

# The Carmel Pine Cone

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## Police nab two in Fourtané smash-and-grab

By MARY SCHLEY

TWO TEENAGERS are in custody and police are hunting for the other two people responsible for robbing a downtown jewelry store Tuesday around 5 p.m.

Wearing black hoodies and masks, the four drove up



PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

Robbers used hammers to smash display cases, including one just inside the door, at Fourtané Tuesday evening.

to Fourtané at the corner of Lincoln and Ocean in a newer-model black SUV with no license plates, and three got out and ran into the store carrying a sledgehammer and a claw hammer, according to police and eyewitness accounts. They smashed display cases and grabbed precious jewelry before being chased off by the store's armed security guard, who ran up the street after them as they jumped back in the waiting car. No one was injured.

"They were inside for a few seconds but were able to secure some of the merchandise and flee," said interim Police Chief Brian Uhler. "Passersby as well as people from inside the store called the police right away."

At around 5:15 p.m. Dec. 7, as store staff cleaned up broken glass and police officers collected evidence and talked to witnesses inside and outside the store, Fourtané co-owner Sandy Bonifas told The Pine Cone the thieves failed to grab any of the store's expensive watches.

Apparently, they only got a few items, thanks to the laminated safety glass that was installed in the display cases during an extensive remodel in August. Nonetheless, the damage was extensive and the experience was traumatic for those inside at the time.

"The most important thing is that no one was hurt," Bonifas said.

### Loot left behind

After learning about the burglary, resident Colleen Logan was walking nearby when she found a heavily jeweled bracelet in a planter just outside the shop. She held the jewelry up to show it to those inside Fourtané and turned it over when they opened the door, and then spotted a large ring on the sidewalk and returned that, too. The robbers had apparently dropped the pieces as they fled, and members of the Bonifas family and others at the store initiated their own careful search for any other merchandise.

See SMASH page 17A

## Council rejects Verizon antenna

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER HEARING numerous comments and reading hundreds of pages of correspondence from people largely opposed to the plan, the city council unanimously voted Tuesday night to deny Verizon Wireless' proposal to install a wireless antenna on top of a power pole at Carmelo and Eighth.

The telecom giant's next step would be to sue, which company representatives have repeatedly threatened to do.

After trying and failing in 2019 to obtain city approval for five cell towers in the residential area south of Ocean, Verizon moved a couple of the proposed sites outside town and applied for two in the city — one on the roof of Sunset Center, which was approved in July, and the other on a power pole next to La Playa hotel.

### Numerous reasons cited

The existing utility pole would be replaced and topped with a cell antenna for a finished height of 50 feet. The associated equipment, such as radios, backup batteries and other machinery, could be attached to the pole, split between the pole and the ground, or installed on the ground north of the pole, principal planner Marnie Waffle explained to the council Dec. 7. The ground equipment could be painted green, wrapped with "artistic graphics," or enclosed with a redwood grape stake fence.

In late September, the planning commission unanimously denied Verizon's bid to install the tower, which at that point was designed to be a little over 1 foot taller than what the council considered Tuesday. Commissioners said it violated rules discouraging telecom facilities in the public right of way in the multifamily-residential district, where La Playa is located, and that it also contravened restrictions on height, visual clutter, negative impacts on public and private views, and ground-mounted equipment

See VERIZON page 18A

## SUPES OK CRACKDOWN ON SHORT-TERM RENTALS

By CHRIS COUNTS

TAKING A tough stand against the rise of short-term rentals in Carmel Valley, Carmel Highlands and Big Sur, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 Wednesday to OK an enforcement program that specifically targets operators who lack county permits, fail to pay hotel taxes or create public nuisances.

"It's become untenable for residents living near some vacation rentals," said 5th District Supervisor Mary Adams. "It is critical we take some action with increased enforcement."

The crackdown will be focused on the 5th District, where the majority of STRs operate.

Before the vote, dozens of people, split between the two sides, traded commentary for a couple hours. Supporters pleaded with supervisors to make the process of becoming legal easier and more affordable, while opponents argued that enforcement is needed instead.

### Enforcement wanted

Urging supervisors to drop the hammer on non-permitted vacation stays "without delay" was Pris Walton, the president of the Carmel Valley Association.

The group has long urged the county to get tougher on the industry.

"The grand jury documented the number of illegal STRs," Walton said. "The majority are in the 5th District."

Joining Walton were residents who said short-term rentals are ruining their neighborhoods and taking much needed longer-term rentals off the market.

Gwyn Deamaral of Carmel Highlands called illegal short-term rentals in his neighborhood "unlicensed hotels," while Dick Stott of Carmel Valley warned that they "eliminate accommodations that are badly needed for our community's workers, and they drive the prices of housing higher."

### Parties and noise

Others reported that vacation rentals are hosting late-night parties and bringing other nuisances near their homes, while some took aim at out-of-town investors they said are driving the problems.

"We have been overrun with wandering guests at all hours, noise, weddings, parties, dogs, trash, drones and overall violation of our privacy," Ross Bava of Carmel Valley testified.

Pushing back against the crackdown were a number of operators who don't fit the stereotype of the out-of-town

See STRs page 19A

## Dramatic rescue



PHOTOS/CHP

A California Highway Patrol helicopter plucks a stranded hiker off a cliff near Ragged Point Nov. 29. The man apparently was trying to reach the shoreline, but became stuck along the steep and rocky slope. See page 5A.

## LAFCO says 'no' to Cal Am gov't. takeover

### Warns about loss of tax revenue

By KELLY NIX

IN A major setback for the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, the Local Agency Formation Commission Monday rejected its efforts to take over Cal Am, prompting the water district's general manager to say it would probably sue over the decision.

Three years ago, Monterey Peninsula voters OK'd Measure J, which called for the water district to buy out Cal Am if doing so would be financially feasible. Cal Am has repeatedly said its system is not for sale, which means the water district would probably have to go to court to fight for eminent domain of the system.

In order to forge ahead with its acquisition plans, the water district needed approval from LAFCO, but on

See CALAM page 27A

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# Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

## Designated digger

COSMO IS a Lagotto Romagnolo, which sounds like an exotic Italian car. Although definitely Italian and decidedly exotic, he actually is a 14-month-old pup whose specialty is truffle hunting, a pursuit he recently began in earnest.

Cosmo's people designated a digging area for him in the backyard of their home overlooking Mission Fields. Cosmo quickly became adept at discovering the truffle-oil-soaked cloths they planted there.

His teddy bear appearance belies the intensity of his work ethic.

The Lagotto Romagnolo, a "lake dog" from the Romagna region of Italy, more loosely translated to water dog, is prized for more than truffle retrieval. He also is alert, lively and devoted to pleasing his people.

Although a rare presence in a community more commonly characterized by golden retrievers, Labradoodles, poodles, Cavalier King Charles spaniels and terriers, a second Lagotto, Guido, lives down the street from Cosmo and is just as calm and affectionate.

"Cosmo is only our second dog," his person said. "We'd had a rescue who came with a lot of fear and baggage. Having seen a Lagotto Romagnolo in a Rembrandt painting, the breed really intrigued us, so we de-



ecided to work with a breeder to have clear idea of what we were getting."

They also enlisted the help of a trainer, to keep their puppy calm and ready to work.

When not on the job, Cosmo is a beach bum who hits the sand every morning by 7. He loves swimming in the tide pools at the north end of Carmel Beach, chasing after a ball and socializing with a regular cast of canine cohorts.

"Cosmo also loves the cave at the end of the beach," one of his people said. "He just sits in there with his ball, completely content. It takes some coaxing to get him out."

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# Garbage rates going up — again

By MARY SCHLEY

**I**N THE last five years, rates for trash hauling have risen more than 50 percent for residents and nearly as much for businesses in Carmel-by-the-Sea, and on Monday, the city council voted 4-1 to authorize another 3.76 percent rate hike.

The new price, which will bring the average monthly residential bill from \$47.22 to \$49, will cover the costs of implementing and enforcing a state law requiring everyone to compost their food waste rather than throw it in the garbage, according to environmental compliance manager Agnes Martelet.

Commercial rates, which are charged by the size of the cart or dumpster and frequency of pickup — will also increase by 3.76 percent.

Businesses also pay separately for recycling and food waste collection, which are included for residential customers.

The new state law “is the most significant state waste management legislation to affect local governments in more than 30 years,” Martelet explained to the council Dec. 6. The law’s goal is to “dramatically reduce the amount of methane generated from California landfills by reducing organic waste to landfills by 75 percent by 2025,” she said. In this context, “organic waste” means anything produced from something that was living, such as food, as well as paper products and lumber.

### New rules next month

Residents are required to participate in the city’s garbage, recycling and yard-waste programs, and come Jan. 1, 2022, they’ll have to put all their food scraps — except for used grease and raw meat, which go in the garbage — in their green bins.

Housing complexes will have to provide the three-container system for tenants and make sure they and any contractors

working on the property know what goes where.

Businesses will have to provide separate containers for food waste and recycling in all indoor and outdoor spaces where garbage cans are. The rules do allow waivers for those that have space constraints or don’t have any landscaping.

Employers must educate their workers and let city inspectors make sure they’re following the rules.

The city and its waste hauler have two years to educate and inform people about the requirements, with enforcement beginning in 2024, and in October and November, the city council approved changes to its garbage laws to include the new rules. Enforcement efforts will include hiring “lid flippers” to check people’s cans to ensure they’re not throwing away items that are supposed to be recycled or composted.

### GWR wants more

The garbage company also argued that it should get an additional rate increase due to the pandemic and the resulting sharp decline in revenues from commercial customers during shelter-in-place orders, but consultants and the Monterey Peninsula cities GreenWaste serves concluded “it was unreasonable for GWR to request additional revenues,” especially since its income had exceeded targets in previous years, according to Martelet.

She also noted the company is being sold to an investment fund, which triggered further review and will generate a \$36,300 “transfer fee” to be paid to the city’s general fund.

Martelet recommended the city council approve the rate increase, and no one challenged it, other than councilman Bobby Richards, who observed that GreenWaste’s

See **INCREASE** page 16A



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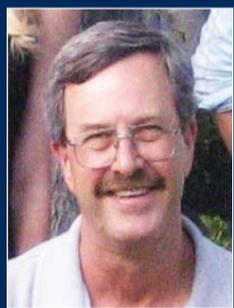
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## Police & Sheriff's Log

### Clearly, it wasn't a peace sign

HERE'S A look at some of the significant calls logged by the Carmel-by-the-Sea Police Department and the Monterey County Sheriff's Office last week. This week's log was compiled by Mary Schley.

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Walkie-talkie found in Devendorf Park at Junipero and Ocean.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Subject reported losing a wallet.

**Pacific Grove:** Attempted theft of vehicle exhaust pipe on Fountain.

**Pacific Grove:** Theft of a bike on Lawton. No leads at this time.

**Pacific Grove:** In the 100 block of Caledonia, a male suffered from a drug overdose in a vehicle. He was transported to the hospital for medical aid. Info only.

**Carmel area:** Rio Road resident reported a disturbance in the area.

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Battery report taken at Lincoln and Seventh.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Missing person report made at the station.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Wrist wallet lost in the area of Mission south of Seventh.

**Pacific Grove:** In the 100 block of Forest Avenue, an uncooperative victim reported vandalism of her vehicle but would not provide any further information.

**Pacific Grove:** Peace disturbance on Arkwright with a mentally unstable subject. Crisis information forwarded.

**Pacific Grove:** Dog-vs.-dog bite on Briggs.

**Pacific Grove:** Person turned in a wallet found on David Avenue.

**Pacific Grove:** Conducted a vehicle stop on Sloat and determined the passenger had an outstanding arrest warrant for his arrest.

#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

**Pacific Grove:** Dog bite on Montecito Street.

**Pacific Grove:** Found ring on Lighthouse was surrendered to the police department.

**Pacific Grove:** Abandoned vehicle towed from 17th Street.

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



## The gavel falls

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

**Nov. 3** — David Russel Stamm, 59, of Pacific Grove, was found dead on October 30 in Red Bluff of an apparent suicide.

The defendant faced charges of committing lewd acts on a child under the age of 14. It was alleged that in the summer of 2005, the defendant committed lewd and lascivious acts on John Doe 1.

These acts involved inappropriate touching as well as encouragement by the defendant to have Doe 1 masturbate with a sex toy in the defendant's presence. It was also alleged that in 1998 and 1999 the defendant committed lewd and lascivious acts with John Doe 2 by masturbating and orally copulating him.

The defendant faced additional enhancements for committing a sex offense against more than one victim and for substantial sexual conduct with a victim under the age of 14. The defendant faced a maximum indeterminate sentence of 90 years to life in prison.

The defendant previously faced charges that alleged he molested another child victim in the year 2000.

A jury trial was conducted in 2008 and a mistrial was declared after the jury was un-

able to reach a unanimous verdict. A second trial was held in 2009, which also ended with the jury deadlocked.

Charges were dismissed before a third jury trial was conducted. The People anticipated presenting evidence from these prior trials in the current prosecution.

The defendant had access to children including these victims due to his status as a Little League coach and owner of the Monterey Cages baseball practice and sporting goods business.

**Nov. 8** — A jury found Salinas resident Luis Ceja Nunez, 44, guilty of committing 19 counts of child molest upon two victims. All the counts are violent felonies and are considered strikes under California's three strikes law. The Honorable Stephanie E. Hulsey presided over the trial.

In December 2019, John Doe 1, 31, reported that Luis Nunez, a family member, sexually abused him continuously from when he was around 7 or 8 years old until he was around 14 years old.

Nunez repeatedly told Doe 1 not to tell

See **GAVEL** page 15A

## The Carmel Pine Cone

### Press Release guidelines

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

**Mary Schley:** Carmel-by-the-Sea, food & wine, police, fire, criminal courts and schools  
mary@carmelpinecone.com

**Chris Counts:** Carmel Valley, Big Sur, Arts & Entertainment and scholastic sports  
chris@carmelpinecone.com

**Kelly Nix:** Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Monterey, Seaside, state government, civil courts and water  
kelly@carmelpinecone.com

**Letters to the editor are only accepted by email and should be sent to**  
mail@carmelpinecone.com

# UNEXPECTED REVENUE BOOST WILL BRING 14 NEW JOBS TO CITY HALL

## ■ Money for managers, too

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CITY council on Monday voted to add more than a dozen new jobs across almost every department, now that pandemic-related belt-tightening is a thing of the past and revenues have come in higher than expected. As soon as they get hired, new workers will help out in finance, IT, code compliance, community activities, the library, public works and the police department, and a couple will focus on specific projects the council wants to get done, such as implementing paid parking and a new home address system.

And on Tuesday, the council decided to expand the salary ranges for department

heads, managers and other management-level employees who aren't represented by labor unions. City administrator Chip Rerig explained that the low caps have resulted in department heads often receiving less pay than some of the workers they manage — and that has cost the city valuable employees.

### Help wanted

Adding workers will help ensure the council and community's long list of goals and priorities can finally become reality, according to Rerig. The council cut several jobs in the 2020-2021 budget due to the pandemic but restored many of them.

Rerig told the council this week that even more help is needed.

See **JOBS** page 16A

# Hiker's adventure turns perilous

By CHRIS COUNTS

AT A remote location near the San Luis Obispo County line on Nov. 29, the California Highway Patrol used a helicopter to rescue a hiker who found himself in a dangerous situation.

The man appeared to be trying to climb down to the shoreline from Highway 1, but the grade was too steep and he got stranded. The incident happened at about 3:30 p.m.

A video shows a man in a red T-shirt and jeans standing with his chest pressed up against a steep rocky slope. His hands are outstretched above him, and he's clinging to a ledge.

"The helicopter crew was requested to assist with rescuing a man stuck on the hillside just north of Ragged Point," the CHP reported. "The crew located the man,

who appeared exhausted but stable, clinging precariously to a small ledge several hundred feet above the surf line and over 100 feet below the highway."

The crew used the helicopter's public address system to urge the hiker to remain in place. Before leaving, they also reassured him they would soon return.

"They then landed on the lawn at the Ragged Point Inn, picked up a rescuer from the San Luis Obispo County Search and Rescue Team, and then lowered the rescuer to the cliff," the report continued.

The rescue worker guided a basket down to the site where the man was stranded and helped him into it. Then the two were hoisted back up to the helicopter, which flew back to Ragged Point, where a medical crew from the Cambria Community Healthcare District awaited the hiker and treated him.



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### Georg Jensen Champagne Cooler & Serving Tray, Polished Steel

With its organic, sculptural form, this minimalist stainless steel cooler is the perfect way to keep your wine or champagne at just the right temperature. The tray is crafted from mirror-polished stainless steel and has a non-slip microfiber suede leather lining. Skål!



### Georg Jensen HK Pill Box 325, Sterling Silver

Henning Koppel's Sterling Silver Hinged Pill Box is built like a clam shell and is a beautiful, miniature reflection of his large covered fish platter. Delivered in a Georg Jensen branded jewelry box. Made in Denmark.



### Bauhaus-Era Handmade Christmas Ornaments, Boxed Set of 12

Designed in 1929 by the Bauhaus architect Johannes Gabriel, these ornaments represent the costume designs of Oskar Schlemmer for the Triadic Ballet, which had 12 dances. Crafted of maple wood by hand in the Black Forest of Germany.



### Vitra Eames House Whale

A prominent feature of the Eames collection was a huge wooden whale over two meters in length, an anonymous work of North American folk art, which Charles and Ray Eames were exceptionally fond of. This smaller scale reproduction is made of carved Alder wood and hand-painted. Made in Europe.



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# MYSTERY SURROUNDING ELECTED OFFICIAL'S ROLE AT CONFERENCE

By KELLY NIX

A PACIFIC Grove councilwoman accused of failing to fulfill her obligations as the city's delegate to a statewide conference in September was silent on the issue this week. Pacific Grove council members Joe Amelio, Jenny

McAdams and Chaps Poduri attended the League of California Cities conference in Sacramento in late September. The three-day annual meeting drew hundreds of city leaders to discuss statewide issues and concluded with delegates voting on several topics. The council members' trip cost P.G. taxpayers more than \$4,500 for registration, lodging, food, mileage and other expenses.

McAdams — the councilwoman appointed Sept. 1 to be Pacific Grove's delegate and therefore tasked with voting on its behalf — posted on social media before the event that she was "so excited to represent Pacific Grove at the League of California Cities Annual Conference."

However, according to League of California Cities official Darla Yacub, who ran the voting booth at the conference, McAdams never voted — meaning she did not fulfill her obligation as Pacific Grove's delegate. Voting took place Sept. 24, the last day of the conference.

"Jenny McAdams did not vote at the general assembly business meeting for the 2021 annual conference," Yacub said in a Nov. 10 email message to city manager Ben Harvey. "There was neither a signature form completed by Jenny McAdams, nor was the ballot for the City of Pacific Grove picked up."

McAdams and other delegates were asked to vote on amendments to the League of California Cities' bylaws, which included recognizing the "full contribution" of its African-American, Asian-Pacific Islander, LGBTQ, Latino and Women's caucuses, and broadening the groups' representation on the league's board of directors.

Also on the ballot was a resolution asking legislators to provide for "fair and equitable" distribution of online sales tax revenues, and another calling on state lawmakers to fund the cleanup of homeless encampments from railroad properties "that degrade the quality of life and result in increased public safety concerns" for residents who live near those areas.

While any absence of Pacific Grove's vote at the conference likely would have not significantly impacted the city, McAdams' council colleagues expected her to vote at the general assembly. At a Sept. 15 council meeting they authorized support for the "bylaws amendments prior to Delegate Jenny McAdams' vote" at the conference.

### What's the truth?

Weeks after the Sacramento event, when questions arose as to whether McAdams had actually voted at the meeting, Poduri asked her that very question in a Nov. 14 email message. She did not answer.

Meanwhile, Harvey launched his own inquiry into the matter. After Harvey and McAdams exchanged a few emails on the issue, McAdams pivoted from the focus on her and pointed to Poduri and Amelio for failing to file

See DELEGATE page 13A



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# Carmel Lodge restaurant gets OK for grease trap on public property

By MARY SCHLEY

THE OWNER of the new restaurant going into Mark Stilwell's Carmel Lodge can install a new grease interceptor under the sidewalk at San Carlos and Fifth, the city council decided Tuesday, as long as he and Stilwell commit to an extensive maintenance agreement that runs with the land.

The equipment, which is larger than the typical grease traps found in restaurants and separates solids from dishwater, is required by the Carmel Area Wastewater District as a result of the restaurant's remodel.

Ideally, the separator would be placed on the hotel's property, but since the restaurant is at the lowest corner, only the adjacent sidewalk is suitable to allow the wastewater to flow by gravity. Health officials don't like such equipment to be anywhere near food, so chef Michael Chang applied for permission to have the equipment installed

under the sidewalk on the northeast corner of San Carlos and Fifth.

