Cal Am has work to do before desal a reality

By KELLY NIX

CALIFORNIA AMERICAN Water has gotten over one of the biggest hurdles facing its long-soft desalination plant — approval of the project by the state’s powerful coastal commission. But challenged it faces, it means it could be a long time before ground is broken on the project.

On Nov. 17, coastal commissioners at a meeting in Salinas supported a recommendation from its staff that Cal Am’s desal plant be approved, voting 6-2 to issue a coastal development permit for the utility’s feedwater slant wells in the Marina dunes and the company’s desal plant near the landfill.

But there are a lot of steps and actions Cal Am and other agencies must take before it can start construction, explained coastal commission staffer Tom Luster, who recommended to commissioners ahead of the Salinas meeting that the desal plant be approved with modified conditions.

Many permits

Those steps include, according to Luster, additional approvals from the State Water Resources Control Board, the State Lands Commission, the local sewer district Monterey One Water and the California Public Utilities Commission. The CPUC in September 2018 OK’d a larger Cal Am plant.

A simulation of the proposed lighting at the Carmel High football stadum shows how 70-foot light towers will be tall enough to cast their light downward instead of into the surrounding neighborhood.

WARY OF SURGE, CHOMP REOPENS TRIAGE TENT

By CHRIS COURTS

WITH CASES of Covid and other respiratory viruses on the rise, Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula is taking the precautionary measure of setting up a triage tent near the entrance to the emergency room.

The tent will make it easier to isolate those who are afflicted and reduce the spread of viruses.

“We’re seeing a lot more respiratory cases in the hospital,” CHOMP spokeswoman Monica Scinto said. “It’s a combination of Covid, the flu and other illnesses like pneumonia. So we’re taking a proactive approach to make sure we’re ready for increases in our emergency room visits.”

On the rise

Dr. Martha Blum of CHOMP observed that influenza and a highly contagious virus, RSV, that hits children especially hard, are on the rise after two years of “very minimal activity.”

“We are seeing a return of significant levels of influenza combined with an early surge of RSV, while still seeing the anticipated increase in Covid-19 cases following the Thanksgiving holiday,” Blum reported. “The hospital is seeing cases of severe influenza requiring hospitalization, particularly in the elderly, and continues to care for young children and infants suffering from severe RSV.”

As of Thursday, Blum reported that the hospital is looking after 12 Covid patients in isolation and 10 patients who are contagious.

On-board Tesla video shows driver speeding wrong way on Scenic

By MARY SCHLEY

VIDEO OBTAINED by Carmel police of the spectacular rollover Tesla crash on Scenic Road two weeks ago shows that the driver, identified as Mike Whorton of Phoenix, Ariz., was speeding the wrong way on Scenic Road and blew through two intersections before careening over a curb into the sand dunes and hitting a tree about 150 feet off the roadway, Sgt. Michael Bruno said this week.

“To those watching the Tesla video, you’re going to say, ‘Too bad.’”

A longtime resident identifying herself only as Noelle accused the district of using the students as “pawns” in its effort to get the project approved. “This is an exploitation of business. It has nothing to do with the school, and it has nothing to do with the poor kids. It destroys the neighborhood,” she said. “There’s going to be light pollution. There’s going to be noise pollution. And 80-foot lights are ridiculous. You guys are motivated by money, bottom line.”

“I love it”

But several parents and students argued in favor of the lights and the rest of the improvements, which include a new storage shed with a viewing platform on top next to the bleachers, new parking lots east of the pool and on the south side where the tennis courts are, new pathways and driveways, and replacement pool lights. A few neighbors supported the proposal, as well.

“I live six houses north of the football field, and I love it,” said a resident who didn’t provide his name. “I’m selfish, because I want the lights — I want to go up there and watch all the sports.”

Fleet Safety spokesman Hector Soliman-Valdez said the plate recognition system would provide Pacific Grove police officers with real-time alerts of stolen vehicles entering the city and said it’s also an investigative tool.

A simulation of the proposed lighting at the Carmel High football stadium shows how 70-foot light towers will be tall enough to cast their light downward instead of into the surrounding neighborhood.

School board unanimously embraces CHS lights

By MARY SCHLEY

A simulation of the proposed lighting at the Carmel High football stadium shows how 70-foot light towers will be tall enough to cast their light downward instead of into the surrounding neighborhood.

P.G. proposes cameras to record license plates

By KELLY NIX

IN WHAT Pacific Grove Police Department maintains would be a valuable law enforcement tool, it has proposed installing cameras to photograph the license plates of vehicles entering and departing the city — technology Carmel-by-the-Sea implemented in 2017 and which has helped solve numerous crimes in that city, including the rape and beating of an elderly woman.

At a traffic safety commission meeting Nov. 22, P.G. Police Chief Cathy Madalone and a representative from Fleet Safety — the company offering the “automated license plate readers” said cameras positioned along the city’s borders would capture “computer readable images” of license plates and vehicles, allowing officers to compare plate numbers against those of stolen cars or vehicles belonging to individuals wanted for crimes.

“This is a great investigative tool that will be used by our team members to assist our officers in keeping our community safe and reducing crime and the fear of crime,” Madalone said.

Highly successful

Similar traffic cameras have been used by the Carmel Police Department to solve numerous crimes. In April, officers identified and arrested a 35-year-old transient who used an ax to break into Carmel Cafetry after reviewing the cameras, which captured an image of the man’s Mercedes and its license plate number.

In May 2020, the cameras helped officers quickly identify Isaac Garcia, then 20 years old, who raped an elderly woman on 13th near Scenic. Garcia pleaded guilty in April 2021 to forcible rape, and admitted causing significant injuries and using a firearm. He is serving a 25-years-to-life prison sentence.

A simulation of the proposed lighting at the Carmel High football stadium shows how 70-foot light towers will be tall enough to cast their light downward instead of into the surrounding neighborhood.

The end of the world, or paradise?

By MARY SCHLEY

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Not Happening

Bridget Bardot knows her name but has no idea she was named after French screen siren Brigitte Bardot, albeit with a shift in spelling. She also knows her sister’s name, Coco Chanel, but has no idea she was named for the legendary fashion designer. And wouldn’t care.

Clearly, the four-legged stars know each other, running toward one another when reunited as if to say, “Where have you been?”

Bridget Bardot and her sister were living in a condo in San Francisco among eight other dogs, most of them Maltese. When their people could no longer care for them, the pups were brought to Carmel Valley to be dispersed among loving locals.

Bridget Bardot’s person, who had recently lost her own Maltese, saw the story of the orphaned dogs on Facebook and went out to the valley to meet them. As soon as she held Bridget Bardot, she knew she’d found her “Baby B.”

“Whenever I ask Bridget if she wants to visit Coco, her ears perk up and she gets excited,” her person said. “We got them together every weekend before Covid and look forward to doing so again.”

Bridget is always eager to go for a walk around her Pacific Meadows home. Her excitement as she runs up to people with her tail wagging, as if to say, “Hi, how are you?” has earned her the title of Mayor of the Neighborhood. As much as she loves her home turf, her aversion to the beach is palpable.

“She doesn’t even want to look at the beach,” her person said. “As soon as we get there, she looks at me as if to say, ‘Why are we here?’ If I try to take her on a leash down to the sand, she drops down onto her belly and goes flat, refusing to budge. It’s not happening.”
COUNTY FINALIZES ELECTION RESULTS

New council Dec. 13

By MARY SCHLEY

THE MONTEREY County elections department released the final results of the Nov. 8 election this week, with just under half of registered voters countywide — 103,147 — casting ballots. For the City of Carmel, Carmel Unified School District and the Monterey County Sheriff’s race, the tallies reaffirmed the initial results.

In the council race, incumbent Jeff Baron netted 998 votes, followed by new comer Alessandra Dramov’s 800. Gallery owner Ashley Stoddard received 708, while Parker Logan got 513. Incumbent Mayor Dave Potter ran unopposed and got 1,422 votes.

The 1-square-mile city had 2,548 registered voters, of which 1,238 voted, according to the county registrar’s office, including 1,238 Democrats and 651 Republicans, and 1,996 people participated in the election.

The Carmel City Council is set to adopt a resolution certifying the election results at a special meeting Dec. 13 at 4:30 p.m., when outgoing councilwoman Carrie Theis will be honored for her years on the council and Potter, Baron and Dramov will take the oath of office and be sworn in.

Two-thirds for Nieto

A total of 95,663 people participated in the election for sheriff, with nearly two-thirds of them (62,848) selecting Marina Police Chief Tina Nieto over MCSO Capt. Joe Moses, who received 32,815 votes.

And in the race for Carmel Unified School District, which has 17,279 registered voters, incumbents Tess Arthur and Sara Hinds won handily, receiving 7,314 votes and 6,457 votes, respectively. Challenger Drew Lander got 2,429 votes, and 1,999 people voted for Lawrence Samuels. Total voter turnout in the district was just under 73 percent.

According to elections data, 209,045 people are registered to vote countywide, including 109,843 Democrats, 41,118 Republicans, and 44,481 voters who have no political party affiliation.

WOMAN’S CLUB DISTRIBUTES GRANTS

By ELAINE HESSER

ON MONDAY , Dec. 5 at 2 p.m., the Carmel Woman’s Club will make the holidays happier for 12 local nonprofit groups when it distributes its annual grants. This year’s recipients include the Blind & Visually Impaired Center in Pacific Grove, the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts, The Carmel Foundation, Carmel Valley Angel Project and Carmel Youth Center.

Also included are, CASA of Monterey County, Gathering for Women, Kernes Adaptive Aquatics, Monterey Sober Living Home And Table, titled “Holiday Decor For Home And Table,” followed by a coffee/tea reception.

Each group will receive approximately $500 to continue its good works.

The event — at the Woman’s Club at Ninth and San Carlos — is open to the public, with an admission fee of $10 for non-members. Also on the agenda is a presentation by the florist design firm Twig and Petal, titled “Holiday Decor For Home And Table,” followed by a coffee/tea reception.

For more information, call (831)624-2688 or (831)594-6200.

For Women, Pacific Repertory Theater, The Salvation Army and Girls, Inc. represent recipient organizations.

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A burglar made a safe getaway

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 14

Pacific Grove: Ammunition turned in by a Grove Ace resident for destruction.

Pacific Grove: A found ring on Ocean View Boulevard was turned in for destruction.

Pacific Grove: At approximately 2050 hours, POGP responded to a verbal domestic dispute on Grove Ave. The involved parties agreed to separate for the night. No criminal activity was reported.

Carmel area: Sycamore Place resident requested assistance with a juvenile issue.

Carmel Valley: Deputies dispatched to a vandalism of a vehicle on Dorris Drive. A hole had been drilled on the gas tank to steal the gas. No suspect information.

Pebble Beach: A juvenile Pine Meadow Way resident was reported as a runaway but was located a distance away and returned to her parents.

Pebble Beach: Deputies responded to a juvenile on probation threatening her parents over alcohol at a Pine Meadow Way residence. Juvenile resisted and obstructed deputies. The 16-year-old female was in possession of alcohol and marijuana, and taken to juvenile hall.

Tuesday, November 15

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A cell phone was lost somewhere in Carmel.

Big Sur: Victim alleged she was raped at a party on Highway 1.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Resident on Santa Rita south of Second reported a phone scam resulting in the loss of $31,500.

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

The gavel falls

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

Oct. 28 — The California Board of Parole granted David Leonardo parole after he served less than 11 years in custody. Leonardo was serving a 15 year to life sentence for a murder he committed in 2014. This was the inmate’s first parole hearing.

On Dec. 3, 2011, at 1:17 p.m., Monterey County deputies and firefighters responded to a call of a non-responsive child. Leonardo was upstairs yelling for the deputies to come upstairs. As deputies entered the upstairs bedroom, they saw Leonardo holding a 2-year-old girl. Priscilla Rose Hernandez, who was not wearing a shirt and had several visible bruises on her body including her lower abdomen. Her eyes were open. Her body was pale and motionless. She was unconscious. Her extremities were cool to the touch. She had an open airway. Leonardo was talking rapidly and was visibly upset. He was then queried that Leonardo was Priscilla’s mother’s boyfriend who watched the children.

An autopsy was conducted. Priscilla had suffered blunt force trauma to her abdomen that caused tears in the lining of her abdomen and in her colon which resulted in internal bleeding, causing her death within minutes. Injuries to her mouth indicated she had been smothered sometime within 24 hours prior to her death. There were numerous bruises on her chest, abdomen, head, and arms. Severe bruising was observed to her right arm, which appeared to be grab marks.

Once the autopsy was complete, Leonardo was re-interviewed and after much prod-

See GAVEL page 30A.
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Drunk driver to spend 20 years in prison for young woman’s death

By KELLY NIX

A GREENFIELD man convicted of murder in the 2021 drunk, wrong-way driving death of a former Carmel Valley woman, was sentenced to 20 years in prison Wednesday.

On Feb. 2, 2021, Baltazar Donato, 28, was driving a Lincoln MKS northbound in the southbound lane on Highway 101 near San Ardo in Monterey County when he struck a Mazda sedan driven by Sabrina Lecce. 23. Lecce died at the scene and her boyfriend, Grisey Gutierrez, was injured.

A jury in October convicted Donato of second-degree murder and several other charges.

In a Salinas courtroom Wednesday morning, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Pamela Butler sentenced Donato to 15 years to life in state prison for second-degree murder and another five years for enhancements.

Heartbreaking

At the hearing, members of Lecce’s family described her as a religious and loving young woman full of life. They also told Butler how her death had profoundly changed their lives.

Lecce’s mother, Michelle Gurley, of Paso Robles, said her daughter, a daycare teacher, loved kids and animals.

“She gave the warmest hugs and her smile would lift everyone’s spirits,” Gurley said. “Her laugh was contagious.”

Gurley said the death of her daughter, the oldest of five children, had deeply impacted her other children, including two who were supposed to get their driver’s licenses but are now scared to drive.

“They are going through anxiety, depression and fear,” Gurley said. “They lost their oldest sister, who was their friend, someone they could talk to and was like a second mother.”

Gurley’s second-oldest child, Patrick, “would always go to Sabrina for advice,” she added. “Now he feels alone.”

Lecce’s father, Paul Lecce of Carmel Valley, also noted his daughter’s love of animals and her “uncanny attraction and appreciation” for them, and he recalled the time when, as a 5-year-old girl, she confidently wrangled a chicken at her cousin’s house in hopes of taking it home as a pet.

