Bedroom on wheels proposed for homeless woman

By CHRISTIN GUST

A LONGTIME Carmel Valley resident who has used her art to promote environmental activism, Paola Berthoin is trying to put a very small dent in California’s vast homeless problem by creating a temporary shelter, a small bedroom on wheels, for a local homeless woman who is living in a car in a church parking lot.

But after Berthoin and others raised more than $4,000 for the effort, the project is on hold because county officials said it would violate the law. “Structures that are intended for living and sleeping must be attached to permanent foundations, and they must provide plumbing and heating in order to comply with minimum health and safety requirements,” county official Craig Stoldt told Berthoin. They also have to conform to zoning, density, setbacks and dozens of other health, safety and environmental requirements, including being connected to utilities.

Since the home Berthoin wants to provide for the woman would have wheels, Spencer said it “might be allowed in a mobile home/RV park that is licensed by the state for that sort of use.” But he noted that the church, which has not been named, “is not licensed for such use at this time.”

Hard times

In another statement that offers a glimmer of hope, Spencer said the county “is considering the idea of updating policies or regulations for tiny homes on wheels.”

The auction for wind farm leases was the federal government’s first for the West Coast.

FIVE ENERGY companies spent a total of $750 million on winning bids that earned them leases for California offshore wind farms, including three companies that plan on harvesting wind for energy off the coast of San Simeon, the Department of the Interior announced Dec. 7.

Yesterday, Stoldt said he assumes it would be lower because the Am’s Monterey system was worth $513 million. Asked if the expenditure of $315,000 in taxpayer dollars to hire business, real estate and water rights appraisers. Stoldt said he assumes the appraiser’s work would be lower than that figure, Stoldt said he assumes the appraiser’s work would be lower because the water district in its older appraisal had included Cal Am’s proposed deal price (which the California Coastal Commission approved in November) as if it were already built.

The suspect

By MARY SCHLEY

A MAN dressed in women’s clothing stole a $450,000 ring from a downtown jewelry store Nov. 18 after visiting the shop twice before, according to Carmel Police Cmdr. Jeff Watkins. Police are still looking for the thief, who first walked into Cayen Collection at Mission and Sixth Nov. 11, “wearing all pink and high heels, but the person at the jewelry store said it was a male and he wanted to look at a diamond ring.” Watkin’s said. “He came back on the 14th wearing similar clothing and looking at rings again.”

Finally, on Nov. 18, the repeat visitor walked in again and this time asked to try on an emerald ring valued at $450,000, according to Watkins. Before handing over the item, the employee locked the bottom half of the ring.

Not easy giving back

By KELLY NIX

RIP: JIMMY Panetta and dozens of other members of Congress who got campaign contributions from Sam Bankman-Fried — the former cryptocurrency mogul who faces a litany of criminal charges related to his business — are having a difficult time returning the funds, Panetta said this week.

Big money

Last week, The Pine Cone reported that federal campaign statements showed that Panetta got a $2,900 donation in October from Bankman-Fried, 30, the founder of cryptocurrency exchange FTX. Panetta’s congressional campaign was one of about 60 that received contributions from Bankman-Fried.

Panetta, a Democrat, said Dec. 15 that he would return $450K ring

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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Raising Barney

After a lifetime of owning 50-pound dogs, she wanted something smaller, something she could pick up and bathe in the sink. A registered nurse, she became a student of the health traits and habits of various breeds and found that miniature schnauzers, which weigh in at 12 to 20 pounds, could be a healthy choice. Once she’d filled out the application to acquire a baby miniature schnauzer, she was told she’d be a wonderful owner because she has a fenced yard. Having had eight dogs, she already knew it takes more than a fence to raise a dog well.

Then she met ten-week-old Barney, bred by a family in St. Louis. Her’d lived in their family room, heard the vacuum cleaner, tussled with their toddler, and considered Froot Loops a fantastic treat. She could already tell he was going to be a wonderful pet.

“From the get-go, Barney was so friendly and affectionate with everyone,” she said. “He showed up centered, with no fear of people or cars. I believe he’s so easygoing because he started his life in a family situation.”

Barney and his person head down from their home near Sunset Center to Carmel Beach almost every day. They start at the south end of the shoreline and walk up to the rocks below Pebble Beach, and then turn around. It takes an hour and a half to complete the loop, mostly because Barney plays his way down the beach.

“If I put the leash on him only when I see small children,” his person said. “He’s 2, and he’s still so puppyish, I want to make sure he doesn’t knock kids down while trying to play with them. Otherwise, he runs off like a rabbit, pulling in his back legs, until I whistle.”

About 75 percent of the time, he comes right back.”

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MYSTERY OVER SUDDEN DEPARTURE OF CARMEL HIGH PRINCIPAL

By KELLY NIX

THE PRINCIPAL of Carmel High School, Jonathan Lyons, is on a leave of absence, but Carmel Unified School District officials won’t say whether he voluntarily stepped away or was forced to.

CUSD Superintendent Ted Knight notified parents of Lyons’ absence in a Dec. 16 message.

“Before we depart for break, I want to make you aware that Principal Lyons is beginning a leave of absence starting today,” said Knight, adding that he could not “share further information on this leave” but that Carmel High would “be supported by the district office.”

On Wednesday, The Pine Cone asked Knight about Lyons’ sudden exit and whether CUSD placed him on leave or he took a voluntarily leave of absence. Knight would not address the “genesis” of Lyons’ leave and other questions about his absence, but provided a statement.

Interim principal

“Mr. Lyons’ leave began on Friday, Dec. 16th,” Knight said. “This week, assistant principals and administrators from the district office are working to ensure finals week runs smoothly. An interim principal will be assigned to begin in January if it is still needed. Mr. Lyons’ leave is not in response to inappropriate behavior with a minor and additional details are not available. Our district’s focus is always on the students, staff and families of our district.”

Lyons was an assistant principal at La Cañada High School in the Pasadena area before starting his job at Carmel High in July 2019.

In an article Wednesday in Carmel High’s newspaper, The Sandpiper, writer Emma Brown reported that CUSD “placed” Lyons on leave, and that Knight told her it was not “health related.”

In an August message on the Carmel High website welcoming students to the 2022/2023 school year, Lyons said he was looking forward to the new term.

“As I enter my fourth year as principal at Carmel High I can’t help but feel a sense of both relief and excitement that we as a school are on the right track to success for all our students,” he said.

On Dec. 15, a day before Lyons went on leave, he said in a Twitter post that he was “immensely proud of our drama department for their performance of ‘Arsenic and Old Lace.’”

A message from a Pine Cone reporter to Lyons’ work email bounced back with an automated response saying “I will be out of office for the next week.”
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you. You can meet me at the SPCA!

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Creepers: Dogs were dispatched to a reported assault on Congress.

Pacific Grove: Subject on Asilomar Avenue admisthened for trespassing after a verbal argument occurred.

Pebble Beach: Deputies were dispatched to a reported assault on Congress.

Carmel Valley: A female Hispanic Carmel resident reported attempted credit card fraud. The bank was notified and the transaction was declined.

Carmel area: Resident reported a vehicle backing up struck another vehicle at the Crossroads and then left without exchanging insurance information.

The shop is an arm of Graystone Realty & Auction, Inc. whose clients are seniors that are downsizing.

Graystone’s Objet D’Art is an eclectic shop for very unique and beautiful consigned estate items.

The Carmel Pine Cone December 23, 2022
Blaze destroys cars, carport and studio

By CHRIS COUNTS

A FIRE erupted at a home along Loma Del Rey in Carmel Valley late Friday afternoon, destroying two cars and a carport, and badly damaging an art studio. But the house was mostly untouched by the blaze.

The owner was home when it started and called 911 for help with what they thought was a car fire.

When the firefighters arrived on scene about 4:40 p.m., they could see the blaze was worse than anticipated. “It was immediately upgraded to a structure fire, and we put more resources on it,” Matt Hewlumade, a fire prevention specialist for the Monterey County Regional Fire District, told The Pine Cone.

His department sent three engines with medics, an ambulance and two water tenders, while the Cypress Fire Protection District sent an engine with a medic, and the third time in recent days that she, her husband or a neighbor had heard gunshots in their neighborhood.

Several people reported that the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office was called, and according to its daily patrol log, they were on scene by 7:17 p.m. One woman said her husky got spooked by the gunshots and broke down a gate to escape — though he was later found.

A fifth local described the vehicle as a “lifted white Chevy” and noted that it was covered in mud. “They’ve been all the way up Chews Ridge and back shooting,” he posted.

Another resident who was driving nearby collided with the suspect’s vehicle along Carmel Valley Road.

“I passed them heading to the village at Ranca Creek around 7:50 p.m.,” she said. The sheriff’s office was contacted for this story, but didn’t respond.

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Gunshots reported in Upper C.V.

By CHRIS COUNTS

STARTLED MONDAY when gunshots rang out in the early evening, a number of residents who live in Carmel Valley cast of the village made reports on social media about it.

“A newer Chevy is shooting randomly on Tassajara Road heading towards the valley,” one local posted on Facebook.

“We heard at least 13 shots about 100 yards away,” the woman said the vehicle was driving slowly, perhaps going no faster than 5 miles per hour.

Others responded to the report, including a woman who described the incident as “odd as hell.”

“I’m pissed,” she wrote. “My dogs and grandson got freaked.”

A third resident posted that she heard “rapid fire” around 7 p.m. She said it was

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Better Homes & Gardens

Eames House Whale
A prominent feature of the Eames collection was a huge wooden whale over two meters in length. The smaller scale replica of the Eames House Whale by Vittra is crafted from ash wood and painted by hand.

Flock of Tolkia Flycatchers, Set of Six / Mouthblown Glass
Combining his passion for nature and blown glass art, Oiva Toikka’s unique details give each bird its own personality. Handcrafted and mouth-blown at the Iittala Glass Factory in Finland.

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

Swedish Gotland Wool 20" Tomte | Handmade in Sweden
The Scandinavian Nordic Tomte bring warmth and good luck to the home. These authentic handmade Swedish characters will add that Christmas spirit to your entry, mantel or table.

VP9 Uplighteddown Flower Pot Portable and Rechargeable Lamp
A vividly colored lamp with a rounded pendant that hangs from the semi-domed upper shade, embodies the experimental attitude of Verner Panton.

Kay Bojesen Champagne Cooler & Iittala Ultima Thule Champagne Glasses 5-Piece Set
The cooler has been shaped by organic contours to unite the artistic with the practical, two things Kay always managed to balance perfectly. Wirkala’s Champagne Glasses are inspired by the melting ice in Lapland.

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Carmel Valley neighborhood gets wise about fire, sets state milestone

By CHRIS COUNTS

AS PART of a coordinated volunteer effort, neighborhoods throughout California have rallied residents in recent years to take measures to protect against the devastating consequences of wildfires, including one in Carmel Valley that celebrated a milestone Dec. 13.

That evening at the Monterey County Regional Fire District’s station in Carmel Valley, local fire officials recognized the Rancho/Middle Canyon neighborhood’s fire prevention efforts, which earned it a formal designation as a Firewise community — the 600th in California since the Firewise program was started in 2002.

Located behind Los Laureles Lodge, the neighborhood has about 110 homes, and between 280 and 250 residents. Like other communities recognized by the Firewise program, it’s located on steep terrain and surrounded by lots of fire-prone vegetation.

“In a subdivision of homes, it’s essential that homeowners work together to create fire protection,” said National Fire Protection Association official Michele Steinberg. “Wildfires can impact dozens or hundreds of homes simultaneously,” she suggested.

To become a Firewise community, a neighborhood has to become a Firewise community, a

See FIREWISE page 24A

By KELLY NIX

UNDERSTAFFING HITS CARE CLINIC

Closed more than 50 times this year

The ONLY urgent care clinic in the Carmel area has been unexpectedly closed for 51 days this year — including nine times this month alone — because of understaffing, but officials with Montage Health said there are no plans to permanently close the office.

Many Carmel-area residents rely on the MoGo Urgent Care Center clinic at Carmel Rancho for treatment of cuts, burns, fevers, headaches and a whole host of other maladies. The clinic, and two other MoGo Urgent Care offices on the Monterey Peninsula operated by Montage Health, are advertised as being open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week, 365 days a year.

But some Pine Cone readers have complained recently that the Carmel clinic is frequently closed, something Montage Health officials confirmed this week.

A spokeswoman for Montage Health, Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula’s parent company, said that understaffing is the reason for the sudden and frequent closure of the clinic at 26135 Carmel Rancho Blvd., Suite B-1.

“Unfortunately, the same challenges facing the community, such as injury and illness, also affect MoGo Urgent Care staff,” spokeswoman Monica Sciuto told The Pine Cone Wednesday.

“This results in staff not being able to come to work until they are well. Montage Health is aggressively recruiting additional providers to sustain a deeper pool of staff to reduce the number of days a clinic may be closed,” she added.

When the clinic has to be closed, Sciuto said Montage notifies those who had appointments so they can reschedule, and posts signs apologizing for the inconvenience.

“We understand unexpected closures can be frustrating for patients,” Sciuto added.

Other options

There are MoGo Urgent Care clinics in Monterey and Marina, and Sciuto directed patients who find the Carmel Rancho clinic closed to go to one of those locations.

Each MoGo location is led by one nurse practitioner or physician’s assistant and supporting staff, Sciuto said.

“There are 11 of these clinicians to cover the three sites seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.” she said. “In total, MoGo Urgent Care employs 45 staff members.”

Despite the frequent and unpredictable closures, Sciuto said Montage is not considering closing the Carmel clinic permanently.

“Montage Health recognizes the great value to our community by providing urgent care services in Carmel,” Sciuto said. “The recent closures are the result of a temporary reduction in available staff. She said anyone considering using the Carmel clinic without an appointment should check the MoGo Urgent Care website at mojogencare.org to make sure it is open.