The city and Stilwell developed an extensive agreement placing all the responsibility for maintenance, operations and service on the hotel owner and protecting the city against lawsuits should anything go wrong. The agreement also requires weekly inspections, monthly scheduled cleaning, yearly inspections and detailed recordkeeping.

Last month, council members considered the request but put off voting on it until they had more information about the potential impacts of the project, the circumstances at other restaurants, and how other cities have handled such requests.

During a meeting Monday, council members also decided they should have a policy for handling such requests on a case-by-case basis.

Monterey has allowed two grease interceptors to be installed in the street, as has

Pacific Grove, planning director Brandon Swanson told the council Dec. 7.

## The first case

Chang told the council he has learned a lot about the city's sewer system during the last 17 months of planning and review, and he encouraged city officials to embark on a long-term fix of the town's grease-clogged pipes. He also said installing the interceptor in the sidewalk is the "least intrusive option" and that its approval would establish "the precedent that Carmel-by-the-Sea is finally willing to take its grease problems seriously."

Restaurateur Rich Pepe said that while he seemed opposed to the idea when he spoke at last month's meeting, he has since had conversations with Chang, wastewater officials and the health department, and "can come back and say now that I think this is an acceptable plan."

He also doubted other restaurants would rush to undertake similar expensive and elaborate projects.

A remodel could trigger the requirement, though.

"Several cities specifically allow this, usually at a staff level," Stilwell told the council.

Councilman Jeff Baron, who was resistant to the idea when it was raised last month, remarked that "it's a little bit unfortunate that the restaurant isn't at the top of the lot," so a gravity-fed grease interceptor could be installed on private property.

"But this is the way it was built, it's been that way for a number of years, and I certainly wouldn't ask him to move it," he said.

Baron was satisfied with the review and the agreement and said he would support the permit, and councilwoman Karen Fertito made the motion to do so, which got a second from councilman Bobby Richards.

"We want to encourage people to do the right thing and to upgrade technology when the technology can do a better job of protecting our village," she said. "I think the applicant has been very sincere about wanting to do that."

The council wished Chang luck in his endeavors and Stilwell luck in getting the remodel done.

## Artmas, you say? Yes — nine full days.

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE ANNUAL fundraiser to benefit the Carl Cherry Center, The Nine Days of Artmas will begin online and in-person starting Friday and run through Saturday, Dec. 18.

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On Friday night, the Cherry Center will also host "Reflections on Emily Dickinson featuring poet and Dickinson scholar Barbara Mossberg.

The event runs from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and costs \$10, which will include gingerbread "from the poet's own recipe."

Tickets can be purchased at Eventbrite.com.

The Carl Cherry Center for the Arts is at Fourth and Guadalupe. Visit [carlcherry-center.org](http://carlcherry-center.org) or call (831) 624-7491 for more information.

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# LAWSUIT AFTER CAR GOES 250 FEET OVER BIG SUR CLIFF, KILLS MAN

## County says not responsible

By KELLY NIX

THE FAMILY of a Seattle man killed in Big Sur last year when the vehicle he was a passenger in went over a cliff is suing the County of Monterey, alleging it's responsible for the accident.

Tito Andrada, 72, died more than a week after the car his daughter, Melissa, was driving plummeted 250 feet down a very steep hillside "at or near" the Willow Creek Parking Area on Nov. 25, 2020, according to a civil complaint filed Nov. 22 by Andrada's widow, Amelita, along with Melissa and another daughter, Joy. Willow Creek is about 30 miles south of Nepenthe restaurant.

"The vehicle failed to engage in the park mode," according to the lawsuit, filed in Monterey County Superior Court by Beverly Hills attorney Robert Ounjian. "After failing to engage in the park mode, the vehicle rolled forward."

The vehicle would have been stopped from going over the cliff, the lawsuit suggests, if the parking area had had better barriers. The suit doesn't mention the type of vehicle the Andradas were in when the accident occurred and if anybody else was seriously injured.

The complaint also doesn't say whether Melissa Andrada or someone else put the car in park and engaged the parking brake, but alleges Monterey County created a "dangerous condition" because there were "insufficient, non-existent, and/or

improperly maintained guardrails, boulders, and/or other barriers to restrain or otherwise prevent vehicles from proceeding over the cliff" at Willow Creek.

The Andradas also point to what they describe as improper landscaping, road markings, signs and lighting as reasons for the fatal accident. Tito Andrada died Dec. 4, 2020, at Natividad Medical Center, the county hospital in Salinas.

"The position, geometry, topography, and design of the parking area and adjacent property caused vehicles to traverse the barrier(s) and fall over the cliff," according to the complaint.

### 'Not responsible'

The Andradas allege that Monterey County was negligent and created a dangerous condition. The lawsuit does not say how much they think the county owes them.

Monterey County counsel Les Girard told The Pine Cone that the area where the accident occurred is not within the county's purview.

"The Willow Creek parking lot is off Highway 1 and the beach is in Los Padres National Forest," Girard said. "Monterey County has no responsibility for the area."

The area, Girard said, could be controlled by Caltrans or the United States Forest Service.

Born in Philippines, Andrada got an agriculture engineering degree before immigrating in 1986 to the United States, where he worked odd jobs before being hired at an aerospace company, according to an online obituary.



Tito Andrada

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# Technical failure kills hundreds of steelhead

By CHRIS COUNTS

**EQUIPMENT FAILURE** at Los Padres Dam caused much of the Carmel River to go dry for about 24 hours in late September, killing a large number of fish, according to Roy Thomas, former president of the Carmel River Steelhead Association.

“Virtually all the threatened steelhead population in

the river below Los Padres Dam died,” Thomas claimed. “Thousands of young steelhead perished.”

According to Dave Stoldt, general manager of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, the technical failure only resulted in the loss of about 240 steelhead that were located along a 150-foot stretch of Carmel River below the dam.

Stoldt said a siphon that brought water to the river from the reservoir failed Sept. 20 at around 7 a.m. At the time, the river was flowing at about 5 cubic feet per second, but it dropped to 2.5 cubic feet per second an hour later. By 10 a.m., the flow was down to .31 cubic feet per second.

To bring water back to the river, Cal Am put a secondary outlet pipe into action, as well as a pump.

### ‘Still quite a few fish’

Stoldt said the water level in the river was also down near the Little League fields at Dampierre Park, where the agency rescued 105 fish a couple days later. He noted that about 8,000 steelhead have been rescued from the river this year and taken to the Sleepy Hollow fish-rearing facility.

Brian LeNeve, the conservation chair of the Carmel River Steelhead Association and a former president of the group, said he believes more than 240 fish died, including some along the 11 miles between the dam and Dampierre Park. But he also took issue with Thomas’ numbers.

“There were still quite a few fish in the river when we did our fall count,” LeNeve said. “It was not catastrophic, but it wasn’t insignificant, either. It absolutely shouldn’t have happened.”

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# Supes decline again to impose indoor mask mandate

By KELLY NIX

COUNTY RESIDENTS will still not be required to wear face coverings in most indoor public places, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors decided Wednesday.

In the decision, the supervisors decided not to bring back a face-covering order that went into effect Nov. 5 but which they suspended Nov. 16 after 5th District Supervisor Mary Adams reversed course on it.

Adams said she changed her decision because Covid-19 data from the CDC, which the order relied on, has varied wildly at times from data supplied by the county health department and the state.

## Frustration, disappointment

The supervisors Wednesday heard presentations from county health officer Dr. Ed Moreno and county administrative officer Charles McKee. While none of the information they provided seemed cause for alarm, McKee noted that Covid cases are on an uptick in the county.

After discussion and comments from the public, 4th District Supervisor Wendy Root Askew proposed basing the county's mask order on CDC metrics but using coronavirus case rate data supplied by the Monterey County Health Department. Only 1st District Supervisor Luis Alejo was in agreement.

Second District County Supervisor John Phillips said people voluntarily wear masks at most of the places he visits.

"It was the mandatory wearing in all situations that caused a concern," he said, before asking Adams her thoughts on Askew's motion, which was made at the end of a lengthy supervisors meeting.

"Frankly, I don't think we should

change anything at this point and at this time of day with everything we've been working on," Adams said.

"I think we should just maintain status quo as it stands now."

Askew and Alejo were clearly frustrated by the decision.

"I just have to express my disappointment that we are not able to offer this kind of protection," Askew said.

Alejo pointed to requests from his colleagues who voted to pause the mandate at the Nov. 16 meeting that any mask trigger should be based on local Covid-19 data — not data from the CDC.

"Here was a motion to do what was said by some of my colleagues, and even that was voted down," Alejo said. "Instead, it's doing nothing, and that is completely unacceptable."

"I appreciate the lecture from my fellow supervisors, but that's why a lot of us thought we should leave it to the health department to make those decisions," Phillips responded.

## Same recommendations

When county health officer Dr. Ed Moreno said he could not justify a mask mandate because of the county's low coronavirus numbers, the supervisors decided to supersede his authority and vote 3-2 to impose the indoor face covering order.

Phillips and 3rd District supervisor Chris Lopez at the time voted against the mandate, in part, because they didn't believe the supervisors should make public health-related decisions usually left to the health officer.

Moreno for months has recommended that citizens, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks in indoor places.

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# Library honors longtime patron

By KELLY NIX

A POPULAR children's room in the Pacific Grove Public Library has been dedicated to the memory of a longtime community volunteer and library patron who died earlier this year.

When local architect Joe Rock passed away in January after a long battle with cancer, his family and friends donated \$100,000, which the Friends of the Pacific Grove Public Library say will be used to pay for books, equipment, programs, services and other things for kids over the next 10 years.

The library also named the children's room after Rock.

"Joe's love of reading and learning at the library made it clear to his family that he wanted a substantial gift made to the Pacific Grove Public Library after his passing," according to Friends of the Pacific Grove Public Library President Kim Bui, who said other people donated in Rock's honor.

A sign welcoming kids and others into the Joe Rock Children's Room at the library summarizes what Rock's friends, family and coworkers say was his approach to life.

"This room is for the curious, the seekers of knowledge, and the architects of their own adventures," the sign says. "Like Joe, may your young spirits be forever curious."

Rock's wife, Robin Venuti, said the dedication seemed like the perfect tribute "since the children's room and its programs plant the seeds of curiosity in a young soul, and Joe was always seeking truth through knowledge. The library provided so many answers for him."

Library director Diana Godwin called the \$100,000 donation "life-changing," and said it would have a tremendous impact on the hundreds of children who visit the library every month.

For more information, go to [www.pacificgrovelibrary.org](http://www.pacificgrovelibrary.org) or [www.pglibrary-friends.org](http://www.pglibrary-friends.org).

# County worker dies on Laureles Grade

By MARY SCHLEY

A 45-YEAR-OLD Monterey County Public Works employee died in an accident on Laureles Grade late Monday morning. Latu Moli was driving a 2021 Freightliner southbound on the Grade south of Southview Lane at around 11 a.m. Dec. 6 when he lost control of the large tractor trailer, which hit a guardrail before rolling down the hillside, according to California Highway Patrol officer Chad Cavender's report.

The rig was traveling about 40 mph at the time of the fatal accident occurred, Cavender said, and it's unknown why Moli, a 14-year employee of the county, lost control of it. He died at the scene.

County spokeswoman Maia Carroll said Moli had been hauling heavy equipment to

a public works jobsite when he crashed, and that Cal OSHA was also informed of the tragic accident.

"The county mourns the loss of a member of our county employee family, and our hearts go out to family and friends," she said.

Soon after Moli's death, friend Anna Soberanes set up a gofundme.com campaign to raise money for his funeral expenses and to help his family.

"Our dear friend and coworker, Latu Moli, was tragically killed in a car accident on Monday, Dec. 6, while traveling to his work site," she wrote. "Latu is survived by his wife and three daughters. We are attempting to raise money to assist them with the funeral costs and other related expenses."

# DELEGATE

From page 6A

a state-required report after the conference. (Poduri later filed the brief document.)

McAdams also brought up the question of the "equitable treatment, hypocrisy and intent" of the probe, suggesting she was being treated unfairly, and questioned why they were discussing a conference that took place "months ago."

At no time during the email exchange with Harvey did McAdams specify whether she voted at the conference.

But Harvey told McAdams Nov. 16 that he concluded she had not voted at the conference.

Although she didn't violate any policies,

Harvey said that McAdams — as the city's appointed delegate — was "expected" to remain at the conference for its duration and cast votes.

McAdams did not deny that she failed to do so and thanked Harvey for looking into the matter.

But the tale doesn't end there, and only becomes more muddled.

The Monterey County Weekly reported last week that McAdams told the paper that, in fact, she "did pick up a ballot and turned it in before leaving the conference early to pick up her son from school," and that the League of California Cities is "mistaken."

The Pine Cone this week could not confirm McAdams' comments and get her version of events, because she did not respond to questions from a reporter.

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# Scientists use technology to track great white sharks — and you can, too

By CHRIS COUNTS

THANKS TO new app you can load on your phone, it's now possible to track some great white sharks off the California coast, including one who has the same name as one of Carmel's most beloved residents.

The app, Expedition White Shark, is being offered by the Marine Conservation Science Institute, which tags and tracks great white sharks for research purposes.

"We have been using satellite tagging and photo identification to study and monitor the population of white sharks at Guadalupe Island, Mexico, since 1999," the group said. "We have been working to increase knowledge

of the behavior, migration patterns and habitat preferences of this threatened species."

Just last week, a mature 17-foot female great white shark known as Poe Girl was located just off the coast of Piedras Blancas, which is famous for its elephant seals. But a few days later, the app showed her farther south near Lompoc.

**Thought she was here**

This week, the app also showed a young 12-foot great white, Betty White, near Lompoc. The shark is no relation to the TV star and longtime local resident.

Another great white, a young 14-foot female named

Snowflake, was detected by the app just offshore from the Diablo Canyon Power Plant in San Luis Obispo County.

While Poe Girl, Betty White and Snowflake were tracked close to shore, two other great whites turned up in deep waters more than 300 miles off the California coast. One was a 12-foot male adult named Tough Guy, and the other was a 12-foot male called Great White.

The app is available for \$3.99 at the Google and Apple stores. Reviews are mixed, with many users saying they enjoy following the sharks, and others suggesting the software has bugs in it. One reviewer called it "cool," but noted Poe Girl was shown to have visited Death Valley in October.



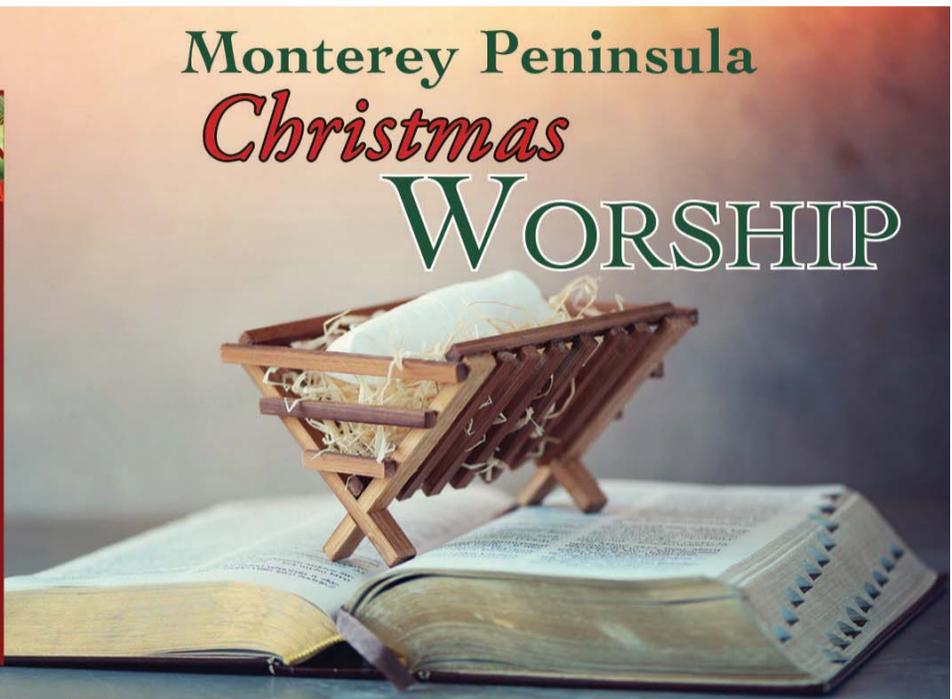
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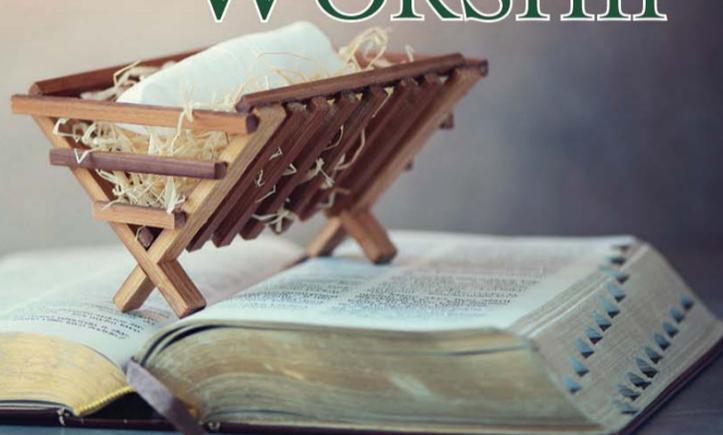
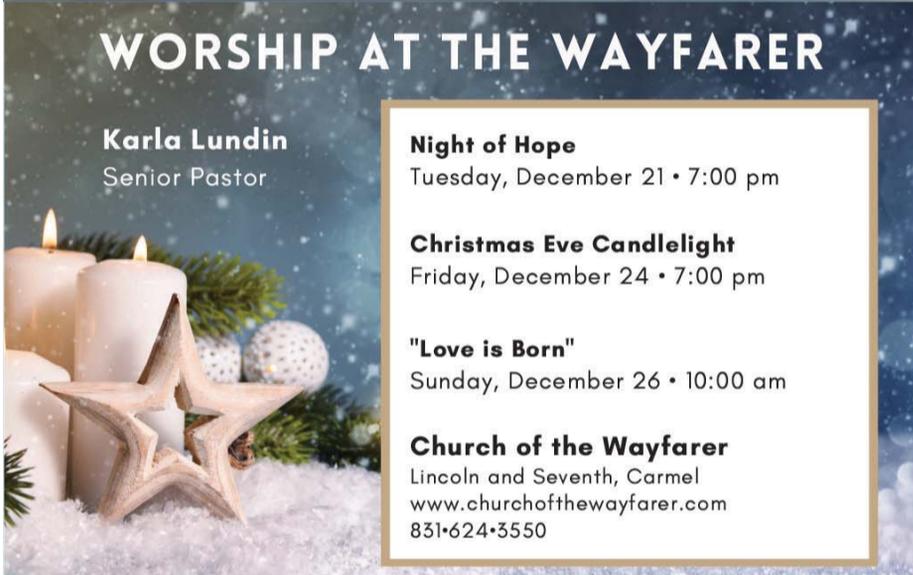
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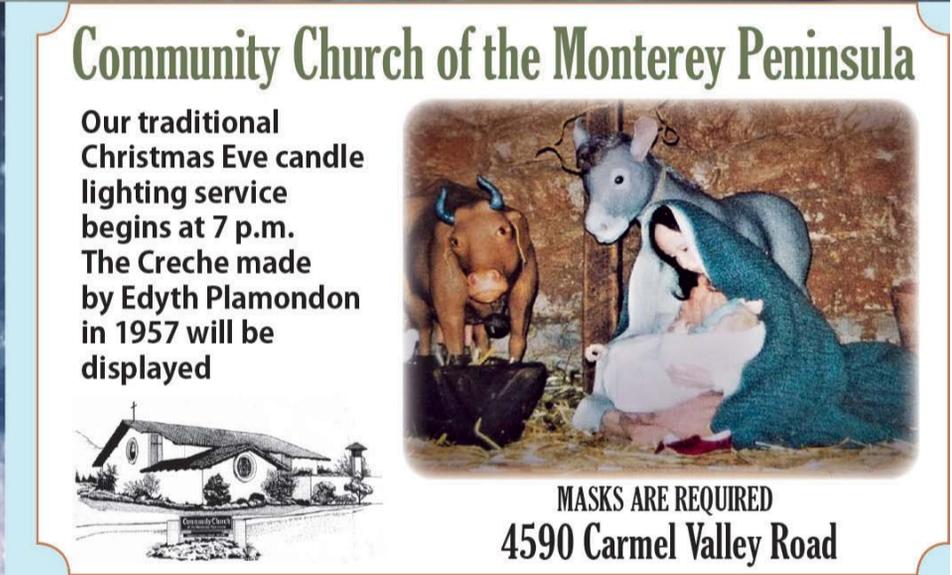
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# GAVEL

From page 4A

anyone about the molestation.

