795,000 | \$3,150,000 | \$2,690,000 | -14.6%        | 89.4%          |
| Seaside                  | \$356,000                   | \$405,000   | \$445,000   | \$495,000   | \$525,000   | \$540,000   | \$593,500   | \$700,000   | \$757,000   | \$750,000   | -0.9%         | 110.7%         |



# Apple Pay ruse used to steal jewelry

By MARY SCHLEY

IN A new twist on the old “I forgot my credit card,” and “Will you take a personal check?” schemes, a woman who appeared to be trying to use Apple Pay to buy an \$11,000 bracelet from a downtown jewelry store was able to steal it after convincing a sales clerk to let her manually enter a credit card number into the store’s pay terminal, according to Carmel Police Sgt. Michael Bruno.

The sale, which apparently included a valid but stolen Chase credit card number, was completed Dec. 16, 2023, at Ladyfingers at Ocean and Dolores without incident, but 12 days later, Bruno said, “the bank reported the transaction as fraudulent.”

Bruno told The Pine Cone the clerk at the store allowed the suspect to manually enter her Apple Pay credit card information, “which is a big red flag.”

She had attempted the typical touchless transaction with Apple Pay and her phone, but the scan produced an error message, so she was allowed to put the credit card information in herself, he said.

### False identity

Not only was the credit card number stolen, the woman gave the employee a false name and other contact details, according to Bruno.

Complicating matters, Chase did not have enough information about the transaction and the related account to help police track down the thief.

“We already submitted a subpoena to Chase Bank based on the partial account information they have, and they’ll start an investigation on their end, as well,” Bruno said.

“But we’re unable to tie it to one person. It’s probably a dead end.”

# KNIGHT

From page 3A

to properly notice the proposed settlement. Had the description been correct, she argued, the public would have known what was being considered and could have warned against signing the document.

### ‘Personally repay’

In her lawsuit, she asks the court to void the settlement agreement, order the district to reclaim the money from Knight, and order it to comply with Brown Act rules on public notice of closed-session items.

And in the revised complaint filed late last month, Davi says Hinds, Pallastrini

and Remyse will be personally served “in support of petitioner’s request for an order that they be required to personally repay the illegally expended funds to CUSD upon a showing that they failed to exercise due care in authorizing the expenditure, such as, whether they were alerted to the possible invalidity of the expenditure and nonetheless disregarded legal advice when authorizing the expenditure.”

At a Jan. 24 CUSD board meeting, trustee Anne-Marie Rosen said she did not vote for the settlement because the three-month investigation found no cause for firing Knight. She said it would have made more sense to have him come back to work.

A hearing to update the judge and lawyers in the case is set for Jan. 30.

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# EULOGY

From page 1A

But since the first Clambake, a huge part of the secret sauce for spectators has been the celebrities (film and TV stars, entertainers, professional athletes, politicians, etc.), an attraction that has become a relic.

This year's field has been slashed from 156 two-person teams (one pro, one amateur) to 80. The 80 amateurs will only play two rounds Thursday and Friday on two courses (Pebble and Spyglass Hill), and the celebrity glamor has been reduced to a handful of athletes (Tom Brady, Alex Smith, Buster Posey, Larry Fitzgerald and Pau Gasol).

An epicenter of energy for the past two decades has been the 15th Tee, headquarters of Club 15, a rooting section

sometimes 800 strong whose mission statement — “Professional Support for the Amateur Golfer” — has been embodied by the thunderous roar they emit the instant a non-professional, famous or not, strikes his/her drive, whether it flies 300 yards or rolls 3 feet.

Celebs got the VIP treatment. They were serenaded in song or celebrated with personalized chants. They were presented with gifts (Club 15 caps, T-shirts, golf towels, Club 15 golf tees, cans of beer), and many were delighted to interact.

But the world keeps spinning, and the popular tribe of athletic supporters is probably obsolete.

“It was kind of a group decision. They didn't say we couldn't do it. We didn't say we wouldn't do it. But we're 20 years older now, and I just know that the responsible thing is to let them do their thing this year and see if there might be some kind of role for us down the road,” said club co-founder

Scott Larson. “We've maintained a great relationship through the years, and we don't want to become a minus.”

### Famous crowd-surfers

The deeply focused PGA pros generally tolerated the antics in good cheer. The celebrities and spectators adored the rowdies.

“George Lopez and Josh Duhamel always crowd-surfed us,” recalled Larson, who launched Club 15 in 2003 with his brother Ted, Steve Kasper and Tom Tsubota. “Kevin James (280 lbs.) used to come at my brother and me like a bull, and we'd try to crowd-surf him. Andy Garcia didn't want to surf us, so he threw his caddie into the crowd instead, and we surfed him.”

In a moment of validation, Duhamel, the soap opera heartthrob-turned-movie-star, bragged one night to Jimmy Fallon on “The Tonight Show” about crowd-surfing Club 15.

Bill Belichick, the infamously crabby coach of the New England Patriots, gave Club 15 the stink-eye the first year he played but warmed up at subsequent tournaments, passing out autographed hats to the rooters. The CEO of Jack Daniels packed his golf bag with 60 bottles of whiskey (airline size) one year, passed them out, and led a toast to Club 15. Wayne Gretzky, Charles Schwab, Toby Keith, Kid Rock, Carson Daly and countless others regularly relaxed on Club 15's tee-side sofa — dubbed “The Lounge” — routinely sharing adult beverages with the clubbers.

In another moment of validation, future president Donald Trump and right-wing pundit Rush Limbaugh left the 15th Tee wearing Club 15 hats one year, and Limbaugh wore his minutes later for an interview on CBS.

Among the crown jewels of Larson's

*Continues next page*

**MB** MARY BELL  
BROKER ASSOCIATE

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## The Heart of Your Home: Fabulous Fireplaces

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

The nights on the Monterey Peninsula are chilly and wintertime is often the best time to gather around a beautiful fireplace and create wonderful long-lasting memories. During the rest of the year, your fireplace can also be an attractive focal point of your décor while providing comforting glowing warmth on cool spring and fall nights, too. Camaraderie and conversations around your fireplaces can create unforgettable memories so why not take time to think about your approach to fireplace design in your home, both indoors and outdoors.

Today, homeowners have a wide array of choices for the fireplaces in their homes. There are so many different ways to design your fireplace today and it still remains an important element in one or several rooms in your home. You will want to find the perfect place for your fireplace in each room, whether it is in the center of the wall creating symmetry, perhaps with bookcases on

each side, or placed in a corner of the room.

A hand-carved wooden mantel with a unique custom design adds a special timeless Old World elegance to a room. A variety of beautiful woods can be utilized, including cherry, mahogany, oak and others, lacquered or stained if desired. Stone fireplace designs can be a good solution because of their rustic appeal and they also help to bring nature inside your home.

You can also create a well-styled and accessorized fireplace mantle with photos, artwork, plants and more. The more layers, the more attractive the finished product so why not layer varying sizes of framed or unframed art decoratively on the mantle. Another fireplace mantel decorating tip is to hang numerous sizes and shapes of mirrors instead of just one.

Outdoor fireplaces are also wonderful during nice weather in our area. Everyone loves to stay outside during the summertime and fully functional outdoor rooms are increasingly popular with fireplaces, pizza ovens, giant tv's, couches, sound systems, special lighting and more. Comfortable seating makes for an inviting spot for everyone to enjoy the fire and there can be ledge seating depending on your fireplace design, both indoors or outdoors.

You don't need to go overboard with an outdoor fireplace -- especially if you have a great view or another focal point. A low but attractive fire pit can still provide plenty of ambience on a deck or patio.

Whether ornate, elegant, simple, modern or rustic, a fireplace continues to be a source of warmth and comfort in the home and it's still one of the most desired elements in any house today. Enjoy!



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*From previous page*

souvenirs is a football signed by quarterback Drew Brees.

“We always brought a football to throw around,” Larson reminisced. “When Drew came by, I asked him to run out for a pass, and he said, ‘Nah, you go!’”

Larson ran a 15-yard pattern, snagged the future hall-of-famer’s perfect spiral, then sprinted back to the rope line next to actor Chris O’Donnell, and said, “Wow, how cool was that?”

“Pretty (bleeping) cool!” affirmed the star of “Batman Forever.”

Another Club 15 original, former high school catcher Bob Rosenau, savors his interactions with Matt Cain of the Giants and Justin Verlander of the Tigers, each of whom had pitched no-hitters during the previous two seasons. For the record, Cain’s no-no was one of 24 perfect games in big-league history.

“I brought my catcher’s mitt and got this idea to throw down a home plate and jump out of the crowd when Matt Cain came through,” Rosenau remembered. “Scott Larson tossed Cain a baseball and said, ‘Hey, check out my guy down there!’”

Cain spotted Rosenau squatting in his catcher’s stance and uncorked a fastball.

“He brought it pretty good, but he hadn’t warmed up,

and I kind of had to jump to catch it,” Rosenau recalled. “So he called for the ball back and threw me another one. Then he pitched to me three or four years in a row.”

One of those years, Verlander also obliged, making Rosenau one of the few people to catch pitches from two no-hit pitchers.

**Badminton with Roddick**

Rosenau and Larson once challenged tennis legend Andy Roddick and his pro partner to a game of doubles badminton.

“It was so windy that the shuttlecock just got blown away whenever one of us hit it, so the game went nowhere, but it turned out to be pretty funny,” Rosenau remembered.

The antics sometimes disturbed professionals who were battling for big money on the adjacent 14th Green and Fairway, and in Club 15’s early years, they were carefully scrutinized by then-tournament director Ollie Nutt, course marshals and security personnel.

In 2007, when the tournament banned large coolers on the course, Club 15 responded by hauling their beverages in 120 smaller coolers — 6-by-6-by-6 inches.

“We were completely within the rules, but our solution was not popular with that particular regime,” remembered co-founder Steve Kasper.

One year, at 6 a.m., several ominous white vans rolled up. FBI agents spilled out and shook down everybody at

the 15th Tee, rifling through purses, tote bags and coolers in search of security threats.

“It was very aggressive. It was a roust,” recalled Kasper. “We laugh about it today, but we were a little bit shaken at the time.”

Any anxiety from tournament officials soon evaporated, thanks largely to Club 15’s “executives,” who worked hard to keep the crowd’s antics appropriate. The group stayed respectfully silent whenever a pro was standing over his ball anywhere within earshot.

The club’s relationship with the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, AT&T and even the PGA Tour, became increasingly positive through the years.

But with the celebrity presence winnowed down and a more serious tone this year, and for the foreseeable future, Larson and his fellow clubbers opted to roll gracefully with the gut-punch.

“Yeah, my phone blew up when people heard the news. I think we all feel a bit somber, like, ‘What a shame,’ but professional golf is a business. We get that; we respect that,” Larson said.

“At the end of the day, we’re all golf fans,” he said. “And now we’ll get to watch the very best golfers in the world play for \$20 million at Pebble Beach. Personally, I’m really excited about that.”

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

## JEFFREY SPENCER WRIGHT

Jeffrey Spencer Wright joined his ancestors on Christmas Eve morning, 2023, holding hands with his wife of 31 years, Kimberly Spindler Wright. Jeff was born on Veteran’s Day, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, 1945, in San Francisco, California, to Rosalie Dufficy Murphy and immediately adopted by Captain Sinclair Best Wright U.S. Navy (Dec.) and Mila Spencer Wright.

He grew up in a Navy family, moving between San Francisco and Honolulu, Hawaii. For high school, Jeff attended Iolani School in Honolulu, Lowell High in San Francisco, and Carmel High, where he graduated with the class of 1964. He went on to attend Monterey Peninsula College and then Humboldt State College; he graduated with a bachelor of arts in political science with minors in history and psychology in 1969. He continued his studies at Oregon State University and received his teaching credential from Chapman University. He attended St. John’s College in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and received a master of arts in liberal arts in 1994.

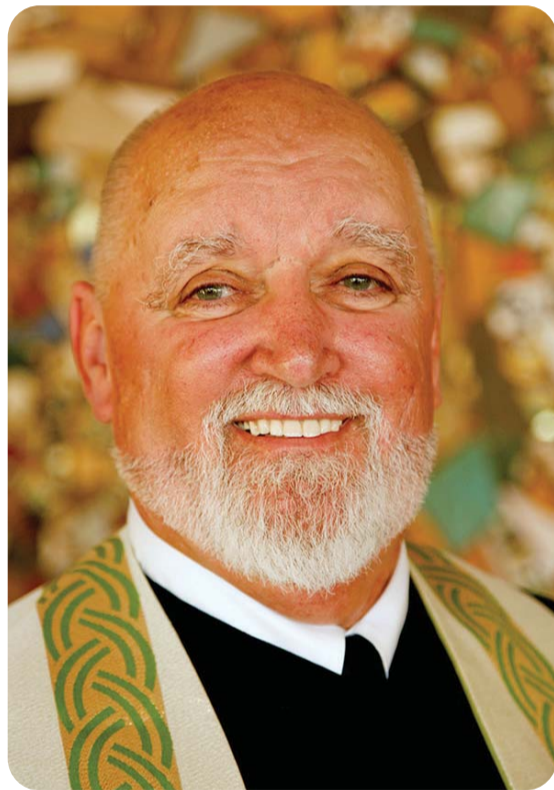


Photo by Mr. Wright’s former student Guru Khalsa, taken at one of the nearly 40 weddings Wright officiated for former students, colleagues, friends and family.

His education was extensive and prolific — in fact, he never really stopped going to school. He liked it so much, he made his profession of it, and influenced the lives of thousands of teens from his 11 years teaching and coaching at Palma High School (1976-1987) to his 27 years teaching and coaching at Carmel High School (1987-2014). On the football or soccer field he was fair and measured, and in the classroom he was funny, honest. He had no idea how to tell a short story,\* a fact his students sometimes leaned on to postpone the assignment of the day. If you thought he didn’t know what you were doing: you’re wrong, and he loved you for the digressions that often led to deeper discussions. As Mr. Wright, he chaperoned the Senior Class Trip to Disneyland more than 20 times and even got a peek at Disney Jail thanks to some rowdy students he had to bail out! Whether being the Senior Class Advisor, Fashion Show Coordinator, organizer and facilitator of Griefbusters, or CPR and Driver’s Education teacher, he offered countless hugs, and showed that size doesn’t matter by stretching a condom over his head. He co-authored and taught the Carmel High School health curriculum with colleague Peter Lyon, as well as the psychology and philosophy courses with colleague Barbara Steinberg. Mr. Wright was a presence, his classroom a sanctuary for many as they navigated the wild existence of being a high school student. The overflow of love on Facebook after his passing is a testament to the influence he had on generations of students and fellow educators. What comes up most consistently when people talk about Jeff is that Coach Wright/Mr. Wright knew how to stop and listen — two things teens and colleagues need most. For anyone keeping score: he still has that Twinkie and it remains without mold 30 years later; his beloved TROGS poster hangs proudly at home.

He had been the Assistant Dean of Students at Humboldt State College, the director of the Carmel Valley Youth Center, and a salesman at Leslie Motors, Monterey, but nothing quite fit him as well as his teacher’s chair (except maybe his La-Z-Boy, which he told the writer he would like to be buried in — this did not happen).

When Jeff was 15, he found out he was adopted. The adoption was closed, but he donned his best suit and walked into the records department in downtown San Francisco, pretending to be much older than his years. He asked to see his own file, and the clerk, perhaps assuming he was a young lawyer, gave it over to him. That day, Jeff learned about his birth mother, Rosalie Dufficy Murphy. Thus were planted the seeds of his interest in Ireland and Irish history — though his deep interest took a few decades to germinate. In 1996 while studying in Ireland (for the first time), he picked up a book in Hodges Figgis called *Surnames of Ireland*. In it, not only did he find the Dufficy name, but he also discovered it’s very rare — and specific to a swath of land in Western Ireland. In 2000, he decided to search for his family roots in earnest and on a trip to Ireland with his wife, his sister-in-law Cathie Spindler, his nieces Lauren Spindler Leonoff and Heather Lazare, he found the Dufficy land. Standing on the soil of the ones who came before brought him to tears. He had spent years surrounded by a loving family, but in this moment he had found his roots.

Jeff received the Allen Griffin Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Community Foundation for Monterey County in 2005. On Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, when everyone was searching for answers, Jeff organized a gathering of grieving students and community members at Carmel Beach to share their feelings as well as honor and remember those lost. The State of California Senate gave him a Certificate of Recognition of Outstanding Service Beyond the Call of Duty for his understanding and ingenuity that day.

Jeff had an affinity for rhinoceroses, and loved getting to feed them at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. He was never far from a can of seltzer water, and in 2014, he became a Certified BBQ Judge, traveling in the south and tasting various BBQ, then returning to California to judge Kansas City Barbeque Competitions.

While teaching high school, he spent his summers learning more about his heritage and in 1996 he attended Trinity College, Dublin, where he studied at the Institute of Irish Studies. In 1998 he received a National Endowment for the Humanities to study the Irish Famine at the Summer Seminars and Institute Program at Trinity College, Hartford Connecticut. In 2001 he was granted another National Endowment for the Humanities and he focused on Greek Values in Crisis: Thucydides, Sophocles, and Plato, at San Diego State University. He became further interested in Irish history and went back in 2003 to attend the National University of Ireland, Galway, to study the Irish Education System. His interest then shifted to the North, where he spent time in 2005 at Queen University, in Belfast where he focused on learning more about The Troubles.

He’s preceded in death by his birth mother, Rosalie Dufficy Murphy; and his adopted parents, Captain Sinclair Best Wright U.S. Navy (Dec.) and Mila Spencer Wright; as well as his stepmother, Eileen Lapp Wright, who adopted him after Mila passed. He’s also preceded by his half-siblings, Dennis and Joe Murphy; and his in-laws, Warren “Tor” Spindler and Therese “Kay” Spindler.

He is survived by his wife, the patient and incredible Kimberly Spindler Wright. He’s also survived by his son, Marc Turner (of his ex-wife, now deceased, Susan Burns Turner, later Cernohlavek), and Marc and his wife Suzanne’s children, Nick and Jill Turner; his siblings, Dr. Pamela Wright Kirkwood (Bill Kirkwood), Captain Steve Wright U.S. Navy (Ret.) (Patty Wright), and Scott Wright; and his half-siblings, David Murphy and Peggy Murphy Descaloso. He’s also survived by his in-laws, Troy Spindler (Margaret Stone), Mark Spindler (Linda Olivier) and Cathie Spindler (David Hall); as well as a clatter of extended family — nieces, nephews, cousins — who could not all be named but who mourn his passing deeply.

In 1997, Jeff gave a memorable commencement address to the students of Carmel High. He ended with a favorite Irish quote:

“May you have the hindsight to know where you’ve been,  
The foresight to know where you’re going,  
And the insight to know when you’ve gone too far.”

We all contain multitudes, so let it be noted: he was an asshole in the kitchen.

Thanks to the doctors and staff at Pacific Cancer Care, CHOMP and Carmel Hills for their outstanding care and kindness. At his request, his ashes will be scattered in Monterey Bay and his family is organizing a “Good Old Irish Wake” for late spring/early summer.

Donations can be made to:

Carmel High School Foundation, Jeffrey Spencer Wright Memorial Scholarship Fund:  
[CarmelHighSchoolFoundation.org](http://CarmelHighSchoolFoundation.org); P.O. Box 223288; Carmel, CA 93922



# OFEK

From page 3A

supervisor, dean of students, assistant principal and principal. In Palo Alto, she was the associate superintendent of education services, overseeing instruction for the district's 19 schools. She holds a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Simmons College, teaching credentials from San Jose State, and administrative credentials and a

Master of Arts in educational administration from Santa Clara University.

Since taking on the acting and then interim superintendent role, she "has focused her efforts on building collaborative trust with the community, working with the board to identify clear, achievable goals for the district, and establishing stability and consistency in district leadership essential for the district's long-term success," according to the board, which on Jan. 24 approved the appointment 4-1, with trustee Anne-Marie Rosen dissenting.

## BERNARD JOSEPH FERRARA

October 8, 1936 ❖ January 8, 2024  
Monterey, CA

Bernie died peacefully in the comfort of his home with his loving family by his side.

Essentially a private person, Bernie enjoyed an adventurist life.

He was raised in Bogota, New Jersey, and was the son of Paul and Pauline (Hone) Ferrara. Bernie and his wife were high school sweethearts at Bogota High School. Jean-Marie was a sophomore while Bernie was president of his senior class.

After graduating from Bogota High School in New Jersey he attended New York University for a year before enlisting in the U.S. Navy in July 1955.

He remained on active duty in the U.S. Navy for 37 years.

He married Jean-Marie Norman of Maywood, New Jersey in October 1957. They were married for 66 years. Throughout his naval career they traveled together all over the world. Some of his later assignments included Executive Officer US Naval Communications Station, Diego Garcia, a strategic location in the Indian Ocean. He was also Officer in Charge of the Naval unit at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey and Executive Officer at the Naval Communication Station, Adak, Alaska. His last overseas assignment was Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Security Group Activity Galeta Island, Panama. He and Jean-Marie were there during the U.S. invasion and overthrow of Gen. Manuel Noriega's regime. Bernie rose in rank to Commander and retired from active duty in July 1992. He attained an A.S. degree from Napa College, B.S. degree from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and an M.S. degree in education from the University of Southern California. Following his naval career, they decided to live in Monterey, California.

They raised four beautiful children, Steven of Napa, California, Joseph (Lauren) of Cotati, California, Paul (Joan) of Pahrump, Nevada, and Nancy of Seaside, California and seven grandchildren, Julianna, Ghitta, Anthony, Dexter, Ella Mae, R. J. and Pauline.

Bernie began his second career in January 1993 at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History where he became administrative director. He left the museum in May 2011. A landscape artist, Bernie was a member of the Central Coast Art Association, having served with that organization as its past-president and board member. He had exhibited his work throughout the Monterey Peninsula. Bernie was past-president of the Monterey Peninsula Kiwanis Club. He was a member of the Navy Cryptologic Veterans Association, Naval Order of the United States, the Naval Institute and the Military Officers Association.

Bernie loved being a part of his children and his grandchildren's lives. Watching their sporting events, cooking, teaching them how to make his special pasta sauce, having big family dinners, reading, history, old movies, eating out. Bernie was a loyal Chelsea Football Club supporter. Bernie loved meeting his best friend Thom for coffee. It was great fun for his kids to quiz him, as he was a walking encyclopedia. All this and he had a great sense of humor.

He is survived by his wife, Jean-Marie Ferrara; his four children and brother, Joseph (Laraine, Joseph II), of Paramus, New Jersey and sister-in law, Nancy Don (Gary, Jeff and Eric) of Washington Township, New Jersey.

The family would like to express its appreciation to CHOMP Hospitalist Dr. Magnana, the caring VNA Hospice staff, Dr. M. Zach Koontz and the tender loving care that Bertha Barajas gave to Bernie for many years.

Interment with full military honors will take place at 2 p.m. Tuesday, February 27 at the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery, 2900 Parker Flats Cut Off Road, Seaside. A Celebration of Life will follow at the Bayonet and Black Horse.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to San Carlos Catholic School, 450 Church St., Monterey, CA. 93940. Enjoy a cup of coffee at Paris Bakery in Monterey and fondly think of Bernie.



# B&B

From page 8A

condition and did not need replacing.

Hunter Eldridge, an architect hired by San Jose property owner Renewable Energy Development LLC, told the council that bed and breakfast establishments are allowed in that part of the city.

"The local coastal plan encourages visitor-serving accommodations in the coastal zone for those of us not lucky enough to live here," Eldridge said.

The building suffers from what the architect said is a lot of deferred maintenance. Besides replacing the windows, he said the owners would fully restore existing facades, stairs, railings and paint the exterior of the Craftsman-style structure.

"There are no significant changes proposed to the existing architecture,"

Eldridge noted. "This is rehabilitation only to this historic resource."

Eldridge addressed Ciani's short-term rental contention, saying that food is not provided at such rentals, according to the city's definition.

At the proposed inn, Eldridge said breakfast would be served to guests "in the form of a morning delivery."

Former Pacific Grove Chamber president Moe Ammar, who was the project coordinator for the bed and breakfast, touted the benefits of another such business and thanked the council for its decision, saying it demonstrates its "pro-business direction."

"As chamber manager for 29 years, I believe that B&Bs are part of the city's fabric and character," Ammar told The Pine Cone this week. "Once the inn is operational, it will generate transient occupancy tax revenue and business license tax revenue."

# SUPERVISOR

From page 7A

have a pattern of droughts and heavy rainfall. We need to be ready."

While Daniels spent much of her time talking about finding creative solutions to difficult large-scale problems, she conceded that most her time as supervisor will be spent listening to constituents talk about what's impacting their lives. "The most important thing is to connect with constituents, be with constituents, hear

their concerns and work toward resolving them," she added.

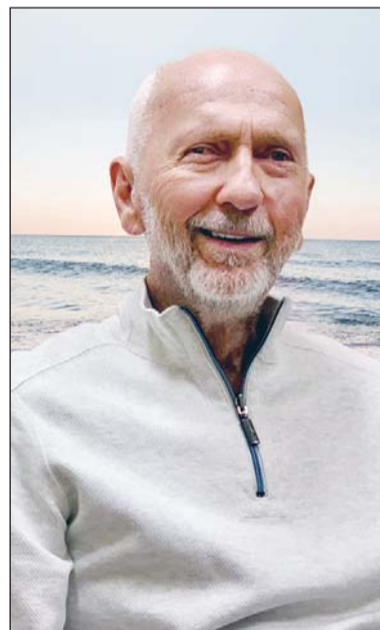
Presented by Leadership Pacific Grove and the first in a series, the talk with Daniels was moderated by Mike and Peggy Gibbs.

The event comes less than two months before Monterey County hosts primary elections for 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 face off again in November.

## NORMAN EUGENE CARSEY

Norman (Tootie) Eugene Carsey, 92, of Marina, California, passed away peacefully on Nov. 13, 2023. He was surrounded by his loving family. He was born on Oct. 14, 1931, in Sacramento, California to Clarence and Lillian Carsey. Norman was a beloved husband to his late wife of 44 years, Jean, and a devoted father, grandfather and great-grandfather.



Norman was a veteran who proudly served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps. He bravely fought in the Korean War and was disabled twice during his service. For his bravery and sacrifice, he was awarded two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star Medal of Honor for Valor.

After his military service, Norman met the love of his life, Jean. They married and raised their family of five daughters in Sacramento and South Lake Tahoe, and eventually moved to Monterey. Norman embarked on a successful career in the grocery business. He worked for his wife Jean's family's stores, Inks Brothers Markets, in Sacramento and South Lake Tahoe. He retired after working for more than 20 years,

at his son-in-law, Fermin's family's store, Bruno's Market in Carmel.

Norman had a passion for animals and outdoor activities. He loved camping, fishing, boating and taking long walks. Vacations with his family brought him immense joy, and he particularly cherished trips to Cabo San Lucas. Norman was a devoted, father and grandfather. He loved his family and really enjoyed spending time with them. Norman loved sitting in the sun on his front deck, where he would spend hours socializing with his friends and neighbors.

Norman is survived by his loving children, Kerry Sanchez and her husband Fermin of Carmel, CA, Darcee Clayton of Henderson, NV and Wendy Hill of Marina, CA. He also leaves behind many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who will always cherish his memory.