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From now until December 31, 2022, you can maximize your impact to help save whales. Your donation will receive a percentage match!

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HOLIDAY WINDOW DECORATING CONTEST

The Crossroads Carmel puts a lot of love into our seasonal decor! One of our favorite traditions this time of year is our Holiday Window Display contest.

Participating stores pull out all the stops and create some of the most whimsical, clever and festive displays around.

The displays will be up throughout the holiday season. Our secret panel of judges will determine the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners and the winning businesses will receive prizes including a donation to their favorite local charity!

POST A PHOTO TO WIN

Enter our #CrossroadsChristmas22 contest for a chance to WIN!

Snap a photo and share on your Instagram now through December 25, 2022. Use #crossroadschristmas22 for a chance to win a Crossroads Carmel gift package full of our favorite items from Crossroads retailers.

Details at thecrossroadscarmel.com/events
Bougrier 'V' Vouvray Chenin Blanc, 750ml.................................15.99
Josh Cellars Cabernet Family Reserve North Coast, 750ml...................19.99
San Gregorio S Vyd Las Martas Garn, 2020, 750ml JS92..................10.99
Ed Edmundo Chardonnay, 750ml........................................9.99
Ropiteau Pinot Noir, 750ml...............................................12.99
Silver Ghost Cabernet Napa, 2019, 750ml JS92................49.99
Il Duca Rosa Imperiale, 750ml............................................9.99
Altaland Malbec Mendoza, 2020, 750ml JS92...................19.99
Floorshow Red, 750ml.....................................................34.99
Borrasca Prosecco Rose, 750ml BD91...............................14.99

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Health of young lion cub said to be improving after porch rescue

AN ABANDONED mountain lion cub found on a porch in the Santa Cruz mountains this week is doing much better after being rescued by animal welfare groups.

On Sunday, homeowners spotted the female cub, believed to be 6 to 8 months old, and called authorities. Thanks to Native Animal Rescue in Santa Cruz and a state agency, the little cat was safely rescued and taken to the Oakland Zoo. Initially in bad shape when she arrived, the zoo reported Wednesday that the cat — named Holly — has improved.

“We are happy to report that the rescued orphaned mountain lion brought to us Monday evening by California Department of Fish and Wildlife continues to improve,” the zoo said in a social media post. “She is much feister and has started eating for us!”

Recovering

Zoo officials said they “remain cautiously optimistic that Holly’s health will keep getting better, but she is still under intensive care treatment and is not out of the woods by any means.”

Zoo staff treated her with fluids, vitamins and anti-nausea and anti-parasitic medicine.

“Our vet staff named her Holly in honor of the holidays,” the zoo said. “We prepared a tasty warm room for her in the hospital ward, where she spent the night.”

The homeowner waited to see if Holly’s mother would return, but she didn’t, and based on the cub’s poor condition, Fish and Wildlife opted to bring the cub to the Oakland Zoo. It’s not clear if the animal will ever be returned to the wild or will have to stay at the zoo.

This poorly baby mountain lion cub is being treated for injuries at the Oakland Zoo after being found on a porch near Santa Cruz.

The Pine Cone has been a member of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce for more than 100 years.
INVESTIGATOR SUES COUNTY OVER ALLEGED PUBLIC RECORDS FAILURE

By KELLY NIX

A PRIVATE investigator seeking information about several properties in Salinas has filed suit against Monterey County alleging government officials failed to respond in a timely manner to his queries.

In a lawsuit filed on Nov. 30, Michael Haney said that on Oct. 5, he submitted two separate requests to county officials under the state’s Public Records Act for information about four properties in Salinas. Haney requested that the county assessor’s office send him all emails, voicemails, forms and all other documents pertaining to the properties.

“Please take all steps necessary to preserve data responsive to this request whether or not you believe it is exempt from disclosure for any reason,” Haney told county officials in his requests.

He added that officials should “provide data on a rolling basis, providing data as it is located. This will avoid needless delays that violate the spirit and letter of the California Public Records Act.” The suit was filed for Haney by his attorney, Cory Briggs, of Upland.

But Haney contends that the assessor’s office failed to respond to his records requests within 10 days — the time period the California Public Records Act allows government agencies to either provide information outlined in such requests or offer an explanation as to why certain information cannot be released. According to the PRA, government agencies can also request a 14-day extension to provide information.

“It’s been more than 10 days since my request, and I have yet to receive a response,” according to an Oct. 16 follow-up message Haney sent to the assessor’s office that was included in his civil complaint. “Please provide the requested documents as soon as possible.”

Two days later, a county official emailed Haney apologizing for the delay saying the department was working on complying with his request for public records and should have a response by the end of that week, “pending review by our county counsel.”

However, Haney wrote back saying if he did not get a response “by the end of the day” on Oct. 28, that he would “seek judicial review.”

Haney alleges that Monterey County violated several provisions of the state’s Public Records Act, and he is seeking a court judgment that the county “did not promptly and fully comply” with the law and an order directing it to comply, including by providing him with the documents he requested. He also wants to be compensated for “all attorney fees and other legal expenses” he incurred in connection with his lawsuit.

County Counsel Les Girard told The Pine Cone Dec. 7, “The county disputes the allegations in the complaint and will defend against it accordingly.”

Lawsuits over violations of the Public Records Act are rarely filed in Monterey County. Girard said one such complaint was filed in the last couple of years but it ended up being dismissed in court.

From Our Home to Yours
Wishing You A Happy & Healthy Holiday Season

May Your New Year Be Full of Good Health, Joy & Prosperity

JUDIE PROFETA
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MANAGING DIRECTOR | BROKER ASSOCIATE
Judie@TheProfetaTeam.com  DRE#00703550

May your New Year be full of good health, joy & prosperity.

Judie Profeta
831.601.3207
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Judie@TheProfetaTeam.com DRE#00703550

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When it’s too chilly, wet or dark, just pull up a chair and read

By ELAINE HESSER

So many local authors, so little time. But whether you’re shopping for yourself or for a last-minute gift, this area is rich in locally owned bookshops, including Pilgrim’s Way (Dolores between Fifth and Sixth), River House Books (Crossroads shopping center), and Olivia & Daisy (Center Street, Carmel Valley). Further south, you’ll find eclectic selections at the Henry Miller Library in Big Sur and the Phoenix gift shop at Nepenthe. Don’t forget the cozy Bookworks in PG, where you can also enjoy a spot of tea or a latte and a snack.

All of them have knowledgeable employees to help you scratch that winter itch to curl up with a good book.

Get your kids (or grandkids) off to a good reading start with “Welcome to Pacific Grove, Butterfly Town U.S.A.; Two Monarchs Seeking a Sanctuary.” Written by Joyce Krieg and adorably illustrated by Keith Larson, the 32-page story follows Mari and Posa — monarch butterfly siblings — as they search for their winter home. Meant to be read aloud, it’s filled with fun facts about popular sites in and around PG.

Mari and Posa flutter by the municipal golf course, Asilomar, Point Pinos Lighthouse, Jewel Park and the Holman Building, searching for the eucalyptus grove where they’ll rest from their long journey. There’s a companion coloring book, and both are published by Pacific Grove Books, with the proceeds going to the Friends of the Pacific Grove Public Library.

The same publisher produced “Monarchs in Butterfly Town, U.S.A., Pacific Grove, California,” available in hardback or paperback. This grownup book — which also benefits the town’s library — is a collection of photos submitted for PG’s Butterfly-By-The-By contest earlier this year. Author Patricia Hamilton assembled more than 300 entries “representing the beauty of our town and the delights of our favorite fluttering winter visitors — captioned by the photographers.”

There are also excerpts of other authors’ works that provide context for the photos, like 1914’s “The Butterfly Trees,” by Lucia Shepardson, and the program from the first butterfly pageant, held in 1939.

Memories and advice

Laurie Bartleson’s book, “Behind the Façade: A Mental Health Memoir,” delivers exactly what the title promises, but it’s far more lively than you might expect. Bartleson tells her story in a relatable way, opening a window here and a doorway around P.G. with fun facts about popular sites in and around PG.

When it’s too chilly, wet or dark, just pull up a chair and read...
Esselen and two other groups raise $$ to buy Pico Blanco Boy Scout Camp

By CHRIS COUNTS

The Esseen Tribe of Monterey County is teaming up with two groups in an effort to buy the Pico Blanco Boy Scout Camp in Big Sur, which has been up for sale since March. “The partners have entered into exclusive discussions with the seller and expect the sale to close soon,” the groups announced at picoblancocamp.com.

But first, the groups — the tribe, a scouting program called White Stag Monterey and the nonprofit Camping Unlimited — need to raise $4 million to buy the camp, along with 718 acres, according to a representative of Pico Blanco Partners, Chris Nault. So far, they’ve come up with $650,000.

White Stag Monterey offers leadership camps for kids from 10-17, while Camping Unlimited hosts camps for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

The plan calls for the three groups to share the site’s campground, some land and related infrastructure, while the tribe would own the rest of the land.

Dream team

According to the Pico Blanco Partners website, the seller — the Boy Scouts of America’s Silicon Valley/Monterey Bay Council — has conditions for the sale, including that the boy scouts retain some access to the camp, and undeveloped the land be preserved.

According to Nault, the three groups represent a “dream team” of prospective buyers.

“The partners all have a long history camping, land preservation and respect. Together they represent ideal candidates to purchase the camp,” he said.

Nault told The Pine Cone he has fond memories of the time he spent at Camp Pico Blanco as a boy scout. “I camped there as a kid in the 1990s,” said Nault, who besides being a volunteer for the partnership, owns a PR company, Growth Marketing Firm.

Nault is optimistic the money can be raised and the deal will get done.

“I’m so thankful for the way this is playing out,” he added. “It couldn’t happen any better.

The camp is located along a dirt road that begins at the end of county-owned Palo Colorado Road. It’s been largely inaccessible since 2016 because the upper half of the county road was badly damaged by storms and slides that followed the Soberanes Fire.

Surrounded by redwoods, Pico Blanco Boy Scout Camp is located along a shady bank of the Little Sur River.

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Water district asks agency to force Cal Am on agreement

By KELLY NIX

JUST THREE weeks after Cal Am said it couldn’t participate in the expansion of the Pure Water Monterey reclamation project, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District is trying to get a state agency to force California American Water to do so.
The state’s Public Utilities Commission on Dec. 1 approved an expansion of Pure Water Monterey, a proj-
ect near Marina that turns wastewater into drinking water for Cal Am’s Monterey Peninsula customers. Included in the approval was a provision that Cal Am recover some of its costs from ratepayers. Days later, though, Cal Am told the CPUC that it would not agree to the expansion project because the agency did not permit Cal Am to recover addi-
tional expenses associated with building the infrastructure for it.
In response to Cal Am’s refusal, the water district on Dec. 16 filed a petition with the Public Utilities Commis-
sion imploring it to force Cal Am to abide by the expan-
sion plan.
“If the commission does not compel Cal-Am to exe-
cute the agreement,” “Monterey ratepayers will be held hostage by an investor-owned utility that gives lip-service to support for the project while it argues for additional funding that has already been reviewed and denied by the commission,” according to the document signed by water district attorney David Laredo.
California American Water this week responded to the water district’s petition.
‘100 percent support’
“Cal Am continues to be 100 percent in support of Pure Water Monterey expansion and the water it is expected to provide,” company spokesman Josh Stratton told The Pine Cone. “As a testament to our support, Cal Am has invested quite a lot in the expansion project and advanced funding in good faith to put in capital infrastructure such as pumps, pipelines and wells needed to convey the new water.”
Expanding Pure Water Monterey would allow it to pro-
duce more than 40 percent more water for Monterey Pen-
insula customers.
The augmentation plan, the water district told the CPUC, is “ready for bid” and “financing has been arranged.” and it decried Cal Am for “digging in its heels to the detriment of its customers, and in violation of water supply require-
ments set by the State Water Resources Control Board.”
Cal Am needs to build extraction wells and a pipeline to deliver the water from the Seaside Basin to its custom-
ers. But in a Dec. 6 letter informing the CPUC it wouldn’t execute the expansion agreement, Cal Am president Kevin Tilden said the company had “hooped” to sign the agreement but could not because the state agency did not allow the company to recover the costs associated with building the infrastructure necessary to deliver water to its customers.
Shark attack rescuers will get medals from Carnegie Hero Fund

By KELLY NIX

THREE GOOD Samaritans who helped rescue shark attack survivor Steve Bruemmer after he suffered a severe bite off Lovers Point Beach will receive prestigious life-saving awards, the organization behind the accolades announced Monday.

Bruemmer, 62, was swimming off Lovers Point Beach June 22 when a 14- to 15-foot great white shark bit him, causing severe injuries. Paul Bandy, Aimee Johns and Heath Braddock rushed to save Bruemmer and helped him back to shore.

In August, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission — an organization founded in 1904 by Pittsburgh steelmaker Andrew Carnegie — announced the awards.

Once the three people reached Brue- mmer, “Bandy and Braddock worked to move” Bruemmer “onto one of the surfboards Braddock had brought to the scene. Braddock then paddled toward shore with Bruemmer “in tow, his hands grasping Braddock’s ankle as Johns grasped the back of the board and helped propel the unit along by paddling with her feet. Bandy followed the trio via his paddleboard and called 911 en route.”

See MEDAL, page 21A

Group effort

Bandy and Johns were on paddleboards not too far from Bruemmer when they heard him yelling after the shark attack, while Braddock — who was on Lovers Point Beach — rushed in to the water to help after realizing someone was in distress. Carnegie outlined the rescue effort in announcing the awards.