Doe 1's sister, Jane Doe 2, also reported to law enforcement that Luis Nunez sexually assaulted her from when she was 5 years old until she was 12 years old. Nunez

told Doe 2 not to tell anyone about the molests because it would cause her family to separate. Both victims stated that they waited many years to report the crimes because they were embarrassed about what happened to them and they loved Nunez.

At trial, Doe 1 and Doe 2 bravely testified about the repeated instances of molestation that occurred throughout their childhood.

An expert in the psychological effects of child

sexual abuse also testified that delayed disclosures of molestation are common due to numerous factors including the power imbalance between the perpetrator and victim, threats to not say anything, fear, and even affection for a perpetrator if he/she is a close family member, friend or authority figure.

Judge Stephanie E. Hulsey will sentence Nunez. Nunez faces up to 258 years to life in state prison and will be required to register as a sex offender for life.

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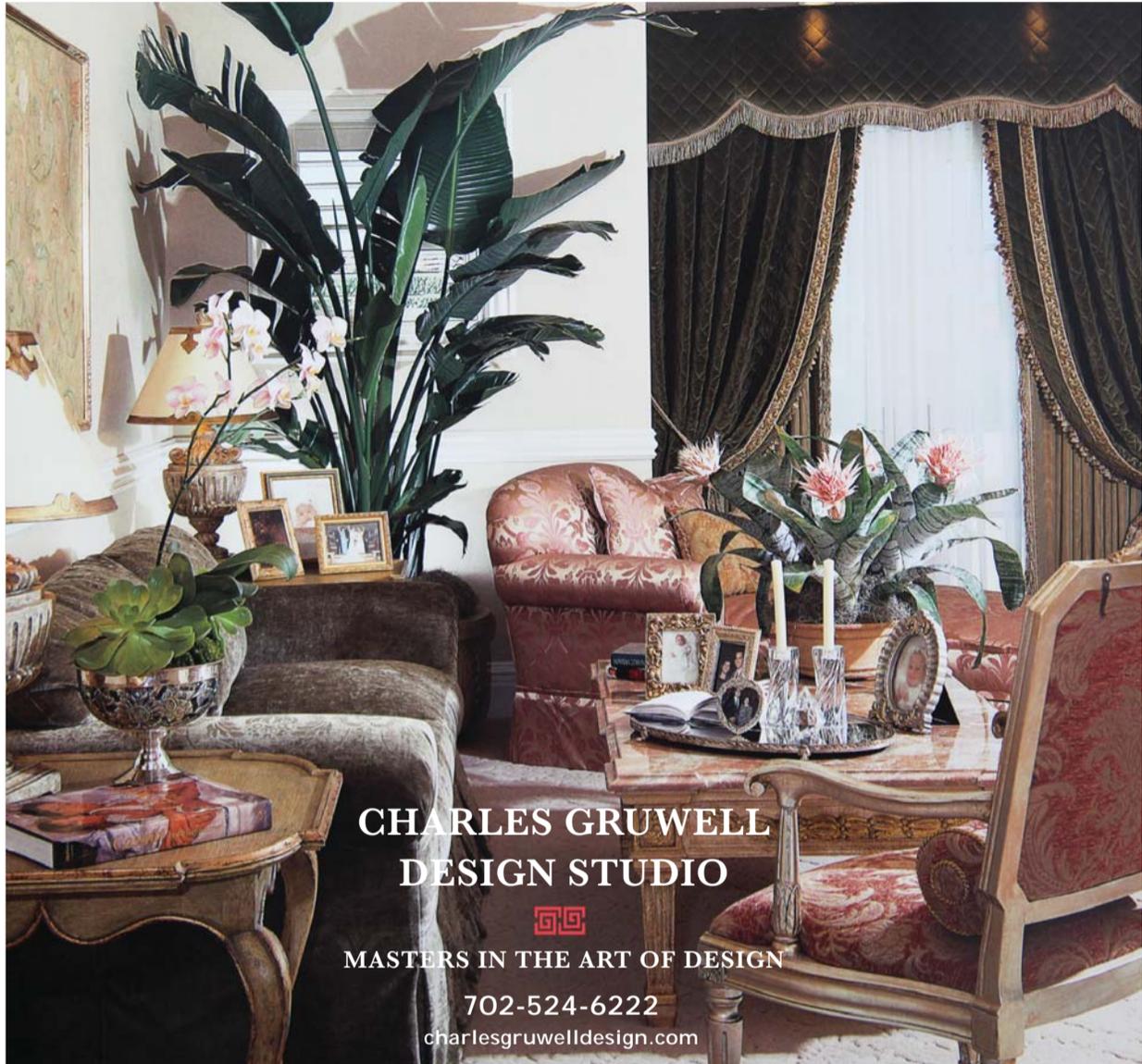
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# JOBS

From page 5A

"I'm really proud to stand behind this," he said. "This is really what we need to do to serve the public. It is going to cost us some money, but we're in a better financial position than I thought we would be a year ago."

Rerig and the heads of several departments developed the list of new positions and their justifications. In administration, a part-time IT worker would move to full time, and an additional part-time finance specialist would bolster the bookkeeping and assist with employee benefits.

The planning department added the principal planner position — to which Marnie Waffle was promoted last week — but eliminated the senior planner job she held previously. An additional code enforcement officer, planning director Brandon Swanson said, would help address issues that have cropped up in the residential areas since code enforcement officer Bo Grunde's efforts have been focused so much on downtown. The new person could also help with basic building permit inspections.

With Ashlee Wright giving up the community activities/library director position in favor of returning to the job

of reference librarian, the part-time community activities assistant position should be made full-time, according to the report.

The library needs several more people in order to return to pre-pandemic operating hours, according to Wright, who proposed adding four full-time positions.

Public works suggested three new full-time jobs: administrative analyst, administrative technician and maintenance worker, and getting rid of the facilities specialist position. The analyst would help in the forestry department, the technician would assist the environmental compliance manager with stormwater and other issues, and the maintenance worker/gardener would handle related tasks around town.

## Priorities

Finally, the police department would add a full-time police officer and a full-time community services officer, but they would only have two-year terms. Interim Police Chief Brian Uhler said they would help CPD avoid being short staffed as senior employees retire. The additional CSO will also help with parking enforcement, especially if the council implements paid parking.

Budgets and contracts director Sharon Friedrichsen said the new jobs would cost \$300,000 if filled within

three to six months, with additional expenses for recruitment, training, uniforms, equipment and vehicles, and insurance premiums and pensions.

Councilman Jeff Baron wanted assurance the new workers would help the city move forward on several council priorities and projects, such as paid parking, home addresses, updated design guidelines and other issues.

"We've gotten together and talked about them, but it seems like the process is not happening," he said. "How do these positions go to fulfilling that?"

Rerig said some of the new workers would free up others who could then focus more on those specific projects, and consultants might also be hired for particular tasks.

Several public speakers argued for fully reopening the libraries and supported hiring more full-time workers at both branches.

Baron again asked how to break the logjam when it comes to getting capital projects and other strategic initiatives done, and Rerig suggested creating two additional generalist positions. He also said he'd spend some time during the next 30 days working to determine if and when consultants should be hired to handle specific projects.

Mayor Dave Potter said he is "not a fan of hiring people for the sake of hiring people," and that he'd like to know how the new employees will be put to work.

"It never increased my productivity as a contractor to hire more people," he said, without having a project manager and structure.

The council unanimously voted to approve the 14 new positions and to ask Rerig to come back in a month with a strategy for tackling the top priorities as identified by the council.

## Executives can earn more

Department directors, managers, the city clerk, the building official and several other executive-level and at-will workers have had the same salary ranges since 2015, Rerig told the council Tuesday, while city workers represented by unions have seen an 18.75 percent increase in pay over the past seven years through labor negotiations.

As a result, several executives earning the top steps of their salaries are making less than those who work under them, which Rerig called "compaction."

"That is not healthy in an organization for a variety of reasons," he said. "The reason we're bringing this to you is to try to compensate our executive team and at-will employees to a degree we think they're worth."

Rerig recommended grouping together several positions in five salary ranges, and listed another five jobs individually. For instance, the assistant city administrator and the police chief would have the same range — \$167,416 to \$203,495 — when previously the administrator's range was \$140,000 to \$175,000 and the chief's was \$154,752 to \$181,245. Public works director and planning and building director would have the same (\$164,022 to \$199,370) and finance manager, HR manager, IT manager, city clerk and police commander would all be in the range of \$131,221 to \$159,500. Environmental compliance manager, project manager and building official would receive between \$108,388 and \$131,726.

Approving the new ranges does not automatically mean raises for those workers, Rerig said. He plans to develop a policy for granting merit-based pay increases to executives and at-will employees, which also include senior HR analyst, deputy city clerk, administrative analyst, executive assistant and administrative technician.

Council members approved the groups and their new ranges but asked Rerig if there was any way to group those last five. He said he would get back to them.

# INCREASE

From page 3A

frequent rate requests always seem to be approved.

"What's not clear to me is why we're having so many rate increases with garbage," he said. "It just seems like every three months, we're getting a rate increase, and I'm wondering if there is anything we can do about that."

Apparently, there isn't, and the council voted 4-1 to OK the increase and make some other minor changes to its agreement with GreenWaste. The hauler will receive another rate hike next summer.



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## Nancy Lee Opsata

Oct 25, 1946 - Dec 3, 2021

Born in Bremerton, WA, Nancy was the eldest child of Andrew (Andy) Opsata & Virginia Opsata. She subsequently moved to Olympia, WA as a child, with her parents and younger brother, and attended Olympia High School until her senior year (which was spent in Quito, Ecuador, as an exchange student at the prestigious Fundación Colegio Americano de Quito). After graduating from there in 1965, she attended the University of Washington and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Nursing in 1970.

From 1968 to 1973, she worked as a staff nurse at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, WA, before moving to the Monterey Peninsula in 1974 to join the staff of Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula as a psychiatric nurse. During her time there, she became the manager/coordinator of their Partial Hospitalization Program and earned a Master's Degree of Public Administration in Health Services Management from Golden Gate University.

After retiring from CHOMP in 2009, she studied interior design at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and completed their program to become an architectural illustrator and a member of the American Society of Architectural Illustrators. After pursuing this for several years, she finally and happily "retired for good".

Nancy was a lifelong Lutheran, first attending Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Olympia, WA with her family, and then St Timothy Lutheran Church in Monterey, CA after moving to the Monterey Peninsula in 1974. There, she quickly became known for her smiling, caring, and active commitment, holding several lay positions throughout the years and forging lifelong friendships with many members of St Timothy's congregation.

Music and singing (especially choral music), painting and sketching, and extensive travel filled the rest of her life, most often shared with the host of friends that had become her "family" here on the Peninsula.

She is survived by her brother, James (Victoria) Opsata, nephew, Adam Opsata, and niece, Kaylen (Matthew) Bainbridge, as well as all of those who considered Nancy a cherished part of their own lives. A memorial service will be held for Nancy at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Monterey, CA, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec 11, 2021, for those who would like to share in this congregation's celebration of her life. The service will also be livestreamed via a link on the church website: [www.sttim.org](http://www.sttim.org).



## Voice Teacher to the Stars

Renowned Los Angeles voice teacher Robert Miles Edwards passed away on Oct. 30, 2021, at his home in Carmel, CA. With him were his wife, Deanna McKinstry Edwards, and their beloved dogs, Calder and Tessa.



Born in Ohio in 1940, Rob attended Kent State University, majoring in philosophy. After the 1970 Kent State riots, he fled Ohio for LA to pursue music studies at CSU Northridge, and very soon opened the Robert Edwards Vocal Studio.

Solely by word of mouth, Robert became one of the most sought-after voice teachers in California, coaching 100,000+ students over his forty-plus year career.

With a client pool including over three dozen Grammy winners and several Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees, as well as Oscar, Emmy, and Tony award winning actors, Rob earned the moniker "Voice Coach to the Stars." He worked with such musical luminaries as Christina Aguilera, Sheryl Crow, Bonnie Raitt, Linda Ronstadt, Paula Abdul, Michael McDonald, the Manhattan Transfer, Michael Nesmith, Pat Benatar, Jennifer Warnes, Robben Ford, and Chuck Negron, to name just a few.

When Robert and Deanna moved to Carmel in 2015 and a local paper lauded his arrival, he soon had a thriving local client base. After adding online coaching sessions, his reach became international.

Rob was as much respected for his brilliant understanding of the human voice and his sensitive insights about singing as he was beloved for the way he nurtured a caring, dynamic relationship with his clients. The hallmark of his teaching is reflected in the words of his students, who said he taught them as much how to live life as he taught them how to sing.

Robert's exceptionally inquiring mind knew no bounds, and he was particularly drawn to physics and the stars. With a poet's heart and soul, he spontaneously connected with people from all walks of life, and they felt at ease and uplifted with him.

Besides his wife, Deanna, he leaves behind his musician brother John Edwards, and a loving circle of friends, who were indeed family: Patricia and Norman Kremer, Jennifer and Thor Erickson, and Esther and Morgan McCall ... and of course, Calder and Tessa.

And now Robert's musical spirit sings on in the hearts of students and loved ones across the globe.

# SMASH

From page 1A

The fleeing robbers also left their hammers behind, which Cpl. Rachele Lightfoot took as evidence. All told, they were in the store for 30 or 40 seconds.

As soon as they had a description of the robbers' vehicle, Carmel officers alerted other law enforcement agencies on the Peninsula to keep an eye out for the black SUV with no license plates.

## On the lookout

Officers from various departments stationed themselves at major choke points in an effort to nab them, and the effort paid off. A CHP officer saw the SUV and stopped it on Highway 1 between Lightfighter and Imjin in Marina, but by then, it only had two of the four culprits — 19-year-old Elijah Juarez and a 16-year-old boy whose name has not been released — on board.

A Carmel P.D. officer went to the scene to assist in the arrests, and Juarez remained in custody Thursday on \$80,000 bail on felony charges of robbery and conspiracy.

"It was a newer-model Toyota, and obviously we are engaged in a very extensive investigation right now that includes tracking them back to the vehicle," he said. "It was a rental vehicle, so that provides some valuable investigative leads."

Uhler credited the CHP and the Monterey County Sheriff's Office for assisting in the capture of two of the four suspects and said CPD's detective and other investigators — including agents and evidence technicians from the FBI — are working on numerous leads that could help identify the other two robbers and link all four to the crime.

"The FBI was very supportive," he



Elijah Juarez

said of the agents who combed through the store the day after the robbery. "They are the best in the world when it comes to evidence processing and identifying crime scenes and trace evidence and other critical pieces of the puzzle that will link the two we have to the crime scene down the line."

Extensive security footage from the store and surrounding buildings, as well as from the city's traffic cameras, has also provided some "valuable information," he said.

The Monterey County District Attorney's Office committed an investigator to the case, according to Uhler, to talk to witnesses — possibly among them a couple who were driving by and happened to see the robbers run in and out of the store.

They're all trying to determine whether those who hit Fourtané are part of the organized crime rings that have committed dozens of "takeover robberies" at high-end stores

throughout the state in recent weeks, or whether they're copycats.

"We're piecing together information about who these people are, who they run with, what other kinds of crimes they might have committed," Uhler said. "It's not a new tactic, but it certainly has gotten a lot of attention in the last few months."

At any rate, he hopes the message gets out that the method "did not work in Carmel."

"Two of the four are currently under arrest. We're hopeful the investigation efforts we are in the process of undertaking will be successful in the identification and arrest of the other two players."

Anyone who might have seen anything or has information is asked to call Carmel P.D. at (831) 624-6403.

## Santa's Fly-In returns to C.V. airport

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

WHILE DOZENS of local holiday events have been canceled due to Covid, the pandemic won't be stopping jolly old Saint Nicholas from dropping into Carmel Valley Saturday by helicopter.

Santa's Fly-In, which started in 1958, has become an institution in Carmel Valley. But the pandemic put the brakes on last year's gathering.

On Saturday, people are encouraged to arrive at the former Carmel Valley Airfield at 25 Ford Road around 10:30 a.m.

"The helicopter circles overhead a few

times before landing at 11 a.m.," Ed Lake of the Carmel Valley Community Youth Center told The Pine Cone.

Once Santa and Ms. Claus land, they will lead a parade through the Village to the youth center, where at 1 p.m., there will be a family-friendly holiday party with Santa, holiday treats and live entertainment.

At the holiday party, the youth center will announce the kickoff of a fundraising drive to build a playground in the park that would be accessible to children with physical challenges.

It would be modeled after Tatum's Playground in Salinas.

### JAMES GILL, JR.

March 5, 1975 – November 23, 2021

Jim grew up in Carmel. He attended All Saints and graduated from the Stevenson School (RLS), where he was an all-league lineman on the football team. He began his college years at Cal Poly SLO. After his sophomore year, he took time off to work and graduate from the rigorous Butte Fire Academy. Jim finished his bachelor's degree at CSUMB.

While attending CSUMB, he began working at the local Trader Joe's. This grew into a full-time pursuit, with a wonderful group of friends and colleagues, that he made into a career for nearly 15 years.

Jim recently moved to Lake Tahoe — a very special place to him. Throughout his life, he enjoyed skiing, hiking, the lake and the beautiful surroundings. He was also a lifelong 49ers fan and famous for his tailgate barbecues.

He is survived by sisters Christy, Demi, and Katie Pappas; brother Chris Gill; mother Jana Gill; nieces Samantha and Delaney Gill; his dog Maddie and many loving relatives and friends!

Jim was a beautiful soul, gone too soon. He will be missed by so many.

Please visit

<https://www.mcfarlanemortuary.com/obituaries/James-Gill-Jr/>  
to read and share your memories of Jim



### KATIE MARGARET MCFADDEN

November 9, 1992 to November 10, 2021

Katie was an unexpected gift who left us too early, the day after her 29th birthday. When she was born, her siblings were all teenagers, and they all felt like they raised her and that she represented the best of all of them. Katie was kind, thoughtful, resourceful and adventurous — an amazing person overall.

Katie was born in Carmel and lived there until she was in sixth grade, when she moved to Tennessee with her mother.

She never liked to be idle, so it's no surprise she started working at an antiques store down the street soon after they moved. Katie had an analytical and inquisitive mind that allowed her to learn and understand how things worked, and she developed an affinity for fixing anything that was broken, whether antiques, appliances or cars. She couldn't stand to let anything be thrown away when it could be repaired and made useful again.

Katie also had a passion for taking care of bees, which she shared with a good friend who had a farm in Tennessee, and she subsequently helped many friends there and in California set up hives and learn how care for their bees. Never afraid, she rarely wore protective gear — and she once even kept a colony in her dorm room at work while she searched for a new home for it. She knew how important bees are for the environment and our survival.

During her life, Katie developed a deep love of music and travel, and she had a marvelous sense of adventure. Growing up about 10 miles from the Bonnaroo Music and Art Festival in Manchester, Tenn., she saw some amazing shows, and that sparked her desire to travel to see the musicians she loved, especially Lana Del Rey. She traveled to England, Paris, Austria, Australia, New Zealand and other destinations, including Ireland, which she visited for three nights just because she found a roundtrip ticket for \$350.

In 2019, Katie moved back to Carmel, where she also had family. After working a winter in Tahoe, she had plans to go to Humboldt State University to study physics, but what would have been her first year there was sidelined by the pandemic. She got a job in Big Sur for California State Parks, instead, and she always said she felt amazingly lucky to be able to live and work in such a special and beautiful place. She loved being in nature, hiking and enjoying the amazing area that we sometimes don't appreciate as much as we should.

While in Big Sur, Katie met her girlfriend, Kelsey, and in summer 2021, they started a new adventure together. After traveling around the Pacific Northwest and visiting Tennessee, they moved to Corvallis, Ore., and Katie started a new job. On Oct. 31, she was riding her motorcycle to the coast to go for a hike. There was a crash, and even with the quick response, her injuries were too much for her to survive. In losing her life, Katie was able to save two others with her organ donation.

Katie is survived by many friends and loved ones, including her mother, Eva Sotoodeh, of Tennessee, sisters Laila Brady (Joey) of Idaho, Meena Lewellen (Paul) of Carmel Valley, Teresa Cole (Tyrome) of Tennessee, and brother Reza Sotoodeh, also of Tennessee. Also grieving her loss are niece Jenna Jean Lewellen of Carmel Valley, girlfriend Kelsey O'Husky of Oregon, aunt Margaret, and cousins Lisa, Steve, Amanda, Joshua, Logan, Jack and Jaden.

The family intends to hold a memorial for Katie in Big Sur in the spring.

# VERIZON

From page 1A

in public view.

On Oct. 8, Verizon filed paperwork demanding the city council overrule the commission because denial violates the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 and parts of the California Public Utilities Code.