Norman was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Jean; his daughters, Stahna (Bambi) Woods and Charleyce Whalen; granddaughter, Misty Woods; and great-granddaughter, Carrie Woods. He was also preceded in death by his father, Clarence Carsey; mother, Lillian Carsey; brother, Clarence Jr. (Kelly) Carsey, and sister, Pauline Werner.

**A ceremony honoring Norman's life and military service will take place at 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16, 2024, at the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery, 2900 Parker Flats Road, Seaside, CA 93955. Military honors will be rendered during the interment ceremony.**

Norman Eugene Carsey will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all those who had the privilege of knowing him. His legacy of love, dedication and bravery will forever be cherished. May he rest in eternal peace.



# HOTELS

From page 6A

other hotels in Monterey that used to get small groups coming through," she said. "What I think will happen is this year will be a transitional year. As a new PGA Tour Signature event, it will be different moving forward." But it could ultimately be better for the Peninsula, she noted.

## Optimism

Monterey Marriott GM and Monterey County Hospitality Association board chair Stefan Lorch said he's heard some of the same sentiments regarding fewer bookings, but not across the board.

"Some hotels seem to have similar patterns as in previous years, and others report being softer in the first part of the week due to the change in programming," he said, adding that the week will also include "other group business unrelated to the tournament" that will bring more people to hotels and restaurants.

He, too, expects the local hospitality industry as a whole to learn a lot during tournament week, as fans and businesses get accustomed to the Signature Event format.

"At this time, the business forecast looks promising, and we remain optimistic that this tournament will continue to have a positive impact on our local economy," he said. "As with any change, there will also be new opportunities, and we look forward to showcasing our world-class

destination to a broader audience."

Former city councilwoman Carrie Theis, whose family owns the Hofsas House hotel on San Carlos north of Fourth, said she only had one cancellation after the new pro-am format was announced.

"The beginning of the week is very slow, with more people coming to town starting on Thursday through Saturday," she said. "As you know, the AT&T crowd comes not only for the golf, but more so for the fun personalities."

Traditionally, AT&T fans have been less hardcore about the game than those who visit during the U.S. Open, Theis observed. "I think that it will take a few years for the crowd to change, since the tournament is more serious with more prize money and getting the top-tier professional golfers."

With the larger purse, fewer pro-am rounds and faster pace of play, the reimagined event is drawing many of the world's best golfers who, like Tiger Woods, skipped it in the past because of the six-hour rounds and other issues.

"The change of the tournament will bring a different crowd, but a more serious golf enthusiast," she predicted.

Restaurants and caterers are seeing the shifts, too, with fewer outside events and less draw on Monday and Tuesday. Sunny Shour, manager and wine director of The Pocket restaurant on Lincoln Street in Carmel, said reservations for Thursday through Saturday nights have filled up nicely. "Compared to Thursday of last year, we are bound to exceed the numbers," he said.

Last year, despite winter storms, The Pocket was also decently busy on Tuesday and Wednesday, serving around

100 customers each evening, but reservations are lower this year. "I expect to pick up some more, and we do quite a bit of walk-ins," he added.

## Rebound in site?

Some of the slowness of AT&T week could also reflect a larger overall economic slowdown, at least in Carmel, where occupancy has continued to decline, and hotel tax revenues alongside it, since the post-Covid rebound of 2021-2022, according to figures released by the city's finance department last month. But the gaps between prior-year figures and more recent numbers are narrowing.

Thanks in part to winter storms that felled trees, caused power outages, flooded roads and caused other damage a year ago, occupancy was down from 58.55 percent in January-February 2022 to 46.49 percent during those months in 2023, despite the AT&T Pro-Am. The downward trend, also partly due to inflation, higher interest rates and widespread layoffs in Silicon Valley, increased during March and April 2023, with occupancy dropping to 60.42 percent from the previous year's 75.83 percent.

While room stays in May and June 2023 compared with those months during previous years were still down, the gap was narrower, and it has continued to decrease.

Average daily room rates, however, after slipping last winter, spring and early last summer, have continued to rise, generating more hostelry taxes for the city's general fund. Last September and October's tax receipts totaled \$1,676,903, a 4 percent increase over transient occupancy taxes generated during those months in 2022.

## MARY ANN 'CORKY' MATTHEWS

May 7, 1930 - November 2, 2023

Mary Ann "Corky" Matthews (néé Corthell) died of natural causes on November 2, 2023, following a brief illness. An avid botanist, resolute conservationist and environmental activist, a prolific newsletter writer and editor for a variety of publications, author of the seminal guidebook to the plants of Monterey County, board member of a panoply of non-profit organizations, as well as an ardent rock climber, hiker, backpacker, skier, mountaineer and life member of the Sierra Club and American Alpine Club, she was a Monterey County resident for more than 68 years. She passed peacefully in her Carmel Valley home with daughter Katharine (Kim), son Graham, daughter-in-law Noreen Doyas and devoted caregiver Michele Perry at her side. Her family is grateful for hospice services provided by Central Coast Visiting Nurses Association, and for her other dedicated caregivers over the past decade.

Mary Ann was born in Mill Valley, California in 1930 to Huron DeWitt and Ilyeen Bernice (Remick) Corthell. Nicknamed first "Cor" and then "Corky" by her junior high classmates, she graduated from Tamalpais High School in 1946, then studied nearby at the College of Marin.

Around 1947, a classmate invited Corky to join the Sierra Club and go backpacking. This affiliation inculcated a lifelong love of the outdoors, provided a social network and spurred her to advocate for environmental conservation: Corky was elected as a founding member of the local Ventana Chapter's Executive Board in 1969 and later served as Conservation Chair, edited the "Ventana" newsletter for decades, helped establish the chapter bookstore in Carmel in 1977 and then assisted for 28 years, staffed the Sierra Club booth at the Monterey County Fair, took her family to potluck song fests, led hundreds of hikes and backpacking outings locally and in the High Sierra, organized ski tours from the Club's Clair Tappan Lodge atop Donner Pass, and went as far afield as Washington, D.C. to lobby for the Sierra Club.

In 1948, Corky transferred to Stanford University, where she became an enthusiastic member of the Stanford Alpine Club, learning to rock climb. Corky majored in international relations, double-dated with the then-Sandy Day (later Sandra Day O'Connor) and graduated in 1950.

Corky moved to Yosemite in 1951, working initially as assistant secretary to Mary Curry Tresidder, president of Curry Company; later she was promoted to secretary to the Superintendent of Hotel Division, who was in charge of 12 hotels, including the High Sierra Camps. She had about 10 different additional jobs during her 4+ years in the park. She took movie tickets, was a waitress in the dining rooms at Camp Curry and the Ahwahnee Hotel, handled reservations for the High Sierra Camps – and on more than one occasion, hiked or skied many miles to the camps to carry fresh treats like steaks and ice cream to her coworkers.

Whenever possible between work shifts, Corky headed into the mountains. She scaled crags, peaks and pinnacles throughout the park, including the first ascent of John's Other Chimney with John Ohrenschall in 1953. With a group of four male climbing buddies, in 1954 she drove to Mexico and ascended the iconic volcanoes Popocatepetl (17,887 feet) and Ixtaccihuatl (17,342 feet). Throughout her life, Corky was unfailingly unassuming and modest about her accomplishments. Regarding this trip, she noted: "The boys likely included me because I owned the only reliable car ..." But her climbing bona fides undoubtedly belied that.

Perhaps prescient that the life of a "climbing bum" could not last indefinitely, Corky took the Foreign Service Officer's Exam and applied to work with the Central Intelligence Agency. It was not meant to be, however: she later wrote to the CIA withdrawing her application, on account of her impending marriage.

In 1954 while ski mountaineering, Corky Corthell met her future husband, W.V. Graham Matthews, Jr., himself a distinguished alpinist. After spending a lot of time on a rope together on various climbs in Yosemite, they decided to get formally "hitched" in 1955. They settled in Pebble Beach, moving to Carmel Valley in 1960.

In 1955 the two Matthews joined a group of Harvard and Sierra Club climbers to ascend various summits in the Selkirk Range of British Columbia; in 1956 they joined the American Andean Expedition to the Cordillera Vilcabamba in Peru.

But after their children entered the scene in 1957 and 1959, Corky and family pursued outdoor activities that were mostly closer to home: summers were hiking and backpacking trips, often back to Yosemite and the Tetons; winters were alpine skiing and back country ski mountaineering; and notably, there was more and more botanizing in the spring. Mountaineering and hut building trips to British Columbia remained on the agenda for several more decades: Corky, Graham and their children were among the climbers/laborers who erected several spectacular backcountry mountaineering/ski lodges, including Battle Abbey in the Northern Selkirks. In her later visits, Corky created and updated an impressive herbarium of Rocky Mountain flora native to the Abbey slopes and cliffs. Corky also taught a backpacking course for many years at Monterey Peninsula College. She considered her profession to be journalism; her longest employment was for a local newspaper publisher.

Over the years, Corky expanded her volunteer career – begun with the Sierra Club – as a conservationist and advocate for environmental preservation. She joined the boards of more than 20 other organizations, including the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), Monterey Pine Forest Watch, Carmel Valley Property Owners Association and Fort Ord Parklands Group. She also worked on the Carmel Valley Master Planning Commission from 1962-1983, which she considered particularly vital to the future of the Valley. As Conservation Chair for the Sierra Club and CNPS local chapters, as well as during her tenure on the State Board of CNPS, Corky wrote hundreds of letters and comments on Environmental Impact Reports, proposed legislation and related measures to elected officials at the local, state and federal level, on topics from endangered species to habitat preservation to rare plants, and testified before the California Coastal Commission. In 2006, Corky was recognized for her four decades of service in the furtherance of natural resource conservation with the Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Award by the Chuck Haugen Conservation Fund.

For decades a self-trained botanist, Corky thoroughly enjoyed identifying the flowers she encountered, but she came to recognize the need for a comprehensive flora of Monterey County. She felt she needed further education to undertake such a task, so in 1986 – while serving as president of the Monterey Bay Chapter of CNPS – she stocked the freezer with meals for her husband and commuted weekly to California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. Corky excelled in her graduate botany courses, although she stopped short of earning a degree. Instead, she felt confident to embark on a massive project: compiling all known plants lists for sites within Monterey County, plus securing permission from publishers to use existing botanical illustrations. Because of its size and environmental diversity, the county has more plant species – more than 2,300 – than many entire states, so this was a tall order. During this process, Corky was named a 1993 Fellow of CNPS, at that time a distinction awarded to fewer than 80 people state-wide since its inception. CNPS published *An Illustrated Field Key to the Flowering Plants of Monterey County and Ferns, Fern Allies, and Conifers* in 1998; it was hailed as an important tool for botanists and flower lovers alike. In 2015, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Corky's magnum opus was updated by a colleague to reflect new species and nomenclature changes, and retitled *The Plants of Monterey County: An Illustrated Field Key*.

In retirement, Corky continued to enjoy local wildflower hikes with a group of like-minded women, the "Walkers and Talkers"; traveling with her family to Hawaii; visiting botanical gardens from St. Petersburg to Prague to Copenhagen; and cruising the Rhine River, Galapagos Islands, Panama Canal, Baltic Sea, Mediterranean and elsewhere.

She is survived by daughter, Katharine (Kim) Matthews (David Massey) of Boulder, Colorado and Washington, D.C.; son, WV Graham Matthews, III (Noreen Doyas) of Weaverville, California; grandchildren, Alex Massey, Robbie Massey, Melia Matthews and Kelvin Matthews; nieces and nephews, Cheryl Corthell Blomstrom, David Corthell, Celia Corthell Parlasca and Ross Corthell and their mother, Sylvia Kurzrock. She was preceded in death by her father, mother, stepmother Elizabeth Corthell, husband, brother Nellis Eugene Corthell and many close friends. She was the last surviving of 21 first cousins, descended from grandparents Nellis Eugene and Eleanor Quackenbush Corthell of Laramie, Wyoming.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation to the California Native Plant Society, Monterey Bay Chapter (<https://chapters.cnps.org/montereybay/>) or the Sierra Club, Ventana Chapter ([www.ventanasierraclub.org/](http://www.ventanasierraclub.org/)).

A Celebration of Life service will be held on February 8, 2024 at Hidden Valley Music Seminars in Carmel Valley.

RSVP to Kim Matthews (email [ki.matthews@verizon.net](mailto:ki.matthews@verizon.net)) for details and so that we may plan refreshments.

In mid-July 2024, interment will be held at the Corthell Family plot in Greenhill Cemetery in Laramie. For details, email Kim Matthews.





# NOISE

From page 1A

an enforcement officer had only 24 hours to hand out a citation for a noise infraction.

At the hearing, three Big Sur residents — all members of the group Keep Big Sur Wild — voiced support for the new law.

“We enthusiastically support the reduction of decibel levels from 85 to 70,” Christina McGinnis testified. “We would like to see even more, but applaud the county for taking this step to protect residents from amplified music. We believe that stronger enforcement is really needed, along with more stringent penalties, particularly in Big Sur.”

McGinnis said amplified music is on the rise “in commercial areas” and at “many illegal event and wedding sites that have been popping up on residentially zoned properties in Big Sur.”

### Where’s the enforcement?

McGinnis said she would like to see the county do more enforcement down the coast. “Our organization reported several of the illegal sites with documentation over a year ago and have yet to see any enforcement from the county,” she said.

Hector Anaya, who said he lives in North County, reported that “extremely loud amplified music” plagues his neighborhood. Sometimes it can be heard late at night.

“Once I hear this loud noise, it’s impossible for me to unhear the noise and not be aggravated,” Anaya said. “The loud noise penetrates my home and makes it impossible to

have any tranquility.”

Alejo, though, said he is worried that “any family gathering, unless it is quiet, is going to be subject to a noise complaint.” He suggested a mariachi band could be in violation of the ordinance. “I think every time this issue comes forward, we want to get more and more punitive,” he said.

In response, Supervisor Wendy Root Askew made a motion to create the committee to further review data associated with noise complaints and enforcements. Alejo seconded the motion.

But Supervisor Glenn Church countered by making a substitute motion to adopt the proposed ordinance. He urged his colleagues to pass the ordinance without haste.

“There’s been plenty of opportunity over the years to

actually do the research you’re suggesting now, which is kind of coming in a little late,” Church said. “We need to move this forward.”

Fifth District Supervisor Mary Adams agreed with Church and seconded his motion, but she asked him to add creating an ad hoc committee to the motion to help address Alejo’s concerns, to which he agreed. “We need to move it on,” Adams said.

After some last-minute wrangling between Askew and Church, Askew modified her motion to pass the ordinance and form the ad hoc committee. Church, Adams and Askew voted in favor of it, while Alejo and Supervisor Chris Lopez voted against it. As a result, the supervisors will form the ad hoc group and finalize the ordinance at their Feb. 6 meeting.

# DEVELOPER

From page 8A

King City partnered with Shangri-La because Project Homekey required a public agency to be the lead applicant for the motel conversion projects. The housing project, which was supposed to have been completed by the end of 2022, would have been managed by a nonprofit.

The city, the lawsuit says, was responsible for securing rental subsidies for the motel’s operation and paying about \$400,000 through various funding sources. It spent about \$100,000 toward the effort.

Adams alleged that Shangri-La’s “mismanagement, misconduct and fraudulent actions” put the homeless project at risk. It also put King City — which the state attorney

general names as a defendant in the lawsuit primarily targeting Shangri-La — in a position of having to defend itself, even though the city was not given any funding or ownership interest in the Days Inn property.

“The city is extremely frustrated with the problems Shangri-La has created,” King City Mayor Mike LeBarre said. “King City has been working hard to serve as a model for small communities by demonstrating how to effectively address homelessness.”

However, LeBarre maintained that the city is “not giving up” on the effort and is “working with a number of partner government and nonprofit agencies” in hopes of building a homeless housing facility.

King City is seeking \$45,000 for its cost of the temporary shelter, an order indemnifying the city from legal liability, “just compensation in an amount to be proven at trial,” and other damages.



*In Loving Memory*

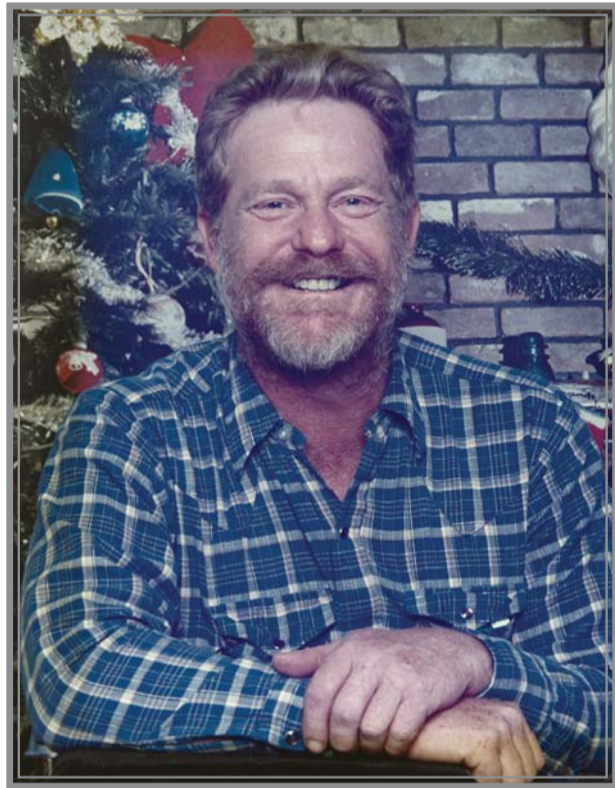
## JORIE LYNN (FRANZ) ESQUIVEL

Jorie Lynn (Franz) Esquivel was born in San Jose, CA on Sept. 8, 1949, to Clarence and Marjorie (Green) Franz. Jorie’s family moved to Pacific Grove when she was a small child and it became her forever home. She loved walking around and along the beach, collecting her favorite abalone shells and sitting watching sunsets in the window of the beach house. She was a very supportive, loving wife and mom. Jorie helped out with the family business and loved spending time with family and friends. She enjoyed hosting get-togethers at home, or helping others with their events and was an avid holiday decorator, never leaving a corner of the house untouched.

Jorie died in her home at 5:18 p.m. on Nov. 16, 2023. She was visited by family and friends during the week prior, before succumbing to her long battle with Alzheimer’s.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Larry Esquivel of Pebble Beach; two children, Tricia Heine of Concord, Lance and (Tara) Esquivel of Idaho; and her three grandchildren, Danica, Madison and Tyler.

**A celebration of life will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. on April 6, 2024 at the Elks Lodge in Monterey, CA. Please feel free to stop by. Casual, tropical attire is encouraged!**



## Terry Lee Schnars

It is with heavy hearts we must announce the passing of Terry Lee Schnars. He was 73.

He was born July 30, 1950, in Monterey to Sidney and Vera Schnars and grew up in Marina. He spent lots of time playing in “Armstrong’s Pasture” and the three acres owned by his family. He graduated from Seaside High School in 1969.

Terry followed in his father’s footsteps and became a carpenter. He was a member of the Monterey Carpenters Union for more than 50 years. He met the love of his life, Claudette, in 1994 and they married the following year. They were together until her passing in 2019.

Terry was known as an all-around great guy, who never had a negative word to say. He loved creating WWII models and had more than 100 tanks, airplanes and Jeeps in his collection. He had a quick wit and a great sense of humor. With his baritone voice he would loudly sing to songs and humorously make up the words when he did not know them. He loved Sci-Fi, and was a full-fledged Trekkie. Terry loved spending time with his family and best friend, his daughter, Emily.

He was preceded by parents, Sidney and Vera Schnars; brothers, Lynn and Wayne Schnars and wife, Claudette Schnars. He is survived by his daughters, Emly Schnars and Dee Santos (Olie Santos); son, Terry Lee Schnars Jr.; sisters, Jean Gastelum (Henry Gastelum) and Sheila Schnars; as well as his grandchildren, Chris, Willie and Olivia Santos; and great-grandson, Aoto.

In time we will have a celebration of life for Terry.



# AUTHORS PUBLISH 'FIELD GUIDE' TO SITES OF ICONIC LOCAL PAINTINGS

A NEW book puts the reader in the shoes of nearly two dozen artists who

gallery owner Joaquin Turner and author and educator Cynthia Wagner Weick.

## Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

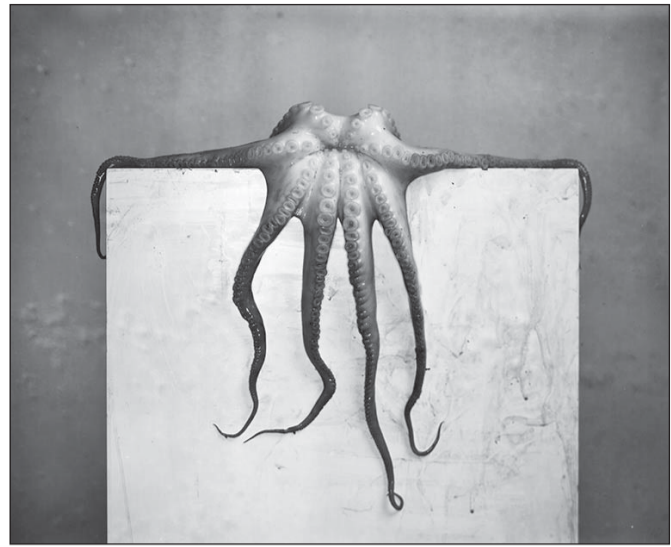
Painted on the Monterey Peninsula a century ago. "Preserving Nature: A Field Guide to the Art and Artists of the Monterey Bay," was written by painter and

Old Monterey Foundation, the talk starts at 6 p.m., and the book-signing and a reception with wine follows at 7 p.m.

The book offers readers "a self-guided tour of the scenes the artists painted in the late-19th century through the mid-20th century in Monterey, Asilomar, Pebble Beach, Carmel-by-the-Sea, and Point Lobos." Twenty-two artists are featured. "Location and biographical details allow readers to stand on or near the spots that inspired the artists, learn about each artist, and explore their roles in crafting the region's rich artistic fabric," a description reads.

Known for his nocturnal paintings, Turner owns a gallery in Su Vecino Court along Dolores between Fifth and Sixth.

The event is free. The Middlebury Institute's Irvine Auditorium is located at 499 Pierce St.



This image by Kayhan Jafar-Shaghghi of Scotland earned the photographer a \$2,500 prize in a juried show.

## ■ 'Radiant Light' opens Saturday

A native of Poland whose work has long offered a fresh perspective on the American West, Roman Loranc is the focus of a solo exhibit, "Radiant Light," that opens Saturday at the Center for Photographic Art. A public reception for the artist starts at 4 p.m.

"The new photographs featured in 'Radiant Light' align with Loranc's personal aesthetic and offer a fresh experience for the Center for Photographic Art and collectors of Loranc's exquisite silver gelatin prints," said Ann Jastrab, CPA's executive director. "These latest exciting images are still shot on large format film and printed in the darkroom by the artist, so the exhibition will be visually diverse and exceptionally beautiful."

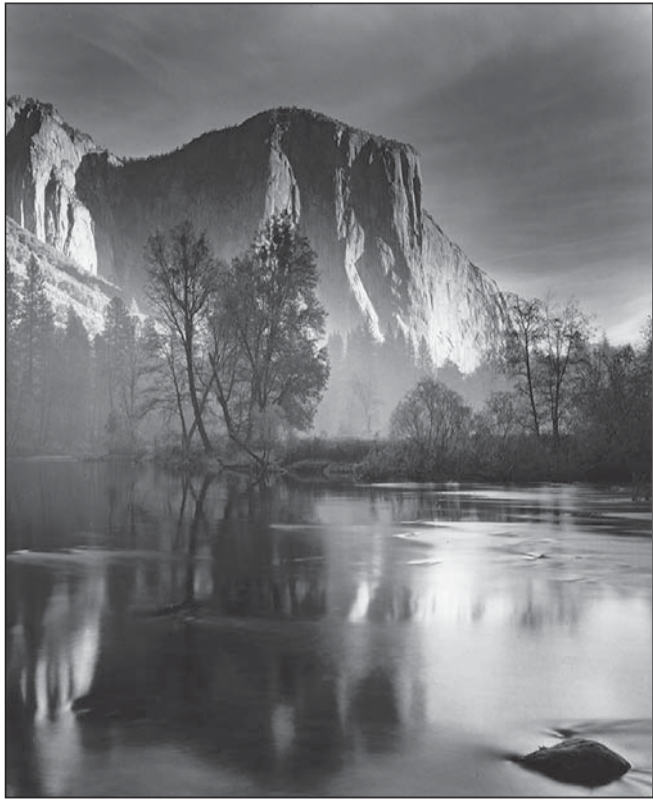
An award-winning photographer whose work is included in many important

collections, Loranc recently announced that he's retiring. "As of Jan. 1, he is no longer printing his negatives, so there will be a very limited inventory of prints," Jastrab reported. "Don't miss this milestone exhibition."

The show will be on display through March 3. The gallery is located in Sunset Center at San Carlos and Ninth.

## ■ Photographer wins \$2,500

Loranc's show follows CPA's annual International Juried Exhibition, which closed last weekend after awards were handed out. Kayhan Jafar-Shaghghi of Scotland took home the Best of Show award, which earned him a \$2,500 cash prize. Finishing second and third were Cara Weston of Big Sur (\$1,000) and Isabel LeBlanc of Santa Cruz (\$500). David Gardner of San Francisco and Doris Mitsch of Marin County tied for the People's Choice Award (\$150 each).



Included in a new show at the Center for Photographic Art, Roman Loranc's "El Capitan" captures the majesty of Yosemite National Park.



## Carl Di Rocco

Carl Di Rocco passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 5, 2024. Carl was born in Charleroi, PA on Nov. 19, 1940. He graduated from Charleroi High School and thereafter joined the Pennsylvania National Guard.

After beginning a career in salon management, he moved to Mill Valley, CA where he owned and operated The Organic Hair Care Center. Upon the sale of that business, he retired to Carmel. He spent many years in Carmel enjoying the people, their dogs and Carmel Beach.

Carl was predeceased by his parents, Antonio and Clara Lucent Di Rocco. He is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Toni and John Piowaty of Hendersonville, NC, and his adoptive family, Robert John and Melanie Alvernaz of Carmel.

Toni and John would like to express their love and gratitude to Robert and Melanie for their many years of love and care for Carl. They would also like to thank his "beach friends" for making his morning walks so enjoyable. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

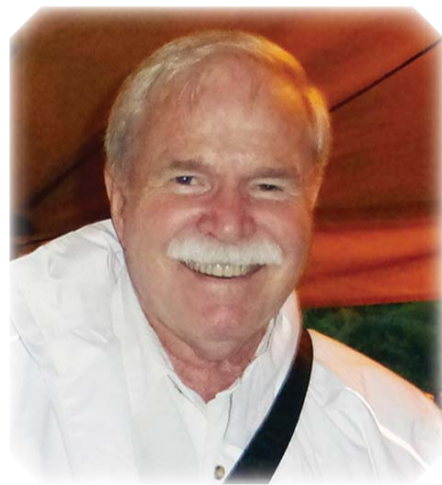
Per his request, no services are planned. Carl would have appreciated any remembrances be made to the following organizations: Monterey Bay Lab Retriever Rescue, Peace of Mind Dog Rescue or the SPCA Monterey County.