“She grabbed it by the neck and picked it up with absolutely no fear,” Lecce recalled. “And the chicken was calm as can be.”

Lecce, who showed the court a photo collage of Sabrina, said the last time he saw his daughter was in the county morgue. He summarized some of the events he’ll never get to experience with her.

“A father-daughter relationship is really special, and I got robbed of that,” he said. “I want to walk her down the aisle. I want to see her children. I want my father-daughter dance.”

Butler — who has presided over many hearings in which people have lost loved ones — was moved by the impact statements.

“It’s a blessing for each of you to have Sabrina in your lives,” she said. Apology offered

Donato, whose blood alcohol level was more than twice the legal limit, was defiant moments after the crash when a CHP officer told him he’d killed Lecce. At his sentencing, though, a shackled Donato — who mostly avoided making eye contact with members of Lecce’s family — offered a brief apology.

“I’m very sorry for the loss,” said Donato, who is married with children. “I see DRUNK page 31A

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Historic races, P.B. Concours get global automotive accolades

By MARY SCHLEY

TWO MAJOR automotive events took top honors last month at the annual Historic Motor Racing Awards in London, reaffirming the Monterey Peninsula’s top position in the collector-car world. The Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance won Concours of the Year for the third time since the awards debuted a dozen years ago, while the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion took Motorsports Event of the Year for the first time.

Created by Octane magazine, the awards recognize top achievements in 21 categories in the automotive world, from Apprentice of the Year and the most highly regarded professional and amateur photographers to Car of the Year, Restorer of the Year, Museum/Collection of the Year, and several others.

Historical accuracy

As director of heritage events and public relations at WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca, Barry Toepke is the key organizer of the August historic races and made the trip to London shortly before Thanksgiving after learning this year’s event was in the running. The Grand Prix Historique de Monaco was one of the contenders, along with the Vintage Sports Car Club’s Herefordsire Trial in England and three others. Toepke said the black-tie gala at the Londoner Hotel featured the who’s who of the collector car world.

“We knew we were going to get the award when the announcer started making comments about ‘historical accuracy’ and other principles the long-running historic races at Laguna Seca hold dear, he said. This year’s races marked the kickoff celebration of the centennial of the 24 Hours of Le Mans race in France rather than focusing on a specific manufacturer.

“We took a gamble on something the event has never done before: honoring another race,” he said. The races also got accolades for the organizers’ decision to shift them from Thursday through Sunday to Wednesday through Saturday, ending the conflict with the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance, which is held on the third Sunday in August, and freeing up the track for a more community-oriented day with a half-limb and other new activities.

With a curated show of an unecec- dented 51 previous Le Mans winners and other off-track activities and displays, as well as races that featured the historic Le Mans-style start of drivers running to their stationary cars and jumping in, this year’s reunion charmed the judges.

“They were very impressed,” he said. Former longtime hotel executive John Narigi, whose company was hired by Monterey County to manage the track and surrounding recreation area, observed that Laguna “is coming back alive” with such global recognition and $15 million in renovations that are already underway, principi- ally a new start-finish bridge and repav- ing of the track.

“I don’t think it’s been alive for quite a few years,” he said. “It has so much poten- tial, and it had this cloud over it.”

The key to longevity at Laguna Seca, he added, is getting current and future genera- tions interested in racing.

Concours’ third crown

Sandra Bilton, chairman of the Peb- ble Beach Concours d’Elegance and also a nominee — along with her husband, Martin — for Music Car Ambassador of the Year at the London event, said she and Toepke “were chuckling that it was sort of a Pebble Beach-Monterey sweep” this

See ACCOLADES page 31A
Wireless ordinances in the works

BY MARY SCHLEY

DELIBERING APPEALS in the city’s legal battles with Verizon over its attempts to install a cell tower near La Playa hotel have been put on hold, according to a Nov. 21 order from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

After a U.S. District Court judge ruled against Verizon in favor of the city in June, the telecom giant said it would appeal the decision to a higher court. And after the same judge in late August denied the city’s bid to recover $77,583 in legal fees from Verizon, the city filed a notice of appeal with the Ninth Circuit as well.

All sides were sent to mediation, after which the court ordered opening briefs by the end of this month and answering briefs by the end of next month.

But all of that has been set aside for now, to give all sides more time to work things out.

“This case shall be held in abeyance. The clerk is directed to temporarily close this court’s docket for administrative purposes until June 1, 2023,” the order signed by court mediator Steven Saltiel states. “This administrative closure is not a decision on the merits and no mandate will issue in connection with this order. At any time, any party may request that this appeal be reopened by contacting the circuit mediator.”

Attorneys on both sides are required to email updates to Saltiel on or before May 25, 2023.

Working on laws

During the break, city officials are working to update and adopt new telecommunications ordinances that comply with state and federal laws, and planning open Saturday 1pm to 4pm

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City tree lighting back in full effect

Plaza has open house

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE CITY’S traditional tree lighting returns in force Dec. 2, with a visit from Santa Claus and an impressive lineup of performances in and around Devendorf Park for the first time since the pandemic.

Last year saw a modified celebration, with snow trucked into the park for kids to play in, and dignitaries lighting the tree, but no singing groups or dance troupes.

This year’s festivities will begin around 3 p.m., with the arrival of Santa and the Del Monte Brass band from the Monterey Naval Postgraduate School. The menorah will be lit at 4, with the main holiday program, led by emcee/realtor Ben Breesley, kicking off at 4:30.

The program is set to include performances from the Dance Center, Carmel River School, Carmel High School chamber singers, CHS cheerleaders, Jacob Chase, Laurel Bowen, new city code enforcement officer Aaron Campbell and singer Debbie Davis. Mayor Dave Potter and the rest of the council, with help from Santa, will light the tree at 5:30.

Following the tree lighting, Carmel Plaza, across the street from the park, will host its annual holiday open house from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., with live music and other entertainment, “delectable treats” and drinks, and more visiting with Santa and other activities for kids. Stores will stay open later and offer special promotions, too.
Planning commission not keen on returning to city hall — but it will

When they hold their regular meeting next Wednesday, planning commissioners will be in city hall instead of online — even though they didn’t really want to give up appearing via Zoom.

The council is strongly encouraging but stopped short of ordering us to go back in person,” planning director Brandon Swanson told the commission last month.

Two commissioners, Robert Delves and Erin Allen, have never participated in a meeting in city hall, since they were appointed after the pandemic started. At their Nov. 9 meeting, which ran more than five hours, they said they prefer the virtual format.

“I never did this when we didn’t do it on Zoom, so it’s hard to compare, but having done many, many, many years of public meetings, I find this approach way more efficient and I kind of hate to give it up,” Delves said. “It’s a forced innovation that works.”

Commissioner Christopher Bolton said he would refuse to endanger his family by meeting in person if there’s any risk of getting Covid.

Might quit “I have the additional issue of having an immune-compromised wife,” he said. “The day that the numbers start going up is the day I quit if I have to, because I will not be going back into in-person meetings,” regardless of whether masks are required or not. The city council adopted an ordinance saying masks are not required if infection rates are low but will be if they are moderate or high, based on Centers for Disease Control metrics.

“I’m not going to endanger my family. It’s absurd to suggest that I would, for a volunteer position,” Bolton continued. “You’re getting enough out of me already — you’re not going to kill my family. So you can say that to the city council if you want to be really strong. But I think it’s unnecessary, and I’m being flip.”

He relented a bit in the end, however, saying. “We can go back. I just don’t like it.”

Chair Michael LePage said he also prefers the convenience and flexibility of meeting by Zoom, but he admitted some members of the public don’t like it.

“I have a large screen in front of me and the ability to look at floorplans, project plans, and pull up old minutes to see what happened in the past,” added commissioner Stephanie Locke. “I can’t do that sitting in the chambers, and I think that has made my contributions better.”

She said she is also concerned about a resurgence in Covid. “I prefer to be in the safety of my own home, but if I have to be in chambers, I will be there,” she said.

Taking what he could from commissioners’ feedback, Swanson said he detected “hesitant support” for returning to in-person meetings in city council chambers, which will happen Dec. 14. Members of the public can go, too, or watch online via Zoom or YouTube, as has been the case with the city council, forest and beach commission and others who have returned to in-person sessions. The community activities commission is still meeting virtually.

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Soledad wants big subdivision, but LandWatch says homes too expensive

By CHRIS COUNTS

TRYING TO put a dent in California’s massive housing shortfall, the city of Soledad is planning to annex 654 acres on its northern edge where builder Nader Agha wants to put 2,400 homes and 100,000 square feet of commercial/retail space. The annexation is so large it would increase the city’s acreage by about 50 percent.

A local land preservation group, LandWatch Monterey County, claims that most of the houses that are a part of what’s being called the Miramonte project will be too expensive for people who already live in Soledad, a town of 24,000 residents in the Salinas Valley. Much of the land that would become homes is prime farmland.

The Local Agency Formation Commission weighs in on the annexation request Dec. 5 in Salinas.

The hearing starts at 4 p.m. in the Monterey County Government Center’s Board of Supervisors Chambers at 168 W. Alisal St. It will also be livestreamed on YouTube (you search the website for LAFCO of Monterey County’s channel).

Smaller project desired

Before approving Soledad’s request to annex the land, LAFCO executive officer Kate McKenna told The Pine Cone, the commission must extend the city’s sphere of influence over it. McKenna’s office is recommending that LAFCO approve this. But they oppose the annexation until Agha revises his plan.

They want to see the buildable area reduced by 50 percent. “A reduced annexation is warranted based on projected future growth and housing demand, as well as a lack of definitive information about Soledad’s infrastructure and services,” McKenna wrote.

In the same report, McKenna noted that her staff recognizes “the urgent need for housing, particularly affordable housing, in the Soledad community.” She also suggested Agha’s proposal contains only “limited information” on how it would “provide adequate affordable housing.”

More details needed

McKenna also said she would like to see a plan that shows where a police/fire station and schools would go, as well as substantial multi-family and affordable housing units.

The recommendation also calls for more to be done to mitigate the loss of farmland, which comprises 75 percent of the property that would be developed.

“The project proponents should seek to identify appropriate conservation easement opportunities on nearby farmlands — or pay an in-lieu fee payment to a qualified conservation entity,” according to McKenna’s report.

LandWatch is urging people to speak out against the plan.

“At stake is the future of the city,” wrote LandWatch deputy director Gabriel Sanders this week in a letter to supporters. “Only 30 percent of the plan’s homes could be affordable given its current housing distribution, while 70 percent of them would cost at least $600,000 — a price affordable only to people who would make Soledad a bedroom community.”

See HOUSING page 25A
P.G. OKs cannabis shop: where will it go, and who will run it?

By CHRIS COUNTS

More than 70 percent of Pacific Grove’s voters approved Measure M last month, giving their approval for a marijuana retail store to set up shop in the town.

The measure’s success prompts two questions: where would it be located, and who would run it?

The measure authorizes the city to allow retail sales of medical or recreational cannabis, but sales would be limited to a single location within the city — and the shop must be located at least 1,000 feet from existing day care centers, youth centers, pre-schools and schools.

Pacific Grove City Councilmember Chaps Poduri, who has taken the lead on the issue, told The Pine Cone that there are only three commercial areas in town that might be able to accommodate the shop: along Lighthouse Avenue just west of David Avenue, in the Russell Service Center, and “on the top of the hill” near Trader Joe’s.

“Track record”

As for who might operate the shop, Poduri said the city hasn’t made any commitment to a particular business proposal.

He said the intent is to make the selection process “a community exercise” that’s as transparent as possible, and that the city is seeking an applicant with a “track record.”

Poduri estimated the selection process will take about a year to complete.

Besides delving into those details, the city councilmember noted that the marijuana shop measure that voters approved is non-binding, so the city is under no obligation to OK a particular proposal.

“We want to make sure we are working towards what the community wants,” he added.

Santa is on his way: volunteers needed for parade and the party that follows

A TRADITION in Carmel Valley that dates back more than six decades, Santa’s Fly-In returns Dec. 10, and if you’d like to be in the parade, you’ll need to sign up by Dec. 7.

The parade — which runs from the former Carmel Valley Airfield through Carmel Valley Village, to Carmel Valley Community Park — is being co-organized by the local Rotary and Kiwanis clubs.

To register as a parade participant, send an email to: daniellecarlson.01@gmail.com.

The clubs are also seeking volunteers to assist with traffic control. The volunteers must be 18, no longer in high school, and have patience dealing with annoyed drivers.

If interested, contact daniellecarlson.01@gmail.com.

The post-parade party in Carmel Valley Community Park is being organized by the Carmel Valley Youth Center, which is seeking volunteers over 18 to help with tickets for an array of family-friendly activities, such as a bounce house. If interested, visit cvycv.org and click on a link to sign up to volunteer.

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DESAL
From page 1A
desal proposal, but there have been chang- es to the proposal since then, including a smaller design of the plant in what Cal Am calls a “phased approach,” and the estimat- ed cost.

“The next step for the coastal com- mission staff is to compile the conditions of the staff report and addendum from the November hearing — including any changes commissioners made during their deliberations and vote — and then send Cal Am a notice of intent to issue a coastal development permit,” Luster explained, adding that the company wouldn’t get the permit until it got all of the other agencies’ approvals.

Cal Am spokesman Josh Stratton told The Pine Cone that the company is working on addressing some conditions that were modified at the Salinas hearing, while also “moving forward on some of the ministe- rial permitting necessary for construction.”

While Monterey Peninsula Water Man- agement District general manager Dave Stoldt said he’s disappointed by the de- cision to OK the desal plant, which he said would cost $426 million and is not neces- sary, he also pointed to the conditions Cal Am must meet before the project moves forward.

With 20 stringent conditions for Cal Am to meet to acquire their permit, includ- ing getting approval from the City of Marina, we don’t expect any construction activity for some time to come,” he said, adding that he figures it could take Cal Am more than two years to get all the approv- als needed for the plant.

Lawsuits?
And then there is the potential for court challenges. It’s expected that a pub- lic agency or one of the activist groups opposed to the project will file suit to try and stop the desal plant from being built. However, the water district may not be one of them.

“We haven’t discussed” the idea of fil- ing a lawsuit yet, Stoldt told The Pine Cone Monday. “I can’t think of any harm to the water district that the approval causes.”