### Golden Bough alternative?

Waffle, who worked on the report with the city's telecom lawyer, Tripp May, explained Tuesday that while she recommended approval when the planning commission considered the plans in late September, "it is the city staff's long-standing practice to support the junior body's recommendation to the city council on appeal," and she said there was plenty of reason to deny Verizon's request.

"There is substantial evidence for the denial of this application," she said. The planning commission's resolution "provided substantial evidence that Verizon's proposed facility violated six specific

standards from the Carmel Municipal Code."

May also told the council a consultant conducted an analysis and concluded the Golden Bough could be a feasible alternative site for the tower.

Several company representatives disagreed with all the points Waffle made. Verizon attorney Paul Albritton argued that the theater on Monte Verde isn't a good fit, that federal and state laws compel the city to approve the tower because doing otherwise would interfere with the company's ability to provide service, and that the city "can't dictate" the technology it uses.

"Verizon Wireless will enforce its rights," Albritton said.

He asked the council to put off a vote while the engineers search for another location, so they could "avoid a conflict and avoid a legal fight between us in order to try to work with the city and accommodate its wireless needs."

### What motive?

More than an hour of public testimony followed, much of it delivered by members of the Stop Cell Towers in Carmel Neighborhoods group, which gathered at La

Playa, and their attorney, Tony Lombardo. The group also organized a campaign that resulted in dozens of emails and hundreds of postcards opposing the proposal being sent to the city.

Lombardo noted Verizon two years ago said putting a cell site at Carmelo and Eighth wouldn't work but has since changed its tune.

"This calls into question the veracity and accuracy of the information that has been submitted to the city," he said. "In 2019, it was incorrect, and now it's the only site that's correct. There has to be another motive."

Speakers focused on aesthetic impacts, the possible proliferation of additional towers if Verizon were allowed to install one, and other issues. Realtor Mike Canning said properties with views sell for 42 percent more than those that don't have views, and the tower would therefore negatively impact values.

Many challenged Verizon's assertions that the city has coverage gaps, and Camino Real resident Bob Kavner, who spearheaded the anti-cell-tower group, speculated the company's real motive for investing so much time, money and effort in getting the tower approved is because it plans to install many more and build a network that can compete with cable for streaming and online services.

"It is about Verizon's highly marketed strategy to build a broadband wireless entertainment network to compete with the Comcast service we already receive," he said. "Verizon has told Wall Street they'll earn higher margins by streaming."

Following public comment, council members debated whether to outright deny Verizon's tower and move on — a position pushed by Mayor Dave Potter and councilman Bobby Richards — or continue it for

six months until the towers at Sunset and locations outside the city come online, and to give the company more time to find an alternative location.

"If we deny it, there's nothing stopping them from applying for a new location," Potter said. "I don't like the bullying — 'I'll sue you if this happens, I'll sue you if that happens.'"

He said it seemed likely Verizon is trying to use Carmel to get service to Pebble Beach.

"I don't see anything wrong with taking a pause to see if Verizon can find another location that will work for them," councilwoman Karen Ferlito countered. "That way, they would get their coverage, and we would avoid a lawsuit."

"We don't want what you're selling," Richards told the company.

"Thirty speakers came forward tonight, and not one person said, 'I want that cell site there,'" Potter said. "That's why I'm kind of passionate about it."

Councilman Jeff Baron said he also doesn't like being bullied but was willing to give Verizon a few more months.

"The fact Verizon still wants to work with us is a good thing, and I hope that is genuine," councilwoman Carrie Theis commented. "I think the council is unanimous in not liking the current location, but can they find something else that would be feasible?"

They went in circles for about an hour, articulating and re-articulating their opinions, and occasionally asking questions of the Verizon representatives, before Ferlito made a motion to continue the hearing. It failed 2-3, with Theis siding with Richards and Potter — who had also mentioned that delaying would require more staff time. The subsequent motion to deny Verizon's application passed unanimously.



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# STRs

From page 1A

investor. A number of speakers insisted that the rentals they own have not caused problems, and the income they raise makes it possible for them to have homes here.

Others said the process to get permits is just too onerous. John Rogers said he tried unsuccessfully for three years to get a permit for his rental — an effort that has cost him more than \$20,000.

“I don’t believe you can easily apply for a permit,” he said.

Charles Holly of Carmel Valley, who said he’s been paying TOT for renting out his guest house for seven years, pleaded with supervisors to complete the process of coming up with an ordinance to regulate short-term rentals. Holly and others pushed supervisors to look at what other counties have done.

“You need to come up with an ordinance,” he suggested. “The solution is out there.”

### Will coastal commission OK it?

Some supporters also noted that the California Coastal Commission has shown reluctance to local efforts to put limits on short-term rental activity, making it uncertain if the enforcement program will ever be implemented in Carmel Highlands and Big Sur, where the watchdog agency has the final say.

Supervisor John Phillips said the time has come for the county to crack down on offenders. “We’ve sat on this for years,” he conceded.

Phillips did compliment many in the industry for not being a problem. “You don’t hear a lot of complaints about owner-hosted STRs,” he noted.

The North County supervisor urged his colleagues to focus enforcement on the worst offenders.

“I don’t want enforcement targeting those who pay [hotel taxes] and haven’t had complaints,” he said.

Before the vote, county official Erik Lundquist laid out a timeline of steps needed to get the enforcement program up and running. Lundquist plans to meet with the county’s budget committee in January and report back to the supervisors in February. Next, three jobs will need to be filled, a task that could take a couple months. In April, the county will start contacting operators to gather information and inform them of the upcoming enforcement effort.

Adams said the outreach effort will “put people on

notice” that the crackdown is coming. “When they see that we’re moving more aggressively, we’re hoping that they will voluntarily come into compliance,” she told The Pine Cone.

The supervisor said there’s a lot of work that needs to be done before enforcement can get started, including determining how much fines will be.

“There are still a lot of questions,” she added. “It could very well take a year.”



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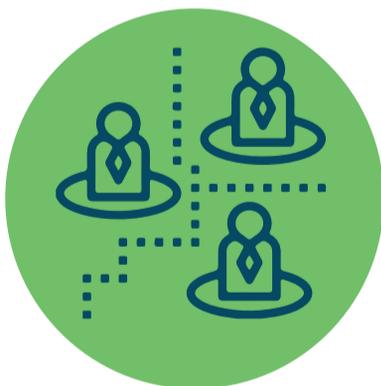


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# Never mind ‘what might have been’ — Pirates see a bright future

THE STEVENSON Pirates of two years ago cannot claim to be the greatest girls basketball team in school history — but they were in that stratosphere.

That 2019-20 team went 21-5 overall under rookie head coach Lucy Stockdale, and reached the semifinal round of the Central Coast Section Division V playoffs.

2020-21 — the pandemic year — with 10 returning players from the previous year’s 21-victory team.

The good news — and it’s very good — is that seven of this year’s Pirates played on that squad, which won the Pacific Coast Athletic League’s Cypress Division crown with a 10-0 mark — only the second unblemished league record in school history (the 2007-08 team was 14-0 in the Mission Trail Athletic League).

“What we missed the most last year during the pandemic was being together as a team,” said Stockdale, a Denver native who played collegiate basketball at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, before coming to Stevenson to teach English.

“We have a family bond with this program and returning to that space this year has been emotional for all of us,” she added. “Not only because we’ve experienced a lot of success on the basketball court, but also because we’ve grown to support each other off the court, through thick and thin.”

## Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

That was the best record at Stevenson since the 2007-08 Pirates went 25-3 (including a first-round loss at CCS). The 2005-06 team also earned bragging rights with a 22-5 mark, narrowly losing in the D-V semifinals. And the most accomplished team won the school’s only CCS crown in 1997-98 and reached the NorCal semifinals in a 22-7 season.

Forever filed in the “what might’ve been” category is this: Stockdale’s varsity roster two winters ago included three juniors, four sophomores, and three freshmen. We can only wonder how good the Pirates could have been in



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Senior Rhea Cosand earned all-division honors two years ago as a sophomore at Stevenson.

the pandemic working on her game, Stockdale said, and showed up this season with more confidence in her shooting ability.

The other senior Sidney Craven, a 5-7 forward, will be expected to battle inside for rebounds, using some of the athleticism she’s displayed as one of the top golfers in the CCS.

Three players won varsity letters two years ago as freshmen and figure to play significant roles for the Pirates as juniors.

### Clymo at the point

Sydney Clymo, the 5-2 guard, averaged 3.6 points, 4 rebounds, and 3 steals as the first player off the bench for that 2019-20 division title team and will run the offense this year as the starting point guard — a position

See **SPORTS** next page



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Junior point guard Sydney Clymo will help run the offense for the Pirates this year.

### All-division as a sophomore

The list of returning lettermen includes four seniors, topped by Rhea Cosand, a 5-foot-10 wing who earned first-team All-Cypress Division plaudits in her sophomore season, when she averaged 11.1 points, 6.6 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 3.0 steals per game. She’s one of three captains for the Pirates this season.

“She’s a playmaker who sees the court well and knows how to execute,” Stockdale said. “She also shows up every day in Rhea fashion, working her butt off out there, pushing her teammates to be better, and always putting the team above herself.”

Gaby Perez, also a captain, is a 5-3 shooting guard who also can play the point position and ranks among the team’s best defenders because of her aggressiveness.

“Gaby is a ferocious payer — not the tallest, but she plays big, and never shies away from attacking the basket,” said the coach of Perez, who averaged 9 points, 4 rebounds, and 2 steals as a sophomore. “She’s really good at reading the court and finding those openings, not only for herself, but for her teammates.”

The third senior captain, Graz Carman, is a 5-3 shooting guard who spent much of

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## The Carmel Pine Cone

will be observing early deadlines for Christmas week

**Christmas: Issue Dec. 24**  
Pine Cone advertising deadlines:

**Monday, December 20, 2021:**  
2 p.m. for all ad submissions

**Legal deadline:**  
Monday, December 20, 5 p.m.

**Real Estate** — Deadline is Tuesday, December 21, 10 a.m. for all ad submission  
Open houses: Monday, December 20, 10 a.m.

**New Year’s: Issue Dec. 31**  
Regular deadlines are in place for New Years.

The Pine Cone office will be **CLOSED Friday, December 24 & Monday, December 27.**  
Thereafter we will resume regular office hours.

# SPORTS

From previous page

previously occupied by her big sister, Kai-ley, who graduated last year.

“She’s an extremely smart player with the ability to make strong passes that will open up our offense,” Stockdale said of Clymo, whose father, Justin, is head coach of boys varsity basketball at Stevenson.

Alex Dalhamer, a 5-11 center, is a physically dominating athlete who may be the team’s most reliable player down low.

“Her strength is second to none,” her coach said. “Her job will be to put her body on somebody, grab as many rebounds as she can, then put the ball back up and into the basket. We’re looking for her to be our foundation there.”

Anouk Catania, a 5-7 shooting guard, is another returning letter-winner who showed up as a vastly improved shooter, and looks to be an asset from long distance.

“She used her time during the pandemic to refine her shot, and build her confidence,” Stockdale said. “She’ll be looking for those catch-and-shoot moments from the 3-point line.”

### Varsity newcomers

Topping the list of varsity newcomers is 5-11 Chloe Pattawi, who has the size to play under the basket and potential to become a threat as a 3-point shooter.

Sharing time between the varsity and junior varsity teams this season will be sophomore guards Grace Ishii, Emma Hall and Maya Chavez, and basketball newcomer Sabrina Hardin, a softball player who shows potential as a strong post player.

After blowing away the Cypress Division in 2019-20, the Pirates have been bumped upstairs to the Mission Division, where they’ll deal with five much larger schools — Alisal, Everett Alvarez, North Monterey County, Seaside and Watsonville.

“I expect this to be a little bit of a growth year for us,” Stockdale said. “We had a really successful season two years ago. Going undefeated in the league and 21-5 overall was an incredible high, which made it extremely disappointing when we didn’t get the chance to carry that momentum forward last year.”

### Smart, realistic players

“I think our confidence level is very high, without being cocky,” she added. “We have a lot of smart, realistic players who understand that we have the foundational skills, and now we have to put in the work to make it to that next level.”

The Pirates went unbeaten last week at their own tournament, the Stevenson Invitational, defeating Monterey 61-35, Greenfield 52-30, and Notre Dame 37-26.

Their preseason schedule continues Dec. 28 against Gilroy (7 p.m. at home),

Dec. 30 at Greenfield (6:30 p.m.), Jan. 6 against Carmel (7 p.m. at home), and Jan. 7 against St. Francis SCP (7 p.m. at home).

Stevenson’s Mission Division opener is Jan. 10, when the Pirates will host Seaside in a 7 p.m. contest.

This is the first of three girls basketball previews. We will profile Carmel High on Dec. 17 and Santa Catalina on Dec. 24.

### ■ Pirates earn All-CCS

Senior Kate Morgan earned first-team All-CCS honors in water polo for the Stevenson Pirates, junior Sofia Bozzo was a third-team pick, and goalkeeper Olivia

Garley, another senior, received an honorable mention.

Morgan also was one of 20 players chosen to participate in the CCS Senior All-Star Game (date to be announced).

Two Stevenson players also were honored by the CCS in boys water polo. Jasper Dale, a senior, was a second-team all-section choice, and Wyley Dale, a junior, was named to the third team.

The Pirates were undefeated Gabilan Division champions in both boys and girls water polo this fall.

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



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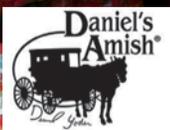


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# Editorial

## What we would do without

NOW THAT the city council has dispensed with the cell phone antenna Verizon wanted to install on Carmelo Street, we can write this editorial. If we'd written it before, some people would have taken it as a recommendation that the cell tower be approved, which is definitely not the case. Whether a cell tower and its accompanying infrastructure should be built in any particular location is a question for the community to decide, which it now has.

Nevertheless, the controversy over the Verizon cell tower provides a lesson in the importance of infrastructure and the tendency of 21st-century Americans to take it for granted.

Have you ever driven down the street and run into a construction zone that gets you cursing because it makes you late? Or gotten annoyed because a plane taking off from a nearby airport interrupted a conversation you were having? Or signed a petition to stop a smart meter from being installed at your home?

We do those things because it's easy to forget how important the water, sewer and gas lines that run beneath our streets are. Sure, it might be possible to stay alive if we had to supply our water and fuel, not to mention get rid of our own sewage, but it wouldn't be fun. And if we want services like water, sewer and gas to be there, we have to be willing to let the infrastructure that brings them to our homes not only be built in the first place, but serviced and maintained. Try to remember that next time you start grumbling over the sound of a jackhammer or the sight of one of those "lane closed ahead" signs.

Likewise the airport. Sure, the noise from airplanes is annoying. But nobody worries about it when they're inside the plane, taking off for a vacation in Hawaii or Europe. If you want to go places, please keep in mind that there has to be transportation to take you there.

Smart meters were a very hot political topic in these parts 10 years ago, when PG&E proposed to attach them to everybody's gas and electric meters. According to opponents, the radio waves emitted by the meters (which remotely report gas and water usage) would cause everything from cancer to insanity. Maybe those epidemics are yet to arrive, but so far it seems that the smart meter opponents were just wrong. Meanwhile, regardless of how many people have solar panels on their roofs, we all still need PG&E and the power grid, and if smart meters help them function efficiently, then everybody benefits.

Similarly, it hardly requires mentioning that cell phones have become essential to daily life — and not just for recreational things like checking Facebook or finding the answers to silly questions on Google. We use them to accomplish an endless list of tasks, including to communicate with friends, catch up on the news, do our jobs, shop, get healthcare, track workouts, monitor our bank accounts, find our way and call 911 in emergencies — and all that at very low prices.

It's hard to imagine life without cell phones and the thousands of other devices that use cellular technology. So while cell towers may not belong in a particular neighborhood, they must be somewhere. The whole country needs hundreds of thousands of them.

We live in a time when even the most essential infrastructure can be bitterly opposed by activists and NIMBY types. Fortunately, it hasn't always been this way. If it had, we not only wouldn't have cell phones, we'd be doing without central heat, hot running water, refrigerators ....

## BEST of BATES



"Have you tried the Hog's Breath Inn?"

## Letters to the Editor

*'Facts, not scare tactics'*

Dear Editor,

Carmel High played 5.2 football games on Saturday afternoons each year for the past 11 years. Those games might be moved from Saturday afternoon to Friday evening when lights are installed. This past season paid attendance for the homecoming game was under 600. Traffic from 2,000 spectators is a pure fabrication.

Soccer or field hockey games might be played at night, but if they get 100 fans that would be considered a big turnout.

Lights will not significantly increase traffic (and parking). Move it from Saturday afternoon to Friday night but not increase it.

As for noise/crowds, admittedly the noise for the five football games would move from Saturday to Friday. That is 5 nights out of the year. Air horns and noise-makers are not allowed by league rules.

As for the idea that night events would bring alcohol and fighting problems, I'd ask why these issues haven't been raised when it comes to high school dances, plays and the myriad of other school events that occur after 7 p.m.? For that matter, where have these anti-light folks been when it comes to discussions and programs aimed at reducing (eliminating) alcohol and drugs in our school system? We only see their concern when it becomes a talking point

trying to shut down lights.

Lights will be required for teams to practice safely once school (and practices) start later each morning beginning in fall 2022. Shorten practice because there are no lights and you increase the injury risk to student athletes as conditioning time is reduced. And this is true for both men's sports and women's sports. They all need lights when practices start later and the sun goes down earlier.

Furthermore lights are required so student have the opportunity to enjoy "Friday Night Lights." Something that 99.9 percent of the schools in our area do during the football season.

Lastly, let me ask whether these statements made by the anti-light crowd can possibly be true. Remember in the summer the sun lights our sky until 8:30 p.m. Games might go to 9:30 p.m. on five nights in the fall. Will light glare get all the way to the Santa Lucia Preserve? Will lights that will be a mile from the beach and focused down on the field be harmful to leatherback sea turtles? Will views be obstructed for people living east of the field? (Fact is the field light towers will appear lower than the lights now around the swimming pool since the field is down the hill from the pool.)

And is it really likely that property values will be negatively impacted by lights? Or might values be increased since people with families moving into our area are coming from areas where lights are on football fields and want their children to attend a school with strong school spirit

See LETTERS page 25A

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# The Carmel Pine Cone

www.carmelpinecone.com

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

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

# There were horses, cows and swine, but surprisingly, no sheep

PROBABLY EVERYBODY on the Monterey Peninsula knows Mission Ranch and understands it was originally part of the lands developed by Junipero Serra and others after the Carmel Mission was established in 1771. During the roughly 100-year stretch between the closing of the Mission in 1835 and the ranch's transformation into a popular hospitality establishment, the longest period of residence was by John Martin and his family, who lived there for about 60 years.

## History Beat

By NEAL HOTELLING

Martin's route to Carmel was anything but direct. Born in 1827, he was in his teens when he emigrated from Scotland with his parents and settled in Ontario, Canada in the 1840s. The lure of the Gold Rush prompted his father, William Martin, to move the family to California — a challenging trip that took them west to the Mississippi River and then down to the Gulf of Mexico, where they switched from a riverboat to a schooner to continue south, crossing Panama by land. From there they took another ship up the Pacific coast, planning to go to San Francisco.

En route, their ship landed in Monterey in 1856. William, then in his mid-50s, looked around and decided to stay. He acquired a ranch at Neponset, an area southwest of Castroville, and the family became farmers. John, then 28, was the eldest of five brothers and a sister.

### 'Love or what-have-you'

Seeking to make his own way, in 1859 John Martin bought what we know today as Mission Ranch through land broker Lafayette F. Loveland. The land he acquired included long-untended orchards planted by the Mission padres and the neophytes (which was what the padres called the natives in their care). When Martin bought the land, it extended west to include Carmel Point. He began farming, planting barley at the site of today's River Elementary School. Occasionally, he slept in the old lean-to that came with the property, but for a few years, home remained his parents'

ranch.

The 1860 census showed the four brothers made their home on the parents' Castroville ranch, and their sister lived on an adjoining ranch with her husband, John Jefferson. By 1870, John Martin's parents and brother Robert had also moved to his ranch in Carmel. Even Martin's mother's twin brother was with them on the 1870 census. Martin and his brother were then in their 40s and his parents in their 70s. They built a more suitable home and barns. In 1870, Martin claimed eight horses, four milk cows and 15 swine.

About this time, something took Martin to Canada. Even his descendants can't tell me whether the journey was for business, love or what-have-you, but on Feb. 10, 1871, in Middlesex, Ontario, 44-year-old Martin married 31-year-old widow Elizabeth Stewart, also a Scottish immigrant, who had three sons with her first husband. Young John was born in Scotland in 1862, and Joseph and Andrew were born in Canada in 1864 and 1866, respectively.