Rest in peace, dear brother and friend.

## CONRAD C. EGE

Oct. 4, 1933 ♦ Jan. 11, 2024

Conrad Claude Ege died in the early morning of Jan. 11, 2024, in his home, after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Connie, born Oct. 4, 1933, to Charles Claude Ege (Lipscomb, TX) and Mary Ennard Ege (née McConnell) (Ryan, OK) in Ponca City, Oklahoma, spent his early years in Healdton, OK where his father worked in the Oklahoma oil fields. In 1941 Connie's father was called back to active duty in the Army, and it was then that the adventures began for Connie as he, and his parents, traveled throughout the U.S. while his dad was preparing to go to Europe. For a few months during that time the family lived in Carmel where Connie attended



Sunset Grammar School. That was the first of 21 schools Connie attended before he was 18 years old! After the war, he and his mother, Ennie, joined Claude at Gifu, Japan where his dad was executive officer of the 24th Infantry Regiment. Returning to Carmel in 1949, Connie finished high school at Carmel High and after graduation in 1951 went to Washington D.C. to study at Sullivan's Prep School. Upon completion of his studies there he accepted Richard Nixon's Senatorial appointment to The U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated in 1956 with a degree in civil engineering.

His Army career began with basic infantry, airborne and ranger training at Fort Benning, GA and an assignment to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. After flight training at Camp Gary, TX and the advanced courses at Fort Rucker, Connie became an aide to Gen. John Barclay at the Army Ballistic Missile Agency in Huntsville, AL. While he was there Connie

had the privilege of being part of the space program which was headed by Werner Von Braun and included the seven original Mercury astronauts. In 1960-61 Connie returned to college at Purdue University where he earned a master's degree in industrial management. Upon completion there, he went to helicopter and instructor school on the HU-1 helicopter in preparation for his assignment to Qui Nhon, Viet Nam. There he commanded an aviation field maintenance detachment.

Upon returning from Viet Nam in 1965, Connie decided to join United Airlines in a management position. During the final interview he was informed that he was still young enough to be a pilot with UAL, and that was the beginning of 28 fabulous years and a career of a lifetime. Connie worked his way up from 2nd officer (flight engineer) on the DC-6 to captain on the 747. In 1974 Connie, with his two youngest daughters moved to Carmel and a new chapter in his life began.

Remaining in the Army as a reservist, Connie flew helicopters and worked as a liaison officer for West Point recruits, retiring in 1993 as a lieutenant colonel.

Always with a pleasant smile, and a caring manner, Connie was a joy to all who had the good fortune to be around him. A convert to Catholicism, he was active at the Carmel Mission as a Eucharistic minister, both at Mass and to the homebound. He was a member of the Haasis Hikers, a group he enjoyed so very much. Connie also was a passionate reader, especially loving to read about the Civil War, early U.S. presidents, and Winston Churchill. He loved to travel, but Carmel with his wife, Beth and his beloved dogs, was home. Connie was a true American, a patriot and a strong believer in our Constitution. He was a fine man. We will miss him dearly. He was preceded in death by his parents; an infant brother, Ronald Ross; a daughter, Jennifer; and a grandson, Jamie. He is survived by his wife, Beth; his three daughters, Catherine (Robert) Mathews, Kristina (Rodney) Dyson, Julia (Mark) Flower; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at the Carmel Mission. Please contact the family for information. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Alzheimer's Association or to the charity of your choice.



# Editorial

## Is the emergency real yet?

FOUR YEARS ago, while Donald Trump was still president, we wrote an editorial about the situation at the border caused by a “flood” of immigrants who had figured out that to get into the United States all you needed to do was present yourself to the border patrol or an immigration officer and say you wanted asylum. The situation had gotten so bad, we noted, that Trump had called it an emergency.

The leaders of the Democratic party and the national media figures who do their bidding couldn’t repeat often enough that the emergency Trump declared along the border — to free up funding for his wall — was fake.

“It’s a manufactured crisis,” said Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer, almost in unison, in mid-January 2019, followed by the nonstop trumpeting of those very words on CNN, MSNBC, and the old-school evening television news programs. For days on end, they simply couldn’t repeat the phrase often enough.

The reality on the border was completely different, of course. The number of illegal immigrants crossing into California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, we pointed out, may not have reached the proportions seen after the 1986 Reagan amnesty. Instead, what we had was “an onslaught of would-be legal immigrants who not only don’t try to avoid the border patrol, they can’t wait to meet them” — a situation so bad even the NY Times had to acknowledge it.

“U.S. Border Could Be at a Breaking Point,” said a headline on the front page of the April 11, 2019, edition, followed by a lengthy story detailing how tens of thousands of immigrant families from Central America had already entered the United States, were waiting to enter, or were on the way. And those numbers might as well have been in the millions.

“Gone are the days when young, strong men waited for their chance to wade across the Tijuana River, evade capture and find work for the summer,” the Times said. “These days, thousands of people simply walk up to the border and surrender.”

The smugglers who brought them and the left-wing attorneys who urged them on, “have told them they will be quickly released, as long as they bring a child, and that they will be allowed to remain in the United States for years while they pursue their asylum cases,” the Times warned.

The result was a system — this was in 2019, mind you — that was completely overwhelmed, or as one expert told the Times, “on fire.” More than 800,000 asylum cases were pending in the courts, the NYT said, with more than 100,000 people joining the queue each month.

Another quote from the NY Times’ story was worthwhile: “For years, both political parties have tried — and failed — to overhaul the nation’s immigration laws, mindful that someday the government would reach a breaking point. That moment has arrived.”

How ironic that here we are, just four years later, and the situation is many times worse. Since Biden became president three years ago, at least 3.5 million immigrants — or more than one million per year — have crossed the southern border with the intention of claiming asylum, and the vast majority of them have been quickly and unceremoniously admitted. In many cases, they don’t even have their identity checked.

Besides the sheer number of people crossing the border as you read this, it must be acknowledged that the frighteningly large number of people claiming asylum at our border today is just a tiny fraction of the tens of millions around the world who would surely like to do the same thing. How many asylum-seekers would be too many? If 1 million per year isn’t too many, what about 5 million? Ten million? Most of our political leaders won’t admit there’s an upper limit at all, much less say what it should be or impose it.

Meanwhile, our nation’s wealth may be very great, but it is not unlimited. Since so many of the new asylum-seekers will need government (i.e., taxpayer-funded or debt-funded) aid, not only as soon as they arrive, but for their entire lives, how much should we be willing to spend/donate on their behalf? Is there a limit to that?

Many of the would-be immigrants are coming here to work, and many of them will find jobs, but only because they’ll work for less than their citizen and legal-immigrant counterparts. Should we be concerned about the people whose good-paying jobs will be sacrificed for the benefit of somebody just over the border from Central America?

And the most basic one of all: Should American citizens have a say in who permanently enters their country?

The United States needs immigrants, but they should be people who, at a minimum, meet standards of education and personal values.

Four years ago, the New York Times says the situation at the border was at a breaking point. Since then, it has gotten much worse. Is the governor of Texas wrong when he says it’s now an emergency?

## BEST of BATES



“You want to know how to get to the Hog’s Breath? I’ll tell you how to get to the Hog’s Breath. You go back to Ocean Avenue, turn right, go up to Highway 1, turn right again, and keep going south. And when you get to the River Inn, you’re almost there.”

## Letters to the Editor

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

### Retaliation?

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to your Jan. 19 article, “Ex-sergeant accuses sheriff of retaliation.”

When ex-Sergeant Bryan Hoskins was walked off the job and was put on leave in October 2022 for timecard violations, Tina Nieto was not yet a member of the sheriff’s office. She was police chief of Marina and the leading candidate by a large margin against then-Sheriff Steve Bernal’s endorsed candidate at that time, Joe Moses. She was clearly not an insider.

Did Nieto ask the sheriff’s office to terminate Hoskins’ employment in October 2022 because he didn’t endorse her? That’s beyond improbable, yet that is what seems to be implied in the article. As far as I know, Hoskins did not endorse either candidate.

My take is that Hoskins was released from employment because in 2021 he made \$437,004, including \$263,996 in overtime above his base pay of \$103,182. This and more of his salary information is available on the public servant salary website transparentcalifornia.org. This was widely publicized in the media in October

2022. The lame duck administration then left his termination to the incoming sheriff.

Under Nieto’s administration, her opponent, Joe Moses, remained employed in the sheriff’s office until his retirement last month, even after Moses’ harsh public treatment of her during the election. If vindictiveness was a major motivator for Nieto, wouldn’t she have terminated Moses at any time in 2023?

Linda Wyckoff, Monterey

### Mills Act costs

Dear Editor,

The Carmel City Council will soon evaluate Esperanza’s application for its third Mills Act subsidy, this time for the Frank Lloyd Wright house. The Mills Act allows the city to reduce an applicant’s property taxes over a 10-year period (which auto-renews as it goes) to assist the owner in the “rehabilitation or restoration and long-term maintenance of historic resources.” Before granting this assistance, the council must find — among other things — that the subsidy represents an “equitable balance of public and private interests and will not result in substantial adverse financial impact on the city.”

In December, the council, with Esperanza’s agreement, rightfully rolled over their review of the application because they couldn’t balance the equities. At the time, they didn’t have a suitable estimate of the cost of the subsidy. Estimates now available to the council indicate a tax subsidy between \$2,130,000 and \$1,915,000 over 10 years, which exceeds Esperanza’s

See LETTERS page 27A

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## It all started in Chappaquiddick

AS A teenager in Pittsburgh, Pa., Andy Swartz would gaze out the windows of his home with a view of steel mills and listen to records by The Beach Boys and The Rivieras, humming along to lyrics such as “They’re out there having fun/in the warm California sun” — a tune he will still sing reminiscently, thankful for a career that has given him 50 years in Monterey County.

A Golden Pine Cone award winner for Best Attorney if You Need to Sue Somebody several times over, Swartz won that accolade again in October, as well as Best Defense Attorney, an honor that still has him wondering who voted for him in that category — not that he denies his abilities as a defender. He’s just curious.

Swartz’s success in Monterey came about through a combination of serendipity and shoe-leather. He decided on a career in the law after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh during the Vietnam

They found the area so beautiful, they decided to seek summer internships here.

“I was told the best place to find a job was at the Professional Building” at 215 W. Franklin St., Swartz said. He has since come full circle, and for the past two years the law offices of Swartz and Kennedy have occupied part of the top floor of the Professional Building, commanding a view of the bay and Fremont Peak from the office library — and occasionally hanky-panky by guests at the Marriott across the street, Swartz said, noting the lawyers sometimes ask clients to sit with their backs to the windows, just in case.

### Generous favor

But in 1971, he went door-to-door through the building, asking about internship opportunities. One lawyer, Carmel Valley resident Hugo Gerstl, told Swartz he was just out of the military and not able to hire a summer intern, but he called around and found Swartz an internship at Ehrman and Flavin. It went so well that the firm hired Swartz when he graduated.

“It all started with knocking on doors,” he said nostalgically. Upon graduating from law school in 1973, he began practicing law locally. For \$300 a month, Swartz rented a three-bedroom apartment with a bay view and indoor parking.

“Everything was so beautiful and inexpensive,” he said.

His employer specialized in property tax law. After working at the firm in 1973-74, he knew that was not the kind of law he wanted to practice. He partnered with two friends, Jim Spiering and Steve Scherzer, to form a new firm.

“We had one secretary and not a lot of business,” Swartz said. But a change in

See **SWARTZ** next page

## Great Lives

By KATHARINE BALL

War era with a degree focused on Southeast Asian political systems. Swartz then served in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve in the summer of 1969, when chance or fate put him on board a ship responding to Teddy Kennedy’s car crash at Chappaquiddick, which killed his companion, Mary Jo Kopechne.

### Loss of innocence

The scene of the accident had already been cleared by the time Swartz — “a lowly seaman” — and his crewmates landed at Chappaquiddick, and a “young entrepreneur, about 12 years old, was selling Kool Aid” to the rubberneckers who came to view the site. But having seen the layout of the crash site and listening to Kennedy’s accounts about his conduct that night, Swartz’s sense of justice was outraged.

“There was no way Teddy Kennedy could have swum across the channel as he claimed, especially drunk,” Swartz said. “That’s where I learned about corruption, as a young man still unsure of my future.”

Soon he found himself applying to law school, and when he was admitted to the University of Santa Clara, his father encouraged him to go west. Swartz’s father had been stationed at Fort Hunter Liggett in southern Monterey County during his stint in the service and never forgot the beauty of the area.

“So in 1970, I went to Santa Clara, not knowing a soul,” Swartz said. But as a self-described outgoing person, he easily made friends.

One day in spring 1971, he borrowed a car and came to Monterey with a female friend.



PHOTO/KATHARINE BALL

Attorney Andy Swartz has sued Rolling Stone magazine, and made national news with a case against Bank of America.

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

## A 24/7 obsession keeps her mind buzzing and her hands dirty

THE SECRET to life, in case you’ve wondered, is feeling as passionate about anything as Nada Abdeshahid feels about creating art, an obsession that keeps her mind percolating 24/7. Ideas come at her from anywhere, everywhere, out of nowhere, with unrelenting frequency.

“I wake up with ideas all the time, in

“I took it out of there, opened it up, flattened it out, cut it into the pattern, then hand-hammered it into the shape, which was very loud and really fun. The armor is me,” she said.

A spine, woven from a thick vine she found on Fort Ord, honors her mother, Nasma Nimri, who died of cancer — three months after she was diagnosed — when Abdeshahid was 16.

“She was the backbone of our family, and I took it very hard when she passed,” she said. “It was a big turn-

ing point in my life, because I had to make a decision about how her death was going to affect the rest of my life: Could I turn it into a positive, or allow it to take me down some other road?”

### An old stump

On top of the coat of armor, Abdeshahid affixed a head-like “wheel of emotions,” with a loud crank that spins multiple faces that look worried, scared, happy, sad, and upset, and the whole sculpture is propped atop an old stump she found on a roadside and carved into bent legs, symbolizing submission, an important part of her Middle Eastern culture.

The other half of her capstone project is a basket-like “nest” woven from lichen she collected from Fort Ord and filled with 200 wooden blocks, each inscribed with an evocative word and hand-carved to fit together like puzzle pieces.

Abdeshahid’s artistic instincts most likely were inherited from her parents, both of whom were artists.

Her father, Ayyad Alnimer, is a prolific painter in the Middle East, where he is considered one of Egypt’s greatest living artists. Her mother, Nimri, painted when she lived in the Middle East, but stopped when she came with her husband to teach Arabic at the Defense Language Institute.

### Moon Gate

“They moved to the Monterey Peninsula in 1989, and I was born a year later,” said Abdeshahid, who has two sisters. “Now that I’m older, I’m realizing that my father had a huge impact on me as an artist. He showed me what was possible.”

Her CSUMB project opened doors to a public-art project: The Moon Gate commission was seeking an artist to design and fabricate a pair of large, ornate, culturally important gates — inspired by local Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino heritage — for the Chinatown area of Salinas.

“I did a lot of research, talked to a lot of people, learned a lot about history and culture that I didn’t realize was here,” she said.

“I did designs for the gates and built models, which went through a lot of revisions, then took them to a really cool metal shop in Watsonville where they used laser-cutting machines to cut my designs.”

Her colorful Moon Gate (15 feet high) and Sun Gate (13

See **ARTIST** page 26A

By DENNIS TAYLOR

## Carmel’s Artists

the middle of the night all the time, feeling anxious — this uncontrollable urge to go do messy artwork. I just want to get my hands dirty,” said Abdeshahid, who grew up on Fort Ord, graduated from Seaside High (Class of ’08), and earned a bachelor’s degree from California State University Monterey Bay (2018) in visual and public art.

“But I’m in my apartment, away from my studio (her sister’s garage), so I’ll jot down the idea that woke me up, then try to calm myself down by doing some other type of art form,” she said. “Art is my everything: It’s my friend, my love, my fun, my healer.”

As she approaches her 33rd birthday, Abdeshahid is a mixed-media artist in the purest sense, unwilling (or unable) to limit her creativity to any traditional medium. The excitement — oodles of excitement — comes from having a brain without borders.

### Female armor

Her capstone project as she prepared to exit CSUMB was a two-piece work, deeply personal, symbolizing the emotional journey she experienced growing up. It’s fashioned from pieces of nature and history she scavenged from Fort Ord, where she spent much of her childhood left to her own devices, running free.

One part of the project (which she called “Life Chaos Control”) is a life-size suit of armor — female, modeled from her own anatomy — shaped from old air-duct metal she swiped from a condemned barracks.



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

The works of Nada Abdeshahid are eclectic, and many use items she scavenges locally and re-purposes.

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## SWARTZ

From previous page

state law would soon change that.

Prior to the mid 1970s, convicted felons in state prisons had been given indeterminate sentences, on the theory that they'd participate in rehabilitation efforts if it helped get them out of prison sooner. That law changed, and all state prisoners had to be resentenced to determinate (fixed) sentences. Swartz's new firm got several years of work, at state expense, representing convicted criminals in Soledad.

Then, Charles Winans walked into his office. He wanted to sue Rolling Stone magazine for libel, because an article had falsely accused him of being part of the notorious Manson family.

### 'They pounded me'

A young Swartz deposed Rolling Stone publisher Jann Wenner, who had hired a high-priced team from a company that also represented Chevron.

"They pounded me," Swartz said. "I was too young and inexperienced to go all the way to trial, so I associated with Melvin Belli." The late Belli, a San Francisco attorney, was a legend in tort law, renowned for securing huge settlements for his clients.

"He was very old, but his name got us a really good settlement," Swartz said. Meanwhile, the case generated publicity for Swartz's firm, helping put it on sounder footing.

Swartz also learned from his opponents. "Over time, I was lucky enough to get some great lawyers on the other side," he said, listing Lewis Fenton, Fred Ebey and Chuck Keller, and "senior house counsel lawyers for Bank of America."

In his first two jury trials, he faced Fenton, then Ebey. "I lost both," Swartz said.

His third civil trial found him facing off against the Bank of America team.

Swartz represented a woman who was being sued by the bank for \$10,000 in charges incurred by a man who stole her

credit card.

"Bank of America would not settle," Swartz said. "We did a jury trial ... We asked for \$7,500 in damages."

Swartz made the case of the bank's overreach and bad treatment of the woman so convincingly, the jury came back with a \$50,000 judgment. Monterey County Judge Harkjoo Paik tripled the verdict and awarded attorney fees. Bank of America appealed the verdict, but the state Court of Appeal unanimously upheld it and issued what Swartz termed "a scathing opinion." The story was picked up by news wires, and Dan Rather interviewed Swartz.

"It was a great win and garnered a lot of interest by consumer organizations," Swartz said. "The woman worked as a clerk at a tile store, and the jury really recognized the bad conduct by the bank."

The case, Young v. Bank of America, is written up in law books, Swartz said.

He also put effort into keeping the law profession on ethical footing, serving on the Bar Association's Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct, informally known as the "ethics committee." The committee "writes opinions on the important ethical issues of the day," Swartz said. In the early 1980s, he served as its chairman.

### Shelby Cobra

But now, at age 75, with a 50-year career to look back upon, Swartz said he's semi-retiring. "I'm not taking any new litigation cases," he said. He still has five or six cases yet to be resolved, "several of which may have to be tried," but his courtroom career is nearly at an end.

"My last jury trial was in April," he said. He worked with fellow lawyers Jon Giffen, Chris Panetta and Jim Cook to fight a woman's claim to a 1965 Shelby Cobra she contended had been wrongly sold by her brother-in-law. The case, written up in the Pine Cone last year, ended in favor of Swartz's client, the car's current owner.

He urged young lawyers to "practice ethically, establish rapport with the other attorneys, and let justice prevail."



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# ARTIST

From page 23A

feet high), stand side-by-side in Chinatown's Moon Gate Plaza, each 12 feet wide. Start to finish, they took about three years to complete and install, she said.

Abdelshahid's most recent major piece (also a three-year effort) was a custom headstone that she designed and created, to honor her mother's closest friend.

"He was a teacher, like my parents, and I put some things on his obelisk, with his name, that the family requested: the Lone Cypress, poppy flowers, books ..."

The monument — 3 feet high, 3 feet wide — is adorned with a colorful mosaic created by Abdelshahid from thousands of pieces of stained glass. "The colors really stand out," she said.

It was installed at Monterey's San Carlos Cemetery just before Christmas, and she is designing another monument commissioned by a person who admired the original.

Abdelshahid's garage workshop contains a menagerie of unusual pieces she has created, frequently from random things she finds on Fort Ord.

A large, odd-looking "storytelling mask" — an homage to the way history was once passed along — is made of oak leaves, pine needles, and dove and turkey feathers.

A Pinocchio nose, created with her 3D printer, is a commission for a Santa Barbara theater company. A creepy-looking head — inspired by Nefertiti (1370-1330 BC), queen of the 18th dynasty of ancient Egypt, was fashioned from a plaster mask of her own face, then altered "because I didn't want anybody to see my face!" The hair is made from tightly wound lichen from Fort Ord.

### Wants to help

"Sometimes I wander around Fort Ord, collect a bunch of random things in garbage bags, then come back and dump it all out," she said. "There might be bugs crawling all over it, but I'll start touching everything to see how it feels, how it responds, and the ideas will come."

Until Covid hit, Abdelshahid was teaching art classes at the Monterey Museum of Art, 30-60 students every day, from toddlers to senior citizens.

A future dream is to become part of an artist collective, where she can bring more ideas to life and help others do the same.

And Abdelshahid and her famous father are co-authoring a book about his artwork.

Images of her art are at Instagram.com/nada-abdelshahid. Contact her for commissioned art at nada.abdelshahid@gmail.com. Abdelshahid also makes clay-texture rollers to imprint creative patterns into ceramics and offers them on Etsy at PureCreationsByNada.

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# LETTERS

From page 22A

maintenance estimate by about \$786,000 and \$570,000 over the same period. This is more than a tax break. It's a gift of a few hundred thousand dollars. Our council should pause before accepting an application that donates money to a homeowner!

The public certainly has an interest in maintaining the iconic Frank Lloyd Wright house, but our law already requires the owner to do just that with a particular focus on its historicity. Also in our law is our ability to step in if we see the property is not being taken care of. Under the current owner, our historic resource is in great hands.

In addition to the imbalance of work and subsidy, there is also the need for those property taxes to go to other uses including the renovation of the police station. And because the granting of the application is a lifelong contract between the property owner and the city, this does need to be very carefully considered. I commend the city council for the work they are doing.

**Kristi Reimers, Carmel**

## 'Duped'

Dear Editor,

I am very disappointed that our city leaders did not do more to protect Carmel from state overreach. I hope the city will find the courage to join with other cities that are fighting to maintain local control. I feel the public is being given the false hope that densifying and destroying years of thoughtful planning and preservation of our beautiful town will somehow provide opportunities for young families to live here. Sadly, we are just being manipulated into helping developers to make lots of money. By the time people wake up and figure out we've been duped, it will be too late to save Carmel. We will have a mini San Francisco with little green space and no parking.

**Christy Hollenbeck, Carmel**

## P.G.'s future

Dear Editor,

Last week Pacific Grove Mayor Bill Peake doubled down on disunity in the town when he appointed a new DEI Task Force member who has made a career out of blaming an entire race of people for being too ignorant and "screwed up" to know they are the source of all racism. It is a rotten viewpoint leaving the kind and giving citizens of Pacific Grove no alternative but to admit guilt and make reparations. A page right from the DEI playbook of "Divisive, Elitist Indoctrination." Imagine the DEI Task Force as a "profit center" whose products of disharmony, blame and shame have bankrupted its own bottom line and the good will of the city.

After three years of DEI foolishness, it's time to cut our losses and invest in a new product line featuring hope, grace and revitalization for our kids and grandkids. Why not assemble a hometown team of "early stage" local investors willing to create a "Pacific Grove Venture Fund" to help solve some of the big problems facing us now? Launch "catalyst" projects like building innovative and unique affordable housing for young people who want to start up businesses and attract entrepreneurial talent to the area, or restore our historical and cultural assets like Chautauqua Hall or raise capital to purchase the NOAA building. Just imagine the possibilities!

On Jan. 16, Leadership Pacific Grove hosted a town hall forum during which Kate Daniels, Monterey County District 5 Supervisor candidate, endorsed the idea of attracting venture investors to innovate the future of Monterey County. I call on Mayor Peake and the Pacific Grove City Council to close the book on DEI and write the next great chapter for P.G., one filled with grace, opportunity and generosity.

**Mike Gibbs, Pacific Grove**

## DEI appointee

Dear Editor,

At a Pacific Grove School Board meeting last October, Bruce Doneux stated that White people need to get together and

figure out "why we're so screwed up." Your reporter quoted him accurately. Now Doneux is the latest appointee to Pacific Grove's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force.

Doneux did not specify whether he has figured out why "we" are so screwed up. I suggest a humbler goal: that he starts by figuring out whether he is screwed up. Then he can share his findings with the rest of us and we can assess whether they apply to us. It is problematic, though, that he enters this new position with an already chosen narrative.

**David R. Henderson, Pacific Grove**

## Why businesses close

Dear Editor,

Recently I have considered the demise of local organizations which, until recently, I took for granted. Some are the "local hardware store" and "the paint place." With the recent closure of M&S Building Supply and the sudden implosion of Kelly Moore paint, there really isn't a small hardware store in Monterey. You would need to go to one of the Ace shops in Pacific Grove for hardware, or Sherwin Williams in Monterey or Seaside for high-volume paint. The business closures do result in more business being driven to big-box alternatives. I believe that this is because of "shifting of the goalposts" — the state every year adds many new regulations and costs of doing business, and for small business owners it makes it difficult for them in California.

Another business type that myself and many others took for granted are small or medium sized FFLs, federal firearm licensees. Once they were plentiful in Monterey. Now, as of January 2024, there are exactly zero medium-size FFLs in Monterey selling or able to receive transfer of firearms. The last one of reasonable or medium size in Monterey, Big 5, no longer sells firearms, as it did in prior years — it now merely sells BB guns, and ammunition for those who already own firearms.

The cause of this not only in Monterey but across California is, in part, surveillance legislation that was passed to require

three years of video storage of 24-hour monitoring of all customers, creating both great cost and liability for licensed business owners.

While this and other laws are being challenged in court, the businesses either close or simply stop doing what they are licensed to do, because California's laws have become too extreme.

Other local firearms businesses exist, including a small federally licensed business in Monterey and a couple in Marina, but the Legislature's desire seems to be to eventually leave people in the state with no legal options for transfers, unless people move out of the state, or unless people locally want to drive to Turner's in Salinas or a shop in Northern California.

But more and more of these licensed shops will continue to close, leaving law-abiding people with less options. The state continues to do what it does best — drive legitimate business away.

The City of Monterey has a proposal to take part in a system of automated license plate surveillance that would cover the city and would not only be arguably unconstitutional, but would have negative impacts on business. People do not want to be surveilled wherever they go just because the city, the state, or the Naval Postgraduate School thinks it's an interesting idea. Persistent, broad-spectrum surveillance systems that are intended to capture everyone, in every setting, without regard to our rights or choices, are the byproduct of flawed minds and designers, and people with minimal intelligence and no vision.