The litany of conditions the coastal panel placed on Cal Am include a $3 mil- lion mitigation fee (tacked on moments before commissioners voted on the proj- ect); a full-time staffer to offer “oversight of permit conditions on behalf of Marina” for 10 years; and the restoration of more than 60 acres of open space at Cal Am’s expense.

“We don’t disclose legal strategy,” DeLapa said. Monterey One Water, which operates a wastewater reclamation project near Marina that the water district believes would provide plenty of water for the next few decades, also doesn’t seem to be eager to go to court.

To my knowledge the Monterey One Water board of directors is not consider- ing filing suit over the coastal commis- sion’s approval of Cal Am’s desal plant,” spokesman Mike McCullough told The Pine Cone.

“Approved overwhelmingly”
Utility Marina Coast Water District general manager Remleh Scherzinger also weighed in on the possibility of legal action.

“We are considering all of our options at the moment, and will be working with our partner cities and agencies to do what’s best for our community,” Scherzinger told See WATER next page
The Pine Cone.

The City of Marina and the Marina Coast board of directors maintain that Cal Am’s desal plant would harm the aquifers that supply the city its water, though the coastal staff found the opposite.

The Pine Cone asked Cal Am about the prospect of the company facing litigation.

“The coastal commissioners voted overwhelmingly to support our project,” Stratton said, “and the coastal commission staff — who are among the most knowledgeable and thorough environmental stewards in the state — supported our project as well. We were approved with fair and reasonable conditions.”

Not saying

Public Water Now, an activist group opposed to the desal plant which successfully got passed a ballot measure for a government takeover of Cal Am if financially feasible, was mum on the topic. Manager Melodie Chrislock did not return a message asking if the group was considering legal action in light of the approval of the desal plant.

Marina Mayor Bruce Delgado, who vehemently opposed Cal Am’s proposal, telling The Pine Cone before the November meeting that there was nothing the company could offer to make the plant appealing, also did not answer whether the city was considering filing a lawsuit over the approval of the plant.

The proposed desal project is part of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project, a multipronged effort that includes recycled water facilities and aquifer storage components.

It’s not clear when the CPUC and other agencies will take up Cal Am’s desal plant, but the CPUC is still in the process of figuring out the Monterey Peninsula’s need for water and where it should come from.

This aerial photo depicts the Pure Water Monterey treatment facility, which turns wastewater into drinking water. Cal Am’s desal treatment plant would be built in the same area near Marina.
CPD architect, Carmel Cares, Design Traditions 1.5 committee on agenda

By MARY SCHLEY

A NEW architect for the long awaited and much discussed remodel of the Carmel Police Department and a committee’s desire to expand its role in directing the city’s future are on the agenda for the city council’s Dec. 6 meeting, along with accepting extensive donations of equipment and work hours from a local nonprofit and deciding what defines “historic” when it comes to architecture in town.

Kasavan Architects was in charge of the design work on the renovation of the police station but dropped the project, according to public works director Bob Harary, though he didn’t say why. As a result, he’s recommending hiring the Monterey firm of Wald, Ruhnke & Dost to take over, first by doing a comprehensive analysis of the site and the latest plans for $89,115.

“Because of the significant unknowns regarding full scope, ongoing supply chain shortages and materials cost inflation, it is important to step back at this point and do a complete analysis of the required scope and cost estimate of the project,” Harary says in his report to the council.

The city council has budgeted $33 million for the renovation.

“Wald, Ruhnke & Dost will salvage as much of the earlier design as possible and will amend it to meet new codes,” he says, and Kasavan will hand over the files “to transfer the project as seamlessly as possible.” The analysis should take two months to complete.

The committee helping to direct the overhaul of the residential and commercial design guidelines wants to expand its reach into other peripheral related subjects, like the state’s mandate that the city accommodate 349 more housing units, according to planning director Brandon Swanson. Expanding its scope would delay the planned approval of the revised guidelines and zoning code until at least the middle of next year, if not longer, and could complicate matters with consultant Nore Winter, who has said he won’t be available after mid-2023.

“The council is being asked to consider requests from the steering committee regarding potential expansions to the scope of the Design Traditions 1.5 project,” Swanson says in his report. “Some of these expansions would impact the project’s schedule and the duration of support from the city’s consultant.”

Donations and historic buildings
The council is also set to approve a resolution accepting the donations of equipment and volunteer hours from Carmel Cares since June 2021. “The expenses for services and materials include actual expenditures and associated volunteer hours,” Harary says in the report. They total $150,316, plus 7,808 volunteer hours.

A vote is also planned on the updated “historic context statement” used to define which buildings might be considered historic.

Two items on the council’s agenda will have to be put off until a future meeting: a proposed ordinance to stop fractional ownership deals like Pacasso’s and a Mills Act contract for L’Auberge Carmel.

For more information, including a complete packet and how to attend the meeting in person or online, go to ci.car-mel.ca.us. It’s set to start at 4:30 p.m.

APPEALS
From page 9A

director Brandon Swanson said Thursday the planning commission is tentatively scheduled to hold a workshop meeting on December 7th to discuss the city’s residential and commercial design guidelines wants to expand its reach into other peripheral related subjects, like the state’s mandate that the city accommodate 349 more housing units, according to planning director Brandon Swanson. Expanding its scope would delay the planned approval of the revised guidelines and zoning code until at least the middle of next year, if not longer, and could complicate matters with consultant Nore Winter, who has said he won’t be available after mid-2023.

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NPS professor brought showmanship, humor, to third-place finish

By ELAINE HESSER

He has heart. He has a wonderful sense of humor. And Sam Buttrey had a darn good run. The Naval Postgraduate School instructor, who won the first Professors Tournament — with a $1.000,000 prize — on the popular trivia game show, “Jeopardy!” earlier this year, returned to the Alex Trebek Stage at Sony Picture Studios in Culver City for the show’s Tournament of Champions earlier this month and placed third, winning $50,000.

“In this very narrow niche, I was a big deal,” he said modestly, although he added that on a recent wine-tast- ing visit in Carmel, he was stopped seven times by people who recognized him from the tournament, some of whom asked for photos with him.

Starting with the quarterfinals on Nov. 2, a field of 21 returning “super champions” was whittled down to three who competed for $100,000, including Buttrey, a graduate of Princeton and UC Berkeley who’s been teaching at NPS for more than 25 years.

Formidable competition

He got off to an impressive start, advancing to the semifinals, where he defeated Matt Amedio, whose 38 regular-season wins had netted him $1.5 million. In the finals, Buttrey faced formidable competition in Amy Schneider, whose 40-game run was second only to former-contestant-turned-host Ken Jennings (74 wins) in the game’s history, racking up more than $1.3 million. She also ended the regular-season winning streak of the third finalist, Andrew He, who was back with a vengeance.

Only Buttrey entered the tournament undefeated, hav- ing been “retired” after the $100,000 professors tourna- ment last December.

Steve Martin double?

In the finals, which began Nov. 14, Schneider and He each ran up two victories, while, for the first time, Buttrey seemed to struggle with to ring in first.

During Game 5, which aired Friday, Nov. 18, Buttrey won, making an exciting comeback to spurious cheers from the studio audience and extending the tournament to the following Monday, when Schneider snared her third victory and took the title.

He’s definitely got game, but his sense of humor and animated expression won over a lot of fans.

When Jennings made a reference to Buttrey’s resem- blance to comedian Steve Martin — something that came up during the professors tournament — Buttrey looked directly into the camera and pronounced Martin “the hand- somest man in the world.”

Perhaps the funniest moment of the finals involved a clue from Recent Pop Culture, a category Buttrey said he found worrisome. Deadpan, Jennings read what sounded like gibberish: “This ‘feline’ not only got ‘Freaky Deaky’

See JEOPARDY page 25A

It’s time...

Add space and value to your home with a sunroom addition.
CAMERAS
From page 1A

Officers would get the notifications on their vehicle or desktop computers and could crosscheck the information with a California stolen vehicle database. "If someone is a victim of a crime, they may have a vehicle description that they can provide to your police department and then officers can run those filters through our database to find a first lead," Soliman-Valdez said, adding that the system also acts as a crime deterrence.

Madden said a spate of crimes in Pacific Grove might have been prevented or solved had the cameras been in place. "We got hit on a lot of catalytic converter thefts," she told commissioners. "On one particular incident, there was a report of a gold Honda but nothing else. If we would have had the cameras, and were able to enter a gold Honda and it passed one of the Flock cameras, it would have given us investigative leads so we had a plate and could do further investigation."

Privacy questioned
Several traffic commissioners liked the idea of the license plate cameras, although commissioner Jung Hwa Kim questioned the accuracy of the technology, and she had concerns about data privacy and transparency issues related to the system. "I'm not convinced we need this technology right now," Kim said. She also pointed to the American Civil Liberties Union's opposition to license plate recognition systems. The organization, which advocates for civil liberties but in recent years has also aligned itself with far-left political causes, reviewed public records on the technology from 600 law enforcement agencies, which it said painted "a startling picture of a technology deployed with too few rules that is becoming a tool for mass routine location tracking and surveillance."

Flock Safety maintains that footage captured by its license plate recognition system "is automatically deleted at the 30-day mark." The company also said that the cameras would only take photos of the rears of vehicles.

"What is important to note is that there are no people, no facial recognition [tech- nology] or no traffic enforcement" capabilities, Soliman-Valdez said.

Encrypted
The footage would be stored on Amazon's cloud servers, which the Flock spokesman said offered "one of the highest levels of encryption available in the private sector."

Madden's written report to the traffic commission did not specify how much the system might cost Pacific Grove taxpayers. It's also not clear how many cameras -- which are solar powered -- would be installed and where they would be located. Pacific Grove only has a few major routes into and out of the city, such as Lighthouse Avenue and Highway 68, but has numerous less-traveled routes.

The police department said it would conduct a "transparent" public outreach process to promote the camera system, including a "social media campaign" and a town hall meeting this month. PGPD is also planning on making a presentation to the city council.

The Campbell Police Department earlier this year said Flock Safety was charging that city $2,500 per camera per year, with a one-time $250 installation fee. Campbell said it was going to install 17 cameras.
TESLA

From page 1A

one was hurt."

When called to the crash scene in the sand dunes near the volleyball courts shortly after 8 p.m., firefighters and an ambulance crew found the crushed, upside-down Tesla Model S Plaid — one of the fastest cars the company makes — empty and with no one around. The following morning, police officers investigated the wreckage, which public works removed with a forklift. Whorton, 38, had left his wallet, laptop and passport in the car, police said at the time.

He turned himself in at the police station the night of Nov. 17, according to Bruno. Whorton “said he was mad after the crash and walked to a rented home on Santa Rita.” The Tesla was new.

Tesla cameras record constantly when the car is operating and in motion. Officer Tim Ament obtained a warrant signed by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Andrew Liu to retrieve the car’s camera footage and data. They were stored on a thumb drive the officer retrieved from the glove compartment after getting the court’s OK, according to Cmde. Jeff Watkins.

“He was more than likely drunk, but he denied it and we won’t be able to prove it,” Bruno added. “The case was forwarded to the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office for hit-and-run and reckless driving.”

A couple of days after the crash, city administrator Chip Reig thanked police and public works for cleaning up the mess and said, “We’ll certainly try to ensure that any damage to the North Dunes is paid for by us.”

TRIAGE

From page 1A

influenza patients in isolation, along with two patients with RSV — one adult and one child.

Scinto said the triage tent will be ready to take patients Monday. It’s heated, and it has an ultraviolet light filtration system that kills airborne germs. It has room for at least 12 patients. She said the tent will “assist our staff in assessing people with respiratory symptoms, including those associated with Covid-19, RSV, colds, and the flu, in an area that’s separate from our other patients, if needed.”

CHOMP last erected a triage tent in March 2020 when the first wave of Covid hit. The tent was taken down a year later after case numbers decreased.
Their churches may not look alike, but the love is all the same

By ELAINE HESSE

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” — John Wesley

IF YOU ask husband-and-wife pastors Steve and Karla Lundin what’s distinctive about Methodism, they tell you it has to do with “social holiness and personal holiness.” In the tradition of John Wesley, the denomination’s founder and an early anti-slavery activist, Methodism urges Christians to cultivate rich inner spiritual lives, but also to make a material difference in the world. The pastors often collaborate to help their congregations pursue those goals, and it’s obvious they love their work — and each other. Their conversations are warm, mutually supportive and punctuated by laughter.

Steve, with 40 years of experience in the pulpit, is pastor of First United Methodist Church of Salinas — First Church (left) is pastored by Karla and Steve Lundin (above), respectively. The pastors, who have been married for about 20 years, work together — as do their congregations.

Steve, with 40 years of experience in the pulpit, is pastor of First United Methodist Church of Salinas — First Church hasn’t been a “coasting” sort of gig. Its previous pastor, Jim Luther, had just initiated a brand-new homeless outreach, creating what has come to be called the neighborhood service center. Steve recalled that at first, it felt “a little chaotic.” There were lots of people congregate around the church. It looked overwhelming.

But, once he spoke with some of the members, the homeless people and the regular, or “core” volunteers, he said, “We hit it off. I thought, ‘This is going to be fun.’”

Friendly faces

Before the pandemic, First Church’s outreach included feeding more than 100 people twice a day, six days a week, with volunteers from CSUMB and other churches helping with food prep and service. Now there are about 50 “guests” a day, and meals are heated up at nearby Lincolnn Avenue Presbyterian Church, since the Methodists’ kitchen and restrooms are being renovated.

In addition to food, the neighborhood service center provides people in need with clean clothing, restrooms, some hygiene necessities, a warm and dry place to spend inclement days, and the use of a library and art room. Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas, a nonprofit health-care group, sets up a mobile clinic once a week. Friendly volunteers — many of whom have been in the same situations — offer listeners a listening ear and support.

When the pandemic struck, the Lundins began holding joint Zoom Bible studies, with members of their congregations getting acquainted with each other through the little boxes on their screens each Sunday afternoon. Meanwhile, Steve and several other volunteers were outdoors in First Church’s courtyard almost daily, masked and helping to feed those in need.

See PASTORS page 43A

Golden Oldies

This handsome 8-year-old love bug is one adorable, very gentle soul who just wants a best buddy to struggles with at night. He has an available lap every so often, and some one to pay attention when he decides he’s hungry and needs to tell you which is several times a day.