Once the three people reached Bruem- mmer, “Bandy and Braddock worked to move” Bruemmer “onto one of the surfboards Braddock had brought to the scene.

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Group Offers First Line of Local Defense Against Whale Entanglements

By Chris Counts

While most of us salivate over wild-caught seafood, obtaining it comes at a price to whales, which can be injured or even killed when they become entangled in fishing lines and nets. According to NOAA, as many as 50 whales have been caught each year in fishing gear off the coasts of California, Oregon and Washington in recent years — and when that happens, the first line of defense in Monterey Bay is Marine Life Studies’ Whale Disentanglement Team.

The team is made up of trained volunteers who have access to state-of-the-art technology to aid their mission. “We established the Whale Entanglement Team to rescue whales from a slow, painful death due to life-threatening entanglements,” according to the website for Marine Life Studies, a Moss landing-based group that created and oversees the team. “Our whale rescue research vessel is fully equipped with all the necessary tools for a complete disentanglement response. This ‘whale disentanglement ambulance’ has been critical to our success in saving whales every year.”

The group says its vessel is the only one of its kind on the West Coast.

How you can help

To fund its mission, Marine Life Studies relies exclusively on private donations. As you can imagine, its work is complex and can get expensive. For instance, a recent three-day boat excursion required about 1,200 gallons of gasoline. Other items that need to be purchased or replaced include personal protective gear, hand-held radios, under-water cameras, personal locator beacons with GPS, strobe lights, personal flotation suits and a goniometer. The latter is a device that’s used to track telemetry buoys, which are placed on entangled whales. If the entanglement team loses sight of a whale because the sun went down, the goniometer makes it easier to find it the next day.

If you’re interested in making a donation, visit marinelifestudies.org.

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“In addition, we treated the desal plant debt as if we assumed its loan payment obligation,” Stoldt explained. “So the valuation — including desal — was $513 million, plus an assumption of $184 million of debt. The $513 million included $93 million of desal paid with equity. So without a desalination plant, the previous numbers would value the system at $420 million — $513 minus $93 million.”

At some point after the consultants determine how much the Cal Am Monterey system is worth, the water district will prepare an offer letter to Cal Am to acquire the system, although Cal Am will likely reject the offer since it has said repeatedly it’s not for sale. If Cal Am rejects the offer, the water district board would adopt a “resolution of necessity” at a public hearing which Stoldt explained would require “extensive findings.”

“I do not foresee” that occurring “any sooner than June or July,” he said.

The next major step would be for the water district to file an eminent domain lawsuit in court to acquire the Cal Am system. A jury trial would be held to determine the “fair market value” of the water system, jurors would render a verdict and a judgment would be entered.

The entire process could take months, or even years, to resolve and cost taxpayers millions of dollars. If the water district loses the battle, Cal Am could try to recoup its legal costs through customers’ monthly water bills.

**Lawsuit snag**

A hitch in the water district’s acquisition plan is an unresolved lawsuit it filed April 1 against the Local Agency Formation Commission in response to commissioners’ Feb. 28 refusal to allow the district to acquire and operate Cal Am’s system. The water district complaint alleges LACFO violated state law because several of the panel’s commissioners were “biased” against the idea of the water district running Cal Am’s system and that the agency “denied the water district a neutral and unbiased hearing.”

LACFO has denied the allegations, and agency executive officer Kate McKenna told The Pine Cone last week that a judge is expected to set a trial date on the lawsuit at a Jan. 10, 2023 court hearing.

Asked about Cal Am’s strategy ahead of the release of the water district’s formal appraisal, company spokesman Josh Stratton pointed to water district’s litigation against LACFO.

“The water district doesn’t have authority from LACFO to proceed with their effort, so every dollar they spend without that approval is a dollar wasted,” Stratton told The Pine Cone. “We are confident we will prevail in court if they move forward. Our focus is on providing reliable water to our customers.”

Stoldt said this week that the water district never believed it needed LACFO approval to operate the water system and that it only sought the commission’s blessing “as a formality to clarify that we had the power that we assumed our customers and we plan to operate it for many decades to come,” said Stratton.

“The district long ago determined that they wouldn’t be able to lower rates, despite the campaign promises made by Measure J,” he went on to say. “The district leaders should stop spending millions of dollars in legal fees using the constantly growing list of government agencies who disagree with them, and get to work protecting the Carmel River and developing reliable new water supplies.”

But Stoldt said that the feasibility study the district performed to assess a public takeover of the Monterey system indicated that with the agency’s acquisition and operation of the Peninsula’s water system would result in “significant annual reductions in revenue requirements and projected monthly water bills.”

**Significant reductions**

“Cal Am has continued to invest in the water system serving our customers and we plan to operate it for many decades to come,” said Stratton.

“The district has made to the system include a pipeline off of Gen. Jim Moore Boulevard, pump station in Carmel Valley and development of reliable new water supplies.”

“Should Cal Am’s system and that it only sought the commission’s blessing,” said Stratton.

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County wants info on internet speeds

PIE CONE STAFF REPORT

IN AN effort by Monterey County gov-
ernment to assess broadband speeds in the
county, officials are asking residents to tell
them how fast their internet connections are
at home and work.

The county announced this week that it
launched a “broadband speed campaign,”
and between now and Jan. 13, 2023, it
is asking all residents “to tell us about their
internet speed at home, work, or wherever
they connect.”

The county said the data it collects
would help it identify areas where homes
and businesses lack high-speed internet,
which households don’t have internet at
all, and direct funding toward “reliable
broadband access throughout the county.”

“This campaign includes everyone,
whether you have excellent internet speeds
or no access at all,” the county said. To par-
ticipate in the campaign, go to mcBroad-
bandcall.org.

MEDAL

From page 15A

Others on the beach, including some
medical professionals that happened to be
there, helped control the bleeding until an
ambulance arrived and rushed Bruenmer
to Natividad Medical Center in Salinas.

Bruenmer said that Bandy, Johns and
Braddock “richly deserved” the Carnegie
Medal awards.

“As an eyewitness to the incident, I
filled out paperwork for the Carnegie Hero
Fund Commission and was interviewed
by one of their investigators,” Bruenmer
told The Pine Cone Monday. “I couldn’t be
happier.”

Braddock called the award “pretty
amazing.”

“I feel pretty humbled and special to
be recognized in that way,” he also said
Monday. Bandy, Johns and Braddock were hon-
ored by the City of Pacific Grove and are
also slated to be honored by the American
Red Cross.

The three are among 16 people in the
United States and Canada who were
awarded the Carnegie Medal award this
winter, the organization said. The medal
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between Limekiln State Park in Big Sur and Hearst Castle. Last year, they announced an agreement to locate the wind farm farther south and outside of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary due to concerns by local leaders, fishermen, conservation groups and residents.

Assemblymember Dawn Addis of Morro Bay, who represents coastal parts of Monterey County, reacted to the news. “Today’s auction results demonstrate that floating offshore wind on the West Coast is both absolutely necessary to address the climate crisis and economically viable for the companies that won today’s bids,” she said. “What happens next is critical. I look forward to working with our coastal communities to ensure the auction winners are true partners.”

Addis is the co-author of an offshore wind farm bill, AB-3, which was introduced this month.

The bill seeks to “accelerate the approval, implementation and operation of offshore wind energy projects.” It also states the intention of the Legislature “to enact future legislation” to create an Offshore Wind Coastal Compensation Fund to mitigate the impacts of the industry on the tourism industry, marine and other coastal wildlife, the fishing industry, and other entities.”

In June, the California Coastal Commission gave the wind farm a preliminary green light after determining it was consistent with the state Coastal Act.

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CARMEL MISSION BASILICA
3080 Rio Road, Carmel, CA
(831) 624-1271

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve Mass
4 p.m & 9 p.m.
Community Christmas Carols
8:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY
9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mass
Please check the Calendar on our website for further information.
www.carmelmission.org

2022 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas at The Wayfarer
Night of Hope
Wednesday, December 21st at 7 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight
Saturday, December 24th at 7 p.m.
Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25th at 10 a.m.

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1928 Book of Common Prayer
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NEW YEAR’S EVE AT 4 PM  |  NEW YEAR’S DAY AT 10:30 AM

CHRISTMAS AT THE WAYFARER
Lincoln & Seventh, Carmel / www.churchofthewayfarer.com
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Rev. Karla Lundin, Pastor

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
CARMEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Join Us!
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Worship
6 p.m.

800 Cass St, Monterey
Letsgotobethlehem.org

Holiday Hours
The Carmel Mission
December 23, 2022 to January 1, 2023
11am - 4pm (open weather conditions)

2022 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25
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4 p.m & 9 p.m.
Community Christmas Carols
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9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mass
Please check the Calendar on our website for further information.
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the money, or donate it to a good cause. But as he and other congressional members are realizing, it’s not that simple.

“We’ve got some new advice and are talking with my colleagues in both chambers about it,” he told The Pine Cone this week. “We may need to segregate and hold the funds until they can be transferred to a victim compensation fund that could be ordered by a judge pending outcome of the criminal case.”

Petax, who said he met Bankman-Fried when he made a presentation to the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus, added that “Now that there are criminal legal charges, with these types of outcomes, it’s necessary that we try to do it right and take into account potential legal consequences.”

President Joe Biden, whose campaign got more than $5 million from Bankman-Fried for his 2020 presidential run, has been silent on what to do with the money. Meanwhile, the new CEO of FTX, John Ray, said the company would try to recoup tens of millions of dollars in donations Bankman-Fried made to politicians and groups, most of which were members of or affiliated with the Democratic Party, the Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday. Bankman-Fried donated tens of millions of dollars to political action committees, including $27 million to super PAC Protect Our Future and $6 million to House Majority PAC, which supports Democratic lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives. He also gave $2 million to GMI PAC, Inc., a group which supports “crypto-friendly candidates.”

**Decades in prison?**

A resident of the Bahamas, he was arrested by Bahamian police last week after U.S. prosecutors charged him in an eight-count indictment alleging fraud, money laundering, campaign finance offenses, wire fraud and other charges. If convicted, Bankman-Fried could spend decades in prison.

To a much lesser extent, Bankman-Fried also donated to Republicans but tried to conceal the contributions. He explained why in an interview with YouTube Tiffany Fong several weeks ago, saying “reporters freak the f*ck out if you donate to a Republican because it looks like you aren’t super liberal,” he told Fong. “And I didn’t want to have that fight so I just made all the Republican contributions dark.”

**THEF**

From page 1A

the shop’s Dutch door and pushed the top closed, but didn’t lock it.

“As soon as the person tried the ring on, he opened the top portion and jumped over the bottom of the Dutch door and ran” toward Vesuvio restaurant to the east, Watkins said.

He described the 6-foot-2-inch bargirl as wearing sun- glasses, a fesse-styles jacket and black tights, and a blue wig.

Officers are still trying to determine how many other jewelry stores he might have cased, as well as if he ran to a waiting car that could be identified on private security cameras or one of the city’s half-dozen traffic cameras. Watkins said he’s aware of one other store the thief visited before the Nov. 19 incident.

“It’s still under investigation,” he said.

**FIREWISE**

From page 6A

Be prepared for emergencies — register your phone number at www.alerntnt.com/county.org

**HOMELAND**

From page 1A

homes is a complex and challenging problem and won’t be solved anytime soon here on the Monterey Peninsula,” she said.

The portable shelter that Bethtson wants to build measures 7-feet by 8-feet and would sit on a flatterated.

It was designed by a former homeless man, Jay Schafer, who is credited with being a pioneer in the tiny home movement.

Like a number of other local homeless people, the woman has been staying in a local church parking lot managed by the group, One Starfish. Bethtson said the group is supportive of the effort to build a bedrom-on-wheels for her.

**DAVID EHRENPRESS**

David Ehrenpreis, aged 76, a devoted and loving father, husband, uncle and friend to many, died on December 3, 2022, after living for 19 years with Parkinson’s Disease. He leaves his wife of 46 years – Bobbie, daughter Amee, brother Joel Ehrenpreis of Florida and Joel’s large family. He leaves his angel/caregiver Frances Alsky. And he leaves his little dog, Sophie. David has been a resident of Carmel for over 35 years. For over 30 years he, alongside his wife, worked as a real estate agent with the Mitchell Group, and then with Carmel Realty Company.

David was a humble and quiet man. He lived a quiet peaceful life. He never complained. He was happy with whatever we all did, as long as we all did it together! He loved his music. He loved acting in Pacific Repertory Theater productions with his family and other kids of all ages, especially his role as Smee in "Peter Pan." He loved our walks in Point Lobos.

David was an enthusiastic cook who enjoyed seeing generations of students prepare for the next step in their education. Barbara and Frank lived on the Stevenson campus for decades, embracing the boarding school life and making a grand adventure that took the young couple to Izmir, Turkey, where they taught at what was then known as the American Girls College. They spent vacations traveling in Europe and the Middle East, and then returning to the United States. They lived in Rockford, Illinois prior to moving to the Robert Louis Stevenson School in Pebble Beach when Frank took the position of Assistant Headmaster.

Barbara and Frank lived on the Stevenson campus for decades, embracing the boarding school life and welcoming students into their home for freshly baked cookies, ice cream, and conversation. Barbara was a mentor to fellow faculty wives and a great support to both faculty children and Stevenson students. Barbara, a gentle soul, came deeply for those around her, always putting others first. She quietly led by example, and her kindness and warm compassion encouraged people to do their best. After their own children went off to college, Barbara joined Frank in Stevenson’s Keith Center for 16 years, where she helped generations of students prepare for the next step in their education.