In 2022, the Hoover Institution provided a report showing several hundred businesses leaving California and moving their headquarters to a different state between 2018 and 2022. High rent, high taxes, high costs of living for employees, and red tape were a few of the reasons. But when a state legislature is openly hostile to business in a state that once opened itself to businesses of all kinds, it should be clear why those business owners will either move or just retire.

**Colin Gallagher, Monterey**

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# The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

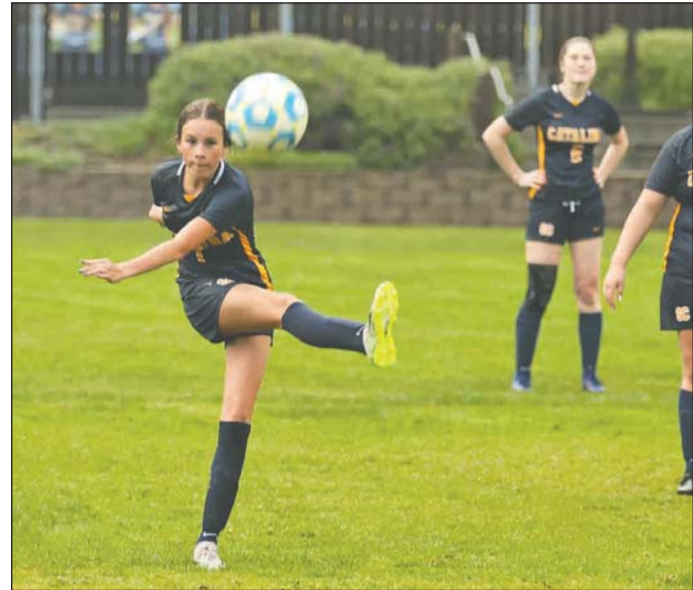
## Soccer season brings younger teams with dreams of bright futures

REACHING THE postseason playoffs might be a stretch for girls soccer teams at Carmel, Santa Catalina, and Stevenson this year, but the future is scintillatingly bright for all three programs, whose varsity rosters are

letic League’s Mission Division (9-2-1) and qualified for CCS, this year’s Carmel Padres are very much in learning mode (3-7-3 overall, 1-3-2 in the division). But coach Steven Russell is exuberant about the potential of a 22-player squad whose starting lineup includes a lone senior, two juniors and a glowing group of sophomores and freshmen.

At Catalina, coach Julian Salas has just four returning starters from a team that was snubbed by the CCS selection committee a year ago despite a 10-3-3 overall record, but three freshmen, two sophomores, and six juniors are first-team players in 2024, trumpeting great possibilities in the years ahead.

And at Stevenson, Phillip Koshi is marveling at athleticism of a team light on soccer experience but packed with two- and three-sport veterans. The Pirates began the week with a share of first place in the Santa Lucia Division with a 4-0-2 record, boast a 5-1-4 overall mark and have outscored the opposition 31-8 so far.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Santa Catalina’s leading scorer, Fatima Cortes, is one of numerous gifted freshmen who are making a major impact on Peninsula teams this season.

### Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

stacked with exceptionally talented younger players. After graduating 12 seniors from a 2023 squad that went 14-4-1 overall, took second in the Pacific Coast Ath-



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

The best player in a youthful Carmel starting lineup is Ryan Lott, a multi-talented sophomore midfielder.

#### Big league for Padres

“We’re young, we’re tiny, we’re kind of in the middle of the pack in the Mission Division right now, and we came into the season knowing we probably weren’t going to be as dominant as we were a year ago,” said Russell of his Carmel team. “But we’ve shown flashes of greatness, and we’ve proved we can compete, and the future looks really bright.”

How green is this team? The only senior starter is defender Olivia Bartle, a four-year varsity veteran who can run fast, run forever, and kick with either foot, all of which enable her to help her teammates at both ends of the pitch. Bartle also plays varsity field hockey and lacrosse.

The only starting juniors are co-captains Julia Jackson — “very smart, tactically sound,” said the coach of the returning starter — and three-year letterwinner Ella Gallagher, who “carries the team emotionally”.

Nine other first-stringers are freshmen or sophomores.

The 10th graders include goalie Adi Clark, a returning starter and “a military kid who has played for club teams all over the world,” who has 92 saves in 12 games, Ryan Lott, an attacking midfielder with five goals and six assists (“a rockstar — definitely our best overall player”), defensive middle Zana Balaban (“highly intelligent), and small but lightning-quick wings Josie Hanson and Ava Staehle (“the engine of our team because of their speed and endurance,” said Russell).

And those freshmen? Eva Sedillos, the striker, has a team-best nine goals, with four assists. Defender Siena Schillinger, a club player (“smart, fast, really good foot”),

See **SPORTS** next page



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*From previous page*

has a talent for moving the ball through traffic and finding open teammates. Midfielder Anna Rasmussen (“another kid who can run forever”) positions herself well and loves to drop back defensively. And Maddie Willoughby is a 6-foot-2 presence at goalie with 23 saves in part-time duty.

**Midfield is Catalina’s key**

Catalina’s success frequently depends on center-midfielders Olivia Da Silva (All-Cypress last season), a junior, and senior Megan Barry-Schoen (all-league in field hockey), co-captains who have played together for three seasons, outside middies Piper Butler, a junior in her third season with the program, and speedy soph-

senior Gaby Salazar, a third-year varsity veteran.

Catalina’s defense depends heavily on center-backs Sawyer Vogel, who earned all-league plaudits in lacrosse and is “fast, strong, very physical,” Salas said, fellow juniors Sophie McHugh, one of six field hockey players on the squad, and Luisa Tamayo (“doing really well as a first-year player”), and senior Elle Edwards (“making a big impact”), who try to limit the pressure on junior goalie Alicia Kalinski (34 saves in six games), a tall, athletic first-year soccer player.

“We’re hoping to be contenders in the Cypress this year,” Salas said. “York might be the team to beat, and North County and Notre Dame also look strong.”

Koshi sees limited soccer experience on his Stevenson roster, but no shortage on remarkable athletes.

“We’re fast, our athleticism is through the roof, I think every girl plays at least one other varsity sport,” he said. “Those things can often make up for what we lack in soccer experience, especially in the PCAL’s lower league. We sometimes are able to overpower our opponents.”

**Abundant leadership**

The Pirates are loaded with field generals, beginning with two senior co-captains.

Chloe Vogel, a third-year varsity player and All-Cypress last year, tirelessly runs the entire field from her center-midfield position. “She’s a playmaker, with a knack for setting up her teammates to score. I wish she was more selfish sometimes,” said Koshi of the player who leads the team with nine assists.

Mia Schlenker, another three-time letterwinner, plays aggressively at right wing

See **SPORTS** page 34A



PHOTO/KERRY BEISER

Macey Torres, one of many multi-sport athletes on Stevenson’s roster, is “an absolute monster” center-midfielder, according to her coach.

omore Delilah Fujita, an aggressive offensive threat (three goals, six assists).

“Our midfield is our strength — being able to win the ball and play it out wide to our outside middies is a key for us,” Salas said.

The team’s offensive leader is Fatima Cortes (six goals, 2two assists), one of three freshmen forwards, along with Annie Beasley and Paloma Reyes, who have also scored goals. The other front-line player is



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# This Week

Live Music,  
Clubs and Events

## Friends and fans rally in Carmel Valley to raise \$\$\$ for ailing singer

AN ALL-STAR cast of local musicians plays a benefit concert for singer **Tammi Brown** Friday, 7 p.m., at Hidden Valley Music Seminars in Carmel Valley.

Singer **Lee Durley** invited Brown's friends and fans to

### On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

support the singer, who is battling cancer. "Tammi Brown has been a name most people around here have become familiar with because of her incredible talent, creative achievements and her committed community involvement," Durley said.

Brown's accomplishments as a musician include singing background on guitarist Stanley Jordan's cover

of "Steppin' Out," which was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2009, performing a tribute to Quincy Jones at the 59th annual Monterey Jazz Festival, and opening for singer Joan Baez at Esalen Institute's 50th anniversary concert in Big Sur.

The lineup of performers Friday includes Durley, singers **Lauri Hofer-Romero**, **Janice Perl** and **Lauren Monroe**, drummer **Rick Allen** (of Def Leppard), **5 Star** and many others.

Fat Boy Taco will cater the fundraiser, while Galante Vineyards and Dawn's Dream will pour wine. Tickets start at \$50 and will be available at the door. Hidden Valley is located at 104 W. Carmel Valley Road.

### ■ Rickie Lee Jones plays Sunset

Best known for her Top 10 hit, "Chuckie's in Love," two-time Grammy Award winner **Rickie Lee Jones** takes the stage Tuesday, 8 p.m., at Sunset Center.

Jones burst on the scene in 1979 when her debut single, "Chuckie's In Love," caught fire and climbed to No. 4 on the pop charts. Four Grammy nominations followed, and she took home the prize for Best New Artist. Jones earned a second Grammy for Best Vocal Jazz Performance in 1990 for her duet with singer Dr. John, "Makin' Whoopee."

Jones' latest album, last year's "Pieces of Treasure," was nominated for a Grammy for Best Tradition Pop Vocal Album.

Tickets start at \$45. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 620-2048 or visit [sunsetcenter.org](http://sunsetcenter.org).

### ■ Hotel hosts jazz jam

The first Jazz Jam of the new year at Embassy Suites in Seaside kicks off Sunday at 1 p.m.



A fundraising concert in Carmel Valley Friday will benefit singer Tammi Brown, who is battling cancer.

The musicians include singer and pianist **Shanna Carlson**, pianist **Bill Spencer**, bassist **Dennis Murphy**, drummer **Jim Vanderzwaan** and others, with Vanderzwaan and Durley serving as co-hosts.

"Come early for good seats, be ready for good eats and slosh it down with your favorite beverage," Vanderzwaan suggested. "There will be raffle prizes, room to dance and plenty of surprises as local jazz musicians drop by to jam."

See **MUSIC** page 35A



The Carmel Music Society welcomes guitarist Paul Galbraith to Sunset Center Sunday afternoon. Galbraith plays a guitar with eight strings.

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## Heading south, celebrating your Galentine, and scoring wines

HOW ABOUT a wine-y road trip? No, not the kind with three sticky kids in the back seat repeating, "Are we there yet?" with increasing volume. This is the kind where you cruise (and bump along a bit, in places) down picturesque country roads on the west side of the Salinas Valley, stopping here and there to sip some wine, learn about local vineyards and winemakers and nibble on tasty treats.

Sound good? Then get your cursor over to Eventbrite and reserve your

Valentine's Weekend Passport to the Monterey Wine Trail. Sponsored by the Monterey County Vintners and Growers Association, the event is held Feb. 17 and 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Each day's passport includes curated selections of up to four wines at three tasting rooms of your choice from among the eight participating spots that extend all the way to Greenfield: Odonata, Rustique,

Puma Road, Pessagno, Wrath, CRU, Joyce and Scheid. When you purchase tickets, you'll be asked to choose the wineries and the order in which you'd like to visit, which should help manage the size of groups at each location for a better tasting experience.

Your passport also includes a souvenir

## Soup to Nuts

glass and a beautifully presented lunch-size charcuterie box (a vegetarian option is also available), along with a 10 percent discount on bottles and cases. One-day tickets are \$65 apiece, or purchase a two-day pass for \$110. Tickets for designated drivers are \$25 per day or \$45 for both. Ticket sales end on Feb. 16.

*Continues next page*



With Valentine's Day approaching, Ami Carmel offers myriad gifts that say "I love you" to cooks, hedonists and people who just like to have nice things. The shop has daily promotions from Feb. 1-13 to entice shoppers, too.



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# FOOD & WINE

From previous page

## ■ Another spot to take your sweetie

Nobody likes a pest. Nevertheless, we're here to remind you that Valentine's Day is less than 20 days away. This week, Jacks at the Portola Hotel at the foot of Alvarado Street in Monterey sent word about their offerings.

The four-course romantic holiday dinner will be served from 6 to 9 p.m. and is available with optional wine pairings. It starts with a salad of butter lettuce with red onions, cherry tomatoes and gorgonzola, topped with pecans, feta cheese and a raspberry vinaigrette, paired with Justin's 2022 Central Coast sauvignon blanc. Landmark Vineyard's 2019 Overlook chardonnay from Sonoma County accompanies the second course, a salmon croquet topped with citrus sauce, crispy fennel, and passion fruit.

The entrée — a 4-ounce petit filet mignon and grilled prawns with potatoes galette topped with porcini mushroom and red wine demi glaze — needs a big red, and Justin's 2020 Paso Robles cabernet sauvignon is just the glass for the job.

The big finish calls for — and delivers — lots of chocolate in the form of a classic lava cake with vanilla ice cream, whipped cream and chocolate syrup. Sip some of Landmark Vineyard's 2019 Overlook pinot noir from Monterey County as you indulge in the sweet, dark goodness.

The meal is \$124.95 per person with wine pairings, \$74.95 apiece without. Tax and gratuity are not included. Call (831) 649-7830 for reservations.

## ■ Is there an Oscar for wine?

Although there are many fabulous composers and many amazing winemakers around the Monterey Bay, one man has achieved acclaim as both. Alan Silvestri of Silvestri Vineyards has created majestic and memorable scores for movies such as "Forrest Gump," "The Polar Express," "The Avengers," and "Back to the Future." He has been honored with two Oscar nominations, two Golden Globe nominations, nine Grammy nominations with three wins, and two Emmy awards.

Silvestri has also mastered the art of the vine. Born in New York, he launched his music career in Los Angeles

*Continues next page*



Eight wineries, including Wrath (left) will welcome guests during the Valentine's Weekend Passport to the Monterey Wine Trail on Feb. 17 and 18. Tickets include tastes, a charcuterie box and discounts on purchases along the scenic route through the Salinas Valley.

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# FOOD & WINE

From previous page

but chose to raise his family in the Monterey Peninsula. According to Silvestri, “There’s something about the elemental side of winemaking that appeals to me. Both music-making and winemaking involve the blending of art and science. Just as each note brings its own voice to the melody, each vine brings its own unique personality to the wine.”

### Music and posters

His wines have plenty of personality, as does the tasting room on Seventh between Dolores and Lincoln. It’s a pretty setting in which to sample wine, and Silvestri’s other artistic endeavors are alluded to on the media screen, which shows a rotating selection of movie posters, and his scores quietly playing in the background.

When you visit, here are two wines to try:

2019 Barbera, Estate (\$75) — There aren’t many barbera grapes grown in our region, so finding a local wine made from them is fun. Tasting a good one is even better! This wine has many of the typical and pleasant barbera flavor profiles — juicy with tart red and black cherry, blackberry and spice, ending with slight notes of anise.

2019 Syrah, Estate (\$48) — Black plum, blackberry, coffee and floral aromas on the nose and the palate. This is a bigger wine than the barbera, and one that can hold in a cellar for quite some time. We recommend drinking the

barbera now and the syrah in two to five years or more.

### Friendly shop with heart

Ami Carmel, the eclectic and ever-evolving gift, clothing and home boutique on Dolores near Fifth Avenue, is celebrating love Feb. 1 through Valentine’s Day with several incentives to drop by. Each day, one lucky shopper who finds a heart hidden in the shop will win \$25, and heart-shaped cookies and treats for humans and dogs will also be available, so everyone can keep their energy up while they browse. On the 14th, you can enjoy a special heart-shaped butter cookie with jam.

On Feb. 13, the store celebrates Galentine’s Day — another new holiday nobody knew we needed. This one, appealing mainly to women, as the name implies, got its start on the series, “Parks and Recreation.” According to Cosmopolitan magazine (source of more things nobody knew we needed), it’s a day to celebrate platonic relationships, “getting all your BFFs together for a night filled with laughter, a bit



The rooms at the Post Ranch Inn offer luxury and spectacular views of the Big Sur Coast, winning the hotel another honor as the best in the world.

of tea-spilling, bottles and bottles of vino, and endless amounts of food.”

Ami’s event is scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m. with “bubbly, appetizers, raffle and exclusive discounts.” To attend, purchase a \$25 ticket at [amicarmel.com](http://amicarmel.com). Maybe get two or three, because as Cosmo noted, “However you like to spoil the non-romantic loved ones in your life, this is the day to do it.”

### Post Ranch best in world

It happens so often, it almost shouldn’t qualify as news. Post Ranch Inn has added another award to its distinguished list, which has included recognition from Travel + Leisure, Forbes, Condé Nast, and Wine Spectator.

This time, it’s been chosen as the No. 1 hotel in the world (under 50 rooms) by members of the Andrew Harper organization, which has given the stunning hotel on the Big Sur Coast five previous members’ choice awards as a hideaway and a romantic destination, for its view, for its memorable restaurant, Sierra Mar, and as one of the “most unplugged from the world.”

Andrew Harper comprises a group of travel writers and editors who visit places incognito, creating “indispensable resources for all aspects of an upscale vacation,” such as guidebooks, newsletters and the like, for its paying members. You can learn more about what they do at [andrewharper.com](http://andrewharper.com).

Post Ranch Inn, of course, is the dramatic luxury hotel with just 40 rooms and private “homes” overlooking the Big Sur Coast from its elevation at 1,200 feet. It’s built on the site of the old Post family farm. Visit [postranchinn.com](http://postranchinn.com) to dream about the possibilities.

*Elaine Hesser and Roxanne Langer contributed to this week’s column.*

## SPORTS

From page 30A

“She’s our tone-setter from the standpoint of physicality,” Koshi said of Schlenker, who has scored three times.

Mack Bellomo (four goals), another senior middle in her third year, has a strong soccer IQ, along with “one of the best shots in the league,” the coach said.

The other center-midfielder, junior Macey Torres (an All-PCAL lacrosse player), is “an absolute monster athlete who sets an example for every kid on the field: She probably covers 8 kilometers or more during a game.”

The left wing, sophomore Sydney Holland, is the team’s only left-footed player and the fastest athlete on the squad. “She’s also just a sponge — very coachable,” said Koshi.

The defense depends on two varsity veterans, juniors Emi Wheat and Sienna Bullock-Martinez, “both super-feisty players with good soccer IQs — they kind of keep us organized,” Koshi said. Freshman Charlotte Schipper also has seen significant playing time, thanks in part to her aggressive, fearless approach.

### Second-year starter in goal

Sophomore Georgia Bonifas is the starting goalie for the second straight year, using spectacular athleticism and multi-sport skills (she also stars in lacrosse and field hockey) to shut down opposing attackers. She also is becoming more vocal about directing the defense, her coach said.

Stevenson’s leading scorer through eight games is Ava Edwards, in her second varsity season. “She’s very long, very fast, very hard to defend, and she likes to go forward,” said the coach of the junior, who has five goals and two assists. “Once she gets past a defender, nobody’s likely to catch her.”

The other forward, Leda Kendall, has some of the best



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

The athleticism of sophomore goalie Georgia Bonifas, a returning starter, is one of many reasons Stevenson is a contender for the Santa Lucia Division crown this season.

technical skills on the team in her second year as a soccer athlete. “She’s crafty and creative and makes things happen,” said Koshi of the sophomore, who has three goals.

Reaching the playoffs this year would be a remarkable accomplishment for any of the three schools. Carmel faces the toughest competition in the Mission Division. Catalina and Stevenson will likely need first-place finishes in their divisions, then must win a CCS “play-in” game to earn a spot in the main bracket.

Next home games: Catalina hosts Notre Dame at 4 p.m. Monday, Carmel entertains Seaside at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, and Stevenson will take on Gonzales at 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 1, a showdown that might decide the Santa Lucia Division crown.

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

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# MUSIC

From page 31A

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

## One-of-a-kind guitarist

A Scottish classical guitarist noted for his unique style of playing, **Paul Galbraith** performs Sunday, 3 p.m., at Sunset Center. The concert is presented by the Carmel Music Society.

Nominated for a Grammy Award in 1998 for Best Solo Instrumental Album, Galbraith plays a customized guitar with two extra strings.

The program includes music by Bach, Ravel, Schumann and others.

Tickets start at \$45. For more details, call (831) 625-9938 or visit [carmelmusic.org](http://carmelmusic.org).

## Live music Jan. 26-Feb. 1

**Albatross Ridge Winery and Kitchen** in Monterey — singer and guitarist **Lindsay Beery** (Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Tim Brady** (Saturday at 7 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

**Bernardus Lodge & Spa** in Carmel Valley — pianist **Mathias Morris** (classical, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Paul Behan** (Saturday at noon), pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Sunday at noon), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Tuesday at 4 p.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

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

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

**Cibo** restaurant in Monterey — **The Dave 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.), **The Andrea Carter Trio** (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.

**Deja Blue** in Seaside — **The Aki Kumar Band**

See LIVE page 37A

# Worship

**CARMEL ~ CARMEL VALLEY ~ MONTEREY  
PACIFIC GROVE ~ PEBBLE BEACH ~ SEASIDE**

Journey to the heart of Carmel ...  
*where it all began*

## CARMEL MISSION BASILICA



**SATURDAY VIGIL MASS**  
5:30 p.m.  
**SUNDAY MASSES**  
9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Our streamed Mass is also available.

[www.carmelmission.org](http://www.carmelmission.org)

You're Invited

to become  
a light in the forest

## Church in the Forest

on the  
Stevenson School Campus  
Multi-Denominational  
Sundays 9:45 am



Complimentary Pebble Beach Gate Entrance  
3152 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach  
[churchintheforest.org](http://churchintheforest.org)

♥ "One Enchanted Evening..." ♥

A Most Elegant Valentine Dinner!

Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

Chef's Amusé:  
Comp. Champagne Cocktail and Warm Cheddar-Pecan Crisps

First Course:  
Winter Asparagus Salad w/ Piñons & Smoky Orange Vinaigrette

Second Course:  
Butternut Squash Ravioli with Sage-Shallot Crème Sauce

Entrée Selections:  
Raspberry-Glazed Game Hen, Wild Rice Fritters, Mushroom Ragú  
Spice-Grilled Wild Scallops, Charred Corn & Brussels Sprouts  
Braised Short Ribs with Stone Fruits & Polenta Crescents

Dessert:  
Dark Chocolate-Strawberry Torte  
European Roast Coffee  
150.00 for 2

Baum & Blume Café ~ Reservations: 659-0400  
& El Caminito, Carmel Valley ~ Taste the Love!

# JOY



## ON THE JOURNEY

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

Join us for Worship this Sunday!

9:30AM - Traditional • 11AM - Contemporary




Junipero & Mountain View  
Carmel-By-The-Sea, CA 93921

## All Saints' Episcopal Church

OPEN FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP:

SUNDAYS 10 A.M.  
SW Corner of Dolores & 9th  
Carmel-by-the-Sea

Centering Prayer - Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.  
(Online)

831.624.3883      [info@allsaintscarmel.org](mailto:info@allsaintscarmel.org)

## Church of the Wayfarer

United Methodist



Sunday Worship  
10:00 a.m.

Lincoln Street and 7th Avenue • Carmel-by-the-Sea  
[churchofthewayfarer.com](http://churchofthewayfarer.com) • 831-624-3550

## St. Anselm's Anglican Church

SCRIPTURE-BASED WORSHIP  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR


Communion Service —  
Every Sunday 9:30 am

Meeting at:  
**Peninsula Baptist Church**  
1116 Funston Avenue | Pacific Grove, CA 93950  
831-521-4267 | [stanselmsanglican.org](http://stanselmsanglican.org)



## St. John's Chapel Del Monte

Established 1891



1490 Mark Thomas Drive, Monterey, CA 93940  
831-375-4463 • [stjohnschapel.com](http://stjohnschapel.com)

A Traditional Episcopal Parish      1928 Book of Common Prayer  
**HOLY COMMUNION AT 10 A.M. SUNDAYS**

## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA  
LINCOLN STREET, BETWEEN 5TH & 6TH

YOU ARE WARMLY WELCOME TO JOIN US

**Sunday Services & Sunday School**  
10:00am - 11:00am

✽

**Wednesday Testimony Meetings**  
7:00pm - 8:00pm  
Reading Room

For information about listening to these services  
over the phone, please visit our website:  
[christiansciencemcarmel.org](http://christiansciencemcarmel.org).

— FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST —

## ComeUntoChrist.org

Get introduced  
to our loving  
church  
community



**Sunday Services**  
1 Skyline Forest Dr., Monterey  
• 10 a.m.  
• 1 p.m. (Single adults)

1024 Noche Buena St., Seaside  
• 9 a.m. & noon  
• 1 p.m. (Tongan)

QUESTIONS?  
(408) 708-8800  
[ComeUntoChrist.org](http://ComeUntoChrist.org)

THE CHURCH OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
MONTEREY STAKE



New video



## SPCA

Monterey County  
Changing Lives

# Kitties of the Week

*Harmony* 2 years old



Hello there! I'm Harmony, ready to give you snuggles plus lots of love! Meet me at the SPCA!

*Candy* 3 years old




I'm Candy, and I am as sweet as my name! I can't wait to meet you. I'm at the SPCA!

SPCA for Monterey County Veterinary clinic is taking appointments for spay/neuter!

Go to [www.spcamc.org](http://www.spcamc.org) to make an appointment online.

Call us at (831) 373-2631 for more information about adopting Harmony & Candy.  
Sponsored by Friends of All Cats

www.SPCAmc.org



Email  
[Anne@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:Anne@carmelpinecone.com)  
to be included  
in this directory



PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing... J&A CONSTRUCTION INC., 1524 Mira Mar Ave., Seaside, CA 93955.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code...

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

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

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

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DANIEL PADILLA, 11 Wawona Rd., Carmel Valley, CA 93924.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: GM'S PROFESSIONAL TREE SERVICE, 635 Elm Ave., Seaside, California 93955.

five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the 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

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ZP GARDENING MORE, 1744 Vallejo St., Seaside, CA 93955.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

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.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: VETTYFILMS, 881 Lobos Street, Monterey, CA 93940.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DANIEL PADILLA, 11 Wawona Rd., Carmel Valley, CA 93924.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SANTANNA APARTMENTS, 1235 Garner Ave., Salinas, CA 93905.

declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BLUE SEA HOUSE CLEANING SERVICE, 2040 Buchanan St., Seaside, CA 93955.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: OMAR ARROYO RAMIREZ, 2040 Buchanan St., Seaside, CA 93955.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: EDEN HOMES, 1700 Riverbend Rd., Salinas, CA 93908.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: O'REILLY AUTO PARTS #6681, 8065 SAN MIGUEL CANYON RD, SALLINAS, CA 93907.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CORRAL MARKET LIQUOR & DELI, 2 Corral de Tierra Rd., Salinas, California 93908.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: PRECIOUS PROMISES FAMILY HOME DAYCARE, 920 West Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901.

meanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one 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).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: COUNTRY COTTAGES OF MONTEREY, 1705 David Ave., Monterey, CA 93940.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: A CRUZ, 171 Hawthorne St., Monterey, CA 93940.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: A CRUZ, 171 Hawthorne St., Monterey, CA 93940.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: EDEN HOMES, 1700 Riverbend Rd., Salinas, CA 93908.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SALINIAN GEOCONSULTING, 605 9th Street, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: PRECIOUS PROMISES FAMILY HOME DAYCARE, 920 West Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: PRECIOUS PROMISES RAMOS. This business is conducted by an individual.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CORRAL MARKET LIQUOR & DELI, 2 Corral de Tierra Rd., Salinas, California 93908.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: A CRUZ, 171 Hawthorne St., Monterey, CA 93940.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SIGNONE, 1986 Fremont Blvd., Seaside, CA 93955.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: A CRUZ, 171 Hawthorne St., Monterey, CA 93940.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: A CRUZ, 171 Hawthorne St., Monterey, CA 93940.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SALINIAN GEOCONSULTING, 605 9th Street, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SALINIAN GEOCONSULTING, 605 9th Street, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SALINIAN GEOCONSULTING, 605 9th Street, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

Date signed: Jan. 17, 2024. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ABANDONMENT File No. 20240053 County of Filing: Monterey Date of Original Filing: Feb. 27, 2023

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: A CRUZ, 171 Hawthorne St., Monterey, CA 93940.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, LUX STELLA GOETZ, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

LEGAL DEADLINE: Tuesday 3:00 pm

legals@carmelpinecone.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, on or after 4:30 p.m., the City Council of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will hold a Public Hearing via teleconference and in person at the City Hall Council Chambers located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea.