Dorito is patiently waiting for his forever home and a forever friend who’ll shower him and his little nose with love.

If you are interested in Dorito, please fill out an adoption application at www.goldcatrescue.org.
“We’re having to cut our practices short, and that’s actually putting the athletes at risk during the games,” she said. “When we have less hours of the day to practice, then actually putting the athletes at risk during the games,” she said.

West also said Friday night games generate more participation and spirit, as she’s seen at other schools. “I see all of this love and passion,” she said. “I really want that for the Carmel community, and I want to see that for the other students.”

After some 75 minutes of public comments, school officials described the project’s components, and the environmental consultant and an attorney summarized the EIR — which numbered 2,019 pages, including 435 comment letters and more than two dozen oral comments given at a September meeting — and the impacts it identified. While a dozen are considered “less than significant” and another seven would be significant but can be mitigated to make them less so, and the project would have the “significant and unavoidable impact” of nighttime lighting, glare and skylight.

Some of that can be addressed by limiting the field’s use after dark, restricting use of the stadium and pool by non-school groups, consulting with a specialist to reduce other lighting on campus and obtaining “dark sky certification” for the new lights.

“Personal attacks”

To make those measures legally binding, the board was asked to approve a mitigation monitoring and reporting plan. Before their vote, Knight said, “I believe this project is the best and greatest for all of this love and passion,” she said. “I really want that for the students who are our future.”

She noted, “When we have less hours of the day to practice, then actually putting the athletes at risk during the games,” she said. “When we have less hours of the day to practice, then actually putting the athletes at risk during the games,” she said.

Board member Anne Marie Rosen discussed the importance of sports in the physical and social development of high school students, “Let’s remember why we are here,” she said. “I do not believe the impacts to natural resources are significant enough to challenge my values or harm the environment.”

President Sara Hinds, who was reelected along with President Sara Hinds, who was reelected along with Marc Edward Romano was born in Geneva, Switzerland and lived over the years throughout Europe, Australia, and the United States. Fluent in several languages, he graduated from Yale in 1986 with honors in comparative literature. Himself a published author and periodicals contributor, Marc also translated French and Russian writings. He lived the later part of his life in Carmel, close to family, where he loved to play tennis (wherever and whenever a match was on offer!), walk the beach with his dog friend Chloe, and charismatically run a small, celebrated apiary with a tour program. Marc loved to cook. Following a long period of illness, his body succumbed to metastatic cancer in November. Marc had a tremendous heart, and he will be missed dearly by his family, friends, a crowd of tennis buddies, and millions of bees.
Rescue founder is finalist for CNN ‘Hero’ award

By CHRIS COUNTS

The CO-FOUNDER and executive director of Peace of Mind Dog Rescue in Pacific Grove, Carrie Broecker, has been named to CNN’s list of the Top 10 heroes for 2022. By making the Top 10 list, Broecker is eligible to win the cable news network’s “Hero of the Year,” and the public can vote for her in a poll that ends Dec. 6. The top vote getter’s charity or cause will receive a $100,000 award.

To vote (cnn.com/specials/cnn-heroes), first you have to log in either with Facebook or an email address, and then you can vote up to 10 times per day for your favorite hero. The winner will be honored Dec. 11, when Anderson Cooper and actress Keke Ripa co-host a live tribute show.

Other honors

In 2010, Broecker won the American Red Cross Animal Rescue Hero Award for her role in starting Peace of Mind Dog Rescue.

“When aging dog owners struggle to care for their pets, Broecker steps in, providing volunteer services that allow them to get together with their beloved family members new forever homes,” according to CNN.

Broecker encouraged everybody to vote and reminded them that the award will directly help people and their pets.

Co-founded in 2009 by Broecker and Monica Rua, Peace of Mind Dog Rescue is supported by a network of more than 1,000 volunteers. They have an office at 615 Forest Ave. in Pacific Grove.


carousel

Jane Smiley to sign books in Carmel Valley

By ELAINE HESSER

PULZIER PRIZE-winning author Jane Smiley will sign copies of her new book, “Dangerous Business,” on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at Olivia & Daisy bookstore in Carmel Valley starting at noon. Smiley, a resident of Carmel Valley, is the author of more than 30 books, including novels, short story collections and nonfiction, as well as books for young adults.

She received her bachelor’s degree at Vassar, and her mas- ter’s and doctorate at the University of Iowa.

She won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1992, for her novel, “A Thousand Acres,” about spinster farm- sower’s “King Lear,” and was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 1994. She also received a 1985 O. Henry award for her short stories.

Olivia & Daisy is located at 15766 Center St. in Carmel Valley.

IN MEMORY OF GENE BLATTMAN

K

nown by many, beloved by all, and surrounded by family, Homer Eugene (Gene) Blattman journeyed to his spiritual home on November 16, 2022.

A resident of Carmel Valley Manor for many years, he began his life in St. Louis, MO, on February 21, 1936. Born to proud parents, Homer and Rava Blattman, the family later moved from Kansas City to Walla Walla, WA as Gene finished high school — a move that he credits with changing his life as an only child. There he flourished and graduated from Whitman College in 1958, armed with a B.A. in psychology and a penchant to explore the world. Little did anyone imagine the extraordinary life he would lead — and the incredible human being he would become. Gene’s is a story woven from many colored strands, from career to family to faith.

He enjoyed a phenomenal, and personally satisfying, business career spanning 41 years which began at age 16 sweeping the floors at the Birdseye frozen food plant in Walla Walla and culminated with him retiring as president and CEO of McCormick — a Fortune 500 entity and the world’s largest spice and flavoring company. Irrespective of title held, Gene’s guiding business principles were simple: treat others with respect, value each individual’s contribution to the whole, and always be ethical. His work force held him in high esteem and profitable products flowed as a result. He succeeded where others didn’t because he genuinely valued people, plain and simple. It was a natural offshoot of the tremendous value he placed on family and faith.

A person could live a thousand lifetimes and never meet a person with Gene’s quality of character and love of family, and that’s not hyperbole. As an exemplary patriarch, he genuinely enjoyed his family’s company. Over the years, he would organize and host many get-together opportunities that brought extended family together from all over the country. Whether it was snow play/skiting at Bear Valley, beach get-aways in Boardman, reunions in Hawaii, Mexico and Colorado, or the not-to-be-missed fishing trips along the Oregon Coast, Gene could be found reeling in the center of multiple family’s enjoyment. He even involved various family members in his personal passions of travel, bird watching, Civil War history, wine tasting and 49er fandom.

When he was a young, mid-twenties father of five children, he worked long hours to provide for his family’s well-being. But even then, each child knew that he was loved beyond measure. As the family grew, adding numbers and years to the mix, Gene finely honed his effortless ability to forgive, never judged or held grudges, supported those who struggled with kindness, and gave wise counsel to those in need. And to top it off, he had an infectious sense of humor. The man could laugh until he rolled up bent over at the waist, shaking with silent mirth, then would look at you and start laughing all over again. He healed on so many levels. But the two, list-topping words to describe him, from all people fortunate enough to have known him, are “generous” and “loveing.” Both stem from his acceptance of God’s love, and his epiphanous Christian conversion at age 33. As his faith grew over the decades, it became a certitude — the ultimate guide for all his interactions.

Gene personified Christian values, and the call to serve, through humble works and a generous heart. He was the real deal, not merely titled. While still working with a demanding corporate schedule, he consistently dedicated time to help others in need: from donating time and funds to various church projects, to sponsoring third-world children through charity organizations, to — most impressively — offering hope, companionship, guidance and Christian love to a convict through Prison Ministries — his devoted visits spanning many, many years. He faithfully, and quietly, served even when it was least convenient.

Once retired, Gene became active in Carmel Presbyterian Church affairs and it was during that time that he worked on his first three, faith-mission trips to Cuba. So strong was his desire to spread the “good news,” he was not much phased by the restrictive political climate of the time and was willing to risk his freedom, so that others might find theirs. His was not a pushy evangelism, but rather, spoken softly, humbly from the heart, as his entire persona radiated God’s love for all to witness. His whole approach to faith sharing was a blueprint through which we will continue to build our own. And even though his absence has left a hole in many hearts, as his entire persona radiated God’s love for all to witness. His whole approach to faith sharing was a blueprint through which we will continue to build our own. And even though his absence has left a hole in many hearts, as his entire persona radiated God’s love for all to witness. His whole approach to faith sharing was a blueprint through which we will continue to build our own. And even though his absence has left a hole in many hearts, as his entire persona radiated God’s love for all to witness. His whole approach to faith sharing was a blueprint through which we will continue to build our own. And even though his absence has left a hole in many hearts, as his entire persona radiated God’s love for all to witness. His whole approach to faith sharing was a blueprint through which we will continue to build our own. And even though his absence has left a hole in many hearts, as his entire persona radiated God’s love for all to witness. His whole approach to faith sharing was a blueprint through which we will continue to build our own. And even though his absence has left a hole in many hearts, as his entire persona radiated God’s love for all to witness. His whole approach to faith sharing was a blueprint through which we will continue to build our own. And even though his absence has left a hole in many hearts, as his entire persona radiated God’s love for all to witness.
In August, LandWatch attorney John Farrow sent a letter to LAFCO outlining the slow-growth group’s stance on the subdivision. Farrow said its lack of affordable housing “is inconsistent with the Soledad General Plan, its housing phases of the project would focus exclusively on building the most expensive homes.

Farrow also said the proposal doesn’t meet requirements that affordable housing be spread through the city. “It fails to integrate affordable housing units in each neighborhood,” he wrote. “It fails to provide for a minimum of 30 percent rental units in each neighborhood.”

The attorney said the city also needs to do more to show it’s prepared to provide services to the new homes. In response to concerns that the project doesn’t have enough affordable housing, the builder’s son, Laith Agha, told the newspaper that when the units are completed, about one-third of them will be affordable based on county standards.

He also noted that even the $600,000 homes will be affordable compared what similar homes sell for on the Monterey Peninsula. He called the development “an essential and badly needed opportunity for entry-level home buyers. “There is a well-documented housing crisis in the state, and this project is part of the county’s solution to it,” Agha said. “It’s a much more affordable housing opportunity than anything else in Monterey County — I would think that would be applauded.”
Beatdowns

EVEN THE most veteran observer of local land use issues had to be surprised two weeks ago when the California Coastal Commission approved the Cal Am desal plant on an 8-2 vote.

For years, it’s been opponents of the desal plant who’ve made the most noise and gotten all the attention — and seemed to be on the road to victory.

The leading adversary, of course, has been the City of Marina, which has fought tooth and nail for at least a decade to keep the desal plant from getting past the starting gate by energetically deploying everybody from legal and technical experts to starry-eyed Girl Scouts to make arguments ranging from groundwater depletion to “environmental injustice.”

Both arguments were pure fantasy, of course. Studies show that the desal plant will have no effect on Salinas Valley aquifers and may even benefit them. And Marina is not a downtown, minority city burdened with nuisance facilities for the benefit of the haughty Monterey Peninsula. It’s a booming place where youthful techies of all races from Silicon Valley are lining up to buy multimillion-dollar homes. Even if the desal plant is built at its full 6.8 million-gallon-per-day capacity, none of them will ever know it’s there.

Meanwhile, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District endorsed Marina’s arguments and added a fairy tale of their own: They said the water isn’t there. At its full 6.8 million-gallon-per-day capacity, none of them will ever know it’s there.

But despite the flimsiness of their positions, Marina and the water district had to believe they would prevail at the coastal commission — a place where, as long as you called yourself an environmentalist, you usually hadn’t needed to be right to win. This is California, after all, and almost from the day the commission was founded, it has been the go-to place for extremists to get their way, regardless of logic, evidence or public sentiment — a place where a single activist had a far better chance of succeeding than 10,000 people who disagreed with him.

Even during the meeting on the desal plant, comments from the coastal commission’s executive director and several of the commissioners themselves gave the impression they agreed with everything Marina said, making it seem that the desal plant was headed for defeat. But it turned out the opposite was true. The “pro” commissioners knew they had the votes for a decisive victory, so they were just keeping mum. So decisive was the vote, it’s possible to actually start believing the desal plant will become reality within a few years.

But the coastal commission’s vote wasn’t the only beatdown administered to local activists in November. Like their anti-desal brethren, the neighborhood activists against the lights at the Carmel High football stadium have been deafening in their vehemence that the project be stopped — giving the lights people the impression it would be. But in the end, the lights were also approved on an overwhelming (and in this case, unanimous) vote.

We’re very happy with both results — in the case of desal, because it’s badly needed, and in the case of the CHS lights, because they’re harmless and the school says they’re a good idea.

We also apologize for giving way too much ink to the opponents of both projects who, in the end, didn’t have an argument to stand on.
The growing kingdom of Dennis

As discussed in last week’s column, Henry “Hank” Ketcham, a successful cartoonist, moved from Connecticut to the Monterey Peninsula with his wife, Alice, and 3-year-old son, Dennis, in 1949. The next year, at the home they built in Carmel Woods, Dennis inspired what became one of the most successful cartoon franchises in history — “Dennis the Menace.” First appearing in 16 newspapers in March 1951, by the end of the year it was in the top 100 papers in America. In 1952, the Ketchams returned to the East so Hank could work with publishers on a book of Dennis cartoons. Henry Holt and Co. released the hardback book, “Dennis the Menace,” in August 1952. It sold for $1 and did so well, they immediately commissioned a second.

After surviving the winter of 1952-53, the Ketchams decided to return to Carmel, staying in the East only long enough to attend the awards dinner of the American Newspaper Publishers association in New York. At the April 1953 event, Ketcham received the Billy Deitche Memorial Award for outstanding cartoonist of 1952. Prize in hand, Ketcham arrived back in Carmel in May 1953, just before his publisher released a second book, “More Dennis the Menace.”

Not a typical playground

While the Ketchams were away, the City of Monterey decided to convert an old rubbish dump at El Estero into a playground. The Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) took on the fundraising for the equipment. On Sept. 19, 1952, the Jaycees brought in the Ernie Fields Orchestra for a fundraising dance at the fairgrounds. The next summer, when Ketcham returned, the organization asked him to do a book signing at the Monterey County Fair as another organization asked him to do a book signing.