Barbara was an enthusiastic cook who enjoyed seeing her special talents in the kitchen embraced by her children. She loved taking long walks along the ocean in Pebble Beach and enjoyed trips to Switzerland and Italy. After the couple moved to Carmel Valley, she turned her backyard into an organic garden paradise with fruit trees, berry vines, vegetable beds, and dozens of beautiful rose bushes. But nothing gave Barbara greater pleasure than watching her children grow and thrive while pursuing their education and careers, and raising children of their own.

Barbara was survived by her husband, Frank; six children, Randall (Karen), Bradley (Nellie), Jennifer (Tim), Garret (Robin), Allison (David), and Trevor (Karen); 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; her sister, Helen, and her brother, Larry (Estee). She was predeceased by her sister, Harriet.

A private family memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to the Keith Scholarship Fund, a financial aid endowment at Stevenson School, 3152 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953. Donations can be made online at www.stevensonschool.org/giving/make-gift.

Barbara Jean Harper Keith, whose great joy in life was being a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother and a loving companion, passed away peacefully on December 12, 2022, at age 90.

Barbara Jean Harper was born in Ithaca, New York and graduated from Carleton College, where she met her husband of 66 years, Frank Keith. After they were married, Barbara and Frank embarked on a grand adventure that took the young couple to Izmir, Turkey, where they taught at what was then known as the American Girls College. They spent vacations traveling in Europe and the Middle East, and then returning to the United States. They lived in Rockford, Illinois prior to moving to the Robert Louis Stevenson School in Pebble Beach when Frank took the position of Assistant Headmaster.

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began to bring the darkest moments of her life to light, and in doing so, found her way onto a path of healing.

In August 2019, The Pine Cone talked with Carmel resident and professional videographer Marc Silber about his book, “Create: Tools from Seriously Talented People to Unleash Your Creative Life.” During the pandemic, Silber revised his series of interviews with artists, entrepreneurs and others, and changed the subtitle to “Overcoming Fear to Unleash Your Creativity” for a second edition. Rather than simply offering theories or odes to anguished navel-gazing, the book offers concrete steps to help readers find inspiration, use the tools of their trade, and edit and share their work.

Silber said that during the lockdown, “I wanted to help people forget and put attention on their creativity, to pull their attention into something positive.” He also has a podcast and a YouTube channel.

Another nonfiction work, “Puck,” by longtime local doctor Alfred Sadler and his twin brother, attorney Blair Sadler, was released earlier this year. It chronicles the lessons in resilience the two learned while spearheading some major changes in the American healthcare system. (Alfred Sadler gave an interview about the book in the May 28 issue of The Pine Cone’s Healthy Lifestyle.)

Beauty mysteries, beautiful landscapes
Lovers of fiction will be interested to know that Ginnie Gordon, along with her husband David Gordon (the Carmel Bach Festival’s retired longtime dramaturge and author of its definitive history, “Carmel Impressario”), has produced a new novel, “Bear me Away to a Better World: Another cozy, ‘The Mystery of the Mystery Writer.’”

Those who like a good thrill ride should pick up Brooke French’s “Inhuman Acts,” a science-y crime novel that may remind readers of Patricia Cornwell’s grisly mysteries featuring forensic charmer KayScarpetta. French, who divides her time between Atlanta and Carmel, is a former attorney whose self-described “gleeful” research into “fatal viruses, terrorism and murder,” has produced a chilling tale about an outbreak of human rabies cases in Tennessee. It’s not for the faint of heart.

Finally, if you just want to immerse yourself in beauty, Erin Hanson — whose namesake gallery is on San Carlos, between Fifth and Sixth — has released a coffee-table book called, “Wine Country Impressions in Oil.” If that sounds like paintings of Napa Valley, you’re right — but it also includes winemaking regions throughout the United States.

In addition to the Northern California wine country, Hanson ventured into Paso Robles, the Santa Lucia Mountains, Oregon and Washington. Her works also embrace the Texas Hill Country — surprisingly, the second-largest AVA in the United States — Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley and New York’s Finger Lakes and Long Island regions.

Hanson is the self-glorified founder of Open Impressionism, which she describes as “abstracted, contemporary impressionism.”

Her description continues, “The brushstrokes are loose and expressive, conveying a sense of movement and transient light. Because the brushstrokes are applied alla prima, without layering, the paintings have a mosaic or stained-glass quality to them.”

Whether it’s for you or a gift, make sure to check out the local bookstores the next time you get an urge to curl up, get cozy and get lost in a good wintertime read.
Tipping the scales

FOR READERS of this newspaper, it’s no surprise that California’s housing shortage was caused by decades of over-regulation wrought by the state’s powerful Democrats who, from 1975 until about 5 minutes ago, never met a zoning code that was strict enough or an EIR that was too long.

This topic has been a focus of our news coverage and editorials for what seems like eons — especially the way NIMBY activists have exploited laws like CEQA and the Coastal Act to bring rational decision-making to a halt at the local level where housing is concerned.

Here on the Monterey Peninsula, there have been dozens of examples in recent years of the “permit process” being used to thwart majority decision-making and stymie progress toward important public goals. The most recent is the 24-unit Pebble Beach affordable housing project, which made a tiny dent in the Peninsula’s shortage of workforce homes when it was completed three years ago. This modest project made it to the finish line only after surviving a gauntlet of fantastical and seemingly random criticisms — none of which turned out to be the least bit valid.

All this is an old story on the Monterey Peninsula, but awareness of the relationship between housing over-regulation and the housing shortage has started to catch on statewide. From the Legislature and the governor’s office, to the courts and the news media, it’s become commonplace to read about new legal mandates, judges throwing out lawsuits to stop housing projects, and stepped-up efforts at all levels of government to help such projects get to the finish line.

For example, you may have seen news coverage this week about an appeals court decision clearing the way for a 315-unit zoning-compliant apartment project in the East Bay community of Lafayette to become reality.

The victory comes more than a decade after the project was proposed, and after a lengthy and excruciating environmental review and permit process, not to mention a series of court challenges from a local activist group with the self-congratulatory name, Save Lafayette.

It isn’t clear why this group thought it could “save” the city by stopping the construction of badly needed housing, but one thing that is clear is the emphatic way the First District Court of Appeal dispensed with its complaints, while also regretting that it took so long to do so.

First, the court noted that the original project conformed to Lafayette’s zoning code and general plan that were in effect when the application to build the apartments was filed. But when Save Lafayette started using what one legal commentator called “every means imaginable” to kill the project, the property owner, O’Brien Land Company, tried to placate the group by cutting the original 315 apartments to 45 single-family homes. Even the city got on board by downzoning the property. But Save Lafayette sued anyway.

Now this is where it gets really interesting: In rejecting Save Lafayette’s claims, the court of appeal ruled that a developer is entitled to have his project adjudicated according to the zoning and general plan rules in effect at the time his application is complete. And according to the legal firm Holland & Knight, the Legislature has been moving on a parallel track to amend state housing laws to give developers the right to be “vested against downzonings by submitting a preliminary application, which the locality has no discretion to refuse as long as it contains the specific material required by statute, and as long as a completed application is submitted within 180 days.”

For decades, the scales have been tipped against production of new housing in this state. Finally, the law is starting to lean the other way.
**History Beat**

**Sand-dike roadway created during the early Spanish era of Monterey. In December 1846, Rev. Walter Colton, the alcalde (mayor) during the Mexican-American War occupation, called it a lagoon in his diary. As heavy rains filled it to overflow- ing, Colton had workers cut a 2-foot-wide channel so the overflow could run to the bay. The work was easily accomplished;”

**By NEAL HOTELLING**

**Railroad barons**

El Estero was part of the 30,000 acres of Monterey’s “Pueblo Land” reserved for the city as part of statehood but lost in an 1859 auction to David Jacks to pay the city’s indebtedness. The lake was again cut off from the bay when Jacks and other investors built the narrow-gauge railroad from the Salinas Valley to the Monterey Wharf in 1874. The Southern Pacific Railroad soon took over and expanded the railroad and, in 1880, the railroad-borne hotel Del Monte and acquired El Estero Beach lands on the ocean side of the tracks.

**BING, HANK AND AN OLD ESTUARY**

Perhaps Monterey’s most famous park area for children is the Den- nis the Menace playground at El Estero Park, which has been enjoyed by visitors and residents for more than six decades. What you likely don’t know is that before the playground opened in November 1956, the city struggled for decades to create that park it occupies.

The lake that wraps around the play- ground — El Estero — is actually an estu- ary that was cut off from the ocean by a dam on the bay. The dam was owned by the city and operated by the city until it was removed in 1974. Since then, the lake has been used for recreation and as a habitat for wildlife.

**Home is where the artists and writers and pastry chefs are**

**HOLLY ROSE**

Holly Rose speaks with appropri- ate reverence when she credits her “Nepen- the family” for much of the inspiration that helped her become a prolific creator of the fine art lampsheades she’s been sewing by hand for the past 20 years.

Her mom, Dorcas Owens, has been designing and sewing one-of-a-kind quilts for more than 40 years.

Holly’s uncle, London resident Kate Fassett, is internationally celebrated as a master knitter, master quilter, master color- ist, fabric designer and author of more than 70 books. One aunt, Kim Fassett Rowe, designs and creates one-off baby blankets with hand-crocheted edging, and another, Holly Fassett, is a master knitter and pastry chef.

A cousin, Erin Lee Gadfly, is an iconic Big Sur landscape and still life artist.

By DENNIS TAYLOR

The Nepenthe matricrach

They are the children and grandchildren of Madeleine “Lolly” Fassett and her hus- band, Bill Fassett, co-founders of Nepen- the, the 73-year-old landmark restaurant in Big Sur frequented by movie stars, writers, poets and artists.

“I grew up in Pacific Grove, but my mom was raised at Nepenthe, which was more than a restaurant to us kids — it was a magical place, and we’d go down there as often as we could,” reminisced Rose, a 10-year-employee of Monterey’s Naval Postgraduate School, where she’s now a safety specialist.

“We’d also go to Grandma’s house — the one time all of us cousins could get together — and basically run amok. It was like our playground.”

Creativity was contagious

Among the Fassett relatives, creativity was a contagion that Rose largely attributes to a mentality instilled by “the Big Sur life- style” — growing up in an artistic area, where kids learned to enter- tain themselves.

Dorcas Owens instilled that mindset while raising her three kids. A single mom in Pacific Grove, Owens said.

“We weren’t allowed to have a TV, so we had adventures in our yard or ran around the neighborhood,” she said. “Our house was huge, and there wasn’t much for us to do besides play board games, sew or make art.”

In fact, every dwelling in the extended Fassett family was its own studio-galley, Rose said.

“We didn’t think about it at the time, but we were visually exposed to art — sur- rounded by it — in every room we walked into,” she recalled. “There were projects underway everywhere you looked and art all around you. Everybody in the family is so naturally multitalented that I feel a little bit confused whenever I meet someone who isn’t a painter and designer — and a cre- ative writer, and an incredible florist — who also can whip up a great loaf of bread.”

Harry, adulthood

Rose regarded Pacific Grove as a sleepy and bor- ing hometown through- out her childhood, as she longed for adulthood to arrive.

“I remember walking past my middle school, pre- tending like I was already in high school, just dream- ing of it,” she said. “I just remember wanting to be out of there, doing what- ever I was going to end up doing.”

That Impatience drove her to graduate art early from Pacific Grove High (Class of 1991), moving on to Monterey Peninsula College, then Cerro Coso Community College in the eastern California and desert community of Ridgecrest. “Cerro Coso was

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**See ARTIST page 30A**

**Bing, Hank and an Old Estuary**

By NEAL HOTELLING

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**See ARTIST page 30A**
From a Mennonite community to a job in the company of fine art

SALLY ABERG was born with a bold spirit, a giving heart, an aesthetic eye and a wild curiosity. That inquisitive spirit took her all over the world before depositing her into this bliss — The Carmel Art Association. For the past 11 years, she has served in various roles and is now the gallery manager for the 95-year-old cultural enclave.

Aberg’s first recollection of the CAA was a visit at her mother’s bidding, when she was just 7 years old. She mostly remembers holding her mom’s hand as they climbed the stone steps. Now, even if she didn’t work there, she’d probably hang around anyway.

“I love spending time with fine art, love how it looks, what it says, the energy it radiates,” she said. “I pay attention to how the art is hung in the gallery, knowing that presenting it well creates a kind of ease, allowing visitors to pause, reflect and enjoy the work. I take great pride in the educational aspect of our work. When a person is empowered to ask questions, to understand what art can mean and what it can bring to their life, they’re ready to become a collector.”

Aberg feels great joy when a visitor goes from being afraid to ask the difference between oil and acrylic paints to purchasing a work of art, and finds it exciting to escort each piece out the door and into the lives of a collector.

In the world, not of it

Aberg grew up under her Illinois-born parents’ strong guidance. Her father was a real estate broker and her mother was an artist from Chicago’s New Bauhaus school of design who realized, in her 30s, that she had neglected to marry and have children. So, she immigrated to Southern California, met a man at a Christian Science Church, fell in love fast and had four daughters in rapid succession.

Sally was born second and named for an actress who attended their church, the “vivacious, blonde Sally Jean Franz,” who enjoyed a brief career in cult films.

Yet Aberg’s parents, likely more captivated by the actress’s name than her acting career, committed to raising their daughters “super strictly,” she said. They moved the family to Bakersfield, joined a Mennonite community and pursued what Aberg remembered as her “restrictive, stifling” upbringing, which included bans on television, movies, dancing and alcohol. It also required a modest manner and mode of dress.

“We could live in the world, but not be of the world,” she explained. “I reached a point where I felt a starvation for certain things, thoughts and wishes, yet found it hard to distinguish among them — particularly when I went off to college, so inexperienced in the ways of the world.”