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS:

MA 23-116 (Esperanza Carmel, LLC) Christopher Mitchell, Managing Director, 26336 Scenic Road, Block B; Lot 18 APN: 009-423-001-000

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

This meeting will be held via teleconference and in person ("hybrid") in the City Council Chambers at City Hall located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea.

https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/82014418012

Webinar ID: 820 1441 8012 Passcode: 012883 Dial in: (253) 215-8782

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.

All interested persons 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.

Nova Romero, MMC City Clerk

Dated: 1/23/2024 Publish Date: 1/26/2024

Publication dates: Jan. 26, 2024 (PC124)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Le Bijou Fine Jewelry, located at 5th and Dolores, Carmel, CA. is now closed. Direct all correspondences to The Johnson Family Trust, P.O. Box 9998, Pacific Grove, CA. 93950-9998.

For inquiries about un-claimed merchandise you must include a copy of receipt, description of item and must have a photo ID to re-claim merchandise. Correspondence must be received no later than December 31, 2024.

Publication date: Jan. 26 & Feb. 2, 2024 (PC121)



# LIVE

From page 35A

(blues, Saturday at 3 p.m.), keyboardist **Tony Johns** (blues and r&b, Sunday at 3 p.m.), singer and bassist **Greg Simmons**, keyboardist **Lorenzo Hawkins**, guitarist **Bobby Young**, bassist **David Daniel** and drummer **Leon Joyce Jr.** (jazz, Wednesday at 6 p.m.). 500 Broadway.

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

**Fernwood Resort** in Big Sur — **The Levi Thomas Band** (rock, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

**Folktale Winery** in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Dan Cortes** (Friday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Asher Stern** (Saturday at 2 p.m.), singer **Richard Bryant** and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (pop and rock, Sunday at 2 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

**Gusto Pasta and Pizza** in Seaside — singer **Janice Perl** (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** — **Jazzbos 2** (Friday at 6 p.m.), flutist **Kenny Stahl** and guitarist **Bob Burnett** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.

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

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

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

**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** — **Moondance** (pop and rock, Friday and 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 pianist **John Harris** (jazz, Friday and Saturday 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 — **Wild at Heart Duo** (country and classic rock, Tuesday at 6 p.m.). 484 Washington St.

**Midici Pizza** in Monterey — singer **Lauri Hofer-Romero** and pianist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), **The Stu Reynolds Saxtet** with guitarist **Adam Astrup**, bassist **Pete Lips** and drummer **Billy Jones** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.



Singer and harmonica player Aki Kumar plays the blues Saturday afternoon at Deja Blue in Seaside.

**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** — multi-instrumentalist **Gary Meek** (jazz, Friday and Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 5 p.m.), pianist **Peter Cor** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Monday at 5 p.m.), singer and pianist **Reija Massey** (pop, rock and country, Tuesday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (Wednesday at 5 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

**Puma Road at Portola Plaza** in Monterey — singer and guitarist **Kristen Gradwohl** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Matt Masih** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

See MORE MUSIC page 39A



One of the Monterey Peninsula's best-loved musical acts, the Money Band plays Friday night at Sly McFly's in Monterey.

## BENIHANA

STEAK · SEAFOOD · SUSHI

DAILY 12 NOON TO 10PM

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shearwatertavern.com

## CALENDAR

**Jan. 26 – The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB)** will present a lecture / luncheon, 11:15 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1000 Aguajito Road, Monterey. Topic is **"Kazakhstan in the Soviet and Post-Soviet World,"** presented by U.S. Ambassador **John Ordway**. Visit [www.wacmb.org](http://www.wacmb.org) for event information and registration.

**Feb. 1 – Join the Association of Monterey Bay Conservatives** at Bayonet and Blackhorse, featuring Brad Dacus of the Pacific Justice Institute. Sign up at [montereybayconservatives.org](http://montereybayconservatives.org).

**Feb. 5 – What's Happening at CSUMB?** **Dr. Vanya Quinones, president of**

**CSUMB**, will share her career-focused learning philosophy and her dedication to creating an engaging and connected community on campus for all. 2 p.m. Carmel Woman's Club, San Carlos and Ninth, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Open to the public, \$10 guests/members free.

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

To advertise, email [anne@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:anne@carmelpinecone.com)  
\$0.50 per word (\$25 min. charge) • Add a photo for your event for only \$25

**FEBRUARY 1<sup>st</sup>**  
★ 6 PM

**Brad Dacus**

Brad Dacus is the President and Founder of the Pacific Justice Institute, a conservative legal defense institute. He hosts a radio talk show host, and is an attorney providing legal work across the country to protect parental rights and religious freedom

**HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES BUFFET! NO HOST BAR! RAFFLE DRAWING!**  
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\$40 per Guest \$35 per Member

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT**  
[www.montereybayconservatives.org](http://www.montereybayconservatives.org)  
or mail check to **AMBC, P.O. Box 232, Marina, CA 93933**

For more info, contact us @  
[montereybayconservatives@gmail.com](mailto:montereybayconservatives@gmail.com) or 831-277-6227

**The Pine Cone's email edition: Complete local news without pop-ups, click bait, pay walls or banner ads — and we don't even harvest your data.**

**Subscribe at [www.carmelpinecone.com](http://www.carmelpinecone.com)**



# SERVICE DIRECTORY

Deadline: Monday, 1 p.m. • NOTICE: SERVICE DIRECTORY ADS ARE ACCEPTED ONLY BY EMAIL • Email your ad to: [service@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:service@carmelpinecone.com)

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 • Pet Odor Removal  
 • Hot Water Pressure Washing • Graffiti & Gum Removal • Hoarder Cleanup

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 2 Bedroom: \$165-\$185  
 3 Bedroom: \$200-\$265  
 4 Bedroom: \$320-\$385

**831-595-2288**  
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|                |               |                 |               |
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Paul Lewellen 831.917.4698  
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**Laurie 831-601-4725**

## ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

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Service Directory continues on next page

**Police Log: Pacific Grove, Dec. 4**

**R**esident reported a man who works at a recycling center called her crazy.



**She got upset when informed she could not press charges on him for calling her crazy.**





# MORE MUSIC

From page 37A

**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 — **Sixth Street Alternative** (rock, Friday at 8 p.m.), **Sweet Tooth** (classic rock, Saturday at 8 p.m.), **The Edge** (rock, Sunday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 653 Cannery Row.

**Sly McFly's** in Monterey — **The Money Band** (pop

and rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **The New Wave Band** (rock, 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.). 700 Cannery Row.

**Trailside Cafe** in Carmel Valley — saxophonist **Roger**

**Eddy** (jazz, Friday 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.

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



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## Ivy



Ivy is a big, beautiful, confident tuxedo with striking green eyes. We mean *really green!* This 11-year-old friendly sweetheart is a long-haired girl who needs an adorer, uh, adopter that is familiar with keeping long haired cats brushed, or able to take Ivy to the groomer if needed.

Check out Ivy's gorgeous green eyes at [www.gocatrescue.org](http://www.gocatrescue.org), and while there fill out an adoption application to make this beauty yours.

If you would like to sponsor our next ad, please call us at 831-200-9700 or email [goldenoldiescats@gmail.com](mailto:goldenoldiescats@gmail.com)



Older Cats  
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# SERVICE DIRECTORY

Continues from previous page

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SECTION RE ■ January 26 - February 1, 2024

Open Houses on page 12RE

# The Carmel Pine Cone

# Real Estate



■ This week's cover, located in Carmel, is presented by  
Canning Properties Group of Sotheby's International Realty. (See Page 2 RE)





# About the Cover

The Carmel Pine Cone

# Real Estate

January 26 - February 1, 2024



## Scenic 6 SW of Ocean Avenue

This striking example of modernist architecture is quietly nestled on the West side of Scenic, overlooking the world famous Carmel Beach. With 2-bedrooms, 2-baths on 1,992 + sq.ft., this landmark residence was designed by the acclaimed architect John Thodos. The interior showcases a blend of glass, wood paneling, and industrial elements. The living, dining and kitchen areas captivate 180-degree views of the Pacific Ocean. Downstairs, two perfectly positioned bedrooms exude comfort and tranquility, with a bonus room on the main level, adding versatility to the living space. As you arrive to the rooftop deck, you're greeted by unobstructed views from Pebble Beach to Point Lobos, creating a personal haven for stargazing, relaxation, and memorable gatherings. This residence is a true masterpiece, destined to become a treasured legacy for generations to come.

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[CanningProperties.com](http://CanningProperties.com) | DRE 70010029



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Pebble Beach**



**\$6,850,000**

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NEXT TO GOLF AND RESTAURANTS  
AT THE LODGE  
OWNER MAY CARRY**



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831.277.7200  
LIC. #00804595

# Real Estate Sales Jan. 14 - 20

**Escrows closed: 15  
Total value: \$18,949,000**

## Carmel

**Camino del Monte 3 SW of Junipero —  
\$1,200,000**

Lizbeth Carson and Jon Parsons to Mark and Katherine Towell  
APN: 010-108-016

**25293 Randall Way — \$4,650,000**

Cosmero Construction and Development LLC to Patrick and Patricia Baxter  
APN: 009-172-011

See HOME SALES page 4RE

## LISA TALLEY DEAN

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# Price Improvement in Carmel, Walking Distance from Downtown and Mission Trail



**OPEN HOUSE | Sat. 12-2PM**

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**4 BD | 3 BA | 3,861 SF | 21,934 LOT SF | \$3,595,000**



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Carmel ■ 4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$4,750,000 ■ [www.3334MartinRoad.com](http://www.3334MartinRoad.com)



Carmel-by-the-Sea ■ 4 beds, 2 baths ■ \$4,499,000 ■ [www.Casanova3SWof10th.com](http://www.Casanova3SWof10th.com)



OPEN SAT 1-3PM  
San Carlos 5 SW of 12th

Carmel-by-the-Sea ■ 3 beds, 2 baths ■ \$3,950,000 ■ [www.SanCarlos5SW12th.com](http://www.SanCarlos5SW12th.com)



OPEN SAT 12-3PM &  
SUN 12-2PM  
24323 San Marcos Road

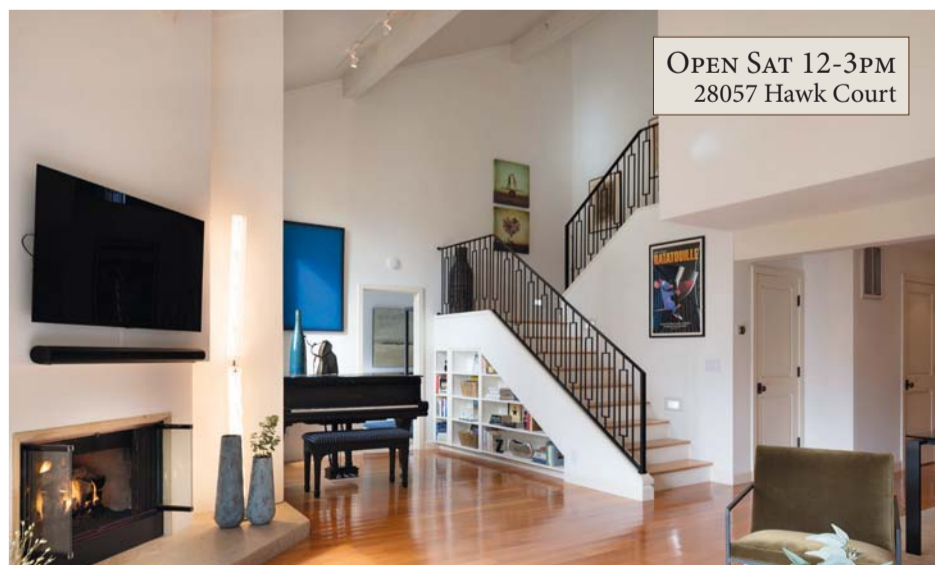
Carmel ■ 4 beds, 4 baths ■ \$3,795,000 ■ [www.24323SanMarcosRoad.com](http://www.24323SanMarcosRoad.com)



Carmel Valley ■ 5 beds, 4.5 baths ■ \$3,395,000 ■ [www.ViaLaEstrella.com](http://www.ViaLaEstrella.com)



Carmel Valley ■ 3 beds, 3 baths ■ \$2,950,000 ■ [www.ElCaminitoCarmelValley.com](http://www.ElCaminitoCarmelValley.com)



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28057 Hawk Court

Carmel Valley Ranch ■ 3 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$2,289,000 ■ [www.28057HawkCt.com](http://www.28057HawkCt.com)



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# HOME SALES

From page 2RE

## Carmel Valley

**7552 Monterra Ranch Road — \$849,000**

Albert Saroyan to Vijay Patel  
APN: 259-101-121

**281 Del Mesa Carmel — \$1,070,000**

Pamela Carroll to Brian Ziegler  
APN: 015-517-011



70 San Bernabe Drive, Monterey — \$1,425,000



281 Del Mesa Carmel, Carmel Valley — \$1,070,000

## Marina

**457 Marina Heights Drive — \$582,000**

The Sea Haven LLC to Claudia Carter  
APN: 031-277-023

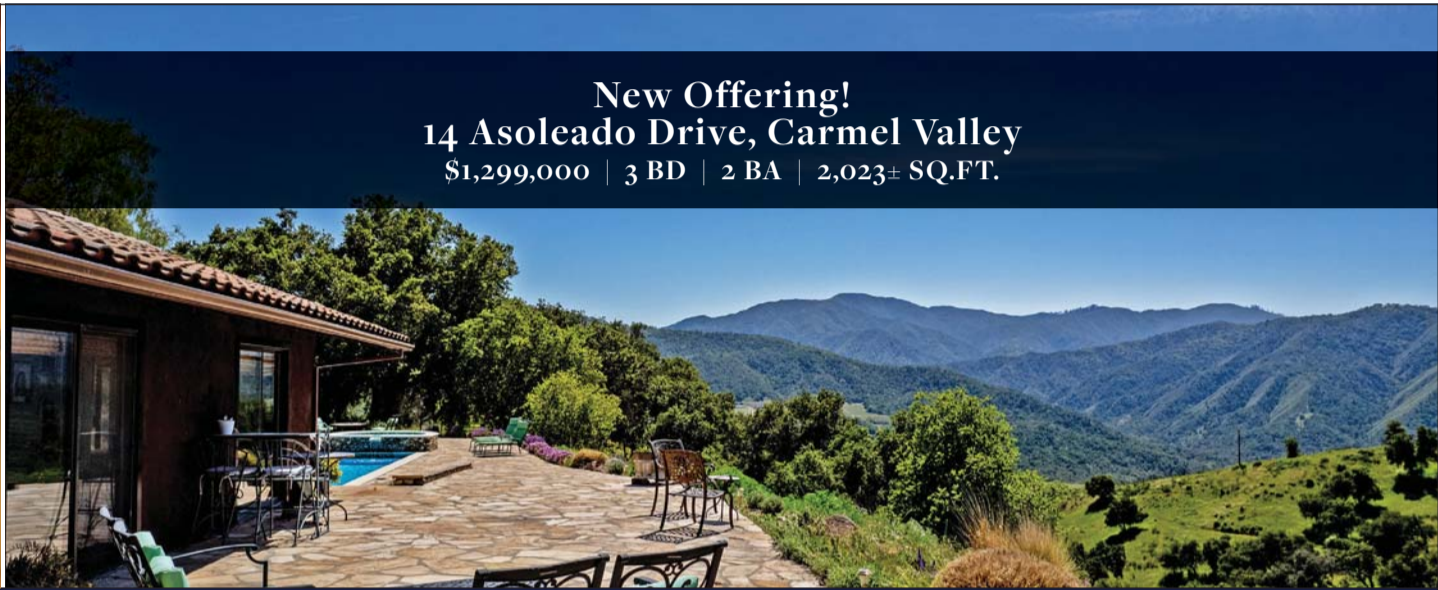
**3064 Bostick Avenue — \$918,000**

Sook Corley to Jasmine Ho  
APN: 032-253-006

## Monterey

**500 Glenwood Circle unit 216 — \$450,000**

See ESCROWS page 14RE



**New Offering!**  
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Pebble Beach ■ 5 beds, 5.5 baths ■ \$5,850,000 ■ [www.2884LasauenRoad.com](http://www.2884LasauenRoad.com)



OPEN SAT 12-3PM  
3896 Ronda Road

Pebble Beach ■ 4 beds, 4 baths ■ \$5,575,000 ■ [www.3896Ronda.com](http://www.3896Ronda.com)



Monterey ■ 3 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$5,495,000 ■ [www.7418AlturasCourt.com](http://www.7418AlturasCourt.com)



Pebble Beach ■ 4 beds, 4 baths ■ \$2,595,000 ■ [www.3125HermitageRoad.com](http://www.3125HermitageRoad.com)



OPEN SAT & SUN  
12-3PM  
460 Dry Creek Road

Monterey ■ 4 beds, 2.5 baths ■ \$1,998,000 ■ [www.460DryCreekRoad.com](http://www.460DryCreekRoad.com)



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# Happy Birthday to the world's authority on socks, peaches and noses

FAMILIA, RODZINE, sem'ya, oikogeneia, or familia — no matter which language you choose, "family" instills deep pride among its members. No ethnicity holds the copyright on its usage. From Albanians to Zimbabweans and from Aeschylus to Ziegfeld, there is generational love, laughter, lore and loyalty stretching back thousands

of years among the world's civilizations.

These thoughts occurred to me this week because my baby turned 50. She will not mind me disclosing this in public because she is smart enough to know it follows 49, if you're lucky. Fifty is one of those groundbreaking birthdays we approach with foreboding. We look down the

road and see that mother of speed bumps called eternity. There's concern in other circles, too. I was way north of 20 when she was born.

My baby's name is Jenny. She is a daughter, wife, mother, nurse and entrepreneur. She can wield a frying pan, deliver a soufflé with élan, empty a bedpan and snort like an orangutan. There are no metrics to measure pride in one's children, but if I were Beethoven, Jenny would be my "Ode to Joy."



Jenny Gervase Braga. A lass with class and sass..

### Subhead

She was a surprise baby slipping into our perfect nuclear family — a boy and a girl — when we were looking forward to mellowing on bicycles built for two, rather than restarting the Harley of parenting.

She zoomed into this world and still does things at warp speed. She popped out before anesthetics could be administered. The doctor said if he hadn't been wearing his catcher's mitt she would have truly been a bouncing baby girl. She was cleaned up,

## Scenic Views

By JERRY GERVASE

popped into my wife's arms and together we carried her back to the hospital room, a metaphor of how we held her close all our lives.

As a child, she observed and absorbed the world and its idiosyncrasies, often making comments about them that astounded me. When she was 4 years old I asked her if there was any subject on which she considered herself to be an authority. It was an absurd question to ask someone that age. She did not hesitate. "Socks," she said. I replied,

See GERVASE page 8RE

**COMPASS**

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4 Bed | 2 Bath + 1 Half Bath | 2,442 SF on 11,000 SF Lot  
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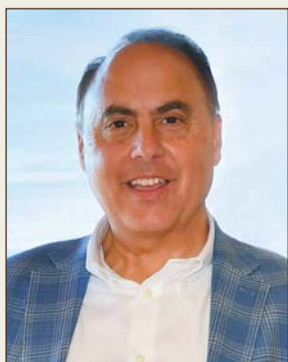
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# POLICE LOG

From page 4A

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

**Carmel Valley:** Child Protective Services report of sexual abuse on Village Drive already reported to sheriff's office investigations unit.

**Carmel area:** Civil issue on Carmel Riviera Drive.

**Carmel area:** Vandalism on Carmel Rancho Boulevard was documented.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Investigated a non-injury traffic collision on Ocean Avenue.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Lost cell phone at San Carlos and 13th.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Lost ring in the Carmel Point area.

**Pacific Grove:** Vehicle at Granite and Junipero was marked as abandoned.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Male and female arrested at Junipero and Ocean at 1144 hours for possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia. The 31-year-old male and 31-year-old female were issued citations and released from the scene.

**Carmel area:** Found property on Hatton Road.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Adult Protective Services said they would be conducting an investigation regarding possible elder/dependent abuse at a residence on Dolores Street. The APS referral stated it was information only and did not request further action by CPD.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Report received from Monterey County Social Services regarding a juvenile issue on Junipero.

**Pacific Grove:** Report of harassment by use of an electronic communication device.

**Pacific Grove:** Welfare check which resulted in an Adult Protective Services referral on Pine.

**Pacific Grove:** Dog bite on Sunset Drive.

**Pacific Grove:** Trailer on Fifth Street was marked as abandoned.

**Pacific Grove:** Vehicle at Ocean View Boulevard and 12th Street was marked as abandoned.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** A 28-year-old female was arrested at Ocean and Carpenter at 0050 hours for DUI.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Road rage incident at Junipero and Third between a motorist and a pedestrian. The pedestrian pounded on the hood of a vehicle because the vehicle stopped in a crosswalk. All involved were contacted, and no one wanted to press charges.

**Pacific Grove:** At about 1957 hours, officers were dispatched to a peace disturbance on Hillcrest Avenue involving family members.

**Pacific Grove:** Officers dispatched to a disturbance at a

See **SHERIFF** page 10RE

# GERVASE

From page 6RE

"Socks! What do you know about them that makes you an expert?"

"You wash 'em, you wear 'em, you smell 'em." Case closed. Move on to the next subject, please. When I told her she was the apple of my eye, she said I was the peach of her nose, a phrase that made as much sense to her childish mind as mine did.

Jenny is the one child who had her mother stolen away at a significant time in her life. Her mom died three weeks before Jenny's wedding was to take place in Hawaii. The ceremony was canceled, then revived when it was decided that was what her mother would want. So, off we went to Kauai for a Thanksgiving luau and a wedding the next day. I played the dual role of mother and father of the bride. It was the same when her children were born. I mastered the fine arts of pinching cheeks and magically pulling coins from behind little ears.

We use many words to describe the pride we feel in our children. A word I use often is abundant, like in an abundant life. Material matters do not enter into that equation. It has everything to do with the quality of the relationship I have with my kids. It shows up in blessings. What blessings? How about grace, style, wit, compassion, and panache? Of course, laughter, joy, commitment, talent, intelligence, character and integrity. More? Try these: co-conspirators in family pranks, co-workers on family projects, co-helpers at family dinners, co-mourners at a family death.

We can hope and speculate, but we never know what to expect when they go off on their own. It's a true blessing when it all works out.

### Blessed and praised

But this is Jenny's day. For her 50th birthday, her brother, sister and I put together a list of 50 things that differentiate her. Among them are: She tries to understand football, she's the best concert and movie-going partner, she is a human jukebox, she can ridiculously quote movie lines, she's loyal, forgiving, encouraging and faithful, she dispenses wisdom like an owl in Solomon's court, and her personality is so outgoing it has its own zip code.

Everyone should be celebrated when turning 50. She is the last of our immediate family to hit that milestone of growth, experience and evolution of one's identity. She's achieved much and I know she will reflect on where she's been and how she will get to where she is going.

The list of 50 things ends with a quote from the book of Proverbs: "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her." Perfect.

So with love, admiration and appreciation, Happy birthday, Jenny, from the peach of your nose.

Contact Jerry at [jerrygervase@yahoo.com](mailto:jerrygervase@yahoo.com).



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PACIFIC GROVE | OPEN SUN 1-4 PM



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# SHERIFF

From page 8RE

residence on Eardley. It was determined that a non-physical domestic between ex-partners had occurred.

**Carmel Valley:** Subject was sleeping in elevator in a building on East Carmel Valley Road and refused to leave. The 61-year-old female had been admonished that returning to the property would result in arrest. Meth and paraphernalia were discovered in her possession.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14**

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Report taken for a lost cell phone at Scenic and Eighth.  
**Pacific Grove:** Found property on Cen-

tral Avenue was turned in.  
**Pacific Grove:** Ammunition surrendered by a resident on David Avenue for destruction.  
**Pebble Beach:** A 17 Mile Drive resident reported an incident with an estranged spouse.  
**Carmel Valley:** Deputies responded to a report of a disturbance on Valley Greens Drive.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 15**

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** No calls to report.  
**Pacific Grove:** At about 2145 hours, officers dispatched to the 900 block of 19th Street on report of a 911 hang-up. One of the involved parties was subsequently arrested for violation of PC 273a(b), 417(a)(2), and 591.5 — child abuse causing great bodily harm, brandishing a weapon and damag-

ing a wireless communication device. The 44-year-old male was arrested and transported to Monterey County Jail for booking on \$12,000 bail. Evidence booked at P.G. police department.  
**Pacific Grove:** A 32-year-old male was cited and released at Acropolis Street and Ocean View Boulevard for driving on a suspended license.  
**Pacific Grove:** Subject on Central Avenue was placed on a W&I 5150 hold [danger to self or others].  
**Pebble Beach:** Deputies responded for a welfare check at a residence on Lake Court residence.  
**Big Sur:** Numerous items were stolen from the trunk of a locked car on Highway 1.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 16**

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Fall on city property

at Dolores and Fifth. Subject transported to hospital for injuries.  
**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Subject reported a lost wallet at Junipero and Ocean.  
**Pacific Grove:** Harassing phone calls reported by a Melton Place resident.  
**Pacific Grove:** A 26-year-old male was cited and released at Acropolis Street and Ocean View Boulevard for driving on a suspended license.  
**Pacific Grove:** Vehicle towed from the public roadway on Bayview Avenue for expired registration over six months.  
**Pebble Beach:** Sunridge Road resident reported the theft of a parcel that was delivered.  
**Pacific Grove:** A theft occurred at a business on Forest Avenue.  
**Carmel area:** Business clerk on Carmel Rancho Boulevard reported an incident with a customer.