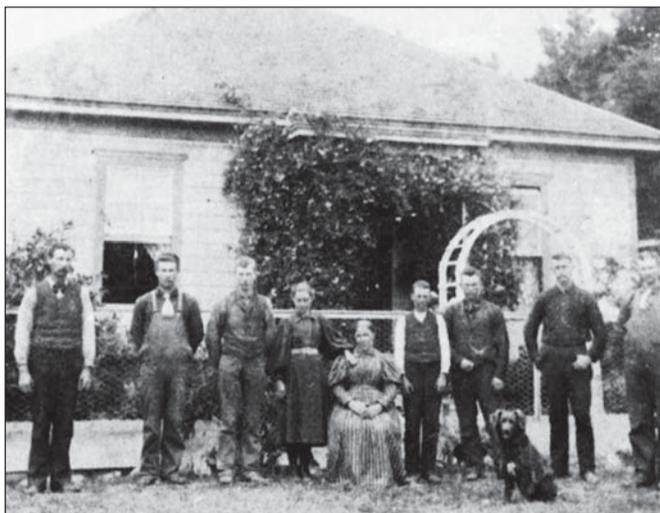
### Not the Mission

Martin's instant family grew quickly. The newlywed couple's son, James, was born on the ranch in July 1871. Over the next 13 years, they added four more sons — Will (1873), Robert (1875), Carmel (1879) and Roy (1882), and finally a daughter, Isabel (1884).

All the Martin children were born before the Carmel Mission restoration began and before any plans began for developing a city called Carmel. Some of the Martin descendants believe the Mission was part of the Martin landholdings, but records show the deed for the Mission ruins was granted to the Diocese of Monterey on Dec. 18, 1855, a few years before Martin bought his land. Nevertheless, until Father Casanova began calling for the Mission restoration in 1884, the Martins may have used the land all the way up to its walls fairly freely.

Many of the buildings of today's Mission Ranch hotel and restaurant date to the days when the Martins lived there. The

See HISTORY page 26A



Matriarch of the Stewart/Martin Clan, Elizabeth Martin is seated center. Eight of her nine children are with her in front of the one-story farmhouse. (standing l-r) Joseph, Will, Carmel, Isabel, Roy, Robert, James and Andrew.

PHOTO/FROM THE MARTINS AND HATTONS (1979) BY MARCIA DE VOE

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

# What began as a healing ritual turned out to be her true calling

SOME 30 years ago, Cindy Muscarello was sitting with a gaggle of friends when somebody began passing out coloring books, an innocent bit of fun that immediately induced a surprising reaction.

"I literally had an anxiety attack. I was worried that I might not be good enough," said Muscarello, whose father and older brother were wildly artistic. "I was concerned that I might start coloring outside the lines or something. It was a pretty crazy moment."

## Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Today, as an abstract artist, Muscarello seldom colors anywhere else, creating moody paintings inspired by her emotions while ignoring borders and convention.

### Art saved her life

She sets judgment and doubt aside as she works, trusting her marks, shapes, layers, colors — and deep-seated feelings — to make a statement. If the beholder sees or feels a different story in her art, that's a reward, too.

"All of my art is driven from emotions," she said. "It has been from the very beginning."

For Muscarello, that beginning could easily have been the end.

"Art saved my life," declared the painter, who a decade ago was under siege, battling multiple health issues that neither she nor her doctors seemed to know how to control.

"I wasn't seeing a lot of hope in my life

at that moment, and I was in a very dark place," she said. "Making art gave me hope, and I started cranking out 10 or 12 pieces a week. It consumed me."

The irony: She had lived most of her life believing she didn't have a creative bone in her body, deferring to her older brother, Mark Muscarello — a professional sculptor in Southern California — and her father, Tony, who she said is also exceptionally creative.

Muscarello focused instead on a business career, occupying her adult years as an account manager, a reinsurance accountant, a processing manager, and an assistant director of product development for an insurance

company. "I honestly didn't know creativity was a part of my DNA until I started designing clothing and accessories from recycled materials," said the South Salinas resident, who spent her childhood in Louisiana, attended the University of Tampa, and moved to the county in 1988.

"That turned out to be a door for me, but then I returned to the business world when a partner and I started an organic gourmet oatmeal company."

That pursuit proved unfulfilling, she said, and the decision to close the business, combined with her health issues, sent Muscarello into an emotional tailspin.

"At some point, I sat down at my dining room table and started drawing faces on a lined notepad with a piece of charcoal," she said. "It became a ritual for me — kind of meditative — and I started posting the drawings on social media. Suddenly, I started getting messages saying, 'Wow, that's amazing. Are you selling these?'"

### 'So cathartic'

No, she wasn't — she hadn't considered it — but the unexpected encouragement, along with the emotional release that came from creating art, prompted Muscarello to convert part of her garage into a studio and begin experimenting with paint on canvas.

"I discovered that painting was so cathartic that it allowed me to work through a lot of things that I wasn't even aware were going on with me," she said. "It was wonderful therapy."

"There are times when I'm painting when I almost feel out-of-body — so engrossed that I feel like I'm not even there — until I reach this crescendo of emotion, with tears streaming down my face," Muscarello said.

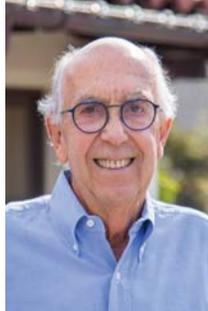
One year after she tacked her first charcoal sketches, she was

See ARTIST page 51A



PHOTO/TAMMY GANNON

Cindy Muscarello's belated discovery of her artistic ability was cathartic and life-changing.



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# Her American bestseller has its heart in her extraordinary Indian mother

**BEHEMOTH** AD agency McMann Erickson (“I’d like to teach the world to sing ...” for Coke, and “Put a tiger in your tank” for Esso gas, among others) told Alka Joshi — who spent more than a decade in advertising and marketing — that she was a good writer. Her husband of 26 years, Bradley Owens, who was a published author, told her the same thing.

But even when her debut novel, “The Henna Artist,” was acquired by Harper

Lakshmi Shastri is the story’s protagonist-narrator, modeled on Joshi’s mother, who died in 2012. Joshi said that her parents were wed in India in an arranged marriage in 1955. “By the time she was 22, my mother had three children,” she said. (Joshi is the middle child, sandwiched between two boys.)

“My mother always walked five steps behind my father. She never called him by his first name. Can you imagine?” the elegant, outspoken author asked over a cup of coffee in Pacific Grove, where she and Owens live. “My mother was gorgeous. She was so extraordinary. And she never said, ‘You need to be a good Indian girl and marry a good Indian boy.’”

Instead, Joshi, 63, said she was raised as a thoroughly modern American woman. The family moved here when she was 9 so that her father, an established engineer in India, could study the subject further at the University of Iowa. Joshi’s mother equipped her to live life on her own terms, introducing her to birth control by saying, “These pills are so you don’t have to marry the first man you’re with.”

And, as her father was “keen on education,” Joshi attended Stanford, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in art history. She also completed a Master of Fine Arts program at the California College of Arts in San Francisco.

When Joshi began “The Henna Artist” in a writing workshop in 2008, she told her mother, “I’m going to give you a life in fiction you could never have had.” Thus was born Lakshmi, who Joshi said was “different from Mom in that she had the courage to live a very different life than the one predestined for her.”

Her mother’s courage did evolve, however. A few years before Joshi and Owens wed in 1995, Joshi wrote her mom a long letter, telling her that she deserved a happy,

more fulfilling life, even if it meant divorcing her dad (not that there was anything wrong her father, with whom she’s still close) and moving closer to Joshi and Owens.

“I was stunned. She did everything in the letter — before I knew it, she’d divorced Dad and moved to California. She reveled in making her own decisions,” at 60, Joshi recalled. Lakshmi, on the other hand, finds her nerve much earlier in life, fleeing an arranged marriage and reinventing herself in the Indian city of Jaipur.

### Getting it right

There, she becomes a successful henna artist, using dye made from plants to paint intricate temporary tattoos on wealthy women for all sorts of reasons, rituals and occasions, and is taken into their confidence, much as American hairdressers are often privy to clients’ secrets. Lakshmi also quietly runs a business making and selling herbal preparations for birth control and to terminate unwanted pregnancies in ways that mimic miscarriages.

She’s preparing to move into a house she’s having built for herself when her estranged husband tracks her down, bringing a younger sister Lakshmi never knew she had, and for whom she unexpectedly becomes responsible. How she deals with all that while navigating the labyrinthine social and cultural paths required for her business is a remarkable tale.

The challenge of accurately portraying Indian culture weighed on Joshi. She said she worried that someone would say, “This is a country you haven’t lived in since you were 9. What gives you the right?” That concern motivated her meticulous research into Indian history, which she combined with stories from her parents. She also traveled to Jaipur with her mother.

It all paid off. She said that people from



PHOTO/GARRY BAILEY

Alka Joshi took more than 10 years to write “The Henna Artist,” which quickly became a bestselling novel.

India have asked her, “How did you get this so right?” She’s also gotten some feedback that saddened her. In many Zoom book club meetings, she said, women shared stories of sexism which — while subtle by comparison — was still far more pervasive than she thought.

When she was in advertising, in which she said she was passed over for “juicy assignments” and often paid less than her male counterparts, she fought the problem by opening her own firm and hiring as many women as she could.

Now, Joshi hopes that her themes and stories of women’s choices — as intricate and complicated as the henna designs Lakshmi applies to her patrons — inspire readers to seek their own destinies, too.

## Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

Collins, Joshi still didn’t get it. Not really. It finally hit her in fall 2019, when the publisher flew her to New York City and Toronto to meet the people who would help promote and sell the book, which was 10 years and dozens of revisions in the making.

“I told the marketing manager, ‘You’re so nice to do all this,’ and she said, ‘We don’t do this for every author. We think your book is going to be a bestseller.’” The book debuted at No. 14 on the New York Times bestseller list, has been published internationally in at least 23 languages, was chosen by Reese Witherspoon for her Hello Sunshine book club and is being developed into a series by Netflix. And, what’s planned to be a trilogy continues. Book No. 2, “The Secret-Keeper of Jaipur,” was released last summer and received warmly by critics and readers.

### Thoroughly modern

Since “The Henna Artist” came out in 2020, Joshi said she’s met with 651 book clubs and about 7,000 or 8,000 readers via Zoom. “The book has opened up a whole world I never would have imagined. There’s been so much encouragement for Lakshmi and for me.”

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# LETTERS

From page 22A

where the students look forward to attending football games on Friday night?

**Geoff Johnston, Carmel**

## Benches deserve more study

Dear Editor,

The Scenic pathway is easily one of the most precious assets our community has the privilege to enjoy and share with guests; and it is about to be altered permanently with installation of 16 unneeded benches to add to the existing 37 benches, bringing the total to 53.

This was decided by the planning commission in its October meeting. I do not believe that the commission was provided adequate information to make such a decision. The direction for such a decision states that it must consider "demonstrated need" as one of the criteria to determine if a new bench is appropriate. There was no study provided to them that demonstrated a need for more benches. They must consider "existing structures located in the sidewalk area." There were no mockup benches placed at the locations to illustrate for the commissioners what the visual impact to the pathway would be — in one instance, at 10th Avenue, with seven benches clustered together.

There was no input from the forest and beach commission or from Carmel Cares who are maintaining and restoring the pathway. Although all the normal noticing was done by way of publishing that this issue was on an agenda, very few were aware of the significance of this subject or that the process leading up to the vote had been going on for months. I guess one could say that I and the community were asleep at the wheel, but it's interesting that the forest and beach commission was also uninformed and surprised.

This unique asset should merit a higher level of procedure than "normal." Perhaps posting the agenda on the pathway or doing a pop-up survey on the pathway to get public feedback at the mockup locations of the benches or a workshop or a mail-in survey published in The Pine Cone to see how many people are unable to find a bench on the Scenic pathway? With this extremely precious asset, do we really want to use the "you snooze, you lose" policy?

It has been my personal privilege to be one of the Carmel Cares volunteers who has restored and maintained the pathway over the past 16 months. We studied the original

1987 award-winning plans to guide us in our restoration plans. Every day of the year, a "pick-up posse" volunteer is picking up trash the entire length of the pathway and Scenic Road.

Five hours every Wednesday morning, other volunteers rake, sweep, wipe down signage and benches along the entire 3,250 feet of pathway. We prune back the plants to improve and preserve the panoramic views.

Having spent many hours walking the Scenic pathway picking up trash, planning our work sessions as well participating in 61 Wednesday work sessions so far, I have had an opportunity to observe bench usage at various times of the day. There is minimal usage of the existing benches except occasionally at sunset. Do we really want to further diminish the natural, simple design of the Scenic Pathway by permanent installation of 16 additional benches?

**Shirley A. Moon, Carmel**

## The signs are ugly

Dear Editor,

While local activists are immersing themselves in crucial issues such as cell towers, short-term rentals and benches, may I humbly suggest the addition of hideous signage on Scenic Road to the list?

I don't know what bureaucrat was assigned the task of selecting and placing the dozens of no parking signs along one of the most iconic roads in the world, but it was clearly not anyone who lives nearby.

The signs belong in Manhattan, not Carmel, and by the way, have done almost nothing to deter those inclined to park on Scenic from doing so.

Perhaps those concerned with maintaining the beauty

of our area can add this to the list of issues to take up with local leaders, who can certainly do better than this.

**Michael Der Manouel, Jr., Carmel**

## Citizen deputies

Dear Editor,

Obviously, there are not enough police to answer requests to stop homeowners who violate the short-term rental laws.

Here's a solution. Allow any other homeowner on a street where violations are a nuisance, to get deputized specifically for STR Notices to Appear (or think up another name). The deputization process would include an hour or so training program at the police station, and then the citizen would be issued a tablet of citations. This could also be available online so it can be registered, then printed off, then carried to the house and served.

At any time a violation of the STR laws occurs and it is annoying to the other homeowners, one of those homeowners who are deputized can calmly issue the violators a citation. A digital copy can be sent to the owners of the property, and the police station will also be sent a copy. The owner, aka violator, will be assigned a fine or consequence. (First-time offenders may just get a warning, next time a small fine, second time a bigger fine, third time a punishingly huge fine). If they wish to contest the fine, then they appear in court and talk it over with the judge and the police.

This privilege could be abused by the "deputized"

See **MORE LETTERS** next page



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# MORE LETTERS

From previous page

homeowners on the street. If it happens, then the deputization privilege can be canceled and withdrawn.

**Stan Graff,**  
Pebble Beach

## Skeptical but convinced

Dear Editor,

I've been an all-organic veggie and anti-vaxxer for life. Yet, I recently I took the shots like 71 percent of the U.S. population who have received at least one dose. And just in time, for now stepping into our nightmarish present, the aptly named newest strain: omicron. Sounds like a horror

film that Hollywood is undoubtedly scripting right now.

So, my dears, if you were sipping your wine and checking your stocks, and thinking all was well, the joke's on you. Get back to the pharmacy to wait in line as if you're still in Fourth grade and you just want it over with.

I've refused inoculations for life, relying on exercise, an all-organic veggie diet, and high quality vitamins to stay healthy. It's worked! I'm tough, dammit. But the more I research pandemics, the more I realize that they are the No. 1 killers of humans — not cancer, not wars, not watching too many Tom Hanks/Meg Ryan films.

This is the time to stand in line, roll up your sleeve, then stop by the grocery for a pint of organic vanilla ice cream — you deserve it.

**Suzette Lilly,** Carmel

## States run elections

Dear Editor,

In replying to Zoë Edington's Dec. 3 letter about the Freedom to Vote Act, I would respond that such centralization of voting

borders on unconstitutionality. Under Article I of the U.S. Constitution, it is the state legislatures that decide where, when and how to hold congressional and lower-level elections. Congress may make some election changes, but gives the authority to count votes to the state, county and city governments. After all, the 13 Colonies established the federal government.

The real barriers to voting occurred in the South during the Democratic Party's era. They demanded difficult "literacy tests" to prevent blacks from voting. Today, the issue is over security of the vote. The recently enacted state laws ask for voter photo ID to prevent voter fraud, which has plagued America since the mid-1850s. Hundreds of lawsuits and grand jury investigations have uncovered massive voter fraud. Democrats do not want photo IDs to verify and protect the integrity of elections. Since Democrats are suffering low poll numbers, they want everyone, citizen or non-citizen, dead or alive, to vote as many times as possible. That is not how a democratic republic works.

**Lawrence Samuels,** Carmel

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File No. 20212613  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **MONTEREY BAY TAI CHI, 100 Harvest Street, Salinas, CA 93901. Mailing address: 546 Regency Circle, Apt. #B, Salinas, CA 93906.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Registered Owner(s): FRANCISCO SAMANIEGO, 546 Regency Circle, Apt. #B, Salinas, CA 93906.  
JAMIE RICHARD HEIN, 10490 Blevins Way, Castroville, CA 95012.  
This business is conducted by an unincorporated association other than a partnership.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 18, 2021.  
**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 the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).  
S/Francisco Samaniego.  
Date signed: Nov. 30, 2021.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 30, 2021.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Publication Dates: Dec. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2021. (PC 1209)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20212504  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **MARINA MEDICAL SUPPLIES, 266 Reservation Rd., Suites K & L, Marina, CA 93933. Mailing address: 240 Crossroads Blvd., Carmel, CA 93923.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Registered Owner(s): JONATHAN LEE, 25560 Morse Dr.,

Carmel, CA 93923.  
This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 12, 2021.  
**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 the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).  
S/Jonathan Lee  
Date signed: Nov. 12, 2021  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Nov. 12, 2021.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Publication Dates: Dec. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2021. (PC 1210)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20212609  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **Alex Duke Trucking, 62920 Argyle Rd., King City, CA 93930,** County of Monterey  
Registered Owner(s): Alexander Varian Duke, 62920 Argyle Rd., King City, CA 93930.  
This business is conducted by an Individual  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on Not Applicable  
S/Alexander Varian Duke  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 11/30/2021.  
12/10, 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/21  
**CNS-3534025#**  
**CARMEL PINE CONE**  
Publication Dates: Dec. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2021. (PC 1211)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20212610  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **Cedar and Stone Event Planning and Design, 967 Hilby Avenue #D, Seaside, CA 93955,** County of Monterey  
Registered Owner(s): Atlas Hospitality LLC, 967 Hilby Avenue #D, Seaside, CA 93955; CA  
This business is conducted by a limited liability company  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on Not Applicable  
S/Kristen San Paolo, Managing Member  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 11/30/2021.  
12/10, 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/21  
**CNS-3533900#**  
**CARMEL PINE CONE**  
Publication Dates: Dec. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2021. (PC 1212)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20212615  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **1. Total Wine & More, 2. Total Wine Spirits Beer & More, 808 Playa Ave., Sand City, CA 93955**  
County of MONTEREY  
Registrant(s): California Fine Wine & Spirits, LLC, 5791 Five Star Drive, Roseville, CA 95678  
This business is conducted by a limited liability company  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.  
California Fine Wine & Spirits, LLC  
S/Thomas Haubenstricker, Secretary & Treasurer of Manager,  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 11/30/2021.  
12/10, 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/21  
**CNS-3529290#**  
**CARMEL PINE CONE**  
Publication Dates: Dec. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2021. (PC 1213)

### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF DOROTHEA HAWKSLEY aka DOROTHEA KAMILLA HAWKSLEY

Case Number 21PR000473  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, credi-

tors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DOROTHEA HAWKSLEY aka DOROTHEA KAMILLA HAWKSLEY.

**A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by RICHARD H. EVANS in the Superior Court of California, County of MONTEREY.**

The Petition for Probate requests that HENRY H. DEARING be appointed as the personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

**A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:**

Date: Feb. 2, 2022  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Dept.: 13  
Address: Superior Court of California, County of Monterey, 1200 Aguijito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.