‘Fat beloved’

Aberg did get in five complete readings of the Bible by the time she was 18, which turned out to be tremendously helpful when pursuing her degrees in English and art history at UC Davis, learning from notable artists Donald Teague, Wayne Thiebaud and Robert Armond. While completing a school assignment, Aberg went to an art museum, where she was introduced to the work of Alexei Jawlensky, a Russian expressionist painter in Germany. That inspired her to go abroad to study his life and him, work in person.

“Of course, I didn’t meet Alexei, who had been gone since 1941, but I did meet his son, Andreas. Upon meeting I meant to say, ‘I am a great admirer of your father,’ but in my stumbling German, it came out, ‘I am the fat beloved of your father.’ We spent the day together. Imagine such access to his father’s work and life.”

Following her 1974 graduation from UC Davis — among the top three students of her class — Aberg wrote for The Davis Enterprise and The Sacramento Bee newspapers before moving to Berkeley, where her upbringing had not prepared her for the music, the television shows, the film references or the drugs she encountered there.

At 26, Aberg was hired by the Berkeley Art Museum, remaining there for 15 years, during which she worked everywhere from the loading dock to the museum’s Pacific Film Archive.

“I got an education on all the cinema I had missed during my restrictive childhood, plus experience as an archivist and a chance to ponder the realm of artistic legacy. All these years prepared me for my responsibilities at the Carmel Art Association,” she said.

Culture shock

While taking a break from her own work to help sell her sister’s handmade backpacks on Telegraph Avenue, Aberg met Jeffrey Becon, a fellow artist. He was trying to decide which pack to purchase and she was trying to decide about him. Ultimately, both got what they wanted, and they have been a couple since 1978.

Becon and Aberg spent another 10 years in Berkeley before moving to the Midwest to care for her mother “for two weeks,” which turned into three years. They purchased a house in Pacific Grove, renovated it in 35 days, and moved in.

“It had been quite a culture shock for a West Coast girl to move to the Midwest,” said Aberg. “But it also offered a good transition to go from the urban jungle of Berkeley, to cornfields, to the relative serenity of the seashore by the bay.”

But if Sally Aberg could have spent her entire life working at the Carmel Art Association, she would have.

“I love interacting with people, working with living artists and learning about those who came before. I love to research and draw upon all of our history in Carmel, from 1927 until now. I love being immersed in art. I never realized how much joy it would give me until I got into the middle of it.”

Great Lives

Great Lives

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

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As the gallery manager for the Carmel Art Association, Sally Aberg loves spending her days surrounded by local artist’s works.

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Always enough

If it seems we’re coming up short—with health, finances, or something else—getting to know God as the source of unlimited, universal goodness is a solid foundation for progress.

If we are experiencing lack in our lives, or if we are seeing lack in the world, should we feel discouraged? Or is there a different way of looking at things that can make things better?

There are valuable lessons to be learned on this subject—and help to be found—through taking to heart the teaching and example of Christ Jesus. Jesus proved, over and over again, that there is always enough.

Here is just one example. Thousands of people had spent several days listening to Jesus, and they had nothing left to eat. With compassion, Jesus asked his disciples what they had in the way of food. It was only seven loaves of bread and a few fish.

But instead of despairing, Jesus thanked God and had the disciples give the food to the multitude. And not only did everyone eat their fill, there were “seven baskets full” of food left over (Matthew 15:32-38).

What made that possible? Jesus stored supply from a spiritual, rather than a material, point of view. Instead of looking at the size of the crowd and the small amount of food available and becoming discouraged, Jesus recognized God’s ability to meet every need under all circumstances, and he gave thanks.

Join us in-house for our Sunday church service at 780 Abrego, Monterey at 10am PST and Wednesdays for our online testimony meeting at 7:30pm PST with our Uber Conference capabilities.

To access, dial 831-296-3513 to connect by telephone and follow the prompts. To connect by computer, you must open with Chrome browser and go to www.uberconference.com/room/churchservice.

Jesus understood the spiritual fact that there is never any lack of health, holiness, or goodness. And by turning to God in prayer throughout his ministry, he proved this reality wherever disease, sin, or other problems appeared.

And Mary Baker Eddy, the discoverer of Christian Science—the laws of God Jesus proved—also proved and taught the value of turning to God instead of drawing conclusions from material evidence. She wrote, “God gives you His spiritual ideas, and in turn, they give you daily supplies” (“Miscellaneous Writings 1883-1896,” p. 307).

Spiritual ideas! Yes, that’s what we need. We can look to God, infinite Spirit, for ideas that counteract evidences of lack. We are all capable of doing this because of what we actually are: the spiritual and perfect image of God, divine Spirit. This is our true identity.

Because there is no lack in God, infinite good, then we as His spiritual offspring can’t be lacking, either. God is the source of unlimited abundance—of goodness and health and holiness for everyone.

The spiritual ideas that help us grasp this are abundantly available for every receptive heart to understand. And as we accept these ideas, we are better equipped to prove that lack is a manifestation of the false belief that God could ever stop caring for His children—not the divine reality.

So our need, when something seems to be lacking, is for a shift in thought away from the hopelessness of drawing conclusions from material evidence, to acknowledging and thanking God as everyone’s true source of goodness.

This prayerful approach has been practical for me in balancing expenses with income, finding health where disease had been evident, and experiencing the reforming power of Christ, Truth. It has also given me a sound basis for praying effectively for others who ask for my help, and for my prayers for humanity as a whole.

At every moment. God is meeting everyone’s needs for health, mercy, protection, forgiveness, and abundance of good, in every direction. God is giving every individual every spiritual idea they need, bringing the ability to know this and prove it through restored supply, health, and hope. In God, there is no lack. There’s always enough!

— By Barbara Vining

A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE

The crowds will be back—and so will all the fun and excitement!

LAST YEAR’S AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am returned to its pre-Covid form and drew big, enthusiastic crowds. This year, the world-famous event promises to be even better, with dozens of PGA pros and celebrities along with a full gallery enjoying not only the competition and camaraderie at Pebble Beach, Spyglass and the MPCC Shore Course, but the Monterey Peninsula’s shops and restaurants, along with its breathtaking scenery and inspiring culture. And that means tens of thousands of visitors will be looking to the Peninsula’s No. 1 source for local news — The Pine Cone — for our usual colorful coverage.

Don’t miss your chance to be a part of it!
LETTERS
From page 26A

issues. Like environmental compliance. Like state mandates regarding housing additions. Like design guidelines. Without a safe and secure town nothing else matters.

Mark Bayne, Carmel

Carmel Cars rocks
Dear Editor,

What a truly wonderful group Carmel Cars is. Your article listed many of the group’s projects but left off one which I believe to be among the finest. If you have been to the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts lately, you will have noticed a magical transformation from a rather scraggly garden into a beautiful and welcoming sanctuary. Dale, Nance and their many volunteers have worked tirelessly these past few years. Please go take a stroll in the sculpture garden and see for yourself. We are at the corner of Guadalupe and Fourth.

Robin Winfield, President, Carl Cherry Center for the Arts

In 2018, detectives obtained a recording where Perez-Ruiz detailed his, Velazco’s and the juvenile’s involvement in Jacobs’ murder. Because of Perez-Ruiz’s statements in this recording, the people were able to charge Perez-Ruiz, Velazco and the juvenile with Jacobs’ murder. Both defendants will be sentenced by Superior Court Judge Mark E. Hood on Feb. 23, 2023. Perez-Ruiz will receive a 26 years-to-life sentence and Velazco will receive a 15 years-to-life sentence. The juvenile was 15 years old when he committed Jacobs’ murder. Despite the fact that he was just 15, he could not be prosecuted as an adult. In 2019, in juvenile court, the juvenile entered an admission (the equivalent of a guilty plea) to first-degree murder, a weapons enhancement, and street terrorism. The juvenile was committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice where he will remain, at the very latest, until his 25th birthday.

Nadja Mark, Pacific Grove

In 2022, Perez-Ruiz bragged about other Seaside Norteño gang members. In messages just days after Jacobs’ murder, Perez-Ruiz claimed he was an Op Ed piece I wrote in the Dec. 2 Pacific Grove Press. My piece, entitled “PG Needs Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion,” was a statement of support for examples, with cited references, and most importantly, closed on a positive note with statistics supporting the benefits of engaging DEI initiatives for community and economic development. I welcome opposing opinions. However, I strongly disagree with Perez’s deceitful presentation of my narrative for his letter to the editor and its lack of salient arguments. In simplest terms, DEI principles are equivalent to respecting and creating an environment of welcome for everyone. Perhaps his underlying argument is that he too needs DEI.

Dear Editor,

I was fascinated by Mike Gibbs’s letter to the editor last week, and his ability to artfully omit, add and rearrange what he referred to as my writing.

I was a naive young woman in search for a place to live in Carmel when Gibbs entered the picture. He offered his home and I was elated to have finally found a home. I lived there for two years and moved out due to disagreements. My memories of that time are filled with joy and happiness.

However, Gibbs’s letter to the editor, titled “The Great Divide,” highlights a different perspective of our time together. He claims that I was deceitful and manipulative, while I feel that our experiences were much more complex.

I strongly disagree with his portrayal. Our relationship was far from what he describes. I believe in transparency and honesty, and I would like to address the points he raises.

First of all, Gibbs’s description of our relationship as one filled with deceit and manipulation is incorrect. I do not believe in those practices and I never engaged in them with him. Our differences were rooted in our perspectives and beliefs, not in malicious intentions.

Additionally, Gibbs’s statement that I was a “poor little thing” is not only inaccurate but also hurtful. I do not consider myself a “poor little thing” and I do not believe that label accurately represents who I am or our relationship.

I understand that the memories of our time together may differ, and that’s okay. We all have our own experiences and interpretations.

I welcome the opportunity to engage in a conversation to better understand our perspectives. I hope that through this dialogue, we can move forward with mutual respect and understanding.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to Gibbs’s letter and to share my side of our story. I hope that our exchange will lead to a more open and honest dialogue between us.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Police find drugs and weapon and close streets because of ‘chemicals’

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A PACIFIC Grove man who police say was in possession of drugs and fire-arms was arrested and booked into Mon-terey County Jail Tuesday, and during his arrest, police shut down several streets after ‘chemicals’ were discovered inside the man’s house.

On Tuesday morning, officers searched of a home on the 300 block of 12th Street occupied by Thomas Nichols, 57, who police said had an outstanding warrant for his arrest and was on probation. During a search of Nichols’ home, police said they found a firearm, suspected methamphetamine and a large cache of drug paraphernalia. Nichols was arrested for and booked into Monterey County Jail.

At the same home, police cited and released Sandi Thornhill, 52, whom police say was in possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

During the search, officers concluded that the home was “uninhabitable due to a vast amount of clutter, including blocked doors and windows and potentially hazard-ous electrical conditions.” Pacific Grove code enforcement responded to the scene and a notice was posted on the residence stating nobody can enter, police said.

Concerns raised

In addition, “chemicals were discov-ered” at the home that “raised concerns with the officers,” police said. The Monterey Fire Department was called and responded to the house. As a safety precaution, Laurel Avenue between 13th Street and Carmel Avenue, and 12th Street between Pine and Lighthouse avenues, were closed to traffic.

“Tuesdays opened a short time later and it was determined there was no hazard to the community,” according to PGPD, which did not specify the type of chemicals police found inside the house.
Happy Holidays from Canning Properties Group!
Dance team brings energy, enthusiasm and plenty of skill to CHS sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

All nine members have devoted a significant portion of their young lives to dance — some since they were 3 years old — but say the vibe they feel in a football stadium or a crowded basketball gym is an altogether new experience.

“When we’re onstage performing in something like the Nutcracker, there might be applause at times, but it’s not the same type of atmosphere,” said senior Sierra Wouden-Crosno, one of six seniors in a troupe that began contributing its artistry to the rowdiness at CHS athletic events a year ago. “When we dance at a sports event or at a school rally, our energy is matched by the crowd — we’re feeding off them.”

Appreciative applause is one thing. Raucous cheers are quite another for the dance team, which has been choreographing gigs — typically 90 seconds to two-and-one-half minutes long — for the school’s basketball audiences.

More energy

“I think we feel even more energy from a basketball crowd, inside a loud gym, where we’re a lot closer to the stands,” said Maya Yamada, who helped fellow senior Kennedy Rutherford form the troupe last fall.

The pair sought out the high school’s dance teacher, Kristine Tarozzi — a 1980s-vintage Golden State Warriors and San Francisco 49ers cheerleader — to serve as their coach. Rutherford and Yamada then found six Carmel High cheerleader uniforms from a previous year, and began practicing and performing.

Carmel High’s student newspaper, The Sandpiper, reported in November that the birth of the team hasn’t been universally embraced, and those uniforms were part of the problem: Members of the cheerleading squad — previously the school’s lone spirit leaders — complained that the cheerleaders are “just numbers” when they perform.

“The teams have two separate dances that they perform at the same time, and some people think this is confusing,” Tarozzi told The Sandpiper.

But Tarozzi and Padres cheerleading coach Victoria Vernon noted that their performance styles differ: The dancers develop routines built on the dance styles they’ve learned through the years — ballet, jazz, contemporary and others — while the cheer squad is known for stunting and traditional cheerleading moves and techniques.

New uniforms

The collaboration remains a work in progress, but part of the aforementioned confusion was alleviated when Rutherford and Yamada raised $400 at a bake sale, and got a $500 donation from Carmel High parents to purchase white tank tops with a large, red “CHS” emblazoned on the front, red skirts with a figure of a dancer on the left.

See SPORTS next page
Dancers are athletes

Although the dance team is not affiliated with the athletic department — no varsity letters are awarded to members — the athleticism of the troupe isn’t questioned.