Works that invite comment, thought and participation

From her home on a hill in New Monterey, Barbara Furbush watches the clouds perform over Monterey Bay — “the protean dance of sky and water.” She wrote in her artist statement — morphing moment to moment in the wind, the fog and rays of sunlight, striking poses for the artwork she creates for Venture Gallery. “The look of the bay is always changing and it’s just fascinating to me,” said the human condition, with ongoing research she conducts through “participatory art,” which involves the beholder to engage and contribute to her concepts.

Body imprints

Of the nearly 100 shows where she has exhibited her work since 1997, her favorite might be a 2016 show, entitled “Mythic Women,” at Hartnell College. Furbush applied layers of black ink to acrylic Plexiglass, covered the ink with human-sized sheets of paper, then invited 32 women to pose and press themselves against the paper to create a body imprint. “What woman is mythic to you?” she asked. “It could be somebody in your culture, somebody in your family, someone from literature, or maybe an historical figure. And what kind of pose would you send them?”

That printing process — which, Furbush said, hearkens back to cave paintings — along with her concept, resulted in an exhibit filled with artistic silhouettes representing Tinkerbell, primatologist Jane Goodall, author Gertrude Bell, 16th-century pirate Grace O’Malley, Athena, the Greek goddess of war, Wild West sharp-shooter Annie Oakley, mothers, surrogate mothers and nurturers, among others. “Creating those body prints was cathartic and empowering for many of those women,” she said.

“Why kill?”

Another of her most memorable participatory installations, “Why Kill?” was exhibited in 2003 at a gallery in Toledo, Ohio, exploring the mystery of what might cause one person to kill another. Furbush hung penciled figures from a target-shaped piece — which included a Mylar mirror, “because I always feel like we need to confront ourselves,” she said — and invited viewers to finish incomplete sentences such as, “I would kill because…”

Carmel’s Artists

Barbara Furbush stands in front of “Community,” one of several participatory art projects for people who visit her studio in Monterey’s Mariposa Hall.

| By NEAL HOTELLING
| **History Beat**

| Hank Ketcham, back row, just to the right of the coach, is pictured here with his golf team at Seaview’s Queen Anne High School.

| **Carmel’s Artists**

| Barbara Furbush stands in front of “Community,” one of several participatory art projects for people who visit her studio in Monterey’s Mariposa Hall.

| By DENNIS TAYLOR

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

| By NEAL HOTELLING

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Don’t miss “Scenic Views” by Jerry Gerryce — every week in the Real Estate Section.
Dennis for the pages.

For the tournament, Ketcham was paired with Modesto pro Morgan Fottrell, a Thursday qualifier who did not have a good week. In 1954, the field of 120 teams was split, with half playing Cypress Point and the other half on Monterey Peninsula’s Dunes course on Friday; the next day they switched. Only those making the cut switched. Only those making the cut played Cypress Point on Friday; the next day, they switched. Only those making the cut played Cypress Point on Friday; the next day, they switched.

Keeping Alice busy

On Saturday, Fottrell managed a 79. On Sunday, Fottrell opened with a 41—43 — 84. Ketcham was able to help the team by 16 strokes for a team 68. But they were well back in the field, seven strokes behind the leaders.

Producin a myriad of fresh cartoons for a variety of media was not Ketcham’s only challenge. The first Dennis the Menace doll appeared in time for Christ- mas 1953, and other toys and even a cloth- ing line were developed over the first few years. Dennis had become an industry and, by 1955, Ketcham felt the need for more space for his home, his business and his writing team. He found an ideal setting in Carmel Valley. Rancho El Robledo was a 61-acre ranch carved out of the hill country of the ancient Rancho Los Tularcitos, just east of Carmel Valley Village.

Ketcham shares some fond memories of his years on the ranch in his autobiography, “The Merchant of Dennis the Menace.” There is also some errant information. Part of the ranch is now on the county’s historic register, and not because of Ketcham. In next week’s column, I’ll share some of what I learned about the ranch from my research and a couple of the current residents.

LETTERS

From page 26A

‘Facts on desal project’

Dear Editor,

Please add a few missing facts to your Nov. 25 article on the desal plant approval. The $3 million mitigation fee levied by the coastal commission on Cal Am to pay Marina is chump change in today’s world. It would pay for about 2.5 miles of paving a road, maybe.

It was embarrassing to see Chair Brownsey haggle with Cal Am’s lawyer to get this amount after Cal Am proposed a mere $1 million, ignoring elected officials of Marina in the room. Please ask Marina residents how they felt being called ‘cuts’ and having a nice community while they witnessed the loss of their beach access and return of the Carmex sand mine site for restoration.

They planned a wild beach habitat we could all enjoy, and to protect snowy plover breeding grounds, but not now. Is that worth $3 million? The staff position in Marina is only for 10 years, while the shoreline wells are estimated to be under water and useless after 20-25 years, after which Cal Am has no legal right to move them inland. Pure Water Monterey Expan- sion would provide water for 30 years.

Those decisions were hard to take for several Marina residents, who tell me they felt treated as uninformed small children, talked about, disregarded and disdained. Please recall that coastal commission staff previously rejected this project twice due to the burden on Marina, the coast and the county budget.

By the way, most of those 63 acres of restoration will benefit Seaside and Mon- tara. And the collected for ratepayers? Perhaps a mention was made that Cal Am itself says rates up 50% or more when built, but the CPUC Public Advocate Office says 65-70 percent. Be aware those additional costs will be on top of 2016 rates, due for at least four more increases before desal.

If you use what the CPUC says is common usage of about $5.500 gallons a month, you could pay about $350. Ratepayers will be charged over $7,000 an acre-foot while subsidizing Castroville, which will pay $110 an acre-foot.

This brings me to my last point. Fam- ilies and seniors living marginally on lower incomes will pay very high proportion- al costs for water, driving them further down the economic scale. Cal Am’s pro- posed help for low-income ratepayers still requires less than 200 percent of federal poverty, or $40,236 a year for two people, pretty unrealistic here.

I just thought you should have at least a few more facts before embracing this decision as the best solution to our water supply.

Suzan Schiavone,

Seaside

Compassion for the people freezing

Dear Editor,

More than 4 million people die each year from freezing to death. A much smaller number die from overheating. Science history is very clear that human kind’s most healthful, food-abundant and disease-free eras were times where tem- perature was 1 degree or more Celsius warmer (e.g. the Roman and Medieval Warm Periods) than today. There is no existential threat from a present warming trend; in fact, deaths from hurricanes and flooding have been declining steadily for the last century, while global temperatures have risen by 0.6 degrees Celsius. Thus, wouldn’t we be more compassionate not to fret about the slight current temperature rise, and reduce the number of freezing deaths by allowing Earth’s temperature to rise by half a degree?

Dr. C. Michael Hogan, Monterey

Evacuation with zero delay

Dear Editor,

I wish to commend and thank Carmel fire and police for their speedy evacuation of my neighborhood on Nov. 15 due to a fire that existed that occurred during sewer line work. While the ordeal was unnerving, everyone got out safely, thanks to our first responders.

Many of us have evacuation plans that assume 20 to 30 minutes of advance notice, which easily breaks their zero-delay. Please consider having a basic “away bag” at the ready, including shoes, cash, phone charger, and medication. A leash and kib- ble, too. Finally, get to know your neigh- bor and share their contact information in your phone.

Adrienne Tandon, Carmel

‘Best ever’

Dear Editor,

Bravo to new music director Jayce

See MORE LETTERS page 31A
kill when...” “I would kill if...” and “I would kill for...”

The first people who saw that piece just backed away, saying, “I wouldn’t kill! Well... not unless somebody was going to harm my child.” she remembered. “Then, people started participating, writing answers that ranged from, ‘I would kill for a cigarette’ to ‘I would kill because they made me.’

“On the last day of the show, someone drew a head with the eyes crossed out, and wrote, ‘I killed because I was drunk.’

The artist, who has been “dumbfounded this past year by all the violence,” said she might resurrect the concept soon for another show.

A big playground
Furbush grew up on 2 1/4 acres of land in Maryland, just outside Washington, D.C., where she and her brother roamed and mostly entertained themselves. “The property really isolated us, but it was wonderful,” she said. “I was like Nancy Drew, always exploring, looking for secret passages inside our old house and things like that.”

By age 12, she was taking art lessons most weekends at the Corcoran School of Art and Design – a gift from her grandfather, who was an amateur artist and the son of an artist. “But I wasn’t allowed to take any art classes in school,” she said. “My mother’s reasoning was that I was likely to get bored.”

Furbush showed up at the University of Maryland intent on majoring in library science – something her future mother-in-law, a librarian, had suggested – but discovered that the program was only available to graduate students.

“So I majored in fine art instead, even though my mother tried to discourage me from doing that,” she said. After earning her bachelor’s degree, she married and came with her husband to California in 1970. “He was in the Army, headed to Thailand. I was hoping to go with him, but wasn’t allowed,” she said. “A friend of his took me to watch the sunset at Asilomar on the very first night, and that was it for me. I promised myself right then that I would live here someday.”

The marriage was short-lived and Furbush went back to the East Coast, but returned to California in 1976, obtaining a Master of Fine Arts degree with a printmaking emphasis, from CSU Long Beach in 1985, then a master’s in library and information science from UCLA in 1995.

She worked as a reference librarian and eventually as a senior reference librarian at a Los Angeles museum, and picked up extra cash for more than 20 years as an artists’ model.

Liberation day
In 2009, when she was among 200 museum employees who were laid off, she consulted her financial advisor, who predicted she’d probably be 92 years old before her money ran out.

“That was the most liberating moment of my life,” said Furbush, who immediately returned to the Monterey Peninsula.

In 2012, at the Pacific Grove Art Studio, she established Atmos Press. Its mission is “to create a basic understanding of the printmaking processes,” teaching hands-on workshops to adults on contemporary and traditional forms of the art.

In 2018, she relocated her studio to a larger space – suite 106 at Mariposa Hall (#8 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey) – where she creates her art and invites visitors to contribute to multiple ongoing participatory exhibits.

Sharing philosophies
“Words of Wisdom” is a large, transparent box filled with scraps of paper on which people have shared their philosophies of life.

“Community” is a large sheet of paper inscribed with pastel outlines of about 100 people (each striking a pose of their choice) who have dropped by her studio. Each participant has signed their own outline.

With “Aces’ Animals,” Furbush encourages studio visitors to sketch (or trace) the animal they most relate to and explain why on the flipside of the drawing.

“Rainbow Bridge,” her newest piece, is a bridge-like arch. On the left side, participants have suggested things in life that most people can agree upon. On the right side, they’ve named things people often disagree about. The arch is reserved for ways that reasonable minds might bridge the divide.

Furbush recently participated in the Arts Habitat Studio Tour and is planning and creating pieces for an exhibit scheduled March 6 through April 14 at Hartnell College. More information and images of her work can be found online at blurbushart.com. Her atmospheric pieces can be seen daily at Venture Gallery, 260 Alvarado St., in Monterey’s Portola Plaza.

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

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Berkley Brannon reviewed the case together.
Clearly there was insufficient evidence to file charges. The incident was captured on video. Jaime Cerna was alone seated in the front passenger seat of a parked vehicle. An assailant armed with a knife got out of a vehicle parked immediately adjacent and parallel to the car Cerna sat in. The assailant rapidly moved around his vehicle, into the space between the two vehicles, and pulled Cerna’s door open while brandishing the knife. The knife was recovered at the scene. Confronted with deadly force, Cerna fired shots, killing the assailant. Cerna was stabbed in the left leg and was treated at a hospital.

A person has a right to use deadly force in self-defense if that person has a reasonable belief they are in imminent danger of death or great bodily injury. Under the law, a person is not required to retreat but instead may stand his or her ground, even if options other than self-defense exist.

To file criminal charges, the district attorney requires proof beyond a reasonable doubt that a crime was committed. In a self-defense case, the district attorney must prove the person claiming self-defense did not have a reasonable belief they were in imminent danger of death or great bodily injury. This burden is insurmountable when an assailant approaches a passenger sitting alone in a car and forcibly opens the door while threatening the passenger with a knife.

The district attorney’s office takes all cases, especially those alleging murder, very seriously. We filed 39 murder cases in 2021. However, it is unethical to prosecute people who may be innocent. An ethical prosecutor requires proof beyond a reasonable doubt before requiring that an accused undergo the ordeal of a trial.

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also lost people in my life. I’m very sorry for the pain and loss.”

In court documents filed early this week, Donato’s attorney, Mario Martinez, said his client was abused as a child and for years had has a substance abuse problem.

However, Donato — a laborer who is not a United States citizen — has had several prior run-ins with the law. He was convicted of drunk driving and hit-and-run in 2012, and in 2018 was convicted of drunk driving in Idaho. In 2019, the 5-foot, 2-inch, 180-pound Donato was also charged with spousal battery and cruelty to a 3-year-old boy.

Leece’s aunt, Holly Bezug, questioned why Donato, given his criminal history, was allowed to stay in the United States when he was “here illegally.”

“Why wasn’t the defendant deported years ago?” she said.

Gurley said her family wants Donato to “stay in prison as long as possible so he can learn to be a better person.”

“Everyone has problems in life and they don’t need to drink and drive and kill a human being,” Gurley said. “I can never have all my kids together again. We can’t celebrate the holidays together. There will always be something missing. His decisions have changed our lives forever.”

MORE LETTERS

From page 28A

Ogren and the entire Monterey Symphony orchestra. The first concert of the season last Saturday night was appropriately titled “Emergence.” Coming out of Covid and emerging into a new brilliant repertoire of classical and modern symphonic masterpieces, the harmony and the energy of the music was inspiring. The orchestra played its best ever with heart and soul. We look forward to future concerts.

Reading the program notes, upcoming guest composers and soloists will continue to be the best. Thanks to all the symphony musicians, Timothy McAllister, soloist, Steven Mackey, composer, and conductor Joyce Ogren for an amazing performance.

Joseph Hertlein, Carmel Valley

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December 2, 2022  The Carmel Pine Cone 31A

ACCOLADES

From page 8A

year.

“It completely underscores how important our week is,” she said. Pebble Beach won the inaugural Concours of the Year and claimed the title for the third time at the Nov. 16 gala.

“We were delighted to win the first time and once before this,” Button said, while acknowledging that the world-class concours sometimes bows out of the competition to give other up-and-coming shows a chance.

Button also judges the awards in other classes for the annual awards, including photography, and said she appreciates the breadth of the competition.