**If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.**

**If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult**

### with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

**You may examine the file kept by the court.** If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: MICHELE L. ABERNATHY, Gifford, Dearing & Abernathy, LLP 515 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2060  
Los Angeles, CA 90071  
(213) 626-4481

This statement was filed by Superior Court of California, County of Monterey on Oct. 21, 2021.  
Publication dates: Dec. 10, 17, 24, 2021. (PC1214)

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20212645  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **1. VETERINARY EYE CLINIC MONTEREY 2. VETERINARY EYE CLINIC MONTEREY BAY**  
2 Harris Court, Suite A-1, Monterey, California 93940.  
County of Principal Place of Business: Monterey.  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: VECMB, INC, 1110 Mestres Drive, Pebble Beach, California 93953.  
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA  
This business is conducted by a corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.  
**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 that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor 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).  
S/Elizabeth Curto Jones, President  
Date: Dec. 3, 2021  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Dec. 3, 2021.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was

### filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Publication dates: Dec. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2021. (PC1215)

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (UCC Sec. 6105)

Escrow No. 13971L  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s), business address(es) to the seller(s) are: MONTEREY AUTO SUPPLY INCORPORATED, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, 2320 DEL MONTE AVENUE, MONTEREY, CA 93940  
Whose chief executive office is: 2320 DEL MONTE AVE., C MONTEREY, CA 93940  
Doing Business as: NAPA AUTO PARTS-MONTEREY (Type - AUTO PARTS AND SUPPLY STORE)  
All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the seller(s) within the past three years, as stated by the seller(s), is/are: NAPA AUTO PARTS  
The name(s) and address of the buyer(s) is/are: GENUINE PARTS COMPANY, A GEORGIA CORPORATION, 5675 CLINTON AVENUE FRESNO, CA 93727  
The assets to be sold are described in general as: ALL STOCK IN TRADE, FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT AND GOODWILL and are located at: 2320 DEL MONTE AVENUE, MONTEREY, CA 93940  
The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: CAPITOL CITY ESCROW, INC., 3838 WATT AVENUE, SUITE F-610 SACRAMENTO, CA 95821-2665 and the anticipated sale date is DECEMBER 28, 2021. The bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.  
[If the sale is subject to Sec. 6106.2, the following information must be provided.]  
The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: CAPITOL CITY ESCROW, INC., 3838 WATT AVENUE, SUITE F-610, SACRAMENTO, CA 95821-2665 and the last date for filing claims by any creditor shall be DECEMBER 27, 2021, which is the business day before the sale date specified above.  
Dated: DECEMBER 2, 2021  
GENUINE PARTS COMPANY, A GEORGIA CORPORATION, Buyer(s)  
7241000 CARMEL PINE CONE 12/10/21  
Publication dates: Dec. 10, 17, 24, 2021. (PC1216)

# CAL AM

From page 1A

Monday, commissioners voted 5-2 to reject the water district's application, crippling — at least for now — its efforts to acquire Cal Am.

The commissioners who voted against the water district cited the loss of the roughly \$1.7 million in property taxes Cal Am pays each year — money that goes to county schools, fire departments and other government agencies. While private companies pay property taxes, government operations do not. LAFCO commissioners also said they were concerned about higher water rates for customers in five smaller satellite water systems in the county that would be retained by Cal Am.

### Both sides cite failures

LAFCO heard spirited comments from Peninsula ratepayers before discussing the topic.

Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce spokesman Peter Mounter said, "The water management district was formed almost 50 years ago to solve our water supply issues, and it's summarily failed to do that. That's why we are all here today."

Seaside resident Susan Schiavone said Measure J passed for "valid reasons" and claimed that "Cal Am has mismanaged our water sources, charges exorbitant rates and passes through the costs, with no benefit to us. MPWMD will deliver water at a reasonably valuated rate without profit motive."

When it came time for the commissioners to weigh in, several of them, including Salinas Mayor Kimbley Craig, cited the property tax losses. She also said she was worried

about the possible \$700 million acquisition cost.

Commission chair Chris Lopez, the District 3 Monterey County Supervisor who represents South County, was concerned that water rates for residents in Chualar could increase under a public ownership scenario. Even if a takeover of its Monterey system were successful, Cal Am would still operate the Chualar system and four other smaller satellite water systems in the county. But the utility would not have the advantage of subsidizing water costs in those areas if it's operating a much smaller overall system.

Commissioner Pete Poitras, board president for the Monterey County Regional Fire District, was worried about the loss of \$140,000 in annual tax revenue with a public water agency. The monetary loss costs the same as a firefighter's salary, he said.

"We can't afford to lose a frontline firefighter as a result of this," Poitras said.

Commissioner Matt Gourley also cited tax impacts to fire agencies. "I don't think government can run anything efficiently, and I think we've seen that," Gourley said.

In a discussion that goes to the heart of Measure J, but which turned out to be largely irrelevant to LAFCO's decision, the agency's executive officer, Kate McKenna, offered that whether Cal Am's system could be operated cost-effectively as a government operation would be the "central question at the core of LAFCO's decision-making role."

Water district general manager Dave Stoldt assured commissioners that "the district can provide the services at a reasonable cost," and the group that spearheaded the Measure J effort, Public Water Now, has long promised lower water rates with a government-operated system. Just how much is not certain, though.

Commission consultant Richard Berkson said that a public water system "could" mean a savings of \$22 per

month on an average customer's water bill. But George Soneff, an attorney representing Cal Am, used the relatively meager savings to criticize the takeover effort and focused on the financial impacts of a takeover.

"The district projects that to condemn the Monterey water system, it would have to pay \$513 million and assume \$180 million in additional debt," Soneff said. "By its own projections, they are calling for about \$700 million in new public debt."

In response, Stoldt alleged that much of what Soneff told the commission "has already been debunked or demonstrated to be false," and that a government-run system would mean "lower costs of service, more transparent governance, and an ability to see what's going into your rates. And yes, there may be water quality improvements."

Stoldt, in response to the commission's decision, told The Pine Cone Tuesday that the water agency's board of directors would meet in closed session in the next few days to discuss possible litigation against the commission. Stoldt said he believes that the commission exceeded its authority in denying the water district's application.

"Unless LAFCO offers something different, I would say, yes, it is likely to be litigated," Stoldt said. "But that is for my board of directors to decide, and I do not have a clear indication at this time."

Commissioners — in denying the water district's application — rejected a recommendation of approval from the agency's staff and the will of Monterey Peninsula voters, who voted 56 percent to 44 percent in 2018 in favor of a public water system if it would be financially feasible to have one.

Stoldt accused commissioners of "pursuing their own parochial interests, rather than working together as a group" to abide by the law and allow the district to move forward with its plans.



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**CANNING  
PROPERTIES  
GROUP**

# HOLIDAY GUIDE

Schedule some time for music or dance — or a double axel

By ELAINE HESSER

THE HOLIDAY season is full swing, but if you haven't trimmed a tree or slipped your list to Santa yet, there are still plenty of opportunities to get into the spirit of things. While you're shopping for last-minute gifts, set some time aside to enjoy the veritable smorgasbord of local happenings that include history, choral music and dance.

**Ice skating** continues at the **Custom House Plaza** in Monterey through Jan. 2, including holidays, so you can glide with a view of blue water just a short walk from a restorative cup of clam chowder and perhaps a toddy. Grown-ups pay \$15, kids 12 and under are \$13. No ice skates? Rentals are \$5. If you're practicing to become the next Johnny Weir or Tara Lipinski, a season pass is \$150 (not including skate rental). The rink is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sundays from noon to 8 p.m. [iceskatingbythebay.com](http://iceskatingbythebay.com) has more info.

**Christmas on Fisherman's Wharf** is going on through Dec. 19, on Fridays from 5 to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 6 p.m. Santa will be receiving visitors next to Abalonetti's Bar and Grill, and merchants will offer hot cider, hot cocoa (or something a bit stronger) and cookies for sale. A variety of live entertainment is planned and the 23-foot Christmas tree will be there every day, surrounded by illuminated sea creatures. [montereywharf.com](http://montereywharf.com)

Monterey's 37th **Christmas in the Adobes** runs from 5 to 9 p.m. Dec. 10 and 11. Tour nearly 20 historic buildings all decked for the holidays, with knowledgeable guides in period costumes. Many are not usually open to the public, so here's your chance to get a peek. Tickets for one evening start at \$25, with discounts for youth, active duty military and Monterey State Historic Park members. For \$40, you can go both nights. Bring your mask, as it will be

required for entry, and a flashlight is handy for navigating some of the streets. Check out [mshpa.org](http://mshpa.org) for more information and remarkably specific ticketing instructions.

## Whirlybird vs. reindeer

On Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 11 and 12 at 8 p.m., **I Cantori di Carmel** presents a **winter concert** with an orchestra at the Carmel Mission. It will feature Mozart's *Kronungs Messe* (Coronation Mass) and works by Johann Sebastian Bach, as well as 20th-century composers Francis Poulenc and Max Reger. Tickets start at \$30 (\$20 for military and youth) and are available at Pilgrim's Way, Bookmark music shop in P.G., Luminata in Monterey or through [icantori.org](http://icantori.org). Proof of vaccination is required.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will board a helicopter for **San-**

CALENDAR *cont. on page 39A*



This year's holiday season includes offerings like (left to right) live musical performances at Fisherman's Wharf, ice skating and concerts by groups like I Cantori, along with ballets, adobe tours and Santa visits.

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# HOLIDAY GUIDE

## Downtown shopping turns up some unusual treasures

By DENNIS TAYLOR

**WE ALL** have boring, unimaginative holiday gift lists for people in our lives who seem to have everything — but, most likely, they don't have this stuff. Merchants occupying Ocean Avenue and its cross streets have a whole bunch of quirky, rare and fascinating things — big and small — that you probably haven't seen before.

A recent walking tour of some of North America's most eclectic shops and boutiques unveiled this tiny sample of out-of-the-ordinary things Carmel merchants are offering this holiday season.

### High tea for rodents

Heaven in Carmel (Lincoln Street, between Ocean and Seventh avenues) is in its 21st year as a destination for anybody looking for cute clothes and shoes for stylish babies and kids, plus quirky, ornate gifts like tiny model cars, magnificent, handcrafted doll houses, and elegant décor like a miniature tea party from Denmark that features hand-sewn mice (\$28 each), a table and chairs (\$68), and a tea set with biscuits (\$32)

### Music from another time

Next door at the Carmel Music Box Company, owners Janna and Ted Martynov buy, sell, restore and repair some of the world's rarest music boxes. Among the treasures: a 1906 Edison phonograph (\$4,600); a vintage-1900 German-made birdcage, occupied by a tiny, very vocal mechanical songbird (\$3,800); a disc music box, made in Switzerland in 1880 (\$16,000); and many more, each one breathtakingly beautiful and melodic. All are antiques. "These are museum pieces," said Janna Martynov, who has operated the shop in Carmel for 40 years.



### Cannibalism: The game

The corner of Ocean and Seventh is where the Carmel Bay Company brings foot traffic to an abrupt halt with colorfully crowded display windows packed with fascinat-

ing stuff. Inside, you'll find two stories of unusual home furnishings, furniture, clothing, art, books and fun, like tea towels (\$15 apiece) emblazoned with snarky humor — "Does anyone know which page of the Bible explains how to turn water into wine? Asking for a friend."

There are unusual 1,000-piece Cavallini & Company jigsaw puzzles (\$23.75), raucous board games like "Donner Dinner Party: A Rowdy Game of Frontier Cannibalism" (\$19.95), and strangely charming books, like the memoir of a lonely dinosaur entitled "All My Friends Are Dead" (\$9.95).



### Birthday treats for dogs

Cross Lincoln Street and wander south, past the Cypress Inn, to find Carmel Dog Shop, a paradise for pooch pamperers, where the offerings include Puppy Scoops ice cream mix for dogs (\$10) — just add water and freeze — in flavors that include vanilla, maple bacon, carob and birthday cake. Or, if it's actual cake your dog wants, Puppy Cake mix (\$8) comes in vanilla, pumpkin, carob, and peanut butter flavors.



### Santa on wheels

Return to Ocean and head east, past Dolores, to Kris Kringle of Carmel, Carol Montana's 37-year-old business "Where It's Christmas Every Day." Where else can we find a Christmas ornament adorned with a painting of the fabulous 7th Hole at Pebble Beach Golf Links (\$26.95), or a shiny, bright red, vintage model truck (\$110) with reindeer riding in the cargo bed, and Santa waving from the interior of the lighted cab? Oh, and a Christmas wreath hangs from the driver's door, because it's all about the details.



### Cheese knives made to impress

Carrigg's of Carmel, which opened in 1999, is an oasis offering one-off pieces of furniture, candles, mirrors, clocks, lighting and original artwork, like paintings by former Peninsula resident Isa D'Arleans (one of a handful of women whose art has been shown at the Louvre in Paris). For the impulse buyer, there's a glittering selection of very fancy cheese knives that sell for \$17 apiece.



### A muscular merman?

Adam Fox, a 57-year-old Carmel gift shop (Ocean, between Mission and San Carlos), is a place to find anything from stylish jewelry, to offbeat figurines (the muscular merman might be an acquired taste), to bizarre and risqué greeting cards (a bargain at \$6.95) for that person in your life whose preferences are a bit off-center.

### Bicycle with a sidecar

A well-heeled sportsman might be smitten by the shimmering, red Tracker e-bike (\$7,000) with a matching sidecar (\$1,995) for a happy dog or kid. The parade-worthy vehicle sits in the front window at Mad Dogs & Englishmen, a Specialized bicycle store at Ocean and Mission. If the purchase price is a budget buster, rent the full contraption (bike and sidecar) for \$175 a day or \$95 an hour.



Also at Ocean and Mission is Land & Sea Golf, a place to find sporty tops, bottoms, hats and caps, golf accessories and a magnificent shuffleboard table (\$4,500) to dress up any rec room.



ORIGINAL cont. on page 39A

# Peninsula Glow

MEDICAL SPA



### Meet the Glow Team

- James Owen, Medical Director
- Stacy Rohrbough, Nurse Practitioner
- Anna Rider, Aesthetic Nurse
- Bernadette Hernandez, Aesthetic Nurse
- Anne Marie Smith, Esthetician
- Cristina Mendivil, Office Manager
- Lauren Miranda, Receptionist

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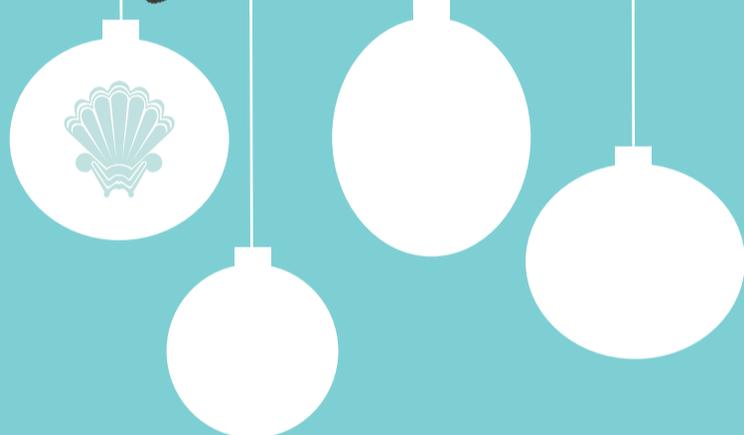
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# HOLIDAY GUIDE

## Santa Claus doesn't always say yes, and neither should you

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

IN HALLMARK movies, the holiday season is a time of slowing down for family reunions, mugs of hot chocolate by the fireplace, decorating the tree together, wandering the holiday markets hand in hand, and restoring relationships, faith and a sense of wonder.

In real life, the belief in such a seemingly idyllic time of year persists, yet intentions often get lost in the breathless, frenzied energy of an overloaded calendar, overextended budget and pressure to uphold traditions, deck the halls — and please everyone.

“The holiday season is not and should not be a performance, and there should be nothing to prove,” said Monterey licensed clinical social worker Janet Thomas. “Traditions are important and meaningful, but we need to keep them heartwarming, not mind-boggling. It’s important to maintain flexibility and patience around money, energy and values.”

Sometimes that means paring back.

Thomas, who has traditionally hosted a solstice party on Dec. 21, remembered stringing so many white lights in her yard that the circuit breaker blew. Without electricity until 11 p.m., she, along with family and friends, collected and lit as many candles as they could find.

“It turned out to be the most magical evening,” she said. “Instead of having more lights than Macy’s New York, the whole yard was aglow with candlelight. And the energy among us softened in keeping with the firelight. Everyone sang and held up candles, and then let go of some persisting notion, written down and tossed



Janet Thomas

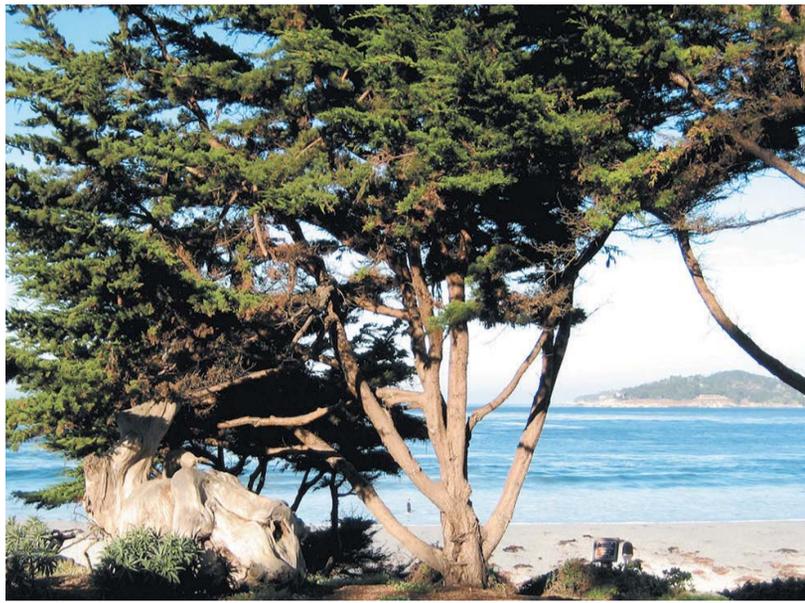
into the firepit.”

Thomas believes the magic of the season shows up when we seek the tenderness of an uplifting experience, instead of the tyranny of trying to keep up with the expectations of a commercial Christmas.

“It keeps coming down to balance,” she

**RELAX** cont. on page 38A

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# HOLIDAY GUIDE

## Proof of great taste is easy to find in Monterey County's wine country

By SALLY BAHO

EVER SINCE the Franciscan friars in Soledad planted their first crop of wine grapes 200 years ago, Monterey County has been home to world-class wines. According to the Monterey County Vintners and Growers association, there are more than 85 vintners and 175 distinct vineyards. From Carmel Valley to the Salinas Valley, there's plenty of fertile ground for pinot noir and chardonnay, not to mention smaller quantities of 40 other varietals. Quality vineyards producing award-winning wines for every palate are more plentiful than any oenophile deserves. So, this holiday season, as you prepare to buy gifts for the wine lovers in your life — or perhaps find something special to sip on or share at home — here are some ideas to help you in your search.

### Fake doc, real good wine

Stokes' Ghost, a petite syrah made by Scheid that sells for \$34, is named after the ghost that is said to haunt Stokes Adobe in Monterey (where a new, namesake restaurant has recently opened). Legend has it that James Stokes, a British mariner, jumped ship in Monterey in 1833, taking with him all the medicine he could find onboard. Understandably, many of his patients met untimely deaths, but somehow he maintained a successful practice and even became the mayor of Monterey. When he was eventually exposed as a fraud, he took his own life, but his ghost is said to stalk the adobe where he once lived and practiced.

Each bottle of Stokes' Ghost is dipped in wax. Remove it carefully before uncorking and you might find a few words from the late "doctor" concealed underneath. Bottles are

going fast, but they're still available at A Taste of Monterey on Cannery Row. Although the ghost can't be found there, you can discover an assortment of other local gems — including some amazing cabernets and the ever-popular claret — at Scheid's tasting room at San Carlos and Seventh.

There are a few local options for sparkling wines for holiday toasting. Folktale Vineyards (folktalewinery.com) on Carmel Valley Road, for example, has a light and fresh sparkling brut for \$40 and a sparkling rose of pinot noir and chardonnay for \$42.

Wine club members can also purchase Folktale's recently released Haliotis, a sparkling sangiovese. Winemaker David Baird aged the bottles under at Monterey Abalone Company's farm under Wharf No. 2 in Monterey for four months, taking advantage of the consistently cold temperatures of Monterey Bay. When divers went down to retrieve the bottles, they found abalone — scientific name haliotis — hanging out among them, along with other marine life, which apparently also have excellent taste in wine.

### Tiny bubbles

Caraccioli Cellars on Dolores between Ocean and Seventh is well known for its sparklers, including a brut cuvée of 60 percent chardonnay and 40 percent pinot noir (\$52 for a bottle, \$115 for a magnum) from the Santa Lucia Highlands. Caraccioli's sparkling wines are prepared using the méthode champenoise, the traditional method for making



Pierce Vineyards has the perfect wine to go with your paella.

WINES cont. on page 37A



Scheid Vineyards' tasting room (left) offers a range of consistently good wines for most budgets. While the elusive ghost of "Dr." Stokes (right) is a little harder to find, this petite syrah is worth seeking out.



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# HOLIDAY GUIDE

**WINES** *cont. from page 36A*

champagne that allows for two fermentations. Visiting the tasting room is like entering a private wine cave, leaving the bustle of holiday crowds behind for a bit of self-indulgence. See [caracciolicellars.com](http://caracciolicellars.com) to learn more.

**Cue the music**

Movie and music buffs will surely enjoy a holiday gift of wine made by the Grammy and Emmy winner who wrote for the score for “The Polar Express.” Famed composer Alan Silvestri, who was also responsible for the music in “Back to the Future,” “Forrest Gump” and “Cast Away,” to name a few, also owns Silvestri Vineyards ([silvestrivineyards.com](http://silvestrivineyards.com)) with his wife, Sandra. Visit their tasting room on Seventh between San Carlos and Dolores to discover their wines made from grapes grown in Carmel Valley. The 2018 barbera — a bold Italian varietal — retails for \$65 and could be paired with a nice bowl of cioppino as part of a Christmas Eve Feast of the Seven Fishes.