“Everybody on the team is pretty much dancing every day, either at school or with our private dance studios, so we’re always training. It’s very athletic,” Melton said. “I also do some cross-training — I run and do whatever else I need to do to stay in shape,” Wouden-Crosno said. “Dancing requires strength, stamina, and control, so it’s important to work on your core and upper-body strength, which help with stability and other aspects of dancing.”

Multiple team members also have represented their studios through the years at San Francisco Bay area dance competitions.

Despite the fact that breakdancing is set to premier as an Olympic sport at the 2024 games, Camargo said, “I don’t consider what we’re doing to be a sport, but it’s definitely a very athletic form of performing arts. We’re incorporating a lot of jazz, contemporary dance and some acrobatics in our routines. And what we do with the team differs from the dancing we’re all doing at our local dance studios, which is more about artistry.”

Varsity athletes at CHS also have appreciated expression, Rutherford said. “I think the football and basketball players like us at their games,” she said. “I think they appreciate that we bring more spirit and more support. We’re always getting compliments like, ‘You guys are so good … your dance was so cool! How do you do those flips?’”

Team members take turns choreographing their performance routines, which they typically learn and practice during lunch breaks and rehearse and refine after school, usually a couple of afternoons each week.

“We put a lot into the dance team, but it’s a lot more casual than the dancing we do at our individual studios, partly because we’re performing much shorter routines,” Melton said. “It’s a lot more chill than spending three or four months getting ready for the Nutcracker.”

There are always nerves

Whether they’re onstage at Carmel High’s Performing Arts Center, at a game, or at a pep rally, there are always nerves — but the reasons might be different.

“When we’re performing at a game or a rally, we’re dancing in front of our peers and friends, who really don’t get to see us dance that often,” Rutherford said. “We have our Carmelites Dance Show twice a year, but other than that, they probably never see us dance, so we really want to do well and show off a little bit.”

“No matter where we’re dancing, we always want to impress, and it’s always nerve-racking when you’re worried about forgetting a move, or messing up in some other way,” Wouden-Crosno said.

Most of the seniors plan to continue dancing at the intercollegiate level, either as a dance major, dance team member, or a concert performer with the school or a dance company.

“Our community”

“Dancing isn’t just about the time commitment. I think all of us also have found our community through dance,” Camargo said. “It’s been a really great outlet for mental and physical health and for meeting others with the same interests.”

Team members also hope the extra-curricular activity they’ve put so much into will continue to grow and thrive in the future. Multiple underclassmen have expressed interest in joining the team next season.

The dancers also would like to see Carmel’s athletic department award varsity letters to dance team members and perhaps take future teams to interscholastic competitions, something Pacific Grove High School already does.

Performance videos of the team can be found on Instagram using the tag @carmelhighdanceteam.

Dennis Taylor is a freelance writer in Monterey County. Contact him at scribelasr9@gmail.com.
Mandolinist’s ‘wild acoustic holiday adventure’ goes great with BBQ

FOR the 10th year, mandolinist Dave Holodiloff and friends celebrate the holidays Friday with a concert at Bon Ton LeRoy’s Lighthouse Smokehouse in Monterey.

Holodiloff will be joined by violinist Elijah McCullar and pianist Michael Martinez.

“Get ready for a wild acoustic holiday adventure from bluegrass to Bach, to Balkan and back,” Holodiloff said. “Don’t miss what is sure to be a high-energy and intimate evening of quality acoustic entertainment.”

A familiar face on local stages, the Monterey-based mandolinist describes McCullar, who lives in Santa Cruz, as a “wild kid” on fiddle, while he calls Martinez, who resides in Pacific Grove, a “pianist extraordinaire.”

Titled “Enchanted Winter,” the program includes “classic Christmas carols and songs of the season” from Holodiloff’s Enchanted Winter II album — all “re-harmonized, funk ed up, jazzed up and mashed up” — as well as an eclectic mix of Celtic, Latin, Balkan, folk and Gypsy music.

Showtime is 7 p.m. Tickets are $20. The restaurant is located at 794 Lighthouse Ave. in Monterey. For reservations, (831) 375-6958.

Live music Dec. 23-29

Bernardus Lodge & Spa in Carmel Valley — pianist Matthias Morris (classical, Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist John Sherry (folk, rock and blues, Sunday at noon), pianist Michael Culver (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist Casey Frazier (Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.) and singer and guitarist Hayley Jane (rock, Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Big Sur River Inn — singer and guitarist Rick Chelew (*60s music, Saturday at 12:30 p.m.), The Dave Holodiloff Duo (bluegrass and jazz, Sunday at 7 p.m.), singer Lee Durley (vocals, Tuesday at 7 p.m.) and The Ben Herod Trio (jazz and swing, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St. Pebble Beach.

Cypress Inn — singer and guitarist Brad Wilson plays rock and blues Friday at The Links Club, which is located in Carmel Plaza at Ocean and Mission. The music begins at 7:30 p.m.

The Andrea Carter Trio (jazz, Friday at 3 p.m.), singer Joe Kaplow and pianist Joe Indence (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist John Vicino (Monday at 3 p.m.) and singer and guitarist Alex Lucero (Thursday at 3:30 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and pianist Dino Villa performs Wednesday in Carmel Valley and Thursday in Pebble Beach.

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CARMEL • PEBBLE BEACH • CARMEL VALLEY & THE MONTEREY PENINSULA
How to spend the last night of 2022, holiday pastries, and Dime Time for charity

**Soup to Nuts**

By MARY SCHLEY

midnight, one for each stroke of the clock, while Italians, French and Danish snack on ring-shaped cakes, and Greeks smash pomegranates on their doorsteps — and if yours involves splurging on a lavish dinner or dancing until the wee hours of the morning, some local establishments have got you covered.

**In town**

Foray, which opened at San Carlos and Fifth earlier this month, will host a six-course prix-fixe dinner on Dec. 31, with seatings at 5 and 7:30 p.m. Chef and co-owner Michael Chang is still working on the menu, he said Tuesday, but he plans on serving Sterling California caviar with potato confit, Monterey Bay Rock Crab ravioli with 42-month Parmigiano Reggiano and 72-hour Snake River Farms bone-in short rib with heirloom polenta. Vegan options will be available, too, and wine pairings will be offered. Reserve through forayrestaurant.com.

At Chez Noir, the newer newcomer a half-block away from Foray on Fifth, New Year’s Eve will be celebrated with a five-course prix-fixe that begins with amuse bouche of oysters or truffle gougeres followed by poached tarte and caviar. Dungeness crab salad, pasta with sea urchin, California squash “Forte Gras en Farcis,” and dessert of millet feuillet or Paris-brest with marmalade. A shared cheese course can be added, too. The cost is $225 per person, including tip but not alcohol, upgrades or supplemental courses, and wine pairings are available. Reservations can be made at cheznoircarmel.com. At Promessa, the Spanish- and Portuguese-inspired restaurant that opened behind Casanova on Mission south of Fifth earlier this year, customers can plan on lingering later than usual to usher in 2023 with style. While the restaurant is usually only open until 10 p.m. on Saturdays, the city said it could extend its hours for New Year’s.

**Just beyond it**

The Shearwater Tavern in the Carmel Mission Inn on Rio Road announced a four-course dinner and Champagne toast timed with the ball drop in New York City’s Times Square at 9 p.m.

Dinner will begin with Parker House rolls with spiced honey butter and starters like traditional Caesar salad and lobster bisque with mini grilled cheese and apple sandwiches. Main-course options include baked halibut Oscar with Alaskan king crab or filet mignon with house-made Bearnaise. Each entrée comes with grilled asparagus, roasted wild mushrooms and red peppers, and garlic mashed potatoes, with cherry cheesecake for dessert. Dinner costs $95 per person, excluding tax and gratuity, and includes a champagne toast at 9 p.m. The tavern will open at 4 p.m. and will offer its last New Year’s Eve seating at 8 p.m.

Reservations are required. Go to eventbrite.com or call (831) 624-1641. To make a night of it, book a room through carmelmissioninn.com.

The Pacific’s Edge at the Highlands Inn just down the coast is throwing a countdown party, too, with a midnight balloon drop, a champagne toast, party favors and a wide selection of hors d’oeuvres. The celebration from 8 p.m. to midnight also includes live music by Thé Dino Vera Band. The cost is $125 per person — or free with a dinner reservation at Pacific’s Edge restaurant, which is offering a four-course NYE tasting menu for $125. For reservations, call (831) 622-5445. Highlands Inn is located at 120 Highlands Drive off of Highway 1 south of Carmel. Tickets can be purchased through eventbrite.com.

**With the quail**

Covey Grill is hosting an elegant New Year’s Eve dinner at the Carmel Valley resort with decadent dishes like lobster and rack of lamb served between 5 and 9 p.m. Party favors will be in abundance, along with a champagne toast when 2023 arrives on the East Coast.

The regular menu is available as well, but reservations are required. Reserve through linktr.ee/covey grill, which connects to Open Table. Covey Grill is located in Quail Lodge at 8205 Valley Greens Drive off Carmel Valley Road.

**Period party**

“Roaring into 2023” is the theme of the party at the Portola Hotel at the foot of Mission south of Fifth, the other restaurant that opened behind Casanova on Mission south of Fifth earlier this year. Customers can plan on lingering later than usual to usher in 2023 with style. While the restaurant is usually only open until 10 p.m. on Saturdays, the city said it could extend its hours for New Year’s.

**Happy Holidays**

**Pick-Up Something Special at The Best Corner in Carmel**

See FOOD next page
FOOD & WINE

Before the night ends, capture the moment in the photo booth provided by The Vintage PhotoBooth.

For food, hors d’oeuvres will be passed during the reception, followed by a buffet with baby greens with asparagus, wild king salmon, grilled chicken with polenta, New York strip and other indulgences. Desserts will include petits fours, lemon tarts and chocolate truffles, and late-night snacks will keep everyone going.

Guests are encouraged to dress in “period pieces with glamour like flapper dresses with fringe and beading, and elaborate accessories like gemstones or feathers.” Think art deco patterns, three-piece suits, fedoras and flapper caps. It should go without saying, but weapons, fake or real, are not allowed as mobster accessories or under any other guise.

Tickets are $175 for active military and $195 for everyone else, and include tax and tip. Purchase through Eventbrite.com. Of course, room packages that include New Year’s Day breakfast from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. are available, too. Go to portola-hotel.com.

Christmas is staring you in the face. Do you have your Christmas pastries in the land, including five flavors of Buche de Noel — even gluten-free options. Visit the bakery at 539 Hartnell St. or call (831) 641-9188.

A four-course dinner and champagne toast timed with the New Year’s Eve ball drop in Times Square is on offer at The Shearwater Tavern in the Carmel Mission Inn.

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**WINE**
*From previous page*

England in the 17th century, punch might get its name from the Hindi word for “five,” because it was made with five ingredients — alcohol, sugar, citrus juice, water and spices — or it’s derivative of the English word punchen, a barrel used to transport alcohol on ships.

Either way, it’s a tasty alcoholic beverage that’s easy to throw together for a crowd, and during a recent cocktail class at Social Hour in Carmel, Brian Mazurek, founder of Big Sur-based The Bitter Ginger, shared a recipe for a rum-based punch.

The batch serves 12 and calls for 12 oz. brut rosé, 12 oz. rum (he used Diplomatico), 12 oz. Marsala wine, 12 oz. high quality ginger ale or ginger beer, and 1 oz. orange bitters. Pour the rum, liqueur and bitters into a punch bowl, and shortly before the guests arrive, add a large chunk of ice. As they walk in the door, pour in the sparkling wine and ginger ale or ginger beer. Garnish with citrus, cranberries and/or other seasonal fruit. Cheers!

**Dime Time**

Bud’s, the iconic bar in La Playa hotel at Camino Real and Eighth, will honor its namesake with Dime Time during the holiday season. Inspired by former owner Bud Allen’s habit of randomly getting behind the bar in his hotel to stir up 10-cent martinis for whomever was fortunate enough to be in the room at the time, Dime Time has bartenders serving two-ingredient well drinks and select beers and wines for a mere 10 cents for just 10 minutes — and customers must pay with a dime (but tip based on today’s prices).

To trigger the deal, donate $100 by cash or check at the bar to The Carmel Foundation, a local nonprofit that serves members aged 55 and older by providing low-cost meals and housing, classes and other services. Bud’s is open daily from 3 to 10 p.m.

**Brunch review**

Wild Fish restaurant in Pacific Grove recently launched weekend brunch, offering five special dishes alongside the regular lunch menu from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The wild mushroom tartine ($21) features flavorful mushrooms atop tender herbed scrambled eggs on thick Ad Astra seeded sourdough adorned with cream and thin slices of radish. Cutting through the thick toast can be a bit of a battle, but it’s worth it. Avocado and/or “smoked swordfish bacon” can be added for an upcharge.

The highlight of the “Shrimp Louis” salad ($20) is the perfectly cooked and seasoned chorizo-rubbed shrimp, and the pretty plate is sprinkled with diced avocado, hard-cooked eggs, cherry tomatoes and radish. The salad is dressed with a mild “green mojo dressing” rather than the traditional Louie dressing.

A plate of two popovers ($7) should be consumed quickly while they’re still hot, and they come with Mal- don-salt-sprinkled butter, but be sure to ask for the season- al preserves or stracchino honey to complement them.

Sweet potato “beignets” ($10 for four) are gluten free and are more akin to dumplings or hushpuppies than typically pillowy and airy beignets, but they have a mild sweetness that’s bumped up by toasted pecans and vanilla bean icing, and balanced by sour huckleberry sauce.

Wild Fish is located at 545 Lighthouse Ave. in Pacific Grove. Go to wild-fish.com for reservations and more information.
MUSIC
From page 35A

Vera (jazz, blues and r&b, Saturday and Thursday at 7 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.

Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel — singer and guitarist Casey Freazer (Friday at 5 p.m.) and guitarist Dave Holodiloff (bluegrass and jazz, Saturday at 5 p.m.), 1 Old Golf Course Road.

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

Intercontinental Hotel in Monterey — guitarist John Sherry (folk, rock and blues, Friday and Tuesday at 6 p.m.),流感 Kenny Stahl (jazz, Saturday at 9 p.m.), singer and guitarist Dan Cortes (Saturday at 6 p.m.) and guitarist Terrence Ferrell (Latin music, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

La Playa Hotel — The David Morwood Band (jazz, Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m.), Bud’s Bar, Camino Real at Eighth.

The Links Club — The Brad Wilson Band (rock and blues, Friday at 7:30 p.m.) and Open Mic Night (Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.), Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — singer and guitarist Kevin Pfeiffer (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist John Harris (jazz, Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at noon) and singer and guitarist Harley Jane (rock, Thursday at 8 p.m.) in The Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive.

Massa Tasting Room in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist Rick Chelew (60s folk, Sunday at noon), 69 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Midici Pizza in Monterey — saxophonist Roger Eddy and percussionist John Nava (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.), 467 Alvarado St.

Mission Ranch — singer and pianist Gemmy Lovington (jazz, Monday through Thursday at 5 p.m.), 26270 Delores St.

Mission Plaza Hotel & Spa — pianist Steve Mann (jazz, Friday and Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist Scott Brown (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist John Sherry (folk, rock and blues, Monday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist Casey Wickstrom (rock and blues, Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist John Piano (Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.) and singer and guitarist Dan Cortes (Thursday at 6:30 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

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

The Salty Seal Pub in Monterey — Kid Dynamite (pop and rock, Friday at 8 p.m.), The John Michael Band (pop and rock, Saturday at 8 p.m.) and singer and guitarist Mike Kovalik (pop and rock, Thursday at 8 p.m.), 653 Cannery Row.

Sly McFly’s in Monterey — The Joint Chiefs (r&b and funk, Friday at 9 p.m.), 700 Cannery Row.

Streetlaze Cafe in Carmel Valley — Boscove’s Brood (rock and folk, Friday at 6 p.m.) and Del Fino Place.

Urban Lounge at the Red Lion Hotel in Monterey — the Tribe in the Sky’s weekly Community Jam (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 1425 Munras Ave.

Wild Fish restaurant in Pacific Grove — The Light- house Jazz Quartet with pianist Bob Phillips, saxophonist Paul Contos, bassist Zach Westfall and drummer Mike Shannon (Friday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m.). 545 Lighthouse Ave.

To update these listings, email chris@carmelpinecone.com.
A pair of local artists — Elizabeth Barlow and Susan Manchester — collaborate to present “a visual celebration of the natural world” in the show, “Flora Fauna,” which recently opened at the Monterey Museum of Art.

A painter of still lifes, Barlow finds artistic inspiration in the petals of flowers. “They are symbols of the incredible power of life on this earth, of strength within fragility, and of the ability for rebirth and re-emergence that lies within all living things,” she said.

Trained as an artist in Italy, Manchester turned her creative focus toward nature when she began working as an “artist-at-large” for Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove. One of her jobs involved drawing algae for a textbook.

Manchester said she tries to capture the essence of her subjects in her book. “When I start drawing, I look at the most compelling aspect of the subject and let the other stuff go,” she explained.

The show also includes more than a dozen pieces from the museum’s permanent collection, including work by contemporary painter David Ligare, late painter Wayne Thiebaud and late sculptor Loet Vanderveen.

“Flora Fauna” at art museum, CAA’s ‘Art of Giving’ offers gift-buying ideas

By CHRIS COUNTS

The exhibit is on display through April 16. The museum, which is closed for a holiday break and reopens Jan. 3, is located at 559 Pacific St. monteryart.org.

Miniatures on display

Offering an option for some last-minute gift shopping, the Carmel Art Association’s annual fundraising “Art of Giving” miniatures show is on display.

See ART next page

From the top, Alice Geller Robertson’s “Well Stacked,” Dennis Stauffer’s “Colonade Window” and Erin Gaffill’s “Barn by the Sea” are included in the Carmel Art Association’s annual “Art of Giving” fundraising Miniatures show. The display continues at the downtown gallery through Jan. 2.

Art Roundup

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was completed in early 1934, just as the CWA program ended in March. Work on the park halted until late 1935, when, under the Works Progress Administration, the city received funds to hire workers to clean up the area and add “comfort stations.” Thereafter, funds were again lacking and by 1940, the Herald was again calling El Estero Park “a sad site.” With the onset of World War II, lack of investment continued. After the war, the city’s primary economic engine — the fishing industry — found itself in hard times with the extreme fall-off of the sardine population. Funds for beautification remained limited while city fathers realigned to a new tourist-based economy.

By 1952, the city council directed City Manager Walter Hahn to develop the park as a playground. The Junior Chamber of Commerce, or Jaycees, adopted the project and began raising funds for equipment. In March 1952, Hahn presented a plan to business leaders and gained their support. Still, it was more than a year before construction began. Monterey had hosted spring training for the San Francisco Seals baseball team at its downtown ballpark before the war. It was completed in time to host the Oakland Oaks for 1954 spring training. The Seals ballpark in El Estero Park. It was completed in time to support. Still, it was more than a year before construction began. Hahn presented a plan to business leaders and gained their support. Still, it was more than a year before construction began.

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Also in 1953, Hank Ketcham, the creator of “Dennis the Menace,” returned to Carmel after living in the East for a year. The Jaycees approached him to sign books at the Monterey County Fair to help with their fundraising. In his autobiography, Ketcham wrote of his response: “I’ll be happy to donate 500 books and autograph each one — on the condition that you’ll let me design the playground.” The Jaycees likely did not have the authority but agreed all the same. As playground planning proceeded, a rubbish pile that had developed on the property was burned and hauled away.

When it came to designing a playground, Ketcham wanted unique equipment that would stimulate children’s imaginations. Ketcham was creative, but he needed a structural expert. He called on his friend, sculptor Arch Garner, who lived in Del Monte Park.

Bingville

On April 26, 1954, the Herald’s editor declared, “Hank Ketcham, creator of ‘Dennis the Menace,’ has designed recreational structures for the playground which can be constructed locally and at low cost. We’ve seen the models and they look good. The ideas are original and the playground, when completed, should receive national attention.” The design was tentatively approved by the planning commission on May 7, 1954.

Concurrently, the city was seeking plans for a youth center at El Estero Park, sponsored by $45,000 from the Crosby golf tournament fund. The fund had previously provided $4,700 to defray the center’s cost. After the ceremonies for the program, at which the Rotary Club provided $12,000 and Monterey Youth Center Inc. was established as a nonprofit to accept other donations. Volunteer labor helped to further reduce the cost and organizers continued to raise funds during and after construction to greatly reduce the drain on city coffers.

The Monterey Youth Center at El Estero Park was dedicated as Bingville on Feb. 12, 1955, shortly after that year’s Crosby pro-am. Ketcham served as master of ceremonies for the program, at which the Rotary Club provided $4,700 to defray the center’s cost. After the ceremony, 350 attendees went inside and Ketcham served up “Dennis the Menace” burgers, raising another $300. Plans for the Ketcham-Garner playground design continued to roll along until Monterey councilman Harold R. Lewis challenged the location of the proposed Dennis the Menace playground in El Estero Park. Mayor Dan Searle called a special council meeting on Nov. 4, 1955, to resolve the matter. Next week’s column will address that resolution and the creation of the playground.

ART

From previous page

“Every December, the general artist membership comes together to present small, giftable works for the holiday season,” the CAA’s Grace Wodecki said. “Each one would make a perfect gift for someone special in your life.” Also featured is the exhibit, “35 Years,” which showcases the gallery’s numerous artist-members, past and present. More than 500 pieces are included. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the gallery is busy preparing for its yearly For the Love of Art display of student art, which is set to be unveiled in February.

“We have 19 schools in Monterey County participating, with 81 student artists signed up,” Wodecki added. “It’s going to be our biggest show since the pandemic hit, so all of us are very excited.” The gallery is located on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth. Carmelart.org

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HISTORY

From page 27A

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This week’s cover property, located in Pebble Beach, is presented by Peter Butler of Carmel Realty Company (See Page 2RE)
Real Estate Sales Dec. 11 - 17

Carmel

3739 Raymond Way — $1,500,000
Dan and Kari Brown to James Vandeven
APN: 103-121-008

San Carlos Street, 4 SW of 11th — $2,200,000
David Lewis to Meredith Strong and Aaron Hilsen
APN: 010-154-003

San Antonio Avenue, 3 NW of 11th — $9,400,000
David and Susan Endicott to Three Hounds Enterprises LLC
APN: 010-303-007

Carmel Valley

62 Margaret Court — $2,500,000
Thomas Robert to Robert and Maria Perkins
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1072 Lake Place, Carmel Valley — $3,775,000
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Located near the iconic Lone Cypress Tree, world-famous Pebble Beach Golf Links, and The Lodge at Pebble Beach sits this stunning gated Mediterranean masterpiece. Featuring dramatic ocean and sunset views less than 200 yards from the crashing whitewater waves of the Pacific Ocean. Upon entering the property, you are immediately greeted by lush new landscaping and an expansive ocean view terrace. This estate home offers grand living spaces, large fireplaces, high ceilings, numerous French doors to the great outdoors, and two office spaces. The great room is truly the highlight of the house featuring a thoughtful and stylish chef’s kitchen that opens to a cozy seating area with fireplace, casual breakfast nook dining and numerous French doors to the ocean view terrace perfect for alfresco dining. The main floor primary suite boasts a fireplace, sitting area, ocean view terrace, an expansive primary bath with spa-like amenities, and French doors to a private ocean view terrace as well as French doors to a private backyard patio. A sitting area plus three additional bedrooms suites with private ocean view balconies occupy the second floor. Sunsets and the sounds of crashing waves will mesmerize you while sitting outside by the fire-pit, offering the perfect way to start or finish your day. Additional features include a generous three-car garage, plenty of guest parking, abundant storage and an automatic generator.

Peter Butler
Broker Associate
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19231 Cachagua Rd

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From page 2RE

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APN: 157-081-012

8320 Vista Montemira — $4,925,000
Robert Thull to David Lewis
APN: 259-211-005

Highway 68
151 Robley Road — $600,000
Pavlos and Kristen Politopolous to Carlos and
Kimberly Aguilar
APN: 416-321-018

169 Barbara Court, Seaside — $840,000

85 Montsalas Drive — $720,000
Warren Ruhl to
Fariba Bagheri
APN: 101-261-037

Marina
265 Cosky Drive — $665,000
See ESCROWS page 17RE

25865 N. Mesa Drive, Carmel — $1,650,000

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A Cornerstone in Luxury Real Estate for Over 100 Years
Midnight Mass turned rowdy boys into angels — for a little while

St. Joseph’s Cathedral in Buffalo, N.Y., was the largest building I visited during the first dozen years of my life. It was a magnificent gothic structure made of fine white Italian marble. The twin towers of the original building rose 260 feet above the ground.

In 1915, its two massive bell towers held the largest carillon of church bells in the country. The largest bell weighed 4,000 pounds. They were only rung once before they had to be removed because they endangered the structural integrity of the towers. The towers had to be removed, too.

The width across the cathedral’s nave was 100 feet. Through the transepts, it was 150 feet. To a small boy, it seemed that not even the great Olympic sprinter, Mel Patton, could cover the distance from the narthex to the high altar in less than 10 seconds, nor that Ted Williams could hit a ball that would reach the cathedral’s ceiling.

Years later it was the church I pictured while reading Ken Follett’s great novel, “Pillars of the Earth.”

Hot ticket
Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve was the hottest ticket in town. The cathedral seated 1,500 people, who began arriving shortly after the doors opened at 10:30 p.m. The occasion called for full-length mink coats, and tuxedos for many of the attendees, as well as formal uniforms for the Knights of Columbus. Even the ushers were garbed in white tie and tails while they escorted the city’s elite to their pews. The regular parishioners were joined by the mayor, police captains, fire chiefs and all the local functionaries who composed a Catholic-dominated city administration.

John Francis O’Hara was the bishop and this was the bishop’s church. He would be the celebrant of the Mass. O’Hara was a tall, thin prelate with angular facial features that resembled those of Eugenio Maria Giuseppe Giovanni Pacelli, Pope Pius XII, himself.

And I was in the middle of it all. At 12, I retained my clear boy soprano voice and was chosen by our priest to sing with the choir.

St. Joseph’s Cathedral about the time it opened in 1915 — and the place where young Jerry Gervase shined as a member of the choir.
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MONTEREY REGION BROKERAGES | CARMEL | CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA | CARMEL VALLEY | PACIFIC GROVE | CAPITOLA

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POLICE LOG

From page 4A

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Theft of flowers from a storefront at Ocean and Monte Verde.
Pacific Grove: Subject cited for shoplifting on Forest Avenue.
Pacific Grove: Juvenile issue on Congress Avenue. Information only.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Misconduct at Junipero and Fourth at 0445 hours.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury accident at Mission and Seventh.
Pacific Grove: A 27-year-old male was arrested for brandishing a replica firearm, making criminal threats, altering a replica firearm and possession of drugs. He was booked into Monterey County Jail on one felony and three misdemeanors and held on $40,000 bail.
Carmel Valley: Local utility employee reported found property near a water storage tank on Camla Drive.
Carmel Valley: East Carmel Valley Road resident was placed on a 72-hour hold and transported to a medical facility.
Pebble Beach: Deputies responded after reported theft of tools totaling over $2,000 from a vehicle on 17 Mile Drive.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost silver money clip with cash reported at Monte Verde and Seventh.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Contact from a suicide prevention hotline reporting concern for a male on the beach. The male made no specific mention of self-harm or a plan to end his life but vaguely mentioned suicide. The male told the advocate that he was on Carmel Beach but did not give an exact location. A search of the beach was conducted, but the male was not located.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Accident on public property on Junipero resulted in injuries.
Pacific Grove: Subject on Presidio Boulevard was placed on a mental health hold.
Pacific Grove: A vehicle on Piedmont Avenue was broken into.