“What’s cool about it is it’s very much a broad spectrum of what loving old cars is all about,” she said, including authors, photographers, media, innovators and lifetime achievees.

“It’s just kind of a great way to highlight how interconnected and interdisciplinary they are. I would say that it brings people from around the world to London for this motorizing award, and I knew 90 percent of the people in the room,” she said.

“It’s just a great moment to get together and support each other. I’m proud of Octane for putting it together, and when you look at the spectrum of the awards, they’ve done a great job of capturing the vocation.”

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

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AACCOLADES

From page 8A
For the Best in Pebble Beach & Carmel

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Carmel Highlands | 161Spindrift.com

Pura Vida
Santa Lucia Preserve | 19LongRidge.com

Team Member Highlight

Ellen Armstrong | Technology/Transaction Coordinator & Agent
831.204.2204 | ellen@canningproperties.com

As a former Division 1 golfer in college, Ellen has a passion for the game and enjoys playing the many courses on the Peninsula. She and her husband Troy also love to travel and play on world class golf courses. On weekends they can be found at Corral de Tierra competing against each other.

A Bakersfield native, Ellen earned her photojournalism degree from Cal State Northridge and obtained her real estate license in 2017. Ellen’s appreciation for building design is inspired by her father, an architect, who took the family on architectural pilgrimages. For her, the wonderful homes and world-class golf courses make the Monterey Peninsula the perfect place to live and work. Since joining the Canning Team in 2015, Ellen has become proficient in multiple areas of the real estate business, including marketing, technology, closings and client services.

After several years helping the team grow in both print and digital media, Ellen now uses her extensive knowledge and technical expertise to guide buyers and sellers as a transaction coordinator for the No. 1 Sotheby’s International Realty team in the country. In 2015, the Canning Team was also nominated as a top technological innovator by Inman News.
At the beginning of the basketball season, all things are possible

**Peninsula Sports**

By DENNIS TAYLOR

The way those guys compete, how they stay composed under pressure, how they make decisions,” said Coach Justin Clymo, who also is Stevenson’s athletic director. Leadership will come from three senior veterans — all multi-sport athletes — who were contributors to last year’s NorCal run.

‘More evolved versions’

Trent Toolie — bound for Villanova on a baseball scholarship — returns as a 6-2 point guard after leading the 2021 Pirates in points (15.5 per game), assists (3.5) and steals (2.9). Audon Forgus (11.0 points, 4.5 rebounds, 1.6 assists), 6-3, can handle the ball and shoot from the perimeter or bang under the basket. He could play college football and basketball next season.

I don’t think their roles are going to change much at all — I think they’ve just gotten stronger, better and become more evolved versions of themselves,” the coach said of his two most experienced leaders. Two other senior leaders, 5-9 guard Parker Lynch and 6-1 inside player Thomas Lansbury, returned bigger, stronger, and more court-savvy than a year ago, Clymo said.

Other seniors contributing to last year’s NorCal run were 6-1 Malyyk Williams and 6-foot Jerry Xiang, both perimeter players. Players who were added to the varsity roster for the playoff season were 6-2 senior Jeff Shan, 6-2 Nile Glover, a junior, and sophomore point guard Harry Marquess.

Varisty newcomer Sean Ishii is “a great energy guy who will play a role as a primary defensive disruptor for us,” Clymo said. Tijger Evans, a 6-4 junior, will be expected to provide some aggression under the basket. Justin Guo and Jackson Silver are sharpshooters from the perimeter. Owen Mink is a dependable ballhandler, and Kai Hui figures to contribute as a defender.

“We weren’t able to play summer ball, games masquerading as practices while we practiced with all 14 varsity players due to injuries, illnesses and playoffs in other sports. ‘So December, for us, will basically be practice,” said Clymo, who had 25 freshmen among his 67 prospects this year. “As of Thanksgiving, I still hadn’t had practice with all 14 varsity players due to injuries, illnesses and playoffs in other sports.

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“We weren’t able to play summer ball, because everybody was out of town, so, just like last year, I hadn’t seen my guys for 18 months when they came to our first practice,” said Clymo, who had 25 freshmen among his 67 prospects this year. “As of Thanksgiving, I still hadn’t had practice with all 14 varsity players due to injuries, illnesses and playoffs in other sports. ‘So December, for us, will basically be games masquerading as practices while we try to figure things out.”

Carmel, which plays in the Pacific Coast Athletic League’s big-school Gabil-
“Tough, seasoned, gritty”

“He’s a tough, seasoned guy — very gritty — who understands our defense,” Grahl said. “He’s still a kid who can score, but some of that load will be taken off his shoulders this year because we’ll have some really talented sophomores who can score.”

One of those is returning starter Simeon Brown, a 6-1 guard who averaged 7.5 points as a freshman (third on the team), then showed up bigger, stronger, and more aggressive this year during Carmel’s summer season. “I’ve probably seen more growth in Simeon than any other player. He learned this summer that he can be a guy who just takes over a game. We had numerous games this year where he was the best player on the floor.”

Another senior, 6-2 John Phillips-Sullivan, was Carmel’s second-leading scorer last winter (9.0 points per game), but is expected to have a major impact as a defender this year. Stevenson’s Audon Forgus — 11 points, 3.5 rebounds a year ago — is good because we’ll have some really talented sophomores who can score.

Stevenson’s Audon Forgus — 11 points, 3.5 rebounds a year ago — is good because we’ll have some really talented sophomores who can score.
December 2, 2022 The Carmel Pine Cone 35A

MORE SPORTS
From previous page

vastly enhanced leadership qualities, probably because he also was the starting quarterback on the Padres’ football team this fall.

Senior Tyler Imamura, a 6-1 shooting guard, scored 16 points in the first half against Palma in the final game of 2021, and is a serious outside shooting threat this year.

Four other varsity veterans are 6-4 Omid Maroukhi ("the most relentless offensive rebounder I’ve coached in years," said the coach), 6-3 forward Jerry Marnell (capable of playing under the basket or shooting from beyond the 3-point arc), 5-10 guard Jack Norman (adept at disrupting the opponent with defensive pressure) and 5-8 A.J. Desai (a serious long-distance shooting threat.)

The Coke machine
The difference-maker, predicted Grahul, could be Jackson Lloyd, a 6-5, 265-pound sophomore with good hands, good feet, inside and outside shooting prowess, and transcendent rebounding abilities.

"He’ll be the focal point of every defensive plan by our opponents," Grahul said. "One-on-one in the post, he’s unstoppable. They’ll have to commit two players to guard him."

"And when Jackson sets a screen, and you run into him, it’s like running into a Coke machine," he said.

One more sophomore, guard Warren Blut, is "probably the best shooter at his age that I’ve seen since I’ve coached here," Grahul said. "It wouldn’t shock me if our top three scorers this year were sophomores.

Carmel opened its season with a 60-40 victory over North County and a 61-50 loss at Aptos. The Padres travel Tuesday to Live Oak for a 7 p.m. game, and will play Dec. 9 (8 p.m. vs. Hilmar) and Dec. 10 (1 p.m. vs. King City) at the Pacific Grove Breaker Classic. The Pirates are playing Friday and Saturday at Alisal’s Jose Salas/Vantory Miles Invitational and will return home Dec. 8-10 for their own Coach Wilson Memorial, taking on Rio Americano at 5 p.m. Thursday, Templeton at 8 p.m. Friday and Nevada Union at 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

Dennis Taylor is a freelance writer in Monterey County. Contact him at scribelaureate@gmail.com.
USGA announces holiday sale of tickets for 2023 U.S. Women’s Open

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

FANS LOOKING forward to next year’s 78th U.S. Women’s Open — the first to be played at Pebble Beach Golf Links — can buy tickets just in time for holiday gift-giving. The tournament is set for July 9-12, 2023. In celebration of the season, those who purchase at least two daily gallery tickets or one package (gallery pass, lodge premier pass or flex booking) will receive a red, white and blue beanie featuring the 2023 U.S. Women’s Open logo. The offer is valid through Dec. 31, and orders must be placed by Nov. 30 to guarantee delivery by Dec. 23. Tickets start at $30 and are available at uswomenco.com.

Daily gallery tickets are valid any one day of championship week and include grandstand seating, complimentary parking, and shuttle service to and from the course. The flex booking option provides fans five daily gallery tickets that can be used any one day of the championship. The gallery pass includes a gallery ticket for each day of the tournament, general admission to the grounds, grandstand seating, and parking and shuttles.

Premier pass

The lodge premier pass “offers access to a premium experience to enjoy all the action, including access to The Lodge at Pebble Beach, an unobstructed view of the 18th Green and preferred restaurant reservations. The weekly pass includes access to the grounds, VIP parking and exclusive restroom facilities, as well as upgraded food and beverage options available for purchase.

In addition to making its Pebble Beach debut, the 2023 U.S. Women’s Open will mark the 14th USGA event held at Pebble Beach and the first of another 10 championship plans for the next 25 years. The course has played host to two U.S. Women’s Amateurs, five U.S. Amateurs and six U.S. Opens, most recently the 2019 U.S. Open won by Gary Woodland.
Celtic quartet celebrates holidays in P.G., choral groups get busy

Serving up Celtic and Nordic folk music with a holiday twist, The New World String Project plays two shows Saturday at St. Mary’s By-the-Sea in Pacific Grove. The music starts at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The event is the church’s 16th annual Winterdance celebration.

The New World String Project includes singer and guitarist Stuart Mason, multi-instrumentalist Aryeh Frankfurter, harpist Lisa Lynne and fiddler John Weed. Mason and Weed are familiar to many locals as two-thirds of the folk trio, Molly’s Revenge.

Before the pandemic, the quartet honed their chops and found their voice as a band by touring up and down the West Coast, where audiences were enchanted by their rousing singing, instrumentals and masterful skills, said Jacqueline Pierce of St. Mary’s said. “The result is something new and unique — a sound rooted in the older traditions of Scandinavia, Appalachia, and the Celtic lands, yet shimmering with modern influences as well.”

The church is located at 146 12th St. For ticket info, visit celticsociety.org.

Carolers meet on the wharf

Everybody young and old is invited to sing Christmas carols Sunday on Old Fisherman’s Wharf in Monterey. The singing starts at 5 p.m., and coincides with the Monterey Yacht Club’s annual “Brighten the Harbor” lighted boat parade. “Bundle up, bring friends and family and join us in celebrating the holiday season,” suggested Wendy Brickman, executive director of Fisherman’s Wharf Association.

An 80-member community choir, Monterey Peninsula Voices presents its annual holiday concert Saturday and Sunday at the First United Methodist Church in Pacific Grove. Saturday’s concert starts at 7 p.m., while Sunday’s matinee begins at 2 p.m.

Besides singing an assortment of holiday favorites, the choir will perform a five-movement piece by contemporary composer Taylor Scott Davis, “Magnificat.” “In our current time, we need to bring light to each other more than ever,” conductor Sean Boulware said. “Monterey Peninsula Voices will be singing holiday songs that will move you and lighten your mood.”

Tickets are $30 for adults, $25 for students and seniors, and $20 for kids under 12. The church is located at 915 Sunset Drive. For more details, visit montereywharf.com.

Bringing the light

Besides the quartet and the Peninsula Harmonic Company, An 80-member community choir, Monterey Peninsula Voices also sings holiday music each Saturday at the Crossroads Shopping Center on Crossroads Boulevard and stopping in to shops along the way,” the shopping center announced. Carolers meet on the wharf

The Peninsula Harmony Company performs Sunday at noon and 6 p.m., singer and guitarist Katherine Lavin plays pop and rock Saturday at noon and a local folk duo, The Bard and the Bird, performs Sunday at noon. For more details, visit montereywharf.com.

Singer and guitarist Anna May (left) plays Sunday at Folktale Winery in Carmel Valley, while singer and guitarist Dave “Nomad” Miller performs Friday at O’Callaghan’s Irish Pub in The Barnyard shopping center.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

The music starts at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The event is the church’s 16th annual Winterdance celebration.

The New World String Project includes singer and guitarist Stuart Mason, multi-instrumentalist Aryeh Frankfurter, harpist Lisa Lynne and fiddler John Weed. Mason and Weed are familiar to many locals as two-thirds of the folk trio, Molly’s Revenge.

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Local champagne house wins big, Power Plant turns 2, and an icon’s birthday

CARACCIOLI CELLARS scooped up major honors at the Champagne & Sparkling Wine World Championship in London last month, when its 2016 Blanc de Blancs was named Best USA Sparkling Wine, Best Californian in the regional category and Best in Class California Blanc de Blancs Vintage. In addition, the winery’s 2016 brut cuvée took Best in Class California Brut Vintage, and Best in

‘Total objectivity’

“If, after tasting and scoring blind, one of us draws attention to a wine that he or she believes the other two have not given sufficient credit, there are no egos that get in the way. We simply get down to re-examining that wine with total objectivity,” Stevenson explained. “Sometimes we will change our minds on mature reflection, sometimes we won’t, but we always re-approach such wines with a fresh, analytical mindset.”

Nearly three dozen trophies were presented at a gathering of more than 150 winemakers, producers, industry experts and journalists from all over the world at the Champagne awards dinner in London’s iconic Merchant Taylors’ Hall. The crown of Supreme World Champion went to Dom Ruinart for the Dom Ruinart 2010 Blanc de Blancs.

Scott Caraccioli was among the dinner guests and

 Judge George Markus (left) presents Scott Caraccioli with one of the major awards his winery’s sparkling Blanc de Blancs captured in the Champagne & Sparkling Wine World Championships.

See FOOD next page

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Soup to Nuts

By MARY SCHLEY

Class California Rosé Vintage went to its 2016 brut rosé. (Chandon California Reserve Pinot Noir Rosé won Best in Class California NV Rosé.)

The London event is considered “the most respected, comprehensive and rigorous international sparkling wine competition in the world,” and its mission is to challenge producers to “raise the quality bar continually,” and to “guide wine lovers toward the best champagnes and sparkling wines.”

Judges Tom Stevenson — who founded the competition — Essi Avellan and George Markus blind taste all submissions, writing tasting notes and assigning scores,
FOOD
From previous page

Al & Friends event

Al Siekert, who created Al & Friends to provide nutritious hot meals at Window on the Bay park in Monterey on Sunday mornings and holidays “to anyone who is hungry, no questions asked,” is holding his annual Holiday Giving Shoe Tree Party in Pacific Grove’s Chautauqua Hall at 16th and Central Dec. 2 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Every year, Siekert collects donations for the purpose of taking community members who can’t afford proper footwear to the store so they can be fitted with appropriate shoes. Not only do they end up with the right shoes to protect their feet, but they are given “an uplifting, dignified experience” in the process. The party will include music, snacks and “merry charity.”