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WORKS

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**\$1,150,000** 2bd 2ba Sa Su 1-3  
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Compass, Weathers Gannaway 620-2936

**\$3,049,000** 3bd 2ba Fr 1-4 Sa 10-3 Su 10-4:30  
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The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams Inc. 224-0020

**\$3,595,000** 4bd 3ba Sa 12-2  
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Compass, Weathers Gannaway 595-0009

**\$3,595,000** 3bd 2.5ba Sa 1-3 Su 12-3  
Monte Verde 4 SW of 12th Carmel  
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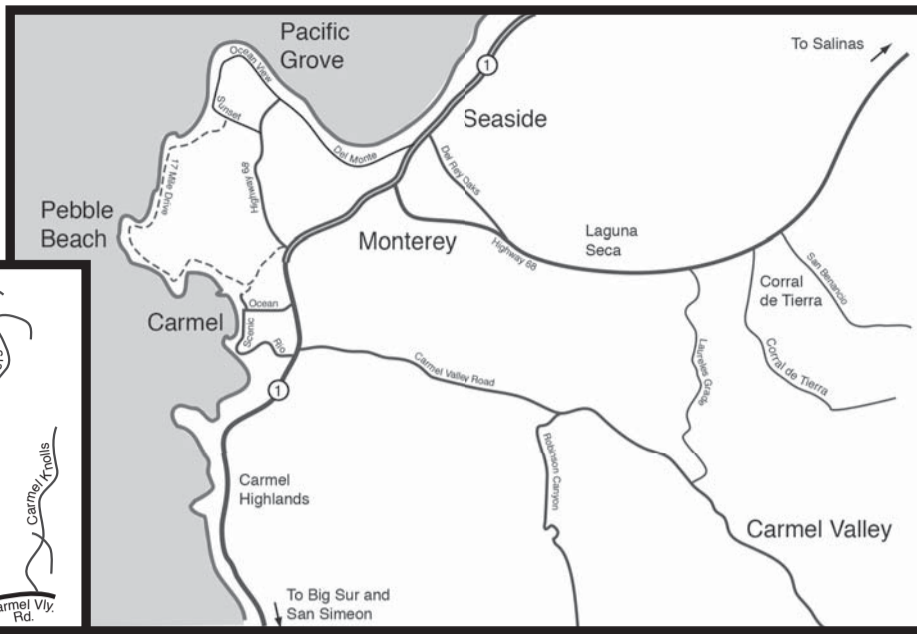
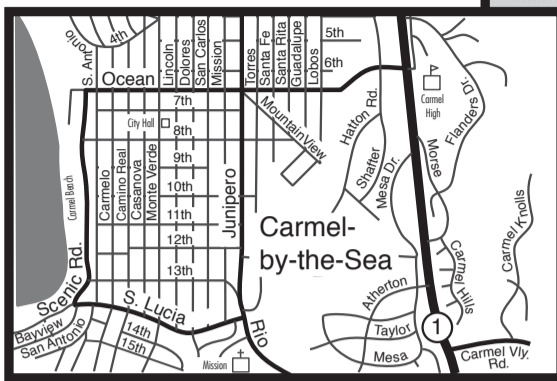
**\$3,695,000** 4bd 2.5ba Sa 1-3 Su 12-3  
3462 Lazarro Dr Carmel  
Coldwell Banker Realty 356-8123 / 535-8264

**\$3,795,000** 4bd 4ba Sa 12-3 Su 12-2  
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520 Lighthouse Avenue, Unit 204 Pacific Grove  
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**\$3,335,000** 3bd 2.5ba Su 12-2  
520 Lighthouse Avenue, Unit 302 Pacific Grove  
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520 Lighthouse Avenue, Unit 201 Pacific Grove  
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**\$2,500,000** 4bd 2ba Sa Su 1:30-3:30  
3089 Hermitage Road Pebble Beach  
Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-8116

**\$2,595,000** 3bd 3.5ba Sa Su 1-3:30  
3093 Stevenson Dr Pebble Beach  
Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-8029

**\$3,100,000** 3bd 2.5ba Sa Su 1-3  
3041 Strawberry Hill Road Pebble Beach  
Sotheby's Int'l RE 262-2301 / 214-2545

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

**\$3,995,000** 3bd 2.5ba Sa 12-2  
1098 Spyglass Woods D Pebble Beach  
Coldwell Banker Realty 238-6189

**\$5,575,000** 4bd 4ba Sa 12-3  
3896 Ronda Road Pebble Beach  
Carmel Realty 293-3668

**\$5,975,000** 5bd 5.5ba Sa 12-3 Su 12-2  
1100 Arroyo Dr Pebble Beach  
Coldwell Banker Realty 535-8264 / 238-6189

**\$6,150,000** 4bd 4.5+ba Sa 12-3  
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Pebble Beach reads The Pine Cone

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3064 Bostick Avenue, Marina — \$918,000



3064 Bostick Avenue, Marina — \$918,000



470 Sonoma Avenue, Seaside — \$725,000

## ESCROWS

From page 4RE

### Monterey (con't.)

Amy Wright to Mahmoud Molavi  
APN: 001-774-007

### 820 Casanova Avenue unit 32 — \$560,000

Mindy Sanchez to Mazen Hashisho  
APN: 013-253-021

### 70 San Bernabe Drive — \$1,425,000

Frances Lucido and Julie Albert to Fred, Daniel and Kristin Dotterrer  
APN: 001-452-009

### 10 Greenwood Rise — \$1,740,000

Redwood Holdings LLC to Gary and Karyn Fry  
APN: 014-101-010

### Prunedale

### Old Stage Road — \$2,900,000

Ronald and Linda Stoney to Jose and Alexis Rocha  
APN: 199-011-008

### Seaside

### 1220 Judson Street — \$550,000

Estate of Jacqueline Peeler to Catamount Properties 2018 LLC  
APN: 012-335-014

### 1182 Waring Street — \$650,000

Church of Living God Faith Tabernacle to Monterey Peninsula Ramayan Bhajan Mandali  
APN: 012-402-040

### 1729 Fernando Street — \$680,000

Josephine Miller to Cyrus and Erin Morse  
APN: 012-109-043

### 470 Sonoma Avenue — \$725,000

Christina Butler to David Rodas  
APN: 011-341-027

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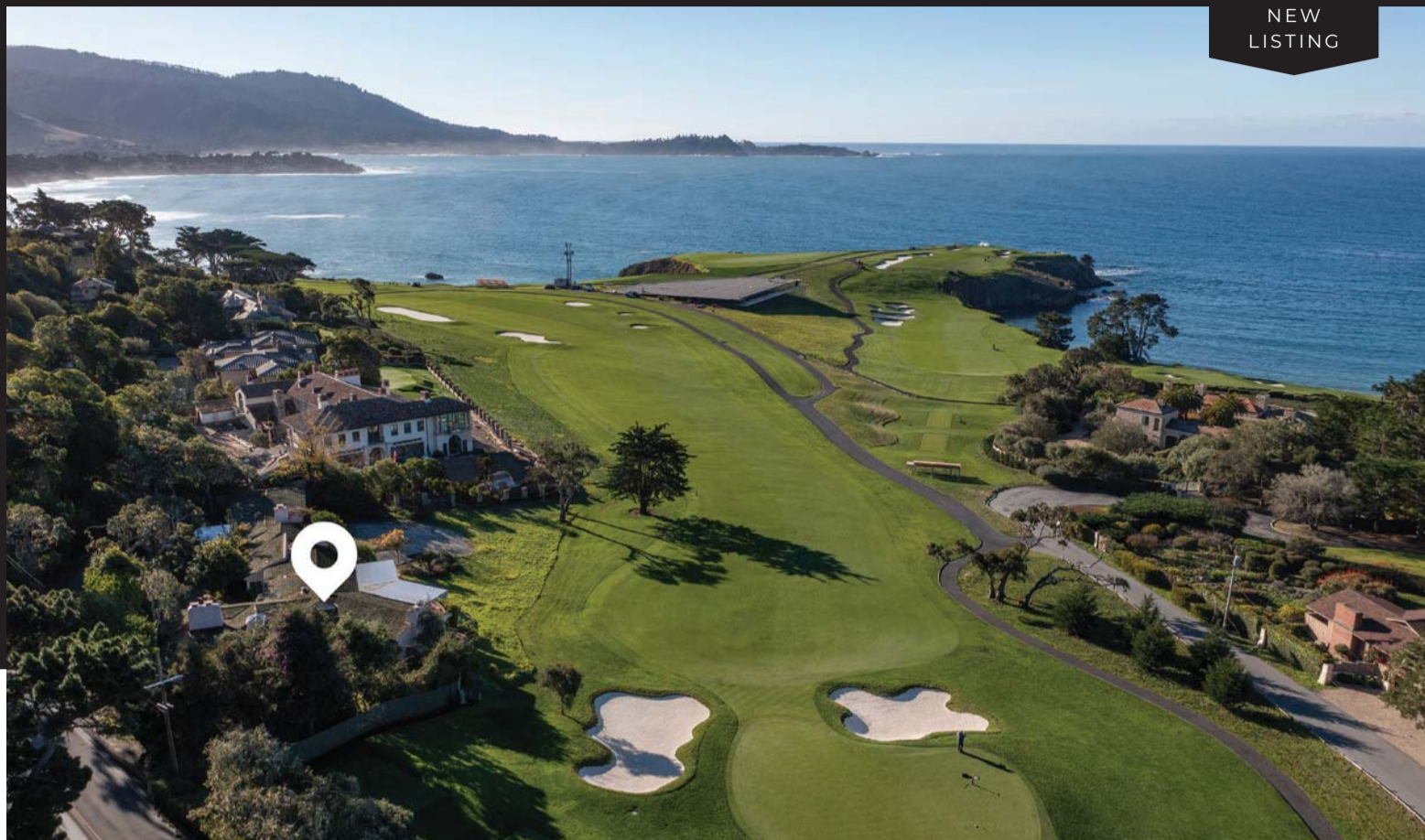




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JAN. 31-FEB. 4

# AT&T PEBBLE BEACH

PRO-AM

PEBBLE BEACH ■ SPYGLASS

- Schedules, tickets, TV viewing guide and the easiest ways to get there
- How this year's big changes came to be
- Justin Rose on the key to winning at Pebble Beach
- Charities that reap the rewards of the Pro-Am's fundraising
- After 20 years, First Tee of Monterey County is still all about the kids
- Looking for great golf courses? The Monterey Peninsula has them aplenty



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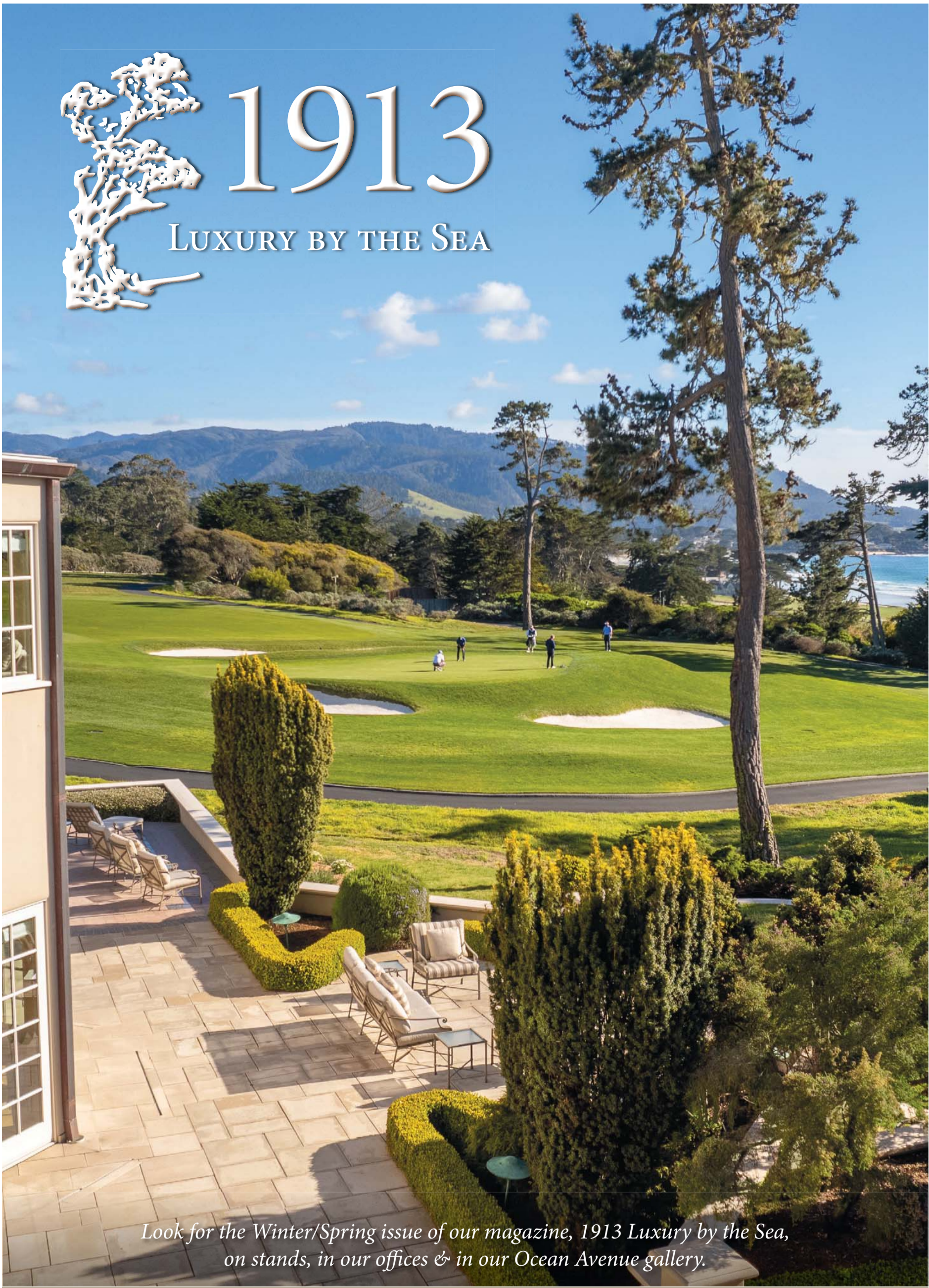
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# 2024



# SCHEDULES, TICKETS AND PARKING

## January 29 - February 4

■ **Pebble Beach Golf Links**  
(6,972 yards, par 72)

■ **Spyglass Hill Golf Course**  
(7,041 yards, par 72)

- **Purse: \$20,000,000**
- **Winning share: \$3,600,000**
- **2nd Place: \$2,160,000**
- **3rd place: \$1,360,000**

■ **2023 Champion: Justin Rose (269)**

### Monday, January 29

7:10 a.m. • Practice rounds — Pebble Beach and Spyglass (closed to public)

### Tuesday, January 30

7:10 a.m. • Practice rounds — Pebble Beach and Spyglass (closed to public)

### Wednesday, January 31

7:10 a.m. • Practice rounds — Pebble Beach Golf Links

### Thursday, February 1

8:30 a.m. • First round — Pebble Beach and Spyglass  
TV coverage: The Golf Channel, **noon to 4 p.m.**

### Friday, February 2

8:30 a.m. • Second round — Pebble Beach and Spyglass  
TV coverage: The Golf Channel, **noon to 4 p.m.**

### Saturday, February 3

8:30 a.m. • Third round — Pebble Beach and Spyglass  
TV coverage: The Golf Channel, **10 a.m. to noon**, CBS, **noon to 4 p.m.**

**2023 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am champion Justin Rose plays the 8th Hole during Sunday's final round — a round that wasn't completed until Monday morning because of rain and wind.**

PHOTO/MICHAEL TROUTMAN, DMT IMAGING



### Sunday, February 4

7:30 a.m. • Final round — Pebble Beach Golf Links  
TV coverage: The Golf Channel, **10 a.m. to noon**, CBS, **noon to 3:30 p.m.**

**Ticket prices:** General admission, Wednesday \$75, Thursday-Friday \$100, Saturday-Sunday \$125. Clint's Saloon, Wednesday \$350, Thursday-Friday \$375, Saturday-Sunday \$400.

Free spectator and volunteer **parking** is located at California State University Monterey Bay in Marina. Free tournament parking shuttles transport spectators and volunteers from the parking lot to the Pebble Beach Main Gate.

**Shuttles** organized by local chambers of commerce are available from downtown Carmel and Pacific Grove

Jan. 31-Feb. 4, with Carmel's leaving every 15 to 20 minutes from Carmel Plaza on Ocean at Junipero from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday and from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. the rest of the week. The Carmel shuttle costs \$30 per day or \$100 for a five-day pass, and tickets can be purchased in advance at [carmelchamber.org](http://carmelchamber.org) or in person at the shuttle stop.

In Pacific Grove, wristbands can be bought online at [pacificgrove.org](http://pacificgrove.org) or at the office at 584 Central Ave., and the shuttles run Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thursday through Saturday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sunday from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Passes cost \$25 per day or \$100 for five days. The shuttle picks up in front of the museum at 165 Forest Ave.

More details about parking, tickets, facilities and spectator rules can be found at [attpbgolf.com](http://attpbgolf.com).

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2024



# THE TOURNAMENT

## Pebble Beach welcomes fans to a new era of AT&T Pro-Am

By MARY SCHLEY

**T**HE AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am as everyone has known it, along with the Crosby Pro-Am before it, is history. With pro golfers seeking higher winnings, shorter rounds and less time playing with amateur partners,

### How sudden change came to a cherished local tradition

professional golf has become even more of a high-stakes sport, according to CBS sports commentator Jim Nantz, and the pro-am has changed with the times. The Pebble Beach Pro-Am, a newly designated PGA Tour Signature Event — one of eight such limited-field, elite tournaments on the tour's 37-event schedule — now features 80 top pros, half of whom are in the Official World Golf Ranking's top 50, and 80 amateurs.

During the Jan. 31-Feb. 4 event, the athletes are competing for an astounding \$20 million purse, up from \$9 million last year, and play is taking place on two courses, the Pebble Beach Golf Links and Spyglass Hill Golf Course, instead of three. The pro-am winners will be crowned Friday night, with all the pros competing on their own Saturday and Sunday at Pebble Beach.

#### Fewer pros, more money

"Most everything changed, other than the location and the time," Steve John, CEO of the Monterey Peninsula Foundation that organizes the tournament, said

last month. "It is a big change for us to move away from 156 pros paired with 156 amateurs for almost 80 years."

The new PGA Tour Signature Events, last year referred to as "distinguished events," boast higher purses and more FedEx Cup points than the other events on the calendar and were created in part to compete with Saudi Arabia's LIV Golf, which has attracted many former PGA Tour pros with high winnings and fewer rounds. (LIV is the Roman numeral for 54, representing the number of holes competitors play in the tournaments.)

"The tournament deserves to be a Signature Event, and as the most charitable organization on the PGA Tour, we feel we deserve to be Signature Event," said John, adding that the PGA Tour instigated the change. As the title sponsor, AT&T agreed and is also bearing the cost of the huge jump in prize money — including \$3.6 million for the winner.

The Signature Event label "is a status that every PGA Event strives to achieve," Nantz commented. "We're fortunate to have it."

As a result, the AT&T this year has attracted an impressive lineup of pros, including No. 1-ranked Scottie Scheffler and No. 2

Rory McIlroy, and Nantz said he's eager to see the best in the game compete on the best course in the world. Some have never played in a tournament at the Pebble Beach Golf Links.

#### 'Different personality'

"There's a lot to say for the fact we'll have the greatest players in the world on arguably the best course in the world," he said. "I'm very excited about it."

Having covered the tournament for CBS for nearly four decades — this year's will be his 39th — Nantz has seen the pro field in the AT&T dwindle due to in-

creased competition from the LIV Tour, concerns about the weather, the slow pace of play that frequently had rounds running six hours, and three days of pro-am competition.

"We didn't have the strongest professional field. It had become problematic, and we weren't getting the best pros, for whatever reason," Nantz said. "And now it becomes a tournament about the best players in the world."

He acknowledged the pro-am will have "a different personality" than the tour-

See REVAMPED page 21A



PHOTO/MICHAEL TROUTMAN, DMT IMAGING

Bill Murray works the crowd during the 2023 Pro-Am — a scene that won't be repeated now that the event has shifted focus from celebrities and fun to top-notch professional golf.

## Tournament changes are small part of big-money golf saga

By MICHAEL JAMES

**D**USTIN JOHNSON won the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am two years in a row, beginning in 2009. He played on three courses among 180-player fields that included celebrities from Hollywood, the music industry and the media, and with a limited field advancing to the final round after a 54-hole cut. None of it will likely occur

again. Johnson was in the early group of players leaving the PGA Tour to compete for Saudi-backed LIV Golf, announcing the move in June 2022, just a few months after saying he would remain loyal to the PGA Tour, where he won 24 events after turning professional in 2007.

"At that time, I was committed to playing the PGA Tour," said Johnson, a two-major winner who has earned more

than \$75 million on the PGA Tour. "I'm very thankful for the PGA Tour and everything it's done for me. I've done pretty well out there for the last 15 years. But this is something that was best for me and my family. It's something exciting and something new."

#### Big money

According to USA Today, the 39-year-old Johnson, whose last of 13 appearances at the AT&T Pro-Am was in 2020, will receive \$125 million for his commitment to the Saudi-backed tour, but it landed him a lifetime ban from PGA Tour events. The ban was among the decisions the PGA made when players began defecting to the money-rich alternate circuit.

Phil Mickelson, the five-time AT&T winner, and Paul Casey, who finished second to Mickelson in the 2019 event, as well as veteran entrants Sergio Garcia, Padraig Harrington, Charles Howell III, Brooks Koepka and Graeme McDowell, all left the PGA Tour for LIV Golf.

Mickelson's LIV Golf contract is worth a reported \$200 million — a colossal sum he alluded to but didn't mention directly when he announced on social media that he was making the move.

"After 32 years, this new path is a fresh start, one that is exciting for me at this stage of my career and is clearly transformative, not just for myself, but ideally for the game and my peers," Mickelson said in June 2022. "I also love the progressive format and think it will be exciting for

fans. Just as importantly, it will provide balance, allowing me to focus on a healthier approach to life on and off the course."

"There's a lot more to my decision than just a financial opportunity and less golf. But I was very aware of the ramifications of making this choice," said Casey, who has three PGA Tour titles and won 15 events

on the European Tour (now the DP World Tour).

"I was aware of the ramifications of my decision," Casey continued. "You know, the rules and decisions that are going to be put in place are out of my hands. I would still love to be a part of the PGA Tour. But if I'm not, then I guess there's nothing I can do."

#### Global demand

The current PGA Tour/LIV Golf debacle dates back 30 years. Greg Norman, now the CEO of LIV, proposed a World Golf Tour in 1994. It was shunned by then-PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem and never advanced past preliminary discussions.

Norman's idea was to establish a series of deep prize-money events, played with

See MONEY page 20A



PHOTOS/PGA TOUR

The top golfers in the world, including Scottie Scheffler (left) and Rory McIlroy, will be among the players competing for a \$20 million purse in the revamped 2024 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.



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2024

# THE TOURNAMENT

## Justin Rose heads stellar field in revamped, upgraded tournament

By MICHAEL JAMES

**J**USTIN ROSE was a professional golfer for nearly two decades before he competed in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. The native South African, who was raised in England and has owned homes in Florida and in the Bahamas, preferred competing on international tours.

But in 2016, after becoming disgrun-

tled with global golf, Rose entered the AT&T Pro-Am and finished tied for sixth — an impressive debut. The golfer credited his vast experience playing in often fickle weather in Europe, Asia and other far-flung locales in which he'd established a long career.

Further AT&T success didn't return until last year, after Rose switched equipment. He finished tied for 39th in 2017 and 62nd in 2022. But in 2023, the for-

mer U.S. Open winner was the only player in the field to shoot in the 60s all four rounds. Rose's consistency resulted in a final-round 66 at Pebble Beach Golf Links and a three-shot victory.

### Monday finish

He birdied three of his first four holes in the Monday finale. While posting an 18-under 269 total, Rose topped Brendon Todd, who finished with a 65, and Brandon Wu, who had a 66, and claimed his 11th PGA Tour victory.

A weekday finish occurred for the second time since Phil Mickelson's win over Paul Casey in 2019. Overcast skies, gusting winds, hail and rain reigned on Sunday, resulting in only a partial round. Rose began the Monday reboot with a two-shot lead.

Rose now has nearly 30 worldwide titles in 25 seasons. The tally also includes 11 on the European Tour (now the DP World Tour), two on the Sunshine Tour (Africa), two on the Asian Tour and one on the Japan Tour. He also won the gold medal in Brazil when golf debuted in the 2016 Summer Olympics. He has career earnings of more than \$92 million.

With the PGA's decision to make the AT&T Pebble Beach event one of the Tour's eight Signature Events, Rose will defend his title as the tournament breaks from its long Pro-Am traditions. He'll compete among a field of 80 pros vying for a \$20 million purse — an incentive for the PGA Tour's top players to partic-

ipate. The entrants are selected based on current rankings in several categories and will play not only for prize money, but for FedEx-Cup points, which can bring an end-of-season bonus of \$25 million.

"I think this is obviously what we're all trying to figure out," said Rose of the PGA Tour's new season and the AT&T's participation. "How do you give everybody that perfectly fair sort of ebb and flow in terms of stronger fields equals more points?"

"I think they (the PGA Tour) absolutely made the decision they had to, because 10th in a strong field is better than a 10th in a weak field. How you distribute those points has obviously been a topic of discussion."

Rose earned \$1.62 million of the \$9 million purse last year. This year, the winner will get \$3.6 million, or 18 percent of the \$20 million in prize money. The winner will also get 700 points in the FedEx-Cup season-long tally.

### Big changes

Rose's title defense and his fifth time playing in the AT&T will be his most un-

See STARS page 20A



PHOTOS/(ABOVE) MICHAEL TROUTMAN, (RIGHT) KERRY BELSER

**NFL greets Aaron Rodgers (above) and Tom Brady will be playing in the 2024 tournament, helping it retain some of its aura of yesteryear.**



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2024



# THE COMMUNITY

## Pro-Am \$\$\$ helps kids stay on track and feeds county residents

By KELLY NIX

WITH AN impressive \$20 million purse and half as many pros slated to compete, this year's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am could be one of the most thrilling and competitive tournaments in a long time.

Numerous changes mark this year's pro-am, including a scaled-down field, only two days of amateur play and the

absence of Hollywood celebrities. But the tournament will gain many elite pros, some of whom have never played at the annual event, which organizers contend will introduce a new level of excitement to the 77-year-old tournament. Ticket sales, tournament officials say, have so far exceeded last year's.

While visitors are here watching golf, many are probably unaware that the pro-am also helps raise funds for dozens of

local charitable organizations. The Monterey Peninsula Foundation, a nonprofit, is tasked with selecting the organizations that benefit from the event and disbursing the money.

Every year, The Pine Cone profiles some of the groups that reap the rewards. This year, an organization that helps local children and another that provides food free of charge to county residents are front and center.

children's families to provide "consistency and accountability" and keep the kids away from negative influences. Community Partnership for Youth also offers college tours and career mentorship for middle and high school students in collaboration with California State University Monterey Bay.

"We are so grateful for our partnership with Monterey Peninsula Foundation and the pro-am," executive director Shari Hastey told The Pine Cone. "Our partnership started in 2001, and the funding has truly helped us provide programs in the schools."

### Ticket sales and sponsorships provide vital funding for local groups

#### Learning, reading

In the tutoring program, students receive help with their homework, with an emphasis on learning and reading individually or in small groups to improve literacy. The group's leadership program was started initially for kids up to fifth grade, but the nonprofit found that older kids were interested, so they began a program for middle school, too.

"As many of our students become ju-

See CHARITIES page 22A

### Positive options

The Seaside-based Community Partnership for Youth is a prevention program that offers "positive alternatives to gangs, drugs and violence while reinforcing individual strengths." The group serves about 500 disadvantaged students at local schools.