Pierce Ranch Vineyards, with a charming tasting room in an old house at 499 Wave St. in Monterey, specializes in Spanish and Portuguese varietals grown in the remote Lockwood area of the Salinas Valley. If wines of the Iberian Peninsula are your jam and varietals like tourbillon, albariño and tempranillo excite you, then Pierce is the place. Visit [piercevineyards.com](http://piercevineyards.com) to learn more.

**Rugged hills and history**

Get a gift for a wine-loving hiker or history buff from the oldest continuously producing vineyard in Monterey County. Chalone Vineyard, a stone’s throw from Pinnacles National Park (the location is celebrated on the wine’s label with a silhouette of the enormous rock formations). The first vines were planted in 1919 to produce a chenin blanc, which was sold as sacramental wine during Prohibition. Although Chalone continues to make chenin blanc, the focus these days is on pinot noir and chardonnay, as well as pinot blanc and syrah. And the winemaker, Greg Freeman, can be found many an evening donning a kilt and playing the bagpipes at sunset on the beach at the bottom of Ocean Avenue. The dramatic landscape of Pinnacles National Park serves as a backdrop for the tasting room, which is 20 minutes from Highway 101 in Soledad, or you can visit [chalonevineyard.com](http://chalonevineyard.com) from your living room.

With so many choices, the assortment can be mind-boggling, but the best part about shopping for wine is you get to taste it — all in the name of research, of course.



Clockwise from top left: Silvestri has some — dare we say lyrical — offerings, while Carraccioli’s tasting room provides a pleasant break from shopping. Folk tale’s sparklers and Chalone’s estate wines are among other selections for giving and toasting.

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# H O L I D A Y G U I D E

**RELAX** *cont. from page 34A*

said. “When we get out of balance in any way, we need to bring our awareness back to what matters most, which is not buying happiness, the impossibility of the perfect gift, and hosting or attending as many parties as possible. Particularly now.”

The Thomas family also has a tradition of baking and building candy-festooned gingerbread houses. In the early days, the gingerbread would invariably crack or fall over, creating an epic fail in the eyes of youngsters who had high expectations. So, Thomas eliminated the baking and engineering, replacing gingerbread with pre-fab graham cracker walls that are light enough to stand up and stay up with a dab of sugary mortar. And everyone gets to make an individual tiny house.

“It’s in the decorating that the creativity and Christmas spirit come out,” she said.

**Putting ‘no’ in Noel**

Megan Mayer learned a long time ago that while the holidays are about embracing time-honored traditions with family and friends, the key to enjoying the season lies in learning how to say “No.”

The Pebble Beach-based attorney and chair of Network 4 Impact, an organization dedicated to helping businesses and organizations maximize their impact through civil discourse and relationship building, has refined her facility for “no” through years of negotiations.

More recently, during the pandemic, Mayer has learned to draw boundaries around remote meetings. “I had to learn that just because it’s possible to Zoom

24/7, doesn’t mean I should,” she said.

Learning to say no to the seduction of spending and socializing during the holidays has brought a calm to the tired month of December that Mayer hadn’t experienced since she was a child.

“By simplifying our calendar, picking and choosing what we want to do instead of wedging it all in, everything we did became meaningful,” she said. “Last year, when everything was canceled, we got to experience the silence of the season and focus on what matters — our family.”

This year, with the pandemic still on their minds, the Mayers will head up into the mountains to celebrate the season in their cabin. Getting away together in the silence of winter snow is all about “calm for the holidays,” she explained.

Mayer taught etiquette at Carmel Cotillions, which she owned while her children were in school. She said that declining invitations is healthy and appropriate when done graciously. The way to do that, she says, is to express gratitude for the invitation and then say no, clearly and succinctly.

“To delay a reply or to string it along would be rude and stressful,” she said. “Simply give a simple explanation and then affirm the host. Just remember to lead with a kind heart.”

This holiday season, just say no. Choose to slow things down. Sip, savor, and socialize without the traditional breathless, frenzied energy of years gone by. Pare



Megan Mayer

down the Christmas card list, book the spa session, co-host at someone else’s house, give gift cards, satisfy your entire shopping list at one store, have dinner catered and cleaned, pretend it’s snowing outside, build a fire and hang out by the hearth.

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# H O L I D A Y G U I D E

CALENDAR *cont. from page 29A*

**ta's Fly-in to Carmel Valley** on Dec. 11. To see their arrival, organizers recommend arriving at the airfield off Ford Road a little early — around 10 a.m. — and say refreshments will be available. If you can't get there, however, fear not — the Clauses will be featured in a parade down Carmel Valley Road that will end at the Carmel Valley Community Youth Center, where there will be lots for the kids — and grown-ups to enjoy, including live entertainment and photos with Santa.

More ballet? Yes, please — if it's **Smuin's Christmas Ballet** at **Sunset Center** on Friday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 11 at 2:30 p.m. According to Sunset Center's website, it's not all tutus and fairy dust: The two acts "feature the best of both worlds: sublime classical ballet set to carols and red-hot contemporary works set to pop favorites." Tickets start at \$67 and can be purchased at [sunsetcenter.org](http://sunsetcenter.org), where you can read about all the pertinent Covid policies, too.

Saturday, Dec. 18 from 8:30 to 11 a.m., you and the kiddos can have **breakfast with Santa**, presented by the **Mission Trail Lions Club of Carmel** at the **Carmel Youth Center** (Torres and Fourth). Children 12 and under pay \$6 each; adults eat for \$10. Pancakes and sausage with fresh fruit are on the menu. The Girl Scouts will be collecting coats for their One Warm Coat drive and the Carmel PD will be there with Operation Kid ID. Donations of nonperishable foods for the Veterans Transition Center are welcome, too. Tickets will be available at the door, and organizers want everyone to be aware this is a cash-only event.

**A Chanticleer Christmas** returns to the **Carmel Mission** for two performances on Thursday, Dec. 23, at 6 and 8:30 p.m. "From the candlelit chant procession to the triumphant gospel conclusion," the group said it will offer "joy and transcendence" to listeners. Face masks and proof of vaccination will be required and tickets start at \$67. Go to [chanticleer.org](http://chanticleer.org) for more information.

**Party now, run later**

Ring in 2022 with **First Night Monterey**, where the theme will be New Beginnings "to celebrate our re-emergence from pandemic life," organizers say. For \$29 for adults — \$22 until Dec. 13 — and \$18 for youth ages 6 to 15 (\$12 before Dec. 13), you can enjoy more than 50 acts in venues spread throughout downtown Monterey. Revelers will need to provide proof of a Covid vaccine or a negative test within 72 hours and receive a wristband for

admission to indoor performances.

Finally, start out the New Year with the 32nd **Rio Resolution Run**, sponsored by the Rio Grill to raise money for CASA of Monterey County. Individuals and teams can register at [runsignup.com/Race/Info/CA/VirtualRace/](http://runsignup.com/Race/Info/CA/VirtualRace/)

RioGrillsResolutionRun and receive a long sleeve T-shirt and race bib. Run or walk 5 or 10 kilometers — costumes are encouraged — and report your finish time by Jan. 5 to be entered in prize drawings and vie for awards for best dressed, fastest team and more.

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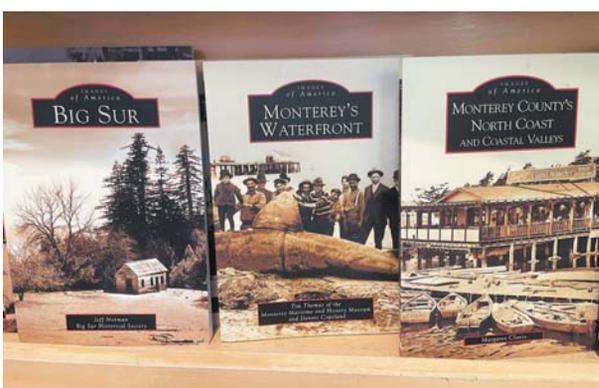
(Above) Chanticleer returns to the Carmel Mission this year, and First Night's family-friendly celebration will ring in 2022 in Monterey with attractions for kids and grown-ups alike.

ORIGINAL *from page 30A*

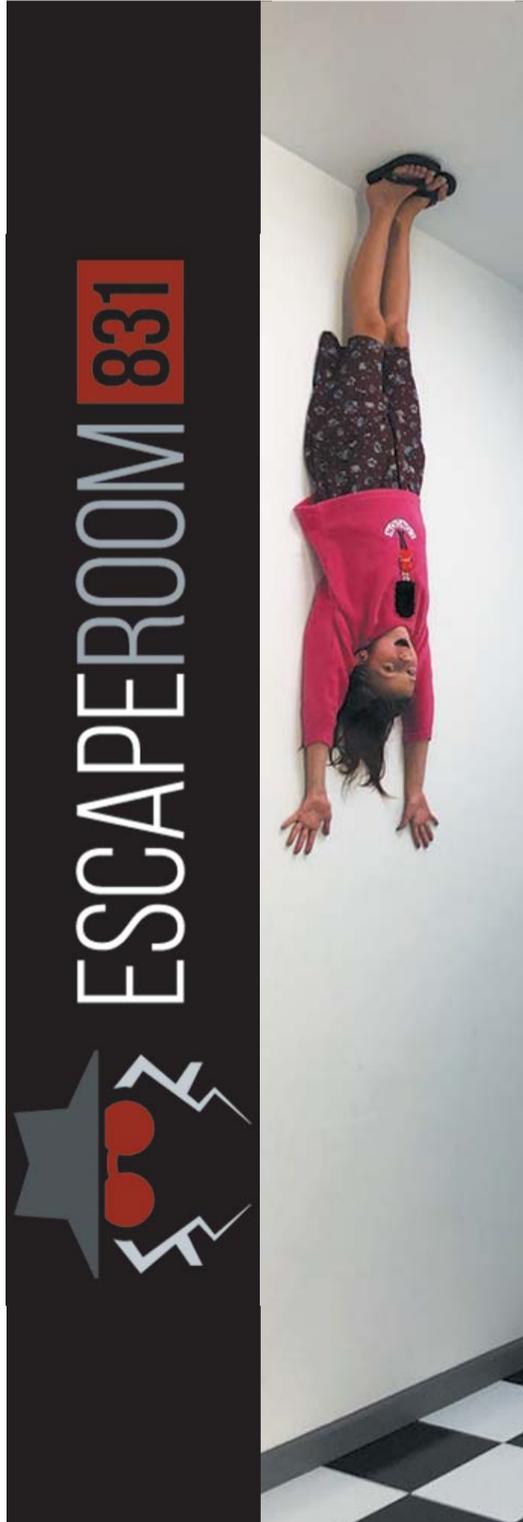
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And the local history aficionado should be satisfied by an array of locally-authored books at the iconic, 111-year-old Carmel Drug Store (Ocean at San Carlos). Offerings include "Missions of Monterey" by Robert A. Bellezza, "Big Sur" by Jeff Norman, "Monterey's Waterfront" by Tim Thomas, "Monterey County's North Coast" by Margaret Clovis (all \$21.95), and "Monterey: Presidio, Pueblo and Post" by J.D. Conway (\$24.99).

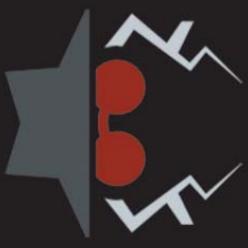
Finally, the village is also famous for its world-class art galleries — dozens of them — featuring paintings, sculptures, fine-art photography, jewelry and other imaginative creations.



Prescribed reading: local history books at Carmel Drug Store.



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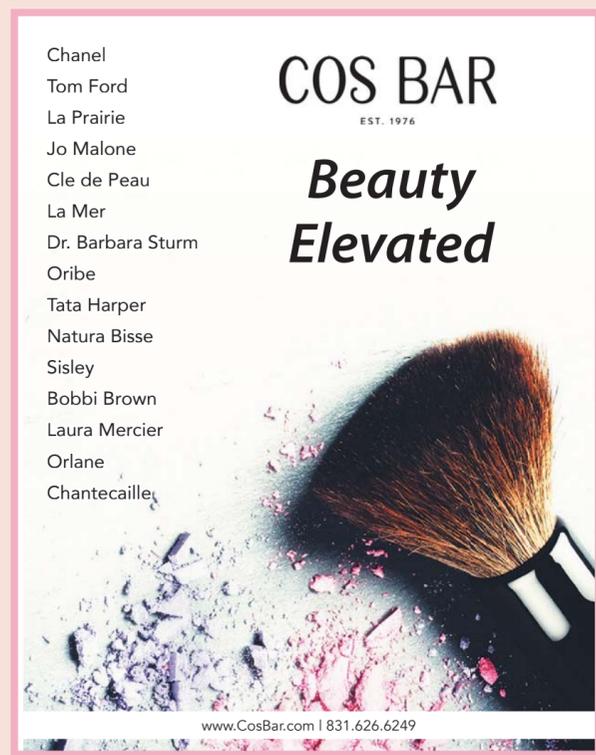


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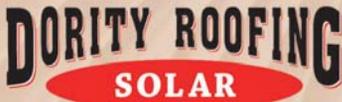


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Food & Wine  
Galleries and Art

# This Week

Live Music,  
Clubs and Events

## With a little help from friends, banjo legend brings music back to Sunset

LIVE MUSIC returns to Sunset Center when banjo legend **Bela Fleck** plays Monday, along with a cast of his talented musical friends.

A 15-time Grammy Award winner in nine categories,

### On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

Fleck is credited with helping bring bluegrass into the 21st century.

The instrumentalist recently came out with a new album, "The Bluegrass Heart." The third in a trilogy that began with the 1988 LP, "Drive," the record has been nominated this year for a Grammy for Best Bluegrass Album.

Fleck will be joined at Sunset by some of the finest players in bluegrass, including mandolinist **Sam Bush**, guitarists **Jerry Douglas** and **Bryan Sutton**, fiddler **Stuart Duncan** and bassist **Edgar Mayer**. All have earned Grammy Awards.

Showtime is 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$70. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 620-2048 or visit [sunsetcenter.org](http://sunsetcenter.org).

#### I Cantori welcomes new leader

Performing live for the first time since 2019, **I Cantori di Carmel** celebrates its 40th year with a holiday concert Dec. 11-12 at the Carmel Mission.

Besides marking a return to the stage for the choral group, which presents major classical works, the concert intro-

duces the group's new music director, **Daniel Henriks**.

"We just had a rehearsal with the orchestra," Henriks told The Pine Cone this week. "The group sounded fabulous — everyone is so dedicated."

The singers are going to great lengths to make the in-person concert possible. "The whole chorus gets is getting tested for Covid before every rehearsal so we can make sure we can perform," explained Henriks, a native of Germany who performed in Europe as an opera singer.

The program includes Mozart's *Kronungs Messe* and Bach's *Cantata for the First Sunday in Advent, BWV 62*, along with music by 17th-century German composer Michael Praetorius and 20th-century composers Francis Poulenc and Max Reger.

The music starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30, with discounts available for active military and kids. The mission

is located at 3080 Rio Road. For more details, visit [icantori.org](http://icantori.org).

#### Scarypoolparty cancels

Due to "unforeseen circumstance outside my control," **Scarypoolparty** — the stage name for singer and guitarist **Alejandro Aranda** — canceled his Dec. 10 concert at the Golden State Theatre. It's unknown if the show will be rescheduled.

While **Scarypoolparty** canceled its upcoming concert at Golden State, **The Dark Star Orchestra** just confirmed its first visit to the historic downtown Monterey venue.

The announcement is cause for celebration for fans of the Grateful Dead — while there are hundreds of musical

See MUSIC page 47A



Banjo legend Bela Fleck, who has earned 15 Grammy Awards, will be joined by a collection of award-winning bluegrass musicians when he takes the stage Monday at Sunset Center. Performing live for the first time since 2019, I Cantori di Carmel presents concerts Saturday and Sunday at Carmel Mission.

TIME TO START PLANNING YOUR

# Christmas Dinner

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# FOOD & WINE

## CLEAN ON THE INSIDE, CULINARY WEEK UPDATE, AND HOLIDAY HAPPY HOURS

A NEW way to make sure restaurants are as safe as possible for indoor dining is taking shape in Carmel, with high-tech sensors detecting airflow and contaminants, and filters, fans, doors and windows used to provide cleaner, presumably virus-free air.

Dale Byrne of volunteer and nonprofit groups Carmel Cares and Carmel Gives is working with Bill Hayward and a company called Air by Design “to start a program to clean air-certify Carmel restaurants,” Byrne said.

### Soup to Nuts

By MARY SCHLEY

Using donated funds to cover costs and with a discount from the company, sensors have been installed at several downtown restaurants, including Anton & Michel, Flaherty’s, Grasing’s, Patisserie Boissiere, Mission Bistro and Basil, with other venues set to get the tech soon.

“There will be online sensors located in key areas of the restaurant to show the air quality,” with data streaming to the company’s headquarters and the restaurant’s website, he said, “so if they see something wrong, they will notify the restaurant to make a change.”

#### 3D airflow modeling

The effort includes scanning the interior spaces “with an expensive ‘sniffer’” to develop a 3D model for ideal airflow and developing recommendations regarding the installation of HEPA filters, changes to HVAC systems and other measures, like opening windows and doors.

“We are using grant money to subsidize the program, and I am also getting landlords involved, as this is really a long-term improvement to their property in Covid times,” Byrne said. “The city has said they would work with us to expedite any permits that might be required and probably waive fees related to them.”

Ideally, the quality of the air inside the restaurants should be the same as outside, he said — which is critical as Covid remains a concern and the colder weather and shorter days are driving diners indoors.

“Carmel Gives has issued about \$5,000 in a grant toward the startup effort in Carmel-by-the-Sea,” said Byrne, who is also trying to get the chamber of commerce involved. “None of that money has been needed to date, as Air by Design has been working for free on the first five installs to get things moving, help develop the business model (with my help) and prove the concept.”

In addition, Hayward has a Community Foundation for Monterey County fund “to help subsidize projects like this,” he said.

“The goal is to get 100 percent of our restaurants on this Clean Air Verified program and then to push that message out through Visit Carmel and other tourist-oriented marketing organizations,” Byrne said. “This may very well be the first city to make that claim. Future commercial customers will be paying far more for the up-front analysis and ongoing costs.”

#### Thoughts so far

Denis Boaro, who owns Basil on San Carlos, said he was initially skeptical since his restaurant is so small, but

was soon convinced the effort is worthwhile.

“I didn’t have to pay anything, so what do I have to lose, at this point?” he said. Plus, the air-cleaning effort gives Boaro a selling point when talking to potential customers, many of whom might prefer to eat indoors.

“It’s something everyone should do,” he said.

Rich Pepe, who’s agreed to have the equipment installed at his downtown establishments, observed that more than ever before, people are concerned about air quality, especially indoors.

“Many restaurant guests continue to choose to sit outside, but by installing the filtration system and air quality sensors, I hope to offer my guests and also my staff the opportunity to feel comfortable indoors,” he said. “Breathing clean, fresh air indoors will improve the overall guest experience, and I believe it will be worth the financial investment.”

Byrne this week said he got approval from several other restaurants interested in participating and hopes more will buy in.

“This will be a subscription service, whereby a fee is charged for the up-front analysis, the equipment is installed, and a low monthly or yearly subscription fee is charged. That will cover the cost of the equipment and monitoring the air quality, and making recommendations and adjustments,” he said. “Each restaurant will receive a clean air verified rating which includes a sticker for their window and logo to present on their website, along with a real-time readout of the air quality.”

More information can be found at [cleanrestaurantair.com](http://cleanrestaurantair.com).

### Culinary Week party moved to Plaza

The kickoff party for the Carmel Culinary Week set to take place next month won’t be on city streets after all, but in Carmel Plaza, according to Amy Herzog, executive director of the Visit Carmel tourism group.

“The Carmel Culinary Week planning committee in conjunction with the Monterey County Vintners & Growers Association, our partners for the kick-off party, decided



Chef and mushroom expert Todd Spanier will lead supporters of the Big Sur Health Center on the “Hike With The King Of Mushrooms” during the Foragers Fest next year.

yesterday to move the location for the Carmel Culinary Week kick-off party scheduled for Friday, Jan. 14, 2022, from 3 to 5 p.m., to the Carmel Plaza, so we no longer needed permission from the city council to use the public right of way,” Herzog told The Pine Cone.

“The main reasoning was that we felt more protection from the elements would mitigate our risk of having to cancel due to weather,” she continued. “Also, the new location requires less of an outlay of financial and human resources.”

The city council was set to vote Tuesday on allowing the service of alcohol on public property, but with the move to the Plaza, that decision became moot.