Power Plant party

The Power Plant, the Moss Landing coffee shop and store opened by artists/designers Chuck Drake and Sally Russell during the pandemic, is celebrating its 2nd anniversary with an open house Sunday, Dec. 4, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Live jazz, wood-fired pizza and craft beer and wine will be available, and local vendors will be sharing their wares, including Ad Astra bread, Amor de Plan- tas, Love Cultivated, Soccorn, Blossoms, Sweet Prairie Haskap, Larry D. Wood, The Chowder Box, Ate 3 One, Quigon and Evelyn Brokaw.

“We here at The Power Plant want to give all our customers a huge, warm, ‘Thank you,’ for supporting us through the pandemic,” the proprietors said. “Even though times were tough on all of us, you chose and continue to choose The Power Plant coffee as your one-stop shop for all things eco-friendly and delicious. We couldn’t be any more grateful than to serve such a loyal and sup- portive community like the one we find ourselves in now.”

Drake and Russell have created “a breathtaking, artistic habitat of plants, conscientious food, curated gifts, awesome coffee and cool vibes,” with 25-foot ceilings with floor-to-ceiling glass, lots of plants, an abstract floral mural by Rus- sell, and a range of interesting gifts and products.

Call (831) 381-0908 or visit thepowerplant.store for more information. It’s

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Bernardus “Bert” Pon died in September 2019 at the age of 82, but his memory lives on and will be cele- brated at an annual birthday dinner in his honor Dec. 9 at Woody’s
located across from the old smoke stacks at 7990 Highway 1.

Happy birthday, Mr. Pon

“The late Bernardus Pon — founder of Bernardus Winery and the lodge in Carmel Valley that also bears his name — will be celebrated at a birthday dinner thrown in his honor by Woody’s at the Airport owners/chefs Tim Wood and Chase Caul Dec. 9. He was “Mr. Pon” to many who worked for him and “Ben” to his numerous friends, and he always loved a good party, so it makes sense to continue feting him even though he is gone.

“We have done this the last few years,” Caul said. “It’s part Bernardus Christmas party, part Ben’s birthday celebration.” And this year, some members of the public will get to go, too.

Wood and Caul will break out sparkling wines from their collection to kick off the celebration, which will also include magnums of the winery’s Provence rosé and Griva sauvignon blanc — Pon’s favorite. They’ll accompany Robbie’s oysters on the half shell with “Mr. Pon’s Mignonette al la Bernardus Lodge — Chef Tim’s secret recipe,” braised short rib bitterballen (Pon was Dutch) with sharp Dijon mustard, tuna poke spoons and steak tarrine on brioche points.

Bernardus 2021 Monterey County chardonnay will be poured with Fisherman Joseph’s Monterey Bay halibut ceviche, and 2021 Santa Lucia Highlands pinot noir will accompany pinot-braised duck leg, seared breast and shaved winter truffle. The 2015 Marion — Bernardus’ red blend made from grapes grown in the winery’s Marion Vineyard in Cachagua — will be served with Prime N.Y. Steak a la Woody, “cut way too thick.”

grilled, oven butter-roasted and sliced over a baguette with roasted garlic, olive oil and chimichurri. Word is there may be some French fries as well.

Pon, who died in 2019, didn’t enjoy sweets much, so dessert will be wine and cheese, along with “stories and relaxation.”

The cost is $128.82 per person. “The 82 cents is for the 82 years Ben graced the Earth,” Caul explained.

Dinner will begin with a reception at 6:30 p.m., and

Continues next page
Executive Chef Michael Rotondo artistically expresses the rhythm of the coast with the only Chef’s tasting menu in Monterey at Coastal Kitchen. Each plate is exquisitely paired with curated wines by Sommelier Conrad Reddick. Renewed with ever-changing local ingredients and fresh ingenuity, this unforgettable epicurean journey is a one-of-a-kind Monterey experience.

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The Full Foragers Kit ($580, plus $32.07 fee; sales end on Jan. 10; will ship overnight on Jan. 18) includes all the food above, as well as all three wines and the items for Schmidt’s menu of mushroom profiteroles, mushroom and yuba salad with kimchi black garlic vinaigrette, and kabocha winter squash tortellini with black trumpet mushroom Parmesan broth.

Order through Eventbrite, and for more information on the festival, visit bigsurforagersfestival.org.
PASTORS

From page 22A

In addition to the Hollister congregation, Karla took on a second group of parishioners — a small Methodist fellowship in East Salinas, where she applied her admittedly limited knowledge of Spanish and worked with an interpreter. (That group has since merged with First Church and has a part-time pastor it shares with a group in Marina.) Then, she received the call to the Church of the Wayfarer.

It’s tempting to look at the two churches as a study in contrasts, and the Lundins sometimes talk about the cultural differences between them, and how odd it can feel to move between the two worlds. The Carmel edifice attracts brides from all over for destination weddings, and tourists who admire its stained-glass windows and peaceful gardens, paved with bricks emblazoned with donors’ names. Four resident artists work in its office spaces.

The Salinas church, with its tall white steeple a few blocks from the county courthouse, was built in 1870. It’s clean, thanks to dedicated volunteers, but the interior is well-worn. On any given day, someone’s belongings might be parked in a grocery cart, while the homeless gather on the steps or in the courtyard. Announcements at the beginning of Sunday services let visitors know that someone will guide them if they need to use the only functioning restrooms, which are past the remodeling construction zone and across the courtyard in the administration building.

Despite the aesthetic dissimilarities, Steve said, “One thing that’s not different is that the people in both congregations have a certain DNA — it’s a longtime, soft-spoken Methodist spirit,” that leads to helping others. Karla agreed wholeheartedly, adding that, “Our doors to our sanctuary are open every day for people to come in and find solitude, peace, to pray, meditate and feel safe and warm.”

Providing shelter

The Church of the Wayfarer — the oldest Protestant church in Carmel — participates in the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program, in which houses of worship take turns providing people in need of shelter with a meal and a safe place to spend the night.

The members of the Wayfarer also support nonprofits that feed the hungry, and cooperate with other local congregations — including First Church — on programs like the social justice forum for sheriff candidates before the last election. Between them, the congregations host dozens of 12-step groups weekly, like Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.

A few weeks ago, Steve brought two of First Church’s core volunteers to the Wayfarer, where the young men spoke compellingly of their difficult pasts and the ways in which the Salinas group was helping them. “Our church loved them,” recalled Karla. But more than that, they wanted to help.

So, this Sunday, at 2 p.m., the Church of the Wayfarer is holding a holiday concert to benefit First United Methodist Church’s neighborhood service center in Salinas. Along with organ and trumpet music, there will be a Christmas carol singalong, and a $20 donation is suggested to help everyone to continue doing all the good they can.

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Tenor sings at the mission

Eight years after his debut there, tenor Pasquale Esposito presents a holiday-themed concert Sunday at Carmel Mission. The music starts at 7:30 p.m.

A native of Naples, Italy, and now a resident of San Jose, Esposito will be joined by five instrumentalists, a choir and guest soprano Laura Schwingel. The latter is the Mission’s director of music and liturgy.

The program includes a mix of Christmas music and “spiritual songs of the season.”

Tickets are $50 for general admission, or $125 for a premium seat and a pre-concert dinner at Vesuvio or Little Napoli.

The Mission is located 3080 Rio Road. For more details, call (408) 528-6308.

Trio raises $$ for church

To raise money for locals in need, the Church of the Wayfarer presents a benefit concert Sunday. The music begins at 2 p.m.

Keyboardist Emi Wada and trumpeter Kevin Jordan will play music “from Bach to Bernstein,” while mezzo soprano Elise Rotchford leads a singalong.

Tickets are $20. The church is located at Lincoln and Seventh.

Live music Dec. 2-8

Big Sur River Inn — singer and guitarist Rick Chelew (‘60s music, Saturday at 12:30 p.m.). On Highway 1 24 miles south of Carmel.

Carmel Plaza — as part of the shopping center’s Holiday Open House, singer and keyboardist John Harris will play (Christmas music, Friday at 5:30 p.m.). Ocean and Mission.

Cibo restaurant in Monterey — The Dave Holodiloff Duo (bluegrass and jazz, Sunday at 7 p.m.), singer Lee Durley and pianist Bill Spencer (jazz, Tuesday at 7 p.m.) and The Ben Herod Trio (jazz and swing, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St.

Cuz’s Sportsman’s Club in Seaside — Johnny Tsunami (rock, Friday at 8 p.m.), The Brad Wilson Band (rock and blues, Saturday at 8 p.m.) and singer and guitarist Tony Miles (Sunday at 4 p.m.). 594 Broadway Ave.

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 Devincio (classical, Sunday at 6 p.m.) and singer Lee Durley and pianist Joe Indence (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh.

Folktale Winery in Carmel Valley — singer and multi-instrumentalist Kris Angelis (Friday at 3 p.m.), singer and guitarist Talmon Owens (Saturday at 3 p.m.), singer and guitarist Anna May (Sunday at 2 p.m.), singer and guitarist Rob Armenti

See LIVE next page

MUSIC

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(Monday at 3 p.m.) and singer and multi-instrumentalist Meredith McHenry (Thurs- day at 3 p.m.) at 8940 Carmel Valley Road. Guisto Pasta and Pizza in Sisalito — singer Akina Miyata and keyboardist Bob Phillips (jazz, Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.), 1901 Fremont Blvd., (831) 899-5825.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and pianist Dino Martinez (jazz, blues and rock, Saturday and Thursday at 7 p.m.) at 120 Highlands Drive.

Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel — mandolinist Dave Holodiloff and pianist Michael Martinez (tree-lighting ceremony, Friday at 4:30 p.m.) and singer and guitarist Casey Frazier (Saturday at 3 p.m.) at Old Golf Course Road.

The Inn at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach — The Andy Weis Band with pianist Bill Spencer and bassist Steve Uccello (jazz, Friday and Thursday at 7 p.m.) and The Andy Weis Band with pianist Gary Meek and bassist Steve Uccello (jazz, Saturday at 7 p.m.), 2700 17 Mile Drive.

La Playa Hotel — The David Mor- wood Band (jazz, Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m.) at BuD’s Bar, Camino Real.

The Links Club — The Bounce Kitty Buskers (Dixieland jazz, Friday at 7-30 p.m.) and Open Mic Night (Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.) at Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

Massa Tasting Room in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist Rick Chelew (50s folk, Sunday at noon) at 69 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Midici Pizza in Monterey — singer Lee Durley and keyboardist Bill Spencer (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.) and multi-instrumentalist Paul Contos and guitarist Adam Astrup (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.) at 467 Alvarado St.

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

O’Callaghan’s Irish Pub — singer and guitarist Dave “Nomad” Miller (Friday at 6 p.m.) at The Barnyard shopping center, 3663 The Barnyard.

Puma Road at Portola Plaza in Monterey — Songbird Meadow ("a sweet fusion of melodies with hints of alternative, pop, blues and Latin," Friday at 6 p.m.), guitarist Glenn Bell (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.) and guitarist Peter Martin and multi-instrumentalist Ben Herod (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.) at 281 Alvarado St.

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

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

Sty McFly’s in Monterey — Matt Mashe and the Messengers ( funk and reggae, Friday at 9 p.m.), The Stingrays (rock, Sunday at 9 p.m.), The Long Distance Flyers (classic rock, Monday at 9 p.m.), Victory Lane (classic rock, Tuesday at 9 p.m.).

For corrections to these listings, email chris@carmelpinecone.com.
FROM HOUSES TO CANVASES, ARTIST ‘EMBRACES THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE’

EXPERIMENTING WITH a mix of paints and solvents, artist Inga Yontz explores texture, color and composition in her show, “Reaction,” which opens Saturday, Dec. 3, from 2-6 p.m. in the Monterey History & Art Association’s Stanton Center gallery. A reception is set for 6 p.m.

Date in the Monterey History & Art Association’s Stanton Center gallery. A reception is set for 6 p.m.

As a painter, Yontz takes an adventurous approach, resisting a fixed plan. Instead, she “embraces the element of surprise in each work.” “Yontz builds layer upon layer of paint and solvent until the final work emerges,” reads a description of her approach from the gallery. “She says she knows a painting is complete when she can see a hint at the many processes involved.

PacRep offers ‘Rudolph,’ one-man ‘Christmas Carol’ for the holidays

By CHRIST COUTS

JUST IN time for the holidays, PacRep Theatre’s “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical” is playing at the Outdoor Forest Theater through Dec. 18. All shows start at 2 p.m. Based on a 1964 television special — and directed and choreographed by Susanne Burns — the musical includes a cast of 30 local youngsters and a half-dozen “adult” children.

“It’s based on the TV classic we all grew up with,” PacRep’s executive director Stephen Moorer told The Pine Cone. “Many of us know every word.”

Besides warming hearts, the story has an important message. “What makes Rudolph different is what makes him special,” Moorer explained. “Everybody is unique and it’s OK to be yourself — that’s a great message for everyone.” Moorer gave a shout-out to set designer Patrick McAvoy. “He did a fabulous job transforming the Forest Theater into a winter wonderland,” he said. “It’s such a joy to see it.”

The 2 p.m. shows take advantage of the mild weather, but the afternoon sun can shine brightly on the Forest Theater, so you might want to bring sunglasses and a hat along with something to keep you warm in case the wind picks up.

“Rudolph” plays Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 18. Tickets start at $9. The theater is located at Santa Rita and Mountain View.

By meena@carmelpinecone.com or (831) 274-8655

THE CARMEL PINE CONE’S 2022 HOLIDAY GUIDE

Just in time for Christmas!

PUBLICATION DATE: Friday, November 25
AD DEADLINE: Friday, November 18
CALL OR EMAIL TO RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE TODAY!

MEENA (831) 274-8655
meena@carmelpinecone.com
The Peninsula Potters are celebrating their 55th year with a two-week pottery sale show that kicks off Saturday in Pacific Grove. The studio is located at 2078 Sunset Drive in the Russell Service Center. The pop-up gallery will host a reception Saturday at noon, and the sale continues through Dec. 17 from noon to 4 p.m. “Thanks to our hardworking members and the community’s incredible support, we are looking forward to 60 years with full speed,” the group announced.