"Our vision is to provide our youth with a safe, structured environment that encourages healthy boundaries, promotes positive self-esteem and develops their ability to make good choices for full and successful lives," the nonprofit on Kimball Avenue explains.

Among the programs it offers are after-school mentoring, homework assistance, English as a second language support, life-skills training, visual and performing arts and recreational and cultural activities. The programs are aimed at engaging



PHOTO/COURTESY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH

A girl plays chess at Community Partnership for Youth's facility in Seaside, while a boy in the program allows a lizard to crawl on his hoodie during a trip to Santa Lucia Preserve late last year where he and others immersed themselves in nature.



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2024



# THE COMMUNITY

## ‘It’s been very rewarding to see the impact of First Tee in this county’

By LISA LAPIN

**E**ACH WEEKDAY during the school year, busloads of school-children arrive at the Twin Creeks Golf Course in Salinas for 90-minute lessons that are incorporated into their school day. While the setting is a public golf course, the curriculum is far reaching,

providing not only free access to golf, but programming in confidence-building skills to last a lifetime.

“The curriculum is not just about the focus, hard work and determination that comes with the sport of golf,” said Sam Frick, senior program director for First Tee of Monterey County, part of the nationwide First Tee program. “It’s about golf

as a conduit to key commitments: pursuing goals, building a positive self-identity, collaborating with others — concepts that will help them manage their way through school and life.”

### Salinas and King City

From its start at the Twin Creeks Golf Course 20 years ago, First Tee of Monterey County has served more than 150,000 youth through its numerous coaching programs and partnerships with local school districts. As it marks its two-decade anniversary, the program has begun an expansion to the southern reaches of the county, with a new golf facility in King City serving thousands more children as far south as Bradley.

First Tee has existed long enough that the first generation of participants is now coaching the newest one. And long enough to show significant improvements among First Tee participants in school attendance and long-term academic results at the university level.

“It’s been very rewarding to see the outcome for the kids of Monterey County and to see the overall impact of First Tee in this county,” said

Nick Nelson, who has overseen the local First Tee as its CEO since its inception.

It all began as an idea hatched out of the 2002 AT&T tournament, when John Zoller and Ollie Nutt had the idea to bring a chapter to Monterey County. Zoller and Nutt served as the founding chairman and co-founder.

They hired Nelson from his position as the head of instruction at the Bayonet and Black Horse golf courses.

“I’m still here, 22 years later, and it’s been the greatest joy,” Nelson said. “It’s all about the kids and the opportunity for a better future for them and for Monterey County.”

### Partnership with schools

The Monterey Peninsula Foundation, organizer of the annual AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am tournament, held its first fundraising effort to create the First Tee chapter with a capital campaign that was originally intended to build a facility in Seaside. Then the city of Salinas approached the First Tee organizers with an opportunity to take over the operations of its Twin Creeks Municipal Golf Course.

See **FIRST TEE** page 24A



PHOTO/COURTESY FIRST TEE MONTEREY COUNTY

**Kids who participate in First Tee of Monterey County learn discipline and focus as they pick up golf skills. The nonprofit also offers an after-school program with opportunities to learn more about school subjects, such as science (right).**

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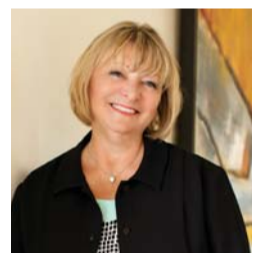
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2024



# THE COURSES

## Reimagined AT&T Pro-Am offers more time to get in your own rounds

By MARY SCHLEY

**T**HE PGA Tour has dubbed the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am a Signature Event, and with that narrowed the field, upped the purse to \$20 million, and reduced the number of courses in play from three to two. The early part of the week no longer includes publically accessible practice rounds and celebrity events, which means there's even more opportunity for fans to get out

and is highlighted by fescue-framed fairways, bunkers with distinctive, serrated edges and slickly contoured greens." Its coast-facing par-3 15th is among the more scenic holes on the Peninsula. "The best 36 holes on Monterey Bay" have hosted the PGA's Qualifying School and the PURE Insurance Championship, then known as The First Tee Open. They are located at 1 McClure Way in Seaside and include a full-service clubhouse, a restaurant that's open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

plenty of space to sit with friends and relive the best (and worst, and most amusing) shots of your round. Rates are \$195 for 18 holes and \$100 for nine — each including a cart and access to the driving range — for resort guests. Non-resort guests may only book after 1 p.m. for \$150. Discounts are offered for NCGA members, twilight play, and kids under 16, who pay \$30 for 18 holes. Club and shoe rentals, spike changes and shoeshines are available, too. While there, don't miss the opportunity to have a meal in the hotel's restaurant, roast marshmallows at the fire pits next to the pool or indulge in a spa treatment. Carmel Valley Ranch is located at One Old Ranch Road off of Carmel Valley Road about 7 miles from Highway 1. For more information, call (831) 620-6406 or visit [carmelvalleyranch.com](http://carmelvalleyranch.com).

visit to the course for the 2019 U.S. Open, Nicklaus told a group of members and the new owners he remains invested. "I love Pasadera — it's one of my children, and you always take care of your children and you want to be part of what they're doing," he said. "We really want people to enjoy the

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golf course — that's the whole point." And they do. "We're a tight-knit group of friends and fellow golfers who celebrate a truly special experience based on excellent play and a stunning natural environment," the club's management and members say, and they're always interested in bringing more likeminded folks into the fold. "Pasadera's easy-going culture welcomes men and women of all levels to the region's most inclusive private golf club." Executive chef Colin Moody and his culinary team ensure every lunch and dinner is a treat, and the property includes two pools, tennis courts and other amenities. Located at 100 Pasadera Drive off Highway 68, Pasadera lies just east of Laguna Seca Golf Ranch and west of the world-famous racetrack by the same name. The pro shop can be reached by calling (831) 647-2421. See [theclubatpasadera.com](http://theclubatpasadera.com) for more information.

### ■ The Club at Pasadera

First opened in 2000 as Pasadera Country Club, and then purchased by a Chinese company that renamed it Nicklaus Club – Monterey in 2014, the course designed by Jack Nicklaus and its surrounding facilities were sold again in November 2018 to a group of prominent local investors, including Inns by the Sea LLC principal Ted Balestreri, Dr. Craig Geiler, attorney Bob Rosenthal, and several others. The group reinvigorated the club, significantly boosting membership, particularly among younger people and families, and has invested in making the golf course top shelf. "The original landscape ... provided a unique opportunity to create a dramatic layout that incorporates selected design features reminiscent of the world's most revered layouts. The course evokes similarities to The Old Course at Saint Andrews, Augusta National, Pine Valley and Pebble Beach, which are arguably four of my favorite courses in the world," Nicklaus said of the 6,807-yard course, which is open only to members and their guests — and is the only signature Nicklaus course on the Peninsula. Capitalizing on the existing hills, canyons and old oak groves, he incorporated natural-style bunkering and took advantage of splendid hazards, such as the awe-inspiring 14th Hole, a par 3 over a deep chasm. "Native grasses and free-flowing bunkers accent the par-71 course, which subtly adapts to distinctive elevation changes for a thoroughly entertaining golfing experience time and again," the owners say. During a

### ■ Corral de Tierra Country Club, Salinas

This private, member-owned equity club features a 6,683-yard par-72 course that's "a signature tribute to renowned golf course designer, Bob E. Baldock," who created it in 1960. J. Michael Poelot increased the difficulty of some of the holes in 1999 and 2000 by adding a multitude of bunkers. The course is situated off the Monterey-Salinas Highway and graced with some of the best weather on the Peninsula. Its gentle elevation changes and tree-lined fairways also make it a great walking course. Corral de Tierra has served as a site for U.S. Open qualifying rounds and hosted the 2010 sectional qualifier for

See **FAIRWAYS** page 23ATT



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

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and play a round or two of their own before heading to Pebble Beach and Spyglass Hill to watch the best of the best compete Jan. 31-Feb. 4.

Below, fans daydreaming about their own potential feats on the grass will find plenty of options for turning those dreams into reality.

### ■ Bayonet and Black Horse, Seaside

Constructed when Fort Ord was an active military base, these two courses initially aimed to provide some well-deserved recreation for the thousands of service members who lived and worked here, and their story is colorful. Maj. Gen. Robert McClure, original designer of Bayonet in 1954, was known as "a left-handed golfer with an all-too-common fade," and drew the holes accordingly, with severe doglegs running to the left through what's affectionately known as "Combat Corner," holes 11 to 15. The 7,104-yard par-72 course was named for the 7th Infantry "Light Fighter" Division, nicknamed the Bayonet Division. With its "narrow playing corridors and steep, penal bunkering," the course "has long been considered the most difficult test of golf on the Monterey Peninsula." The first course was so popular that the Army decided to add another. Maj. Gen. Edwin Carns designed Black Horse, which is 7,024 yards and also has a par of 72, and bears the nickname of the 11th Cavalry Regiment that had been stationed at the Presidio of Monterey from 1919 to 1940. It opened in 1964. After the base closed, the Army sold the courses to the city of Seaside, and they are now managed by Seaside Resort Development LLC. In 2008, they underwent a \$13 million renovation and comprehensive redesign by Gene Bates. Black Horse "features sweeping vistas of the Pacific

daily, a pro shop, custom club fitting and a driving range. Club rentals and professional instruction are also available. In late 2021, Troon, based in Scottsdale, Ariz., was hired to manage the property, which now uses "dynamically priced" rates that are adjusted higher or lower in real time "based on demand, availability and other changing factors." Regardless, playing all 36 holes costs \$230 and includes a cart, warm-up balls, bottled water and a 20 percent discount at the pro shop. The rounds can even be split over two days. Stay-and-play packages are available, too. Call (831) 899-PAR1 (7271) or visit [bayonetblackhorse.com](http://bayonetblackhorse.com).

### ■ Carmel Valley Ranch, Carmel Valley

Closed in 2007 while undergoing a multimillion-dollar makeover to be "restored to Pete Dye's original design, T1 bent grass, enlarged greens and improved tee boxes," the 6,117-yard, par-70 golf course that was built in 1981 subsequently reopened to great fanfare and much anticipation by its members and guests. The stunning 500-acre Carmel Valley Ranch sits just east of mid-valley, with the course running along the Carmel River and up into nearby hills. C.V. Ranch offers the quintessential country club experience to players, and the course is the only one in Northern California designed by Dye. Describing playing it as "a rollicking good time," the folks at C.V. Ranch say Dye "tamed Mother Nature with two signature holes (11 and 13) that boast breathtaking drops into the valleys. Other holes wind through vineyards, lavender fields, ponds and old-growth oak groves, where deer, wild turkey, birdies, eagles and the rarely spotted albatross roam free." The clubhouse underwent a major renovation in 2013 and features a full bar, fire pits and



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

**Cypress Point Club may be ultra-exclusive, but that hasn't stopped the oceanfront drama of some of its holes from making it one of the most famous courses in the world.**



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2024



# THE TOURNAMENT

## STARS

From page 8ATT

usual. The event's new format includes the exit of Monterey Peninsula Country Club, leaving Pebble Beach and Spyglass Hill Golf Course in the rotation. The 54-hole cut is no more. Celebrities, part of tournament lore since its debut in 1937, are few and will not participate in weekend play.

Gone also are several of Rose's most formidable former competitors, including Jon Rahm. The World's No. 3-ranked player and Rose's teammate on the winning 2023 European Ryder Cup team last summer, Rahm was the most recent departure from the PGA Tour to LIV Golf. Also gone is the chance for an unheralded player to win.

"The powers that be don't make these decisions lightly," said Rose. "It is done with the best of intentions to try to make it beneficial for the whole tour membership. But it's hard to keep 200 guys happy, for sure."

### Maui to Pebble Beach

The AT&T will be this season's second Signature Event, following The Sentry, which ended Jan. 7 in Maui. Not only will Rose defend his title in a tournament that in several ways has never occurred, but he'll do so after an odd season start.

In Hawaii, the former No. 1-ranked golfer shot a final-round 61 and made 12 birdies. But Rose also had a third-round 75 and finished only tied for 40th.

In the opening round, he outdrove Taylor Moore by



Jordan Spieth

nearly 40 yards on the 7th Hole. But he mistakenly hit his playing partner's ball from the fairway and was assessed a two-stroke penalty.

Like he did at Pebble Beach in last year's inclement weather, Rose quickly rebounded from his rare miscue. He didn't win, but his low-scoring final round provided another example of his signature persona — a calm approach to golf while trying maintain consistency.

## MONEY

From page 6ATT

limited fields, to complement the PGA Tour and other world golf events. Norman, a two-time major winner, was then among the top five players in the world with Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer, Nick Price and Jose Maria Olazabal. All five were born outside the United States.

Similar to the current situation, Finchem threatened players who sought to compete on the proposed new tour with suspension from the PGA Tour.

Norman, who won 88 pro tournaments and was golf's No. 1 player for more than six years, assumed his current responsibilities in 2021. The LIV format — three rounds per tournament, no cut, paid expenses and guaranteed prize money — was an immediate attraction to some top golfers — and high-level players were enticed with substantial financial guarantees.

Accusations, threats, lawsuits and vitriol followed quickly. The PGA Tour and its loyalists questioned the human-rights practices of the Saudi-backed tour, while LIV Golf said the PGA Tour had a monopoly.

Last June, the two sides reached an agreement to create a merger. The deal was negotiated without PGA Tour players' knowledge, and tempers again escalated. Several PGA Tour players said publicly they felt betrayed and some suggested PGA commissioner Jay Monahan resign. Regardless, lawsuits were dropped and discussions began on how the entities would work together.

The governor of Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund

Rose's title at Pebble Beach also ended a four-year victory drought.

"Just that walk up 18, to be able to build a bit of a lead, to kind of enjoy it, was a very special moment," he said after last year's tournament. "I think when you're a bit starved for a win, the fact that it came on a weather day like we had and at the venue that we had was worth waiting for."

joined the PGA Tour board of directors and leads the new venture as chairman. The PGA Tour will have a majority stake.

One unsettled question is whether players who left the PGA Tour would be allowed to return. And would players who were offered substantial amounts from LIV but remained with the PGA Tour receive compensation?

A deadline to announce golf's future was set for Dec. 31, 2023. The date passed, and a new March 2024 deadline was established.

In the meantime, the PGA Tour season has begun. The new LIV tour season is scheduled to start during the same week as the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, at the El Camaleón Golf Course in Mayakoba, Mexico. It's planned for a field of 48 players who will compete individually and in a four-player, 12-team format.

Talor Gooch was LIV's money leader last season, claiming \$36,120,012 in individual, team and bonus earnings. Scottie Scheffler, the world's No.1-ranked PGA player, earned \$21,014,342 and led the tour last season in earnings.



Jason Day



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TOURNAMENT

REVAMPED

From page 6ATT

ment Bing Crosby created when he launched his charitable Clambake with industry friends to raise money for non-profits in Rancho Santa Fe in 1937 and was convinced to reinvent it in Pebble Beach in 1947 following its hiatus during World War II.

“The revelry of what Bing started with his Clambake and bringing together the mix of the entertainment world, sports figures and pro golfers all getting together, laughing and celebrating and partying and playing golf — it’s not going to be that anymore,” he observed.

“Professional golf has changed — it’s a high-stakes sport,” he added.

The 80 amateurs invited to compete all agreed to pay far higher entry fees to help the foundation, which last year raised \$18 million for youth-oriented charities, meet

or exceed its fundraising goals, according to John.

Hollywood no more

The former celebrity contingent is now a handful of professional athletes, including Tom Brady, Aaron Rodgers and Buster Posey, and while the movie stars and others who have enjoyed competing in the AT&T were disappointed to learn they weren’t going to be included anymore, they understood.

Also in response to the new format and field, the tournament is even more oriented toward the true golf fan, with fewer luxury boxes, twice the number of grandstands, and plenty of food and drink, including alcoholic beverages, available.

John said the changes go a long way toward the shared goal of making the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am the best event on the PGA Tour.

“The quality of golf will be at an all-time high for us,” he said.

Steve John, shown here with 2022 AT&T Pro-Am winner Tom Hoge, says the quality of golf at the 2024 pro-am “will be at an all-time high for us.”

PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE



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2024



# THE COMMUNITY

## CHARITIES

From page 12ATT

nior leaders, they are reflecting for the first time on what it means to be a role model, and, more importantly, what it means to be a positive one," the partnership said.

A summer "intersession" offers children a five-week program that expands on the nonprofit's goals of providing a structured and creative learning environment.

"The summer program, however, allows for a greater depth and variety in which the staff are able to work with our students," Community Partnership for Youth explains on its website. "Days are filled with numerous academic and enrichment activities, including reading and writing, arts and crafts, photo club, learning technology and other various outdoor and indoor activities."

The summer session also offers a "family-style lunch," which the group said helps children learn the importance of eating together, along with "valuable table manners."

Its Visual & Performing Art Academy focuses on creative self-expression by exposing kids to theater, dance, music, painting, speech communications and other artistic outlets, to help them acquire "skills through verbal and right-brain activities."

"The discipline and group dynamics teach the children self-control and appreciation for one another," the group says.

### Non-violent message

Community Partnership for Youth opened in spring 1991 in response to the shooting death of Ramon Avila, a Seaside High student and athlete killed during a reported drug deal. Local leaders vowed to find a solution to a spike in crime in their neighborhood and its effects on some children.

The founders of the organization concluded that prevention programs starting in elementary school were the key to successfully conveying a non-violent message. Young people most likely to go astray are often the ones

left unsupervised and without guidance at an early age.

The group also learned that 2 to 6 p.m. is prime time for violent juvenile crime, and the part of the day when kids are most likely to be victims. It was with these ideas in mind that Community Partnership for Youth was created. Go to [cpy.org](http://cpy.org) for more information.

### Feeding the county

The Food Bank for Monterey County has the monumental task of providing food for thousands of residents. To do that, it distributes more than 15 million pounds of food annually.

The Food Bank's 50,000-square-foot building on Rossi Street in Salinas features 30,000 square feet of cold storage, an additional 5,000 square feet of freezer space, and six loading docks.

"With 480 solar panels, energy-saving fixtures and a custom warehouse setup, our facility provides the foundation we need to uphold the utmost standards of sustainability, efficiency and food safety in our acquisition and distribution practices," the nonprofit says.

Serving as a central hub for food and fresh produce, it partners with more than 160 other groups in the county to get free food to those who need it.

"We have 240 direct distribution sites throughout the county, covering a 3,200-square-mile territory from San Ardo to Pajaro, with sites in each city and many school locations," the Salinas-based nonprofit says.

According to the food bank, Monterey County ranks highest among California's 58 counties in Type 2 diabetes, child poverty and "food insecurity," which the federal government defines as a "household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food."

The bottom line is that the Food Bank for Monterey County does all it can to ensure that county residents — who live in one of the most expensive counties in the United States — are adequately and properly fed.

"Insufficient access to healthy food contributes to in-



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

**There's nothing like a bright, shiny apple to fill a young girl's tummy and put a smile on her face.**

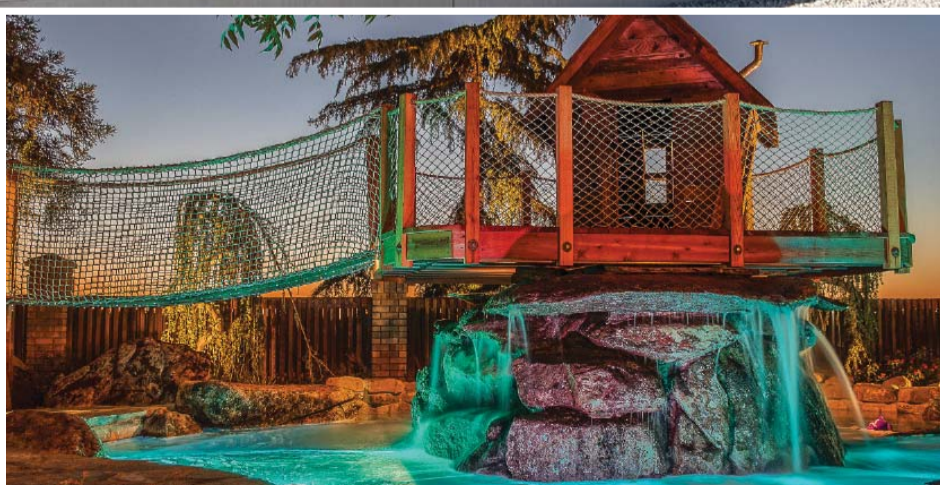
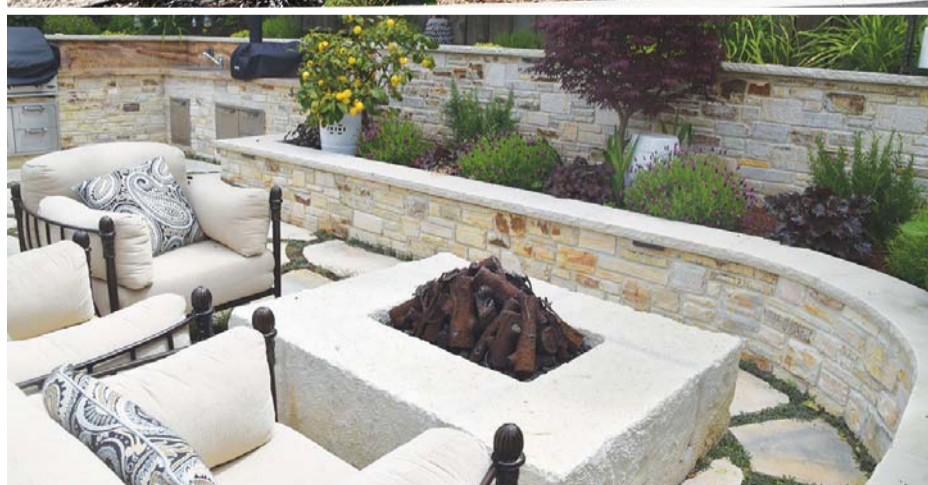
creased risk of diet-sensitive chronic conditions, like diabetes and high blood pressure, and creates barriers to those trying to effectively manage their conditions once diagnosed," it explains.

### Reducing waste

Partnering with local agricultural businesses, the food bank every year helps "rescue" millions of pounds of food that would otherwise be discarded and gives it to the financially less fortunate. The food bank works with grocers and retailers through one of its "food-safety trained partners," which collects edible food that can't be sold, as well as nonfood items. The partners have freezer and storage facilities that enable them to accept and store the donations.

"Our joint reclamation efforts with local ag to divert good produce from landfills and put it into the hands of residents in need across Monterey County saves huge quantities of nutrient-packed fruits and vegetables from going to waste," according to the organization. Go to [foodbankformontereycounty.org](http://foodbankformontereycounty.org) for information.

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2024



**THE COMMUNITY**

**FAIRWAYS**

*From page 18ATT*

the Women’s U.S. Open Championship. “The course attracts the attention of the best players; however, multiple tee boxes on every hole ensure an enjoyable experience for all golfers,” and it boasts a strong youth golf program, according to management. Corral de Tierra is located a few miles east of Los Laureles Grade on Highway 68 and is open only to members and guests. “If you are the guest of a member, we are delighted to welcome you to Corral de Tierra Country Club and hope you enjoy your visit,” management says. “The club works hard to preserve its rich traditions.” Members and their guests enjoy dining on the enclosed deck overlooking the golf course or in the main dining room of their farmhouse-style clubhouse, or having drinks with friends in the full bar “with a neighborhood atmosphere.” Various levels of membership are described on the website, including social and non-resident memberships. Inquire about reciprocal agreements with other private clubs. Instruction and practice facilities are available, and the course can be reserved for golf events for groups. For information, call (831) 484-1112 or visit corraldetier-racc.com.

**■ Cypress Point Club, Pebble Beach**

“I do not expect anyone will ever have the opportunity of constructing another

course like Cypress Point, as I do not suppose anywhere in the world is there such a glorious combination of rocky coast, sand dunes, pine woods and cypress trees,” renowned course architect Alister MacKenzie said of the course he designed in 1928. MacKenzie relished using optical illusions to toy with players, and he was adept at taking advantage of the land’s natural contours. The 6,509-yard, par-72 Cypress Point course is known the world over, in part for the breathtaking par-3 16th Hole that entices the brave (and sometimes foolhardy) to fire their tee-shots over the roiling sea. Golfer Marion Hollins first conceived of the idea in 1924 and pursued the development of a first-class golf course, along with a clubhouse designed by George Washington Smith containing a handful of sleeping rooms. Membership would be very exclusive, limited to 200 people who would pay about \$2,500 (in 1924 dollars) to subscribe. Cypress nearly folded during the Great Depression, when membership dropped to just 14, but Pebble Beach Co. founder Sam Morse forgave Hollins’ debt for the land and took over maintenance of the course. Hollins, incidentally, was posthumously admitted to the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2021. The club, which in the past hosted the Walker Cup — and is set to do so again Sept. 6-7, 2025, for the first time since 1981 — is open only to its 250 members and their guests. Many dream of playing here, but comparatively few get the privilege. Cypress Point Club is located at

*See GREENS page 25A*

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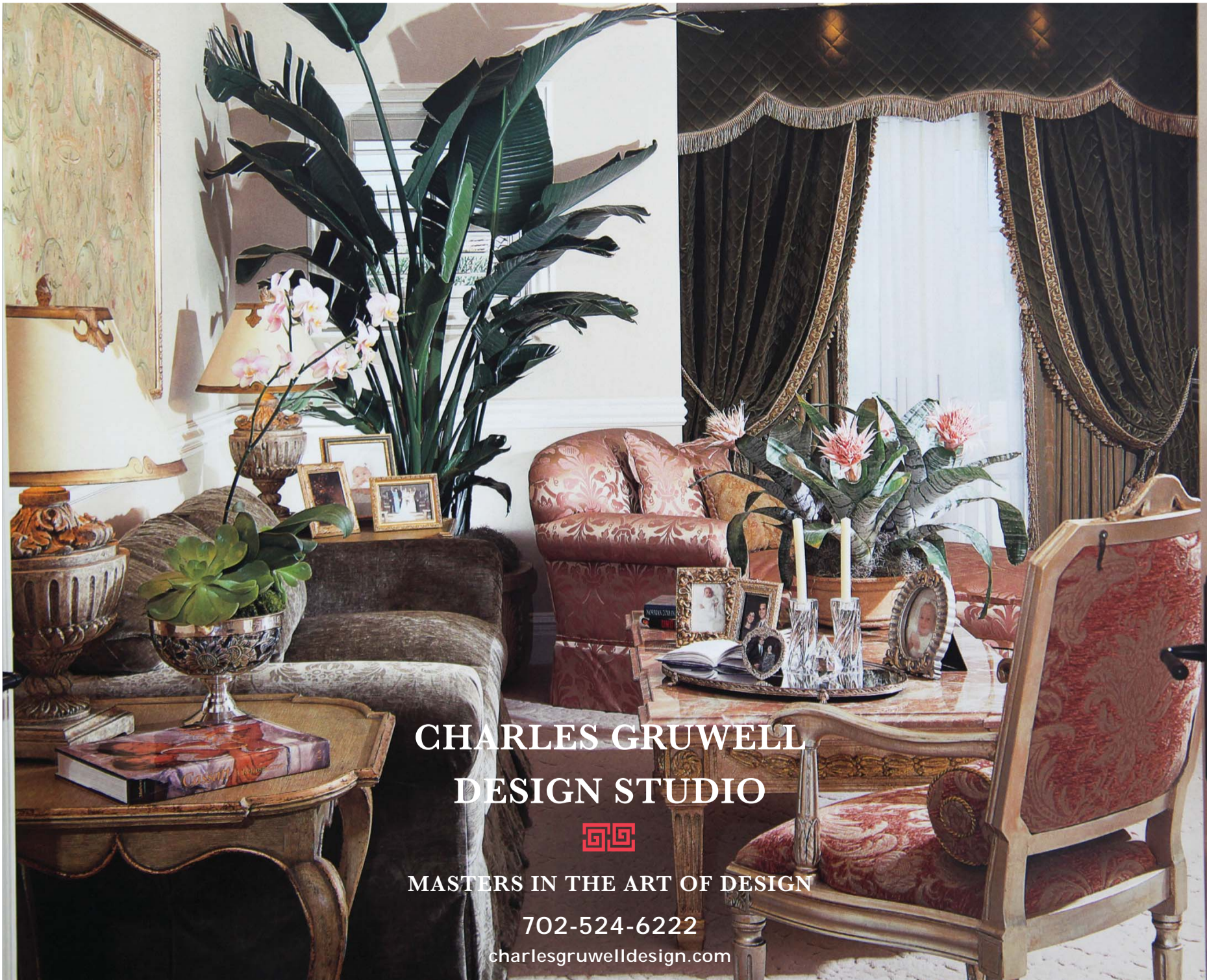
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2024



# THE COURSES

## FIRST TEE

From page 14ATT

The location now serves as the First Tee campus and includes a nine-hole public golf course, the Taylor Farms Center for Learning — housing the First Tee after-school program — and a teen center.