While it’s referred to as a week, it’s really longer, Herzog noted, since it runs Jan. 14-23, 2022. “We have 27 different restaurants planning to participate this year by offering special prix fixe menus, and/or incentive offers, and/or special events and demos throughout the 10-day period,” she told The Pine Cone.

*Continues next page*

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## The Carmel Pine Cone

will be observing early deadlines for Christmas week

### Christmas: Issue Dec. 24

Pine Cone advertising deadlines:

#### Monday, December 20, 2021:

2 p.m. for all ad submissions

#### Legal deadline:

Monday, December 20, 5 p.m.

**Real Estate** — Deadline is Tuesday, December 21, 10 a.m. for all ad submission

Open houses: Monday, December 20, 10 a.m.

### New Year's: Issue Dec. 31

Regular deadlines are in place for New Years.

The Pine Cone office will be **CLOSED Friday, December 24 & Monday, December 27.**

Thereafter we will resume regular office hours.

# FOOD & WINE

**From previous page**

While she no longer needed their help with the kickoff party, in a letter, Herzog asked council members to consider extending outdoor dining in parklets to at least the end of the campaign. As it stands, if the council doesn't decide to extend the parklets, they'll have to be removed by Jan.

20, right in the middle of Culinary Week. "We are hoping to maximize dining opportunities for locals and visitors alike so that they may enjoy creative menus, special offers and experiences at our restaurants," she explained. Information can be downloaded from the free mobile passport that will be available early next month, and can also be found at [carmelculinaryweek.com](http://carmelculinaryweek.com).

Panettone in various flavors can be found in Mezzaluna's market, which offers a bounty of gift options for food lovers and Italophiles.



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## The Carmel Pine Cone

Press Release guidelines

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

**Mary Schley:** Carmel-by-the-Sea, food & wine, police, fire, criminal courts and schools..... [mary@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:mary@carmelpinecone.com)

**Chris Counts:** Carmel Valley, Big Sur, Arts & Entertainment and scholastic sports..... [chris@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:chris@carmelpinecone.com)

**Kelly Nix:** Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Monterey, Seaside, state government, civil courts and water..... [kelly@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:kelly@carmelpinecone.com)

**Letters to the editor are only accepted by email and should be sent to**  
[mail@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:mail@carmelpinecone.com)

■ **Grand opening at Total Wine**

Total Wine & More is opening its first store on the Monterey Peninsula in the Sand Dollar Shopping Center at 808 Playa Ave. in Sand City next week.

The chain was started in 1991 by brothers David and Robert Trone, who opened their first store in Delaware. Since then, they've added more than 225 locations focusing on "unbeatable prices and unrivaled service from our expertly trained staff."

They announced the new store carries 8,000 wines, 4,000 spirits and 2,500 beers, and contains a climate-controlled wine room for rare offerings and a walk-in humidor for fine cigars.

To celebrate their newest location, the owners will donate part of their sales from Dec. 16 to Dec. 19 to the Food Bank for Monterey County.

An invitation-only ribbon cutting will be held Wednesday to mark the official opening. To learn more, visit [totalwine.com/monterey](http://totalwine.com/monterey).

■ **Holiday Happy Hour**

Rio Grill in the Crossroads shopping center is hosting holiday-inspired Happy Hour throughout December, offering food and drink specials Monday through Thursday between 3 and 5:30 p.m.

Executive chef Luis Osorio's risotto tater tots, truffle-Manchego cheese fries, and lamb lollipops can accompany a wide range of drinks.

Specialty cocktails are just \$9 during Happy Hour and include the Rio Rita, Maple Old Fashioned (bourbon, maple syrup and Angostura bitters), Holiday Mojito (Sailor Jerry rum, allspice dram, cranberry, lime and mint), Lavender Lemon Drop (limoncello, lavender simple syrup, lemon and butterfly pea flower-infused liqueur) and a watermelon-infused margarita.

Wines by the glass are \$12 each, with Moët & Chandon brut Champagne, 13 Celsius sauvignon blanc from New Zealand,

See **FOOD** next page

PRESENT  
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Dolores Between Ocean & 7th  
\$35 (Members \$10)  
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**CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER SPECIAL**

DECEMBER 24, 2021 | 4:00PM TO 10:00PM | \$44.95 per person  
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**CHRISTMAS THREE-COURSE DINNER**

DECEMBER 25, 2021 | 12:00PM TO 8:00PM | \$64.95++ per person  
coke farm red and golden beet salad, choice of 12oz prime rib of beef, deistel turkey, fresh caught halibut or mama's eggplant parmesan, finished with a christmas yule log

**NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER SPECIAL**

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**SATURDAY DECEMBER 25, 2021 | 12PM TO 8PM**



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Turkey & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Traditional Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Chef Marco's Christmas Yule Log

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# FOOD & WINE

## FOOD

From page 45A

Bernardus Monterey County chardonnay, McIntyre pinot noir, Daou cabernet sauvignon and Seghesio zinfandel on offer.

And for those who prefer beer, Scrimshaw pilsner, Alvarado Street Mai Tai IPA, Anderson Valley Boont amber ale and Sincere cider can be had for \$7 apiece.

Find more information at [riogrill.com](http://riogrill.com).

### ■ Gifts at Mezzaluna

With Christmas around the corner, Mezzaluna — which won the Golden Pine Cone for Best Italian Restaurant this year — has stocked its little market with items perfect for gift baskets and stockings for the food-lovers and Italo-

philes in your life.

Open Wednesday through Sunday from 5 to 9 p.m. for drinks and dinner, the restaurant on Forest Hill in Pacific Grove has a retail liquor license that allows owners chef Soerke Peters and partner Amy Stouffer to offer expansive wine and amaro selections.

Customers will also find finely ground Pasini “00” flour that’s ideal for homemade pizza dough, as well as imported pastas and prepared sauces.

Panettone in various flavors — among them pineapple and apricot, citrus and saffron, chocolate chip and Amarena cherry — can be found alongside authentic jelly treats, chocolate figurines, marzipan and other scrumptious sweets. And olive oils and vinegars are available too, of course.

Baskets can be assembled according to taste, and Mezzaluna offers pre-packed ones, as well.

Find more information at [mezzalunapasteria.com](http://mezzalunapasteria.com) or call (831) 372-5325.

### ■ Foragers Fest will be back

The Big Sur Health Center’s annual Foragers Fest will return for in-person tastings and other festivities Jan. 20-23, 2022, and is hosting an online fundraiser instead of the auction that typically accompanies the event.

All items in the online auction store have been donated by supporters of the Big Sur Health Center, which serves residents and visitors in the Big Sur area, from hospitality workers and retirees to firefighters and tourists. To purchase any of the items, go to [bigsurhealthcenteronline-store.org](http://bigsurhealthcenteronline-store.org).

Those looking to eat, drink and learn may be interested in accompanying chef and mushroom expert Todd Spanier on the “Hike With The King Of Mushrooms” and indulge in the “Beer and Brunch” to follow at the Big Sur River Inn. The events are set for Jan. 22, and the hike will cost \$60 per person, while Beer and Brunch will cost \$50. See [bigsurhealthcenteronlinestore.org/hikes-brunch](http://bigsurhealthcenteronlinestore.org/hikes-brunch).

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3-COURSE MEAL  
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**DINE-IN THREE COURSE MEAL** Serves 1 Person  
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<b>COURSE 1</b> Choice of 1	<b>ENTRÉE</b> Choice of 1	<b>DESSERT</b> Choice of 1
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Pre-Order by 3:00pm on Tuesday, December 22, at [exploretock.com/quailodge](http://exploretock.com/quailodge)  
Pick-Up on December 25 from 11:00am to 4:00pm

**WHOLE HAM DINNER • \$160+tax** Serves 4 to 6 People  
Whole 8-10 lb. Spiral Cut Country Ham, Potato Gratin, Rosemary & Brown Sugar Yams, Green Beans, Rolls & Cultured Butter, Bourbon Glaze, Mixed Greens Salad, Chef’s Leftovers Recipe

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Country Ham, Potato Gratin, Rosemary & Brown Sugar Yams, Green Beans, Rolls & Cultured Butter, Bourbon Glaze, Mixed Greens Salad with Molasses Vinaigrette

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# MUSIC

From page 43A

acts that pay tribute to the colorful rock band founded the late singer and guitarist Jerry Garcia, perhaps none capture the band's spirit better than the Dark Star Orchestra.

## More this weekend

Featuring three trumpets, three trombones, a tuba, keyboards and percussion, **Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass** play "Christmas classics with a contemporary flair" Thursday at Carmel Presbyterian Church. The concert starts at 7 p.m. and is free, and the church is located on the corner of Ocean and Junipero.

A choral group that represents one of America's oldest colleges, **The Dartmouth Dodecaphonics** returns to the Meals on Wheels Community Center in Pacific Grove, which presents a free holiday show Sunday at 1:30 p.m. The center is located at 700 Jewell Ave.

And three-time Grammy Award winners, **The Spanish Harlem Orchestra**, play salsa and Latin jazz Saturday at the Monterey Conference Center. The show starts at 7 p.m., tickets are \$35 and the conference center is located at 1 Portola Plaza in Monterey.

## Live music Dec. 10-16

**Bernardus Lodge & Spa** in Carmel Valley — pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), multi-instrumentalist **Gary Regina** (jazz, Saturday at noon), pianist **Mathias Morris** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Robert McNamara** (Sunday at noon) and guitarist **John Sherry** (rock, folk and blues, Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.). In the Lucia Restaurant & Bar at 415 W. Carmel Valley Road, (831) 658-3400.

**Big Sur River Inn** — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Saturday at 1 p.m.). On Highway 1 24 miles south of Carmel, (831) 667-2700.

**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 7 p.m.), **The Andrea Carter Trio** (jazz and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.), guitarist **Richard Devineck** (classical, Sunday at 6 p.m.) and singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh, (831) 624-3871.

**Cibo** restaurant in Monterey — **The Dave Holodiloff Duo** (jazz and bluegrass,

Sunday at 7 p.m.), singers **Lee Durley** and **Scotty Wright** (jazz and r&b, Tuesday at 7 p.m.) and **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz and swing, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St., (831) 649-8151.

**Deja Blue** restaurant in Seaside — singer **Nicolas Bearde** headlines a fundraiser for the Monterey Blues Festival (jazz and blues, Sunday at 2 p.m.). 500 Broadway Ave., (831) 383-2553.

**Fernwood Resort** in Big Sur — **Wayward Jerry** (country rock, Friday at 7 p.m.). On Highway 1 25 miles south of Carmel, (831) 667-2422.

**Folktales Winery** in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **John Vicino** (Friday at 2 p.m.), **The Rough Jazz Combo** (Saturday at 2 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Benny Bassett** (Sunday at 11:30 a.m.), singer and guitarist **Bobcat Rob** (Monday at 2 p.m.) and singer and guitarist **John Paul Hodge** (Thursday at 2 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road, (831) 293-7500.

**Gusto Pasta and Pizza** in Seaside — singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.). 1901 Fremont Blvd., (831) 899-5825.

**Hyatt Carmel Highlands** — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Saturday and Thursday at 7 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive, (831) 620-1234.

**The Inn at Spanish Bay** in Pebble Beach — pianist **Gary Meek**, bassist **Steve Uccello** and drummer **Andy Weis** (jazz, Friday at 7 p.m.) and pianist **Bill Spencer**, bassist **Steve Uccello** and drummer **Andy Weis** (jazz, Friday at 7 p.m.). 2700 17 Mile Drive, (831) 647-7500.

**Intercontinental Hotel** in Monterey — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock, folk and blues, Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m.) and singer and guitarist **Fred McCarty** (blues and rock, Sunday at 6 p.m.). In the "C" Restaurant, 750 Cannery Row, (831) 375-4500.

**Juice and Java** in Pacific Grove — Open Mic Night (Friday at 6 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave., (831) 373-8652.

**La Playa Hotel** — **The David Morwood Band** (jazz, Sunday at 4 p.m.). Camino Real, (800) 582-8900.

**The Lodge at Pebble Beach** — singer and guitarist **Ace de la Vergne** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer **Haley Jane** (rock, Saturday at 6 p.m.) and singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (blues and rock, Sunday at 6 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive, (831) 624-3811.

**Loma Vista** in Big Sur — **Wayward Jerry** (country rock, Saturday at noon). On Highway 1 27 miles south of Carmel.

**Lucy's On Lighthouse** in Pacific Grove — **The Brad Wilson Trio** (rock and blues, Sunday at 2 p.m.). 1120 Lighthouse

Ave., (831) 920-2006.

**Massa Tasting Room** in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Sunday at 2:30 p.m.). 69 W. Carmel Valley Road, (831) 659-6221.

**Mission Ranch** — singer and pianist **Maddaline Edstrom** (jazz and pop, Friday through Sunday at 5 p.m.) and pianist **Gennady Loktionov** (jazz, Monday through Thursday at 5 p.m.). 26270 Dolores St., (831) 625-9040.

**Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa** — pianist **Steve Mann** (jazz, Friday and Sunday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.) and singer and guitarist **Steven Shook** (Sunday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row, (831) 646-1700.

**Puma Road at Portola** in Monterey — **Max & Bronwyn** (pop, jazz and folk, Friday at 5 p.m.) and **Orchid Saloon** (country, jazz and soul, Saturday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St., (831) 747-1911.

**Rio Grill** — singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Johan Sotelo** (Saturday at noon) and singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey**

**Wickstrom** (Sunday at noon). Crossroads shopping center, (831) 625-5436.

**Sly McFly's** in Monterey — **Jon Griffin & The Lightfighters** (rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **5 Star** (rock and soul, Saturday at 9 p.m.), **Brad Wilson & Rolling Thunder** (rock and blues, Sunday at 8:30 p.m.), **Victory Lane** (rock, Tuesday at 9 p.m.), **The John Michael Band** (rock, Wednesday at 5 p.m.) and **The DC Trio** (funk, jazz and r&b, Thursday at 5 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row, (831) 649-8050.

**The Salty Seal Pub** in Monterey — **The New Wave** (80s pop and rock, Saturday at 8 p.m.). 653 Cannery Row, (831) 920-2327. 700 Cannery Row, (831) 649-8050.

**Tarpy's** in Monterey — singer and violinist **Razzvio** (rock, Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Saturday at noon) and singer and guitarist **Johan Sotelo** (Sunday at noon). 2999 Highway 68, (831) 647-1444.

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



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**P**olice Log: Pacific Grove, March 17

**C**rocker Ave. resident brought in a collection of bones

he had found in his backyard.

**H**e often smells his neighbor cooking ribs

**O**fficer contacted the neighbor.

and believes he is discarding them over the fence.

He denied throwing bones.

# The paint may dry, but the subject matter stays wet in Wagstaff's work

WHILE MANY of us are drawn to water, few make it a bigger part of their creative journey than Jan Wagstaff, who shares her latest paintings in a show that opens Friday at Studio Fogline.

## Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

As an artist, Wagstaff sees a world of possibilities in one of life's essential elements.

"I'm always drawn to the motion of water, whether it be a river, a bay, a pond or even a fountain," Wagstaff, a member of the Carmel Art Association, told The Pine Cone. "I find it fascinating to look at water and try distinguish between the layers. I'm not interested in seascape

vistas. I'm more interested in the water itself — What's around the water, what's in it, how it moves and how it reflects everything."

While there's plenty of water to paint around here, despite our endless water crisis, Wagstaff seeks out water in many places. Some of her recent work was inspired by the Pecos River in New Mexico, which she visited in September and October.

Unlike many painters, Wagstaff doesn't bring along her brushes and easel when she visits a watery subject.

"I take photos and lay them out in my studio," she explained. "I construct a painting by taking bits and pieces from each of the photos — I'll take a little of this one, and a little of that one."

Studio Fogline, meanwhile, is calling attention to local artists with monthly shows. "The studio is evolving into a hub, a gathering place for artists and collectors, and those seeking to curate a setting through a complement of fine art and furniture," the studio's Maxine Russell added.

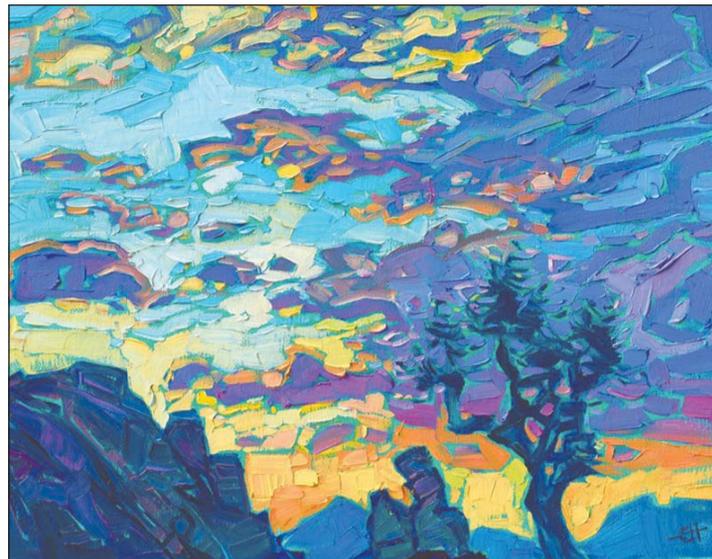
The reception starts at 5 p.m. A design studio that pairs art and furniture, Studio Fogline is located at Junipero and Fifth. [studiofogline.com](http://studiofogline.com)

### Follow the blue lanterns

More than a dozen artist-owned galleries host the latest Carmel Art Walk Saturday from 4 to 7 p.m. "Kick off your holiday festivities with a self-guided tour through the quaint streets of Carmel," suggests artist and gallery owner Joaquin Turner, who has a gallery on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth.

Fourteen galleries are participating in the walk, including Gallery North, Patricia Qualls Gallery, Gallery Sur, Delia and Aaron Chang Gallery.

The event, which is free, showcases artist-owned galleries downtown.



Erin Hanson, who has a gallery on San Carlos between Fifth and Sixth, unveils a collection of 'petite' paintings Saturday at 4 p.m.

"Pick up a map at any of the participating galleries and follow the blue lanterns," Turner added. "Each gallery will have a lantern displayed out front to help you along your self-guided tour."

### Music, wine and 'petite' art

Just as she does each year, painter Erin Hanson shares a treasure trove of miniature pieces at her downtown gallery, which is located on San Carlos between Fifth and Sixth. The paintings are no larger than 20 inches by 24 inches, and many are smaller. "The whole gallery is filled with new 'petite' paintings," reported gallery director Miranda Register.

The gallery will be the site of a reception Saturday from 4 to 8 p.m. Violinist Briana Di Mara will play classical music, while Holman Ranch Vineyard will pour wine.



A member of the Carmel Art Association, Jan Wagstaff shares her latest paintings at Fogline Studios at Junipero and Fifth, which hosts a reception Friday at 5 p.m.



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Continues from previous page

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# ARTIST

From page 23A

stunned to be offered a solo show for her paintings at Forward Gallery in Old Town Salinas, where she encountered other people who liked what she was doing.

Part of Muscarello's emotional relationship with her art is laid bare in a disturbing series of mixed-media abstracts done in oil, pastel, resin and beads. It's entitled "Wish You Were Here," and was inspired by a breakup in 2017. The first piece, entitled "Stay," depicts a weeping woman with arms outstretched. The next, "Leave," is the adverse reaction of a man in a fedora and plaid bowtie. The last, "Goodbye," is a woman with mascara streaks under dark, hollow eyes, arms hanging at her side in despair.

The series drew the most interest among 20 pieces Muscarello exhibited at a 2018 show in Carmel Valley Village.

"Some people — especially women — said, 'Wow, these are amazing. What were you thinking?'" she recalled. "I would explain and they'd invariably say, 'Oh, yeah ... I've done that!'"

### Art Battle Monterey

In 2019, Muscarello was among the artists invited to take part in Art Battle Monterey at the Dali Expo, a competition challenging painters to create an abstract in each of three 20-minute rounds. Her painting was declared winner of round one.

This past summer, she was invited to display her work in a three-month-long solo show, part of the Monterey History & Art Association Dali Exhibition at Custom House Plaza.

"It's all very surreal to me — I'm still kind of amazed," she said of her success. "But I've also been willing to put myself out there. I came from the business world and what I've learned about marketing has enabled me to do that."

Indeed, Muscarello is not represented by a gallery. Her only showcase is at Carrigg's of Carmel, an upscale home and furniture store on Ocean Avenue, but her online presence is significant, utilizing several social media outlets and her own website.

She also is a familiar face as a volunteer at community events, including a seven-year stint with the Carmel Art and Film Festival and four years as a board member and executive committee member with the Monterey County Film Commission. Muscarello also frequently participates in social justice marches and rallies, especially those involving women's rights. The political climate is a recurring theme in her art.

Additional information and images of her work can be found at [cindymuscarelloart.com](http://cindymuscarelloart.com).

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



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