From previous page

but the work still feels cohesive,” Younts is thrilled to show her art at Stanton Center, which also hosts a large collection of surreal art by Salvador Dalí. “I feel like Dali and I are a little bit kindred spirits,” the painter told The Pine Cone. “We both found an artistic home in Monterey and are both drawn to the unusual. This seems like a perfect spot to have this exhibition — these 19 works were selected to show my journey as an artist, what I’ve learned, where I’ve come from and where I’m going next.”

The show continues through Jan. 31. Stanton Center is located at 5 Custom House Plaza.

■ Two-week pottery sale opens

The Peninsula Potters are celebrating their 55th year with a two-week pottery sale show that kicks off Saturday in Pacific Grove. The studio is located at 2078 Sunset Drive in the Russell Service Center. The pop-up gallery will host a reception Saturday at noon, and the sale continues through Dec. 17 from noon to 4 p.m. “Thanks to our hardworking members and the community’s incredible support, we are looking forward to 60 years with full speed,” the group announced.

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ONE LAST WEEKEND TO SAVE!
SALE ENDS DECEMBER 4

**Desk** $198

**Bunk Bed** $395

**Reclining Sofa** $678

**Chaise Sofa** $648

**Queen Bed** $298

**Leather Reclining Sofa** $998

**Queen Storage Bed** $698

**3 pc Sectional** $1388

**Sofa** $445

**Chaise Sofa** $595

**2 pc Sectional** $895

**3 pc Dining Set** $395

**7 pc Dining Set** $698

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831.920.0300

* Free Financing is upon approved credit and 10 percent down; see store for details. Photos are for illustration purposes only. As required by the Mattress Recycling Council, a $10.50 recycling fee will be added to all mattresses and foundations. All items shown may not be displayed in all the stores. Ashley stores are individually owned and operated. © 2022 Ashley Homestores Ltd.
Open houses are back!

This week’s cover property, located in Carmel-by-the-Sea, is presented by Shelly Mitchell Lynch of Carmel Realty Company (See Page 2RE)
Ideally located one block above the famed Scenic Drive and Carmel Beach, this light and bright Carmel beach house features gorgeous white water views and comfortable living spaces. Enjoy your morning coffee on the ocean-view balcony and relax to the sound of the waves in the evening after a day at the beach. Featuring a main floor primary bedroom with en-suite bathroom, gourmet ocean-view kitchen, two guest bedrooms downstairs, one car garage and a cozy backyard with built in BBQ. A true Carmel treasure not to be missed!

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www.ButterflyHouseCarmel.com

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4 beds, 4 baths  ■  $3,850,000  ■  www.RobinsonCanyonCarmelTreasure.com

5 beds, 3 baths  ■  $1,995,000  ■  www.27645SchulteRoad.com

3 beds, 2 baths  ■  $1,650,000  ■  www.24801HandleyDr.com

2 beds, 2 baths  ■  $1,200,000  ■  www.223DelMesa.com
**HOME SALES**
*From page 2RE*

Highway 68

379 San Benancio Road — $500,000
Daniel Bamberger to Raul Marquez
APN: 416-641-011

22311 Montere Drive — $1,025,000
Rene and Theresa Lacsina to Juliana Simmons and Landon Callhoun
APN: 161-342-001

Marina

3031 Kennedy Court — $625,000
Frankie Helton to Elin Jordan
APN: 038-381-087

2809 Telegraph Blvd. — $899,500
Shea Homes LP to Hitoshi Takakura
APN: 031-259-068

2811 Telegraph Blvd. — $903,000
Shea Homes LP to Joseph King
APN: 031-259-087

735 Elm Avenue, Seaside — $427,000

22311 Montere Drive, Highway 68 — $1,025,000

**JUST LISTED**

167 Hacienda Carmel, Carmel - $678,500
2 Beds, 2 Baths • 910 Sq. Ft. • 167HaciendaCarmel.com

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**JUST LISTED**

Welcome to Hacienda Carmel!

Terrific, 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo conveniently located near the walking/biking trail, community garden and the fabulous community center. Freshly updated including new paint, carpet, vinyl flooring and landscaping; this bright and cheery condo is move-in ready!

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4 beds, 4 baths  •  $5,995,000  •  www.3199Cortez.com

5 beds, 4.5 baths  •  $3,995,000  •  www.31660ViaLaEstrella.com

3 beds, 2.5 baths  •  $1,585,000  •  www.7thStreetPG.com

5 beds, 4.5 baths  •  $7,000,000  •  www.322517MileDrive.com

4 beds, 4 baths  •  $5,995,000  •  www.3199Cortez.com

5 beds, 4.5 baths  •  $3,995,000  •  www.31660ViaLaEstrella.com

3 beds, 2.5 baths  •  $1,585,000  •  www.7thStreetPG.com

Open Sat 1-4pm
11538 Saddle Road

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407 7th Street
When did I start getting doctors appointments? I asked him to rattle off a few of his methods. He said he kicked a field goal. Much of his exam was done by palpation. He was old enough to know the sense of touch is just as important as sight during an examination. My mother answered whatever questions he asked. “Ahhhh” was my only contribution to the discussion.

Anesthesia for $5

My parents had no health insurance. According to an online encyclopedia, in 1945 a family whose income was about $2,300 a year spent roughly $148 on medical care. Dr. Heyden charged $2 for an office visit. There was no time clock. He used the gentle art of conversation to gather information on how our whole family was doing. My younger brother was born in 1945.

When I was a kid, trips to the doctor were sometimes in his car, because he made house calls. Mother never made an appointment to see him. He didn’t have a receptionist to take calls and we didn’t have a telephone. We just went to his office when none of my mother’s home remedies was working.

Dr. Heyden’s entire array of technical equipment consisted of a stethoscope, a tongue depressor, and a little hammer he hit on the equipment. My smartwatch could have provided most of that data, along with blood oxygen levels, an EKG and where to get a better price on the wine.

According to the National Library of Medicine, like it or not, the normal new normal of physical barriers between healthcare providers and their patients is making many traditional methods of human connection impossible.

One more time

At an annual check-up with a specialist, I was confronted with a curved plexiglass wall larger than a Cinemascope movie screen. Move this formidable obstacle to our southern border and our illegal immigrant problems will be solved. I gave my name, date of birth, and time of my appointment. The masked receptionist said something I couldn’t understand. I asked her to repeat her question. She did. I still couldn’t understand her, although I had turned my hearing aids up to Defcon 2.

I heard her write it down. A post-it note she held up to the plexiglass read: “MyChart,” showing him everything medical that had happened to me in a year. I asked her to write it down. A post-it note she held up to the plexiglass read: “Photo ID.” I slipped her my driver’s license. She passed three forms through the slot. Another post-it note: “Sign at X.” I shrugged. She passed three forms through the slot. Another post-it note: “Photo ID.” I slipped her my driver’s license. She marked where my blood pressure, pulse, stethoscope on back (deep breaths), scope on front (breathe normally).

“Any complaints, Mr. Gervase?”

“Yes, the price of my favorite wine is up $3 a bottle.”

“I’ll see you in three months.”

The masked receptionist said something I couldn’t understand. I asked her to repeat her question. She did. I still couldn’t understand her, although I had turned my hearing aids up to Defcon 2.

Thirty minutes, 1,200 seconds. More time than that really wasn’t necessary. My condition hadn’t changed in a year. All I needed was a prescription renewed. And it was much better than two virtual appointments for which my insurance was billed in real, not virtual dollars.

Regardless, the system seems to work. If there is a fault in it, it is probably me, as the expectation of Dr. Heyden meets the reality of “noreply@mychart.” Still, I miss saying, “Ahhhh,” and kicking field goals.

After my appointment, I drove to a nearby wine store. No masks. No barriers. No forms. I spent more than 1,200 seconds there. You decide which experience was better for my overall wellbeing? Hint: The wine was on sale.

Contact Jerry at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.
NW Corner of San Carlos & Santa Lucia

LAUREL JAQUES  831.916.1185
OceanViewsInCarmel.com
Carmel Valley: A watch that was found at the cemetery upon contact. Investigation is ongoing.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fall on city property at Lincoln and Seventh. A 48-year-old male was found to be in possession of drug paraphernalia while he was on post-release community supervision.

Carmel area: A male forced entry into a business on Highway 1 and stole a safe.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Adult male was reported casing a consignment clothing store on San Carlos south of Fifth. He was observed by security trying to take pictures of the store and valuables. The subject was later contacted during a traffic stop and identified.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Grand theft at Mission and Sixth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle towed from Seventh and Dolores for blocking a driveway.

Pacific Grove: Lock broken on a parking booth on Pardley.

Big Sur: An adult male on Highway 1 was placed on a W & I 5150 hold [danger to self or others].

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 24-year-old male driver from Salinas was arrested at Highway 1 and Carpenter at 0222 hours for DUI.

Pacific Grove: Officers investigated possible theft by use of access card information at an automated teller machine on Forest Avenue.

Pacific Grove: A fall on public property at Ocean View Boulevard and Grand Avenue occurred. The subject was transported to a local hospital.

See SHERIFF next page
For the nature, golf and equestrian enthusiast looking for a private, gated community with resident services to build your dream home. Private lot with majestic views! 30 minutes from Carmel-by-the-Sea. This is the life you deserve! $1,498,000.00

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YVONNE HUBBARD | 831.320.6391
michelle.hammons@compass.com
831.915.0653
Michelle Hammons

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 Nye: 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

New Construction One-Level Estate

This exceptionally designed one level estate, offers 4 en-suites in the main house, a guest house, and a four-car garage with options for lift that can house up to 12 cars. Luxurious classic finishes have been selected that pair well with the soft modern California contemporary designed home. Strategically placed glass doors, windows and skylights allow nature to envelope the interiors. The fenced courtyard affords privacy while offering additional outdoor entertaining. Monterra is conveniently located just minutes to shopping, golf, and fine dining. A Tehama Golf Club Social Membership is included. Construction is underway.

YVONNE HUBBARD | 831.320.6391
COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
Yvonne@HubbardEstates.com | HubbardEstates.com

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Suspicions circumstances involving a male inside of a jewelry store at Ocean and Lincoln. Believed to be related to a previous instance of suspicious circumstances in a jewelry store. Investigated, information forwarded.

Big Sur: Deputies responded to a possible rape on Highway 1. The 31-year-old female victim was unable to give a statement.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Transient subject came to CPD to register his Penal Code 290 (sex offender registration) status. It was later determined the subject was staying in unincorporated Carmel and was directed to the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office for proper registration.

7567 PASEO VISTA, MONTEREY

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BY FILING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION ENTERED ABOVE IS TRUE AND CORRECT. I DECLARE THAT ALL STATEMENTS MADE IN THIS STATEMENT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES Auction

Monterey Fairgrounds

Tuesday, December 6th

10:00 AM

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code knows that a willful false statement made in a Fictitious Business Name Statement is punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1000). A false statement made in a Fictitious Business Name Statement is punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1000) when any damage is caused or not exceeded.

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This Weekend’s OPEN HOUSES December 2-4

CARMEL

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$715,000 | 2 bed 2 bath | 172 Foothills Ct | Carmel | Carmel Valley Real Estate | 333-652-6477
$1,695,000 | 4 bed 3 bath | 259 Hanemans Ave | Carmel | Carmel Valley Real Estate | 333-652-6477
$2,000,000 | 2 bed 2 bath | 41 Pescadero Court | Monterey | Monterey Real Estate | 333-652-6477
$1,085,000 | 5 bed 3 1/2 bath | 2700 Paseo del Mar | Monterey | Monterey Real Estate | 333-652-6477
$1,335,000 | 3 bed 2 bath | 153 Palm Drive | Pacific Grove | Pacific Grove Real Estate | 333-652-6477

MONTEREY

$2,500,000 | 5 bed 5 bath | 3780 Raymond Way | Monterey | Monterey Real Estate | 333-652-6477
$1,800,000 | 5 bed 3 bath | 2915 Oslo Drive | Monterey | Monterey Real Estate | 333-652-6477
$534,000 | 2 bed 2 bath | 2180 Rio Road | Pacific Grove | Pacific Grove Real Estate | 333-652-6477
$1,450,000 | 5 bed 3 bath | 171 Lighthouse Ave | Pacific Grove | Pacific Grove Real Estate | 333-652-6477
$1,219,000 | 5 bed 4 bath | 250 Via El Moro | Pacific Grove | Pacific Grove Real Estate | 333-652-6477
$799,000 | 2 bed 2 bath | 187 Ocean View Boulevard | Pacific Grove | Pacific Grove Real Estate | 333-652-6477

PACIFIC GROVE

$1,015,000 | 2 bed 2 bath | 301 Map Avenue | Pacific Grove | Pacific Grove Real Estate | 333-652-6477
$1,275,000 | 3 bed 2 bath | 178 McHenry Ave | Pacific Grove | Pacific Grove Real Estate | 333-652-6477
$1,375,000 | 3 bed 3 bath | 1706 Biddle Road | Pacific Grove | Pacific Grove Real Estate | 333-652-6477
$1,000,000 | 2 bed 2 bath | 1706 Biddle Road | Pacific Grove | Pacific Grove Real Estate | 333-652-6477
$695,000 | 2 bed 2 bath | 417 7th Street | Pacific Grove | Pacific Grove Real Estate | 333-652-6477
$525,000 | 2 bed 2 bath | 161 7th Street | Pacific Grove | Pacific Grove Real Estate | 333-652-6477

SALINAS

$980,000 | 5 bed 3 bath | 1205 Colby Way | Salinas | Sotheby’s INTL RE | 831-424-1999
$950,000 | 4 bed 2 bath | 2850 6th Street | Salinas | Sotheby’s INTL RE | 831-424-1999
$950,000 | 3 bed 2 bath | 1250 5th Street | Salinas | Sotheby’s INTL RE | 831-424-1999

SEASIDE

$649,000 | 3 bed 2 bath | 317 Grand Ave | Seaside | Seaside | 831-372-6200
$948,000 | 3 bed 2 bath | 1324 Daven Dr | Seaside | Seaside | 831-372-6200
Service Directory

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Service Directory continues on next page
Continues from previous page

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