A subsequent partnership was formed with the Alisal Union School District, serving all of East Salinas. Today, First Tee is part of the required school curriculum for every fourth, fifth and sixth grader in the school district. Each student has at least ten 90-minute visits per school year to the First Tee campus for lessons in golf, but also in self-confidence, leadership, and to build trusting relationships with coaches who

### Chapters throughout the country and lots of impact here

serve as role models.

Each student also receives a free membership to First Tee, so they can golf on weekends and enroll in the free after-school program or take free weekend golf classes.

For its many programs serving children ages 4 through 17, the nonprofit employs 54 people, most of them former program participants who are now First Tee coaches.

“The coaches build relationships, sending a message that golf can be for them, but also that they have bright futures,” Frick said, crediting the two program directors who implement the First Tee curriculum, Cristian Reyes and Juan Rodriguez, and their staffs. “The coaches are the core of our program. Every child can benefit from having a positive role model in their life.”

#### Thousands more

A similar program is getting underway in King City, where the municipal golf course became a First Tee campus in November 2022. The new operation, run by Jer-

emy Serena, expects to serve 6,000 schoolchildren this year, from Greenfield to the county’s southern border.

First Tee high school graduates who are first in their family to go to college and receive Pay it Forward scholarships from the group in partnership with California State University Monterey Bay have an 81 percent overall graduation rate, according to First Tee. Some 61 percent earn their college degrees within four years, more than double the graduation rate for similar first-time college-going students at CSUMB.

First Tee has chapters throughout the country, many attached to golf organizations. The structure of First Tee of Monterey County, with formalized school partnerships, is less common, but fills a tremendous demand for youth programming in low-income communities.

“We are exactly where we need to be,” said Nelson. “In November 2004, when we saw our first 100 kids come through, Salinas was challenged with crime and gang violence and high homicide rates. We still are competing with cell phones and TV and gangs for kids’ attention, but our studies show repeatedly that First Tee children are more likely to attend school and go on to graduate from high school and college.”

First Tee relies entirely upon grants and donations to sustain its operations. It is one of the beneficiaries, through the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. First Tee also receives strong support from the local agricultural industry, including Bruce Taylor of Taylor Farms and David Gill of Rio Farms.

Thousands of individuals also contribute and take part in four major fundraisers each year.

A ladies golf invitational provides additional support for girls in First Tee, there will be a BBQ held in King



PHOTO/COURTESY FIRST TEE

**Normally it takes a hole-in-one to get a golfer this excited, but the First Tee kids just love the game — and making new friends.**

City this spring, and a “Boots, Bottles and BBQ” event at the Salinas campus each fall brings in hundreds of people. This year, the BBQ will be a special 20th anniversary celebration.

#### ‘Beyond golf’

First Tee is overseen by a 21-member board of directors from throughout the community, chaired by Dan Lynch of Carmel Realty.

“We are so fortunate to have such engaged people in this community, and we couldn’t do what we do without our involved donors,” said program director Frick, a PGA member and golf instructor who joined First Tee last fall. “I was seeking an organization that makes a positive impact on the community. I’ve been trained to run golf courses, but this is so far beyond golf. Our theme is ‘Building Game Changers’, and while we are providing affordable access to the game of golf, we are also investing in the future of our community.”

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2024



# THE COURSES

## GREENS

From page 23ATT

3150 17 Mile Drive in Pebble Beach. For information, contact the pro shop at (831) 624-2223.

### ■ Del Monte Golf Course

Nicknamed “Old Del Monte,” and affectionately referred to as “Old D,” Del Monte Golf Course was designed by golf and polo enthusiast Charles Maud as a nine-hole layout and built in 1897, making it the oldest continuously operated course west of the Mississippi River. (The Presidio in San Francisco includes a course that was built a year earlier but was temporarily converted to a drill field during the Spanish-American War.) Del Monte was expanded to 18 holes in 1902 and is considered “a landmark course that has played an instrumental role in popularizing golf out West.” Owned and operated by the Pebble Beach Company, Del Monte — 6,365 yards from the blue tees, par 72 — is open to the public and home to the Monterey Bay Golf Club, founded in 1932. Del Monte was the original site of the California State Amateur and hosts the amateur Monterey City Championship every year. “Del Monte Golf Course features wide fairways lined with oak, pine and cypress trees, and the back nine includes a treacherous par-5, 512-yard 13th Hole,” according to the resort. Green fees have increased to \$125 (\$63 for twilight play). Carts, pull carts, caddies, forecaddies and rental clubs are available.

The Del Monte Bar & Grill has reopened, serving “traditional American cuisine” daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the Hyatt Regency Monterey adjacent to the course has a full restaurant, bar and outdoor dining area. The course is located at 1300 Sylvan Road. For more information, call (800) 877-0597 or visit pebblebeach.com and follow the links.

### ■ Laguna Seca Golf Ranch, Monterey

Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Robert Trent Jones Jr. designed this public course together in 1970 in their first joint venture, which yielded “18 beautiful holes that follow the natural terrain of the oak-studded coastal hills along the Monterey-Salinas corridor.” The 6,157-yard, par-71 course is located off of Highway 68 east of the Monterey Airport and can be reached by turning onto York Road and following it to the end. Green fees are \$55 Monday through Thursday and \$75 Friday through Sunday, with discounts for twilight, super twilight, seniors and juniors. Playing nine holes costs \$37 Monday through Thursday and \$47 Friday through Sunday. “You get a lot of great golf for your green fee at Laguna Seca Golf Ranch!” according to the owners. “With typical Jones artistry, this spectacular venue features many elevated tees and a bevy of strategically placed bunkers that guard almost every green. Yes, you will have to play every club in your bag in order to conquer this chal-

See **TEES** next page

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2024



# THE COURSES

## TEES

From previous page

lenging course that earns its championship slope rating of 129!" A 13-acre natural grass practice facility is available, and golfers can walk or rent a cart. The restaurant and bar — with 10 beers on tap — are open daily, with the kitchen serving until 4 p.m. and the bar open until "close." The 10th Tee snack bar is open on weekends from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather dependent. For information, call (831) 373-3701 or visit lagunasecagolf.com. The course and clubhouse are located at 10520 York Road in Monterey.

### ■ The Links at Spanish Bay, Pebble Beach

"Spanish Bay recalls the original Scottish concept of the game of golf established over 500 years ago ... Here, the golf course provides you with the choice of using your regular shot or a low, running shot to play the firm turf while keeping the ball under the steady ocean breezes," P.B. Resorts says of Spanish Bay, which is listed among America's Greatest 100 Public Courses. The 6,821-yard par-72 Spanish Bay links were jointly designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr., former USGA president Sandy Tatum and Tom Watson, who once remarked, "Spanish Bay is so much like Scotland, you can almost hear the bagpipes." Links-style courses reflect the old Scottish style of sandy seaside wasteland with bristly grasses and stiff prevailing winds, and the Monterey coastline is reminiscent of the rugged beauty of that country, golf's spiritual home. Spanish Bay overlays land once occupied by a sand mine and required extensive rehabilitation of the dunes and native plants in the area. "The Links at Spanish Bay is very much a sensory overload, with the smell of the beach carried in by a cooling ocean breeze, the sight of the spectacular jagged coastline, and the sound of the famed bagpiper leading you home at the end of a twilight round," the resort says. "The Links at Spanish Bay requires precision

and patience while negotiating sand dunes, pot bunkers, challenging greens and an ocean breeze." After the day comes to an end, head inside for some food and libation at Roy's, Pèppoli or Sticks, grab a cocktail at Traps, or taste wine at the impressive Stave Wine Cellar. The rate is \$335 (which includes a cart for resort guests) until April 1, when it increases to \$350. Carts, pull carts, caddies, forecaddies and club rentals are available. The course is located at 2700 17 Mile Drive in Pebble Beach. For reservations, call (800) 877-0597 or visit pebblebeach.com.

### ■ Monterey Peninsula Country Club, Pebble Beach

MPCC, which hosted the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am for several years until the tournament was reconfigured as a PGA Tour Signature Event this year, covers more than 400 acres of gorgeous forest, dunes and coastal landscape, "a perfect setting for not one but two top-rated golf courses, The Dunes Course and Shore Course, with a combined 15 oceanfront holes along nearly 2 miles of coastline," according to those in charge of the private club, which also has extensive hospitality and entertaining facilities, including two restaurants, a bar and an expansive, historic clubhouse. Monterey Peninsula Country Club was founded in January 1925 when Sam Morse — creator of the Pebble Beach Company more than a century ago — James Habbord and Thorwell Mullally decided to combine a golf club with housing, and Morse served as the first president of its board of directors. He sold the lots surrounding the course to military retirees for \$1,500 apiece, and the buyers became club members. Two courses make up MPCC — The Dunes Course designed in 1924 and The Shore Course designed in 1960. The Dunes Course was created by Seth Raynor but finished by Robert Hunter and Alister MacKenzie following Raynor's untimely death, then redone by Rees Jones, and most recently overhauled by the Fazio Design Group, reopening in April 2016. The Shore Course, which was created by Bob Baldock and Pebble Beach Golf Links

architect Jack Neville, was remodeled in 2003 by architect Michael Strantz. Open only to members and their guests, the Dunes Course runs a 7,090-yard par 72, while the Shore Course boasts a par-72 yardage of 6,873. The Dunes Course first hosted what was then called the Crosby Pro-Am after the star brought his clambake to Pebble Beach in 1947 and did so for 18 years before being replaced by Spyglass Hill. The Shore Course hosted the tournament, now the AT&T, more recently. MPCC is located at 3000 Club Road in Pebble Beach. Call (831) 373-1556 or visit mpccpb.org, which offers little more than contact information.

### ■ Monterey Pines Golf Course, Monterey

The official U.S. Navy course, operated by the Naval Postgraduate School, offers one of the best deals in town. The course "puts a premium on accuracy without overwhelming the golfer with length," according to the Navy. "Undulating greens and lakes that come into play on several holes challenge the best of golfers and offers a great recreational experience for the rest of us. Area golfers recognize The Pines as the best value for golf on the Monterey Peninsula." It provides an outstanding venue at affordable rates for active-duty and retired servicemen and women, as well as Department of Defense staff. All carts are equipped with GPS units to provide exact yardages from any location. Golfers who get a rush from being directly under the flight path of a regional airport should definitely put in a round at the Navy course, which is also open to the public for very low rates. Monterey Pines is not without its more exciting stories, including the crash-landing of a Cessna on the 6th Fairway in September 2003 (no golfers were involved), and the crash of a Carmel Valley attorney's small plane in the driveway years ago. Robert Muir Graves designed the original nine-hole course in 1963, and the back nine were added in 1972. It was rede-

See TRAPS next page

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# THE COURSES

## TRAPS

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signed by Marc Messier, and the remodel work that had the course closed in 2009 also included renovating the Monterey Pines Grill & Bar, which offers a private banquet room for meetings and special events, a bar and multiple televisions perfect for watching sports. The 5,409-yard, par-70 course is located at 1250 Garden Road in Monterey. Hours are 7 a.m. to sundown. A pro shop, demo clubs and professional instruction are available, as well, and golfers and non-golfers alike enjoy the grill for breakfast, lunch or an early dinner. For more information, call (831) 656-2167 or visit [monterey.navylifeww.com/programs/93132d75-8532-43e0-9127-839b85297cd3](http://monterey.navylifeww.com/programs/93132d75-8532-43e0-9127-839b85297cd3).

### ■ Pacific Grove Golf Links, Pacific Grove

Affectionately known as the “Poor Man’s Pebble Beach,” this municipal course once ranked among Golf Magazine’s Top 50 Golf Courses Under \$50. While play can no longer be had for less than \$50, the course is still a great deal. The first nine holes were designed by U.S. Amateur Champion H. Chandler Egan in 1932, partly on land the city bought from Pebble Beach Company founder Sam Morse for a \$10 gold coin and a handshake promise to maintain it as a golf course for at least five years. In 1960, Jack

Neville, who designed the Pebble Beach Golf Links with Douglas Grant, created the second nine holes. This 5,732-yard par-70 public course is situated on prime real estate near Asilomar State Beach and surrounds the historic Point Pinos Lighthouse, which the U.S. Coast Guard deeded to the City of Pacific Grove, along with the back nine, in 2006. “Northern California, and the Monterey Peninsula in particular, is a golf mecca, and Pacific Grove Golf Links offers the most affordable golf experience on or near the Pacific Ocean,” according to the city. With a full-service golf shop, driving range and well-appointed clubhouse with an impressive restaurant that was recently overhauled, renamed the Grill at Point Pinos, the Pacific Grove Golf Links “offers much more than just a round of golf.” Green fees are \$83 Monday through Thursday and \$99 Friday through Sunday and on holidays, with discounts for twilight play and juniors, with nine-hole options, as well. Club rentals and carts are available, and spectators pay \$21 apiece. Call the golf shop at (831) 648-5775 or visit [playpacificgrove.com](http://playpacificgrove.com) for more information. The clubhouse is located at 77 Asilomar Blvd.

### ■ Pebble Beach Golf Links, Pebble Beach

Celebrating its centennial in 2019 by hosting the U.S. Open for the sixth time, the Pebble Beach Golf Links is situated on scenic coastal land originally slat-

See **BUNKERS** next page

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**THE COURSES**

**BUNKERS**

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ed for houses. Designed by Jack Neville and Douglas Grant, the course is considered one of the greatest ever created. “If I had only one more round to play, I would choose to play it at Pebble Beach,” professional golf icon Jack Nicklaus once said. “I’ve loved this course from the first time I saw it. It’s possibly the best in the world.” Its oceanfront holes, including the dramatic par-3 7th and the spectacular 18th, are particularly captivating. Nicklaus designed the par-3 5th Hole dedicated in November 1998 after the company negotiated a deal with nearby property owners in order to have the coastal hole installed as founder Sam Morse originally envisioned. Pebble Beach has been named the No. 1 public course in the country since Golf Digest began ranking courses in 2003. “It’s not just the greatest meeting of land and sea in American golf, but the most extensive one, too, with nine holes perched immediately above the crashing Pacific surf — the 4th through the 10th plus the 17th and 18th,” the publication observed in 2021. “Pebble’s 6th through 8th are golf’s real Amen Corner, with a few Hail Marys thrown in over an ocean cove on 8 from atop a 75-foot-high bluff.” Pebble Beach hosted U.S. Open Championships in 1972, 1982, 1992, 2000, 2010 and 2019 — more than any other course over the past half-century — and in 2022, the USGA announced plans for several more. The course will host four U.S. Open Championships from 2027 to 2044, and

after hosting its first U.S. Women’s Open last summer, it will be the site of three more between now and 2048. When not closed for tournaments, the course is open to the public, with priority given to resort guests. Green fees are \$625 and include a cart for resort guests, with the rate rising to \$675 after April 1. Carts for non-resort guests are \$55, and caddies are also available for a fee. For more information, call (800) 877-0597 or visit [pebblebeach.com](http://pebblebeach.com).

■ **The Hay, Pebble Beach**

Opened in October 1957, Peter Hay was the only nine-hole par-3 public course on the Monterey Peninsula and was designed by P.B. golf pro Peter Hay, Pebble Beach Golf Links designer Jack Neville, and Maj. Gen. Robert McClure, who designed Bayonet Golf Course in Seaside in 1954. The course was scraped to make way for the main entrance for the 2019 U.S. Open and was then transformed into a new par-3 course designed by Tiger Woods’ group. Among its notable features are a replica of Pebble Beach’s famous 7th Hole and a 20,000-square-foot putting area. Renamed The Hay, the course reopened in 2021 and now boasts a lively restaurant and bar, Hay’s Place, situated at the top of the hill to take in the expansive and stunning coastal views. The cuisine is Mexican-inspired, adding a new flavor to Pebble Beach Resorts’ restaurant repertoire. The cost to play is \$65 Monday through Thursday and \$75 Friday

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2024



# THE COURSES

## ROUGH

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through Sunday for resort guests and the general public, and then half-price for those who want to play another round. Juniors 12 and under can play for free. The putting course is also free. For information or reservations, call (800) 877-0597 or visit [pebblebeach.com](http://pebblebeach.com).

### ■ Poppy Hills Golf Course, Pebble Beach

The Northern California Golf Association built Poppy Hills to serve as its headquarters and tournament home on land that was earmarked for a golf course by Pebble Beach founder Sam Morse, purchasing the 164-acre site in 1977 for just \$7,000 per acre. When it opened June 1, 1986, Poppy Hills was the first course in the United States to be owned and operated by a golf association. Robert Trent Jones Jr. designed the course, which was originally going to be called the Hilltop Course but ended up earning its moniker through a naming contest among NCGA members. It hosted the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am from 1991 through 2009 and was the site of the Spalding Pebble Beach Invitational for several years, as well as the NCAA Men's Championships in 1991. An extensive renovation by Jones beginning in March 2013, focused on water conservation and creating "a firm, fast and fun course that unfolds seamlessly through the stunning Del Monte Forest,"

while reducing irrigated turf by almost 25 percent. The new Poppy Hills reopened April 4, 2014, to many accolades. Green fees are \$325 for the general public, with discounted twilight play, and big savings for NCGA members, accompanied guests and juniors. Carts are \$25 per rider. The clubhouse has a restaurant and full bar, Porter's in the Forest, which serves breakfast and lunch, and is a popular spot with locals. The restaurant is open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday, with the bar serving until 6. For more information, visit [poppyhillsgolf.com](http://poppyhillsgolf.com) or call (831) 622-8239.

### ■ The Preserve Golf Club, Carmel Valley

Tom Fazio designed this private, 7,004-yard par-72 course located among the "stands of massive ancient oaks, beautiful rolling meadows, ponds and streams" deep within the beautiful, tree-studded hills of the Santa Lucia Preserve, and it has consistently made Golf Digest's America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses and other similar lists. Fazio commented, "It's as if you are going on a grand hike and happen to have a golf club in your hand," and said the course has no signature hole, as the entire place is a signature property. "The course wanders by towering oaks, through rolling savannahs, around wetlands and across seasonal streams with a backdrop of the Santa Lucia Range. It never trum-

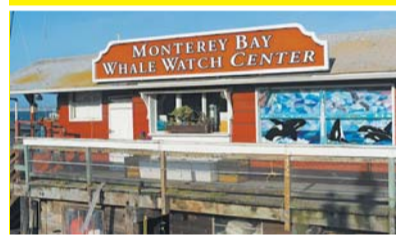
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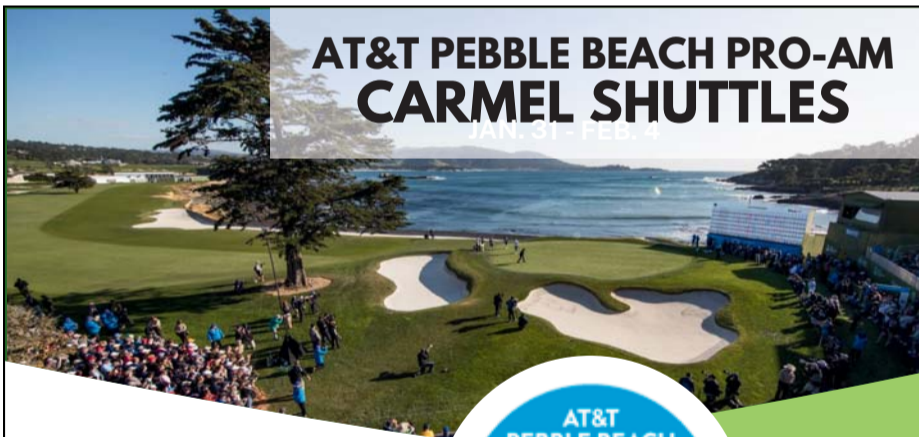
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# THE COURSES

## SCENERY

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pets its presence; it whispers through the landscape.” No tee times are required, and caddies are available. Golfers can’t see from one hole to the next and often don’t encounter other players at all during an experience designed to incorporate “all three schools of golf design — penal, heroic and strategic.” The clubhouse serves lunch daily, hosts numerous golfing events throughout the year, and contains a pro shop and men’s and women’s locker rooms. When the course opened in 1999, membership was limited to owners of property within the preserve’s gates, but the club now accepts membership applications from non-property owners, making Fazio’s gorgeous work and the stunning natural setting accessible to more enthusiasts who will truly appreciate the opportunity to play a course that “lets you experience how the game was meant to be played.” The course is said to be the only one in the world located in the middle of a 20,000-acre nature preserve and is eco- and dog-friendly. A recreation-based Ranch Membership is also available, as is the National Golf Membership, open to 40 fortunate golfers who live beyond Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito and Santa Clara counties. Candidates tour the grounds, meet with members and, if they’re deemed a good fit, are invited to apply and undergo an interview with the membership committee. Contact (831) 620-6700 or register at [santaluciapreserve.com](http://santaluciapreserve.com) for information.

### ■ Quail Lodge, Carmel Valley

“Whether you are a local Carmel Valley resident or visiting the Monterey Bay Peninsula area, Quail Lodge & Golf Club provides an enjoyable golfing experience perfect for all ages and skill sets,” proclaim the folks at Quail. The Quail Lodge course was abundant with 10 lakes and lush, colorful landscaping when it was designed in 1964 by Robert Muir Graves, but subsequently underwent ma-

major renovation by principal designer Todd Eckenrode of Origins Golf Design, with increased water conservation in mind. The resulting 6,500-yard par-71 course, described as being “perfect for the walking golfer of all ages and skill, offering just enough bite to make it interesting,” reopened in May 2015 and includes “some of the Monterey Peninsula’s most unique bunker designs trimmed with fescue lips, short grass areas that surround the greens to provide more shot options, and challenging grass swales that come into play on seven holes.” Green fees vary greatly based on date and time, but generally run as low as \$87 and as high as \$295. Practice facilities

feature a 7-acre driving range, a bunker, chipping areas and a 6,500-square-foot bent grass putting green. Instruction, custom club fittings, shoe and club rentals, pull carts, golf carts and other services are available, too. Located at 8205 Valley Greens Drive, the course is complemented by a nicely appointed clubhouse and Edgar’s restaurant, named for founder and longtime owner Ed Haber. Edgar’s offers lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Happy Hour from 3 to 5 p.m. daily. The lodge’s Covey Grill serves breakfast daily from 7 to 10:30 a.m., and dinner Wednesday through Saturday from 5 to 9 p.m. The bar opens at 4 p.m. daily. To-go service is also available during regular operating hours. For more information, contact the golf shop at (831) 620-8808 or visit [quailodge.com/golf](http://quailodge.com/golf).



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

**While the Monterey Peninsula Country Club is no longer part of the rotation during the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, it still offers some of the Peninsula’s most iconic and memorable scenery.**

### ■ Spyglass Hill Golf Course, Pebble Beach

Designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. in 1966 as part of the master plan for the Pebble Beach oceanfront, this resort/semiprivate course measures 6,960 yards at par 72 and was described by Sports Illustrated as “Pine Valley-by-the-Sea meets Augusta National.” Other major golf publications, “propose it is one of the toughest courses in the country, and the best course to never host a major.” Spyglass takes its name from Robert Louis Stevenson’s

See **CLUBS** next page

January 31 - February 4, 2024

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**THE COURSES**

**CLUBS**

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“Treasure Island.” Local legend has it he spent time walking in the area while brainstorming, and many of its holes bear notable names, like Black Dog and Billy Bones. A year after the course was completed, Spyglass replaced the Monterey Peninsula Country Club in the Bing Crosby Pro-Am Golf Tournament in 1967 and has been part of that contest — now called the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am — ever since. “The defining characteristic of Spyglass Hill is how starkly the first five holes juxtapose the rest of the round,” the course description states. “Incredible ocean views give way to the understated natural beauty of the Del Monte Forest, as the final 13 holes relentlessly examine your game with a litany of bunkers, ponds and uphill tests.” The PGA Tour consistently ranks Holes 6, 8 and 16 among the most difficult on the tour. But don’t be intimidated. When Spyglass opened, Bing Crosby bet that even Jack Nicklaus wouldn’t be able to break par, with Nicklaus promptly shooting a 2-under 70 in his inaugural round. The rate to play is \$465, with an increase to \$495 April 1. The course is on Stevenson Drive and in Pebble Beach. For reservations, call (800) 877-0597 or visit pebblebeach.com.

where the golf is legendary, the service is impeccable, and the memories last a lifetime.” This private course is named for a Native American word meaning, “abundance of nature.”

Jay Morrish, who also designed Shadow Glen in Kansas City, Troon and Troon North in Scottsdale, and Loch Lomond in Scotland, created this 6,506-yard par-71 course high in the hills above Carmel Valley. According to Tehama, “the tranquility and natural beauty of the land, combined with this time-honored game, provide the golfer a surreal hideaway.” Owned by former Carmel Mayor Clint Eastwood, the course opened for private play in 1999 and climbs 200 feet in elevation during its 18 holes, six of which are uphill. “Golfers of all levels will appreciate the vistas of the Monterey Bay and the mountains surrounding the adjacent Carmel Valley,” according to Tehama. “Amongst trees of grandeur and some of the best manicured greens in golf, you will experience a challenging layout like no other.” Membership is private and by invitation only, and those lucky enough to join have access not just to the course, but to the clubhouse, with its full-service pro-shop, world-class cuisine, and banquet facilities that boast stunning views of Carmel Valley and the Monterey Bay.

The surrounding 2,000-acre development is home to just 90 families. For more information about membership and other aspects of Tehama, which is located at 25000 Via Malpaso off Carmel Valley Road a, contact Tom Zoller at (831) 622-2208 or tom@tgcmail.net, or visit tehama-golfclub.com.

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