We pay for news photos!
The Carmel Pine Cone will pay up to $50 for photos of newsworthy events around the Monterey Peninsula. Submit yours to news@carmelpinecone.com.
Payment made for photos accepted for publication.

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27.5 Acres • 3 Acre Building Envelope • Spectacular Views • $2,675,000
A Coveted Location Just Above The Hacienda with Views of Moore’s Lake

14 Long Ridge Trail | Santa Lucia Preserve | Carmel, CA
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A Sweeping 3.65 Acre Building Envelope of Savanna, Landmark Oaks & Views

27440 Heavens Way | Carmel, CA
10.47 Acres • Sweeping Views • Private Well • $2,895,000
Privacy with Stunning Ocean to Valley Views, Located at Mid-Carmel Valley

27420 Heavens Way | Carmel, CA
11.17 Acres • Beautiful Views • Private Well • $1,700,000
Privacy, Ocean Views, Open & Usable Land, Located at Mid-Carmel Valley

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9RE
Big Sur Ranch Offers Unmatched Canyon to Coast Lifestyle

49155 Highway 1, Big Sur
Privacy and Convenience—A Rare Combination with Compelling Development Potential
12 Bed | 10.5 Bath | 2 Pools | 9,841 SF | 350 Acres | $22,000,000

Dating back further than the scenic, winding path of Highway One, this six-parcel, 350-acre coastal ranch presents a colorful past and an even brighter future. Six unique homes, a magnificent redwood grove, and a private beach inhabit this serene stretch of land nestled between the canyon and cliffs. A private access road connects all of these homesites, where expansive decks overlook the diverse terrain and secluded paths allow for a lifestyle centered on the outdoors. With its use of rustic stone and wood, the original homestead proudly exhibits its rich history, while the more modern buildings gracefully complement it. Together, the property offers 12 bedrooms, 10.5 bathrooms, 2 pools (indoor and outdoor), and innumerable viewing points. Cherish the calming effect of year-round streams, hikes up the canyon, and quick access to fine dining - Post Ranch Inn and Nepenthe. The potential for a private helipad will further prestige, and the undeveloped beach parcel presents endless value.

NewellRanchBigSur.com | JonathanSpencerProperties.com
We were looking for a getaway home that could easily become our retirement home. After several months of searching in square feet of leasable space: Main level 2,448 sq. ft.

Formerly COMERICA BANK, this classic Carmel commercial building has a total 5,000 construction orchard.

Custom home blends Green Building with luxury lifestyle? front door by master woodcarver.

Feathers and swords

At the stroke of midnight, the candlelit procession slow-stepped down the north aisle. Seminarians led the file, followed by a retinue of clergy, none below the rank of Monsignor, resplendent in more scarlet than a thousand bouquets of pinnacles.

Then came the Knights of Columbus, whose uniforms were replete with black velvet ostrich-feathered chapeaux, capes, sashes and swords. The bishop and his entourage brought up the rear. We were sandwiched between the Knights and the bishop, an assemblage of pre-teen rooks better suited to a sandlot than a sanctuary. By the time we glided into the narthex, the front of the procession had started up the center aisle of the nave. As the choir turned towards the high altar it was my signal to turn and face the chancel choir. That allowed me to look up into the rear choir loft, a good 50 feet above, where Mr. Murphy stood leaning over the rail, black eyes searing into my own. It was a pivotal moment in the ceremony, as it was the first hymn the congregants would hear. And it was crucial for me, because in previous years my two older brothers had led the chancel choir. I knew their scrutiny of my performance would be more intense than Mr. Murphy’s. I could not screw this up.

Finally, he nodded. Walking backwards, I raised my arm, the choir’s sign to get ready, indicating a preparatory beat. Then, with a quick downstroke of my wrist, 30 fuzzy-faced lads urged the faithful, the joyous and the triumphant to come to Bethlehem (in Latin, mind you) and to adore Him, born the king of angels. Suddenly the voices of this pack of mischief makers, whose only previous melodic accomplishment was the squawks produced by playing musical armpits, rose to the highest arches of the great cathedral and beyond where serpent’s and cherubim flapped their wings in celebration and welcomed us into that heavenly choir. For that one enchanting night, we were angels, too.

Jerry Gervase can be contacted at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.
Pacific Grove: Fraud out of jurisdiction on Larkin Street in Monterey.
Carmel area: Deputies were dispatched to a fight between two males at the Crossroads.
Pebble Beach: A male resident of Mora Lane was found with a fatal self-inflicted gunshot wound to his head.
Pebble Beach: Emergency commitment on Forest Lake Road.
Pebble Beach: Runaway juvenile from a residence on Pine Meadows Way.

**Big Sur:**
- Found property on Highway 1 was turned in, and the owner was located and the property returned.
- Carmel Valley: Report of theft from a wallet left at Mid Valley Center. No suspect info.
- Pebble Beach: Deputies took a report of a fraud attempt on Ronda Road via credit card.
- Runaway juvenile from a residence on Pine Meadows Way.

**Sat., Dec. 10**

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Battery between employees of a business at Monte Verde and Sixth. Information only.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Family member called in a welfare check on Lincoln north of Fifth. Resident was checked on and appeared to be OK.
Pacific Grove: Cash was found in the area of 19th Street and turned in to the police department lobby. Currently held for safekeeping.
Pacific Grove: A ring was found on the rec trad near Hopkins Marine Sanctuary. Owner is not known, so the item will be held for safekeeping.
Pacific Grove: Private property tree caused damage to a parked vehicle on Third Street.
Pacific Grove: Officers were dispatched after report of vandalism to a vehicle on Austin Avenue.
Big Sur: Deputies were dispatched to a burglary on Palo Colorado Road with no suspect information.

**Carmel area:** Six checks were stolen from a mailbox on Outlook Drive. The suspect then attempted to cash one of the checks.

See LOG page 18RE

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**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 lifts 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. Monterey is conveniently located just minutes to shopping, golf, and fine dining. A Tehama Golf Club Social Membership is included. Construction is underway.

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**The Agency Congratulates**

Cicily Sterling & Mauricio Umansky for their record-breaking sale of “The Edge” in Pebble Beach

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**Cicily Sterling & Mauricio Umansky**
Sterling-Umansky Group
CicilySterling@TheAgencyRE.com
831.402.7174 | LIC. #01921334

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**Yvonne Hubbard**
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Cicily Sterling & Mauricio Umansky for their record-breaking sale of “The Edge” in Pebble Beach

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**Cicily Sterling & Mauricio Umansky**
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**Mauricio Umansky**
Sterling-Umansky Group
MUmansky@TheAgencyRE.com
424.230.3701 | LIC. #01222825

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**Wishing you a wonderful Holiday season filled with peace and love.**

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**Wishing you a wonderful Holiday season filled with peace and love.**
Newly built from the ground up—this bright and beautiful soft contemporary was completed in 2022. Providing an unrestricted architectural design that harnesses light and space, creating a Carmel dream home. The main level’s open floorplan includes an owner’s suite with an expansive bath, soaking tub, walk-in closet, laundry room, guest room and second bath. Lower level has 2 additional bedrooms, spacious family room, full bathroom, and a secondary laundry area. Finishes throughout the home include European style vanities, custom cabinetry, large island with granite tiles, high-end appliances, Omega cabinetry with quartz countertops, radiant heated flooring, built-in speaker system, high ceilings, walk-in closets, uniquely stunning light fixtures, EV and fiber optic ready. Built to the highest standards to offer all the space, functional design, privacy and impressive features a discerning owner could hope for.

Wishing all of our clients, staff and friends a happy holiday season!

A special thank you to the buyers and sellers we worked with this past year for allowing us to represent you.
The best kind of getaway is one you’re able to call home. One that allows you to retreat from modern life and take comfort in the natural world. At Teháma, discover your everyday escape amidst more than 2,000 rolling acres, where you can live freely, breathe deeply and find your true sense of place — all just moments from Carmel-by-the-Sea and Monterey Bay. A limited number of opportunities with mountain and ocean views remain in the community’s final phase.

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75% of Teháma’s homesites are now sold.

Homesites from $1,750,000.

tehamacarmel.com | living@tehamacarmel.com | 831.625.2031
**NOTICE OF APPROVAL BY OPERATION OF LAW**

The parcel is hereby granted by the applicant, Henry Berry, pursuant to Government Code Section 65956 that the following permit will be approved on February 15, 2023.

Project Name: Berry Test Wall

Monterey County Housing & Community Development (HCD) Planning Number: P20-20104

Project Location: 48250 HWY 1, P.O. Box 93920

Assessor’s Parcel Number: 48-07-250-0100

Permit Type: Combined Development Permit

CEQA Status: Categorical Exempt

Permit Number: 150172

**Project Description:**

Combined Development Permit consisting of (1) Coastal Administrative, (2) Site Development, and (3) Coastal Development Permit for development within 750 feet of a public archaeological site. The project includes: (1) Smallridge Building (2) 31,000 square feet

The parcel shall be deemed approved if the Permitting Agency has not acted within 30 days of the date of this notice. Should the project deemed approved under this Notice, such approval is appealable to the Board of Supervisors.

This PARCEL WAS REAPPRaised BY ANTHONY JOHABRO & ASSOCIATES, AGENTS FOR THE APPLICANT NANCY BERRY.

Public Hearing Date: Dec. 22, 2022 (M1232)

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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**ECONOMY**

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**3057 California Avenue — $1,300,000**

Aaron Kellington and Daniela Marderos to Ben Halverson and Jeanette Dunne

APN: 031-257-041

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**2997 Pinelines Way — $1,300,000**

JFC Marina Builders Inc. to Mark and Trudy Miller

APN: 031-279-020

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**3001 Pinelines Way — $1,468,500**

JPA Marina Builders Inc. to Malcolm Acock and Michelle Wang

APN: 031-279-028

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**Monterey**

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**300 Glenwood Circle unit 403 — $480,000**

Estate of Kathleen Walker to Robert Green

APN: 031-176-017

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See **TRANSACTIONS** next page
From previous page

Monterey (con’t.)

At about 0749 hours, a 38-year-old was contacted at San Carlos and Fifth at 11:12 hours and arrested for possession of a controlled substance. Cited and released.

At about 13:44 hours, subject came to the station to request a trespass admonishment on a patron who is no longer a member of the business on Forest. Officer made an attempt to reach the person with negative results and completed the trespass admonishment letter with the caller. At this time, the admonishment had not been completed.

Pacific Grove: DUI collision and a 46-year-old male driver was arrested and booked into Monterey County Jail on charges of DUI and probation violation.

Big Sur: Subject on Palo Colorado Road reported being battered.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Women’s wallet reported lost. Later, the owner called back and advised the wallet had been found.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fall on city property at San Carlos and Seventh. Patient transported to hospital.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle towed from a public street at Shafter and Montecito. Registration expired over six months.

- Credit card fraud.

- Professional tenant screening. - Full accounting services. - Licensed and bonded repair and maintenance services. - Properties shown by appointment only by one of our rental specialists. - 24 hour emergency answering service. - Serving all communities in the Peninsula including Pebble Beach, Marina, Seaside, Carmel, Carmel Valley, Monterey and Pacific Grove.

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- A variety of Vacation Homes

- luxury vacation residences | long term residences 

- Estate Management | special events

- Unparalleled marketing, photography and a vast agent network translates to attaining the highest market value in the shortest time.

- Translates to attaining the highest market value in the shortest time.

- Professional tenant screening. - Full accounting services. - Licensed and bonded repair and maintenance services. - Properties shown by appointment only by one of our rental specialists. - 24 hour emergency answering service. - Serving all communities in the Peninsula including Pebble Beach, Marina, Seaside, Carmel, Carmel Valley, Monterey and Pacific Grove.

- Exceptional Rental Properties

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$3,750,000 • www.CasaBoronda1817.com

5 Acres • Pfeiffer Ridge Road, Big Sur Coast
$1,550,000 • www.PfeifferRidge.com

3.32 Acres • 7567 Paseo Vista, Monterey
$1,499,000 • www.PaseoVistaViews.com

3 Beds, 3.5 Baths • 18535 McClellan Circle, East Garrison
$1,250,000 • www.18535McClellan.com

3 Beds, 2 Baths • 2966 Garnet Way, Marina
$1,125,000 • www.2966GarnetWay.com

2 Beds, 2.5 Baths • 18555 McClellan Circle, East Garrison
$978,000 • www.18555McClellanCr.com

5 acres • 46199 Clear Ridge Road, Big Sur Coast
$699,000 • www.46199ClearRidge.com

2 Beds, 2 Baths • 187 Hacienda Carmel, Carmel
$678,500 • www.187HaciendaCarmel.com

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Just steps from Carmel River Beach and Carmel Beach, this property is one of the most spacious and beautifully constructed homes on Carmel Point.

Located on Schwan Lagoon just a short stroll from Santa Cruz’s picturesque beaches, this contemporary masterpiece offers an impressive list of features.

Located just up the street from Carmel Valley Village, this beautiful Mediterranean home offers plentiful space on over an acre of private grounds.

Perched on the tip of Carmel Point towards the end of highly coveted Scenic Road, this beautiful home enjoys jaw-dropping ocean views.

This rare one-of-a-kind opportunity offers four oversized oceanview lots in Carmel within walking distance to downtown, totaling over 1.57 acres.